

Summit Congregational United Church of Christ



“SUMMIT SPARKS”

April, 2024

563-582-5661

Website: www.summitucc.org

Summit Congregational United Church of Christ
2885 J. F. Kennedy Rd.
Dubuque, Iowa, 52002-1081

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	1 1:30pm - Bible Study	2 6:30pm - Barbershoppers	3 9am - Pastor's Office 6:30pm - Wednesday	4	5	6
7 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	8 1:30pm - Bible Study	9 9am - All Church Cleaning 9am - Pastor's Office 6:30pm - Barbershoppers	10 6:30pm - Wednesday	11 9am - Trustees	12	13
14 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	15 9am - Pastor's Office 10:30am - Diaconate 1:30pm - Bible Study	16 6:30pm - Barbershoppers	17 6:30pm - Wednesday	18	19	20
21 10am - Food Pantry gifts 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	22 1:30pm - Bible Study 4pm - Council meeting	23 9am - Pastor's Office 6:30pm - Barbershoppers	24 6:30pm - Wednesday	25	26 Sparks Articles Due!	27
28 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	29 9am - Pastor's Office 1:30pm - Bible Study	30 5:30pm - Tri-church 6:30pm - Barbershoppers	1 6:30pm - Wednesday	2	3	4

Sweet Inspirations ...

It is hard to believe Lent is almost over and we are entering into Holy Week. **Palm/Passion Sunday** Service will be at Summit at 10:00 AM. For **Maundy Thursday** we will be joining with Immanuel and First Cong. at Immanuel for a soup supper at 5:30 PM followed by worship at 6:30 PM. Pr. Kaity Kemp from First Cong. took the lead on planning this year's Maundy Thursday Service and members from all 3 churches will be participating in leading various parts of the service.

On **Good Friday**, St. Luke's UMC is once again hosting an Ecumenical Good Friday Service from Noon – 3:00 PM on the seven Last Words of Christ. I will be sharing a reflection on the fourth word which is "My God, why have you forsaken me?". Ernie will be the Scripture Reader for that segment. I invite you all to come to as much of the service as you would like. Here is the order of that service so you can see the time and topics of each word and who is reflecting on them.

12:00 p.m. Intro – 12:15 p.m. The First Word: Luke 23:26, 32-38 "Father, forgive them"

Preacher: Jeffrey Durham, GracePoint Church

12:35 p.m. The Second Word: Luke 23:39-43 "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Chris James, UDTS

1:00 p.m. The Third Word: John 19:25a-27 "Here is your son; here is your mother."

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Susan Forshey, UDTS and St. John's Episcopal Church

1:25 p.m. The Fourth Word: Mark 15:33-34 "My God, why have you forsaken me?"

Preacher: Rev. Karen Candee, Summitt UCC

1:45 p.m. The Fifth Word: John 19:28-29 "I am thirsty."

Preacher: Rev. Jason Davis, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

2:10 p.m. The Sixth Word: John 19:30 "It is finished."

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Winston Persaud, Wartburg Seminary

2:30 p.m. The Seventh Word: Luke 23:44-49 "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

Preacher: Rev. Tim Bees, First Baptist Church (retired)

Closing: Liturgist: Rev. Stephanie Schlimm

This year for **Holy Saturday** we are trying something new. From Noon – 3:00 we will have our sanctuary open for anyone who may want to stop in for a personal time of prayer and reflection. I will be present during that time should someone desire to speak with a pastor.

Easter Sunday Service will be at Summit at 10:00 AM beginning at the empty tomb and entering into the rejoicing of the Risen Christ and what it means for us still today.

A few years back I was asked by the TH to submit what I hoped people would get out of Holy Week in 100 words or less. I would once again like to share those thoughts with you.

Holy Week Reflections

As we journey through Holy Week, I pray that we may encounter the depth of God's love and desire for redemption over condemnation in a way that transforms our lives here on earth.

Too often we focus on where we will be spending eternity, yet "now" is a part of eternity. Jesus' prayer of intercession, while nailed to the cross "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." demonstrates God's desire for hearts to be transformed by God's love and forgiveness that allow us to let go of past wrongs and move into a new future with God.

This Holy Week and beyond, let us journey with Jesus and one another in ways that inform and transform our lives in the here and now, allowing us to experience the presence of God with us, and allowing us to be the presence of God's light shining forth into the world. In Philippians 2:5-9 ERV, Paul gives this advice to that community, "*In your life together, think the way Christ Jesus thought. He was like God in every way, but he did not think that his being equal with God was something to use for his own benefit. Instead, he gave up everything, even his place with God. He accepted the role of a servant, appearing in human form. During his life as a man, he humbled himself by being fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death—death on a cross. So God raised him up to the most important place and gave him the name that is greater than any other name.*"

May God's Peace, Hope, Joy and Love fill and guide our lives always!

Pastor Karen



Holy Week

March 24, 2024 — Palm/Passion Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship celebrating the triumphal entry into Jerusalem

And transitioning into the events of Christ's Passion

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

March 28, 2024 — Maundy Thursday

Dubuque UCC Communities of Faith

Hosted at Immanuel Cong. UCC

5:30 p.m. Free Soup Supper

6:30 p.m. Order for Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary

March 29, 2024 — Good Friday

Noon – 3:00 p.m. Ecumenical Good Friday Worship Service

focusing on the Seven Last Words of Christ.

Hosted by: St. Luke's UMC at 1199 Main Street in cooperation
with local clergy and congregations, come for part or all of the service.

Pastor Karen will be Preaching on the Fourth Word at 1:25 p.m.

March 30, 2024 — Holy Saturday

Time for Reflection

Sanctuary Open from Noon – 3:00 PM

March 31, 2024 — Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion beginning at the empty tomb
and entering into the rejoicing of encountering the Risen Christ

Easter Lilies



If you would like to donate an Easter Lily for the sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one, please bring it to church with you on Easter or sometime during Holy Week. Please notify Pastor Karen who it is from and for whom it is in memory or honor of as well as putting a card with your Lily stating who it is from and who it is for. We will put them in the church on Easter morning during worship. They will be posted in the May edition of the Sparks listing who has given the Easter Lilies and for whom they are given.



Graduation is Near

If you know someone graduating this year, we would like to help celebrate their accomplishments.

Please submit their name, from where they are graduating, what degree and or field of major if above high school graduation, important family relationships to that individual you would like to acknowledge, and any other activities or accomplishments you would like to acknowledge throughout that journey. Please submit them to Pastor Karen either in hard copy, a phone call or via email.

Blood Drive

Thank you to all who were able to donate to this very worthy cause.

We had a total of 9 donors, 2 of whom donated double red cells.

This gave us a total of 11 units of blood collected.

Eleven units of blood will impact the lives of 33 people.

Again, thank for giving the gift of life-giving blood!

Updated Church Directory

Since there have been many changes to our directory from when it was last printed, I have printed some non-pictorial copies of the updated addresses and phone numbers. Feel free to pick up your updated copy at church.

Contributors: Rev. Karen Candee, Flora Brown (clerk), Merlin Green (editor).

APRIL Birthdays		11 th	Dianne Grace
3 rd	Judy Prochaska	17 th	Ellen Guler
6 th	Flora Brown	20 th	Jacob Grace
7 th	Faith Welbes		

Important Calendar Dates:

Wednesdays each week	6:30 pm	Weekly ZOOM Fellowship
Tuesday, April 8	9 am	All Church Cleaning
Thursday, April 21	10 am	Summit Fellowship

Scheduled Committee Meetings Please remember that **ALL committee and council meetings are open to the congregation.**

Thursday, April 11	9 am	Trustees meeting
Monday, April 15	10:30 am	Diaconate meeting
Monday, April 22	4 pm	Church Council meeting

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2024 via Zoom

Present: Pastor Karen, Pat Kreimeyer, Judy Prochaska, Joanne Van Natta and Flora Brown

Pastor Karen opened the meeting with a reading. The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed, Joanne motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Judy seconded and the motion carried.

Trustees:

The committee determined they would not request the Community Development Foundation dividends until they are needed. There is nothing new regarding the stained glass windows so Tom will call Dubuque Glass for them to come and look at them. Two C/D's at Premier Bank were renewed for 7 months at 4.75%, due September 20, 2024. They were having problems with lines on the copier, which was able to be fixed, but the sales rep shared due to the age of the copier--finding parts is difficult, therefore, he provided quotes for a new similar copier. After discussion, they voted to purchase a new copier and stand for \$3,300.00, less \$500.00 discount for the old copier, plus tax. It will be about two weeks before delivery and they are not leaning towards using Memorial Funds for this purchase.

Diaconate:

The committee's main focus has been planning for Lent. The Ash Wednesday service went very well. Pastor Karen will be taking vacation in May--8-14th and 22-28th. The consensus of Church Council was to attend services at Immanuel on the 12th and have a hymn sing service on the 26th.

O/M/E:

Upcoming events: the blood drive is this Thursday. Church Women United is this Friday. The One Great

Hour of Sharing campaign is going on now through March 24th.

Christian Ed.:

The Bible study group continues to meet on Mondays at 1:30 pm, studying the book of 1 Corinthians.

Summit Fellowship:

No report.

Pastor's Report:

The last Tri-church meeting was on January 30th. The committee chose to collaborate on Ash Wednesday for both the supper and worship service. That combined supper and service went well. All 3 churches donated food and Pastor Karen received several comments, on Facebook, as well, on how meaningful the service was. Though Karen took the lead in planning the service, all 3 churches played a role in leading the service. For Maundy Thursday Pr. Kaity Kemp would like to take the lead on planning but since First Cong. will not be ready to have an event hosted in their building, Pr. Kaity will still take the lead in planning Maundy Thursday and Immanuel will host the activities being planned for that night.

Merlin volunteered to reserve the Packard Pavilion for our joint worship service and potluck at the Arboretum on August 4th with the Worship Service to begin at 10 am with the potluck to follow. He has reported to Karen that the reservation has already been made. They also decided that they would like to do a local Advent devotional again and will decide the theme at the July Tri-church Meeting. The next Tri-church Meeting will be April 30th at 5:30 pm. Laurie Bartolotta sent Karen the minutes from the last meeting. Karen then made a couple of adjustments and sent them back to her for her approval. Karen will then send those minutes out to the 3 churches in early to mid-April.

The next Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, March 21st from 3-6 pm. So far there are 9 slots filled. Karen attended the following meetings this month: Diaconate--3/4, Church Council--2/26 and Trustees--3/14. Karen had 1 member memorial service for Rev. Josephine W. Green on Saturday, March 9, 2024. Jo passed away on Friday, March 1, 2024. Thank you to all who helped in any way to celebrate Jo's life. Thank you also to Faith Welbes for doing the technology for the 2 Sunday mornings and the Saturday of Jo's service. Karen had 0 hospital visits, 1 nursing home visit and 2 home visits/Pastoral Care Sessions this past month. She continues to send out the weekly reflection letters and has had several pastoral phone calls.

The class, Starting Missional Communities, which Karen is taking along with Ann Herr, began on January, 16th. It is being offered as Continuing Ed. through the UD. They met in person for class on 1/22, 2/12 and 3/11 at the Wayfarer Coffee Shop on Washington. They have watched online lectures, read the book-- Being Church Doing Life by Michael Moynaghan and had to bring 3 quotes from that book they would like to lift up. They also practice the ministry of presence in the community. Karen has decided to do hers at The Yarn Soup Store on Main Street where a group gathers on Fridays to work on their crafts alongside others who like to craft. The next in person class is on April 8th. Karen will be reading and reporting on the book, The Innovative Church: How Leaders and Their Congregations Can Adapt in an Everchanging World by Scott Cormode.

Karen prepared announcements for the Sparks along with submitting her Pastor's Report to Council. She also assisted Flora in editing a couple of minor changes to her draft of the minutes for Church Council. Karen will once again be preaching on Good Friday at the Ecumenical Service at St. Luke's UMC. She will be preaching on the Fourth Word--(My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?) this year. Ernie

Schmitt has volunteered to be the reader for that day. Karen will be participating in CWU World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 22nd, which is being held at Summit. The focus of the service is on Unity. Karen and Joanne Van Natta will be here to make sure things are running smoothly. Ernie will be the organist for the service. All are welcome. Pastor has posted information for the Blood Drive, CWU World Day of Prayer and the Holy Week schedule on both the website and Facebook page. This year the sanctuary will be open on Holy Saturday from noon to 3 pm for anyone wishing to do some personal time of reflection and meditation during those hours. Karen will be present for that time.

Karen has had several communications with the leadership of Immanuel and First Cong. concerning the Maundy Thursday Service and Soup Supper. They are meeting at Immanuel on Wed. March 20th at 9:30 am to go over any logistics to do their best at making sure they are all on the same page. Karen will be reaching out to the homebound members to set up home visits over the next couple weeks. Karen contacted ACS Technologies concerning the copy machine beginning to leave streaks and they encouraged us to get a new machine as it is hard to get parts. A new Cyan drum was needed and they weren't sure they could get one let alone in time to run the bulletins for Jo's Memorial Service, so she reached out to First Cong. and Nikki ran the bulletins and dropped them off at Summit on Thursday. A new drum was installed on Friday, March 8th.

Old Business:

Pastor sent out reminders about donating Easter lilies.

New Business:

Sparks articles are due this Friday, March 22nd. Next meeting--Monday, April 22nd at 4 pm via Zoom. Pat declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Flora Brown, Clerk