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Join Us Sunday Mornings!

Christian Ed. for all ages, beginning the 13th, 9:30 am
Worship, 10:30 am

About Us...

- All who seek and serve the love of God are ministers of Union Church
- Rev. Kent Gilbert, Pastor
- Jean Boyce, Moderator
- Joan English, Church Secretary
- Wyndee Holbrook, Director of Christian Education
- Deborah Payne, Youth Director
- Loretta Mountjoy, Woman's Industrial Director
- Jennifer Shelton and Bea Chasteen, Childcare
- Erik Reinhart, Custodian

Meet Wyndee Holbrook, New Director of Christian Education!

Greetings and blessings to my new church family! Now seems the right time to introduce myself to you all. Since I've lived in Berea since 1997, some of you are already my dear friends (this category includes Pastor Kent) and others are charming faces I've come to know by attending Sunday worship at Union over the past year.

I am a Baptist by heritage and served for 21 years as a campus minister with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. It was this role that brought me to Berea in '97 to serve Berea

College students and the Baptist Student Union.

If you haven't met me previously, you may know others in my household. My husband of 25 years is Mitch Holbrook and we have a son, Lane, who is a Junior at ECU. My mom, Ethyl Ezell, shares our home and her cat completes the family.

My brain is pumping with possibilities as I seek to build on the firm foundation already established. Since my role is limited to quarter-time,



know your ideas and efforts are essential to accomplishing the spiritual growth we seek as the body of Christ. There will be a survey available at the Rally Day Fun Fair which will give you the opportunity for ready input as we move forward together.

A plus of being quarter-time is a flexible schedule. So know I'd love to get to know you better over a cup of coffee!

Blessings,
Wyndee

Rally Day Fun Fair Sept. 13!

Rally Day Fun Fair!!!!!!!

I live by the code, "If it's not fun, don't do it!" This year's Rally Day promises to live up to that code and then some. We will, of course, provide ample opportunity for you to learn about the Christian Education ministries of Union Church and where you'd like to plug in. Additionally, we'll have FOOD, games, activities and lively music to really make this a FUN fair.

Bring yourself and "all who are able" to the Community Room beginning at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday September 13, and if you are inspired to dress like you're attending an old fashioned county fair, you might win a prize! (I hope to find my overalls in time.)

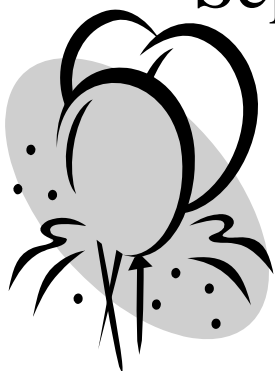
Never attended Rally Day before?

Keep reading... on the second Sunday in September, Union Church annually offers everyone the chance to catch the vision of being INVOLVED. The focus is on Christian Education (CE) and the event is sponsored by the CE Board. Personally, I spent too many Sundays sitting in the service wishing I knew more people and wanting to know how to connect beyond worship. It can be a little intimidating, I know.

RALLY DAY FUN FAIR is your chance to move beyond the pew and help grow the Union Church family as we serve, learn and worship together!

Blessings,
Wyndee

September Birthdays & Anniversaries



September Birthdays!

- 1 Cole Warren
- 7 Noah Broomfield
- 7 Thomas Chapman
- 9 Hailey Biggs
- 10 Tim Reardon
- 13 Steve Connelly
- 13 Mary Nash
- 14 Debbonnaire Kovacs
- 15 Loretta Mountjoy
- 17 Joyce Fields
- 17 David Harl
- 18 Ruth Wesley
- 19 Reid Connelly
- 20 Mark Gailey

- 28 Pat Barrett
- 28 Heather Mecham
- 29 Katrina Rivers Thompson
- 29 Abi Woodie
- 30 Megan Purcell

Anniversaries

- 1 Gene & Dorothy Chao
- 5 Richard & Judy Drake
- 9 Harry & Virginia Piland
- 17 Tom & Joy Frazier

If we don't know your birthday or anniversary, we want to! Or if we've made a mistake please call or email the office.



News of the Family...



Union Church is a place where your faith can grow and deepen. We are actively looking for those who would like to explore discipleship with Jesus in this congregation.

“Union Church welcomes all followers of Christ and works with all who work with Him; respecting each person's conscience; working by love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.”

We welcomed new members on August 23rd—look for more info on them soon. And, if you'd like to formally join Union Church, please call the office.

Mark Pettis has been duly interviewed and has preached a successful candidating sermon for Moorhead United Church of Christ in Moorhead, MN (right next to

Fargo, ND). Mark will be ordained at his home church in Irvine, CA on October 25. Way to go!

Chrissy Cataldo has been hired as a full time chaplain with a hospice in Bloomington, IL, very near where she lives now! Chrissy has already begun work and will be ordained on October 4 at Church of the Savior United Church of Christ in Knoxville, TN. We're all invited, so look for more information soon!

Nancy Jones had foot surgery on August 14th and is recuperating at home.

Peggy Coyne's mother, **Rita Moreland**, died July 22. A family service was held in New York.

Ben Neal, who is attending the Gatton Institute of Mathematics and Science, a residential high school program for gifted students at

Western Kentucky University, and for his family.

Serving as Worship Leaders in September

- 6 Gail Wolford
- 13 Steve Gowler
- 20 Eef Fontanez
- 27 TBA

Call Jenny Bromley at 623-5007 if you'd like to be worship leader or bring flowers.





Tending to the Body...

A year ago this month I had the first major surgery I'd ever had to have: the kind where they actually cut you open then stitch you up again, give you pain pills, change your dressings. That sort of thing. As surgeries go, a hernia is a quick-fix-- practically "drive-thru" service! I was in at 10:00am and home by 1pm. Amazing.

For as fast as it was, it sure had important benefits. All of my babying my growing pain, all of my careful avoidance of lifting heavy things, had done nothing to fix a growing problem. I needed the expertise and skill of someone who knew how to do what I couldn't do with just my own skill set.

That's not to say that it was always comfortable. You'll remember that I was at home the better part of last September recuperating. Rolling over hurt for a while, (as did laughing, coughing, standing, sitting, eating, reading, talking, writing...), but then things eased up, and having taken the time to recover, I'm now back to carefully lifting my own boxes pain

free. What a difference a year makes.

"Getting better" is something we all want to happen, but the **process** of making things better doesn't feel comfortable all the time, nor can it be done without skilled assistance and sometimes surgical action. Sometimes the surgeon has to give you a new temporary pain in order to heal the worse problem you've been living with.

As with our bodies, so sometimes with the Body of Christ. We've taken a good two years to examine our mission and call as a church. And we've found some things that need re-adjustment so we can continue to serve and love following Jesus' model. Studying how to change can be a royal pain! Making those changes can feel like surgery (or worse). But just like our own health, the overall health of the church Body can really be improved overall, if we are willing to be uncomfortable for a time while we grow through it.

This month General Committee is asking for volunteers to serve on very short-term work teams looking at areas we're pretty sure we need help with. We need the volunteers to do some leg-work on individual projects that might be a part of fulfilling our mission better and with greater health.

We know, for example, from all our church conversations that our current board structure is working, but at the cost of joy and member well-being. The tasks are

From the Pastor

accomplished, but too many on the boards feel burnt-out, or overburdened. Members have requested shorter terms and perhaps a redivision of the labors on various boards. What different, healthy, still-effective practices could we put in place? Are there biblical models that might direct us? What have other churches done that has worked and might translate to our situation?

We need to undertake this "exam" because we know something isn't quite right and it's keeping us from being as good as we can become. And not just for our own health do we suffer... we have a mission to love and serve God in ways that are vital, rare, and desperately needed. People need the authentic connection to God we are seeking, and a strong, beloved community is an important means by which Good News is transmitted.

We are considering new things. And absolutely some of them will feel unfamiliar and maybe even painful for a while. But we strive for a greater wholeness; we work not for our comfort, but for a love greater than our own, and I am certain that we "can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." It is, after all, God who is directing our steps.

Thanks to you who have already volunteered your time for the mission of God's love, and thanks to **all** for being lively agents of grace in this world.

Many blessings,

LIVING THE VISION – A Proposed Mission Statement

We, the People of Union Church, seek to live out our discipleship to God as a community inspired by Jesus' transforming love. As a gathering of those seeking to boldly and creatively embody Christ's life and ministry, we commit ourselves to work and fellowship that makes the radical and inclusive love of God, the beloved community proclaimed by Jesus, and the continuing inspiration of the Holy Spirit visible and real to all. As one in body with Christ, we commit ourselves to acts of passionate worship, extravagant generosity and care in our stewardship, risk-taking mission and service, unbounded hospitality to build a beloved community of Christ, and thoughtful, intentional, and inspirational faith development.

PASSIONATE WORSHIP

We will boldly and creatively embody the life and ministry of Jesus with passionate worship that celebrates the transforming love of God. In every setting where we meet we will proclaim God's inclusive care and prophetic witness, empowering all persons to worship with joy and develop a deeper closeness to God in a ministry of all believers. We will offer our widely varying gifts of prayer, music, dance, drama, visual art, the spoken word, and the beauty of our actions to inspire those of every generation to follow in God's way.

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY AND CARE IN OUR STEWARDSHIP

We will boldly and creatively embody the life and ministry of Jesus with extravagant generosity and care in the stewardship of the gifts we have been given. We will offer and organize our time, talent, and treasure in loving service and outreach with useful facilities and supported staff and programs, striving always to be agents of God's inclusive love. With care and diligence we will seek the well-being of our community, of all of our volunteers and staff, and of God's earth in all that we undertake alone and together.

RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE

We will boldly and creatively embody the life and ministry of Jesus with risk-taking mission and service. As disciples of Christ, we will reach out to the world to love, heal, and transform it through the difficult work of justice, reconciliation, and hope. We commit to using our staff, our building, and our selves for servant leadership in our sphere of influence, and we commit to the spiritual and educational support that will make us effective and joyful agents of God's grace.

UNBOUNDED HOSPITALITY TO BUILD A BE- LOVED COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

We will boldly and creatively embody the life and ministry of Jesus by offering the radical hospitality of Christ in all we do and in the fellowship we share. We will seek unity in building a loving community amongst the gifts of differing traditions, opinions, and views. We will listen carefully and prayerfully. We will stand with one another as bearers of Christ's light in times of trial and rejoicing. As a body of Christ we will actively and intentionally reach beyond the walls that separate us, persuaded that "God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth."

THOUGHTFUL, INTENTIONAL AND INSPIRA- TIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Youth Group News!

Dear Friends,

The school year has begun and life is probably kicking into high gear. While the homework might be piling up, we've got a fun year of activities to look forward to with the Youth Group. While Youth Group won't officially start until September 16 with the first Wednesday Night Live, we've already jumped into action with a trip to see the Lexington Legends in August. It was an exciting game and the hotdogs and fireworks made up for the fact that we lost by just one run. Thanks to our drivers for getting us up there and back safely.

In order to get our year started off right we're going to



have a couple of Pizza Planning Parties, one for high school youth and parents and another for middle school youth and parents.

**High school meeting:
Wednesday, September 9th,
6:00 pm**

**Middle school meeting: Sun-
day, September 13th,
6:00 pm**

Indeed, we will be planning our own pizzas and begin planning our fabulous year. Whether you like anchovies and pineapple or maybe just pepperoni and mushrooms, we'll make our own pizzas, throw them in the oven and get down to business figuring out what adventures we'd like to have this year.

Parents are invited to be involved in this process because I want to know what is feasible with your own schedules and how involved you can be.

Some ideas include a camping trip, but this should be done before the weather gets cold. Other outings might include a continued look at mountain top removal, service projects both domestically and/or abroad, a possible trip to a Heifer Project farm, or anything else fun and exciting that you bring to the table.

I look forward to your input and appreciate your time and energy. Let's have some fun and see what sort of culinary creations we can come up with.

In Peace,

Deborah Payne

Super September!

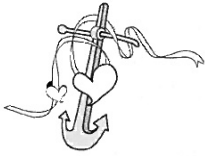
This year our community is exceptionally gifted with important new ways to live and grow. With opportunities to deepen knowledge and develop our faith, Christian Education will kick off a new season on September 13th. Wyndee Holbrook, our new director of Christian Education, brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to continue our longstanding tradition of programs to nurture the spirit and guide the faith.

In addition, our two youth groups (Middle School and High School) are under new leadership and will be planning their program for the year, including service trips! The Christian Education Board is acquiring and learning to use some of the best and most creative education materials developed for Biblical education, called, "Godly Play." And a number of adult volunteers are leading book study groups, mission/service learning opportunities, and Bible studies nearly every week.

Wednesday Night live will begin on Sept. 16th. This is a very informal Wednesday night gathering for a shared meal before your choir, youth group meeting, etc. A simple meal is cooked by different volunteers each week (please think about being one of them!), and everyone who can is asked to chip in a few dollars to cover the cost. This is a family friendly event every Wednesday at 6:00pm.

Choirs also return with a warm welcome to all: Handbells meet on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm, and vocal choir meets Thursdays at 6:15pm. Both choirs meet on the 3rd floor of the education wing (come in the office entrance off the parking lot, and go up stairs until there are no more stairs to go!), and both choirs welcome newcomers and beginners alike. Reading music will help, but is not required for either choir, so come learn and be surrounded by great fellowship!

Bible Reading for September



September 6, 2009

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

September 13, 2009

Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19 or
Wisdom 7:26-8:1
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

September 20, 2009

Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 27, 2009

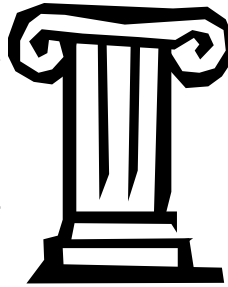
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50



Trustees' Report

The Board of Trustees met on August 11th with a full agenda. We recommended that the newly hired Director of Christian Education have an annual salary of \$8678 the rate which will be effective through 2009. Funds not covered by the current position budgeted amount

will come from the CE Leadership Development Fund. Also addressed were two budget line items that require compliance with policy and that is being resolved.



Jean Boyce has presented templates for two committees, Building Rehabilitation and Capitol Campaign, for guidance in the next months.

Approval was happily granted for Berea College music events; homecoming choir rehearsal and the Christmas concerts which will occur in

December.

Bob Berger presented information on the cost and upgrading of the church insurance coverage. He noted that events such as Sara Care

fall into "expected use" of the church and will not require additional insurance by the event presenters. It will not be necessary for the Mission Board to sponsor SaraCare but we ask that Gina Chamberlain remain as liaison with the Kennedys and the church.

Arrangements will be made for Joan English to have access to additional computer/web training.

On August 22nd a workday was held to spruce up the grounds and our next meeting is September 8th.

Leslie Berger, Chair

Deacons' Report

The Deacons met on August 11 to discuss previous committee activities, plans for the remainder of the month and September responsibilities. Maurice Hibbard has set a schedule for picking up church members in Richmond; the Worship Committee is concerned about the taping and editing of the Sunday morning services as well as when and if the services are even being broadcast (at the present Debbie Brown and Dave Harl have carried the responsibility).

A memorial gift has been received from the Molly Levey estate, it will be used in Music Ministry; Rev. Kent will be out of town on Oct 18 and 25, thus the Committee will need to find alternative ministry during those important Stewardship Sundays.

Membership committee questioned Rev. Kent about arrival of new college students to campus and how we could

assist and respond. He will try to find an earlier church brochure so that it might be edited and reprinted for the Christian Ed. Board to distribute.

Membership is not sure that notes are being sent to visitors since Patti Smithson is no longer a Deacon and had been sending those. We will try to follow up on visitors. Lemonade will continue to be served on the portico until the end of September.

Deacons have raised questions wondering what church committee or group is to be responsible for meals during Wednesday Night Live and during times of bereavement? Out of what budget are the supplies to be financed?

Rev. Kent requested prayers for numerous members of the church.

Robert Boyce

The Church of Christ, Union

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Congregational Meeting and Potluck, September 20!!

Potluck at 6:00, Living the Vision Mission Statement, 7pm!

The General Committee invites you to a time to celebrate the good work of our recent “Living the Vision” discernment process. The time has come to consider adopting this new mission statement as a proclamation of God’s good news at work in us. Join us for a potluck meal at 6pm, Sunday, September 20th.

There will be singing and good fellowship and bring lots of food! At 7pm, we’ll discuss adopting the proposed mission statement. All members of the congregation are encouraged to be present and to discern and vote as you are led. Please join in this historic discussion of our call and service. (Of course there will be child care available!)