

Congregational United Church of Christ

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



2012

Remember Worship Time continues to be at 10:30 am all year long.



Wednesday, February 22,

9 am Communion & Breakfast at St. John UCC

308 N Evergreen Ave, A. H. RSVP:847-255-6687 for breakfast

7:30 pm Worship at Church of the Incarnation United Methodist, 330 W Golf Rd, A.H.

Our choir will be singing this evening.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

February 2012

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UCC WOMEN'S WEEK...in celebration of Women's Week in the United Church of Christ (Feb 5-12), a number of women (lay and clergy) from our congregation will lead a worship service with Holy Communion on Sunday, Feb. 12. The Rev. Connie Stewart is coordinating the planning.

Rex's Ramblin's

February 2 brings the mid-point of winter. In the church, the day is called Candlemas and it celebrates the presentation of the baby Jesus in the temple. Candlemas was the time in the medieval world when folks brought candles to the church for a blessing. certainly a worthy thing to do when a lighted flame was one's only source of heat and light! Feb. 2 here in the U.S. is called Groundhog Day (plan to see the movie again and again and again!) and has more to do with furry critters seeing a shadow or not, and six more weeks of winter. A bunch of superstition to my way of thinking, but it makes for press headlines with Puxatawney Phil!

These holidays, along with Lincoln's and Washington's official birthdays and that amalgam called Presidents' Day when we remember them all from George W. to B. Obama, give February a bit of spark. So too does St. Valentine's Day. And then this year there is a Feb 29 because the year leaps as we say. But beyond these, I generally find little that is redeeming about February. By February winter is tired and old and like a houseguest who has stayed too long.

This year the church doesn't make the month any cheerier as we launch Lent on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22). Here at CUCC though our Special Events folks (wanna join the team? Contact Drea Gates-Ehlers!) is holding a Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper on Feb 21. Mark your calendars, bring the family, and slather those cakes with maple syrup.

February 19 is the final Sunday of this period of ordinary time. It is Transfiguration Sunday and we'll go to the mountaintop in music as we host the Dixie Downbeats, a Dixie-land jazz band made up of residents of Luther Village! So kick up your heels and come marching in with the Saints!

Lee and I will head to Costa Rica for a little R & R in the middle of the month. We love a land whose slogan is *Bura Vida* and whose climate is a perpetual spring!

Well, after drafting this and thinking about all the reasons I usually don't like this shortest-month-of-the-year which seems to last forever, February doesn't sound half bad...especially here at CUCC! Actually

the month kicks off a new church year with a new Leadership Team and with that comes excitement and possibility!

So as we say around these parts...whoever you are and wherever you may be on life's journey, you're welcome here...most especially in February!

Pastor Rex

YOUTH NEWS

JOIN US for our
**FYS (Feed Your Spirit) High School and
our CREW CLUB (Middle School) as we "CONNECT!"**

Super Bowl Sunday February 5: CREW CLUB and FYS will meet at the home of Carol and Walt (Kelsey and Nick's grandparents) to watch the big game! Bring a snack to share!

Sunday February 19: 6:30-8:00 PM: Mardi Gras Party at the Church of the Incarnation! Bring your musical instruments for our jazz band. Pancakes, games, beadsgood times!

AN INQUIRER'S SEMINAR to be held Feb. 4

An "inquirer's seminar" for persons considering covenant membership in Congregational United Church of Christ is planned for Saturday, Feb. 4, from 9 am until 12:30 pm. The morning session will begin with a continental breakfast and then move to a look at CUCC - its history, its affiliation in the United Church of Christ, its structure, its commitments to mission and ONA and Stewardship, and more. If you would be interested in participating in the seminar, please be in touch with Pastor Rex or Rachel Hogleve, who are coordinating the event.

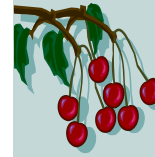
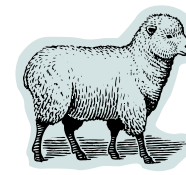


Welcome New Members Kent and Meg Ulery

Kent and Meg moved to Arlington Heights this summer from Maine, where Kent served as the President of Bangor Theological Seminary . one of the seven seminaries of the United Church of Christ. Previously he served as the UCC Conference Minister in Michigan for 12 years, and as a UCC pastor for 21 years in Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana. Meg has one degree in elementary education and a second in recreation and field biology, which she utilized over the years in her work in nature centers, as a Girl Scout executive, Christian Ed director, church secretary, and a frequent volunteer in the school system when their two boys were growing up. Their oldest son, Gray, along with his wife, Allison, manage retail stores north of Atlanta, Georgia, and have four children. Their youngest son, Nate, works in the loop in downtown Chicago, while his wife, Kristen, is a middle school vice-principal in Niles. They live about 100 yards away from the townhouse Kent and Meg purchased in order to be near their youngest grandchild. The Ulerys met at church camp when they were 10 years old, and this year will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. Not quite ready to retire, Kent is serving for the next couple years as the Interim Associate Conference Minister in Wisconsin overseeing and resourcing the clergy and churches of the southern two associations. Kent recently published an adult Bible study book on Revelation entitled *No Longer at Ease: Seven Churches and the Empire*, available from amazon.com and for Kindle.

Ricky Huff is their Shepherd

Our January MISSION OF THE MONTH (MOM) has been...**Heifer International**, sponsored by our middle school S.O.U.L class. Heifer is a leader in the fight for self-sufficiency and an end to hunger and poverty both here in the US and around the world. With the \$100 donation we make for each selected "mission of the month" project, our youth have bought....(a flock of chicks, a two shares each in a sheep, a goat, and fruit trees, and one share in a Llama).



Directory Changes

Moved out of state:

Linda (Larry) Wilcox
11503 E Quicksilver Ave
Mesa AZ 85212
480-257-3441

New Members

Ulery, Rev. Kent & Meg
2056 N Juniper Ln
Arlington heights, IL 60004
207-530-5628

February

Mission of the Month: SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



Once again, the youth from our congregation will be participating in the SOUPER BOWL of CARING. CREW CLUB and FYS have invited the community to join us in this outreach by donating cans of food and dropping them off to our church sites the week leading up to the Super Bowl. These cans of food will be donated along with the mission of the month check for \$100.00 to CEDA and to the Lutheran Church of the Cross food pantry.

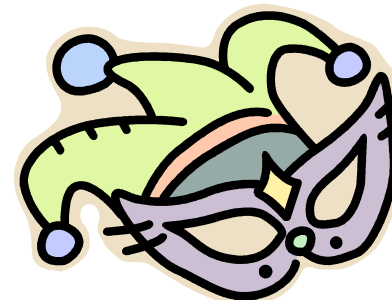
The SOUPER BOWL of Caring has been transforming the biggest weekend of football into the largest youth- led movement of outreach for over 23 years now.

The movement all started with a simple prayer said at a youth event before the Super Bowl kick-off "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat." Over the years, the SOUPER BOWL of CARING has become a national movement, uniting congregations, schools, community organizations and compassionate individuals in the fight against hunger. More than \$ 50 million has been raised for food banks, soup kitchens and charities across the nation in the effort to fight hunger at the local level.

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, we invite you all to enjoy a bowl of soup during coffee hour in anticipation of the "big game" and our continued fight against hunger.



IT'S MARDI GRAS TIME



...time to feast before the fast
...time to party before the penance

JOIN US ON SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 19

10:30 a.m.

*Wear your
purple, green & gold*

Enjoy Dixieland,
Ragtime and Blues with the
DIXIE DOWNBEATS
and our Choir

Music begins @ 10 am

Come Join Us for One Last "Fling" Before Lent!



CUCCA H Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 21st, 2012

6:30pm

Congregational UCC
Arlington Heights



IT'S "MARDI GRAS" TIME at CUCC. As the beginning of Lent draws near with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 22, special events and services are being planned to feast before we fast!

On SUNDAY, FEB 19 - Transfiguration Sunday - we will host the "Dixie Downbeats" band from Luther Village for a very special worship service of music and revelry! You won't want to miss it. The music will begin about 10:15 am so come early to enjoy the sounds of some great blues, jazz, and dixieland tunes! The service will end with a fantastic Gospel number by our Choir and then everyone is invited to remain for the brief civil union ceremony of Betsy and Andrea Gates-Ehlers which will conclude the worship. They are planning a festive fellowship time after the service and you are their guests.

On SHROVE TUESDAY, Feb 21, our Special Events Team will be hosting a "Pancake Supper" for the whole church community. Serving is set to begin at 6:30 p.m. Plan to help us eat up the "fat" before our Lenten fast begins!

ASH WEDNESDAY Marks the Beginning of Lent

The 40 Days of Lent begin on Wednesday, Feb. 22 with "Ash Wednesday" services. Once again CUCC is partnering with four other sister churches (St. John UCC, Arlington Heights; St. Paul UCC, Palatine; the United Methodist Church of the Incarnation, Arlington Heights; and the Christian Church -Disciples of Christ of Arlington Heights) for all our special Lenten and Holy Week services. Ash Wednesday offers two opportunities for worship:

-A 9am Communion Service and Breakfast is planned at St. John UCC. You do need to let St. John know if you will attend so that they can make breakfast plans.

A 7:30 pm Service of Word and Ashes will be held at the UMC Church of the Incarnation. Our own CUCC Choir will be one of the two choirs singing this service.

Plan to attend one or both of these services as you begin your own personal Lenten journey to the Cross and the Empty Tomb!



JOIN US FOR CUCCA H FAMILY GAME NIGHT!!! GAMES FOR ALL AGES!!



**PLEASE BRING YOUR
FAVORITE SNACK TO SHARE!**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH @ 6PM

**CONGREGATIONAL UCC OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

JUST EATING?

JUST EATING?: Practicing Our Faith at the Table+

A Lenten Program of Study, Reflection, and Action for Everyone!
Congregational United Church of Christ of Arlington Heights

Sundays March 4, 11, 18, and 25
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 4

10:30 a.m. Worship . A communion service called %Food Sharing as Sacramental+Pastor Rex is the planner and leader

Sunday March 4

12:30 p.m. Session 1 . NURTURING THE BODY
Meal: Potluck (everyone is asked to bring a %healthy+dish (main, salad, dessert, etc.)and the recipe to share with everyone)
Program: Nurturing the Body . Brenda Kitchka and Laura Janus are the primary leaders. Pat Nuccio will be the resource person.

Sunday, March 11

12:30 p.m. Session 2 . FOOD & ENVIRONMENT
Meal: Everyone brings their own %meatless+ brown bag lunch
Program: Food and the Environment - Pat Nuccio is the leader

Sunday, March 18 (One Great Hour of Sharing)

12:30 p.m. Session 3 - HUNGER
Meal: A simple soup lunch will be provided
Program: Hunger . Laura Janus is the planner and leader (Linda Best will also assist in planning with focus on an end to hunger as a way to peace.)

Sunday, March 25

12:30 p.m. Session 4 . CREATING COMMUNITY WITH FOOD
Meal: Potluck (Everyone is asked to bring a %comfort+food dish or a family signature dish to share)
Program: Creating Community with Food . Planners and leaders: Pastor Rex and JoAnn Rapp (We will share stories of food in our lives as a way to build community)

Pat Harris will be prepared to work with younger children (up through grade 5) each week but she needs to know in advance if younger children will be present. Our older youth (grades 7-12) will participate in the main adult program.

+JUST EATING? is a joint project of UCC-related Advocate Health Care; Church World Service; and the Presbyterian Hunger Program, PC(USA).

Each session stands on its own. So come however often as you can!
There is a sign up (PLEASE DO!) to help us know how to set up Fellowship Hall each week.

The Screwtape Letters play

SUBJECT: CUCCA Field Trip .

The Screwtape Letters at College of DuPage

Have you ever read The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis?
It's wonderful!

Now, we have a chance to see the play, as a group from CUCCA. Here are the details:

Where: McAnnich Arts Center, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn
When: Friday, March 16th, 8:00PM
Cost: \$59 per ticket with a discount (amount undetermined as of today) if at least 10 of us go
Note: These are Tier 1 seats . the best seats, just under %premium+See seating chart on website. Tickets will be ordered by Sherri Losee; you may reimburse her, directly.
More Info: <http://www.screwtapeonstage.com/wheaton>

If you'd like to go, please email or call Sherri Losee by **Sunday, February 28th!!** Contact info:

- Ph: 847-824-7461 (day . please leave message)
- Email: decolores@ameritech.net
- Facebook: Sherri Losee

How the Manna Program can make every purchase count.

Just in case you are not familiar with the Manna Group Scrip Program, here is a brief overview: %Scrip+is the name given to gift cards and certificates which are provided from local and national retailers. They are the same gift cards available in stores.

How can these retailers help us? It's simple . partnered vendors agree to sell gift cards to our organization at a discount. Families like yours buy the gift cards at full face value and Congregational keeps the difference to be used for unbudgeted mission projects or special offerings.

Simply purchase gift cards from stores that participate in The Manna Group scrip program! Groceries, gasoline, clothing, entertainment, and household goods can all be purchased using scrip.

This program allows Congregational to support unbudgeted missions while we shop for the everyday things we already purchase. Orders are placed the 3rd Sunday of the month and are ready for pick-up the 4th Sunday from Lisa Loeffler. The latest information is always available with a quick phone call to Lisa Loeffler. We hope we can count on your support.

Think Manna, Start shopping today!

Orders along with payment are due to Lisa Loeffler on the **Third Sunday**, of the month. Cards will be available for pickup on **Fourth**, of the month after church. Purchasing your grocery shopping cards is another way to help someone else at no extra cost to you. Great to have gift cards for those students going off to college for Subway etc.

Order forms are on the wall outside the church office; above the Manna mailbox, they are also on the round table in the gathering space, Let me know if you have any questions regarding Manna and how it works.

Lisa Loeffler, -- 847-749-2411

Sandy Gumm, Administrative Assistant, will be away

Feb 17, returning to the office on Feb. 28. Plans are underway to coordinate office coverage during her absence. If you are available to work one or more of these days please call Sandy and let her know.

Anticipating Blessings

Calling All Couples: You are invited to consider a special retreat for couples entitled "**Marriage: Creating the Future Together**" which is scheduled for Feb. 24-25 at our own Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, Mich. The retreat and workshop will be facilitated by Pastor Avena Ward. Topics of discussion will include: Finances and Economics, Sexuality and Health, Religion and Spirituality; and Children, Families, and In-Laws. For more information, please call Rev. Ward at (773) 294-5371.

*Don't leave an empty pew.
Remember your church in your will*

April 29

July 29

Sept 30

Dec 30

What do these four dates have in common? They are the remaining 5th Sundays in 2012! As you know, we've held Sacred Conversations on 5th Sundays the past couple of years. If this is to continue, a team of volunteers with a passion for 5th Sundays needs to emerge to dream, play and implement these events. If that's you, please let your Moderators (Gail Link or Mark Silet) or Pastor Rex know so plans can get rolling for our next fifth Sunday, April 29.

2012 ONE CHURCH/ONE BOOK Announced

On April 15, 1912 the unthinkable happened. The ~~unsinkable~~ TITANIC did just that. It sunk to the bottom of the cold, gray Atlantic Ocean on its maiden voyage. While I was in Belfast on sabbatical, a black car cabbie told me, "It was fine when it left here. The darn English sunk it!" Since then there have been movies, documentaries, museum exhibits, and now a wonderful new museum has opened in Belfast, Northern Ireland where the great ship was made.

Most of us have heard about the ~~glorious band~~. that group of eight musicians who played as the TITANIC slipped deeper and deeper into the sea. But a new book by Steve Turner, published in 2011, now tells the extraordinary story of the 8 musicians who went down with the ship. It is called THE BAND THAT PLAYED ON and will be our ONE CHURCH/ONE BOOK read and discussion for 2012. It was published by Thomas Nelson and is available in most public libraries and bookstores, including online at AMAZON and eBay. **The book discussion will be held on April 12** as the centennial of the tragedy approaches.

In addition to the discussion of this fascinating story, we will plan in 2012 to see at least one or two of the great films made about the sinking of the TITANIC. **We will watch a Titanic movie on Sunday night, April 15.**



Did you know...that UCC church groups can visit partners and missionaries around the world through the Global Ministries People-to-People Pilgrimage program?
Email dom@disciples.org or phone 317-713-2565.
Visit www.globalministries.org



Fair Trade Coffee & Tea

A sign-up sheet is in the gathering space to order coffee and tea. If you have any questions talk to Renate Kowalewski 847-359-4751



The Chicago Metropolitan Association office has moved.

Their new location is:
1407 E 60th St, Chicago, IL 60637

Missy Kitchka has graduated from College. She is now off on an adventure of a life time. She will be overseas teaching at a NATO Base school in Papa, Hungary. She will be blogging while she is there. You can keep up with her by visiting her blog at <http://HungaryAdventures.blogspot.com>. I was just on her site very enjoyable.

February

Birthdays

4 -Mark Silet

4 -Nicolle Grasse

6 -Judy Miller

8- Al Engram

9- Fiona Waters

11- Sherri Losee

11 - Evangeline (Eva)

Kilar

13- Brendan

Blankfield

13- Russ Petty

15- Jim Weichert

18- Allison Mohr

23- Robin Johnson

27- Connor Ball



Do we have your birthday
and/or anniversary?

If not please call the
church office:
847-392-6650

And we will be sure you
are added.

Anniversaries

4- Barry & Maureen

Blankfield

9- Ron & Terry

Hulka





Circle of Care: We ask your caring and prayers for these people:

Circle of Care: We ask your caring and prayers for the following:

Beecher Memorial UCC, New Orleans

- Susan Klann** - Daughter of Lillian Houle
- Caelen & Christian Peshek** .
Son & daughter of Maggie
- Julie Scott** - member
- Helen Lescohier** . member
- Bob & Marion Staley** - members
- Jane & Mark Megli** . members
- Brenda Nessler** . member
- Ralph Eidle** . member
- Dee Dean** . member
- Lisa Loeffler** . member
- Claire Price** . member
- Roger & Carol Best** .
Brother & sister-in-law of Herb Best
- Richard Perry** . brother of Jim Perry
- Mark, Tammy & Samuel Buthman** .
friends of Anne Bagan
- Farol Ginsberg** . Friend of Linda Wilcox
- Michael & Barbara Dorr** .
Friends of Karen & Craig Brooks
- Jim & Linda Grasse** . Friends of Karen Brooks
- Edwin Lohrmann** . Friend of Karen Brooks
- Stacy Sachs** . Friend of Ken Stewart
- Bobbie Garcia** . Brother-in-law of Anne Bagan
- Roger Holtzkamp** . friend of Jim Perry
- Bradley Manning**
(political prisoner, sponsored by Herb Best)
- Neil Perry** . Grandson of Jim & Mary Perry
- Gail Carr** . sister of Dee Dean
- Homeless family of eight**, -
acquaintance of Ron Flowers
- Tim** . brother of Mary Ryan
- Deanna Hamm** . Niece of David Kitchka

- Sister Carolyn Miller**-friend Sister of the Living Word
- Heather Sczygielski** . Aunt of April Evans
- Alison Harris** . Niece of Tom & Pat Harris
- Mary Turner** . friend (former member) of the church
- Marlene Hitchings** . Mother In Law of Matt Huff
- Sam Chapman**- Friend of Art Peekel 1/17/2012

Family & friends of:

- Donna Bayma** - friend of Ricky Huff
- Lynn Head** .
friend of Ricky Huff and Linda & Laura Janus
- Lynn Grier** - Friend of Jim Perry

Confirmand –

- Fiona Waters**
- Brian Doktorczyk**
- Alina Doktorczyk**
- Henry Rose**
- David Fernquist**
- Ellie Robinson**
- Cara Ward**

Mentor –

- Karen Brooks**
- Lee Johnsen**
- Laura Janus**
- Tom Klemens**
- Craig Brooks**
- Donna Blankfield**
- Linda Janus**

In the Military:

- Dan Preissner** (Our friend)
- Jason Finkeneller** (Family friend of the Paynes)
- Justin Marshall** (Nephew of Jim & Sally Schiavone)
- Tucker Schumann** (Cousin of Avery & Maxwell Johnson)
- Vince Rodriguez** (Grandson-in-law of Ricky Huff)
- Kyle Bailey** (nephew of David Kitchka)
- Seth Kitchka** (nephew of David Kitchka)
- Doris Payne** (Ken's niece)
- Jason Huff** (Grandson of Ricky Huff)

Member in Discernment for Ordination:

- Rosemary Kimpel**

Please note names submitted will remain on the Circle of Care list for 6 weeks. If the prayer need continues, call the church office.