



Volume 7, Issue 2
February 2017

The Beacon

God is still speaking, **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



Spiritually Speaking

Pastor Amber Kirkendoll

Friends,

It is after much prayer and soul-searching that I present my resignation as pastor of Safe Harbor Family Church effective February 26, 2017. From pew to pulpit, Jessica and I have been tremendously blessed by our involvement with Safe Harbor for the past seven years, and we are extremely grateful for all that we have learned from you. It has been an honor and privilege to serve here.

For three years, I have worked a full time job, pastored here, taken classes, and attempted to keep close relationships with my family, both here and in Oklahoma. My hope is to more fully devote my time and energy to my own spiritual growth, my marriage, and to my aging parents and in-laws. I do not have another job; I do not know what is next for me. I just know that God is leading me to something different and I must faithfully follow. I do intend to remain in Pathways classes and pursue ordination in the UCC.

To quote the ministerial code of conduct, please know I will not perform pastoral services within Safe Harbor or for a member of Safe Harbor without

the consent of the pastor. I will deal honorably with the record of my predecessor and successor and I will not, upon my departure from this ministry position, interfere with nor intrude upon the ministry of my successor.

In order to fulfill this commitment, though it will be the hardest part of the process, I will not be in contact with members of Safe Harbor. This includes phone calls, text messages, and social media. For your sake, the sake of this church's progress and new foundations that must be laid, my influence on members and procedures here must end.

The Southeast Conference is committed to helping

the Safe Harbor Board of Director's identify pastoral leadership for Safe Harbor upon my departure.

Jessica and I will maintain our membership at Safe Harbor and will continue giving through our monthly bank draft. This church has made a tremendous impact on our spiritual lives that we will never forget. I will always believe this church was made to more than

just survive, you were made to thrive, and my prayer is that God brings the perfect person here to do just that.

Thank you for the opportunity to share in your joys and sorrows, your laughter and your tears. Thank you for sweet memories that will see me through difficult times and remain with me for the rest of my life.

I give thanks to God for the honor of serving the people of Safe Harbor in whom I have seen Christ and with whom I have been enveloped with a love my words and gratitude can never fully express.

I Love you, church.
And I always will.

Love and Light,
Amber

CROSSOVER

"Crossover" continues to be a wonderful mid-week boost. We have an exciting month planned. "Crossover" is held on Wednesday evenings at the church.

If you've never attended a "Crossover" service you are missing out! You owe it to yourself to experience it.

The evening begins with dinner and fellowship at 6:30 p.m. Dinner is followed by an informal program at 7:00 p.m. and is conducted by volunteers who lead with personal experiences on an assortment of topics, ranging from Bible studies and character building exercises to information sharing, interpretive dance, drama and

teaching sessions. If you are interested in leading a "Crossover" evening please see Cindy.

"Crossover" has become an integral part of who we are. We all need to be fed spiritually during the week. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Birthday Bash

SHFC Birthday Bash is February 5th! We will celebrate all birthdays for the month during our Birthday Bash!

Please bring your favorite dish or two to share.



Sweets are already provided by Sugar Magnolia Takery!

Birthday Bash is immediately following church service.

Kidz Harbor

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 4th: Roller Skating at Funtime in Clinton; time TBA

February 18th: Boat parade in Madisonville, LA.
For more info see Mary and Terry. Parents must go if child goes.

Sundays 5:15 - 5:45-
Sunday School in Kidz Harbor (drop off begins at 5:10)

Sundays @ 6 for kidz 6 & younger-Kidz Harbor

Wednesdays after dinner
- Kidz Harbor

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Volunteer Meeting TBA.
Listen during announcements for date and time!

Thank you to all Kidz Harbor volunteers who make all of this possible!

ACTIVITY:

This month is all about the love! Find words reminding us of this sweet word



Valentines Word Search

U M C P I N K H Q P V W
V J U Q H R S G K A J P
V J P P Z E P E L E T F
K P I H S D N E I R F S
R S D O N I N T A O E R
Y N R V M T E E Y M C O
E O D E I E H R D A A M
N B B N W T J D N R L A
O B E S E O D D A R L N
H I R E T A L O C O H C
A R W M C E Y F V W J E
N S A Y S T E E W S S P

ARROW	FRIENDSHIP	RIBBONS
BE MINE	HEART	ROMANCE
CANDLES	HONEY	ROSES
CANDY	LACE	SWEETHEART
CHOCOLATE	LOVE	SWEETIE
CUPID	PINK	SWEETS
FLOWERS	RED	VALENTINE

YACHT Club

Hey guys!

We are under wraps into 2017. A month of love! This month we will be focusing on not only our love but Gods love. Please be mindful that we are

going to be losing a large part of our hearts this month. We want to take the time in the month of love to let Jessica know that she is loved more than she could imagine by eve-

ry single one of us! She is a major hand in the YACHT club and she is amazing! We wish only the best and look forward to what God has in store for you. WE LOVE YOU JESSICA!!!!

MAY THE
constant love
caring^{OF} friends
SOFTEN YOUR SADNESS
MAY
cherished
memories
BRING YOU
moments of comfort
MAY
lasting peace
SURROUND YOUR
GRIEVING HEART

Praising God Through Brokenness

Church family, I write this at a time when I personally am dealing with a lot of personal issues myself that call into question my own ability to praise God through brokenness. It is my hope that as I write this, it will not only help others but help me as well. I am in the trenches fighting with you—you are not alone.

With all love,
Alan

We often read scripture where people who went through extremely difficult times somehow managed to praise God anyway. Many times, however, it is not so easy to praise God in the most

difficult times of our lives: the loss of a loved one through death, the loss of a job, a divorce or break-up, financial problems, betrayal of family or friends. The list goes on, and we find ourselves in situations that

seem insurmountable, yet we are told to praise God anyway. David found himself in one such situation as he began to cry out to God and he began to speak to himself, to his very soul, demanding it to WAKE UP!

A David Psalm, When He Hid in a Cave from Saul

57 1-3 Be good to me, God—and now!

I've run to you for dear life.
I'm hiding out under your wings

until the hurricane blows over.

I call out to High God,

the God who holds me together.

He sends orders from heaven and saves me,

he humiliates those who kick me around.

God delivers generous love,
he makes good on his word.

4 I find myself in a pride of lions

who are wild for a taste of human flesh;

Their teeth are lances and arrows,

their tongues are sharp daggers.

5 Soar high in the skies, O God!

Cover the whole earth with your glory!

6 They booby-trapped my path;

I thought I was dead and done for.

They dug a mantrap to catch me,

and fell in headlong themselves.

7-8 I'm ready, God, so ready,

ready from head to toe,
Ready to sing, ready to raise a

tune:

"Wake up, soul!

Wake up, harp! wake up, lute!

Wake up, you sleepyhead sun!"

9-10 I'm thanking you, God, out loud in the streets,

singing your praises in town and country.

The deeper your love, the higher it goes;

every cloud is a flag to your faithfulness.

11 Soar high in the skies, O God!

Cover the whole earth with your glory!

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Praising God Through Brokenness (con't)

When the enemy surrounds us on every side and begins to hound us with lies, telling us that we are defeated; when we feel broken beyond repair; when fear has gripped us and we become immobilized; somehow, we need to wake up

our slumbering souls and
SING! PRAISE! WORSHIP!
PRAY! ever how we can muster up the energy, even in the quiet whisper of a meditation. I hope the following song will bless you as much as it is blessing me.

Thank you, Julia Everett for planting this in me so long ago; I'm only sorry that it took until now for me to realize just how badly we need it.

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) Hillsong United

You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep
My faith will stand
And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace

For I am Yours and You are mine
Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sovereign hand
Will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now
So I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves

When oceans rise
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine
Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Savior

Side Note: God referred to himself as "I AM." What does that mean? If God is "I AM" then the "I AM" is in all of us.

Sunday, 5 January 2017, I will be preaching at SHFC UCC on what that means and how that applies to us now. Please join us at 6:00 p.m. on SUPER SUNDAY to find out how I AM applies to US. - Alan

News from your Board of Directors

As you are probably aware, Amber has resigned as Senior Pastor, effective February 26, 2017.

On Sunday, February 19, 2017 we will have a congregational vote on the following 3 items. Please be sure to attend and have your voice heard. The following items will be voted on:

1. A proposed amendment to the Bylaws to change the 6 month requirement to become a voting member to 3 months.
2. The 2017 budget

3. A proposal to offer the Pastoral Candidate, Ann Michele Rogers-Brigham, the position of Senior Pastor (Designated Minister, 1 year term)

Ann Michele will be preaching on Sunday, February 12th. Following service, there will be a Q&A for the congregation to meet the candidate. Ann Michele's edited public profile can be found here:

https://www.safeharborfamilychurch.org/media/1373/annmichelerogers-brigham_publicprofile.pdf

We want to take this opportunity thank the UCC Southeastern Conference, especially June Boutwell, for assisting us with this transition and helping us define options.

We ask that all SHFC members and supporters keep the church in prayer during this time to be led by the Holy Spirit for God's guidance and will.

Thank you,
Board of Directors

Glimpses of God from Glenn...

'Longing'. Longing for me is a wish with all my heart; a deep-deep desire that I feel all the way from my head to my toes; a craving for something I cannot get enough of; an ache that goes down into my very being.

Every day I find myself becoming more and more unsettled, and I long for peace, security, and safety.

I read news stories. I watch television reports. I listen to the radio. I keep waiting for the alternative news to include world peace, and an end to hunger and disease and hate and distrust and...the list of evil goes on and on.

I was listening to the radio the other day. I heard a new song, well, it was new to me. The song is, "I wanna go back", by David Dunn. It is on YouTube. If you get a chance, take three or so minutes and give it a listen. The song talks about going back to an easier time. It speaks about how, as we grow up, our lives get tough and our child-like faith gets crushed.

The words of the chorus are: "I wanna go back to Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so. I wanna go back to this little light gonna let it shine. I wanna go back..."

In 1 Corinthians 16:13 Paul tells us to, "Stay alert,

stand firm in the faith, show courage, and be strong."

Whether we march, whether we pray, whether we serve as cheerleaders in support each other.

I keep telling myself that God's got this! My faith is stronger - is deeper - is more defensible now than it was when I sang in the children's choir that Jesus loves me! This I know!

In faith, we have nothing to be afraid of - God has got this!

My love and prayers are with you, Glenn



Safe Harbor Family Church

An Open & Affirming (ONA) congregation of the United Church of Christ

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FEBRUARY 2017

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY Black History Month			1 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	2 Groundhog Day 	3	4 2p - Kidz / Youth Skating (at Funtime Skateland in Clinton)
5 5th Sunday after Epiphany Super Bowl 	6	7 6:30p-Shepherd's Task Force (at the church)	8 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	9	10	11
12 6th Sunday after Epiphany	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	16	17	18
19 7th Sunday after Epiphany	20 Presidents' Day 	21 6p - Card Ministry Meeting (at Cups in the Quarter on Lakeland Dr.)	22 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	23	24	25 6p - Mardi Gras Craft Night (at the church)
6 PM - Praise Service 7:20p-Congregational Meeting / Vote	6 PM - Praise Service 7:20p-Congregational Meeting / Vote	6p - Card Ministry Meeting (at Cups in the Quarter on Lakeland Dr.)	5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	7p - Craft Group (at the church)	7p - Craft Group (at the church)	6p - Mardi Gras Craft Night (at the church)
26 Transfiguration of Our Lord 	27	28 	22 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	23	24	25
6 PM - Praise Service w/Farewell Reception for Amber & Jessica to follow	6 PM - Praise Service w/Farewell Reception for Amber & Jessica to follow	28 	22 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	23	24	25



JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			