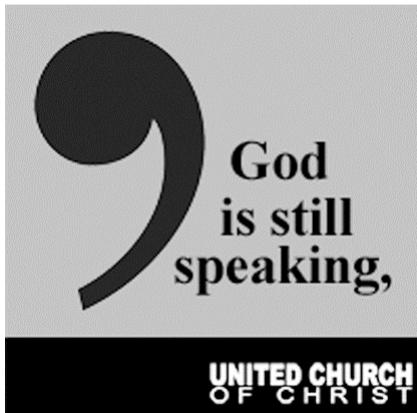


Chewelah United Church of Christ
 PO Box 378 East 10 Webster St.
 Chewelah, WA 99109

(509)935-8046

Address Service Requested



Chewelah United Church of Christ

CREEKSIDE GAZETTE

No matter WHO you are or
 WHERE you are on life's journey,
 You are WELCOME here!!!!

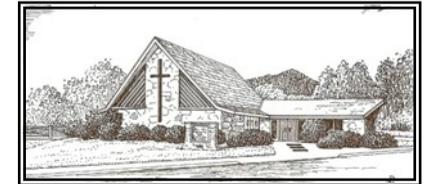
Pastor: Rev. Judith Holloway

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 A.M. Sunday Children's Christian Education: 10:30 A.M.

Church Phone # 935-8046 Website:

www.chewelahucc.org

Find us on Facebook as "Chewelah UCC"



Mission Statement:

"As children of God, united in our belief in Christ,
 we are called to love one another as God loves us:
 helping each other to live as givers, to be as doers,
 to pray as believers, and always to serve."

August 2016

Inside This Issue:

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Pastoral Reflections: Sabbaticals Can be (Surprisingly) Radical!

Dear Friends,

I've never had a sabbatical before – so it shouldn't come as any big surprise that I'm not very good at it. (Before I go any further with this thought I want to say just how much I appreciate your support in giving me this amazing gift!) I've always worked at one job or another, pretty much all the time, which means this whole concept of being paid to do something else – to be given the time to be renewed – is radical in the extreme!

It turns out I have lots of internal resistance to this whole sabbatical thing – maybe you all do too. My “Protestant work ethic” self is screaming, “This just feels *wrong!*” and, “I feel guilty!” And on a deeper level this is also an identity issue that goes something like this: if I'm not working, who am I? It appears that taking larger chunks of time off well takes practice. So you can see how scary this might be to the compulsive workers among us. I imagine the retirement is even more challenging.

And yet, there's a whole lot of literature telling us how good it is for us to completely unhook from everything in our nose-to-the-grindstone, working and consuming lives from time-to-time. In fact, these admonitions to rest and renew are not recent holistic health practices, but originate from the Hebrew Scriptures – who knew....

Vacations are mandated in the Bible! So where does it say in the Bible, “Thou shall take a vacation!” How about the fourth of the Ten Commandments “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God, in it you shall not do any work.” (Ex 20:8-11). I don't *always* refer to the Bible for guidance in how to go about my life – but this Sabbath suggestion seems like a good one!

The more I study up on how to “do” a sabbatical the more I'm aware that one size does not fit all; my sabbatical is not your sabbatical! For instance, the idea of lying on a beach drinking Mai Tais for three months, not only would be an unethical use of this precious gift – it would also drive me batty! Personally, when I envision a sabbatical I like the image of a swimmer letting go of a familiar shore and striking out toward an unknown destination/shore. To begin a Sabbatical in one place and ending up in another place that couldn't have been imagined from where you were before – to be open and have the time and space for new possibilities to happen....

Sabbaticals give us the space for something new to grow. In that way all of our sabbaticals are a walk of faith, walking with God away from our familiar places, stepping out onto unknown ground, taking steps in new directions and trusting we are in safe hands. When we take the sabbaticals that come to us we are responding to Jesus' call to us to, “Live ecstatically. Move out of that place of death [and sameness] and toward life because I am the God who is living. Wherever I am, there is life, there is change, there is growth, there is increase and blossoming and something new.” (paragraph paraphrased, Nouwen, Henri *The Only Necessary Thing*, 1999, p. 194-195)

(continued page 3)

Minutes, cont. **Concerns:** Bell-Towne family, Shelton family, Tommy Dasko's family, Roxanne and family, Kathy, Roger Haick, Cherri and Mitch, DaVee, Mimi, Mary Firor, Bill and Susie, Frances, Auvils, Stan and Margaret, Ashley and Carolyn, Jean Merrill, Deb Alviar, Mary Hagstrom, Carol and Denny

Respectfully submitted, Laura Rutherford, Clerk

The Privilege of Giving

Emily C. Heath

"During a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints." - 2 Corinthians 8:2-4

My wife and I have a small list of institutions we support. Each month we give to our churches, public radio, our alma maters, the counseling center where my mentor serves, and a few others. These are far from extravagant gifts. They are just small monthly debits that, taken by themselves, hardly seem significant at times.

And yet, when I look at my bank account, I like seeing that money go out. I know that at my college the LGBT center has a few more resources. I know that down in Georgia someone in crisis is closer to seeing a therapist. And I know that when I listen to the news on the radio, I've done my part to help pay for it.

I see giving to the organizations I support as a privilege. In some small way, I get to be a part of work that is greater than myself.

Most churches dread stewardship season. We feel like we are running a pledge drive that everyone hates. We bring out budgets and expense reports, present them with dour faces and negative tones, and then wonder why no one wants to help us meet the bottom line.

But the reality is that Americans give generously. Over \$375 billion last year, in fact. And, fully 84% of Millennials made a donation in 2014. So why do we struggle in the church?

My sense is because we have stopped being inspirational in our requests for support, and have instead focused on doomsday scenarios: "If we don't meet this budget, this church will be dead soon," or "How can we support the children's ministry when there is a deficit?" So we cut out churches to the bare bones. But our austerity measures fail to inspire a vision that anyone wants to give to. And so we cut again. We create a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Show me a church with vision. Show me one that inspires joy. Make me feel like supporting your ministry is a privilege. Do that, and I'll open my wallet in a heartbeat, and thank you for it.

Prayer : God, help us to cultivate joy in our vision, and to inspire joyful givers. Amen.

Council Minutes, July 5th

Cheri opened. There were 12 present. Ron read a devotional.

Minutes were approved.

Financial: The closing balance was \$3974 before payroll

and \$1753 after payroll. The pension board is five months outstanding. Capital improvement fund is at \$482. See treasurer's report.

Unfinished Business: We will be marching in the Chataqua parade. Meet at 9:30.

Furnace issues: we will be putting in the second boiler. **Judy moved that Roger be approved to go ahead with installing the second boiler with funds from the savings account. Seconded and passed.**

New Business: Ron moved to send a letter recommending that Ashley be allowed to renew his status as a licensed minister. **Seconded and passed.**

Kim has offered a wooden cross to be raffled at a \$1.00 a chance, with proceeds going to the courtyard. **Mitch moved to approve a raffle with proceeds going to the courtyard. Seconded and passed.**

Kayti sent a letter asking if her school group could use the lawn by the bell tower during Chataqua to hand out literature promoting healthy relationships. They will not be selling anything. **Mitch moved to allow this group to use the lawn during Chataqua. Seconded and passed.**

Semi-annual meeting was set for Aug. 21 with the budget meeting on Aug. 1 at 4 PM.

Reports:

Diaconate: Kathy reported they have several dates they are looking for pulpit supply. Bonnie let us know that the guide book for the Called to Care program is in the blue room for anyone to read. Decided by consensus to go ahead with this program.

Mission and Stewardship: Holly reported that they would like to see more donations to the Food Pantry and the Food Bank. Stewardship materials have been ordered.

Christian Ed/Youth Group: Youth group activities are going well.

Trustees: Roger is working on the children's garden. He is looking at logistics for parking including barriers for across the street and a stencil for handicapped parking. The lawn needs to have weed killer applied.

House: The CODA group is suspending meetings until January. Distinguished Young Women will be using the church on July 7 and 8. The election board will be here on Aug. 2 till 9 PM.

Capital Improvement: The furnace room is about complete. Cost is \$647 to date.

Campership: Judy suggested sending letters to camp alumni asking for donations.

Choir: Ron reported that the special music list is filling up.

Pastor's Report: Judith reported she will be attending the Chaplancy Institute for Spiritual Direction for her sabbatical. This involves two weeks in Aug, Oct, Jan and April. Group discussions are going well. The TASTY program is relying on individual support as some of their grants have not come through. *(continued pg 11)*

So, it's taken me a while to envision this kind of opening transforming sabbatical, what it might look like, and finally after "some" prayer, discernment, and discussion with mentors, I feel that the Holy Spirit might be calling me to spiritual direction certification. Not only will I be learning and opening, I will be making myself more available to be of greater service in my ministry, *and* bringing something back to share with you all.

I start my program in August and will keep you posted as I step out into my new "direction" of this sabbatical year.

In great gratitude and love,
Pastor Judith

Long Term Care Service of Hymns

Every third Sunday 3-3:30 (except this month due to semi-annual meeting)

Sign up on the bulletin board if you are interested in attending

8/21--semi annual meeting after worship
oral reports from all committees

We are still in need of **gently used books** for our church reading areas, both for kids and adults. Thrift stores are a great place to find bargains.

BLACK LAKE OUTING to Irene LaVigne's home on the lake

Sunday, August 14—Driving up after worship for the afternoon.

WHO: All UCC folks

More information and directions will be coming Sign up by the kitchen

Summer Youth Activities Calendar:

All activities are on Sunday, unless listed otherwise.

August 14

Church picnic & potluck at Black Lake—see announcement for more details

August 20 Saturday

Car Wash & Ice Cream Social (Fundraiser for Camperships)

Get ready to get wet! Have ice cream Sundaes with all the Toppings!

Feeling Left Behind and Choosing Love – Not Fear!

There's a lot to worry about out there these days, swirling around us like a kind of vague dense fog. Not all of us (Americans) are feeling it, but many of us especially on the lower economic and even the middle social rungs of our society are feeling pretty insecure – that we might not have enough to live on if we lose our jobs, if we become seriously ill, or even as we age – that somehow playing by rules of going to school, working, and being responsible citizens, paying taxes, conscientiously raising our children is not enough.

Many of us are feeling let down and abandoned by the promises and expectations we grew up with: of affordable quality education for ourselves and our children, a place to call home, access and the means to buy nourishing food, health care when we need it, jobs that provide for our needs and support our dreams, and a secure and dignified retirement. Most of us don't need to be rich, or desire that; most of us just need and want *enough*. And a growing number of us fear that this decent quality of life is slipping away from us for reasons we don't understand. (And let's be honest, for all too many, this has already happened or is happening!)

Young adults graduating from college are unable to find jobs to support even the basic needs of housing, food and transportation and payment on their college loans. Or on the other end of the spectrum greater numbers of older Americans, unable to find work, are retiring far too early (without pension plans), and are forced to live on fixed incomes inadequate to meet the basic costs of living, or medical bills.

We're hearing more and more people saying, "I would really like to, but I can't afford it..." Many are feeling left out of the economic prosperity of the wealthiest nation the world has ever known. Many of us are legitimately feeling *left behind* and scared – and angry about the increasing inaccessibility of the American dream. If it's not happening to us personally, we know someone well who's feeling this way and/or falling behind.

We're not imagining this, it's real – studies say we *are* worse off than we were, and *we want to blame someone*. And here's where it gets tricky. Tempting as it is to want to blame others, especially those we see as "outsiders," giving into fear divides us into "us" and "them," stoking anger, resentment and violence – as we're seeing. As tempting as it is to blame "others," to scapegoat people we perceive as "different" from ourselves for our problems – is this what Jesus taught? Absolutely not! We have choice: follow Jesus and live our Christian faith of love for others, or not.

Time after time Jesus taught love of our neighbors, to be inclusive of all God's diverse children – to welcome and include the poor, the outcast, the stranger, the sinner, the diseased, the marginalized, and the rejected and despised. He refused to blame these "little ones" for causing the problems afflicting the majority – the oppression and poverty.

Instead, he took the courageous and fatal approach of accurately naming and confronting the source of the problem: unequal and unfair systems designed to maintain and concentrate power and wealth for the already powerful and wealthy. He refused to fear or hate his brothers

(continued page 5)

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

- *The CODA Meeting (Friday – noon) will not be meeting again until early January, 2017
- *DYW used the building on July 7 & 8 to prepare for the parade
- * July 14 – Trim Healthy Mamas used the kitchen (6-8 p.m.)
- *August 2 - Election ballot drop off (6:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.)
- *On Sunday, August 7 at 1 p.m. there will be a delegate AA meeting at the church before the regular AA meeting at 5 p.m

Christian Education

The summer activity program is going well. The kids have been involved in music, arts and crafts, outdoor activities, and service projects. Thanks to the adults who have supervised these activities. The summer schedule will conclude on August 30th. The kids have also participated in many wonderful youth group activities during the summer.

The Sunday school teachers will be meeting this month to plan the Christian Education program for September 2016 through May of 2017. Currently we have Laurel Shelton, DaVee Pullen, Carmen Hartill, and Rachel Kristianson volunteering as Sunday School teachers. More volunteer teachers are wanted and needed. Please speak to either Carmen or Rachel if you are interested in helping.

We look forward to beginning of our new church school year. The kick-off date will be Sunday, September 11th, or as we call it "Celebration Sunday". In the meantime enjoy the rest of your summer.

Rachel Kristianson

Co-Coordinator, Christian Education

August Lectionary

August 7: 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Lesson 1: Isa 1:1, 10-20 or Gen 15:1-6

Lesson 2: Heb 11:1-3, 8-16

Psalm: 50:1-8, 22-23 or 33:12-22

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

August 14: 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Lesson 1: Isa 5:1-7 or Jer 23:23-29

Lesson 2: Heb 11:29-12:2

Psalm: 80:1-2, 8-19 or 82

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

August 21: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Lesson 1: Jer 1:4-10 or Isa 58:9b-14

Lesson 2: Heb 12:18-29

Psalm: 71:1-6 or 103:1-8

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

August 28: 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Lesson 1: Jer 2:4-13 or Sirach 10:12-18 or

Prov 25:6-7

Lesson 2: Heb 13:1-8

Psalm: 81:1, 10-16 or 112

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

TASTY PROGRAM

For the second year, Chewelah UCC is taking part with other churches in town to provide supplementary food for children who do not receive school breakfast and lunch after July 14. There are 23 families receiving healthy food twice a month through the end of August. Last year the group applied for and received money through various grants that were available. We discovered we were not eligible for many of these grants for two consecutive years. Still, we moved forward to provide food with what little money remained from last year. Each food order comes to close to \$2000. This year we have received about \$3000, which is only enough to pay for two of the four deliveries. If you would like to donate to this worthy program, you can write a check to Chewelah UCC, indicating TASTY as the recipient.

July Church Activities



and sisters – directing his anger and insistence on justice toward those with the power to oppress and divide for their own personal gains. Jesus taught us to lift up love over hate, justice instead of revenge, concern for the “losers” rather than enabling the powerful. Blaming our problems on the most vulnerable is about as far away from what Jesus stands for as we can get!

If we don't like how things are going it's time to choose: do we follow Jesus' way of unity, inclusive love and care of the most vulnerable, or allow ourselves to be led and manipulated to fear and blame those neighbors of faith, race, color, gender that are different than “us?”

Shalom, Peace, Shanti, Pax, be with all of you,
Pastor Judith

Friends Everywhere

John A. Nelson

*If I go up to the heavens, you're there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, you're already there.*

If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Sovereign and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. - Psalm 139: 8; Romans 10:9. From The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation

A colleague tells about a parishioner who was dying. She was elderly, a devout Episcopalian, a bright and lovely lady, and her body was wearing out.

Her children gathered around. One of them had left the church of his youth and joined another, which set a high priority on explicit, public professions of faith. “Mother,” he implored, “it's time to profess Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. You must, to get to heaven. If you don't, you could end up in hell. I so want you to be in heaven.”

She patted his hand in the way that mothers do: lovingly, with no condescension. “It's okay, dear. I have lots of friends in both places.”

Prayer

God of earth and heaven, you promised that there is no place on earth or heaven or under the earth where you will not find us. Grant me the steady conviction that you have told us the simple, wonderful truth: wherever we go, you are waiting with open arms. Amen.

August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Worship team @ 10 Budget meeting @4	2 Church council 6:30	3	4	5	6
7Worship @ 10:30; communion Ashley leading the service	8 Worship team @ 10 TASTY distribution	9	10	11	12	13
14 Worship @ 10:30 Church picnic at Black Lake	15 Worship team @10 Bible Study @ 11:15	16	17	18 Future Events @ 11	19	20 Car wash/ ice cream social
21Worship @ 10:30; Susan leading semi annual meeting following	22 Worship team @10 TASTY distribution	23	24	25	26	27
28 Worship @ 10:30	29	30	31			

August Worship Ministers

August 7th Communion

Greeters: Chris J., Roberta Mc
 Ushers: Randy and Carol Auvil, Janice Burya, Laurel Shelton, Rachel K.
 W. Asst: Roger West
 Hospitality: Joey L., Deb T.

August 14th Birthday/Cookie Sunday

Greeters: Chris J., Roberta Mc
 Ushers: Judy, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Linda Moyer
 W. Asst: Holly Peterson
 Hospitality: Black Lake outing

August 21st Semi Annual Meeting/Potluck

Greeters: Chris J., Roberta Mc
 Ushers: Holly Peterson, Dede, Lynn, Joan
 W. Asst: Cheri Freeman
 Hospitality: Rachel, Joan

August 28th

Greeters: Chris J., Roberta
 Ushers: Auvils, Shroders
 W. Asst: : Judy Bean
 Hospitality: Susan Chamberlin, Cheri

September 4th Communion Sunday/ Labor Day

Weekend

Greeters: Greg and Laura
 Ushers: David Combs, Chris J., Roberta, Laurel
 W. Asst: Bonnie Rail
 Hospitality: Janice, Melody

Please remember our **food pantry and the food bank** during the summer months.

Judith's Office Hours:
 Mon: 12:30-2:30, Tues: 10-1, 3-5, Thurs: 10-1, Fri & Sat: by appt. Church-935-8046, Cell 510-684-8809