



COMMUNITY OF HOPE UCC

DECEMBER 30TH, 2010

WORSHIP SERVICES | EVERY SUNDAY AT 6:00PM



JANUARY 2
John 1:10-18

JANUARY 9
Epiphany Sunday
Installation of New
Leaders
Matthew 3:13-17

JANUARY 16
Celebration of Martin
Luther King, Jr
Isaiah 49:1-7

JANUARY 23
Matthew 4:12-23

JANUARY 30
Let's Move Sunday
Members-in-
Discernment Sunday
Matthew 5:1-12



Dear Companions,

Welcome to 2011!

One of the benefits of Advent, Christmas, Winter Solstice, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year's Day and other holidays being so close together is that we can more easily conflate them into one well-rounded whole.

I realize that Sen. Jim Inhofe and others may disagree with me, but, personally, I like the idea of using "Happy Holidays" as a generic greeting during this time. Sure, if I'm speaking with Christians during this time, I gladly say, "Merry Christmas". But I'm equally happy saying "Happy Hanukkah", "Joyous Solstice", or "Happy Kwanzaa" to those celebrating those holidays. And, of course, all of us (using the Gregorian calendar) can say to one another on January 1, "Happy New Year!"

Each of these events have one thing in common: they are all recognizing and celebrating the tenacity of Creation and how there is something sacred about having our human efforts mirror the work of Creation by honoring a time of renewal, of new birth, of transition, of abundance in the face of scarcity.

So, as we begin another exciting calendar year together, I sincerely wish for you the most joyous of holiday seasons.

I wish you the abundance evident in Hanukkah; the assurance that God will give you what you need. I wish you the awe and wonder of Winter Solstice—the longest night of the year—and the promise that, no matter how long the night lasts, the dawn will come. I wish you the sacred reminders of community that are expressed through the principles of Kwanzaa. I wish you the continual "second chance" that each new year brings.

And, I wish you the sacred and blessed promise of the birth of the Christ child within each of you that our Christmas celebrations bring.

Emmanuel!
Namaste!
God is, indeed, with us!

Rev. Bob Lawrence, Pastor



NICARAGUA MINISTRIES UPDATE

by David Hoot, Nicaragua Mission Team

NEW ITEM IN THE NICARAGUA STORE

The Nicaragua Store now carries Organic Tamari Roasted Almonds from Equal Exchange. The Organic Tamari Roasted Almonds are carefully selected organic almonds, dry roasted for extra crunch. Their distinctive taste is given depth by a sprinkling of savory tamari soy sauce. Almonds are packed with nutrients including magnesium and protein, and are an excellent source of desirable monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats. Perfect for the

health-conscious snack lover, these almonds come from the small organic farmers of Big Tree Organic Farms Co-op in California. The 5-ounce package sells for

\$4.50. Start the New Year with a new, healthier diet that includes healthier snacking, too.



MY JOURNEY TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM CONTINUES

by Bob Fultz

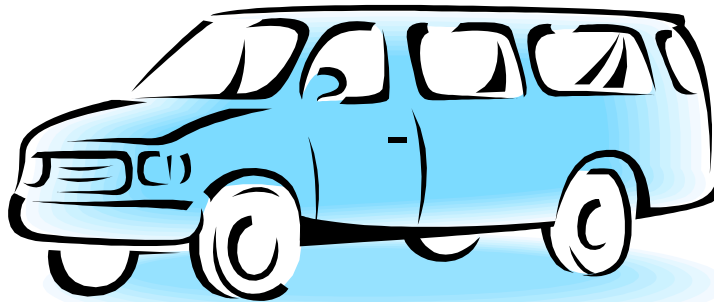
Dear Companions,

There are no words that accurately express my overwhelming sense of amazement and gratitude for the things you do. The recent purchase of my van has been a huge blessing. I have been able to do so many different things - it's incredible. My time is no longer spent waiting on buses that may or may not arrive. My life no longer stops at 8:30p.m. I can actually go to a movie, to the grocery store, or even a club when I want to. (I have a designated driver who only drinks Coca-Cola!)

Currently the van is having a transmission overhaul. This is not great

timing, but things like this are quite common when you have an older vehicle. This minor setback does not diminish what you've accomplished. You continue to show me how to live, laugh, love, and find meaningful ways to give back to others.

I hope that together we can find ways to use this awesome gift to benefit many others. If you have any ideas please let me know. You may also contact anyone in the Community of Hope office.



My caregiver, Carl, told me many years ago that "true love is when you take someone's problems and make them your own." No one does that better than my incredible family at Community of Hope. Please continue to care for one another. Hope to see you soon. Thanks for your loving care!



VISIT US ON THE WEB: WWW.COHOPE.COM
OR ON FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/COHOPE

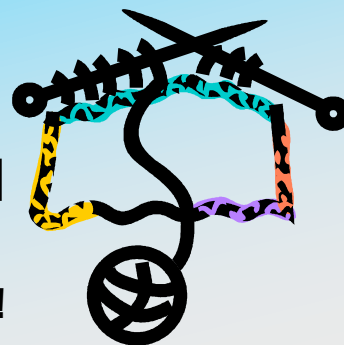
THE BEVERLY DUFFIELD KNITTING AND CROCHET SOCIETY

FUN!

Next Meeting: Jan. 11th, 2011

(2nd Tuesday of every month)

January's host is Tracy Megli—come and join the fun!



SPECIAL HEALTH INITIATIVE FOR 2011

by Rev. Bob Lawrence, pastor

The UCC has launched "UCC Let's Move: Faithfully HEALing (Healthy Eating and Living)" which will focus on the pillars of Michelle Obama's "Let's Move Campaign—Healthier Choices, Healthier Schools, Physical Activity and Accessible and Affordable Foods."

Here are a couple of exciting ways Community of Hope will be participating:

Let's Move Sunday!

UCC proclaims Health and Human Service Sunday, January 30, 2011 as "Let's Move" Sunday. Join for a special worship service focused on increasing physical activity. We'll even have RECESS!

Three Million Miles - Walking Challenge!

First Lady Michelle Obama has issued a challenge to faith and community organizations to get members walking a collective three million miles across the nation by the end of November, 2011. The United



Church of Christ has boldly stepped up to this challenge by asking churches to participate in this challenge. Our goal is to join together 250 churches and 2,500 individuals committed to walking up to 2.5 miles a day. This will be done in two phases:

- **Phase One** - beginning Health and Human Service Sunday, January 30, 2010 and ending July 6, 2011
- **Phase Two** - beginning July 7, 2011 and ending November 30, 2011. Our goal is 2, 275,000 - 3,000,000 miles.

The Challenge:

In order to add a healthy competition to this Walking Challenge, each person will secure sponsors at 1 cent a mile. At the end of the walking phase, all proceeds will go to a healthy cause chosen by the church, such as:

- Partnering with a Farmer's Market
- Support in sustaining a community garden (We have one in our own back yard! hint, hint)
- Support for healthier foods in vending machines at schools
- Support for summer school feeding programs

Churches will be recognized with a certificate and a gift during General Synod for their efforts during this first phase. Churches will also receive recognition at the end of phase two.

If you'd like to help with organizing our participation in this Walking Challenge, please contact Bob Lawrence.

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

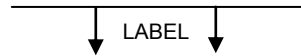
Community of Hope
A SHALOM BASE COMMUNITY

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We are a multiracial, multicultural, open and affirming, accessible to all, just
peace church where God is still speaking!

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

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Our vision is to be a community of faith, committed in the way of Jesus to the struggle for justice, compassion, and life-giving spirituality for all people; and our mission is to witness, in and through our life together, to the good news that the way of God is in our midst...and the journey is our home.