

Mark Your Calendars

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday: March 28

Procession with the palms.

Maundy Thursday: April 1

Our service begins with a covered dish meal at 6:00 pm. Following the meal, we will begin our worship service in the Fellowship Hall (around 6:40 pm), and then move to the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday: April 4

Easter morning we will have a ham breakfast that will begin at 9:00 am.

Plan now to be with us for these special worship services, and invite friends to join you!



Maundy Thursday 2009



Easter Flowers

In the past, we had traditionally used lilies on Easter Sunday, inviting people to order a lily in honor or memory of someone special in their lives. For a variety of reasons, we made a change in 2009 and instead offered a new alternative: the opportunity to donate \$5 in honor or memory of someone towards one, or perhaps two, large, colorful arrangements of cut flowers. The funds raised, beyond the cost of the flowers, were placed in the Discretionary

Fund, which provides emergency assistance to those in need. At the end of the Easter service, the flowers were used to supplement those brought by members to be placed on the outside cross as a symbol of new life.

This new approach to Easter flowers was well received last year, so the Deacons have decided to make this our new tradition.

The original reasons for making the change still hold: the cost of lilies has risen (making it too expensive for some to participate), often there have been unclaimed lilies that end up being discarded; the large arrangement gives us the chance to help those in need during this difficult time and, lastly, there are some among us who are rather allergic to lilies and who suffer a bit on Easter as a result!

We invite all who wish to contribute to our Easter Flowers to complete an order form by Palm Sunday, March 28. Forms will be available in March bulletins and outside the church office.



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship Schedule

General Assembly: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Refreshments: 12:00 p.m.

Our Mission

As people of Congregational United Church of Christ, we seek to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, accepting God's call to be a true community of love, compassion, and nurture.

Visitors

Congregational United Church of Christ is a warm, welcoming congregation that is always happy to receive visitors. To help you feel as comfortable and at-home as possible when you visit us, we've put together some information on what the Congregational experience is like. For details, check out our Visitor Page at www.congregationalucc.com.

CUCC is on Facebook!

Check us out at the following site: www.tinyurl.com/CUCCFacebook.

Our Next Newsletter

Deadline: Friday, March 12

Publication: Wednesday, March 17

News and events can be sent to office@congregationalucc.com.

Can't wait for news? Check out the Congregational UCC web site at www.congregationalucc.com. It is up-to-date, relevant, interesting, lively, and available 24 hours.

Lectionary Readings

March 7, 2010

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalms 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 14, 2010

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalms 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Drop-In Hours: 4th Sun. of the month,
10:00-11:00 am
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evelyn.blane@gmail.com

Ms. Judy Page
Office Manager
office@congregationalucc.com
Office Hours: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Monday thru Wednesday & Friday

Ministries

- Bible Study
- Children & Adult Choir
- Handbell Choir
- Youth Programs
- Women's Fellowship
- Adult Fun Club

Outreach Programs

- Greensboro Urban Ministry
- Mobile Meals
- Habitat for Humanity
- Potter's House
- Higher Ground
- and many more . . .

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From the Pastor

The Decluttering Continues. . .



A number of people have already spoken to me about their efforts in our "40 Days of Decluttering" observance of Lent. Thanks for the great sharing, and creative ideas!! For those of you who were not with us for Ash Wednesday or the first Sunday of Lent, I shared this concept, which I first read about from a church in the United Kingdom. The idea, as we are practicing it here, is to find a way each day to declutter: our homes, our spirits, our minds, our work places. Asking ourselves a few key questions can help get us focused: What might be coming between us and a cleaner heart, a deeper connection with God, more honest and healthy relationships with those around us and with our environment? What do we simply have too much of in our homes that others could be making good use of: clothing, shoes, furniture, books, food, bedding? What can we reduce for the good of our own well-being and/or the well-being of the planet: electricity, gasoline, something in our diet, time spent worrying, time spent watching TV or on the internet, time lost in negative thoughts?

As you can see there are countless ways to declutter, and the idea is for each of us to find what we most need to address. I'm aiming for a combination; each day I set aside something to give away, and I spend a bit more time in prayer, practicing "deep trust," as someone called it. It's not too late to start – just give it a little thought and you will likely think of some way to join in this Lenten journey. And if anyone would like to share their "decluttering experience" in upcoming newsletters, just let me know. I am

hearing some great stories and would love to be able to share them.

Whatever your spiritual practice this Lent, wherever you find yourself on your life's journey, I do hope you will take the time to slow down, notice the slowly changing season (have you seen the tiny leaf buds on the trees?), and keep your mind and heart open to the wondrous ways God is at work all around and within you. As a preaching professor of mine used to say, make space for grace.

Lenten Blessings . . .

— Julie Peeples



Homelessness in Greensboro

The Morning Circle is sponsoring a program on homelessness in Greensboro at 11:00 am, Tuesday, March 16 in the Fellowship Hall. All who are able to attend are invited to this informative program. Learn current figures. Discuss causes, potential solutions, and road blocks. Learn what the needs are and who the agencies are that are working with this group of people. The speaker will be Michele Forrest of Street Watch, an outreach ministry to the homeless of Greensboro.



Keep in Your Prayers ...

In order to protect the privacy of the individuals on our Prayer List, this information is not available in the online version of our newsletter.

Education Notes

Work Trip 2010, Reading Group, Elves at Easter



We have a date for a work trip, August 1-8. There will be a meeting on Sunday March 28 for all those interested in coming

on the work trip. We will meet 20 minutes after the benediction.

—Paul Davis



Reading Group

Our reading group will meet on Sunday March 21, starting 20 minutes after the benediction. We will continue our exploration of *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World*, by Tracy Kidder. The church has several copies, and it is available in the your local library. In particular, we will focus on a couple topics: liberation theology and “the preferential option for the poor,” looking at the role of Christian and Voodoo religion in the book and in Haiti, public health and missions, defining some of the many in-house acronyms in the book and where we would place ourselves, what Partners In Health is doing now in Haiti. There is more than enough content in this fascinating book. Hope you will join us, even if you were not in the discussion last month.



Elves at Easter

Elves and Easter?

Now there are two words you won't usually hear together! This year, however, Santa is calling for his elves to answer the call to once again help families in need – this time for Easter. We will be collect-

ing non-perishable food items to distribute to the families that we helped this past Christmas, as well as any others our contacts provide us. Once again, the number of families that we are able to take will depend on the amount of food collected. As of this writing, requests have been turned in for fourteen families.

The food collection will take place from February 28 through March 21. You can drop off your donations in the box in the Narthex or in the box outside the Fellowship Hall. Suggested items to purchase are things like canned fruit and vegetables, soups, boxed dinners, macaroni and cheese, pizza mixes, canned tuna and chicken, peanut butter and jelly, cereal, pasta, spaghetti sauce and Pop Tarts, to name just a few.

You may also make monetary donations by writing a check to CUCC and marking “Elves at Easter” on the memo line. All donations need to be turned in no later than March 21.

If you would like more information, feel free to contact me at santasegso@aol.com. Together we can make a difference in the lives of these families. —Santa



Planned Giving

Nearly two years ago, the church put together a host of information concerning Planned Giving. This is not our weekly or monthly giving at offering time. This is leaving the church a gift from your estate. If you would like a Planned Giving Packet, contact the office. If you would like a touching story, read on. Marie Williams was a dedicated member of our church. She was humble and quiet. She was not

wealthy, she lived a modest lifestyle. Yet Marie made the church a beneficiary of her estate, and in the past month we have received two checks from her life insurance. Marie left us a nice gift. She would not want to talk about it, but she might say that if she could do it, anyone can do it.

There are hundreds of ways to make these gifts, and if you would like more information, you can be in touch with Kate Larson or Ken Sell.



Spring Forward

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 14th!



CUCC Business

Volunteers

March 7

Lay Reader: Ed Driver
Nursery: B. Fleischer & N. Prairie
Coffee Hour: D. Humphrey & D. Brewer

March 14

Lay Reader: Diane Brewer
Nursery: T. Sutter and B. Mulberry
Coffee Hour: Lib Basham

Ushers

Betty & Mac Mackenzie,
Sherrill Hall, Karl Schleunes



Financial Reports

Weekly Income	02/14/10	02/21/10
Pledged Offering	\$2,720.00	\$3,720.00
Unpledged Offering	3,903.11	344.00
Haiti Relief	6.56	11.96
Church Meals	---	146.00
Elves at Easter	50.00	20.00
Total	\$6,679.67	\$4,241.96

Budget Income/Expense Summary

	February	YTD
Income	\$17,254.11	\$57,790.70
Expense	26,141.36	55,653.24
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$8,887.25)	\$2,137.46



Congregational United Church of Christ
 400 West Radiance Drive
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March 3, 2010

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Feed My Sheep

One Great Hour of Sharing: Sunday, March 14

In his last conversation with the disciples after his resurrection, Jesus repeated the same message *three* times. If you love me, take care of the people I love. Jesus had given up everything to care for ordinary people. He called on his followers to now make a tangible difference in the lives of others. (John 21:15-17)

When you make a gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, you actively participate in tending God’s flock throughout the world. Your gift brings shelter, food, water, and medical supplies to disaster survivors. You help refugees find safe shelter and begin to build new lives. You aid impoverished communities in securing dependable sources of food and clean water. And you help

provide medical care and education that strengthen bodies and minds and create brighter futures.

Remember the feeding of the 5,000? The disciples thought their resources could never meet the people’s great need. Yet the followers of Jesus gave sacrificially from what they had – and through God’s blessing, their gifts created a miracle for all.

Live your love for the Good Shepherd. Feed Jesus’ sheep with a generous, even sacrificial, gift to

One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 14 and become part of a *new* miracle of sharing.



Earthquake Relief

Our denomination is collecting funds for earthquake relief in Chile as well as in Haiti. If you would like to give toward these massive efforts, you can write a check to our church, mark on the memo line, “Earthquake Relief,” and we will forward the money to the UCC.

Another way is to make a one-time \$10 donation to the UCC Earthquake Relief efforts via your cell phone, by texting the message “Love” to 25383.

So far our denomination's efforts for Haiti have come to over \$1.3 million, and CUCC has contributed over \$4,000.

