

Pastor's Letter



Hi All,

This has already been such a wonderful summer for me. I have truly been blessed to be given this opportunity to serve this church for the summer. Everyone has been very encouraging during the transition and very forgiving as I stumble my way around trying to figure it all out. Thank you all for being so supportive of my ministry this summer.

There have already been many milestones that I have been proud to celebrate. The Board of Deacons and I put together the *Feasting for Justice* program which celebrated and discussed ways in which we can all support local farmers and care for God's creation. Special thanks to Dennis Conway for preparing some great samples of food grown and produced in our area.

On July 1, you graciously welcomed one of my friends and fellow seminarians, Jason Boyd as he spoke of his trip to Sonora, Mexico. While in Mexico, Jason and others learned about the dangerous trip that many migrants make through the desert in order to enter the United States. Through Jason's personal stories and the movie ("Dying to Get In") he shared during his post-service presentation, we heard stories of men and women literally risking their lives trying to provide a better life for their family.

I have really been enjoying celebrating worship on the common and I hope that you are as well. We have gotten over some hurdles with the sound equipment and arrangement of the chairs and I think we can all just sit back and worship God and enjoy our natural surroundings. Thanks goes out to Harry Covert for setting up our worship space every Sunday. We would truly be lost without his hard work. Thank you to everyone again for all of your support and encouragement. I look forward to the rest of our summer together as we continue to listen for the voice of the still speaking God. I pray for the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit as we seek to be Christ's light in the world.

Peace,
Tom

Journey to Groutville



On May 29th we visited our sister church in Groutville, South Africa. It was a lovely coincidence that Jan and Ruthann Hall were able to join us for the afternoon. We started at the Lithuli Museum, which honors Albert Lithuli, a key player in the resistance movement and downfall of apartheid. He is buried in the cemetery next to the church. This has been an unexpected blessing since some funding has been available to upgrade the church given its historic significance. Our private tour driver was unfamiliar with both museum and the church and will no doubt be bringing future tourists to enjoy these sites. We met with Reverend Noreen and several members of the congregation. With typical Zulu generosity they provided a hearty lunch in an area where food is not plentiful. Jan pointed out that since we had to visit on a weekday we had missed the tremendous choir on Sunday. Letters and pictures from Belchertown were delivered. We left some art supplies and trinkets for the Sunday school. Further acquaintances were made at the outpatient clinic, which also has a home health program. The hospice next door was a stark reminder of the impact of HIV/AIDS on South Africa. The congregation's dedication to this problem was impressive. Although donations have helped to equip both facilities, we were able to contribute to their much needed food supply. Danielle and I will both remember Elizabeth and Faith, two women who share our middle names. Several digital photo cards have yet to be transformed into pictures, but we will put them on display as soon as we can. Our hosts seemed very honored that members of BUCC had included them in their journey.

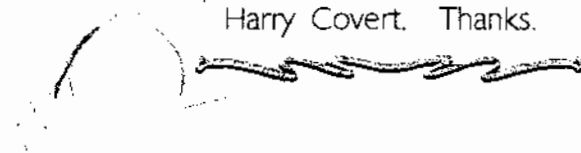
Chris and Danielle Shirtcliff



Summer Worship

We have started to take advantage of our beautiful summer weather by worshipping on the town common when possible. Please join us at 9:30 AM most Sundays. Communion is observed the first Sunday of each month. Sunday school will resume on September 16th.

Help is needed to set up chairs when worshipping on the common. If you can lend a hand, please arrive around 8:30 and see Harry Covert. Thanks.



Video Taping our Services

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

Help is Needed

Guided Challenges, a local social service agency is seeking financial help for a disabled Belchertown woman who is in housing transition. She has been living in a shack-like dwelling and the owners of the land plan to clear it soon. The agency, hoping to keep her from becoming homeless, has found an inexpensive trailer for the woman but needs help with its purchase. The woman works but because of her disability, can only work about 16 hours each week. If you would like to make a donation, please make the check out to BUCC-Deacon's Fund. It will be forwarded to the agency to help with the purchase of the trailer. Thank you.

Help Brighten Each Sunday!

Please share your joys, sadness or encouragement with flowers for our congregation some Sunday soon! A potted plant or freshly cut bouquet from your own garden would be best for our worship on the common this summer. Just be sure to bring it home after church, or to someone who needs a little cheer.

Please call Heather Brown (323-4910) for July & August

Thank you, Your BUCC Flower Committee

Our newspaper, **THE UNITED CHURCH NEWS**

A subscription to the free newsletter, *The UCC News*, will be sent to everyone on the church mailing list unless you call the church office and say you do not wish to receive it. *The UCC News* comes out 6 times each year and contains up to date news and stories about what the UCC is doing



throughout the country. Within the newspaper there is always a special Massachusetts section telling all about the activities of UCC churches throughout Massachusetts. It's a great read! Check it out!

Web Site for UCC Youth

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



Fundraising Committee News

Following is a current update on ongoing and future events:

A group of us worked the concession stand at UMass the weekend of June 2nd & 3rd during a soccer tournament. Thanks to Dave & Jane Crutchfield, Robin Walker, Aimee Perreault, Norma

Chartier, Donna Derooin, Sherry Ingram, Dave Whitehead, Sue Cowdrey, Sally Humiston, Polly Lindhult, Nancy Baker, Gene & Nancy Karmelek, Todd & Martha Farnsworth. Thanks to all of you for helping out.

Lucy J.

For those of you who weren't available to help out we've got lots of opportunities coming up... read on...

As most of you know the Belchertown Fair is just around the corner, September 21st, 22nd and 23rd. We will have sign up sheets available after church in mid July. This year you will be able to call one of the following committee members to sign up over the phone.

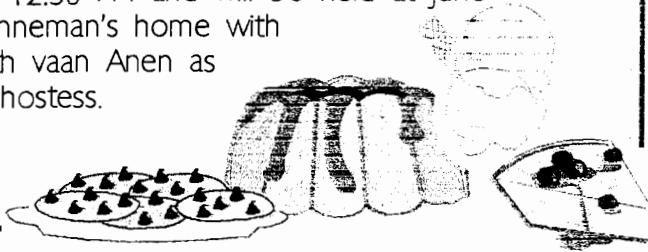
- Dave Crutchfield 283-4456 to sign up to help parking cars in our lot.
- Sue Cowdrey 323-7488 to sign up to work the Taco Booth on the Common.
- Lucy Jamgochian 323-7419 to sign up to work the Turkey Dinner.
- It takes each and every one of you to make this a successful event. Please, join us for fun and fellowship. SIGN UP!!!! Please call us if you have any questions or need more information.

Also, the applications are available for our annual Holiday Craft Fair to be held November 3, 2007, from 9am to 3pm, in our Parish House. Please call Lucy @ 323-7419 for information or an application. Applications will also be available in the church office. Have a safe and happy summer!!

The "FUN" raising Committee.

Home Department

The next meeting of the Home Department will be on Tuesday July 17th at 1 PM. This will be a lunch meeting and will be held at the home of Dottie Carmody. The August meeting will be a potluck luncheon on Tuesday August 14th at 12:30 PM and will be held at June Henneman's home with Ruth van Anen as co-hostess.



Plant An Extra Row

Our church has a new ministry called *Plant An Extra Row*. This summer when you are planting your vegetable garden, plant an extra row (or 2 or 3) and donate the bounty to our Helping Hands Food Pantry. Give a bit of yourself, and help our planet by growing your own! Locally grown food not only has a very low carbon impact on our planet which is better for our atmosphere, but its better for you too! When harvesting the veggies, leave the tops on for salad greens. Food distribution is the third Thursday of each month, so plan accordingly. Vegetables can be dropped off that week 9 - 12 or anytime the Parish House is open. Thank you!



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!



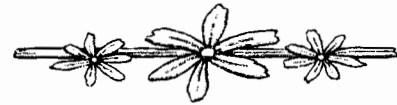
SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN

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.



Annual Board of Christian Education Tag Sale

The Annual C.E. Tag Sale will be held Saturday August 25th on the church lawn. Donations are now being accepted. Please leave your clean, saleable items in the Parish House. The last Sunday school classroom on the right is the room for storage. Bring items in on Sunday morning, during regular office hours or anytime you see the Parish House open. We do not accept appliances or anything that we have to pay to remove. See anyone on the Board of Christian Education for more information. Thanks.

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!*

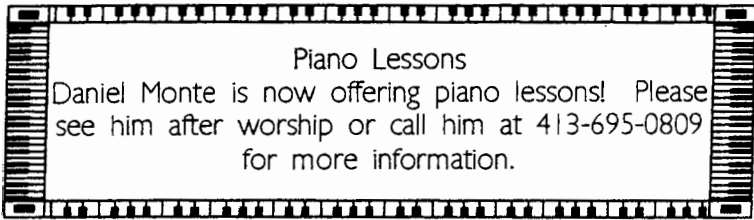
Thanks,

Your Fundraising Committee

Looking even further ahead...

The BUCC Annual Craft Fair will held on November 3rd from 9-3. More details will follow in the fall but applications are already available from the church office. Stop in and pick one up!

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.

27th Annual Amherst Crafts on the Common

Saturday July 14th, 9-5 on the Amherst Common.

110 Juried Crafters

Used Book Sale

Food by Local Restaurants

Music & Entertainment all day

Silent Auction

Rain or Shine

Benefits Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Hampshire County

Thrift Store

The Hospice Shop, a thrift store, located at 18 Bridge St. in Northampton, accepts donations of clothing and household items. The merchandise is resold to customers and all proceeds from sales support the Hospice Program of the VNA & Hospice of Cooley Dickenson Hospital. If you have items to donate, please bring them to the store between 10 am & 4 PM, Monday-Saturday. For more information, please call 413-586-0193. They are also seeking volunteers to help at the shop. If you want to help Hospice and enjoy the camaraderie of others in a fun environment, please consider becoming a Hospice Shop Volunteer. For more information, contact Jean O'Dea at 413-584-4640.

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.

Vacation Bible School

Hope United Methodist Church, 31 Main St., Belchertown, will hold VBS July 23-27. Please note dates and times:

July 23-26, 9 AM - 12 PM and

July 27, 9 AM - 12:30 PM.

Fun crafts, great bible stories, music, recreation and good times for everyone!

Classes for preschool through 5th grade will be offered.

Call the church at 323-7584 for more information and to register.

Winnie Shattuck has moved to the Center for Extended Care in Amherst. Her mailing address is: 150 University Dr. Dharma Unit, Room A3, Amherst, 01002. Cards and letters are welcomed.



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

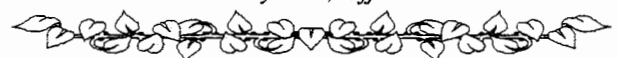
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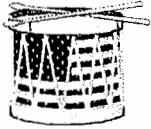
Rev. Todd Farnsworth, Pastor,

Tom O'Brien, Interim Pastor

Dan Monte Music Director,





Terry Hall, Office





July 2007



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-------------------------------|---|---|-----|--|
| 1 Worship & Communion on the Common 9:30 AM 7 PM Choir | 2 | 3 | 4 Happy Birthday USA!  | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:30 AM Worship in our Sanctuary 7 PM Choir | 9 | 10 7 PM Deacons Meet | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 8 AM Buildings & Grounds Workday <i>Join the fun!</i> |
| 15 9:30 AM Worship on the Common 7 PM Choir | 16 | 17 Home Department 1 PM | 18 |  19 4-7 PM Food Distribution | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9:30 AM Worship on the Common 7 PM Choir | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:30 AM Worship in our Sanctuary 7 PM Choir | 30 | 31 |   SUMMER FUN!! | | | |

Looking Ahead...

August 25th - Board of C.E. Annual Tag Sale

September 16th - Rally Day!

September 21st -23rd Belchertown Fair





(NOTE CHANGE IN FAIR DATE!)



August 2007



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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|---|--|---|--|--|--|-----------|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Looking Ahead...</p> <p>Sunday September 16th - <i>Rally Day</i>, Sunday School & Youth Group resume</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Todd & Family return from sabbatical!</p> <p>Belchertown Fair - Sept. 21-23</p> | | <p>1 Church Cabinet Meets at 7 PM</p> | | <p>2</p> | | <p>3</p> | | <p>4</p> | | | | | |
| <p>5 Worship & Communion on the Common 9:30 AM 7 PM Choir</p> | | <p>6</p> | | <p>7</p> | | <p>8</p> | | <p>9</p> | | <p>10</p> | | <p>11 8 AM Buildings & Grounds Workday All are welcome to lend a hand!</p> | |
| <p>12 9:30 AM Worship on the Common 7 PM choir</p> | | <p>13</p> | | <p>14 Home Department - 12:30 PM 7 PM Deacons Meet</p> | | <p>15</p> | | <p>16  4-7 PM Food Distribution</p> | | <p>17</p> | | <p>18</p> | |
| <p>19 9:30 AM Worship in our Sanctuary 7 PM Choir</p> | | <p>20</p> | | <p>21</p> | | <p>22</p> | | <p>23</p> | | <p>24  Annual Board of Christian Education Tag Sale on the church lawn. Donations needed!</p> | | <p>25</p> | |
| <p>26 9:30 AM Worship in our Sanctuary 7 PM Choir</p> | | <p>27</p> | | <p>28</p> | | <p>29</p> | | <p>30</p> | | <p>31</p> | | <p></p> | |
| <p>SUMMER</p> <p></p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |