

Congregational Tidings



*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

A weekly newsletter



March 4, 2020

**Second Sunday
in Lent
March 8, 2020
10:30 am**

**Pastor Scott Spence
will present the
sermon:**

*Fasting From...
Being First*

Scripture Reading
Mark 10:32-52

Worship Leader
Diana Paige

Deacon-In-Charge
Jill Jensen

Acolytes
Beth Lauterbach
Kay Leary

Greeters
Tim & Vicki Ahrens
Laurie Allbaugh

March Ushers
Bruce Jensen
Jim Stevenson
Bob Tefft
Rich Thuesen

Lent Sermon Series:

Lent is traditionally a time of spiritual focus and reflection, an opportunity for Christians to adopt a new faith practice or discipline. Each Sunday during this season our worship will focus on the idea of fasting—the concept of reducing or ending a habit or routine. Traditionally this has been associated with food but with the help of the Gospel of Mark we will look at many different types of fasting.

If you know of a family member or friend who are thinking about getting back into church, this is a great opportunity to invite them to FCUCC!

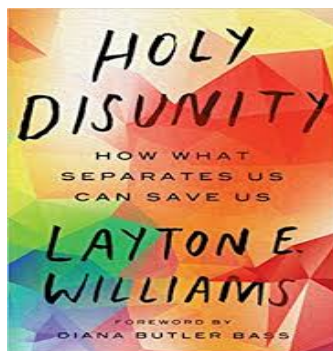
March 8: *Fasting From...Being First* Mark 10:32-52

March 15: *Guest Preacher Evie Waack* Mark 12:1-17

March 22: *Fasting From...Our Image* Mark 12:28-44

March 29: *Fasting From...Judgement* Mark 13:1-8, 24-37

April 5 (Palm Sunday): *Fasting From...Power* Mark 11:1-11



Lent Book Study

Our Lent Book Study will take a look at *Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us* by Layton Williams. Williams is a PC(USA) pastor whose book is appropriate for our divided times.

From the title description: *These days, there's no dirtier word than "divisive," especially in religious and political circles. Claiming a controversial opinion, talking about our differences, even sharing our doubts can be seen as threatening to the goal of unity. But what if unity shouldn't be our goal? In Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us, Layton E. Williams proposes that our primary calling as humans is not to create unity but rather to seek authentic relationship with God, ourselves, one another, and the world around us. And that means actively engaging those with whom we disagree. Our religious, political, social, and cultural differences can create doubt and tension, but disunity also provides surprising gifts of perspective and grace. By analyzing conflict and rifts in both modern culture and Scripture, Williams explores how our disagreements and differences—our disunity—can ultimately redeem us.*

The book can be purchased through the Church Office for \$15 or through Amazon. Class begins tonight and All Are Welcome!

Scott's Public Office Hours:

(3:00 - 5:00pm)

*3/4 - Cup of Joe (Cedar Falls)

*3/11 - Side Car (Downtown, W'loo)

*3/25 - Starbucks (1501 Flammang, W'loo)

VOLUNTEER



Directory Helpers Needed

If you are available and willing to help Michelle put together the new 2020 directories (folding/stapling) next Wednesday, March 11th at 10:00am please email her at fcuccoffice@gmail.com if you can help. Thank you!

Bunger Journal Buddies...



Journals are back! If you have a buddy, please pick your journal up this Sunday and return it as soon as possible so we can get them back to our Bunger students.

Office & Publishing News:

The office will be closed **March 16 - 20th**.

There will be NO Tidings that week.

Deadline for the **March 22nd** Sunday Bulletin is 9am on Thursday, March 12th.

Lenten Project:

Are you able to help package meals to benefit the poor in our area?

Volunteers are needed on Packaging Day, **March 11th** from 10am for set up, 12:30 to 8pm for packaging and 8pm until done for cleanup.

If you would like to participate, contact Derek Mineart (Project Coordinator) at dsmineart@gmail.com with the names of your volunteers and the desired shift (either 12:30 to 2pm or 6:00 to 8:00pm).

For more information, please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the Crossroads.

Congratulations

Our Organist Hudson Lourenço was married to Joe Feld last Sunday after Worship. Thank you to Anne and Greg Hoekstra for serving as witnesses to this happy occasion. Congratulations to Hudson and Joe!

Thank You and Happy Birthday David Greene!

It was February 19, he was 19 and would turn 20 in two and a half weeks. In the next 5 months the bloodiest battle in Marine Corps history would take place. He couldn't buy a beer, he couldn't vote, but he could fight and die for his country. During the battle for Iwo Jima, 27 Marines and sailors would earn the Congressional Medal of Honor. The largest number ever awarded in a single battle in U.S. military history. Uncommon valor was a common virtue.

The Marines suffered their worst casualties of the Pacific War (and in their history) by the time the battle for the island was over, with almost 6,000 dead and over 17,000 casualties, with additional Navy sailors killed and wounded. Out of the 21,000-man Japanese garrison, only 200 Japanese surrendered. The rest fought to their deaths.

We stand today in the shadow of one of those Marines, the young man who now turns 95 that ensured our liberty. Thank you, happy birthday, *David Greene*, I hope we are living lives that make you feel the fight was worth your sacrifice.

VBS Planning Meeting

We are partnering with multiple churches for VBS again this year. The first planning meeting will be held **March 12th at 5:30pm at Trinity**. Anyone interested in volunteering this summer are welcome to attend this meeting.

Sunday School

Gathering (9:00 - 9:15 am)

Youth and adults initially will meet in the chapel.

Classes (9:15 - 10:15 am)

Students 3rd - 5th grade will gather in the chapel with Katie Thomas.

Children ages pre-K - 2nd grade will meet with Jayne Slaughter in the downstairs children's nursery / classroom.

The Adult class meets in the Friendship Room.

Weekly Events

Thurs., March 5

6:00 - Bells Practice

Sun., March 8

9:00 - Sunday School
10:30 - Worship with communion

Mon., March 9

Community Meals

Tues., March 10

6:00pm - Trustees Meeting

Wed., March 11

3 - 5 pm - Public Office Hours
6:00 - Potluck
6:30 - Choir Practice
7:00 - Pastor's Class
Youth Group

My Civil Rights Excursion

Issue #984 | February 27, 2020

Executive Associate and Team Leader of the Education for Faithful Action Plus (EFA+) Team in Justice and Local Church Ministries

Recently, I went on a civil rights tour with my colleagues to Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama. It was a powerful experience, with the unique opportunity to understand the region through the perspective of a colleague who had been born in Birmingham.

As a proud African American male who grew up amid the civil rights crusade, I had always wanted to visit these key cities. While most of the information on the tour was not new to me, the emotional experience was challenging.

In Birmingham, we toured [16th St. Baptist Church](#) and the [Civil Rights Museum](#), walked through [Kelly Ingram Park](#), and visited the [jail cell where Rev. Dr. King](#) was last held while in Birmingham five months before his assassination in Memphis, TN by James Earl Ray in 1968. By the end of the day, I was emotionally raw.

In Montgomery, we had the opportunity to tour the [Legacy Museum](#), built on a site where enslaved people were warehoused before auction, and located merely a few blocks away from a shipping dock and railroad station where thousands upon thousands of African descendant peoples were trafficked. The museum provoked all one's senses—visually, audibly, and tactilely.

Afterward we headed over to the [National Memorial for Peace and Justice](#), which identifies itself as “the nation's first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence.” By the end of our excursions, I and my colleagues were emotionally drained. We had spent two days being immersed in civil rights history. It was a mini “crash course” for religious professionals who work on social justice issues.

The most challenging lesson for me during that immersion had to do with Whites' misuses of the Bible to deem African descendant people legally inferior and regulated by segregation, a.k.a. [Jim Crow Laws](#). Of course, I was aware of the falsehood of white supremacy. I grew up in a home where Jim Crow was openly discussed. I learned about “[separate, but equal](#)” in my public-school education. I was able to deepen my knowledge of these matters while applying a theological lens while in my seminary degree programs.

Still, my civil rights excursion emphasized something I (re)examined closely for quite some time: Humankind can do evil things to one another when fear is the underlying motivator. The depths of this brand of evil breaks my heart. The racist “othering” persists today. The ways in which people of color who attempt to cross the U.S. southern border are treated demonstrates this “othering” tactic. It is a tool utilized against many non-white groups who are considered to be outside of the dominant culture.

I feel it important to name that in order to deem a group the “other,” they must be presented and accepted as less than human by those attempting to create the narrative. When such a myth is adapted by the dominant group, the “othered” group suffers—emotionally, economically, legally, physically and more. I have faith in a God who has the power to transform even the coldest evil heart. I also believe history bears out my belief.

I have heard it said that laws cannot regulate human hearts; only relationships can transform them. Yet I believe that without the passing of laws, those relationships may not have been possible, at least not legally. [The Civil Rights Act of 1964](#), [the Voting Rights Act of 1965](#), and [the Fair Housing Act of 1968](#) came together to end the legal sanctions of the Jim Crow laws. While those laws put an end to the legal segregation of Blacks, there are still many racial prejudices against them in the 21st century.

While there are still many battles to be won in the name of civil rights, my recent immersive experience has refueled my passion to continue to advocate for change. I stand on the shoulders of many women and men who lost their lives so future generations could be free to live without the threat of humiliation or death. I pray that my colleagues who were present, and those reading this, will also (re)commit to advocate for change. Because in the end, and in the eyes of God, Black Lives Matter.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Bentley deBardelaben-Phillips is Executive Associate and Team Leader of the Education for Faithful Action Plus (EFA+) Team in Justice and Local Church Ministries for the United Church of Christ.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, we are planting seeds of new life. Together, we are investing in communities worldwide: providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all. These are just a few ways the OGHS offering touches God's children, in addition to disaster relief and refugee initiatives.

Through your generosity, the world is a better place. But more is needed. You have an opportunity to plant seeds into the lives of others. Be a co-worker with God. Building, planting, watering...and trusting that God gives growth to all good gifts shared in faith. Thank you for your partnership. Thank you for your generosity!

**We will collect this special offering during our
Worship Service on Sunday, March 29th.**



Don't Forget:

**Turn your
clocks
forward
March 8th**



Time to
Spring Ahead

First Congregational UCC
608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Congregational Tidings

Place
Stamp
Here

Create an endowment of love. Please consider including our church in your estate planning.

F I R S T C O N G R E G A T I O N A L U C C

From the UCC Historical Council

“Helen Kenyon: A Remarkable Church Leader in Difficult Times”

The shaping of the United Church of Christ in the 1940s and 1950s was difficult. Although leaders in the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church were deeply committed to Christian unity, their views of autonomy and ecclesiastical practices were different. One group worried about a “merger,” while the other group concentrated on the “union.” Even today UCC historical language flips back and forth between “merger” and “union.”

In 1949 some members of the Cadman Memorial Church (Congregational) in NYC, who believed that the “merger” violated the local autonomy of all parties, filed a lawsuit in a New York court. The combination of Congregational polity and judicial legalities required the case to be called “Cadman vs. Kenyon,” because the Congregational Christian Churches had elected a woman named Helen Kenyon as moderator in 1948. On January 26, 1950 the New York Supreme Court upheld the case and stopped all activities leading to the UCC. Finally, in December 1953 the decision was overturned by the New York Court of Appeals and the UCC was born in 1957.

Helen Kenyon (1884-1978) was the first woman to be elected Moderator in Congregational Christian Churches. She attended all the legal hearings and kept extensive notes (now in the archives at the Congregational Library in Boston).

Contemporary UCC members know little about this amazing woman. In 1928, she became the first female chairperson of the Vassar College Board of Trustees. The UCC, however, needs to remember and be thankful for Helen Kenyon’s church leadership during some difficult times.

Contributor: Kendall H. Brown

