



NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

Progressive | Spiritual | Inclusive

JUNE/JULY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Summer Worship is now at 10am



We are now meeting at 10am throughout the summer until after Labor Day.

STEERING COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

May 20, 2014 Meeting

After approving the Minutes from the April meeting (which are now online) and the Treasurer's Report, the SC received the Pastors' Report and moved on to New Business. The SC agreed to invite Katie Novak from Green Top Grocery to speak to interested members after the service on Sunday, July 20 about a new organic grocery cooperative opportunity in Bloomington/Normal (see page 2 for more information). The SC also accepted an invitation from the Unitarian Church of Bloomington to revive the summer joint worship service (in years past NCC gathered with the UU church for a joint service one Sunday in August in their sanctuary). Since we now have AC in our Chapel, and because our Summer "Mini" classes will be meeting in August, the SC invited them to join us here on August 10.

Having received a draft of the report from congregational consultant Sarai Rice just before the SC meeting, and needing more time to digest and process the report than the regular business agenda allowed, the SC agreed to set a date for another meeting to discuss the report in more detail and consider options / recommendations to the congregation for next steps. A few minor edits (time-line, missing punctuation, congregational make up) were sent to Sarai, which she incorporated into her final draft, after which the report was emailed to the congregation. (If you did not receive one, contact Susan Ryder and she will email one to you, or you can pick up a copy on the back table of the Chapel on Sunday mornings thus summer). The SC plans to facilitate a congregational conversation about the report and where to go from here at an informational Community meeting sometime in June (TBD).

The SC did take action on one of the recommendations offered by Sarai during her time with the SC on Saturday afternoon, which was to approve moving forward with a process for developing an updated job description and evaluation process for the Ryders, in cooperation with the Pastor Parish Relations Committee.



A THANK YOU FROM BOB

I want to thank you all so very much for the kind thoughts and supportive words you've offered. I've received myriad cards, emails, text messages, and hugs in the wake of my brother's sudden death last month, and it has comforted me more than I can explain to have a community of caring friends to see me through such a sad and strange experience. It reminds me of the enormous turnout of friends and family Scott had at his wake and funeral. As anyone would hope, there were tears and shock and appreciation and laughter for all that Scott has meant to a community that ranged all over northern New Jersey. His wife and sons were very poised and brave, expressing how much he meant to them and how dearly he will be missed. I came away with a sense of how truly wealthy Scott was, perhaps more than he would have expected. It also reminds me of how blessed I am to have had him for a brother, and all of you for my friends. =) Thanks, Bob

New Covenant Community

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BRIDGE OF HOPE

We want to remind everyone that there will be **an informational meeting on the “Bridge of Hope” following the service on June 1st.** This is the local program through Home Sweet Home Mission that we are considering as an NCC community mission focus. It would involve committing a substantial portion of our budgeted mission dollars plus a commitment by a group of 8 to 10 community members to serve as mentors for a single mother trying to move out of homelessness to self sufficiency. In addition, the smaller mentor group would need the backup and support of the community throughout the several year project. Please plan to stay after the service on June 1st to learn more about this mission project. We will plan to have a community meeting following a service in early summer to determine if we want to do this local project and if we have the necessary mentors and community support to proceed.



INFORMATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JULY 20 AFTER THE SERVICE

GREEN TOP GROCERY is a new cooperative grocery store being organized in Bloomington-Normal. **In many ways, a co-op grocery store is just like any other grocery store**—it carries all of the products and offers all of the services found in the typical grocery store. (The floor plan on the right is loosely based on the layout of Common Ground Food Co-op in Urbana. It does not include office, storage, or community spaces but will give you an idea of what you might find in our grocery co-op.)

However, there is one big difference: COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP. Our co-op grocery store will be voluntarily owned and controlled by the people who use it: our owners, who purchase equity shares in the co-op. It will be operated for the benefit of our owners, to meet their mutual needs and values.

This means GREEN TOP Grocery will be able to do things that reflect the values of our owners. Our Founding Owners will make a formal decision on our values, but, based on input from current and prospective owners and other community members, these are the values that seem to be rising to the top:

- Build community and strengthen the local economy
- Support local farmers and other local food artisans
- Pay our workers a living wage
- Stock items that are sustainably produced
- Promote food justice and accessibility to healthy food
- Provide clear labeling and full product disclosure
- Educate the community about healthy eating—many of us would love to have a teaching kitchen in the co-op, if we can raise enough funds.

Find out more at www.greentopgrocery.com



ADULT EDUCATION SUMMER “MINI” CLASSES

You may have noticed that the Adult Education Committee has been doing things a little differently from the normal book study or topic-oriented classes lasting 6-8 weeks! We have been taking the words of the New Testament Apostle Paul to heart. Paul tells church leader Timothy not to let his God-given gifts and talents waste away, but to keep them alive and use them in the service and cause for which Christ lived and died.

In this spirit, we have instigated what we have been calling Summer Sunday Mini-Series, which focus on the hobbies, talents, and interests of members of our Community. We wanted to highlight these ordinary and extraordinary gifts for various reasons, including the following:

- 1) to provide a change of pace from the norm,
- 2) to attract participants,
- 3) to understand, and appreciate the values from which NCC members' gifts grow, and
- 4) to help us get to know each other better.

In the month of May, two classes simultaneously for a month of consecutive weeks on a one-time basis.

Russ shared his knowledge of music and our hymnal for the first two Sundays. Janet continued the music strand for the remaining two weeks, spotlighting the sacred music of women hymnists.

The other class, “Seeing the Sacred in the Ordinary,” featured Dave and Betty with photography, Pam U with her many creative projects, including the remodeling of the CRC apartments. Mary Beth continued that series with a class on meditation. **SKIPPING THE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND SUNDAY, CAROLINE ENDS THE SERIES ON JUNE 1st with “Cooking as a Sacred Act.”**

NOTE: During the summer months, we invite you to join your community members in celebrating the interests and talents of our facilitators of NCC's Summer Sunday Mini-Series. Classes will convene at 8:40 a.m., thus accommodating a bit more Sunday morning leisure and the 10:00 a.m. earlier Worship Service time. We will continue to highlight on others in our midst. Attendance is not mandatory for all class sessions, although attendees who can be present for all of them will be greatly enriched. If you have questions, please see a member of the Adult Education Committee: Nikki Brauer, Marla Finch, Donella Hess-Grabill, Susan Ryder, or Tom Sullivan.

June 8-29: (Four Sundays) Sign-up Sheets will be at the back of the Chapel through June 1.

Poetry as (Spiritual) Practice Kathleen and Peg, teachers of English and experts in the art of appreciating and writing poetry, are co-teaching a poetry class starting on June 8. The class is modeled on the May classes in which NCC members shared their interests in terms of connection to New Covenant Community and as a form of spiritual expression. Each class is freestanding, so people can come and go based on their June schedules, and those who attend all 4 classes will have even more fun. Topics include: Poetry as Praise, Poetry as Play, Poetry as Paying Attention, and Poetry as Perspective. (Be assured, experience as a poet is not necessary.)

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“Extinction: The Bible, Science, & Revolution” Joe G, with background in religion, history, and peace studies, is presenting on the topic of extinction, one of his passionate concerns and research. “World-wide, one estimate says 60,000 species go extinct every year, 100 species every day, and four species every hour. What is our response to this extinction catastrophe, the first caused by humans and the greatest injustice ever caused by us? How can the Bible and science aid us in our response?” The sessions include Joe’s sharing of his findings and group dialogue about the questions and stories people bring. Each week there will be suggested experiments and videos to watch between Sunday sessions. Topics include: Extinction, From Ego-centricity to Eco-Centricity, Revolution in Consciousness, and Empathy and Action.

July 13-27: (Three Sundays) Sign-up Sheets will be at the back of the Chapel in mid-June.

“Honoring the Energy” Chris will present and demonstrate her passion and training in energy healing.

“Bible Inquiry” With his social sciences experience and “Great Books” shared inquiry training, Joe W will lead discussions featuring major stories of the Bible and their interpretations.

August 3-24: (Four Sundays) Sign-up Sheets will be at the back of the Chapel in mid-July.

A. (Week 1). **“Animals as Sacred”** Bob and Susan will bring their considerable experience with dogs and other animals and present their views on animals as teachers.

B. (Weeks 2, 3, & 4) **“What’s Fair, How, and for Whom?”** Charline and Margaret will present from their considerable experience in marketing and selling goods crafted by indigenous people. They will include visual media in their presentations and lead discussions on

“Collaging as Reflection of the Spirit” Donella and Nikki will provide opportunity for imagination, meditation, playfulness, and humor to take their places in the sacred realm with collaging as the medium.



FRIENDS FOREVER “WALK FOR PEACE” SUNDAY, JUNE 1 AT 2PM

As the Bloomington/Normal Friends Forever coordinating committee, with the support of FLEET FEET hosts a second annual 5K Peace Walk/Fun Run: [From the Temple to the Mosque.](#)

The walk/run will begin at 2 p.m. starting at the Moses Montefiore Temple and will finish at the Islamic Center on Gill Street. This route symbolically bridges the Jewish and Arab cultures of the Friends Forever youth. A shorter walk option will be available as well. While there is no entry fee, contributions are accepted. Donations are also welcome through the website: [Friends Forever BN Peaceful Page](#)

There will also be an opportunity to enter a vacation raffle!

Roger Schmidgall, Coordinator at Friends.forever.bn@gmail.com



June Birthdays

- 4 Dave Vitek
- 6 Garrett Scott
- 9 Mark Genrich
- 10 Hudson Rio
- 14 Akierra Fox-Anvick
- 23 Jen Ho
- 28 Betty Rademacher

July Birthdays

- 9 Kathy Berberich
- 14 Kristin Sheridan
- 15 Jeremiah Alomoto
- 17 Tom Sullivan
- 18 Tony Rio
- 19 Bob Warfield
- 21 Joe Grabill
- 24 Kylie Maurer

If we don't have your birthday, please email Susan Ryder so that we can include you next year!



**The next newsletter will be sent at the end of July—
for news between now and then please check the
web site news feed, emails and our Facebook page.**

JUNE / JULY CALENDAR

Sunday Worship at 10:00am

- June 1** Bridge of Hope Informational Meeting after the service
- June 11** 7pm Social Justice Group
- June 29** 5th Sunday Potluck
- July 20** Green Top Grocery after the service
August newsletter deadline

To keep up to date with NCC happenings make sure to check out the NCC calendar online at

www.nccnormal.org/calendar.htm



PARTNERS IN HEALING

NCC is a member congregation of Advocate BroMenn Medical Center's "Partner's in Healing" program, which is a project of intentional prayer for specific medical units on a rotating basis with other local congregations. Each congregation is asked to pray for patients receiving medical care in a specific unit, as well as for the staff who are treating them and/or for their families.

NCC will be praying for the patients, families, and staff of **Cardio Pulmonary Rehab** at Advocate BroMenn for the month of June. Advocate BroMenn's Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation area is where patients recovering from heart and lung problems receive supervised and graded exercise and rehabilitation. Many of these patients have already been through heart or lung surgery.

NEWSLETTER CALL FOR NEWS

Please share reports and announcements, what you are reading and poetry you've written, or let us know of a news story we could mention.

Please email articles to Susan Ryder at normalsue@aol.com by July 20 for the August newsletter.

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