



# Henrietta United Church of Christ September 2004 Newsletter



## *A Word From Your Pastor: So Grateful to Be Back*

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Dear HUCC Friends,

I'm coming back from my sabbatical so full of gratitude:

Gratitude for the amazing gift of a three-month sabbatical you so graciously supported me in taking. I kept pinching myself asking how this wonderful thing could be happening to me.

Gratitude for all the mysterious ways God used that time to give me just what I needed when I needed it.

Gratitude for the ways Dean Potts and you supported each other's ministries.

Gratitude for all of the faithful servants who did so much to keep the spirit of HUCC alive and well all summer.

My hope was that by time my three months was over, I would feel deeply renewed, re-energized and eager to return to work. With gratitude to God, I am happy to say that I am very excited to be back at my favorite church, HUCC.

Part of that is my eagerness to share the spiritual insights I have received this summer. God has awakened in me a deeper understanding of the mysterious reality of the kingdom of God, which was the underlying theme of Jesus' teachings and ministry. I am eager to help us explore ways that we ourselves can be touched by this reality and see it shape our church and even the world around us. This will be a theme of my preaching and our worship this fall

And beyond that, I have a strong sense that God has been preparing us all for a new surge of growth this year: We are ready to grow spiritually, as indicated by the strong worship attendance all summer. We would like to see everyone taking advantage of at least one of our spiritual growth opportunities this fall:

- The spiritual study and growth group that will resume meeting Sunday evenings at 7:00 at Alan and Sue Dailey's. This fall the group will be reading the book *Joshua*, which helps us imagine a modern-day Jesus. The first meeting is Sept. 26. (See the article on the next page.)
  - Our ongoing Tuesday Morning Bible Study, which meets at 10:00 AM Tuesdays at 200 Myrtlewood. We will be exploring Jesus' teachings about the kingdom of God this fall. Call Pastor Dave for information.
  - A one-day retreat on October 16 led by Bonnie Bates on Spiritual Development (see article below). She will then lead a weekly group (times to be arranged) for those who want to learn and practice various methods of prayer and meditation for their spiritual development. (We're sure glad to have Bonnie back at HUCC!)
- We are ready to grow in community as we look at a challenging topic together. The Ad Hoc Committee will be putting together a pair of lecture/discussion meetings designed to help us look at homosexuality in light of the scriptures from two different points of view. This will probably happen late fall.

We are ready to grow in our welcome and outreach. The national UCC will be airing advertisements on national TV starting in November using the "God is still speaking" theme and emphasizing our denomination's open welcome of all who would worship and learn of God. We have a new Welcoming Committee in place, chaired by Donna Palmer, and a new committee was established in August by Council to help prepare the whole church to respond to more people who may be interested in the UCC and in our church.

These are just some of the things that make me excited about being back at HUCC. But the most important one is you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, whose love, trust, faith, and openness create a living invitation for God to "do far more abundantly in us all than we can ask or imagine."

Thanks so much for being my partners in ministry.

Gratefully,

Pastor Dave

To a disciple who was terrified about making mistakes, the Master said:

"Those who make no mistakes are making the biggest mistake of all—they are attempting nothing new."

Anthony DeMello



## *From the Interim Pastor*

My Friends, what can I say? This summer has been one of learning, blessedness, feelings of humility, happiness and fulfillment as I served as your Interim Pastor while Pastor Dave was on Sabbatical.

Yes, I was asked and with humility ministered to you at your Sunday worship celebrations. But, please know and understand that in reality, I was the one who received pastoral support. The old hymn "Precious Memories" comes to mind when I think back on the last three months.

All of you have been so very friendly, helpful and understanding and words alone cannot describe what your fellowship has meant to Judy and myself. All of us did indeed and will continue to experience the Celebration of God's Love and our love for each other. You all welcomed a couple weary travelers into your church home and I will always feel that welcome deeply in my soul.

May you all be richly blessed!

Yours in Christ,

Dean Potts

## *A Fond Farewell to Rob*

Rob will be continuing his theological education in Dublin, Ireland this year, and therefore leaving his position as our Youth Pastor. We are so grateful for the love and faith he has so freely shared with our youth and all of us these past two years.

We are still looking for an enthusiastic, youth-loving person to fill this part-time position. Please contact John Loughner if you have any leads. In the meantime, Donna Palmer will be filling the position on an interim basis. There are already some great events in the works for our youth for this fall, so they won't have to miss anything. Thanks, Donna!

## *Study the Inspiring Book Joshua*

Have you ever wondered what Jesus would be like and what he would do if he lived among us today? Writer and former priest Joseph Gerzone felt guided to write a series of books spinning out stories of Jesus living in our modern world and interacting with people like you and me. The *Joshua* series became best sellers, inspiring millions of people of all ages.

All are invited to read (or re-read) and discuss the first of these books, *Joshua*, at our Sunday evening study group, meeting 7:00-9:00 PM beginning Sept. 26. The group will meet at Alan and Sue Dailey's, 117 Landing Park in Rochester. Sign up in the back of the sanctuary to have a book ordered for you. For more information, call the Daileys at 654-9194.

## *Fall Schedule Kicks Off on September 12*

### **RALLY SUNDAY**

September 12: ALL children are invited to take part in our children's procession at the beginning of Worship this Sunday. "Hero Questers", from Vacation Bible School, will be familiar with the music that will be setting the tone for the day. The choir will be singing the song that we learned this summer as all children carry their streamers, inviting us all to "stream back" to our fullness of our church activities.

### **SUNDAE SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12:**



Everyone is invited to "coffee hour" following Worship where we will be serving ice cream sundaes as part of our "Rally Day—Welcome Back from Summer Service." Please plan to join us!

## *Choir Notes*

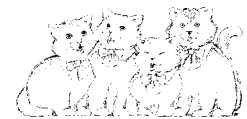
It is time once again to "polish off" our voices and begin adding out music to the church service. Our choir rehearsals will begin on Sunday, September 12 at 9:00 AM in our sanctuary.

I would like to invite anyone who has been thinking about singing with our choir to join us on that Sunday. The hours are great and the pay is next to none!

If anyone has any questions please feel free to call me at 334-0212.

Joe Green

Raise Your Voice—



Join the Choir!



## *Calling all Children*

We are starting a children's choir this fall for all of our wonderful voices! Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, September 12th right after church for about 15 minutes. We will practice twice a month and hope to sing every other month. The children's choir is for those ages 3 and up, and we will have music suitable for all ages that wish to become members of our children's choir.

If you have any questions regarding the choir, please contact Laura Markwick, 218-0504, or Dawn Pixley, 271-3079.

## *Music Ministers in our Midst?*

We have been blessed with several people sharing the gift of music with us during worship this past summer. We would like to continue weaving a variety of uplifting music into our worship services. There is even talk of starting an ensemble. If you can sing or play an instrument and would like to share the gift of music with us, please contact Pastor Dave, Robin Bower is also happy to provide accompaniment to encourage more musical expression in our worship.

## *Big Youth News*



### *Confirmation Class and Meeting for All Youth and their Parents*

We will be having a Confirmation Class this year for all youth 8<sup>th</sup> grade and older who want to grow in their awareness of who they are, explore their gifts and their life's purpose, and develop a faith that gives them hope and guidance in their lives. It will prepare those who choose to be received into full membership of our church and the universal Body of Christ.

We will have an orientation and planning meeting for *all* youth and their parents after church on September 19. A pizza lunch will be provided. Donna Palmer will present ideas for major activities this fall. Following this, Confirmation Class youth and parents will be oriented to this year's class, and meeting times will be arranged. Please bring your calendars!

Any adults or older youth who are interested in helping with the youth program or Confirmation Class this year are invited to contact Donna Palmer (226-6263) or Pastor Dave, or to come to the Sept. 19 gathering.

## *Help in our Ministry to the Aging*

For the past few years HUCC has been providing worship once a month on Sunday afternoons to the residents at Woodcrest Adult Care Community on W. Henrietta Rd. The residents so much appreciate these informal times of sharing and worship. If you would like to help, please let Pastor Dave or Marcie Gass know. Next Sunday for HUCC is September 19.

## Women's News

The Dorcas Guild will be having their annual dinner out on September 7, at the Fairfield Tavern in Fairport. Meet at 5:30 PM in the church parking lot for carpooling.

The Elizabeth Guild will kick off the fall season by meeting on Monday, September 27. Time and place TBA.



FALL RETREAT

## Women's Fellowship Getaway Retreat

**Start off the church year with friends, relaxation, reflection - and laughs!**

Last September we had our first Women's Fellowship Getaway/Retreat at LeTourneau Christian Camp & Conference Center, located on the shores of Canandaigua Lake. Those attending enjoyed the time to relax, to connect with each other, enjoy the scenery and reflect on things meaningful to them.

The Retreat was so much fun that we are repeating the event this September, and we hope that more women will be able to attend. We will be staying in Bethany House, which has a capacity of 18 persons.

Friday, September 10: 3-5 pm, arrival      Saturday, September 11: 8 pm, departure

Meals are included: Friday dinner at 6 pm, Saturday breakfast at 8 am, Saturday lunch at 12 noon, and Saturday dinner at 5 pm. Bed linens and towels are provided.

Bring your own snacks, games, crafts, books and ideas to share. We will have time scheduled for sharing of meaningful stories, readings, or whatever the participants wish to bring.

If you have not signed up to attend, there may still be room. Call Liz Pixley for information (334-0977).

Money is due to Donna McDonough by 5 pm on Friday, September 10.

## 2004 Fall HUCC All-Church Retreat

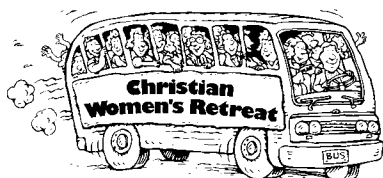
This fall's HUCC retreat will be held on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 AM until 9:30 PM at Cottonwood Lodge in Churchville Park. Adults, youth and children are all invited.

I am pleased to be assisting in the coordination of this fall's retreat. The focus of the retreat will be on spirituality and connection with God, Jesus and the gospel. We will have a chance to experience prayer walks, perhaps a labyrinth walk, quiet reflection, fellowship, good food and fun. A Twilight Worship Service will be a part of the day and we will end the evening with s-mores and songs around the fire.

*Intergenerational, Children & Youth Activities, Spiritual Development Program*

Save the date now for this wonderful event – a time to get to know each other and to get to know ourselves a little better.

Bonnie Bates



## Women's Weekend 2004

Six (6) women attended this year's Women's Weekend at Dunkirk Conference Center, June 4-6. This is an increase from the four (4) that attended last year and the one (1) that attended the year before.

The weekend activities were lead by the dynamic and fun loving Rev. Jan Mahle. The theme was The Parables of Jesus. Jan created an atmosphere of story telling for the 60+ women attending. She then explained the difference between story telling and parables (they are not the same). We looked at many parables and tried to discern what life situations these parables addressed in today's world. Sounds pretty heavy, huh? It may sound that way but, in actuality we met new friends, shared laughter and tears, but came home the better for it. We also came back with a few added pounds. Besides the abundance of friendship, sharing and love, the food was great and plentiful.

We can hardly wait till next year. Women's Weekend is always held the first weekend in June. Mark your calendar now and let's see if we can break this year's attendance record from HUCC.

Carol Loughner



### ***GIFTS OF THE HEART KITS***

This fall our Sunday School offerings will be used to fill kits for children who have been traumatized by disaster. This is a *Church World Service* project. In addition to the items our children can provide, members of the congregation are invited to donate any of the following. These items have been carefully chosen by CWS so *please do not vary from the formula.*

**Small stuffed bear, Harmonica or other small musical instrument, Non-spiral pad or regular construction paper, small soft ball, slinky (metal or plastic), Yo-Yo, 7 foot jump rope, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste (4-7 oz), box of crayons (24), large eraser, pencils with erasers (6), Pencil sharpener, ruler (12 inches or 30 cm.), blunt child's scissors**

All are welcome to contribute items or money towards items. These kits will be mailed out by Christmas.

### ***SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL***

Throughout the summer we saw more children attending church. It's really rewarding to have children to "talk" to and with during Children's Time! Thank you parents for getting your little ones here and thank you Jeanne for keeping our babies happy while the rest of the adults were in Worship. A special thank you to those who took over "Sunday School" duty while our full time staffers enjoyed a well earned vacation; Beverly Bridge, Marcie Gass, Jerry Hawk, Donna Palmer, Jamie Palmer, Dawn Pixley, and Janet Williams. In spite of the rain we experienced—seemingly endless rain—we were able to get the children out onto the playground several times, an activity enjoyed as much as the stories, music, crafts and play time in the classroom.

### ***VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL***

Our children learned that to be "heroes" in their faith they don't need special costumes or super powers. They are already "Everyday Heroes" as they go about living their love and kindness in their families, classrooms, community and church. They have already shared their love of music with some of you this summer and will have a chance to once again "sing out" on the 12th.

The Board of Christian Education is grateful to all of the adults and teens who took part in this year's program. You helped make a difference in the lives of nine little "heroes."

## *Faith Building*

The First Congregational Church of Fairport is offering the world-wide, non-denominational **Alpha Course** to the public. The course will begin on September 8 with a Potluck Supper and will continue on Wednesday Evenings from 7-9 PM for 12 weeks. There are currently over 7,000 churches in the United States offering the course for all those interested in exploring the Christian faith. It has been embraced by all denominations and everyone is invited. For information or to register, call 223-4486

## *Thanks from the Loughners*

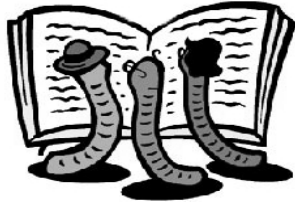
Thanks to all the HUCC folks who sponsored us in the American Lung Association's *Ride for Research*. This year, 87 bikers raised \$80,000, of which John & I raised almost \$1,700. All of this money goes for research. This is an amazing accomplishment considering that the first ride 4 years ago had about 40 riders that raised only \$15,000. It is a wonderful feeling that we could contribute to this worthy cause.

## *Fundraiser for Bells*



We are launching a fundraiser for the bell choir. We will be selling Tupperware from the new fundraiser catalogue. Please see Laura Markwick for your catalogue if you wish to place an order, or if you wish to take a catalogue to friends/family/co-workers, that would be very helpful!

**DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER IS SEPTEMBER 21.  
PLEASE HAVE ALL ARTICLES INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE AT THIS TIME.  
YOUR COOPERATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!**



### Bookworms

The Bookworms will begin their fall schedule on Monday, September 13, by meeting at the home of Tracy Meyer, 2147 Rush-Mendon Rd.

The book to be discussed is *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith. The Discussion Leader is Elizabeth Pixley. Time is 7:30 PM.

### *New in the Library:*

### *Free the Children* by Craig Kielburger



This award winning book reads like a novel and tells of a young mans fight against child labor. Craig’s story is proof that children can change the world. Making headlines around the globe, Craig Kielburger and his organization, Free The Children, which he founded at the age of twelve, have brought unprecedented attention to the worldwide abuse of children’s rights. *Free The Children* is a passionate and astounding story and a moving testament to the power that children and young adults have to change the world, as witnessed through the achievements of one remarkable young man. The tales are gripping, the atrocities shocking, and the children inspiring. The stories of the enslaved children are exciting, very real, and often unutterably sad.

## *2nd Annual Pig Roast September 25*



Doug Westerdahl will be doing a Pig Roast for us again this fall as a fun-raising fund-raiser. Dinner will be served from 4:00-6:30 in the Fellowship Hall, with outdoor seating, weather permitting. The meal includes a generous serving of fresh barbequed pork on a roll, side dishes, and dessert. You can carry out or eat here. Lawn games will be available, weather permitting. All this for \$8.00/person (\$4.00 for children’s servings). Please invite your friends and family. All meals will be sold at the door.

If you can help with set up, clean up, serving, or desserts, please sign up in the back of the sanctuary or call Jim Loughner at 464-9101.

**Henrietta United Church of  
Christ**

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***Henrietta United Church of Christ***

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**September 5** Pastor Dave will tell an inspiring story for all ages; Communion

**September 12** Rally Day and Sundaes Sunday! 10:30 AM Worship, Choir, and full Church School resume. Pastor Dave will preach about his dream for HUCC.

**September 19** Pastor Dave will help us experience the kingdom of God "within us" and "in the midst of us."

**September 26** Theresa Borchetta will share the morning message.

*Join us for these Special Sundays in September*

## *Living in Harmony Group Update*

The Living in Harmony with God group had a successful field trip to the Wind Farm in Wyoming County on August 10. We were met there by Steve Adams, an employee of Enel Corporation, the energy company that operates the wind energy facility and sells the electricity to Niagara Mohawk. It was an interesting and educational evening. Photos of the wind turbines will be available at the September meeting since several of us took pictures at the site.

Check out the article cited here with information on the wind turbines at Altamont Pass in California:

### Alta Pass Report Encourages Wind Farm Changes

Bird deaths caused by wind turbines at Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area in California started a chain reaction of worries across the nation about how wind power affects bird species. After four-years of study to address the effects of turbines on bird mortality, the California Energy Commission (CEC) has released a report that details their findings and could be a guide to wind farms across the country.

The full story is available at:

<http://www.solaraccess.com/new/story?storyid=7355>

Meetings of the Living in Harmony group will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM, beginning on September 21. We will meet at Henrietta United Church of Christ (1400 Lehigh Station Road) in the lounge and will be planning our agenda for the upcoming year. Bring your ideas (or send them to me) so we can add them to the list.

All are welcome. Invite your environmentally interested friends too.

If you have questions about the group, call me at home (334-0977) or contact me by email: [epixley@monroecc.edu](mailto:epixley@monroecc.edu).

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Elizabeth Pixley, convener

## *Church Family News*

To My Church Family:

Your kind expressions of sympathy at the untimely death of my twin brother, Carl, are greatly appreciated. Church family makes a difficult time a little easier.

As his general health was good, he became a multiple organ and tissue donor. Through our grief, we realized that his death perhaps saved others from a similar fate. Carl was an ambulance driver and never failed to answer a call for assistance when needed. He was also able to continue that through his death.

God works in special ways!

Faithfully,

Carol Feasel

### **Big Thank You's to Faithful Servants**

We are grateful to so many people who have helped care for our church this summer. Among those who took on special projects are:

George Barker, who has spent several days installing and perfecting the new covering for all the wires and cords in the front of the sanctuary.

Earl Morris and John Loughner, who trimmed all the shrubs around the church and the weeping willow tree.

All the mowers and weeders.

The crew who helped prepare for and clean up after the new carpet installation.



## September Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Eileen Clark	2	Christopher Ryan
3	Janet Englert	4	Sherry Ellington
4	Ella Mae Carpenter	5	Vanessa Hepner
5	Jacob Hepner	6	Paige Tambasco
7	Kaitlin Meyer	10	Gilbert Hale
10	Katy Farrington	10	Matthew Meyer
10	Spencer Sisson	14	Robert Blessing
14	Parker Palmer	15	Lola Knowles
16	Christopher Lapple	19	Leonard Korn
20	Barbara Witmer	20	Linda Vera
20	Fred Clark	24	Wendy Markajani
25	Jody Alvarez	25	Carolyn Inglis
25	Flo Glena	26	Jeff Markwick
27	Sylvia Korn	29	Christopher Reinhardt



Our best wishes are extended to Jim Loughner & Jen Westerdahl on their marriage Saturday, August 28 here at HUCC. Pastor Dave officiated and our Bell Choir played. We wish them much happiness.



Congratulations to Cheryl Peacock and Bruce Pollock who celebrated their 1st Anniversary on August 31.

Dan & Linda Sullivan celebrate their 15th anniversary on September 22.

Special congratulations to Bill & Pat Swisher as they celebrate their 50th on September 25.

Joe & Sara Hughes celebrate their 7th anniversary on September 27.



