The Church of Christ, Union
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Fellowship and Fun during June

In addition to VBS June 3-6 and Spinner’s Gospel June 24 and June 28—July 1, our Community Life & Growth Board invites us to share fellowship and fun in these ways:

- Lemonade on the Patio following Worship will begin on Pentecost Sunday and continues throughout the summer, weather permitting. This is the patio at the back entrance of the building near the parking lot—just take the elevator or stairs as far down as you can!
- Every Friday evening in June, meet in the Indian Fort/Pinnacles Parking Lot at 6:30 p.m. for a sunset hike—every Friday evening in June
- The Church of Christ over the past year.
- Children’s Ministry: we will begin on Pentecost Sunday and continue throughout the summer, weather permitting. This is the patio at the back entrance of the building near the parking lot—just take the elevator or stairs as far down as you can!

- Book Discussion Class, which is reading Wendell Berry’s Bringing It to the Table. All are welcome to join them at 9:30 on Sunday mornings on the 4th floor of Presser Hall.

- Additional news from Faith Development: we offer hearts full of thanks to the Sunday School and VBS staff for their hard work and dedication.

Join Us Sunday
Mornings! Worship, 10:30 am, Gray Auditorium

- About Us:
  - All who seek and serve the love of God are ministers of Union Church
  - Ron Kuntz, Pastor
  - Naomiki Itoh, Interim Associate Pastor
  - Pablo Koff, Moderator
  - Larry Braden, Director of Music Ministries
  - Cliff Kudavskis, Church Administrator
  - Sean O’Gara, Office Administrator
  - Rev. Wynfeito Halhara, Director of Faith Development
  - Ivan Chukov, Co-Pastor
  - Mark Henneman, Womans’ Ministries Director
  - Jennifer Shaver, Rev. Colleen, Co-Pastor
  - Cindy Chater, Children’s Director
  - Erik Reinhart, Custodian

June Abundance!
June starts off with a great Vacation Bible School adventure as we explore ancient Babylon with Daniel. Read the first 6 chapters of the Old Testament book of Daniel to be encouraged by this young man’s courage and unwavering faith.

- We’ll meet at the Friends Meeting House at 300 Harrison Rd. June 3-6 starting with a snack supper at 5:30 each evening and followed by VBS, 6-8 p.m.
- Lots of fun will be had as we divide into family tribes of mixed ages and proceed to celebrate, sing, learn, craft, play and even meet with Daniel himself!
- VBS is staffed with a great team, but know there’s always room for more! Please bring a carload and stay for the learning and laughter!

Now you may think that VBS is great for children, but what about adults??!

- Great news, the Faith Development Board has engaged storyteller extraordinare Debbonaire Kovacs to lead a special series she entitled “The Spinner’s Gospel.” Debbonaire will share her inspirational presentation “for people who have been through the mill” during the Sunday morning service on June 24. As a follow up we invite you on June 28—July 1 to share in group participation and discussion to help you expand personally on your journey toward greater unity with God. Debbonaire will host the group in her home from 6:30 - 8:30 each evening, 773 Big Hill Rd.
- Hands on experience -
  - handle raw and washed wool,
  - learn about cleansing and dyeing,
  - watch picking, carding and spinning— all in parallel to God’s process in our lives.
- We will take a love offering to thank Debbonaire for this excellent program of visual teaching. The Spinner’s Gospel will be a great way to share in the gifts of one of our church members.

- Debbonaire’s losses in the past year have been immense, but learn how she approaches life to keep her spirit alive and well.

Another adult summer option is the Book Discussion Class, which is reading Wendell Berry’s Bringing It to the Table. All are welcome to join them at 9:30 on Sunday mornings on the 4th floor of Presser Hall.

- Additional news from Faith Development: we offer hearts full of thanks to the Sunday School teachers who served so well in 2011-12:
  - Betsy Hoefer, Melody Scric, Tina Parker, David Milley, Grace McKenzie, Joe and Jessica Spencer, Tom Frazier, Steve Connelly and Wyndee Holbrook.

Mark your calendars for the Faith Development Job Well Done Party on July 20 at 7 at Pastor Kent’s house.
News of the Family

Al White, Deborah Payne, Katie Morgan, and other alumni members of the Berea College Bluegrass band are on a whirlwind musical tour of Ireland, returning in early June.

Congrats to Anthony Nathan and Traci Sisson who were married by Rev. Kent on May 19th.

Rev. Brian Cole, former member of Union Church will be installed as Rector of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Lexington, Sunday June 31. Brian is married to Susan Weatherford, another former member of Union Church. The two relocated upon his call in late March.

Prayers and thanksgiving for 2010-2011 Intern Steve Sherman who will be ordained at his home church in Brandon, FL on June 1. Rev. Kent will represent Union Church, bring a gift from the church family, and deliver the ordination sermon!

Congratulations to 2011 Intern Derek Roe who graduated from Vanderbilt Divinity School in May. He and wife Jeannine are hoping to relocate to Kentucky soon.

Upon recommendation of the Admin Board, Naomi Schultz’s internship was extended by Church Council to the end of June. The Council also voted to extend Rev. Wyndee Holbrook’s position of Faith Development Director until Aug 31 to assist with transition and fall program planning before the arrival of the new associate pastor Rachel Small.

Sally Zimmerman has broken her right arm and shoulder and is recovering after surgery. Loretta Mountjoy is facing spinal surgery soon. Husband George has been honored as the National Hunter Trainer of the year by the Dept of Fish and Wildlife, and will receive an award in Kansas City.

Keeping connected... without our building we especially want to stay close to one another. You can help! If you’d like to host an event at your house, consider a “9 to Dine” model: 9 people, a potluck, and 9 interesting questions to ask! Make sure to invite at least 3 people you don’t know, and help them get acquainted. It’s not only fun, it’s important!

Spinners Gospel Workshops presents Spinner’s Worship in Gray: Worship, Bible Study at Noon, Potluck at 6.30 pm. Council to the end of June. Our soon-to-arrive Associate Pastor Rev. Rachel Small and Leslie Stokes will be married on June 16 at their church in Scarsdale, NY. If anyone would like to send a card to them, their address is 83 Wyndee Holbrook’s—7:00 pm—Church. Our building we especially want to keep close to one another. You can help! If you’d like to host an event at your house, consider a “9 to Dine” model: 9 people, a potluck, and 9 interesting questions to ask! Make sure to invite at least 3 people you don’t know, and help them get acquainted. It’s not only fun, it’s important!

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From the Pastor

Dear ones,

It has now been nearly two months since we celebrated Easter in the old space and began our “camping in the wilderness” as our renovation project proceeds. The others members of the staff and I have pretty much found a place for all our books, boxes, wires and gadgets. Boards and committees have gotten practiced at finding, using, and storing needed items in make-shift cubbies in all our various locations, and most of you have found your way to Gray auditorium instead of our historic sanctuary for worship, praise, and prayer.

As we wait and watch for the new spaces to emerge from the rubble of the old, I have been struck over and over again with the sense that we are not just making over our building. The rearrangement of my office has given me permission (even a mandate) to let go of some things I no longer need. The new worship space has allowed for new configurations of leaders, communion, ushering, etc. Without the old pew locations, I imagine some of you have found yourselves sitting next to different people, people you might not have encountered in our regular home. We are all having to see, hear, and “do” differently. We, too, are being refitted and being given fresh new ways to trace our faith.

I hope that we will embrace those gifts and “travel mercies” for the whisperings of the Spirit that they might become. By sitting next to a new or different person you might very well speak or hear just the inspiration someone needs. Seeing what’s possible in our new and temporary space, we may become inspired to new outreach when we return to our familiar home.

Just like the disciples at Pentecost, the winds of change and inspiration continue to blow. While we can’t be unchanged or unresponsive, we can also be assured that just like the tongues of flame that fell on that unsuspecting church body, God’s Spirit is not yet done living, loving and acting through us in the world. It may not be the same, but there is something for us to learn to and give in all of these make-shift places.

This Pentecost season, I hope you’ll be alert to the ways God may be talking to you, talking to the church. We are being terribly, terribly blessed at every moment. How then shall we live? With Spirit and with care, in all manner of new ways, is my prayer.

In grace and peace,

“Like” Union Church Berea on Facebook! And Check Out Our New Web Page!

Union Church has a new FaceBook page and a brand new website. On FaceBook, search for “Union Church Berea” to find and post pictures of recent events, announcements, and the chance to comment and connect. If you click “Like,” you’ll get updates when new posts are added and you can share your connection with the church community automatically with other friends.

We also have a soon-to-launch newly designed website, courtesy of Dave Harl and Pinnacle Productions. Especially of interest is the much more dynamic front page which will always show summaries of the various Boards’ postings. Rev. Kent and Rev. Rachel will both have blog space, and for visitors we’re developing spiritual resources to assist people who may have questions, crises, or concerns but not yet have a church home.

Behind the scenes, we’ve also included ways for members and friends to have access to commonly needed forms and reference information. There will soon be quick links to update your address or phone numbers, as well as sign-ups for church activities or classes.

Most exciting is the ability to “webcast” our worship services. A live camera feed will carry our worship and word every Sunday at 10:30 am. Can’t make it to church? Catch the webcast from anywhere with an internet connection. Archived services will also be available if you’re not able to watch at regular church time.
What’s up with Youth?

This July, several of our youth, Grace and Hubbard, will be attending the Passport youth camp in North Carolina. Traditionally, the youth have gone on a yearly mission trip during the summer, but this year we want to try something different. While Passport does offer mission experiences during their week long programs, they also offer experiences during their week long summer programs, they also offer sports, drama, arts and crafts and a variety of other activities such as sports, drama, arts and crafts and outdoor recreation. We liked this idea and also felt it would be beneficial for our youth to have the opportunity to connect with other youth from congregations all over the region.

In order to do this however, we as a youth group needed to do some extra fund raising. For the past several weeks, the youth have been helping community members with chores and yard work in return for donations to raise money for camp. Even those who will not be able to attend Passport this summer have been pitching in and working hard for the cause. This has been a bonding experience for us and a fantastic opportunity to serve and connect with members of our community. The only downside has been the poison ivy (at least four of us have it in some form).

I want to say a special thank you to our sponsors for allowing us to work for you. You all have been extremely generous and hospitable, and I am confident your donations will translate to some truly wonderful experiences for our youth. I also want to thank the youth for their hard work and for taking time out of their busy schedule to earn this opportunity.

Peace and Grace,
Christopher McKenzie

June 1st
2:45pm, meet at Union Church parking lot to meet up with a youth group from St. Paul's Catholic Church in McKee for a trip to Flat Lick Falls!

Elementary Sunday School Class helps Anna Lou Ritchie in the garden!

Worship Board still needs YOU!

A second request from your friends on the Worship Board to consider sharing your friendship and warm feelings for our church and its members by volunteering to help with greetings, the offering and communion service, and/or being a Worship Leader.

This is easy, time limited, no meetings to attend. Just a little extra time before and after the worship service.

Please contact Carla Gilbert
Carla.gilbert@windstream.net 985-1144, Dorie

From the Church Administrator

On April 25th construction began with the demolition process. In the last month we have watched as the ceilings and walls have come down, asbestos tile and pipe insulation were removed safely, electrical wiring disconnected or removed, and old heating and cooling systems taken away.

Soon the work will begin to put in the new drainage system to keep the basement dry, with concrete being cut and removed from the fellowship hall, pipes laid in to remove the water, under slab drainage installed to move water from all areas of the floor to the new pipe, and a new concrete floor poured. At the same time work will begin outside to put in a new drainage system from our below-grade window wells and downsputs.

Bimonthly construction progress meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Our first meeting was held on May 16th. Here we address any construction related topics. At our first meeting those present at the table were all the contractors currently working on the building, the architects, engineers, construction managers and myself. I won’t go into all the details, rather I’ll share a few topics of our conversation – appropriate disposal of waste, review of how the church will be kept secure, who our state inspector is, and how changes in the plans are to be dealt with when they occur.

It is a fascinating and tedious process. It’s a process I enjoy and I feel I have been prepared for by previous experiences. I am also supported with a good team of professionals that make the work fun - even in the challenging times. Please don’t hesitate to ask me how the construction is going, you can email, call or check out the pictures outside the entry to Gray Auditorium. Please also note that all but the offices, temporarily in Cowan Chapel, are seen as a construction zone by Hawkins Construction who is managing our project. This means folks need to be guided through the construction areas and they must have closed toe shoes, long pants and a hard hat. Don’t let that keep you away; you can always come by the office to say hi and possibly go for a tour.

Shalom, Dave

“Green” Building Practices

As the construction begins on our beloved building the Design Team would like to give the congregation information on the steps that are being taken to minimize the effects of the renovation on the environment. How the renovation was going to impact the environment was an important part of the Design Teams decision making process. Each month there will be a short article on one of the many steps that are being taken to minimize the environmental cost of renovation. This month let us tell you about waste management.

When renovating you start with demolition. Demolition produces waste and debris. There will be several dumpsters on site for the disposal and recycling of different materials from the project. We will have a traditional dumpster for construction waste and debris, along with dumpsters for scrap metal/steel, dumpster for paper/cardboard products, etc. This effort is to minimize waste into the landfill and to recycle as much as possible from the renovation of the building along with new material being brought on site (such as recycling all of the boxes that the new materials arrive in).

From the Union Church Newsletter

Hubbard tom@tomdorie1@yahoo.com 986-0839 or Lisa Shroyer lbsno@yahoo.com 728-0733 and tell us when you can participate.

Special note to choir members: Summer hiatus would be a perfect time to help Union Church in this way!! Thanks in advance! Carla, Dorie and Lisa Hubbard

Worship Leaders for June are:
June 3 - Betty Hibler
June 10 - Gina Chamberlain
June 17 - Jeff From
June 24 - Mary Nash

Air vents removed from HVAC system in the Community Room

T H E  U N I O N  C H U R C H  N E W S L E T T E R

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