

# PREVUES

THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - BELLEVUE KY

June 2016



## ***Sunday Worship @ 10:30 a.m.***

Pre-service Preparation Music begins at 10:20 a.m.

### **June Sermons**

**June 5<sup>th</sup>** Keith M. Haithcock, "GREAT COMPASSION" - Luke 7.11-17

**June 12<sup>th</sup>** Keith M. Haithcock, "GREAT FORGIVENESS" - Luke 7.36-8-3

**June 19<sup>th</sup>** Keith M. Haithcock, "GREAT FREEDOM" - Luke 8.26-39

- **Read** the lesson for the day.
- **Invite** a friend, neighbor, or family member to come with you.
- **Pray** for all who will attend, the pastor, and other leaders of worship.
- **Enhance** your experience, sit toward the front and invite someone to sit with you.



## **WEEKLY BIBLE ENCOUNTER**

**Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in room 102**

Led by the clergy at St. John Church

Jim Colding, Dean Griffith, Keith M. Haithcock and Fred Hoeweler

Items for *The e-Weekly* are due electronically on Mondays.

Items for the *Prevues*, monthly e-newsletter, are due on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the prior month.

Email items for *The e-Weekly* and *Prevues* to [Prevues@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Prevues@StJohnChurch.net).

Requests for the Prayer List are due on Mondays. Email to [PrayerList@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:PrayerList@StJohnChurch.net).

Editor: Keith M. Haithcock, Publication Assistant: Debbie Cummings

## From the Corner

### ***PRIDE in Bellevue! – Part of Our Story***

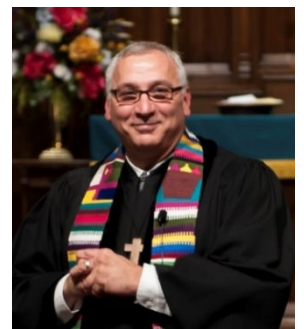
One of the reasons I write this column every month in the *Bellevue Community News* is because it is part of our vision as a Church that our community understand us as we understand ourselves. We want to be good neighbors and to be neighborly with everyone in Bellevue and beyond.

Part of our story is that we are connected to a wider church body known as the United Church of Christ (UCC). The UCC is a congregational based Christian Protestant denomination. We do not have a hierarchy that dictates to us what we have to do or how we have to do it. Rather, we are in a covenant (promise) relationship with other congregations, members, and national and international settings of our denomination. We covenant to come to the table and work together in mission and serving the world as well as our local communities. We celebrate our unity as well as our diversity. We covenant to work together even when we may not all agree about what we believe (Theology) or social concerns. This kind of church structure is challenging and freeing all at the same time. It requires us to listen carefully and compassionately to one another and our community, to dig deep in the study of the Bible and its message – taking the Bible so seriously that we must use scholarship and research to seek not just words on a page, but the meanings of those words and understanding of the cultural and historical context and situation of each story, and how that meaning speaks with relevance to us today. This kind of church structure requires more than just doing what we are told – it means listening to our still speaking God, committing to work together for the sake of a higher purpose than ourselves, following our God-given conscience, and to love God and others as God has loved us.

In today's world one of the most divisive struggles within the Christian church is the dispute about embracing and affirming persons of different sexual orientations and identities. Certainly part of this disagreement comes from the many interpretations of what the Bible does and does not say about sex, sexual acts, sexuality, sexual identity and marriage. Although the UCC is the first denomination in the modern world to ordain an openly gay person, not everyone in the UCC embraces the Open and Affirming (ONA) resolution that was passed by the General Synod (a representative body) of the UCC in 1985. The "Open and Affirming" resolution ([www.UCC.org](http://www.UCC.org), then search ONA Resolution) calls upon all settings of the UCC to declare themselves open and affirming to persons of lesbian, gay and bisexual orientations within the community of faith. This was a ground breaking resolution. But keep in mind that the General Synod does not speak "for" the UCC but rather "to" the members, congregations, colleges, universities, seminaries and regional, association, conference and national settings of the UCC. Each setting makes its own decision on such resolutions. I'm proud that the people of St. John UCC in Bellevue, KY addressed the ONA resolution through a process of discernment that included prayer, study of the Bible, listening to personal stories and panel discussions and debates, and in 2003 voted to become an ONA congregation of the UCC. You may read St. John UCC's ONA statement at [www.StJohnChurch.net](http://www.StJohnChurch.net) and click on Open and Affirming.

June is LGBTQ Pride month. St. John United Church of Christ lives out its ONA status proudly by extending God's extravagant welcome to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning persons to the full life and benefits of the Church. The ONA process has reminded our congregation and our denomination that ALL of God's children – gay, straight, black, white, republican, democrat, German, Irish, divorced, married, single, young, old, etc. – are welcome and affirmed. As we say every time we gather, "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

*From the Corner* is written by the  
Rev. Keith M. Haithcock,  
Pastor & Teacher  
(Photo by [www.jennifersummer.com](http://www.jennifersummer.com))



## St. John Office Hours in June

Debbie Cummings, Administrative Assistant, will be in the office 8:00a to 4:00p on the following dates:

Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>  
Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>

Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

## Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Keith will be on vacation (including 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday) June 21<sup>st</sup> thru July 5<sup>th</sup>. If there is a pastoral need, hospitalization, or death, *please leave a voice mail at 859.261.2066 extension 202 with full details*, including phone numbers. Voice mail will be checked several times a day. The Pastor-On-Call will be contacted as soon as possible. If there is a critical emergency or death, Pastor Keith will be contacted.

## Blessings to those who are celebrating this month!



June

3 Diane Cottingham  
5 Scott LeCates  
6 Dale Sexton  
17 Alleyne Kess  
18 Louise Hall  
19 Brenda Fauber  
23 Sue Jelinek  
27 Theo Baldwin  
29 Jessica Imberg

June

1 Gil & Brenda Fauber  
14 Tim Dutey & Michael Anderson  
18 Ed & Carol Stitt

## OPEN TABLE – Communion on the Street

Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> | 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. | Front sidewalk Fairfield Avenue  
Offering Holy Communion to those on the street during Bellevue's first Fridays. If you would like to be part of the team of this outreach ministry contact Pastor Keith Haithcock at 859.261.2066, etc. 202 or [Pastor@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Pastor@StJohnChurch.net)

### You can be part of this ministry too.

Contact Pastor Keith at 859.261.2066, ext. 202 or [Pastor@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Pastor@StJohnChurch.net).  
Visit <http://www.shopbellevueky.com/calendar.php> for upcoming events.





## Northern Kentucky Pride 2016: June 4 Goebel Park and surrounding areas in Covington, Kentucky

- Health and Wellness festival (Details TBD)
- NKY Pride Festival 2:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m.

For more details click <http://www.nkypride.org/>

## Pray for the Illumination Youth Group at Montreat Youth Conference

Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 | Montreat, NC

The Montreat Youth Conference is nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

For more details click <http://www.montreat.org/event/2016-youth-1/>



**June 10<sup>th</sup> deadline** for blurbs for the July “Prevues” newsletter.  
Please submit to: [Prevues@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Prevues@StJohnChurch.net)



## Share YOUR Inspiring Story

United Church of Christ (UCC) Ohio Conference

Annual Gathering 2016 Needs YOU

Friday afternoon & Saturday \* June 10-11

Otterbein University, Westerville, Ohio

Click Here for Information/Application:

<http://www.ohioucc.org/annual-gathering-2016/>

## We're looking for people with these gifts and graces:

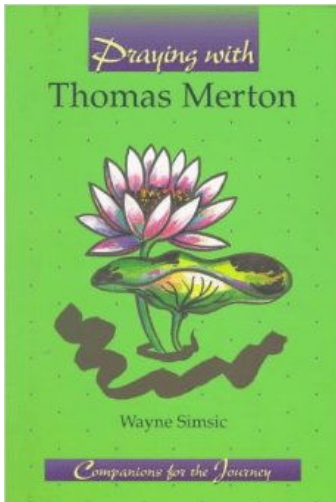
Video recording and editing    Keeping meeting time    Worship design and support  
Serving as Chaplain    Serving as Parliamentarian    Taking great photographs  
Creating and running Powerpoint presentations    Serving as greeters and hosts  
Help with running AV and technicals for meetings and plenary

To volunteer, contact Pam Brown at [pamb@ocucc.org](mailto:pamb@ocucc.org)

## Graduates Recognition Sunday – June 12<sup>th</sup>

**Ryan Jago:** Graduated from Walnut Hills High School. Was the president of the LGBT/Gay-straight Alliance for two years. Also the leader of the Sustainability Club. She will be attending Miami University in the fall majoring in Psychology with a focus on Women and Gender Studies

**Steve Milloy:** Graduated from CCM – Master in Music focus on choral conducting Cincinnati Conservatory of Music (CCM) at University of Cincinnati



### Happy Prayer Group...

invites you to join us on the third Friday (June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., Pastor Keith's home, 15 Custis Avenue, Ft. Thomas) This is one of a number of St. John Church prayer groups. Our typical evening goes like this: we gather at 6:30 p.m., enjoy some refreshments and conversation, and then engage in prayer. For the next several months we are using the book, "Praying with Thomas Merton" by Wayne Simsic. The book simply provides a point of conversation and reflection about prayer. Currently we meet in three different homes on a rotation basis. If you would like to participate please send an email to Keith Haithcock at [Pastor@StJohnChurch.net](mailto:Pastor@StJohnChurch.net) and he will inform you of our next location. All are welcome to this informal gathering of fun, relaxation, conversation, support, reflection, and prayer.



For information go to <http://www.cincinnatipride.org/>

### Thank You!

On behalf of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, I'm writing to personally thank you for your generous gift.

Your contribution makes it possible to meet new challenges at a time when we need a strong voice for inclusion and justice in Christ's church. We're proud that more than 1,300 congregations have adopted Open and Affirming covenants, but we're also acutely aware that nearly 3,700 UCC congregations (nearly three-fourths of our churches) have not yet taken this journey.

Andrew G. Lang,  
Executive Director



## An Easy Way to Serve at St. John

Volunteers are needed to prepare refreshments (simple food and drink) and host the after worship social on Sunday mornings in the back of the Sanctuary. A variety of refreshments may be offered: cheese and crackers, ham cubes, cookies, cupcakes, etc. You decide what to prepare and serve. Share your culinary abilities with your Church family. Something light and simple is best.

Refreshments are served on the table behind the last pew on the east side of the Sanctuary. Clean table cloths, cups, forks, napkins, tooth pics, etc. are provided in a storage bin under the table.

Simply sign up at the Welcome Table (also in the back of the Sanctuary) for the Sunday you are available to serve. Set up, clean up and taking out the trash are part of this ministry. If you have any questions about schedule, supplies, how you may be reimbursed (up to \$25) etc. contact Bruce Horn at: [bbobbyh55@gmail.com](mailto:bbobbyh55@gmail.com) or 513.608.5331



## Free Senior Meal & Social

The last Saturday of each month St. John United Church of Christ provides a nutritious meal for Senior Adults. But, more importantly we provide social time, fellowship and fun for the community. We talk, we laugh, and we play games (with more talking and laughing). We celebrate life with others and become a "family" of strangers. Some are in need of a free meal, but most are just there to socialize. Many people who come are from the Church but we also have those from the community who are friends and classmates of Church members. Invite someone to come with you or fill a whole table.



What's keeping you from having a good time?

See you on the last Saturday of each month. You'll be surprised how much fun you can have. You don't even have to bring a smile – we will provide that for you. (We will at least try.)

Reservations are not required but they sure are helpful. Please call 859.261.2066, **ext. 206** and leave a voice mail with your name and the number of people in your reservation.

## You're Invited to the Friendship Center!

The Friendship Center meets in the Fellowship Hall (lower level), every Wednesday from 2 - 5 p.m. Adults and seniors from around the community are quickly finding this to be a great place to be on Wednesdays. Activities include games, crafts, social time, basic computer skills, discussions, music, guest speakers, etc. Light snacks and drinks are provided.

*We encourage everyone to participate and share your talents and expertise with the group.*

For more information, please see any Outreach Missions Group (OMG) member: Bruce Horn, Steve Phillips, Willie Tackett, Eileen Thornton or Carol Griffith. Or call 859.261.2066, ext. 206, and leave your message.



## June Calendar

### **Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**

- 7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
- 2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S
- 5:30p Illumination Youth Ministry Middle & Sr. High "Summer's Out Cook-Out",  
First Christian Church 1031 Alexandria Pike, Ft. Thomas

### **Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- 10:00a UCC Clergy Group - Church Parlor, Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
- 4:00p Outreach Missions Group, Rm 102
- 5:00p Strategic Leadership Council, Rm 103

### **Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- 6:30p Open Table Communion, front sidewalk

### **Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**

- 2:00p Pride 2016 Goebel Park

### **Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter – Rm 102
- 10:30a Worship with Communion & sign interpretation, Sanctuary
- 11:45a Variety Show follow-up meeting, Rm 102

### **Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**

- Montreat NC Youth Conference

### **Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**

- Montreat NC Youth Conference

### **Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**

- Montreat NC Youth Conference
- 7:47a Morning Prayer – Sanctuary
- 2:00p Friendship Center – LL100S
- 5:00p Strategic Leadership Council/WIT meeting, Rm 102

### **Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**

- Montreat NC Youth Conference
- 10:00a UCC Clergy Group, Church Parlor, Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
- 3:00p Riverside Prayer Group, Rm 102
- 5:15p Youth Advisory Board – Christ Church 15 S. Ft. Thomas Ave.

### **Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**

- Montreat NC Youth Conference
- UCC Ohio Conference Annual Gathering, Otterbein University, Westerville, OH

### **Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**

- Montreat NC Youth Conference
- UCC Ohio Conference Annual Gathering, Otterbein University, Westerville, OH

### **Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter – Rm 102
- 10:30a Worship "Graduates Recognition", Sanctuary

### **Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**

- 1:30p Staff Meeting, Rm 101
- 3:00p Building Use Meeting, Rm 101

### **Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

- 7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
- 2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S
- 5:30p Illumination Youth Ministries Grilling out at Cathy & Steve Howes', 214 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Unit A, Covington, KY

### **Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

- 10:00a UCC Clergy Group, Church Parlor, Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas

### **Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>**

- 6:30p Happy Prayer Group, Pastor Keith's 15 Custis Ave., Ft. Thomas

### **Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>**

- 6:00p Illumination Youth Ministries FC Cinti. Soccer game, Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas Ave.

### **Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter – Rm 102
- 10:30a Worship, Sanctuary

### **Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- 7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
- 2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S

### **Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- 10:00a UCC Clergy Group, Church Parlor, Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas

### **Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**

- 11:00a Cincinnati Pride Parade & Festival, Sawyer Point/Yeatman's Cove 704 E. Pete Rose Way
- 11:30a Free Senior Meal, LL100S

## June Calendar Continued

### Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>

- 9:00a Weekly Bible Encounter – Rm 102
- 10:30a Worship, Sanctuary
- 5:00p Illumination Youth Ministries “Sunday Dinner” Sr. and Middle School, TBD

### Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

- 7:47a Morning Prayer, Sanctuary
- 11:30a Illumination Youth Ministries Cinti. Reds game, Christ Church 15 S. Ft. Thomas Ave.
- 2:00p Friendship Center, LL100S

### Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>

- 10:00a UCC Clergy Group - Church Parlor, Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas
- 5:00p Strategic Leadership Council, Rm 102

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## Coming Soon in July and August:

Starting July 10<sup>th</sup> and running through to August 28<sup>th</sup> Pastor Keith will be preaching a summer sermon series titled “BE THE CHURCH”. This series will draw from the teachings of the Scriptures and the themes on the new United Church of Christ banner (see below) that lists many aspects of progressive Christianity which we value. A “BE THE CHURCH” banner will be displayed on the front of the building during this time, inviting the community beyond our walls to join us in being God’s church.

Pastor Keith and Rev. Ken Weidinger (former student minister at St. John Church) Designated Pastor at Faith United Church of Christ have collaborated on this series. On Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> Ken and Keith will do a pulpit exchange and on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> Faith Church and St. John Church will have a joint picnic at the city park behind Faith Church in Anderson Township (just 15 minutes from St. John Church). Details will be forthcoming.

Plan to come together on Sundays in July and August and “BE THE CHURCH!”

