

BEACON NEWSLETTER

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A Multi-racial, Multi-cultural, Open and Affirming Congregation

APRIL 2011

Pastor

Rev. Courtney
Clayton Jenkins

Interim Director of Music
Charles Carr

Director of Gospel Choir
Joan Bacon

Church Secretary
Diana Reid

Custodian
William Siggers

Director, Saturday Fun
Cheryl Wacasey

Beacon Editors
Kathy Baker
Mary Sherry

Design Editor
Cyndi Henderson

Photographer
Kathie Buckner

Beloved,

April is a rather busy season in the life of our church. Members are joining our congregation. On Sundays, we will continue with our sermon series "Preparing to Take the Next Step." Additionally, we are holding D.I.V.E. sessions about our future church home.

In the midst of all this, it's important that we pause and spend a little quiet time with God. I was blessed to have a few members gather, during our Friday Lenten prayer calls. We gathered, via telephone, expressed our prayer requests and lifted each up in prayer. We also prayed for the people in Japan affected by the earthquake and the civil war in Libya. We prayed for people in prison and children who are being bullied. We prayed for members who were ill and families who lost loved ones. We prayed for our church, the healing we desire and the forward movement God is providing. We also prayed for the beautiful spring weather to arrive and stay (I hear more snow is on the way).

April is a big month! First, April is a big month for the Church universal because we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Secondly, April is big for Euclid Avenue because we will continue our D.I.V.E. sessions surrounding our future property. I hope that you might choose to attend either our 12:00 noon session (9411 Euclid Ave.) or our 7:00 PM D.I.V.E. Session (3000 Euclid Ave.). With each session we find some clarity and sometimes consensus. Finally, April is a big month for Euclid Avenue Congregational Church because we will gather on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at 6:00 PM at 3000 Euclid Avenue to make some decisions about our future church home. In order to celebrate the resurrection, explore our future options as a group and to make some decisions about our future, we will need to hear from God. One of the best ways to do that is through prayer.



Prayer is our lifeline. We are never to busy to pray.

With prayer, however, comes action. We cannot expect God to "do" everything. Often times, out of our prayers, God will empower us to take action. I am wondering, what is God calling you to do during this Lenten season? In what area of your life is God asking you to take the next step? How can we take the next step in the life of our church? Prayer will help us find the answers.

I know this: If we are going to take the next step as a church, we will need God and each other. I hope you will continue with me in prayer and ponder what God is saying to each of us. Lent is a beautiful time to do some inward reflecting, so that at the end of the Lenten season we can "take the next step" by faith. Let's do this together.

P.S. Over the summer we will take a break from our D.I.V.E. Sessions but they will return, in the fall, so that we can seek to spend more time "diving" into the Bible and into the "future" of Euclid Avenue. Some of the D.I.V.E. sessions in the fall will center around exploring our Mission and Vision statement, our constitution and structure, the possibility for establishing a contemporary worship service, picking a social issues to focus on in 2012, and a host of other ideas. If you have an idea about a D.I.V.E. Session please feel free to send me an email or call the church office so that we can add it to the list.

With hope for a very bright future,
Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins

**Sunday
Schedule**

8:45 a.m.

Adult Bible Study

10:00 a.m.

**Celebrative Worship
Service &
Church School**

Following worship
**Fellowship and
Refreshments**

Bus transportation
available to/from church

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 3

Preacher: Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins
Worship Theme: Stepping into New Growth
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering



Sunday, April 10

Preacher: Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins
Worship Theme: Stepping into the Storm

Sunday, April 17

Palm Sunday

Preacher: Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins
Worship Theme: Stepping into Consecration
Academic Recognition Sunday

Thursday, April 21

Maundy Thursday - 6PM at 3000 Euclid

Friday, April 22

Good Friday – 7PM at Antioch Baptist Church

Sunday, April 24

Easter Sunday

Preacher: Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins
Worship Theme: Stepping into a New Future

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries.



The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

OGHS is a Lenten Offering that will be collected this year on Sunday, April 3.

READING MATERIAL DURING THE LENTEN SEASON

Pastor Jenkins is reading the book "Forty Days to a Closer Walk With God: The Practice of Centering Prayer" by J. David Muyskens. You are invited to read along with her during this season.

LENTEN PRAYER CALL

On Friday mornings, from 7-7:15AM, we will join as a church by phone and have prayer together. To participate in our telephone prayer, please dial 1-800-444-2801. When prompted, enter the access code: 9810967. If you call before 7:00 you will enter a virtual waiting room until time for the call.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday – April 17, 10 AM, Sanctuary of 3000 Euclid
Procession of palms

Maundy Thursday – April 21, 6 PM, lower level of 3000 Euclid.

Re-enactment of the Last Supper (not a full meal, as in the past, but a symbolic Seder)
Washing of feet

Good Friday – April 22, 7 PM, Antioch Baptist Church, 8869 Cedar Avenue

Seven women (including our pastor) preaching Jesus' seven last words

Easter Sunday – April 24, 10AM, 3000 Euclid

Celebratory worship service
Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus"
Balloon launch!

EASTER LILIES

It's time to purchase Easter Lilies! Easter Lilies will decorate our sanctuary and can then be taken home or distributed to one of our shut-ins. If you would like to order a lily please complete the flower envelope included in this Beacon mailing. Please consider a fair market price when making your donation. Orders MUST BE TURNED IN by April 13. No exceptions.



SATURDAY FUN

- During April, Cheryl Wacasey, Cecelia Pritchett and the Saturday Fun kids have the following activities planned:
- April 9 – Roller Skating - \$5 fee
- April 23 – Annual Easter Egg hunt
- Meet at 3000 Euclid at 10 AM, both Saturdays. Refreshments are served at all events. Please call either the church office or Cheryl at 216-513-8006 to reserve your spot.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible Study group that meets with Al Parks every Sunday morning at 8:45AM will be discussing the following topics and scripture readings in April:



- April 3 – Remembering Jesus Christ – 2 Timothy 2: 1-6; 3: 14-16 Devotions – Titus 3: 1-7
- April 10 – Praise Builds Us Up – Jude 17-25 Devotions – 2 Corinthians 4: 1-12
- April 17 – Hosanna! – Mark 11: 1-11 Devotions – 1 Chronicles 16: 8-15
- April 24 – Christ is Risen – Matthew 28: 1-17 . . . Devotions – 1 Corinthians 15: 1-8

MEETINGS WITH THE PASTOR

During April, Pastor Jenkins will be taking a few moments after worship to meet with various groups within the church. These meetings will take place in the music room, located behind the sanctuary.

April 3 – the women of the church

April 10 – the men of the church

April 17 – the youth of the church

April 24 – the community and visitors

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY!

It's time for our April 1 Fellowship Friday! In the spirit of April Fool's Day, your price of admission will be a riddle or a joke to share with the group! Come in your dancing shoes and in good voice, prepared to do a little line dancing and karaoke singing. Or maybe you'll just want to sit and listen to the music provided by DJ Velvet Voice. Come to the parlor from 6-8PM for good fellowship, good food, and good times. Contact the Fellowship Ministry for details: Ann Drysdale, Carole Brown, Martha Edwards, Phyllis Graham, Shkenya James, John Merritt and Charles Williams.

APRIL 27- DECISION TIME

If all goes according to plan, on Wednesday, April 27, we will be ready to make our decision about our future. The congregation will meet at 3000 Euclid at 6 PM to make the decision we've been talking about since the March 23, 2010 fire: where are we going to make our home? All members are of course urged to attend, and every effort will be made to accommodate the needs of all our membership. Call Charles Williams (216-282-7764) if you need a ride; child care will be provided if you need to bring the kids. Please don't hesitate to call the church office about any other problem you have that might keep you from attending that meeting.

In the meantime, attend as many of the D.I.V.E. sessions that you can and pray for discernment, so that you come to the April 27th meeting fully prepared to help make this important decision.

FIRE ANNIVERSARY AND HEALING SERVICE

Exactly one year after the 2010 fire that destroyed our church building at 9606 Euclid Avenue, "A Service of Healing and Hope" was held on the land where the church once stood and also in the church office at 9411 Euclid. We might have stayed longer on the 9606 property, but it was a bitterly cold evening; we were grateful that the daylong rain had stopped, however. We poured a libation of oil upon the ground where the church had been; we anointed one another with the same oil saying, "Thank you, God, for the memories of the past and grant us courage for the road ahead," and then we continued our service in the warmth of 9411.

The part of the service that was at 9606 was an exploration of the past; the parts at 9411 acknowledged the future as the children planted lilies of the valley, words were spoken and a song sung, and a white dove was released (outside, of course) as a symbol of peace with a prayer ending, "Let this be a time of Holy listening, Holy conversation and Holy movement. We are open to You."

After the benediction, we were shown a DVD of interviews of various church members, often superimposed on photos of the church building we had lost. Those interviewed expressed a hope for a new beginning and for a future with our members growing closer as we reach out to welcome others.

Those members in attendance – and there was a sizeable crowd in spite of the weather – received gifts of commemorative bookmarks and also vials of 9606 earth. Gratitude and appreciation were expressed to Pastor Jenkins for the effort that had gone into this service and for helping to create a new spirit of hope and renewal at Euclid Avenue Congregational Church.

Please call the church office if you were unable to attend the service and would like to order a DVD (\$15) or receive your gifts.

The white dove that was released during the service returned to its home on Thursday afternoon.



D.I.V.E.

(DEVOTION, IMAGINATION, VISION AND EXPECTATION)

During the March D.I.V.E. sessions we further discussed our vision for our future church but specifically focused on what should become of our property at 9606 Euclid.

Some observations on the “blessings” side of 9606:

“I would like to build on 9606; I know it can work.”

“Build a 100-seat chapel there and engage a chaplain for that space.”

“We have ties to the community.”

“We were centrally located in a developing area and on a great bus line.”

“We worked with and got visitors from Cleveland Clinic.”

“We are historically linked to that space.”

Some observations on the “burdens” side:

“Limited parking.”

“No neighborhood to pull from.”

“Limited visibility...we would continue to be in the shadow of the hospital.”

“No room to grow.”

“To build there is to squander a financial resource – the sale of the property.”

There was general agreement that we have a unique opportunity to begin anew and determine what it is our church is called to be. Plan to attend the following sessions on the following dates; sessions are held every Wednesday at noon at 9411 Euclid and at 7 PM at 3000 Euclid. If you need a ride, please contact Charles Williams at 216-283-7764.

April 6 – What if God is calling us to buy a church?

April 13 – What if God is calling us to merge with another church?

April 20 – Holy Week; no D.I.V.E. sessions.

April 27 – 6 PM, Evening Congregational Meeting about our future.

HBCU College Bus Tour



High school juniors and seniors are invited to attend the college tours of historically black colleges, April 17-23. The cost of the trip, which includes food, transportation and hotel, is \$550. Students interested in attending should contact the Urban League of Cleveland at 216-622-0999. EACC students who need help with financing should contact the church office. Those wishing to donate toward the financing may do so, making the checks out to the church with “College Tours” on the memo line.

PASTORAL SUPPORT TEAM

The Pastoral Support Team works to effect a smooth transition to the new pastorate of Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins. Its members include Adrienne Brockway, Mary Jane Cariens, Eleanor Dees, John Merritt, Noreen Roderick, Charles Williams and Dean Sieck, chair.

The group meets with Pastor Jenkins every month or so. In these meetings this group’s members focus on heaping the pastor to understand how the congregation is responding to her leadership. Part of this process consists of sharing with the pastor what members have heard—positive and negative—about her work. Sometimes the Team shares thoughts and opinions that have been solicited from members of the congregation. Other times Team members share things that they have heard regarding the pastor. All comments are kept anonymous, and comments are never attributed to particular individuals by name.

Other topics in the meeting may include group members’ thoughts about plans that the pastor has for events in the future or requests for advice from the Team about specific matters.

Please take note of the names of individuals on this Pastoral Support Team. You are invited/requested to share your joy and concerns with these individuals about our pastor and the direction of our church. Pastor Jenkins knows that she works in our behalf and sincerely wants to know how members of the congregation feel about her performance.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Thanks to Nancy Nigosian’s willingness to volunteer, John Peterson’s departure has not caused any major problems in EACC’s financial management. We are, however, anxious to find a replacement for John, and hope to have someone new soon. The February financial report shows that our pledge income for the first two months was only 7% below target and that expenditures are running at a normal pace.

John Baker, secretary

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Stewardship Ministry recognizes that EACC members are frequently asked to contribute to special offerings through the church, and have a history of generosity in helping with special needs. However, we should remember that EACC’s ministry depends on each member fulfilling his or her pledge to the church. These special offerings – such as the Homeless Stand Down, camperships, One Great Hour of Sharing, the college tour etc. - are not included in the church budget, so donations to them should be in addition to fulfilling pledges to EACC.

USE OF SPACE FORM

A form to reserve space for events has been revised and is available at the church office. Requests for events need to be submitted 60 days in advance. Please call the church office to obtain an event form.



CHURCH IN THE WORLD MINISTRY

Members of this ministry will begin a series of informational sessions on conversations with the committees that are services of Church in the World. It is planned that these sessions will take place on Sunday afternoons following service. The first session is planned in May with Healthy Connectors. Healthy Connectors is emphasizing the need to exercise. This will be an opportunity for church members to know what this program does and how its work relates to what our ministry through the United Church of Christ is doing. Look for more details in the months to come about upcoming information sessions with United Black Christians, Citizen Circle, First Monday Meals, United Protestant Campus Ministries (UPCAM) and New Beginning Committee (NBC).

There is some disturbing news that the Early Childhood Development Center (formerly Charles Orr School) will be closed. The Plain Dealer reported last week that because of ballooning deficits this program and school might be closed. This could impact our service to the children, parents and staff of the center and our job in service at the Dolphin Depot every other Friday afternoon. We are awaiting the final ruling by the school board.

Members of this ministry will miss our former co-chair Calvin Humphrey. We extend our sincere condolences to the family as they work their way through this very difficult time.

Eleanore Dees, Co-Chair Judy Sieck, Co-Chair.

Members; Kathy Baker, Linda Brewer, Jewell Green, Linda Huston and Yulanda Jackson Powell.

WORSHIP AND ARTS MINISTRY

The Worship and Arts Ministry took a survey of the congregation to discover what way most members prefer that Communion be served. Even though the pre-packaged Communion cups and wafers came in third, we will continue to offer them until they're gone, alternating them with serving Communion by intinction. Then when a Communion Preparation Committee has been formed, we will be serving Communion by passing our own cups and plates of bread.

Now that the D.I.V.E. session on music has been held and congregational opinions on that subject have been gathered, the Minister of Music Search Committee will start meeting.

Lilies will be ordered to decorate the sanctuary for Easter from a vendor who pays a fair price to the growers.

BOOK DRIVE

During this Lenten Season we would like to assist the Early Childhood Development Center in purchasing books, either for their school library or for individual children to take home. Since the future of that school is currently in question, we will remain open to both possibilities. You can make a general donation or select a specific book. A list of the books is posted in the parlor. Make out your check to EACC and write "Book Drive" on the memo line.



NEW MEMBERS AND FIRST FRIENDS

Our congregation is growing. In an effort to retain our new members we are looking for you to be a "First Friend" to those joining EACC. First Friends will give new members a phone call, help them become acclimated to the church and help them find a place to serve. To become a "First Friend" please contact Mary Guen at 216-561-0857.

New member orientation is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, from 9AM-1PM at 3000 Euclid. Lunch will be served.

SUMMER CAMP

Cloggie Crowder has sent in the registrations for 12 of our children to attend UCC camp this summer. The younger ones will attend the "Bright Beginnings" session and the older ones the sessions called "Loving the Pool" and "Still Loving the Pool." A fee went in with all the registrations; now we want to help come up with the remaining \$125-\$325 (depending on the length of the camp session) per camper needed to pay the full cost of camp. Donations would be welcome! Please make checks out to the church with "campership fund" on the memo line. Parents of campers should be watching for a letter of confirmation; if they have any questions they should contact Cloggie at 216-231-4402.



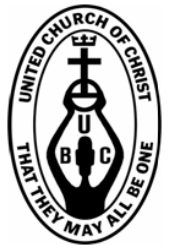
CITIZEN CIRCLE

Citizen Circle, a group of EACC members who along with some members of the Church of the Covenant meet every second Monday to act as a support group for Clevelanders who have recently been released from prison, has lost another one of its valued members: Calvin Humphrey. Not that he can be replaced, but perhaps, inspired by him, you might want to become a part of this group that gives hope and encouragement to some of our most disheartened brothers and sisters. If you have an interest in this ministry, please contact Jewell Green, Nathaniel Martin, Dean Sieck, or Kathy Baker.

UNITED BLACK CHRISTIANS, GREATER CLEVELAND CHAPTER

Believe it or not, another year has passed and graduation day is just a month or two away for students. The Greater Cleveland Chapter continues its annual recognition of students entering or leaving high school, college or graduate school. Please submit the names, date of graduation and level of graduation of EACC members to Charlene or Cloggie by April 17.

UBC Leadership Retreat was held at the Radisson Gateway Hotel, March 29-April 2nd. The theme of "Building For the Future Through Strategic Planning and Financial Development" was the focus of the meeting, including a presentation on the Freedom School. The local chapter provided welcome gift bags and Advisory Board members Charlene, Cloggie and Jonathan Stith attended all or some part of the retreat.





April is Minority Health Month. We encourage all members to support and participate in programs that promote healthy lifestyles.

April 7 – Attend the 9th. Annual Minority Men’s Health Fair, 5:30-8:30pm – Main Campus (Glickman Tower) CCF. Register online at Clevelandclinic.org/mmhc for free health screenings and educational seminars.

April 16 – YMCA at 22nd & Prospect is hosting a “Family Free Day”. EACC members are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to use the facilities for free and “Get Moving!” Healthy Connectors supports First Lady Obama’s initiative to get America moving for better health.

April 24 – Earth Day! Healthy people need a healthy planet! Cleveland will be celebrating Earth Day at the Zoo on April 17. UCC’s Church in the World has decided not to host a booth this year, due to the Palm Sunday date; however, our members, Craig Hoffman from Archwood UCC will staff a booth for GLBT and Ron Ober, Faith UCC, will host a table of merchandise made by workers in South America.

April 30 – “Stroke, No Joke” Luncheon at Landerhaven in Mayfield – 11:00-2:00pm. Special guest, well known comedian, George Willborn will be there. \$35.00. Call 619-5156 for reservations and information.

Healthy Connectors is asking all Ministries and the Council of Ministries to plan 5-10 minutes on their meeting agenda for a “Get Moving” exercise. Resources and simple exercises are available from the EACC Healthy Connector coordinator.

Soul Food Sampler



PLACES TO GO AND PEOPLE TO SEE AND HEAR

Irma Romero, an inspiring cancer survivor and immigration activist from Chicago, will be speaking on Monday, April 18 at 4:30 at the Hispanic Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (Hispanic UMADAOP) Youth Center at 3115 Scranton Road. Don't miss the opportunity to meet this amazing woman!

PJ Hirabayashi, Artistic Director of San Jose Taiko, will be leading an Energy Workshop at Denison Ave. UCC on Tuesday, April 19 at 7:30. Come feel the energy of Japanese drums in a participatory workshop -- all ages and ability levels are welcome! Wear comfortable clothes and shoes and come feel the spirit! A free will offering will be accepted at the door to help defray expenses.

Both speakers are sponsored in part by the Denison Ave. UCC.

Our own Arts in Ministry encourages all members to view the **“Women of a New Tribe”** photographic exhibit at the MLK Jr. and Main Library Branch. The exhibit is a study of the spiritual and physical beauty of the black woman. 25 local women are featured in this exhibit.

SAVE OUR COMMUNITIES – APRIL 15-16

What could Cleveland look like if we shifted our taxpayer dollars away from war and militarization to meet human needs? Come to a weekend of community-building to find out. There will be workshops, action-planning sessions, street theatre, musical entertainment and more. The United Church of Christ is one of the sponsors of this weekend. If you have questions go to saveourcommunitiesforum@gmail.com; to register visit <http://www.peaceactioncleveland.org/registration>

MOTHER’S DAY – SAVE THE DATE

Plan to attend the Fourth Annual Mother’s Day Peace Party on Sunday, May 8, from 2-4PM at the India Cultural Garden – the one with the statue of Gandhi – on Martin Luther King Blvd. There will be a special guest speaker, music, refreshments, free family photos made at the Gandhi statue, and activities for children. Come – bring your mother – bring a friend – enjoy a peaceful afternoon among friends.

NEW MEMBERS

Theresae Tiller

Theresae was born in Chicago, and raised mostly in West Virginia, although she lived in many other places where her father who was in the military was stationed, until as an adult she settled in Cleveland. She has held jobs as an administrative assistant at Case Western Reserve University, a ward clerk at Metro Hospital and a nurse's assistant at University Hospitals. Her two grown children, a son and a daughter, both live in the Cleveland area; Bobby, her son, has been attending church with her. Theresae is also the grandmother of Isaac(16) and Jacob (15). Among her hobbies and interests are writing, sewing and gardening. She learned of our church through participating in Citizen Circle, and says she felt at home with our congregation immediately because she was welcomed so warmly. She also appreciates the spiritual aura of our service, and says that Pastor Jenkins' words are "food for my soul."



Joe Burkett

Joseph – better known as Joe – was born in Columbus and was raised there in foster care until he was adopted and moved to Cleveland, where he attended and graduated from high school. He has a sister who lives in Savannah, Georgia, but most of his family is still in Columbus. He is also very close to his mentor Annette. Joe loves music, video games, reading, and being on the computer. Although he currently lives in a men's shelter, his goal is to get an apartment of his own and/or return to Columbus to be reunited with his family. Joe's high school graduation actually occurred in the 3000 Euclid church, so he went to take a look at it one Sunday morning and has been attending services ever since. He is often the first one to arrive after Mr. Siggers has opened the doors and he likes to help others as they arrive by holding the door for them and helping them with their bundles. Joe says that he is in a hard stage of his life right now, but he still greets us with a smile.



Members of the Women's Association enjoy fellowship and lunch after their work session on a Tuesday.



CALVIN HUMPHREY 1938-2011

Calvin Humphrey was best known in Greater Cleveland as the President and CEO of the Urban League from 1985-1990. But in more private circles he was known, to quote the obituary printed in his funeral service program, as "son, husband, father, papa, uncle, cousin, friend, teacher and mentor. All of us knew him as a loving, kind, caring, supportive, and honorable man as well as a man of God."



Calvin was born and grew up in Georgia, graduated from high school in North Carolina, and received a degree in physical education from Morehouse College in 1959. It was there that he met his wife of 53 years, Helen. He and Helen were blessed with three children: Cheryle, who preceded him in death, and Kimberly and Calvin. He received a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

Calvin's career as a teacher, administrator, and social program innovator took him and his family from Cleveland to Nebraska to West Germany to Oberlin and back to Cleveland. In addition to being President of the Urban League, he served as director of the Oberlin Community Foundation, the program coordinator of Cuyahoga County's Mental Health Board, and a tenured professor of Urban Affairs at Lakeland Community College.

Calvin was an avid sports fan and loyal supporter of the Cleveland Browns, Cavaliers and Indians; he was also a lover of Lionel trains, jazz music, and gin rummy. He served on several EACC committees and his leadership was especially appreciated when he was co-chair of our Council of Ministries.

He leaves behind his wife and children, his two grandchildren, his mother, numerous other friends and relatives, and his EACC church family.

Calvin's family is grateful for the support our congregation has offered during the time of his passing; they continue to appreciate cards and other expressions of condolence.

Church School show their Amistad models they created during a Sunday session



APRIL 2011

(birthdays/wedding anniversaries noted herein)

		Event	Special Day
1	Fri.	6 PM -Fellowship Friday	Franklin Jackson
3	Sun.	8:45 AM - Adult Study 10:00 AM - Worship One Great Hour of Sharing offering Pastor's meeting with the women of EACC	
4	Mon.	4:30 PM - Investment Committee	
5	Tues.	10:00 AM - Women's Association	
6	Wed.	12 noon - D.I.V.E. session 7 PM - D.I.V.E. session 6:00 PM Gospel Choir 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	
7	Thur.	5:30 PM - Minority Men's Health Fair 6:30 - COM	Eloni McClain
9	Sat.	9:00 New Member Orientation 3000 Euclid Avenue 10 AM - Saturday Fun - roller skating	
10	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship Pastor's meeting with the men of EACC	
12	Tues.	10:00 - Women's Association	
13	Wed.	12noon - D.I.V.E. session 6:00 PM Gospel Choir 7:00 PM - D.I.V.E. session 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	
15	Fri.	Save Our Communities	
16	Sat.	9:00 - Leadership Training 9411 Euclid Save Our Communities Family Free Day at the Y	Lynn Bujnak
17	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship - Palm Sunday 11:30 - Fellowship Pastor's meeting with the youth 17-23 - HBCU Bus Tour	
18	Mon.	4:30 PM - Irma Romero	Hazel Dockery
19	Tues.	10:00 - Women's Association 7:30 PM - PJ Hirabayashi	Virginia Bland
20	Wed.	12 noon - D.I.V.E. session 7 PM - D.I.V.E. session 6:30 pm Gospel Choir 8:00 PM Chancel Choir	
21	Thur.	6 PM - Maundy Thursday	
22	Fri.	7 PM - Good Friday	
23	Sat.	10 AM - Saturday Fun - Easter Egg Hunt	
24	Sun.	8:45 - Adult Study 10:00 - Worship - Easter Sunday Pastor's meeting with the community/visitors Earth Day	
26	Tues.	10:00 - Women's Association	
27	Wed.	6 PM - Congregational Decision Meeting	
30	Sat.	11 AM - "Stroke, No Joke"	Molly Murray

*** KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS ***

- ◆ Kenneth Crawford and Son
- ◆ LaDoris Dantzler
- ◆ Hazel Dockery
- ◆ Christine Fant
- ◆ Aaron Goard (son of Barbara Goard)
- ◆ Lavera Hampton
- ◆ Ruthann Hampton
- ◆ Amanda Harris
- ◆ Anthony Harris (grandson of Christine Fant)
- ◆ Barbara Hughley
- ◆ Family of Calvin Humphrey
- ◆ Hallie K. Jones
- ◆ The family of Rev. Adrian Lynum (St. Mark's Presbyterian Church)
- ◆ Richard Mendoza
- ◆ Doris Simmons
- ◆ Dan Southgate
- ◆ Barbara Smith Weems
- ◆ Meredith Washburn

Please call the church office if you wish to put someone on the prayer list.

*** JOYS ***

Joel Furr, who sings bass in our Chancel Choir, starred in "Pippen" at the Fairmount Center for the Arts production in February and March. Since then he auditioned and made it into the chorus of "Dream Girls" to be performed at Cain Park this summer. Joel plans on a career in musical theater and will be auditioning for Baldwin Wallace's performing arts program as soon as he has completed his Associate's Degree at Cuyahoga Community College.

Joel Kincannon is the newest bass (and Joel) in our Chancel Choir. He was born & raised on the west side of Cleveland and attended North Ridgeville High School for two years before moving to Atlanta, Georgia. He received a Bachelor's in Music from the University of Georgia. Currently he is singing with the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus as well as with our choir; for a "day job" he works as an administrative assistant. He plans to keep on singing and also to become a math and music teacher some day.



Keayna Thomas, a 6th grader, won a bronze medal at the Concept Science Fair on March 12. Her experiment/demonstration was of underwater fireworks using ordinary household ingredients. Ask her, and she will tell you how it's done. Keayna is the daughter of Robin Crowder and the granddaughter of Cloggie Crowder.

Tim Robson, former EACC Director of Music, is enjoying having the occasional Sundays off but is also in great demand as a substitute organist, so his Sundays off are very occasional. Recently he played in a Sunday afternoon Bach marathon at the Church of the Covenant. On Sunday mornings lately he has been assisting Todd Wilson at Trinity Cathedral, where he will be until mid-May. Then he is committed to subbing for five Sundays in July and August at Plymouth church and Fairmount Presbyterian. He attended our service marking the anniversary of the March 23, 2010 fire, and we were all so glad to see him.

Jacob McGhee, the youngest grandson of Charlene Higginbotham, recently completed requirements to receive his "Religion" Badge. As part of his preparation, Jacob met with associate pastor, Jon Ferguson at Faith Community, United Methodist Church. Jacob will "officially" cross over from Webelow (will be Loyal scout) to Boy Scout status and receive his pin on Sunday, April 10th during the worship service.

❖ Providing gifts of livestock and training, Heifer helps families improve their nutrition and generate income in sustainable ways, empowering them to turn lives of hunger and poverty into self-reliance and hope. Heifer calls the animals “living loans” because in exchange for livestock and training, families agree to give one of its animal’s offspring to another family in need.

Heifer buys animals near their intended destinations to avoid the cost and time of raising them elsewhere and shipping them long distances. They are distributed where they are needed the most and where they are suitable to certain locales. So water buffaloes may go to Cambodia, and llamas to Peru, but not vice-versa.

Erin Welsh, a 15-year-old member of St. Peter’s UCC in West Seneca, N.Y., was inspired at a church retreat at Heifer’s Overlook Farm in Rutland, Mass. to make a significant contribution to the work of the organization.

She organized Erin’s Amazing all-Star Farm Revue comprised of a medley of folk artists, jazz players and a jug band which performs to raise money for the Heifer Project. The group has already raised \$1,400 toward a goal of \$5,000.

“I just realize that not everyone has it as good as I have it. I’m really lucky,” says Erin. “There are ways people who are fortunate can help people who are less fortunate. I decided I could be a part of that.”

Global Ministries mission personnel located in Japan have transmitted their accounts of the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and resulting tsunami that devastated the northern region of the country Friday, March 11.

Japanese officials now estimate the death toll from the disaster at over 3,300 – a number that is expected to rise as search-and-rescue efforts continue. New fears over fires, explosions and leaks at nuclear power facilities have the country and international community on watch.

Global Ministries, the combined world mission of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), has three mission personnel serving in Japan. Martha Mensendiek and Casilda Luzares are professors at Doshisha University in Kyoto. Jeffrey Mensendiek, Martha’s brother, and his family are in hard-hit Sendai where he works as the youth director at the Emmaus Center.

Martha wrote Friday afternoon saying they felt the quake in Kyoto but damage was light in the area. Mensendiek also assured staff that her brother was safe but without electricity or gas.

By Sunday, power had been restored to Sendai and Jeffrey Mensendiek was able to send an email to Susan Sanders, the UCC’s minister for Global Sharing of Resources.

“Our family is fine,” he began. “Thank you so much for your prayers. Luckily we have had water all along which has been a true blessing.

“The worst destruction has been along the coast, where several of our churches, as well as homes of lay people

in our churches are located. We are not able to get any information at this point to confirm whether they are OK or not. I will send out another email when I have more information. As for now, I want you to know that we are well, and grateful for your moral support.”

An update from Jeffrey Mensendiek Monday morning said his wife and family would be going to Kyoto due to concerns of radiation exposure in Sendai, what he called “a very serious situation.”

“Sendai is in turmoil,” he said. “Young people are evacuating. Most people at church are elderly. Without water and electricity, they are experiencing so much trouble in their daily life that for them the biggest priority is to get through the day with the basic necessities.”

Mensendiek indicated the possibility that the Emmaus Center, where he works, will become an information center for relief and recovery efforts. “We are still in the process of surmising the situation, gathering information and deciding how and when to accept help from those who are dying to help,” he said.

Sanders also received an e-mail from Luzares Tuesday morning in which she says, “The enormity of the crisis is truly overwhelming.”

Luzares continues, “This morning I woke up, logged on to Facebook and clicked on a link that my daughter sent me – a sung prayer for Japan from someone from Serbia, I think, and I could not stop but let the tears flow. Just a few minutes ago as I was eating a bowl of noodles for lunch I remembered all those without food and water in this land of plenty and I could hardly continue. A few drops of tears blended with the soup.”

Expressing gratitude for the “outpouring of sympathy and expressions of caring from the world,” Luzares concludes, “God is still speaking ... my heart needs to listen. Closely.”

Reports from Global Ministries mission partners in the region, further updates and donation information can be found at <ucc.org/disaster/japan-earthquake-2011/>



Sunday School students enjoy a summer camp presentation

APRIL ACTIVITIES

(see inside for more details)

- 1 - Fellowship Friday (6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)
- 3 - OGHS offering
Pastor's meeting with the women of EACC
- 6 - DIVE sessions (12:00 & 7:00)
- 9 - Saturday Fun - roller skating (10:00 am)
New Member's Training (9:00 am)
- 10 - Pastor's meeting with the men of EACC
- 13 - DIVE sessions (12:00 & 7:00 pm)
- 16 - Leadership Training (10:00 am)
- 17 - Palm Sunday
Pastor's meeting with the youth
Academic recognition
- 20 - DIVE sessions (12:00 & 7:00 pm)
- 21 - Maundy Thursday Service (6:00 pm)
- 22 - Good Friday
- 23 - Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday Fun (10:00 am)
- 24 - Easter Sunday
Pastor meets with the community/visitors
- 27 - 6 PM Congregational meeting about the future
of the church
Women's Association 10 AM Tuesdays
Choirs rehearse Wednesdays 6 and 8:30

**GOD OF TERROR AND JOY, YOU
ARISE TO SHAKE THE EARTH, OPEN
OUR GRAVES AND GIVE US BACK
THE PAST SO THAT ALL THAT HAS
BEEN BURIED MAY BE FREED AND
FORGIVEN, AND OUR LIVES MAY
RETURN TO YOU THROUGH THE
RISEN CHRIST. AMEN.**

JANET MARLEY

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