



Volume 8, Issue 01
January 2018

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,

We enter the New Year, 2018, grateful for our church, for one another and the ministry we share. I am grateful for each of you and the opportunity to gather each Sunday and Wednesday (and other occasions) for worship, sharing and caring! What is ahead this New Year? We begin by fully entering the church season of Epiphany.

Epiphany is January 6 on our calendars, but churches (like ours) usually mark Epiphany on the second Sunday after Christmas. That means that January 7th

at Safe Harbor will be our Epiphany Sunday.

What is the Epiphany story? In the darkness of the night, the Magi were directed by a bright light to Bethlehem. Coming from the heavens, the light led them to the child Jesus, the Messiah. God helped the Magi to fulfill their mission. Even though they were strangers in a strange land, even though they were tired and fatigued, they did not give up on their mission.

In life, we too take different roads to fulfill our dreams and hopes. When we trust in God, the Spirit guides us. We are called to hear the voice of God, follow the light, and journey everyday in faith.

Sometimes we feel like "strangers in a strange land," sometimes we are tired and fatigued, and sometimes we want to give up on our mission. Sometimes, we ask, "What is our life work?" or, we ask

"Which road do I take to fulfill my hopes dreams and hopes?" The Good News is that the "star" or light that guided the Magi will shine for us and lead us.

The light of Bethlehem is God's invitation, even in our present age, to study, to yearn, to hope, to dream, to uncover, and to find God in the midst of the extraordinary and ordinary moments of lives. For Christmas, I gave my daughter a little pocket calendar that had these words on the front cover: "The art of being happy lies in the power of extracting happiness from common things." (Henry Ward Beecher)

Those words were "gospel" for me because I connect them to God's invitation to journey everyday in faith and find God in the common things. The words from John's Gospel are similar: "The word was made flesh, he lived among us and we saw his glo-

ry." God, mysteriously present from the beginning of time, is mysteriously and creatively among us, especially in the ordinary, common events of everyday life.

The "Light" shines for us and is still shining! May we treasure the happiness in the

common things. May we hear God's voice, Safe Harbor Family Church, and treasure our common life in the Spirit. I look forward to seeing you each week. Thank you for your gifts of love shown in many, many ways. Thank you for your faithful caring. Let us each say a prayer to ask for God's

blessing on us this New Year 2018.

In God's peace and love,
Pastor Ann Michele

SAVE THE DATE!!! ASH
WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY
14—7 P.M. SERVICE AT SHFC

Worship Services

Sundays, 6 p.m. Worship
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Dinner/ 7 p.m. Mid-Week Service

(Sunday, December 31, 6 p.m.—Watch Night, New Year's Eve and Singing Communion)

Wednesday, January 3 World Council of Churches Prayer Calendar and Bible Study

Sunday, January 7 Epiphany—Three Kings Day—Singing Communion—Birthday Bash!

Wednesday, January 10 World Council of Churches Prayer Calendar and Bible Study

Sunday, January 14 Martin Luther King Jr Worship

Wednesday, January 17 World Council of Churches Prayer Calendar and Bible Study

Sunday, January 21 Ecumenical Sunday (see note* below about Week of Prayer)

Wednesday, January 24 World Council of Churches Prayer Calendar and Bible Study

Sunday, January 28 Health and Human Service Sunday (*see note below)

***Remember to sign up to read/lead/sing each Sunday at Safe Harbor! Lay members participation (children, youth, adults) is needed and welcomed!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity—January 18-25

On January 21, we'll mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Safe Harbor. What is the Week of Prayer? The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began as an eight day period of prayer called the Church Unity Octave at Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute (GEII) located in Garrison, New York. It is a ministry of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement.

Through the years, churches across denominational lines have come together to emphasize the importance of Christians praying and working

together to bring about Christian Unity.

The theme for the 2018 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, "Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power," is taken from the book of Exodus 15:6. The resources for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the churches of the Caribbean by an ecumenical team of women and men under the leadership of His Grace Kenneth Richards, Catholic Archbishop of Kingston, the Antilles Episcopal Conference, together with Mr. Gerard Granada, General Secretary of the

Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC).

The theme is "formation." Throughout the Biblical narrative of salvation, an unmistakable motif is the unrelenting determination of the God to form a people whom God could call God's own. The formation of such a people, united in a sacred covenant with God, is integral to the message that God is love and the Bible may continue to be a source of consolation and liberation. At Safe Harbor, we want to be part of this "formation" and celebration of unity. Come join us in marking Ecumenical Sunday on January 21.

Prayer for the New Year

Eternal God, who can make all things new, we humbly bring before you the record of our lives in the year now ending. Where life has been good to us, do not let us take more of the credit than we deserve. Where we have been good to others, help us to forget all thoughts of honor and reward. Where we have fallen short, forgive us, and free us from brooding over what is past. Cleanse us by your mercy, guide us by your truth, fill us with your love, lead us forward in your all-conquering hope. Through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Health and Human Service Sunday is January 28

Health and Human Service Sunday is a special opportunity to create awareness of the health concerns of our communities and world, and to learn about the many and various health and human service ministries of the United Church of Christ. It is observed annually in the United Church of Christ and is an opportunity to talk about health in a holistic way, address the issues of justice in our health care systems and learn about how each of us can become involved.

Craft Group

Noelle will be leading craft group this month. Come join the fun with creativity and laughter. We will meet Friday, January 26, 7pm at the church.



Lift Your Voice in Song



Voices of MS will rehearse on Jan 21



Kidz Harbor and YACHT Club

It seems like the holiday season has flown by. We have been busy in kidz harbor and enjoying every moment. We have learned about all the things we are thankful for and remembered the Christmas story as we learned about a new person every week. We also used our offering to sponsor a Grace House resident for Christmas. It is so cool to watch the kids learn

the true meaning of Christmas...giving to others and loving others as Christ did for us.

We look forward to a new year of fun! Can't wait to see what God has in store to bless us with this year!

Sundays 5:15 - 5:45- Sunday School in Kidz Harbor for kidz and youth

Sundays @ 6 for kidz 6 & younger-Kidz Harbor (youth volunteers welcome!)

Wednesdays after dinner - Kidz Harbor for kidz and youth



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



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JANUARY 2018

Flowood, Mississippi 39232-2702

www.safeharborfamilychurch.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2018 7 Baptism of Our Lord Three Kings Day 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Worship Service <i>Birthday Bash after service</i>	1 New Year's Day 	2 6:30p - PFLAG Fondren Presbyterian 3220 Old Canton Rd.	3 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	4 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	5 	6 Epiphany
8 14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Worship Service	15 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 	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 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	19 	20
21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Ecumenical Sunday 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Worship Service	22 	23 6:30p - POPA (at the church)	24 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	25 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	26 	27
28 4th Sunday after Epiphany Health & Human Service Sunday 4:45p - Choir Rehearsal 5:15p - Sunday School 6 PM - Worship Service	29 	30 6:30p - POPA (at the church)	31 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	1 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	2 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT	3 5:30p - Dance, Drama, & Sign group 6:30p - Crossover 7p - service & YACHT

DECEMBER							FEBRUARY						
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						31							