

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The United Church of Christ

JANUARY 2012

FROM THE PASTOR



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Friends in Christ:

In one of my favorite “post-Christmas” poems, Howard Thurman writes:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the shepherd and the magi have found their
way home,
the work of Christmas is begun:

Find the lost
Heal the broken
Feed the hungry
Release the prisoners
Rebuild the nations
Bring peace among brothers and sisters
Make music in the heart

We rested beside the weary road and heard the angels sing. The good news has come to us once more: Christ is born. Now—what are we going to do about that?

The weeks between Epiphany (which we will celebrate on January 8) and Ash Wednesday (February 22) are traditionally a time for churches to think about their mission in the world. This year our Mission Board will be helping us with this task by presenting a series that looks at hunger globally and locally. In addition to conversations on Sunday morning, there will be presentations by notable speakers on Sunday afternoons. More about this series can be found inside this newsletter and on our website, www.uccic.org.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us as a congregation and for the larger Iowa City community. I invite you to be a part of these events and to discover new ways of doing the “work of Christmas” in the year ahead.

Peace,

Bill