

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



**The United Church of Christ
March 2010**

FROM THE PASTOR



Friends in Christ:

About a month ago I received the statement of my 2009 giving to Congregational UCC. It's always good to see how regular giving builds on itself over the course of a year. And it's always a challenge that leads to increased giving in the year ahead.

What struck me this time, however, was the "small print" at the bottom of the page. "Other than 'intangible religious benefits,' no goods or services have been received by the donor." The IRS wants to be sure that we're not getting anything for our giving.

Those "intangibles," however, are many, aren't they? Healing, peace, community, friendship, joy, love—what else do you receive? And while it's true that you haven't received any "goods or services" (we don't hand our mugs or tote bags) your giving has brought a great

deal of good and service into the world: the hungry are fed, the homeless are sheltered, the stranger is welcomed. So, let the IRS know what you've given. And give thanks for what you have received from God.

Peace,

Bill

March 2010

- 3-2 Diaconate, Mission Board**
- 3-3 Lenten Meditation—Noon**
- 3-7 Sundays at Four**
- 3-9 Christian Ed. Meeting**
- 3-10 Lenten Meditation—Noon**
- 3-16 Trustees' Meeting**
- 3-17 Lenten Meditation—Noon**
- 3-19 Women's Luncheon**
- 3-21 Christian Century Group—7pm**
- 3-23 Church Council**
- 3-24 Lenten Meditation—Noon**
- 3-25 Membership Committee**
- 3-28 Sundays at Four**
- 3-31 Lenten Meditation—Noon**

CONGREGATIONAL UCC– DUTIES ASSIGNED FOR March 2010

- Mar 7 Greeters Donna Bertogli; Emily Koepnick
Ushers: Nicole & Sophia Neems; Wm & Ann Leefers
Hosp: Vicki Thomae & Kathleen Wilder
- Mar 14 Greeters: Stuart & Deborah Cobb
Ushers: Charles Connerly, Martha Ann Crawford; John & Libby Fuller
Hosp: Laura Stunz; Glenna Cobb
- Mar 21 Greeters: Darrell & Shirley Wyrick
Ushers: James Robinson; Marilynne Summers; Todd & Annette Michaels
Hosp: Jane Murphy & Allie Brookfield
- Mar 28 Greeters Eugene Buck & Elizabeth Oakes
Ushers: Cynthia Parsons; Andrea Rauer; Bruce Guither; Blair Klinefelter
Hosp James & Diane Jetter

DEACON OF THE MONTH: BARBARA SISLEY (319 337-9183)

**If you cannot serve on the date assigned, please swap
with someone else and notify the Deacon of the month.**

Lenten Bible Study: Parables of New Possibility

Jesus said “many things in parables.” He used these deceptively simple stories in ways that continue to startle and challenge us. As we continue our emphasis on the Gospel of Luke this year, Bill Lovin will lead us in taking a closer look at some of the parables of Jesus found in Luke. We meet on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Feel free to come to any or all of these events.

- March 3—The Sower (Luke 8:4-15)
- March 10— The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)
- March 17— The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37)
- March 24—The Shrewd Steward (Luke 16:1-9)

March 31—Parables of Jerusalem (Luke 20:9-19; 21:29-33)

Lenten Season

The season of Lent continues through the month of March, culminating in Holy Week and Easter at the end of the month and the beginning of April.

March 28: Palm Sunday Worship at 10:15 a.m.—Distribution of palms and children’s procession

April 1: Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00 p.m.—Communion and the Service of Tenenbrae.

April 2: Good Friday Worship at noon—A service of lamentation using the Psalms

April 4: Easter Sunday—Sunrise Service led by the confirmation class at 7:30 a.m. followed by breakfast. Festival Easter Service at 10:15 a.m.

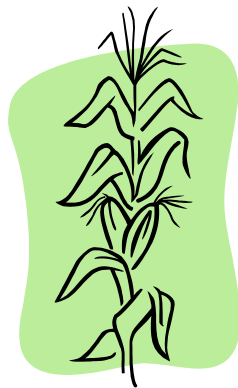
2010 CROP Walk Is March 28

In spring of 2009, the Johnson County CROP Walk raised \$33,040.92. Our congregation raised \$518.00.

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. According to the CWS website, within 24 hours after the recent earthquake, in Haiti, CWS and its partners in the Dominican Republic began providing water, food, temporary shelter and health assistance. Having worked in partnership in Haiti since 1954, CWS will also help to support communities in the long struggle to rebuild. Donations to CROP will help in this effort.

This year's CROP walk will be held March 28, 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 church during the Sundays in March, or you can contact the church office to get an envelope. We are recruiting walkers, as well as collecting donations to CROP.



The following books have been added to the adolescent section of the **church library**. These additions include new publications as well as 30 year best sellers.

things hoped for by Andrew Clements

This book is a follow up to things not seen but is a good read on its own. Mr. Clements skillfully hints at the theme but it is not until the final pages that the reader reflects on the big picture of the story. Parents might like to know that Gwen's grandfather is discovered in the book as the victim of suicide.

Is It Still Cheating If I Don't Get Caught? By Bruce Weinstein

While some of the scenarios presented in the book may seem like "of course" moments to adults many are good discussion starters with young adolescents.

What I Talk About When I Talk About Running by Haruki Murakami

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle A Year of Food by Barbara Kingsolver tells of a family who spent a year eating food produced where they live. Included are recipes.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery

New Moon by Stephanie Meyer

This book is from the popular Twilight series.

December by Elizabeth Hartley Winthrop Winthrop's focus is eleven year old Isabelle who becomes a selective mute.

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

Readers still enjoy this 1959 classic.

The Teacher's Funeral-a comedy in three parts by Richard Peck

Peeled by Joan Bauer

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo

China Rabbit, Edward Tulane, is very pleased with himself and some would say self-centered. This book takes him on a long journey that helps him see beyond himself.

Betsy (with the help of Megan) Henson

Christian Education

Dear Friends,

Spring is just around the corner and it couldn't come soon enough for most of us. I know all of us in the Iowa City School District are looking forward to Spring Break, March 15–19.

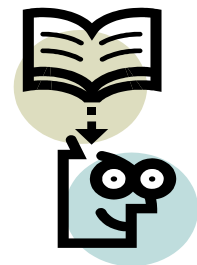
Because of our low attendance in Christian education classes at this time in the past, we will be suspending all classes on March 14th and March 21st. We will, however, continue to offer Children's Church for the very young during the sermon on these Sundays.

Please remember to make family time at home to talk about Lent and Easter. The meaning of this most holy of seasons often gets overlooked as our children are bombarded with bunnies, chicks, and eggs. While all of us can enjoy the chocolate rabbits and Peeps, children are never too young to hear that Easter is really about Jesus. You needn't stress the "scary" parts, just so they associate Easter with Jesus' love for us.

Please let me know your ideas and concerns. We can always make things better.

Edie Roberts

Christian Education Director



A Word of Thanks from the Trustees

Two months into our new fiscal year the Trustees want you to know that giving is strong and expenses are as expected. We are “in the black” and able to fund the programs of ministry and mission that our congregation approved at our Annual Meeting in January.

We will be able to send money to the Iowa Conference to pay part of our commitment to “Our Church’s Wider Mission.” The youth of our church, who provided a great pancake breakfast on Valentine’s Day, continue to be nurtured in their faith. Our Lenten opportunities for worship, study, and meditation have started. And when the plumbing in the kitchen backed up, we were able to address the immediate and long-term problems in a timely manner. All of this is happening because of your generous giving.

While we are grateful for your ongoing support of our general budget, we also want to note the inspiring response of this congregation to the disaster in Haiti. We have received over \$3,400 in gifts for support of relief efforts.

Thank you. Your giving makes a world of difference throughout the world.

The Trustees

Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God!

On Friday, March 5th, Church Women United will celebrate the 2010 “World Day of Prayer” with registration beginning at 9:15 AM.

North Liberty First United Methodist Church, 420 North Jones Blvd., North Liberty, will be hosting the event. Everyone is welcome and childcare will be provided.

SUNDAYS AT FOUR CONTINUES ITS SECOND SEASON!

Two events are scheduled for March in our SUNDAYS AT FOUR series. We welcome back John Rapson and his University of Iowa Faculty Jazz Ensemble on March 7 at 4pm. Last year's event packed the house! Prof. Rapson directed our lively Jazz Service last fall, as well. Come early to get a seat and stay after to talk to the artists and enjoy a reception.

On March 28th we will host the Central College A Cappella Choir. Come at 4pm for a choral concert to welcome spring. Director Mark Babcock and Accompanist Davis Folkerts will lead this excellent ensemble. The choir will perform works by

ONE GREAT HOUR of SHARING

On March 28 our church will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering. The offering, administered by Wider Church Ministries, is the refugee, relief and development fund of the United Church of Christ. It provides support to people in more than eighty countries. In 2008 the UCC received \$3,048,840 for the OGHS offering.

This is how these funds were invested:

Education, Health, and Agriculture	62%		
Administration	6%		
National Disaster	9%	Promotional Material	6%
Refugee	9%	Program Monitoring	1%
International Emergencies	7%		

Last year because we gave to OGHS, the UCC had money to assist with the Haiti disaster immediately. Please give generously on March 28. 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.

News from Fas Trac

Since 2008 Congregational UCC has supported the City High Fas Trac Program with money from our special outreach fund. Directed by Henri Harper, Fas Trac encourages African-American students to prepare for and attend college. Our support enabled the students to visit historically African-American colleges and universities.

In late February we received the good news that all of the seniors in the Fas Trac program have been accepted by a university or community college for the fall of 2010.

We also learned that Fas Trac is looking for two vans for use in their work program this summer. They can be old; they can even not run. If you know of a van that can either be purchased by Fas Trac or donated to them, please contact Henri Harper at City High School: 688-1040 ext. 4080; email: harper.henry@iccsd.k12.ia.us. You can also visit their new website at www.fastracprogram.org.

The **March Women's Luncheon** will switch to FRIDAY, March 19, at noon. Reservations are due at the church office by 3pm Thursday, March 18. Donna Hirst tells us that La Reyna, located near K-Mart at 1937 Keokuk, has a wonderful Friday buffet with real tamales, and we were convinced. Please consider bringing a guest! Contact Sharyn Reitz if you have questions - 354-3138.

Birth—Tyler Seidl, son of Kari Steege and Sarah Seidl, born January 28, 2010.

Coming in April—Spring **Choir Sunday: April 18.**

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3-01 Sandra Lacina
Doug Kenworthy
Ben Barker

3-02 Nathan Weir

3-04 Dell Cameron
Barbara Hanson

3-05 Lyle Tonne

3-06 Melissa Reynolds

3-10 James Jetter

3-12 Ian Cameron
Thomas Knapp

3-13 Joan Buxton

3-14 Diana Baculis

3-16 Emily Klinefelter

3-21 Timothy Barker

3-22 Nathaniel Savage

3-23 Isabella Myers

3-24 Carrie Whittaker

3-26 Christine Kempf

3-27 Luke Gordon

3-29 Rachel Anderson

3-30 Gary Klinefelter



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

March 2010

HOW TO CONTACT US

Monday—Friday.....9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Phone: 319-337-4301

E-mail:

Office Manager.....uccicsec@uccic.org

Christian Ed. Dir....uccicce@uccic.org

Visit our Web Site:

www.uccic.org

Sunday Schedule

10:15 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Fellowship

Our Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Lovin

Music Director: Richard Bloesch

Organist: Bill Crouch

Christian Ed: Edie Roberts

Custodians: Nicole & Eddy Ghummm

Office Manager: Phil Jamieson

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).