

First Congregational Church, UCC

2201 7th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265 * 309.762.0787

* All Members, Ministers * Rev. Allen Mothershed, Senior Pastor

* Rev. Jacqueline Perry, Associate Pastor

Saturday Worship 5:30p.m., Lower Level

Sunday Worship 9:00a.m. & 11:00a.m.

Fellowship Hour 10:00a.m., Café

Children's Worship, following the

Church School Hour 10:00a.m.

Early Word at 9:00a.m. Worship

April 7, 2010



*Women's Annual
Tulip Luncheon
May 1, Saturday*



The theme this year is "Bloomin' Fun", and the committee invites as many people as possible to join in the colorful flower-themed activities, music, and decorations. We need gardening tips, garden-themed silent auction items, as well as decorated tables for eight. Please sign up in the library or Son Café if you can help.

This is always a joyous time, so start inviting your friends & family!

Cost \$8 per person

Please sign up early as there will be limited seating!!

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## Retirement...

Kathy & Harley Cox have served our church family very well for many years as our custodians. They have made the decision to retire as of March 31. We will miss their presence and affirm their loving service in the care of our church building and our members. We celebrate that Harley continues to heal and see improvement in his health. Our prayers and best wishes go with both of them as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

### Play

Bob Fagan is a researcher of *play*. I can't recall if it is Fagan who studies wolves and play or if he was sharing the results of other researchers when he said, "a golden retriever dies a child"; but studies show that "wolves don't play much".

Anyone who has experienced life with a retriever knows that they love to play. To a retriever, tossing a stick through the air to watch it alight on a carpet of green is an open invitation to play. The stick-toss is not a one-time offering to this friend. A retriever is earnest about play—once the object is set in motion, the understanding is that the hurler and the hound will repeat the motion ceaselessly, or until one of the parties grows bored—usually the hurler grows weary first.

Someone wrote that "Motion fills an empty heart". On Palm Sunday, as we waved our palms in the air and shouted Hosanna with the children, the movement filled our hearts with joy. Our play (or enactment) was a way of experiencing the elation of the disciples in Jerusalem, the day Jesus came riding into town.

Play brings life and reminds me that we are loved by God not because of our daily achievements, how hard we work or how many goals we reach.

My grandmother liked to play. Holidays were a good excuse to play. After she died last fall, I found two green-paper shamrock doilies in her well-worn Bible. At Easter, she used to dye eggs with natural materials like onion skins in boiling water. She just loved the purple color and thought it was fun.

Grandma painted rocks to look like lady-bugs. She loved to play with the stones that she found near the creek. To complete her cement chicken family display (a rooster, a hen and three chicks), grandma found two egg-shaped stones. She painted the stone 'eggs' white and placed them next to the cement hen. She laughed hard one day when she went to admire the cement ensemble, only to find real eggs instead of stones.

My mother once planted several store-bought arrowheads in grandma's garden so she would find them. Grandma thought it was a hoot. Researcher Fagan discovered (what golden retrievers already know) that people need play throughout their life-cycle.

The resurrection means to me, that in life, in death, and in life beyond death, we can still play, discover joy, and be all God has created us to be.

***Peace, Pastor Jackie***

# Adult Spiritual Formation

## Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Morning Bible Study meets Wednesday from 10:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. in the Parlor. **Pastor Jackie** provides a session handout that day. All are welcome. If participants will read the scripture ahead of time their study will be enhanced, but it is not required. Bring your Bible (multiple versions welcome). The study is designed for those who are able to pop in as their schedule will allow, as well as those who seek study as part of a weekly discipline. Lunch after is optional. All are welcome!

|                                                        |                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>April 14</b><br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday<br>of Easter | Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)<br>Revelation 5:11-14<br>John 21:1-19 |
| <b>April 21</b><br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday<br>of Easter | Acts 9:36-43<br>Revelation 7:9-17<br>John 10:22-30      |
| <b>April 28</b><br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday<br>of Easter | Acts 11:1-8<br>Revelation 21:1-6<br>John 13:31-35       |

## Book Discussion Group

We now meet weekly (with brief breaks between books) on Wednesdays from 12:30p.m.-1:30p.m. in the Parlor. Bring a sack lunch if you like. The group is currently on break until March 24. Next book: *The Shack*. This is a popular book. You can purchase one at a local book store or maybe borrow one. In between books, we break for a couple of weeks. We may discuss several chapters each week for about four weeks. Drop-ins welcome! Contact **Pastor Jackie** for more information.

**April 7, Chapters 7-9**

**April 14, Chapters 10-12**

**April 21, Chapters 13-15**

**April 28, Chapters 16-18 (decide next book)**

**May 5, BREAK**

## 2010 Series on Diversity

The Religious Concerns Committee of Quad Citizens Affirming Diversity (QCAD) invites anyone interested to come to a five part series designed to give a faithful religious perspective on the topic of faith and how we might relate to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender persons. Jesus commands us to love one another. Is the chasm separating Christianity/Judaism from gays and lesbians too wide to cross? Is the Bible an excuse to

hate? Faith is struggling with the questions. See you there, *Pastor Jackie*

**April 19, 2010** "Scriptural Authority"

7pm Rock Island Public Library

Dr. Rivta Williams, Augustana College

**May 17, 2010** "Misused Scripture Passages"

7pm Davenport Police Dept. Community Room

Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul, Faith United Church of Christ

**August 16, 2010** "The Practice of Justice"

7pm Davenport Police Depart. Community Room

Rabbi Henry Karp, Temple Emanuel

**September 20, 2010** "The Ethic of Love"

7pm Bettendorf Public Library

Rev. Stacie Fidler, St. John's Lutheran Church

**October 18, 2010** "Integrating Spirituality & Sexuality"

7pm Davenport Police Department Community Room

Rev. Rich Hendricks, Metropolitan Community Church

"Fear allows hatred to go unchallenged."

Rich Hendricks

How well do you know God's word?

Do you *intend* to make time to reflect on the scriptures before or after Sunday worship?

Have we got a class for you! Share God's word with your fellow grown-ups in our Adult Seasons of the Spirit Sunday school class. We explore questions based on our lectionary readings and have excellent spirit-led discussions. If you can't make every class, you won't be lost. If you've never come before, drop in and take up wherever we are. If you've already been attending, you know that the Spirit works within the group and continues to work within you throughout the week.

SEASONS OF THE SPIRIT

Sundays, 9:00-10:00a.m.

IN THE PARLOR WITH GOD'S WORD



March 2010  
\$6.03

## THE TEEN SCENE Youth Group Calendar

- April 10** - Youth Group, Clean Leon Starberg's yard, 10:00a Meet at church  
**April 11** - Confirmation Class 5:00p Parlor  
**April 12** - Youth Group 6:30p Bible Study, Parlor  
**April 13** - Confirmation Class, Read Faith Statements to Council 7:00p, Board Room  
**April 17** - Youth Group, Clean Rohrbachs' yard, 10:00a, Meet at church  
**April 19** - Youth Group, Roller Skating 6:30p Meet at church  
**April 25** - Youth Choir Sings 9:00a Worship  
**April 25** - Youth Group, Progressive Dinner 5:00p Meet at church  
**April 26** - **NO YOUTH GROUP**

## OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

In the next several newsletters, we would like to highlight different camps that the Illinois Conference offers through the Outdoor Ministries program at Pilgrim Park and Tower Hill. If you choose to attend, First Congregational Church will pay \$50 toward the cost of the camp. There are other scholarships available. For date or questions about registration, please contact **Heidi Hulme**.

**HUG Camp** is for pre-teens and teens where God Helps us Grow memories and friendship that last forever! In addition to growing our relationship with God and each other, there are loads of activities to choose from, such as: archery, flag football, climbing wall, adventure course, wood working, volleyball, fun with science, dance, arts and crafts, tennis, ultimate Frisbee, and much more. There's plenty of beach time on our beautiful Lake Michigan beach with a shaving cream extravaganza on Friday afternoon for those who enjoy that kind of thing! Each evening is busy with camp-wide event including skit night, climbing Mt. Baldy, s'mores around the campfire, ice cream social, to name a few. HUG Camp is such an awesome experience that 2/3s of our volunteer staff are former campers who love doing all that they can to ensure that our youth continue to enjoy camp for years to come! We definitely encourage **Confirmation Camp** - Confirmands - \$330 (Pilgrim Park)

It's....

*\*Class time covering Church History, Worship, Bible, and Christian Living.*

*\*Experiential activities including the Exodus Experience and the Passion Play.*

*\*Traditional camp fun such as arts and crafts, swimming, field games, creek walking, high and low ropes initiative courses, archery and more.*

*\*A chance to meet other UCC kids.*

**Confirmation Camp** is a wonderful introduction for those beginning their confirmation experience in the fall, or if in a 2 year program, between years one and two. Workshops focus on Church History, Worship, Bible and Christian Living. Traditional camp activities including Camp Olympics, swimming and high ropes along with experiential activities the Exodus Experience and the Passion Walk are highlights of the week. Campers enjoy sharing time with not only confirmands from their own church, but by making new friends and growing spiritually within their small groups and the camp community. Come join the fun and see why campers and counselors alike want to come back year after year!



## Prayer List & Other Items of Interest

### *Please Pray For...*

#### *The World*

Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger

#### *The Church*

Congregational UCC of Lacon, Lacon

St. John UCC, Lincoln

Illinois Conference Outdoor Ministries

For Women's Tulip Luncheon, May 1

For Western Association Spring Meeting, Lincoln, IL April 24

#### *Our Community*

Planned drop-in center for displaced youth

#### *Friends & Family*

**Cliff Stewart**, recovering at home

**Yrsa Hannan**

**Bob Meyer**

**Tiara Rogers**

**1st Lt. Colin Sommers**, serving in Iraq

**Those grieving their pets, TC our puppy**

**Larry Madison**

**Judy Burd**

**Louise Stisser** (Marcella Armstrong's mother)

**Ledou Jean Baptiste & Family**, Port-au-Prince

**Harley & Kathy Cox and Family**

**Pat Martin**

**Nancy Erickson**

**Hollis Hohensee**

**Barbara Bell**, at Heartland

**Nora Rexroth**

**Myles Wandrey & Family**

**Brayden Browne**, Red Wagon Preschool Student

**Ron Smith**

**Mary Woodburn**, Amber Ridge

**Ruth Brink**

**Marjorie Parker**, Lighthouse

**Richard Laws**, VA Hospital, Quincy, Illinois

**Julie Laws**

**Sydney Sophia Mowen**

**Marvin Anderson**, grandfather of Denise Browning

**Catherine Jasper**, Rosewood

All those in assisted or skilled care facilities

### **A Message from Personnel**

We are sad to announce that **Shannon Gruhlke** is resigning her position as Church Business Manager as of April 9. She and her family will remain active members of our church fellowship. We will celebrate her ministry with us with a Liturgy of Release at both worship services, Sunday, April 11 and a reception for her at the fellowship time in the Son Café. We wish her the best as she moves on to other endeavors.

### **RETREAT New Melleray Abbey, May 10-12**

A *weekday* retreat to New Melleray Abbey in Peosta, Iowa (south of Dubuque, limit of 12) Cost: \$100 for room and board for two days. Guest house rooms are private with own bath. Church van departs the church at 9:00a.m. Monday, May 10. Lunch at the Abbey. Departure is Wednesday, May 12 after breakfast, arrive to Moline late morning.

A holy venture of rest and renewal. This retreat is not highly programmed; you may bring something of interest to share with the group (such as an article, book recommendation, or a poem, etc). Guests are welcome to attend regular compline (a schedule of prayer throughout the day/night). Tour the Trappist Casket factory, browse their bookstore and library, walk amidst cornfields and pine trees. Nice balance of quiet reflective time and group gatherings. You need not be a member of book group. Visit <http://www.newmelleray.org> to learn more. Contact **Pastor Jackie**.

**The Easter Offering collected will go towards defraying the cost of Thanksgiving baskets.  
Thank you to those who gave to this wonderful mission.**

## *A Message from Your Parish Nurse...*

**Thanks and many blessings to all who participated in the March Blood Drive. We exceeded our goal by four units, collecting a total of 21 units of blood !**

### **Infant Memorial gathering at Trinity marks 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

The grief and devastation of losing a baby before or soon after childbirth often weighs heavily on the hearts of parents and family members alike. To help alleviate sorrow and honor the memories of babies who have been lost, Trinity will offer "Butterfly Blessings: A Memorial Ceremony," from 2:00 - 3:00p.m., Saturday, April 10, in the Jardine Auditorium at the Trinity Rock Island campus, 2701 17<sup>th</sup> St., Rock Island.

The annual memorial gathering provides parents the opportunity to share stories and memories of their lost infant. Additionally, there will be a reading of the names of the lost infants, prayer, music and a craft activity. For more information or to register for the memorial gathering, please contact Trinity's Pastoral Care department at 309.779.2989. Reservations are strongly encouraged. More info also on the Parish Nurse Blog Site [www.fccmoline.org](http://www.fccmoline.org)

*"How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?"  
(Psalm 13:1-2a, NRSV)*

Salt and pepper; peanut butter and jelly; tea and honey; coffee and cream; chronic pain and depression. Some things just seem to go hand-in-hand. Pain – especially the chronic/on-going kind, can wear down even the hardest of souls, and is often closely linked to depression. It can trigger a wide range of negative emotions: irritability, anger, fear, anxiety, and despair. It is estimated that 30-80% of people with chronic pain also suffer from clinical depression. Chronic pain stresses all aspects of our well-being – it certainly threatens our physical, but also our emotional, spiritual, even sometimes our financial health. People with chronic pain have 3 times the average risk of developing psychological symptoms, and depressed people have 3 times the average risk of developing chronic pain. Roughly 32 million people report having had pain lasting longer than one year. Those whose pain limits their independence are especially likely to become depressed. Why? Depression and chronic pain share some of the same neurotransmitters – brain chemicals - as well as some of the same neural (nerve) pathways in the limbic region of the brain – the area which

serves as the seat of our emotions. Yet depression associated with chronic pain often goes untreated – the pain often takes center stage during a typical 15-20 minute office visit. As the depression magnifies pain, it reduces our coping skills. Chronic pain may be difficult to eliminate, but almost always can be managed. Treatment often takes a multi-dimensional approach, which may include your regular healthcare provider, pain or palliative care specialist, psychiatrist and/or a therapist.

Medications are now available which work by effecting brain chemicals that are responsible for both mood and pain. Talk or cognitive-behavioral therapy can also help the individual deal with depression by exploring the mind-set or attitudes of the sufferer in regard to his/her pain, by sometimes uncovering long-standing emotional conflicts or negative thoughts that contributed to suffering, and by exploring some of the losses that may have been triggered by the chronic pain. Often a combination of both treatments will need to be utilized in order to lead to an improved sense of well-being. Once initiated, it is important to understand that treatments may take time to become effective, and because we all experience pain and depression differently, may require changes/adjustment to accommodate the needs of the individual.

Physical exercise also can be an important aspect of treatment. Exercise releases some of the same brain chemicals as anti-depressants. It is crucial that the individual work with his/her doctor to design an exercise plan that is safe and effective, and does not worsen the pain.

Chronic pain and depression may lead to spiritual crisis, resulting in a feeling of hopelessness, a sense of abandonment, questioning the meaning of life, and in severe cases, even consideration of suicide. An important aspect of being with those who suffer is listening with one's whole being. – without judgment of feelings that may be expressed. Gently assist them in exploring additional pain management techniques. A daily prayer ritual may bring some relief or at least a diversion from pain. Learning meditative prayer and/or relaxation techniques can also be very beneficial. Finally, maintain ties with our congregation – through visits, providing, cards, flowers, taped worship services. Being a part of a compassionate, praying community is a vital means of social, emotional, and spiritual support.

(Resources: [www.kpnmccitymax.com/Janet Barton/DebbieBest](http://www.kpnmccitymax.com/JanetBar-ton/DebbieBest). [www.webmd.com/depression/guide/depression-chronic-pain](http://www.webmd.com/depression/guide/depression-chronic-pain); [www.johnshopkinshealthalerts.com/reports/healthy\\_living/3034-1.html?type=pf](http://www.johnshopkinshealthalerts.com/reports/healthy_living/3034-1.html?type=pf); and [www.health.harvard.edu/newsweek/](http://www.health.harvard.edu/newsweek/)



# Calendar

## Saturday, April 10

- 10:00 am Habitat for Humanity, Son Café
- 10:00 am Youth Group, Yard Work at Starbergs' Home
- 5:30 pm Worship, Large Dining Room

## Sunday, April 11

- 9:00 am Worship
- 10:00 am Fellowship, Son Café
- 10:00 am Church School
- 10:10 am Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Red Flames Room
- 11:00 am Worship
- 5:00 pm Confirmation, Sanctuary/Parlor/Board Room

## Monday, April 12

- 6:15 pm PEO Meeting, Son Café
- 6:30 pm Youth Group/Board
- 6:30 pm Mary Kay Meeting, Parlor

## Tuesday, April 13

- 1:00 pm Embroiders' Guild, Large Dining Room/Son Café
- 4:00 pm Prenatal Class, Parlor
- 7:00 pm Confirmation meets with Church Council, Board Room
- 7:00 pm Church Council Board Meeting, Board Room
- 7:00 pm Banjoleers, Choir Room

## Wednesday, April 14

- 10:00 am Bible Study, Parlor
- 12:30 pm Book Group, Parlor
- 2:00 pm Class of '55 Meeting, Son Café
- 3:00 pm Warm Fuzzies, Large Dining Room
- 5:30 pm Youth Choirs Rehearsal
- 6:00pm Metro Mini Makers, Board Room
- 7:15 pm Bells Rehearsal, Bell Room
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

## Thursday, April 15

- 9:00 am Foot Clinic, Large Dining Room
- 10:00 am Prayer Group, Parlor

## Saturday, April 17

- 10:00 am Youth Group, Yard Work at Rohrbachs' Home
- 5:30 pm Worship, Large Dining Room

## Sunday, April 18

- 8:00 am Christian Hospitality Meeting, Parlor
- 9:00 am Worship
- 10:00 am Fellowship, Son Café
- 10:00 am Church School
- 10:10 am Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Red Flames Room
- 11:00 am Worship

## Monday, April 19

- 10:30 am Rock Island County Historical Society, Large Dining Room
- 4:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting, Board Room
- 6:30 pm Youth Group/Board
- 6:30 pm Mary Kay Meeting, Large Dining Room

## Tuesday, April 20

- 9:00 am Retired Folks, Village Inn, 53<sup>rd</sup> St., Moline
- 12:00 pm Staff Appreciation Lunch, Son Café
- 4:00 pm Prenatal Class, Parlor
- 4:00 pm CommU, Son Café
- 6:00 pm Mission Board Meeting, Parlor
- 7:00 pm Habitat for Humanity, Son Café
- 7:00 pm Banjoleers, Choir Room

## Wednesday, April 21

- 10:00 am Bible Study, Parlor
- 10:00 am Newsletter Mailing, Library
- 12:30 pm Book Group, Parlor
- 3:00 pm Warm Fuzzies, Large Dining Room
- 5:30 pm Youth Choirs Rehearsal
- 7:15 pm Bells Rehearsal, Bell Room
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

## Thursday, April 22

- 9:00 am Card Ministry, Library
- 10:00 am Prayer Group, Parlor
- 6:00 pm Quilters, Board Room

## Newsletter Article

### DEADLINES:

**Fridays 5:00p.m.**

**April 16**

**April 30**

**May 14**

**DATES ARE FINAL, SO BE SURE TO GET YOUR ITEMS TO THE OFFICE ON TIME!**

**Email your items for the newsletter to [coral@fccmoline.org](mailto:coral@fccmoline.org)**



# Happy Birthday to...



## April

1. Uvon Case  
Stacey Miller  
Paul Renaud  
Susan Llewellyn  
Lori Churchill
2. Cindy Erickson  
Sheila Nelson
3. Neal Payden
4. Rebekka Jacobs
5. Ruth Gustafson  
Debbie Newcomb  
Shannon Whitmer
6. Mary Woodburn  
Vicki Zude  
Darien Sanders
7. Carol Freeman  
Mary Kay Johnson  
Maynard Neighbors  
Alexander Wandrey
8. Megan Newell
9. Frank Loomis  
Nancy Henning
10. Lucy Manis
11. Anna Payden  
Duane Spellious  
Bob Klingborg
- 12.
13. Pat Arp  
LeRoy Hull
14. Penny Quick  
Zack Newcomb  
Spencer Marchant
15. Mike Bealer  
Kelsy McCormick  
Tanya Wandrey
16. Jack Unzicker  
Jenna Zimmerman
17. Janet Minnehan
18. Kim Mitchell  
Brad Fandel
19. Sharon McCool
20. Laura Schippers
21. Dixie Duckett  
Anna Churchill
22. James Mowen  
David Seyller  
Julie Campagna  
Judy Lalonde  
O. B. Rowlands
23. Cliff Carlson  
Dan Neff
24. Lois Florence  
Sylvia Belha  
Audra Bailey
25. Nick Hillyer
- 26.
27. Dan Moorhusen  
Mary Newcomb  
Matthew Cavins  
Michael Dyer  
Sarah Michl
28. Julie Keith  
Bill Payden  
Susie King
29. Lisa Payden  
Luke Adamson  
Wendy Simmon
30. Mary Smart  
Jake Dahl  
Katherine Douglas

*Please let the  
church office  
know if we  
have missed  
your special day!*



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**First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ**  
2201 Seventh Avenue  
Moline, Illinois 61265

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Return Service Requested

We want to be good stewards of the church's financial resources.  
If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact  
Coral at 309.762.0787 or coral@fccmoline.org. Thank you!

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Mission Statement of First Congregational Church
Seeking, Serving,
and Sharing Christ