

COVENANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
2700 72nd Street
Urbandale, IA 50322

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Des Moines, Iowa
Permit 1586

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

<u>Financial Notes</u>	
Dec. 19, 2010	
Total Deposit	\$1,992.00
Dec. 24/26, 2010	
Total Deposit	\$9,235.00
Jan. 2, 2011	
Total Deposit	\$4,948.31
Jan. 9, 2011	
Total Deposit	\$2,838.58

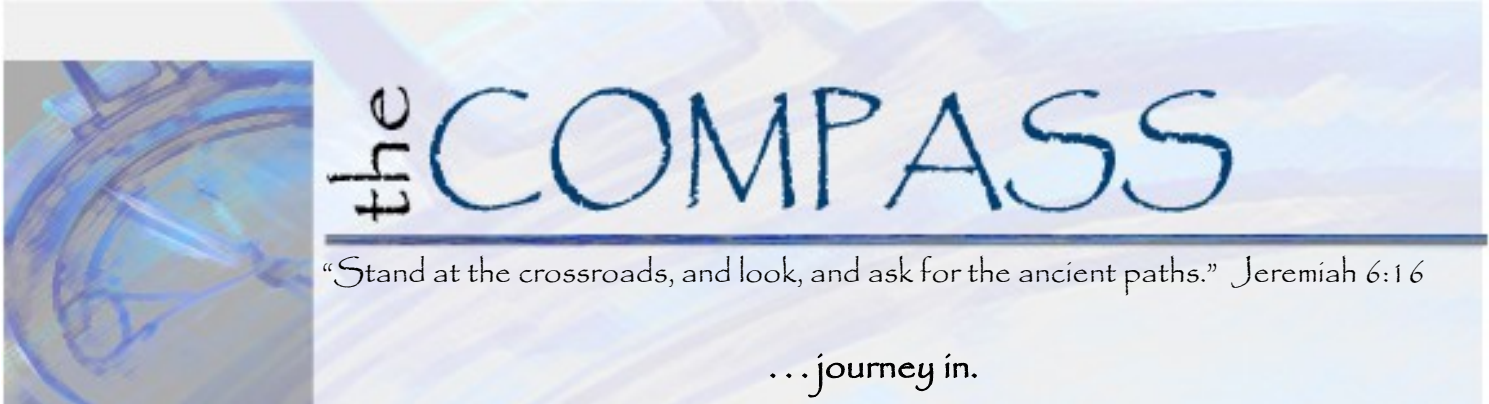
<u>Attendance</u>	
Sunday, Dec. 19	Worship 68
Sunday, Dec. 26	Worship 35
Sunday, Jan. 2	Worship 54
Sunday, Jan. 9	Worship 61
Sunday, Jan. 16	Worship 58

<u>Visitors</u>
Dawn Finestead
Harold & Ruth Martin
Emma & Carter Coddington
David Tulliz

<u>How to Reach Us</u>	
Church Phone	515-276-3781
FAX	515-253-0174
pwitmer@covenant-christian.org	
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www.uppermidwestcc.org
Christian Church in the Upper Midwest
www.disciples.org

**The next newsletter will be mailed on
Wednesday February 16.
Articles to be submitted by
Monday, February 14.**




“Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths.” Jeremiah 6:16

... journey in.

Volume 3 Issue 1
January 19, 2011

covenant
christian
church



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What can we say about February in Iowa? In mixed company...at church. Better keep it brief. What I can say about February in Iowa is that it always provides ample opportunity to go inside, be inside, and preferably stay inside. While I'm talking about physical space, I of course am inferring Spiritual movement as well.

This is a season in the church year to *journey in*. It's a good time to explore what exactly we mean by the *journey in*. It's the one piece of our mission that might lack clarity. Unlike the *journey up* which is somewhat obviously about growing in relationship with God, and the *journey out*, which compels us outward to love and serve others. The *journey in* is a move toward what exactly? The undiscovered country? The inner landscape? The relationships that are closest to us within our own family, life and church community? Yes.

The *journey in* can be an exciting journey of self-discovery, personal growth and introspection. It can be our greatest journey yet. We might be like the pilgrim who said, “*I went looking for God and found myself. I went looking for myself and found God.*” This discovery in particular highlights the importance of the inner journey. You just never know what you will discover on such a journey. So, take some time this cold and sometimes brutal winter to spend some time “inside.” Spend some time in prayer and meditation like centering prayer (Wednesdays, noon). Walk a labyrinth (Ask Tom Small or Hal Rusk about local options for labyrinths). Spend some time following the lines of a Mandala toward the center of a sacred circle (Ask me about my Mandalas). Most of all, learn to enjoy the company of your soul. May your journey inward be rewarding and enlightening this season. Peace, Paul

...journey up.

**Thursday Morning Bible Study
10:00 a.m.
“Troublesome Bible Passages”**

Join us for a series which has begun in January and will continue through February: Troublesome Bible Passages.” Our Thursday morning Bible Study is very relaxed and relational and includes lots of room for growth, discussion and even disagreement.

We begin to explore these Bible Passages and the troublesome questions they raise:

Where is the Kingdom of God?

Luke 17:20-21

Will the poor always be with us?

Amos 8:4-8; Matthew 26:6-13

What is the sin that can never be forgiven?

Matthew 12:25-32

What is the resurrection of the body?

I Corinthians 15

How perfect do I need to be?

Matthew 5:43-48

Is there grace in the Old Testament?

Is there judgment in the New Testament?

Isaiah 43; Matthew 10:32-39

The coffee’s always hot and sometimes the talk is too! Join us.


**Christianity for the Rest of Us:
How the Neighborhood Church Is
Transforming the Faith**

You are invited to join our growing and dynamic adult Sunday School class meeting at 8:45 on Sunday mornings. We continue to read and discuss the book by Diana Butler Bass while taking a good look at our own ministry setting with creativity and honesty. You are always welcome, and no reading (or knowledge!) is required

**A Season of Prayer
and Evangelism**

We have postponed our “season of prayer and evangelism” with College Avenue Christian Church, but are excited about plans to share this 40 days of prayer during Lent. We plan to share services with College Avenue, rotating between the churches on Sunday evenings during Lent, and sharing services on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. Stay tuned for more information as plans develop.

...journey in.

 February			
BIRTHDAYS			
Mark Stookey	2/1	Merlene Dickinson	2/2
Andy Filean	2/3	Jerry Warwick	2/5
Barb Bloomquist	2/8	Drue Cavanaugh	2/9
Andy Sohn	2/10	Jackie Benson	2/11
Cassie Burden	2/14	Linda Yeoman	2/17
Katie Mitchell	2/19	Jay Sohn	2/22
Tommie Warwick	2/23	Dana Etzel-Wharff	2/26

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jayde Hildebrand
Paul Ratahak
Don Benson
Jackie Benson
Newell Hart

NOTES & NEWS

- Our sympathy to **Tom and Linda Small** on the recent death of **Tom’s** father, **George W. Small**.
- Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. I appreciate your thoughtfulness! - **Betty Lou Lundy**
- Like Betty Lou, I want to thank you for your kindness in remembering our family at Christmas time with a generous gift. Thank You!—**Paul Witmer**

Welcome New Members!

We are excited to welcome a new family into the life of Covenant Christian Church: **Chris McCurdy** joined the church along with his two children, **Sam** and **Lillie**. Join us in welcoming Chris and the kids!



**Potluck and Bakery Auction
Sunday, January 30**

Please bring a dish to share and a dessert for the auction. Table service and drinks provided.

Money raised from the auction will go toward future youth activities.

Fellowship

On behalf of the Fellowship Division, I want to thank everyone who responded to the angel tree and helped replenish the pantry. Much appreciated!

It is our intent this year to cut back on the use of paper plates, styrofoam, and other disposable goods.

In the back of the kitchen is a large shopping bag marked “RECYCLING.” Please leave your plastic water bottles, pop cans, cardboard, empty coffee canisters, etc. in the bag.

Drue Cavanaugh

...journey out.

**Covenant and College Avenue
Explore Outreach Opportunities**

Members of Covenant and College Ave. recently made a shared journey to First Christian Church, Keokuk to witness some of their outreach success and methods. Together, we hope to explore ways to reach out in our local community to reach people and meet needs. Stay Tuned!