



The Link

Volume 41, Number 5

November 12, 2009

Sunday Worship:

11/15/09/09 at 9:20 AM
Tim Diebel preaching
"Prayerfully Troubled"
1 Samuel 1:4-20

11/22/09 at 9:20 AM
Tim Diebel preaching
"Born for This"
John 18:33-37

11/29/09 at 9:20 AM
Tim Diebel preaching
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prayer Themes:

November 15: **Church Board:**
We give thanks for the ministry of our Church Board members, and pray for God's wisdom and guidance on their upcoming quarterly meeting on November 17.

November 26: **Thanksgiving Day:** We give thanks for all the bounty we enjoy, and ask for the grace to always remember those less fortunate.

November 29: **Advent Begins:**
Please pray for ourselves and our congregation as we begin the journey of preparing our hearts for the coming of the Christ.

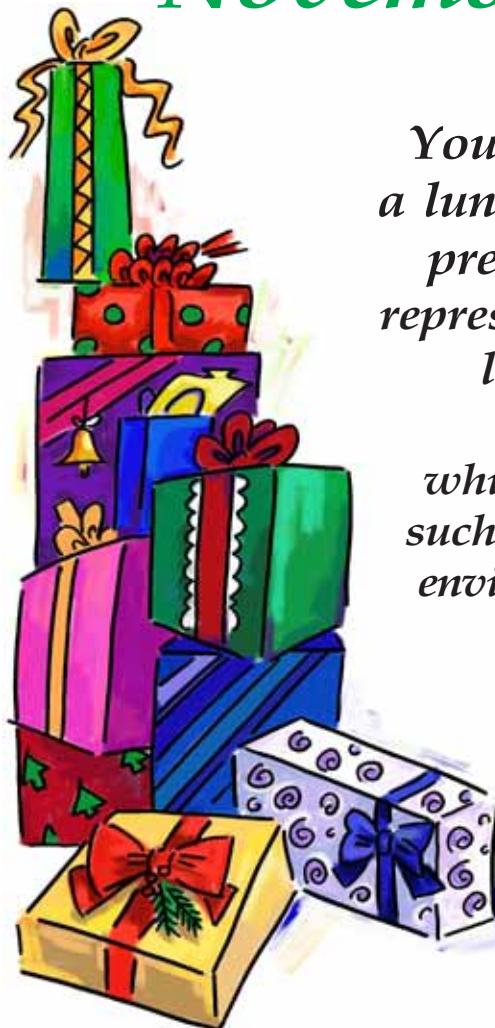
Alternative Gift Market



Sunday Noon November 22

You are invited to a lunch and special presentations by representatives from local and global organizations, which address issues such as world hunger, environmental needs, homelessness, and health care.

See complete article inside on Page 4.



CAPtions:



It's nearing Thanksgiving and so I have begun a time of following the wondrous advice of the old hymn, *Count your blessings – name them one by one; count your many blessings, see what God has done*. I haven't been at it very long and already the list is too long to recount here. Even in what is now routinely and almost matter-of-factly described as "these difficult times," blessings fill our landscape more abundantly than the "amber waves of grain" still crowding the fields.

Beyond the personal, it doesn't take long to compile a pretty lengthy congregational list, either. I am grateful for the new ministry of Suzanne Stout among us and the passionate vision and generosity that have given rise to it; grateful as well for the ongoing flowering of Sondra Eddings' ministry, even as it prepares to take on different shape. I am grateful for the sometimes sacrificial financial commitments we collectively fulfill, both currently and anticipated for the coming year. I am awed and thankful for the cadre of officers and leaders who throughout this year have helped us vision, serve, care, manage and pray. One of the things I know, with some humility, is that The Church can sometimes be the biggest impediment to the faith – getting in way of faithful expression, turning seekers off by saying one thing while doing things altogether different, "out-worlding" the world instead of endeavoring to change it. We are hardly perfect, but I believe this congregation acquits itself quite well in that regard, and I am moved by the witness, and grateful for it. I am grateful for those who sign up to go on mission trips, who walk to raise money to combat hunger, who hold up stop signs during the Farmer's Market and check blood pressures and set up tents. I am grateful for the army of volunteers who, together, animate the LOGOS program every Wednesday afternoon; for those faithful voices in the choir; for those prayer partners crafting prayer shawls, and for those who routinely make coffee and prepare communion and refill candles with oil and...well, you get the idea.

All of which is to say that by my estimation, this community is powerfully served by a congregation faithfully, consistently and authentically spilling its witness from this building at the intersection of 25th and University, and I am both proud and grateful to be in the midst of it.

I look forward to seeing you Sunday – if not before.

Timothy Cap Diebel

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH STAFF

Senior Minister

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Sondra Eddings seddings@fccdm.org

Minister of Family Life

Suzanne Stout [sstout@fccdm.org](mailto:ssout@fccdm.org)

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Music Director/Composer in Residence

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Bookkeeper

Steve DeHaven sdehaven@fccdm.org

Custodian

Richard Shoemaker (no e-mail)

Office Administrator

Nanette Johnson njohnson@fccdm.org

LOGOS

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



Upcoming Themes:

- November 11 Veteran's Day
November 18 Count Your Blessings
November 25 LOGOS off for Thanksgiving Holiday

Worship Skills:

Sunday, November 15

K-2nd Grade - Ushers/Greeters
3rd - 5th Grade - Skit

Sunday, November 22

3rd - 5th Grade - Chimes

Sunday, November 29

High School - Worship Leaders

Please be at church at 8:55 a.m. for practice/duty.

The results of the book drive kicked off on Children's Sabbath is over 150 books and \$90. The LOGOS children and youth thank you for promoting family and children literacy by your donations to our ELL neighbors.



The Intersection - an Online Disciples Community

A community for members and friends of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and other people of faith to gather, share, and discuss. Check it out at:

<http://www.faithmeetslife.org/>

Warm- Fuzzy Tree during Advent

Help school-age children stay warm this winter!

*Bring your donations of
Hats - Scarves - Gloves -
Mittens - Socks - Underwear*

The "Warm Fuzzy Tree" will be stationed in the rear of the Sanctuary from November 29, through December 20.



CLOTHING DRIVE

*for English-Language
Students and their Children*

If you have clothing you would like to donate, please bring it to church during the day on Monday, Nov. 16, or Tuesday, Nov. 17. Please be sure all donations are clean and in good condition. COATS are particularly needed, especially coats for children. The English teachers and volunteers will distribute the clothing on Thursday, November 19, after class.

Alternative Gift Market



Make Your Shopping List Now

The Alternative Gift Market will be held on November 22nd. This is your opportunity to select a Christmas gift or birthday gift or even a memorial to be given to a particular agency in honor of someone that you want to recognize in a memorable way...It is a gift that says "I recognize that you are a special caring person who wants to help others" and it is a gift that reaches beyond our limits to assist those on the front lines who connect every day with people in desperate need.

The featured agencies this year are Hawthorn Hill, Interfaith Power and Light, Passageway and Church World Service. **Hawthorn Hill** is focused primarily on problems related to homelessness; **Passageway** offers support service to mental illness patients; **Interfaith Power & Light** is a group working on environmental issues, especially those in which faith communities can take an active role; **Church World Service** is associated with the Crop Walk project that addresses problems of hunger in many countries as well as in such programs as the blanket project in which our church participates every year.

In the coming weeks you will hear more about each agency and on November 22, representatives from each will share a luncheon with us and give us an opportunity to ask questions as we prepare to make our purchases.

Plan now to attend the luncheon immediately following the Learning hour on the 22nd. And, begin making your shopping list. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about each of these groups and to show support for their effort with our presence and with our gifts. It is also the perfect gift for that "hard to buy for" person whom you want to remember in a special way.

If you'd like further information, check out:

Hawthorn Hill: <<http://www.hawthorn-hill.org>>

Passageway: <<http://www.rainbowcenter.info>>

Iowa Interfaith Power & Light:
<<http://www.iowaipl.org/>>

Church World Service:
<<http://www.churchworldservice.org>>

MISSION TRIP

Fund Raiser December 6

In April, a group from our congregation and Ankeny Christian Church will embark on a mission trip to Guatemala. While the specific village is yet to be determined, the work will be in conjunction with an agricultural project which is part of Food Resource Bank outreach. Time will be spent in some type of construction and working with a local medical doctor. A recent day-long medical clinic held in the general area drew over 500 people for medical care, fellowship, and food, in addition to work on a sustainable agriculture project. Funds supplied were used to purchase pharmaceuticals for the clinic.

To help raise funds in support of this experience, you are invited to take part in lunch/silent auction/gift boutique on December 6. You can help by contributing items or services for the Silent Auction, or crafts/arts for the gift boutique, and by attending the luncheon, prepared by Bill Evans, to be served at noon

Make plans to do some Christmas shopping at the Silent Auction/Gift Boutique, and support this important work in Guatemala.



Wellness

Presentation

Sunday, Nov. 15



On November 15, L.T. Bhramdat, from L.T. Organic Farm in Waukee, give a presentation on healthy eating and healthy living. In leaving his work as a cardiologist – along with his wife Ahilia who left her work as a nurse – L.T. determined to “educate consumers on how to eat, one person at a time, one family at a time,” concentrating on the power of food instead of the power of medicine. For the last decade the Bhramdats and their family have operated a wellness center and a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm on their 40 acre property in Waukee, believing that they are helping more people through this current vocation than when they worked in the health-care profession. Due to a last-minute cancellation of the first session, this will be the only date for this presentation. Everyone is invited to attend this event, which will be in the 2nd floor lounge from 4-6 pm.

Church Member News and Prayer Needs

Hospitalized recently:

David L., Bill A., Roe W.

Dwight Conkling (95) died on October 23, the funeral was on October 27.

Lois Goode (95) died on October 27, the funeral was on October 30.

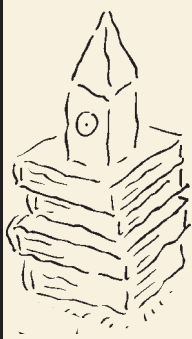
They will be remembered in our 2010 All Saints' observance.

Please keep the entire DeHaven family in your prayers. In a 2-week period of time in late October, **Matt D.** went from being a seemingly-healthy 50-year-old to being admitted to hospice care, suffering from an aggressive brain tumor. You may keep up with his story at www.caringbridge.org/visit/mattdehaven.

We extend our sympathy to **Paula W.**, on the loss of her mother.

Apologies to **Rev. Charles B.**, member of our church, for the inadvertent omission of his name from the list of retired ministers among us.

Don H. went on the recent trip of WWII veterans to visit the memorial in D.C.



Attention Book Lovers, Bibliophiles, Library Enthusiasts:

Our First Christian library crew is in need of additional volunteers. If you have an interest in helping in this area, please contact Wanda Newell at 967-7430.

Denominational Special Offerings

**2nd Week of
Thanksgiving Offering:
November 15, 2009**

**Christmas Offering:
December 13-20**

**The Church
Office will be
CLOSED
for Thanksgiving
Thursday-Friday
November 26-27**

First Christian Church

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Des Moines, Iowa 50311

515.255.2181

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:

November 18 (Nov. 26 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.



Reports must be received in the Church Office by Monday, November 23 for inclusion in the 2009 report for the Annual Meeting

The Quarterly Meeting of the Church Board is Tuesday, November 17.

