

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



**The United Church of Christ**

APRIL 2011

FROM THE PASTOR



Friends in Christ:

A recent cover of *Newsweek* showed a gigantic wave accompanied by the copy “Apocalypse Now: Tsunamis. Earthquakes. Nuclear Meltdowns. Revolutions. Economies on the Brink.” And it asked (putting it politely), “What Is Next?”

Yes, take just about any one-week slice of history and you will find people facing the aftermath of a natural disaster or dealing with an ongoing tragedy of human origin. And yet it seems to me—and to others I’ve talked with recently (and, apparently, the editors of *Newsweek*)—that in recent weeks/months/even years the chaos and suffering locally and globally have increased dramatically.

Beyond the headlines are the challenges that life brings to all of us. And in the midst of those challenges perhaps we can see even more clearly the gift of each other that we have within our church community. We are given the opportunity to bear one another’s burdens. We have the chance to love one another as Christ has loved us. We can pray with and for each other.

Lent reminds us of our mortality—that we are, in the words of the hymn, “Frail children of dust and feeble as frail.” As Lent draws to a close later this month, however, we hear again the promise of community and support that comes to us on Maundy Thursday. We all have our downside—but we also have each other. Congregational UCC is here for you—and that means that you are here for others.

It is *together* that we can face the difficulties of life. It is together that we hear the good news of Easter that God is bringing good out of evil, life out of death.

*Bill*



In the Congregational United Church of Christ we all share in performing duties for the worship service. A list is provided each month for the assignments of Greeters, Ushers, and Hospitality. Please arrive about one-half hour before services, which begin at 10:15 a.m. If you cannot serve on the assigned date please call someone else on the list to arrange a swap with them.

## SERVING THE CHURCH APRIL 2011

	Greeters	Ushers	Hospitality
April 3	Elizabeth Boyd Willard Boyd	Marilynne Summers Megan Carnes Stuart & Deborah Cobb	Tracy Taylor & Mark McBurney
April 10	Donna Bertogli Tina Koepnick	David & Elizabeth Deifell Chris & Vernetta Kemp	Jane Murphy Fern Weir
April 17	Hermine McLearn Joan Jehle	John & Randee Fieselmann Jane Kinney Susan McConnell	Ann & Ali Gabel
April 24	Robert & Clair Ashman	William & Jody Murph James Savage Shirley Woolums	Joan Parsons Cynthia Parsons

If you have any questions, or have made changes with anyone, please call the assigned  
Deacon of the month—MIKE MYER—319-354-0961

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES AT CONGREGATIONAL UCC

April 17, Palm Sunday—Worship with Distribution of Palms, 10:15

April 21, Maundy Thursday  
Worship in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.  
Communion and Service of Tenebrae

April 22, Good Friday  
Worship in the Sanctuary at Noon

April 24, Easter

## APRIL CALENDAR

- |  |   |
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| <p>2 AGO Pedals, Pipes &amp; Pizza<br/>Choir Rehearsal 10:30—noon<br/>Wedding—3:00 p.m.</p> <p>4 Foreign Relations Council<br/>Narcotics Anonymous<br/>CPCS Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Library</p> <p>5 Midday Prayer Service—Noon<br/>Diaconate—7:00 p.m.<br/>Mission Board—7:00 p.m.</p> <p>6 Lenten Musical Meditation—Noon</p> <p>8 DVIP Board Meeting</p> <p>9 Men’s Fellowship Breakfast—8:00 a.m.<br/>DVIP Board Meeting<br/>Arthur Hacker Recital—2:00 p.m.</p> <p>10 Crop Walk<br/>Choir Rehearsal—Noon—1:30 p.m.</p> <p>11 Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>12 Midday Prayer Service—Noon</p> <p>13 Lenten Musical Meditation—Noon<br/>Kelsey Reeve rehearsal—6:30 p.m.</p> | <p>15 Kelsey Reeve Recital—7:00—9:00 p.m.</p> <p>17 Palm Sunday<br/>Choir Rehearsal—Noon—1:30 p.m.</p> <p>18 Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>19 Midday Prayer—Noon<br/>Trustees Meeting—7:00 p.m.</p> <p>20 Lenten Musical Meditation—Noon<br/>Christian Education Meeting—7:00 p.m.</p> <p>21 Maundy Thursday<br/>Worship with communion—7:00 p.m.</p> <p>22 Good Friday—Worship at Noon</p> <p>23 Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>24 Easter Sunday</p> <p>25 Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>26 Midday Prayer—Noon<br/>Church council—7:00 p.m.</p> <p>28 Membership Board—7:00 p.m.</p> <p>30 NAMI Walk<br/>Ken Cowan rehearsal</p> |
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**Women’s Luncheon Welcomes Spring!**

Order your box lunch and join us in the greenhouse of Forever Green Nursery in North Liberty! We will meet on April 14 at 11:45 at 125 Forevergreen Road in North Liberty. We’ll hear a short talk on a special gardening topic and have time for questions. Although April is too early to plant, it isn’t too early to dream about summer gardens. Please make your reservation, specifying a vegetarian option if desired, to the church office by TUESDAY, APRIL 12. We’ll order the box lunches and provide the beverage. If you decide to drop in without making a reservation, please bring a brown bag lunch and join us in the greenhouse.



## LENTEN MUSIC SERIES CONTINUES IN APRIL

You are invited to renew your spirit each Wednesday as our popular Lenten Musical Meditations series will continue this month. The musical meditations begin at noon and last for approximately 25 minutes. Matthew Penning, Director of Music and Organist at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church will be here on April 6th. Kurt Juhl, Director of Music and Organist at Christ the King Lutheran Church will play on April 13th and Elizabeth Oakes and Nathalie Cruden, violists, will close the series April 20<sup>th</sup>. The series is free and open to the public—bring a friend!

## SERVICE OF MUSIC SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 10:15 A.M.

*Requiem, by Gabriel Fauré*

Gabriel Fauré began work on his Requiem in 1887. At that time he was choirmaster at the Church of the Madeleine in Paris. In composing this work, Fauré sought to create a contemplative piece that would provide solace to those grieving, by holding out the promise of eternal rest and peace for the departed. He left out those portions of the liturgical requiem mass that portray the wrath and judgment of God and the torment awaiting the damned.

Fauré's original instrumental scoring emphasized the darker string colors (divided violas and cellos and bass), using a solo violin only to provide a brighter element in those sections suggesting celestial images. In 1900 the work was expanded to full orchestra, and this is the version usually performed in concerts today.

In our service, however, we will perform the work in its earlier chamber form.

Fauré's setting of the Requiem emphasizes God's graciousness and gentleness. Hearing this music reminds us of St. Paul's affirmation that nothing in all creation "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

### Bloesch Retirement Celebration!

We will recognize forty years of service by Richard Bloesch and Ethel Bloesch at our May 8 church service at 10:15am. Their vision and combined skills have reinforced a tradition of musical excellence at our church. A catered luncheon will follow in Rockwood Hall. We hope to see many of you there! Please make your luncheon reservation in the Church Office by May 1 (Suggested donation: Adults \$10, children \$5)

## 2011 SUMMER WORKCAMP

Each year Congregational UCC joins with First Christian Church in a mission work trip.

This year we will be going to a flood relief/rebuilding work camp in Nashville, Tennessee. We'll leave Iowa City on Sunday, June 19 for a week of work, adventure, and some fun. We'll stay in a local church and help to rebuild homes. There will also be opportunities for some Nashville cultural experiences. Generally, each member of the group covers his/her own travel and food expenses and we make sure that no one is left out because a lack of expense money.

You are invited to be a part of this year's team. For more information, please talk with Shirley Woolums, Martha Ann Crawford, or Bill Lovin or call the church office.



### MAY 1 SUNDAYS AT FOUR ORGAN CONCERT BY KEN COWAN

The final event in this year's SUNDAYS AT FOUR series will be a concert by the Canadian organist Ken Cowan on May 1, at 4 p.m. A native of Thorold, Ontario, Cowan is one of the most sought-after organists in North America. He has performed solo recitals across the United States and Canada and has been a featured recitalist at the last three national conventions of the American Guild of Organists.

His concerts and CD recordings reveal a combination of technical virtuosity and great musical understanding and sensitivity.

Ken Cowan's May 1 concert is co-sponsored by the Congregational Church and the University of Iowa Organ Department.

In addition to this concert, Ken Cowan will lead a master class at 7:00 p.m. on May 2, sponsored by the River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The master class will be held in Riverside Recital Hall (formerly St. Thomas More Church) and is open to the public.



For decades One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) has been the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ. Since 1949 several North American Protestant denominations have joined together to support OGHS. Collectively over \$20 million is raised annually to support health, education, and agricultural projects, disaster relief efforts, and refugee ministries in the United States and around the world. Because of this generous giving, the UCC and partners such as Church World Service are able to respond immediately to emergencies in the United States and around the globe.

Congregational UCC has a proud tradition of strong support for OGHS. We have been commended for our generosity in past years. You are invited to prayerfully consider how you can let your spirit grow and support this offering this Lent. The OGHS offering will be received during worship on April 3. Please give generously. Lent is a wonderful time to share what you have with those who need help. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, our gifts meet compelling needs, while also bringing the blessing of compassion into our own lives.

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

Something new is happening! Join us each month for good coffee, good food and good conversation at the Men's Fellowship breakfast. This month's breakfast will be held at the Hamburg Inn on Saturday, April 9th at 8:00 am.

Please RSVP via the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall or email [darin.wells@gmail.com](mailto:darin.wells@gmail.com).

Hope to see you there!

## **2011 CROP Walk Is April 10**

Every year in the spring, people from all over Johnson County gather donations and walk in support of the hungry. Of the money raised, 25% goes to our local Crisis Center. 75% goes to Church World Service and other designated relief agencies to help hungry people throughout the world, whether through direct food aid or assistance with farming practices.

Church World Service also provides disaster relief. Among other efforts, CWS is currently providing emergency relief to some 25,000 people now living at 100 evacuation sites in northeastern Japan. They are focusing on areas where basic needs of food, water, sanitation, electricity and fuel are not being met.

This year's CROP walk will be held April 10, at 1:30 p.m., leaving from the Robert A Lee Recreation Center for a 3 mile walk. Collection envelopes will be available during the fellowship hour following on Sundays, or you can contact the church office to get an envelope. We are recruiting walkers, as well as collecting donations to CROP. For more information, please contact Laurie Stunz or call the church office.



## LIBRARY NEWS

The Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World by E.L. Konigsburg is a great read for upper elementary or early teen readers. Several of the characters from this book were introduced in The Outsiders but this book can stand alone. Amadeo Kaplan hopes to discover something "lost" that the world may not have even known existed. When his mother relocates the family to Florida that dream seems hopeless until he discovers an art mystery as well as unexpected friendships. The book is full of art references, coincidences and rich characters.

Along the lines of undiscovered treasures check out the church library! The following titles have been added to the adolescent section of the church library although there are several that would be of interest to readers of all ages.

Keeping Score-Historical fiction in the time of Joe DiMaggio by Linda Sue Park

Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World by E. L. Konigsburg-author of **The View from Saturday** and Silent to the Bone

Lost and Found by Andrew Clements author of Frindle

Freak the Mighty is a story about an unlikely friendship and hope by Rodman Philbrick

Last Book in the Universe- a science fiction by Rodman Philbrick

Hattie Big Sky "Thanks to her eighth-grade teacher, Kirby Larson maintained a healthy lack of interest in history until she heard a snippet of a story about her great-grandmother's homesteading by herself in eastern Montana." And we're off!

Chosen One by Carol Lynn Williams is a story about a strong young woman in a polygamist cult.

If the Witness Lied is another thriller by Carolyn Cooney author of The Face on the Milk Carton

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos is about a boy with ADHD. This is upper elementary reading level.

Whirligig Paul Fleishman's heavy lesson of a tragic accident and where the consequences take Brent.

Little Bee by Chris Cleave "Little Bee" is about a young Nigerian refugee whose very existence changes the lives of a group of English citizens in dramatic ways.

Secret Life of Bee by Sue Monk Kidd

Her Fearful Symmetry by Audrey Niffenegger-author of The Time Traveler's Wife

The Pact by Jodi Picoult contains mature subject matter including friendship, love and suicide

Unlikely Friendship by Ann Rinaldi is an historical fiction about Mary Todd Lincoln and Elizabeth Keckley, "a free black woman who had purchased her own freedom," who came to the White House to interview for the position as the First Lady's dressmaker.

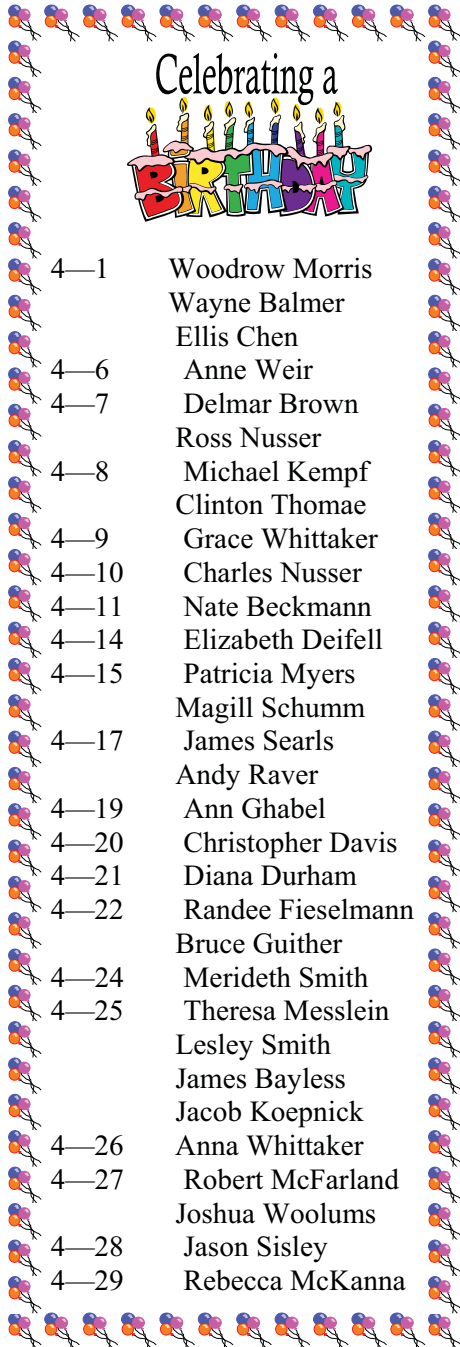
Disappeared

Rash by Pete Hautman is a cynical but thought provoking look at the future. It does contain profanity.

Audrey Wait is a fun read for teens by Robin Benway

Jane Eyre- the timeless classic by Charlotte Bronte

## CONGREGATIONAL UCC PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR FasTrac SPRING TRIP



For the third year, we have supported FasTrac's Spring Civil Rights tour. Initially this program was funded by our special Outreach Gift. This year several members provided \$950 to help send 26 students. Henri Harper, the director the program writes: I would have to say that this year's trip would have to be the most amazing experience of all our trips, not just for the students, but for all of us. This trip was not just about civil rights and American history, but about people in general.

The most amazing thing happened in Birmingham, AL: We were sitting in an ice cream parlor, wearing our FasTrac shirts. A gentleman named Mr. Pettis came over and asked the students, "What is FasTrac and who are you guys?" The students explained the purpose of the trip and FasTrac and they started answering questions this man was asking about civil rights. He was so impressed with the students and FasTrac that he picked up his phone and said, "You guys need to meet the Mayor of Birmingham!" He picked up his phone and set up a meeting with the Mayor of Birmingham and a tour of City Hall, right then on the spot. Additionally, he was so impressed with the students that he canceled his day's plans with his wife and walked students all over Birmingham and went on the tour to City Hall and stayed with us the rest of the evening.

At the same time this was happening at the ice cream parlor, some students with a video camera walked across the street to the Birmingham Police Station and went in. On their own, they arranged an interview with the Assistant Police Chief. He was also impressed with the students enough to give them a tour of Birmingham jail and offered two paid internships for students for the summer for two months. The students were repeatedly told by local residents, "We live in Alabama and we don't know all the things you know!"

Until we as adults, parents, professionals and teachers, are willing to do a self evaluation and remember that each youth we come in contact with have their own individual motivations, and stop pushing our own agenda, then we will continue to struggle with youth. They want structure, accountability, and to know when they are meeting expectations. They have shown us what they need it is up to us to provide them with support for them to change, are we can continue to struggle.

Thank you for your continued support in giving students these opportunities for change. By your giving you are changing lives in Iowa City.

**STILL TIME TO JOIN THE SUNDAY MORNING LENTEN STUDY**  
***Holy Adventure: 41 Days of Audacious Living***

Lent gives us a time to intentionally consider how we live before God and with our family and neighbors. Over twenty people are meeting on Sunday mornings in Rockwood Hall at 9:15 to discuss *Holy Adventure* by Bruce Epperly, a UCC minister and process theologian. Epperly writes of a God who invites us to be companions with the divine in creating our future. Each of our lives is an unfinished, surprising, and holy adventure. The most exciting part is that we actively participate with God in choosing our life's direction.

For each day in Lent *Holy Adventure* offers:

- theological reflections* to enable you to experience an adventurous world in which your choices make a difference both to God and your neighbors;
- prayers for the adventure* to inspire you to see your life as an adventure in companionship with God;
- spiritual affirmations* to transform your mind and awaken you to undreamed of possibilities for yourself and the world;
- imaginative prayers* to expand your consciousness and deepen your faith in God's presence in your life and your vocation as God's partner in healing the world;
- adventurous actions* to embody your spiritual growth in the transformation of everyday life through your positive relationships with family and friends, the life of our congregation, and your role as God's partner in healing the world.

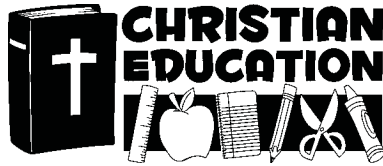
Bill Lovin is leading the conversation around the fireplace. For more information or to purchase a copy of *Holy Adventure* please talk with Bill. Reading this book could change the way you look at your life and inspire you to transform your world!

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**ECUMENICAL MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP  
FUND OFFERING**

Thank you for your generous giving during worship on Sunday, March 6, when we received a special offering to support the Ecumenical Minority Scholarship Fund (EMSF). This Scholarship originated at Congregational UCC and is now supported by the Iowa City interfaith community through the Consultation of Religious Congregations. Because of your generosity, we received over \$750. The Consultation hopes to have enough money in the scholarship so that a new recipient can be selected before the start of the 2011-12 academic year.

Thanks again. Your gifts will help make a big difference in the lives of students at UI.



Dear Friends,

I would like to say a special “Thank you!” to all of our Camp Day volunteers: Claire Ashman, Suzie Brown, Martha Ann Crawford, Diane Olson, Rick Ruppert, and Fern Weir. And those of us who helped would like to thank the eighteen young people who participated. We had fun! You’re a great group!

The Adult Education Series led by Rev. Lovin discussing *Holy Adventure* will conclude on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

We will be suspending all classes on April 24<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday, so that you might spend more time with your families. We will, however, have Children’s Church on Easter during the sermon.

Summer Camp information has arrived from Pilgrim Heights. There truly is a camp for everyone. This is a wonderful facility that is underused. Please check the bulletin board in the back hallway for more information.

Our final Christian Education Classes for this school year will be held on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Children’s Church will continue through the summer.

Eddie Roberts  
Christian Education Director

## HOW FRIENDLY ARE WE?

Nearly every church believes itself to be friendly and welcoming, and truly most are, but that truth is not always readily apparent to the nervous first-time visitor who has just moved into the area or who is having a new sense of spiritual seeking, leading them to our church. We should prepare ourselves to receive visitors with hospitality beyond our assumed “friendliness.”

The assigned greeters should do more than merely say good morning and shake the hand of each person entering the doorway. If the greeter knows the person entering, they should call them by name. If the greeters do not recognize the person, try something like, “Are you a visitor or a longtime member I should know?”?

How friendly would we be if we stepped up a notch and actually joined a visitor in the pew and later invited them to the fellowship hour? First time visitors won’t know what our fellowship hour is or where it is located. Members (not just the pastor) who say “won’t you join me for a cup of coffee before you leave” are precious guides indeed.

We would receive a triple star visitor rating if several members went up to the visitor standing self-consciously nursing a cup of coffee and entered into a real conversation. It is far better to risk approaching a longtime absent member than to miss approaching a visitor. Try the line “I don’t think I know you...?”

Let’s become known as a truly friendly congregation!

From the Membership Committee



## Pray for Missions

A member of this congregation has offered a dollar-for-dollar matching grant to help fund an upcoming local Habitat build.

This matching grant is in memory of Veryl E. Detwiler, a former member of this congregation and will provide funding toward the WOMEN BUILD for 2011 in honor of Dottie Ray, a long-time local radio personality.

The matching grant is intended to encourage individual giving to Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity up to a total of \$10,000. The grant will provide an additional \$10,000 match.

Volunteers are needed from this congregation for construction, clean up, and other volunteer slots. Let's get involved in this WOMEN BUILD FOR 2011." (No, you don't need to be female to volunteer!)

Checks should be made payable to Habitat for Humanity. They can be put in the offering plate or sent to the church office. Be sure to write CHALLENGE GRANT in the memo line.

For more information about the Women Build, and ways to become involved, please visit [iowavalley-habitat.org](http://iowavalley-habitat.org) or [contact me to schedule a build shift \(volunteer@iowavalleyhabitat.org, 337-8949\)](mailto:volunteer@iowavalleyhabitat.org).

## Fair Trade Coffee at Congregation UCC

Each Sunday we serve up a "Cup of Justice" after worship at coffee hour. This year on the First Sunday of each month the Mission Board will be selling coffee and other beverages.

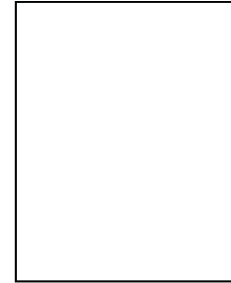
The Shelter House Book Sale was a great success. A number of UCC members volunteered. There were tens of thousands of books, most in very good condition. We made \$7,000. In both sorting ahead of time and during the sale, we didn't have enough volunteer workers, so I'd like you to consider volunteering on an evening or a Saturday when the sale happens next year. As the year progresses and as you read and read, keep the Shelter House book sale in mind and save your used books for the sale. It's for a very good cause.

## NEWSLETTER REMINDER

Newsletter information due by April 20.

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
30 North Clinton Street  
Iowa City, Iowa 52245-1700

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**APRIL 2011**

**HOW TO CONTACT US**

Tuesday—Friday.....9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Phone:** 319-337-4301

**E-mail:**

Minister.....[uccicrev@uccic.org](mailto:uccicrev@uccic.org)

Office Manager.....[uccicsec@uccic.org](mailto:uccicsec@uccic.org)

Financial Secretary.....[uccicfinsec@uccic.org](mailto:uccicfinsec@uccic.org)

Christian Ed. Dir.....[uccicce@uccic.org](mailto:uccicce@uccic.org)

**Visit our Web Site:**

[www.uccic.org](http://www.uccic.org)

**Sunday Schedule**

**9:15 a.m. Christian Education**

**10:15 a.m. Worship**

**11:15 a.m. Fellowship**

**Our Church Staff**

**Pastor: The Rev. William Lovin**

Music Director: Richard Bloesch

Organist: Bill Crouch

Christian Ed: Edie Roberts

Custodians: Nicole & Eddy Ghumm

Financial Sec. Sharyn Huriaux Reitz

Office Manager: Sheila Bloomer

**Parking  
Information**

Parking is available evenings and all day Sunday at the IMU or North Hall Parking Ramps. Ask your usher for a voucher (or get one from the church office).