

Congregational Tidings



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

A weekly newsletter

March 10, 2010

Sunday, March 14, 2010

Worship at 10:30 am

Rev. Tim Ensworth will deliver the message:

'Join the party!'

Using the Text: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Deacon-In-Charge

Barb Mardis

Acolytes

Megan & Amy McCue

Greeters

Ed & Eileen Dams (Sanctuary)

Mike & Catie Quackenbush
(Crossroads)

ADULT FORUM

March 14 - Donna & Gary Brown
Habitat for Humanity: Thailand

Lenten Schedule 2010

Sunday, March 14 10:30 am	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (Judgment vs. Grace)
Wednesday, March 17 6:30 pm	Simple Evening Liturgy (Iona Community)
Sunday, March 21 10:30 am	John 12:1-8 (Duty vs. Love)
Wednesday, March 24 6:30 pm	Simple Evening Liturgy (Iona Community)
Sunday, March 28 10:30 am	Palm Sunday Service
Wednesday, March 31 6:30 pm	Simple Evening Liturgy (Iona Community)
Thursday, April 1 7:00 pm	Meal of soup and bread
8:00 pm	Service of Communion and Tenebrae
Friday, April 2 12:00 noon	Ecumenical Good Friday Service (at Sacred Heart)
8:00 pm	Good Friday Service (at First Congregational)
Sunday, April 4 6:47 am	Easter Sunrise Service at George Wyth State Park
10:30 am	Easter Sunday Service

We invite you to share with us, and with Jesus, the journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Each Wednesday throughout Lent, we will meet in the sanctuary for a simple half hour service of word and song and sharing and prayer, based on a model from the Iona Community. We also invite you, as you choose, to join us in a discipline of fasting for Lent, skipping the Wednesday evening meal or all of Wednesday meals. We will have fruit juices available each Wednesday for your refreshment as we gather after worship.

Spring Ahead, Fall Back....

It's that time of year again! Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on Sunday, March 14!



Active Participants

Our youth group discussed sportsmanship this past week. We shared several examples of both good and bad competitive behavior, and then the discussion turned to mistakes made on the field of play. Some of these mistakes are well known: a ball goes through the legs of Bill Buckner and the Red Sox lose the World Series; kicker Scott Norwood misses a field goal, wide to the right, and the Bills lose the Super Bowl by one point; and at this year's Winter Olympics the best distance skater in the world is disqualified because his coach, Gerard Kemkers, motions him into the wrong lane. These competitors mistakes define them, all of their accomplishments pale, and it takes years for them to begin living life fully again. A more tragic story is that of Columbian soccer star, Andres Escobar, who inadvertently had a ball go off of his foot and into the opposing team's net. That goal eliminated Columbia from the World Cup. When Escobar returned home he was shot and killed by someone who had lost money on the game. "That's not fair," declares one youngster, and he's right. It isn't. We make mistakes every day, some of us, like me, make more than we can even keep track of, yet, thankfully, these mistakes are not made on a world stage. We learn by our mistakes and go forward. Our group begins to discuss taking risks and whether or not it is worth trying. The youngsters agree that in order to elicit positive change that we need to keep trying – we can't be afraid of failing because it will stunt our growth. Winston Churchill once said, "Success is the ability to go from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm." As long as our hearts are in the right place then it is our duty to keep risking. One of our young members summed it up thus, "It is kind of like the world is one big team and we need to play together and not just sit on the sidelines watching." How true. Let's compete together and not be afraid to pass the ball or take the winning shot. Our team, our world, depends on us.



Good Spirits Book Group....

Good Spirits Book Group invites you to join them for any of their gatherings that appeal to you! Here are the dates we will meet, and the book we will be discussing at that time....



March 22 - 6:30 pm

Sue Hummel's home

The Help by Kathryn Stockett

April 19 - 6:30 pm

Kay Thuesen's home

Little Bee by Chris Cleave

May 17 - 6:30 pm

Katinka Keith's home

book is yet to be decided



Time to order your Easter Lilies.....

Orders may be placed through March 25.

PRICE: \$10 each

Please make checks payable to First Congregational UCC. You may send your check and order form to the church or place in the offering plate. You may also call the church office at 234-8927 before March 25 to place your order(s). Please pick up your Easter Lily after the 10:30 worship service.

Lilies given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Thank You....

The Highnam family would like to thank the church family for all of the prayers and wonderful support these last few months as Cole has faced his treatments for lymphoma. He is now out of the hospital and recovering from the stem cell transplant at his house in Iowa City. We continue to pray for healing and strength in the months ahead.

Special Congregational Meeting

There will be a special congregational meeting immediately following Sunday's worship service. We will vote on a proposal to replace the appliances in our church kitchen. Please review the details of the proposal on the insert included with this edition of *Tidings*.

Day Circle....

Day Circle will be held Wed., March 17, at 12 Noon at Friendship Village in the private dining room. Please call Shirley Kappel by Mon., March 15, with reservations. Hope to see you there!

Faith-Based Book Club...

Mon., March 15, at 6:30 pm

Shirley Kappel's home

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

by Mitch Albom

Weekly Events

Sunday, March 14

9:15 am - Sunday School

10:30 am - Worship Service

Kitchen Appliance Proposal Mtg. immediately following service

NO Focus Group due to Spring Break

Monday, March 15

9 am - Quiltmakers

5:30 pm - Knitted Together Group

Tuesday, March 16

6 pm - PARABOLA

6 pm - BELLS

Wednesday, March 17

12 Noon - Day Circle at Friendship Village

6:30 pm - Lenten Service

NO CHOIR due to Spring Break

Be Alert!

We have been made aware of several incidents of destructive or disturbing behavior on the church grounds over the last several weeks. If you observe any problems or suspicious activity, please contact the Waterloo Police Department at the communication center at 291-2515.

Lion's Club Book Sale....

The Lion's Club Book sale will be held April 22, 23, 24, & 25, at Crossroads Center by JC Penney. If you have books to donate, please call 233-9800 or 231-9876, and they will arrange for pick up.

Class for Families with Individuals with Mental Illnesses

The Black Hawk County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will offer a free 12-week class for family members of individuals who have mental illnesses or mental disabilities such as schizophrenia, major depression, bipolar, panic, obsessive-compulsive, borderline personality, co-occurring brain and addictive disorders. The class will begin on Thursday, April 8, and meet on Thursdays, 6:00-8:30 pm, at First Congregational Church in Waterloo. To register, contact Black Hawk County NAMI by April 1 at 235-5263 or email namibh@questoffice.net. NAMI Black Hawk also provides support groups for adults with mental illnesses and mental disabilities.



Please support the One Great Hour of Sharing offering which provides support for many victims of disaster, like those in this refugee camp in Pakistan.

Balakot, Pakistan, a "tent city" is home and host to hundreds of earthquake survivors. Living there has its difficulties but is better than having no place to live. Supported by Church World Service, Action by Churches Together International and gifts from the One Great Hour of Sharing® offering, this camp provides food, clean water, health clinics and educational opportunities. Nearly all the people who are waiting there are eager to return to their homes one day.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

March 10, 2010

First Congregational UCC
608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Return service request

Congregational Tidings

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