

# The Pioneer

## 'preparing for others to follow'

Newsletter of the Preble Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
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## ...from the Pastor's Pen...

Dear Friends,



Thank you, kind church, for your care and hospitality to me in these weeks following knee surgery. I've witnessed the church in action often, helping others with food and deed, and now I have received these blessings from you; they were so welcome and appreciated.

In Acts 20:35, Paul reminds us that Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." When we give in different ways to others, we build relationships with them, which is the focus of Jesus' admonition.

But I want to acknowledge that there is something special about receiving, too, and for many, that's the more difficult place to be. When we admit a need, we become vulnerable and must rely on others to help us...which means we aren't able at that moment to take care of ourselves. In our independent society, being needy feels weak to many people when it means we have to rely on others for assistance. And sometimes, those we ask to help us aren't so eager to do it, which makes both people feel badly. The spirit of giving is as important as the deed.

But blessings flow both ways when we help one another, and they always come back around, too. When we give of our time or resources to another, we almost always feel good about it – we've all had that experience – but when we *receive* graciously, we *allow others to share in the blessing that Paul expressed through the words of Jesus*.



On another note, the Pioneer this month amounts just to this letter, as time's a'passin'! October is our Harvest of Faith month, when we offer our contributions to this major fundraiser for our 2017 operating budget. We've mentioned the date during worship announcements on Sundays, and last Sunday favors were distributed in church for your doorknobs.

If you don't know where you put your colored envelope for your monthly \$10 "harvest," more are available on the table at the rear of the sanctuary. And even regular envelopes are acceptable, of course. Let's make this month's Harvest of Faith the best ever!



Adult Bible Study has resumed on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 in the Riehlman Room. We have been reflecting on devotional messages from the UCC Daily Devotional and from Richard Rohr's devotional, which also arrives daily. Our conversations cover many questions and topics of interest to us in our daily lives; what good is the Word to us if we lose sight of how it guides us each day?

We will take time from this devotional routine during Advent to share an Advent Study guide, and as usual, if you would like to buy a copy to read on your own, please let me know, but you are invited to come sit with the group and share the reading, too.

Speaking of Advent, the year is getting older, and the Trustees are working on the 2017 budget. Our Stewardship Opportunity is coming up, too, and along with the various committee and board budgets, the Trustees will guide us as we consider how to support our various ministry needs. Your stewardship letter will follow in due time.



The Annual Meeting is ahead of us in January, and our attentive moderator, Kadene Limmer, has begun to consider the agenda. One item is a one-time meeting with those who have signed up as Emergency Meal Facilitators. Some of you are very experienced and some are newbies, for whom the process can be quite a mystery, so this meeting will bring people together to share information.

Experienced people have always been willing to teach new volunteers, and we've become a church noted for its hospitality luncheons, so this is already a wonderful ministry. The planned meeting will give people a chance to ask and answer questions that have come up.

For those who would like to participate in Worship Ministries, you are invited to sign up on the sheets in the Riehlman Room. This is a function of the Board of Deacons who can always use some help from the folks in the pews. You might be interested in reading the Bible passages but aren't sure about doing it. If that's you, come and talk with me and we can practice in the privacy of the church office. Or, maybe you've yearned to join the church choir. Well, you are invited and welcome, no auditions necessary. It's great fun.



There are also greeting and fellowship hosting opportunities, and flower supplies for the altar. Any and all are available for your participation. I've noticed how willingly people step forward on a Sunday when we are in need of a volunteer, so I know that many more people help than are signed up on the sheets in the Riehlman Room. Thank you all for your service!

In faith and love,  
Pastor Becky



A special thank you to everyone for their caring and concern at the time of my knee replacement surgery. It was uplifting when I received your cards and phone calls. Thank you to all who sent food and stopped by for a visit. It was your thoughts and prayers that got our family through this. You are definitely a CARING CONGREGATION!

— Sue Swayze



### ***October Celebrations***

October 3: Darleen Lieber  
9: Michelle Landcastle  
12: Dan Podsiedlik  
13: Karsyn Lieber  
Renee Gates  
14: Pat Twentyman  
15: John Henderson  
Darleen and Bob Lieber  
Anniversary  
23: Brenda McCutcheon  
24: Ben Simmer  
29: Nick Brennan  
Regan Gilfilian  
30: Robert Fox

## **Joy in the Morning**

**By Joy Niswender**



There's a wonderful poem about friendship by Craik that goes:

“Oh, the comfort –the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person,

Having neither to weigh thoughts

Nor measure words—but pouring them

All right out—just as they are—

Chaff and grain together –

Certain that a faithful hand will

Take and sift them –

Keep what is worth keeping

And with the breath of kindness

Blow the rest away.”

If we can count even one person as such a friend, we are truly blessed. It takes time for a relationship to grow between two people. It also takes truth and integrity so that there is never a hint of betrayal or the breaking of confidence.

To know the innermost secrets of another person's heart is a gift of wonderful value. It's also a sure knowledge that there is love that is unconditional and rock solid between the two and the surety that a confidence will never go further that's been shared.

It's up to each person to keep the other close in prayer and there is a certainty that there will always be a “soft place to fall” and comfort assured, no matter what the circumstances. How cool is that?!



*The earth has yielded its produce; God,  
our God, blesses us.*

*~Psalm 67:6*

*And the seed whose fruit is goodness is  
sown in peace by those who make peace.*

*~James 3:18*

Come, worship God with us in this most beautiful  
season of the year!