



Volume 7, Issue 9  
September 2017

# The Beacon

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



### ***Spiritually Speaking***

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

Dear Members  
and Friends of Safe  
Harbor Family Church,

September  
greetings! I hope my  
message finds each of  
you well. I'm wanting to  
lift, in this letter to  
you, my joy in the dedi-  
cation of the new bap-  
tismal font and pitcher.  
On New Member Sun-  
day, August 27, we ded-  
icated a lovely bowl and  
pitcher to serve as our  
baptismal font for Safe  
Harbor Family Church,  
UCC. The blue pottery  
was made by a local art-  
ist and it matches the  
communion set we use

each Sunday. Thank  
you to Liz, our Mod-  
erator, and our BOD  
for selecting and pur-  
chasing the bowl and  
pitcher for our spe-  
cial dedication.

Here is part of  
the liturgy we read  
which comes from our  
sister church, Evan-  
gelical Lutherans  
(ELCA), that we used  
in the dedication:

"Don't you love  
those flume rides,  
with the little sign at  
the end of a long, hot  
wait that says, 'You  
will get wet on this  
ride'? In any event,  
you will get wet on  
this ride called bap-  
tismal living! We  
meet God in the bath,  
in the water and the  
word. Water is need-  
ed for this encoun-



*New Baptismal Font*

ter. Water is the primary symbol in this center, flowing water."

These words remind us of why the sacrament of baptism is not just an event in time. Baptism calls us to meet God and each other in a life long dance of belonging. Our UCC belief about baptism is stated in a similar way:

We believe that all of the baptized 'belong body and soul to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.' No matter who - no matter what - no matter where we are on life's journey - notwithstanding race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, class or creed - we all belong to God and to one worldwide community of faith. All persons baptized - past, present and future - are connected to each other and to God through the sacrament of baptism. We baptize during worship when the community is present because baptism includes the community's promise of 'love, support and care' for the baptized - and we promise that we won't take it back - no matter where your journey leads you. (ucc.org—What We Believe)

This "ride" we call baptismal living continues to be a ride we share together at Safe Harbor. We hope we will meet God as we meet each other and pray that God will break into our space and time. As a semi-

nary professor said recently, "If you want to find Jesus in a hurry, its bread, wine, water, word and the gathering of God's people.....that's where I will be."

It is a joy, each Sunday, to welcome one another and gather around Christian symbols that shape our spaces and shape us. We thank God for the new visible symbol, our baptismal font, and pray we shall always remember our baptism and be thankful.

Grace and peace on this ride we call baptismal living,  
Pastor Ann

**OCTOBER 1, WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**, We'll receive our UCC neighbors in need (NIN) offering.

What is NIN offering? Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

This year's theme is: Protect the Sacred, in a Just World, Clean Water is Life!

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT CROSS-OVER SERVICES AT SAFE HARBOR**

We are grateful for the opportunity to gather mid-week for delicious food, conversation, worship and discussion. We thank our Supper Teams for the wonderful food we enjoy each week; if you would like to join a Supper Team, see Rev. Cindy. We need more folks to help take a turn!

For our adult study in September, we'll be continuing to talk about the Gospels and learn more about their "individuality." Also, we will use the ecumenical prayer calendar "In God's Hands" from the World Council of Churches to raise awareness of neighbors in different parts of our world who need our prayers and advocacy. Come join us as we study and pray and fellowship together.

## **SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES**

**FOR SERVICE:** Sign up to read in worship and assist our pastors with leadership. Contact Alan or Melanie if you'd like to offer special music. Yes, it is a joy to serve and we hope that you'll sign up for a Sunday to offer your gifts of leadership. We are very glad that our children and youth are participating in reading and leading in worship. Thank you, everyone!

**SHEPHERD'S TASK FORCE MEETING IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 6:30 P.M.** Pastor Ann reminds all members to



remember their favorite "cups" for the mediation/sharing in our meeting. Please speak to Pastor Ann if you are interested in serving on Shepherd's Task Force.

### MEET OUR NEW MEMBER, CAROLYN DAVIS

On Sunday, August 27, we welcomed Carolyn into our as a new member. Here's what she would like to share about her life and faith journey:

"My name is Carolyn Davis. I come from Canton, MS. I

was baptized in the Pentecostal Church in Canton. I'm a recovery addict and have been "clean" for three years. I had an accident and got a DUI. God spoke to me and I knew this was my last chance. I went to rehab at New Leaf Recovery. I changed my life and was looking for a church. God has called me to play the drums and I'm playing the drums at our Sunday services. God is so good! I thank God for God's amazing grace!"

**SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1 P.M.-7P.M.**  
(change from the October 21 date)

Shepherd's Task Force has begun planning our "all church" retreat. We hope you'll plan to be with us for this special day of fun, learning and spiritual renewal.

This year we will be a the home of Angela Canant and Melanie Morrow, 2880 Seven Springs Road, Raymond, MS. Look for more details to come.

## "Thank Yous" and Recognition

Gratitude to Trish Opdyke for joining our SHFC Board! We are grateful for her willingness to serve SHFC in this way.

Mary Hauck gave a wonderful map of the world we'll use in our Crossover worship time on Wednesdays as we talk about our World Council of Churches prayer requests each week. Thanks to Mary and Jon it is mounted and ready to hang!

Thank you to Clay Bartunek who faithfully prepares our Sunday worship bulletin and runs the projector on Sunday evening so we can read from the overhead screen. We are grateful for the time you take each week to serve in this way, Clay.



*Our interactive map of the world that we use when we lift the World Council of Churches Prayer Calendar prayer requests.*

Who puts together our Beacon Newsletter each month?? Thank you, Karen, way down in Ocean Springs for helping us out with this church news publication.

A HUGE thank you to Mary for making Back to School Bash possible! We love you!!!

-Kidz Harbor

# Worship

---

Each Sunday, we gather to fellowship and worship. But what exactly is worship, and is it only set aside for that one time each week?

We hear that singing is worship; giving is worship; praying is worship. All of these things truly are acts of worship.

Worship is adoration. We give attention to those we

adore: a baby, a spouse, a sibling, a parent, a grandparent.

How much more should we give attention to the creator and sustainer of life, God—our mother and father?

By simply giving thanks each day for all that we are and we have, we nurture our relationship with God—our essence becomes entwined with God, and we find our-

selves in true fellowship with each other.

This month, let's make it a priority to spend just ten minutes each day in worship. Doing so will bring us to new depths in fellowship with one another.

Remember. You are loved and cherished.

Alan

# Board of Director Elections

---

SHFC will elect three new board members on Sunday, October 15th. BOD applications will be available Sunday, Sept.

10th. BOD applications will be due no later than 5:45 p.m. on Sunday, October 1st. During that evenings Worship Service

the applicants will be introduced to the congregation.

Please consider running for these important positions.

# Birthday Bash

---

SHFC Birthday Bash is September 3rd 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.

# Craft Group

---

The Craft Group will meet September 8th, 7:00 p.m. at Terry and Mary's house.

Craft will be announced later. Join us!



## **UCC Pastoral Letter condemns racist violence in Charlottesville, demands equality for all—August 15, 2017**

Dear Members, Friends, Clergy, and Leaders of and within the United Church of Christ,

Last weekend, a group of white supremacists came to Charlottesville, Virginia, and incited violence to protest the removal of a Confederate monument. Although protest is the bed-rock of our nation's democracy, coming in riot gear proves that they intended to do more than simply protest.

We, the Council of Conference Ministers and Officers of the United Church of Christ, strongly condemn the acts of violent hatred expressed by these white supremacists, Neo-Nazis, and Ku Klux Klan members. Their white robes and burning crosses were replaced with polo shirts, khakis, and tiki torches, while their lynching was replaced with a speeding car barreling through a group of peaceful protesters with the intention of harming and killing others, which it did. Their vitriolic hatred is the same.

We confess that the events of Charlottesville are systemic and communal expressions of white privilege and racism that continues to pervade our nation's spiritual ethos. And if we only condemn the acts of August 12, 2017, without condemning the roots of racism, which perpetuate discrimination in our American schools, justice system, business, and healthcare systems, then we have sinned as well. We must work toward the Kin-dom of Heaven here on earth now for the sake of a just world for all.

We do this by committing to follow the ways of Jesus, who stood with the oppressed, spoke out against political and religious powers, and courageously embodied a just world for all as he sought to create it. Today, we must follow the ways of Jesus in addressing the hatred of white supremacists and racists among us.

Our local UCC churches must be true solidarity partners with those who march in the streets. Our UCC churches are encouraged to move from the sanctuary and walk alongside other clergy and community leaders who seek to resist, agitate, inform, and comfort. We must resist hatred and violence. We must also agitate ourselves, and our neighbors to acknowledge any racism within or among us. We must inform ourselves, and our neighbors what our sacred stories reveal to us of a just world for all. We must lament and grieve with those who are injured or murdered during violent confrontations with those who mean us harm. And we must comfort those who have been discriminated against with the transformative love of God.

As we go forward, let us model the legacy of activism through our sacred call given to us by our UCC ancestors: May we be prophetic truth-tellers like our Congregational Christian forebears, who marched in public squares demanding equality for all. May we serve others, and remain faithful witnesses like our Evangelical and Reformed forebears, who tended to the needs of the forgotten. And may we be courageous like our non-UCC forebears, who left their spiritual home and joined the UCC in order to fully live out who God created them to be.

In the days to come, may God's truth, mission, and courage be our guide to embodying the Kin-dom of Heaven here on earth

# CROSSOVER

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT CROSSOVER SERVICE

### *Can you be on a Supper Team?*

We are grateful for the opportunity to gather mid-week for delicious food, conversation, worship and discussion. Lately, our supper teams have needed some help so please think about joining a "team." You can speak to any of our staff and they'll sign you up!

We thank our supper teams for the wonderful food we enjoy each week and we are glad for the "break" mid week for prayer and conversation about important topics that guide our lives as Christians. As we use the ecumenical prayer calendar "In God's Hands" from the World Council of Churches, we hope that we may be aware of neighbors in different parts of our world

who need our support for advocacy and awareness.

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.



The United Church of Christ has a vision of a just world for all. In this world all are welcomed, everyone is loved and justice is inherent.

The 3 Great Loves is the denomination's opportunity to express how our Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation work together to address the inequities in our current world.



# Progressive Christians at Millsaps

By Dr. Shelli Poe  
Campus Minister

The academic year has begun! Our students have settled back onto the Millsaps College campus, and we're getting our ducks in a row.

On Tuesday (Aug 22), we set up a table, along with other campus organizations, to publicize our organization at the Student Involvement Fair. Our student leaders were present, and told new students all about the campus ministry.

She explained that we hold monthly discussions, weekly lunches, and have a party once a semester. About 15-20 students signed up to be on our email distribution list as a result of our presence at the Student Involvement Fair.

Next, I'll get our students together for a party at my home where we'll map out dates/times and topics for discussion at our meetings this year. Please keep us in your hearts and minds as we embark on a brand new semester to-

gether. Special consideration for our first-year students would be appreciated, as they begin a new chapter in their lives. I'm grateful for those who have liked/joined our Facebook page! It's great to know there's a community supporting our college students. If you know a college student at any college in the area who is interested in gathering for monthly discussions with progressive Christians, please tell them about our campus ministry!



**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](http://safeharborfamilychurch.org)**



## 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.



**Join this Ministry!**

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

# In the Beginning...

---

Genesis 1:1 begins, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." And in a 'day', God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. God made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good."

I feel like I have been around the world in just a twenty-six-hour period. Following Safe Harbor's Sunday Worship Service, Sandra picked me up and off we headed east on I-20. We turned north and travelled to Mt. Juliet, just outside of Nashville, TN. Yes, we went to see the total eclipse - my very first one. We were blessed by the experience.

We had our special, pre-approved glasses to wear. Our good friends, Peggy and Clayton put us up (or maybe it was that they put up with us) for a few hours of rest. We were invited to watch from the grounds of a church that we were a part of some twenty plus years ago.

The event at our old church was being 'managed' by Theresa, a retired science teacher. She was great! She genuinely wanted us to have the best experience. She reminded us to put on our special glasses as we looked down before even raising our heads to look at the sun. She came prepared with maps and books and charts and, well, a ton of stuff about the eclipse.

As the moon began its march across the sun, I felt the temperature dropping in the middle of the day. I remember the moment that the sun was covered by the Moon and the corona just popped. We had reached totality, and it was breathtaking! Our science teacher shouted, "Take

your glasses off so you can see it." I could look at the sun with my naked eyes. She said for us to take a quick 360 degree look around and see the sunset that surrounded us. The beauty of the skies and the dusky surroundings were awesome. As I breathed in the experience, I could almost hear God's pleasure, "And God saw that it was good."

Back at home on Monday night, I watched the news, where one of the newscasters admitted to missing the eclipse because she slept thru it. If for whatever reason you missed it, get ready for the next one in 2024. Whether in Texas or in Maine or somewhere in between, I hope to gather with friends and be filled with the wonder of creation all over again. And, make your plans because in 2045 we may see a total eclipse right here in Jackson, Mississippi. God said it was good. By seeing it first-hand, I agree, it was very good!

Grace and peace.

Love you all, Glenn





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

---

## Kidz Harbor:

Summer is officially over, and school is in full swing! It is so fun hearing about your days with your friends, classes, and teachers. We can't wait to watch you guys grow in school and in spirit this year! We have finished up our lessons and will begin new ones in September. I am hopeful that you will be able to connect what is going on in church to what we do in kidz!

Parents, I am hoping to get you guys info on what we talk about each week! I am excited about you guys staying longer in church and behaving so well! All of us at SHFC love watching you guys worship and worshipping alongside of you! We look forward to growing with you guys weekly in kidz and in "big" church! We are all so proud of the great starts each of you have had at school this year!

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

I hope that each of you started your school years off with a bang! We are in prayer here at SHFC for each of you and the year to come with your friends, activities, classes, and teachers. We know you guys will do awesome and look forward to worshipping with each of you!

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE YOUTH AND KIDZ WHO CAME TO LAUNCH AND LUNCH FOR OUR "BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!" IT WAS A BLAST AND A GREAT WAY TO KICK OFF THE START OF THE YEAR!**

## 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**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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





**Safe Harbor Family Church**  
An Open & Affirming (ONA) congregation of the United Church of Christ  
**1345 Flowood Dr.**







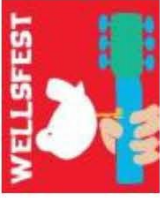


**601-906-8934**

[www.safeharborfamilychurch.org](http://www.safeharborfamilychurch.org)

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

**Flowood, Mississippi 39232-2702**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their <u>labor</u>, for these are the gifts from God. ~ Ecclesiastes 3:13 <i>Happy Labor Day!</i></p>			<p>AUGUST 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</p> <p>OCTOBER 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</p>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	
<p><b>3</b> 13th Sunday after Pentecost <b>4:45p</b> - Choir Rehearsal <b>5:15p</b> - Sunday School <b>6 PM - Praise Service</b> <i>Birthday Bash after service Bring a dish to share</i></p>	<p><b>4</b> Labor Day </p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> 5:30p - Dance, Drama, &amp; Sign group <b>6:30p - Crossover</b> 7p - service &amp; YACHT</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b>  <b>1150 Lakeland Dr.</b> Ag Museum, Jackson</p>
<p><b>10</b> 14th Sunday after Pentecost <b>4:45p</b> - Choir Rehearsal <b>5:15p</b> - Sunday School <b>6 PM - Praise Service</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b>  <b>6:30p - PFLAG</b> Fondren Presbyterian Church <b>6:30p - Shepherd's Task Force</b> (at the church)</p>	<p><b>13</b> 5:30p - Dance, Drama, &amp; Sign group <b>6:30p - Crossover</b> 7p - service &amp; YACHT</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>
<p><b>17</b> 15th Sunday after Pentecost <b>4:45p</b> - Choir Rehearsal <b>5:15p</b> - Sunday School <b>6 PM - Praise Service</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b>  <b>6p - Card Ministry Meeting</b> (at Cups in the Quarter on Lakeland Dr.)</p>	<p><b>20</b> 5:30p - Dance, Drama, &amp; Sign group <b>6:30p - Crossover</b> 7p - service &amp; YACHT</p>	<p><b>21</b>  <b>Autumn begins</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>
<p><b>24</b> 16th Sunday after Pentecost <b>4:45p</b> - Choir Rehearsal <b>5:15p</b> - Sunday School <b>6 PM - Praise Service</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> <b>6:30p - POPA</b> (at the church)</p>	<p><b>27</b> 5:30p - Dance, Drama, &amp; Sign group <b>6:30p - Crossover</b> 7p - service &amp; YACHT</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b>  <b>9:30a-5p</b> at Jamie Fowler Park on Lakeland Dr.</p>