

February 1, 2012



God is still speaking,

Happenings

From the Pastor's Desk... From Uh-Oh to Aha!

As I write to you in the waning days and hours of January, winter, my big white love, has finally arrived! The roads are in some places clear and other places crusty and slick. Crazy as it may sound, I am in love with the weather which runs cold and drops snow on our heads. For one thing this weather slows us down. Honestly, we don't need to go all of the places we go and staying home with our thoughts isn't such a dire situation. God just might meet us there and we might discover for ourselves a blessed inner journey and exploration. In our best moments we could be open to a discovery, an "aha!," an epiphany that could confirm our faith in God and the people of God. Such a revelation could also change the direction of our lives.



Photo by Don Rupp

This is Epiphany in the life cycle of our church year. We remember that the wise ones of old were following the promised prophecies and a star in the sky. They believed strongly enough to make a long journey in pursuit of what God might reveal. They brought gifts with them to share. So are we in search of what God might reveal to us on our journey. And we have gifts to share with one another.

At Stephen Leader Training in January I was reminded again why I have come back to pastoral ministry in a local church. I sat in a room of 350 Christians from all of the mainline denominations who genuinely desire to be of service to one another in a

deeply spiritual and gentle manner. In our congregation we have the opportunity to know one another beyond polite conversation. We walk with each other through the joy of new birth and the agony of sickness and death. This vulnerability of sharing the deep places is a gift because we have vowed to be trustworthy with each other. We

represent God with and for one another.

¹⁰ "Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle." Romans 12:9-10 (MSG)

So soon it will be February 22 and Ash Wednesday. We will journey again with Jesus to Jerusalem. We will seek to listen again for the wisdom of Jesus for our lives as we encounter how his faith in (cont. on p. 2)

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God confronted the challenges of family politics, dogma, and tradition. Jesus will once more seek to adjust our operating system in life. That is where the "uh-oh" takes place. It's okay for the teaching of Jesus to adjust others but not us! So I hope that we will help each other to work on the inner journey of discovery even while we accompany each other through the "uh-ohs" of life, those we choose and those that choose us.

Thank you for helping me through so many uh-oh circumstances in my life this first year together. I mean it sincerely. I am just now beginning to sense the aha! possibilities which will bless us every one.

Journey Blessings,

Pastor Louise

Lent 2012—The J-OS: The Jesus Operating System

- 2-22-12 iSit: Strengthen Your Hearts
- 2-26-12 iListen: Upgrading Our Software
- 3-4-12 iHeal: Downloading New Expectations
- 3-11-12 iTouch: Operation Avoidance
- 3-18-12 iGive: Brand Loyalty
- 3-25-12 iSing: "The Song Everlasting"
Choir Cantata
- 4-1-12 iParty: Celebration & Certainty
- 4-5-12 iServe: The Sacred Supper

**The
Red
Comma
Café**



Sick to death of winter? Counting the days till summer?
Get a Head Start!

Join us for the annual **Red Comma Café**
Winter Beach Party!

Saturday, February 4

Chili and cornbread 7:00 PM

Music at 7:45 PM

with SOUTHPAW ISLE

Steel Pan Ensemble

featuring CCB members Mark and Lesley-Anne Stone

Frozen virgin daiquiris!

Frozen virgin pina colodas!

We promise to crank up the furnace, so wear your Hawaiian shirts, Bermuda shorts and dress flip-flops and *get ready to dance!*

Proceeds after costs are covered will help support the June mission trip to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

ADMISSION FOR DONATION!

◀ *Southpaw Isle performs at the 2010 Winter Beach Party*



Help Us Help the Neighbors! As with all Red Comma Café concerts, bring non-perishable food items or new school supplies and be entered in a drawing for a free CD! (Donations go to Lighthouse of Oakland County).

Christian Education...

Check Out the February 2012 Christian Education Sunday Morning Schedule! We have many educational opportunities for children, youth and adults on Sunday mornings 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!

There will be a meeting for those going on the South Dakota mission trip on Sunday morning, Feb. 5 at 9:45 A.M.

Christian Education Schedule for February, 2012

Date/Group	Infants & Toddlers	Preschool- 4 th grade Sunday School	FROGS (5 th -8 th) & CoffeeMates (9 th -12 th) Sunday School	CCB Music Programs	Comma Conversations (Adults)
February 5- Communion Sunday	10:30- 12:15 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;" CoffeeMates meets upstairs	10:00- Youth Music Program 11:00- Children's Music	11:30- Comma Conversations featuring Rev. Terry Gallagher, "Caring for God's Good Creation" Part One.
February 12- Youth Sunday	10:30-12:15 Nursery Services	10:30- Worship: No Opening Activities 11:30- Creation Stations	10:30- Worship 11:30- FROGS in "The Pad;" CoffeeMates meets upstairs	10:00- Youth Music Program 11:00- Youth Bell Choir & Children's Music	11:30- Comma Conversations featuring Rev. Terry Gallagher, "Caring for God's Good Creation" Part Two.
February 19	10:30-12:15 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;" CoffeeMates meets upstairs	10:00- Youth Music Program 11:00- Children's Music	11:30- Comma Conversations: Green Movie "Muslim In America" of the 30 Days Series.
February 26- Brunch Bash	10:30-12:15 Nursery Services	We invite children to participate in a shortened Creation Stations Sunday School after Children's Time. Pre-school-4 th grade classes will not meet after worship today. We hope you enjoy Brunch Bash!	FROGS and CoffeeMates students will not be meeting after worship today. We hope you enjoy the Brunch Bash!	10:00- Youth Music Program 11:00- Youth Bell Choir & Children's Music	Adults will not be meeting for Comma Conversations. We hope you enjoy the Brunch Bash!

Happenings seeks
your skills!

We love to get submissions of your photos, your articles, your recipes, your words of wisdom, your jokes, and especially your PHOTOS. Don't be shy. Send them in! We promise to give you credit and not share them with anyone else unless it's ok with you.

Email to

Toni Wilson

tonoi22@yahoo.com

or to

Lisa Franks

lalexie@yahoo.com

Join with us in a
Sacred Conversation on Justice
FORMING A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO THE ISSUES OF TODAY

With all of the difficult issues facing the world today, do you ever pause & wonder how God is calling us to act? *I sure do.*

Do you wish there was a Community wide process for discerning God's call to action? *Well perhaps there is.*

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? NRSV

Hosted by Congregational Church of Birmingham
1000 Cranbrook Rd. Bloomfield Hills, Mi
11:30a to 1:00 pm

Sacred Conversations on Justice

This Eco-Justice series focuses on engaging 21st century American Christians with the difficult issue of how our faith might inform our response to the crisis of Global Warming & Living a Sustainable life so that others might have a chance for life both now and in the future.

Discussions will be held on the dates listed
Below Following the Worship Service

Feb. 5 & 12 "Caring for God's Creation"

March 4 & 11 "Being a Blessing"

During the course these four sessions, using both Biblical & Modern secular resources in teaching & dialogue together, we will explore these currently contentious subjects and seek to discern God's Call to us.

RSVP requested
to assure sufficient
Handouts

Call

248-646-4511

Hope to see you there!

This series promises to be an informative and enlightening experience for participants and we ask you to please invite your friends and neighbors to participate.



Engaging presentations & discussions led by Rev Terry Gallagher .

Rev. Gallagher is a second career pastor called to a public ministry on social justice. He is a member of social justice ministry in DMA & the Prophetic Integrity Ministry of MI Conference of UCC while pursuing a Doctor of Ministry at Chicago Theological Seminary.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!

We have been asked to post a couple of employment opportunities this month.

Thought you might know some recent graduates who would be interested in a job opportunity (i.e, children, nieces, nephews, etc.) My son's company is looking for people who have Bachelor's Degrees in Accounting or Finance. They will be evaluating credit for auto loans. The position is located in Farmington Hills. It will pay around \$18 an hour. Contact Steve Kerr 248-430-3214 or skerr@aerotek.com

St. Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt, MI is looking for a half-time development officer. Rev. Dr. Patricia Kinney is the Ecumenical Liaison for the center, which is also home to the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program which supports the education and renewal of clergy. If you are interested, contact Dr. Kinney at (866) 669-8321.

CCB's 2011 Outreach Giving

Name of Organization	Cash Donations	From Rummage Sale Proceeds	In-Kind Donations	From General Budget
Baldwin Center-School Supplies			\$830	
Cabrini Clinic		\$600		
Cass Community Services	\$250			
Christmas Fund (UCC Offering)	\$1,480			
Common Ground		\$500		
Church World Service-CROP Walk	\$2,370			
Ecumenical Theological Seminary		\$600		
Evangelical Homes of Michigan		\$1,200		
Forgotten Harvest		\$500		
Freedom House		\$500		
Furniture Bank (CCB Women)	\$1,075			
Greening of Detroit-Urban Gardening	\$350	\$500		
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,240			
Haven (CE Halloween Party)			\$345	\$195
Lighthouse of Oakland County	\$1,315		\$2,865	
Michigan Animal Rescue League			\$500	
Neighbors in Need (UCC Offering)	\$1,133			
One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC Offering)	\$1,777			
Our Church's Wider Mission-Basic Support	\$1,541	\$1,539		\$564
Our Church's Wider Mission-Disaster Relief	\$2,842		\$236	
Ruth Ellis Center	\$1,032	\$25		
Samaritan Counseling Center		\$1,200		
South Oakland Shelter	\$215		\$1,500	
Strengthen the Church (UCC Offering)	\$697			
Trinity St Marks UCC Toybox			\$1,850	
World Vision		\$500		
GRAND TOTAL	\$17,317	\$7,664	\$8,126	\$759 \$33,866

The Board of Outreach is grateful for your compassion and generous support of those in need!

And Also With You...

Welcome to the Brown Family!

The Brown Family, Greg, Anisa, Ken, and Sarah, relocated to Bloomfield Hills this past summer after living for five years in Suzhou, China for Greg's work. Before living in China, the family had lived in Massachusetts, Indiana and Connecticut.

Greg and Anisa both grew up in Connecticut and have been married for almost 22 years. Greg is currently working as a Supplier Quality Manager at Stant USA's Troy office, and Anisa hopes to return to work in the near future in her field of engineering. Ken is a freshman at Seaholm High School where he is part of the marching band and robotics team. Sarah is a sixth grader at Derby Middle School and enjoys dancing. Both children are continuing their study of the Chinese language.

The entire family looks forward to getting to know the members and being a part of their new congregation.



The Brown Family in a photo taken in Zhang Jia Jie National Forest in China. The limestone peaks in the background were included in the movie Avatar.

Jacque Patt Ordained at CCB-UCC Jan. 29

CCB member Jacque Patt was ordained into the ministry of the United Church of Christ on Jan. 29 before a packed sanctuary of clergy, friends and mentors. Below are a few photos of the event.

Congratulations Reverend Patt!



Clockwise from top left: Clergy enter sanctuary (that's Rev. Penny Lowes in the white); Jacque's mentor Rev. Ruth Duck; Jacque and Rev. Thom Webster; laying on of hands by clergy and congregation; work crew for the reception posing with the good silver.

Photos by Don Rupp.

February, 2012

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
29 January 9AM Chancel Choir 10AM God & Country Meeting 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Comma Conversations: Pine Ridge Video & Sunday School 2:00PM Service of Ordination	30 Happenings Printing: Feb. Issue	31 Happenings Mailing: Feb. Issue 7PM "God's Problem" Adult Ed. Book Discussion	1 February 6:30PM Adult Handbells 7PM Visioning Planning Group Meeting	2 7PM Disciple Bible Study	3 7PM Auction Dance Lessons	4 7PM Red Comma Café Winter Beach Party w/ Southpaw Isle
5 Scout Sunday 9AM Chancel Choir Practice 9:45AM Mission Trip Meeting 10:30AM Worship w/ Communion 11:30AM Sunday School 12PM Comma Conversations	6 7:30PM Council	7 7PM "God's Problem" Adult Book Study 7:30PM Board of Worship	8 6:30PM Adult Handbells 7:15PM CE Meeting	9 7PM Disciple Bible Study	10	11 9AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 8PM Youth Lock-In
12 Youth Sunday 9AM Chancel Choir 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Sunday School 11:45AM B&G Mtg. 12PM Comma Conversations	13	14 7PM "God's Problem" Adult Book Study	15 6:30PM Adult Handbells	16 7PM Disciple Bible Study	17 7PM Auction Dance Lessons	18 6PM "Amore" Pasta Tasting Fundraiser Dinner
19 9AM Chancel Choir 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Sunday School & Comma Conversations: Muslims in America	20 Presidents' Day — Office Closed 7PM Boards & Committees	21 7PM "God's Problem" Adult Book Study	22 Ash Wednesday 6PM Lenten Supper 7PM Worship	23 7PM Disciple Bible Study	24 3PM Happenings Deadline for March Issue 7PM Auction Dance Lessons	25
26 9AM Chancel Choir Practice 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Brunch Bash (Host: Outreach)	27 10AM Election Set-up	28 7AM-8PM Election Happenings Printing: March Issue 7PM Lenten Study: Prayer	29 Happenings Mailing: March Issue 6:30PM Adult Handbells 7PM Green Screen Film	1 March 7PM Disciple Bible Study	2 7PM Auction Dance Lessons	3

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

Place Label Here



Scripture: John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are to also love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

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.