

November 2016 Outlook

Unity Hill United Church of Christ “Where God’s Love Grows a Family”



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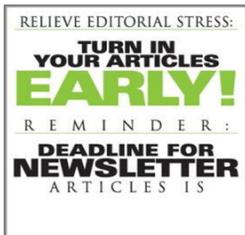
E-mail: unityhillucc@gmail.com

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The Reverend M. Todd Shipley, Pastor

The Reverend Harold C. Smith D.D., Pastor Emeritus
Dorothy W. Pickens, Soloist
Louise Evans, R.N., Parish Nurse
Lucille Bayer, Moderator
Diane Henderson, Vice-Moderator
Lorie Ann Boveroux, Christian Education Director
Shari Herman, Interim Bookkeeper
Dawn Brezina, Financial Secretary
David Brezina, Church Clerk
Joanne Wickson, Office Administrator
Calap Brown, Sexton

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



OUTLOOK DEADLINE ~ We welcome contributions to our monthly newsletter and invite you to share information, or even something more creative! The **DECEMBER 2016 Outlook** will be published at the end of November. All submissions, special announcements, articles or events **provided on, or before, the DEADLINE of Monday, November 14** will be included.

PASTORAL CARE If you, or someone you know, is hospitalized, please call the church office (203-374-8822) to let us know. Hospitals **do not** notify us when a parishioner is hospitalized.



Please remember our homebound in your prayers or with a note:

Barbara Bailey, Hazel Berger, Dolores Colaiacomo, Elsie Rapposch, John Ray, Katie Schneider, Rev. Harold C. Smith, Mitch Wein and Nellie Wirth.

MARTIN LUTHER AS HISTORY'S FIRST TWEETER? EXHIBITS EXPLORE HIS LEGACY

by David Gibson Oct 10, 2016 ~ c. 2016 Religion News Service

As the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation approaches, a landmark exhibit shows how Luther's legacy is also as relevant and immediate as a Facebook feed.

"Word and Image: Martin Luther's Reformation" at the Morgan Library in New York City is one of three interconnected U.S. shows that, taken together, represent the most extensive display of Luther-related materials ever collected outside of Germany.

The others are an exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Art focusing on the cultural and historical context of the Reformation, and an exhibit at Emory University in Atlanta that examines the debates over the law, grace, and salvation that animated Luther and his followers. All three exhibits run through mid-January.

The Morgan Library exhibit features a range of remarkable pieces, including an iconic portrait of Luther by his friend and neighbor in Wittenberg, the artist Lucas Cranach.

There's also a wooden money chest used by Johann Tetzel, a Dominican friar who gained infamy—and spurred Luther's anger—for taking payments in exchange for granting indulgences, which are remissions of punishment for sin.

But the centerpiece of the New York exhibit, as befits the library's focus, is a set of documents associated with Luther and his remarkable ability to communicate with the wider populace. There are his translations of the Bible from Latin into the German of the day, as well as Lutheran hymnals and Luther's 1521 letter to the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, in which Luther stood by the theological views that were earning him both renown and powerful enemies.

The real jewel, however, the item that delivers a frisson of physical connection to a distant past, is a single page print of the famous 95 Theses that Luther nailed to the door of the Wittenberg cathedral, one of just six contemporaneous copies in existence.

That even these few copies survive is a small miracle, said John McQuillen, who curated the exhibition. Wittenberg was a university town, and the cathedral doors "were the bulletin board of the university," he said, where it was standard practice to post a notice of a debate and the points that you wanted to argue.

That's all Luther was really doing.

"I don't think it was this dramatic moment of the sound of the hammer ringing across Germany," McQuillen said. "It was another day at the university, and another lecture to be held."

No one knows if Luther actually posted a printed copy like the one on display here, or if it was handwritten. If it had been a written version it would not have been considered worth saving, nor would it have survived—handwritten copies were cast aside as a matter of course once a printed version was available; a written original was considered of no value until modern times, and no one then realized the impact that these 95 Theses would have.

Even these famed theses may not have been as important as the world has come to believe.

They were, after all, written in Latin and intended for a university audience of theologians. What really had an impact was a sermon on many of these same topics—indulgences and grace and corruption in the church—that Luther delivered a short time later and had printed up and distributed.

That sermon arguably had a much greater effect on the wider public and marked the start of Luther's career as an astonishingly proficient writer, publishing a sermon or pamphlet or book on average of every three weeks up until his death in 1546.

Movable type printing—invented in Europe six decades earlier by Luther’s fellow German, Johannes Gutenberg—was gaining steam as an industry, and Luther and the popularity of his ideas gave printers an enormous boost.

McQuillen stressed that the success of the Reformation was really the result of a kind of “perfect storm” of conditions as much as Luther’s theological concepts: Sentiment in Germany was already growing against the church’s corrupt practices, as was resentment that so much money was going to Rome instead of staying closer to home.

In addition, local princes were looking for more autonomy and were willing to protect Luther when the forces of church and empire were out for his head, a campaign that also brought Luther fame, and more grassroots support.

But it was the combination of a new technology and a new theology—and, as McQuillen said, “someone who knew that message had to get out with little short texts that were very understandable to the average reader”—that made the difference.

Luther, working with Cranach and his shop of painters and engravers, was also able to distribute mass-produced woodcut images that mocked the pope or showed charity workers in a positive light. “He took the message to the people: it is like 16th-century tweeting, throwing out these little pamphlets, these little single-page tracts, and almost poster prints of eye-catching woodcut illustrations,” McQuillen said.

It was as big a shift as the transition 1,500 years before Luther from scrolls to the bound codex, and it changed the Western world, religiously, politically and culturally.

“We are on a continuum of media; this is not something that was just invented with Facebook and Twitter,” McQuillen said. “We perpetually revisit the way that information gets out, how and what it is. And the fact that we are still dealing with the same problems and issues that they were dealing with 500 years ago is very telling to how important this subject matter is.” The medium is the message once again.

Luther’s life “is almost ridiculously relevant today as to how a grassroots movement gets going and actually can change something,” McQuillen said.

CHURCH UPDATES

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Remember to turn clocks back one hour before bed Saturday night.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING

Sunday, December 11, 2016 following worship service

All members please plan on attending to vote on the church budget for 2017.

GEORGE’S HILL



Next get together is Thursday, November 10 from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm.

George’s Hill is a social engagement group for persons with memory problems or early dementia and their caregivers, where they can meet with other people with similar problems, for a fun program and lunch, which is provided. To register, please call the church office at 203-374-8822 or sign up on our web site. Our motto is: **YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

DIACONATE ~ By: Patricia Bowman, Chair

The next meeting for the Diaconate is Tuesday, November 8 at 1:30 p.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL ~ By: Moderator, Lucille Baver

CHURCH COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING on Monday, November 14 at 6:00 pm with pizza for everyone! and the **MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING** immediately following.

COMMITTEE REPORTS TO COUNCIL are due in church office by **Monday, November 7.**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~ By: Lorie Bouveroux, Christian Ed Coordinator



We have spent time studying how Jesus and God come to our aid in prayer. We are also spending time learning liturgical colors and symbolism and learning the calendar of the Church year. We are documenting our journey through the liturgical year on our poster in the classroom and are looking forward to purple- Advent! After the study of prayer, our place in Christianity and God's church, we hope to move on to understanding the tradition of the UCC church.

In addition, the children and youth are taking a leadership role in determining how our classroom space looks. We are brainstorming and visioning guided by me and the youth. It is my belief that it is important for the children to have a say in their

instructional environment and have the environment reflect how they learn.

We were excited to meet two new friends last week and hope to see more of them. As always we would love for you to visit us. Lorie Boveroux

MISSIONS COMMITTEE ~ By: Brenda Finizio, Chair

CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION (OCWM) ~ This fall the collection is for "**NEIGHBORS IN NEED**" (NIN) which is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

HURRICANE MATTHEW DISASTER RELIEF 2016 - ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING funds are being used to help regions impacted by Hurricane Matthew by providing help for immediate needs (i.e. shelter, food and safety). We sent information to the congregation to ask for additional donations for this cause. The mission's team is considering sending money to support.

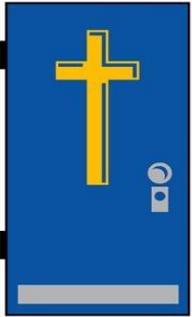
VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE ~ Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport has a goal of collecting \$25,000 by November 1st. The money is used to buy food wholesale and bulk. They are a leader in relieving hunger in Bridgeport, Fairfield, Monroe, and Trumbull since the early 1980's. Over 20,000 unique visitors per month are served through our 40 independent pantries and soup kitchens. Since 2013, they have started buying more lean meats, whole grains and fresh produce, which can be more expensive.

HAITI MISSION TRIP ~ A presentation about our Haiti Mission trip will be held on Sunday, November 20th during service and afterwards in the Fellowship Hall. Details are still being planned and more information will be provided.

Thank you for all your support.
Brenda Finizio

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE ~ By: Sharon Brezina, Chair

The Church Office



Will Be Closed:

Well, it has begun. The remodel of both bathrooms is underway and we wait with anticipation to see the long-awaited outcome.

Demolition will begin on Monday - October 31st.

The asbestos removal is on November 1st, 2nd and 3rd and the contractor has requested that no one be in the building during that time. Once that is complete it will be full steam ahead for our great crew. The projected completion is the end of November.

During this time B&G requests that you utilize the bathroom in the office or the bathrooms downstairs.

The heat has been turned on - just in time for the beautiful Fall weather.



The office will be closed on Tuesday, November 1, Wednesday, November 2 & Thursday, November 3 for asbestos removal and everyone's health & safety.

Thanks for your help and cooperation. Have a great one, Sharon

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ~ By: Patricia Bowman

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP AT UNITY HILL?

When the Church Council met in September to discuss Stewardship, this was the opening question to help us gather our various perspectives.

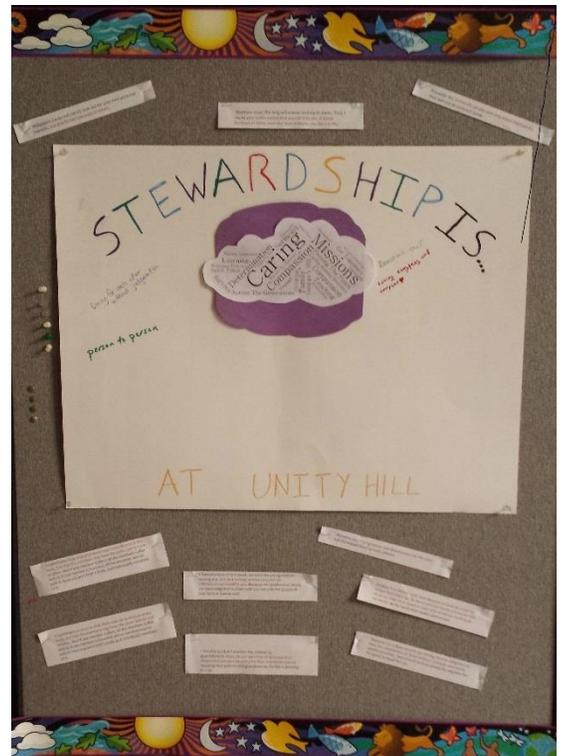
We determined that stewardship extends beyond an annual pledge campaign, and translates to other actions we take both personally and as a group. Stewardship involves our decisions about the use of resources. There are many types of resources – physical buildings and land, financial assets, people and their unique gifts as well as the fleeting resource of time. As we examined the strengths of Unity Hill and what values and goals resonate with our congregation and community, we uncovered a common thread of CARING within the many actions that Unity Hill undertakes – from welcoming visitors to George's Hill and many others. We are focusing over the next six months to build more awareness and take actions that exemplify Stewardship.

Stewardship involves CARING for the resources that God has blessed us with and putting them into use to support the glory of God.

The Church Council created an action plan to focus on different aspects of CARING with a monthly activity or event.

The first was the "Feed Your Soul" luncheon held October 16th to celebrate the members of Unity Hill. Appreciation for each other is one area of caring that distinguishes Unity Hill. We had a wonderful time sharing fellowship and food. We also extended our CARING by sending cards to those who are no longer able to get out or just in need of our prayers and support.

In November, there are two activities that highlight how we express CARING for others both locally and globally. The first is the Hunger Luncheon on November 6th sponsored by the Fellowship of Unity Hill. Proceeds from this meal go directly to support the meals prepared and served at the Golden Hill



Community Supper Program for those in need within the Bridgeport community. So, come and enjoy a meal that will help us feed others.

The second is a presentation on the Haiti Mission trip during and after Sunday morning worship on November 20th. Come see and hear how the caring spirit of Unity Hill was conveyed to those involved with the Church of the Apostles of Christ in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.

And feel free to add your answer to the question "What is Stewardship?" on the bulletin board next to the nursery.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ~ By: Carole J. Fanslow, President

- ~ Our next meeting is on Thursday, November 17 at 12 noon. Luncheon hostesses are Carole Fanslow and Marsha Piper; devotions will be offered by Rose Vars. The program will feature Officer Timothy Fedor of the Trumbull Police Department speaking on "Safety and Fraud Alerts." Bring a friend or family member to hear this very important topic. The cost is \$7.00 or bring your favorite dish to share. Please sign up on bulletin board or call the office to RSVP.
- ~ Our Annual Christmas Tea will be on Thursday, December 1 at 1:00 pm. Devotions will be offered by Wally Yeager. If anyone can make finger sandwiches or desserts, it would be most appreciated. The entertainment this year will be the Festive Ringers Handbell Choir. Area church women are invited. Monetary donations will be accepted for the Center for Family Justice which serves victims of domestic violence and their families in the greater Bridgeport area.
- ~ Our new brochure is hot off the presses. Look on the table in fellowship hall.



FELLOWSHIP OF UNITY HILL ~ By: Dot Pickens, President 2016

- ~ A Hunger Luncheon will be held on Sunday, November 6 following worship. Cost is \$6 and \$3. These funds help defray the cost of preparing the food at Golden Hill United Methodist Community Suppers Program six times a year. We will be having a raffle along with the luncheon. Tickets will be \$1 each. If anyone would like to donate; please see Dot. Please come out and support our efforts.
- ~ FUH's annual Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 11 at 5:00 pm at the Blue Goose Restaurant in Stratford. Cost is \$30 including tax and gratuity, plus bring a grab bag gift. Dinner choices are: roast sirloin of beef; chicken parmigiana; stuffed filet of sole; golden fried bay scallops. You don't have to belong to FUH – just come to have an evening out with friends. Sign up on the bulletin board with your choice of entrees or call Carole at 203-375-1284 or Dot at 203-508-2406 for reservations.
- ~ Our next turn to provide the meal at **Golden Hill Community Suppers** will be on Wednesday, December 28; We will cook at Golden Hill starting at 2:00 pm and serve at 5:00 pm. Help is always needed and appreciated. Please contact Dot Pickens for more information.

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND HAPPENINGS

MIDDLEBROOK FARMS WORSHIP SERVICE

Monthly worship services at Middlebrook Farms Health Care Center will continue to be on the first Thursday of the month under the leadership of Deacons Wally Yeager and Carole Fanslow.

Next worship service is Thursday, November 3 at 2:00 pm.

GREATER BRIDGEPORT CHAPTER OF AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

The Greater Bridgeport Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is again sponsoring "Pipescreams" on Sunday, October 30 at 4:00 pm at the United Congregational Church, 877 Park Avenue, Bridgeport. Wear a costume; hear great music and see a special silent movie.

TRUMBULL INTERFAITH COUNCIL

- ~ Monthly meeting is on Wednesday, November 2 at 7:30 pm at Trumbull Congregational Church, 3115 Reservoir Avenue, Trumbull. Plans will be finalized for this year's Thanksgiving service.
- ~ This year's Thanksgiving Service will be on Monday, November 21 at 8:00 pm at Christ the King Church, 4700 Madison Avenue, Trumbull. Snow date is Wednesday, November 23 at 8:00 pm. Those attending are asked to bring non-perishable food items for Trumbull Social Services. Area clergy and choirs will participate. A reception will follow.
- ~ The December 7th TIC meeting will be at Congregation B'nai Torah.



COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT

- ~ The CCGB has a new headquarters. They've moved to 1718 Capitol Avenue, Bridgeport. 203-334-1121
- ~ Delegates Assembly will be on Monday, November 14 beginning at 5:30 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport. Come and hear an update on the Council programs. A light supper will be served, but make reservations with the Council office at 203-334-1121.

HEALTH REMINDERS: ~ From: Louise Evans, RN

HOW MAKING FRIENDS CAN HELP DEPRESSION

By Krisha McCoy, MS; Medically reviewed by Lindsey Marcellin, MD, MPH 4/9/2016

Many depressed people withdraw from social situations. But making friends and expanding your social network can provide you with needed support as you deal with your depression. If you are depressed, you may not enjoy activities you once found pleasurable, including socializing and making friends. Even if you do want to spend time with old friends and meet new people, you may worry that your persistent sadness, pessimism, and other depression symptoms might make it difficult for people to want to develop a friendship with you. Many people who have depression feel isolated and helpless. But reaching out to others, expanding your network of social support, and enjoying the diversion of a good friendship can be just what you need when you are depressed.

Depending on where you are in the course of your depression treatment, it's often difficult to motivate yourself to be social. But think about how much fun it can be to spend time with other people and participate in social activities.

Try these suggestions for reconnecting with loved ones and making new friends:

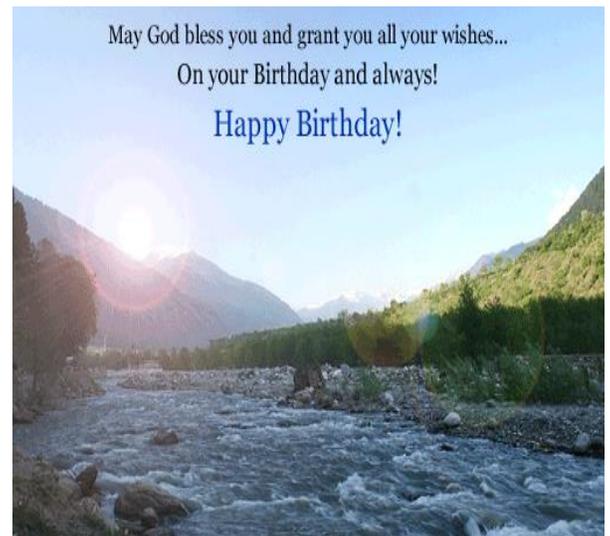
- ~ **Rebuild existing friendships.** Connecting with those who have already helped you through good times and bad is a great place to start when trying to be more social. Call up a friend whose company you usually enjoy and go see a movie, get a cup of coffee, attend a sporting event, or do an activity you are both interested in.
- ~ **Get involved in the community.** Religious and community organizations tend to be a welcoming way to meet new people, engage in activities, and develop a supportive social network. Find out about options in your area. Volunteering in your community can help both with making friends and feeling more purposeful in your life.

- ~ **Join a support group.** It is important to have friends who understand what you are going through and who you can lean on for support and talk to about your struggles with depression. A support group of other people managing depression can be a great option for making friends since everyone in the group knows just what you are experiencing.
- ~ **Take a new class.** Pick a subject you would like to learn more about and see if a local college, university, or community center offers a class on it. In addition to learning something new, you are likely to meet other people who share your interest.
- ~ **Be a good listener.** As you meet new friends, remember that it is just as important to listen as it is to talk. Engaging someone else about their views and the interests you have in common can help distract you from the troubles you are experiencing. Remember that the strongest friendships are based on mutual exchanges.
- ~ **Be someone your friends can count on.** While you may be in great need of support when managing depression, it is important that support goes both ways in a friendship. Make an effort to be there when friends reach out to you. When your depression makes it difficult to be social, try to explain to your friends what you are going through and that you are working to get better.
- ~ **Remember that healing from depression can be a long process, marked with ups and downs.** So give yourself time. Do your best to socialize with others and make new friends, but don't beat yourself up if you don't always feel like being around other people. With time and treatment, know that you will begin to feel better and take pleasure in social activities you once enjoyed.

Depression Center - Everyday Health Copyright © 2016 Everyday Health Media, LLC
<http://www.everydayhealth.com/depression/howmakingfriendscanhelpdepression.aspx>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN NOVEMBER !

1 Hannah Bowman	18 Dorothy Pickens
1 Ann Myrece James	20 Vanessa Sanchez
3 Renate Krakovich	23 Madison Tetreault
4 Amy Aanensen	23 Mason Tetreault
6 Danielle Paolozzi	24 Sharon Brezina
8 Matthew Boveroux	25 Ken Parker
16 Chase Paolozzi	29 Edward Yeager
17 Steve Pickens	29 Sarah Hayward



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN NOVEMBER

11/7	Eleanor and Bill Csire
11/8	Sharon and David Brezina

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>to turn clocks back one hour before church</p>	<p>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ~ Remember</p>	<p>1 OFFICE CLOSED FOR RENOVATION</p>	<p>2 OFFICE CLOSED FOR RENOVATION</p>	<p>3 OFFICE CLOSED FOR RENOVATION</p> <p>2pm Middlebrook Farms Worship</p>	<p>4 8am-12pm PCCT</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 MEMORIAL SUNDAY</p> <p>9:00 am Bible Study 11:30 am Hunger Luncheon</p>	<p>7 Committee Reports to Council due by today</p>	<p>8 Election Day Office is closed</p> <p>1:30pm Diaconate Meeting</p>	<p>9 11:30-2:30 Kennedy Center 12:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>10 11:30-1:00 George's Hill 3-9pm PCCT</p>	<p>11 Veterans Day Office is closed</p> <p>8am-12pm PCCT</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 9:00 am Bible Study</p>	<p>14 OUTLOOK DEADLINE</p> <p>6:00 pm Church Council Budget Meeting & Pizza & Monthly Meeting</p>	<p>15 7-8:30pm Overeaters' Anonymous Intergroup</p>	<p>16 12:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>17 3-9pm PCCT 12pm Women's Fellowship Covered Dish Luncheon</p>	<p>18 8am-12pm PCCT</p>	<p>19 12-4 pm Overeaters Anonymous meeting</p>
<p>20 9:00 am Bible Study</p>	<p>21 8:00 pm TIC Interfaith Thanksgiving Service</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 12:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>24 Thanksgiving Day Office is closed</p>	<p>25 Office is closed for holiday</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 9:00 am Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 12:00 pm Bible Study</p>			

REMODELING PROJECT FOR HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE BATHROOMS

The
Church
Office



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Closed:**

Demolition will begin
on Monday - October 31st.
**The asbestos removal is
on November 1st, 2nd and 3rd
and they have requested that
no one be in the building
during that time.**



**The church will be closed on
Tuesday, November 1,
Wednesday, November 2 &
Thursday, November 3 for
asbestos removal and
everyone's health and safety.**

Once that is complete it will be full steam ahead for our great crew. The projected completion date is the end of November.

During this time B&G requests that you utilize the bathroom in the office or the bathrooms downstairs.



***"No matter who you are
or where you are
on life's journey,
you are welcome here!"***

***Unity Hill United Church of Christ
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