



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS | June 2, 2019

SABBATH TIME

“Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.” – Exodus 20:8

Recognizing the demands of the parish make it difficult to take time for Sabbath each week, the United Church of Christ recommends pastors be granted a sabbatical leave on a regular basis. My covenant agreement with this congregation is for a six-week leave every three years. The governance board has approved a leave for me from June 10 – August 4, including my sabbatical time and vacation.

While it will be hard to be away from the church family I love, during this time I will not be at present for meetings, worship or other activities. I will not make hospital visits nor will I respond to email or phone messages. Please know, however, I will be praying for all of you regularly.

The purpose of sabbatical time is to refresh and renew oneself to continue to passionately pursue ministry. There may be some who are wondering how I can be gone again after having been missing much of last summer. Please note last year my time off was unpaid leave to be present through the tragedy of our daughter’s illness and death. There was nothing restful or restorative about that time. This summer, I will take some time to relax even as my main focus will be on settling things in Megan’s estate, mostly emptying her house. I will also take some time for worship planning and to dream about where God may be calling us in the future.

The Governance Board has approved the hiring of the Rev. Dr. Chris Nichols to fill in while I am away. Chris is a recently retired pastor who has served churches in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania before moving back to his roots in Northeast Ohio so that he can be closer to his children and grandchildren.

Chris comes to us with a passion for faith that makes a difference in our homes and communities and with a deep concern for the marginalized. A former art teacher, he loves to illustrate his sermons using photos from his own personal files. Chris’ former conference associate minister called him “one of the most exceptional pastors I know.” I am confident, after spending more than six hours getting to know Chris and sharing our mutual passion for ministry, that you will be in good hands while I am gone.

While I look forward to this time of renewal, I also look forward to returning in August with refreshed energy and passion for the ways we are called to live out the good news of God’s love! Thank you in advance for your prayers and support during this time.

Blessings,
Vicki

DIRECTORY DATA

Thanks to all who submitted current individual/family information for our new directory and new database. Participation is crucial to these projects, so if you have not already filled out a slip, please do so ASAP.

CHILDREN AGES 0 - 7TH GRADE

This Sunday, 5/26:

This week’s theme is TRINITY. The Trinity is God the Creator/Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We experience peace beyond our understanding when we make a home for God in our lives.

Summer Sundays:

Sunday, June 16–Sunday, September 1

Class for children in K through the 5th (completed) is in Room 104, after the children’s message. Childcare is available for infants through age 4 in the nursery. *Note: During summer our regular teachers get a break. We need your help! Please sign up on the board next to the office. Lessons and materials are provided.*

SUMMER MUSIC

Our ensembles get a needed break during summer, which means we need you! Sign up on the board by the office if you can provide music over the summer. Email sorauf@mhcucc.org with questions/ideas.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

As has been our practice, to reflect summer’s light schedule and to be good stewards, we will adopt shorter summer office hours **beginning the week of June 10. The church office will be open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Tuesday – Friday.** We resume our regular schedule mid-August. As you reach out to church staff, please keep these hours in mind and realize some staff members may be available by email, text, or appointment outside of these hours. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

GATHERING HOLY WATER

In keeping with our tradition, you are invited to gather water from a source near your location as you travel this summer. Vials are available in a basket in the parlor for you to take with you. Fill the vial with water during your trip and bring it home with you. In the fall, we will dedicate and bless these offerings as we celebrate the places from which they have come. Then, throughout the year, we will use this holy water each time we celebrate the hope and promise of baptism. We look forward to your participation in this opportunity to celebrate the sacrament!

GARDEN GNOMES

Your volunteer crew of church landscapers cheerfully invite you to support their hard work with a donation for supplies. Be sure to mark your gift for "landscaping".



BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

June 30th at 11:45 AM, Room 112

Join our book club as they discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing*, the debut novel by Delia Owens, which spent 12 weeks as #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

OUTREACH

Coffee & Food Collections

Please support St. Paul’s UCC by donating ground coffee for their Drop-In Center. We’re also collecting food and toiletries for Church Street Ministries: cereal, peanut butter, canned meats, and pasta/sauce. Donations can be dropped off in the grocery cart in the Parlor.



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