



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

September 2016

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“Reflections”

The Book of Revelation has to be the most puzzling book in the Bible. On the surface, it reads like a cosmic nightmare destined to destroy the world with an exit ramp for Christians only. It's full of imagery that's beyond human comprehension on a good day and can scare anybody to Jesus who's looking for a last minute kind of faith to avoid the bad stuff on the “last day.” I can just about promise you that Revelation isn't what the “*Left Behind*” books and movies portray. Really!

Read literally, the book could've given Hitchcock bad dreams! So, I'm inviting you to join the Global Café Bible Study beginning Sept. 21st at 7:15 p.m. With the help of a study guide, *Breaking the Code*, by the Rev. Dr. Bruce Metzger, we're going to take it apart and see the meaning around, within and beyond the mysteries. It's going to be a short-term study that will last a little over an hour on Wednesday nights. Bring your NRSV Bible, questions, and an open mind. If you've never done a formal Bible study before, don't worry. No previous experience is required and it's going to be fun!

The Fireside Room floor repair has been completed and the new surveillance system installed. Jill and I will be able to monitor the building on our computers and won't have to blindly answer the front door buzzer any longer. The building coverage can be expanded later if we find we need another camera. Thank you, Steve Schreiner, for getting this important safety measure in place for us.

I've been following the Ellicott City Foundation for potential volunteer opportunities for us. The recovery is proceeding, but the immediate needs still require specialized HAZMAT training and volunteer opportunities are extremely limited due to safety concerns. So, stay tuned for future updates and possibilities.

There is going to be a memorial service to celebrate the life and ministry of our friend, the Rev. John Deckenback, on Saturday, Sept. 17th, at St. John's UCC on South Rolling Road, at 11:00 a.m. People from all over the world are flying in to recognize and celebrate John's irreplaceable journeys to bring peace, healing and justice in some of the world's most dangerous, broken places.

Our first Interim Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver, has begun her specialized ministry with us. She'll be here for the next three months to help us keep moving forward until the long-term interim is chosen. The challenges to put General Synod 2017 are huge and the push to recruit 400 – 500 volunteers is a critical need. So, get ready to be asked!

-continued-

The Annual Earl's Place Gala and Silent Auction is coming in October and Immanuel will have a table. Please check out the flyer in this newsletter and reserve your place now before all of the chairs are taken! It's a great way to support United Ministries and the residents of Earl's Place and Prospect Place.

BREAKING NEWS: FRIED JELLO (I'm not kidding) has won the Big Tex Award for the "Most Unusual Fried Food" making its premier at the State Fair of Texas...trust me...it's benign compared to some of the other entries this year! I'm not sure I want to know what crazy thing actually wins the best tasting category!

Peace,

Rev. Bev

September Birthdays

03 – Steve Schreiner

05 – Kyle Koziol

09 – Homer Riggins

12 – Karl Briers

13 – Sharon Welsh

16 – Ethan Gutberlet

18 – Kathy Riggins

20 – Susan Souder

25 – Tim Carter



■ Upcoming Events

September 11 – **Consistory Meeting**

September 21 (Wed) 7:15- **Global Café Bible Study** begins on the Book of Revelation. Please notify the office to receive the study material.

September 17 (Sat.) 11:00 – **Celebration of Reverend Dr. John Deckenback's life and ministry** at St. John's UCC, 1000 S. Rolling Rd. All are welcome. A reception will follow the service.

October 1 (Sat.) 10:30 – **Blessing of the Animals**. Leash or pet carrier required.

October 13 (Thurs.), 6:00-10:00 pm **United Ministries Annual Dinner to benefit Earl's Place**. Immanuel UCC will, as always, have a table for 10. If you are interested in sitting at the Immanuel table (\$60/person) please contact Larry or Leslie Dunham.

October 22 (Sat.) - **Chesapeake Association Annual Fall Meeting**, First & St. Stephen's UCC, 6915 York Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212. Registration begins at 10:00am, Registration fee is \$10. Meeting is 10:30am to 2pm, Lunch will be provided. Agenda and details to follow.

October 22 (Sat.) –**Variety Show** – Admission is 3 or more cans of canned goods per person.

Acting Conference Minister Called

Since the sudden death of our beloved Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. John Deckenback, the CAC Staff and Board of Directors has been hard at work on the Conference's behalf.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors has met weekly to address the needs of the Conference. We have also followed the advice and leadership of our President and General Minister, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer.

Through John Dorhauer's guidance, we have decided to bring in a retired Conference Minister, as our Acting Conference Minister, to help us through this time of transition. The Acting Conference Minister will be a short term contractually position, that will be focused on leading the CAC Ministry Team, facilitating the interim search process, and aiding CAC clergy and churches through a time of healing.

John Dorhauer has personally recommended Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver.

Over the last few weeks, the Executive Committee has been in a time of discernment with Rev. Culver, and we have prayerfully come to agreement. It is clear to the Executive Committee that Rev. Culver has the ministry tools and leadership skills that we need during this time.

Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver is a recently retired Conference Minister having served in the Illinois South Conference, and previously, as an Associate Conference Minister in Missouri Mid-South Conference. She is a trained Intentional Interim Minister with years of experience in local church settings as well as in conference settings.

She is passionate about the welfare of congregations and pastors, and looks forward to walking with the CAC during this time of transition.

Rev. Culver will begin her position as the CAC Acting Conference Minister on Wednesday, August 24, 2016.

In the coming weeks, there will be opportunities for you to meet and talk with Rev. Culver. Until then, please keep Rev. Culver, the CAC Ministry Team, our dedicated staff and volunteers in your prayers.

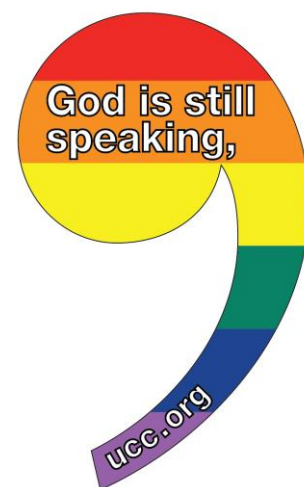
God Bless Rev. Culver and God Bless our CAC.



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Lectionary Readings

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 4, 2016

Jeremiah 18:1-11, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 or Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1; Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 14:25-33

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 11, 2016

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28, Psalm 14 or Exodus 32:7-14, Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Holy Cross – September 14, 2016

Numbers 21:4b-9, Psalm 98:1-5 or Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38; 1 Corinthians 1:18-24; John 3:13-17

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 18, 2016

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Psalm 79:1-9 or Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 25, 2016

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15, Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 or Amos 6:1a, 4-7, Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

Prayer Concerns

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR HOME-BOUND MEMBERS:

Libby Walter, home until the weather cools off.

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE CHURCH FAMILY:

Pray for our church as we work to restore our building.

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY:

Helen Carrick's daughter, Sharon Welsh, recovering from surgery; the family of Reverend Dr. John Deckenback; the staff of our Central Atlantic Conference; Sarah, friend of Jackie Donaldson, life threatening illness.

PRAYER CONCERNS IN OUR REGION:

Ellicott City flood victims; West Virginia flood victims; families impacted by gun violence.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

Italian earthquake victims; Louisiana flood victims; California wildfire victims; families across all law enforcement communities who have lost their loved ones; families who have lost their loved ones under questionable circumstances; firefighters across the western states; refugees across the world; people of France, Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria; all U.S. military deployed and stateside.