



Volume 7, Issue 5
May 2017

The Beacon

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



Spiritually Speaking

**Rev. Dr. Ann Michele
Rogers-Brigham**

Dear Safe Harbor
Members and Friends,

This month of May we are fully in the church season of Easter. Yes, Easter is a time to prepare for the gift of the Spirit to the church and sing our "alleluias" that Christ is risen in our hearts and lives.

On my recent visit to California to visit my daughter, Ann Martha, I attended a church service in which many people, through-

out the congregation, rang little hand held bells on each "alleluia" we sang in the Easter season hymns. There were many bells ringing! It was a joyous sound and a reminder of the message that Easter hope and peace is central to our celebration.

Celebrations continue to happen at Safe Harbor as we move into May and look forward to worship, study, outreach, and fellowship opportunities. I'm grateful for the ways that you faithfully support Safe Harbor and I hope you will continue to feel encouraged and supported on your spiritual journey.

Key for the followers of Jesus after resurrection news spread was the common experience of meeting Jesus

again and claiming his power to keep them grounded and forward looking. As Marcus Borg says in his book, Jesus, "his followers felt the continuing presence of Jesus with them, recognized the same spirit that they had known in him during his historical life continuing to be present, and knew the power they had known in Jesus continuing to operate."

My prayer is that we will have this experience of knowing the continuing presence of Jesus with us in our life together at Safe Harbor. My prayer is that we will know the power of healing, the power of change, the power to create life-giving community in our daily and weekly interactions.

How blessed we are to have one another and share the joy of life in the church.

I look forward to seeing you at worship and at our special events coming up! Thank you for the ways you faithfully serve and support Safe Harbor and for the outreach you generously give to those who have special needs.

Eastertide peace and love,
Pastor Ann Michele

Shepherd's Task Force meets at 6:30 p.m. on 2nd Tuesdays. Come join us and serve with us. Next Meeting is on May 9th at 6:30 p.m. Please feel free to bring your supper and something to share if you'd like! If you are running late, still come. We can eat, meet, prepare for service to our congregation. If you have taken a break from serving on Shepherd's Task Force but want to return, just speak to Rev. Ann—she's grateful for you to return and give your service/leadership to SHFC!

We need your info for updates to our Church records!

Please send any address/phone/email updates to us so we can be sure our database is current. If you want to be removed from the listing of members/friends, just send a note. THANK YOU!

Choir Rehearsal
Sundays at 4:45 p.m.

Sunday School
Children/Youth and Adult
Sundays at 5:15 p.m.

CROSSOVER

Thank you to all who serve delicious meals when it is your turn and for the opportunity to gather for prayer and study each week. We welcome children, youth, adults to our mid-week services. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and Service is at 7:00 p.m.. We conclude by 8:00 p.m.

We are studying the book by Richard J. Foster *Freedom of Simplicity*. The Easter season (until the end of May) is a good time to rethink our priorities and to seek first God's way to meaningful life and relationships.

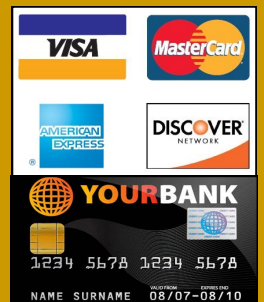
Foster's book shows us how to live in harmony with the rich complexity of life while stressing the relation of simplicity to prayer, solitude and other Christian disciplines. Come and join us for the conversation!



Donations are always appreciated and needed!

Looking for an easy way to donate to Safe Harbor?

Check out the "Donate" button on the right side of our website at:
safeharborfamilychurch.org



Birthday Bash

SHFC Birthday Bash is May 7th this month! 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.

Food Pantry

Safe Harbor Food Pantry Ministry is always in need of can goods to help persons that struggle to make ends meet.

If you can help, please bring your cans of food to the church anytime that the church is open.

Any of your pastoral staff can help you find space to shelve the food.



Have a Need? Call or Text the Church Phone



601-906-8934

There is a pastoral staff member who responds to calls placed to the church phone, 601-906-8934.

If you need a pastor, please call the church phone and leave a message. Leaving a message will help to direct your call or question to the appropriate pastoral person. As we start to develop our new pastoral team, please know that the best way to contact us is to call the church phone.

Please be sure to leave a message so we can respond more appropriately to your call.

Calls will be responded to as quickly as possible but because staff members also work outside of church, we pledge to reply to calls within 24-hours (or sooner).

Thank you from your pastoral staff team. Love and peace: Alan, Pastor Ann Michele, Cindy, Glenn, and Julia

Safe Harbor FAMILY CHURCH

presents

A Night of Old Time Singin'

It's a Gospel Singin', Auctionin', Dinner Eatin' event!

Inspired by the music of Bill and Gloria Gaither



Saturday, June 10

Dinner starts at 6:00pm

Singin' starts at 7:00pm

Adults: \$10

Children 7-12: \$5

Little Bitty Kids: FREE!



Safe Harbor Family Church
-A Shelter From the Storms of Life-
A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
1345 Flowood Drive
Flowood, MS 39232-2702
(601) 906-8934



Kidz Harbor and Y.A.C.H.T. Club

Kidz:

We have started our new round of lessons with Holy Moly! We have already learned about John the Baptist and are diving head first into more fun stories of the New Testament! Please join us at 5:15 on Sundays for Sunday School

with your Bibles! We are also still taking offering during prayer time in Kidz Harbor as well! Look forward to worshiping and learning with you all!

Y.A.C.H.T. Club:

Spring is quickly on the way out as summer sneaks in. School is ending and the freedom of summer is beginning!

As your church, we pray that you finish these last few weeks strong and focused. You guys are smart and strong and amazing! We believe in you and pray for you often! We have been missing our youth, and pray that we start seeing you guys again on Sundays and Wednesdays.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

LOOK ON THE MAY CALENDAR AND LISTEN DURING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OUTING INFORMATION!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

ACTIVITY:

School is wrapping up and summer is finding its way in. Look for all the words relating to the fun things we do in the summer!

Find the words below in our puzzle!



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

BEACH
BASEBALL
ICE CREAM
SWIMMING

PICNIC
VACATION
SUNFLOWER
WATERMELON

SANDCASTLE
HEAT
BOATING
POOL

Craft Group



Join us for **Safe Harbor Craft Group's**
Craft Night!
Friday, May 26
7:00 pm at
Mary and Terry's House
Craft TBA

Card Ministry

The Card Ministry group is in need of Postcard Stamps. This group meets at 6:00 p.m. every first Tuesday of the month at Cups in the Quarter on Lakeland. There are five or six of us that meet regularly.



If you would like to come and be a part of reaching out to others, come - we will see you there!

Join this Ministry!

Glimpses of God from Glenn...

I was reading a devotion recently that was written by Mary Luti. In it she asked the question - Why? Why do so many Christians believe that in order for God to bestow a blessing on them, God had to remove it from someone else? Her context was the growing anger between some Christians and Jews - and the violence being directed toward Jews.

It is right and acceptable for us to ask this question. And we do ask this question, but we do so in a very different way. We ask, "Does God love us?"

Of course, we quickly answer, "Yes!" But within our thoughts, I believe there may be a sense that we believe God doesn't love the Christians who spew hate and anger, violence and approval of that violence. With gratitude (and maybe superiority) we say, "Just wait until they come face-to-face with God and have to explain their words and actions." We are so much better than they are because we don't spew hatred using God's name. This thought puts us in a difficult spot. God calls us to love, but how do we love someone who doesn't love? Can we love someone who hates...just about everyone who is not like him or herself - the liberal, the gay, the Jew, the Catholic, the feminist, the transgender, the peacemaker...the list goes on and on.

One of the people who responded to Ms. Luti was identified as "M S". She added the following, a wonderful comment, to the discussion:

"This is profoundly relevant for our cultural and political struggles of today - not just for the Jewish/Christian dichotomy and relationship, but for every other either/or relationship or bias we tend to manufacture consciously or unconsciously where we humans just seem to crave or demand hierarchy. And God just consistently says 'Both, my children.' Women AND Men; blacks AND whites AND brown AND yellow AND polka dots; LGBTQ AND Straight; white feminists AND black feminists; the list is endless. God's love is not a game of mathematics, and God and Paul and Jesus and all the other examples from our biblical heritage are trying to teach us that. Only when we realize that God bestows blessings equally and completely and without taking from one when bestowing another, will we who are made in God's image learn that we will realize those blessings more completely as a society if we do the same."

I am also reminded that I love my children. When my second child was born, I did not diminish my love for my first child. When my third child was

born, I did not diminish my love for my other two children. Love is not a limited quantity. The more you love...the more love there is!

Remember - you are loved and blessed...and so is the person who is next to you - in your neighborhood, in the elevator, in your work place. God's child may even be in the car that just cut you off, or the person who is spewing hate. When we offer an extravagant welcome, it does mean to everyone...period.

Ms. Luti ended her devotion with the following prayer. May it be true for you as well.

"Faithful One, forgive us. We have been rivals for blessings, wanting the most and best for ourselves. But when you bestow a blessing, it is forever. If you bestow a second, you don't withdraw the first. If one shines, the others do not dim. And there are more blessings in your hand than stars in the starry sky." AMEN.

Love you,
Glenn



Safe Harbor Family Church

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

1345 Flowood Dr.

MAY 2017

Flowood, Mississippi 39232-2702



601-923-2728

www.safeharborfamilychurch.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 		2	3 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	4 National Day of Prayer 	5 Cinco de Mayo 	6
7 4th Sunday of Easter 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service <i>Birthday Bash after service Bring a dish to share</i>	8	9 6:30p - PFLAG Fondren Presbyterian Church 6:30p- Shepherd's Task Force (at the church) 	10 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	11 Canton Flea Market	12	13
14 5th Sunday of Easter <i>Mother's Day</i> 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM- Praise Service	15	16 6p - Card Ministry Meeting (at Cups in the Quarter on Lakeland Dr.) 	17 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	18	19	20
21 6th Sunday of Easter 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	22	23	24 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	25	26	27
28 7th Sunday of Easter 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	29 Memorial Day 	30	31 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	June 10th 6:00p - "A Night of Old Time Singin'" Fundraiser at SHFC Auction, Raffle, Bake Off	7p - Craft Group	
				APRIL S M T W T F S 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	JUNE 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	