

The Link



Volume 42, Number 14

March 24, 2011

Sunday Worship:

3/27/11 at 9:20 AM
Suzanne Stout preaching
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
"A Faith of Your Own, Pt. 3"

4/3/11 at 9:20 AM
Fred Kirschenmann preaching
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
"A Faith of Your Own, Pt. 4"

4/10/11 at 9:20 AM
Tim Diebel preaching
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
"A Faith of Your Own, Pt. 5"

Prayer Themes:

March 27: **Celtic Mass:** Please pray for the preparations for this concert, for the performers, and for all those who will visit First Christian to attend the presentation.

April 3: **Creation Stewardship:** Please pray our efforts to be better stewards of our planet and its precious resources.

April 10: **Womens' Ministries:** Please pray for the Disciples Women, and all First Christian ministries by and for women.



Holy Week 2011

Holy Week Plans Include Shared Meal With Christ Community Church

Once again, our **Maundy Thursday worship** (April 21) experience will be shared with the members of Christ Community Church, taking the form of a supper and liturgy in Fellowship Hall. The time of worship will include music, Scripture, prayers, foot-washing and Communion. The supper will be a simple repast, appropriate to Lent, comprised of Soup, Salad, and Bread.

Please bring food to share, based on your last name, as listed below. (If you or a family member have special dietary needs, feel free to bring something to share which will be suitable to your requirements.)

If your surname begins with: Then please bring:

- | | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| A-F | Bread (+butter or spread) |
| G-P | Soup |
| Q-Z | Salad |

Good Friday worship (April 22) will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

On **Easter Sunday morning** (April 24), we will begin with breakfast at 8:00 am and worship at 9:20 am.

Song Central



Dear Friends,

By the time you get this we will be in the final week of rehearsals for *HEAVEN & EARTH: Mass on the Celtic Journey*. I will not have time to sit down and reflect on it all— not that I have time now, but I'm in denial about my to-do list! I spent 7 hours at the dance studio yesterday, watching 16 young people dancing their hearts out, working together to bring these nine stories to life, and was moved to tears a number of times by the beauty and depth that they bring to the stories. What an incredible gift to have so many talented people bringing their best to this endeavor, easily over 300 now. I am beyond grateful. The best thing I can do to honor their contributions is to give my all to make this performance the very best it can be.



The stories... My great-great grandfather, William Alloway, is the guy we call William the First. He emigrated from England (but we're Scots further back) to Wakefield, Kansas, in 1870. He was a builder and part-time scout for a mining company in London, who traveled to places like Africa and throughout the western U.S. We inherited our wanderlust from him. This picture tells it all: Here is William and wife Anna riding donkeys in Colorado! They were there to meet their new grandson, my grandfather, William Horsford Alloway (William III), the kid in the other picture.

"Will" was famous for his quick wit and love of a tall tale, usually told in rhyme, as well as his fine musical abilities. He was a great jokester, and had the same twinkle as his grandfather, who, by the way, is a dead ringer for my brother, William V. Their fun, Scottish-inspired spirit is expressed in the *Hosanna: Up The Rockies* movement, which owes much to the musical ditties my grandfather loved to sing, which were passed down by his own grandfathers, William, and Albert Ingold, also an immigrant from England.

These folks were courageous people with a vision of a better future, not unlike the immigrants who continue to come to our great country. It is our hope that *HEAVEN & EARTH* will celebrate that human spirit which searches for goodness, wholeness and purpose in life, and the God-spirit who sustains them in that striving.

Ben Allaway

Director of Music and Composer-in-Residence



LOGOS



Wednesday Evenings
Grades K-5: 4:25 to 7:00 p.m.
Grades 6-12: 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Weekly Themes:

March 30 - Bad Hair Night

April 6 - Poetry Night

April 13 - Closing Celebration -
LOGOS Talent Search

All LOGOS families and volunteers are welcome to join in our closing celebration dinner and annual talent show, 5:15 to 7 p.m. Meal cost = \$4/adult.

RSVP for the meal by Sunday, April 10 (to Suzanne or Jane) and talent to Wendy Bollhoefer by Wednesday, April 6.

Talent Show "Admission fee" = Canned vegetables or soups for DMARC Food Pantry

Worship Skills:

Sunday, March 27

K-2 - Bulletins/Greeters
Middle School - Lead opening singing,
Scripture Reading

Sunday, April 3

3rd - 5th - Play chimes during Offertory
Middle School - Bulletins/Greeters
High School - Serve during Friendship Time

Sunday, April 10

K-2 - Worship participation
3rd - 5th - Serve during Friendship Time
Middle School - Bulletins/Greeters

Sunday, April 17 - Palm Sunday

K-2 & 3rd - 5th - Pass out palms for processional

Sunday, April 24 - Easter

K-2 & 3rd - 5th - Lead processional/scarves

*Please arrive at 8:55 a.m.
unless otherwise noted on take-home sheets.*

Youth Spring Flower & Plant Sale



Calling All Procrastinators!

Last call to order your flowers and plants from the FCC youth. You know you meant to order. You know you took a form home. This is it, folks! This annual fund-raiser helps to support our youth on their summer trip to Nashville for the General Assembly. We'll be honest. Sales are sluggish, and we need all you procrastinators to take action.

The last day to turn in your order form and payment is this Sunday, March 27! You may also download a PDF version of the order form at <http://www.fccdm.org/2011-Flower-Sale.pdf>.

These quality plants and flowers will be available for you to pick up at the church on Saturday, May 14 from 9 to 11 a.m. Questions? Call Jane DeHaven at 274-6681.



Do It NOW!

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH STAFF

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Crises in Japan

and Your Gifts in Action

Following the March 11th earthquake and tsunami which struck Japan, the island nation is facing multiple crises, including the increased threat of radiation exposure from several nuclear power plants. The official death toll has risen to 2,722 people and is expected to increase.

More than 400,000 people are now living in makeshift shelters or evacuation centers, according to *The New York Times*. Compounding the problem is windy and bitterly cold weather, as well as shortages of water, food and fuel, *The Times* reported. But the chief concern remains radiation, as a third nuclear reactor blast occurred today.

Through the joint Global Ministries of the Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ, Week of Compassion's primary partner in Japan is the United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ). Several mission appointees serve there, teaching ESL or working with local churches.

UCCJ has established a relief committee which is currently researching and planning an appropriate response. UCCJ has also provided a status update on their churches, many of which were damaged or destroyed. Your gifts to Week of Compassion have already gone to support the UCCJ efforts.

Your gifts will also support a collaborative effort between our partner Church World Service and the Japan Platform, a coalition of 32 non-governmental organizations, government service agencies and media outlets in Japan. CWS will be providing support and channeling contributions to individual members of the Japan Platform, and is also prepared to support efforts of faith-based partners in Japan, including the National Christian Council of Japan.

Should you feel moved to contribute to this relief effort, you can do so directly online at: <www.weekofcompassion.org>, or through First Christian Church by noting Japan relief on your check. Thus far, over \$300 has been contributed by our congregation to this effort. This is in addition to the \$1500 contributed thus far to Week of Compassion's annual general appeal.

Greening Friendship Time



The Community Council recently discussed the resources we routinely use during Fellowship Time on Sundays - non-recyclable cups, etc. - in light of our congregation's stated determination to be "wise stewards" of our resources. The conclusion of the conversation was that, while there is much to learn about choosing the better alternative, we intend to move away from our current practice as soon as we have exhausted current supplies of non-recyclable cups and plates. Possible alternatives include replacing the products we currently use with more eco-friendly disposables, or washing and re-using each week the dishes already stocked in our cabinets.

You may be interested to know that, while our garbage contract includes recycling pickup of office paper, other recycling - such as plastics and cans from the kitchen - only happens by volunteers gathering up the discards and adding them to their home recycling bins. You can help these efforts to green our practices by depositing your worship bulletins after the service ends in the blue bins located in the narthex (please don't put trash in the recycle bins).

In addition, the Council acknowledged that it would be helpful to have a group of interested persons take a look at our overall environmental impact - how we use and dispose of paper, energy, etc. If you are passionate about reducing our negative impact on the environment, and would be willing to work on a short term project, please volunteer to serve on a "green team" which will review our current practices, research alternatives and best practices, and make recommendations where needed. Contact President Jerry Mogensen to volunteer.

Disciples Women

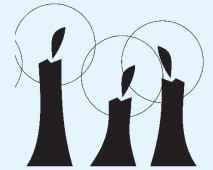


Spring Celebration Lunch

ALL WOMEN are invited to a special lunch on Saturday, April 9, at 12:00 noon. Please make your reservation by calling the church office by Monday, April 4.



The Contemplative Corner



for your Spiritual Journey



Multi-Tasking: Searching for an Antidote

"There's something about peeling a potato. Not to say that it's fun exactly. But there's something about scraping off the skin, and rinsing off the dirt, and chopping it into cubes... Something about knowing exactly what you're doing, and why...There is clarity in the act of peeling a potato, a winnowing down to one sure, true way."

Julie Powell from *JULIE AND JULIA*

The world is wired for multi-tasking and frenetic activity, but *we* are wired for prayer and meditation—at least that's what a new field called neurotheology is proposing.

Andrew B. Newberg, M.D., author of *How God Changes Your Brain: Breakthrough Findings from a Leading Neuroscientist* is one of the advocates for this theory. A famous 2001 study by Newberg enlisted the help of Tibetan monks and Franciscan nuns. They were asked to meditate and pray for 40 minute intervals. At the end of the 40 minute period, their brains were scanned and analyzed.

What they found won't surprise many: Their prefrontal cortices (the area which causes us to pay attention) were vastly lit up. This makes sense because meditation and prayer should involve intense concentration. The surprise, however, came when scientists discovered the superior parietal lobe had been silenced. What this means is that when this region is shut down, the brain stops processing, analyzing, worrying and fidgeting. In short, it relaxes.

Although not as intense, there are other forms of meditation that serve us well. This type of meditation involves practicing the art of doing one thing at a time—uni-tasking, if you will. It may be cleaning out a cabinet, polishing a sink or washing the car. The main thing is to give your brain a break and cease with the multi-tasking. There is also an added bonus: in the process of this single activity it's not uncommon to discover a new insight or solution to a problem.

When we center ourselves, winnowing down to one sure true way, the world may still be whirring, frenetic and crazy, but *we* aren't and that makes all the difference.

Blessings on your journey, *Mary Jo Franklin*

You are Invited to an EDUCATIONAL SEDER



The events which Christians celebrate on Maundy Thursday – the gathering of Jesus and his disciples in an upper room where he broke bread and named it his body, poured wine and named it his blood, and washed the disciples' feet – are grounded in the Jewish commemoration of Passover. The observance of Passover is rooted in the plagues leveled against Egypt as Moses worked to persuade Pharaoh to release the Israelite people.

Temple B'nai Jeshurun invites you to participate in an educational Seder hosted by Rabbi David Kaufman on Sunday, April 10, 3 p.m. at Hy-Vee Hall. While not a complete dinner, this will be an opportunity to learn about Jewish traditions and the stirrings of Christianity through communal fellowship, literally breaking bread – matzah – with people from all around our community. Cost of the event is \$20 per person, with proceeds benefiting the Temple's Youth Fund and Mazon – a Jewish response to hunger. Begin, then, the season of the Spirit with a celebration of deliverance, and hope for salvation.

To make your reservation call: 274-4679

First Christian Church

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fax: 515.255.8759

Web: www.fccdm.org

Christian Church in the Upper Midwest:

www.uppermidwestcc.org

Sunday Morning Schedule:

9:20 am -- Morning Worship

10:45 am ---- Friendship Time

11:00 am ----- Learning Hour

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Thurs — 8:30-4:30

Friday — 8:30-1:00

The Link ...

... is published twice per month. Submissions are due Wednesday of the previous week and may be edited for length, clarity, or for consistency with other articles.

NEXT DEADLINE:

April 6 (April 14 issue)



WE ARE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, an Open & Welcoming community of faith, called to witness to God's creative power in the midst of a richly diverse neighborhood. We are challenged to share in a vibrant Spirit-led common life. As we mature in the Spirit and respond to God's calling, we are empowered and compelled to reach out to neighbors near and far in a reconciling ministry partnership.

From the First Christian Photo Album:



Over two dozen First Christian members and friends participated in the downtown Des Moines St. Patrick's Day parade on March 17. They rode a float, played music, walked the parade and handed out candy and flyers on the upcoming Celtic Mass.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE for the Mass, which will be presented on Saturday, April 2 at 7:30 at First Christian. Buy them on Sundays, or from the church office or online at:

<www.DMVAE.org>

<www.Midwestix.com>