



THE CHIMES

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“Reflections”

May 2018

I can't remember when I've been effectively benched at the beginning of the planting season. I haven't been able to come up with a way to pull weeds without my green cast getting exposed to dirt and looking like a trash bag that didn't get picked up earlier in the week! If anybody wants to volunteer to help a temporarily handicapped gardener, let me know!

Walter has been recovering very well from his accident and had his stitches removed. He's returning to his normal activities: stealing Kleenex out of my pockets, eating ice cubes, and rediscovering his hound voice when he catches a scent during his walks. There won't be any permanent damage to his leg at all, unlike that of his long-suffering mother!

I want to thank all of you for the support you've given us during these very long days. Supporting your wounded pastor has been wonderful, but adding dog care to the mix has been a remarkable blessing. Thank you! Just remind me to stop pushing myself to preach upright and not to drop another hymnal on my left foot again!

Our robbery case finally made it to court last month and was fully resolved. The primary defendant pled guilty and we received a check paying for the damages to the office. I must say that spending those hours at court and seeing the impact of drug addiction on the lives of so many family members was heartbreaking. Restorative justice isn't easy or automatic in our criminal justice system, but we saw the actions taken and just sentences handed down that day.

I have a new appreciation for the good people who do their best every day to serve on our behalf under very difficult circumstances. Our District Attorney's office represented us very well and gave me the opportunity to address the defendant directly as well as the Court. Steve DiPaula gave up half of his day to be there when I made an impact statement on behalf of Immanuel. Even with all of the challenges Baltimore County faces, I'm glad that I live and vote here!

The 50th Anniversary of the Catonsville Nine is being recognized and celebrated across Catonsville this month. Some of you remember the event like it was yesterday. For those of us who arrived later, it was a wakeup call to the nation during the Vietnam War. The Berrigan Brothers and seven other Catholic activists broke into the Draft Office housed at the Knights of Columbus, got 378 draft folders and burned them outside with homemade napalm. This act of civil disobedience inspired others to

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protest the war across the country. Father Berrigan made his mark during the days he preached, hid and kept popping up until he was finally captured and spent several years in jail.

Who could've known that a small group of local citizens had enough faith, strength, nerve and courage to challenge the powers of the federal government? The Knights of Columbus still aren't happy about their location becoming a focal point of history, but the lessons of yesterday speak volumes to us today. When power is used and abused in our name, we the people cannot be silent or passive.

Whether you agree or disagree with the Catonsville Nine or the activists of today, people of faith are being challenged every single day. How much is too much? How do we speak truth to power when truth is no longer recognized? How would Jesus treat refugees and immigrants? What can we do as people of faith when the very essence of our country's soul is being threatened from within?

Jesus lived his life and ultimately gave it for the people he loved and who hated him for it. We, too, must engage the needs and harm all around us with action on behalf of others. So, as we continue to get through each day of chaos and uncertainty, remember who and whose you are. And may peace break through and heal.

Rev Bev

May Birthdays

21 – Amy Dunham

22 – Kathy Schatz

25 – Helen Schreiner



Upcoming Events

Installation of Rev. Jennifer Knighton at St. Johns UCC – Sunday, May 20 from 3:00 to 5:00 at St. Johns UCC

Central Atlantic Conference – 54th Annual Meeting – Friday June 8th and Saturday June 9th, Bethesda North Marriott in Rockville (registration deadline May 11)

Consistory – June 24

Hawai'i UCC Churches Live, Help, and Pray Through a Slow Motion Disaster

May 14, 2018

Written by **Eric Anderson**

Over the course of ten days, seventeen fissures have opened in the Puna district on big island of Hawai'i, spraying molten rock up to 250 feet in the air and disgorging slow-moving lava flows, some within residential neighborhoods. Three UCC congregations are located close to the affected area. This week, over forty religious leaders came together in nearby Hilo to coordinate their response. Prayer services and a chaplaincy rotation are coming together as the eruption continues.

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On Sunday, May 6, a few days after the first fissures began opening in the Leilani Estates subdivision prompting hurried evacuations and destroying homes, eight people gathered at the Opihikao Congregational Church UCC just three miles makai (toward the ocean) of the nearest rift. They prayed together and celebrated Holy Communion. They even enjoyed a pot-luck lunch.

"The presence of the Lord was there," said Kahu (Pastor) Harriet Daog. She and her congregation have lived with volcanic activity for a long time.

Hawai'i Island has a land area nearly that of the state of Connecticut, all the result of molten rock rising from miles beneath the surface to claim land from the Pacific Ocean. Ancient Hawaiian religion named Kilauea's summit crater Halema'uma'u, the residence of Pelehonuamea, an active, unpredictable, living goddess who would both create and destroy. To this day, the island's residents speak respectfully of "Tutu Pele," or Grandmother Pele. She symbolizes an active, unpredictable, living planet.

The current outbreaks are the latest in a twenty-five year-long eruption. Four years ago, a lava flow threatened the nearby community of Pahoa, stopping less than a half a mile from cutting the main road.

Though the current eruption has produced no sizable rivers of molten rock – the fissures have typically ceased activity in a few hours – it has driven around 2,000 people from their homes in Leilani Estates and Lanipula Gardens neighborhoods. Hawai'i County and Red Cross officials report that less than fifteen percent of the evacuees have shown up at their shelters, as most have turned to friends and family, trusting in the tight bonds of the community. Kahu Diane Hultmann at Puula United Church of Christ, three miles inland from the active zone, has labored to find places for five of her congregation's families. "They were all in church on Sunday," she said.

After seven days, lava had claimed twenty-seven homes and nine commercial structures, but no human lives.

On that first Sunday after the eruption, just down the road from Puula UCC, the Rev. Michael Warren, Kahu of Kalapana Maunakea Congregational Church UCC, struggled to reach his church in the Nanawale Estates subdivision. Road closures and streets congested by residents anxious for their homes snarled traffic. Later in the week, as they worked to offer support to displaced members and neighbors, city crews had to repair a water line damaged in a 6.9 earthquake.

"The churches are really reaching out," he said. "Everybody is doing food and contributing. The faith-based force has really come in."

Rev. Warren fears that communities makai of the activity, such as Opihikao, could be cut off. There are relatively few roads in Puna. Alternative routes may require miles of roundabout travel, or not exist at all. In addition, parts of the coastline may not be stable, and further earthquakes could trigger a collapse and create a tsunami.

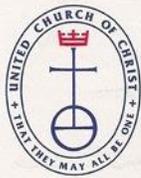
Aware of the danger, Kalapana Maunakea's congregation has removed treasured artifacts to a safe location, as have members at Opihikao and Puula. Puula members once moved their entire building to get it out of the path of a lava flow. In 1990, an eruption destroyed Kalapana Maunakea's building – built in the 1860s after its predecessor was also taken by lava.

Two days without new fissures Thursday and Friday ended when a new rift began fountaining lava on Saturday – fortunately away from homes. Geologists from the Hawai'i Volcano Observatory warn that magma continues to move beneath the surface, and could emerge at any time near the existing rifts, or in a new location. Volcanic gases, particularly sulfur dioxide, can be deadly. The event is far from over.

This natural disaster happens in slow motion. It has no discernible end in sight. It's not like a hurricane, which arrives, makes its mark, and leaves – and then the recovery can begin. Hawai'i residents cannot know how long it will go on, how large it will grow, or how many will be affected.

Says Kahu Daog: "We'll see what God has planned."

The Rev. Eric S. Anderson is pastor of Church of the Holy Cross UCC in Hilo, Hawai'i, where the congregation has joined in collecting non-perishable food, water, and dollars for their neighbors.



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1905 Edmondson Avenue
Catonsville, MD 21228-4231

Lectionary Readings

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 6, 2018

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Ascension Day – May 10, 2018

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter – May 13, 2018

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

Pentecost Sunday – May 20, 2018

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Trinity Sunday – May 27, 2018

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

Prayer Concerns

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR HOME-BOUND MEMBERS:

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE CHURCH FAMILY:

Joyce Stanton, impending cancer surgery; Dee Luco, ongoing medical issues; Rev Bev, recovering from broken ankle; Bryan Holley, recovering from knee replacement surgery; Jill, Bell's Palsy; Richard Canter, impending surgery.

PRAYER CONCERNS IN THE EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY:

Bryan Holley's brother, recovering from surgery; Sue and Steve DiPaula's extended family; Central Atlantic Conference; residents and staff of Earl's Place.

PRAYER CONCERNS IN OUR REGION:

Ellicott City and Baltimore County flooding; Dreamers facing uncertain futures and all undocumented residents; Baltimore gun violence; refugee families in Baltimore County; safety of law enforcement and first responders.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS:

Puerto Rico; Santa Fe victims and families; Hawaii volcano and flood victims; teachers; Southern and Midwest storm and flood victims; Syria; all UCC disaster relief projects; prayers for our country; families fearful of deportation; all U.S. military deployed and stateside; refugees seeking safety and compassionate care; North and South Korea.