



THE UNION SPIRIT

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

105 PLEASANT STREET

EAST BRIDGEWATER, MA 02333

JULY 2015

From The Pastor...

Be very careful then, how you live-not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity. Ephesians 5: 15

I reflect upon the program year that we have just left. We've lost loved ones. We've gained new members. We've Baptized. We've endured the wildest winter in memory together. We've worshiped and prayed together. We've added caring ministries- Stephan Ministries, support group, ministry of caring. We've grown in spirit and faith.

The question is, 'Where do we go next?' I know some rather intense discussions are underway on how to have another successful youth ministry year and growing the Sunday school, while also having a successful Confirmation class. That'll be a challenge. Also, we will be opening the O & A discussion and building compliance with the Safe Church Policy.

I have some other ideas that I'd like you to think and pray about this summer that I'd like to get your feedback on. As you know, I spent a week out of the office last month in a program called BAP (Building Abrahamic Partnerships) at the Hartford Seminary. It is the three religions that trace our origins back to Abraham (if you want to read up on that, start at Genesis 12), Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. It was an extraordinary week of learning about each other's faiths and interfaith conversation. All I'll say here is that these three faiths that have been in conflict more time than not spent the week realizing that we are much more alike than we are different.

Then we had the horrific hate crime, domestic terrorist attack, call it what you will, at Mother Emanuel AMC Church in Charleston, NC. For all the progress that we think we have made in race relations in our country, we see that racism and bigotry is still real and vicious.

The question is, 'What can we do?' Here is my thought. We do what I did at the Hartford Seminary. We sit with people that are different from us. We open our hearts and minds to Jews, Muslims, African-Americans, Latinos, whoever is willing to talk to us. We learn, we grow, we pray, we talk, we listen, and we love. We are called by Jesus to love our enemies. Governments, our government, will not find the way out of our conflicts. It is people of good will working together to find a way.

One more thing... As Pastor, I walk a fine line. I am called to lead and to serve. As leader, I'd like us in the coming program year to open interfaith and inter-race dialogs. But, you may or may not be interested in that. I want to be the best pastor I can be for you. I need to hear where you are on this idea so we can move forward together in Christ.

Blessings, Pastor Jim

Diaconate

CHURCH COOKOUT



SUMMER SERVICE

CHURCH COOKOUT

Wednesday, July 8TH

Dinner begins at 6:30 PM

Service 7:30 PM

Assemble in front of the Parsonage, not the backyard area.

Please plan to come and join us for our first church cookout and Summer worship service! Please bring a dish or other donation item, the signup sheet is in the vestry, please let us know what you are bringing so we don't have too many of any item. You can call (508-378-2874) leave a voicemail if no one answers) or email (office@uccofeb.org) Laurie in the office to let her know.

SEX EDUCATION CLASS

Available for 7-8 graders through a group OWL (our Whole Lives) in Taunton.

Offered as a communication vehicle

Any questions please see Pastor Jim

News from the Mission Committee



The Food Pantry at Union Congregational is one of most important missions we serve to the community. Thank you to Christine Martin and all those who volunteer to make this such a worthy project.



The Strawberry Shortcake Sale was a big success. Special thanks to Theresa (delicious whipped cream) and David Hall for advice. Thanks also to Charlie Coakley for preparing the strawberries (he is now an expert at cutting strawberries) and helping us with set up. The committee raised \$270 for the General Fund. Thanks to all who helped and supported this fundraiser.

MAIN SPRING HOUSE MEALS



With summer upon us, we still need volunteers for The Mainspring House Meal on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Please check out the signup sheet on the board in the Vestry.



Summer is a time to relax and have fun. If you are away, don't forget to send in your benevolent dues. Thanks.

Mary Jane Coakley, Donna Driscoll, Howard Martin, Lu Post and Kim Wilburn

News from the Trustees



The Trustees would like to thank Mr. Christopher Hoyt for his commitment and dedicated service as the sexton at Union Congregational Church and wish him well in his new job. To fill the vacancy, the Trustees voted unanimously to appoint Scott Poulin as the interim sexton for the remainder of the calendar year. Anyone interested in the sexton position at UCC is encouraged to see Mike Mason for an application.

Fair News

While we are enjoying the beautiful summer weather, please be thinking of items to donate to the fair, and what you can do over the summer months.



- Do you have an abundance of garden vegetables? Think about making jams, jellies, relishes, pickles or salsas. We will be having a Jam and Canning station again this year.



- Are you crafty? Do you knit or crochet? Do you love to sew? Knitted or crocheted scarves, mittens, hats and dish clothes are true winners. Table runners, napkins, placemats, any fleece will make wonderful treasures. Snowmen, nativity scenes, Santas, Angels or other Thanksgiving and Christmas knick knacks will warm someone's home this holiday season. Also items that are not Christmas or Thanksgiving would be an added bonus. Easter, Spring, 4th of July, Americana, etc...

Attic Treasures

- Organizing or Cleaning? Start a pile for attic treasures.



- Is baking your talent? Cookies, cakes, breads, and pies are always wonderful confections. How about homemade chocolates, granola, trail mix?

The dates of the fair are Friday and Saturday, November 20th and 21st. Our theme is a Harvest Festival - so lots of Thanksgiving and Christmas goodies are welcome.

Have a great summer. I cannot wait to see what is shared at this year's fair.

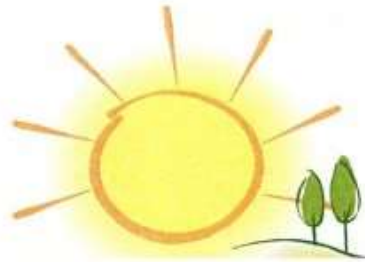
Safe Church Update



The Safe church committee has met a couple of times and are working on the safe church policies and procedures. One of the things that we want to make sure that everyone in the church knows about is our incident report. This is a report that needs to be filled out by someone if someone gets hurt or injured while at the church. There are incident reports hanging in a file folder on the bulletin board.

Thank you!

Safe Church Committee: Jamie Mitcheson, Pastor Jim Conley, David Repeta, Emily Oliver, Roy Augustson and Laurie Mitcheson



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Jim

Monday 9:00 am – noon &
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Tuesday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - noon

Laurie

Monday 9:00 am - noon
Wednesday 9:00 am - noon



Finance

Reminder: UCC Fellowship Dues are \$19.10 per person.

To support our 2015 budget we need an average weekly envelope offering of \$1,880 and an average miscellaneous income of \$774 for a total of \$2,654.

As of Sunday, June 28th, our average weekly envelope income was **\$2,009** and our average weekly miscellaneous income was **\$719 (\$2,728 total)**.

As all of you know during the summer months attendance always drops off here at Union Congregational Church (it would be great if it doesn't this year but in reality with vacations, cookouts etc. it will). We would like you to keep us in your mind even if you're not physically here. Our bills at the church don't stop (some might lower a little but they keep coming in). We build our budget on your pledges. If you pledge a certain amount per week or per month we rely on that throughout the year (even through the summer months or a week you're not here). Statements will be going out soon. We are asking that you take a look at these statements and if you have some "catching up" to do on your pledge please do so when you can. If you have any issues or questions with your statement please see Laurie Mitcheson, Howard Martin or a member of the Finance Committee and they can help you. If you cannot attend the Wednesday evening services you can mail in your envelopes to the church (105 Pleasant St, E. Bridgewater, MA 02333) or stop by during office hours.

Thank you so much, we really appreciate your attention with this!

The Finance Committee:

Laurie Mitcheson, Val Mason, Susan Powers, Susan Muise,
Bill Dawson and Treasurer Howard Martin



July Birthdays

- 2 – Meg Clapp's Birthday
- 2 – Laurie Mitcheson's Birthday
- 8 – Judy Cicierega's Birthday
- 8 – Chance Martin's Birthday
- 12 – Pat Martin's Birthday
- 13 – Savannah Hoyt's Birthday
- 14 – Al Ciri's Birthday
- 15 – Jeff Godfrey's Birthday
- 24 – Emily Oliver's Birthday
- 30 – Katie Martin's Birthday

If you would like to add and of your family members birthdays and anniversaries to the newsletter just email the office (office@uccofeb.org)

or put a note in Laurie's mailbox and provide these dates for your family.

Thank you!!

Vacation Bible School at St. John's Church

Sign up now!

July 27th – July 31st

9:00 am – noon

Ages 3 & up

\$43/student with a family cap of \$100

(additional \$5 for a t-shirt – optional)

Snacks provided daily

Family cookout/picnic on Friday following the close of camp,
all family members are welcome.

**Register Online @

www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/stjohnsvbs

**Work Volunteers call St. John's directly

July 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Office Hours 9-12 pm Food Pantry Delivery – 10 am AA – 7 pm	2	3	4
5 AA – 6:00 pm	6 Office Hours 9-12 pm Exec Mtg – 7:15 pm Boy Scouts – 6:30 pm	7 Office Hours – 1 – 4 pm Trustee Mtg – 7:15 pm	8 Office Hours 9-12 pm Food Pantry – 12:30–2 pm First Summer Service Cookout 6:30 pm Service 7:30 pm AA – 7 pm Finance Mtg – after service	9	10	11 Workcampers Leave
12 AA – 6:00 pm	13 Office Hours 9-12 pm Exec Mtg – 7:15 pm @ the Mitcheson's	14 Office Hours – 1 – 4 pm Deacon Mtg – 7:15 pm	15 Office Hours 9-12 pm AA – 7 pm Worship – 7:30 pm	16 Boy Scout Committee Mtg – 7 pm	17	18 Workcampers Return
19 AA – 6:00 pm	20 Office Hours 9-12 pm Boy scouts – 7:00 pm	21 Office Hours – 1 – 4 pm	22 Office Hours 9-12 pm MainSpring Meal AA – 7 pm Worship – 7:30 pm	23	24	25 Food Pantry 9:30 – 11 am
26 AA – 6:00 pm	27 Office Hours 9-12 pm	28 Office Hours – 1 – 4 pm	29 Office Hours 9-12 pm Worship – 7:30 pm	30		

*Any changes or additions to this calendar please see Laurie.
You can email her at office@uccofeb.org, call 508-378-2874 or leave a note in her mailbox.
Thank you!*

