

The Messenger

March 2010

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

COMMUNION

We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** on Sunday, March 7, during our regular Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 am. Coffee Hour will be held after the service. Please bring some goodies to share.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

TWILIGHTER'S MEETING

The Twilighters will meet on March 10 at 12:00 pm for a covered dish lunch.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Remember to set your clocks ahead for Sunday, February 14, for the beginning of Daylight Savings Time.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the Youth Group will be on March 14 at 6:30 pm at Pastor Penny's.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

LENTEN SUPPER AND SERVICE

Each Wednesday during Lent we will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm for a light supper prepared by members of our church. After our meal, at 7:00 pm we will then proceed to the Sanctuary for our Lenten Worship Service. If you cannot join us for supper, please come later to worship and for spiritual food. Everyone is welcome.

30 HOUR FAMINE

MARCH 26 TO 27

Our youth will again participate in World Vision's 30-Hour Famine. The 30-Hour Famine is an international youth movement to fight hunger.

OPERATION SNOWFLAKE

If our Worship Services need to be cancelled due to bad weather, please tune in to radio stations WARM, Magic 93, 97BHT, 97.9X, or JR93.7.

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From The Pastor's Desk

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! Thinking about Lent and giving up something for these 40 days I have come to the conclusion that we have all given up sunshine. Can't wait for the big snow storm that is supposed to hit tomorrow.

As one church sign that I saw said, "Whoever is praying for snow - Please Stop."

We invite all of you to join us for our Wednesday night Lenten suppers and services. Supper is a wonderful time of fellowship for all who attend the suppers. The food is deliciously prepared by a member of the congregation and enjoyed by all. For the service time I am going to present a Bible study on *"Behold, the Lamb of God"*. It begins; "Today we are beginning a journey of discovery, to learn what it means to call Jesus 'the Lamb of God.'" It is written by Dr. James F. Wilson of *jesuswalk*. The first study is "Concepts of Sacrifice", the second is "The Lamb Who Took Our Place". Hopefully we will get some new insight into the sacrifice that was made for us in Jesus Christ.

The Spiritual Committee has met and will be doing some visitation in the near future. We are working to get our membership rolls to reflect who the members really are. We all need to help support our church in any way we can. There are lots of things coming up this spring that you can read about in the newsletter that will give you plenty of opportunities to serve. Most will require time commitment from everyone. Please consider serving.

Thanks for all you do for our church. I am so happy to be a part of this community of faith. Archie and I thank God that we were brought here to be with you and to serve God in Dorrance and the surrounding areas.

Blessings!

Pastor Penny

Our Condolences

We offer our sympathy and support to Val Zane and her family on the loss of her father, Jack Reidy. Many of us knew Jack as one of the people who responded to our 911 call. His volunteer spirit will be missed and we pray for God to ease his family's sorrow.

Thank You

Thank you to Cliff Readler for replacing the missing and broken shingles on the Fellowship Hall. We are grateful that you are able to keep a roof over our heads.
Ron Rinehimer

Diane Burke and Betty Davidson expressed their thanks for the monetary gift we donated after the passing of Diane's husband, Ernest Burke, Jr. Diane is left to raise their four sons and our gift will be used to purchase a marker for their father's grave. Their card is on the bulletin board in the bell tower.

Lancaster Theological Seminary sent a thank you letter for our benevolence donation of \$500. This is to fulfill our commitment as outlined in our budget.

DISASTER RELIEF

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!! We received \$890 during the month of January for OGHS relief for Haiti. This is unprecedented for us. We support the OGHS offering every year, but this year has been phenomenal and you deserve a big pat on the back for your generosity. The pictures of destruction and devastation in Haiti came too close to home. We often think that such desolation only happens half a globe away – to those on the other side of the world. This reality check has been significant, but only shows the tip of the iceberg.

Through our OGHS offering, we support UCC initiatives around the world and in our own “back yard.” Since the Haiti earthquake, many people asked about volunteering on site. As the coordinator for recovery, Church World Service, suggested that the need for kits, baby and hygiene, were more appropriate at this time. And so we sent 26 hygiene kits and more are being assembled.

Seeing the desire of many people who wanted to do more hands-on work, the United Church of Christ and Church World Service have partnered to rebuild homes in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. On June 14, 2008, the Cedar River overran its banks and inundated Cedar Rapids, demolishing the city, including its oldest neighborhood, Time Check. In all, 5,390 homes were destroyed by the flood and a series of tornadoes which preceded it. CWS has organized an “ecu-build”, an ecumenical rebuilding project, named Neighborhood: Cedar Rapids to replicate their Neighborhood: New Orleans project. All too often, after the headlines are gone, the people and their needs are forgotten. “The disasters here in Iowa have fallen off the radar screen for many people but the needs are still great,” said Rev. Michael Stadie, disaster response manager for Lutheran Services in Iowa. “The economic crisis and other disasters have drawn attention elsewhere.” CWS and its partner organizations, including the UCC, attempt to keep eyes focused on needs that have not been met. Neighborhood: Cedar Rapids will bring together volunteers from at least 10 agencies from April 12 to May 21, 2010.

Cedar Rapids is not the only recipient of aid from our OGHS offerings. Butler County, Indiana; Terre Haute, Indiana; Martinsville, Indiana; and Lakeshore Area Regional Recovery in Northwest Indiana are also hosting disaster recovery trips.

An ice storm on January 22, 2010, brought down 6,000 utility poles which provided electricity for the Cheyenne River Lakota Reservation in South Dakota. Many had no heat or electricity and, eventually, no

water when the water treatment plant lost power. The UCC South Dakota Conference responded with donations which included \$3,000 from OGHS. These donations set up shelters and provided supplies to their wide-spread residents. The reservation has approximately 2 million acres and many of the Lakota live in outlying rural areas. In his February 4, 2010, report to the UCC, Pastor Louie Blue Coat advised that the communities of On-The-Trees, Green Grass and White Horse were still dark and without water. Even so, he wrote, “We are most appreciative and humble-hearted at the outpouring of financial assistance that has come, not just to the Dakota Association, but also to the Cheyenne River Lakota Tribe. We, as an association of churches, recognize that Christ is at work among us, even during our trials and tribulations. It is friends such as you that put Christ into action and enable us to take that message out to those who are suffering, feeling hopeless, needing help and finding that help through our ministry....In our Lakota language, “Lila Wopila,” or (many thanks)! Your love and generosity cannot be repaid, but will never be forgotten. You will be in our hearts and prayers and we ask that our Creator bless each and every one of you.”

In September 2009, torrential downpours swelled creeks and rivers in many Georgia communities. In a report on the UCC website dated September 24, 2009, the UCC noted: “The UCC in partnership with CWS has a commitment to respond to technology caused disaster which includes what happens in natural disasters. Contaminated flood waters have damaged homes. The focus in Georgia in this immediate time is, of course, health and safety for volunteers and home owners cleaning out their homes. 750 Tyvek suits and 750 pairs of goggles are being sent from the UCC; along with 1,500 N95 respirators and 4,600 pairs of latex gloves from CWS to the area affected by the floods. These items will provide some protection during clean up.” As many as 3,000 homes were damaged, but assessments needed to wait until the flood waters receded.

As these stories show, disaster relief is not a one-shot deal. The effects of a disaster linger on much longer than the news reports about them. By contributing to OGHS, we support those who provide aid response and volunteer their efforts to rebuild communities and restore the lives of victims. For more detailed information or to volunteer, go to our UCC website – ucc.org. There you will find many areas for volunteering by clicking Change the World → Disaster Response. There is still need – here at home and around the world.

EVENING SERVICES IN LENT

We will continue through the season of Lent with supper and service on Wednesday evenings (except March 31). The suppers will begin at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Each week different volunteers will prepare a light meal for us to enjoy together. After our meal, we will gather for worship at 7:00 pm. Whether you are able to join us for supper or not, everyone is encouraged to come worship as we reflect on our response to Christ's sacrifice of love.

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

TWILIGHTERS

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, March 10, at 12 noon for a covered dish lunch. Bring your favorite dish and spend some time with us. Call Lois Eigenbrod or Mary Eroh for more information about our group.

OGHS OFFERING (REVISITED)

We have been gathering our OGHS offering to aid the victims of the earthquake in Haiti only to be faced with another disaster: the earthquake in Chili. As of the printing of this newsletter, over 700 people have died and according to a statement by their President Michelle Bachelet a "growing number" of people are reported missing. Aid is again being coordinated through CWS and as soon as we get more information, we will let you know other ways to help respond to this new disaster. For now, please continue to support OGHS with your offerings which will provide food, water and emergency shelter for the victims. Also, remember to pray – hard.

YOUTH GROUP

ST. VALENTINE'S DINNER

The St. Valentine's Dinner was awesome. We had a good time serving up some romance (and good food). Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success, those who purchased the food, prepared it, and who helped set up on Saturday through clean-up on Sunday. We especially want to thank everyone who came for the dinner. The kids couldn't have done it without all your support. You really show how much you care about our youth.

The next Youth Group meeting will be at 6:30 pm on Sunday, March 14, at Pastor Penny's.

The **30 Hour Famine** is set for **March 26 and 27**. This year's theme is "on an empty stomach". Most of you already know how that goes. We experienced empty stomachs on previous 30-Hour Famines. The focus is that no one should die because their stomach is empty, but all around the world, kids do. Here are some stats from World Vision's webpage:

Global Hunger & Poverty

- **Each day, over 25,000 children under the age of 5 die** from preventable diseases such as malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and acute respiratory infections. Malnutrition is associated with over half of those deaths.
- **More than 1 billion people in the world don't get enough to eat.** That's one of every seven people on the planet.
- **143 million children under age 5 in the developing world are underweight because of poor nutrition.** That's about one in three children in developing countries.
- In the last 50 years, **400 million people worldwide have died** from hunger and poor sanitation. That's **three times the number of people killed in all wars fought in the entire 20th century.**
- **Moderately underweight children are more than four times more likely to die** from infectious disease than are well-nourished children. And **under-nutrition contributes to 53 percent of deaths among children under 5 globally.**
- Countries in which a large portion of the population battles hunger daily are usually poor and often lack the social safety nets we enjoy, such as soup kitchens, food stamps, and job training programs. When a family that lives in a poor country cannot grow enough food or earn enough money to buy food, there is nowhere to turn for help.
- Of the 6.6 billion people in today's world, **2.1 billion live on less than \$2 per day.**

Domestic Hunger & Poverty

- 35.5 million people - including **12.6 million children** - live in households that experience hunger or the risk of hunger. This represents more than **one in ten households** in the United States (10.9 percent).
- **4.0 percent of U.S. households experience hunger.** Some people in these households frequently skip meals or eat too little, sometimes going without food for a whole day. **11.1 million people, including 430 thousand children, live in these homes.**
- **6.9 percent of U.S. households are at risk of hunger.** Members of these households have lower quality diets or must resort to seeking emergency food because they cannot always afford the food they need. **24.4 million people - including 12.2 million children - live in these homes.**
- Preschool and school-aged children who experience severe hunger have higher levels of chronic illness, anxiety and depression, and behavior problems than children with no hunger, according to a recent study.

Now, aren't you glad to have a full stomach with three meals a day, plus snacks? Anyone participating is asked to begin by not eating lunch on Friday, the 26th. We'll count down the 30 hours from there.

Marc Davis

YOUTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

If you know of any of our youth who deserve recognition for their scholastic, talent or sports abilities, please let me know. Better yet, if there is a news article, cut it out and give it to me. Thanks, Denise

The honor rolls are out and we've got some smart alecks in our church:

Wilkes U. Dean's List: Mike Daniels, Amanda Kemmerer and Stacy Kemmerer.

Holy Redeemer Honors: Meredith Martin

MMI Honor Roll: Keegan Farrell

Crestwood Middle School Honor Roll:

Principal's Honors: Kimmy Bernetski

High Honors: Autumn Atkinson and Glynis Dean

Crestwood High School Honor Roll:

Principal's Honors: Kelly Madigan, Marc Davis, Jordan Pickering

High Honors: Rachelle Heller, Justin Rinehimer, Courtney Kania, Alecia Myers, Sami Dauber

Honors: Kyle Prelewicz, Eric Rinehimer, Allison Bernetski, Jacob Mylet, Kelly Sufrinko

Sunday School News

I would like to thank everyone who donated health kits in response to our February Mission project. The children really had fun assembling the ones they donated. They did that one Sunday instead of their regular craft project and had a great time.

We have also been receiving our Sunday School OGHS offering. So far our children have donated \$23.68. Most of the offering is in change which points out that they raided their own "piggy banks". I am so pleased that our children understand the value of giving to others.

Easter Party

Our Sunday School Easter Party will be on Saturday, April 3, from 10 am to 12 noon. Each child should bring six candy eggs for the egg hunt and a basket or paper bag to collect their eggs. We will also be making a craft and, of course, painting toast. A light "breakfast" (cereal, fruit, etc.) will be served.

Lisa Rinehimer

MUG SHOTS

Check the front entrance bulletin board for the following mug shots:

Brooke Rinehimer, Brooke Aton, and Samantha Kotarsky earned their "Hats for the Homeless Badge" by collecting hats and gloves to donate to the Saint Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen. They are members of Daisy Troop 30180.

Morgan Rinehimer is pictured with the other members of the Tall in the Saddle 4-H Horse and Pony Club. The club recently presented their year end awards and certificates. Ride on, Girl!!!

The Sunday School Kids had fun addressing Valentines for the Valentines for Vets campaign. You can see them hard at work in the pictures on the bulletin board.

We also celebrated the **100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts** on February 7. The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts joined local churches in worship that Sunday, demonstrating one of the key tenets of Scouting, duty to God. After worship, the Scouts sponsored a coffee hour enjoyed by all.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Any 2010 envelopes which have not been picked up have been moved to the table outside the Secretary's office.

2009 Cemetery Association Report

Working Fund

Beginning Balance	\$19,289.03
Receipts	<u>4,589.95</u>
	23,872.98

Expenses	<u>-4,111.61</u>
Ending Balance	\$19,761.37

Perpetual Care Fund

Beginning Balance	\$45,950.00
Receipts	<u>800.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$46,750.00

Total	<u>\$66,511.37</u>
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

CONSISTORY

The **Consistory** will meet on Thursday, March 18, at 6:30 pm.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – The Consistory would like to form a Buildings and Grounds Committee. Anyone wishing to volunteer for this Committee, please see any Consistory member or Pastor Penny.

UPCOMING DATES

Mar. 7 – Communion & Coffee Hour
Mar. 14 – Daylight Savings Time begins
Mar. 28 – Palm Sunday
Apr. 1 – Maundy Thursday Service
Apr. 2 – Good Friday Service – 12 pm
Apr. 4 – Easter

NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the April Messenger is Monday, March 22. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

CHURCH CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave Myers has placed a 2009 calendar in the custodian closet. We encourage you to sign up for any week during the year to clean your church. Our church as been cleaned by our volunteers for over 12 years and is something anyone can do to help out. Please see Dave or call him at 868-3655 if you have any questions or would like to help with this very important volunteer project.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

MARCH 2010

I have made a “2010 Volunteer Schedule” sign-up sheet for those who would like to be Greeters, Liturgists and Acolytes. Please pick a date or two (or three). This way you can choose the dates when you are available, instead of having them assigned by me. Some of the dates are already filled in (Hooray!!). For the liturgists, I will provide a copy of the bulletin either by paper for you to pick up or via e-mail, so that you can review it before Sunday morning. Thanks. Denise

March 7

Greeters: Don Myers and Carol Duffy
Liturgist: Jim Rinehimer

March 14

Greeters: Frank and Joan Partington
Liturgist: Meredith Martin

March 21

Greeters: Connie Davis and Caroline Cronic
Liturgist: Paul Thomas

March 28 (Palm Sunday)

Greeters: Bob Heller and Doris Yurchak
Liturgist: Beverly Kramer

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

Dave & Rosemary Myers
Clifford & Gladys Readler
Diana Decker
John and Linda Jankowski

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2	Jane Rinehimer	9	Gloria Schreyer	28	Brian Heller
2	Ashley Sabonas	12	Debbie Fine	28	Samantha Kotarsky
2	Ron Day	14	Devin Stein	29	Amanda Bickham
3	Carey Hoffman	16	David DeLuca	29	Joe Huntzinger
7	Jason Mellas	21	Lisa Caffrey	29	Lois Huntzinger
7	Cindy Heller	23	Hailee Smith	31	Gwen Sakowski
7	Dorothy Hoyt	24	Deven Kamat	31	Michael Supkowski
9	Reece Mylet	26	Brad Frey	31	Bethany Newell
		27	Connie Miller		

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

March 20, 1982.....Bob and Helen Heller

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