Union Church is proud to host and sponsor a once-in-a-lifetime concert honoring world-renowned singer-songwriter Jean Ritchie. National folk icons Kathy Mattea, John McCutcheon and Susie Glaze will perform songs in honor of more than 75 years of Jean Ritchie’s contributions to American Folk music, and previewing the release of a special new album by these and other major artists celebrating her. Special appearances will include Jean’s son, John Pickow and her Ritchie family nieces. A 2-CD set of these and more than 75 years of Jean Ritchie’s music will be made available at the concert in pre-release for $15.00. Proceeds from the concert will also benefit Appalachian Voices, protecting the central and southern Appalachian region from environmental and cultural degradation and Union Church which has stood for the equality of all persons for over 160 years. Seats are limited. Buy your tickets today—they’ll go fast (online only)!

**A Special Matching Grant to Help Us Spring Forward into Financial Stability**

Our church community and activities are truly thriving. Over fourteen Lenten groups explored spiritual dimensions of art, writing, meditation, song, living and dying, and so much more. Our children’s choir and youth groups are growing and providing great "vim and vigor," and contributing regularly to worship and service, too! In just the last 4 months we’ve received 13 new members with more to come!

The mission and service of the church also abound. We’ve helped support needy families in Berea and around the world with thousands of dollars and hundreds of volunteer hours. Caring for the environment, we’ve cut our energy use by nearly 50% since 2007, sponsored seminars on science and religion, and rallied against mountain top removal and the false economy it offers our region. From advocacy and support for those affected by poverty, discrimination, and with extravagant care for God’s creation, Union Church is a bold and welcoming witness with the hope of inspiring both justice and joy in those around us.

Through Union Church, its members and programs, important work and important love is coming into the world. Now it’s time to Spring Forward into a financial future less fraught and more sure. Our current budget projects a $41,000 shortfall for 2014. Church Council, our pastors and administrators, and especially the Church Finance invite you to help us do something about the fear and worry such a deficit can cause.

**A Matching Grant will Double Your Over-and-Above Gift by May 17!**

If you can make an over-and-above one-time cash gift during our “Spring Forward” month, we’ve received 13 new members with more to come! Effort anonymous donors will match all contributions (and new or increased pledges) up to $20,500. Your $100 gift becomes $200! Your $500 gifts spring forward twice as far and becomes $1000! Very quickly our gifts could match our many graces.

Even if you can’t give very much, every dollar literally counts as 2! Consider using your May 18 tax refund as a one-time cash gift or pledge by May 18. If you can increase your pledge, your increase will be matched! And of course, easiest of all, if you can make a one-time donation, we will Spring Forward at double speed. God is Springing Forth... So Can We!

What’s happening at Union Church is all due to God’s great love, great hope for justice, and great joy in a beloved community. It’s too important to let fall and we certainly can’t fall back just when we are burgeoning with grace. Help us Spring Forward by making a new gift or pledge by May 18 when we’ll tally up the results. Look for more info in your mailbox soon!
**Regular Weekly Calendar**

**Sundays**
- 9:30 am — Sunday School Classes for all ages
- 10:30 am — Morning Worship
- 5:30 pm — Overeaters Anonymous, Classroom

**Weekdays**
- 8:00 am — Zen Meditation, Cowan Chapel

**Mondays**
- 6:00 pm — AA, Wayside Room
- 7:00 pm — High School Youth, Jubilee Choir, Middle School Youth, WNL program
- 7:00 pm — Bell Choir

**Tuesdays**
- 11:30 am — GED Class, Classroom
- 7:30 pm — Berea Community Drumming Circle, Cowan Chapel

**Wednesdays**
- Wednesday Nite Live frequently includes a program—finishes its year on May 14
  - 5:10 pm — Middle School Youth Group
  - 5:15 pm — Joyful Noise Choir
  - 6:30 pm — Bible Study, classroom
  - 7:00 pm — Bell Choir

**Thursdays**
- 11:30 am — GED Class, Classroom
- 12:00 pm — Bible Study, classroom

**Fridays**
- 9:00 am — Women's Creative Sewing & Crafts

**1st & 3rd Suns**
- 1:30 pm — Daisy Troop #1803, Classroom

**2nd & 4th Mons**
- 9:30 am — Berea Knitters, Classroom
- 6:00 pm — Joyful Noise Choir

**2nd & 4th Tues**
- 7:00 pm — Mens Big Book Study, Room 301

**2nd Sundays**
- New Members welcomed

**4th Sundays**
- Newcomers' Gatherings after worship

**Standing Board Meetings**

**Mon. May 12**
- 3:00 pm — Properties Board
- 6:00 pm — Administration Board meets

**Tues. May 13**
- 6:00 pm — Faith Development Board
- 6:30 pm — Finance Board
- 7:00 pm — Community Life & Growth Board and Mission Board meet

**Weds. May 14**
- 10:00 am — Worship Board meets

**Mon. May 19**
- 7:00 pm — Church Council

**Weds. May 21**
- 7:00 pm — Meeting to address the 2014 budget

**May 28!** Steve Rhodes will read from his new book of poetry, *What Might Not Be*, here at Union. Details TBA but mark your calendars!
New Art Installation!

Fritz Eichenberg (1901-1990) was a German-American illustrator who is most famous for his wood engravings on themes of religion, social justice, and non-violence. A devoted Quaker for most of his life, Eichenberg was lifelong friend of Dorothy Day, a large body of his work was produced by and for the Catholic Worker, her influential social justice publication.

Thanks to a discovery by Sarah Stopenhagen Broomfield in the estate of her late parents, a commemorative set of 12 prints is now in the Union Church’s permanent collection and on display in the Pross Gallery (located on the lower floor of the atrium of the office entrance). Eichenberg became well known for his slight “twist” on traditional religious depictions such as “Christ of the Breadlines” where in the midst of homeless and downtrodden men, stands the figure of Christ, also waiting for a hand out.

Thanks to our Worship and Art’s savings fund, we were able to frame these treasures to keep them safe and available for viewing. Special thanks to Bob Boyce for framing each peace for viewing. The prints will be on display through the summer.

Dear God’s Peeps!

Churches, like all kinds of families, are working hard at making ends meet and generally trying to make the world a better place. At Union, we are trying to raise and launch a bold witness to God’s inclusive love with deep education for liberation, making the world better by empowering the healing of the spirit only God’s justice and joy can bring.

In bringing all this to fruition, the church, like families, has to be agile, adaptable and resourceful. Music is not sung, tissues do not blot tears, books do not get discussed without significant resources of good hearts, good labor, and good money.

Even though we are growing and our witness and ministry is increasing, so far household pledges haven’t met all the money resource needs. We’re working to close a $41,000 gap for 2014, and we need to find about 12%-15% more income (about $55-$65,000) for 2015 to sustain the good work we are doing now and to be agile in responding to new calls, paying just wages, and offering meaningful programs and support.

There are a number of factors for our gap. One is that we are growing in exactly the way the we had hoped: but younger, growing families with children have very high expenses and often can’t contribute as much. Certain costs to the church, undreamed of even 5 years ago, have become a staple of our ministry (think Web-casting and the equipment needed), as have our invaluable staff. And of course there are the rearranged financial expectations the recent recession and slow recovery have brought to us all.

What we need is “Sustainagility,” the ability to do what’s important but in new, responsive ways. There are two ways we are moving forward. First is a series of house meetings to connect around “How shall we live,” and, “What is God calling and Empowering us to do?” As we focus on our mission and service for the next 3-5 years, we’re pooling all our thinking and your voice is important.

Second, we’re taking seriously the value of what a church community like ours can offer and asking people to contribute. It’s important, and it’s important enough to support well. We need to close the budget gap for 2014 and develop additional revenue sources for 2015, 2016, and beyond. We also need to do that with great sensitivity to the already incredible generosity of nearly everyone who participates. Whether by donation of time or money or both, we are blessed but sometimes stressed.

None of these problems are insurmountable and none of these difficulties are more important than the work, hope and love we profess. We are thinking out of the box, creatively and boldly, and we are doing it. We are doing it so that we might together build this beloved vision of justice and joy in God’s name, and keep it going for our children, our elders, and all who would seek the love of God.

Let the Springing be sprung and may the Holy Spirit guide us and grace us all.

Boing.

New members David Bellnier, Dana Rousey and Matt Jadud!
From the Associate Pastor
Are you a Wild Goose??

Come fly with me!

I’m gathering a group of people interested in exploring the boundaries of contemporary Christian thought and experience at the Wild Goose Festival in Hot Springs, NC, June 26-29. You have to register separately at wildgoosefestival.org, but we will organize caravanning and housing if you don’t want to camp.

Yes, I said “camp.” This is not your typical conference. It’s a mostly outdoor combo of music festival, worship convocation, and intellectual and spiritual mind-blowing speakers. It’s a community gathered at the intersection of justice, spirituality, music and art. At a typical event, an attender might take in a main stage performance, a conversation with a screenwriter and director, an interfaith dialogue, and dozens of open air conversations under trees, around drinks, and at campfires. (If camping is the one thing that throws you off, do not fear. We have other possibilities.)

Speakers and musicians you might have heard of that are slated to be there this year include Jim Wallis of Sojourners; William Barber, president of the NAACP; Frank Schaeffer, author of Why I Am an Atheist Who Believes in God; Tevyn East, who has danced at Union Church several times and will lead a “Carnival de Resistance;” Mark Scandrette, who wrote Practicing the Way of Jesus that one of our Lenten groups studied last year; and Ruth Padilla Deborst, who has trained theologians and missionaries in El Salvador.

In other words, you don’t want to miss it. It’s pretty much guaranteed to be a transformative experience.

Tickets for the four-day event are $250 for most people if you sign up by May 31. Seniors, students, and children get major discounts, and if you volunteer, you get in free!

Talk to me, or to one of the folks who went last year: Dave and Kim Kobersmith, Carla Gilbert, and Anna Kate McWhorter. Then, register at www.wildgoosefestival.org, and let me know you did!

I can’t wait to experience all this with you!

Blessings,

Rev. Rachel

---

Energy Usage Report:
Jan2007 through Dec 2013 (2012 excluded)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Electric Usage kWh</th>
<th>Peak Electric Demand kW</th>
<th>Natural Gas Usage 100 ft³</th>
<th>Electric Usage MMBtu</th>
<th>Natural Gas Usage MMBtu</th>
<th>Total Usage MMBtu</th>
<th>Heating Degree Days</th>
<th>Cooling Degree Days</th>
<th>Total Degree Days</th>
<th>MMBtu per degree day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>130,080</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>6,724</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>1,116</td>
<td>3,919</td>
<td>1,490</td>
<td>5,409</td>
<td>0.206366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>116,800</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>7,831</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>1,182</td>
<td>4,668</td>
<td>1,140</td>
<td>5,808</td>
<td>0.203447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>111,120</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>6,801</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>1,059</td>
<td>4,577</td>
<td>1,042</td>
<td>5,619</td>
<td>0.188511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>112,640</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>6,460</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>1,030</td>
<td>4,814</td>
<td>1,572</td>
<td>6,386</td>
<td>0.161342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>100,320</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>5,070</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>849</td>
<td>4,236</td>
<td>1,462</td>
<td>5,698</td>
<td>0.149051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>109,280</td>
<td>669</td>
<td>2,703</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>4,851</td>
<td>975</td>
<td>5,826</td>
<td>0.110395</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

MMBtu (NG + Elec) per degree day

- 4 DAYS OF MUSIC, JUSTICE, SPIRITUALITY & ART -
Geeky but Important: Union Church Cares for Creation!

We have worked hard to lighten our collective “load” on the planet as a congregation. A major thrust of our “prayers in action” over the last decade has been to reduce our energy usage in general and shift that use to renewable sources.

Energy efficiency improves our bottom line but more importantly how much and where we get power has real justice implications. We are trying to reduce our dependence on burning coal which poisons air and water, and increase our efficiency so we can use less energy while still doing God’s good work.

To that end, Steve Boyce and the Union Church Properties Board have been tracking our total energy usage. The geeky, yet cool, data presented in the chart and graph, show good news about energy use from 2007-2013! (2012 is excluded because we were out of the building for renovation.) Here are some important points:

1. The number in the lower right hand corner of the table (0.110395) — overall energy efficiency with weather correction — is both the lowest of the 6 recorded years and the improvement in this first post renovation year is the greatest, both in percentage and absolute terms. In terms of total energy (electricity + natural gas) we are now using not much more than half of what we were using in 2007. Something to be very happy about: that we’re not paying now for what we were using then.

2. The total electric usage (kilowatt hours) for 2013 was the second lowest among the 6 years despite the shift in 2013 to greater reliance on electricity instead of natural gas in our new HVAC systems. Note also that the total amount of natural gas used is also by far the lowest among the 6 years.

3. The reason our bills have been high is the result of rate increases since 2007, our picking up new billed items since the renovation (e.g., sprinkler system as part of the Berea Municipal Utilities bill), and the fact that the cost of electricity at this point is almost double the cost of natural gas.

Dave Kobersmith, Church Administrator, and the Properties Board believe it is likely that this year’s efficiency and — hopefully — the bills will improve as we continue to work carefully with the new HVAC equipment. On the negative side of the bills issue, our electric rates are almost certainly going to increase pretty significantly this summer.

To that end our efforts continue to shift to solar power. Our goal is to be meeting at least 30% of our energy usage with solar panels by 2020. We leased our first panels from the Berea Municipal Utilities Department in 2011 and through congregational giving and careful budgeting, we increased the number each year. We now have four 235-watt panels with plans underway to purchase 4 more this year, as soon as capacity is increased at the BMU solar farm.

Thank you for helping us put God’s people and God’s planet first. If you would like even more GeekSpeak about this please contact Steve Boyce at 988-9210, or steve_boyce@berea.edu.

Heather Richardson Named New Director of Women’s Creative Sewing and Crafts

Heather Richardson is pleased to present our WCSC program. The Women’s Creative Sewing and Crafts Program — formerly called “Woman’s Industrial” — was established as an outreach of Union Church in 1894. Ever since, the program has served primarily low-income women from Madison, Rockcastle, Jackson, Garrard, and Estill counties.

The aim of WCSC is to teach participants marketable sewing and craft skills, and provide health, parenting and nutritional education, while offering an atmosphere for fellowship and community.

Heather is a 1992 graduate of Berea College and is a licensed massage therapist. She has extensive experience in non-profit work, including the Berea Arts Council, and the Berea Public Library. Heather will begin May 1 and will overlap with interim director Willie Dodson through the month. Willie has accepted a new position in Virginia.

We are grateful for his invaluable service in these last months, even as we anticipate Heather’s care and new direction!

Wanted! Interested members to help manage Gift Card Program

The Church Finance Board is looking for individuals who would be interested in helping administer a new revenue stream for Union Church. We will be making gift cards available for over 400 local and national retailers, including groceries, hardware, online retailers, gas stations and restaurants. For each card the church will receive between 4%-12% of the purchase. Volunteers are needed to help plan, fulfill orders from members, and work with the online “back end.” Our research suggests that without any member spending anything more, the church could realize up to $10,000 in corporate donations. A team of 3-4 would be ideal. Please contact Dave Kobersmith if you are interested.

Wednesday Nite Live! in May

April 30 — Willie Dodson will share an update on the Prisoner Visitation Program.

May 7 — Participants in the various Lenten offerings will discuss their experiences.

WNL wraps up on May 14 with a cook-out on the lawn!

Bible Reading for May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May 4</th>
<th>May 11</th>
<th>May 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Peter 1:17-23</td>
<td>1 Peter 2:19-25</td>
<td>1 Peter 2:2-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Peter 3:13-22</td>
<td>John 14:15-21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Easter Peeps at Union Church!!

Photos by Rachael White