



THE CHIMES

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1905 Edmondson Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228
PHONE: (410) 744-5014 • E-MAIL: welcome@immanuelucc21228.org • WEB: immanuelucc21228.org

May 2016

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“Reflections”

A wonderful thing happened at Immanuel and you missed it. Our friends from our Catonsville Cooperative Market held their annual fundraiser, the “Skill Share Festival.” The festival began at the parking lot and wrapped itself up the driveway and across our lawn. It was awesome!

We had people, mostly younger couples with lots of kids, learning about beekeeping, composting, home-brewing, learning yoga on the grass, and even how to raise chickens at home. I was able to meet some of our vendors who supply the produce and products offered by the Market throughout the year. I don’t think I’ve ever seen so many people at our church before. Our neighborhood came to our place and thanks to the Market, they found a wonderfully welcoming community.

Immanuel, we have so many things going for us! I’m very proud that we allowed the Market to host a community event on our property. You’re fun, compassionate, generous, but as your pastor, I have to point out that you’re stuck. We have a continuous stream of visitors who find us on Facebook. More are responding to our rainbow flag and the messages I post on the sign. You want to grow – you tell me that several times a month. You want to re-establish a kid’s program.

So, when we had a church lot full of the people you want to reach, you were missing in action. What’s up with that? I was there representing you, but Immanuel, you missed meeting our neighbors and making some new friends, the very people who might join us. Next year, we’re going to do better. Really!

We’re going to create a fun link that connects Immanuel with the progressive, earth-friendly people that the Market attracts and find our own way to say hello without being intrusive. It’s such a simple deal, but it’s a hard thing for introverted UCC people! So, I want us to try some new things this summer and get outside our churchy box for a change.

Outreach can be done in good ways and bad ways. I want us to do it in a good way. Good outreach can be a hot dog, a temporary tattoo, a balloon, or an outdoor fun movie night on the lawn with a white sheet on the bricks for a screen! No kidding, y’all! **We** can do this and I really do mean **“we.”** I represent you in a wide variety of settings, but growth comes from **you** creating bridges of unexpected, surprising hospitality.

In the meantime, take a look at the pictures I took ([click here](#)) when the wider world came to our doors. We have some really cool Cooperative Market friends and neighbors! You just don’t know them yet.

Peace to you from Rev Bev...

12 Ways You Can Help Disaster Survivors Recover Through UCC Disaster Ministries

1. Organize a U.S. disaster recovery work team. Just a week of your time will help disaster survivors rebuild their homes and lives. The most acute needs right now are in South Carolina, Texas, and New Jersey. http://www.ucc.org/disaster_2016_volunteers_needed
2. Buy a house or part of a house for a family in Nepal who lost everything to the powerful earthquake in April. \$4,000 buys a whole quake-resistant house! The UCC's goal is to build 50 houses. http://www.ucc.org/disaster_nepal_50_homes_goal
3. Prepare your household and your congregation for an emergency. You'll gain peace of mind and be able to help others. A list of basic household emergency supplies is available at <http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>. Resources for congregations are available at http://www.ucc.org/disaster_national-disaster-resources
4. Contribute to the UCC's Emergency USA Fund, which supports our denomination's rapid humanitarian response to both large and small natural and human-caused disasters in all 50 U.S. states and territories. https://unitedchurchofchrist.nationbuilder.com/emergency_usa_fund
5. Contribute to the UCC's International Emergency Relief Fund, which supports our denomination's disaster relief, long-term rehabilitation, advocacy and sustainability efforts along with refugee assistance around the world. https://unitedchurchofchrist.nationbuilder.com/international_emergency_relief_fund
6. Assemble Church World Service Kits – School, Hygiene and Baby Care Kits and Emergency Cleanup Buckets – time-tested packets of supplies that can be crucial to the recovery process following an international or domestic disaster. <http://cwsglobal.org/get-involved/cws-kits/>
7. Keep up to date on UCC Disaster Ministries on the web - www.ucc.org/disaster - and on social media. We're "One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC)" - <https://www.facebook.com/onegreathourofsharingucc> - on Facebook and "oghs_at_ucc" on Twitter - https://twitter.com/OGHS_at_UCC
8. Invite your UCC Disaster Ministries Conference Coordinator to speak at your Sunday worship service, adult Sunday church school or other occasion. http://www.ucc.org/disaster_us-disasters_ucc-disaster-coordinators
9. Learn how climate change causes and exacerbates disasters, and work for environmental justice. <http://www.ucc.org/environmental-ministries>
10. Contribute generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, typically taken during Lent. <http://www.ucc.org/oghs>
11. Contact UCC Disaster Ministries Executive Zach Wolgemuth – wolgemuthz@ucc.org - for information about serving as a long-term disaster recovery volunteer. http://www.ucc.org/disaster_longterm_volunteers
12. Volunteer – physically or virtually – to build houses in Nepal with the UCC's partner Fuller Center for Housing. <http://www.fullercenter.org/global-builders/nepal>

Disaster Recovery Volunteers Needed

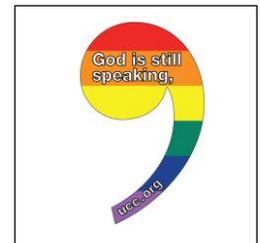
Your service as a Disaster Recovery Volunteer helps people rebuild their physical homes and is an act of presence that indicates the commitment to walk beside disaster survivors as they seek to rebuild their lives. In particular need of volunteers right now: South Carolina, New Jersey and Texas.

Support U.S. Disaster Response

The water crisis in Flint, Mich.; floods and tornados across the U.S. South, Southwest and Midwest; wildfires in California - there are so many U.S. disaster recovery needs right now. UCC Disaster Ministries has responded to requests for solidarity grants from congregations in California, South Carolina, Michigan and Missouri and from a long-term recovery group in Houston, Texas, that are on the front lines of response. Read more in the **Disaster Updates** section of the UCC website, and support these and other domestic response efforts through the **Emergency USA Fund**.

Upcoming Events

- May 4 – Global Café Bible Study resumes in the Fireside Room
- May 5 – Ascension Day
- May 8 – Consistory Meeting
- May 15 – Pentecost Sunday – Please wear “red” to celebrate!



May Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 04—Wayne Welsh | 12—David Sweeney |
| 17—Sarah Bluth | 18—Madeline Abel |
| 20—Robert Olsen | 21—Amy Dunham |
| 21—Brenda Ibutu | 22—Kathy Schatz |
| 25—Helen Schreiner | 30—J.P. Desmond |





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Lectionary Readings

(Day-Date; First Reading; Psalm; Second Reading; Gospel)

Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 1, 2016

*Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Ascension of the Lord – May 5, 2016

*Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

Seventh Sunday of Easter – May 8, 2016

*Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

Day of Pentecost - May 15, 2016

*Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17, (25-27)

Trinity Sunday – May 22, 2016

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Proper 4(9) – May 29, 2016

1 Kings 18:20-21, (22-29), 30-39; Psalm 96 or 1 Kings 8:22-23, 41-43; Psalm 96:1-9; Galatians 1:1-12; Luke 7:1-10

Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth – May 31, 2016

1 Samuel 2:1-10; Psalm 113; Romans 12:9-16b; Luke 1:39-57

* During Eastertide a reading from Acts is often substituted for the lesson from the Hebrew Bible. On the Day of Pentecost, if the Old Testament passage from Genesis is chosen for the first reading, the passage from Acts is used as the second reading.

Prayer Concerns

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

Please remember our beloved Baltimore during these days of remembrance of the death of Freddie Gray, the destruction that followed, and the trials yet to come. Let us pray for peace and justice, and work to restore the broken places that we face together.

Earthquake victims and survivors in Japan and Ecuador. Flood and storm victims in Texas and the Midwest.