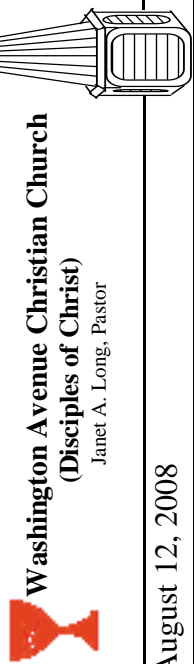




THE SPRE



Washington Avenue Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Janet A. Long, Pastor

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Janet's Jottings

Dear Friends,

Mother Teresa, one of the giants of the Christian faith, says she often felt like "a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world."

I love that imagery. It resonates with me for two reasons: God's love for the world is ongoing, not once and for all; and, God's love for the world involves us.

It's reassuring to think that we don't have to figure out the answers. Instead, we are called to allow ourselves to be used by God as instruments of love and grace.

Writing requires holding the pencil in such a way that it can move freely on the page. It involves pushing and pulling on the pencil—and erasing when things don't come out just right. One of the blessings of grace is that God has an eraser at the ready! Our mistakes, our sins, are erased forever when we seek divine mercy and forgiveness.

The temptation, of course, is to try to do the writing ourselves. And that spells trouble. When we seek to set the agenda and to take charge, the love letter will not come from God. It will be a reflection of our narrow views, our imperfect vision. "For now we see in a mirror, dimly..." We simply cannot possess the mind of God.

I wonder if those who penned the scrolls of scripture thought of themselves as little pencils in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world.

I wonder if those who signed peace treaties, civil rights bills, notes expressing care, and generous checks to advance the kingdom thought of themselves in that way.

I wonder how we—and the world—would be different if we allowed ourselves to be little pencils in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world...

Love,

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August 17, 2008

- 8:30 a.m. Early Morning Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Common Grounds
- 9:30 a.m. Intergenerational Church School
- 10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 12:00 noon Special Board meeting
- OPENER:** Pete Majewski **CLOSER:** Don Hange, Sr.
- GREETERS:** Bob & Sandy Riehl
- ACOLYTES:** Samantha Moore and Nautica Walker
- WORSHIP LEADER:** Janet Stevens-Brown
- PREACHER:** The Rev. Dr. Janet A. Long
- TELLERS:** Ken Oblak and Gerald Western
- ELDER (8:30):** **PIANIST (8:30):**
Mark Mathes Lauri Warfield
- ELDERS (10:45):** **HOME COMMUNION:**
Lauri Warfield Debby Willets
Tim Widman Jean Kennedy
- DIACONATE:** Team III
- 8:30 -** Linda Adkins and Jason Higgins
- 10:45 -** Jenny Bliss, Cheryl Grapes, Pam Henry, Michelle Kazmierczak, Michelle Kersey, Sean Kersey, Karen Schneider, Laverne Stroup, Wayne Walker, and Joan Wilhelm

Camp Close-Up

- ✦ **"Summer Camp" for All Extends Into October!**
Didn't get to camp yet this summer? Plenty of opportunities still abound!
 - ✦ **Disciples Fellowship Camp** ("Family Camp") Labor Day Weekend (August 29-31) is for family sizes of 1 to large groups, from babies to "golden-agers".
 - ✦ **The Ohio Disciples Women's Fall Retreat** September 12-14 at Camp Christian will help Disciples women discover how they are, "Unique but United in Prayer."
 - ✦ **Ohio Disciples Men's Fall Retreat** September 19-21 will help Disciples men examine how to be, "Men of Compassion."
 - ✦ **Grandparent Camp** October 3-4 is for children entering grades 1-2, and a special adult friend. *All the above will take place at Camp Christian.*
- "Camp" can be about mission and outreach, too! Don't forget the **Gulf Region Mission Trip** to Metairie, Louisiana September 20-27, or **iMissionworks!** at Cleveland's Hilton Garden Inn October 2-5. (Registration deadline is August 29.)

To register or obtain more information, contact the church office today!

<p>Splinters from the Board <i>Board Meeting</i></p> <p>A special meeting of the WACC General Board will be held this Sunday, August 17 at 12 noon.</p> <p>Board Bits</p> <p><i>Question:</i> How many Board members do we have at WACC?</p> <p><i>Answer:</i> That depends. If each person holds only one position on the Board, the base count is 33.</p> <p>Add to that number all current Elders-for-Life, and then subtract seats for those persons who serve in more than one position. For example, if the person serving as Vice Chair of the Board is also an Elder, then the total number of seats on that year's Board is reduced by one.</p> <p>- Lauri Warfield, Board Chair</p>	<p><i>Have you remembered the church in your will?</i></p> <p>Intergenerational Church School</p> <p>The "meeting" with Martin Luther publicized in last week's <i>Spire</i> will wait until August 31. This Sunday's Intergenerational Church School class will feature Elder Betty McIntyre leading a session on, "Hospitality: Loving the Stranger" (Part 1). Elder Barbara Terrell will present Part 2 on August 24. The class meets each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the youth rooms.</p> <p>Welcome Home!</p> <p>Join us on September 7 for our annual Celebration Sunday, a time when we mark a return to more regular routines, including attendance in Worship and Church School.</p> <p>A continental breakfast will be served by the Christian Education Committee in Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m. You'll have an opportunity to meet our Church School teachers and find out about the educational offerings available to children, youth and adults. Following breakfast, all classes will meet for a brief introductory session beginning at 10 a.m.</p> <p>We look forward to seeing YOU!</p>	<p>World Travelers Return</p> <p>All those who signed up to, "Take a Trip Around God's World" have returned from this Vacation Bible School day camp and are now recovered from their jet lag! We had a great time!</p> <p>A world of thanks to our teachers (Chris Baumgartner, Liz Baumgartner, Joy Bond, Michelle Kazmierczak, and DiAnne Schmidt), tour guides (Val Collins, Deanna Forbush, Jillian Kazmierczak, Taylor Novak, Elliot Wainwright, and Allison Widman) and travel agents (Brenda Keenan and Debbie Walker).</p> <p>Be sure to check out their pictorial travelogue, posted on the bulletin board in the hallway of the new building.</p> <p>- The Christian Education Committee</p>	<p>NEWS OF OUR FAMILY</p>
<p>Ever Wonder About Children Worship & Wonder?</p> <p>Learn all about this fantastic Christian education program for children on Sunday, August 24 with a special session for parents and other interested adults following the 10:45 Worship Service. Debbie Walker will host a light luncheon in the youth rooms, answer questions about this unique, Montessori-based learning model and show a DVD of an actual CW&W session featuring WACC children. Childcare will be provided.</p> 	<p>Vacation Alters Publication Schedule</p> <p>Our Office Administrator and Pastor will enjoy some vacation over the next two weeks. Diana will be in the office through August 21 and will return September 2. There will be no <i>Spire</i> mailing the week of August 24. Also, should a pastoral emergency arise during the few days that Pastor Janet and Diana are both away, please contact Parish Visitor Brenda Keenan or your Caring Elder.</p>	<p>"DESIGNING WORSHIP" CONFERENCE</p> <p>Interested in planning blended or contemporary worship services? Avon Lake United Church of Christ is holding a conference to enable worship planners to utilize tools of these popular worship styles. Sign up by August 30 for reduced rates for this Saturday, September 27 event. Further discounts are available for group registrations. Contact the WACC office (323-4213) for specific information.</p> <p>PRAYER FOCUS</p> <p>Please pray for Mike Contreras (husband of Katie Majewski Contreras) who returns to Iraq today – and for all who live and serve in harm's way.</p>	<p>CONGRATULATIONS!</p> <p>Wedding anniversaries this week include those of Dan & Heidi Coffman (8/8, #10), Ken & Margi Evans (8/9, #49) and Wayne & Debbie Walker (8/11, #29). Continued best wishes and blessings!</p> <p>"DOG DAYS" INVITATION</p> <p>Emmanuel Lutheran Church will host a Fun Day this Saturday, August 16, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. A feature will be Chris Trunk with Sparky, his therapy dog, in demonstrations at noon, 12:30 p.m., 1 p.m., and 1:30 p.m. Kids are welcome!</p>
<p>August 17 Lectionary Corner</p> <p>Genesis 45:1-15* Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Psalm 133 Matthew 15:21-28*</p> <p>* <i>Sermon foci</i></p>	<p>Helping Our Neighbors "From Our Doorsteps..."</p> <p>This Sunday presents the opportunity for you to contribute to WACC's "From Our Doorsteps..." fund which benefits friends and neighbors known to us, who are in need. To offer your gift, please use the enclosed envelope or a specially-marked one from the pew rack this Sunday. Thank you for giving generously!</p>	<p>SYMPATHY</p> <p>Our love and prayers surround the Huller family in the death of Nancy's uncle, Don Clutter, last week. Services were held on Friday.</p> <p>May God's presence and peace be known.</p> <p>HOSPITALIZED</p> <p><i>In rehab.:</i> Steve Kistner <i>At Wesleyan Village (nursing):</i> Myra Ball <i>At Home:</i> John Davis</p>	<p>PRAYER FOCUS</p> <p>Please pray for Mike Contreras (husband of Katie Majewski Contreras) who returns to Iraq today – and for all who live and serve in harm's way.</p>
<p>CALENDAR</p> <p>Sat., 8/16: - Salvation Army Hot Meal served by Team 3 (Barbara Terrell, captain). Sun., 8/17: - See back page for the day's schedule. Tue., 8/19: - Tuesday Night LaPorte Group (AA) meeting in Fellowship Hall, 8 p.m. Thu., 8/21: - Christian Education Committee meeting in the Elders' conference room, 6:30 p.m. Fri., 8/22: - Church office closed for vacation; reopens 9/2.</p>			