

March 2010



Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

The Window Newsletter

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN SERIES

Community Soup & Worship Lenten Series ;
March 3rd
Calvary Lutheran Church
March 10th
First Presbyterian

Church
March 17th
TBA
March 24th
First Methodist Church
April 1st
Maundy Thursday
Here in the social hall

at 6pm
Potluck dinner with service and communion



Christian Education

.ARK Performance Scheduled for Sunday, March 21, 2010
What 's happening in the ARK?

The children and teachers in ARK have been exploring the theme of Faith through Drama during the past three months. The Drama Unit will culminate in the performance of a play. The play, *The Little Drummer Girl*, has been written for the children by Katri Pitts. The performance is scheduled to take place during worship on Sunday, March 21st. Children of all ages are wel-

come to attend ARK. ARK meets in the office wing classroom following the Children's Sermon during worship time.

Christian Education is actively seeking new members to join Christian Education Ministry and new people to work with our children in ARK on an occasional, rotating basis. If you would like to share some time with our children, please let us know. It is a great way to get to know our children. If you have any questions about ARK or you are interested in

working with the Christian Education Ministry, please talk with members of the 2010 Christian Education Ministry, Meredith VandenBranden, Katri Pitts or Roberta Duggan. Our next Christian Education Ministry meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 21st, following the worship service. Come and join us!



A monthly publication of Eureka First Congregational United Church of Christ

- 900 Hodgson Street Eureka, Ca 95503
- (707) 445-5488
- Carlotta Vallerga, Pastor
- Ted Adams, Editor

Pastor's View

March is the season of Lent with the color being purple or violet, which reflects the more somber tone of the season. During these 40 days of Lent we are called to be intentional about our relationship with God, deepening our relationship through prayer and reflection. We wonder where our journey will take us, through dark passages or doorway leading to brightness and sunlight. It seems like a good time to come together to join hands and voices for where ever the journey leads us it is best to travel together.

Like the disciples and Christians throughout history, we can wonder where God is when darkness and clouds come our way. There is a favorite camp song that I learned many years ago which reminds me of God's faithful presence. It goes like this:

Listen, listen, listen to
my heart song

Listen, listen, listen to
my heart song

I will never forget you,
I will never forsake you,

Listen, listen, listen to
my heart song.

How reassuring to be reminded that God is always with us, will never leave us and we are called to hear the song of God's heart. I smile when I

think of God's heart song for to me it is a song of love that lifts me from the darkness and is heard in the people around me and the signs of spring.

I have heard God's heart song getting louder and louder as it comes through the vitality and energy of our congregation and ministry groups. It is a beautiful song that moves with new sounds and a strong beat. It is a song of love for our church and the traditions of our faith.

I am heading off on vacation and hope to hear the humpback whales sing their special song off the coast of Maui. All God's creatures have a special song to sing – even the whales. My goal for this vacation is to stop and listen and give my body and mind time to unwind from the fast pace I have been on, while appreciating the beauty and sounds around me.

While I am away, you will have the chance to hear different voices bringing the Lenten message from the pulpit. Rev. Dianna Renner Noyes will be preaching on March 7th (also Communion Sunday) and Rev. Jeri Gray-Reneberg on March 14th. What a great opportunity to hear the heart song from a different voice that may open the door to move you more fully into your Lenten journey.

I look forward to being

back in the pulpit on March 21st when our ARK children will also present their drama production of "Little Drummer Girl." When our children share we are always led to hear God's heart song through the beautiful melody of their voices. "Something New" is the morning theme and there will be a potluck after worship to which you are invited to try a new recipe and bring something new.

May the heart song God is singing in you become stronger and more vibrant during this season of Lent.

Blessings,

Pastor Carlotta



Moderator

January flew by, February was a blur and now we are in March. Our church has been busy and March promises new beginnings for the congregation and for me, personally. Our February 6 IMAGINE Workshop is already bearing fruit in energized ministries as each begins its new year with tools to be more effective. Our congregational meeting on February 7 led to the application for a line of credit loan with the UCC Cornerstone Foundation. Our Valentine Box for the building repair and renovation pledges started filling up on February 14 and the Women of Wisdom distributed hand-made valentines to everyone in attendance. On Ash Wednesday, February 17, we began our Lenten journey together with a soup supper. This was followed by a deeply moving service in the sanctuary with Pastor Carlotta and the

choir leading. We continued on February 23 with the first 2010 council meeting and followed that on February 24 by hosting the first Lenten soup supper of the season with other congregations. Vitality met on February 26 to begin planning for the coming year and on February 28, we ended the official pledge gathering time. We continue to seek a name for this fund and additional building fund pledges are always welcome.

March is off to a blustery, rainy start and promises to hold its own challenges as we continue doing the work of the church during Lent. Although we will not be hosting the coming soup suppers, we are invited to join the other fellowships participating every Wednesday of Lent. Our choir is learning new music

for Lent and Easter and always welcomes new members at Wednesday rehearsals, no auditions necessary.

For me, March means I began the month with another birthday and the feeling that things are getting better. As Roger Rosenblatt said, "The problem with death is absence." I can attest that those words express it all. During this season of Lent, I find myself thinking about Christ's journey to the cross and the impact his death had on his followers. Bewilderment, deep grief, tears, the feeling of not knowing what the future holds, all have to be emotions we share with those early disciples when we experience the death of a dear companion. And yet, Easter gives us hope.

Sharolyn Hutton

Something New:

Get Ready for the Third Sunday of the Third Month!

The brand-new Fellowship Ministry met on February 16 to outline plans for the year. Sandi Little is Chair of the Ministry, Kim Pinches is our Scribe, Phil Smith-Hanes will be preparing newsletter articles, and Mj Goble completes our team.

Fellowship has lots of exciting plans for 2010, including a rein-vigorated coffee hour, an inventory of the kitchen, and working with other ministries to host vari-

ous special events. We hope you've already begun to notice some changes, and this month we're pleased to announce a new fellowship opportunity: The Third Sunday of the Third Month.

On the third Sunday of each third month (March, June, September and December), the regular coffee hour will be replaced with a special fellowship time. For March 21, you are invited to participate in the

SOMETHING NEW POTLUCK. In honor of the new life that spring brings forth, we invite the congregation to bring a dish representing Something New (a recipe that you've never tried before, a fresh seasonal ingredient, or your own creative spin). Please join us in trying Something New in Fellowship!



**Church Office
Hours:**

Carlotta:
Tues, Wed. Thur.
2:00 pm till...?

Home: Available at
any time if needs
arise.

Christine:
MWF
3:30 - 5:30

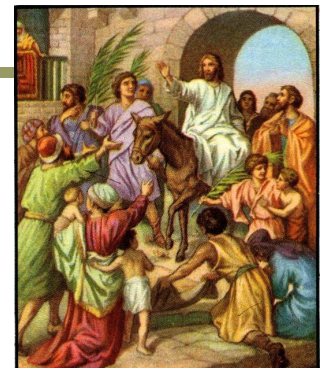


**Deacon of the
month:**

Judie Norton

March 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Fellowship 7PM Sandi Little's House	2 MAC Sign up with May- belle Tai Chi 3:30-5:30	3 Lunch Bunch Lenten Series Choir 7:30	4 Pflag Informa- tion Night 6:30—7:30	5	6
7 Pastor Diana Renner-Noyes Buildings and Grounds after worship in Narthex	8	9 Tai Chi 3:30-5:30	10 Lenten Series Choir 7:30	11 Outreach 10 AM Narthex	12	13
14 Pastor Jeri Gray- Reneberg	15	16 Tai Chi 3:30-5:30	17 Lunch Bunch Lenten series Choir St Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Church Im- provement Day 9:30 - Noon
21 Children's drama Pres- entation Resources after worship Christian Ed in ARK room after worship	22	23 Tai Ch 3:30 to 5:30	24 <i>Lenten Series Choir</i>	25 Book Group 7PM	26	27 Bill Shapeero Party 1-4
28 Palm Sunday	29 Council 6:30	30 Tai Chi 3:30 to 5:30	31 Choir			



March Lectionary

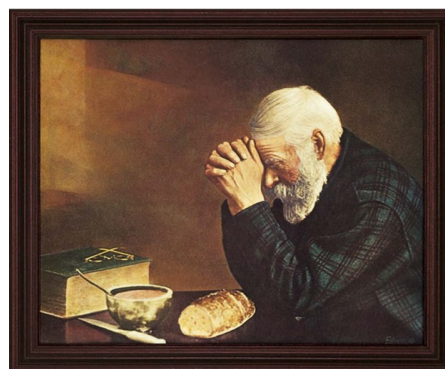
March 7
Third Sunday in Lent
 Isa 55:1-9; Ps. 63:1-8; I Cor 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
Open Invitation

March 14
Fourth Sunday in Lent
 Joshua 5:9-12; Ps 32; 2 Cor5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Embracing Love

March 21
Fifth Sunday in Lent
 Isa 43:16-21; Ps 126; Phil 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8
Something New

March 28
Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm/ Passion Sunday)
 Ps 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40 (Liturgy of the Psalms)
 Isa 50:4-9a; Ps 31:9-16; Phil 2:5-11;

Luke 22:14-23:56
(Liturgy of the Passion)
Into Jerusalem



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3/1 Jim Falls
- 3/1 Sharolyn Hutton
- 3/1 Linda Shapeero
- 3/4 Mara Hernandez
- 3/7 Howard & Lois Willson
- 3/10 Pete & Carlotta Vallerga
- 3/14 Carlotta Vallerga
- 3/17 William Shapeero
- 3/24 Glenn Griffith
- 3/31 Helen Griffith
- 3/31 Maybelle Luther



Bill

Shapeero will be turning 80 and wants to invite All of You to his BIG PARTY !!

Look Who's Turning 80!



Did you guess who we're celebrating?
 It's Bill Shapeero!

When: March 27, 2010
 Time: 1:00 PM-4:00 PM
 Where: First Congregational UCC
 900 Hodgson Street,
 Eureka
 RSVP: Linda 768-3287
 Please, no gifts.

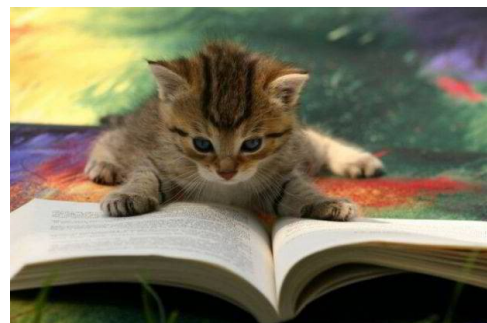


Drop by and share food, wine, cake and memories with us!

Book Group

March 25th at Pastor Carlotta's home @ 7 PM.
 Books to be discussed are:
The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein and
Dancing at the Rascal Fair by Ivan Doig

If you can't get them read, we still welcome you to come and join in the discussion. A rousing time is always had by all.



Summer Camping for our Youth

Calling all Youth! It's time for Summer Camp Sign-ups!

Summer Camp is a special time for our children to seek outdoor adventure, enjoy the beauty and grandeur of nature, meet new friends and grow in their faith. Our UCC Camp Cazadero is located in the Russian River area of the Coast Ranges near Guerneville. Campers sleep in cabins around a large meadow. Cazadero also offers a meeting lodge, outdoor chapel, swimming pool and hiking trails among the Redwoods. "Camp Caz" offers many activities that take

place in a family group setting and offers opportunities for sharing in small groups.

For more information, please contact the church office, members of Christian Education Ministry or check out the website:

www.ncncucc.org/page/outdoor-ministries-camp-cazadero

Camp Cazadero* Dates-2010

Kids Camp

2-4th graders July 13-17

Junior Camp

5-6th graders July 18-24

Junior High Camp

7-9th graders July 25-31

Senior High Camp

10-12th graders August 1-7

All grade levels for summer camps are rising. Grade is for those entering that grade level in the Fall of 2010

Submitted by Roberta Duggan



Raffle

The steering committee will be offering raffle tickets for the as yet unnamed building fund starting the first Sunday in March. These tickets will be offered at \$1.00 per ticket or \$5.00 for 6 tickets. The raffle will be for a \$75.00 and a \$25.00 gift certificate good for the Abruzzi restaurant in Arcata. On the last Sun-

day in March a drawing will be held in the social hall to announce the winners of the raffle. The winners need not be present to win the raffle.

This is an exciting way to contribute towards the funds to repair our beautiful buildings and grounds. In

addition any funds directly contributed towards the projects the church needs lowers the amount of funds needed to be borrowed for repairs.

Into Your hands, O God

Please keep the following people in prayer: Bryan Scobey & Family, Sabrina, Janet & Glenn Griffith, Doug Hanson, Libby Yee's parents in Honolulu, Mary Huber Wallaker's parents, Enisha Clark, and Grace Copper (Mary Bawden's aunt)



UCC Desk Calendar and Plan

The current year is no longer available. The July 2010 to December 2011 book will be available in June. We will be taking orders as soon as they become available from the UCC resource center.

Deacon's Notes

Lenten Soup Suppers - During the month of March, we continue the community wide soup suppers and meditation at a variety of churches. The very first one was here, at our church – if you were here, you got to taste some wonderful soups and breads, visit with a lot of new friends, and join in a motivational meditation by Pastor Carlotta. During March, the soup suppers will be at other churches - check with one of the Deacons to see who might be going to the soup supper on a specific Wed evening. The bulletin will include the list of which church will be hosting each week.
Holy Week Starts in March

Palm Sunday is March 28th. Come join us at 10:30 am for a joyous celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The children, along with the congregation, will march and wave palm branches while we sing. Carlotta's message will prepare us to move through all the happenings of Holy Week, culminating in the Easter Service on April 4th.

Maundy Thursday will be celebrated Thursday evening, April 1, when the church family joins at 6:00 for a potluck meal in the Fellowship Hall to symbolize the Last Supper of Jesus. We will celebrate communion together around the table and remember the Passover as well. In case you have wondered what "Maundy" meant, Answers.com says: The word *Maundy* is from the Latin *mandatum*, which is the first word of a phrase that means, "A new commandment I give unto you, That you love one another; as I have loved you". Jesus made this statement as he explained to the Apostles the significance of his action of washing their feet prior to the Last Supper.

Easter is the first weekend in April - but the Deacons want you to get started looking for your Easter Bonnet! We did this a couple of years ago and it was a great deal of fun. As you know, Easter is the biggest celebration of the church year. This Easter, your Deacons invite you to help celebrate

by wearing an Easter bonnet! It can be a wonderful frilly hat full of lace and ribbons, or your favorite fishing or baseball hat, maybe a crown or tiara, or just a flower in your hair. We would love to have everyone - men, women, and children – wear something festive on your head this Easter. If you forget, we will have some options available for you on Easter. So, prepare to celebrate

Mark your calendar too for the Easter Sunday Services – April 4th.

Easter Sunrise Service will be in the Garden at 6:30 am, and the Traditional Easter Service will be celebrated at 10:30 in the Sanctuary. There will be more information in the April newsletter, and on our website at www.eurekaucc.org.

Buildings and Grounds

Greetings from Buildings and Grounds

Well, now that the congregation has voted to move ahead on the Priority 1 projects, we are waiting for the loan to come through. We have been in contact with the contractor and hope to have some of the work started soon. By the time you receive this, the survey of the east line should be completed. We will be

one step closer to having a new fence on that side of our property. There is much to be done in the next few months. We're excited and anxious to finally get started in these much needed repairs and improvements.

We will be having a Spring cleaning weekend on Friday and Saturday, March 19th and 20th. More details to follow. We hope you will all be able to pitch in and spend a few hours helping

out that weekend. Please mark it on your calendars and plan to come and help.

We are delighted to welcome Patty Larson to our committee. Way to go Patty!! It's going to be a very busy, exciting, and challenging year. We are looking forward to it.

Doralee Smith, Chair

Serving in Worship for March

Dates to Remember

Deacon of the Month:

Judie Norton

Acolyte: Jordan Schmidt

Ushers: Howard Willson,
Tom Schmidt**Sunday, March 7th**

(Communion Sunday)

Greeter: Janet Griffith

Reader: Mary Huber Wallaker

Children's Sermon: The Pitts
Family

Acolyte: Emma Pinches

Ushers: Libby Yee, Ted Adams,

Dexter Luther, Reg Kennedy

Communion Servers: Michele

Fell-Casale, Phil Smith-Hanes, Lois
Willson**Sunday, March 14th:**

Greeter: Sara Pillow

Reader: Libby Yee

Children's Sermon: Michele Fell
-Casale**Sunday, March 21st:**

Greeter: Kim Pinches

Reader: Jim Falls

Children's Sermon: Roberta

Duggan

Acolyte: Jennifer Schmidt

Ushers: Rafael Leon, Lew
Norton**Sunday, March 28th:**

Greeter: Mary Bawden

Reader: Pete Vallerga

Children's Sermon: Ted Adams

Acolyte: Emma Pinches

Ushers: Judie Norton, Lew

Norton

July 25, 2010

California Sunday

August 29, 2010

Neighborhood BBQ

October 23, 2010

Treat & Talent Night



MONTHLY VOLUNTEER OP- PORTUNITY

Scrip

MAC- The Multiple Assistance Center at 2413 2nd St in Eureka serves families with children in transition from homelessness under the redwood Community Action Agency.

On the 1st Tuesday of each month from 4:45-5:45 our congregation provides assistance with serving the supper for the residences and from 6:30-7:30 activities for children during their meeting afterwards. To volunteer to help contact Maybelle Luther by the first Sunday of each month.



Remember that Scrip is available each Sunday and is the **no-cost to you Fundraiser!**

- Abruzzi
- Wildberries Market
- Ramone's Bakery
- Shafer's Ace Hardware
- Moonstone Grill
- Co-op
- Murphy's Market
- Papa Murphy's Pizza
- Plaza Grill
- McDonald's

University Choir Fundraiser

Join us for an evening with entertainment and dessert to send Wren to Italy!

Calvary Lutheran Church in Eureka is hosting a fundraiser on Friday, March 26, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., (to be matched by funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans) to help send Wren Gray-Reneberg to Italy with the California Lutheran University Choir. In May, this excellent young choir will perform in

such places as the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome and the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi. This social evening will consist of light dessert and entertainment in many forms (dance, song and instrumental). A free-will offering will be taken, which will be matched by Thrivent.

Wren is the daughter of Perry and Pastor Jeri Gray-Reneberg (formerly pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Redway). While in high

school, Wren was active in Irish dance and was in the Arcata High School Madrigal Choir and the regional and state honor choirs.

Come join us on March 26 at Calvary Lutheran (South and Prospect Streets in Eureka) and support a friend!

Pastor Jeri Gray-Reneberg
825-8613

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Our Food Basket in the Narthex is donated every month to Food for People at the Food Bank of Humboldt County, which serves 12,000 qualifying at-risk people each month through 12 community food programs, and addresses the root causes of hunger. Financial support includes 32% from governmental and 68% from donations. Non perishable foods that will provide the maximum nutrition include:
protein items

canned meats
chili/stew
canned tuna
grains, pasta, & rice
soups
breakfast cereals
nutritional drinks
boxed & canned juices
beans
canned fruits % veggies

Note: There is a can for monetary donations also.



Social Justice and Outreach Ministry

On Monday, April 12, and on the 2nd Monday of each month, Linda Shapeero will hold a PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays including bisexual and transgender) meeting in our Narthex at 6:30 p.m. She is organizing a local chapter of the national organization and NEEDS

VOLUNTEER HELP, including a Secretary and a Treasurer. Thursday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m. will be an informational organizing meeting. The first publicized meeting to offer support in a casual environment will be Monday, April 12, 2010.



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**FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED**

The Window Newsletter

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900 Hodgson Street
Eureka CA 95503
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E-mail: eurekaucc@att.net

www.eurekaucc.org

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.