The Good News

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

ANGOLA, IN MARCH 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Meditation will continue on the third Thursday of each month. The next gathering will be on March 17 at 6 p.m. These sessions are led by Jeff Smith; all are welcome!**

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Holy Week opportunities

Holy Week will begin with our Palm/Passion Sunday worship on March 20th.

On March 24th at 7 p.m. we will gather for our Maundy Thursday worship and then at noon on March 25th, our Steuben County Ministerial Association's Community Good Friday Service will be at the Angola United Methodist Church.

On Easter Sunday we will have our Sunlight Service at 7:30 a.m. at Ball Lake, at the home of the VandenElst's, followed by our annual pancake breakfast from 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Our Easter worship will follow at 10 a.m.

A reminder: There will be no Coffee Hour following worship.

Youth have fun tobogganing!

Our youth had great fun tobogganing at Pokagon State Park on Sunday, February 21.

The youth ended their rides with time in the Warming Center sharing their hot chocolate and S'mores with other tobogganers! They decided that was a great service project!

Thanks to Celia Motz, Sue Myers and Jill Powers for supervising this fun afternoon!

Youth Kylie Endsley, Sienna Fee and Paige Powers have fun on the toboggan run at Pokagon State Park on a recent Sunday afternoon.

From the Pastor's Screen

Pastor Deb Davis

"What is your biggest regret?"

We are now well into Lent and hopefully you have been thinking about some of the questions that have been raised in our Lenten sermons.

Questions like: "What is your biggest distraction in getting closer to God?"... "What is the best decision you ever made?"... "What is your biggest regret?" ... and "Where does your confidence come from?"

We will be thinking together about these questions after worship on March 6.

These questions and others like them can provide a great jumping off place for our UCC StoryCorps interviews about our faith journeys.

We are now scheduling these discussions ... between you and someone you'd like to know better ... after worship on Sundays.

These discussions will be taped and archived as a part of our church's

history as we prepare for our 150th anniversary in 2019.

But these "interviews" can also be a great way to get to know someone else - as well as ourselves - better.

So grab a friend and sign up for an interview time! And if you don't make it during Lent, that's OK. We will be doing these over the next several months.

Blessings, Pastor Deb

Easter Lily order form

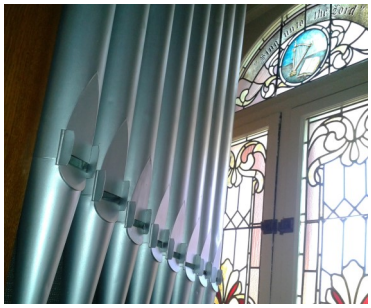
Name _____

Phone _____

No. of lily's at $15 _____ for a total of _____

Please return, with payment, to the church office by Monday, March 14th.

News in Brief



Women's Book Study

Out of the Bible Study will continue "A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson on Wednesday, March 2 at 9 a.m. in Pastor Deb's office.

Join us!

Women In Black

Women in Black will stand on Saturday, March 12 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, March 12, 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 March, Women's Book Study will continue the book "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks on Mondays, March 7 & 21 at 2 p.m. in Pastor Deb's office.

Church Council highlights

Church Council met on Sunday, February 14 and the following items were among those discussed/approved/reported:

Moderator Jill Powers met recently with current and former Deacons to redevelop their job descriptions, including Parish Group leadership. The proposed plan would reassign the congregation into two Parish Groups, each headed by two Deacons.

Parish Groups will assign a "buddy" to each new member, who would also attend the Welcoming Class with the new member.

Kim Couch, Christian Education Co-Chair, reported that several folks had signed up to serve on the Vision Youth Committee and to assist in teaching Sunday School. Lois McEntarfer, assisted by Celia Motz, is leading the Youth Group which meets on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Council reviewed the banners with changes suggested at the Annual Meeting and gave them final approval. They will hang on the east side of the building facing the parking lot.

Council will meet on Sunday, March 13 following worship; complete minutes and financial reports are available in the church office.

"The kids are loving Youth Group!"

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 - Heather Burkett

2 - Kara Olson

5 - Anna Armstrong

5 - Max Miller

7 - Bette Lenaburg

7 - Peggy McDowell

10 - Raymond McHenry

21 - Betsy Eyrich

26 - Jennifer Decker

26 - Lynn Hartman

27 - Anne Eddy

29 - Anna Finley

19 - Paul and Marty Diller

March Volunteers

Date	Liturgist	Greeters	Children's Sermon
Mar 06	Marj Lilley	Cheryl Myers & Marty Diller	Celia Motz
Mar 13	John French	Karen Miller and Jennifer Decker	Vicki Harris
Mar 20	Rita Lechleidner	Powers family	Rita Lechleidner
Mar 27	Jim Simons	Celia Motz & Sue Myers	Marj Lilley

Date	Usher	Refreshments	Counter
Mar 06	Greg Burns	Marty, Jeanine, Lauralee, Sally	Jim & Lynn Simons
Mar 13	Greg Burns	Roger & Christine Krueckeberg	Marj Stoudinger
Mar 20	Greg Burns	Lynn & Jim Simons	Linda Driver
Mar 27	Greg Burns	Easter Breakfast	Ralph McDowell

" Join us for our Easter Pancake Breakfast from 8:30-9:30 a.m."

Upcoming this month

March 6 & 20 - Youth Group 3:30 p.m.

March 24 - Maundy Thursday service 7 p.m.

March 25 - Good Friday service 12 noon AUMC

March 27 - Sunrise Service 7:30 a.m. Ball Lake

- Pancake Breakfast 8:30-9:30 a.m.

- Easter Worship 10 a.m.

March Calendar

1 - Men's breakfast 8 a.m. Mama's Place
1 - Soup & Scripture noon Cahoots
2 - "Out of the Bible" 9 a.m. Pastor's office
2 - Bell Choir/Chancel Choir 5:45 p.m./ 7 p.m.
4 - Prayer Group 9 a.m. Cahoots
6 - Worship 10 a.m.
6 - Lenten Questions/Sunday school 11:30 a.m.
6 - Youth ministry team meeting 11:30 a.m.
6 - Youth Group 3:30 p.m.
8 - Soup & Scripture Noon Cahoots
9 - "Out of the Bible" 9 a.m. Pastor's office
9 - Bell Choir/Chancel Choir 5:45 p.m./7 p.m.
11 - Prayer Group 9 a.m. Cahoots
12 - Women in Black 10 a.m. Courthouse
12 - Write Tribe 11 a.m. Cahoots
13 - Worship 10 a.m.
13 - Church Council meets 11:30 a.m.
15 - Women's book study 2 p.m. Pastor's office
15 - Men's Breakfast 8 a.m. Mama's Place
15 - Soup & Scripture Noon Cahoots
16 - "Out of the Bible" 9 a.m. Pastor's office
16 - Bell Choir/Chancel Choir 5:45 p.m./7 p.m.
17 - Cancer support group 2 p.m. Rita's office
17 - Meditation 6 p.m. Sanctuary
19 - Prayer Group 9 a.m. Cahoots
20 - Palm Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
20 - *PULSE*/Sunday school 11:30 a.m.
20 - Youth Group 3:30 p.m.
22 - Soup & Scripture noon Cahoots
23 - "Out of the Bible" 9 a.m. Pastor's office
23 - Bell & Chancel Choirs 5:45 & 7 p.m.
24 - Families of Inmates group 6 p.m.
24 - Maundy Thursday service 7 p.m.
25 - Prayer Group 9 a.m. Cahoots
25 - Good Friday service AUMC 12 noon
27 - Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 a.m. Ball Lake
27 - Easter Pancake Breakfast 8:30-9:30 a.m.
27 - Easter Worship 10 a.m.
29 - Soup & Scripture noon Cahoots
30 - "Out of the Bible" 9 a.m. Pastor's office
30 - Bell & Chancel Choirs 5:45 & 7 p.m.

"On Sunday, April 3, we will have an informational meeting to begin our Stephen Ministry Program."

About the Community

- Homebound … **Maryellen Hays**

From the Prayer Chain

God of infinite goodness, throughout the ages you have persevered in claiming and reclaiming your people.

Renew for us your call to repentance, surround us with witnesses to aid us in our journey, and grant us the time to fashion our lives anew, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

First Congregational

United Church of Christ

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First Congregational United Church of Christ, as an inclusive and caring Christian community, welcomes into its full life and ministry persons 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 set for March

We will continue our new diversity program, *PULSE*, on Sunday, March 20th, as Lillian Stoner provides information on the second wave of feminism. (She will be doing a similar presentation at Trine University as a part of its "Humanities Symposia.")

As a former union organizer and current National Organization for Women (NOW) and peace activist, she will discuss some of her experiences in the women's movement in the 1960s and 70s.

Join us after worship in the Community Room!

Calendar

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