



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 29, NO. 3

September, 2017



God and Creation: In Worship, Study, and Fellowship

September 3

“Oh, What a World - Celebrating the Beauty of Nature”

- Last Sunday in the Campbell Room
- Creation Care month begins
- Help decorate our worship space with flowers from your garden or local markets

September 10

“Repurposing: Our Things, Our Faith”

- We kick off the program year by moving back into the sanctuary
- Installation of officers will be an important part of this service
- Help decorate the sanctuary by bringing in items that you'll donate to the thrift shop
- Extended Fellowship Hour and an opportunity to preview the redesigned HCC Thrift Shop

September 17

“Energy and Light”

- Dedication of our new solar panels
- Second hour adult education begins with two options
- Joe's Bible Study will finish the book started last year; Marcus Borg's *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*. All are welcome.
- Solar Power Presentation by Ryan Walling from Third Sun Solar



September 24

“Food and Fairness”

- 100 Mile Potluck (details below)

4th Annual 100 Mile Potluck

Our worship will flow directly into our 4th annual “100 Mile Potluck” which the Green Chalice Creation Care Team is hosting. We are asking everyone to bring a dish or food item that has at least one ingredient that was produced or grown within 100 miles of Shaker Heights.



To reduce waste we are also asking everyone to bring dinnerware, silverware, and a glass or cup that you can take back home and wash. We will share local food resources, educational information, fun and fellowship! Save the date and plan to attend!

Along The Path . . .



Each September we struggle to figure out what to call the Sunday after Labor Day. “Back to Church Sunday” and “Homecoming” both seem to say that everyone’s been away all summer (worship attendance, at least since I returned from sabbatical, indicates otherwise). But it is not just another Sunday. For several years, it’s the Sunday we move back into the sanctuary from the air conditioned Campbell Room. It is also the time when certain activities that take a break over the summer start up again: choir rehearsals, Christian Women’s Fellowship, 2nd hour adult study, and many meetings.

So we’ve kind of settled on “Kick-off Sunday” because after Labor Day a new program year begins with all the above-mentioned activities (and more) getting started. It is also when our new church leaders will be installed (though they’ve already been hard at work).

And it is an opportunity for each of us to reevaluate our role in this community of faith and think about new ways that we can serve our church family and the community around us. As the apostle Paul said, “...just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” Paul goes on to say that all members are important and have gifts to share that are needed for the body to function.

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...from your prayer ministry

The Ho-Chunk tribe in Wisconsin recalled that they were “told to respect both sun and moon eclipses.” The time surrounding these occurrences was said to be a time of transformation.

The total eclipse of the sun in 2017 came at a significant time for our country. We’ve experienced such upheaval, and at times, grave lack of respect for the diversity that has been a prized hallmark in our country since its founding. I must admit however, that the level of upheaval that has stunned so many of us may indicate that there’s not a uniform agreement about the meaning of diversity. Certainly there was none demonstrated at Charlottesville. So may we look to the skies, remembering the tangible unity that was mentioned by the newscasters, as cameras flashed from scene to scene and the shadow of the eclipse whizzed along its predicted course across our whole country. As we watched, we heard the same comments mentioned, the ooh’s and ahhhh’s, and cheers as the sky grew black in the middle of the afternoon, and the hidden sun had its warmth dimmed, causing a significant drop in temperature.



And then it was over. But for a few minutes, through the gift of telecommunication, we were united; those precious few minutes were significant and the response of crowds became a type of celebration as we were covered by a power so far beyond any human being. We were revealed as fellow travellers. May this very astonishing experience evoke a resurgence of belief, of caring, of unity. May it bring us to a time of genuine transformation.

...until next time, may we search our hearts and minds to see what we could do to promote diversity and unity

BECAUSE YOU CARE

Illness - Surgery - Hospitalization

Florence Chase
Grace Loudenstein
Mehring family
Natalie Eichar
“Cas” Castleberry
Sidney Mallory, Jr.

Liz Perdue
Shirley Reading
Bob Schneider
Patty Monroe
Alma G. Jones
Merle Passell

Paul/Shirley Hummel
Ratt Ford
Lisa Peabody
Henry Sharpley
Nancy Wilson
Peggy Yeager

Ray Everett
C.D./Lois Clark
Elizabeth Newman
Joe Feudi
Barbara Tolley

Notes from the Moderator ...

"God will supply us with the opportunity, but it's up to us to do something with it"

BibleGodQuotes.com

We'll have many opportunities to share with the community with a new youth drop-in center, The Getaway, and the HCC Thrift Shop formerly known as the Elegant Flea.

Now is the perfect time to review our current missions and come up with new ideas to enhance them. The smallest idea or tweak can make a world of difference.

While the Getaway and the HCC Thrift Shop will bring neighbors in our building, we still need to seek opportunities in the neighborhood. Find out what missions exist in our area and volunteer with that mission or invite neighbors to work on a particular mission in our church.

Last month, HCC participated in the Common Grounds city-wide conversation. Common Grounds is an initiative by the Cleveland Foundation to learn from participants discussions and ideas for a more equitable and resilient Greater Cleveland. The meeting was a chance to invite our neighbors near and far to participate in this process.

We have opportunities to discover God all around us. Each opportunity is a stepping stone to another in our neighborhood. Let's keep the momentum moving!

Rosalind

Education Ministry

Sunday School News

Sunday School is offered during the 10:00 worship service for all children in grades K-4. Youth in grades 5 and up are encouraged to remain in worship with their families, and to participate in leadership roles such as the diaconate, being a greeter, reading scripture, and helping with skits and songs occasionally. Some Second Hour youth group activities will be scheduled for them as well.

For the month of September, the Sunday School lessons will focus on Creation, Light and Dark, Plants and Animals, and our continuing care of the earth God made.

Worship Ministry

We invite you to join us in contributing to the church's worship in these roles.

Greeters:



We are looking for members, friends and families that would like to welcome those who come to worship with us. Positioned at the entrances to our worship space, we invite those who come to worship with us into the sanctuary, distribute bulletins and, if they have children, tell them about the Church School and nursery or offer the children an activity kit. Greeters serve approximately once a month or every other month.

Diaconate:



Another need is for team members to help prepare and serve Holy Communion and collect the offering. Team members serve one month of Sundays at a time. Training for these service opportunities is provided.

If either of these team roles peak your interest, please contact Rosalind Powell, Worship Team Leader rosalindp7@gmail.com or Cindy Maxey, Assistant Team Leader cindy.maxey@gmail.com .

Administration Ministry

Property — The Property Committee works throughout the year to maintain our building and grounds, coordinating with our Facilities Coordinator Mike Faust, outside contractors, and much-appreciated volunteers who help with projects such as periodic Work Days. If you would like to serve on the committee, please contact chairperson Jim Nicks. The committee's next meeting will be Monday, September 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

Finance Committee — Work on the 2018 budget will start later this Fall. If you would like to serve on the committee, please contact Carl Cormany.

