

Craig Johns

From: Craig Radden Henderson [craighenderson@saintpaulucc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 12:57 PM
To: Craig Henderson
Subject: 3 September Update for Saint Paul UCC, Denver, IA

**Saint Paul United Church of Christ
 Denver, Iowa**

**Rev. Craig R. Henderson
 First Week of September 2014**

UPDATE

Invitation:

During the month of September 2014, we will be leaving the lectionary for four weeks to encounter, as we did last year with different themes, a Season of Creation. **Our services will return to Fall-Spring hours of 10:15 AM beginning on September 7.** (Is summer really over?)

September 7 – Forest Sunday (focus Acts 17:22-29). The Holy Spirit led Paul to share Jesus' message with others. While traveling in Greece, Paul proclaims God as creator of the world and everything in it. Paul references the creation story in Genesis 1 to remind us of our connection to God through all God's creation. We can specifically think about the forests and trees that give us breath. Emphasizing that connection between God and all of nature, Paul explains that it's through God "we live and move and have our being."

This week reflect on all of the ways you interact with God's creation in your everyday life. Pay attention to the simplest of interactions at home, work, or school – from the air you breathe, to the trees outside your window, to the food you eat. At each moment of recognition, say a short prayer of gratitude.

September 14 – Land Sunday (focus Psalm 139:7-12). The psalmist declares that there is nowhere we can go to hide from God. God is with us at all times, in all places. One of the ways we are connected to God is through the land. The writer uses the landscape to explain God's presence with us – above the land, below it, across the sea. Again, we are reminded how important our relationship with all creation is to our relationship with God. It's a way to experience God's presence, but also a way to break or do harm to our relationship with God. In how we treat the land around us, what messages are we sending God? Few people have such a high-intensity relationship with land and the soil than the good people of Iowa. Come lift up this relationship before God through worship!

In the second week of September, listen to or read the news paying special attention to stories that talk about the land. For example, development, disputes, conservation, displacement, or issues related to borders and cultural or national identities. Spend time praying for those who are caught in the middle of the news-stories.

September 21 – River Sunday (focus Revelation 22:1-5). Healing and renewal will be themes of this third week's worship; through the scripture we learn that these outcomes flow from God's healing spirit

and the river of life. Water is vital to sustaining life – all of creation depends on it. In John’s vision, the water of life quenches thirst, the tree of life provides nourishment, and its leaves heal the nations. This might sound contrary to the stories of pollution, hunger, and war that we see in the world. God’s examples of healing and renewal inspire us to be agents of hope and change today. The Choir will open its season at worship with an anthem, “Peace Like a River.”

Perhaps before or after this worship you may feel compelled to visit a river or stream, or other waterway. Imagine God’s waters of healing and renewal flowing over you and the places in creation that are hurting.

September 28 – Wilderness/Outback Sunday (focus Romans 8:18-27). Also, Least Coin Sunday. We’ve all experienced wilderness in our lives. Either a literal image, an experience in a physical place, near or far from home, or a spiritual experience where we feel separated from God. In Romans, Paul points to the Holy Spirit as our connection with God when we are in these wilderness places. The challenge for us today is to find union with God in both physical and spiritual experiences of wilderness – by caring for creation and caring for our spiritual lives. How might we let the wilderness renew us and deepen our connection with God?

In the final week of this month, I encourage you to look at pictures of wilderness or outback. Search online, at your local library, or pull out a photo album from a recent trip. Where do you see God in these places? You may feel inspired to write a few notes in a journal or remind a child or grandchild in a letter or postcard of your observations. Pass it on and see what a dose of shared wonder might do in the world!

Sunday Children’s Hour

Beginning on Sept. 7, Children’s Hour will resume at 9:00-10:00 AM. Those who have completed Pre-School through 5th grade are welcome to join Jo Danielsen on most Sundays. She may occasionally be assisted by Deb Fowler. On the few Sundays when choir/bell choir is rehearsing an anthem before worship (Jo’s and Deb’s participation is valued in our music ministries, too!), this younger class may be alternatively led by Vicki Henderson.

Information on youth gatherings will be forthcoming. The Christian Education committee is still investigating options for youth leadership.

Calendar-at-a-Glance

Wed. Sept. 3	6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs. Sept. 4	1:00 PM	N.E. Association, Advisory Council, teleconference
Fri. Sept. 5	10:00 AM	Community Coffee @ Sunset Home
Sun. Sept. 7	9:00-10:00 AM 10:15 AM	Children’s Hour, Pre-K-5th grade (resumes) Worship/Communion/Piano (WORSHIP RETURNS TO 10:15 AM – Fall Schedule!)
Tues. Sept. 9	7:30 AM	Bible Study @ Denver Community Center
Wed. Sept. 10	6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sun. Sept. 14	9:00-10:00 AM 10:15 AM 3:30 PM	Children’s Hour, Pre-K-5th grade Worship/Organ Ordination of Arik Borstad, held at Faith United Church of Christ, 400 S. Main St., Tripoli, IA. Open invitation to all members of Northeast Association, Iowa Conference, United Church of Christ.

Tues. Sept. 16 7:30 AM Bible Study @ Denver Community Center
 Wed. Sept. 17 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
Sun. Sept. 21 9:00-10:00 AM Children's Hour, Pre-K-5th grade
10:15AM Worship/Piano/Choir
3:30 PM Ordination of Erik Breddin, St. Paul's UCC (rural CF).
8919 Burton Ave., Cedar Falls, IA.

(NOTE: The Women's Fellowship Luncheon is traditionally held in late September following worship. Committee Members are working to set a date and establish details, and will inform the congregation on their decisions soon. Stay tuned.)

Tues. Sept. 23 7:30 AM Bible Study @ Denver Community Center
 6:00 PM Council Meeting
 Wed. Sept. 24 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
Sun. Sept. 28 9:00-10:00 AM Children's Hour, Pre-K-5th grade
10:15AM Worship/Organ/Least Coin

Announcements

In our prayers:

Marie Bradfield
 Bob Brown, father of Amy Robbins
 Jim and Marilyn Butler
 Grace & Wilbert Foelske
 Rod Hennings
 Gary Konarske (TX), brother to Nancy Schneider
 Marlyn Meyer
 Frank Phillis
 Sara Quigley (Kirksville, MO), niece of Jess & Kathy Meyer
 Greg Robbins
 Doretta Seegers
 Sue Steinberg
 Leah Stumme, daughter of Larry and Eleanor Stumme of Denver
 Joanne Walters, Marilyn Butler's sister-in-law
 Laura Weber, of Raymond, IA, relative of Henry and Lynette Doepke
 Sally Wilson
 Roger Zekoff
 and all others of our members and wider circle friends in need of healing and wholeness.

Twins! Congratulations to Donna Foelske and Kathryn Haberman. They have added twins to their growing family. A son and a daughter, Wil Grayson and Taylor Kathryn, were born on July 29; both exceeded 5 lbs. After some initial health-related concerns for Wil, both children are now home and thriving under the care of sister, Cailen, and proud grandparents, Wilbert and Grace Foelske.

Labor Day Weekend Fellowship – Thank you to Barb and Dale Schnathorst for hosting a country grill/potluck for church members along with their family on Aug. 31 at their country place west of Denver. The food was delicious. The conversation was sincere. Our attention was occasionally commandeered by a very sweet grandbaby and several pets that wanted the spotlight themselves. Nevertheless, even the rain clouds largely cooperated! Gentle raindrops only make the food taste warmer and better. Again, your neighbors and friends thank you!

Music Ministry at Saint Paul UCC

Our choir and bell choir seasons are being planned and prepared by directors, Janeece M. Downs and Diane Wikner, respectively. What a joy and blessing our choirs are to our community and spiritual life Saint Paul UCC!

Adult Choir rehearsals are open to all singers (including teens/pre-teens), members or nonmembers. A love of singing is the requirement (and attending most rehearsals and taking direction from Janeece generally helps us sound better!). We welcome new voices to join us! We typically plan to meet on most Wednesdays in the fall and spring seasons, usually at 6:30-7:15PM. Janeece plans our first rehearsal for Wed. Sept. 3, and we will first offer an anthem on Sun. Sept. 21. Please consider joining us and bring a friend!

Call for Health and Hygiene Items for BCCP through Sept. 15

We at Saint Paul UCC have an opportunity to participate with Bremer County Community Partners (BCCP) to assist students with limited resources to meet health and hygiene needs. Our member, Lindsay Stack, is challenging us to bring as many of the items (listed below) and deposit them in the "materials" collection box (just inside the front door of the church narthex) on any Sunday before Sept. 15. These will be collected and distributed to those communities in Bremer County which may not have the orchestrated effort and giving participation rates that our students in Denver receive throughout the year. Please help as you and your families are able:

Shampoo/Body Wash/Soap/Toothpaste/Toothbrushes/Deodorant/Combs/Brushes
Nail Clippers/Band-Aids/Wash Cloths/Towels/Cleansing Wipes/Cotton Swabs/Lotion/
Chapstick/Feminine Hygiene products/Head lice treatment kits

Alternatively, you mail monetary donations to: BCCP, P.O. Box, Waverly, IA 50677. Or you may "note" BCCP in the memo field of a check made out to Saint Paul UCC, and we will forward those cash donations to Bremer County Community Partners.

Add a Smile! Additional toothpaste in the materials box from Sept. 15 through October will be collected for Denver High School students as part of health and hygiene backpacks. We are resuming our "hygiene items" collection in partnership with St. Peter's Lutheran beginning in September. Toothpaste is an important item, and that will be our focus for both September and October. Thanks!

Cedar Valley Hospice – Release and Remember Event

The annual fund-raising event for Cedar Valley Hospice is much more than that. The purpose of the event is to remember and honor loved ones as well as celebrate life! On September 7, 2014 from 1-3 PM, all are invited to the Waterloo RiverLoop Amphitheatre, 225 Commercial St. in Waterloo for a picnic lunch, children's activities, musical entertainment by Bill Shepherd & the Red Hots Dixieland Jazz Band and a short program prior to the mass butterfly release. For each honorarium or memorial gift of \$25, a butterfly will be released. Visit www.cvhospice.org or call the Hospice (319) 272-2002 for details.

October 11 – Iowa Conference Annual Meeting, Ames -- In preparation for our the Annual Conference Meeting, our Conference Minister, Rev. Rich Pleva invites feedback from all churches and congregational members. The meeting will expressly include opportunity for conversation about topics important for the life and future of the Conference. What do you think is important for us to discuss? Send your ideas to rich@ucciaconf.org

Missions Team – Revisiting a Good Idea

In lieu of the pie/dessert auction for OCWM this year, the Council opted back in March to revisit the idea of a Fall Silent Auction and Dinner. Beginning Sun., Oct. 19, for three Sundays, members and friends can

offer an item for the silent auction (may be displayed at the church). Examples may include homemade items such as woodwork, material crafts, art work, or, alternatively, theme baskets, donated items or services, or offers of special events (e.g., a homemade meal and game of cards at one's home) – really, your imagination sets the limit. On **Wed., Nov. 5**, we will hold a dinner in Fellowship Hall, supplemented by potluck. We'll permit bids on the items until the bell rings. We'll hope to follow the meal with special music – perhaps a Wartburg group – Joanna Dunleavy hopes to join up with a few in the months ahead! -- or a Gospel group – in the sanctuary. Just good community fun! Funds and special offering will advance our UCC mission. Hold the date for your family's participation! If you'd like to help plan, please see Kathie Novy or Barb Schnathorst!

Flowers

Especially in September, while we're celebrating a Season of Creation, we're always welcoming a flower arrangement or autumn plant. Thank you.

Ecumenical Bible Study

We meet at Denver Community Center on Tuesdays at 7:30AM (that's the opening time, so don't expect to arrive too early). We have great dialogue and good fun! Try us out, once or often.

Sept. 9	Matt 18:21-35
Sept. 16	Matt 20:1-16
Sept. 23	Matt 21:23-32
Sept. 30	Matt 30:33-46

Web Site: The church's website is available to all. You can find it at www.saintpaulucc.org. If you have suggestions or items to submit, contact Craig Johns, or respond to a Weekly Update.

Women's Fellowship

September 2014 Monthly Committee Members

*Mandy Vervaecke/Alice/Julia	984-5222
*Nancy Schneider	984-6363
Marilyn Butler	984-5543
Judy Buss	984-5450
Julie Buss	984-5125
Peg Abbas	406-0065
Tracy Thurm	240-4285
AuRae Heidemann	984-5322
Jodi Walther	984-6344

People willing to be called as substitutes

Wilma Olson	984-5876	Diane Wikner	984-5737
Peggy Rogers	984-6243	Peg Abbas	406-0065
Mary Ann Laube	984-5291	Brenda Beaty-Rater	984-5005
Marilyn Butler	984-5543	Velma Steege	984-5709
Kathy Meyer	984-5375	Sandy Buck	984-5123

Rev. Craig's cell # (319) 230-2263 -- call or text anytime!

e-mail: craighenderson@saintpaulucc.org

Pastor's study hours:
 Monday 8:00-1:00
 Tuesday 9AM-Noon, 1-5PM
 Wednesday 8AM-Noon

Thursday 1:00-3:00
or by appointment

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