

The Good News

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

ANGOLA, IN

FEBRUARY 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Our Diversity Dream Team is launching a new series called PULSE! Check out the details on page 6.**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Screen	2
Stephen Ministry	2
Church Council	3
News in Brief	3
Volunteer Schedule	4
February Calendar	5
PULSE	6

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship

We will begin the 40 days of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service on February 10 at 7 p.m.

This service will include the imposition of ashes and the celebration of Holy Communion.

Join us for this quiet, meditative start to the Lenten season.

Lent is a time of introspection as we prepare for Easter. It's a time for us to think seriously about what we can do for



these 40 days (minus Sundays) to open ourselves up to that introspection.

You may decide to give something up or perhaps to take something on. Whatever you choose, make sure that it is something that will lead you closer to God ... Something that will deepen your relationship with God. ❤️

UCC StoryCorps: Sharing our faith stories

During Lent, we will be sharing our faith stories - and recording them - as a way to deepen our Lenten journey.

We will have a sign-up sheet for those who are interested and you will be paired up with another interested person; each will share a 30 minute faith journey story.

There will be "prompt" questions provided for you to interview each other. This model is based on the popular "StoryCorps" on NPR.

We would also suggest that these "pairs" become "prayer partners" throughout Lent, praying for each other every day.

This is one activity you can "take on" that might help deepen your Lenten journey.

These narratives will be achieved as an oral history of our church and our church members in preparation for our 150th anniversary in 2019.

Please consider taking

part - we want to hear everyone's story!

These will be scheduled at times convenient for the two people and again, they will be recorded. ❤️





Pastor Deb Davis

From the Pastor's Screen

As you read this, Paul and I will be on Fort Myer's Beach ... hopefully getting some sun and some R&R.

For me that beach is sacred space ... I've been going there since I was in the 6th grade when my family traveled there to visit by two great aunts, Laura and May, at the time 100 and 98 respectively.

Those two swam with us in the ocean during that visit ... on a beach that was basically wild. They surely wouldn't recognize their beloved beach today.

There are lots of buildings and lots of people there now, but if you sit in a chair and look out at the water, sometimes I forget all of that and just remember that wild, wonderful

beach ... my first experience of the ocean and how sacred it was.

As we all prepare for Lent, I hope you can find a sacred space to spend some time, to center your heart and mind, and open yourself to the living God who waits for us to accept the grace that is so freely given.

Blessings,

Pastor Deb

Stephen Ministers offer support

The mission of Stephen Ministries is summed up in Ephesians 4:12-13: "To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ."

A cluster of activities make up a Stephen Minister's job description. Ministers are assigned care receivers - people in crisis who need caring support. They pray daily for their

care receivers. They care for those in moderate difficulties and they are not counselors or therapists - they hold their care receiver's hand as he/she walks journeys through life.

Most Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receivers for approximately an hour. They may check in by phone, especially if the care receiver is going through a difficult time. They may use special skills, such as listening, dealing with feelings, maintaining boundaries, and recommending professional care when need-

ed. This is all done while maintaining confidentiality.

Stephen Ministers would meet twice a month for continuing education and supervision with leaders. Peer supervision provides encouragement and ensures that no Stephen Minister will ever have to carry the responsibility for his or her care receiver all alone.

About 11,000 congregations are enrolled in this program. If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or have questions, please talk to Rita Lechleidner or Pastor Deb.

**"Most
Stephen
Ministers
meet weekly
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care
receivers."**

News in Brief



Women's Book Study

Out of the Bible Study will begin "A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson on Wednesday, February 10 at 9 a.m. in Pastor Deb's office.

Join us!

Women In Black

Women in Black will stand on Saturday, February 13 in front of the courthouse.

Folk are invited to gather from 10-11 a.m. and stand in protest of war and domestic violence. WIB is an international movement to end all forms of violence.

Write Tribe

Jennifer Decker will engage you with writing "cues" on Saturday, February 13, at 11

a.m. at Cahoots! Bring a notebook and pen for Write Tribe!

Soup & Scripture

Pastor Deb leads a Soup & Scripture session at Cahoots each Tuesday at 12 noon. Join us for a look at the lectionary scriptures for the next Sunday.

Friday Prayer Group

The Friday Morning Prayer Group meets each Friday at 9 a.m. at Cahoots.

In February, Women's Book Study will continue the book "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks on Mondays, February 15 & 29 at 2 p.m. in Pastor Deb's office.

Church Council highlights

Church Council met on Sunday, January 10 and the following items were among those discussed/approved/reported:

Council voted to request that anyone hanging any materials on our walls are asked to first seek Council approval;

Stewardship reported that 2016 pledges surpassed those in 2015;

Deacons continue to meet with Moderator Jill Powers to discuss job descriptions and Parish Groups;

Christian Education reported that the youth did a wonderful job on their Christmas eve play; also youth would like their own Kids' Council and asked for assistance and input from Council;

Trustees will look into painting the organ pipes gold;

Proposed banners for the outside of our building were presented to Council; three were voted to take to Bi-annual meeting for Congregational approval. These banners would hang on the east wall of the building facing the parking lot and would be



changed on a regular basis.

Council will meet on Sunday, February 14 following worship; complete minutes and financial reports are available in the church office as well as the minutes to a special Council meeting on January 24th.



February Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 10 - Erik Finley
- 11 - Rose Eastes
- 12 - Carol Carpenter
- 13 - Linda Driver
- 13 - Marjorie Lilley
- 16 - Paul Nailor
- 17 - Bonnie Snyder
- 20 - Janis Groth
- 20 - Barbara Lotter
- 21 - Veryl Carpenter
- 23 - Matt Julien
- 24 - Sally VandenElst
- 25 - Kathleen Burns
- 25 - Dave Snyder
- 14 - Ron & Bette Lenaburg
- 27 - Sally & Jon Welter



February volunteers

Date	Liturgist	Greeters	Children's Sermon
Feb 07	Rita Lechleidner	Bev Gerner & Marge Mueller	Vicki Harris
Feb 14	Marty Diller	Anne Eddy & Norma Baker	Rita Lechleidner
Feb 21	Lynn Simons	Dawn & Ari Mays	Marj Lilley
Feb 28	Ron Hays	Marj Stoudinger & Grandkids	Michelle Olson

Date	Usher	Refreshments	Counter
Feb 07	Sue Myers	Walt & Marj Lilley	Cheryl Myers
Feb 14	Sue Myers	Keith & Judy Goodrow	Marge Mueller
Feb 21	Sue Myers	Marj Stoudinger & Couch family	Gayle Newton
Feb 28	Sue Myers	Sponsored by Linda & Joe Driver	Dave Syler

Upcoming this month

- February 10** - Ash Wednesday Worship 7 p.m.
- February 7 & 21** - Youth Group Meets at 3:30 p.m.
- February 13** - Cahoots Valentine's Dinner
- February 27, 28 & 29** - Philip Gulley at Plymouth UCC, Fort Wayne



February Calendar



- 2 - Men's breakfast 8 a.m. Mama's Place
- 2 - Soup & Scripture noon Cahoots
- 5 - Prayer Group 9 a.m. Cahoots
- 7 - Worship 10 a.m.
- 7 - Youth Group 3:30 p.m.
- 9 - Soup & Scripture Noon Cahoots
- 10 - "Out of the Bible" study 9 a.m.
- 10 - Ash Wednesday service 7 p.m.
- 12 - Prayer Group 9 a.m. Cahoots
- 13 - Women in Black 10 a.m. Courthouse
- 13 - Write Tribe 11 a.m. Cahoots
- 14 - Worship 10 a.m.
- 14 - Church Council meets 11:30 a.m.
- 15 - Women's book study 2 p.m. Deb's office
- 16 - Men's Breakfast 8 a.m. Timbers
- 16 - Soup & Scripture Noon Cahoots

- 17 - "Out of the Bible" 9 a.m. Fellowship Hall
- 17 - Cancer support group 2 p.m. Rita's office
- 17 - Bell & Chancel Choirs 5:45 & 7 p.m.
- 19 - Prayer Group 9 a.m. Cahoots
- 21 - Worship 10 a.m.
- 21 - Uppity Women class 11:15 a.m.
- 21 - PULSE 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall
- 21 - Youth Group 3:30 p.m.
- 23 - Soup & Scripture noon Cahoots
- 24 - "Out of the Bible" 9 a.m. Fellowship Hall
- 24 - Bell & Chancel Choirs 5:45 & 7 p.m.
- 25 - Families of Inmates group 6 p.m.
- 26 - Prayer Group 9 a.m. Cahoots
- 28 - Worship 10 a.m.
- 29 - Women's Book Study 2 p.m. Deb's office

"Our Prayer Discussion continues Sunday, February 7 following worship."

About the Community

- We extend sympathy to **Margie Frazier** on the death of her husband, **David**, and to **Michelle Olson** on the death of her friend, **Lorrie Cohen**.
- In the Hospital ... **Martin McEntarfer**. 
- Homebound ... **Maryellen Hays**.

From the Prayer Chain

Guardian of my soul, thank you,
 for guiding me in the dark places,
 for reaching me through the people
 of my life,
 for drawing near to love me when I
 feel unlovable.
 For teaching me how to tend my
 wounds,

For guarding me with words of truth
 and moments of empowerment,
 for allowing my pain and struggle
 so that I can come to greater
 wholeness.
 Guardian of my soul,
 you are my Coach in the Cave,
 my Voice in the Fog,

my Midwife of Wisdom.
 I place my trust in you
 as I give myself to the process
 of learning from my darkness.

Joyce Rupp

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First Congregational United Church of Christ, as an inclusive and caring Christian community, welcomes into its full life and ministry person of every race, ethnic background, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, marital status, criminal history and faith background. As we serve those within our church family, the community and the world in the name of Jesus Christ, we celebrate each person's uniqueness and look forward to the gifts they bring to us.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Pulse diversity series begins



In February we will begin a new diversity series we are calling PULSE.

This has come out of our Visioning Process and will offer information on various areas of diversity.

On Sunday, February 21, following coffee hour in Fellowship Hall, Dawn and Marv Mays will present information on the transgender experience followed by a question and answer session.

Join us for this informational session!

Calendar

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