

The Church of Christ, Union

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THE CHURCH
OF CHRIST,
UNION

CONSIDER...

THE UNION
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2012

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Join Us Sunday Mornings!

Sunday School, 9:30 am
Worship, 10:30 am

About Us...

- All who seek and serve the love of God are ministers of Union Church
- Rev. Kent Gilbert, Pastor
- Merlin Kindel, Moderator
- Larry Brandenburg, Director of Music Ministries
- Dave Kobersmith, Church Administrator
- Joan English, Office Administrator
- Rev. Wyndee Holbrook, Director of Faith Development
- Youth Directors, Chris & Grace McKenzie
- Hope Hounshell, Woman's Industrial Director
- Jennifer Shelton, Bea Chasteen, Dorie Chasteen, Childcare
- Erik Reinhart, Custodian

Ready, Set, GO!

READY hands, OPEN minds, GIVING hearts, FAITHFUL spirits. Those are the reflected goals tucked into the backpacks of the travel team preparing for a service trip to Jamaica, March 10-18.

Fundraising is going on now to support those who wish to go and who need help with the fees and fares in order to do so. Can you be a SEND-er?

The team of 9 individuals represents a wonderful cross-section of our Union Church congregation. The service trip is a follow-through from a year of study, communication, and action supported by the Mission and Service Board. Many members of the congregation have lent help and support.

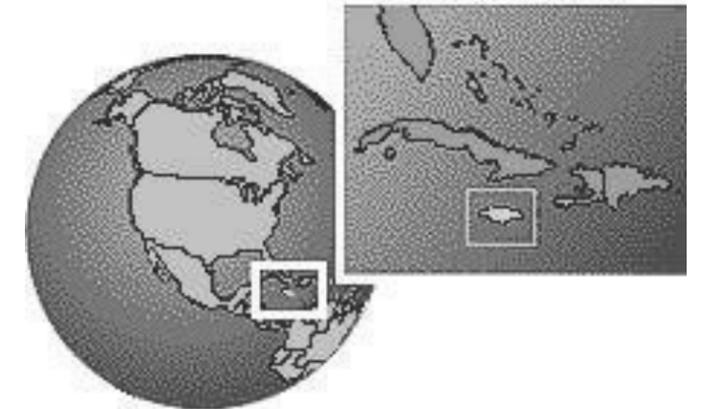
We know that we can only help *just some* as we build relationships in Jamaica, but *serving* and *learning* is what the travel team hopes to do. The team is going to assist with R.A.I.S.E. Jamaica, a project of Christian Services International (C.S.I.) located in St. Mary's Parish near Highgate, Jamaica. R.A.I.S.E. is the acronym for *Restoring Agriculture and Investing in Sustainable Enterprise* and we

will visit and work on the 196 acres recently donated to C.S.I. for the purpose of promoting and sustaining the livelihoods of people living in the area.

Jamaica is a land of contrasts. The beauty of the coastline and the lush vegetation is stunning. And so is the poverty that one

line and place in an offering plate or you can send it directly to Union Church, CPO 2105, Berea, KY, 40404.

In any case, join in the fun as we continue to RAISE funds to support those who are willing and hopeful of serving in Jamaica in March. Mark the dates in your



encounters there in the daily lives of so many Jamaicans.

Most of us reading this article are richly blessed with, at least, most of what we need to live in reasonable comfort on a daily basis. Why and how these blessings are ours is a source of constant quandary. God's grace falls on everyone and we hope to give and receive blessings from planting the seeds of friendship and from the work of our hands and hearts in Jamaica.

If you can help, please fill out a check to Union Church with **Jamaica Service Trip** on the Memo

calendar and join the events that are coming up—see back page!

The team will be sharing photos and information about the trip upon return to Berea. Completing the circle of communication and joy is important. GO-ers and SEND-ers are equally important members of the Jamaica service team. Stay tuned for more!

Travel Team members: Susana Lein, Deborah Payne, Hamrick Walters, Debbonnaire Kovacs, John Payne, Teri Mehler, Chris McKenzie, Paul Smithson, Patti Smithson

Fund (and FUN)-raisers!

What to do during these gloomy winter weeks while we wait to find out our moving/renovation options?

Party! With a purpose — the RAISE Jamaica team (see article page 1) has planned three fundraising and fellowship events here at church and around town! Let's get together!

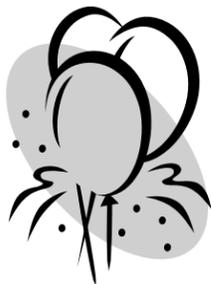
Sunday, Jan. 29, 7:00 – House Concert at the Carlbergs' to brighten up a winter's night, featuring music by Deborah Payne and other notable musical talent. Donations to benefit the

Jamaica service trip. Location: Shirley and Howard Carlberg's home on Broadway.

Friday, Feb. 3, 6:00 – Movie Night to view the feature film **LIFE and DEBT** and to share some good food together. Donations to benefit the Jamaica service trip. Location: Berea Public Library Theater and Community Room.

Sunday, Feb. 19, 12:00 noon – Mardi Gras Pancake & Fixins' lunch accompanied by a lively auction and fun-for-all activities. \$15 for adults, \$5 for children. Watch for more details! Location: Union Church Community Room.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays!

- 4 Sandy Bolster
- 5 Lisa Bosley
- 5 Mary Wolford
- 6 Joy Frazier
- 6 Ralph Thompson
- 7 Jean Boyce
- 8 Eric Crowden
- 8 Henry Basham
- 11 Cora Livingston
- 12 Ashley Cochrane

- 13 Ben Livingston
- 13 Bill Baker
- 14 Greg Lakes
- 15 Bernice Robertson
- 17 Grace McKenzie
- 19 Harry Piland
- 22 Ramona Culp
- 22 Joe Sheehan
- 23 Steve Boyce
- 23 Nancy Shinn
- 26 Triss Holland
- 28 Rachael White

Anniversaries

- 3 Sarabeth & Thomas Brownrobie
- 16 Luther & Yvonda Center
- 17 Bob & Joan Bates
- 22 William & Sarah Broomfield



If we don't know your birthday or anniversary, we want to! Or if we've made a mistake please call or email the office.

News of the Family

Union Church is a place where your faith can grow and deepen. We are actively looking for those who would like to explore discipleship with Jesus in this congregation. If you'd like to formally join Union Church, you'll have the opportunity every 2nd and 4th Sunday. Our Fellowship Principles:

"Union Church welcomes all followers of Christ and works with all who work with Him; respecting each person's conscience; working by love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."

- Feb. 5 Carol Gunkler
- Feb. 12 Silas House
- Feb. 19 John Culp
- Feb. 26 Teresa Gowler

A New Seminary Intern! [Insert picture if we can find one]

Church Council is pleased to report that **Naomi Schulz** will be serving a one semester internship at our congregation for the Spring 2012 semester.



Naomi is already an active member of Union Church and sings regularly in the choir. She is also a first year seminary student at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA, and will be doing "distance learning" for this term while undertaking intern duties with Pastor Kent.

In return for a modest stipend, Naomi will work 10-15 hours per week both shadowing the pastor and taking on special projects. Naomi is a gifted writer and has already contributed to some of our worship services by writing the Christmas eve prayers. She also has a strong interest in new ways to experience the scriptures and is planning to offer a workshop/class on "bibliodrama." (See more about this in her article!) She will also be assisting with visiting and pastoral care, and preaching about once a month. Her first sermon opportunity will be coming on February 5th while Rev. Kent will be completing a continuing education course.

In addition to the supervision of the pastor, an intern support committee is being formed to help nurture and support her with feedback and guidance. Naomi is Union Church's 5th intern, following in the line of Chrissy Cataldo, Mark Pettis, Steve Sherman, and Derek Roe. We are so glad to welcome her to this new role in our midst!

Steve Sherman with wife Erin and son Gabriel made a visit to Wednesday Night live. Steve (Intern 2010-2011) is finishing his last class at Lexington Theological Seminary and will be ordained June 1!

Our prayers continue for those who have had surgery and other health issues this last month: **Mary Miller, Shirley Dean, Joy Frazier, Marlene Payne, Hazel Morris, Gary Dillon, Cris Farmer.**

All are invited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Rev. **Dr. J. Donald Graham's** 50th year as minister of Kirksville Christian Church on February 12, 3:00 pm at Kirksville.

Prayers for the family of John Culp's brother, **George**, who died peacefully on January 22.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9:30 am—Classes for all ages 10:30 am—Morning Worship	6	7 7:00 pm—Faith Dev. Board meets	8 WNL 5:45-Supper 6:30 Youth Groups, Meditation class, Wayside Rm. 7:00—Handbells	9 Noon—Bible Study 6:15 pm-Choir, 304	10 9:00 am—Woman's Industrial	11 9:00—1:00-Divine Frolics
12 9:30 am—Classes for all ages 10:30 am—Morning Worship	13 5:30 pm—Worship Board meets	14 6:30 pm- Nurture & Care, Stewardship & Finance Boards 7:00 pm - Admin., Properties	15 WNL 5:45-Supper 6:30 Youth Groups, Meditation class, Wayside Rm. 7:00—Handbells	16 Noon—Bible Study 6:15 pm-Choir, 304	17 9:00 am—Woman's Industrial	18
19 9:30 am—Classes for all ages 10:30 am—Morning Worship Mardi Gras pancake lunch! See back page!	20	21	22 WNL 5:45-Supper 6:30 Youth Groups, Meditation class, Wayside Rm. 7:00—Handbells Ash Wednesday Service	23 Noon—Bible Study 6:15 pm-Choir, 304	24 9:00 am—Woman's Industrial	25
26 9:30 am—Classes for all ages 10:30 am—Morning Worship	27	28	29 WNL 5:45-Supper 6:30 Youth Groups, Meditation class, Wayside Rm. 7:00—Handbells			

"Divine Frolics" Bibliodrama Workshop for adults

Saturday, February 11, 9 am to 1 pm.

(Space is limited to 12, please call or email the church office to let us know if you're coming: (859) 986-3725 or jenglish@union-church.org)

Come play with a biblical story! Bibliodrama is a fun way to bring scripture to life while exploring how Biblical narratives speak to our everyday experiences. It is a technique drawing on improvisational theater, drama therapy, and biblical study that enables groups to discover fresh, light-hearted, and often deep insights into scriptural, personal, and communal meaning. This workshop starts with an hour of playful introductions and warm-up exercises, followed by a couple hours of exploring a New Testament healing story in depth, and ending with lunch and conversation. If you're willing an able, please bring a pot-luck lunch dish to share that also tells a story about YOU. We'll hear each other's stories, and share in the repast as part of our embodiment of sacred storytelling.

For more information about bibliodrama, check out Peter Pitzele's website at www.bibliodrama.com. The workshop will be led by Naomi Schulz, our Union Church intern for spring 2012.

Calling all Union Church Friends who value our Children!

We Need Volunteers for Children's Church

Many thanks to the Children's Church Helpers for the last 5 months: Kim Kobersmith, Betty

Hibler, Wyndee Holbrook, Stephanie Woodie, Dave Kobersmith, Alvera Perman, Tina Walters, Hazel Morris, Renee Wellinghurst, Annie Sims, Jeff From, Megan Purcell, Mark Johnson, Rich Royalty, Lee Fossett, Deborah Payne and Michelle Tooley.

We have promised these wonderful church friends that they will volunteer only once this year.

The Faith Development Board is calling church members and visitors whose names are not on the list to sign up to help our new Children's Church leader, Anna Kate McWhorter, for one Sunday during the next 4 months.

To sign up for one Sunday during 2012, contact Michelle Tooley or another member of the Faith Development Board. No preparation needed, only a willing heart.

those who are learning to read or who may participate in musical groups. When accurate rhythmic reading skills are acquired, the other aspects of "decoding" the music are much easier.

2) I am also, with no shame, hoping that some who come and begin to acquire this skill may be interested in our handbell choir. Rhythmic reading is the overwhelming basis for being a ringer.

Each ringer only needs to know where 2 pitches are (e.g. D and E). All the other named notes are somebody else's concern (and the conductor's!). What is crucial for the ringer to know when to ring. Whether you have interest in ringing or not, this skill will help you to be a better "sight reader" for whatever singing or playing you do. Join us on the 8th!
Larry

The Music Box



GOT RHYTHM? If not, then you need to come on **Wed. from 6:30 -7:00 p.m. to the choir room, beginning Feb. 8th.**

I will be teaching a short term course on the basics of rhythmic reading—that is reading and reproducing strictly the musical notation that defines any given rhythm. We will not be concerned with "pitch reading" (how high or low, A, B, C# etc. – that's the next course!). I am doing this for at least two reasons.

1) As a general help to anyone who wants to learn to read music. Reading rhythms and rhythmic patterns is nearly always the weakest aspect of

From the Pastor

Getting Ready to Add a New Member to the Family

With much excitement—much reading of resumes—the search committee is getting ready to interview and recommend an additional clergy member to our church family. Over the last 5 years we have dreamed, and then planned, and then raised funds to make hiring a second pastor possible. Now our dream is becoming reality and soon each of us will be asked to discern, "Is this the one God is calling us to be with? Is this the one who is called to guide us in new paths of service and faith?"

The process is going well and very smoothly, with excellent candidates and a diligent search committee. I hope you will take time to thank each of them for the hours and hours of labor and prayer they are putting into this task. The next steps will be that the search committee will interview their short list by phone. Then, after prayer and discussion, will ask 1-3 of those persons to come for a site interview. When one candidate and the search team agree that there is a possible call from God for our partnership, that person will be introduced to the whole church. There will be opportunities to hear them speak, ask and answer questions, and ultimately discern if we are ready to offer a call to be our associate pastor. That final candidate could be identified as soon as March, or depending on the scheduling of in-

person interviews, it could take a little longer. After all, this isn't like hiring someone directly. It's a careful process of trying to align our thoughts with the guidance of God and the needs of our community. We want to hear a call to us, as well as offer a call to our coming pastor.

There are other ways we can prepare ourselves, too. Here are some questions we might all be asking ourselves as we prepare to welcome a leader:

- What projects and areas of service do you hear God calling us to undertake with our new leadership and support?
- How will we carefully integrate a new pastor and his or her family with supportive expectations, not impossible burdens?
- How should we celebrate and introduce our new ministry team to the wider community?
- In what ways do we hope to grow spiritually? Programmatically? What support are we hoping to offer to the ministry teams, boards and committees, as we do?
- What of our "old ways" do we need to let go of to make room for what God is doing new in our midst?

This last one bears some thinking about. I'm sure there will be many new joys about having a

greater pastoral capacity and I'm looking forward to the help! And, I know that there are things we have all grown accustomed to that work because there is only one pastor. We might need more volunteer office help, for example, since now there will be 3 full time, 2 half-time, and 2 qtr-time positions to look after. What will it be like if you were hoping that the minister would

visit you in the hospital, but the "wrong" one comes? (And I know perfectly well the "wrong" one could be either one of us!). All of these are questions we will face together as we adopt a new challenge and many new blessings.

In the face of these and many other challenges, the prayers and service of this congregation have made a faithful and loving servant of Union Church. I know that with that same faithfulness and care we will forge new partnerships with a coming associate to serve in even greater ways. As we wait for that day to come, I hope you'll join me as we prepare ourselves to receive both the minor "challenge" and immeasurable "blessings" God has in store.

In much peace,



From the Church Administrator

Greetings to one and all, I have hit the ground running this New Year and I want to share some of the projects I am working on, on our behalf. Much of my work has been supporting the Design Team and the Administration Board.

Church leaders met to discuss strategically where we want to be in the next six to twelve months with construction and church programs. We recognized our disappointment with not having construction started and looked at what our needs and preferences are in light of the bids that were received on the project. We

shared this information with PPA and Hawkins Construction and were glad they were in their way addressing the same topics. A meeting is set for January 31st to hear the plans they have come up with and it is likely the Design Team will need to take the recommendations from PPA and meet on their own to determine the direction which is best for Union Church.

The church programs we noted in the leadership meeting lifted our spirits and reminded us of our vital ministry to the community and our church family. Be looking for more information about these opportunities, possible Lenten book groups, Mardi Gras Pancake supper, service projects, guided meditation on Wednesdays, and much much more!

The Administration Board has been working on a number of

employee related topics. First they are working on the package we'll offer our new Associate Pastor. I've researched some aspects of this with emphasis on the health benefits. As we all know, this is a very expensive and is a difficult topic to wind through all the nuances related to the issue. Please hold all that are working on the call of our new Associate Pastor in your prayers. Other things I am working on are preparing letters of employment for review by the Administration Board and reviewing insurance policies that are coming up for renewal.

Lastly, thanks again for the opportunity to be in ministry with you all. It is a joy and honor to be a part of this "community inspired by Jesus' transforming love."



A Psalm for the Time-Being

Lord, it seems like "hurry up and wait" is the place we are in. Advent came with preparation, Christmas came and we celebrated! And we were ready to move out! Sorta!

We were excited, anxious and anticipating moving out so the workers could move in.....

But! That was not to be. And we are disappointed!

Be with us in this time of between the now and not yet.

Help us trust that this time is one of necessity, and that it is but a short time in the greater scheme of our ministry to be Your people, and to *Live the Vision* You are calling us to be and do.

Help us to be patient during this "interlude" of time and space and see that it can be a time for us to "catch up" and to begin some of the projects which were on "hold" because we needed to be focused on the immediate need to "move out".

Help us see that it can be a time of new creativity and ideas to feed our spirits while we wait.

Keep our energy, our spirits, and our focus on the greater vision

Lord, we give thanks to all whose work have brought us to this point, and for those who continue to work on our behalf, trusting that your Spirit will guide, direct, and provide what is needed.

Give us confidence that Your work and Your desire will be done, and that things will "come 'round right".

Keep us faithful, excited, engaged and spirit-filled in this new time of waiting, preparing and making ready to *Live the Vision* in whatever time and space we find ourselves. Amen.

Carla Gilbert/ Kevin Burke

Sunday School Turnover and Lenten plans!



The good news: Our children and youth Sunday School classes have excellent and loving teachers. Many thanks to them all: Betsy Hoefer, Melody Srsic, Grace McKenzie, Tina Parker, Jessica and Joe Spencer.

The less than good news: We are losing some of those wonderful folks and are in need of a fresh crop.

After 2 and 1/2 years of faithful service teaching Youth Sunday School, Joe and Jessica Spencer are needing to invest their energies elsewhere. Grace McKenzie, who serves with her husband Chris as our Youth Directors, is needing to focus on the upcoming Confirmation Class and needs to leave the bouncy fun of the elementary Sunday School Class. Their love and dedication has been exemplary and we pray God's best for them and their continued commitment to Union Church and the body of Christ.

The Faith Development Board is prayerfully seeking Sunday School teachers. Is this a new role for you???

Parents and Young Adults are enjoying a lively discussion rooted in the gospel of Mark on Sunday mornings in the Wayside Room. The adult book group is back in the Dialogue Center after spending the fall in the Chapel. Of course, at the time of this writing we don't know how much longer we'll be here or when

we'll move to the College campus. But, wherever we are, we will be Union Church.

Part of being the church is sharing laughter as community. Children's Sunday School invites you to laugh and skate (or watch) on Sunday afternoon February 5 at Club Arena Roller Rink. The rink is open from 2:30-5:00 pm and the cost is \$4 to skate (free for those who don't skate). There is a coupon for two people to skate for a total of \$6 on the rink's website www.clubarenaskatingrink.com

Skaters of all ages are welcome! Contact Tina Parker at 985-8719 for more information. Also there are plans in the making for an adopt a grandparent program which will give our children a wonderful opportunity to love and be loved!

Another new opportunity for growth is the Meditation Group's 6:30 class after dinner at Wednesday Night Live. The first meeting is Jan. 25 and all are encouraged to come and allow themselves to learn.

You may think your mind is just too noisy for meditation, but be assured we all start at the same place and you are not alone. (Note: Bob Berger's Bible Study Class is on hiatus as Bob recovers from his knee surgery.)

As Lent approaches I'm seeking writers for our Lenten Devotion Guide. We've had wonderful writers in the past, who will be the new voices we need to hear?

Blessings,

Wyndee

What's up with Youth?

Chris has become a part of the RAISE Jamaica team in order to develop the possibility of a youth trip to Jamaica, possibly in the summer of 2013. We are all excited about the possibilities to come.

Anna Kate McWhorter came to speak to youth group about Passport Youth Camps and they all seemed very interested. We have signed up to attend the Passport Choices camp the week of July 1-6

in Windgate, North Carolina. If you know of a youth who is interested, they can contact Chris or Grace for more information. I have reserved a few extra spaces, just in case. We will be pursuing some fundraising opportunities in the next few months, including a car wash and talent show (which will be open to non-youth, but youth will be coordinating).

Plans continue for confirmation. There are currently 8 confirmands-to-be and 8 mentors. So thank you to all the mentors who volunteered! We are excited about these young people and mentors taking another step in their faith

journey. If another youth is interested, I could still find another mentor.

An organizational meeting for youth and confirmands will take place on Feb. 5th immediately after church and a light lunch will be provided. If a confirmand or mentor cannot attend, they should contact me. Since some mentors have children, if someone could stay after to do a bit of child care, that would be quite helpful. Please contact Chris 678-982-1731 or Grace 205-451-7444 to volunteer.

