

MESSAGE
FROM THE PASTOR



ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST

On Wednesday, February 22, St. Paul's Church celebrated Ash Wednesday together with an evening service of worship. It is no coincidence that Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance and confession – and always includes the imposition of ashes, a penitential tradition that harkens back to the Hebrew Bible. The ashes remind us that we are made from dust, and to that dust, we shall return. Ash Wednesday is a solemn day: it reminds us of our mortality; it reminds us that death is very near, and very real.

Ash Wednesday is serious business. Death is serious business. And yet, I wonder if Ash Wednesday might, at the same time, have something to teach us about *not* being so serious, about not taking *ourselves* so seriously.

If we come from dust, and are going back to the dust, that means that nothing, ultimately, is in our hands. God created us from the ground, and, with God, we're going back to the ground. We trust that God will hold us there; that, even in the grave, God will not forsake us.

We can also trust that today – with our work and worship, our discernment and prayer, our hopes and dreams, *all* of it – is up to God. Nothing is up to us, ultimately. And if that is true, then we might start to worry a little less about details and deadlines, our future and our fears. What if Ash Wednesday, in all its seriousness and solemnity, *also* teaches us, simply, about living for today, just today, and not worrying about tomorrow?

From ashes we came. To ashes we will return. And through it all, we belong to God. This is serious – and wonderful – business. Thanks be to God!

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Moderator's Message from Jerry

Greetings and Blessings to all,

Have you noticed all of the activities on St. Paul's calendar especially during Lent and right up to Easter Sunday? There are many opportunities to join with the St. Paul's family during this holy time.

Lent began at our church on Ash Wednesday. The service was very dignified and represented the start of a period of confession with the hope and assurance that we are reconciled with God. We came to the service not knowing what to expect and left realizing that we are all children of God and the He loves us even though we are not perfect and even broken. We can all look forward to this faith journey during lent with Mary Beth.

The next event will be the start of the Lenten suppers with our end-of-the-month potluck on the last Wednesday of February and continuing to the Wednesday before Holy Week. The suppers will include a short Lenten devotional and fellowship time. They will all start at 6:00pm. I hope many of you will participate in these opportunities for worship.

St Paul's will also host a Lenten luncheon on March 21, 2012. Mary Beth will speak at the March 14 luncheon at the E Free Church. On April 1st we will celebrate Palm Sunday. On April 5th, St Paul's will have our annual Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00pm. St Paul's will host the Sunrise service on Easter Sunday, April 8, at 7:00 am. Our choir will join forces with St. John's choir to present some special music for this time of worship. This will all culminate with our Easter Sunday worship service at 10:30. In between these two services St Paul's youth will sponsor an Easter breakfast.

What a very holy time this will be with Mary Beth as our spiritual leader! You can find all of this information in our Sunday bulletins and on line at stpaulsuccchurch.com.

Gerald Wibe, Moderator

Diaconate News:

After Church on March 11, during the coffee hour, the Diaconate will be asking the members in attendance to take a few moments to fill out a very short survey.

We want to know how St Paul's is doing and what we (as a Diaconate Committee) can do to improve on anything. This is all part of our duties while we have an interim Pastor and April is contract renewal time. If you can't be in church on the 11th, we will have some surveys available on the 18th.

Thank You from the Diaconate Committee

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father,
and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being,
creates man in his own image
and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people
from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth,
our crucified and risen Lord,
he has come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people
of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost
and joy of discipleship,
to be his servants in the service of men,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
his presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him.





He is
RISEN

9:00 Sunday School

10:30 WORSHIP

11:30 FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

2012 March/April



St Paul's United Church of Christ
112 South Cedar St
Madison, Iowa 50128

United Church
of Christ



Lenten Luncheon Schedule:

Feb 29th at Garden Prairie - Pastor Jim Bruch

March 7th at St. Malachy's - Pastor Denny

March 14th at Evangelical Free - Pastor Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

March 21st at St. Paul's - Pastor David Veencamp

Lunch will be served by Lay Life and Work – soup, salad, rolls, dessert

March 28 at Hopkins Grove - Pastor Marcus Badgley

Lenten Calendar of Events

March 7 - 6:00PM Lenten Supper - Soup

March 14 - 6:00PM Lenten Supper - Maid-Rites

March 21 - 11:30AM Lenten Luncheon @ St Paul's

6:00PM Lenten Supper

March 28 - 6:00PM Last Lenten Supper - Potluck

April 5 - 7:00PM Maundy Thursday Service

April 6 - Community Passion Walk

April 8 - 7:00AM Sunrise Service with St John's - Communion by the Pastor's

8:00AM Youth Group Easter Breakfast

(Watch for sign-up sheets for breakfast supplies)

10:30AM Easter Worship Service – Communion



Friends of Madrid Home Communities are gearing up for another productive year, beginning with our annual membership drive. Funds raised this year will be used to create more pleasant surroundings for residents by updating lounge areas at the Madrid Home and replacing worn furniture at Ballard Creek and the Cedars. You can become a Friend of the Madrid Home Communities for a donation of \$30 or more (see Carl to join). The drive ends with the Annual Meeting on March 15th.

There is a new **St Paul's Facebook Group** called - **St Paul's UCC Madrid Ia** . So please join the new group. Contact Carl Duling if you have questions about this. Thank you, Carl!

News from Finance and Mission Committee

Though we haven't officially met yet. through emails we have started to work. We hope to have our first meeting when Norma gets back. with the help of Joan & Connie, we are in the process of getting the Memorial Record Book and the Memorial Wall Plaque updated. The plaque is off the wall right now and will be taken to an engraver shortly.

A special thanks to the Men's Group for the wonderful Valentine's Dinner. Once again food was great, fellowship was wonderful and a great time was had by all!

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) Basic Support and Special Support provide funding for the work of UCC Conference and National ministries in support of the life and work of the local church and its members. OCWM changes lives by strengthening our ecumenical relationships and global partnerships, by imagining and embodying a better world through prophetic witness and work, and by providing resources and programs to nurture the vitality of our United Church of Christ congregations.

One Great Hour of Sharing



One Great Hour of Sharing, the refugee, relief and development offering of the United Church of Christ, transforms lives through health, education, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries.

Strengthen the Church



Funds new church starts and invigorates existing congregations
Nurtures lay and pastoral leadership
Builds youth and young adult ministries
Supports the God is Still Speaking Ministries and its extravagant welcome for all within the United Church of Christ.

Neighbors in Need



A special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

The Christmas Fund



Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors, with a "Thank You" Gift Check at Christmas, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums and provide Emergency Grants to active and retired clergy and lay employees.

The mission of the Christmas Fund is to provide assistance dollars in situations of critical need, while preserving the dignity of those who receive the aid.



What Is Holy Week?

The week preceding Easter is known as Holy Week. It begins on Palm Sunday and is traditionally a week of somber reflection on the events preceding Jesus' death: his triumphant entry into Jerusalem; his betrayal by Judas; his Last Supper with his twelve apostles; his arrest, crucifixion and death; and his burial in a tomb.

Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy Week. It is the Sunday before Easter, and the beginning of the Christian Holy Week. It celebrates the story of Jesus's triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. Palm Sunday marks a turn in Christian churches' observance of Lent from a time of discipline and sorrow for one's sins to a time of looking ahead to the Passion (suffering and death of Jesus and His Resurrection).

On Holy Thursday (also called Maundy Thursday), Christians commemorate the Last Supper—a Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples the night before his death. During the meal, Jesus broke bread and offered his followers wine, saying "This is my body, given up for you."

Good Friday is observed as the day Jesus was crucified and died. It is the most somber day on the Christian calendar.

Easter Sunday celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus and is the most important Christian holiday, surpassing even Christmas. It is a celebration of the day Jesus rose from the dead, Easter symbolizes forgiveness, rebirth, and God's saving power.. During the 40-day period beginning with Ester Sunday, Christians celebrate the time when Jesus reappeared to some of His followers. This period ends on Ascension Day or Ascension Thursday.

The Easter season concludes 10 days later with the feast of Pentecost, when the apostles reported that the Holy Spirit had entered into them. Christians believe that the church began at that time.



Easter lilies are used to decorate churches and homes. The large, pure white blossoms remind Christians of the pure new life that comes to them through the Resurrection of Jesus. **Watch for details from Worship Committee to see how lilies can be donated to decorate St. Paul's for Easter Sunday.**



March Birthdays

- 3/01 Sidney Kirkpatrick
- 3/01 Reuben Peterson
- 3/02 Emily McCarty
- 3/03 Barbara Olson
- 3/06 Jim Janovick
- 3/06 Wes Mathes
- 3/08 Connie Duling
- 3/16 Mary Tweedt
- 3/18 Abbie Wibe
- 3/19 Joe Mataya
- 3/20 Joan Latta
- 3/21 Jan Young
- 3/25 Roger Peterson Jr.
- 3/26 Elsie Gayer
- 3/28 Carl Duling

March Anniversaries

Anyone have a March Anniversary?

April Birthdays

- 4/04 Deb Latta
- 4/04 Eric Taylor
- 4/05 Lynn Pelisek
- 4/12 Chelsie Adams
- 4/12 Alicia Duncan
- 4/15 Clark Douglas
- 4/18 Chad Janovick
- 4/19 Sue Barker
- 4/19 Jim Latta
- 4/19 Marie Olson
- 4/19 Mildred Shoeman
- 4/20 Erik Olson
- 4/22 Carol Carlson
- 4/22 Willard Lundahl
- 4/23 Irene Wilcox
- 4/24 Mike Saxton
- 4/29 Janice Sloan

April Anniversaries

- 4/07 DeDe & Dave Novotny
- 4/16 Deb & Tim Latta



CONGRATULATIONS!

Matt and Alicia Duncan on the birth of their baby boy. Henry Douglas Duncan was born in Ames, IA on January 26, 2012. Henry was welcomed home by big sister, Elizabeth.

Todd and Mandy Peitig on the birth of their baby boy, Alexander William. Alexander was born in Des Moines, IA On February 2, 2012.

Just Married

Larry and Norma Shepard happily share the news that, on January 23, 2021, while visiting friends, Julie Shepard and Jeremy McCarty were married at the City Hall in San Francisco, CA. The McCartys are back home at 8684 Stoneberry Dr., West Des Moines, IA 50266.

Congratulations, Julie and Jeremy!



From the Kids' Korner...

Remember to join us in church on March 11 (the beginning of Daylight Savings Time) for Family Sunday! We will be singing a special song! On April 1, Palm Sunday, we will be passing out palms, as well as singing! May will be our last performance until fall.

- ♥ We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 8!
- ♥ Please continue to save pop tabs for our field trip to the Ronald McDonald House in April. You can bring these to church and give to one of us kids or to our teachers, Deb or Karen.
- ♥ If possible, please save your loose change for our mission project, "Loose Change To Loosen Chains." More information on this to come in March!
- ♥ Thanks to our church family for all the support!

St. Paul's Kids

JELLY BEAN PRAYER

**RED IS FOR THE BLOOD HE GAVE.
GREEN IS FOR THE GRASS HE MADE.
YELLOW IS FOR THE SUN SO BRIGHT.
ORANGE IS FOR THE EDGE OF NIGHT.
BLACK IS FOR THE SINS WE MADE.
WHITE IS FOR THE GRACE HE GAVE.
PURPLE IS FOR HIS HOUR OF SORROW.
PINK IS FOR OUR NEW TOMORROW.
A BAG FULL OF JELLY BEANS
COLORFUL AND SWEET,
IS A PRAYER, IS A PROMISE,
IS A SPECIAL TREAT
MAY THE JOY OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION
FILL YOUR HEART AND BLESS YOUR LIFE.**

