

# Congregational Tidings

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*



A weekly newsletter



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March 9, 2022

## FROM THE REOPENING COMMITTEE...

Rejoice

We are in the green. The Blackhawk County Public Health website says the risk level is low. The sanctuary is open. There are people in our congregation who are older or immune-compromised. Wearing a mask, getting vaccinated, washing your hands, and avoiding close contact is recommended and is your choice. These are all measures that lower the risk of contracting Covid. Our overall risk is low now and the possibility of somebody entering the sanctuary with active Covid is low. Contracting Covid can be mild for some, but deadly for others. We request healthy respect for Covid and other viruses and rejoice in the opportunity to once again meet in person. Come on in.

*~ Tim, Beth, Greg, Dave*

## OUR CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP...

As you remember from our Annual Meeting, this year's budget is extremely challenging, and unfortunately our pledge payments are behind schedule. In a few weeks we will be one fourth of the way through the year, which means each of us should have paid one fourth of our annual pledge. I'd encourage all of us to attend Church on Sunday and make our offering during the service. If you can't attend, please send a check to the Office. With the stock market down, we really don't want to be forced to use Endowment funds to support Church operations. Michelle can answer any questions you have about your pledge.



*~ Dave Allbaugh  
Treasurer*



**Daylight Savings Time** is this Sunday, March 13th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday evening and join us for worship at 10:30am on Sunday!

**\*\* As a reminder there will be NO Youth Group this week, as Youth Director Abbie is out of town at the Women in Youth Ministry Conference. See you on Sunday!**

Maple Tapping & S'mores  
Hartman Reserve  
March 2022



**Hartman Reserve  
March 2022 Maple  
Tapping & S'mores:**

**Thank you for a  
wonderful time at  
Hartman last Sunday!  
A BIG thank you to the  
Spiritual Growth and  
Programs Committee  
for helping out!  
Stay tuned for more  
upcoming youth events.**



# MOMENT FOR MISSIONS... UKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL

The UCC is appealing for support for refugees and for elderly and other vulnerable people who are displaced within Ukraine and unable to leave. Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as other citizens of more than 125 countries living in Ukraine.

On Feb. 24, the Russian military attacked Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of persons have already sought refuge outside of Ukraine. Others have remained in the country but are displaced from their homes. The humanitarian crisis is accelerating in Ukraine and in neighboring countries as the violence escalates and the number of people on the move multiplies.

UCC support is being targeted to people most in need through humanitarian relief partners with a history of working in the region. Aid also is being extended through Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, the relief agency of the Reformed Church in Hungary. The UCC's long-term relationship with the Reformed Church in Hungary is held through the Europe and the Middle East Office of Global Ministries. Uniting in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion with the people of Ukraine and all who are affected, and with our global partners who are welcoming those driven from their home. All donations will be deposited into the International Disasters fund designated for "Ukraine Relief." One can mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194 or bring to church. Please be sure to note "Ukraine Relief Fund" on your check in the memo section."



*Relief supplies. Photo copyright Hungarian Church Aid, used with permission.*

~ Laurie

## MORE INFORMATION ON THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE...

Our hearts and prayers go out to the Ukrainian people. Families are losing their homes, their way of life, and their futures. It is so difficult to know how to help those caught in this nightmare. Humanitarian assistance for food and water, health care, and basic human needs is desperately needed. There are many opportunities to help by sending donations of any amount. Here are some that are directly helping the Ukraine since the war began.

1. **Direct Relief** is one of the world's largest distributors of donated medical supplies and is providing supplies to the Ukraine. <https://www.directrelief.org/>
2. **Mercy Corps** is sending humanitarian assistance and aid workers to Romania and Poland along the Ukrainian border to assist refugees. <https://www.mercycorps.org/donate/crisis-ukraine-give-now>
3. **International Medical Corps** has been providing medical services to eastern Ukraine since 2014, and will be increasing their services focusing in particular on mental health care and access to food and water. <https://internationalmedicalcorps.org/>
4. **Save the Children** has been providing education, food, water and cash grants in the Ukraine since 2014. It has been helping local organizations stock up on and distribute hygiene kits and winter clothes prior and providing services for unaccompanied minors who are fleeing the country. <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/what-we-do/emergency-response/refugee-children-crisis/ukrainian-refugees>
5. **The United Church of Christ** as mentioned above, is appealing for support through the UCC Ukraine Emergency Appeal to assist those unable to leave, such as the elderly and other vulnerable people. Gifts will be used to provide shelter, food, and other care to both those left in the country and those who are now refugees. <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal/>

## BEING A CHANNEL OF GOD'S PEACE...

*It's been a rough couple years. Love the people I hate? Some days,  
I can hardly love the people I love! I am weary. I am empty. I am tired. Help!  
Divisiveness, lack of civility, despair and hopelessness permeate our nation these days.  
I feel sad and scared and powerless Help!*

*What has happened to our sense of community? Everywhere I turn, there is a clash of values.  
What sustains us? What sustains me? Help!*

If this sounds like your world, join us via Zoom as we consider BEING A CHANNEL OF GOD'S PEACE: A START led by Rev. Janice Jean Springer.

This workshop is designed for people who are already weary and discouraged, people whose energy ran out a long time ago. It is intentionally brief—only 3 sessions, 1 ¼ hours each And it is interactive, playful and nurturing,

**3 Thursdays 6:30-7:45 Central Time Zone**

**March 24, March 31, April 7, 2022**

Register by emailing [revjanicejeanspringer@gmail.com](mailto:revjanicejeanspringer@gmail.com). Include your name, email address, and the state you live in. When we receive your registration, we will email you the link you need to join us via Zoom. There is no cost for this workshop. Bring pen and paper or your tablet.

Rev. Janice Jean Springer, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, has served for more than 40 years as a local church pastor in Missouri, Iowa, Michigan and Montana. Most recently, she is the author of *I Know We're All Welcome at the Table, But Do I Have to Sit Next to You?*

For more information contact Evie Waack at [evie.waack@gmail.com](mailto:evie.waack@gmail.com)

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## WOMEN OF FAITH...

At the March 15 Women of Faith zoom meeting, Professor Joyce Boss will describe how the tenets of Shintō (together with Japanese Buddhism) shape the contours and textures of Japanese culture - including recent popular culture, such as the Marie Kondo "spark joy" phenomenon - and how the philosophy embodied within Shintō practice approaches the sacred.

Joyce Boss is Professor of English in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultural Studies at Wartburg College. She was born and grew up in Japan before her family settled in California.

Contact Evie Waack at [evie.waack@gmail.com](mailto:evie.waack@gmail.com) for more information about the Tuesday, March 15 meeting on Zoom. It will begin at 6:30 p.m.



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**David Higgs**

Guest Artist  
Organ  
March 10, 2022, 6 p.m.  
Jebe Hall | Gallagher Bluedorn

One of America’s leading concert organists, David Higgs is also Chair of the Organ Department at the Eastman School of Music. He performs extensively throughout the United States and abroad, and has inaugurated many important new instruments including St. Stephan’s Cathedral, Vienna; the Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas; St. Albans Cathedral England; St. Canice’s Cathedral, Kilkenny, Ireland; and the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York City. For over twenty years he

performed annual holiday organ concerts at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco and at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

**This event is free and open to the public.**

*Create an endowment of love. Please consider including our church in your estate planning.*

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