

Pastor's Letter



Dear Folks,

The countdown has begun to sabbatical 2007 and I am very excited...for you and me. I am glad that the deacons have once again chosen such a gifted interim minister to lead you during my time away this summer (June 10-Sept 10). Tom brings great gifts of prophecy and pastoral care to his work, and I am sure you will find him to be a blessing to the ongoing adventure that is our church life.

As for me, I am looking forward to some quiet time (although with a week in NYC, directing Shakespeare at the Teen center and looking at colleges with Callie, I'm not sure how quiet it will actually be!). but it will be a different kind of buzz in my ears. Sabbatical in the past has always meant taking time to figure out how to become an ONA church/pastor. I would listen for God's clues in the change of pace and return geared up to head in that direction. This time around, for the first time in 20 years of ministering...I am not coming back to that journey. Instead, I will be trying to figure out over the summer, what the next 20 years goal might be for me as a pastor...for us as a congregation. Really the best way to begin discerning that issue is to be removed from the daily routine of life here in Belchertown. The disruption that sabbatical affords is a gentle way for Jesus to give me some perspective on what we are about. I pray that the sabbatical time under Tom's leadership will also afford you that perspective, and in the fall (after the FAIR) we will be able to get together and hear what the summer taught us. What were the lessons? What were the questions still unresolved?

June 3 is our ALOHA service of transition from my leadership to Tom O'Brien's leadership for the summer. The deacons have asked that you dress in traditional luau wear for the day. There will be a reception following the service. I hope to see you there on the 3rd. Have a blessed summer.

aloha,

todd

ps. Because Children's Sunday is on June 10, I will be in worship on the 10th and share worship with Tom that day, thereafter I will be in full sabbatical mode.



Service of Aloha

Sunday, June 3rd, 2007, 9:30 AM



Aloha means Hello, Goodbye and Peace. The Board of Deacons invites you to join us for an Aloha Service to say hello and welcome Tom O'Brien who has been licensed by the Hampshire Association to serve as our Interim Minister for the summer. Also to bid goodbye to our pastor, Rev. Todd Farnsworth, who will be on sabbatical leave for the summer. You are invited to wear your Hawaiian best and to join us for a reception in the Dining Room of the Parish House following the service.

And introducing our new interim Pastor, Tom O'Brien...



Hi. For those of you who may not know me, my name is Tom O'Brien. I am a seminarian at Andover Newton Theological School and a member of the Belchertown United Church of Christ. This summer I have been asked by the Board of Deacons to act as Licensed Interim Minister during Todd's sabbatical. I was honored to have been asked and I am happy to accept the position. Everyone at BUCC has been very supportive of me on my journey and I hope to be able to repay you by serving in this position. Unless there is a need, I do not plan to hold regular office hours, but I will be available as needed. You can leave a message for me at the church office, call me at 323-4153 or email me at TOBUCC@gmail.com. I am very excited at this opportunity and I welcome any suggestions or concerns you may have. Please join me in praying for Todd during his sabbatical so that he may get the rest and rejuvenation he deserves.

Peace, Tom.

New Hymnals

Volunteers are needed to place the nameplates into our new hymnals. Please call the church office if you can lend a hand. Thanks.

Summer Worship

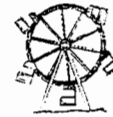
Starting Sunday June 17th we will once again be taking advantage of our beautiful summer days by worshipping on the town common, weather permitting. Worship will begin at 9:30 AM.

Feasting for Justice

God has blessed us with a planet that provides us sustenance. On June 21, we will gather to celebrate the Earth's bounty and those who cultivate it. *Feasting for Justice* is a service that celebrates and teaches about sustainable agriculture. Come and enjoy locally grown food and learn more about those who are committed to farming which promotes "both healthy ecosystems and healthy diets" (to borrow a phrase from Red Fire Farm in Granby).

Belchertown Fair

Mark your calendars!



The 2007 Belchertown Fair will be held on a different date this year! The Fair is planned for the weekend of September 21, 22, & 23, which is one week earlier than usual. As in year's gone by, our church will have a Turkey Dinner, our famous Taco Booth and will need help in the Parking Lot. Watch for sign-up sheets and sign up early for the best slots! *And mark your home calendars so that you'll be free to join BUCC in all our '07 Fair activities!*

Thanks,
Your Fundraising Committee

Relay for Life - BUCC's Angels

A church group is being formed to walk in the *Relay for Life* coming to Belchertown High School on June 22 & 23. If you are interested in participating in this worthy cause, see Laurie Smith

A little help is needed...

Can you multi-task? Can you walk and talk at the same time?

Can you point a camera in the same direction you are looking? Help is needed in videotaping the worship services for broadcast on Belchertown Community TV. If you are interested in helping or have questions, please see Tom O'Brien



Plant Sale

Our Annual Plant Sale was held on Saturday May 12 and was once again, a huge success! Thanks to everyone who donated to and worked at the sale. We raised approximately \$1,600. *Great Job!*

The Fundraising Committee

Thanks to the Voters

Thanks to all who came out to the town meeting and helped to pass the vote which will give our historic Parish House the needed funds to repair the roof. All your support was appreciated.

Board of Buildings & Grounds

Help Brighten Each Sunday!



Please share your joys, sadness or encouragement with flowers for our congregation some Sunday soon! You may order flowers by phone from Adorable Bouquets (323-2910) to be delivered directly to the church, or from any other florist. Or, you might choose a plant or bouquet from your own garden. Just be sure to bring it home after church, or to someone who needs a little cheer.

Please call Doris Dickinson (323-7052) for open dates in May; Martha Farnsworth (323-8525) for June and Heather Brown (323-4910) for July. Thank you, Your BUCC Flower Committee

Home Department

The next meeting of the Home Department will be on Tuesday June 12th. Watch the bulletin for more details.



The United Church of Christ is Having a Birthday!

Our denomination, *The United Church of Christ* is turning 50 years old this summer and you're invited to the party! See the attached information page for all the details. Don't miss this wonderful celebration right in our own backyard, Hartford, Connecticut, June 22-25, 2007.

Our newspaper, THE UNITED CHURCH NEWS

The Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ produces a wealth of FREE resources for leaders and friends of our churches. Subscribe to any of the email newsletters currently offered by the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ, by visiting their website at www.macucc.org. Also available is *The United Church News*, which is a bimonthly newspaper available FREE to everyone in the United Church of Christ! It includes sections produced by both the national and Massachusetts Conference settings of the church and is THE source for in-depth news as well as opinion pieces, letters to the editor and more. It is a great way for everyone to strengthen his or her connection to the wider church.

Individuals can also subscribe to United Church News by calling 1-800-363-0575.

UCC Summer Camps

The UCC offers a wide variety of summer camps for all ages. Themes include: buddy camp, horseback riding, performing arts, "extreme" weeks, day camp, single parent camp, and adult getaway weeks are offered, plus many more! Read all about them by visiting www.grotonwood.org or www.oceanwood.org, or call them at 978-448-5763 or pick up a brochure from one of the bulletin boards in the Parish House.



Web Site for UCC Youth

The UCC now has a web site designed especially for UCC youth. Check it out at www.youthroots.org.



Choir

Do you like to sing? Do you like to hang out with fun people? Have you been wondering how you might give back to the church in appreciation? Then the BUCC Choir is where you should be! The Senior Choir now rehearses on Sunday evenings at 7 PM and is anxious to welcome you to the group. Interested but not sure who to speak to? Dan or any member of the choir will be glad to give more details. See them today!



SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN

Is there someone giving you a hard time?

Is your relationship stressful or hurtful?

Do you find yourself needing a place to go to talk – to get advice – to get resources?

Please contact the church office (Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.) for further information on dates and meeting times at 413-323-7442. Free childcare is provided.



Our Schedule

Sunday Worship is held at 9:30 AM with communion served on the first Sunday of each month. Sunday school is held every Sunday and the students leave for their classes after the children's message. Youth Group is held every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month.

Monthly Clean Up

June – Nominating Committee
July & August – None needed

Events in Our Community and Beyond



Piano Lessons
Daniel Monte is now offering piano lessons! Please see him after worship or call him at 413-695-0809 for more information.



Socks for Siberia

Socks for Siberia is a non-profit, grassroots organization created to benefit orphans in South Central Siberia. They will hold their 1st Annual Spring Festival on Saturday June 2nd from 1-6 at Hyland Orchards, 199 Arnold Rd., Sturbridge, Mass. Live music, Red Sox ticket raffles, silent auction, face painting, food, petting zoo and more!

For more information call 508-637-1248.



Flea Market on W. Brookfield Common



The 41st Flea Market on the W. Brookfield Common will be held on Saturday, June 16th from 9-3. Crafters, growers, antique dealers and flea folk will offer steals and deals! 20 x 20 spaces are still available to rent for \$25. Call Terry at 508-867-4462

11th Annual Youth Mission Trip Washington DC

The First Congregational Church of W. Brookfield will host their annual youth mission trip to Washington DC, August 19-25, 2007. *Students wishing to make a difference in our world* will work in soup kitchens and homeless shelters while making new friends and having a fantastic time! Middle and high school aged kids are urged to apply. The cost is \$300 and includes everything but spending money. Call Terry at 508-867-4462 for more information.



Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Church Phone - 413-323-7442

Please leave a message.

Church e-mail address -

belchertownucc@yahoo.com

Web site - www.belchertown-ucc.org

**Submit information for the weekly
bulletin by Wednesday at 10 AM.**

Thank you.



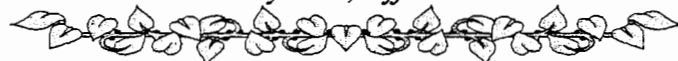
Church Newsletter

Articles for *The Grapevine*, are due on the 24th of each month. Leave your announcement with the church office via e-mail, answering machine or call between 9 a.m. & 12 p.m. 413-323-7442

Thank you.

The Grapevine is published monthly by
Belchertown UCC

Staff: Rev. Todd Farnsworth, Pastor,
Dan Monte Music Director,
Terry Hall, Office



ENCOURAGEMENT

For years William Wilberforce had pushed in Britain's Parliament for the abolition of slavery. Discouraged, he was about to give up. His elderly friend, John Wesley, heard of it and from his deathbed called for pen and paper.

With trembling hand Wesley wrote: "Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them stronger than God?"

"Oh be not weary of well-doing! Go on, in the name of God and in the power of his might, till even American slavery shall vanish away before it."

Wesley died six days later. But Wilberforce fought for 45 more years and in 1833, three days before his own death, saw slavery abolished in Britain.

Even the greatest have needed encouragement.

LET IT SHINE: UCC 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Elaine Meryl Brown, an Emmy award-winning author, and Vice President at HBO, will participate in the UCC's all-day "Synod in the City" in Hartford, Conn., on June 23.

As part of the UCC's 50th anniversary General Synod, June 22-26, "Synod in the City" will include dozens of performers, speakers, theologians, musicians, and multimedia events at venues throughout downtown Hartford. The day-long celebration will culminate in the evening with the UCC's church wide birthday party at the Hartford Civic Center.

Brown will focusing her remarks on young people, sharing with them her life lessons: "The 12 things I wish someone had told me that took me 30 years to learn."

Brown says she first came up with this list of 12 things when she was asked to speak to college students.

"I wanted to give young people something from my heart, at this point in my career — things I have learned along the way — to give them a head start," says Brown. "These 12 things are important to have success in their lives, to help them live up to their potential and to be the best that they can be."

"Young people are the future, the next generation," she continues. "These are things that are not taught in school or by your parents necessarily, but they are 12 things I wish I had known as a young person."

"Elaine is terrifically engaging," says the Rev. Robert Chase, one of the UCC's "Synod in the City" organizers. "With wit, whimsy and an infectious sense of humor, she has a way of taking complicated life lessons and making them simple and easy to remember."

Brown says she based the "12 things" on 10 rules she created in her fictional murder mystery about a small town in Virginia, Lemon City. She says the rules help inspire a sense of community, or sense for living, and are an extension or parody of the Ten Commandments.

Despite her busy schedule as Vice President of Special Markets in Creative Services at HBO, Brown is always writing. Her new novel, *Playing by the Rules*, is a witty, warm follow-up to *Lemon City*. She also is working on a screenplay based on *Lemon City*, a new book on leadership skills, and

has written for such national publications as *Essence* and *Women's World*.

Also appearing:

Presidential Candidate, Barack Obama and journalist, Bill Moyers.

Get all the details and how to register by visiting www.ucc.org or call 866-822-8224



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Mission Moment

Violence Sold to Our Children

Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake?

Matthew 7:9-10

Is media violence a toxin in a child's environment, just like lead poisoning, tobacco, alcohol, or drugs? A look at the statistics and studies done on video violence provides compelling evidence that the answer is yes.

Homicide, suicide, and trauma are leading causes of death for persons under 21. Interpersonal violence—as victim or as perpetrator—is now a more prevalent health risk than infectious disease, cancer, or congenital disorders for children, adolescents, and young adults.

At the same time, a 2001 study by the American Academy of Pediatrics found that American children between 2 and 18 years of age spend an average of six and a half hours each day using media (television, videos, movies, video and computer games, music, Internet, and print media). This is more time than they spend on any other activity, with the exception of sleeping.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has issued a policy statement confirming a strong correlation between media violence and aggressive behavior. Three major national studies—by the Surgeon General, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the American Psychological Association—have confirmed a connection between viewing violence and increased aggressive behavior.

A sobering observation comes from retired Army officer, Dave Grossman, in his book, *On Killing*: "Violent video games hardwire young people for shooting at humans. The entertainment industry conditions the young in exactly the same way the military does."

Are we offering our children stones and snakes in the form of violent video games? Neighbors in Need grants support nonviolence and educational efforts related to the harmful effects of violence on children.

God is still speaking,




June 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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*Worship on the Common Starts
Sunday June 17th
(weather permitting)*



						1	2
3 ALOHA SUNDAY 9:30 AM Communion, Worship, Sunday school 7 PM Choir	4	5	6 7 PM Church Cabinet	7 7 PM Christian Education	8	9 8 AM Buildings & Grounds Workday	
10 9:30 AM Worship, Children's Sunday 7 PM Choir	11	12 Home Department 7 PM Deacon's Meeting	13	14	15	16	
17 9:30 AM Worship on the Common Sunday school & Youth Group 7 PM Choir	18	19	20	21  4 - 7 PM Food Distribution	22	23	
24 9:30 AM Worship on the common 7 PM Choir Practice Grapevine Deadline July/August Edition!	25	26	27	28	29 Looking Ahead... August 25th - Board of C.E. Annual Tag Sale September 16th - Rally Day! September 21st - 23rd Belchertown Fair (NOTE CHANGE IN DATE!)	30	



NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS – 2007

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CLERK:

Polly Lindhult *

TREASURER:

Carla Chaisson*

COLLECTOR:

Nancy Baker*

ASSISTANT COLLECTOR:

Audrey Miller

BOARD OF MISSIONS

Audrey Miller

Mary Hamilton

Doug Baker

NOMINATING

Darlene Biskner

Cyndi LaMacchia

Chris Shirtcliff

Kate Marciano

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Mike Assimus

Jamey Hasbrouck

Steven Light

Tom Shattuck

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Darlene Biskner

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Harry Covert*

Aiden MacCullagh*

Julie Chapin*

Gail Young*

Patty Combs*

Penny Seidell*

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Lucy Jamgochian

David Whitehead

Bill Wright

Sally Humiston

Mary Hamilton

Dave Crutchfield

Sue Cowdrey

Julie Chapin

Larry Davis

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Sally Shattuck

Linda Gumlaw

Chris Shirtcliff

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION

DELEGATES:

Nancy Baker*

Doug Baker*

June Henneman*

STATE CONFERENCE

SESSANTS

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Lucy Jamgochian

Chris Shirtcliff

NECROLOGIST:

June Henneman*

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Harry Covert

Laurie Aliengena

Jane Gabbie

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Sherry Ingram

Lynda Lewis

Laurie Smith

FLOWER COMMITTEE

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Donna Brown

Dottie Carmody

Martha Farnsworth

Doris Dickinson

Heather Brown

**TEAM
WORK**

