



God
is still
speaking,

Happenings

November 1, 2011

From the Pastor's Desk-Thanks for the Big Rock!

Psalm 111

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the big stuff in our lives. What is it that is most important to us? What rocks in our lives make the biggest splash? Do you know the common demonstration about priorities fitting in our lives? Find a big glass bowl to represent your life. Put the big rock in the bowl first, then the smaller rocks, gravel, sand and finally water. It will only all fit into the bowl if we put the big rock in first.

Maybe we need someone to hit us in the head with a big rock so that we will stop long enough to notice our blessings from God. And then we need another rock in the head, to be reminded where our blessings come from and say what our mother's taught us, "Thank you!" It isn't enough to say, "Oh, I just thank God for everything." When someone asks you what you love about them, it doesn't really create any loving intimacy to say "oh, just everything." We need to name our blessings specifically and thank God enthusiastically just like we enjoy hearing what others love about us.

I would like to suggest that Psalm 111 gives us all a big rock for which we give thanks. In verse 9 near the end of the psalm we are reminded of God's covenant. For the people of ancient Israel these concepts meant saving them from total destruction and maintaining a relationship between God and Israel.



But what does that mean for us in 2011? God made a promise to the people and has kept that covenant forever. This is how I look at it. Jesus re-

minds us that God's promise of love and salvation from God is a promise that cannot be broken. It is forever.

Here is one way this translates into being a big rock in our lives. No one knows better than we do, individually, all the places we mess up in our lives. We have all made mistakes, hurt people, hurt ourselves.

Continued on p. 2

What's Inside...

Rev. Louise Ott	1-2
Christian Ed.	3
And Also With You	4
News / Events	5-8
Calendar	9

Congregational Church of Birmingham, United Church of Christ
1000 Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Reverend Louise R. Ott, Pastor

Phone: 248-646-4511 Fax: 248-646-9375

Email: ccbchurch1000@sbcglobal.net Website: www.ccbucc.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Happenings Editors: Lisa Franks (lalexie@yahoo.com) & Toni Wilson (tonoi22@yahoo.com)

We have gotten stuck in our own stubbornness, judged others, shut God out of our lives. God's constant and unconditional forgiveness and redemption is a big rock in our lives. I don't know about you, but being forgiven for my own stupidity is a pretty big rock in my life.

If I have to be perfect and get it right every time...

If I have to hold on to every mistake I have ever made...

If I have to save my own skin and do it all alone in this world...

FORGET IT! I'm doomed before I begin. I will live in guilt and depression and be without hope or a future.

It is God's promise of love and forgiveness that gives us the freedom to carry on in our lives. It is God's promise to be in relationship with us for all time that dispels despair and holds out a new future for us.

The psalmist ends by saying that our love and honor and devotion to God is the beginning of wisdom. If we live our lives devoted to God, we will have a better understanding of life, of all that is really important. Do you understand what is really important in your life? Do you know what the big rock is in your life? Will you thank God for this incredible gift in your life? Will you thank God for loving you, for forgiving you, for never giving up on you? Will you actively thank God? Will you say a few prayers of thanks?

When you wake up Thanksgiving morning give thanks to God. When you get into the car, give thanks to God. When you sit down to eat, thank God for that big rock in your life, the one that you depend upon more than anything else. When you go to bed on Thanksgiving night, thank God again that we are forgiven, loved and free!

Joy for the Journey,

Pastor Louise

Good News!!!

CCB's 2011 Birmingham/Bloomfield CROP Walk team raised \$2,370 to help church World Service fight hunger around the world and here at home. Our team consisted of Marty Bjorkman; Margherita Fisher; Marie Hochstein (Spirit Walker); Chris Mead; Deirde, Aidan and Willaim Menchaca; Steve Olson and Lynn Wilsher; Pat Parker; Mary and Cameron Perrin; Nancy Schermerhorn; and Paul von Oeyen. Thanks to the many CCB members and friends whose generous contributions made this year's CROP Walk a success. The Birmingham/Bloomfield CROP Walk team would also like to thank Comerica Bank, Mills Pharmacy and Ray's Ice Cream for their support.

Christian Education November Schedule...

Check Out the November 2011 Christian Education Sunday Morning Schedule! This Fall we're mixing things up a little bit and we want to make sure everyone is aware of the new opportunities that we're offering at CCB. Check out the schedule below for more details. Please contact Sara Erickson with questions. We hope to see you at one of our many gatherings!

Sara

Date/ Group	Infants & Toddlers	Preschool- 4 th grade Sunday School	FROGS (5 th -8 th) & Senior High (9 th - 12 th) Sunday School	Youth Music Program (5 th - 12 th)	Comma Conver- sations (Adults)
November 6- Communion Sunday	10:30-Nursery Services	10:30- Worship 11:00- Opening Activities & Music in Arlund Room 11:30- Creation Stations	10:30- Worship 11:30- FROGS in "The Pad;" Senior High meet upstairs	Youth Music with Tara meets during Sunday School after worship to prepare for Advent and the Christmas Pageant.	11:30- Comma Con- versations: The Wired Word in Ar- lund Room
November 13	10:30-Nursery Services	10:30- Worship 11:00- Opening Activities & Music in Arlund Room 11:30- Creation Stations	10:30- Worship 11:30- FROGS in "The Pad;" Senior High meet upstairs	Youth Bell Choir meets after Chil- dren's Time in the Little Sprouts Room. Youth Music with Tara meets during Sunday School after worship to prepare for Advent and the Christmas Pageant.	11:30- Comma Con- versations: The Wired Word in Ar- lund Room
November 20	10:30- Nurse- ry Services	10:30- Worship 11:00- Opening Activities & Music in Arlund Room 11:30- Creation Stations	10:30- Worship 11:30- FROGS in "The Pad;" Senior High meet upstairs	Youth Music with Tara meets during Sunday School after worship to prepare for Advent and the Christmas Pageant.	11:30- Comma Con- versations: The Wired Word in Ar- lund Room
November 27- Brunch Bash Sunday, Hanging of the Greens, Thanksgiving Sunday	10:30-Nursery Services	We invite children to par- ticipate in a shortened Creation Stations Sunday School after Children's Time. Preschool-4 th grade classes will not meet after worship today. We hope you enjoy Brunch Bash and Hanging of the Greens!	FROGS and Senior High students will not be meet- ing after worship today. We hope you enjoy the Brunch Bash and Hang- ing of the Greens!	Youth Bell Choir meets after Chil- dren's Time in the Little Sprouts Room.	Adults will not be meeting for Comma Conversations. We hope you enjoy the Brunch Bash and Hanging of the Greens!

And Also With You... Welcome New Members!

Over the summer, our CCB family has welcomed no less than sixteen new members, including four newly confirmed youth. We will profile these individuals and families over the next couple of months so you can greet and welcome them warmly to the congregation.

Ron Vander Meer

When I talked with Mr. Vander Meer I found out a multitude of things about him, one being his considerable amount of kindness. Mr. Vander Meer was born in Portage where he grew up. He now lives near Telegraph and Square Lake. He heard about our wonderful church by himself through his profession as a minister. Mr. Vander Meer is a Minister by trade but also works as a training specialist for a private company. Currently no one else from his family goes to CCB.

—Interview by Aidan Menchaca



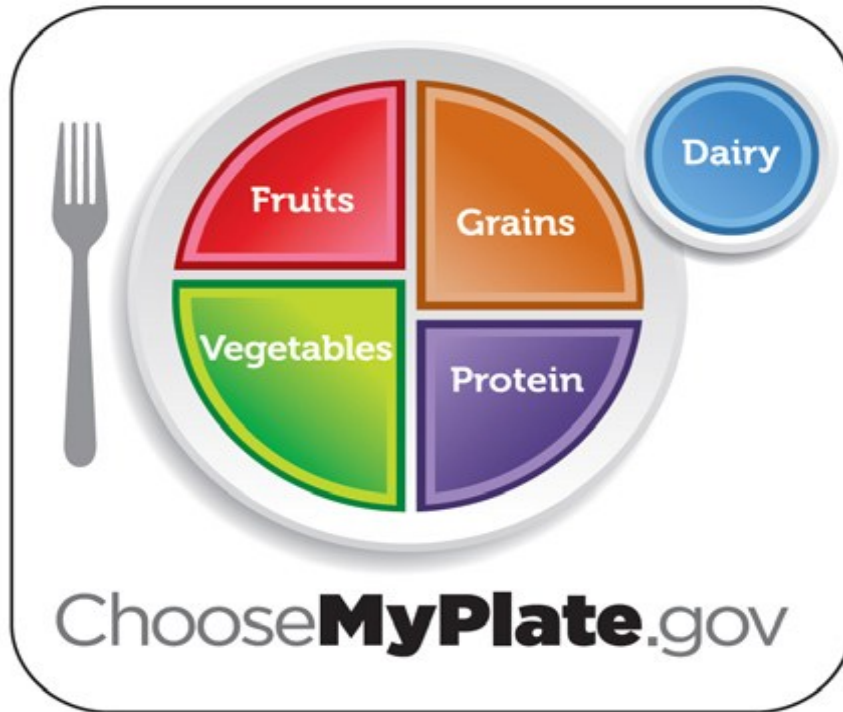
Penelope Johnson

Over the phone, Aidan found that Mrs. Penelope Johnson is a very interesting woman and that art is her specialty. Penelope is originally from Wyandotte, now she spends her time in West Bloomfield. Over the years Penelope went to a congregational church in Cadillac when she lived in that area, but then moved closer to CCB. The main reason for coming to CCB is that she loves that our church is “open and welcoming that accepts everyone”. She says we “don’t just say the words”, but she could feel the smiles and the love when she came here. She left the banking industry to follow her passion and now is an abstract artist by trade. She encourages you to visit her website at kreativepop.com.

—Interview by Aidan Menchaca and Toni Wilson

Nutrition Fact from the Conscious Living Committee

Let's choose a great plate.

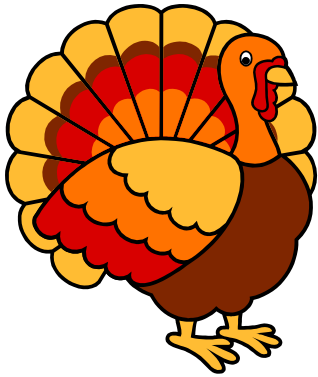


Let's balance our calories. Finding out how many calories we need a day is the first step in managing our weight. To find out your calorie level go to ChooseMyPlate.gov. Being physically active also helps to balance calories. If you haven't started walking for CCB why don't you begin today?

THE CHURCH WOULD LIKE TO THANK

the October 8th garden and grounds workers: John, Susan, Charles, Ken, Pat, Shirley, Nancy, Karen, Joyce, Karyn, Tom, Tim, Ted, Larry, and Jeanne.

ANNUAL LIGHTHOUSE THANKSGIVING BASKET PROGRAM



CCB will again be collecting food and money for the Lighthouse Thanksgiving basket program. Please plan to pick up specific donation reminders starting Sunday, October 30.

Bring the food to church by Sunday, November 13!

If you have any questions, please call Pat Parker at (248) 851-8135.



Central United Methodist Church

Hosts Noted Theologian

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2011

11 a.m. Worship Service | 4 p.m. Worship Service

Sermon and Talk-back | Panel Discussion on
"The War on the Poor"

Join us at CUMC

23 East Adams Avenue at Woodward in Detroit.

REV. DR. JEREMIAH A. WRIGHT JR.

Renowned Scholar, Author & Lecturer

Known as a powerful and fiery orator, Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr., is pastor emeritus of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago. As senior pastor, Dr. Wright combined his studies of West African music and Judeo-Christian thought to create more than 70 ministries to address the needs of the community, to enrich the lives and faith of his congregants, and to help Trinity UCC achieve its motto, "Unashamedly Black and Unapologetically Christian."

For more information contact: 313-965-5422 x130



To CCB Women of All Ages

Please save the date *Wednesday, December 7,*
2011

Christmas by Candle- light

*an outstanding evening of
Music, Fellowship and Fabulous Desserts
featuring*

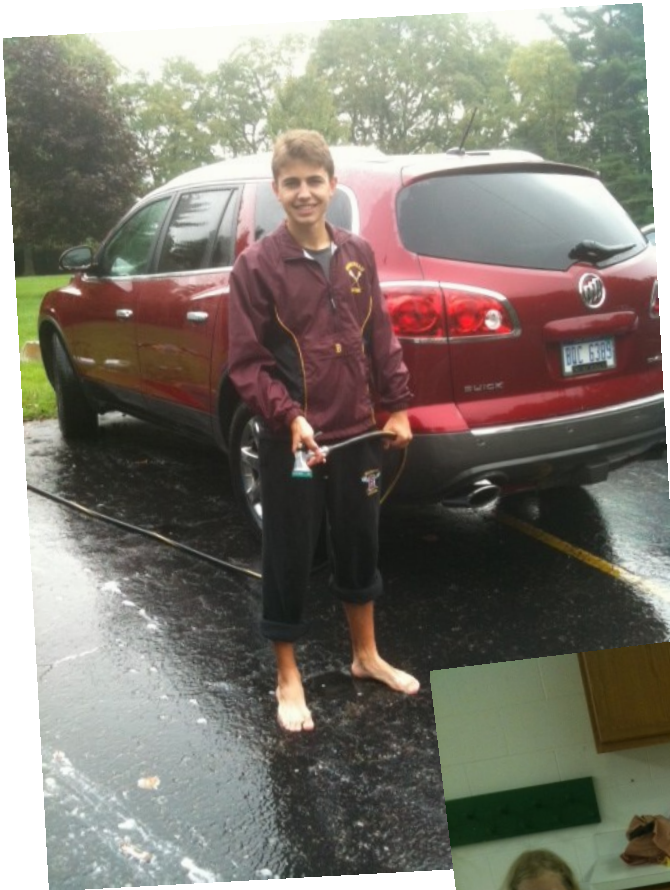
The Cass Ambassadors Choir

Be sure to mark your calendars now and invite your friends!

CCB Goals and Commitments

- 1. We intend to become more intentional about living out our faith by reaching out to each other and through our mission in the region, nation and world.**
- 2. We intend to become more inclusive, open and affirming in our approach to ALL people regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, ethnic background and sexual orientation.**
- 3. We intend to become better stewards of the environmental and economic resources which are a vital part of God's creation.**

CE Department Keeping us All Busy!!!!



Photos by Sara Erickson

November, 2011

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS for our Congregation—For more detailed calendar information including meeting rooms and outside groups using CCB, please visit the website ccbucc.org/calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>30 October</p> <p>Thanksgiving Baskets Collection Begins</p> <p>9AM Choir</p> <p>9:45 AM Youth Fellowship & Parent Mtg.</p> <p>10:30AM Worship</p> <p>11:30AM Sunday School</p> <p>2PM Halloween Party Setup</p> <p>5PM Halloween Party</p>	31	<p>1 November</p> <p>All Saints' Day</p> <p>10AM Philippians Study</p>	<p>2 National UCC Evangelism Conference (Detroit)</p> <p>6:30PM Handbells</p>	<p>3 National UCC Evangelism Conference (Detroit)</p>	<p>4 National UCC Evangelism Conference (Detroit)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9AM Visioning Focus Group</p> <p>7PM Silent Movie Night</p>
<p>6 Daylight Savings Time Ends! Rite of Remembrance Thanksgiving Baskets</p> <p>9AM Choir</p> <p>10 AM Youth Music Rehearsal</p> <p>10:30AM Worship w/ Communion</p> <p>11:30AM Sunday School</p>	<p>7 10AM Election Set-Up</p> <p>7:30PM Council</p>	<p>8 Bloomfield Hills Elections</p> <p>10AM Philippians Study</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30PM Handbell Rehearsal</p>	10	11	<p>12</p> <p>9AM Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>13 Thanksgiving Baskets Collection Ends</p> <p>9AM Choir</p> <p>10:30AM Worship</p> <p>11:30AM Sunday School</p>	14	<p>15</p> <p>10AM Philippians Study</p> <p>7:30PM Board of Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30PM Handbells</p> <p>7 PM Green Screen Film</p>	17	18	19
<p>20 Promise Giving Sunday Winter Wear Collection Begins</p> <p>9AM Choir</p> <p>10:30AM Worship</p> <p>11:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:45AM Community Garden Team Mtg.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7PM Boards & Committees</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10AM Philippians Study</p> <p>7:30PM Birmingham Area Ecumenical Worship (at CCB)</p>	<p>23 Holiday-Office Closed @Noon</p> <p>Happenings Deadline (noon)</p>	<p>24 Thanksgiving Office Closed</p>	<p>25 Holiday Office Closed</p>	26
<p>27 First Sunday of Advent Hanging of Greens Winter Wear Collection</p> <p>10:30AM Worship</p> <p>11:30AM CCB Brunch Bash</p>	28	<p>29 Happenings Printing-Dec. Issue</p> <p>10AM Philippians Study</p>	<p>30 Happenings Mailing-Dec. Issue</p> <p>6:30PM Handbells</p>	1 December	2	<p>3</p> <p>11AM Auction</p> <p>Parents' Day Out</p>

The Congregational Church of Birmingham,
United Church of Christ
1000 Cranbrook Rd.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2725

Place Label Here



Phil 4:6-7 (MSG)

Scripture:

6 Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. 7 Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.