

## CONTACT

June, 2011

Congregational Church of Chico / United Church of Christ  
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## CONGREGATION APPROVES REIMAGINE / REDEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVE FOR CHURCH'S FUTURE

The members of the Congregational Church of Chico, United Church of Christ, choose "Reimagine and Relaunch the Church / Redevelop the Property" as our direction for the future. The decision was made on June 5 at a special congregational meeting. The vote was by a show of hands. While a count was not taken, and there were several voting against the motion to approve this alternative, the vote in favor was clear.

The congregation also approved amending the Constitution and Bylaws to set 15 as the quorum of members needed for action at congregational meetings. That vote, also by show of hands, had no opposition.

The Church Council is responsible for guiding the Reimagine / Redevelop process. Discussions about "next steps" in the process will begin at the Council meeting on June 12. Regular reports will be published in the newsletter. When a decision requires approval by the congregation, a special congregational meeting will be scheduled and information provided in advance. The Council and the pastor are committed to transparency throughout this process.

Thanks to all the members and friends who participated in the June 5 meeting.

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***Holy One, we have trusted you to guide us.***

***We have listened. We have discerned. We have decided.***

***We do not ask you to bless your decision because we are sure you are right.***

***We ask you to bless the journey this decision begins***

***because we are sure we cannot make this journey without you.***

***Bound together by your love, we embark on the path you are creating before us.***

***We are grateful there is no journey we ever would take that we must make alone.***

***Amen.***

## Worship at CCC, UCC in June, 2011

June 5, 2011 – Seventh Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday

Communion

Bible Readings: Acts 1: 1 – 11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1: 15 – 23; Luke 24: 44 - 53

Sermon: Change of Clothes – The sermon will be drawn from Colossians 3: 1 - 17

June 12, 2011 – Pentecost – Wear something red!

Bible Readings: Acts 2: 1 – 21; Psalm 104: 24 – 34; I Corinthians 12: 3b – 13; John 7: 37 – 39

Sermon: Our Journey Now – The sermon will also draw from Exodus 13: 17 - 22

June 19, 2011 – Trinity Sunday / Father's Day

Bible Readings: Genesis 1: 1 – 2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13: 11 – 13; Matthew 28: 16 – 20

Sermon: Order and Chaos

June 26, 2011 – Second Sunday After Pentecost

Bible Readings: Genesis 22: 1 – 14; Psalm 13; Romans 6: 12 – 23; Matthew 10: 40 – 42

Sermon: After That, Isaac Was A Mess

July 3, 2011 – Third Sunday After Pentecost

Communion

Bible Readings: Genesis 24: 34 – 38, 42 – 49, 58 – 67; Psalm 45: 10 – 17;

Romans 7: 15 – 25a; Matthew 11: 16 – 19, 25 – 30

Sermon: Imagine What's Possible – The sermon will be drawn from Isaiah 43: 1 - 19

## Worship and Hospitality Schedule

	<u>Worship Asst</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Hospitality</u>
June 5	Margaret VanLaanMartin	Klaus Luck and Dillon Landry	Potluck / Nancy Morgans-Ferguson and Karen Kushner
June 12	Joyce Mann	Art Moniz and someone else	Mary and Gordon Patton
June 19	OPEN	Warren and Lynn Haskell	Julian and Betsy Lorenz
June 26	Dorothy Parker	RJ Muhlheim and Pravda McCroskey	Marge Fredenburg

The staff is working on a new system for choosing Worship Assistants and Ushers. We are calling people about serving in June, and planning the new system in July.

Please call the church office if would like to serve or cannot serve on the date listed – 342-4913.

**JUNE OUTREACH OFFERINGS: UCC DISASTER RELIEF  
AND HYGIENE AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR ZAMBIA**

Our monetary outreach offering in June will go to the National Disaster Ministry of our United Church of Christ, earmarked for recovery efforts in the United States. As we all know from the news, floods, tornadoes, droughts, and wildfires have occurred in many parts of the country. Our General Minister and President, Geoffrey Black, has issued an appeal for \$250,000 for these communities.

The United Church of Christ is not a first responder in disasters. We leave emergency food and shelter to other organizations. Our special calling is to support long-term recovery efforts that last for months or years after the event. The UCC works with local churches to organize and support interfaith recovery efforts. While private insurance and public assistance programs such as FEMA provide significant help, interfaith recovery efforts focus on unmet needs, including spiritual and emotional needs. The UCC is there long after the news media has moved on to the next headline. Make the check payable to the church and mark it for "June Outreach."

Our non-monetary outreach offering in June, July, and August will be hygiene and health supplies. Margaret VanLaanMartin is going to Mazabuka, Zambia in November. She will be visiting an orphanage there. She needs to take 150 pounds of such goods with her. We are collecting these things: bar soap (hotel size or bath size, must be in original wrapper); wash clothes (any color, new or gently used with no rips, stains, or frays); adhesive bandages, gauze pads, and adhesive tape; and adult and children's pain relievers such as Tylenol, Motrin, Advil, and aspirin. We'll collect these items through August 28. You can make a cash contribution which will be used to purchase food staples in Zambia to stock the orphanage's pantry. Make the check payable to the church and mark it "Zambia Supplies."

In July and August, our monetary outreach offering will be split equally between the Torres Community Shelter and Habitat for Humanity – Butte County Chapter.

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**MAY OUTREACH OFFERING REPORT**

**We gave \$245 to Our Church's Wider Mission.**

**We donated 436 adult and child diapers to the North State Diaper Bank.**

**Thank you for your generosity.**

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## **Dishtowels Are Back**

Well, not really. The missing dishtowels did not return. Nine new dishtowels were donated. We now have a total of 15 dishtowels. All of them have been marked with the word "Church" making them blessed and easier to spot when blending in with the general dishtowel population.

Replacement Microwave. The Shalom Free Clinic Thrift Store has donated a microwave oven for the church kitchen. The old microwave had stopped working. It had already been repaired once, but had stopped again. It will be properly disposed of through the county's hazardous waste unit. Thanks to the Thrift Store for the replacement.

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## **SHALOM FREE CLINIC LUNCH – SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

The church provides lunch for the Shalom Free Clinic on the second Sunday of every month. It is a simple lunch – sandwiches, vegetable tray, fruit tray, and fruit juices. Other beverages are provided by the Clinic volunteers. A cake is also provided by other Clinic volunteers. There is a sign-up sheet on the red bulletin board in the church for this ministry. You can also call the church office. Dianne West and Barb Smith are the coordinators. July 10 is the next Clinic Lunch day.

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**Rummage Sale Results: \$765.65. Thanks to Nancy Morgans-Ferguson and her team from the Shalom Free Clinic Thrift Store for organizing this sale. All the proceeds benefited the church.**

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## **NCNC ANNUAL GATHERING: Rooted and Grounded In Love**

"Rooted and Grounded in Love" was the theme for the 2011 annual gathering of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ. Nearly 400 clergy and delegates and guests assembled at the Sofitel Hotel in Redwood Shores for this year's event. Jim Peck represented our church. Members and friends gave \$240 to help pay for his attendance.

The highlight of this year's gathering was meeting Phil Hart, our interim conference minister. Phil preached three times, speaking about the work the conference will be doing over the next two years to "redesign the conference," as he put it. Phil has served as interim conference minister in Illinois and Ohio. His message was both visionary and realistic. Phil will be visiting us in Chico on August 7.

During the business portion of the gathering, the conference adopted one resolution opposing torture and urging the United States to become a signatory to international agreements opposing torture. A budget of over \$900,000 was adopted. Jim Peck was affirmed as a member of the Ethics Committee of the Conference Committee on the Ministry. He also agreed to serve on the planning team for next year's annual gathering.

## **IMAGINE WHAT'S POSSIBLE / GOD IS STILL SPEAKING**

### **UCC GENERAL SYNOD MEETS IN TAMPA, JULY 1 – 5**

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Over 800 delegates from all the conferences of our United Church of Christ, along with approximately 2000 guests, will gather in Tampa, Florida for General Synod 28. General Synod is the national representative decision-making body of our denomination. It meets every other year to elect leaders, hear reports of our national ministries, conduct the business of the denomination, and discuss and act on resolutions expressing the views of General Synod on a wide range of social justice, theological, and church concerns. General Synod 29 in 2013 will be held in Long Beach, California (just down the road from Chico, relative to Tampa!)

Worship at General Synod is always creative and exciting. Worship services are usually published on the UCC website. Our July 3 service will draw from these materials. A large worship service, open to the public, will be held some time that day. It is usually streamed on the internet. If so, we will plan to be able to watch it at the church. This year's Synod theme – Imagine What's Possible – is drawn from Isaiah 43: 1 – 19.

This year, there are 13 resolutions. Copies of the resolutions have been printed out and are in a notebook at the church. Each resolution is referred to a committee of General Synod delegates for discussion, review, and revision, so the version that is voted on by the delegates may not be the same as the one in the notebook.

One of the most significant resolutions is "Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism." This is a joint ecumenical agreement between the United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church – USA, Reformed Church in America, Christian Reformed Church, and the U. S Conference of Roman Catholic Bishops. If adopted, it will mean these five church will recognize baptism in each of the other churches as fully valid. Because it includes both Reformed church and the Roman Catholic Church in the US, it is being hailed as a major ecumenical milestone.

Delegates will be considering some important changes to our denomination's governance structure. Currently, we have five national bodies that oversee the UCC's ministries – Executive Council, General Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, Local Church Ministries, and Justice and Witness Ministries. A proposal will be voted on this year to have a single, unified governing body – the United Church Council – to oversee the denomination between General Synods. This proposal has been developed over the last four years.

Three persons are being presented for call by election to serve as officers for our national ministries. J. Bennett Guess is being nominated as Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries. A former local pastor in Kentucky, Dr. Guess has been on the national UCC staff for several years leading our communications team. James Moos is being nominated as Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries. Dr. Moos is currently pastor of Bismarck United Church of Christ in North Dakota. He has

previously served on the Wider Church Ministries Board and has been active in our UCC ministries in East Timor. The nominee for Associate General Minister is W. Mark Clark from Tucson. Mr. Clark is executive director of a nonprofit mental health provider. This position is the chief administrative officer. Mr. Clark is a life-long member of the UCC.

Geoffrey Black, our General Minister and President, and Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries are not up for re-election this year.

General Synod is more than business, elections, and worship. Service projects are planned, as are workshops, special event meals, exhibits, and fellowship. You can learn more about General Synod at [www.ucc.org/synod](http://www.ucc.org/synod).

In the Northern California Nevada Conference, each association chooses a delegate, then at-large delegates are chosen to meet goals for youth and young adult and racial and ethnic minority delegates. The UCC by-laws require that General Synod be as close to a 50-50 balance between clergy and laity. Our Conference delegates are: Bob Finch (Sacramento Valley Assoc), Patsy Finster (Sequoia Assoc), Evelyn Vigil (Santa Clara Assoc), Dennis Duhaylungsod (At-large), Leian Cimarra (At-large), Jack Dawson (Mountain Valley Assoc), Julia Swayne (At-large – youth), Melissa Gardner-McBride (Bay Assoc), Patrick Lopez (At-large – youth), and Blythe Sawyer (Golden Gate Assoc).