

Craig Johns

From: Craig Radden Henderson [craighenderson@saintpaulucc.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 1:28 PM
To: Craig Henderson
Subject: Update -- 9 October 2014

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

**Rev. Craig R. Henderson
 9 October 2014**

UPDATE

Invitation:

On Sunday, October 12, 2014, at 10:15 AM we invite you to join us for worship. Brenda Beaty-Rater, our greeter, will also serve as our lector in reading Matthew 22:1-14 and Exodus 32:1-14. She will also share the inspirational reading, "Footprints in the Sand." Our organist/pianist, Thomas Reed, will welcome us with a prelude "How Fair and Pleasant." We'll stir ourselves with the spiritual, "Not My Brother, nor My Sister (Standing in the Need of Prayer)" and share prayers and another hymn, "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life." My message will be centered on Moses' dialogue with a God who appears in graciousness to "change mind-set," even in the people's impatience and disobedience. How does this speak to our lives? The offertory will be "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," and we'll plan to end our service with "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" and the postlude, "Trumpet Tune."

And there are always surprises. In last week's service (10/5) we had the beautifully shared testimony by special education teacher, Jo Danielsen, of her student's affirmation as "homecoming king" at the Denver Homecoming Game/Dance by school friends and the entire community. We shared a beautiful service of global breads at communion and choral music! If not because of the invitation itself, come see what new thing God is doing in our life together!

Calendar-at-a-Glance

Sat. Oct. 11 UCC Iowa Conference Annual Meeting, Des Moines

**Sun. Oct. 12 9:00 AM Children's Hour, Pre-K 5th grade
 9:00 AM Youth Hour, 6th-10th
 9-10AM Bible Study Group meets - Exodus 2-3
 10:15 AM Worship**

Note: Sign-up closes 10/12 for group-reserved seating for Christmas at Wartburg!

Tues. Oct. 14 7:30 AM Bible Study @ Denver Community Center

Wed. Oct. 15 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
 6:30 PM Endowment Committee
 7:15 PM Bell Choir

Fri. Oct. 17 Boundary Training for Pastors, Des Moines

Sat. Oct. 18 State Legion Auxiliary Mtg.

**Sun. Oct. 19 9:00 AM Children's Hour, Pre-K 5th grade
 9:00 AM Youth Hour, 6th-10th
 9-10AM Bible Study Group meets
 10:15 AM Worship/Choir**

Silent Auction items on display.

Tues. Oct. 21 7:30 AM Bible Study @ Denver Community Center

6:00 PM Council Meeting
 Wed. Oct. 22 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
 7:15 PM Bell Choir
Sun. Oct. 26 9:00 AM Children's Hour, Pre-K 5th grade
9:00 AM Youth Hour, 6th-10th
9-10AM Bible Study Group meets
10:15 AM Worship/Bell Choir
Silent Auction displays cont.

Announcements

In our prayers:

Marie Bradfield
 Bob Brown, father of Amy Robbins
 Jim and Marilyn Butler
 Grace and Wilbert Foelske (Grace is recovering from recent heart surgery.)
 Rod Hennings
 Gary Konarske (TX), brother to Nancy Schneider
 Marlyn Meyer
 Frank Phillis
 Sara Quigley (Kirksville, MO), niece of Jess & Kathy Meyer
 Greg Robbins
 Jean Robe
 Doretta Seegers
 Sue Steinberg (recuperating from surgeries at Sunset Home)
 Leah Stumme, daughter of Larry and Eleanor Stumme of Denver
 Joanne Walters, Marilyn Butler's sister-in-law
 Sally Wilson
 and all others of our members and wider circle friends in need of healing and wholeness.

Condolences: We extend our sympathy to Linda Starkovich and her daughters and family of Ellensburg, WA. Linda & her husband, Gary came to Iowa with friends to visit Viola Fails, when Gary had a heart attack died. Viola Fails was a great blessing to the Starkovich family during their stay in Iowa.

Verna Place will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Oct. 15. An Open House will be held on Sunday, October 12 from 2:00-4:00 PM at New Aldaya in Cedar Falls, the Glen Arbor Lounge on the second floor. Verna resides and receives letters or cards at the following address: c/o New Aldaya, 7511 University Ave., Cedar Falls, IA 50613.

Support a Smile! Toothpaste (to be placed in the materials box of the narthex) will be collected through Oct. 19 for Denver High School students as part of health and hygiene backpacks. We have resumed our "hygiene items" collection in partnership with St. Peter's Lutheran.. Kathy Meyer is our coordinator on this. Thanks!

Missions Team - Harvest Dinner/Potluck and Fall Silent Auction

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, 6:00-8:00 PM** we will hold a dinner in Fellowship Hall, supplemented by potluck. We'll permit bids on the items until the bell rings at 7:20 and then we'll adjourn to the sanctuary for some

special music from Wartburg College. At the end of the evening of, successful bids will be announced and items can be claimed. 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!

Care Packages Initiative for Military Service Personnel

Peggy Rogers is interested in joining with others in the church to plan a campaign of preparing holiday care-packages for U.S. armed service personnel overseas or who otherwise reside at bases far from home. A core group will plot the details on how the congregation at-large can help contribute to this November effort. Please contact Peggy Rogers.

Flowers

If you wish to contribute a plant or harvest décor during the months of October or November, we'd welcome assistance. Contact the church! Thank you.

Youth Bible Study, 9AM on Sundays. Vicki Henderson led a group of five youth last week in a Bible study targeted for ages 12-16 (11 year olds or juniors/seniors are welcome!). Hopes to build this group in the weeks ahead. The Christian Education team continues to be hopeful as we work to secure a youth leader for a Wednesday evening option for youth not otherwise involved in our music ministries. Our contacts at Wartburg College continue to help us move forward on this.

Sunday Morning Bible Study – Open to Men/Women/Youth 12 & up: We'll initially plan for six (6) lessons on the "The Book of Exodus" (Exodus 1-19), as meet on Sundays, Oct. 5 thru Nov. 11, at 9:00 AM in the conference room. A study guide and sign up sheet are on the table in the back of the church.

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. Note: In November we may plan a field trip to Wartburg College to have a Bible Study on the illuminated St. John's Bible, Genesis creation story, still on display at Wartburg. If you are able to join us and one Tuesday in November works better than another, please communicate your wish to join us as we plan for that event. Once a date is soon decided by the group, we will advertise it.

Tues. Oct. 14 7:30 AM Matt. 22:15-22

Tues. Oct. 21 7:30 AM Matt. 22:34-46

Tues. Oct. 28 7:30 AM Matt 23:1-12

The 67th annual performance of Christmas with Wartburg, *Wondrous Love, Illumine Our Hearts*, will be held in Neumann Auditorium on the Wartburg College campus on Saturday, Dec 6 at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 3:00 p.m. Concert tickets are \$16.50 each and are offered to congregation members in blocks in advance of the public sale. St. Paul UCC will order and purchase the tickets for members/friends to qualify for early reserved seating. A sign up clipboard is in the back of the sanctuary (or call the church, (319) 984-5682, with your request). Specify name, # of tickets, and concert date/time preference. You need not pay now. Reimburse the Hendersons when you receive your tickets.

Special meals will be held at 5 p.m. on each concert day. Meal tickets (\$25) may be purchased through Wartburg at [www.wartburg.edu/christmas_starting Nov. 3](http://www.wartburg.edu/christmas_starting_Nov.3). Our church will not be arranging meal participation. We hope you will join us for this inspiring community event!

A Message about Stewardship – Those who contribute financially to Saint Paul UCC will soon receive their third quarterly giving statements (for period ending Sept. 30.). These are faithfully prepared by our

Financial Secretary, Nancy Schneider. They will be “hand-delivered” initially at worship (in the “living room”) over the next few weeks, to reduce postage costs.

Presently, our 2014 membership is attached to 128 *Active* families or households (all potential “giving units”). At third-quarter end, 2014, 93 households had given financially. No contributions have yet been noted for 35 households. Some households give at year end. Some households cannot give financially, and give in other ways. We all recognize, of course, that many are on fixed incomes, and not all things are equal in the world. As those who are blessed to be able to give and prayerfully review their own giving and tithing and service in support of your church, please consider the following statistics:

* If the 2014 congregation-approved budget of \$139, 861 were divided equally among the 128 *active* households, the average annual contribution per household/family would be **\$1,093. 00**.

* If the primary support of the church remains on 93 households who have given in 2014, the average contribution per household would need to be **\$1,504.00** to meet the annual budget. This represents a 50 percent increase over the first “benchmark.”

Several members/friends as a household give much more than either of these “averages.” They may feel it an obligation, but we hope they do so rather in their abundance and in their joy of belonging to Christ! Others give less, but their contribution may, in fact, represent a much more substantial percentage of their annual income. Their gift, too, is given in a spirit of abundance and joy. Be assured, all financial treasure, material support for missions’ efforts, and gifts of time and service are received as true blessings to our community!

At the end of September, following an appeal that we were feeling a financial pinch at quarter’s end, several members/friends stepped up to give a bit more. Also, the Endowment Board made available interest monies from the church’s endowment that might otherwise have been used to repair some uneven sidewalks around the church (but the work would not be able to be completed until the Spring), so the monies were redirected toward meeting the crunch of general church expenditures. Thanks to all who rallied to find a short-term solution!

Council will soon communicate ways to participate in automatic payment through your local bank. More and more people pay bills on-line as a matter of routine convenience and maintenance of a personal budget. It’s an option that has not been offered for some time! Those who do participate in this type of giving, even if only for a portion of their giving, are often enthusiastic about it. It may work for you, too.

Keeping up with the Wider Church: If you want to receive weekly Enews from the Iowa Conference, United Church of Christ, you may contact Diane Leggett at diane@ucciaconf.org with name and e-mail. Otherwise you may sign up on the website by going to the ABOUT US tab to ENEWS. <http://www.ucciaconf.org/about-us/e-news>

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

October 2014 Monthly Committee Members

*Kathy Schweer	984-5789
*Darleen Steck	984-5705
Mary Ann Laube	984-5291
Nikki Fuller/Anna/Lindsey	984-6102

Kelly Carman	984-6043
Tanya Mrzlak	984-5482
Wanda Phillis	984-6020
Sue Steinberg	984-6566
Emily Steege	415-7220

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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