



April 2013

The MESSENGER

April 2013

A Newsletter for the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Park Falls, WI

279 North First Avenue, P.O. Box 258, Park Falls, WI 54552
Worship: 8:45 AM

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From the pastor's pen... Easter Season

The months from Easter Sunday to the Sunday after Pentecost are called Easter Season, continuing the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Yet depending on where Christmas falls in the days of the week, Christmas Season only lasts from ten to twenty days. Christians have been celebrating Easter since the very beginning. But Christmas wasn't recognized as a feast until maybe the fifth century. If you asked the economy, Christmas is more important, yet the Easter Season we now enter has been primary since long, long before they first counted the shopping days until Santa.

Consider the gospel stories. In all four gospels the passion of Jesus is told in careful detail, while his birth is told in general concepts, and then in only two contradictory gospel stories. Those who first wanted to invite people into the new faith were far more interested in the death and rising of the Savior. And listen to Paul. In all of his epistles he tells repeatedly of the crucifixion and resurrection, but rarely of the Eucharist, and never of the birth.

There's a call here. There is a truth that beckons us through these many weeks to come. Christ is appearing to the apostles for six weeks until his Ascension. Then there is the vigil of waiting for the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. And then the following Sunday, Trinity Sunday. What has made Christians

prolong this season for so many centuries, when Christmas gets such short shrift that it barely lasts past the trees that are pitched out the back door on the 26th?

From the very start our faith was more concerned with the fact that Jesus died and rose. It wasn't very central to ask how he got to be human, just that he died a human death. The power of resurrection for us all was always understood to be central. Legends and folklore about his birth (and there are multitudes) were never as critical.

So it seems appropriate to look more carefully at this season, to be attentive to the message that's being repeated. Over and over we are reminded that we all suffer, but we can rise. We all have seen struggles, but we can triumph. There is plenty of evil in this world, yet good will prevail. We struggle through so many varieties of Lent. Nevertheless, victory will be ours and we'll celebrate it at Easter and week after week after week.

The season insists that we remember how often we've been sick or in pain, yet God's love endures. Even when we are suffering deeply, God's love is ever more present, not absent. The season draws us out of our self pity of thinking that nobody has suffered like we did, or do. The season reveals to us the world wide dimensions of both sadness and redemption. The season awakens a realization of the cosmic tapestry of sorrow, as well as the cosmic tapestry of renewal from sorrow, for we see the universal renewal that human life can express. There are infinite ways that we can reawaken.

So climb into the boat with the apostles. We have a wonderful journey now until Trinity Sunday. There's so much to grow and accept and enjoy and pray. Happy Easter Season!

*Blessings,
Pastor Jim*

Thank You

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to our family at First Congregational Church for the kindness and support shown us at the passing of our husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother, Richard Morrison. All the food, cards, flowers and gifts have been overwhelming.

We are all truly family under the roof of our church. We have been so greatly blessed. Thank you.

Arelene Morrison and family

April Ministries

USHERS

- April 7 Morrison Family
- April 14 Morrison Family
- April 21 Bob and Kay Hennes
- April 28 Paul and Teresa Norlander

If you cannot usher on your assigned Sunday, please call Jim Ferkovich at 715-762-2385.

SCRIPTURE READERS

- April 7 Bev Bastian
- April 14 Jim Ferkovich
- April 21 Rosie Slack
- April 28 Jill Franck

April Meetings

- * 4/7 Search Committee meeting after worship
 - * 4/7 Church Reorganizational Committee meeting after worship
 - * 4/10 Trustees, 7:00 pm
 - * 4/14 Congregational meeting following worship
 - * 4/17 Diaconate, 6:30 pm
 - * 4/18 Women's Fellowship, 1:30 pm
 - * 4/19 Mission Board, 10:30 am
- (Attention Board Members: If your meeting will not be on the "normal" scheduled date you are responsible for getting me the correct date. Thank you.)*

HELP FEED THE PIG!

A huge thank you to all who have donated to the Youth Programs by "Feeding The Pig"!

As we work to increase our numbers of kids in the Sunday School and Confirmation programs we count on this money for sending confirmation kids to the Moon Beach Retreat, purchasing student bibles for confirmands and gifts for our graduates and for those who are baptized.

We also use this money for Sunday School curriculum and supplies and also for the VBS program. These things are so necessary in attracting young families to join us.

Thank you for your continued generosity!



OFFERING COUNTERS

- April 7 Jana Ferkovich & Heidi Peterson
- April 14 Kurt and DiAnn Brown
- April 21 Renee Donner and Alice Megna
- April 28 Arlene Morrison & Lois Gwinn

COMMUNION SERVERS

- April: Hennes Family
- May: Peterson/Ferkovich Family

If you are on any of these lists and cannot make it on your assigned day, please call someone else to change dates. Thank you for volunteering!

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CHANCEL CHOIR UPDATES

April practice times and dates are 8 am and 9:45 am on April 7 and 21.

The Choir performs during worship the same day they have practice.



If you would like to join the choir, contact Mark Donner at 715-762-2808.

Also, the Community Choir Concert will be held on Sunday, April 28 at 7 pm at St. Anthony's. Watch the bulletins or contact Mark for these practice times and dates.

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There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, April 14 after worship. Items on the agenda include a discussion and vote on time of service for the summer months and a report from the Church Reorganization Committee. Please plan to be there to voice your opinion.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATES

There will be no Sunday School on April 14 due to the congregational meeting to allow all to attend the meeting.

The teachers for April and May include Laurie Fox on April 21; Terry Little on April 28; Beth Graceffa on May 12; Heidi Peterson on May 19.

Sunday School begins at approximately 9:45 am after worship. All children ages 3 through grade 6 are welcome to attend.

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"Drawn to the Word"

A worship and artistic experience where Artist and Pastor Paul Oman will paint a larger-than-life sized mural of The Road to Emmaus before your eyes at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Catawba on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at 7 pm. This story will unfold artistically, musically, narratively and scripturally during the event. Come and see!

There will be a free will offering at the event that will go to local food pantries.

Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

For more information about Paul Oman or to see murals and videos go to

www.PaulOmanFineArt.com

Powerful Tools for Caregiving Course Offered

A Powerful five-week course is offered to inform family caregivers, as well as those who are in the long term care field in a paid role beginning Friday mornings, April 5th and ending May 3, 2013. Weekly classes meet from 9:30 am – Noon at New Horizons North, 514 West Main Street, Ashland. The classes are sponsored by the Lifespan Respite Care Northern Network through New Horizons North.

The course, Powerful Tools for Caregiving has been acknowledged by the Administration for Community Living/Administration on Aging (AoA) as meeting the "highest-level criteria for evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion programs." In the course caregivers develop a wealth of self-care tools which have been shown to reduce stress, communicate in difficult situations, make tough caregiving decisions and more.

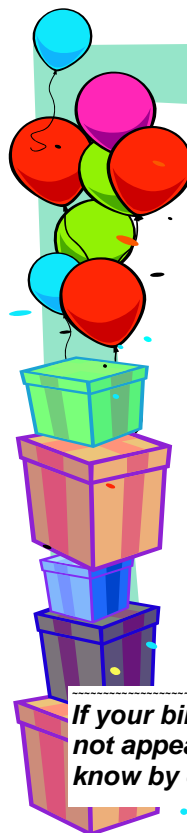
Trained class leaders for the upcoming series are Deanna Yost and Linda Pepping, both who have personal caregiving experience. Deadline for registration is March 29. Class size is limited. Call Deanna Yost at 715-682-7171 ext. 35, email, dyost@nhnorth.com or find the brochure and registration form at <http://www.newhorizonsnorth.com/files/file4513ce390751f9894885.pdf>

STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH!

Visit and 'like' our Facebook page at First Congregational UCC – Park Falls.

Also check out our webpage at parkfallsucc.org. You will find links to the national and regional UCC websites as well as scholarship forms and newsletters.

Let Heidi know if there is anything you want to announce on either or both pages.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

4/2 Noah Peterson	4/12 Sara Bukachek	4/27 Penny Humphrey
4/2 Beth Sommerfeldt	4/12 Terri Kaiser	4/27 Patty Regner
4/4 Joshua Reas	4/13 Melissa Schultz	4/27 Scott Casey
4/5 Joe Megna	4/13 Nanci Schultz	4/28 Kristin Palecek
4/5 Carson Schmitt	4/15 Lexie Metz	4/30 Chris Ferkovich
4/6 Bill Kaiser	4/16 Jodi Westphal	4/30 Lois Gwinn
4/6 Bennett Brunell	4/17 Beth Granger	
4/7 Dorothy Wardensky	4/17 Mary Jo Laabs	
4/7 Ashley Brunell	4/17 Christie Sales	
4/8 Eric Johnson	4/20 Earl Franke	
4/8 Erika Carden	4/20 Lisa Oswald	
4/8 Shane Wakefield	4/20 Art Pritzl	
4/9 Jeff Coffin-Baars	4/22 James Corbett	
4/10 Dot Harris	4/23 Kathy Lee	
4/10 Carolyn Young	4/23 Jana Ferkovich	
4/11 Daphne (Harris) Musack	4/23 Talon Follen	
	4/23 Dana Griesel	
	4/27 Jenny Bruch	

ANNIVERSARIES

4/5 David & Erika Carden
4/9 Arnold & Alice Tucker



If your birthday or a family member's birthday has not appeared in the monthly birthday lists, let us know by calling or emailing the church office.

Still Speaking Devotional found on UCC.org

The Third Sacrament?

Matthew 10:42

"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

Dwight Lee Wolter

In congregational tradition there are two sacraments: baptism and communion. But it seems there is a third: Coffee Hour. I am not belittling the sacraments. It simply seems that Coffee Hour is another indicator of communion and belonging. Coffee Hour can be ho-hum or a vibrant, boisterous and truly intergenerational extension of the service where people are standing, sitting, eating, talking, reading, signing up for opportunities. Often I yell "Last Call!" just to get them out so we can finally go home. You can't fake a spiritual presence.

Members gently invite visitors for coffee and cake before they can slip out the door. Many decline at first, feeling good to be invited, though not quite ready or able to participate, but they usually return for church and fellowship.

In baptism God comes to us. In communion we come to God. In Coffee Hour we come to each other. We break a different bread and share a different cup than we do in communion. We use different water than we do in baptism. We touch the same souls in a different way. Do you want to feel "a part of" rather than "apart from" the congregation? Do diligence to Coffee Hour and watch

The Mission Board is asking for volunteers to help with the clean-up of our stretch of Hwy. 182. A date in early May is being planned. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex. With six or eight volunteers this should take less than an hour. Let's get together and pitch in!

the multiplication of the loaves and dishes.

Prayer

Be with and guide us in all we say and do, and in all the ways in which we gather to know, celebrate and honor you. Amen.

~~Shrink-a-Bill~~

Can you help? Copies of current bills are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex of the Park Falls church. If you are able to pay all or a portion of a bill, please put your check and the bill in the collection plate or a notation on the check as to which bill you want the payment applied. All donations go a long way towards helping us meet our budget.

Thank you for your help.

UW-Extension Offers Free Financial Education

The UW-Extension will be offering free financial education to individuals who are struggling with their finances. Classes are appropriate for anyone, of any income level, who is struggling to meet their monthly bills or just wants to figure out where the money goes each month. Topics include:

- Identifying personal financial values and habits which affect spending
- Setting financial goals
- Establishing a spending plan
- Reviewing a credit report
- Debt reduction strategies
- Establishing savings.

All personal information is kept confidential. There is no charge for these programs but participants must pre-register for classes. In addition to classes, one-to-one financial coaching sessions are also available. Topics covered include those previously listed plus follow-up as requested by the participant. Brochures providing a list of scheduled classes for 2013 are in the church office or you may contact Barbara Haynes at 715-339-2555 or by email at barbara.haynes@ces.uwex.edu.

PASTOR AND SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Pastor Jim Imse

Office Hours: Every Friday; other times by appt.

Phone: 715-462-9984

Email: jimse@centurytel.net

Secretary: Heidi Peterson

Office Hours: Wed. & Fri., 10 am to 2 pm

Phone: 715-762-3220

Email: parkfallsucc@pctcnet.net

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				+ Area Clergy Meeting, 11:30 am, Apple Basket, downtown Park Falls	+Bible Study, 11 am	+ Lord's Cupboard, 10-12
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
+ Worship, 8:45 am, with Communion +Search Committee Meeting following worship +Church Reorganization Committee meeting following worship			+ Lord's Cupboard, 10-12 +Trustees Meeting, 7 pm			+ Lord's Cupboard, 10-12
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
+ Worship, 8:45 am +Congregational Meeting following worship +Service at Park Manor, 2 pm			+ Lord's Cupboard, 10-12 + Diaconate Meeting, 6:30 pm	+Women's Fellowship, 1:30 pm	+Mission Board Meeting, 10:30 am +Bible Study, 11 am	+ Lord's Cupboard, 10-12
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
+ Worship, 8:45 am			+ Lord's Cupboard, 10-12			+ Lord's Cupboard, 10-12
28	29	30				
+ Worship, 8:45 am +Community Choir Concert, 7 pm, St. Anthony's		+ Peace-full Gathering Free Meal, 5:30 pm, Peace Lutheran Church basement				

Come worship with us!

8:45 am, Sunday Worship

With communion service on the first Sunday of each month.

Sunday School for ages 3 through Grade 6 takes place September thru May after worship from 9:45-10:30 am. All are welcome.



No matter where you are
on your life's journey,
you are welcome here!