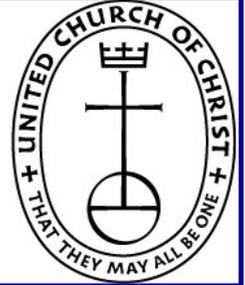




Volume 7, Issue 10  
October 2017

# 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,

I hope my October newsletter article finds each of you well! There is much happening in our life at Safe Harbor Family Church but I want us to "think" about a marker event in time that happened about 500 years ago.

Last year when I visited my Protestant pastor friend, Rev. Antje Danguillier, in Dortmund, Germany, the

"talk" was about the 500th year celebration of the Reformation. All around the towns we visited in that area, were signs about the celebration.

It is not unusual to mark Reformation Day in the life of the church. It is traditionally marked on October 31 because October 31, 1517 is widely held to be the day the German monk Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Electorate of Saxony within the Holy Roman Empire. (Modern day, Germany)

This date has given Protestant churches a "religious holiday" so that we can remember those who helped us claim our identity as people

liberated by God's grace. Recently at our Safe Harbor POPA training evening, we talked about how our United Church of Christ came into being. You can't study about our UCC roots without going way back 500 years ago to the beginning of the Reformation movement.

Yes, Reformation is part of our identity, in our church DNA. Today, I hope we can feel connected to the 500th year celebration as we come to Reformation Sunday at the end of October. It is a day to talk about our "theology," or belief that we attain salvation only by the grace of God. We call it being "liberated by God's grace," because life together in the church is to live and preach this message.

As we celebrate the gracious love of God, through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, we pray that we will continue to be committed to opening up opportunities to be faithful to our Christian calling. We pray we may reach out as healers and reconcilers to a world torn apart by strife and inequality.

I'm so grateful for the unique opportunities we have at Safe Harbor to reach across barriers of inequality to bring God's message of love and grace. Thank you for giving generously of your time, talents and resources by being an active participant in church life. Our Sunday and Wednesday programs are important for community support and connection. and we have some great new programs coming up that I hope you'll want to be part of.

May we celebrate 500 years of reformation and continue in the spirit of Christ to be a united and uniting church. May we reach out to one another with God's liberating grace!

May God's love enfold us and keep us strong and safe,  
Pastor Ann Michele

## **OCTOBER 1, WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

*What is World Wide Communion Sunday?*

World Communion Sunday offers congregations a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, they remember that they are part of the whole body of believers. Whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations. World Communion Sunday can be both a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith. We will observe World Communion Sunday at Safe Harbor!

## **UCC NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) OFFERING-October 1**

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! Thanks for your support!

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

We 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, please see the sign up sheet. We need more folks to help take a turn!

For our adult study in October we'll be continuing to talk about the Gospels, who wrote them and when were they written? What are you learning about the person of Jesus in this study? Which gospel speaks to you?

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.

## Got Inspiration?

The Lord's Prayer was written in creative styles during one of our Wednesday Crossover study sessions. Here are prayers written by our Safe Harbor members based on the traditional Lord's prayer. May they nurture and strengthen you on your faith journey!

From Terry: Great Spirit, Source of All, fill me with your peace. Feed my body, mind and spirit from your sweetness. Forgive me my failings and fill me with your mercy. Guide my decisions and protect me from deception. Amen.

From Clay: Our Creator in heaven, You are holy. Let your dominion come and Your will be done here and in heaven. Supply us with our needs. Forgive our inconsiderations as we forgive those who are inconsiderate to us. Keep us on the best path and in your will. Amen.

From Jenni and Jeannie: Holy Spirit, Creator of the Universe, guide us and teach us your ways. Give us what we need to survive and help us to be open to the miracles of giving and receiving love. Protect us from those things and people who wish to do us harm. Amen.

From Liz: Father, God, I think you are awesome! Fill my heart only with good, right and true things. Give us what sustains us. I've screwed up so much! Thank you for your patience, grace and mercy. Help me to be compassionate as you are. Help and guide me away from negative people and things and factors that distance me from and your will. Amen.

## 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!

### Special Sundays AHEAD!

Oct 1 - World Communion Sunday and Neighbors in Need Offering

Oct 8 - Worship will be shortened to 45 minutes so that everyone who wants to attend the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus performing in Jackson may go together.

October 15 - Children's Sabbath Sunday

October 22 - Worship and Voices of Mississippi after worship to meet!

October 29 - Reformation Sunday

November 5 - All Saints Sunday

November 12 - Stewardship Sunday

November 19 - Thanksgiving Sunday

November 26 - Rev. Cindy will lead Worship for Reign of Christ Sunday

December 3 - First Sunday of Advent—hanging of the greens and Jesse Tree stories

December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent—Jesse Tree stories

December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent—Jesse Tree stories

Wed.-December 20 - Blue Christmas Service, 7 p.m.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship

December 31 - New Years Eve Worship with Singing Communion

## NEXT SHEPHERD'S TASK FORCE MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, AFTER WEDNESDAY CROSSOVER SERVICE

Pastor Ann reminds all members to remember their favorite "cups" for the mediation/sharing

time in our meeting. Note: we'll meet on Wednesdays for the future.

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

#### **Safe Harbor Family Church Retreat**

Saturday, November 04, 2017

1pm-7pm Retreat Program and  
7pm-9pm(Bonfire)

2880 Seven Springs Road - Raymond, MS 59154

#### **"Calling all the Messengers"**

Adults, Youth and Children Together for a day. Remembering those who have gone before us that made a positive difference in our lives in honor of All Saints Day November 1st. Sign up to help with food! Cost: \$5.00 a person and \$10 for a family.

#### **Pastoral Trip-**

Pastors Ann, Cindy and Glenn will be attending the Southeast UCC Conference Fall Meeting of the ALA-TENN-FL-MS UCC ASSOCIATION on Friday-Saturday, October 13-14, 2017 at Pleasant Hill Community Church, UCC, Pleasant Hill, TN They will be your Safe Harbor representatives. Please pray for this meeting and for their safe travel!

**NOVEMBER is STEWARDSHIP MONTH!** Please think about how you may help our church with gifts to support our church life. We are grateful for your contributions and your commitment to life together at Safe Harbor. If you would like to offer a stewardship "testimony" in a Sunday Service, please see Pastor Ann. (Remember that stewardship is about time, talents and money--we all have something to give)

#### **DECEMBER WORSHIP WILL INCLUDE DECORATING A JESSE TREE**

Jesse Trees are a very old Christmas Tradition and first started in medieval times. They are used to help tell the story of the Bible from creation to the Christmas Story. The name comes from Jesse who was the Father of the great Jewish King David. Our Safe Harbor Craft group has prepared Jesse Tree ornaments for us to hang on our tree this year beginning the 1st Sunday of Advent, Dec. 3. Come and hang an ornament and be inspired by the stories of our faith. If you are interested in helping the Craft group, see Mary or Terry!

### **THANK YOU TO:**

Jon Wenberg for preparing a permanent Member Record Book for us to keep in the church office. It is a lovely leather bound book with pertinent info for us to keep in our files. If you have time to help us fill in the pages of the book, please see one our pastors.

Liz Foster for the new file cabinet for the church office; this one has a key so we can keep our records secure!

Thanks to Liz and team for securing a new ad for the Jackson Free Press and for new church calling cards! We want to keep our name and invitation to worship to our friends in the community looking for a UCC church home.

Jenny Smith did some grant writing for us recently so that we may apply for a Neighbors in Need grant through our UCC. Thank you, Jenny for taking time to do this for our church. (FYI—Grant is to help support our new music group, Voices of Mississippi)

Thank you to generous donations to UCC Disaster Relief Ministries. Here is the prayer we sang in worship on 9/17.

**Prayer for Hurricane Victims**  
O God, We've Prayed in Wind and Rain  
(Sing to Tune Amazing Grace)

O God, we've prayed in wind and rain and now we pray once more  
For those who felt the hurricane and heard the waters roar.

We pray for those who watched the storm destroy the life they knew,

Who wait in shelters, tired and worn, and wonder what to do.

We thank you, God, for acts of love not bound by race or creed,  
For hands that reach across the flood to all who are in need.

We pray for others far away who've seen destruction, too;

We look beyond ourselves, for they are also loved by you.

We pray that leaders of our land will heed creation's cry,

And bravely care and take a stand for earth and sea and sky.

Where rains flood cities, homes and towns may we go out to be

A witness that your love abounds in each community.

Thank you to our faithful, loving Sunday School teachers for our Safe Harbor Kidz Ministry. Our children are loved and deeply cared for by our volunteers each week. A special thank you to Julia Everett for being our Children/Youth Ministry Coordinator! She's the one who keeps the ball rolling!

Thank you to our Rev. Cindy and Rev. Glenn, Associate Pastors, for all they do to for our SAFE HARBOR church family. There is much that goes on "behind the scenes" that they do each week to support our life in community. Please be sure to give Rev. Cindy any new information re: address/email/phone changes.

Thank you to Alan Black, our Music Leader/Coordinator for excellent music each Sunday. We are excited to begin our new group, Voices of Mississippi, under his leadership. The "community" choir sponsored by our church is open to all voices and all people. Interested in joining? Just come October 22 after Sunday worship to the first meeting.

## San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus In Jackson

San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus will kick off their 40th Season by embarking on a soul-affirming, life-changing journey! The Lavender Pen Tour will share SFGMC's mission of community, activism, and compassion throughout the South, supporting LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters and promoting acceptance and love through music. Joining them on this tour will be special guests the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir.

It is their hope that the music will encourage LGBTQ+ people and allies to come together, provoke conversations and action around civil liberties for all, while raising funds for local LGBTQ+ organizations.

Learn more:  
<http://www.sfgmc.org/lavender-pen-tour/>

**The Lavender Pen Tour**  
10/08/2017 | Jackson, MS - Thalia Mara Hall  
10/10/2017 | Birmingham, AL - Alys Stephens Center  
10/11/2017 | Knoxville, TN - Knoxville Civic Auditorium  
10/13/2017 | Greenville, SC - First Baptist Church  
10/14/2017 | Charlotte, NC - Ovens Auditorium  
**Buy Tickets:**  
<http://www.sfgmc.org/>

# Worship

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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

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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

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SHFC Birthday Bash is October 1st 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

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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.

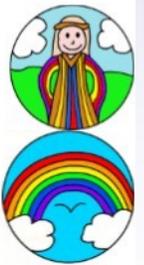
Any of your pastoral staff can help you find space to shelve the food.



# Help the Craft Group Create Jesse Tree and Chrismon ornaments for our “hanging of the greens service” which begins advent!



**Friday, October 20 at 7:00 pm**  
**Mary and Terry's House**



## Introducing: Voices of Mississippi

Mark your calendars: 22 October 2017, at 7:30 PM, a new choral group, Voices of Mississippi, sponsored by Safe Harbor Family Church United Church of Christ, will meet for the first time to begin rehearsals.

Voices of Mississippi will perform secular songs that promote unity, acceptance, diversity, and social justice and is open to anyone, regardless of religious or non-religious affiliation, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, age, race, or nationality.

Lately, negativity and hatred have dominated social media. In light of recent events, particularly the horrific occurrences in Charlottesville, Virginia, I realized that the South, more than ever, needs voices to proclaim that we will stand together as one and to offer hope in a nation that is divided.

I encourage all people who share this vision to join with me. The first song we will work on is *We Are the World* by Michael Jackson

and Lionel Ritchie, for we truly are the world.

At this point, Voices of Mississippi will meet every third Sunday night from 7:30 -8:30 PM at Safe Harbor Family Church, located at 1345 Flowood Dr, Flowood, MS 39232. Practice will begin promptly at 7:30.

See you then,  
Alan

# 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

Students in our campus ministry have gathered for an opening party and planning session at my home. We played corn hole, attempted to get on a hammock, ate tasty treats, and

planned for the year. Our monthly discussions this year will be about White Supremacy and Neo-Nazis (Sept 19), Muslim-Christian Relations (Oct 24), and Immigration (Nov 7). We held the first monthly discussion this month, and saw a few new faces at the event!

We've also begun meeting for weekly lunches in the cafeteria. Please "like" our Facebook page (Progressive Christians at Millsaps College) to stay apprised of all our activities, and keep us in your thoughts.



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

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Fall is finally here. The hottest days of summer are behind us and we look forward to cool nights of autumn. I pray y'all are working hard in school and showing your Jesus hearts to everyone around you. I pray that with the beauty of fall, you find something beautiful in every day!

We are starting a new series that follows the readings being done in "big" church. We start off this month learning some parables Jesus taught us in the New Testament. I can't wait to dig deeper into His stories with y'all and see His promises to us!

We have learned this week to celebrate the good things God has done. So every day, think of at least one good thing that He blessed you with! Hopefully soon you guys will see your life is full of good things!

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

## 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 (Youth Volunteers Welcome!)**

**Wednesdays after dinner - Kidz Harbor**

	<p><b>Donations are always appreciated and needed!</b></p> <p><i>Looking for an easy way to donate to Safe Harbor?</i></p> <p><b>Check out the "Donate" button on the right side of our website at: <a href="http://safeharborfamilychurch.org">safeharborfamilychurch.org</a></b></p>	
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## Card Ministry

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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!



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



601-906-8934

www.safeharborfamilychurch.org

**OCTOBER 2017**

Flowood, Mississippi 39232-2702

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
<b>1</b> 17th Sunday after Pentecost Board Apps. due 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service <i>Birthday Bash after service</i> <i>Bring a dish to share</i>	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b> 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>		
<b>8</b> 18th Sunday after Pentecost 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	<b>9</b> Columbus Day 	<b>10</b> 6:30p - PFLAG Fondren Presbyterian 3220 Old Canton Rd.	<b>11</b> National "Coming Out" Day 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	<b>12</b> Canton Flea Market	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>		
<b>15</b> 19th Sunday after Pentecost 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service 7:20p-Board Election	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6p - Card Ministry Meeting (at Cups in the Quarter on Lakeland Dr.)	<b>18</b> 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>		
<b>22</b> 20th Sunday after Pentecost 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30p - POPA (at the church)	<b>25</b> 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7p - Craft Group (at Terry & Mary's)	<b>28</b>		
<b>29</b> Reformation Day 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Praise Service	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Halloween 	<b>October 11th is National "Coming Out" Day.</b> There are many ways & degrees of "coming out", so do whatever is possible for you - to help breakdown the barriers of ignorance and hostility.				<b>All Church Retreat</b> Saturday, Nov. 4th from 1p to 7p at Angela & Melahine's 2880 Seven Springs Rd. Raymond, MS	
			SEPTEMBER S M T W T F S 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		NOVEMBER 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			