

CROP Walk: Sunday, October 15

Step by Step Until All Are Fed



You can fight hunger both locally and worldwide by supporting this year's CROP Walk. There are three ways to help: Walk in the CROP Walk, sponsor a walker, or buy a t-shirt for \$5.00. To do any of these things, just see Winnie Leiendecker, Sharon Karnes, or Clif Karnes in the Fellowship Hall after worship. The annual CROP Walk, which takes place on Sunday, October 15 this year, fights hunger both locally and internationally. It's a 3.1 mile walk that begins at the First National Bank Ballpark and goes through downtown Greensboro. If you aren't walking, please sign up to sponsor a walker, so you can be represented too!



Young Adult Group

You're invited to join us at Joymongers, Tuesday, October 24th, at 7:00 pm, for an evening of relaxed fellowship and fun! Joymongers is located at 576 North Eugene Street, Greensboro. Please RSVP and bring questions to Hillary Irusta at 336-687-4512 or hdirusta@gmail.com



A Time for Reflection and Conversation

Wednesday, October 4 at 5:30 pm in the Chapel, we will have a time of conversation and prayer to talk about our experience of sanctuary these past three months. Even as we celebrate Minerva's freedom, many of us also find it bittersweet to see them go.

Let's reflect together, and join in prayer for the family, for all of us. We will include in our prayers those suffering the impact of recent tragedies as well. Below is a prayer recently written by Julie that you may find helpful in your personal time of prayer and reflection.

A Prayer for Today

Holy One,
today we ask three things:
Hold us, move us, remind us.

Hold us all in your great heart.
Enfold in your steadfast Love
the families and friends of those
who have died too soon.
Keep the witnesses and responders
in your sustaining presence.

Grant healing to those wounded
in body, mind or spirit.

Move us. Move us to be a part
of what needs to change;
direct our steps in the ways of
peace and nonviolence.

Remind us to cherish those
we love with gentle words and
genuine deeds.

Remind us to take no one,
no love, for granted.
Remind us we are not alone.
You are with us and for us,
we are with each other. Amen.



Worship Schedule

Adult Sunday School: 10:00 am
Children's Faith Formation Classes:
9:50-10:50 am
Worship: 11:00 am
Refreshments: 12:00 pm

Our Mission

As people of Congregational United Church of Christ, we seek to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, accepting God's call to be a true community of love, compassion, and nurture.

Visitors

Congregational United Church of Christ is a warm, welcoming congregation that is always happy to receive visitors. To help you feel as comfortable and at-home as possible when you visit us, we've put together some information on what the Congregational experience is like. For details, check out our Visitor Page at www.congregationalucc.com.

Our Next Newsletter

Deadline: Friday, October 20
Publication: Wed., October 25

News and events can be sent to
office@congregationalucc.com.

Can't wait for news? Check out the Congregational UCC web site at www.congregationalucc.com. It is up-to-date, relevant, interesting, lively, and available 24 hours.

Lectionary Readings

October 1, 2017

Exodus 17:1-7, Ps. 78:1-4, 12-16
Phil. 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

October 8, 2017

Exo. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20, Psalm 19
Phil. 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46

October 15, 2017

Exo. 32:1-14, Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

October 22, 2017

Exodus 33:12-23, Psalm 99
1 Thes. 1:1-10, Matt. 22:15-22

October 29, 2017

Deu. 34:1-12, Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thes. 2:1-8, Matt. 22:34-46



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Mon., Tues., Wed. & Friday

Ministries
• Bible Study
• Children & Adult Choir
• Handbell Choir
• Youth Programs
• Women's Fellowship•

Outreach Programs
• Greensboro Urban Ministry
• Mobile Meals
• Faith Action International House
• Higher Ground
• and many more . . .

Congregational News is published by
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Greensboro, North Carolina

From Our Pastor

Look What You Did!



From time to time in this newsletter we have a space by that title which updates everyone on what we have been able to accomplish as a congregation. Each one of these is vitally important: serving Mobile Meals, providing backpacks of food for hungry families, various collections of needed items, and many more.

Here's one to add to the list: you played a major part in helping reunite Minerva Cisneros Garcia with her family, so she is once again living with her beloved children in her own home. We are not a congregation that likes to boast. At the same time, I want you to let that previous sentence sink in for a moment.

98 days. 2,352 hours. Upwards of 90 volunteers from our church and about 7 other congregations. Whether you spent nights in the volunteer room, or played soccer with the boys, or cooked a meal, or called elected officials, or gave money, or signed the petition, or prayed, or any number of other amazing things, you helped a brave and loving family stay together.

As you are likely aware, on Monday morning, Minerva's attorney received a letter from an immigration court stating that a federal immigration judge had vacated the deportation order. This is not a stay of removal, which likely would have been temporary, but actually a rescinding of that order completely. We do need to be aware that ICE can open a new case on her at any time, but we are hoping and praying that won't happen.

In the meantime, Minerva will continue to work toward citizenship, will find a new job, and reclaim her

life. This will be a time of transition for her, the family, and for all of us. As with all transitions, there is a degree of uncertainty and mixed emotions. We will continue to support Minerva in any way we can in the coming days, and I hope you will keep them in your prayers.

For us, there will be an empty space in our building, in our schedules, in our hearts. We have loved this family well for 3 months. That love will not end. Our lives have been forever changed by the courage, joy, and love of this remarkable family. And while we are sad to lose them, we celebrate with them, and we give thanks to God who brought our lives together, who in all things works for good.

My friends, look what you did.

— Julie



Keep in Your Prayers

In order to protect the privacy of the individuals on our Prayer List, this information is not available in the online version of our newsletter.

Youth Group News, Childhood Poverty: A Call to Action



Our CUCC youth volunteered at HandyCapable Network in September. HandyCapable is a non-profit with a mission to increase access to technology. The organization recycles computers and provides meaningful work for developmentally and physically disabled HandyTechs. Additionally, HandyCapable provides low-income families with technology to link them into the digital age with a computer at home.

The service project at HandyCapable involved organizing, packing, sorting, and preparing donated computers. Our youth were complimented on their hard work and efficiency!

The Youth Group also wants to share with the congregation that you can donate your used computer to HandyCapable. Both individual and business donations are accepted — your old machine can help others and not just sit in a landfill.

- Donations of the following are needed (both working and non-working): computer towers, LCD monitors and TVs, LED monitors and TVs, servers, laptops, tablets, networking equipment, main-frames and peripherals, working keyboards, mice, cables, cords, cell phones and smartphones and working printers.

- Data is safe — each machine's hard drive is either wiped clean and re-used or destroyed with a powerful electromagnet, then shredded at an R2 certified facility. These procedures conform to the U.S. Department of Defense standards for data destruction.

• **Donation location:**

HandyCapable Network
415 N. Edgeworth St., Suite 175
Greensboro, NC 27401

(Come around to the back of the building to drop off computers.)

Phone: 336-209-7360

Donation hours:

Monday-Friday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm;
Saturday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm



Lastly, we are very excited for the Winter Youth Retreat in Blowing Rock on January 12-15, 2017, with the theme, *Am I Good?* The retreat will include an Open mic night for talent sharing, group service projects and snow tubing activities. Come and connect with other UCC Youth from across the Southeast!

Registration is due to me by the end of October. Please let me

know if your youth is interested in attending this year and I will get a registration form to you!

—Laura Coffee

Youth Group Coordinator

4cupsof@gmail.com

336-279-0239



Childhood Poverty

Guilford Park Presbyterian Church, 2100 Fernwood Dr., is hosting “A Conversation and Call To Action On Childhood Poverty” on Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22. The Saturday event includes a \$10 dinner (reservation required by October 13) at 6:00 pm followed by a program at 7:00 pm entitled “Poor and Hungry Kids in the Richest Nation on Earth.” The guest speaker is Gene Nichol, the Boyd Tinsley Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.

On Sunday there will be worship services focusing on “Poverty, Hunger and the Sermon on the Mount” at 9:00 and 11:00 am, with continued conversation in the Fellowship Hall between services.

For more details or to register and pay for the dinner, go to www.guilfordpark.org/meal. Child-care and dinner option for children is available upon request at time of reservation.

More News and Notes

All Saints Sunday “Moved” to Oct. 29

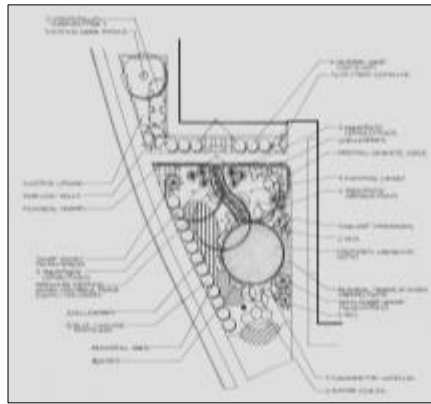
All Saints Day is November 1, and we typically celebrate this day in worship on the first Sunday in November. This year, we will celebrate it on the last Sunday in October, instead (we have that option). It is a powerful day remembering people we have lost in the past year.

It is our tradition on All Saints Sunday to process with a banner listing the names of those in our congregation who have died in the past year, and another banner with little bells pinned on it in memory of loved ones. The Bell Banner will be available in the Fellowship Hall through October 28, so that you may pin a bell on as you remember a beloved saint in your life.



Advent Journey: The Way of Peace

Mark your calendars now and join us for this timely study. We will explore and nurture inner peace as the grounding for the peace-making we are called to do. We will meet Sundays, December 3, 10 and 17 at 5:00 pm in the Chapel. The series will continue in January.



Garden Construction Work

Construction on the Memorial Garden is now expected to begin Monday, October 9th. The labyrinth is expected to come this week (many cut and whole paving bricks stacked on pallets). We anticipate the west entrance will be available. The work is expected to take 3½ weeks, but will depend on the weather. This will be very exciting!



Thanks to Minerva and Painting Coach Nancy Glenz for painting the “new” Godly Play classroom. We are sharing the room with Arts and Basics for Children, and it was time to refresh it!

From Our Associate Pastor

God Is With Us



Like most of you, Julie and I woke up Monday to the horrible news of the shootings in Los Vegas, after barely processing the horrible news

of the auto accident Saturday night. Around 10:00 am Julie and I talked about having a vigil at church on Wednesday, and I thought, “for which horrible news?” Hurricanes, shootings, accidents, earthquakes, presidents with nuclear weapons. Then just before 10:30 am, we got the call from Minerva — she rarely calls us — FREE! Julie talked with Minerva while I talked with her lawyer at the same time, while Minerva was texting her lawyer. We came to church, hugged and kissed and took pictures outside in the bright sun. Then we hammered out press releases, pulled together a press conference, drafted and re-drafted e-news, spoke with reporters and with Minerva who herself was talking and texting with her family and friends. Too many messages to count, but somehow we gathered those we could, and celebrated her great news. So much joy to share.

Life comes at us fast, to quote the insurance ad. We are blessed that we have people who are on the journey with us. The ups, the downs. We are not in control (well, we did send out the press release about Minerva and conducted the press conference, but still ...). God is with us, in our laughter and in our tears.

One question I get a lot about Sanctuary: “Do we really have to provide around the clock coverage?” I have a three-paragraph answer, but a better answer has always been there before us: “when two or three gather in my name, I am there among you.” God’s been with us, and will be with us. —Paul

Grocery Store Food Drive, C4C, Backpack Program



Saturday, October 22

Harris Teeter, North Elm St.

We are looking for volunteers to fill 2-hour shifts between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. It's an easy way to fight hunger in Greensboro. You simply stand outside the store with a grocery cart and present a pre-printed list of suggested donations to shoppers as they enter the store. Then you share a huge thank you as shoppers place their donations in the cart on their way out of the store!

Please contact Lisa Ward (336-327-3255, wardl@gcsnc.com) or George Ritchie (gdritchie@gtcc.edu) if you can help. We're happy to have you!



Change for Change

Is spare change weighing down your pockets or filling up the cupholders in your car? You are more than welcome to drop it in one of our Change for Change containers! Monies collected in September will benefit Bread for the World, a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad.

Non-Perishable Food Needed

The Backpack Food Program provides needy students at Cone Elementary School with a backpack full of food to carry home for the weekend. Over 90% of their students receive free or reduced cost lunches and might not have sufficient food at home.

The Board of Christian Service shares in this ministry with First Christian Church and suggests the following items: breakfast cereal (non-sugar-coated), breakfast bars, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned beans, canned tuna/meat, soup or sauce/gravy, mac & cheese or pasta/rice, and snack items. NO glass containers. NO extra-large sized/very heavy items. You may place your food donations in the multipurpose stands at each entrance.



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Bread Follow Up

Our church wrote 225 letters to our senators and representatives in Washington supporting the goals of Bread for the World to end hunger by 2030 and to fully fund WIC, SNAP, tax credits for low-income workers and international developmental assistance in the 2018 budget. Our letters were blessed in the service on September 17 and were mailed to the Bread office in Washington, DC where they will be hand delivered to Congress. The Board of Christian Service thanks all who participated.

If you were not able to participate, you can still do so via email. Go to www.bread.org/eOL then fill in your name, address, phone number and email. You are also encouraged to personalize your letter in the box on the right side of the screen. When finished, click on "Email Congress" and a letter from you will automatically be sent to your senators and representative.



Neighbors in Need

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. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.

The 2017 theme for NIN is *Protect the Sacred: In a Just World, Clean Water is Life.*

We will collect funds for this very important special offering on Sunday, October 15. If you miss that opportunity, you are encouraged to put a specially marked "Neighbors In Need" gift in the offering plate the next time you are in worship – or to mail your gift to the church office.

In Our Community

Help Support Juana Ortega!

Juana remains in sanctuary at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Greensboro. Our friends there could use some more volunteers. To sign up, call Rev. Leslie Bland at 336-662-3902.



Is Your Closet Overrun By Unworn Shoes?

First Lutheran Church invites you to collect shoes during October to help locally and globally. All types of shoes accepted. (No mold or mildew, please.) Deliver to the church at 3600 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, during the following times:

8:00 am - 5:00 pm Mon-Thurs

8:00 am - 1:00 pm Friday

8:00 am - 12:30 pm Sunday

If you have questions or need to make special arrangements, contact Frank Moore at First Lutheran (336-292-9125, ext. 102 or frank@firstlutheran.com).

Learn more about Soles4Souls at www.soles4souls.org.

A Note of Gratitude

Dear Congregational UCC Friends,

Thank you very much for your enduring friendship and support – it is certainly needed and appreciated now more than ever.

We are grateful for all of the ways you are loving and protecting your neighbors.

Peace and God Bless,
David Fraccaro
Exec. Dir., FaithAction
International House



Lunch at Higher Ground

Did you know that our church has served over 6,700 individual meals to those who come to Higher Ground?!

Our next date to serve lunch is Tuesday, October 24th. Food donations (vegetables, salads, desserts breads) and volunteers are always welcomed. Please have food at the church by 11:00 am that Tuesday or take it directly to Higher Ground (210 East Bessemer Avenue, Greensboro). For more information, contact Ish Whitfield, Clif Karnes, Robin Dorko, or Margaret Byrd.



Church Women United

World Community Day
Saturday, November 4

Shiloh Baptist Church
1210 South Eugene Street

10:00 am

Registration – Refreshments
Silent Auction

10:30 am

Worship Service – Celebration

Save the date! All are welcome!

Church Women United is a world-wide ecumenical organization, and the Greensboro unit has members from more than twenty congregations working together for a more peaceful world with justice for all, without regard to age, gender, race, religion or nationality.

“Kindling New Fires for Peace” is the theme of the program. There will also be a silent auction fundraiser which will benefit the local CWU budget. Please bring items for the auction.

Calendars become very crowded and the weeks just disappear, so hopefully this early notice will enable you to join with other women from our community as we learn what action we can take to promote a more just, peaceful and caring society.

The Ecumenical Action Committee requests non-perishable food items for Greensboro Urban Ministry pantry since the need continues to be so great.

Call Eileen Stirling, 336-852-0170, between 8:00 and 10:00, morning or evening, if you have questions or would like to share transportation.



We're Sure Going to Miss Minerva, Mateo and Antonio!



We Love Nursery Volunteers!



The problem is, we don't have enough Nursery Volunteers. There are Sundays when we have one or two children in the nursery, and our Nursery Attendant can cover things just fine. Then there are Sundays when we have nine and more children, of whom two or three are infants. On those days, our Nursery Attendant really needs help! So please, please speak with Paul and agree to volunteer. We will perform a background check. We aim to ask people to help one time every other month. Parents of young children deserve a calm hour of worship. That is a great gift we *can give*, but only with *your help*!

Giving Statements

Third Quarter Giving Statements are now available in Fellowship Hall. Look for a black file box just inside the entrance.

Please note that if you give through the church web site, there is a small fee taken by your credit card company and our service provider. This means that the net tax deductible amount of your gift is slightly lower than the amount you submitted. Please contact Pam Aldridge, Financial Secretary, with any questions (paldridge29@gmail.com)



Monthly Meeting Night

Boards and Council will meet Tuesday, October 24, beginning at 6:15 pm for prayer, followed by 6:30 board meetings, and the Council at 7:45.



Volunteers

October 1

Lay Reader: Elizabeth Rowe
Nursery: Ben Coffee and Laura Coffee
Coffee Hour: Deborah Hill and Steve Styers
Counters: Hertlein/Moore-Painter

October 8

Lay Reader: Margaret Veatch
Nursery: Karol and John Neufeld
Coffee Hour: Jon and Mary Anne Traurig
Counters: Nance

October 15

Lay Reader: Cynthia McSwain
Nursery: Matina Rueppell and Ann Buffington
Coffee Hour: Jamie Anderson and Jenny Berggren
Counters: Sahr

October 22

Lay Reader: Robin Dorko
Nursery: Steve Haines and Taryn Kohlphenson
Coffee Hour: Margaret Veatch
Counters: North/Rowe

October 29

Lay Reader: Jude Grayer
Nursery: Krista and Tina Kohlphenson
Coffee Hour: Lisa Ward and Ty Cook
Counters: Nance

October Ushers

Charlie Hertlein, Frank Kuester,
Anika Rueppell, Eli Wang

SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR THE GENERAL OPERATING FUND

Our Annual Plan

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Budgeted Income	39,400	23,289	22,978	31,008	31,077	33,148	30,329	19,913	34,422	31,885	26,135	40,611	231,142
Budgeted Expense	31,222	31,791	31,200	30,958	30,785	30,336	31,082	32,656	33,923	31,287	30,308	30,487	250,030
\$ +/-	8,178	-8,502	-8,222	50	292	2,812	-753	-12,743	499	598	-4,173	10,124	-18,888
Budgeted YTD \$ +/-	8,178	-324	-8,546	-8,496	-8,204	-5,392	-6,145	-18,888					

How We're Doing Compared to Our Plan

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
Carry-Over		11,077	716	-5,482	158	-7,329	-3,083	-1,562					
Actual Income	41,813	19,994	20,908	34,055	21,696	31,489	30,415	17,772					218,544
Actual Expense	30,735	30,354	27,106	28,415	29,183	27,244	29,296	28,889					231,223
\$ +/-	11,077	-10,361	-6,199	5,640	-7,487	4,245	1,119	-11,117					12,679
Actual YTD \$ +/-	11,077	716	-5,482	158	-7,329	-3,083	-1,965	-12,679					

Budgeted = Planned income and expenses.

Carry-Over = A cumulative shortage or surplus (income minus expenses) as we work our way through the year.

General Operating Fund = The "pot of money" to which regular giving is deposited and from which operating expenses are disbursed.



Congregational United Church of Christ
400 West Radiance Drive
Greensboro, NC 27403

October 2017

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Calendar of Events

Regular Weekly Events

Sunday	9:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:45 am	Jordan-Wisseman Sunday School Class
	9:50 am	<i>Godly Play</i> for Children
	11:00 am	Worship
Monday	6:30 pm	Adult Handbell Rehearsal
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday	7:30 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast

Upcoming Special Events

Wednesday, Oct. 11	2:00 pm	<i>Knit Us Together</i> Knitting Group
Tuesday, Oct. 17	7:00 pm	Women's Circle
Wednesday, Oct. 20	11:45 am	Lunch at Friends Homes Guilford
Thursday, Oct. 18	9:30 am	Mobile Meals at Peace Church
Friday, Oct. 20		Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, Oct. 24	11:00 am	Serve Lunch at Higher Ground
	6:15 pm	Boards and Council Meetings
Wednesday, Oct. 25	2:00 pm	<i>Knit Us Together</i> Knitting Group

Upcoming Birthdays

10/1 Sherrill Hall	10/8 Cate Coffee	10/14 Anika Rueppell	10/21 Walter Burch
10/3 Sally White	10/8 Emery Alexander	10/14 Jo Fleischer	10/24 Laura Yountz
10/4 Melissa Bocci	10/9 Earl Wang	10/16 Helen Core	10/27 Tammy Heil
10/5 Will Rowe	10/13 Megan Tate	10/18 Bernice Driver	10/29 Ed Shroyer
10/6 Diane Brewer	10/13 Trish Shroyer	10/19 John Heil	10/30 Lynn Magyar
10/7 Randel Roberts	10/13 Zack Hertlein	10/21 Courtney Kent	

If your birthday is missing from this list, please contact the office so that we may add it to our records!