



# The Good News

First Congregational United Church of Christ

314 West Maumee

Angola, Indiana

January 2015

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## Bi-Annual Congregational Meeting Jan. 18

We will have our Bi-Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 18, immediately following worship.

The main business will be to approve the 2015 budget approved by Church Council at its January 11 meeting.

If there is other business that needs to be on the meeting agenda, please contact Michael Eyster, *moderator*.



## Knocking on Heaven's Door *discussion in January*

On Sunday, February 1 & 8, we will gather in the Community Room following worship to discuss the book, *Knocking on Heaven's Door - The Path to a Better Way to Die* by Katy Butler.



The book deals with the end of life issues the author faced with her parents - and how their choices for and against medical intervention

determined how they died.

Please obtain your own copy of the book and start reading so you can join us for these two discussions. The discussion will go from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We are hoping to have the author, Katy Butler, with us for the second session on February 8 through *Skype*. *Plan to join us!*



# From the Pastor's Screen

## ***Pastor Tom resigns***

In a letter to Michael Eyster, *Moderator*, and the Church Council, Tom Sagendorf has announced he will officially retire as Pastor-in-Residence on January 1.

Tom has served in that position faithfully and we all owe him a huge debt for sharing his ministerial skills with us. Tom has been a special blessing to me as a mentor, colleague and friend and I am more grateful than I can say for his service to our church.

When we know for sure when Tom and Judie will be leaving, we will plan our “good-byes,” but for now we are thankful for each day they remain with us.

Blessings,

*Pastor Deb*

Dear Michael,

I wish to advise you and the Church Council that I will relinquish both the title and responsibilities of Pastor in Residence as of January 1, 2015.

It has been a unique privilege to serve the congregation in this position for eight plus years, but, for everything there is a season, and the season of my preaching/teaching/pastoral ministry must, at last, come to an end.

Judie and I , of course, will remain part of this faith community until such time as we move to the Otterbein North Shores senior community in Lakeside/Marblehead, OH. During the interim I will do all in my power to support Judy Goodrow as she pursues the high calling of ordained ministry.

Grace and peace, *Reverend Thomas E. Sagendorf*

## Links from the Prayer Chain

Later

after the angels,  
after the stable,  
after the Child,  
they went back ...  
as we always must  
back to the world that doesn't understand  
our talk of angels and stars  
and especially not the Child.

We go back complaining that it doesn't last.

They went back singing praises to God!

We do have to go back,  
but we can still sing the alleluias!



- Ann Weems

## Coming in Lent: *The Bible for Dummies*

Mark your calendars now and plan to join Pastor Deb and Judy Goodrow, our ministerial intern, for a Lenten class titled "The Bible for Dummies."

The class will begin on the first Sunday in Lent, February 22, and continue through March 22. The class will contain an overview of both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament and will loosely follow the book, *The Bible for Dummies*.

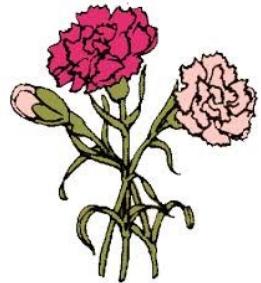
We will meet following worship in the Community Room and plan to be done each week by 12:30 p.m.

This will be a great opportunity to bring all those questions you've always wanted to discuss!





## Calendar Markers



4	- Worship 10 a.m.	18	- Worship 10 a.m. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday - Annual Meeting 11:15 a.m.
6	- Men's breakfast 8 a.m. Timbers  - 'Out-of-the-Bible' Study 9 a.m. Fellowship Hall  - Bell Choir/Chancel Choir 5:45 7 p.m.	20	- Men's breakfast 8 a.m. Timbers  - 'Out-of-the-Bible' Study 9 a.m.  - Bell Choir/Chancel Choir 5:45 7 p.m.
9	- Prayer group 9 a.m. Cahoots	21	- Prayer group 9 a.m. Cahoots
11	- Worship 10 a.m.  - Council meets 11:30 a.m.	23	- Prayer group 9 a.m. Cahoots
14	- 'Out-of-the-Bible' Study 9 a.m. Fellowship Hall  - Women's Book Study 4 p.m. Pastor's office  - Bell Choir/Chancel Choir 5:45 7 p.m.	25	- Worship 10 a.m.  - Welcoming class 11:30 a.m. Pastor's office  - 'Out-of-the-Bible' Study 9 a.m.
16	- Prayer group 9 a.m. Cahoots	28	- Women's Book Study 4 p.m. Pastor's office  - Bell Choir/Chancel Choir 5:45 7 p.m.
		29	- Prayer group 9 a.m. Cahoots



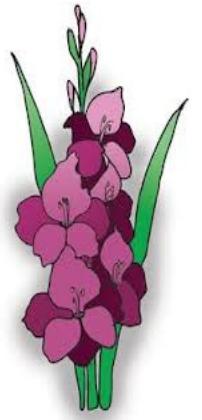
## Upcoming in

- 1,8 - Book discussion group  
8 - Council meets  
22 - 'The Bible for Dummies' class



## About the Community

- Our sympathy is extended to **Mary Westfall** and the family of **Larry Wittwer**. Larry died following surgery in California in December.
- In the Hospital ... **Karen Miller, Gary VandenElst, Rita Lechleidner, and Jennifer Decker**.



# Happy January Birthdays

4 - Karen Miller

4 - Judie Sagendorf

8 - Fred Barnes

13 - Sally Welter



14 - Brandon Krueckeberg

15 - Barb Bryan

16 - Ron Hays

28 - Don Mason, Jr.



## ***Volunteer Schedule for January***

Date	Liturgist	Greeters	Children's Sermon
Jan 04	Pastor Deb	Vicki & Jim Harris	Vicki Harris
Jan 11	John French	Steve & Betsy Eyrich	Rita Lechleidner
Jan 18	Jim Simons	Michelle Olson, Kevin Burnell	Marj Lilley
Jan 25	Rita Lechleidner	Gayle Newton & Deb Miller	Michelle Olson

Date	Usher	Refreshments	Counter
Jan 04	Jim Harris	Jim & Lois McEntarfer	Jim & Lynn Simons
Jan 11	Jim Harris	Kim Couch	Marj Stoudinger
Jan 18	Jim Harris	Roger & Chris Krueckeberg	Linda Driver
Jan 25	Jim Harris	Marj & Walt Lilley	Ralph McDowell

# News in Brief

## Women in Black



Women in Black will stand on Saturday, January 10, in front of the courthouse.

Folk are invited to gather from 10-11 a.m. and stand in protest of war and domestic violence. WIB is an international movement to end all forms of violence.

## Friday Prayer Group

The Friday Morning Prayer Group meets each Friday at 9 a.m. at Cahoots. Led by Lois McEntarfer, all are welcome to participate in this 30-minute intercessory prayer time.



## Women's Book Study



Women's Book Study will meet on Wednesday January 14 and 28 at 4 p.m. in Pastor Deb's office. Join us for a lively discussion of Rob Bell's "*What We Talk about When We Talk about God*."

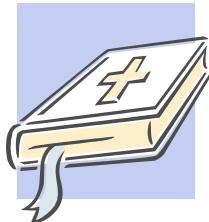
## Men's Breakfast group

The Men's Breakfast group will meet on January 6 & 20. All men are invited to these informal gatherings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 8 a.m. at Timbers. Questions? Contact Ron Hays.



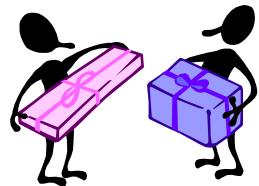
## 'Out-of-the-Bible' Study

Our "Out-of-the-Bible" Study, which meets Wednesdays at 9 a.m., will continue reading Rob Bell's "*What We Talk about When We Talk about God*" in January. All are welcome to join us in Fellowship Hall!



## Welcoming Class Jan. 25

On Sunday, January 25, following worship, we will have a Welcoming Class for those who have been journeying with us and want to find out more about our church and the United Church of Christ. We will meet in Pastor Deb's office following worship and finish by 12:30 p.m.



# Church Council highlights

Church Council met on Sunday, December 14 and the following items were among those discussed/approved/reported:

- Moderator Michael Eyster read a resignation letter from Pastor Tom Sagendorf;
- Six boxes were sent to our college students;
- Christmas Eve offering will go to CAVA, Cahoots and Faith Community Health Clinic;
- All parish groups will support two of our church families this year;
- Moderator-elect Jill Powers will look for a replacement for Madeline Smith, who resigned as deacon;
- State conducted an inspection on the boiler and repairs were needed. That has been done.



*Our next meeting will be Sunday, January 11, following worship.*

*Complete minutes and financial reports are available in the church office.*

## Craft items needed for Cahoots

Scour your closets and junk drawers for these items needed for craft projects at Cahoots:

- Cookie cutters
- T-shirts - big is better, stains OK
- Socks - mismatched OK
- Mittens - mismatched OK
- Board games - pieces missing fine
- Cards - incomplete decks OK
- Dice
- Marbles
- Buttons
- Frames - no glass OK
- Glass bottles - all shapes and sizes
- Wrapping paper

- Keys
- Bottle caps
- Trinkets & costume jewelry
- Dishes - mismatched, chipped, broken OK
- Crayons
- Candles
- Cookie sheets
- Old pans
- Old plastic cards - gift card type
- Old boxes and canisters
- Corks
- Plastic grocery bags
- Newspaper
- Old calendars
- Magazines

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Angola, Indiana 46703

**The Reverend Deborah Davis, *Pastor and Teacher***

**Rita Lechleidner, *licensed minister***

**Lynn Syler, *Director of Music***

**Judy Goodrow, *Office Manager & Ministerial Intern***

**Michael Eyster, *Moderator***

**E-mail Judy at [angolaucc@frontier.com](mailto:angolaucc@frontier.com)**

**E-mail Pastor Deb at [revdebdavis@aol.com](mailto:revdebdavis@aol.com)**

**Our web site is [www.angolaucc.org](http://www.angolaucc.org)**

**Telephone us as 260-665-9362**

**Fax us at 260-668-1082**

First Congregational United Church of Christ, as an inclusive and caring Christian community, welcomes into its full life and ministry persons of every race, ethnic background, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, marital status, criminal history and faith background. As we serve those within our church family, the community and the world in the name of Jesus Christ, we celebrate each person's uniqueness and look forward to the gifts they bring to us.



***God is still speaking,***

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**