



# PARISH PAPER

**The United Church of Christ** + + +

**Gaylord, MN**

**A Monthly Newsletter**

**March 2009**

**Volume 37, 3**

## **Come Listen, Go Serve, God is Still Speaking,**



**Ushers:** Chip Wolverton, Cole Bruhn  
Fran and Howard Armstrong

**Greeters:** Diane and Darrel Mosel  
3-1, 3-8, 3-15  
Fran Skarboe, Lorraine Mueller  
3-22, 3-29

**Acolyte:** Sam Thies

**Fellowship Hour:**

March 1 .....Armstrongs  
March 8 ..... Potluck - Search Committee  
March 15 ..... open  
March 22 ...Schmitts, Tia and Jeff and Estensons  
March 29 .....open

The Search Committee would like to introduce **Pastor Robert Koepcke** to our congregation. Pastor Koepcke is currently serving as the Sustaining Pastor for St. Paul's and St. Peter's UCC in Donnellson and Franklin, Iowa, which are located in Iowa. We have been communicating with him for several months and are to the point where both parties feel it would be good for more members of our congregation to get to meet and visit with him. Therefore, we have invited Robert to visit Gaylord the weekend of March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

**An invitation is extended to everyone to share in opportunities to meet and visit with Pastor Koepcke while he is with us on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.**

The schedule is listed below.

**Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**

**11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Brunch with Search Committee and Church Council - Fireside Room

**2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** **Open House** for Pastor Koepcke in the Fellowship Hall - Entire Congregation invited. Light refreshments will be served.

**Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30 a.m.** **Worship** with Pastor Koepcke leading

**10:30 a.m.** **Fellowship Hour** - another opportunity to visit with Pastor Koepcke.

**11:30 a.m.** **Potluck Dinner** Bring a dish to pass - Search Committee will provide beverages, rolls and butter

# Interim Pastor's Moment

2009  
2009



The month of March is rushing in our direction. We have hardly had a chance to get everything into February. Then March, containing the bulk of all Lenten activities and gatherings is staring at us. In my mind's eye I can see the cat staring into the headlights.

By the time that this newsletter is received by our readers Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will be in the past. The story of the church that has been lovingly shared with me says that we will be sharing Wednesday evening meals and Lenten Worship Services.

We are also connected ecumenically with a weekly Mens' and Boys' Thursday Breakfasts with a Lenten Worship gathering also.

During Holy Week we will be doing our own Maundy Thursday Service April 9th. I have been seriously considering the use of a first/second century Christian liturgy that I have done in the past with other congregations. It would involve the congregation providing a meal in a simple pot-luck style. In the spirit of the covenant life and compassion the elements of the communion would be set aside from the food brought and dedicated. We will try to continue to discuss this possibility and we will keep you informed. Previous congregations that I have served loved the new insight they had on early church life and on communion.

Good Friday service in April will be an Ecumenical service. The plans are not complete yet.

As this item is being prepared for the congregation's newsletter it is interesting that the weather forecast is for snow tomorrow. We pray that God's spirit will be with the whole congregation.

I am glad for the Gaylord United Church of Christ that the Search Committee has arranged a visit by a possible pastoral candidate on the weekend of March 7 & 8. I hope that the members of the congregation will take advantage of the opportunity to meet and visit with the candidate and to share possible dreams.

The long-standing purpose of the Lenten Season is to set aside 40 days of meditation, conversation with God and repentance. That is 40 days not counting Sundays for they are already God's days.

Lent could be a season of not only praying for one's self. It could be a great time to also pray for the covenant group called the church. When you ponder what Gaylord United Church of Christ has done in this world, this State, and this community that you are aware again of the many ministries that the church has done in the past and continues to do.



We continue our prayer for you and your families. God is truly "Wonderful."

As you put yourself deeply into your own Lenten experience may you experience the supporting love of God.

*Rev. Keith W. Purscell, Interim Pastor*

## Readings for the Month of March

### March 1, 2009: First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15. UCC Theme: God's Loving Paths.

### March 8, 2009: Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31, Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38. UCC Theme: Always Close.

### March 16, 2009: Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22. UCC Theme: Beautiful Law.

### March 22, 2009: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21. UCC Theme: No Matter What.

### March 29, 2009: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 (UMH 785)  
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33. UCC Theme: Deep in Our Hearts.

---

**A note from Jean Feehan:** Loving greetings to everyone, I miss you. My prayers are for the fellowship and well being of the church. Work together—Support each other. Sincerely Jean.

**Thank You** to the members of the Gaylord UCC. My heart feels the prayers and I appreciate all the cards from church members to an unknown person. Hopefully sometime in the future I may be able to say thank you in person. I do want to let you know that any suffering I may have is nothing compared to what our Savior suffered because He loved us.

Thank you again, Joyce Solomonson

Good Samaritan Home, Waconia, MN.

---

## Sunday, March 22 is Camp Sunday

Summer is right around the corner and it's time to think about going to church camp. Applications for Pilgrim Point Camp are on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Please fill them out and return by Sunday, April 26. Scholarships are available so please contact one of the Camp Committee members for more information: Cindy Johnson, Deb Meyer, Karen Peterson and Megan Meyer.

## *Come Join us for*

**World Day of Prayer, Friday March 6, 2009**

**1:30 p.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church**

On **March 6, 2009**, the women of Papua New Guinea invite us to have the confidence of Ruth, who left what was familiar to her and went with Naomi to another land. They call us to ponder the mystery of our oneness in Christ in their context and our own. We are also invited to reflect on the collaborative networks among women. In Exodus, the story of deliverance from bondage begins with women's non-violent intervention. Their actions ignore the social forces that are rooted in the fallacy that one group is superior to the other and is entitled to exploit them. Together, the women overcome evil with good. So, too, in the context of Papua New Guinea, we are given examples of women's intervention in Bougainville and in the Highlands. And we are called to identify women's intervention in our own context.

Pray with us:

*We thank you, God, for directing our lives. As women united as one in your body, with your love and your power in us, we pray that we would be your instruments for peace and reconciliation.*

## Girl Scout Sunday

Sunday March 8 is Girl Scout Sunday and is a great time to recognize an organization that aims to build "girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place." Since Girl Scouts was founded in March 1912, more than 43 million young people have participated in the program. Those participating in Girl Scouts from our church include: Sue Keithahn, Denise Tourtellott, Abby Tourtellott and Jaci Tourtellott.





Please take an active part in the **March 2009 Minnesota FoodShare Campaign**. Your generosity in giving food items or money will help to feed hungry people in our county and make Minnesota a better place for all citizens. In March, your gifts will be matched by the state FoodShare program, so gifts will be multiplied at our local food shelf. Help us fill the cart in the Narthex or leave a donation in the jar. Thank You, Mission Board

...for I was hungry and you gave me food.  
Matthew 25:35a

The following is the schedule of

From the Heart Offerings for the 2009.

- January 11 Salvation Army
- February 1 Souper Bowl of Caring
- March 8 Sibley County Food Shelf
- April 12 One Great Hour of Sharing
- May 10 Strengthen the Church
- June 14 Salvation Army of Sibley County
- July 12 Sibley County Food Shelf
- August 9 Salvation Army of Sibley County
- September 13 Sibley County Food Shelf
- October 11 Neighbors in Need
- November 8 Sibley County Food Shelf
- December 13 Christmas Fund

**Thank You to everyone for your generosity each month as we truly give "From our Hearts".**

Mission Board

\* \* \* \* \*

**Women's Fellowship** will meet at 12:00 p.m. on **Monday, March 2** in the Fireside Room. Bring a bag lunch and come join us.

**Priscilla Circle** will meet **Thursday, March 19 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Fireside Room. Hostess is Fran Armstrong.

**Lenten Worship Services**



Lenten  
Worship  
Schedule

"Come to the Cross" is our theme for this year's Lenten mid-week services.

We will gather together for supper, fellowship and worship. The schedule for our Wednesday evening suppers and worship is as follows:

- 5:00 - 6:15 p.m. Supper
- 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Worship
- 7:00 p.m. Clean-up, Choir

**The Men's Lenten Breakfasts are on Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. and will follow the theme of *The Lord's Prayer*.**

Thurs., March 5 - "Thy Kingdom Come" at Assembly of God Church.

Thurs., March 12 - "Thy Will be Done" at St. Michael's Catholic Church.

Thurs., March 19 - "Give Us This Day" at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Thurs., March 26 - "Forgive Us" at United Church of Christ.

Thurs., April 2 - "Lead Us Not Into Temptation" at American Lutheran Church.



Baby Shower

**You are invited to a baby shower!**

**A baby shower will be held for Tia Johnson on Sunday, March 22, at 11:30 a.m., in the Fireside room.** Tia is registered at Target and Babies R Us. Please bring a framed baby picture of yourself so we can play "Guess Who." Also, Tia's baby is interested in having her own library so if you'd like to bring a book, that would be great! See you on the 22<sup>nd</sup>!!

For more information contact Diane Mosel.

The United Church of Christ  
318 4th Street—P.O. Box 385  
Gaylord, MN 55334  
Return service requested



**March 2009**  
**Daylight Saving Time**  
**begins March 8**

United Church of Christ  
318 4th Street  
P.O. Box 385  
Gaylord, MN 55334-0385  
507-237-2595 or 507-237-5846  
Office—uccg@myclearwave.net

Pastor—uccgptr@myclearwave.net

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the United Church of Christ, Gaylord. Articles and announcements are due the second Wednesday of the month.

Sunday Worship—9:30 a.m.

Coffee-Fellowship Hour Follows Worship

Sunday School—10:45 a.m. Sept.—May

Communion is the 1st Sunday of the month

Interim Pastor, Rev. Keith Purscell

Council President, Gail Estenson

Office Manager, Cindy Johnson

## March Birthdays

01.....Christopher Frauendienst  
12.....Jamie Turbett  
13.....Sylvia Turbett  
17.....Chuck Klimmek  
20.....Lois Frauendienst  
21.....Dayle Troidahl  
23.....Ryan Wolverton  
28.....Stephen Carlson  
28.....Cindy Johnson