

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  
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#### Financial Notes

Nov. 14, 2010	
Total Deposit	\$1,471.00
Nov. 21, 2010	
Total Deposit	\$589.61
Nov. 28	
Total Deposit	\$1,148.00
Dec. 5, 2010	
Total Deposit	\$7,061.00

#### How to Reach Us

Church Phone 515-276-3781  
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www.covenant-christian.org

[www.uppermidwestcc.org](http://www.uppermidwestcc.org)  
Christian Church in the Upper Midwest  
[www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)

#### Visitors

Tom & Barbara Smith  
Mark & Nico Stookey  
Shane, JoAnna, Owen &  
Taylor Walker  
Doug & Barb Minear

#### Attendance

Sunday, Nov. 21	Worship 54
Sunday, Nov. 28	Worship 58
Sunday, Dec. 5	Worship 62
Sunday, Dec. 12	Worship 49

The next newsletter will be mailed on

Wednesday, January 19.  
Articles to be submitted by  
Monday, January 17.

## the COMPASS

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

*"In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago." Christina Rossetti, 1872*

I already know—because you've told me in no uncertain terms—that it's not your favorite hymn. But to me, "In the Bleak Midwinter" is a beautiful embrace of what might otherwise be a brutal season. Call it what it is. Name it. Claim it. Bleak, midwinter. This most recent winter storm was a fresh reminder of the sentiment expressed in word and song: frosty wind made moan. I certainly heard it in my home, as you probably did.

But we can thank this season for what it does for us. It sends us inside and inward. We have to go within to survive. And going inward, helps us thrive spiritually. This going inward to grow spiritually reminds me of the words of another writer who said, "*I had always imagined God to be in the same general direction as everything else that I valued: up. I had failed to appreciate the meaning of some words that had intrigued me since I first heard them in seminary—Tillich's description of God as the 'ground of being.'*" I had to be forced underground before I could understand that the way to God is not up but down." (Parker Palmer)

Our invitation to journey together doesn't include the invitation to go downward. But maybe it should, along with winter's invitation to go within is the invitation to get in touch with what grounds us and keeps us stable, firm and rooted. May this season find you still, silent, and pondering your inner strength and truth.

Peace, Paul Witmer



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December 15, 2010

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...journey up.

**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 are entering a season of prayer and evangelism and invite you to join us and members of College Avenue Christian Church as we together embark on a journey of 40 days of prayer together. The purpose of this 40 day commitment is to listen for God's call to us as a faith community and discover ways that we can respond faithfully, especially in the area of evangelism.

**IN OUR PRAYERS**  
Jayde Hildebrand  
Paul Ratashak  
Don Benson  
Newell Hart  
Don Hiscox

**Notes and News**

- Our sympathy to **Bob** and **Donna Avaux** on the recent death of **Bob's** mother, **Margaret Avaux**.
- **Don Hiscox** is home recovering from surgery.
- Congratulations to **Don Cavanaugh** on his retirement from Pioneer after 30 years!
- Thanks to **Gene Denny** and family for sharing their antique winter sleigh with Covenant, and sharing the memory of Gene's father **Paul Denny**.
- Congratulations to **Angie Witmer** for passing her ecclesiastical council and being approved for ordination. You are invited to join her service of ordination on **January 22, 5:30 p.m.** at Plymouth U.C.C.
- The family of **Mary Rogers** shares their thanks and appreciation for the kindness extended to them on behalf of Covenant Church. We give thanks to the family for sharing the gift of Beanie Babies for our Christmas program!

...journey out.

**Little Things, Good Things**

In early December we delivered...  
1-3/4 pounds of can tabs to Ronald McDonald House  
59 Personal Care items to Children and Families of Iowa  
**Thank you Covenant!**

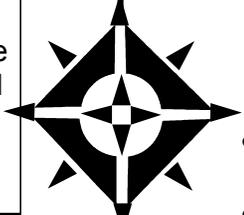
**Christmas Offering:  
Did You Know.....**

- Christmas offering will be received December 19<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Eve?
  - 100% of the offering stays in the Christian Church of the Upper Midwest Region?
- The Upper Midwest Region is OUR Region and includes Disciple churches in Iowa, Minnesota, and the Dakotas (vast majority of the churches are in Iowa).

**SPLASH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
**WEDNESDAY,**  
**DECEMBER 22, 6:30 p.m.**



All are invited to join us for the Christmas Program presented by the kids of SPLASH, our Wednesday evening education program for kids of all ages. We will celebrate the season with music, readings and pageantry. Come celebrate the season with the ones who make it so special for all of us! Join us downstairs afterwards for food and fellowship.



**Christmas Eve Worship  
Candlelight and Communion**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Please join us for Christmas Eve worship on Friday, **December 24 at 7:00 p.m.** Our Advent season of preparation reaches it's beautiful climax in this candlelit service of music, communion and scripture. Don't miss this very special time to gather with family and friends in joyful Christmas celebration.

...journey in.

 **January**

BIRTHDAYS			
Hal Rusk	1/1	Connor Wharff	1/1
Jeff Ratashak	1/2	Gwena Nash	1/11
Oliver Young	1/11	Donna Rusk	1/13
Bob Smith	1/15	Joanna Sienkiewicz	1/17
Donna Avaux	1/24	Ron Stookey	1/25
Michael Yeoman	1/28		
ANNIVERSARIES			
Bob & Martha Smith		1/9	
Don & Jackie Benson		1/13	
Don & Dee McCaleb		1/28	

**Wondering what our money helps pay for?  
In 2010 it helped...**

- Maintain Camp Facilities near Newton
- Provide Camping Activities –over 1,000 campers
- Support salaries for Regional office support staff
- Underwrite School for Congregational Learning - 436 Disciples attended
- Provide Reconciliation Grants including \$4,000.00 to CFUM
- Support salaries for two Regional ministers who provide/facilitate or assist
  - o Church and pastor counseling and support: over 1,000 contacts this year
  - o Churches in search/call for new pastors
  - o Monthly meetings of Clusters of pastors
  - o Mission trips – 15 people went to Poland
  - o 20 Persons preparing for full time ministry
  - o Ordinations
  - o 40 Licensed Ministers and 40 studying to be Licensed Ministers
  - o Churches working on intentional renewal Programs

***Our money is supporting good people doing good ministry in our Region!***

**Need transportation for worship or other church activities? Please call the church office at 276-3781.**