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THE Caller



WEST DES MOINES CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS AND INFORMATION

ASH WEDNESDAY MEAL AND SERVICE Lenten Dinner Series Begins February 17

Cross to Glory is the theme for Lent, which begins Wednesday, February 17 with our first Wednesday night dinner and Ash Wednesday service. This service, which begins at 6:30 p.m. in The Sanctuary, immediately following the dinner, is a reflective time of preparing for the Lenten Season with ashes, music, and communion. Pastors Randy and Alison will preach.

Why ashes? On Ash Wednesday, pastors traditionally dip a finger in ashes and make the sign of a cross on worshippers' foreheads. Many Christians keep the symbol on for the entire day as a sign of humility and as a sorrowful reminder of Christ's death for the forgiveness of sins.

Make plans to join us for the all-church Lenten dinners in the Fellowship Hall. Appetizers are served at 5:15 p.m., dinner begins at 5:45 p.m., and the program follows immediately. A freewill offering is collected for the dinner. The suggested donation is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children under 12.

February 17

Menu: Scalloped potatoes with ham, green beans, dinner roll, dessert

Ash Wednesday Service

February 24

Menu: Lasagna, garlic toast, chocolate dessert

Program: A Capella Reign

March 3

Menu: Taco bar with choice of toppings, dessert

Program: Children & Youth Choirs

March 10

Menu: Grilled chicken on pasta with alfredo or marinara sauce, California blend vegetables, fruity angel delight

Program: Choirs Night: Chancel, Vision, Unspoken Praise, Resonance

March 17

Menu: Pulled Irish pork sandwiches, green dessert

Program: Sharon Stilwell & Friends

March 24

Menu: Chicken fried steak with Millie's cream gravy, homemade mashed potatoes, sherbet

Program: Foretold

Weekly menu also features hot dogs and chips for kids of all ages, salad bar, and beverages.

Youth Host Valentine Dinner February 14

Make your reservations by February 7 for the 23rd annual all-church Valentine Dinner Sunday, February 14. Chi-Rho and CYF will present "All You Need is Love," a special evening for everyone!

Appetizers will be served at 5 p.m. with dinner seating beginning at 5:20 p.m. The menu features a salad, prime rib or chicken cordon bleu, party potatoes, vegetable medley, roll, dessert, and beverage. Cost is only \$15 per person. Free child care available (please bring dinner for your children).

Our incredibly talented youth will again provide entertainment, with a special performance you won't want to miss!

Stop by The Gathering on February 7 or contact the church office to make your reservations, which must be paid by Sunday, February 7.

In This Issue

WOC: Responding to Haitian Tragedy	page 2
Meet Our New Members	page 3
WDMCC Calendar	page 5

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship at 8:45 and 11 a.m. **Church School** at 10 a.m.

SERMON TOPICS

February 7

Rev. Alison Robuck

A Super Catch!

Luke 5:1-11

February 14

Dr. Randy Ehrhardt

How to Make Love Last!

I Corinthians 13:1-13

February 21

Dr. Randy Ehrhardt

A Fork in the Road

Luke 4:1-13

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Submit articles to caller@wdmcc.org or TLFiowa@aol.com.

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Designer: Joy Butler



Week of Compassion Responds to Haitian Tragedy

by Rev. Alison Robuck

Thanks to the generosity of WDMCC members and friends, we've already sent a check to Week of Compassion for more than \$3,700 for the tragedy in Haiti. In addition to this initial monetary donation, WDMCC is responding to the needs of the Haitian people in other ways.

We'll continue to collect items and assemble the baby and hygiene kits (see below) for as long as there is a need. In addition, the Prayer Shawl Ministry is making baby blankets. Emily Haugh graciously donated her mother's knitting machines, enabling the group to make blankets more quickly.

We'll celebrate our annual Week of Compassion on Sunday, February 28. Let's remember the brokenhearted and hurting children around the world as we seek to minister to the needs of "the least of these."

Items for Baby Kits: cloth diapers, washcloths, gowns, sleepers, diaper pins, sweaters, sweatshirts, T-shirts, undershirts (no onesies), receiving blankets

Items for Hygiene Kits: hand towels (16x28"), washcloths, wide-tooth combs, nail clippers, wrapped bars of soap, band-aids, toothbrushes

February is Unspoken Praise Month

If you've ever wanted to be a part of Music and Fine Arts Ministries, but don't sing or play an instrument, Unspoken Praise is for you!

A unique ministry that incorporates music, movement, and sign language, Unspoken Praise is led by _____. The group works cooperatively to select music and decide on the best signs to depict the true meaning of their message. All ages and every skill level are invited and encouraged to participate in this growing ministry. Unspoken Praise rehearses on Wednesdays from 6 to 6:45 p.m.

Come visit one or more rehearsals in February to see if Unspoken Praise is for you! For more information, contact Scott Stilwell.

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Unspoken Praise performs at the Music and Fine Arts Soup Supper January 27.

Super Bowl: Vote For Your Favorite Team

Cast your Super Bowl vote by donating to our Food Pantry drive! Your choices are 1. Indianapolis Colts. 2. New Orleans Saints, or 3. "Don't Care," which includes the halftime show and the commercials. Vote by February 7; winner will be announced in worship February 14.

Social Concerns has set a goal of collecting 2,500 items by February 28. (See the most-needed items on page 7.) Let's help them hit that goal!

Two Cardmaking Workshops In February

Feeling crafty? Want to learn a new skill? Sign up for a Valentine cardmaking workshop scheduled for Saturday, February 6 from 9 to 11 a.m. or Tuesday, February 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Cost to make five cards is only \$10 per person (all supplies included). No matter your skill level you can create beautiful cards to take home.

Seating is limited and registration is required. To sign up or for information contact Martha McDanel. Proceeds go toward purchasing supplies for the annual bazaar.

January 21 Board Meeting Highlights

- WDMCC received 98.96% of projected 2009 income, 95% of *Lift High the Cross* pledges (books closed December 31), and 53% of *Continuing the Journey* capital campaign, which ends in June.
- Approved 2010 Nominating Committee
- Approved 2010 budget of \$640,492 and allocated \$38,864 overage of 2009 budget to Personnel, Property, computer operating system, and Undesignated Funds.
- Passed a resolution establishing the Ehrhardt Brothers Medical Trust Fund.

The next Board Meeting is Thursday, March 25 at 7 p.m.

Serving WDMCC February 7-21

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Food Pantry Sundays

When: Every Sunday in February

March 21	August 15
April 18	September 19
May 16	October 17
June 20	November 21
July 18	December 19

Give Cash: \$1 donated will buy one-third more food, which is purchased at wholesale prices.

Give Food: Most-needed items are canned fruits & vegetables (15 oz.), macaroni/spaghetti, canned spaghetti sauce, cereal (hot & cold), fruit & vegetable juice, instant potatoes, macaroni & cheese dinners, pasta, peanut butter, rice (1 lb.), saltines, tuna, canned soup, stew, chili, instant formula, and diapers. (No glass containers except for baby food.)

Give Bags: Paper and plastic are needed by DMARC Food Pantry.

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ACTIVITY GROUPS GUIDE

Acclamation

(small, mixed adult choir)

Benediction

(small male adult choir)

Chancel Choir

(Adult choir)

Children in Faith

(grades K-1)

Chi Rho

(grades 6-8)

Chore Corps

men's indoor/outdoor maintenance task group

Connections

(to age 50)

Crafts Therapy

women making crafts for annual bazaar

CYF

(Christian Youth Fellowship-grades 9-12)

Disciples Diners

(approx 30-60 years)

Exhaltation

(small female adult choir)

Friends in Faith

(grades 2-5)

Game Day

(open to all ages to play a variety of games)

Golden Mixers

(ages 50+)

Helping Hands

(women assisting with church housekeeping)

Music Ministry Outreach

("caroling" hymns to shut-ins)

New Possibilities

(for single, widowed and divorced women)

Prayer Shawl group

women of all ages

Parents Night Out

a kid sitting co-op

Quilt Group

(All interested in quilting)

Resonance

(adult handbells)

Rock of Ages

(multi-instrumental band)

Tuesday Tunes

(old-fashioned hymn sing)

Unspoken Praise

(sign language choir)

VA/Caller

(Volunteer Action - putting the Caller newsletter -anyone can help)

Vision

(adult contemporary choir)

Women's Current Issues Group

(Women of all ages)

YES

(Young Energetic Srs-age 50+)

Young Adult Ministries or Group

(20-30ish, singles and couples)

Youth choir

(grades 6-12)

YM

(Youth Ministry)

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Church Ladies meets Monday, February 22 @ 6:30 p.m. at the home of---. Bring a snack to share for a night of casual fellowship. Call the church office for more info.

Women's Issues meets Thursday, February 4 @ 7 p.m. in the Library. The book being discussed is *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay. Call the church office for more info.

Quilt Group's workday is Saturday, February 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the FH. Bring sewing supplies and a sack lunch. Newcomers welcome. Call the church office for more info.

Y.E.S.

Meeting Change: Y.E.S. now meets for breakfast the 1st Saturday @ 7:45 a.m. at Hy-Vee (74th & University) in Clive.

Youth Calendar

Sunday, February 7

4p Youth Choir
 4:45p Super Bowl Parties
 7:30p Chi-Rho Pickup
 CYF pickup after game

Chi-Rho will meet in the Youth Room

Sunday, February 14

4p Youth Choir (All participating youth must be at WDMCC @ 4p)
 5p Valentine Dinner

Sunday, February 21

4p Youth Choir
 5p Boy/Girl Night

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Wednesday, February 3

7a Men's Current Issues @ Panera
 8:30a Volunteer Action/ Caller
 4p Friends in Faith
 6p Unspoken Praise
 6:30p Resonance 7p Chancel Choir
 7p Couples Bible Study
 7:30p Basketball

Thursday, February 4

7:30a Chore Corps
 9a Crafts Therapy
 5-6:30p Gym in use
 5:30p Weight Watchers
 7p Disciple Enrichment Meeting
 7p Women's Current Issues

Friday, February 5

9a New Possibilities @ Hy-Vee

Saturday, February 6

7:45a YES @ Hy-Vee on 74th St.
 8:30a-12:30p Gym in use
 9a Valentine Card Workshop
 9a-3p Quilt Group Work Day

Sunday, February 7

IHN Hosting Week Begins

8a Vision
 8:45a and 11a Worship
 10a Church School
 1-3p Gym in use
 4p Youth Choir 5p Youth Group

Monday, February 8

IHN Hosting Week

Caller Deadline
 9a Helping Hands 9:30a Staff Meeting
 6p Volleyball

Tuesday, February 9

IHN Hosting Week

5:30 Church Growth Meeting
 6-7p Gym in use
 6:30p Valentine Card Workshop

Wednesday, February 10

IHN Hosting Week

7a Men's Current Issues @ Panera
 4p Friends in Faith
 6p Unspoken Praise
 6:30p Resonance 7p Chancel Choir
 7p Couples Bible Study
 7:30p Basketball

Thursday, February 11

IHN Hosting Week

7:30a Chore Corps
 9a Crafts Therapy
 5-6:30p Gym in use
 5:30p Weight Watchers
 7p Preschool Meeting

W.D.M.C.C. EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, February 12

IHN Hosting Week

Saturday, February 13

IHN Hosting Week

8:30-12:30p Gym in use

Sunday, February 14

IHN Hosting Week Ends

8a Vision
 8:45a and 11a Worship
 10a Church School
 1-3p Gym in use
 4p Youth Choir & Dinner Prep
 5p Valentine Dinner

Monday, February 15

7:30a Chore Corps
 9a Helping Hands
 9:30a Staff Meeting
 6p Volleyball
 7p Compassionate Journey

Tuesday, February 16

6-8:30p Gym in use

Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday

7a Men's Current Issues @ Panera
 8:30a Volunteer Action/ Caller
 1p Disciples Women
 4p Friends in Faith
 5:45p Lenten Dinner
 6p Unspoken Praise
 6:30p Resonance 7p Chancel Choir
 7p Couples Bible Study
 7:30p Basketball

Thursday, February 18

7:30a Chore Corps
 9a Crafts Therapy
 5-8:30p Gym in use
 5:30p Weight Watchers

Friday, February 19

6p Parents Night Out

Saturday, February 20

8:30a Disciples Men Breakfast
 8:30a-12:30p Gym in use
 9a Prayer Shawl Ministry
 10a Music Ministry Outreach

Sunday, February 21

8a Vision
 8:45a and 11a Worship
 10a Church School
 1-3p Gym in use
 4p Youth Choir 5p Youth Group

Monday, February 22

Caller Deadline

7:30a Chore Corps

9a Helping Hands
 9:30a Staff Meeting
 10a Regional Vitality Group
 6p Church Ladies
 6p Volleyball

Tuesday, February 23

1p Tuesday Tunes
 6p US Mission Trip Meeting
 6p Gym in use
 7p Brass Rehearsal
 7p Elders Meeting

Wednesday, February 24

7a Men's Current Issues @ Panera
 11:30a New Possibilities @ Mama Lacona's
 4p Friends in Faith
 5:45p Lenten Dinner
 6p Unspoken Praise
 6:30p Resonance
 7p Chancel Choir
 7p Couples Bible Study
 7:30p Basketball

Thursday, February 25

7:30a Chore Corps
 9a Crafts Therapy
 5:30p Weight Watchers
 7p Capital Campaign Meeting

Friday, February 26

Family Movie Night

Saturday, February 27

10:30a-12:30p Gym in use
 6p Disciple Diners

Sunday, February 28

8a Vision
 8:45a and 11a Worship
 10a Church School
 1-3p Gym in use
 4p Youth Choir 5p Youth Group

Help Wanted

Are you available during the day to provide child care for church functions? Contact Martha McDanel for information about this paying position.

Volunteers are needed to deliver meals to homebound members on Wednesdays February 17 to March 24. Interested? Contact the church office for details.