

*The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has  
dawned.*

*Matthew 4:16*

Not long ago I visited the section of Concepción, Chile's second largest city, where the Bio Bio River, one of the largest rivers in Chile, flows into the Pacific Ocean. It is a beautiful place with a new avenue following the curves of the banks and a river walk jeweled with green parks and spaces for picnics near modern playgrounds. How this community has changed since I first visited nearly ten years ago! Back then, it was a neighborhood of despair, a squatters' community where homeless people coming into the city looking for jobs used tin, wood, cardboard or whatever else they could find in the dump to build a makeshift shanty on abandoned government property. Whenever the river flooded beyond its banks, it washed away the makeshift houses. When the water receded, the people kept coming back. When the government tried to eject them from the land, they refused to leave, and managed to hold onto these homes they had eked out of nothing. Today, I stand in a tiny apartment with running water and cheery curtains. It belongs to a family who once lived in a cardboard-walled and tin-roofed shack. They are long-time members of the Pentecostal Church of Chile. In this modest, little church they discovered something of value in themselves and each other. With laughter and tears, they speak of the slow, but steady, transformation from the dark fear of streets run by drug lords to kites, bikes, and soccer games. Their tiny congregation has been a light in the middle of the darkness, and continues to be a beacon of God's life-giving power.

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*Elena is also the missionary partner for all the churches in the Ohio region.*

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# Church Life

At Yellowstone and Mayfield

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## From Pastor Kris

This past Sunday, with a white rose on the communion table to celebrate Serene Farmer's new life with God, I was musing about Serene spending her entire life, from a crib in the nursery to her recent death, as a member of this church. I thought about our babies in the nursery now and who they would be at age 80! It's probably not likely that any of those babies will still attend this particular church – our culture is much too transient – but will our babies and toddlers live their entire lives within communities of faith and serving Christ?

I thought also about our baptism candidates who will make their professions of faith this Palm Sunday as they enter the waters of baptism. These young boys and girls – will they live a lifetime of faith? And, our teen-agers – Team Jesus – who designed worship so creatively a few Sundays ago – will the choices they make be mature and faithful ones?

*Of course we don't know.* But it should be our prayer and hope that they will. And as important as those prayers are, we shouldn't stop there. Who can we be as examples for them as they grow and mature?

Are you regular in your church attendance? Do you actively work to connect your Sunday morning life with your every-day-of-the-week lives? Are you able to talk about your faith? Does your faith affect how you treat other people? Are you kind? Are you generous with your time and your money? Do you go out of your way to include people you don't know so well in your circle of friends at church? Do you appreciate our children and their parents – and do you tell them so?

Our children learn from our example. Often it is how a child experiences church that affects their church going habits for the rest of their lives.

It will be such privilege this Sunday to stand in the waters of baptism with our kids who have prepared for their professions of faith. I'm sure my eyes will tear when I see their parents looking on with such love. I hope you will be here to support these families, for this special day and for their futures, so bright and full of possibilities. And I bet your eyes will be a little damp too!



### IN OUR CHAPEL

- **March 16<sup>th</sup>** - "Doing Justice In An Unjust world: The Connection Between Justice and Peace" presented by **Rev. Dr. Howard Ratcliff**, fellow member of Disciples Christian Church. (*postponed from March 9<sup>th</sup> due to weather*)
- **March 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Easter Sunday – no Second Hour
- **March 30<sup>th</sup>** - The Quality of Mercy: When Does Helping Really Help?" presented by **Rev. Dr. Howard Ratcliff**.

### ARE YOU FEELING LIKE WINTER WILL NEVER END?

Do you need a peppy picker upper? Well, hold on a little longer. Go to your calendar and put a big check mark on **Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**. On that Friday evening at 6:30, just run, don't walk, to Fellowship Hall. Join your church family for the **CFW Spring Fashion Show and Potluck**. Patty from Coldwater Creek is selecting delectable warmer weather apparel that will be modeled by our own lovely church members. Invite your friends and plan on having a wonderful time. See you then.

### SAVE APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>!

That's the date of our **Hunger Center Benefit**. Watch for more details to come.

### MUSICAL NOTES

- ♪ Do you know a professional caliber tenor? If so, please contact **Kathryn** or **Leslie** as Adam Albright has decided to retire from our choir.

- ♪ Did you see the photo of **Marla Berg** in the Plain Dealer on March 10<sup>th</sup>? It was taken at the "In-Concert with Ludlow" program where she performed, "Bess, You Is My Woman" from Porgy and Bess with William Clarence Marshall.

### PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

- The family of **Serene Farmer**, whose memorial service was held here on March 8<sup>th</sup>
- **Marguerite Gilbert**, recovering from a fall
- **Mercedes Bell**, Hospice of the Western Reserve
- **Emily Charalambous**, broken wrist
- **Nell Rose Riel**, Fairmount Health Center
- **Frank and Averno Jayne**, AlterCare of Mayfield Village
- **Chris Hawkins**, chronic pain issues
- **Margaret Beer**, Huron Hospital
- **Violet Radomilovich**, home
- **Nursing Home Residents: Barbara Seaver**, Summerville of Mentor; **Ollie Schroeder**, Burton Health Care Center; **Barbara Harold**, Grande Pointe

The family of Jackie Hickok invites you to join them for her memorial service this **Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00** in our Sanctuary followed by a reception in our Chapel. Memorial contributions in Jackie's name may be made to EACC.

## WEEK OF COMPASSION AROUND THE WORLD - AROUND THE YEAR

One human being dying is one too many. "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." (1 Corinthians 12:26) This text provides the biblical foundation for the ministry of Week of Compassion. If even one of God's children suffers or is in need of any kind, we all are affected.

As Week of Compassion works around the world, around the year, we accompany not only migrants crossing the desert, but also those close to death in the Sahara Desert in Darfur. We are providing water in Darfuri refugee camps - clean, accessible, adequate water - to the hundreds of thousands displaced not only in Darfur but now across the border in Chad. We are putting in wells in southern Sudan. We are helping small farmers in Nicaragua put in irrigation systems and wells so they can water the crops they so desperately need to grow and bear fruit. We are providing cisterns in India to Dalit (the lowest caste) communities. We are supplying families along the Dominican-Haitian border with tanks to farm fish so they can feed themselves, earn an income, and regain their dignity. And we will never forget putting in a

water system in a remote Kenyan village and the women of the village seeing water come out of the faucet for the first time, one of them



shouting, "Water is Life!"

Compassion is water in the desert. It is life for our brothers and sisters, and for us whose lives have been changed, and therefore we can rejoice.

- Amy Gopp

### DOES AMY GOPP'S NAME RING A BELL?

It should! She was our guest preacher on January 27<sup>th</sup>. She's the Associate Director of Week of Compassion.

### DOES WEEK OF COMPASSION RING A BELL?

It should, too!

- Our Lenten Calendar had many ideas for Lent related to Week of Compassion's ministries;
- Our Children and Family Calendar was loaded with suggestions for helping our children realize how much more they have than most people in the world – and it also suggested they put coins into a special box to help others;
- And we even saw a skit during worship that the children performed for us relating to those boxes.

And now it's our turn to do what we can do to support the ministries of Week of Compassion! Envelopes will be provided in both our Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday bulletins to make it easy for us to become a partner in their ministry.

### DISCIPLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING MARCH 16 through MARCH 23

## TRANSFORMATION TEAM UPDATE

The Transformation Team is asking the following taskforces to assemble and begin work:

- History Capture;
- Buildings and Grounds Master Plan;
- Alternative Worship Services;
- Visual Branding & Communications (currently designing a new logo for our new name and will be presenting one soon).

If anyone would like to be involved in the future of our church and be included on any of these taskforces, please contact **Randy Wicks** or **Sue Curtis**.

## SPRING IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

Soon the birds will be singing and the daffodils will be pushing up through the ground. It is a perfect time to spruce up our church building.

**Our Spring Spa Day will be Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.** with a light breakfast at 8:30. We will do some painting inside the building and lots of outdoor yard work.

This is an opportunity for us to take ownership of our church building in a very "hands-on" way. Hope to see you there!

## MARCH BOOK CLUB

We will meet in Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** to discuss Jim Rasenberg's book, America 1908: The Dawn of Flight, The Invention of the Model T, and the Making of a

Modern Nation. Critics say it's a breathtaking ride through the highs and lows of one pivotal year in American History.

**Pat McNeilly**

## MATCHING GIFTS

Does your employer have a matching gift program? Many corporations offer this benefit to their employees. Please check with your Human Resources Department to see if your contributions to your church could be doubled. If you have any questions please contact **Judy Griffith**, Financial Secretary.

## OUR WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

Our website, while still accessible as [www.eacc.net](http://www.eacc.net) for the next few months, is now [www.discipleschristian.org](http://www.discipleschristian.org).

With that change comes a change in our staff email addresses. Rather than [name@eacc.net](mailto:name@eacc.net), they are now all [name@discipleschristian.org](mailto:name@discipleschristian.org). Please make the appropriate changes in your contact list.

And please **be certain that [discipleschristian.org](http://discipleschristian.org) is on the list of acceptable mail on your "junk mail" option list**. Many people have found that email from the church is ending up in their junk mail folder and either being lost in the pool of junk mail or being automatically deleted. **That is something that we can't fix from our end so please find out how to set your filters to accept our mailings.**

**DO YOU ENJOY OUR FELLOWSHIP  
TIME ON SUNDAY MORNINGS?**

Then we need your help! The fellowship time schedule posted in the kitchen window opening to our Fellowship Hall has many openings. Please find a week when you can help with this wonderful ministry of welcome and fellowship.

**REMEMBERING**

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, will offer a worship service March 19th, 2008 to commemorate the beginning of the United States invasion and occupation of Iraq. The service, "Remembering," will start at 7:00 p.m. and continue until the names of all Americans who have died since March

2003 have been read. The names of a representative sample of Iraqi dead will also be read. Candles will be lit in honor of both Americans and Iraqis. Everyone is welcome to participate in this service and those who have lost loved ones in Iraq are invited to bring pictures and momentos to place on the altar.

A portion of the service will be dedicated to those who have been wounded in Iraq. If you would like your injured loved ones honored please contact the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland Society's office at 216.932.1898 or [uuscleveand@yahoo.com](mailto:uuscleveand@yahoo.com). For more information about the service please contact the office. The Rev. Colin Bossen, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland, will conduct the service.

**GREAT NEWS - THERE IS STILL TIME FOR YOU TO BE A "GUEST SINGER" - OR  
EVEN BETTER - TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER OF OUR CHOIR FOR EASTER!**

Why do that you ask? Well - here are the

**TOP TEN REASONS TO SING WITH THE CHOIR THIS EASTER**

10. Release your "inner singer"
9. Stop worrying about what to wear on Easter - choir robes are always in style
8. Have an excellent vantage point to appreciate the beautiful outfits worn by the congregation
7. Since we practice at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays, you will have no trouble getting a good parking space
6. Make new friends - we have a resident diva and a pun master
5. Be inspired and awed from a new perspective listening to Pastor Kris
4. A last chance to sing at Easter under the direction of the multi-talented, mega-creative Kathryn Harsha
3. Also participate in our final days of the amazing musical skills of Leslie Smith - her mastery of the organ is lovely to behold and her expressions are priceless
2. Relax in a guaranteed seat (no squeezing in the pews)
1. Lift up your voice in praise and thanks to God on this glorious Easter morning!

**Journey with us through Holy Week**

**Palm Sunday**

Procession of Palms led by our children and Chancel Choir  
Pastor's Class and Adult Baptisms  
Easter Egg Hunt and Bunny Lunch follow worship  
Bring a Friend to Church Day

**Maundy Thursday**

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm

Worship on the eve of Christ's death on the cross  
celebrating the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples  
Chancel Choir - Pastor Kris' message - Communion  
Closing in darkness and silence

**Good Friday**

Heights Communities' Good Friday service

March 21<sup>st</sup> from 12:00 to 3:00 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 2747 Fairmount Boulevard - Cleveland Heights  
The Seven Last Words of Christ - done in 30 minute segments  
Attend one or several of the segments led by Pastors from area churches  
Pastor Kris will be the liturgist for the 12:30 and 1:00 segments

**Easter Sunday**

10:00 am

**Christ has Risen!**

The church will be alive with lilies and spring flowers  
The Easter Story according to the Four Gospels  
Pastor Kris preaching - Chancel Choir - Communion