



Reaching Heights

A Newsletter of Heights Christian Church

VOLUME 29, NO. 4

October, 2017

October is Social Justice Month at HCC

This year our worship and topic studies will be focusing on resolutions passed at this past summer's General Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana.



- October 1** **In Worship** – World Communion Sunday
Topic study – Sermon Talk Back
4:00 pm – Pet Blessing (details inside, pg. 3)
- October 8** **In Worship** – Leviticus 19:33-34, “For You were Aliens”
Topic study – Immigration
- October 15** **In Worship** – Numbers 35:9-15, “Places of Refuge”
Topic study – Sanctuary: a representative from Forest Hills Church will be here to share their journey to being a Sanctuary Congregation.
- October 22** **In Worship** – II Corinthians 5:16-18, “Ministry of Reconciliation”
Topic study – Will look at several resolutions addressing issues of reconciliation and race.
- October 29** **In Worship** – James 2:5-6, “Heirs of the Kingdom”
Topic study – a resolution concerning support for the “New Poor People’s Campaign: National Call for a Moral Revival.”

Bible study in October: By the time you read this, I hope those who attend the Bible Study after Worship on Sundays will have finished Borg’s book, *On Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*. The reason we might be delayed is that Borg’s last chapter is on the Book of Revelation whose interpretation, he says, divides the Christian Church. Still, come join us anyway; I’m certain you’ll enjoy the lively discussion and the vivid imagery. I remind everyone that buying this book or the next one is NOT necessary, and everyone is welcome, even those who did not attend any sessions last year.

After we finish with Borg, we will move on to Rob Bell’s book *What Is the Bible?* He is a New York Times best-selling author and has many interesting things to say that will give us new ways to look at our beloved Scriptures. The subtitle gives you a hint: “How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything.” This book is published by Harper One (a division of Harper Collins) and its most recent copyright date is 2011. You can purchase it on Amazon for about \$16.00. You do NOT need to buy this book in order to attend Bible Study. We always look at a scriptural passage, using the Bibles in the library, BEFORE we look at a chapter in the book. Since Bell’s volume contains 43 chapters, some people feel certain that their investment in it will last two years! Stop in! We’d love to see you!



Welcome Qin Ying Tan!

HCC is pleased to welcome Ying as our new Director of Music. She is currently a doctoral student at Cleveland Institute of Music specializing in early keyboards and brings a wealth of experience (as well as awesome keyboard skills) to our church. Though October 1 is her first Sunday in our sanctuary Ying has already been hard at work, selecting music and rehearsing with the choir and band. We’re glad she’s here!!

Along The Path . . .



Just recently I've come across a couple of resources that feel like they may offer some insight into how we think about and do church.

One is an article by a former evangelical pastor now working in the private sector. The title of the article is "Christian: You Are Upset About the Wrong Things" and he begins the article by sharing a story about Tony Campolo, a fairly well known speaker in evangelical circles who has been known to begin his talks by saying something like this:

"I have three things I'd like to say today. First, while you were sleeping last night, 30,000 kids died of starvation or diseases related to malnutrition. Second, most of you don't give a [expletive deleted]. What's worse is that you're more upset with the fact I just said [expletive deleted] than you are that 30,000 kids died last night..."

Mr. Campolo's point, in the author's opinion, isn't really about the children (although it is); his point is that we (Christians) get upset over the wrong things. Our moral sense of outrage is often misdirected.

An example may be what is currently happening in the NFL over players taking a knee during the singing of the national anthem. If we are more outraged over the supposed lack of respect for our flag than the racial injustice that the players are trying to bring attention to, than we are outraged over the wrong thing.

A corollary of this may have to do with how we in the church spend our time and energy. Are we spending it on the important things, or the less important "wrong" things?

The second resource was a podcast on "Hidden Brain" about getting unstuck. The focus was on people who get "stuck" over things like career changes, and other significant life decisions. The part that got my attention was a discussion of the difference between navigation and way finding. Navigation, the skill to get from one's current position to a new, defined position is something that many of us are good at. Way finding, on the other hand takes a different set of skills because it is the journey from one place to another when the destination is unknown. This requires a different way of thinking and looking at the world and the ability and willingness to try things, fail, regroup, and try again.

We in the church are awfully good at navigating the church (and community) of the 1950's, 60's, and 70's, but what we need to learn is how to way find in *these* times when much of what we know no longer applies. I am convinced that we can only get there by seeking out new ways of doing ministry, new ways of worship, new ways of offering welcome, and new ways of reaching out to the community.

And we need to be willing to try even if we fail because even failure will help us find the way to the expression of our faith that can reach and transform our community.

Poetry Workshop with John Fox, Oct. 6-7

Join us for a Friday evening public talk and mini-workshop and/or a Saturday day-long retreat as we explore "Poems of Witness: Speaking the Truth, Going to the Heart" with poet John Fox of the Institute for Poetic Medicine.

Flyers with registration information are available in the Campbell Room, or register online at: http://bit.ly/PoemsofWitness_OH

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
Kese Webb

Moderator's Musings ...

“Autumn is the season of change.” ~Taoist proverb

It's hard to tell it's autumn in Ohio, with 90-degree temperatures. Try as we might, we can't hold on to the summer heat much longer. Nature will soon be in full colorful glory before the trees drop their leaves and prepare for the cold winter months.

Just as nature prepares for the change of seasons, so do we at Heights Christian Church. Our annual Fall “Work Day” at HCC is scheduled for Saturday, October 7, 9:00 a.m. to noon. We will need help trimming and cleanup of the grounds. I hope you come out and enjoy the fellowship of working together to care for the house of our Lord!

Our 2nd hour Adult Education for the October will feature lessons based on resolutions and information from the Disciples General Assembly in June. Jane Troha, Kris and David Eggert, and I will discuss Children's Rights, Racism, and Immigration issues. It will be our pleasure to share with you the subjects our denomination deems relevant on social issues of the day as we learn to grow as One!

Thank you for all of the kind words of encouragement, and I pray every day that God shows me the guidance and wisdom to be an active moderator for HCC.



Jump Into Theatre!

Produced by Kids. Performed by Kids.

Heights Christian Church is hosting auditions for “GRIMM-ish Tales” on Saturday, October 7, 2017, 1:30-5 p.m. All children in grades 3-7 are encouraged to participate. Everyone who auditions will get a role, but auditions are limited to 20 people and are on a first come first served basis. Children will be asked to perform one of two monologues which can be found on the website: jumpintothetre.wordpress.com. Weekly rehearsals will be held on Mondays from 5:30-7 p.m., with a performance in February. Contact Kate Gillooly at 216-421-1350 or katehcc@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Sunday, October 1, 2017, 4:00 p.m.—Bring your pet (or a picture of your pet) on a leash or in a carrier for a Blessing of the Animals on our front lawn. All animals are welcome!

Want to help? Contact Kate Gillooly at 216-561-4800 or katehcc@sbcglobal.net.

“God made every kind of wildlife, every kind of livestock, and every kind of creature that crawls on the ground. God saw how good it was.” (Genesis 1:25)



Administration Ministry

Fall 2017 "Work Day" at HCC - Saturday, October 7, 9:00 a.m. - noon.

Help make the world a more beautiful place, starting right at our own church property! Projects on the agenda include outdoor vegetation trimming and cleanup, and installation of storm windows for the sanctuary. Join church friends, or make new ones, while getting our grounds ready for the seasons to come.



More Events

Fall Fusion - Sat. Oct. 14, 9:00 - 11:00 am (sign in at 8:30) - a mini energizer mixed with spirituality and training for diaconate, greeters, liturgists. Please let us know if you will join us. Rosalindp7@gmail.com.

Youth event— bake cookies for college care packages Sunday, October 22 11:30 am in the church kitchen (lower level). We will make cards and add goodies for the boxes headed to the college students of our congregation. Please bring something small to add to the Care Packages.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. **Worship Service**
11:00 a.m. **Coffee Fellowship**
(Nursery & Preschool care provided)

STAFF

Minister	<i>Rev. Roger D. Osgood</i>
Assistant Minister	<i>Min. Michele Moreland</i>
Minister of Outreach	<i>Rev. Joan Brown Campbell</i>
Director of Congregational Development	<i>Kate Gillooly</i>
Director of Music Ministries	<i>Qin Ying Tan</i>
Office Administrator	<i>Kese Webb</i>
Facilities Coordinator	<i>Mike Faust</i>
Childcare	<i>Rosie Scott</i>

OFFICERS

Moderator	<i>Valencia McMillan</i>
Vice Moderator	<i>Scott Phelps</i>
Secretary	<i>Grace Loudenstein</i>
Treasurer	<i>Mike Singerman</i>
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Peace and Justice

Joan Campbell and Al Pennybacker received an anonymous wedding gift from one of our members to be used for the charity of their choice to further interracial work. After much thought Joan and Penny decided to use it to establish a "Yearly Educational Forum" at HCC in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King., Jr. and his work in promoting interracial justice and peace. An outstanding speaker will be invited to speak in 2018 to kick off the establishment of this Educational Forum.

The Peace and Justice Committee decided to recommend the continuance of the Shaker Heights High School Peace Award given to a junior or senior who exemplifies involvement in school and community events that work to overcome racism, intolerance and violence. Nancy Hayward will continue to be our school liaison and Jack Bigham will do the publicity.



100-mile Potluck, Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017

Kate's Cogitations ...

'Tis the gift to be nimble...

I have been thinking recently about different kinds of flexibility. I know when my muscles are tight and I need to spend more time stretching. Sometimes it's from not enough activity, sometimes it's from overdoing it. In either case, gentle stretching can work wonders. My schedule is fairly flexible with my part-time jobs and varied projects. But I find myself wishing my mind was more flexible. I would like to be more mentally nimble, able to adapt to new situations with grace and ease. I think the church could benefit from this type of nimbleness as well - able to respond to new challenges and new opportunities. I believe this is a skill that can be developed, a mental muscle that can be trained. The more I practice being flexible, the more flexible I become. With this nimbleness, I can live more fully in the present moment, greeting each opportunity with gusto. And so I find ways to stretch my mental muscle - by learning new things, meeting new people, and embracing new situations. This stretching is grounded in prayer - for an awareness of God's presence in each step and stretch, for the quickening and enlivening of the Spirit, for courage to always begin again. How might we practice being nimble as a church? How can we lean into the next opportunity to stretch our mental muscles and practice flexibility? May it be so, and may it be that in our bending and turning, we come 'round right.

