



January 1, 2017

***There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...*** Ecclesiastes 3:1

At any given moment I can look at three clocks—one on my wrist, one on my computer, one on my cell phone. My grandmother, who couldn't see her watch, could push a button on it and it told her the time. Even at 93 you must know the time.

The cruelest of all clocks is the one at the foot of your hospital bed where you can count every second of your spiraling sickness--or mark the moments on the march to restored health. And that is the question this New Year's Day—in which direction is the march of time leading you?

Ecclesiastes says there is a time for all things. There are inevitable passages of time through which God will lead us. Ponder this New Year's Day-- how will you follow? In the time of war will you go to war or will you pursue peace? In the time of peace, will you go to war over inequalities that offer peace but no justice? In the time of hate, will you hate or will you, as Jesus commanded, Love God and your neighbor? When it is time to die will you die as one who has truly lived?

When Jesus began his ministry in Galilee, he said, "The time is fulfilled." This very moment, January 1, 2017 is rich with divine possibility. We stand between the old and new. The past is not completely finished and gone, but the truly new has come.

For those of us who need a plan with time increments let me offer this one: block out one hour today—for 30 minutes give thanks for all that 2016 was and grieve for that it was not. For the second half-hour dream dreams of all that things that you hope will happen this year—realistic or not. And, finally, list the dreams that you will help along to reality and the ways you will do that.

If you do this, you will have answered both questions. You will know where the march of time is leading you and you will know that you have spent time with the ONE who is leading you and how you will follow.

- William P. Worley, Conference Minister

**Training for Church Treasurers and Bookkeepers**  
**January 14, 2017 - 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon**  
**@ Church of the Good Shepherd, Boyertown**

*Getting to Know :*

**One UCC**

1730 New Holland Rd., Reading, PA 19607

One United Church of Christ takes its name from Jesus' prayer for his followers and the UCC's motto, "that they may all be one." Our congregation formed when two UCC churches in the Reading area merged, and we just finished celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. However, our history is much deeper than a decade and encompasses the stories of four predecessor congregations whose legacies we hold. Thanks to our past, we understand being the body of Christ today means change and experimentation. At its core, One UCC is a small, and growing, richly diverse bunch of people who love Jesus and follow him in some customary and some quirky ways. Reflecting the authenticity and giftedness of our congregation, our worship service is a bit traditional and a bit rock and roll.

Our ministries include the more usual activities of a congregation like faith formation, fundraising for the CROP Walk and the Greater Berks Food Bank, and building relationships within our community, and we have been known to host neighborhood hangout nights in the summer and worship in our pajamas on Christmas morning. In our local area, One UCC is known for our amazing Christmas and Easter candy, as well as gaining an increasing reputation as a neighborhood church. We value relationship, play, creativity and feeding people both literally and metaphorically.



January 1, 2017 marks the beginning of our 11<sup>th</sup> year as a congregation. We will be engaging in an intentional process of visioning and discernment throughout this year, wondering what God is calling us to be and do at this time in history and in our context. We covet, and are grateful for, the prayers of our partner congregations in the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference.

Prayers are requested for One UCC in Reading and Rev. Rebecca J. P. Hoover.

