



# OUTLOOK

August, 2016

10010 Fernwood Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

BethesdaUCC.org

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## **Rev. Dr. John R. Deckenback**

As most of you will have heard, the Rev. Dr. John R. Deckenback, Conference Minister of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ, died in the Conference offices in Catonsville early on the evening of July 19. He was found unresponsive in his office and resuscitation attempts were not successful.

A memorial service was held July 25 at Evangelical Reformed UCC, Frederick MD, with attendees from the national setting of the UCC, around the Conference, our ecumenical partners (and John's friends) in the region, and even, by circumstance of travel plans, by a youth group and chaperones from the Protestant Church of Central Germany (EKM), our Conference's partner church in Germany. And, and course, from BUCC.

John Deckenback served the Central Atlantic Conference as its Conference Minister for 24 years, and he served the UCC as an ordained minister for about 44 years. He was instrumental in bringing the UCC's General Synod 2017 to Baltimore and was devoting much of his attention to planning for the local arrangements.

John was known nationally within the UCC, regionally in many faith groups, and internationally in most of the places where the UCC has any representation, as a tireless champion of justice and peace. As a very small example, he had very recently returned from a visit to the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa and had successfully enlisted that church's support of justice efforts in Israel/Palestine. He deserved (not that he sought it) a significant amount of the credit for Maryland's institution of marriage equality (by legislative action and then by popular vote) and its repeal of the death penalty.

John cared so much about ministry in the UCC that he recruited his own wife into it. The Rev. Carolyn Roberts, now retired, reminded all of us not only of how John was so successful (and sometimes annoying), but also of the hope and the higher calling that we all share.

The CAC Constitution and Bylaws allow the Conference Board of Directors to delegate many routine functions to the Conference Minister--personally. The Executive Committee of the Board and the Conference Ministry Team are assuring that all needed immediate actions are being carried out. With the assistance of UCC General Minister and President The Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer and the national setting staff, the Board will seek a short-term acting Conference Minister and then an interim Conference Minister (who will be in that role for General Synod 2017 and beyond). At the same time, the search process for a settled Conference Minister will need to be initiated.

Rev. Chuck Myers



## **WHILE REV. DEE WAS AWAY . . .**

A special day for a family in Southampton as a playground was dedicated in memory of Obed Groggett.

After he died in April of 2011, a memorial fund was set up by the First Congregational Church of Southampton Pastor Reverend Darla Dee Ledger and her late husband Reverend Frank Warren Groggett.

The church raised over \$5,000 for this playground.

"I'm thrilled, I'm very excited that this is happening. It's coming to fruition. It was a dream of my husbands and I and it's a great testament to the love of our community," said Ledger.

The Southampton Community Preservation Committee, Highway Department and the Park Commission worked together to get the playground at Conant park.

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*Picture originally appeared in Weekly News From First Congregational Church of Southampton, UCC.*

## Bible Reading ... at Home

(Adapted from SeasonsFUSION - *Seasons of the Spirit*™ Wood Lake Publishing)

### **August 7 - Faith: Into the Unknown**

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

Psalms 50:1-8, 22-23

Luke 12:32-40

**Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

It is true that for many people 'faith' and 'belief' are just two words for the same thing. But they are not the same... Faith is about deep-seated confidence...[that] we usually apply to people we trust or the values we treasure. Belief, on the other hand, is more like opinion...Beliefs can be held lightly or with emotional intensity, but they are more propositional than existential. We can believe something to be true without it making much difference to us, but we place our faith only in something if it is vital for the way we live" (Harvey Cox, *The Future of Faith*, HarperOne, 644<sup>3</sup>). Faith in the way of Jesus calls us to do good and act justly, even against prevailing or popular opinion. Faith is more than belief.

Faith is about trust, loyalty, and how we act toward the future. Faith means to live ways that express the radical concerns of God, trusting that ultimately God's realm will be seen and known even if not in your lifetime or mine.

### **August 14 - Faith: Against the Odds**

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19

Luke 12:49-56

**Hebrews 11:29-12:2**

Sometimes, we want to give up. A task is really difficult. Being part of a church or identifying as a Christian meets with derision. Maybe we think we are being punished, or perhaps we feel that the world is out to get us. Today's scriptures grapple with such situations. The letter to the Hebrews dares to say, "Yes, bad things happen. They have always happened." Yet, even through these things, God is with us. Always. People persevere against the odds. We can, too.

### **August 21 - Faith: Breaking the Rules**

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalms 71:1-6

**Luke 13:10-17**

Hebrews 12:18-29

Jesus notices people and situations in ways that others do not. He sees behind the immediate moment, and draws deeper connections that shift the boundaries of normal behavior, and breaks the rules that keep faith ordered. When Jesus reaches out to release the woman from her oppression, we sense our own release from those things that cripple and confine us.

Open my eyes to pay attention to those who are weighed down, bent over, unnoticed, overlooked, and ignored. Let me recognize when I trample or disregard the gifts that people offer. Give me the courage to speak up and question and not succumb to silence, or appeal to rules that bind. Amen.

### **August 28 - In Your Place! What Place?**

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Psalms 81:1, 10-16

Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16

**Luke 14:1, 7-14**

Jesus describes the reign of God as an open table. All people are invited. There is enough for all. In setting an open table, Christ invites all people to experience a life shaped by God's inclusive and compassionate love. We are each invited, and must decide whether we accept the invitation and what it means for our lives.

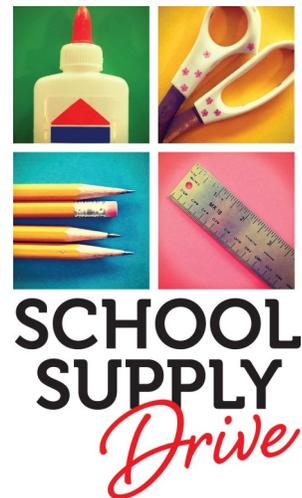
Christ, you call me to your table, but I am uncertain of my place amid the changes and struggles of this time. The shift from place decider, rule maker, community leader to one who is more on the edges is not easy. When I wonder where my place is, and what I am to do, remind me of what matters most to you. Amen.

## PLEASE HELP LINKAGES TO LEARNING BY DONATING NEW BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The Sharing Team will be collecting new backpacks for needy elementary and middle school youth through August 7.

Although backpacks are the priority item, other supplies needed are :

Composition Books	Crayons and Markers
Folders and Binders	Paper
Pencils and large erasers	Pens
Glue Sticks	Spiral Notebooks
Calculators	



Cash or check donations are welcome also. Please make your check out to BUCC with the note "school supplies" in the memo line.

There will be a collection bin in the narthex for the supplies.

This is a fun activity to get your children involved in picking out backpacks and supplies for other kids.

Thanks for your help.

Linkages to Learning is a partnership among public and nonprofit agencies, families, and communities whose goal is to provide accessible prevention and early intervention services in 28 high poverty school community.

## BOOK GROUP

The BUCC Book Group WILL NOT meet in August.

The Book Group will meet on September 13 at 3:30 pm in the church parlor.

The book we will discuss is "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown (Call Number 797.123 BRO).

"The Boys in the Boat" traces the story of an American rowing team from the University of Washington that defeated elite rivals at Hitler's 1936 Berlin Olympics, sharing the experiences of their enigmatic coach, a visionary boat builder, and a homeless teen rower. (Montgomery County Library abstract) "

This is fast-paced and emotional nonfiction about determination, bonds built by teamwork, and what it takes to achieve glory."([amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))

All are welcome to join in the discussion and fellowship.

**Note:** On August 2 at 9pm the PBS American Experience series will be "The Boys of '36" - a documentary inspired by "The Boys in the Boat" book we will be discussing in September. (You can view it on WETA TV 26/HD)



## BLESS THE BACKPACKS ON AUGUST 28

Every school day we see children headed off to school bus stops lugging backpacks filled with schoolbooks and lunches. At the same time adults are headed to work, via carpool, car or Metro lugging briefcases, attaché cases and maybe lunches too. To help carry that workload BUCC will hold a Blessing of the Backpacks (and work related carry-alongs) at the August 28 Worship Service. This blessing will not make the books any lighter or the laptops less likely to crash, but the owners will be strengthened with

the knowledge that they have the spiritual strength of the church with them to help carry the load. These benefits can be had if you bring the items to church on Sunday August 28. You might as well, you have to round them up for Monday anyway,

The Worship Team



## INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT BUCC AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST?

We send many thanks to all the church for their prayers, cards and support that we have received. It has meant so much to both of us and we do appreciate it.

Thanks,  
Jack and Nancy Ruedy

**If you are interested BUCC** and the United Church of Christ, exploring the possibility of making BUCC your church home, please speak with Rev. Dee or any member of the Welcome Team: Jim Burks, Bob Struckman or Ina Waidmann if you have any questions.

## NEW EDITOR FOR OUTLOOK

With this issue the job of editor of Outlook passes to Sean Casey. It is time to let someone else have the fun of describing what BUCC plans to do and record what it did. I have done this job for about 13 years. I am not really sure when I started, but the oldest file copy I have dates back to when Cheryl Tatum was our interim pastor, about 13 years ago. It has really been a joy to do this and I should thank you, the audience for putting up with what I wrote and contributing your thoughts and suggestions. Now it is time for Sean to take up the editor's symbolic pen and carry on with the task of keeping you informed about what BUCC is going to do next.

The words above make it sound like I was the only one involved with Outlook. That is not true!! Without the aid of Colleen Outlook just would not happen. I expect she will be just as essential for Sean.

Thank you BUCC,

Jerry Liddel

## SHARING OUR BUILDING

We like to keep our building busy. There are numerous groups that rent our space, from community groups to other churches trying to get a start. One of the latter is CrossPointe Fellowship. They are usually in the building on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoon.

You might wonder, who exactly is CrossPointe? Outlook contacted their pastor, the Rev. Claudine Brandagiye to find out. She said that CrossPointe is a family of churches. At this time, they are the first branch of CrossPointe in the USA but not the last for sure as they envision planting more churches. Their main church is located in Canada. Their newest "plant" is this local church in Bethesda called CrossPointe "Healing House" that Rev. Claudine pastors.

Though this young church might be in majority be made up of a group originally from Burundi, they do have other members from Rwanda, Congo, Tanzania, and Bolivia.

Pastor Claudine says that "Our mission is defined by the word REACH.

- Reaching out (Evangelism, community...)
- Reaching in ( care, follow up....)
- Reaching up (Worship, Prayer...)
- Reaching down (Preaching, Teaching small groups....)

We believe that your forefathers (missionaries) have brought the gospel to us. We are the harvest of their labour and sacrifice. It is our noble responsibility today to join hands with the children of those who have brought the good news to us."

If you want to know more about CrossPointe you may visit our website [Cpfchurch.com](http://cpfchurch.com) <<http://cpfchurch.com/>>"

We welcome this new church to the group of users who share our building. We hope they grow and prosper.



## OUTLOOK IS ALSO AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

If you would like to receive a full color PDF of this publication delivered to you via e-mail, just e-mail Colleen at [admin@bethesdaucc.org](mailto:admin@bethesdaucc.org) to be added to the distribution list.

### **Outlook Submission Deadline: Wednesday, August 24 at 12:00 (Noon)**

*OUTLOOK* is published monthly. Please place items for publication in the mailbox in the church office or Email to [apfcasey@uw.edu](mailto:apfcasey@uw.edu) with a copy to [admin@BethesdaUCC.org](mailto:admin@BethesdaUCC.org)

# AUGUST 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 12:30 PM Islamic Center of Maryland 7:00 PM CrossPointe Fellowship	<b>6</b> 8:00 AM SDA 6:00 PM SDA
<b>7</b> 10:30 AM Worship Service, Sunday School 2:00 PM CrossPointe Fellowship	<b>8</b> 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	<b>9</b> 3:30 PM Worship Team 7:00 PM Stewardship Team	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:00 PM Christian Education Team	<b>12</b> 12:30 PM Islamic Center of Maryland 7:00 PM CrossPointe Fellowship	<b>13</b> 8:00 AM SDA 6:00 PM SDA
<b>14</b> 10:30 AM Worship Service, Sunday School 2:00 PM CrossPointe Fellowship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 12:30 PM Islamic Center of Maryland 7:00 PM CrossPointe Fellowship	<b>20</b> 8:00 AM SDA 6:00 PM SDA
<b>21</b> 10:30 AM Worship Service, Sunday School 2:00 PM CrossPointe Fellowship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 12:00 PM DEADLINE for OUTLOOK articles	<b>25</b> 7:30 PM Pastor Parish Relations Team	<b>26</b> 12:30 PM Islamic Center of Maryland 7:00 PM CrossPointe Fellowship	<b>27</b> 8:00 AM SDA 6:00 PM SDA
<b>28</b> <b>BLESS THE BACKPACKS</b> 10:30 AM Worship Service, Sunday School 2:00 PM CrossPointe Fellowship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00 PM Leadership Council Meeting	<b>31</b>			

NEW School supplies needed by  
Linkages to Learning.  
(Specifics Inside)  
Bring them to church through August 7th.

## BACK TO SCHOOL



### OUTLOOK

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