

# Global Mission Moment

## Caterpillar Dinner

*...the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20*

Back in my Peace Corps days, I vowed to eat anything offered in home hospitality, says Global Ministries volunteer, Ann Nichols. This seemed especially important when the invitation was from a family with limited resources who had prepared food especially for the guests. I have eaten some interesting things under that rule, but I had never before been faced with a bowl of roasted caterpillars. I did manage to get half of one down, Fortunately, I had only put two on my plate.

This happened in Caroline's home. She is a big-hearted Zambian woman I met recently who takes in orphans. She asked if I had visited in a Zambian home yet, and when I said I hadn't, she invited me to her home. She came with a baby tied around her back in a colorful cloth sling. We walked out of the compound, down the road, onto a dirt path through a market, down more dirt roads, to another market where she bought some local eggplants, onions, and the caterpillars. Mountains of caterpillars. She smiled and asked if I liked them. I confessed that I had never eaten one, it was not a food we ate in my country, but I would try them. We walked a long time to Caroline's home through wide dirt roads with houses close together, neatly swept yards, and many trees.

Crispin, Caroline's husband, is a taxi driver. They have 3 children of their own, ages 1, 4, and 7. They feed, clothe, educate and support 12 orphans, none related to their family, in their rented 2-room home. You read it right, two rooms! The orphans range in age from 2 to 16. All but the youngest are in school, which means that this family pays most of its salary for school fees. (School fees run between \$50-\$125 per child per year, depending on school and grade level.) Much of what they eat grows on the family's small farm plot, a short distance away.

Caroline says that she was helped by others when she was growing up, so that is why she takes in orphans. The older ones try to find part-time work in addition to school to supplement the family income, and they somehow get by. Caroline says that she lives by faith, and God has never let her down. It is a family full of love.

Pray for the love of families who give so much to make our world a better place.

Ann Nichols serves as a long-term volunteer with the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Kitwe, Zambia teaching social work and leadership development.

*Through your continued support of Our Church's Wider Mission the Calendar of Prayer for the Mission of the United Church of Christ is made possible; thank you!*

## Mission Moment—A Better World is Possible

**October 3, 2010**

**Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 18)**

### Neighbors in Need

"Every seventh year you shall grant a remission of debts." Deuteronomy 15:1-2

When voices are raised to demand Jubilee Justice, those of women are often the strongest. For decades, our sisters in Africa have lifted up the vision of right relationships found in the Hebrew scripture—the cancellation of debt, freeing of slaves, and renewal of the land every seven years. Clearly articulating the link between debt and "slavery"—abject poverty, misery, and death—they have lovingly exhorted us, as people of faith, to join them in advocating for debt cancellation.

Hear the voice of Wangari Matthai, Nobel peace prize recipient from Kenya. She asks: "How can you punish these poor people? Poor people are being sacrificed by their governments to pay these debts. We cannot tolerate these debts as they are literally killing our people!"

The good news is that significant steps towards debt cancellation have occurred. Zambia is one of fourteen countries in sub-Saharan Africa whose debt was cancelled in 2005 by the G8 (the presidents of eight of the world's wealthiest nations). Following the cancellation of Zambia's debt, user fees were no longer charged at rural health clinics run by the government. Grace Chibanda, a pharmacist in one such clinic, told a visiting delegation that, "Debt relief is a good thing. It is getting medicines for people who didn't have it before." In a pastoral letter, Zambian church leaders thanked the global Jubilee movement for its vigorous campaigns to appeal to the conscience of political leaders worldwide.

As we join our voices with those of others to demand the cancellation of debt, may we be inspired by the words of Emily Sikazwe, a Zambian advocate for women's development. She matter-of-factly declared, "Poverty is human made, so it can be eradicated."

Jubilee Justice and a better world are possible.

Patricia Rumer

Dr. Patricia Rumer is a member of Ainsworth UCC in Portland, Oregon and co-chair of Jubilee USA.

### Series 1

**Lamentations 1:1-6**  
**II Timothy 1:1-14**  
**Luke 17:5-10**  
**Lamentations 3:19-26**

### Series 2

**Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4**  
**II Timothy 1:1-14**  
**Luke 17:5-10**  
**Psalms 37:1-9**

## October 4, 2010

Due in large part to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Southern Africa, there is no shortage of widows in places like Zimbabwe. They are a vulnerable group, whether widowed at 40 years of age or 80. The Widow Project was started in the Bulawayo Region of Zimbabwe in 2007 to help these women financially and emotionally. The Zimbabwe Synod, part of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, provided enough land for a garden and gave access to a water supply so that farm training could be established. The widows also brought their knowledge of basketry, embroidery and crocheting to the program. Other projects such as candle-making and baking are also used as an income source to provide members with the means for rent, food, medical care and education for children and grandchildren.

### Series 1

**Lamentations 1:16-22**  
**James 1:2-11**  
**Psalms 137**

### Series 2

**Habakkuk 1:5-17**  
**James 1:2-11**  
**Psalms 3**

## October 5, 2010

Church of the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ (COG), Albuquerque, NM celebrated mission this past summer with The Tomato Tornado! Summertime, or anytime, is a good time for a Tomato Tornado. It is a time for a month long drive to collect canned tomatoes, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti and other pasta shapes to help your local food bank. COG helps The Storehouse provide healthy and filling meals for their patrons. Each member of the congregation is asked to do a little extra shopping for a month and bring the pasta and sauce to a collection location in the sanctuary. COG has fun during this time of mission watching the pile of food grow into a mountain, a pasta mountain.

### Series 1

**Lamentations 2:13-22**  
**I John 5:1-5, 13-21**  
**Psalms 137**

### Series 2

**Habakkuk 1:5-17**  
**I John 5:1-5, 13-21**  
**Psalms 3**

## October 6, 2010

During the first two weeks of this month, Community Church of Durham United Church of Christ, Durham, NH is focusing on "Peace in Our Time." They are hosting a series of events, programs and discussions around the theme of being peacemakers in these perilous and promising times. They are once again hosting the Peace Pilgrimage Walkers, while the series includes a presentation and intergenerational workshop by author, story teller, artist, educator and activist Robert Shetterly author of *American Who Tell the Truth*. There is an art exhibit; a special musical presented by their choir, programs on non-violence, video discussions a community potluck and more. The series of events is a wonderful way to not only launch another church year, but also ground the congregation in one of the central teachings of our faith tradition, the call to be peacemakers.

### Series 1

**Lamentations 5:1-22**  
**Mark 11:12-14, 20-24**  
**Psalms 137**

### Series 2

**Habakkuk 2:12-20**  
**Mark 11:12-14, 20-24**  
**Psalms 3**

A Calendar of Prayer for the Mission of the United Church of Christ

## October 7, 2010

Today we pray for the ministry and mission of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Antioch, CA.

"We are believers in and followers of Jesus Christ, the Son of our loving God. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are committed to being a compassionate community of reverent worship, spiritual freedom, human diversity and social conscience. We welcome all to join together in spiritual growth and service to God, our communities and the world."

### Series 1

**Jeremiah 25:1-14**  
**II Timothy 1:13-18**  
**Psalms 66:1-12**

### Series 2

**Leviticus 14:33-53**  
**II Timothy 1:13-18**  
**Psalms 111**

## October 8, 2010

Today we pray for the ministry and mission of Union Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Montclair, NJ

"We can never say it often enough. Our goals are to love our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. These goals are high, some would say unattainable. However, as we strive for them, we find our lives enriched by them. We reach for them through: Worship / Christian Formation / Christian Outreach / Congregational Life and Fellowship. Some of our specific priorities are: doing justice; we are a part of the newly formed New Jersey Together at Montclair, a faith based community organization; going green, we are trying to reduce our foot-prints on God's good earth; maintaining our buildings for use by the congregation and community."

### Series 1

**Jeremiah 27:1-22**  
**II Timothy 2:1-7**  
**Psalms 66:1-12**

### Series 2

**Genesis 7:6-10; 8:1-5**  
**II Peter 2:1-10a**  
**Psalms 51:1-10**

## October 9, 2010

Just imagine a small group of friends, church friends, coming to your house to insulate the basements, heating ducts, or caulking and adding weather stripping to your windows and doors. The people of First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Amherst, MA through their Earth Ministry Team can and do. Maybe you always wanted to have some trees planted in your yard, or get a new edible garden started; this group of friends will come and help, they also help to put existing gardens to bed for the winter. Tomorrow, 10/10/10, these small teams of church members will be doing their part to reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere all that they ask for are volunteers to help and people who want to be a part of a global effort to reduce our carbon footprint.

### Series 1

**Jeremiah 28:1-17**  
**II Timothy 2:1-7**  
**Psalms 66:1-12**

### Series 2

**Numbers 4:34 – 5:4**  
**Luke 5:12-16**  
**Psalms 111**

A Calendar of Prayer for the Mission of the United Church of Christ

## October 11, 2010

Lay Kee village in the northern Karen region of Myanmar (Burma) was destroyed by the Burmese army in August 2007. The army then planted landmines. Three months later, Hsa K'Tray Saw, 13, sat on a log, idly tapping the ground as his mother searched for vegetables. The boy hit a landmine, blinding him and injuring his face and upper torso. His 8-year-old sister also was injured. A local mobile clinic treated his injuries, but could do nothing for his sight. Later, workers from Global Ministries partner Christians Concerned for Burma (CCB) met Hsa at a displaced persons camp. The workers helped Hsa reach a hospital in Thailand. Doctors there concluded that his blindness was permanent, so the workers helped him enroll in a school for blind children in a refugee camp. They continue to help Hsa K'Tray Saw realize a bright future. Today, CCB holds a Global Day of Prayer for Myanmar.

**Series 1**  
Jeremiah 29:8-23  
Act 26:24-29  
Psalm 102:1-17

**Series 2**  
II Kings 5:15-19a  
Acts 26:24-29  
Psalm 61

## October 12, 2010

Missionary partner Oikocredit is an international community development financial institution that makes low-interest loans to poor people through cooperatives and microcredit banks. The credit helps people overcome poverty and restore dignity. Oikocredit receives capital from socially responsible investments primarily from religious communities. Director Terry Provance, former UCC Board for World Ministries executive, says that investors receive interest and full principal on redemption. A pioneer in developmental financing, Oikocredit was started by the World Council of Churches in 1975. It had a rocky start because many would-be investors at the time were not sure that a microcredit loan program would work. But the loan recipients did repay their loans, and today, some 15 million households in 69 countries are benefiting from \$232 million in new loans. The United Church of Christ has a significant investment in Oikocredit and encourages conferences, congregations and members to participate in it.

**Series 1**  
Jeremiah 29:24-32  
Ephesians 6:10-20  
Psalm 102:1-17

**Series 2**  
II Kings 5:19b-27  
Ephesians 6:10-20  
Psalm 61

## October 13, 2010

A harvest of hope and compassion is what Foods Resource Bank (FSB) reaps through their commitment to respond to world hunger. The group is a non-denominational, non-governmental organization based in Kalamazoo, Michigan which collects revenue generated by community growing projects and uses 100% of these funds to provide aid to people in developing countries. One such community project was initiated by Gary and Cathie Gangwer of Immanuel UCC, Lafayette, IN. The Gangwers donated 10 acres of their farm to the project and planted corn donated by Jeff and Mary Ann Haan. The harvest, plus other donations, brought in \$14,043.02. These funds are turned over to FSB partners worldwide which, in turn, helps local communities become self-sufficient through projects that include building greenhouses, digging wells, installing irrigation and disaster relief programs. Plant life!

**Series 1**  
Jeremiah 25:15-32  
Matthew 10:5-15  
Psalm 102:1-17

**Series 2**  
II Kings 15:1-7  
Matthew 10:5-15  
Psalm 61

## October 14, 2010

Today we pray for the ministry and mission of Arcadia Congregational Church, Arcadia, CA.

"Arcadia Congregational Church is a member of the United Church of Christ, which is devoted to the concept that persons of widely differing theological understandings can join together to form a Christian community of faith. As individual members, we are free to believe and act in accordance with our awareness of God's will for our lives. But we are also called to live in a loving and accepting relationship with one another.

We are a church with an open table, inviting all who want to follow Jesus' message of love, forgiveness, and service to join with us in worship. Our church is here to nurture your spiritual quest."

**Series 1**  
Jeremiah 26:1-15  
Acts 17:22-24  
Psalm 119:97-104

**Series 2**  
Isaiah: 54:11-17  
Acts 17:22-24  
Psalm 121

**October 15, 2010**

**T**oday we pray for the mission and ministry of Bethany Church, Chicago.

"Welcome to Bethany Chicago, a member of the United Church of Christ, and a proud part of the Ravenswood community since 1896. We invite you to join us for worship and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Nursery care is available during worship. During the summer months, services take place outdoors in Bethany's tree-shaded courtyard.

Bethany is handicap accessible with a lift that can be accessed from the Cullom side of the church. We are accessible in other ways as well. Bethany is an Open and Affirming congregation that welcomes the full participation of its GLBT members. Perhaps the sentence on our outdoor sign says it best:

'No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.' If a marriage or commitment ceremony is in your future, we invite you to check out (our Web site).

As part of our ministry and outreach to the Ravenswood community, Bethany Church is home to meetings and activities of a variety of community organizations, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Chicago Barn Dance Company, Chicago Kendo Dojo, VOX3, Weight Watchers, the Chi-Town Squares and an assortment of volleyball groups."

**Series 1**

**Jeremiah 26:16-24**  
**II Timothy 2:14-26**  
**Psalms 119:97-104**

**Series 2**

**Genesis 31:43 – 32:2**  
**II Timothy 2:14-26**  
**Psalms 121**

**October 16, 2010**

**C**ommunity Congregational United Church of Christ Pullman, WA is a growing community that is sewing the seeds of justice and peace. Once again they are hosting the Community Coffee House for the greater good. They offer music, entertainment and snacks. Donations for the Coffee House go to Church World Service/CROP towards world hunger and 25% stays in the local food bank. It is a great venue for intergenerational entertainment and mission.

**Prayer:**

*O God, Spirit of righteousness,  
you temper judgment with mercy.  
Help us to live the covenant written upon our hearts  
so that when Christ returns  
we may be found worthy  
to be received by grace into your presence. Amen.*

**Series 1**

**Jeremiah 31:15-26**  
**Mark 10:46-52**  
**Psalms 119:97-104**

**Series 2**

**Genesis 32:3-21**  
**Mark 10:46-52**  
**Psalms 121**



**Mission Moment — Any Body, Everybody, Christ's Body**

**October 10, 2010**

**Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Any Body, Everybody, Christ's Body

As congregations across the United Church of Christ seek to live out God's extravagant welcome, church facilities and the lives of church and community members are being transformed.

At South Haven UCC in Bedford, Ohio, the emergency stairs at the back of the fellowship hall were beginning to crumble. The congregation envisioned a deck extending out from the fellowship hall into the slope of a nearby hill with a sidewalk gently ramping down to the parking lot. A capital campaign was in order. With the assistance of the UCC's Capital Fundraising Manual, members and friends raised the needed funds. Now Evelyn, who teaches adult Sunday school, rolls right out to her South Haven Woods home adjacent to the parking lot.

The United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministry publication, Any Body, Everybody, Christ's Body, found at [www.uccdm.org](http://www.uccdm.org), provides A2A (accessible to all) resources. It not only offers help for making church life accessible to any body, it also helps identify attitudinal barriers to be addressed so that all may worship and serve. We can learn from its article, "You Don't Have to Break the Bank!" to begin now to be more accessible with minimal cost.

On Access Sunday, October 10, celebrate the gifts of persons with disabilities and the strides the church has made towards wholeness by being more accessible. Resources for accessibility and for fundraising are made available to UCC churches by generous gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

**Series 1**

**Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7**  
**II Timothy 2:8-15**  
**Luke 17:11-19**  
**Psalms 66:1-12**

**Series 2**

**II Timothy 2:8-15**  
**II Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c**  
**Luke 17:11-19**  
**Psalms 111**

**October 22, 2010**

Today we pray for the ministry and mission of United Church of Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC.

“United Church Mission Statement: We are a community of faith and fellowship bound together in the love of God, guided by the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, united in worship. We covenant with God and one with another to further the ministry of Jesus Christ proclaiming and teaching the reign of God to deepen our love and understanding of God sustaining our journey in joyful praise, prayer, and song seeking and developing a relationship with Jesus Christ being vulnerable to the Spirit's transforming presence in our life to invite others into this life and ministry welcoming the stranger and sojourner offering the entrance of baptism making room at the table for all God's family to be a light to the world by living as one people nurturing and supporting one another forgiving and living as forgiven respecting all the traditions from which we come accepting the gifts that each brings being a community of caring as well as justice to equip ourselves for God's service being faithful stewards of the gifts God has given us praying for the Spirit's guidance studying scripture and tradition acting upon God's new calling of us to be the body of Christ, a disciple, God's servant in our world helping those who suffer treating all God's creation with respect bridging that which separates God's family challenging oppression and injustice living courageously as one of God's own to act upon Christ's resurrection being a community of hope knowing that no love is lost and trusting that the future is God's.”

**Series 1**

**Joel 2:1-11**  
**II Timothy 3:10-15**  
**Psalms 65**

**Series 2**

**Jeremiah 9:17-26**  
**II Timothy 3:10-15**  
**Psalms 84:1-7**

**October 23, 2010**

Today we pray for the ministry and mission of Scarsdale Congregational Church, Scarsdale, NY.

“At the Scarsdale Congregational Church we are committed to helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Our primary support is through volunteerism. This is not just a special opportunity to serve, but also is a central part of our fellowship with each other. In addition to volunteerism, we provide financial support for a broad range of organizations.

Our main areas of outreach focus are:

• Homelessness • Hunger • Health • Children • Families • Peace and Justice • United Church of Christ (UCC) Mission

The giving of our time is the most precious and personal gift that we can offer to others. Our congregation is actively involved in the following outreach activities:

• FAIR/Clothing Sales • All-Church Day of Service • Oglala Lakota Tribe • Midnight Run • Souper Bowl Sunday • Abdoulie”

**Series 1**

**Joel 2:13-22**  
**Luke 1:14b-55**  
**Psalms 65**

**Series 2**

**Jeremiah 9:17-26**  
**Luke 1:14b-55**  
**Psalms 84:1-7**



**Mission Moment — Children at the Margins of Society**

**October 17, 2010**

**Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Every day in the United States children struggle at the margins of society. A boy in my second grade class used to come to school two hours late every day. I learned that his trip included four transfers from multiple buses. Sometimes he fell asleep; many days he looked like he needed clean clothes. Some mornings I sent him to the cafeteria for a late breakfast.

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of this student. In one of our "heart" talks he said calmly, "Mrs. Lee, you don't know how it feels to be black."

So I told him the story of John Howard Griffin who wrote, *Black Like Me*, and suggested his father borrow the book from the public library for him.

It is heartbreaking to know that children carry problems of this magnitude in their young lives. Marian Wright Edelman created the Children's Defense Fund and the Children's Sabbath (celebrated today) to answer this cry of children.

And your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission go to programs that help these children as we follow Christ's call to shelter the homeless, feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Thank you for your gifts.

Rev. Lutie Lee,  
Former Minister for Children and Families, United Church of Christ

**Series 1**

**Jeremiah 31:15-26**  
**II Timothy 3:14 – 4:5**  
**Luke 18:1-8**  
**Psalms 119:97-104**

**Series 2**

**Genesis 32:22-31**  
**II Timothy 3:14 – 4:5**  
**Luke 18:1-8**  
**Psalms 121**

## October 18, 2010

“Todos, no algunos” means “all, not some” – but the words mean more than that. Community members of Chacraseca, Nicaragua are asking boldly and living justly by committing to bring clean water to all families in their town. Nine years ago, the people of Chacraseca began their quest for clean drinking water for all 1,500 families living in their community. Four years later, they had secured a grant and everyone – men, women and children – began digging pipeline ditches and building water storage tanks so that the grant money would stretch far enough to include all their neighbors. Despite their efforts, 200 families who live at the furthest edge of town were not included. Chacraseca will not give up until clean water is available to all. Just Hope, an organization supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, keeps the dream alive. Todos, no algunos!

**Series 1**  
Jeremiah 38:14-28  
I Corinthians 6:1-11  
Psalm 129

**Series 2**  
I Samuel 25: 2-22  
I Corinthians 6:1-11  
Psalm 57

## October 19, 2010

“Just because we walk humbly doesn’t mean we can’t make a few waves,” says John Gill, Southeast Conference Board representative to Justice and Witness Ministries. He is talking about ways that local churches can get involved in working for social justice and he encourages people to be bold. “What issues catch your attention or ignite a little ‘righteous anger’ in you? Where do you feel called not only to serve, but to serve as an agent of change?” Gill says. His own church formed an ecumenical study group, which led to inviting the larger community to Faith and Justice Movie Nights at the church. The discussions which follow movie night have included the war in Iraq, health care reform and energy use. As a result, Gill says people are educated and perhaps inspired to do justice in their own lives. So do as Isaiah said, “Shout out! Do not hold back!”

**Series 1**  
Jeremiah 39:1-18  
James 5:7-12  
Psalm 129

**Series 2**  
I Samuel 25:23-35  
James 5:7-12  
Psalm 57

## October 20, 2010

This past summer was a busy time for McCall Community United Church of Christ, McCall, ID. They held their first annual “Humanitarian Wood Working Day.” What is a Humanitarian Wood Working Day? It is a firewood project under the direction of the Heartland Hunger and Resource Center, and is an effort by the city, area churches, community services and local citizens who volunteer to provide firewood to those who are unable to provide for themselves. The primary beneficiaries are widows and single women with children, the aged and infirm, and those injured or ill and not capable of getting wood. Not only does the congregation supply the wood, volunteers cut the logs, split the rounds, load the wood and haul it to the recipients.

**Series 1**  
Jeremiah 50:1-7, 17-20  
Luke 22:39-46  
Psalm 129

**Series 2**  
I Samuel 25:36-42  
Luke 22:39-46  
Psalm 57

## October 21, 2010

Today we pray for the ministry and mission of Wright Congregational United Church of Christ, Boise, Idaho.

“Our Mission:

- To provide worship and Christian learning in a warm, open and friendly atmosphere.
- To be an active Christian center providing opportunities for fellowship and recreation.
- To carry out the traditions of the past, meet the needs of the present and plan for the future.
- To reach out in service, responding to the spiritual and physical needs of others in our church, our community and around the world.”

**Series 1**  
Joel 1:1-20  
II Timothy 3:1-9  
Psalm 65

**Series 2**  
Jeremiah 9:1-16  
II Timothy 3:1-9  
Psalm 84:1-7

**October 29, 2010**

Today we pray for the mission and ministry of Church of the Holy Trinity Hagerstown, Maryland.

“Church of the Holy Trinity offers a number of ways for individuals to get involved with ministry in the local community, national, and international. Local Community: Tutoring Lincolnshire Elementary School; REACH (Religious Effort Assist & Care For The Homeless Inc); Faith-In-Action a program of REACH, runs year round providing transportation to medical appointments, light household cleaning, and light home repair; Habitat for Humanity; CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk; Our congregation is a SHARE pick-up site and many of our folks assist with the set-up and distribution of food through SHARE; Homewood Retirement Center Williamsport, Maryland; Salvation Army - Christmas Stockings, Bell Ringing; National: Disaster Relief Response; Back Bay Mission — Biloxi, Mississippi; International: Honduras Partnership El Progreso, Honduras -- Glade United Church of Christ in Walkersville, Maryland along with other churches of the Catoclin Association, including Church of the Holy Trinity, and Bethel Evangelical and Reformed Church in El Progreso, Honduras, established a partnership in 1998. The partnership is multi-faceted. We created and maintain a scholarship fund to help village students further their education through high school. In addition, the partnership includes a housing ministry, where teams from Catoclin Association churches travel annually to the villages of Finca Ocho and Brisa del sur to build homes for families who live a marginal existence.”

**Series 1**

**Jeremiah 26:16-24**  
**II Timothy 2:14-26**  
**Psalms 119:97-104**

**Series 2**

**Genesis 31:43 – 32:2**  
**II Timothy 2:14-26**  
**Psalms 121**

**October 30, 2010**

“First Congregational, Eagle River and Community United Church of Christ St. Germain, WI’s Got Talent!” Bringing together talented performers from 7 area churches the sanctuary of First Congregational was standing room only. Over \$4400 was raised to benefit a new regional shelter for the homeless. But, all of the funds were not raised by the talent show, thanks to a matching grant from another local church the over \$2200 raised by First and Community Church were doubled. These funds help to purchase and transform a seven-bedroom Victorian house into this new regional shelter. By sharing their God given talents this community is being transformed with love.

**Prayer:**

*In your Son you seek out and save the lost, O God,  
and invite us to the banquet of your eternal home.  
Visit your people with the joy of salvation  
that we may rejoice in the riches of your forgiveness  
and reach out in welcome to share with others  
the fest of your love. Amen.*

**Series 1**

**Habakkuk 2:5-11**  
**John 8:39-47**  
**Psalms 119:137-144**

**Series 2**

**Isaiah 1:1-9**  
**John 8:39-47**  
**Psalms 32:1-7**



**Mission Moment — United Church of Christ in History**

**October 24, 2010**

**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**The United Church of Christ in American History**

How much do you know about the role the United Church of Christ has played in American history? Today’s United Church of Christ is the result of a 1957 merger between American Protestant denominations with rich histories of their own: the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

In the month of October, we can look back and celebrate these notable events—several of them historic “firsts” in the history of our country:

-- Lemuel Haynes is the first African American ordained by a Protestant denomination (1785). As early as 1780 he is licensed to preach. He becomes a world-renowned preacher and writer.

-- Seeking spiritual freedom, forebears of the United Church of Christ leave Europe for the New World. Later generations know them as the Pilgrims. Their pastor, John Robinson, urges them as they depart to keep their minds and hearts open to new ways. God, he says, “has yet more light and truth to break forth out of his holy Word.” On November 21, 1620 their ship the Mayflower, made first landfall after a 66-day voyage.

**Series 1**

**Joel 2:23-32**  
**Luke 18:9-14**  
**II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**  
**Psalms 65**

**Series 2**

**Sirach 35:12-17**  
**II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**  
**Luke 18:9-14**  
**Psalms 84:1-7**

## October 25, 2010

The Dwelling Place is a ministry of food and fellowship for the people of the First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Winchester, MA. The Dwelling Place is a collaboration of area churches that prepares and serves meals for individuals and families in need. Through this twenty-three year old partnership, meals are provided on several nights each week. Not only is the ministry rewarding but it is fun too.

### Prayer

*O Wellspring of salvation,  
we come to you in joy,  
for you have heard the prayers of the poor  
and raised up the lowly.  
Pour out your Spirit  
on young and old alike,  
that our dreams and visions may bring  
justice and peace to the world. Amen.*

**Series 1**  
Joel 3:1-8  
I Peter 4:12-19  
Psalm 87

**Series 2**  
I Samuel  
I Peter 4:12-19  
Psalm 84:8-12

## October 26, 2010

Today we pray for the mission and ministry of First Congregational Church of Alameda, United Church of Christ

"The mission of First Congregational Church of Alameda, United Church of Christ, is to welcome all into an intentionally inclusive fellowship where we strengthen our personal relationships with God. Through the teachings of Jesus and in an atmosphere of love, we nurture, support and challenge one another, and are empowered to advance our strong tradition of social consciousness and service."

### Prayer:

*O God,  
the strength of those who humbly confess their sin  
and place their hope in you,  
save us from vain displays of righteousness,  
and give us grace to keep faith  
with the true humility of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Series 1**  
Joel 3:9-16  
I Peter 5:1-11  
Psalm 87

**Series 2**  
Daniel 5:1-12  
I Peter 5:1-11  
Psalm 84:8-12

A Calendar of Prayer for the Mission of the United Church of Christ

## October 27, 2010

Today we pray for the ministry and mission of First Congregational Church in Chappaqua, NY.

"The mission of the First Congregational Church in Chappaqua is to be a caring community, seeking to know and celebrate the love of God joyfully by following Jesus Christ, in our worship, fellowship, service, and outreach to God's world.

Every church has its own special personality. Perhaps the most compelling part of this ministry is that it is nothing unless the members and the friends of the church create it. We are a community organization and we depend on each person to get involved and add to the whole in their unique way. The best way to make this church yours is to give it what is very special and very yours and so enrich us all.

All are welcome here because all have something important to add and share."

**Series 1**  
Joel 3:17-20  
Matthew 21: 28-32  
Psalm 87

**Series 2**  
Daniel 5:13-31  
Matthew 21: 28-32  
Psalm 84:8-12

## October 28, 2010

"The Vision of the Victory Church is to address the total needs of the total person through the Good News Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our aim is to develop a full complement of services and celebrations that speak to the spiritual and the physical; the personal and the political; the mental and the financial dimensions of human life.

The foundation of our ministry rests upon Romans 8:37, which tells us that in all of the vacillations and vicissitudes of life, 'We are more than conquerors through Christ that loved us.'

1994, the Victory Church relocated to its current site in Stone Mountain. In time, we acquired an additional sixteen acres of land contiguous with the nine acres of our original purchase. On the current 25 acre site, the Victory Church has developed a broad range of ministries that serve and empower the congregation and community. Those ministries include comprehensive Counseling Services, After School Tutoring, Athletic Leagues, Youth Mentoring Programs, a Food & Clothing Bank, a Business Connection & Finance Ministry, free HIV-AIDS Testing and Care, and a host of other services."

**Series 1**  
Jeremiah 33:14-26  
I Corinthians 1:1-11  
Psalm 119:137-144

**Series 2**  
Proverbs 15:8-11, 24-33  
I Corinthians 1:1-11  
Psalm 32:1-7

A Calendar of Prayer for the Mission of the United Church of Christ

**November 5, 2010**

**T**oday we pray for the ministry and mission of Jefferson United Church of Christ, Jefferson MD.

“Our Mission:  
We are a church which values our worship, treasures our children, and respects our seniors.  
We are open to new ways, and seek God’s spirit to lead us in all our ministries and missions.

Our mission involves:  
Budgeted congregational gifts for Our Christian World Mission supporting the work of the United Church of Christ across the nation and around the world \* Shared ecumenical ministries through Jefferson Ecumenical Ministries: cooperative emergency Pastoral backup joint community services all year - joint healing services - participation in the Community Food Bank through food drives and staffing \* Outreach Committee which reaches out to persons in need in our community \* Church support of local needs through cooperation with local schools, and association commissions \* Church facilities open for use by Stepping Stones Day Care Center \* Providing meeting space for: Alcoholics Anonymous—Narcotics Anonymous—Reading Programs—Boy Scout Committee meetings—monthly women’s meetings—various community group meetings \* . . . and much, much more!”

**Series 1**  
**Zechariah 6:9-15**  
**Acts 24:10-23**  
**Psalms 145:1-5, 17-21**

**Series 2**  
**Genesis 38:1-26**  
**Acts 24:10-23**  
**Psalms 17:1-19**

**November 6, 2010**

**T**oday we pray for the ministry and mission of Church of the Three Crosses, Chicago

“Church of the Three Crosses offers a variety of programs and opportunities for mission for folks to explore and express their faith.

Mission & Service – we strive to make a positive difference in the world amidst so many needs and challenges. \* Deborah’s Place – the church provides a meal to the residents of Deborah’s Place, about four blocks from the church building. Deborah’s Place is a supportive housing facility that provides a home to women who have been homeless. \* Pride Parade – for the last several years a contingent of the congregation has marched in Chicago’s annual Pride Parade along with the other congregations of the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches. \* Our Building as Mission Space – throughout the week our building, with its flexible and multi-use space, is rented by a variety of neighborhood organizations including support groups, theater companies and Old Town’s Kindermusik. Occasionally, youth groups from other churches which are visiting Chicago stay overnight. For facility information, go the “contact us” section. \* Night Ministry Outreach – on the second Thursday evening, we meet at the church at 7:30 pm to prepare for the night, making sandwiches and packing snack items we provide at the Night Ministry’s Health Bus stop in the Pilsen community.”

**Series 1**  
**Haggai 1:1-15a**  
**Luke 20:1-8**  
**Psalms 145:1-5, 17-21**

**Series 2**  
**Exodus 3:13-20**  
**Luke 20:1-8**  
**Psalms 17:1-19**



**Mission Moment — A School-Related Church**

**October 31, 2010**

**Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**[Reformation Sunday]**

Our OCWM giving supports so many landscapes of the United Church of Christ, a few more familiar than others. While some are surprised to hear the UCC is a “school related” church and are jazzed by the phrase, others are delighted yet must insist we are becoming a school-related church!

For example, the Our Church’s Wider Mission dollars that support the UCC Council for Higher Education brought Olivet College and Illinois College students and chaplains together for Gulf Coast hurricane relief in New Orleans, and then made it possible for some of these students to meet with Dillard University friends as the school began to rebuild. Our Church’s Wider Mission funds help the schools and seminaries meet to support one another, students and faculty with chaplains and presidents.

The United Church of Christ is indeed school-related. The founding of colleges, seminaries, academies, historically black colleges and universities; our bold move to affirm the importance of the intellectual life; and our appreciation for the relationship between the work of justice, community, spirituality and thoughtful reflection for the common good—all are all marks of being “school related.”

This Higher Education Sunday, October 31, churches join together to acknowledge faith and learning. We celebrate teachers and learners, United Church of Christ students and graduates, and friends. Wherever you are on the journey, we care about your paths of faith, learning, and service. Ask the question about calls to ministry. Dream boldly about vocations to become scientists and nurses and teachers. Support our schools and seminaries!

**Series 1**  
**Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4**  
**II Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12**  
**Luke 19:1-10**  
**Psalms 119:137-144**

**Series 2**  
**Isaiah 1:10-18**  
**II Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12**  
**Luke 19:1-10**  
**Psalms 32:1-7**

## November 1, 2010—All Saints Day

Today we pray for the ministry and mission of First Congregational Church of Bakersfield, CA

“As followers of Jesus, First Congregational Church of Bakersfield, United Church of Christ encourages and invites all to join our church family on our faith journey. We accept diversity and support individual spiritual growth. We seek to do God’s work in service of the local and global community.”

### Prayer

*In your Son you seek out and save the lost, O God, and invite us to the banquet of your eternal home. Visit your people with the joy of salvation that we may rejoice in the riches of your forgiveness and reach out in welcome to share with others the fest of your love. Amen.*

### All Saints Day

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18  
Psalm 49

Ephesians 1:11-23  
Luke 6:20-31

## November 2, 2010—Election Day

It is election time here in the United States but other countries around the world hold their elections at different times, if at all. Last year in Indonesia, elections were held on Maundy Thursday – a date that was objectionable to some churches. But John Campbell-Nelson, serving the Evangelical Christian Church of West Timor, Indonesia, through Global Ministries, thought the date appropriate. An event when betrayal, self-sacrifice, and the hope of freedom all came together seemed to set just about the right tone for an election, he said. Campbell-Nelson was in West Timor when President Obama was elected the 44th U.S. President. It was a heady time. His favorite story was from the young son of a colleague who had been ridiculed at school for being darker than his classmates. His mother told him to say, “Yes, I’m black just like Obama.” He came home from school after taking her advice and proudly reported that he was being treated with new respect.

### Series 1

Habakkuk 3:1-16  
Jude 5-21  
Psalm 142

### Series 2

Zechariah 7:1-14  
Jude 5-21  
Psalm 50

## November 3, 2010

Kyle Packer had his first experience as a volunteer with Global Ministries in Mungeli, India where he spent two months teaching at a local school and working at a hospital. While pondering the question ‘how did you serve God in India’ Kyle was reminded of all he experienced there. “We have done many things in India—eaten her foods, wandered amongst her monuments, shared smiles and unspoken understanding, seen new life brought forth, and watched neglected life slip away. We’ve formed relationships which have left impressions that are sure to last a lifetime. We were given a short window of opportunity to laugh and cry and wonder and to construct with our individual gifts something [which] bettered the life of another. So how did we serve God? In the same ways we did at home, for action is our tool, but shaping a humble and contrite heart is our true service, a service which knows no bounds within any activity and which requires no place to perform.

### Series 1

Habakkuk 3:17-19  
Luke 19:11-27  
Psalm 142

### Series 2

Amos 5:12-24  
Luke 19:11-27  
Psalm 50

## November 4, 2010

Today we prayer for the ministry and mission of Plymouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Lawrence, Kansas.

“Plymouth Covenant:

In the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus, we unite for the worship of God and the service of all. We seek to know the will of God and to walk in God’s ways, made known or to be made known to us; to love one another, to proclaim the Gospel to all the world; to work and pray for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of our shared humanity. And we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the gift of life eternal.”

### Series 1

Zechariah 1:1-17  
Acts 22:22 – 23:11  
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21

### Series 2

Deuteronomy 25:5-10  
Acts 22:22 – 23:11  
Psalm 17:1-19