



# The Window Newsletter

A monthly publication of First Congregational United Church of Christ  
900 Hodgson Street Eureka, CA 95503 (707) 445-5488

Carlotta Vallerga, Pastor

Libby Yee, Editor

April 2009



Holy Week

## Holy Week Events

***Palm Sunday Worship Service and Children's Palm Processional***  
Sunday, April 5th, 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. We will celebrate Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem.

***Maundy Thursday Service***  
Thursday, April 9th, 6 p.m. in Social Hall. We will join with 1st Christian Church in this family-style gathering with the Jewish tradition of the oldest woman present lighting the first candle. The tables will be in the form of a cross and will be graced with white cloths and white candles. After supper, we will continue with the

tradition of telling

the Passover story followed by a communion service around the tables. Everyone is encouraged to attend this special evening. **Please bring your favorite dish for the potluck dinner.**

***Easter Sunrise Service in the Garden***  
Sunday, April 12th, 6:30 a.m. We will gather in the garden under the blossoming cherry trees to sing hymns, read scripture and greet God's new day.

***Easter Sunday Worship Service & Flowering of the Cross***  
Sunday, April 12th, 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. During the singing of the first hymn, everyone is invited to bring a flower to put on the cross. Wear your Easter "bonnet" and celebrate Christ's resurrection. Following worship, there will be an Easter egg hunt in the yard.

At First Congregational United Church of Christ we gather to worship God. We know ourselves as a Christian community through worship, learning, fellowship, and service. As part of the Body of Christ, we seek to express, receive, and share spiritual wholeness, strengthen our knowledge of God's love for us and for all people, cherish individuality, and to be aware of and respond to the needs of all God's people.



Address label

### First Congregational United Church of Christ

900 Hodgson Street, Eureka, CA 95503  
(707) 445-5488  
e-mail: EurekaUCC@att.net

***"An Inclusive, Open and Affirming, Loving  
and Caring Community"***

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Sunday School during the worship hour  
Nursery Care is available.

Rev. Carlotta Vallerga, Pastor

Pastor Carlotta's Office Hours:

Tuesdays – by appointment

Wednesdays & Thursdays

9:00 AM – 12 PM in the Church Office

Fridays working from home

Available at any time if needs arise

Christine Tomascheski, Office Manager

Tuesdays & Thursdays

9 AM - 12 noon

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
900 Hodgson Street  
Eureka, CA 95503

**FORWARDING SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

## PASTOR'S VIEW

Last week we sang the hymn “In the bulb there is a flower” and I was reminded of how ready I am for things to change, spring to come, new life bursting forth. March has ended with cold winds and the season of Lent still marches on as we head into the ups and downs of Holy Week. The Lenten journey continues as we await the celebration of new life on Easter Sunday.

The first Sunday of April is Palm Sunday when we have our palm parade and celebrate the joy of the day, share communion, along with the acknowledgment that “In just five days” (choral anthem by the choir) things will change. The time between Palm Sunday and Easter is an important piece of our story.

In-between those times will be a Maundy Thursday service in the Social Hall where we will tell the stories of the dinner Jesus shared with his disciples. We will talk about the stories the Jewish people would have been telling about the Exodus and God’s presence with them through those difficult years.

On Friday we will remember Jesus’ trials and death. EIF did not plan a Good Friday Service for this year but I expect there will be some traditional services planned for that day. Check the newspaper for places and times.

Our courtyard trees are ready to burst forth for our Easter morning gathering. You may need to dress warmly and maybe even bring a blanket but the beauty and joy of the Sunrise Service in the garden area far outweighs any discomfort of cold or loss of sleep.

Of course the 10:30 service will provide warmth and comfort along with the great beauty of the Flowering of the Cross. There will be beautiful music; we will celebrate the triumph and mystery of the resurrection and the joy of new life.

The children will round out our morning with their Easter Egg Hunt while we adults stand and watch on the deck and offer words of encouragement to help them find all those eggs.

No matter what is going on in our personal lives, the rhythm of the season and the church year just keeps moving us forward in a flowing, rolling fashion. Let us all take a deep breath and allow the Holy Spirit to continue to move us through this Lenten journey and Easter season.



## April Serving Schedule

**Deacon of the Month** – Pete Vallerga

### April 5 (Palm Sunday):

Greeter: Stan Smith-Hanes  
Reader: Judie Norton  
Children's Sermon: Roberta Duggan  
Acolyte: Emma Pinches  
Ushers: Stan Smith-Hanes, Phil Smith-Hanes, Pete Vallerga, Dexter Luther  
Communion Servers: Michele Fell-Casale, Fred Jewett, Jr., Doralee Smith, Janet Foos

### April 12 (Easter):

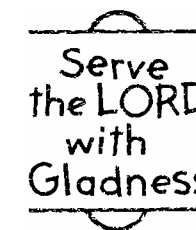
Greeter: Michele Fell-Casale  
Reader: Ted Adams  
Children's Sermon: The Pitts Family  
Ushers: Kim Pinches, Tom Schmidt  
Acolyte: Jordan Schmidt

### April 19:

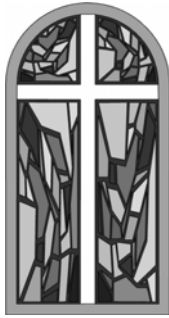
Greeter: Chris Miller  
Reader: Janet Foos  
Children's Sermon: Ted Adams  
Acolyte: Jennifer Schmidt  
Ushers: Fred Jewett, Jr., Tom Schmidt

### April 26:

Greeter: Howard Willson  
Reader: Roberta Duggan  
Children's Sermon: Kim Pinches  
Acolyte: Emma Pinches  
Ushers: Ted Adams, Raul Leon



**Remember!**  
**Scrip is the no cost to you**  
**Fundraiser!**  
**So don't go shopping without it!**



## April Lectionary

### April 5 Palm Sunday

Mark 11: 1-11 or John 12: 12-16 & Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29, Isaiah 50: 4-9a & Psalm 31: 9-16, Philippians 2: 5-11 & Mark 14: 1-15:47 or Mark 15: 1-39, (40-47)

*Into Jerusalem*

### April 12 Easter Sunday

Acts 10: 34-43 or Isaiah 25: 6-9 & Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 or Acts 10: 34-43, John 20: 1-18 or Mark 16: 1-8

*Now What?*

### April 19

Acts 4: 32-35 & Psalm 133, 1 John 1: 1-2:2, John 20: 19-31

*Marks of Faith*

## April 26

Acts 3: 12-19 & Psalm 4, 1 John 3: 1-7, Luke 24: 36b-48  
*Christ Among Us*



## & Birthdays & Anniversaries

4/4 Sarah Mathew  
4/6 David & Mary Wallaker  
4/9 Janet Foes  
4/9 Harry Garrett  
4/22 Jim & Carol Wingo  
4/25 Jonathan Walkley

THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR LOVING KINDNESS DURING  
THE PAST MONTH.

SINCERELY,

SHAROLYN, CHRISTINA,,  
AND LYNN HUTTON



## Moderator's Message

I have been thinking about journeys, especially the Lenten journey that follows Christ's journey to the cross. At the Ash Wednesday service on February 25, Dave and I began our Lenten journey together having just learned he had cancer. As we moved forward on our most difficult journey together, you, our church family, traveled with us. Your presence in our lives helped sustain us and led me to an additional thought concerning Mary upon the death of her son, Jesus.

When her son died, I imagine friends and family were with her, as you were with me upon Dave's death. They cried with her, as you did with me, they brought food and spiritual nourishment, as you did, and in conversation recalled shared memories of Jesus' life, just as you and others shared with me concerning Dave's presence in your lives. I imagine they assured Mary that they would be there for her to assist in any way, just as you have assured me. Your messages of hope and shared sorrow to our family have been a wonderful demonstration of love in action, just as Mary must have experienced. For all of these acts of love, thank you.

I want to conclude by sharing part of a very poignant message to me from Dave, the last message he would write to me. He stated, "...You are finishing one wonderful journey and getting ready for another. Don't let the first get in the way of the second..." I plan to take his message to heart. Most of you know that Dave cared deeply about this fellowship and its message that God is still speaking and wanted more people to know what a special fellowship this is. As we continue our journey into the next 150 years, let the previous journey of our church not "get in the way" but propel us into the acts of caring to which God's spirit leads us.

Easter blessings on each of you!

*Sharolyn Hutton*



## A Note from Building and Grounds

Your Building and Grounds Committee has been busy cleaning, gardening, preparing to build a new fence, and getting estimates for work needed. We had a very productive work day last Saturday. Many thanks to everyone who came and helped. It was wonderful to have such a great crew.

Our next work day will be April 18th. We have many projects underway, and there's always the ongoing cleaning and maintenance. So please mark your calendars and plan to come and lend a hand. It's only a few hours, but you can really make a difference.

We have been getting inspections and estimates on work that needs to be done inside and out. The heaters in the Sanctuary will need to be replaced in the near future, and we have some termite and dry rot

damage in the Sanctuary building. A pest inspector came out last week and will be sending us a complete report soon. There is much to be done, but we will tackle the jobs one at a time, and together, we will prevail.

*Doralee Smith,  
Building and Grounds chair*



### APRIL 19TH POTLUCK

Fellowship will be having a potluck after worship on Sunday, April 19th. Please bring a dish made with one of the recipes from our church cookbook. If you don't have a cookbook, some copies are available in the Narthex. Come join us for a culinary step back into church history!

## Our Ark is full of Virtues!

*By Meg Walkley*



Sunday School

ARK, the school-age Christian Education program, is focused on building skills that help the participating children in their day-to-day experiences. We are using the concepts from the Virtues Project (go to [www.Virtuesproject.com](http://www.Virtuesproject.com) to learn more) to frame our curriculum. Each ARK Sunday, a Virtue is connected to scripture and discussed. Activities are either directly related to the virtue or our service project (see below).

“Light Up A Life with a Llama” is a service opportunity through the Heifer Project. The ARK youth have held two successful fundraisers to raise money to purchase llamas and other needed livestock for families in South America. Thanks to those of you who donated at our waffle bake and/or “Nature Girl” Llama-Drama skit.

In May, the final fundraiser will be an art sale, with original works by children and others in the congregation available for you to "purchase" by making a donation to our project.

We are hoping to offer a Toddler/Preschooler Nursery Program soon and we are trying to determine the best place and process for that. We need volunteers to help with rotating coverage for the youngest members of our congregation and we still need more people willing to spend some time at ARK.

Please see Christian Education Chair Sandi Little if you are interested in working with either age group. Finally, we enthusiastically welcome two new members to the Christian Education committee, Meredith VandenBranden and Chris Miller. Please thank them for volunteering to help with this ministry!

## Tai C'hi for Everyone

Tai C'hi is a meditative, gentle movement that eases body pain, clears the mind, and lifts the spirit. It is an ancient form of Chinese exercise that promotes the art of wellness. Glenda has been teaching in our area for many years and is bringing her Tuesday class to our Social Hall.

She will offer a free introductory class to our congregation during the month of April, time to be announced. Glenda often uses the book *The Healer Within* by Roger Jahnk as her prescription for wellness. Her favorite phrase is, "no pain, much gain."

Pastor Carlotta and Pete have been attending for several months and invite you to join them. Come see what Tai C'hi is all about!

**Where:** Church Social Hall  
**When:** Tuesdays, 3:30 - 5:00 PM  
**Leader:** Glenda Hesseltine



The 150th Anniversary Committee has been hard at work designing a logo and planning for the event. Thank you to Phil Smith-Hanes and Rafael Leon for working on the logo and creating this distinctive design which incorporates the UCC "God is Still Speaking" comma with our own 150th anniversary /First Congregational Church signage. If you know people that may want to be notified about the anniversary festivities, please forward their contact information to the church.

## Treasurer's Corner

By Reg Kennedy

This financial update covers the period January through February 2009.

Total income: \$12,084.41

Total expenses: \$12,912.38

We are two months into our fiscal year and we are doing very well. As usual, our biggest expense has been utilities. As we move into the spring and summer months, this expense will decrease.

Pledge update: The pledge amount received through February is \$7,681.00. This is 90% of our expected pledge for this period. Let's see if we can make it 100% by the end of April.

Tables and chairs fund update.

Through December 2008, total in this special on-going fundraiser is \$555.93. An update through February was not yet available.

The complete financial statement is available for your review in the Church Office during normal office hours.

## Please keep the following people in prayer:

Sharolyn Hutton and Family, Linda Shapeero, Susan Whaley and Family on the death of her sister, Libby Yee's parents in Honolulu, Mary Huber Wal-laker's parents, Enisha Clark, Pat Rittacco (Janet Foos' sister), Sherman Juster (friend of Bill Shapeero), Peg Senimore, Grace Copper (Mary Bawden's aunt), Harry and Luella Garrett and the Ministry of the Deacons.

## MAY BOOK CLUB



### Calling All Readers





Book group has chosen *The Whistling Season* by Ivan Doig as their book of the month. This novel is set in the past in rural, eastern Montana. The story is told by the oldest son of a recently widowed father who finds himself overwhelmed by the child-rearing duties presented by his three sons. It comes with good recommendations from family and friends. March was not a good month for book group attendance, so we will also discuss our last book *The Life of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski. Date: Tuesday, **MAY 5TH**  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Place: Pastor Carlotta's home, 1903 Buhne St.

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 e-mail: eurekauce@att.net  
 Rev. Carlotta Vallergera, Pastor



# APRIL 2009

**Every Sunday at First Congregational Church:**  
 Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School during the worship hour September – June  
 Coffee Hour following worship.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Church Office Hours:</b> Carlotta: Tuesdays by appointment. Wednesdays & Thursdays 9-12 in the Church Office. Fridays from Home. Available at any time if needs arise.  Christine: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9-12 in the Church Office			1 <b>LUNCH BUNCH</b>  <b>Lenten Series</b>  <b>Choir Practice 7:30 PM</b>	2	3	4
5 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>  Ministry meetings as needed 	6	7 <b>MAC NIGHT 5 PM</b>  <b>Tai Chi 3:30 PM</b>	8 <b>Choir Practice 7:30 PM</b>	9 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> <b>POTLUCK 6 p.m.</b>	10 <b>GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE</b> Nazarene Church, 7 PM	11 <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>
12 <b>SUNRISE SERVICE</b> <b>6:30 a.m.</b> <b>10:30 a.m. Worship</b>  <b>Easter egg hunt</b>	13 	14  <b>Tai Chi 3:30 PM</b>	15  <b>Choir Practice 7:30 PM</b>  <b>LUNCH BUNCH</b>	16	17  <b>Women of Wisdom</b>	18 <b>CHURCH IMPROVEMENT DAY</b> <b>9:30 – 12:00</b>
19 Cookbook Potluck Ministry meetings as needed  150th meets	20	21  <b>Tai Chi 3:30 PM</b>	22 <b>Choir Practice 7:30 PM</b>  <i>Earth Day</i>	23  <b>Council Meeting 6-7:30</b>	24  Newsletter Deadline	25
26 <b>Harp recital 3 PM</b>  <b>COFFEE HOUSE SUNDAY</b> 	27	28  <b>Tai Chi 3:30 PM</b>	29 <b>Choir Practice 7:30 PM</b>	30		 <b>Pray for Peace</b>