



God is still speaking,

# Happenings

## From the Pastor's Desk

**7 "The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem..."**

Acts 6:7 (NRSV)

Peanut butter is probably my favorite spread. I like it on toast, on bananas, on apples, on chocolate, and in a sandwich. Because we choose to eat the natural peanut butter, it takes a little bit of effort to spread this nutty stuff. In my opinion the tasty results are worth the time it takes to stir and prepare for consumption. The other reality for me is that when I am unable to cook or face food of any other kind, peanut butter will get me through.

However elementary this may sound, the same is true for spreading the word of God. And by word of God I mean the message of God's love that Jesus sought to instill in us all. In October, Sunday education opportunities will begin after worship for the FROGS (middle school), for the \_\_\_\_\_ (high schoolers will name), and the Comma Conversation (adults). The obvious goal is for us to spread some of the wisdom of God's love in our lives in such a way that our faith increases. When our faith increases we have the sustenance of soul to face situations that frighten, threaten, depress, anger or just plain upset us.



When we read the book of Acts, we get the idea that spreading the faith was not a solitary activity. They gathered to study and learn. They talked with one another about what Jesus' style of living in the world and with one another was about. And a quick reading of the New Testament will clue you in to the fact that the early Christians had plenty of disagreements about beliefs, about procedures, about who ought to do

what. As the sages say, "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

So as the various Educational opportunities come along this

fall put yourself shoulder to shoulder with some of our newest members whom you will meet in the pages of this Happenings issue. Enjoy this glimpse of those who have joined our church this year. Seek a conversation with these fifteen souls on a Sunday morning and share the journey of faithful learning and living at CCB.

*Continued on p. 2* ▶

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One more thought. Peanut butter is sticky in a really good way. I hope that as we share our faith in a God whose love is boundless and unconditional, that others will hear this message in our lives as a delightfully sticky realization in their minds. God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God! Spread the word.

Joy for the Journey,  
*Pastor Louise*

## Flu Clinic at CCB!

Sunday, Oct. 9, 11:30 AM

As part of its mission to serve the community, **Evangelical Homes of Michigan** will offer flu shots to anyone 18 or older. If you are covered by Medicare or Medicare Advantage, please bring your card so that Evangelical Homes can be reimbursed. If you are not Medicare-eligible, the vaccination is offered at no charge but donations are gladly accepted to defray the cost of this service. An offering basket will be available for anyone who would like to contribute to the effort. For every dollar donated, 50 cents will help to defray clinic expenses this year, and 50 cents will go into a **Church Ambassador Endowment Fund** that will help fund clinics in the years to come.

This clinic will provide vaccines for the seasonal flu. The vaccine is intended to protect people from the 3 most likely sources of influenza for the upcoming flu season. One of the strains being covered is the H1N1 (“swine flu”) virus. **Those who receive this vaccine will not need a separate H1N1 vaccine.** Please contact Margherita Fisher if you have any questions:

[mzanif@aol.com](mailto:mzanif@aol.com) or 248-626-6699



# Christian Education October 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! See page 10 for details about our Adult Sunday

School class, which begins Oct. 2.

Sara

Date/Group	Infants & Toddlers	Preschool- 4 <sup>th</sup> grade	FROGS (5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> ) & Senior High (9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> )	Comma Conversations (Adults)
<b>October 2- World Communion Sunday &amp; CROP Walk!</b>	The nursery is available during worship	Special Activities are provided after Children's Time in the Arlund Room. After worship, check out Creation Stations Sunday School!	FROGS and Senior High Students are invited to remain in worship after Children's Time. FROGS students are invited to meet in "The Pad" after worship. Senior High students are invited to meet upstairs after worship.	Adult Sunday School kicks off TODAY! Please meet in the Library shortly after worship for The Wired Word.
<b>October 9</b>	The nursery is available during worship.	Special Activities are provided after Children's Time in the Arlund Room. After worship, check out Creation Stations Sunday School!	FROGS and Senior High Students are invited to remain in worship after Children's Time. FROGS students are invited to meet in "The Pad" after worship. Senior High students are invited to meet upstairs after worship. Also, the Youth Handbell Choir meets today.	Adults are invited to gather in the Library for Comma Conversation: The Wired Word after worship.
<b>October 16</b>	The nursery will be available during worship.	Special Activities are provided after Children's Time in the Arlund Room. After worship, check out Creation Stations Sunday School!	FROGS and Senior High Students are invited to remain in worship after Children's Time. FROGS students are invited to meet in "The Pad" after worship. Senior High students are invited to meet upstairs after worship.	Adults are invited to gather in the Library for Comma Conversation: The Wired Word after worship.
<b>October 23- Brunch Bash Sunday!</b>	The nursery will be available during worship.	We invite children to participate in a shortened Creation Stations Sunday School after Children's Time. Preschool-4 <sup>th</sup> grade classes will not meet after worship today. We hope you enjoy Brunch Bash!	FROGS and Senior High students will not be meeting after worship today. We hope you enjoy the Brunch Bash! Also, the Youth Handbell Choir meets today.	Adults will not be meeting for Sunday School. We hope you enjoy the Brunch Bash!
<b>October 30- Don't forget: Halloween Party tonight at 5 p.m.!</b>	The nursery will be available during worship.	Special Activities are provided after Children's Time in the Arlund Room. After worship, check out Creation Stations Sunday School!	FROGS and Senior High Students are invited to remain in worship after Children's Time. FROGS students are invited to meet in "The Pad" after worship. Senior High students are invited to meet upstairs after worship.	Adults are invited to gather in the Library for Comma Conversation: The Wired Word after worship.

## *And Also With You...*

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

First we will meet Scott and Wendi Corteville and their children Holly and Bradley, who have been attending for some time now.

### **Where are you from originally?**

Scott grew up in Warren, MI and moved to Troy, MI in his high school years. Wendi grew up in Highland, MI. Both Scott and Wendi went to Michigan State University where they met.

### **Where do you live now?**

After graduating from Michigan State, Scott and Wendi moved to Novi, MI followed by Belleville, MI for a couple years. Scott and Wendi moved to Columbus, OH for a year so Scott could start his Masters degree. They then moved back to Commerce Township, MI where they currently live.



### **How did you hear about CCB?**

After being discouraged about the church they were attending not including children in the services, Wendi went searching on the internet for other churches with similar beliefs as theirs. Their Aunt and Uncle had been attending a UCC church in Shaker Heights, Ohio for many years that Scott and Wendi visited once. Wendi found a link on the UCC website for CCB and liked the message and what they stood for.

### **What made you decide to join CCB?**

Scott researched the history of many of the protestant churches and how they are different from each other. When he researched the UCC church, he agreed with Wendi that it matched their beliefs. They attended CCB when Rev. Ron Williams was the interim pastor and liked the message he shared during the services. They liked the congregation but wanted to wait and see what would happen when a new pastor was chosen. After meeting Rev. Louise Ott and attending a few services, they decided to join CCB.

### **What is your occupation?**

Scott is an electrical engineer for Continental Automotive Systems, which is a tier 1 supplier for tires and automotive components. Wendi is a partner in a business venture to teach and create digital scrapbooks and memoir writing. **Do any other family members attend CCB?**

Scott and Wendi have two children, Holly (5) and Bradley (8), that also attend CCB.

# *Welcome New Members!*

We also extend a hearty welcome to Will and Lori Branch.

First they started life out in southeastern Michigan. Will is from Warren, Michigan, and Lori split time between Huntington Woods and the Straits of Mackinac. They currently live in Royal Oak with their collie-mix Hobbes. Earlier in life Lori was part of a UCC church and knew the basic principles of the denomination and looked on a UCC web site to find CCB. Mr. and Mrs. Branch had truly an adventure planned, filled with visits to different churches, and they came to CCB around March 2010 and they never made it to the 2nd church on the list. For them, the church has only been getting better; they truly felt welcomed here. Lori and Will have been through many different jobs: to name a few, journalism, marketing managers and meat company owners. None of their family members attend CCB yet. I found that Mr. and Mrs. Branch are very nice people and I do truly welcome them.

—interview by Aidan Menchaca



We are also happy to give our heartfelt welcome to Jennifer Baumgartner and Greg Panzica.

Jennifer and Greg, I found through an exchange of emails, are very kind and sent their emails right on time. To start with, Jennifer and Greg are both proud natives of Michigan. Jennifer is from Grand Ledge, Michigan, and Greg is from Livonia. Now they live pleasantly in Royal Oak with their son, who is named Nicholas. They came to CCB riding on a large amount of friend recommendations. Mr. Panzica and Ms. Baumgartner thought that this church was right when they found that CCB aligned with Greg's beliefs, and Jennifer was originally from a UCC church. Now Mr. Panzica works as computer consultant and Ms. Baumgartner works as a sales manager. Finally, none of their other family members go to CCB.

—interview by Aidan Menchaca

We will have a photo of Jennifer and Greg in the November issue, as well as interviews and photos with Judy Greenwood, Ron Vander Meer, Penelope Johnson, Lauren Zemaitis, and John Welch and Charlie Morrison II. Stay tuned !

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Through the Neighbors in Need offering on Sunday, October 2nd, the church expresses a common commitment to justice and compassion throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. One-third of the offering undergirds the work of the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), including much-needed financial support for 20 American Indian congregations in the UCC. Two-thirds of the offering supports justice advocacy and direct service projects such as just-peace programs and community grants. For more information about this offering, please go to: <http://www.ucc.org/nin/faq.html>

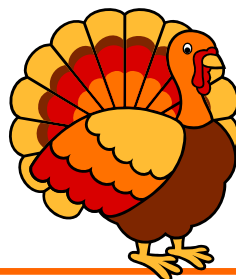
## ANNUAL LIGHTHOUSE THANKSGIVING BASKET PROGRAM

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.





# SOUTH OAKLAND SHELTER WEEK

at Central Woodward Christian Church

October 16 – 23, 2011

This year, CCB will be participating in South Oakland Shelter at the Central Woodward Christian Church at the southeast corner of Big Beaver and Adams in Troy.

***We need all of YOUR support.***

Sign-up sheets for over-night, evening and morning hosts, morning and afternoon drivers, dinner preparers and servers and food donors and launderers are in the CCB Fellowship Hall. Families are especially requested to help serve and eat dinner with our client families.

Help is also needed for set-up and take down on the opening and closing Sundays. We are looking for the use of a large, covered truck to pick-up mattresses/bedding on Sunday, October 16th . A crew of 6 will be needed to assist in moving these important and necessary items. Young people can earn community service hours for high school.

Also needed are donations of toiletries such as soap, shampoo, lotion, toothbrushes and toothpaste, combs, disposable razors and shaving cream and feminine products. A collection box is located in the Narthex.

Any questions on how to help call our co-coordinators:

**Paul von Oeyen at (248) 646-0837**

**Marie Hochstein at (248) 506-3560**



1700 Bronson Way, #220

Kalamazoo, MI 49009

August 22, 2011

Dear Friends at the Congregational Church of Birmingham,

I am deeply appreciative of your remembering Chuck with your gift to the UCC Christmas Fund. There were many causes that he knew needed help. This was one of them. Thank you.

Part of our hearts remained where Chuck ministered for fourteen years. I recently re-read some of the sermons he gave there and have a renewed sense of his loving, thoughtful, pastoral work among you. I learned and grew in my faith from his teaching during those years.

Thank you for remembering Chuck. As he said to you at the end of his last sermon there in September, 1984,

Shalom,  
Jane Erickson

TONI,  
I JUST WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU FOR  
HOSTING THE SPECIAL BENEFIT FOR RUTH  
ELLIS CENTER. CHRIS BATHURST & GREG  
WILSON WERE AMAZING. I LOOK FORWARD  
TO OUR FUTURE COLLABORATIONS.



THANKS  
AGAIN,  
Ken Jay Wilson

**Editor's Note:**  
The Red Comma Café concert on Aug. 27 raised \$183.00 for the Ruth Ellis Center; at left is a note from staff member Kenneth Jay Wilson thanking us for the effort.



## Young Faithful!

On Sunday, Sept. 18, four youth were confirmed by Rev. Ott in a joyful and meaningful service. Our new full-fledged members are Aidan Menchaca, Will Menchaca, Justin Newman and Cara Skrzycki. They read thoughtful and insightful statements of faith to the congregation which indicated they had been very well prepared, and received a white stole from Rev. Ott which bore the inscription, "Come, Holy Spirit...fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love."

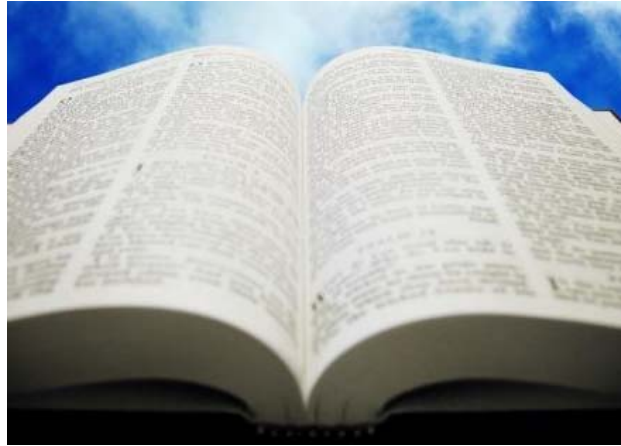


The service was followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall with cake and lots of pictures by proud parents Deirdre and Frank Menchaca, Bill and Teresa Newman, and Joy and Stephen Skrzycki.

Congratulations to the youth and their families on a job well done, and to Rev. Ott for her faithful work with these confirmands.

## BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Tuesday, October 11, at 10:00 AM, Rev. Ott will lead an eight week discussion of the book, Philippians, A Participatory Study Guide. This study is written by Bruce G. Epperly, an ordained minister in the UCC as well as the Disciples of Christ. All are welcome.



**Evangelical Homes of Michigan's** member program *LifeChoices* offers mature adults the ability to live at home with a lifetime guarantee of health care services and support as your health and wellness needs change. You are invited to the educational session being held at CCB on Tuesday, October 4th at 6:00 p.m. in the Arlund Room, to learn more about *LifeChoices*. Call 734-295-9292 to reserve your seat.

## Adult Sunday School Kicks Off This Fall!

Young and Old Adults alike are invited to partake in a new educational opportunity at CCB! Gathering on Sundays after worship in the Library will be the newest addition to the Christian Education Program: The Adult Sunday School Class. The featured series for Fall 2011 will be *The Wired Word*, a study that is centered around discussion that relates scripture to current headlines and happenings within our society. The first class will meet on October 2<sup>nd</sup> after worship. Everyone is welcome to join this homework-free class taught by Rev. Ott and Sara Erickson. Please contact Sara Erickson with questions. We hope to see you there!

# October, 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](http://ccbucc.org/calendar)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>25 September 10:30AM <b>Worship</b> 11:30AM CCB Brunch Bash/Local Food Throw-down 11:30AM Sr. High Car Wash 12PM Liturgist Trng.</p>	26	<p>27 <b>Happenings Printing Oct. Issue</b></p>	<p>28 <b>Happenings Mailing-Oct. Issue</b> 4:30PM MAT mtg. 7:30PM Handbells</p>	29	<p>30 Auction Setup (all day)</p>	<p>1 October 6:30PM CCB's Got Talent Auction</p>
<p>2 <b>World Communion Sunday</b> 9AM Choir 10:30AM <b>Worship w/ Communion</b> 11:30AM Sunday School to 12:15 2PM CROP Walk (1st United Methodist)</p>	<p>3 Trinity St. Mark's Rummage Sale 8:45AM Carpool to TSM 7:30PM Council</p>	<p>4 TSM Rummage Sale 6 PM EHM Life Choices</p>	<p>5 7:30PM Handbell Rehearsal</p>	6	<p>7 <b>UCC Michigan Conference Annual Meeting (in Saginaw through Sunday Oct. 9)</b></p>	<p>8 9AM Choir Rehearsal 9AM Grounds Workday</p>
<p>9 9AM Choir 10:30AM <b>Worship</b> 11:30AM EHM Flu Shot Clinic 11:30AM Sunday School</p>	10	<p>11 10AM Bible Study 1PM Green Field Trip to Planterra</p>	<p>12 12PM DMA Covenant Group 7:30PM Handbells</p>	13	14	<p>15 Vision Workshop 9AM Community Garden Work Day 8:30PM <b>Auction French Dinner</b></p>
<p>16 <b>SOS @ CWCC ALL WK.</b> 9AM Choir 10:30AM <b>Worship</b> 11:30 AM Sunday School</p>	<p>17 <b>SOS</b> 7PM Boards &amp; Committees</p>	<p>18 <b>SOS</b> 10 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>19 <b>SOS</b> 7:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal</p>	20 <b>SOS</b>	<p>21 <b>SOS</b> 3PM <b>Happenings Deadline-Oct. Issue</b></p>	<p>22 <b>SOS</b> 8:30AM Joint Assn. Fall Mtg. (in Armada)</p>
<p>23 <b>SOS @ CWCC</b> 9AM Choir 10:30AM <b>Worship</b> 11:30AM CCB Brunch Bash</p>	<p>24 7PM Board of Outreach Meeting</p>	<p>25 <b>Happenings Printing-Nov. Issue</b> 10 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>26 <b>Happenings Mailing</b> 12:30PM Staff Mtg 7PM Green Screen Film 7:30PM Handbells</p>	27	28	<p>29 9AM Community Gardeners Work Day</p>
<p>30 <b>Thanksgiving Baskets</b> 9AM Choir 10:30AM <b>Worship</b> 11:30AM Sunday School 5 PM Halloween Party (setup @ 2:30)</p>	31 Halloween	<p>1 November All Saints Day 10 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>2 7:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal</p>	3	4	<p>5 5PM <b>Auction Silent Movie</b></p>

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

Place Label Here



"Cristo es Senor de Mazatlan"  
(Christ is Lord of Mazatlan)  
Graffiti on a rock outside  
Mazatlan, Mexico

*Scripture: Matthew 9:13 (MSG)*

*"I'm after mercy, not religion. I'm here to invite  
outsiders, not coddle insiders."*

***Go figure out what this Scripture means.***

## 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.**