

The United Church of Christ
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Minister: Rev. Hal A. Lingerman

August
2009

Return Service Requested

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & KRAZY KARDS

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, August 22nd.**

Eat an early dinner and join us for dessert.

Vanilla & chocolate ice cream with
yummy toppings will be served.

A nice cookie or two will top off your invention.

After ice cream we are going to play Krazy Kards.

This is an interactive game, so please come and enjoy.

The time is **6:00 pm** and the cost is **\$3.00.**

Tickets will be provided each Sunday after worship
service and in the Church Office,

Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 am - 2:30 pm.

Tickets must be purchased by August 19th.

**This is an excellent opportunity
for you to invite a guest.**

PLEASE NOTE:

Board of Deaconesses

WILL have their regular meeting in August.

Thursday, August 20, at 9:00 a.m.

NEW SUMMER CLASS

Pastor Ken Carlson will begin a new weekly class
beginning on Wednesday, **August 5, at 10:00 a.m.**
in the **Library.**

His theme will be the fascinating life and writings of
C. S. Lewis, devoted follower of the Christ
and dedicated server of God.

UPCOMING EVENT:

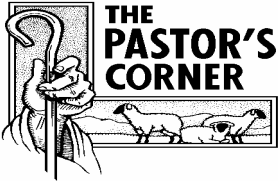
Our Annual Angel Luncheon will be held
on **Thursday, September 24, at 12:00 noon.**

Please put this date on your calendar!

Our Guest Speaker: Ken Carlson
will tell the story of Tobit
and how the angel Raphael healed lives.

We are also **hoping** to have the "Bell Choir"
from the United Church of the Valley perform.

More information in the September Sonshiner.



CHRIST'S UNITIVE VISION

The Christ came to unify all lives in the midst of their increasing variety and diversity in background and experience.

His vision of all human beings being unified in their love for God and each other was both vast and idealistic, yet also enormously practical, NECESSARY and inevitable!
He saw a new humanity rising up with greater love, light and decency, to overcome the darkness and ignorance in its midst.

As we can see today, living on Earth means that human beings must care for each other, cooperate and share their resources - not just to be loving, but now just to survive.

Ironically, we stand at the threshold of a new world: remain greedy, power-hungry and divided and in competitive alienation, and humanity and all Earth will suffer greatly.
More and more persons will be alienated and deprived, as the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

Jesus Christ always reached out to help those who suffered or lived in poverty.
He believed in the essential goodness and generosity of the human being, even when that innate potential to do good was yet to be awakened.

Here is a short statement of the Christ's core teachings:

The one loving and powerful Creator of ALL, surrounds and fills every life.
God is everywhere present and available to one who seeks relationship with Divinity and the Company of Heaven. God means every life ONLY Good.
God seeks us out and works with us to heal and transform every area of our earthly life.
Our highest destiny is to share with Christ the privilege of loving and serving God and being Christ-like.
Every moment is holy. Each day is a Sabbath.
Every place is sacred, not just a church, temple, synagogue or mosque. Each life is unique.

ALL persons and ALL lives matter; no life is disposable. Each life is deeply loved and valued by God.
All are invited to experience the banquet of God. All are called; none is favored.
All religions and faith paths are learning to play their roles in expressing God's Love and beauty on Earth.
Ultimately, every person is a "religion" in process. Nobody can be left behind. God does not play favorites.

Working together prayerfully, with intuition, intelligence and compassion, we can solve our problems.
The body is a beautiful, holy temple to be used as God's active instrument for good.
We must help God feed the Earth by feeding each other.
Each particle in us is energy awakening in consciousness; we are all suffused with the life-giving Spirit.
The majesty of the Sacred touches us through the beauty of nature, the creative arts, science, knowledge, healthy activities, loving service, and prayerful, righteous living.

Every particle in this magnificent cosmos and the larger universe is part of a greater Wholeness and is playing out an emerging drama, participating in a growing Creation.
LOVE is the radiant power, more than any other, that connects all lives together.
Awakened caring and outreach will open doors to all necessary solutions and will overcome all limitations.

From the Associate Pastor

As a Christian community, we stand within a rich, ancient and continuing legacy of spiritual care and guidance. *For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn have received...* St. Paul traces the proclamation back to the earliest sources in the life of Jesus, his death and resurrection. The Lord's Supper becomes one medium through which we pass on what we have been given. The early church understood the Eucharist to effect healing, along with presenting a visible display of unity in Christ. By the mid 200's, because of persecution in the cities, the traditions of the faith survived in the deserts of Egypt.

We trace the movement, later the pattern for soul care, to St. Anthony, the son of a farmer. At age 18, hearing Jesus' words, *Go, sell what you have and give to the poor*, he treks into the desert with nothing, to live alone. After years of living in solitude, struggling with his demons, he attracts followers who settle near him. He becomes a legendary public figure though he lives most of his life as a hermit. He became an exemplar for countless others to follow, women as well as men, *Ammas* and *Abbas* (mothers and fathers). Those seeking guidance in the spiritual life would come and request, *Father/Mother give me a word*. These sayings later would be committed to writing and again handed down for generations to follow.

We live in an aggressively individualistic culture bequeathing to us a driving, possessive need always to be right, always to be in control, always to be a number one. This becomes evident both in personal and national behavior. To even speak of seeking spiritual guidance challenges our path of self-determination with a confession of dependence, even interdependence. Spiritual guidance is but one form of soul care—either our own or to care for the soul of another. Soul care most often begins with a cry for help.

Greek philosopher Socrates saw himself a physician of the soul. The best and brightest of Athens sought him out for guidance. He taught that the soul is healed by philosophy and wisdom, medicine for the soul. To be a healer of the soul is a divinely appointed calling. *I thought that I ought to be careful that I did not lose the eye of my soul. I was afraid that my soul might be blinded. Oh, my friends, if the soul is immortal, what care should be taken of her? She will take with her the fruits of her nurture in this life; thus the cultivation of the soul is first concern.* Philosophy, love of wisdom, came to mean the quest for God.

In the Wisdom tradition of ancient Israel (Job, some Psalms, Ecclesiastes, among other writings), secular and spiritual experience are inextricably united; faith and knowledge not divorced. Faith seeks understanding. The experiences of the world were always experiences of God as well, and experiences of God were experiences of the world. Dialogue with God also takes place in human experience and creation. Matters of life, healing and destiny emerge out of these conversations. Israel's wisdom was open to her neighbors, and her neighbors' wisdom was open to Israel.

In the wisdom of the desert, the true desert lies within, in experiences of death and resurrection. Jesus in the wilderness rejects grasping the power of domination for himself. Mark writes that he was with the wild beasts and angels ministered to him. There the voice of *Abba* calls him "Beloved Son." As learners that follow, he invites us to come with him to a desert place and rest awhile. As Jesus receives everyone, so the desert Christians taught - *Receive everyone as Christ*. Most insistently, they taught humility, radical honesty about ourselves - our failings and our gifts. To let go of a small part of righteousness. Do not argue. Do not judge, blaming others to justify ourselves. Acknowledge our status as beginners.

Only elders speak of themselves as beginners; the young rarely do. One *Desert Father* near the end of his life said, *From the time I came into this solitude and built my cell, and dwell in it, I cannot remember eating any food that I have not earned with my own hands, not speaking any word that I have duty for until now. And so I go to the Lord as one who has not yet begun to serve God.*

On our last day we will be judged only by our compassion. In the end, we're united with the same compassion God feels for the world. In the deserts of life, we need friends who walk alongside with non-judgmental compassion. We long for those who share part of the vision of our dreams for ourselves, those unafraid to risk mutual intimacy. In our churches, we rarely speak together of our prayer or our deserts. Some of us starve for this kind of companionship.

Ken Carlson

The Chalice of Your Life

“Are you able to drink of the cup I shall drink of?”

(Mathew 20:22)

“First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside may also become clean.”

(Matthew 23:26)

Before cleaning anything outside, first clean the inside of your cup.

Clear your heart of all negativity and resentment. Grieve, forgive and release all previous hurts and angers NOW. Empty yourself of all fears and past regrets. Your life is here and NOW, ready to see and receive new blessings from the Highest. Prepare your heart to open with love! The Psalmist offers this prayer:

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” (Psalms 51:10)

Your life is like a **chalice**: the cup of Holy abundance overflowing in you.

Can you drink deeply of the cup being provided for you?

Your cup is filled with God’s blessings. Its contents are different from anyone else’s. Your cup contains all the ingredients necessary for your health and safe return along this earthly journey into God’s larger Radiance and blessings ahead. Your life like a chalice contains all the possibilities for your salvation and highest good on your immortal path.

The chalice of your life contains and always provides holy nourishment. Sheltering and protecting you like a loving Mother, God continuously feeds and nurtures you with an overflowing abundance and Grace.

The chalice of your life also contains the blood of Christ: the healing currents of the Lord’s love, dropping into your days and decisions to strengthen and inspire your learning through ignorance and suffering.

How much light can your chalice hold? How much will you share and empty the blessings of your cup into the common cup of world suffering and need? By continuously emptying yourself in giving, you will always be refilled. Such a process brings the ultimate communion. The chalice of your life, complete with its talents and testings, contains the powerful potion for you own deliverance and joyful fulfillment. Drink lovingly and deeply of the contents of your cup, turning crises into opportunities, and limitation into renewal and transformation.

Father, to Thee I raise my whole being
 a vessel emptied of self. Accept, Lord
 this my emptiness, and so fill me with
 Thyself — Thy Light, Thy Love, Thy
 Life — that these Thy precious gifts
 may radiate through me and over-
 flow the chalice of my heart into
 the hearts of all with whom I
 come in contact this day
 revealing unto them
 the beauty of
 Thy Joy
 and Wholeness
 and the
 serenity
 of Thy Peace
 which nothing can destroy.

I Am the Bible

I am the Bible, a wonderful, living anthology
of many customs and beliefs.
I am filled with a variety of teachings and wisdom.

To the weary pilgrim, I am a strong staff.

To the one who sits in darkness,
I am a glorious light.

To those who stumble beneath heavy burdens,
I am sweet rest and refreshment.

To one who has lost the way, I am a safe guide.

To those who are sick and living in error,
I am healing strength and forgiveness.

To the discouraged, I offer glad tidings of hope.

To those who are distressed and tossed about
by the storms of life,
I am an anchor, sure and steadfast.

To those who search for spiritual well-being,
I reveal the Savior of the world:
the Christ who shows me the way
and awakens God's Light in me,
that I might be a clear instrument of the Holy
by living a more Christ-like life.

I am the Bible.

(Adapted from an unknown Author)

VISITATION

Please let us know if and when you would like a
home visit. Immediately, Pastor Hal,
Pastor Ken, Pastor Don or Pastor Doree will be
at your doorstep. Please let us know your needs.

Office Hours of the Associate Pastor:
Reverend Ken Carlson

Wednesday and Friday - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Stewardship for August 2009

Many thanks to one and all for your continued
generosity toward your church's ministry.

Bravo to all of you !

And THANK YOU for your **special gifts**,
Which help us meet rising heat and water bills
during these summer months.

As you know the church does NOT receive any
outside financial assistance from the Conference.

**We are entirely self-sufficient, relying on God
and your generosity** to sustain and
grow your church's ministry for God.

In the last week of September
or the first week of October,
you will receive letters asking you
to renew your pledge for 2010.

We thank you in advance for your generous support.

Dorothy Flory,
Stewardship Chair

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

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Sun City, CA 92586

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1 - 46
Bldg#6553
3576 Wilson Road
Fort Knox, Kentucky
40121

DEATHS:

+ Doris Miller, 3/12/09
+ Susan Kostrzeski, 3/30/09
Walter Douthwright, 4/24/09
Gladys Baldwin, 5/06/09
Sally Strickland, 7/17/09
+ David Joel, 7/20/09



AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS

8/02 - Ken & Jeanne Dukes
 8/09 - Jack Young
 8/16 - Jim Luna
 8/23 - Charles Sanderson
 8/30 - Ken Carlson

GUEST BOOK

8/02 - Ed Gross
 8/09 - Richard Westlund
 8/16 - Virginia Young
 8/23 - Shirley Wilson
 8/30 - Judy Carlson

LAY READERS

8/02 -
 8/09 - Eleanor Sorenson
 8/16 -
 8/23 - Eleta Tidwell
 8/30 -

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

8/2 - 8/30 - J. L. & Carol Hisel

SOUND TECHNICIAN

8/02 & 8/30 - Todd Ross
 8/9, 8/16 & 8/23 - J. Hisel

SECURITY

8/01 - 8/15 - Don Ross
 8/16 - 8/31 - Wally Hutchison

**Treasurer's Report
 Month Ending June 2009
 General Funds Only**

<u>June Inc</u>	<u>June Exp</u>	<u>Gain (Loss)</u>
\$ 11,928	\$ 18,161	(\$ 6,233)

Year to Date Totals

<u>6 Mo Inc</u>	<u>6 Mo. Exp</u>	<u>Gain (Loss)</u>
\$ 84,028	\$ 96,555	(\$ 12,527)

Respectfully submitted,
 Richard Westlund

AUGUST Anniversaries

Jack & Virginia Young
 (57 years)

AUGUST Birthdays

John Will, (1st)
 Florence Helsper, (2nd)
 Peg Meyerdirk, (3rd)
 Gwen Homan, (4th)
 Mildred Pecha, (4th)
 Joice Beenken, (5th)
 Joy Averitt, (6th)
 Pamela Miller, (6th)
 Gary Tidwell, (7th)
 RuthE Goodwin-Folta, (11th)
 Norma Harris, (12th)
 Erma Young, (15th)
 Janie Snyder, (16th)
 Elizabeth Frahn, (17th)
(5 years old)
 Jean Bond, (18th)
 Joann Guest, (19th)
 Christian Dominguez, (20th)
 Helena Mends, (20th)
 Barry Guest, (21st)
 Linda Neidert, (23rd)
 Evelyn Daniels, (24th)
 Sonja Carlson, (25th)
 Claire Palmer, (25th)
 Scott Gierhart, (29th)
 Ardith Tillman, (30th)
 Irene Evans, (31st)
 Todd Ross, (31st)

We send love to
 our dear friend,
 Sharon Joel,
 who lost her husband,
 David, last week,
 after recent surgery.

Sharon Joel

**Stanford Court Nursing Cntr.
 8778 Cuyamaca Street
 Santee, CA 92071
 (Cell: 1 - 619 - 997 - 6336)**

**Lectionary Lessons
 for August**

**8/02 - Eighteenth Sunday
 in Ordinary Time**

(Ninth Sunday after Pentecost)
 2 Sam 11:26-12:13a
 Ps 51:1-12 or Ex 16:2-4, 9-15
 Ps 78:23-29 * Eph 4:1-16

John 6: 24-35

BREAD OF LIFE

**8/09 - Nineteenth Sunday
 in Ordinary Time**

(Tenth Sunday after Pentecost)
2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19 * Ps 24 or
 Amos 7:7-15 * Ps 85:8-13
 Eph 1:3-14 * Mark 6:14-29

SHAPING COMMUNITY

**8/16 - Sixteenth Sunday
 in Ordinary Time**

(Seventh Sunday after Pentecost)
2 Sam 7:1-14a * Ps 89:20-37 or
 Jer 23:1-6 * Ps 23 * Eph 2:11-22
 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

WISDOM QUEST

**8/23 - Seventeenth Sunday
 in Ordinary Time**

(Eighth Seventh after Pentecost)
 2 Sam 11:1-15 * Ps 14 or
 2 Kings 4:42-44 * Ps 145:10-18
 Eph 3:14-21 * **John 6:1-21**

AT HOME WITH GOD

**8/30 - Twenty-second Sunday
 in Ordinary Time**

(Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost)
 Song of Sol 2:8-13 * Ps 45:1-2,
 6-9 or Deut 4:1-2, 6-9 * Ps 15
James 1:17-27 * Mark 7:1-8,
 14-15, 21-23

BE LOVE

The only thing we can take
 with us at our earthly passing
 is the LIGHT we have awakened
 in our soul by our **loving**
 and our **learning**.