



The Link



Volume 42, Number 23

August 25, 2011

Sunday Worship:

8/28/11 at 9:20 AM
Tim Diebel Preaching
 TIM'S FINAL SUNDAY
 "Happy Trails to You"
 Text: I Corinthians 13

9/4/11 at 9:20 AM
Suzanne Stout Preaching

9/11/11 at 9:20 AM
Beth Dobyms Preaching
 BETH'S FIRST SUNDAY

Prayer Themes:

August 28: **Tim Diebel:** We give thanks for his ministry among us, and pray for God's blessing and guidance on the road before him.

September 5: **Labor Day:** We give thanks for the labors of others which enrich our lives, and pray for all those upon whose work we depend.

September 11: **Beth Dobyms:** We give thanks for our new interim minister and pray for God's blessings upon her ministry among us.



FAREWELL PARTY IS FULL OF LOVE, LAUGHTER, MUSIC, JOY, AND FOOD!

There was merriment all around as we celebrated the lives, friendships, and ministries of the Diebels in our community. Tim's parents, Chris and Merita, were here from Ft. Worth, and about 175 friends and church members gathered for the evening. Gifts presented to the nascent farmer included a heavy-duty wheelbarrow, the clothing of the trade, and a painting of the family in front of their new Warren County home. **Be Sure to Come Sunday the 28th for the final Celebration: Worship at 9:20, Reception at 11:00!**

Grace Offering



The Time Is Not Yet...

Reading scripture the other day, I came across the story of Lazarus's death in the Gospel of John (John 11:1-45). Perhaps you remember the story - Jesus is in another town and he receives word from the sisters that his friend Lazarus is sick, in need of healing. What struck me this time in reading this passage is that Jesus delays returning to Bethany on purpose.

Jesus is sent word that his friend is ill, he likely even knows that his friend is already dead by the time he received the message sent to him - and yet he says, "not yet." My first reaction is, "What?! How could he?! Not MY Jesus, he would never do something that!"... And then I remember the story of the wedding feast and Jesus' first miracle. You remember, they had run out of wine and Jesus's mother came to him and told him the wine was gone. Like the sisters from our Lazarus story, his mother didn't tell him to fix it and she didn't ask him for anything - simply told him the situation... heavily laden with implied desires. Jesus replied to her - as he did to the sisters - "the time is not yet." ... Oh, how I don't like hearing those words! God's time is not my time; God's timing is not my timing; God's way is not my way.

It causes me to ponder how often I come to God for help, comfort, support - and tell God how God needs to provide it; how God needs to solve it. And it's not just that I want things fixed and changed in my time frame - I also want them resolved my way. But what God asks is that we allow room in our lives for God to work. We are asked to place our prayers, our petitions and requests before God and trust that God will be there, at work in the situation, at work in our lives. Nowhere that I can find (darn it) are we told to place our requests before God and then solve it for God... How difficult it is to relinquish control - to turn loose our needs and desires, to turn over our demands and wants and allow God room to work.

Where have you grasped your life so tightly that you are afraid to let go and give God opportunity and space in which to work? Can you offer a prayer to God to help you let go, help you to give God space to work in the situation and within you? You may find that God wants to bring the miracle of new life where you thought only healing was possible.

That is my prayer for all of us this day.

Suzanne



LOGOS

Racing into LOGOS

LOGOS Begins September 14!!!

LOGOS is our congregation's mid-week program of Christian nurture for children and youth, kindergarten through 12th grade. In order to have a successful 11th season, here is what you can do to help:

1. WE NEED YOUR KIDS, GRANDKIDS, NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS' KIDS' REGISTRATIONS AND FEES. Registration forms are available on the church website, from the church office, or after worship on Sunday from the LOGOS Leadership Team. **The early bird deadline is Sunday, August 28 which saves you 20%.**
2. If you have already agreed to volunteer, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Please plan on participating in **Volunteer Training Wednesday, August 31 from 5:15 to 7:00 PM** - Dinner (freewill offering) and childcare are provided. RSVP to the church office or Jane.
3. Volunteers are needed to clean classrooms on the mezzanine and 3rd floor and other space used by LOGOS. Come between **8:30 AM and noon on Saturday, September 10 and bring cleaning supplies.**
4. If you are not a volunteer or don't have kids participating, you have a very important job: **pray for the children, youth and volunteers** for a faith-filled journey with God.

Jane DeHaven, LOGOS Director
274-6681; <dehavenja@gmail.com>

Suzanne Stout, Minister of Family Life
255-2181, <sstout@fccdm.org>



Interfaith Service for 10th Anniversary of 9/11

A Greater Des Moines Interfaith Service commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001, will be held Sunday, September 11 at 3 PM at the Sheslow Auditorium, Drake University at 25th and University in Des Moines. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The theme of the service is "Common Ground" and will highlight a contribution from each faith community.

The collaborative partners include the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, Des Moines Area Religious Council, the Des Moines Ecumenical Peace Committee and the American Friends Service Committee as well as faith leaders from Islamic, Christian, Jewish, Unitarian Universalist, Sikh, Buddhist, and other faith communities.

Board Approves Full-Time Custodian



At the August 15 board meeting, one item on the agenda was our need for full-time coverage of the needs of our large and active building. Kristine Boyer has been working for us since spring in a part-time capacity. The board has approved moving her to full-time status effective October 1. More information on Kristine will be forthcoming. Please welcome her when you have the opportunity. You may reach her by e-mail at <custodian@fccdm.org>.

Upcoming Events:

Meals from the Heartland

Saturday, September 3 (1:30-3:30 PM)

We have more than 40 of the 54 spots signed up for! Sign-up sheets are available on Sunday, or call the church office to add your name to the list!



Church Work Day

Saturday, September 10, 9:00 AM

Come help clean and prepare the church for the fall program year. Please bring cleaning supplies (buckets, sprays, towels / rags, vacuums, mops / brooms, etc.)

A Disciples Day of Mission

October 1, 2011

Join fellow Disciples from around the Upper Midwest Region to help "Rock the Block" in the Drake Neighborhood! This is the opportunity to revitalize an entire area where a new Habitat home will be occupied.



Around the Region:



Senior Adult Retreat Sept. 11-13, 2011 "Renew Your Mind"

Registration is open until September 2, and materials are available at church or from <www.ChristianConferenceCenter.org>. The cost is only \$100 including lodging and meals. Suzanne Stout is one of the Co-ordinators, please contact her for further information.

Regional Silent Retreat: "be still and know I AM"

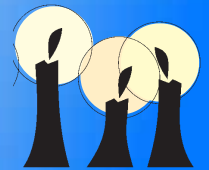
...a retreat of simple silent living (September 23-25, 2011)

Christian Conference Center, Newton, IA: \$60 includes private room for 2 nights & 4 meals.

Leaders: Janet Lott is a retreat setting designer and leader and a licensed minister in the CCUM Region. Sue Prins is a freelance artist. Both have co-created worship and retreat settings together for nearly 20 years and would delight in sharing this experience with you. Questions?: Janet ~ jalott@isunet.net / 515-232-3522

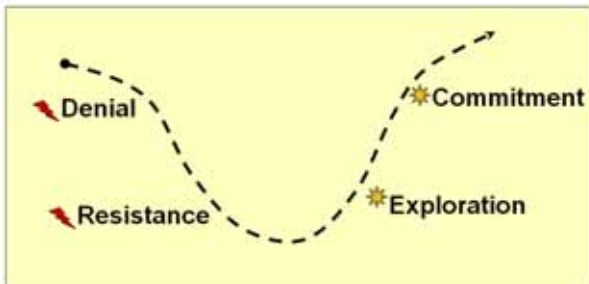


The Contemplative Corner



for your Spiritual Journey

What you may be feeling...
The "change curve"



Things always change...That's just life. You can fight it or you can accept it. The only difference is, if you accept it, you get to do other things. If you fight it, you're stuck in the same spot forever.

David Wroblewski
The Story of Edgar Sawtelle

The Stages of Change

Experts have uncovered four Emotional Stages of Change that occur in organizations and individuals going through major changes.

1. Disbelief and Denial

The initial stage is met with disbelief and denial. One feels blindsided and struggles with believing the reality before them.

"I can't believe this has happened." "Why me? Why now?"

2. Resistance

This stage brings grief, anger, anxiety, a sense of being out of control and a reluctance to let go of the past.

"I liked things better before." "We'll never get through this."

3. Exploration or Reluctant Acceptance

What may appear to be chaos and confusion is really creative exploration of new possibilities and an excitement about new opportunities.

"Everyone is making an effort." "We may just get through this."

4. Commitment

The final stage initiates a willingness to commit and do what it takes. There is a clear sense of roles and a focus on the future.

"I'm getting used to this." "It's not perfect, but we're on the right path."

People process change differently. Some process it easier than others. As we journey together through this change chapter of our congregation's life, let's be cognizant and respectful of one another's need for space and understanding.

Blessings on our shared journey,

Mary Jo Franklin

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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:

September 7 (Sept. 15 issue)

More Pictures from Tim's Farewell Party!



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.

New Interim Minister Called

The Intentional Interim Minister Search Committee is excited to announce the calling of Dr. Beth Dobyms to help our congregation get through our transition from Tim to our next settled minister. Beth will begin serving our congregation Tuesday, September 6th. Please be sure to welcome Beth and keep her and our whole congregation in your prayers as we begin our newest transition. In the next issue we will have more information to introduce you to her.

