

The Church Bell

The Newsletter of the

United Church of Christ, Congregational

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February 2012

ANNUAL MEETING

The Group of Six has met over the last two months to help implement the findings from our long-range planning process. After meeting on Tuesday, we determined that our good work had been accomplished and that the long-range planning process should move to the next stage. (Please see our reports posted online.) The Annual Meeting provided us with the confidence that we are on the right track and with several very thoughtful ideas about how to pursue the planning process. Our new streamlined organizational structure will be put into place as a one year experiment and we will provide the Cabinet with some specific objectives so we can evaluate our progress. We will be recommending to the Cabinet that two task forces be created: one on staffing and one on facilities. We would like adult and college education to be expanded. We will ask the Cabinet to establish a process to consider how we should balance our commitments to the UCC organization and our desire to help the local community. Finally, we will ask the Cabinet to implement the recommendations to improve our communication on a number of fronts. The Group of Six has enjoyed its work and is excited to see and participate in the faith experiment that our church will undertake in 2012.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 5

“On a Mission”

Luke 10:1-9

Communion

Youth Sunday

February 19

“A New Sign”

Genesis 9:8-17

Mark 9:2-9

Baptism

February 12

“The Power of Intention”

Mark 1:40-45

February 26

LENT I

“Hurry Up and Wait”

Mark 1:9-15

YOUTH SUNDAY – LAF CELEBRATION - PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, **February 5, 2012**, will be **YOUTH SUNDAY**. Our entire worship service will feature the gifts and talents of a wide range of our young people; from special music and lay readers to preachers and pray-ers, from communion servers to ushers and greeters, this is a wonderful way to celebrate our youth. Immediately following our worship, our confirmation class will sponsor a scrumptious brunch, featuring pancakes and sausage. All proceeds from this fundraiser will support the confirmation travel fund.

VERMILLION FOOD PANTRY

FINAL TALLY FED AT PANTRY WAS 4,000. The Volunteer Staff of the Food Pantry would like to thank you for helping us feed 4,000 people in 2011! We are so thankful for our community churches supporting us during the biggest year we have ever had. Our facility is funded by the citizens of this community. We have never received any funding from the City of Vermillion or Clay County. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

LAF CELEBRATES ASH WEDNESDAY

On Wednesday, February 22, 2012, we will celebrate Ash Wednesday at our regular LAF gathering. This time is intended to help all ages enter into the spirit of the Lenten season. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us as we examine the rituals, colors, and meanings of this holy time. Dinner is at 5:30 pm and a teaching worship service will be held at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. This will include the imposition of ashes for those interested in that ritual. All are welcome to begin this holy season.

DAFFODIL DAYS

This Sunday (February 5th) and next Sunday (February 12th) World Service and Social Concerns will be taking orders for daffodils in support of American Cancer Research. Delivery will be on March 18, 2012. The cost of each bouquet is \$10.00. There are eight different members and friends of our congregation who reside at the Care Center, Dakota Gardens or are at home and might appreciate receiving a daffodil bouquet. If there are others you would like us to deliver to, please be sure to give us their name and address. Contact Alice Barnes after church to purchase bouquets or by calling: Home - 624-8320 or Cell - 670-0405. Thank you!!

VMA LENTEN PRAYER 2012

The pastors of the Vermillion Ministerial Association would again like to invite you to join them for prayer each Friday during Lent. The group will gather shortly after noon (12:00 pm) for a brief prayer and reflection service and then share a simple soup lunch, concluding by 12:50 pm. The entire community is welcome as we prayerfully move through this holy season. The first Friday in Lent is February 24th, watch for the upcoming schedule in our Sunday bulletins and March newsletter.

CULTIVATING QUESTIONS: SCIENCE AND FAITH

This month we continue our series of conversations about science and faith. There will be four more sessions throughout the spring focusing on different issues. Each session will begin with a salon led by a local scientist. The goal of that gathering will be to develop questions for a national scholar who will come a few weeks later to give a lecture addressing our questions. This month we will hold two salons in preparation for lectures in March. The first (February 13th) on the "Origins of Life" will be led by Dr. Howard Coker; the second (February 28th) on "Brain Science and Spirituality" will be led by MD/PhD candidate Andy Novick. Both salons will be held at 7:00 pm at the Eagles Club in Vermillion. Check out www.cultivatingquestions.com for more information.

The goals of our series are to engage the community in thoughtful discussion of what it means to be both intellectual and spiritual in today's age and to form a group that is able to encourage a civil and thoughtful discussion of our current science and understanding of religious belief. This is an exciting adventure. We hope you will join us.

LENTEN DISCIPLINE – THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

The season of Lent is a time to refocus and remember who we are and who we hope to be as faithful, loving and spirit-filled people – a chance to "remember that we are connected." Unfortunately, in our busy lives, we often forget! To this end our church will provide a reminder and invitation of these important ideas each day during Lent using technology (either e-mail or text). If you would like to be on this distribution list, please e-mail the church office with your request: uccv@uccvermillion.org.

COME ON DOWN!

Starting Wednesday night, February 15, 2012, the UCC adult choir will begin our rehearsals in preparation for Palm Sunday, April 1, 2012. This year we choose to honor our American musical roots with "The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass" by Carol Barnett. The work is said to be...*"A joyful affirmation of life expressed in sophisticated choral sound and jubilant bluegrass harmonies."* If you enjoy bluegrass music, if you are open to a "short-term" musical challenge, or if you are looking to join a fun musical group...please consider joining the UCC Choir! The choir will meet Wednesday evenings in the UCC basement rehearsing our regular Sunday anthems from 7-7:30 pm, followed by rehearsal for the "Bluegrass Mass" from 7:30 pm-8:15 pm. Child care is provided. Please call Gretchen at 624-7317 or email song.birdies@yahoo.com for any questions.

“ENCOUNTERS”

by Elaine Miller, Assistant Pastor

There has been a small envelope with its little note card lying on my desk for the past year. It came from one of our UCCV members who had received it from a person who chose her to be the one who was prayed for on a specific day during Lent as a Lenten practice, something the person's church has been doing for some time.

Each week I've looked at it and wondered how we at Vermillion UCC could share a similar message of love that is contained within its encouraging words. It's meant to let someone know that somebody is thinking about you even when you are having a good day. So this is the plan for anyone and everyone who might like to participate in such an exercise for Lent this year.

Email me (elmiller200@uccvermillion.org) **or call me** (605-351-3880) before or during Lent to receive a card and envelope specially prepared with prayerful wording. You can send it to a person of your choosing to inform them that you will pray for them and their family on a selected date. You will mail it to them by regular mail ahead of the date so they will know and be open to the Spirit's working on that day.

May we all be open to the Spirit's work in and through us this Lenten season.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl group will be gathering on Wednesday, February 14th at noon in the Mayflower Room. Bring your lunch if you would like.

VALENTINE'S DAY PROGRAM AT DAKOTA GARDENS, “ACTIVELY AGING”

In 2011 the baby boomer generation officially reached age 65. Does that mean they will be slowing down? Losing momentum? Turning in their sneakers for slippers? All signs suggest the opposite. Current research has shown that many of the typical changes seen with aging can actually be prevented or reversed with purposeful activity. Come to Dakota Gardens on February 14th at 2:00 pm to hear physical therapists Dr. Lana Svien and Dr. Becca Jordre speak about the unique challenges of aging and fitness. They will discuss fitness as it relates to strength, balance, flexibility and cardiovascular health. This event is open to anyone who thinks they might be aging or those who would prefer to avoid it. A “heart-y” Valentine lunch will be served following Lana and Becca's presentation. Plan to join them for an afternoon of informative fellowship.

NEW MEMBERS

We will be receiving new members into our church family in March. A letter of invitation will be sent once an orientation gathering is scheduled. If you are interested in membership or know of someone who might be, please contact Steve, Elaine or any member of our Diaconate Board.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 1

3:10 pm Jolley LAF
5:30 pm LAF
7:00 pm Adult Choir
8:30 pm Meditation

Friday, February 3

1:00 pm Baking Bandits (every Friday)

Sunday, February 5

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Youth Pancake Breakfast,
Diaconate Meeting
5:30 pm Confirmation Dinner/Meeting
7:00 pm UU Fellowship
8:00 pm Taize at Danforth Chapel

Tuesday, February 7

9:30 am Bible Study at Care Center
6:00 pm B.C.

Wednesday, February 8

NO LAF
7:00 pm Adult Choir
8:30 pm Meditation

Thursday, February 9

1:30 pm PALS

Sunday, February 12

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
5:30 pm Confirmation Dinner/Meeting
8:00 pm Taize at Danforth Chapel

Monday, February 13

7:00 pm Science and Faith at Eagles

Tuesday, February 14

9:30 am Bible Study at Care Center
12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Group
2:00 pm "Actively Aging" Valentine
Program at Dakota Gardens
6:00 pm B.C.

Wednesday, February 15

3:10 pm Jolley LAF
5:30 pm LAF
7:00 pm Adult Choir
8:30 pm Meditation

Thursday, February 16

9:00 am PALS

Sunday, February 19

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi, Trustees Meeting
11:45 am Prayer Team Mini Retreat
5:30 pm Confirmation Dinner/Meeting
7:00 pm UU Fellowship
8:00 pm Taize at Danforth Chapel

Tuesday, February 21

9:30 am Bible Study at Care Center
6:00 pm B.C.

Wednesday, February 22

3:10 pm Jolley LAF
5:30 pm LAF
6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
7:00 pm Adult Choir
8:30 pm Meditation

Sunday, February 26

9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi, Cabinet Meeting
5:30 pm Confirmation Dinner/Meeting
8:00 pm Taize at Danforth Chapel

Tuesday, February 28

9:30 am Bible Study at Care Center
6:00 pm B.C.
7:00 pm Science and Faith at Eagles

Wednesday, February 29

3:10 pm Jolley LAF
5:30 pm LAF
7:00 pm Adult Choir
8:30 pm Meditation