



New Evening Time!
Vacation Bible School at UCC!

June 27 - July 1
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

See inside for registration!

Useful Tidbits

Church Office CLOSED
 Monday, May 30th for Memorial Day

Monday, July 4th for Independence Day

Music Notes

June 26th is the last day to hear the "full" choir.

Fear not! You will not be deprived. Enjoy a variety of guest musicians including some of your favorite students for a wonderful summer of music.

Be Included submit news items by Wednesday, June 15th to Julie Baker: julie4design@gmail.com

Go Green if you prefer to receive an e-newsletter as a PDF each month, let us know: cathy@ucchurch.org

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9209 E. 29th Street North · Wichita, KS 67226
 316-634-0430 · www.ucchurch.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Steeple Notes

universitycongregationalchurch

Volume 29, Issue 6

Where head & heart are partners in faith.

June 2011

News from the Belfry



We celebrated a glorious Easter service at UCC on April 24th. It was one of the most meaningful Easter Sundays I have ever known. I thank Bob Scott and the Chancel Choir for the music that stirred my soul.

We are still in the season the church calls "Eastertide." But it hardly feels like Easter anymore. There continues to be "wars and rumors of wars," flooding along the Mississippi, disease, and death. The Easter lilies have shed their flowers and their aroma has drifted into the ether.

Would you be surprised to learn that depression hits clergy after Easter? Yes, about 25% walk around with their heads in their shoes. I heard recently that suicide rates among clergy are greatest after Resurrection Sunday. No small irony there. After all, church attendance drops, the offering droops, and people would rather spend time in their gardens than attend church meetings. Frankly, so would I. Imagine that!

Part of the problem is that we think that Easter is a singular event. We imagine it's a one-time program. Oh, the church tries to string it out a few more weeks, but does it really have any traction? And yes, Pentecost Sunday arrives June 12th, just in time to give us an unimaginable boost. Is it the "Red Bull" energy drink for the faithful?

In the New Testament the Greek word for resurrection means literally "to rise." We rise every morning, an event the monastic tradition called the "little resurrection." Bread rises. The sun rises. Trout rise to the surface. Fresh new prairie grasses rise from the fields that farmers burned off a few weeks ago. Somebody sends you a note or email telling you how much he or she loves you and how important you are to him or her. Hope rises and is common to our daily round. There are resurrections all around us. Faith is the capacity to see the resurrection that walks across the stage of our daily lives.

In that spirit I wish you Happy Easter again.

Yours in faith and love,
 Gary

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It's Vacation Bible School time!

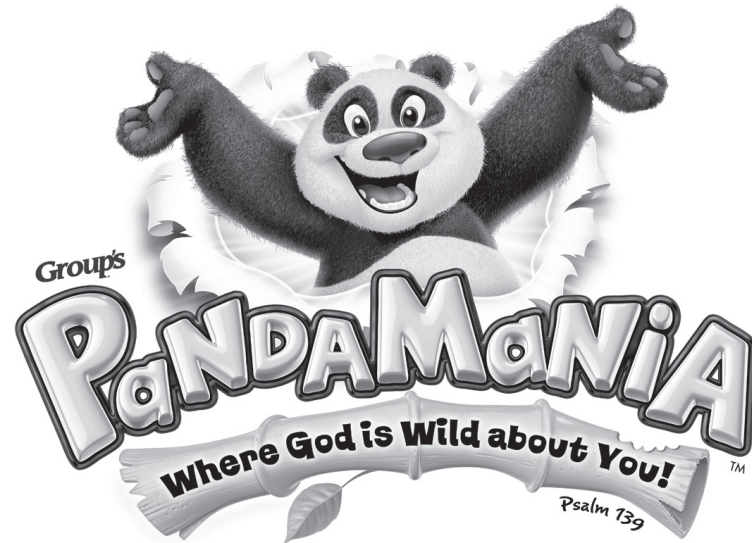
June 27 - July 1

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Optional dinner for children and their families will be served from 5:30-6:00 pm. The bible school fun will begin at 6:00 pm.

Ages 3 through 5th Grade
Bible School Registration for Members \$10. Free registration for guests

Please Pre-Register by June 17 by contacting the church office: cathy@ucchurch.org or call 316-634-0430.



See You There!

Vacation Bible School Registration Form

Return by June 17, 2011 to:
UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
9209 E. 29th Street North, Wichita, KS 67226

Child's name: _____
Grade entering in Sept 2011: _____ Date of birth: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone # _____ Cell phone # (s) _____

T-Shirt Size: _____ Youth S _____ Youth M _____ Youth L _____ Adult S _____ Adult M _____ Adult L

Parents' or legal guardians' names _____

Email address _____

Emergency contact person(s) _____ Relationship to child _____

Phone # _____

Allergies (especially food and/or insect allergies): _____

Other helpful information (illnesses, medication, activity restriction, etc): _____

For three and four year olds: Daytime Potty trained (circle one)? YES NO

Are you willing to help with teaching, assistant teaching, child care, crafts, snacks, music, recreation (circle one)? YES NO

Who will be taking your child(ren) to and from VBS (We need to be notified if this info. changes)? _____

Permission granted in emergency to transport to closest/local hospital if parent, guardian and emergency contacts cannot be reached (circle one)? YES NO Doctor's name, address and phone number: _____

Which hospital? _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

For more information or additional forms call the church office at 316-634-0430.

Moderator's Message

by Becki Herod

The Church Council met on Sunday, May 22 and began the important work of processing the eight recommendations offered in the report by Dr. Betsy Mauro from the NACCC. A unanimous decision was made to cancel the June 4/5 visit by Dr. Mauro and revisit the idea of further involvement after we have had the opportunity to begin working on her eight recommendations. Dr. Mauro has offered us her services through telephone and Skype to work through these recommendations without the cost of flying her to Wichita. Additionally, she has offered to entertain questions by the congregation about the report. Her only request is that you funnel your questions through a member of the Council so that they may be collected, bundled and given to her in groupings rather than being inundated with multiple calls.

Let me give you a quick update on work that has already begun. Recommendation #1 discusses the "Attention to children and youth programming". A great deal of volunteer work has taken place in the last three months to ensure that Sunday School and Youth programs are running effectively. We owe a big thanks to Grace Kneil, Anna Duxler, Megan Lovely, Deanna Wells, Crystal & Peter DeVries, and Debbi Green for keeping things running smoothly. Two parent volunteers are coordinating Vacation Bible School the week of June 27. Additionally, in the April council meeting a nominating committee was formed to begin the work of rebuilding the Christian Education Board. Recommendations #2 & #3 in her report recommend an "Evaluation of the structure of the church" and "Implementation of personnel policies and procedures". A motion was made to create a committee who would review current structure and policies and report back to the council with a recommendation. It is expected that this committee would solicit outside support from experts in congregational church governance, such as the NACCC. Your input, of course, is always welcome and appreciated. We expect that changes would be made, they would most likely be a change to our church By-Laws, which would allow your input through a congregational vote. I assure you that the other recommendations are also being considered and you will hear more about our efforts in the near future.

I personally would like to recognize that this has been an emotional and hurtful time for many of you. And for any pain you may feel, I am truly sorry. I hope that we can all learn and grow from this experience but also grow stronger as a church. Dr. Mauro has provided us with some great suggestions to make our church a better place. Now it is time for us to look forward and begin the hard work she has laid out for us.

Head-To-Toe HYGIENE PANTRY

Thank you to all who made a donation to the Pantry in honor of or in memory of mothers. We raised \$2,326.00. That will buy over a month's worth of product for the pantry and will make many mothers happy! We are still serving about 500 families a month and still need larger sized diapers and feminine hygiene products. Of course monetary donations are always welcomed.

Please check our signup sheets in fellowship and see if you can help us a Saturday morning this summer. It promises to be a fun and rewarding experience. Please call Mimi 680-1325 or Debbi 634-1482 if you have any questions.

Among Our Own

New Confirmands

Welcome to our young people who were confirmed, May 22nd.

Bailey Baker

Emily Blaine

Alex Fullerton

Michael Saffley

Baptism

Debbie Becker and Barbara Widmer were both baptized by Dr. Blaine, Sunday, May 22nd.

Graduates

Congratulations to our spring graduates:

Luke Mason, Southeast H.S.

Megan Lovely, WSU

Convalescence

Mary Ann Ranney continues to recuperate near family in Lawrence, Kansas.

In Memoriam

Long-time UCC member Domenica (Mink) DeLozier died Friday, May 13, in Arizona. Our deepest condolences to Mink's family.

Social Scene

Men's Group Lunch

Meets the 3rd Thursday each month.

Thursday, June 16. at 11:30 am at Louie's Grill & Bar, 9747 East 21st St. North (Webb & 21st). Let us know if you need a ride. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the church office.

News from the future...our youth

Heifer Ranch-Global Challenge Program June 22-25th

Last Chance!

Anyone age 12 and up can attend. Contact the coordinator Carla Walker 838-4343; cwalker68@coxnet