



Cornerstone

University Baptist Church • 50 West Lane Avenue • Columbus, OH 43201
(614)294-6333 • Email: ubccolumbus@gmail.com

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Pastor's Reflection: The Power of Water — Bob Turner

Earlier this year, as the campus ministry vision team was working on plans for the coming academic year, we settled on a name for the group: **U.B. Waves**. This name captures a number of elements that we want to characterize and distinguish our group. First, the "U.B." incorporates the church's name, at least in abbreviated form, into the name of the group. The imagery of water also ties us to our Baptist identity and our broader Christian heritage, as in the waters of baptism and our commitment to Jesus as the Water of Life. When that water takes the form of a wave, it has the capacity to rock or even capsize boats and to shape the coastline through its persistence. This signals our intention to be a group that is open not only to being shaped into conformity with the image of Christ, but also to serving as agents of change in the world. We want to rock some boats!

The key to the imagery is the power of water. A drop of water is a seemingly insignificant thing, but a faucet that drips ceaselessly will eventually drive one to distraction. The infamous Chinese water torture provides further evidence of the power inherent in drops of water. Over time, falling water will wear away stone, and in the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, water was responsible for the deaths of a quarter of a million people.

As I write this we are witnessing once again the destructive power of water, as Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey has stalled over Houston and has to date dumped more than *four feet* of rain in some areas of southeast Texas. As of Wednesday afternoon, more than a quarter of Harris County, where 4.5 million people live, is flooded. Now Harvey appears to be turning his attention to the coastal areas of Louisiana as

well. The death toll stands at thirty-one and is expected to rise.

In the summer of 1993, I volunteered to fill sandbags to shore up the levees on the Mississippi River in southern Illinois. The flooding that year was catastrophic, and I remember traveling south on Interstate 57 toward Cairo at the southern tip of the state in December, a good six months after the flood, and seeing water still standing in the fields. But even the devastation of the Great Flood of '93 pales in comparison to what is happening right now in Texas. Meteorologists tell us that Harvey's effects will go down as the worst flood and the most financially costly natural disaster in our nation's history.

In response to this terrible disaster, American Baptists are stepping up. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) and Dr. Lee Spitzer, General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) have called on all ABCUSA churches to pray for the people of the Houston area and to make financial donations to assist ABHMS and the American Baptist Churches of the South in their relief, recovery, and rebuilding efforts. To this end, we will be reopening the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering during the month of September. There are a number of ways for you to participate in this offering: 1) you may give on Sunday mornings—make your check payable to UBC,

Many submissions to the newsletter are voluntary contributions from individuals. The ideas expressed do not necessarily reflect the mission or views of University Baptist Church as a whole.

with “OGHS—Hurricane Harvey” on the memo line; 2) you may make an online donation at abc-usa.org; or 3) you may mail your donation directly to ABHMS. See the article on page 4 for additional details.

In this shrinking world, our neighborhood stretches across the globe. Let us then join together to bring solace and hope to our suffering neighbors in Texas and Louisiana for whom Harvey has not been just another news story but has ripped their lives apart. May the God of all compassion hold them in love’s embrace, and may we be the hands and feet (and wallet) of Jesus Christ in this their hour of need.

Grace and peace,
bob



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 2 Leslie Floyd
- 4 Devi Monjot
- 5 Beth Short
- 6 Ian Cheesman
- 14 Stella McClafferty
- 23 Manju Chakraborty
- 28 Shirley Brown
- Kerry Cheesman

Newsletter Submissions

Newsletter items are due the third Friday of the month.

Also, it is UBC policy that all references to God be inclusive. We will edit to reflect this.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.



2017 Annual Gathering

Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord, your God is with you wherever you go. Jeremiah 1:9



Friday, September 22 – Clergy & Church Leader’s Retreat
Be Still and Know: The Art of Sacred Listening
 Leader: Rev. Nancy Leport
 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Cost: \$32 per person (Price includes all materials, continental breakfast and lunch)
 Location: *The Baptist Temple, 1101 Clover Street, Rochester, NY*



Friday, September 22 – Worship Service & Reception
Celebrating 190 Years as a Region
 Speaker: Rev. Susan Maybeck
 7 p.m.
 No cost
 Location: *First Baptist Church in Penfield, 1862 Penfield Road, Penfield, NY*



Saturday, September 23 – Annual Gathering
Be Strong and of Good Courage
 Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Cheryl F. Dudley, Executive Minister ABC Metropolitan New York
 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 Cost: Individual (with lunch) \$32, Half day (no lunch) \$20, Seminarian (with lunch) \$12, Family (with lunch) \$55
 Location: *Greece Baptist Church, 1230 Long Pond Road, Rochester, NY*

Workshop Presenters:
 Travis Norvell, Pastor Judson Memorial Baptist Church
 Rev. Alan G. Newton, Executive Minister ABC Genesee Rochester Region
 Rev. Clifford Matthews, Pastor St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church

Delegate’s Meeting – Saturday, September 23 at 3 p.m., Greece Baptist Church

Lunch and Refreshments - Catered by Kathryn Poweski, the Coffee Connection

Registration - To register online, go to <http://abcgrg.org/donate>. You may also pay at the door, but if you choose this option, please **RSVP** for our lunch count at (585) 473-3200 or officeabcgrg@gmail.com.

Meals for Frank

It is with sadness that we report that Rick Asher is entering hospice care at his and Frank’s home on September 1. We surround Frank and Rick with our prayers and love as they walk through this dark valley. One way that we can express our love in a tangible way is by providing meals for Frank so that he can devote all his time and attention on caring for and saying goodbye to his husband. Maryann Cheesman is coordinating these meals, so if you would like to provide one, please contact her.

Sunday School for Children is Back!

Every second and fourth Sunday during worship starting September 10.



God of the Eclipse — Kerry Cheesman

August 21, 2017 was the first day of classes for millions of university and lower-school students throughout the country. The first day always brings some trepidation and fear to the hearts of students, and many teachers for that matter! Well, except for our middle-grandson who started preschool with no fear at all, just a quick wave goodbye to mom and off he ran. But I digress (easy to do when thinking of the grandkids). August 21 also happened to be the only complete solar eclipse to traverse the United States in nearly 100 years. And according to a recent poll of Americans, 4% had genuine fear and trepidation in their hearts, and an additional 12% planned to change their patterns and habits for the day to avoid having anything bad happen to them. I wonder how many students did the same.

Since the beginning of human history there have been solar eclipses, and since the beginning of human writing we have seen evidence of the fear that surrounds such events. Before the scientific basis of eclipses was understood, many cultures assumed the worst – the sun was being ‘eaten’, and ceremonies were invoked to scare away the predator (they always seemed to work); the sun and moon were brother and sister, and an eclipse was seen as incest and therefore the start of something bad or evil; the eclipse was an evil omen that caused the start of a war, foretold the death of a powerful person, or was seen as a reason to alter the events of a nation. Wherever we look in history there is evidence that eclipses were taken very seriously, and almost always in a negative way.

Even in our age of scientific understanding and reasoning we still see a lot of concern whenever we approach such an event. For months prior to the recent eclipse, there were dozens of Internet sites fore-

telling the end of the world, the start of a world war, the coming reign of the Antichrist, theories about numerology and the tribulation, and so much more. Apparently there are still plenty of individuals for whom science has no meaning or basis when it comes to matters of faith, even when that faith is based on ancient misunderstandings or mythology. Individuals of many faith traditions still see eclipses as omens of evil in our world, rather than as a natural event with a very predictable mathematical pattern.

In the modern world an eclipse should not convey any meaning of God’s displeasure or punishment, as our ancient ancestors believed. We pride ourselves on our scientific knowledge. These are simply natural phenomena, the causes and timing of which are well understood. Their meaning to us should only be that the laws of physics (God’s laws) are still in place and still being obeyed. However, for the people of the Old Testament this was not the case, and we see mention of eclipses with the understanding that this was, indeed, God speaking to the people, often voicing displeasure with their actions, or even abandoning of the people altogether.

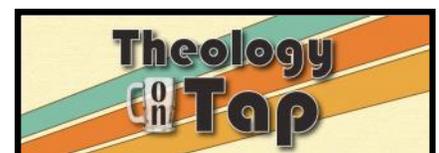
For instance, in Isaiah 13:10 we read “For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not flash forth their light; *the sun will be dark* when it rises and the moon will not shed its light.” In Amos 8:9 we read the prophet’s warning, “And on that day,” declares the Lord God, “*I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.*” And Joel 2:31 predicts that “*The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.*”

The New Testament has its share of notes about the sun going dark as well. For instance, Matthew 24:29 foretells a sort of eclipse when it says, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall *the sun be dark-*



ened.” Mark 13:24 says the same thing. And Revelation 6:12 reads “I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and *the sun became black as sackcloth of hair*, and the moon became like blood.” Even the death of Jesus was followed by both an earthquake and darkness of the mid-day sun. Was this also an eclipse?

As I witnessed the eclipse on August 21, I was awestruck as were many others. But I was not fearful that our Lord was about to punish us, or that evil was surrounding us. No, I was celebrating the fact that even after billions of years the stars and the sun and the moon, the ones that God created and put into motion, were still following the eternal course that God so beautifully laid out. That is really something to celebrate and rejoice in! Thank you, God, for providing the perfect universe for us to grow and thrive and celebrate with you!



Friday, September 8, 2017, 7:00pm,
at The Little Bar. Come enjoy the
libation of your choice as we have
an informal conversation about im-
portant points in theology and
ethics. Bring a friend!



Lift Up Those Affected by Hurricane Harvey

American Baptists are urged to lift up those affected in both Texas and Louisiana by Hurricane Harvey, a Category 4 storm that made landfall Friday on the Texas coast. Bringing 130 mph winds and an unprecedented amount of torrential rainfall in some areas, the hurricane has resulted in flooding, power outages, downed trees and signs, major property damage, displaced residents, injuries and fatalities.

"American Baptist Home Mission Societies [ABHMS] grieves with the rest of the nation at the relentless weather pounding the Houston region right now," says ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray. "Our disaster-recovery office has been in communication with American Baptist Churches of the South since Friday, before the weather hit.



"As soon as we receive damage assessments, we will consider how we can best assist on the long road to rebuilding homes, churches and lives, and then begin distributing relief grants," Haggray continues. "In the meantime, let us all seek comfort in the words of the age-old hymn penned by Martin Luther: 'A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.'"

American Baptist Churches USA General Secretary the Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer invites all congregations to donate generously to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) in response to the destruction caused by Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisiana.

Donations designated to "OGHS-Hurricane Harvey" can be made through your church; by visiting www.abc-usa.org and clicking "**Give Online**" at the top right of the page. In the "Comments" section, type "OGHS-Hurricane Harvey."

Or, mail to the attention of Kim Wilkins at American Baptist Home Mission Societies, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA, 19482-0851.

100% of donations go to relief efforts; **0%** are retained for administrative costs.

For more information, contact Wilkins at 1-800-222-3872, x2413, or kim.wilkins@abhms.org.

One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA. The committee facilitates American Baptist emergency relief, disaster rehabilitation, refugee work and development assistance by establishing policy guidelines and overseeing distribution of the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering received by churches.



Celebrate central Ohio's diverse cycling community.

Sunday, September 10, 2017
1:30 p.m.

Bless and encourage fellow cyclists.

Summit on 16th United Methodist Church
82 E. 16th Ave.

Columbus, OH 43201

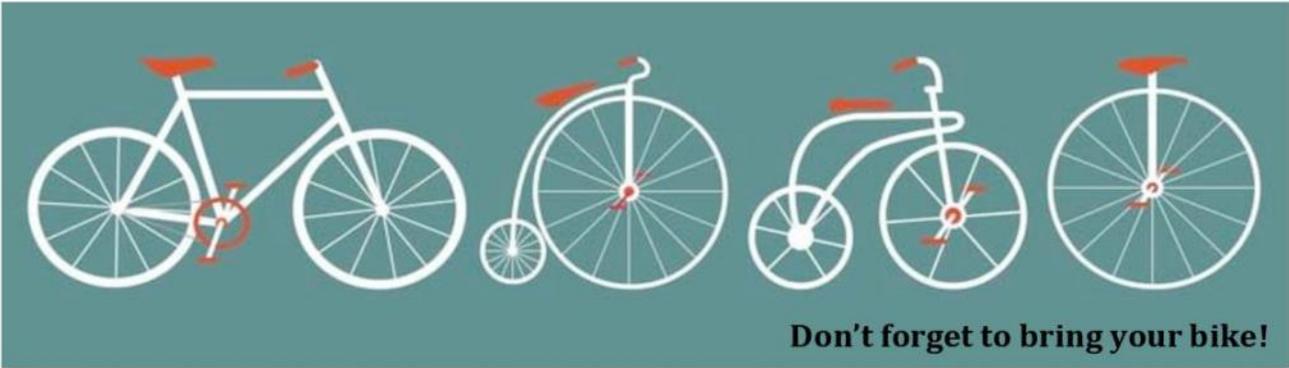
(East of N. High St. at the corner of E. 16th Ave. and Waldeck Ave. in the University District)

Reflect on your view of the world from the seat of a bicycle.

614-291-3324
sumc@summitumc.org

Offer prayers and good thoughts for peace in our streets and respect among diverse modes of transportation.

Our decision to bike *matters*. It matters to the earth. It matters to our city. It matters to our bodies. It is a sacred decision.



Don't forget to bring your bike!

HOSTED BY:



www.summitumc.org

www.yaybikes.com

September Scriptures

September 3

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1–15

Psalms 105:1–6, 23–26, 45c

Romans 12:9–21

Matthew 16:21–28

September 10

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1–14

Psalms 149

Romans 13:8–14

Matthew 18:15–20

September 17

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50:15–20

Psalms 103:8–13

Romans 14:1–12

Matthew 20:1–16

September 24

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

Psalms 145:1–8

Philippians 1:21–30

Matthew 20:1–16

Losing Yourself

— Julius Mayo

Recently while surfing some of my favorite social media outlets, I came across a challenging video by an online blogger who I have been following for several years now. The young man, who is now in his mid-twenties, but began professionally producing videos in his late teens, explained to his fans why he was on hiatus from making new short films. In the process of working to gain “Likes” and positive comments for crazy stunts such as dyeing his hair strange colors or producing a non-stop daily stream of fun, upbeat vignettes, the video blogger realized that he had somehow lost the ability to explore who he was as a person. As he reflected on his life over the past few years, he noted that he had refrained from discussing how the daily grind of his work had worsened his depression, anxiety, and issues with self-esteem because commenters would harshly criticize him for being a whiner or downer.

How often do we as Christians seek to create the perfect image of what it means to be a follower of Christ? As we strive to share the

“good news” we sometimes feel that we must equate the experience with endless “good times.” In reality, faith can be an arduous journey. Not unlike “Charlie” (the young video blogger struggling to reclaim his sense of understanding), we must also self-reflect on who we are regarding our evolving relationship with the Creator. Not acknowledging the challenges that are part of the Christian experience does a disservice not only to those who are seeking to learn more about the faith but also to those already further along on their Christian journey. We can find who we are as Christians by losing the façade we often use to pretend life is perfect, when in fact it can be quite challenging. Through faith, we can learn so much more about the majesty of God’s plans. Along the way, we then will find out more about who we are and can be, through the mercy and grace of our Creator.

All praises are to the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit!



Clara Anita Groszmann O'Dette, 93, of Columbus, OH, daughter of Waldemar Heinrich Groszmann and Helene Groszmann of Plainfield, NJ, loving wife of the late Ralph Eli O'Dette, passed away on March 7 at First Community Village in Columbus, OH. She is survived by two sons, David O'Dette of Washington, DC, and Paul O'Dette of Rochester, NY. She is also survived by four grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Clara sang at the Washington Opera Society in Washington, DC, from 1956 to 1963, performing Stravinsky's operas under the composer's direction, and Mozart's Magic Flute at the White House for President and Mrs. Kennedy. In Columbus, she worked at Liebert Corporation, as director of their computer department until her retirement in 1985. After her retirement she worked as a volunteer at WOSU-FM for nearly twenty years, receiving WOSU's highest recognition for exemplary volunteer service, the Friends of WOSU Josephine S. Failer Award in 1996. She was actively involved with Chamber Music Columbus, the Jefferson Academy of Music, and Early Music Columbus, sharing her love of music with the central Ohio community for almost 54 years. She and her husband were also long-time members of University Baptist Church in Columbus. Clara will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	
3 10:30 am Worship Noon—College Student Lunch	4	5 6-9 pm Guiding Eyes Seeing Eye Dog Training	6 6:30-9:30 pm CCF	7 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir Practice	8 7:00 pm Theology and Ethics on Tap @ The Little Bar 6:30-10:30 pm CCF	9 OSU Home vs. Oklahoma
10 10:30 am Worship Noon—College Student Lunch	11	12 6-9 pm Guiding Eyes Seeing Eye Dog Training	13 6:30-9:30 pm CCF	14 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir Practice	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 OSU Home vs. West Point
17 10:30 am Worship 11:45 Talk Back to the Preacher Noon—College Student Lunch	18	19 6-9 pm Guiding Eyes Seeing Eye Dog Training	20 9:30-11:30 am INCH 6:30-9:30 pm CCF	21 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir Practice	22 6:30-10:30 pm CCF	23 OSU Home vs. UNLV
24 10:30 am Worship Noon—College Student Lunch	25	26 6-9 pm Guiding Eyes Seeing Eye Dog Training	27 9:30-11:30 am INCH 6:30-9:30 pm CCF	28 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir Practice	29	30

University Baptist Church — *Progressive • Welcoming • Inclusive*

- **U.B. Waves Sunday Luncheon. After worship today.** Every Sunday in September, join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for lunch, provided by members of the UBC congregation. Get to know your fellow students and give us your input into the design and activities of U.B. Waves. .
- **Theology and Ethics on Tap. Friday, September 8, 7 pm.** Meet at the Little Bar
- **Talk Back to the Preacher. Sunday. September 17, after church.**
- **Refreshment sign-ups for 2017.** The sheet is up in the Narthex. Please consider providing snacks for fellowship after worship.



University Baptist Church

50 West Lane Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43201

Phone: 614.294.6333

E-mail: ubccolumbus@gmail.com

Website: www.ubccolumbus.org

Pastor—Rev. Bob Turner
Moderator—Frank Benline
Choir Director—David Tomasacci
Pianist—Mollie Rausch
Office Manager—Kerry Taylor

Worship—10:30 a.m.

**Children's Sunday School—2nd
and 4th Sundays—10:30 a.m.**

Office Hours

Tues.-Fri. 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Return Service Requested 9/30/17