

# This Week at Union Church

<b>Sun. Feb. 28</b>	9:30 am..... Christian Education for all ages
	10:30 am..... Morning Worship
	11:45 am..... Lenten lunch
	4:00 pm..... ShapeNote Singers
<b>Mon. March 1</b>	8:00 am..... Meditation in Cowan Chapel
	12:00—1:30 pm..... Small Group, Rm. 204
	7:00 pm..... AA Bottom Line Big Book Study, Dialog Center
<b>Tues. March 2</b>	8:00 am..... Meditation in Cowan Chapel
	7:00 pm..... Mission Board
	7:00 pm..... Boy Scouts
<b>Weds. March 3</b>	8:00 am..... Meditation in Cowan Chapel
	9:00 am—12:00 pm... Work group—come to church and work on small repairs, tasks, etc., with Bill Stolte. Call him at 986-9032 or just come ready to work
	<b>Wednesday Nite Live</b>
	5:00 pm..... Middle School Youth Group
	5:45pm..... Supper, donation, Community Room
	6:15 pm..... High School Youth Group
	6:30 pm..... College Fellowship, Community Rm, activities for elementary age kids in 104
	6:30 pm..... Bible Study on the Book of Romans, 204
	6:30 pm..... Meeting regarding proposed Board Restructuring Pilot Project, Community Room
	7:00 pm..... Union Church Ringers, Choir Room, 3rd floor
<b>Thurs. March 4</b>	8:00 am..... Meditation in Cowan Chapel
	10:30 am..... Mothers Forum
	12:00 pm..... Bible Study
	3:00 pm..... Berea College convocation, sanctuary
	6:15 pm..... Union Church Choir, Choir Room, 3rd floor
<b>Fri. March 5</b>	8:00 am..... Meditation in Cowan Chapel
	9:00 pm..... Woman's Industrial
<b>Sat. March 6</b>	8:00 am..... Meditation in Cowan Chapel
<b>Sun. March 7</b>	9:30 am..... Christian Education for all ages
	10:30 am..... Morning Worship
	11:45 am..... Lenten lunch
	12:15 pm..... Meeting regarding proposed Board Restructuring Pilot Project, Community Room

## *Especially in our prayers ...*

Each week we join millions of Christians who pray for one another through the ecumenical prayer cycle and, locally, the Berea Ministerial Association's prayer cycle. Please keep the people **Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino** and our brothers and sisters at the **Gloryland Baptist Church**, in your hearts, and pray for them. Please also hold these concerns in your prayers today and throughout the week. (Prayer concerns can be submitted to the church office via phone or email).

- ◆ All who are serving or living in harm's way across the world, especially those suffering in the violence in the Middle East. We pray for the day when war shall be no more.
- ◆ Those affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti
- ◆ **Les Kovacs** and his family as his dementia worsens
- ◆ **Earl and Aldine Irvin**
- ◆ **Dorie Hubbard's mother**, undergoing treatment for cancer
- ◆ **John Courter**
- ◆ **Martha Pride**, at Berea Health Care Center
- ◆ **BG Hibbard's son Paul**, whose surgery was very successful. He continues to recover at home. BG and Maurice thank church family for their prayers.

- ◆ **Peggy Coyne**, recovering from knee surgery
- ◆ **Hannah Crowe's** cousin **Gola Crowe**, 25, in critical care in Asheville, NC, unresponsive, on a respirator and possibly with brain damage, from diabetic shock on February 18.
- ◆ **Paul Smithson and family**, at the death of his mother, **Maria**, at 94, in Winston-Salem, NC

## Assisting in Worship This Week

Worship leader this morning is Dorothy Chao. Next week: Hazel Morris

## Announcements

**You Can Still Join A Lenten Reflection Group!** For fellowship, for reflection, for your spirit! The *Kaleidoscope of Care* team invites you to join in Lenten Reflection dialogue groups. Sign up sheets are available at today's Lenten Lunch immediately following the service, groups are limited to 12 participants. Please choose to participate with a group at one of the following times each week during Lent:

- ◆ **Sundays: 3 - 4:30 p.m.** at John and Ramona Culp's home, Dogwood Drive
- ◆ **Mondays: Noon - 1:30 p.m.** Wyndee Holbrook at Union Church (If you can only come for the lunch hour, you are still welcome.) **6:30 - 8 p.m.** Toby Wilcher at Michelle Tooley's home.
- ◆ **Tuesdays: 6:30 - 8 p.m.**, Donna Dopson, first meeting will be at Union Church, then group will decide location.

The *Kaleidoscope of Care* team has produced a Collection of Lenten Reflections which will be the basis for the dialogue groups and copies are available to the congregation. Pick your copy up in the Vestibule or at the Lenten Lunch.

**Opportunities to Grow through Leading and Serving:** Here are several ways you might be able to use your gifts! We need some help in the following areas. Please contact Wyndee Holbrook (wyndee@union-church.org or 200-9880) for more information.

### **Children/ Youth Ministry**

- ◆ 1 additional teacher/ shepherd for Elementary Sunday School
- ◆ 1 substitute worker for Elementary Wednesday Night Live (6:30 - 7:00)
- ◆ 1 person to help Deborah Payne with Middle School WNL (5 – 5:45 p.m.)
- ◆ 1 volunteer each week to assist leader Florence Anyabuonwu in Children's Worship (Florence does the planning/leading, the helper shepherds the children)
- ◆ 1 music leader and 1 helper to direct a young people's music program (Wednesdays after WNL dinner would be an ideal time.)
- ◆ 1-2 to lead in drama (There is intergenerational interest in this area.)

### **Adult Ministry**

- ◆ 4 apprentice care group leaders are needed to work with the Lenten Reflection groups to facilitate future groups.

**FOOD BANK/BUURR Sunday!!!** Next Sunday, being the first Sunday in March, is a Union Church FOOD BANK Sunday!!! Our tradition at Union Church for many years has been to bring food contributions for the Berea Food Bank, and contributions to BFCO (Berea Faith Community Outreach), to church on the first Sunday of each month. As we share the Lord's Supper together, we have the special opportunity to share gifts of food and money with our neighbors in need.

The Food Bank is being used very heavily this year, and food supplies are low. As always, all contributions are welcome and greatly appreciated! *Special needs* identified by Food Bank director Jerry Workman include: *pancake mix; syrup; corn bread mix; fruit juices; canned fruit of all kinds; jellies and jams; tuna, salmon, and canned meat of all kinds; and spaghetti sauce.*

Please bring your contributions next Sunday (or before) to collection box in the vestibule or deliver them directly to the Food Bank and BUURR (Bereans United for Utility and Rent Relief) building (103 Parkway Avenue, just across from the City Hall parking lot) clearly marked "from Union Church." Over-and-above

financial contributions can be made by writing “BFCO” on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your continuing support of this important community program, one of three administered by the ecumenical group, Berea Faith Community Outreach.

**Please Stay for Lunch!** The Trustee Board will provide our second Lenten lunch of the season, right after worship. No set fee, donations for the church budget will be cheerfully accepted and used for our ministry together. You have eat. Why not eat with new friends?

**Order A Hearing Assist Device for \$85!** Units that match Union Church’s system can be ordered at a cost of \$85 each. Please call or email the office if you’d like to purchase one.

**Union Church Annual meeting March 14!** Union Church’s Annual Meeting, at which we elect Officers and Board members, will be March 14 right after worship and the Lenten lunch. This is an important meeting because we’ll be discussing implementing several projects from our “Living the Vision” self-study, including what we need to do organizationally and financially to help us be strong and vibrant.

**Board Chairpersons and Officers: Annual Reports due in the office TOMORROW. Via email is best, if possible.**

**During Lent, Berea United Methodist Church** invites everyone to their Wednesday meditation and lunch from noon—1:00 pm. March 3 Steve Connelly will speak and Elise Andre will offer the music.

## About our Lenten Art

**Bulletin Cover by Jeff Pool:**

**Bulletin Cover by Jeff Pool: *DOMINUS ILLUMINATO: HEN AND FOX***

*On the Cover, “Fox and Hen,” Original Art by Rev. Jeff Pool “This Celtic Lenten meditation focuses its primary attention on the reading from the Gospel of Luke for the second Sunday of Lent, employing stylized images of hen and fox. In the text Jesus employs, as a metaphor of himself and his work, the image of a hen that desires to gather her chicks under her wings as protection from predators. Jesus intentionally refers to Herod, the political leader who seeks to kill Jesus, as a fox. The drawing, then, brings these two images together to consider their paradoxical relationship. As the predator, the fox seeks to devour the hen: nevertheless, the hen’s behavior has confused the fox and even has confounded the fox’s intention. Rather than a violent counter-attack against the fox, however, this sketch suggests the possibility that Jesus also regarded Herod as one of the children: the hen gently approaches to gather the fox under her wings as well.*

*“Thus, as a reflection on Psalm 27, the sun on the horizon carries the thought of illumination through this encounter, and also represents a reading of the psalm in light of the gospel. Christ even seeks to enfold under her wings those who live as enemies of the cross of Christ,” in the phrase from the apostle Paul’s epistle for this week of Lent.”* Lectionary references: Genesis 15:1-12,17-18; Ps. 27; Luke 13:31-35; Philippians 3:17-4:1

## Sanctuary and Altar Art This Season

*During Lent the colors of the season change to purple, recalling the purple scarf roman soldiers put on Jesus to mock him as “King of the Jews.” The mood of the season is more somber, reflective, and our sanctuary art becomes more meditative. We take the time to focus on the shadows (symbolically draping additional windows each week) as we prepare for the light of Easter. In the chancel, several pieces of art help us focus our meditation through the season. The Christ candle holder (2000) with crown of thorns was made by Bob Montgomery from a design by Rev. Kent in memory of Martin Ambrose. On the Communion Table you will see the hand-wrought iron cross also by Bob Montgomery and a sculpture by local artist Tom Boyd (2003), purchased with the Art and Worship Fund of the church.*

*Central to the communion table imagery, a pitcher and bowl and towel will also be displayed for the next six weeks. The pitcher and bowl and towel remind us of our servanthood to each other, especially during this period of Lent. The bowl, made of clay, is our body which has become stuffed with our dead deeds, dead thoughts. We despair of being able to change, yet God tells us that the acceptable time is **now**. The six branches symbolize the six short weeks to bring about transformation, to empty ourselves of sins that bring us death and fill ourselves with every Word that comes from God which will bring us life. Can we, a little at a time, change those dead branches into green ones, just as the dead branches in the bowl are replaced week by week over time? We move toward Palm Sunday (March 28), when the bowl is filled with palm branches, and on Easter Sunday (April 4), a glorious display of white flowers.*

Adapted by Carla Gilbert from Stephanie Sydoriak, Los Alamos