

The Full Circle

March 10, 2010



Wilderness

a lenten meditation

After his baptism
Jesus was invited to enter the wilderness

Fasting not feasting
a fast limited
eating only wild fruit grain and honey
not uncommon among mystics
and other desert dwellers

Time alone
meditating in desert wastes
listening for the footsteps of God

Seeing self reflected
mirrored by wild isolation
rock sand
sparse green

A labyrinth journey
to find the center
oneness with God
rock and foundation

Solid amid blowing sands
flowing waters parting
one with God spirit
anchored and still

In societies wilderness
war famine pestilence
we are invited to join
other hermits seeking

Spirit wisdom
flowing filling
God present
love instilling

We are invited to enter the wilderness
here now

- Pastor Savage Frieze

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 28 at 10 a.m.

Holy Week begins as we mark Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. We will make our procession into the Sanctuary with palms, tambourines, hosannas and the Kids' choir.

Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7 p.m.

With candles, readings and contemplative music, we will commemorate Jesus' last meal with his disciples.

Good Friday, April 2 at 7 p.m.

In a meditative service of music and poetry, we will reflect together on the seven last words of Jesus.

Easter Sunday, April 4

9 a.m. -- We will gather in joy as a community with a continental breakfast in our Social Hall.

10 a.m. -- We will celebrate Christ's resurrection in song, story, tulips and joy. Nursery care will be available.



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER? The next Inquirer's Class is **Sunday, March 21, from 11:30 a.m.—1 p.m.** with a joining the following **Sunday, March 28**, in worship. If you have questions or to RSVP, please contact Kate Eifrig at kate.eifrig@comcast.net or Pastor Kent at kent@fccb.net.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS WANTED: The Church Council has asked the Board of Adult Ministries to find people who would like to be on a task force to study the needs of the homeless in Bellingham. The purpose will be to become familiar with the agencies and programs that are presently providing services and then recommend where members of our congregation might contribute their skills. If you are interested in serving on this task force, please e-mail Marilyn McClellan at marilyn@donel.net

NEW ORLEANS MISSION TRIP: Thank you to all who purchased raffle tickets to support our adult mission trip to New Orleans April 10-17. Recipients of the raffle items were: Cynthia Pottle (custom quilted wall hanging or table runner by Linda St. Andre), Marilyn McLean (sailboat outing with Scott and Kathleen McGuinness) and Sue Rittmueller (handcrafted wooden box by Jerry Couchman). A total of \$422 was raised to support our trip and the South Central Conference Disaster Recovery. Watch for future details of our trip as well as ways you will be able to connect with us during the trip through pictures and stories on our blog.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

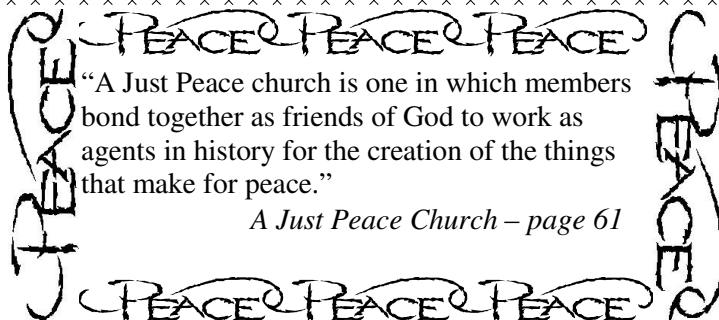
This section has been sent via email to those that receive the newsletter by email.

If you would like to receive the Full Circle by email please contact the office at 734-3720 or at office@fccb.net and let us know!



WE WANT YOUR QUILTS! We will be changing out quilts in the Social Hall on **March 18th**. Please bring in your quilts to the office before the 18th. Contact Joan Roley at 734-8041.

USED WASHING MACHINE NEEDED: Church is in need of a washing machine. If you have a working washing machine you would like to donate to the church please call the office at 734-3720.



CALLING ALL MUSICIANS: We are compiling a list of those willing to share their gifts for worship or other special occasions. Please call or email the church office and let us know what musical gifts you would be willing to share. We're looking for all talents, from percussion to singing to kazoo, harmonica and even bottle band!

If you would like more information about "A Just Peace Church" please check out a copy from our library or visit the UCC website at <http://www.ucc.org/justice/peacemaking/a-just-peace-church-1.html>.

FULL CIRCLE DATE FOR MARCH

Deadline Date	Mailing Date
March 17	March 24

RUMMAGE SALE: Pilgrim Circle announces our biggest and best Annual Rummage Sale in the church basement on **April 29, 30, May 1, 2**. If you have previously loved treasures to donate, please take them to the designated area in the church basement. **NOTE: out-of-date computers, TVs, & large appliances don't sell and will not be accepted.**

Proceeds of this sale are used to fund such projects as:

- International Justice Mission
- Dorothy Place & Lydia Place
- Habitat for Humanity
- OCWM General Fund
- Kairos Prison Ministry
- Womencare Shelter & Blue Skies for Children
- Interfaith Coalition
- Hospice & Hospice House
- CAST – feeding homeless persons on the street
- Haitian earthquake relief
- Maple Alley Inn
- Heifer Project
- Scholarship fund
- Support for individual church family members in need
- FCCB Meal Ministry
- Food Bank
- Little Farms, New Orleans Mission Trip

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

BOOK CLUB: The Daytime Book Club meets the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireplace Room for refreshments and fellowship followed by a book discussion. The book we will be discussing at our **next meeting on April 6** will be *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. For more information contact Kathleen McGuinness at 733-1251.

BROWN BAG GAME NIGHT: Have a favorite game, or want to learn how to play Bananagrams, Farkel or Apples to Apples? Join those of all ages on **Friday, March 26 from 6 to 9 p.m.** in the Social Hall for laughter and a good time while making new friends. Bring a brown bag dinner and come join the fun! Questions contact Sharry 734-3720 or sharry@fccb.net

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS RETREAT: Come join us on **Saturday, March 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** for a time of "Nurturing Your Creative Spirit." We will join together for some creative craft fun, laughter and play while connecting with other women in our community. Registration fee of \$20 covers craft supplies and catered lunch. Childcare will be available upon request. Registration forms are available on the Information Table in the Narthex. **Deadline is March 22.** For more information contact Sharry Nyberg 734-3720.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL 2010: Save the date and plan to join us for an incredible week of VCS. **June 21-25, 2010.** Registration is limited to 135 children (age 4 years to those entering the sixth grade). **Registration begins April 18.**

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

The high school youth group is hosting a Parents' Night Out on **Saturday, March 27th.** Drop your kids off at the church at **4:30 p.m.** and they will enjoy games, crafts, and pizza with the high school youth group. Pick up is at **8:30 p.m.** Donations raised from this event will support the youth group's summer mission service trip to Mexico, where they will be building houses.

YOUTH NEWS

March 14 at 1 p.m.: Ice Skating with the Ferndale Youth Group! Meet at the Bellingham Sportsplex at 1:00 p.m. Bring \$7 to pay for your ticket and skate rentals.

March 21: Join us for a St. Patrick's Day Theme Dinner! We will carpool out to the Jensen's house for an evening of dinner and games! Watch for more details.

March 28, 1:00-3:30 p.m.: It's time again for our monthly community service! Join us at Assumption Church (the tall brick church down the street from FCCB with a tall steeple) as we help out with the Bellingham Community Meal. We will be serving meals to the homeless in our community!

ANGELA NEEDS YOUTH EMAIL ADDRESSES!

Please email youth@fccb.net with your name and email address so Angela can email youth group announcements. Thanks!

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND PROGRAM

God in Our Midst: How is God Working Within Us?

This year's series allows us time to pause and reflect how we experience God's presence in the life of our church and on the Christian practices that enable us to live joyfully in ways that enrich our lives and the lives of others.

We are trying a new format this year that incorporates a short worship service followed by a topical presentation and small group discussion.

- 6:00 p.m.** Fellowship supper
- 7:00 p.m.** Worship
- 7:15 p.m.** Topical Presentation
- 7:40 p.m.** Break-out Discussion and Experiential groups
- 8:30 p.m.** Adjourn

March 17 – Community
Presenter, Carol Nicolay

March 24 -- Social Justice
Presenter, Doug Shepherd

In **Weeks 3 and 4**, we'll explore how God works *through us* to bring social justice, hospitality, and community ministries.

This Lenten Season, you are invited to seek ways that you can conduct your daily life and live in ways that answer questions about Christian values, grow your faith, and commit to creating a just and peaceful world.

For further information, please contact Marilyn McClellan at marilyn@donel.net.

LENTEN SERIES ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN: On Wednesday evenings during the Lenten Series from **7:15 – 8:30 p.m. March 10, 17 and 24** activities will be available each evening in the Creative Classroom for children in Kindergarten – Middle School. We will talk about the elements of worship and create a short service, draw prayers with color, make crosses out of interesting materials and work on a project for Pennies for Peace.

Nursery care will be available for children 5 and under. For more information contact Sharry Nyberg 734-3720.

MISSION JUSTICE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS NOTES

TIME FOR MISSION: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, MARCH 14TH.

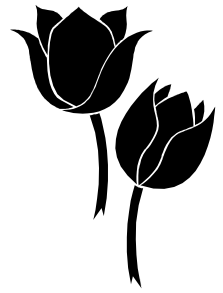
One Great Hour of Sharing is part of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) . It is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. Through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) the UCC works with international partners to build sustainable communities, respond to disasters, and minister to refugees. By building sustainable communities we support self-help programs that enable people and communities to stand against and rise above hunger, disease, illiteracy, and other forces of injustice that deny and destroy dignity. In the event of a natural disaster or human caused tragedy they provide emergency and long-term assistance to those affected. As an example OGHS has been working hard in Haiti after the devastating earthquake. On average, OGHS responds to a disaster once every 2.5 days. OGHS helps minister to refugees by responding with advocacy, hope and hospitality for people who have been uprooted from their home of origin. More than 30 million of the world's people are uprooted at any given time. On March 14th please remember this important cause and give generously. If you would like more information about OGHS please go to the UCC website at www.ucc.org/oghs . Thank you for sharing and bringing love and hope to so many.

THIS YEAR'S INTERFAITH AUCTION ITEM is a Wheelbarrow Full of Spring. You can help provide the wheelbarrow, garden gift certificates, and garden items by adding to the Garden Pot in the wheelbarrow parked in the Narthex. Your contributions are the seeds and soil amendments that will help Interfaith blossom and be fruitful for another year! The planting season is a short one, only this week and next. Checks should be to FCCB and marked "For Interfaith Auction Item." The MJSC Board says "Thanks for sowing!"

TICKETS FOR THE INTERFAITH COALITION 2010 Spring Auction on **Saturday, March 20** are available for purchase from FCCB representatives Jim Cartwright and Therese Holm. The benefit supports Interfaith Coalition's mission to provide basic necessities to local people in need, focusing on housing for homeless families and access to health care for all people. Tickets are \$40 each, which includes the cost of dinner.

PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE is **March 18th at 5:30 p.m.** at United Church of Ferndale.

Easter Tulips



I/We (name): _____ would like to purchase
(#) _____ pot(s) of Tulips at \$ 8.00 each to decorate the church for Easter.

_____ Purchased as a gift to the church

_____ Purchased in Memory of: _____

_____ Purchased in Recognition of: _____

If you wish to take your tulips, please do so after worship on Easter.

*Please return this order form with payment (cash or checks written to "FCCB: Tulips") by **Wednesday, March 24th** to the Church Office or by mailing to: First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225.*

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
An Open & Affirming Congregation
2401 Cornwall Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225-3414

Date: March 10, 2010

CHURCH CALENDAR

March 15

9:00 AM Shalom Circle

5:00 PM Exercise Group

March 17—Full Circle Deadline

5:00 PM Exercise Group

5:00 PM Prayer Shawl

6:00 PM Lenten Series

7:00 PM Stephen Ministers

March 18

7:00 PM Jesus Seminar

March 19

10:00 AM In Stitches

2:00 PM Alex Murray Memorial Service

5:00 PM Exercise Group

March 20

10:00 AM Winter Landscape Clean Up Party

March 21

10:00 AM Worship/Church School

March 22

9:00 AM Shalom Circle

5:00 PM Exercise Group

7:00 PM Church Council

March 23

7:00 PM Living the Questions

March 24—Full Circle Mailing

5:00 PM Exercise Group

5:00 PM Prayer Shawl

6:00 PM Lenten Series

March 25

1:00 PM Jesus Seminar

7:00 PM Centering Prayer

March 26

10:00 AM In Stitches

5:00 PM Exercise Group

6:00 PM Brown Bag Game Night

March 27

10:00 AM Creative Connections Retreat

4:30 PM Parents Night Out

March 28

10:00 AM Worship/Church School

1:00 PM MS & HS YG—Community Meal @ Assumption

