



THE CHIMES

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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January 2017

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“Reflections”

For those of us of a certain age, I feel like we’re reliving the traumatic, challenging, and kinda exciting days of the 60’s that launched so many decades filled with causes and issues that remain crucial today—women’s reproductive rights, struggling for the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment), civil rights and the old Jim Crow laws, and environmental protection and conservation. Those days were charged with chaos, passion, and loud voices for freedom. And violence was never far away.

So, now we’re here again. The political upheaval is only beginning and no one knows how far and how wide the fabric of our national and international commitments may be impacted. My e-mails are full of petitions, marches to support, donation requests, and participation invitations for resistance events from all of the organizations I’ve supported throughout my adult life. I’m sure you’re getting a lot of the same stuff.

It’s no secret that faith and activism permeate most, but not all, of the UCC. I wouldn’t be a part of it if those elements of our gathered and scattered life were missing. Our diversity includes more than just racial and gender factors. Our political positions and affiliations are a part of our tapestry, too. My opinions, commitments, positions, and participatory actions and choices may differ from yours. Remaining neutral in the pulpit was difficult last year and it won’t be any easier in the days to come.

Progressive Christians will be challenged daily to address issues and immediate concerns. So will those on the other side of the ever-increasing great divide. **I want to be absolutely clear with you. Whatever you do, whatever you say, wherever you stand on any given day for any given stance, matters. A lot.** It is imperative that we engage the challenges facing the U.S. and the world with prayer, deliberate study and personal resolve. We aren’t puppets of a manipulative God—but we are God’s children who have been given the mission and ministries of Jesus.

We are free to agree and disagree with one another in love. I’m walking a tightrope and it doesn’t take long to get tricky. It’s very easy for me to slip out of the text of my sermons and get revved up in ways I didn’t anticipate. Through the years of my pastoral ministry, I’ve come to peace with my Baptist roots and have never forsaken the rich heritage and mixture of missionary stuff that became the foundation of my personal theology. Those things are still within me and have been redefined and changed by the radically inclusive, social justice imperative of Jesus as I have come to know him in the last 20 years. So, just like you, the layers of my life have brought me to this time and frame the world with the lenses that God continues to bring to my eyes, the shoes that I wear, and the Bible I study. *—continued*

My prayer for us is simple and hard at the same time. Help us be the church we need to be and the disciples that God can count on when it matters the most. Help us care and nurture each other and those all around us without judgement and anger. It's the Christian/Jewish/Muslim/non-faith/faith-based thing to do.

Peace...

Rev Bev

Women's March on January 21, 2017

As many members of the United Church of Christ travel the Washington, DC for the Women's March on January 21, 2017, [First Congregational UCC](#), the [Potomac Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the UCC](#), and the [UCC Washington Office](#) are teaming up to offer hospitality. Stop by to warm up, recharge, and center yourself in prayer.

Details:
First Congregational Church, located at 945 G Street, NW, will be open to UCC marchers from 7:00 AM – 2:30 PM. [Google map and directions](#) Stop by to warm up, grab a snack, connect with friends or spend a quiet moment in reflection. Also consider stopping by at the following times:

- 7:00-9:00 AM: Join us for a simple welcome breakfast for visiting UCC members. This will be a place for marchers to meet and greet each other, warm up with some breakfast, and pray together.
- 9:15 AM: Prayer & commissioning.

[RSVP via Facebook.](#)

Please Note: While the United Church of Christ is not an official endorser of the march, we believe that we are called to be the church in every time and place, including such a time as this, a time of great challenge and importance for our communities, our nation and our world. As members of the United Church of Christ, we follow our call to love our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength; and our neighbor as ourselves. United in Christ's love and united in spirit, we lift up a vision of a just world for all, and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all and seek justice for all.

For more information on the Women's March visit womensmarch.com. Learn more about the UCC's advocacy work and join the Justice & Peace Action Network via ucc.org/join_the_network.

Need a sign to carry when you get there?

We have signs! [Download and print out any of these UCC signs to make and take with you to the march.](#)

Help us cover the march!

We would love to include your experience of the *Women's March on Washington* on UCC social media. You can share photos and videos with us in the following ways:

Email photos to socialmedia@ucc.org. You may also include who is pictured in the photo, what is happening in the photo, and if applicable, your affiliation with the UCC.

Email links to your YouTube videos of the Women's March to socialmedia@ucc.org.

Tag us in your posts on Twitter using [@unitedchurch](https://twitter.com/unitedchurch) and tag us in your Instagram posts using [@unitedchurchofchrist](https://www.instagram.com/unitedchurchofchrist).

Message us photographs or video footage to our [Facebook account](#). You may also include who is pictured in the photo/video, what is happening in the photo/video, and if applicable, your affiliation with the UCC.

Send us photos or videos using We Transfer, a website for file sharing. Go to WeTransfer.com. Click "Take me to free." Click the plus sign by "Add your files." Choose the files you want to send us. Type "Socialmedia@ucc.org" in the "Email to" space. Type your email. In the message box, you may also include who is pictured in the photo/video, what is happening in the photo/video, and if applicable, your affiliation with the UCC.

CONTACT: Sandy Sorensen · sorenses@ucc.org



RALLY FOR ROE

January 22nd 2-4pm | Baltimore, MD

Come support Maryland's progressive organizations fighting for social, economic, and reproductive justice as we celebrate the 44th anniversary of Roe v. Wade and commit to working together to fight threats to justice across Maryland in the coming year!



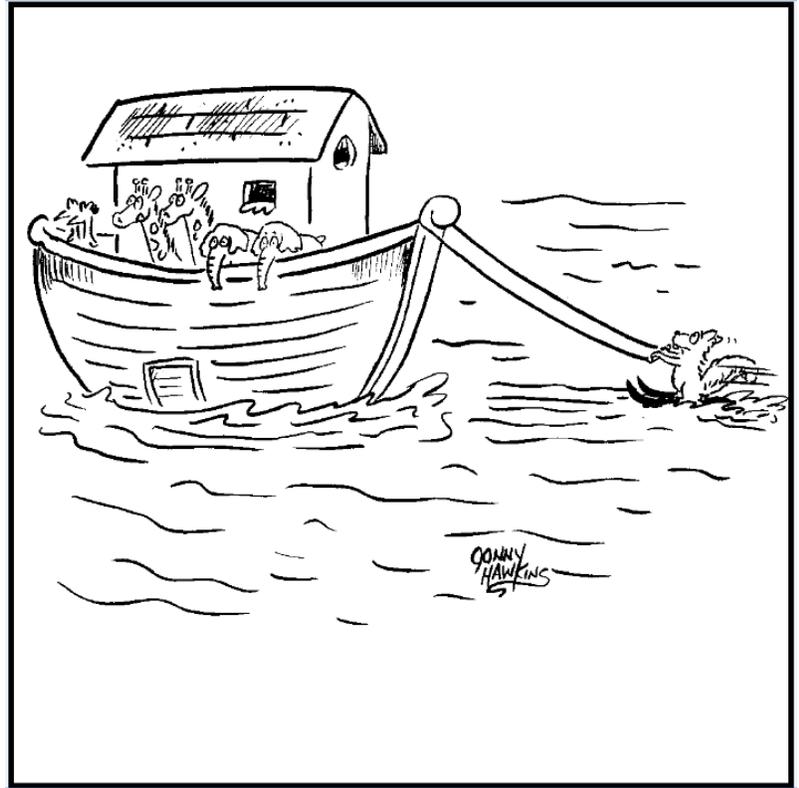
Join us!



St. John's Church
The Clarke Room
2640 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Sunday, January 22
2 - 4 pm

Contact: Amber@ProChoiceMD.org



Upcoming Events

Global Café Bible Study on the Book of Revelation – Wednesdays at 7:15 in the Fireside Room

Westside Shelter February Birthday Bash – Thursday, February 2 – meet at the church by 6:30 (volunteers needed – signup sheet is on the table outside the Fireside Room)

Westside Shelter “Undies Sunday” – From now through Sunday, February 19th
Collecting all sizes of men’s underwear, men’s socks, men’s undershirts, and men’s long underwear.

Consistory Meeting – Sunday, February 19

Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, March 1

Consistory Meeting – Sunday, March 19



January Birthdays

03— Garnet Avery-Babel

10— Jane Evans

11— Jay Walton

13— Greg Hendrix

17— Barbara Garner

21— Amy Gates

22— Edna Bullen

26— Joyce Stanton

28— Pedro Barbosa

29— Audrine Austin

29— Nora Steinbergs





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Lectionary Readings

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

New Year's Day – January 1, 2017

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13, Psalm 8, Revelation 21:1-6a, Matthew 25:31-46

Epiphany of the Lord – January 6, 2017

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Baptism of the Lord / First Sunday after the Epiphany – January 8, 2017

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Second Sunday after the Epiphany / Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday – January 15, 2017

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Third Sunday after the Epiphany – January 22, 2017

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany – January 29, 2017

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Prayer Concerns

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE CHURCH FAMILY:

Steve DiPaula (injured back)

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY:

Bryan Holley's brother; Rev. Bev's very close friend Sharon Crosby, life threatening cancer; Debbie Cardwell, Fred Wille's daughter, ovarian cancer; Central Atlantic Conference; General Synod 2017.

PRAYER CONCERNS IN OUR REGION:

Malone family; United Ministries; victims of hate crimes.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

Earthquake and avalanche in Italy; California flooding; People of Istanbul, Turkey and Berlin, Germany; prayers for our country; families across all law enforcement communities who have lost their loved ones; victims and families of gun violence; refugees across the world; people of Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria; all U.S. military deployed and stateside.