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Minister: Rev. Hal A. Lingerman

July
2009

Return Service Requested

VACATION TIME AGAIN

Due to various committee members going on vacation during the months of July and August, there will be no committee meetings scheduled until September. The Church Council and Board of Trustees **WILL** meet at their regularly scheduled time.

UPCOMING ANNUAL EVENTS

We would appreciate your placing these future dates on your calendars. These are annual events and important to our church and our ministry.

SEPTEMBER:

Our Annual Angel Luncheon. This is a luncheon where we ask you to bring your Angels to share with everyone. We have a speaker to tell us how and where Angels enter into our lives. There are numerous text in the Bible that tell us about Angels.

OCTOBER:

Each year His Light on the Hill holds a festival in the parking lot on Halloween day. We have asked that several persons from United Church of Christ set up a game booth along with HLOTH. This is a good **OUTREACH** for our church as well as theirs. Hundreds of people attend this function. It is **FREE** for the entire community.

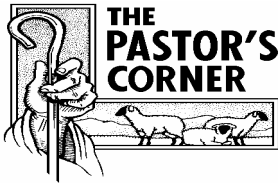
NOVEMBER:

Our Annual Harvest Sunday. Help us to feed the less fortunate people in our community by bringing food on this designated Sunday. Also, you may help on a monthly basis with our continuing 3rd Sunday offering of \$1.00 to Community Cupboard.

DECEMBER:

Our Annual Christmas Tea. This Tea was started many years ago in order to help a ministry in Perris, and is continuing now. We are asked to bring unwrapped gifts for children. The gifts are given to Rev. Shirley Gill of Survival Ministries, who distributes the gifts to the needy children in the community.

The events shown above list just a few activities that will be taking place in the future months. Please watch for other event listings on the monthly calendar. We appreciate our membership support during these special events that reach out to our current membership and our community.



TO YOU
(A Meditation)

O God, You are the **CREATOR** of all life. You **give me the gift** of my life.

Your **Spirit fills me**. You are always with me.

You are **my best friend** and You are **always good to me**.

You **bless me** In every breath I take.

You **heal me** and **restore me** in wholeness when I need healing.

O God, You **feed me**, and You are **always generous to me**.

You **know my heart and my deepest motivation**;

You **understand all parts of me**.

You **hear me**, even before I speak.

You **listen to me** and **respond to the reach of my prayers**.

You **guide me** in paths of Your Goodness; You **open the way** to me as I am searching.

You **show me how to be a more caring friend** to others.

You **love me totally** no matter what I do, and You help me always to do better.

Loving Creator, You always **provide for me** and generously supply my needs.

You **work with me creatively** as I act to do good in all my relationships.

You **teach me the path of truth** and **help me to learn and think clearly**.

You **laugh** with me and **stir my heart to sing with joy**.

You **inspire me in the radiant light of Your Presence**.

You are **patient with me** and **never get angry** at me or give up on me.

You are **my most loving partner**, and You will **always work intimately** with me.

You always **surprise me** with new opportunities; You **invite me** to grow continuously.

Your grandeur and majesty shine forth like mountain peaks for my aspiration and faith.

Your Light shines at the center of me and dwells deeply in every living being.

Your **unconditional Love and Mercy** are my redeeming beacons of hope.

You are **the eternal Mystery**, always revealing the way of my journey and my meaning.

You are **my unfailing Source** of everlasting life and all goodness.

Blessings, Pastor Hal

From the Associate Pastor

“I am not a mechanism, an assembly of various sections.
And it is not because the mechanism is working wrongly, that I am ill.
I am ill because of wounds to the soul, to the deep emotional self
and wounds to the soul take a long, long time, only time can help
and patience, and a certain difficult repentance,
long, difficult repentance, realization of life’s mistake, and the freeing of oneself
from the endless, repetition of the mistake
which humankind at large has chosen to sanctify.”
D. H. Lawrence, “Healing”

Most people I’ve introduced to this poem respond affirmatively from that deep place within called “soul.” Faith asks nothing than to care for the soul, not only our own but those of our sisters and brothers, people Jesus calls our neighbors. All experience wounds to the soul, mostly internal, below our conscious awareness. Wounds to the soul as well as the body cry out for healing, for attention, for another to interrupt their journey and help the stranger injured along the way. Somebody said that the road to Jericho establishes its own agenda. Spiritual wounds, though they go unnoticed, carry the same claim.

Spiritual Direction is an ancient art form going back to the earliest Christian practices and, before that, a legacy from ancient Israel. Early Christians confessed to one another and prayed for each other’s healing. Those needing guidance would seek out an elder, man or woman, experienced in life, whose faith was known by its transparent simplicity. The seeker would ask these guides, “Father (or mother) give me a word.” More later about the Desert Father’s and Mother’s.

Then and now, face-to-face dialogue is central to healing and a greater wholeness. With the advent modern Psychology, care of the soul evolved into various forms: psychotherapy (therapeutic soul care), pastoral counseling, lay counseling, pastoral care. Emphasis shifted from a concern for spiritual reality to the cure of sick minds. Even pastoral forms of soul care began to be dominated by only clinical terms. Even use of the word “soul” faded from fashion. Recently the tide has turned, even within Psychology itself, toward the ancient art of spiritual guidance, applying the rich historic Christian traditions to healing wounds of the soul. Focus continues to shift away from fixing persons with psychological problems to seeing persons whole, spiritual and psychological—as embodied souls and indispersed bodies.

God’s Spirit witnesses inwardly on the inside of our longing and desire. God appears to prefer to operate through invitation and attraction. What might God be saying in our lives? A spiritual person is one who listens to the longings and desires in the depth’s of one’s soul. *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts...*

Rarely have I been asked by a brother or sister in Christ, “How are you doing spiritually?” I wonder why such questions seem off limits. In classes I have taught, I often ask the question but suggest people keep their responses to themselves. As the class moves on and we develop an intimacy among ourselves, responses will be raised voluntarily and freely. Still I wonder why we so seldom speak of matters of spiritual intimacy in our communities of faith. I once sought help from a woman in locating a spiritual director as she managed a program in Spiritual Direction at a major university. She insisted on a personal meeting. Her first question was, “How do you pray?” Then, “How has your prayer life changed?” Not bad questions from a stranger.

Just a few words about the person of the guide. If you have no felt need for spiritual guidance, then this won’t concern you. Spiritual Direction is not for everybody. But at various times we all hope to encounter another person maybe less confused than ourselves. “Can I have some of your time?” Someone who can help us see or name our experience of God. Someone who might know something about traveling in the darkness where the way seems wholly lost.

Such a person’s presence gives witness that what you seek is real. Often the guide is a broken person who is not hurt or destroyed by being broken. We are safely in the presence of someone who will neither invade nor abandon us. We sit together in an atmosphere of non-judgmental compassion. The guide will be well-aware of his own limitations. And God finds no obstacle in her or him. This person will demonstrate common sense, be genuinely caring, be steeped in the Scriptures and spiritual traditions.

This person knows we are beyond human help and always have been. We live in the presence of a very powerful weakness. Nothing can take it away. The guide knows a secret. The secret is that there is no secret. All has been given. All is being given. There is only the graced response of a surrendered person.

Ken Carlson

The Moderator's Meditations:

When the Church Council met for the first time in the new Church Year, we agreed we wanted to move forward in three areas:

- 1) **Church Outreach** with the objective of substantially increasing membership.
- 2) **Strengthening of the educational program for young people** in general with a particular emphasis on development of an older youth program.
- 3) **Expansion of classroom facilities** and reduction of the dysfunctional use of areas of our church campus.

I am pleased to report that our church is indeed moving forward in each of these directions. And I cannot emphasize too strongly this progress has been made possible through the efforts of highly dedicated members of our congregation and our devoted ministerial staff.

First, our effort to reach out to the larger community was highlighted by the very successful "Open House" inspired and led by Mrs. Barbara Ross and strongly supported by the organizational and financial contributions of Becky Miller and others in the congregation. Our deepest appreciation and heartfelt "thank you" to Barbara and Becky and to each member of the congregation and ministerial staff who gave so much in order for this effort to succeed at a high level. Already many members of the congregation have called for additional "Open House" efforts. A warm welcome was extended to a goodly number of our unchurched friends in the Sun City / Menifee Communities and as a consequence, we already have two new excellent members of the choir and additional congregants as well.

On a second front we have recognized for some time that we cannot attract a large number of younger families without an effective youth program, and progress is being made on that front as well. Yesterday, interviews were held with attractive and competent candidates for the part-time position of Youth Director and a report on those interviews will be given at the meeting.

On the third front we have agreed that we wanted to increase our usable class space by enclosing a small patio section next to the church. Progress on that front continues as well. The space thus created has already been allotted to "His Light on the Hill" for part-time use and it appears the payments for this space should recompense our church for our construction costs within three years. We are grateful to Don Ross for his continuing efforts. Being involved in a number of building projects at the Airport at which I work, I am well aware of the frustrations and difficulties he has had to face with governmental bodies.

Each of these three efforts has incurred and will incur additional expense. We are well aware of that and are depending on the impending income from the Vera Shaw Estate to pay off these investments. We hope these costs will still leave an appropriate amount to be added to our Endowment. Since it is my understanding Vera Shaw had indicated a great interest in our Youth program, an allotment of \$10,000 for our Youth Director's salary seems very much in order. It is my thought that the portion of the mailing costs paid by the church should also come out of the Shaw income since such promotional efforts like our Youth Program are designed to increase the membership in the church with an ultimate increase in operating income and possible endowment gifts. These special cost items will probably take a large share of the income from the Shaw estate so regrettably perhaps only a small amount will be available for our Endowment.

Thank you for your continuing dedication and devoted service to our church community.

Sincerely, Art Peterson, Moderator

Dear Barbara Ross,
(June 14, 2009)

Last Sunday your creative idea of arranging for a Community Open House at our church was outstanding! I want to personally thank you for your special talents of putting this all together. It was a pleasure working with you on your open House Committee and listening to all your arrangements and ideas for our Open House.

I believe all who had a part in this special event had a meaningful feeling of accomplishment knowing how successful this event turned out. We had approximately 26 community guests attend our open house with very positive comments about how nice our facilities are. They enjoyed the very informative program by Pastor Hal and Eckart directing the choir. We had several church members host a table where our guests enjoyed a very nice food and beverage buffet after their tour of our facility.

To say the least Barbara, this was a job well done ! We all want to thank you for putting your creative talents to work for our church. You made our church better through your spiritual love and devotion.

Thank you, on behalf of the UCC Church council and Church Membership

Gary Tidwell

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.
Call for an appointment or just drop by.



STEWARDSHIP & YOU

We welcome you to inquire about and explore the meaning of membership in the United Church of Christ, Sun City, California.

Whether you are already a church member, seeking membership or are inquiring about what it means to be Christian today and belong to a church, we invite you to explore who the United Church of Christ is, what a local congregation is, what it means to belong and join a United Church of Christ and what members believe.

Please ask us!

Dorothy Flory,
Stewardship Chair

Last fall the Associate Pastor taught a ten-week course entitled, "C. S. Lewis: Soul Friend."

Some interest in the faith journey, writings and life of C. S. Lewis has recently been expressed.

If a summer class of six to eight weeks peaks your interest, let me know. Summer reading and good conversation can be spiritually rewarding growth.

A PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

O God, may each person be filled with a deeper sense of your Divine Reality throughout each day of living...that burdens may be lifted and blessings may infill each need and each activity, according to thy will and thy way, may this be so. Amen

DE

JULY VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS

7/05 - Jean Jewell
 7/12 - Eleanor Sorenson
 7/19 - Nadine Sanderson
 7/26 - Daisy Pia

GUEST BOOK

7/05 - Eleanor Sorenson
 7/12 - Donna Goodrich
 7/19 - Virginia Young
 7/26 - John Neidert

LAY READERS

7/05 - Eleta Tidwell
 7/12 - Judy Carlson
 7/19 - Betty Bryant
 7/26 - Jo Pohl

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

7/5 - 7/26 - J. L. & Carol Hisel

SOUND TECHNICIAN

7/05 - Todd Ross
 7/12 - J. Hisel
 7/19 - J. Hisel
 7/26 - Todd Ross

SECURITY

7/01 - 7/15 - J. Hisel
 7/16 - 7/31 - Don Ross

SCRIP NEWS

Please keep SCRIP in mind this summer as you purchase items for those wonderful summer get togethers, possibly a new BBQ, even those extra food items. You can purchase with SCRIP and help your church too. We have SCRIP to fit your every shopping need and the church gets back a percentage. Please see Becky or Eleta after worship service. Thank you !

JULY Anniversaries

LeRoy & Mary Lou Snider
 (59 years)

 John & Johanna Will
 (49 years)

JULY Birthdays

Jean Holden, (2nd)
 Jackson Seeber, (3rd)
 (2 years old)
 Stacy Baird, (7th)
 Helena Bergamin, (7th)
 Veronica Dominguez, (9th)
 Gwen Mangum, (10th)
 Jean Suwyn, (10th)
 Shirley Goward, (11th)
 Krissi Hughes, (19th)
 Betty Bryant, (21st)
 Carol Hanks, (22nd)
 Mary Lou Pape, (25th)
 Barbara Ross, (27th)
 Cody Spriggs, (28th)
 Marian Thompson, (29th)
 Elyce Elyra, (31st)

SONSHINER SPONSORS

Please check out our sponsors on the back of the SONSHINER. They pay for the printing of our newsletter. Perhaps you need a watch or jewelry repaired, looking for vitamins or herbs, how about a plumber, oh yes, and your carpet really needs to be cleaned. A lawyer for your Trusts or Wills, a special place for family members who need special attention, and a local pharmacy. All of these services are available to you. Please call them and let us know what you think about their services.

Thank you !

**Lectionary Lessons
 for July**

**7/05 - Fourteenth Sunday
 in Ordinary Time**
 (Fifth Sunday after Pentecost)
 2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10 * Ps 48 or
 Ezek 2:1-5 * Ps 123 *
 2 Cor 12:2-10 * **Mark 6:1-13**
SENT WITH POWER

**7/12 - Fifteenth Sunday
 in Ordinary Time**
 (Sixth 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
GOD-INSPIRED JOY

**7/19 - 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
WHEREVER YOU ARE

**7/26 - 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**
*GOD'S ABUNDANT
 PRESENCE*

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

<u>May Inc</u>	<u>May Exp</u>	<u>Gain (Loss)</u>
\$11,928.31	\$18,161.70	(\$6,233.39)

Year to Date Totals

<u>5 Mo Inc</u>	<u>5 Mo. Exp</u>	<u>Gain (Loss)</u>
\$84,028.48	\$96,535.01	(\$12,526.53)

Respectfully submitted,
 Richard Westlund