

Summit Congregational United Church of Christ



“SUMMIT SPARKS”

February, 2018

563-582-5661

Website: www.summitucc.org

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

summit calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9 am - Adult Bible 9 am - Sunday 10 am - Worship	29 9 am - Pastor's	30 7 pm - Barbershoppe	31 1 pm - Bible Study:	1	2	3
4 9 am - Adult Bible 10 am - Worship	5 9 am - Pastor's	6 7 pm - Barbershoppe	7 1 pm - Bible Study:	8	9	10
11 9 am - Adult Bible 9 am - Sunday 10 am - Worship	12 9 am - Pastor's 10 am - Diaconate 1:30pm - Trustees	13 7 pm - Barbershoppe	14 1 pm - Bible Study: 5:30pm - Ash	15 10 am - Women's	16	17
18 9 am - Adult Bible 9 am - O/M/E 10 am - Food Pantry 10 am - Worship	19 9 am - Pastor's 10:30am - Christian 6:30pm - Council	20 7 pm - Barbershoppe	21	22	23 Sparks Articles Due!	24
25 9 am - Adult Bible 9 am - Sunday 10 am - Worship	26 9 am - Pastor's	27 7 pm - Barbershoppe	28	1	2	3

Those who get this issue via email might want to view the calendar online. Simply go to www.summitucc.org and click on the calendar button. The whole year is out there.

Sweet Inspirations ...

This year the season of Lent begins on Wednesday February 14th Valentine's Day and ends on Sunday April 1st April Fool's Day. The UCC Lenten Devotionals have thus been titled "Lovers and Fools. It is easy to see how love works into our faith, but fools? If we are having trouble calling ourselves fools let us not forget the words of the Apostle Paul in (1 Corinthians 1:18, 27) "*The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God...God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong...*" The Lenten Devotionals have arrived and all are encourage to pick-up one copy per household.

Though not mentioned in the Bible, Lent is biblically based as the practices of Lent - that of fasting, prayer, study, worship, almsgiving are all biblical practices/spiritual disciplines that have been given to us in Scripture, not to earn God's grace but to draw us into an awareness of God, God's grace, and God's will and plan for our lives and creation in order that our lives may be transformed as we willingly choose to walk with God. At the time of the reformation Luther urged that Lenten observances be kept not out of mandate but as an opportunity to strengthen ones faith. The observance of Lent is commemorative as well as penitential. We regard this season as a time of special spiritual opportunity to contemplate the Passion of Christ, a time of self-examination and repentance, and a time of growth in faith and grace. While it is a somber time of remembrance, it is also a time for joy and rejoicing, for we are saved through the death and resurrection of our Lord.

Lent is one of the oldest observations of the Christian calendar. Though the way in which Lent is observed has changed over the years and remains varied in the ways in which it is observed, as early as the second century our forefather Irenaeus of Lyons wrote of a time of fasting and preparation for 2-3 days before Easter or the Paschal Feast. In 325 AD the Council of Nicaea noted a 40 day season of fasting and preparation. Though it is unclear if this time of fasting and preparation was meant solely for the new Christian, it soon spread to the entire Christian church. For Christians living in the Fourth Century Lent had two major emphases: (1) It was seen as a time of repentance and denial of self. (2) It was a time of instruction and preparation for those who wanted to become members of the Christian Church. During Lent they learned the Christian doctrine by studying the Creed. They were led step by step through prayer and special rites toward baptism. If they "passed" they were baptized and received the Lord's Supper in a joyous service either on Easter Eve (the Easter Vigil) or Easter itself.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and extends for forty days excluding Sundays because each Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection of Christ. Growing up Catholic, I never knew that Protestants observed the practice of the Imposition of Ashes but that practice is making its way back into the protestant churches. It is important to note that the early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence. Today ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence: they remind us of God's condemnation of sin, they also suggest cleansing and renewal. In ancient times they were used in the absence of soap. On Ash Wednesday ashes are a penitential substitute for water as a reminder of our baptism. Ashes also remind us of the shortness of human life and are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

Today "*Lent is to be a season of fasting, self-denial, spiritual growth, conversion, and simplicity. Lent, which comes from the Teutonic (Germanic) word for springtime, can be viewed as a spiritual spring cleaning: a time for taking spiritual inventory and then cleaning out those things which hinder our corporate and personal relationships with Jesus Christ and our service to him. ... However, we must remember that our Lenten disciplines are supposed to ultimately transform our entire person: body, soul, mind and spirit, and help us become more like Christ. Eastern Christians call this process theosis, which St. Athanasius describes as becoming by grace what God is by nature.*"(www.churchyear.net/lent.html)

May our lives, our congregations, and this world be greatly blessed as we embrace the gift given to us in this season of Lent, not by mandate but as an opportunity to strengthen our faith. I encourage all who are able to join together for Ash Wednesday Soup Supper at 5:30 and Service at 6:30 p.m. on February 14th as we journey through Lent together. Please remember that there are devotionals available to aid you in a time of daily reflection on your Lenten journey.

God Bless!
Pastor Karen

<p><u>February Birthdays</u></p> <p>6th Janaan Milcoff</p> <p>7th Julie Kass Don Guler</p> <p>8- Maureen Leytem</p> <p>11th JoAnn Datisman</p> <p>13th Judy Trent</p> <p>15th Dee Parkin Madelyn Deutsch Kathy Starits-Tayloe</p>	<p>16th John Grice</p> <p>23rd Colleen Van Dee</p> <p>28th Rick Grace</p> <p><u>February Anniversaries</u></p> <p>23rd Everett & Fran Jones</p>
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Important Calendar Dates:

Wednesday, February 14	5:30 pm	Ash Wednesday supper and worship
Thursday, February 15	10 am	Women's Fellowship

Scheduled Committee Meetings

Please remember that **ALL committee and**

council meetings are open to the congregation.

Monday, February 12	10 am	Diaconate meeting
Monday, February 12	1:30 pm	Trustees meeting
Sunday, February 18	9:30 am	O/M/E
Monday, February 19	10:30 am	Christian Education Meeting
Monday, February 19	6:30 pm	Council meeting

Contributors:

Rev. Karen Candee, Shirley Hansen, Beth Boleyn, Merlin Green

(editor).

January 2018– Diaconate Sparks

Diaconate met on Monday January 8th. Discussed all the Advent activities and the Diaconate led service. All went very well. Thanks to all who shared their stories of "where they saw Jesus" this holiday season. And also a big Thank You to Kim Kitchen who made our outdoor wreath, and shared her luminaries for the Christmas Eve service. What a blessing to all.

Another big Thank You to Pat Kreimeyer, Stephany King and Terry Boleyn who helped take all the decorations down after service on the 7th. I was remiss in noting when Epiphany was, and did not plan for a de-decorating event. So I was very thankful for the help.

And now we are in the planning stages of our up-coming Lenten activities. So stay tuned for more.....

Respectfully submitted by Beth Boleyn

O/M/E met January 21, 2018 at 9:00 AM, welcoming Judy Trent and Greg Hansen as members. Also present were Pastor Karen, Flores Brown and Shirley Hansen. Flora Brown will be our representative to Church Council and Shirley Hansen will keep notes for SPARKS articles

. List of items needed by Hope House was noted and Shirley Hansen will deliver any items brought to the church to Hope House.

Pastor Karen presented information from Conference that Eastern Iowa Association has a new fund, FUNDING FOR FUTURE LEADERS, and Maxine Tone may apply. Bulletin inserts for this will be available later and we may use pew envelopes for gifts.

Super Bowl Sunday is February 4th. Once again we may bring cans of soup and crackers to place on the field representation designating our favorite team. Dubuque Food Pantry will receive these items or cash. Again we will sponsor the Palm Sunday Brunch on March 25th. There will be a sign up sheet for casseroles, coffee cakes, sweet breads/oils, fruit, juice and milk.

Thinking ahead, we discussed ideas for our Community Event. We tentatively selected a date in May, topic and possible speaker. Greg Hansen will contact said speaker. More information will follow.

It was noted that \$300 from our budget is designated for supplies for our Youth to make Health Kits for Church World Service.

Possible ideas for use by this committee in the future were also addressed.

Submitted by Shirley Hansen



Souper Bowl Sunday: Sunday February 4, 2018

Corresponding with Super Bowl Sunday is the “Souper” Bowl Sunday. While many of us will be feasting on chili, pizza, vegetable trays, and various other foods while we watch the Super Bowl game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the New England Patriots with family and friends, there are still many in this city who go hungry and are malnourished. Whether or not we watch the Super Bowl it is one more opportunity for us to live out the scripture from Matthew 25 which states “When I was hungry you gave me to eat.” From now through February 1st we will be collecting crackers and cans of soup, ravioli, spaghetti O’s, chili, liquid hand soap and cash to be donated to the Dubuque Food Pantry. As you bring in your donation set it on the side of the football field that corresponds with the team you either want to win the Super bowl or think will win. If you don’t care which team wins you can place your donation along the center of the football field. Results of the collection will be posted in the February 11th announcements and the next issue of the Sparks. As we provide nourishment for hungry bodies, may it also provide nourishment for souls that hunger and thirst for righteousness.



Women’s and Men’s Ecumenical Emmaus Weekends

Women’s Weekend February 16th - 18th

Men’s Weekend February 23rd - 25th

Weekends begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday night

and end @ 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

These weekends are open to all who want to deepen their faith in Christ. It is a time to encounter Christ and explore how you are being called as Christ’s disciple in the atmosphere of a loving community. The theme this year is Open the Eyes of My Heart based on Matthew 5:8 “*Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.*” Further information and registration forms are in the Narthex on the table under the name tags.

Ash ✦ Wednesday

Wednesday February 14, 2018

5:30 p.m. Free Soup Supper

6:30 p.m. Worship

Let us journey together

and grow closer in our walk with God

this Lenten season!