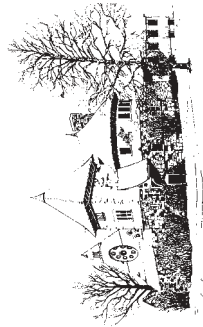


Memorial Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

730 Tappan~Ann Arbor, MI~48104
(734)662-4245 fax: (734) 662-3879
email= aamcc@provide.net
www.AnnArborDisciples.org



Winter Schedule:

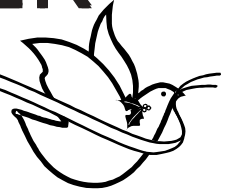
Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am
Coffee Fellowship after service

Office Hours:

Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9:00 - 2:00

THE MESSENGER

February 2010



CWS BLANKET DRIVE DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

During catastrophes like the Haiti earthquake, Church World Service warms hearts and bodies with cozy blankets. Come check out the CWS blanket sample during Coffee Fellowship and see who has donated; all donors will have their names placed on a heart and hung on the blanket. All donations of any amount are accepted; for every \$5 received, a catastrophe survivor will receive warmth and hope in the midst of chaos. Our neighbors are suffering; let's reach out in Christian love and help!



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Dr. Irvin W. Green, Pastor

aamccpastor@provide.net

UJIMA (Collective Work and Responsibility)

February 2010

For nearly six years, my entry in our congregational newsletter (The Messenger) has been named “Ujima”. I explained the origin of this term in 2004, when I began my time as your pastor. I pointed out that “Ujima” is the third principle of the “Nguzo Saba” (the seven principles of Kwanzaa). Each of these seven Swahili words describes an attitude or behavior which was offered by the originator of Kwanzaa (Dr. Maulana Karenga) as essential to the liberation of African Americans. Each has obvious value to any people seeking to improve themselves or their structures.

I am revisiting the meaning of this term for two reasons. The first reason is that we tend to lose sight of meanings when we do not talk about them, even if we include the meaning in parenthesis (in the heading). The best place to hide something is often right before our eyes. The more timely reason for lifting up the meaning of Ujima is that it has much to offer us in this season of our congregational life. I am writing to suggest that all that I do and all that any of you do is hopefully describable by another of the principles of the Nguzo Saba, “Nia”. Nia means purpose. It is my hope and intention to serve some constructive purpose in everything that we do.

As we engage the challenges of “missional revisioning” and the ultimate relocation of our congregational home, the principle of Ujima has much to offer each of us. Ujima suggests that:

Each of us is essential to our future

Nobody is expected to do more than their share

PROPERTY UPDATE



ALARM SYSTEM INSTALLED: The alarm system is in place and being used. Happily we’ve only had a few snafus.

BOILER: A new boiler was installed just in time to warm us during our Christmas Eve worship service. We had quite a few hiccups with the new system and numerous calls and visits took place with the installer. We have also had to replace other parts connected with the boiler, increasing the cost quite a bit. At this time it is working well and all that remains is the balance due!

FIRE RESTORATION: MCC has been a busy place! Contractors, painters, carpenters, inspectors, roofers, and slate tile installers have all been here! There is still much to do, but we are moving forward!

PRAYER VIGIL TO OPEN LENTEN SEASON

A 24 hour Prayer Vigil will help us at MCC to begin a contemplative Lenten season this year. Following Ash Wednesday on February 17, the Vigil will be held **from 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 20 until 9 a.m. on Sunday, February 21**. With so many needs and decisions facing our congregation, our nation and our world, we have good reason to “take it to the Lord in prayer” as we search ourselves and seek insight and guidance.

MCC has long held such a annual vigil on Peace Sunday in December. But with the complications in our church schedule and the aftermath of the fire, it was deemed best to postpone the event. The February time was chosen because it combines several important concerns facing us. One is the beginning of the Lenten season—a time for self-examination in preparation for Easter. Another is the beginning, on Feb. 21, of our annual Week of Compassion—reaching out to the poor and needy among God’s children everywhere. A third centers around the planning and procedures called for as we look to the congregation’s future. And to these has been added our awareness of the great human crisis in Haiti. To pray for guidance and peace as we face these challenges could hardly be more appropriate.

A sign-up list for hourly segments of the vigil awaits your name. You are urged to claim your time promptly. Lee Nowland will be circulating the list and may also be contacted at her home (971-2548).



Our collective contributions have compound benefits
Everyone’s participation should serve the common
good

Accepting these expectations is both challenging and reassuring. Each of us is called to personally commit to a fair and manageable share of a larger workload, believing that the whole and its parts are worthwhile and will succeed.

In Christ,

Dr. Irvin W. Green, Pastor



SERMONS and SCRIPTURES

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| <i>Feb. 7th</i> | <i>“Difference Makers”</i>
<i>1 Corinthians 15: 1-11</i>
<i>Luke 5: 1-11</i> |
| <i>Feb. 14th</i> | <i>“Unfettered”</i>
<i>2 Corinthians 3: 12 - 4: 2</i> |
| <i>Feb. 21st</i> | <i>“If Only They Knew”</i>
<i>Romans 10: 8-13</i> |
| <i>Feb. 28th</i> | <i>“The Deciding Vote”</i>
<i>Psalms 27</i> |

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Classes for all ages begin at 9:15am each Sunday. The Adult Class that meets in the parlor is studying the highly acclaimed "Living the Questions" materials on Progressive Christianity. The study combines a video with time for discussion. Living the Questions is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers. Living the Questions creates an environment where participants not only interact with one another in exploring the best of today's theological thought, but together strive to explore what's next for Christianity.



LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Our 10am Thursday morning Bible Study group continues to meet. We start each session with prayer and sharing news among us. Coffee and snacks are shared as we discuss the lectionary Bible texts. Please join us when you can.



Disciple Women Ministries

Our next evening meeting will be in the home of Pam VanHeyningen at 6:30 p.m. February 16. All women are invited and encouraged to come. It is a time of women being together, sharing, study, and worship. Please join us.

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Disciples Women Spring Fair March 13, 2010

March 13th is the big day for the "Super Spring Fair" at First Christian Church (DOC) in Lansing. The Rev. Amy Gopp is going to be our speaker for the event, speaking on mission, and Bosnia/Croatia. Registration for the event will be on site from 9 - 930 a. m. More information will follow. Women please note this date and plan to attend.



2010 Disciples Women Quadrennial Assembly Awake! Awake!

~registration is now open~

The event will be held at the Sheraton at Four Seasons Hotel and the Koury Convention Center in beautiful, Greensboro, North Carolina, **June 23 - 27, 2010.**

With over 100 workshops already scheduled and awaiting your selection, a myriad of mission opportunities of varying activity levels, the QA choir, a pre-event Habitat for Humanity build, renowned Bible scholars and exciting speakers, the Quadrennial Assembly promises to be one of the best ever!

So what are you waiting for? Spread the word to your friends and family and start making your plans to attend. Check out more information on the Disciple website (Disciples.org).

AMONG OUR OWN



Thank you to all our church family for hugs, notes, cards and food during the illness and death of **Ted St. Clair**. Caring physician (a surgical pathologist for 25 years), loving foster father to three small boys, prize-winning photographer, book collector...he and his gifts will be much missed. Love and appreciation, Cathy

Notes from afar: **Chris and Mike Clarke** writing from Menlo Park, California, sent a check to "help with MCC's ministry challenges" suggesting that it be used to support our mission goals. She went on to say that she had "made a donation to Global Ministries and listed MCC as my congregation since I have not transferred membership yet. Thank you for keeping us informed about MCC. Our best for 2010!" When we think about our ministry with IHN and Alpha House, we can't help but think of the leadership that Chris brought to that outreach ministry and Mike's research at the U and beyond continues to bring hope to those who may be without hope. Chris and Mike can be reached by mail at 1300 Mills Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

IN OUR PRAYERS: **Betty Baird, Lloyd Ballard, Wanda Cavello,** and **Judy Hiser** with ongoing health concerns...**Carl Baird, Geneva Ballard** and **Victor Hiser** as they care for their loved ones...Our homebound members, **Jeanne Neighbors** and **Shirley Smith**.



New Wineskins for New Wine

No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak . . . Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.” Matthew 9:16-17

Groundbreaking and courageous action has marked recent congregational meetings on December 6 and January 17. First, the congregation made new wine by adopting models of change. We voted overwhelmingly to accept recommendations of missional revisioning and redevelopment, using the strategy of relocation. We then put this new wine into fresh wineskins by adopting a new, more flexible set of bylaws and electing new leaders.

The congregation was able to take these actions, because the numbers present well exceeded the minimum required for a quorum. What a blessing! Thanks to all of you who recognized the importance of these meetings and made the effort to be present both times! For some, this effort was heroic, and all of us are grateful. Now we face the challenge to live into these decisions and embrace the changes they bring! In closing my moderator responsibilities, I seek to facilitate the transition to new leadership and look forward to working under the leadership of Chair JoElla Coles. May we all be invigorated by the actions we have taken and be confident that God is present with us in the midst of change!

—*Rosalie Karunas*

FEBRUARY 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Bible Study 10am	5	6
7 Sun. School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	8	9 Board Mtg. 7pm	10	11 Bible Study 10am	12	13
14 Sun. School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	15	16 DWM 6:30pm (Women's group)	17 ASH Wednesday	18 Bible Study 10am Shalom 11:30am	19	20 PRAYER Vigil
21 Week of Compassion Sun. School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	22	23	24	25 Bible Study 10am	26	27
28 Sun. School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH					

Nancy Zavrel	Feb 02
Frank White	Feb 05
Nan Bauer	Feb 11
Rosie Barnsdale	Feb 14
Millard Patrick	Feb 16
Russell Fuller	Feb 23
Tom Neal	Feb 28
Brian Overmars	Feb 28
Cathy St. Clair	Feb 28



Frank & Linda White
February 15th