

# The Church Bell

The Newsletter of the

*United Church of Christ, Congregational*

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## APRIL WORSHIP 2009

April 5

Palm/Passion Sunday  
"The Seven Last Words"  
Theodore DuBois  
*Choir and Orchestra*

April 12

Easter Sunday  
"Afraid to Speak"  
**Mark 16:1-8**  
*Bells and Brass*

April 19

"Breath of Aloha"  
**John 20: 19-31**

April 26

"Seems Real"  
**Luke 24: 36-48**

## EASTER LILIES

If you have a lily you would like to share with us this Easter season, you may leave it in the church office during Holy Week to have in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Please attach your name and let the office know if you would like your lily to be in memory or in honor of someone.

## THANK YOU

The Husby family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the UCC community. Thank you for all your prayers, donations and work after our recent house fire. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.  
Blessings,  
Russ, Kathy, Jason, Tiffany and all the Husby's

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will be meeting at 9:30 am on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> with Mardell Ebsen and Erna Carlson as hostesses. Eileen Turner will have devotions and Elisabeth Giles will give the program.

## UCC ORCHESTRA

Mark your musical calendars for later in the spring. The UCC orchestra is coming in April! Get that horn, fiddle, or drum out of the closet. That famous (or infamous) orchestra, under the delightful direction of Becky Rider, will rehearse on two Sunday afternoons (April 19 and 26), and will share in worship on Sunday morning, May 3, 2009. There is a place for you!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – SAVE THE DATES

Our CE/LAF Board has announced plans for our annual Summer Faith Education School for Children. On June 8-12, 2009, we will gather the children to share songs and stories, games and crafts, drama and dance, laughter and love. Watch for more details about how you can help, but most importantly, mark your calendars now!

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE – April 5-12

### Palm/Passion Sunday – April 5

#### **Morning Worship**

**10:30 am - sanctuary**

Our Senior Choir, along with chamber orchestra, will perform Theodore DuBois' "The Seven Last Words of Christ." This dramatic and passionate piece, which tells the story of Jesus' last hours on the cross, calls us to open our lives to the rich blessing of our passion narrative and invites us into the sacred days of Holy Week.

### Holy Wednesday – April 8

#### **A Jerusalem Journey**

**12:00 noon – Mayflower Room**

The labyrinth is an ancient form of prayer and meditation which lends itself to preparing Holy Week travelers for the Jerusalem journey. Join Elaine for a noon brown bag lunch followed by a time of guided reflection and prayer.

#### **Taize Prayer Service**

**10:00 pm – Danforth Chapel**

### Maundy Thursday – April 9

#### **Tenebrae and Communion**

**8:00 pm - sanctuary**

Tenebrae is the Latin word that means 'shadows', and with solemn dignity we will share this old service of song, story, and candlelight. A special communion service will also be held on this memorial of Jesus' last supper with his friends.

#### **Prayer Vigil**

**beginning at 9:00 pm -**

#### **sanctuary**

Again this year, a unique prayer service is being organized in our church for the hours between Maundy Thursday evening and Easter morning sunrise, April 9-12, 2009. This traditional vigil, which is possible only through the efforts of our entire church family, offers individuals and small groups the chance to gather prayerfully in our sanctuary at various times throughout the Easter weekend. A burning candle is kept lit throughout this time as a sign of our faithfulness as we wait for the hope of resurrection. Our sign-up sheet is in the sanctuary.

### Good Friday – April 10

#### **Prayer Vigil continues**

**sanctuary**

#### **VMA Prayer**

**Noon – First Baptist Church**

### Holy Saturday – April 11

#### **Prayer Vigil continues**

**sanctuary**

#### **Lighting the New Flame**

**7:30 pm - Clay County Park**

On this, the holiest night of the Christian year, we shall move our vigil to the river and light the new flame together that our family of faith might watch and wait for the promise of God to be revealed. Camping is available for those who would like to help tend the fire through the night.

### Easter Sunday – April 12

#### **Sunrise Service**

**6:00 am - Clay County Park**

Come and join our morning watch, as we await sunrise and the joyful news of resurrection by the river.

#### **Easter Breakfast**

**7:00 am – Clay County Park**

Like the early disciples, come break bread together with other followers around the fire!

#### **Morning Worship**

**10:30 am - sanctuary**

With bold voices, brass, bells and pipes, we will announce our Easter proclamation, concluding our Holy Week journey.

**“ENCOUNTERS”**

by Elaine Miller, Assistant Pastor

Covenant. It’s a great word. Churches use it a lot. Christian Ed teachers do their best to explain it to children through the Biblical story of Noah and the ark and the sign of the rainbow. The United Church of Christ considers itself to be a covenantal denomination.

What makes this the word of choice? Promise is often considered a good exchange for covenant. Its meaning is to swear to or make an oath with a person or group that what is said and done is trustworthy and honorable.

I’ve just returned from a meeting in Cleveland which included all of the Church’s recognized governing boards. Yes, I said boards – plural. This gathering only happens every two years. The priority of the Joint Boards meeting was to continue a process of streamlining governance to be more fiscally responsible among other things. The proposed changes to the UCC Constitution and Bylaws were to be presented for a first reading at this summer’s General Synod.

Good plan. We are a covenantal church pledged to be in honest, open, respectful dialogue with one another so all voices and concerns get to be heard as the entire group strives to be an inclusive body. But something happened – communications broke down and the process came to a screeching halt. The level of frustration among the majority who were ready to move the plan along was palpable in the room as a portion of one group effectively blocked any further action for the time being, believing more time is needed to address representation issues.

I’ve thought and thought and thought about this, trying to make sense out of what took place. I can’t...and that was true for others. Then I was reminded yesterday through a pastoral message from the Wider Church Ministries Executive, “We have to believe that in the times when it seems most difficult God can work through us to make a new world possible. We are still called daily to be a *Critical Presence (WCM Statement of Purpose)....meeting God’s people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally and/or economically.*”

May Easter’s power raise us up from all that might bind our spirits as we serve a living God.

**UCC VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES “PARTNERS IN SERVICE”**  
**LONG-TERM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN DISASTER RECOVERY**

- ❖ Accompany people in their recovery
- ❖ Assist with leadership for the program
- ❖ Share expertise in construction skills or volunteer coordination/hospitality
- ❖ Provide UCC presence from the wider church

**South Central Conference**

***New Orleans, Louisiana***

Work Site Coordinator – Summer, 2009

Work Site Coordinator – Fall, 2009

\*Food Stipend and Housing Provided

\*Opportunity to be part of God’s mission by assisting people as they rebuild their lives.

**Back Bay Mission**

***Biloxi, Mississippi***

Construction Site Coordinator –

Summer, 2009

**GENERAL POSITION DESCRIPTION/RESPONSIBILITIES POSTED ON OFFICE BULLETIN BOARD.**

### PEW CUSHIONS

We are excited about our new pew cushions but can understand if they are a problem for some people. We are buying some clipboards for the kids that liked to use the wood seats for their art work. Look for them in the narthex with the activity bags. If the cushions are uncomfortable for you, contact the office and we will try to work something out. If you know a cushion has gotten dirty, please identify it to the office so the custodians can clean it appropriately.

### SOUND SYSTEM

Work on the sound system is progressing nicely. It may be next year before we have all of the speakers changed, so please be patient. Some of the speakers are "blown" and we will be disconnecting them. You may want to change your seat if you are having trouble hearing. Please let us know if you have any suggestions.

### PARKING

Please remember that [the parking on the west side](#) of the church is reserved [for people needing access to the elevator for Sunday services.](#)

### PIANO FOR SALE

With the recent purchase of our new grand piano, we now have a piano for sale. If you are interested in the studio upright, Hamilton piano downstairs, please contact Anthony Burbach at 624-7317.

### DINNER FOR EIGHT

Feel like Coffee Hi is not enough time to get to know all the new faces in our church family? Then join us for dinner. We will start with Hors d'hoerves at the church at 6:00 pm, then small group dining with dessert. Our spring date is May 2<sup>nd</sup>. If this sounds like fun, sign up at Coffee Hi, call or email the church office.

### APRIL CALENDAR

#### Wednesday, April 1

7:00 pm Adult Choir  
10:00 pm Taize

#### Thursday, April 2

9:30 am Women's Fellowship  
5:00 pm PALS

#### Friday, April 3

12 noon VMA Lenten Service at UCC

#### Saturday, April 4

10:00 am International Students  
Cooking at UCC

#### Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday

9:00 am Adult Bible Study  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi  
5:30 pm Confirmation I and II  
7:00 pm Unitarian Fellowship

#### Tuesday, April 7

6:00 pm B.C.  
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (every Tuesday)

#### Wednesday, April 8

12 noon A Jerusalem Journey  
7:00 pm Adult Choir  
10:00 pm Taize

#### Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday

8:00 pm Tenebrae and Communion  
9:00 pm Prayer Vigil

#### Friday, April 10 – Good Friday

Prayer Vigil continues

#### Saturday, April 11 – Holy Saturday

7:30 pm Prayer Vigil continues  
Lighting the New Flame

#### Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday

6:00 am Sunrise Service  
7:00 am Easter Breakfast

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

10:30 am Worship

5:30 pm NO Confirmation I and II

#### Tuesday, April 14

6:00 pm B.C.

#### Wednesday, April 15

7:00 pm Adult Choir  
10:00 pm Taize

#### Thursday, April 16

6:00 pm MOPS  
7:00 pm Trustees meeting

#### Sunday, April 19

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Coffee Hi

5:30 pm Confirmation I and II

7:00 pm Unitarian Fellowship

<b><u>Tuesday, April 21</u></b>		3:00 pm	Two Rivers Assoc. meeting at UCC
6:00 pm	B.C.		
<b><u>Wednesday, April 22</u></b>		5:30 pm	Confirmation I and II
7:00 pm	Adult Choir		
10:00 pm	Taize	<b><u>Tuesday, April 28</u></b>	
<b><u>Thursday, April 23</u></b>		6:00 pm	B.C.
10:00 am	PALS	<b><u>Wednesday, April 29</u></b>	
<b><u>Sunday, April 26</u></b>		7:00 pm	Adult Choir
9:00 am	Adult Bible Study	10:00 pm	Taize
10:30 am	Worship	<b><u>Thursday, April 30</u></b>	
11:30 am	Coffee Hi	6:00 pm	MOPS

### **CHURCH CLEAN UP**

The church spring clean up day has been set for Saturday, May 16 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Bring your gloves and work tools. Lots of help will be needed since our insurance company recommends a full inventory of the church.