

WANDERINGS

A newsletter for people on a journey together with a purpose

Redlands United Church of Christ *An Open and Affirming Church*

September 2010

Contemplative Worship Service and Communion – 8:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.

Sundays, September 5, 12, 19 and 26

Communion - Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 12

The office will be closed Monday, September 6, in observance of
Labor Day

The Prayer Group will meet Mondays, September 6, 13, 20 and 27
at 10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room

and also on

Tuesdays, September 7, 14, 21 and 28

at 5:00 p.m. in the Choir Room

Christians for Equality Committee will meet
Monday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office

Covenant Choir rehearsals begin
Thursday, September 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Handbell Choir's rehearsals are pending

Stewards meet on Tuesday, September 14
at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office

The Sandwich Group will meet on Tuesday, September 21
at 12:00 p.m. in the Pastor's office

Church Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 28
at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office

Middle school and High school youth group
September meetings ~ Rev. Leif Lind is coordinating leaders

From your Pastor and Teacher, Sharon~

*“We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God.
The world is crowded with God.
God walks everywhere incognito.
And the incognito is not always hard to penetrate.
The real labour is to remember, to attend.
In fact, to come awake.
Still more, to remain awake.*

— C.S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*

The real joy of travel is to return home and bring others along through the sharing of stories, photos, and experiences. This I learned the first time I traveled to Ireland several years ago for a silent retreat. Ironically, coming back and talking about the silence with you, and then providing similar silent retreat experiences for the congregation, has, since that time, inspired many within RUCC to actually seek silence to strengthen their own spiritual journeys.

Another area where this exchange has occurred here at RUCC is with Celtic Spirituality. First there were the annual Celtic Sundays. These were followed by additional studies on Celtic Christianity. Then we all experienced a fantastic sabbatical two years ago, with a special focus on all-things-Celtic! Most recently, during this past summer, several RUCC members and friends traveled to England and Scotland on a Celtic pilgrimage. Billed as the “Thin Places Pilgrimage” the purpose of this trip was twofold: 1) to experience firsthand some of the sacred places of early non-Roman Christianity, and 2) to bring those experiences back to the whole congregation. And we can wait no longer!

On Sunday, September 5th, I’ll offer in the meditation a playful way of utilizing Celtic Christian Spirituality to address some of the pressing ecological concerns of our generation. Sunday, September 12th, we will all experience a special Communion Service from the Celtic Christian community on the Isle of Iona—a tiny piece of real estate off the northwest coast of Scotland that is home to the oldest existing example of non-Roman theology and worship. Sunday, September 19th, will be a real treat, as the “pilgrims” who traveled this summer will share their experiences of the Divine and thereby invite each of you to notice the “thin places” in your life where God is incognito, places where your world is crowded with God. This month of worship experiences ends—on Sunday, September 26th—with a very special service of healing, adapted from the Iona Community’s rich worship life. We will be invited to be both healer and healed, as we seek God’s healing energy for ourselves, for our relationships, for our loved ones, for our community, for our nation, and for our world. (As an aside, when Leif, Taylor, and I were sitting in the healing service in the Abbey Chapel on Iona one evening, we simply looked at each other, smiled, and, as if with one voice, agreed that this service would be a natural liturgical extension of our weekly sharing of Joys and Concerns.) We truly hope that you will also find it inspiring and helpful for your own spiritual journey!

Meantime, please know that my door is always open—to talk about how this summer was for you, to share about “thin places,” to speak of things sacred and silly and all points in between.

Blessings and much love,



President's Message

Where were you in 1967? Were you in San Francisco experiencing the Summer of Love? Or, if your coming of age didn't correspond to that timeframe, would you have gone if you'd had the chance? Are you looking for utopia, non-violence, alternate realities, non-conformism, or just some flowers for your hair?

Redlands United Church of Christ experienced its own Summer of Love this year with our summer series. As far as I know, there were no illicit drugs involved, but there was some very good food and fellowship.

We started with the concept of loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves. Some of the discussions revolved around the unconditional love of others, as well as being honest with others. Loving someone doesn't mean being willing to take whatever they throw at you. And sometimes, we need someone near and dear to us to call us out!

The next week explored the language of love. A short quiz helped us to get in touch with the ways we express (and receive!) love. It was eye opening to realize that we often show love to others in ways that we like to have it expressed to us. A good lesson for all of us, especially in our church community, is to realize that we need to look at what others truly need, not what we would like them to need.

Loving our bodies explored the concepts of food and exercise and how we often slip into patterns that are not healthy for us. We work too hard, we allow stress to run rampant, we get too busy for even brief periods of physical movement. We discussed ways in which we can help each other to love ourselves into long and happy lives.

Next, we brought our Epiphany words to explore loving our souls. How do these simple words, chosen at random each year, help us speak and understand the language of love? Is the Spirit speaking our word to us, and what is the Divine nudging us to do in response? What are the different ways each of us uses these words?

Lastly, we discussed using love to discern our path in the world. A short, entertaining video explored the concepts of an empathic civilization, growing from caring about small communities with blood ties, to business and commerce connections, to national pride and patriotism, to finally embracing all of humanity, indeed all living things and the earth itself as our home. Love can be the common language that helps us reach out to our increasingly interconnected world.

It turns out love has many languages and speaks to each of us in different ways. I think it's inspiring that we are not taking it for granted. We know, very personally, that a God who loves us is also calling us to love others. We forgive each other and we trust that others are good people, each with their own story.

It's not Haight and Ashbury, but Olive and Bellevue has proven that a brief season can turn into a year-round celebration of love, hope and acceptance.

With optimism and hope,
Loring Fiske-Phillips

Events at RUCC...

Prayer Groups

Prayer Groups meet every Monday morning, 10:30 to 11:30, and on Tuesday evening, 5:00-6:00 p.m. Both groups meet in the choir room. The first twenty minutes is a beginner/refresher workshop time followed by the sharing of joys and concerns and concluding with meditation and silent prayer. All are invited!

Wider Ministries/Faith Acts Meeting on Haiti

We will meet on **Sunday, September 12** at 12:15 p.m. in the CE area to hear about the recent exploratory trip to Haiti. This is an open informational meeting ~ if you have questions or concerns about the trip, or would just like more information, you are welcome to attend! Please note the date change.

Dietsch/Wesson Shepherd Group

The Dietsch/Wesson Shepherd Group will be meeting on Sunday, September 12 at 12:30 p.m., at the home of Craig and Carole Wesson at 1733 Chaparral Road, Redlands.

September Worship Leaders

5 Jacob Fiske-Phillips
12 Sandy Peavler
19
26 Heather Shamp

September Birthdays

1 Dee Hodson
 Diane Richardson
 Jake Spoor
2 Michael Dewey
 Katie Barton
4 Joseph Kles
7 Douglas Miller
8 Sheridan Blanchard
11 Deana Whitfield
12 Steve Chapman
16 Jo Dierdorff
17 Wendy Naftzger
19 Zoë Beach
20 John Sweeney
 Jeanne Favreau-Sorvillo
21 Eric Goren
23 Mary Belle Carter
24 Matthew Walsh
 Alyssa Jacobsen
25 Ryan Hughes
26 Sam Dickey
 Noah Dewey
26 Robert Broadhead
 Heather Shamp
30 Barb Lord

Jennifer Hawley-Zechlin ~ No more "Interim" :-)

For the past year, Jennifer has been serving as our Interim Education Director. By unanimous vote of the Church Board at their August 24th meeting, the "interim" portion of that title was removed! Jennifer will continue to serve in the many ways she has been over this past year: coordinating and leading Kids' Zone, presenting those fine Children's Circle messages, planning other education events for our congregation's children, and leading an adult Bible study. By personal covenant, she will also continue on the Church Board as Area Leader for Education. Jennifer welcomes input and suggestions from you related to the educational programs for the RUCC children! RUCC is blessed by her ministry ~ welcome (again!), Jennifer!

Kid's Zone News

We are pleased to announce that we will be beginning a brand new curriculum in Kid's Zone on Sept. 12th.

After eagerly awaiting its release, The Center For Progressive Christianity has begun to ship its brand new curriculum entitled "A Joyful Path." After receiving our copy and looking through the material I am really excited! Designed for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade it celebrates a joy-filled life, compassion for all, and the wisdom within. "It is billed as Sunday School Lessons for which no apology is necessary."

We will continue to follow much of the same format, leaving after the Children's Circle, to share announcements, offering, lesson, and activity. We will be adding a new dimension of worship and will work with affirmations weekly. Parents (and others) come back and see what we do! Adults, if you have gifts to share with our children (storytelling, musical talents, special lessons, etc.) please let me know, I would love for our kids to get to know you!

As always, it is my hope that the youth will continue to offer their support to Kid's Zone by helping out. Let me know what weeks you are available to help. I can use one or two youth a week.

Jennifer Hawley-Zechlin
Director of Christian Education

NEW PROGRAM YEAR

Sunday

Adult Sunday School Resumes – Sundays, September 12, 19, 26 ~ 9:30-10:15 am All are welcome to participate in the continuation of last spring's class on *The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon*. This book, co-authored by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, was the basis for a study leave seminar attended last year by Rev. Graff, who will also be facilitating the discussion for three more Sundays in September. Bring your questions about this controversial apostle...and read Borg and Crossan's book, if you are able! (A few copies are still available in the church office).

UCC 101 – Sunday, September 19, 12:30-1:30 pm (and every 3rd Sunday of the month) For all those who are new to the United Church of Christ, this newly-resurrected (and restructured!) class is for YOU! We'll meet monthly to discuss these topics: UCC history, Jesus, Bible, Worship, UCC Structure, UCC Witness, and the Future of the UCC. The resource we'll use is the very readable (and funny!) text: *Balaam's Unofficial Handbook of the United Church of Christ*. Copies are available in the church office. No homework! No writing! Just a bit of reading...but, I promise, it will be enjoyable and illuminating! Let me know if you are interested...or just show up on **Sunday, September 19th at 12:30 pm!** --Rev. Dr. Sharon R. Graff

Youth – Calling all parents of youth! As our congregation is now temporarily without a youth leader, we will need to rely on youth parents to keep the program running for the next two or three months until we can find a replacement. Hopefully this will mean that each family will only be responsible for one or two Sundays at most.

Jubilee Ringers – Arrangements Pending!

Monday

Bible 102 – Monday, September 27, at 7:00 P.M. (and every 1st and 4th Monday of the month) It's time for Bible 102 to resume! It's time for you to dig out your books and dust them off, it's time for you to come back to class! What? You've never been to Bible 102? It's a GREAT time for you to join us! The 1st and 4th Mondays in the church office at 7:00 pm. Our 1st meeting for the new year will be on the 27th of September (NO class on Labor Day). If you would like additional information see Jennifer Hawley-Zechlin or e-mail me at DeepRootsAcademy@hotmail.com

Revelation Bible Study – Monday, September 13, at 7:00 P.M. (and every 2nd and 3rd Monday of the month) Want to learn more about the book that even the Reformers questioned should have been included in the Bible? Revelation has puzzled, frustrated, and fascinated biblical scholars throughout history, and readers today are no exception. Due to a continued interest in learning more about Revelation, there will be a bi-monthly study group meeting at the Naftzger's home (660 Walnut Ave.) on the 2nd and 3rd Mondays of each month. (This time has been chosen so as hopefully not to conflict with other Bible study groups.) -- Rev. Leif Lind

Grief Group – Monday, September 27th, at 4:30 P.M. (and weekly for 6 weeks) Grieving? In need of support? We are starting a Grief Support Group which will run for 6 weeks beginning Monday, Sept. 27 from 4:30- 6:00 in the choir room. You don't have to have just lost someone to "qualify"- there are many different types of grief and grief situations. The group will be co-facilitated by Rev. Al Sproull, retired chaplain of Redlands Community Hospital and Susi Jacobsen, author of A Splendid Knowing: Poems of Grief. Due to the nature of the group and the respect for privacy, after the first 2 sessions this will be a closed group.

Tuesday

Alpha Bible Study –Tuesday, September 7, at 7:30 P.M. (and every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month) We will be meeting at the home of Jane Arnegard, and begin our study of the book of Acts. Copies of the commentary we will be using to help us can be purchased at the church office from Carla for \$22.00 per book or will be available at the first meeting. All are welcome, and this would be a great time to join, as we will be starting at the very beginning of Acts 1:1. Please feel free to join us. We meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Sandwich Group – Tuesday, September 21, noon-1:00 pm (and every 3rd Tuesday of the month) For those who are living "between" generations -- caring for children or grandchildren, while at the same time providing care for aging parents. This group is also being resurrected, as the need for it has been voiced! Please meet in the pastor's office and bring a sandwich. All who are experiencing this "squeeze" are welcome to participate. Questions? Contact Rev. Dr. Sharon Graff by email or phone.

Thursday

Covenant Choir – Thursday, September 9, 7:30 pm (and every Thursday) Anyone who would like to join, please see Taylor Ruhl, or email Taylor at taylorruhl@gmail.com.

Celebration Ringers – Arrangements Pending!

Calling all families and friends of the RUCC youth groups

It is hard to believe that Craig and Amanda are about to head out – after six great years with our church family and youth. One question you may have wondered as we head for this transition is, “what now?” While there is never a simple answer, it is sure great you asked! The youth and the personnel committee at RUCC are looking for people to jump in and help in the following ways:

1. In the short term, we are seeking five individuals (1 Sr. High youth representative, 1 Jr. High youth representative, 1 Sr. High parent, 1 Jr. High parent, and 1 congregational member at large), to be a member of the search committee, which will be chaired by Marybeth Maury-Holmes. The commitment to the search committee will involve listening to the hopes of our congregation as you talk among each other, attending at least two 2-hour meetings to review the job description and formulate an interview plan, and then a willingness to be a part of interviewing and selecting our next Youth Director – however long that takes.
2. In the intermediate term, we are seeking families and adult friends of youth group members to jump in and guide our very wonderful youth in September, October and November (if necessary) for 1 – 2 Sunday meetings of your choosing or for a special youth events (parties, overnights, games and other fun!). Youth group meets on Sundays from 1 – 3 in the afternoon – and can involve everything from acts of service, hanging out, Bible Study, movies and discussion, games or any other muse that strikes. The special events can be held any time – and the youth will come!

In the long-term, we are confident that God will guide us to the next best steps, so ask for the thoughtful prayers of everyone around.

If you have a willingness to help in any of these ways, please drop a call, an email, a text or a kind word in the hall to Marybeth Maury-Holmes (mauryholmes@yahoo.com; 909-335-1995) or Pastor Leif Lind. Once we have a posse of volunteers, we will formulate the details.

Art, For Heaven's Sake!

It's time to mark your calendar for our 31st annual Art, for Heaven's Sake! Festival. The Festival will take place October 15th, 17th, and 17th and much help will be needed to continue the overwhelming success of past shows. The art show committee has chosen sixty three artists and it promises to be another highly successful show. Your help is needed to make this the best show ever!

Help will be needed in the following areas:

Prior to the show

- * **Tasty Treats** - Tea cookies and hors d'oeuvres are needed for the Friday night gala reception. These can be made ahead of time and frozen or you can make them a day or two ahead. Contact Beki Hill at 798-5899 or redlandszoo@yahoo.com

Friday, October 15

- * **General Set up Friday** morning - Help is needed to move furniture, set up temporary fencing, erect pop-up tents, string lights, put up banners and signs etc.
- * **Set up Artist's Lounge Friday** morning – We provide sandwiches and snacks for the artists on Friday night and coffee and snacks all weekend.
- * **Assist artists Friday afternoon** - Starting at 11:00 am the artists begin setting up their exhibits. Many appreciate help with carrying things from their cars and it's a great way to meet the artists.
- * **Serve food and drinks Friday evening** - Starting at 7:00 pm hors d'oeuvres, cookies, coffee and punch are served at the gala reception. We need kitchen helpers and also punch and coffee servers. Help is needed carrying trays of food throughout the show. This is a great opportunity to mix with the artists and guests. Contact Beki Hill at 798-5899 or redlandszoo@yahoo.com

Friday, Saturday and Sunday

- * **Greet guests** – Greet guests and invite them to sign the guest book.
- * **Cashier Friday, Saturday and Sunday** – If you're experienced with retail sales or good at handling monetary transactions, help is needed to cashier at the checkout table
- * **Breaks for artists Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday** – People are needed to sit at the artists' booths for short periods of time in order to give them breaks.
- * **Monitor the Artist's Lounge Saturday and Sunday** – Help is needed to make sure the food and coffee for the artists is available.

Sunday Evening 5:00 pm

- * **Clean up!**

Questions?? Contact Paul Hodson at 809-7820 or coyotexng@eee.org OR
Sondra Hodson at 633-3210 slhodson@yahoo.com

Visit the Art, For Heaven's Sake! Website at www.artforheavenssake.org for more information on the artists and pictures of last year's show.

September Scripture Readings

Information for September will be in each week's View

Minister – Rev. Dr. Sharon R. Graff
Associate Minister – Rev. Leif Lind
Organist/Choir Director – Dr. Taylor Ruhl
Education Director – Jennifer Hawley-Zechlin
Administrative Assistant – Carla Becerril
Sunday Child Care – Leah Lane
Custodian – Jay Grayson
Church office hours: 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Monday – Friday
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Pastor Emeritus – Rev. Richard Blakley



Redlands United Church of Christ
168 Bellevue Avenue
Redlands, CA 92373-4978
(909) 793-3520 Fax: (909) 793-5418
E-mails: pastor@uccredlands.org
Leiflind4@gmail.com
office@uccredlands.org
youth@uccredlands.org
Web site: www.uccredlands.org