



# Outlook

## MAY 2014

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### Unity Hill United Church of Christ

*"Where God's Love Grows a Family"*

364 White Plains Road, Trumbull, CT 06611  
Web site: [www.unityhillucc.org](http://www.unityhillucc.org) E-mail: [unityhillucc@snet.net](mailto:unityhillucc@snet.net)  
Phone: 203-374-8822 Fax: 203-374-1120

The Reverend M. Todd Shipley, Pastor

The Reverend Harold C. Smith D.D., Pastor Emeritus

Carole J. Fanslow, Music/Choir Director

Dorothy W. Pickens, Soloist

Louise Evans, R.N., Parish Nurse

Patricia Bowman, Moderator

Lucille Bayer, Vice-Moderator

Carol Dunn, Treasurer

Dawn Brezina, Financial Secretary

David Brezina, Church Clerk

Joanne Wickson, Office Manager

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 something more creative! The June, 2014 Outlook will be published at end of May. All submissions, special announcements, articles or events provided by the deadline of Monday, May 19 will be included.



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## A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE

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**By: Pastor Todd Shipley**

### A FLOWER'S ESSENCE IS TO BLOOM. A HUMAN?



When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."  
Matthew 8:18-22

Usually when I read the Bible and I don't understand a passage, I can take a broader perspective of the action in the chapter or book I am reading and it will become clearer to me. That is not the case in this section of Matthew. The son of Man has no place to lay his head? What does that have to do with the verses right before and right after it?

After reading the commentaries, they seem to agree that it is a descriptive warning of what life will be like if that 'teacher of the law' indeed follows Christ. Other members of God's creation have an instinct to build a place to keep them safe, and I think we can safely see that humans do too ... but not the 'son of man' and by extension, not his followers.

Oh, and that last line. Oh my, that last line. Then in Jesus' own words, true living for a human is to follow him. If we are to follow him now, where will He lead us? How is a life spent following Christ different than a secular life? I want to know your answer. Email me. Phone me. Write Me. Text me. Facebook me. I asked you guys a question last month and only one person responded. Is there only one person reading this column? If so, then I think our time would best be served by putting a topical article from the Christian Century here instead.

Yours, Pastor Todd

### PASTORAL CARE

If you, or someone you know, is hospitalized, please call the church office (203-374-8822.)

Hospitals **do not** notify us when a parishioner is hospitalized.



**Please remember our homebound in your prayers or with a note:**  
Erika Aanensen, Barbara Bailey, Hazel Berger, Eleanor Dooling,  
William Osten, Elsie Rapposch, Ruth Schuler and Nellie Wirth.

### Baptism & Church Membership

Anyone who is interested in scheduling a baptism, or who would like information on joining Unity Hill UCC, please contact Pastor Todd Shipley at 203-374-8822 or [unityhill.pastor@snet.net](mailto:unityhill.pastor@snet.net)

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## CHURCH UPDATES

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We extend our deepest sympathy to Marsha Piper, and her family, on the death of Marsha's grandmother, Carmella "Millie" Cuccaro, age 101 of Trumbull. She passed away peacefully at Maefair Health Care Center on April 6, 2014.



### BIBLE STUDY: THE BIBLE DILEMMA

Our Adult Bible Discussion program, The Bible Dilemma, will run for 7 weeks and will be offered twice a week – on Sundays with Pastor Todd beginning April 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. and on Wednesdays with Bob K. beginning April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Let's explore together the apparent contradictions found in the Bible – this promises to have lively and educational discussions. The more people in attendance the more interesting it will be, so come along and invite your friends!

### UNITY IN LOSS GROUPS MEETINGS

(Large group) at 12 noon on May 25, the last Sunday of the month.

And (Small group) will be meeting at 12 noon on May 29, the last Thursday of the month

### UNITY HILL UCC CHURCH PICNIC

"Chee-burger, Chee-burger, Chee-burger, No coke! ... just Pepsi, Cheeps"  
How many of you are familiar with the title of this article? If you are, then you are a die-hard, old SNL fan. For those of you scratching your heads, this is a tag line in a skit from an old Saturday Night Live show. But it's a perfect lead-in regarding the church picnic.



Save the date, **Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup>**, for our church picnic which will be held at Boothe Memorial Park in Stratford. The picnic begins at 1 PM, following an outdoor worship service by Pastor Todd right there at the park. I have been informed by the Diaconate committee there will still be a worship service in church, but it will be a shortened version.

The cost for the picnic will be \$10 per person, with a max of \$25 for families with kids. Sign-up sheets to attend the picnic will be posted in the church hall beginning Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be collecting monies through Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. **Payment is required at time of sign-up to ensure an accurate count.** If paying by check, please make it payable to Bob Krakovich (instead of Unity Hill Church) as I will be taking care of collecting for the picnic and paying for expenses.



Sign-up sheets for picnic items needed from the congregation (salads, desserts, garnishments, lettuce/tomato, soda, etc) will also be posted that same day. This picnic is rain or shine since we will be under a pavilion. There is a drop-off area and Handicap parking right at our site. Activities will be provided through Christian Ed and the Youth Group. So bring your comfy lawn chairs, your appetite and pray for a warm sunny day.

Chef Bob Krakovich, Picnic Coordinator

**BAPTISM** ~ A Baptism will take place Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 am in church. Marsha Piper will be the Deacon assisting Pastor Todd.

### MOTHER'S DAY FAMILY TEA WITH KANDI CARLE~VICTORIAN LADY

Sunday, May 11 from 1:00-3:30 pm.

Join us for light lunch of Tea and Sandwiches with entertainment presented by Kandie, who will dress-up and present information about the Civil War era. All are welcome! It's an amazing and very educational performance about life and people during the Civil war time period.

## **CELEBRATION CORNER**

### ***Broadway comes to Oronoque Village***

For the second year in a row, Unity Hill's very own Bob Krakovich will be lending his vocal talents to a variety show sponsored by the BRAVO theatrical group of Oronoque Village. This year's event will showcase songs from long running Broadway shows, along with comedy skits from "I Love Lucy", "Carol Burnett Show", "Abbott & Costello", and others.

The "Broadway" show will be on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, at 7:30, in the South Oronoque Community Building. Admission is only \$5, with plenty of coffee/tea and desserts following the show. Last year's event was enjoyed by over 180 people, 10 being from Unity Hill.

This year, Bob will sing duets to "Sunrise, Sunset" (Fiddler on the Roof) and "Phantom of the Opera" (Phantom of the Opera), while soloing to "Impossible Dream" (Man of La Mancha) and also "Memories" (Cats).

Come experience an evening of Broadway songs, without the need to travel by train to New York City, while also showing your support for our church brother Bob and his fellow singers.

**Reminder** – *if there is something exciting taking place in your life, or in your childrens' lives, we would love to share the news. Contact Joanne in the office 203-374-8822.*

Please contact the office if you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in memory or celebration of your loved ones. Arrangements are \$30 for 1; \$50 for 2. Make checks payable to Unity Hill UCC and note "flowers" in the memo. You can mail the check or drop it off in the office.



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## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

The next Church Council Meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Monday, May 12. Committee reports to Council are due in the office on, or before, Monday, May 5.

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## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

**By: Sharon Brezina**

Buildings and Grounds is up and running for 2014!! Thanks to the help and guidance of the committee members: Sharon, Steve and Trevor with the new addition of Hank Parker and member-at-large John Rossi.

We are so excited for all the plans and activities we have coming up for our members and friends at Unity Hill. Not ready to share yet... but all good!

We are currently repairing and refreshing the look for our friendship area, Lynch Hall, and all the offices and kitchen surrounding it. There was a lot of water damaged done in some of the offices. This will be repaired – popcorn ceiling gone and in two weeks or so we will look just like new!

We still have some tulip bulbs left for our Remembrance garden in front of the bell. This will look lovely and bloom again. Thanks to all who want to be a part of this beautiful memorial.

A big reminder that we have a great fundraiser coming up – The Victorian Lady – will be coming for a Civil War performance on Mother's Day. It's an amazing and very educational performance about life and people during the Civil war time period. So come enjoy a light lunch, friends, and we are sure you'll walk away with some new tidbits of information, and have lots of fun too.

**B&G Tip for the month:** Since we all have cleaning on our mind... well most of us ;)

Here is a list of easy to use natural alternatives that can safely replace the commercial household products. The whole list of cleaning options will be available for a few weeks on the information table in the hall or at [http://eartheasy.com/live\\_nontoxic\\_solutions.htm#substitutions](http://eartheasy.com/live_nontoxic_solutions.htm#substitutions).

**All-Purpose Cleaner:** Mix 1/2 cup vinegar and 1/4 cup baking soda (or 2 teaspoons borax) into 1/2 gallon (2 liters) water. Store and keep. Use for removal of water deposit stains on shower stall panels, bathroom chrome fixtures, windows, bathroom mirrors, etc.

**Air Freshener:** Commercial air fresheners mask smells and coat nasal passages to diminish the sense of smell.

- Baking soda or vinegar with lemon juice in small dishes absorbs odors around the house.
- Having houseplants helps reduce odors in the home.
- Prevent cooking odors by simmering vinegar (1 tbsp in 1 cup water) on the stove while cooking. To get such smells as fish and onion off utensils and cutting boards, wipe them with vinegar and wash in soapy water.
- Keep fresh coffee grounds on the counter.
- Grind up a slice of lemon in the garbage disposal.
- Simmer water and cinnamon or other spices on stove.
- Place bowls of fragrant dried herbs and flowers in room.

**Floor Cleaner and Polish:** Most floor surfaces can be easily cleaned using a solution of vinegar and water.

- **Vinyl and linoleum:** mix 1 cup vinegar and a few drops of baby oil in 1 gallon warm water. For tough jobs, add 1/4 cup borax. Use sparingly on linoleum.
- **Wood:** apply a thin coat of 1:1 vegetable oil and vinegar and rub in well.
- **For damp-mopping wood floors:** mix equal amounts of white distilled vinegar and water. Add 15 drops of pure peppermint oil; shake to mix.
- **Painted wood:** mix 1 teaspoon washing soda into 1 gallon (4L) hot water.
- **Brick and stone tiles:** mix 1 cup white vinegar in 1 gallon (4L) water; rinse with clear water.

Have a Blessed Day, B&G

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## **MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

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**By: Wally Yeager**

Thanks to the members and friends of Unity Hill for making "One Great Hour of Sharing" a great success. We collected \$527. God bless you one and all for your generosity.

We have started our next project "Strengthening the Church" which is the UCC's annual offering to help build our denominational future. All gifts are directed to activities and programs within your local Conference, as well as the UCC's national ministries. Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church offering, these visions and dreams can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be "church" in new ways, your generous gifts will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that "God is still speaking." We will be collecting for this through the month of May.

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## **YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRY**

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**By: Bob Krakovich**

Unity Hill now has a dynamic new Youth Music Ministry team. Bob Krakovich will be the advisor for this team of youths aged 12 and up. They will meet once a month to discuss and plan their special music for future worship services. May's meeting will be held on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour to plan June's music. Contact Bob (203-752-6105) if your child is interested in being a part of this music ministry, or if you have any questions.

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## **YOUTH GROUP**

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Meetings on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Remember, dinner and dessert are included!  
We will continue to work with both groups together, from 5:30 to 7:30.

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## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

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**By: Mabel Buttress**

April was a wonderfully busy month for Christian Ed!

In Sunday School, our youngest Sunday schoolers learned the Easter Story with Ms. Amarilis. Our older group, led by Mrs. Brezina, learned about Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, and encountering Jesus on the walk to Emmaus. The kids had great fun with the Easter Bunny at our annual Egg Hunt. We hope you enjoyed seeing the smiles on their faces!

We were so excited with the children's' involvement during worship services in April. Our youngest had a procession with Pastor Todd on Palm Sunday – we hope you enjoyed receiving your palms from them. The Cherub Choir performed songs with Ms. Carole on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday looking their best! Our Youth Music Ministry Team (YMMT) had a busy month – Shakira, in a duet with Bob K., sang a beautiful rendition of *Via Dolorosa*. We're so proud ~ they also performed it on Good Friday at Golden Hill for the ecumenical service. Other members of YMMT performed a moving rendition of *Hallelujah* on the last Sunday of the month – and we can't wait to see what other fabulous surprises they have in store for us in the future!

Our newly merged Youth Groups explored Holy Week with Pastor Todd and learned some new ways of learning about the Bible through games with Mrs. Brezina. We're pleasantly surprised how well our Junior and Senior Groups work together and look forward to continuing this format for the time being. We hope to have an outing to the Shelton Ice Rinks next month, as well as a visit to the theater to see *Heaven is For Real*. Soon, we will start exploring Mission Trip options for next year – our youth are such an important part of the growth of this church, we want to make sure we give them every opportunity to grow spiritually. Youth Group meetings for the month of May are scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 7:30 – remember, dinner and dessert are included!

Our Adult Bible Discussion program, The Bible Dilemma, will run for 7 weeks and will be offered twice a week – on Sundays with Pastor Todd beginning April 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. and on Wednesdays with Bob K. beginning April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Let's explore together the apparent contradictions found in the Bible – this promises to have lively and educational discussions. The more people in attendance the more interesting it will be, so come along and invite your friends!

In conjunction with Buildings & Grounds, Christian Ed sold tulip bulbs for a Remembrance Garden. We look forward to seeing the tulips bloom in remembrance of loved ones. Thank you to all who purchased bulbs and participated in this new, and hopefully annual, program.

Keep an eye out for upcoming CE events. Have a blessed May and enjoy the outdoors!

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## **FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS**

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### ***Fellowship of Unity Hill***

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**By: Dot Pickens**

- ~ We met on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> after the service. We discussed what we will prepare for the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Golden Hill Community Supper. Ham with all the trimmings.
- ~ We voted to make a \$100 donation toward the Crop Walk which is on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- ~ Plans were also discussed for the summer get-away.
- ~ We will meet again sometime in May to discuss what we will be doing for the summer months.
- ~ Our next get together is on Sunday, June 1 at 6:00 pm at Rose Vars' home.

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### ***Men's Fellowship***

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**By: Pastor Todd**

Monday, May 5 from 6:00-9:00 pm ~ RSVP with Pastor Todd  
And tell him how you like your steak cooked

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## **Women's Fellowship**

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**By: Betty Vida**

- ~ Executive Board 2014-2015 Program Planning meeting is Wednesday, May 7 at 10:00 a.m.
- ~ May Friendship Day Celebration will be held on Friday, May 2 at 11:00 a.m. at Unity Hill UCC, sponsored by Church Women United. Michelle McCabe, Hunger Outreach Coordinator for the Council of Churches will be the guest speaker. Those attending are asked to bring a sandwich – our Women's Fellowship will serve dessert and beverage. The theme is "Through God Our Hands Can Serve." The Fellowship of the Least Coin will also be observed.
- ~ It was a first for Unity Hill when women from other churches gathered on Maundy Thursday for a Communion Service followed by a continental breakfast, hosted by the Women's Fellowship. The Rev. Susan Pfeil, Pastor of First United Church of Christ, Bridgeport officiated at the service. An offering was received for the Family Justice Center. Hopefully, we can repeat this time together.
- ~ Luncheon out will be on Thursday, May 15 at 12 noon at Knapp's Landing, 520 Sniffens Lane, Stratford. Please RSVP so we can let them know how many are coming. Lunch is Dutch Treat.

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## **COMMUNITY GROUPS AND HAPPENINGS**

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### **May Friendship Day Celebration**

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May Friendship Day will be celebrated on Friday, May 2 at 11:00 a.m. at Unity Hill UCC. Sponsored by Church Women United and hosted by the Women's Fellowship of Unity Hill UCC.

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### **40<sup>th</sup> Annual CROP Hunger Walk**

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**40<sup>th</sup> Annual CROP Hunger Walk ~ Sunday, May 4 from 1:30 – 5:00 p.m.**

Begins at United Congregational Church, 877 Park Avenue, Bridgeport (corner of Park Ave and State St) It's not too late to sign up and walk or be a sponsor. Also needed are volunteers for traffic and registration (see Carole & Allen Fanslow for this assignment)

Those walking or working are asked to bring non-perishable food items for the special collection for food pantries in the community. Many thanks to Dot Pickens and Marsha Piper for coordinating Unity Hill's walkers. Unity Hill always does a great job. Thanks in advance for walking, working and for being sponsors.

CROP Board wrap-up meeting on Monday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Unity Hill. Come and find out all about CROP.



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### **Golden Hill Community Suppers Program**

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Our next turn will be Wednesday, June 25 at Golden Hill United Methodist Church, Bridgeport. We cook at 2 pm; Serve at 5 pm. More help is always appreciated.

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### **Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport**

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~ 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting is on Thursday, May 1 from 6:00-9:00 pm at United Congregational Church, 877 Park Avenue, Bridgeport. Please call 203-334-1121 or email [jeanetteharris@ccgb.org](mailto:jeanetteharris@ccgb.org) to let us know you will attend.

~ YOU ARE INVITED to a free Energy Breakfast on Wednesday, May 7 from 7:30–9 AM at United Congregational Church, 877 Park Avenue, Bridgeport

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### **Fairfield East Association Spring Meeting**

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Wednesday, May 28 beginning at 6:00 pm ~ FEA Spring Meeting at Brookfield Congregational Church

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## **Trumbull Interfaith Committee**

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The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, Tashua, 5170 Main Street, Trumbull.

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### **Church World Service Kits**

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On Sunday, April 13: 16 hygiene kits; 2 baby kits; and 20 school kits were dedicated. Total of 38 kits. All given by the wonderful people at Unity Hill. Sufficient postage was collected. Remember this postage is used to ship the kits wherever they are most needed.

Next year the project should be a Unity Hill mission project, not just Women's Fellowship. The need for more is great! With everyone's help, we could do even better!

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### **HEALTH CORNER**

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**By: Louise Evans, R.N.**

#### **FIRST AID FOR BURNS**

For minor burns:

- Immerse in fresh, cool water or apply cool compresses for 10 to 15 minutes.
- Dry the area with a clean cloth. Cover with sterile gauze or a non-adhesive bandage.
- Don't apply ointments or butter; these may cause infection.
- Don't break blisters. Burns become infected very easily.
- Over-the-counter pain medications may help to reduce inflammation and pain.

Call emergency services (911) if:

- Burns cover a large area of the body.
- Burns affect the entire thickness of skin.
- The victim is an infant or elderly.
- The burn was caused by electricity, which can lead to "invisible" burns.

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### **OUR TREASURER'S CHECKBOOK**

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**By: Bob Krakovich**

<u>Income</u>	<u>As of 3/31/14</u>	<u>As of 3/31/13</u>
Offerings	\$ 15,493.00	\$ 15,503.00
Investments	10,133.01	7,834.98
Designated	2,239.47	3,173.00
Miscellaneous	75.46	2,151.82
Investment Draw	<u>20,000.00</u>	<u>20,000.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 47,940.94	\$ 48,662.80
<u>Expense</u>		
Building & Grounds	\$ 14,079.85	\$ 14,084.73
Christian Education	468.94	734.99
Church Council	7,539.02	7,389.08
Diaconate	28,142.30	25,515.89
Mission & Outreach	585.00	(1,167.49)
Stewardship	80.16	0.00
Designated	<u>440.00</u>	<u>1,527.04</u>
Total Expense	\$ 51,335.27	\$ 48,084.24
(Shortage)/Overage	\$ (3,394.33)	\$ 578.56



## May 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Remember to bring in non-perishable food for the Food Pantry</b>		 <b>Food Shelf</b>		<b>1 3-9pm</b> John Sandel here  <b>6pm</b> CCGB Annual Mtg	<b>2 11am</b> Friendship Day Celebration <b>4pm</b> Girl Scouts	<b>3 10-2:30</b> Youth Leadership Conference
<b>4 9am</b> Bible Study <b>1pm</b> CROP Hunger Walk <b>5:30-7:30pm</b> Youth Group	<b>5 6-9pm</b> Men's Fellowship	<b>6 10am</b> Women's Meeting	<b>7 10am</b> Women's Fellowship Executive Board Program Planning <b>7-8:30pm</b> Bible Study	<b>8 1pm</b> Diaconate Meeting <b>3-9pm</b> John Sandel here	<b>9 8-12am</b> John Sandel here <b>4pm</b> Girl Scouts	<b>10 11am</b> McCormick Baptism
<b>11 MOTHER'S DAY</b> <b>9am</b> Bible Study <b>1-3:30pm</b> Mother's Day Family Tea	<b>12 7pm</b> Church Council Meeting	<b>13 10am</b> Women's Meeting	<b>14 7-8:30pm</b> Bible Study	<b>15 12pm</b> Women's Fellowship Luncheon Out <b>3-9pm</b> John Sandel here	<b>16 8-12am</b> John Sandel here <b>4pm</b> Girl Scouts	<b>17</b>
<b>18 9am</b> Bible Study <b>During Coffee Hr</b> Youth Music Ministry Meeting <b>5:30-7:30pm</b> Youth Group	Newsletter info due in office today  <b>7pm</b> Church Picnic Planning Meeting	<b>20 10am</b> Women's Meeting  <b>7-8:30pm</b> Overeaters' Anonymous Meeting	<b>21 7-8:30pm</b> Bible Study	<b>22 3-9pm</b> John Sandel here	<b>23 8-12am</b> John Sandel here <b>4pm</b> Girl Scouts	<b>24</b>
<b>25 9am</b> Bible Study <b>12noon</b> Unity in Loss Large Group	<b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> Office closed	<b>27 10am</b> Women's Meeting	<b>28 6-9pm</b> Fairfield East Assoc. Spring Meeting <b>7-8:30pm</b> Bible Study	<b>29 12noon</b> Unity in Loss Small Group <b>3-9pm</b> John Sandel here	<b>30 8-12am</b> John Sandel here <b>4pm</b> Girl Scouts	<b>31</b>

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH ...

2 Pat Bowman	4 Justin Beaudry	6 Donald Gorlo	11 Bob Krakovich
12 Emily Brezina	12 Madelyn Gaetano	12 Norman Aanensen	25 Dorothy Barwick
26 Paulette Shipley	28 Christine Beaudry		

