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Berwickchurch.com

THE DOVE

B E R W I C K C O N G R E G A T I O N A L C H U R C H

WELCOME SPRING!!

CO-PASTORS:

Rev. Richard Miller-Todd

(Jan-March and
 July-September)

Rev. Theron (Tom) Conroy

(April-June and
 October-December)

Sunday Services and
 Sunday School:
 9:00 AM

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EASTER LILIES

Please contact Karen Pearce (262-9047) or sign up on a clip board we will pass around Sunday mornings, if you would like to donate an Easter lily in memory of a loved one. The names will be included in the bulletin for Easter Sunday. Lilies should be delivered to the church AFTER Maundy Thursday services but before Easter services. Thank you!



COMMUNITY GARDEN

This year we have a special plan for a portion of our community garden plots and that is to grow fresh vegetables to donate to the food bank in Ankeny. Now seeking volunteers for planting, weeding, and harvesting, as well as for making recommendations as to what is best to plant. Donations of seeds



This year's Widows' and Widowers' Brunch took place at Perkins in Ankeny and it was a fun time! Thanks to Shirley for organizing the event and making cards, cookies and corsages for our guests.

and plants welcome – and needed! Contact me at home or see me at church. Lois Allen, 818-445-3273.



TAKING A CENTIPEDE TO CHURCH!

A single guy decides life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a centipede (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house.

He took the box back home, found a good location for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him. So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time."

But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked

him again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?"

But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

He decided to ask him one more time, this time putting his face up against the centipede's house and shouting, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about The Lord?"

A little voice came out of the box: "I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes!"

INVITE A FRIEND OR NEW NEIGHBOR TO COME TO CHURCH WITH YOU!

SKI WEEK-END

Rev. Rich and two of our youth attended the ski weekend hosted by People's Congregational Church of Bayport, Minnesota. We thank Rev. Tom Van Tassell of Spencer and Patrick Stewart of Lamoille for organizing the event. It is the first time we have been present in the past few years. As Jim Brandsen said, "This is a unique way for young people to be together." Jim couldn't make it this year but wanted his daughter to share in the experience.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Mary Feters
- Jodi Schlenker and Nina Moore
- Charles & Hazel Neagle
- Roy Abbott (Cindy's father)
- Gerald Banning
- Don Townsley (Shirley's father)
- Walter Biddle
- Baby Lochlan



MISSIONS

Iowa-Nebraska Plans -

Preparations are being made for the mission outreach event in Pennsylvania this summer where volunteers will be spending a week building a complete house in a week. Fingerprints of volunteers have been submitted and other preparations are in the works.

Food Pantry -

Rev. Rich delivered two tubs of food to the Nevlin Center in Ankeny for the food pantry commitment for February. The empty containers are already being filled for March (we are collecting diapers and hygiene products for the monthly contribution this month).

Our birthday bag contributions continue to be very popular (which contain cake mix, frosting, paper plates and napkins, etc).

Jonathan

Our monthly commitment to Jonathan at Happy Life continues.

THE PULPIT

We will welcome back to the pulpit Pastor Tom Conrey for the months of April, May and June. Rev. Rich will be back July Aug & Sept.

THANKS TO OUR MANY HELPERS!

USHERS:

March 6 - Jodi
March 13—Shelly
March 20—Patty
March 27—Mary
April 3— Jodi
April 10—Judy S.

CLEANING THE CHURCH:

March 6—Brandsens
March 13—Lori & Don
March 20—Kathy & Patty
March 27—Ray & Amy

COMMUNION:

March 6 - Shelly
April 3—Karen & Nelson

FELLOWSHIP:

March 13—Amy & Ray
April 10—Patty

SUNDAY SCHOOL—

March 6—Cindy
March 13—Lori
March 20 ?
March 27 ?
April 3—?
April 10—Lori
April 17 ?
April 24 ?

TRANSPORTATION OF JERRY (OUR ORGANIST) TO PRACTICE WEDS:

See bulletin board sign-up.

NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

March 13



THANK YOU!!

A big thank you to Amy Sprague for her absolutely beautiful floral arrangements she has been making for the church.

CALENDAR PLANNING

The church Council will be meeting on March 13 for the purpose of putting on the church calendar the dates of various upcoming events and plans as suggested by the congregation. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more details as to what all is coming up!

EMILY MILLER-TODD - SEMINARY UPDATE

Emily Miller-Todd will graduate from Perkins School of Theology in early May and her internship at Anaheim will officially end in May. She will return to Anaheim to be on the staff starting in July.

Congratulations, Emily!

COUNCIL CAPTIONS

The Church Council met February 28, 2016 and finalized Easter plans. Our checking account balance is \$1033.13 as of 2-28-16.

We have \$4048 in our roof fund to date—not enough for a complete new roof but we could do part of a roof!

OUR WORK IN THE LARGER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

NACCC:

The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches' annual conference will take place in Dearborn, Michigan this June. The Theme: "Who Is My Neighbor" is appropriate to the setting where there is a melting pot of cultures and religions. This is a subject near to our hearts as our religious expression has changed.

IOWA-NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES:

The Spring Meeting will be held at First Congregational Church in McCook, NE April 15-16, 2016. We have information available as to hotels in the area if you are able to attend the meeting.

OUR BEAUTIFUL ALTAR

Thanks to Don for hanging the banners!



HOLY WEEK:

PALM SUNDAY: MARCH 20

MAUNDY THURSDAY: MARCH 24

POTLUCK: 6:00

SERVICE: 7:00 PM

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE: 6:45 AM

EASTER BREAKFAST: 7:30 AM

EASTER WORSHIP/SUN.SCHOOL: 9 AM

EASTER EGG HUNT: 10 AM

To contact Berwick Church:

Church Phone: 515-262-0949

Rev. Rich: 515-669-9554 (Jan-Mar; July-Sept)

Pastor Tom: 515-480-3396 (Apr-June; Oct-Dec)

Church Secretary: 515-262-9047 (Karen)

SUNDAY SERVICES: & SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM



Berwick Congregational Church

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR -

Easter (even when it is early on the calendar) is a time of transition. We move from the dull days of winter into a season of expectation and hopefulness. This year we have tried to look at the ways in which we celebrate Easter and think of new ways to approach it. Churches are doing a great job of stepping out into the community and finding new ways of being of service in Christ's name. We were never meant to remain behind the walls of the church building in worship. It is this image that has helped people to see the church as uncaring or judgmental rather than as communities devoted to finding solutions to problems in the family, community or even the world.

Some churches are joining together on celebration Sundays to find concrete ways that they can be in the community doing acts of service. In the process members see concrete ways that they can volunteer their time to accomplish goals for nonprofits organizations that reach out to the community. In many cases this is done as an alternative to the normal worship hour. It is strange that we have imagined that we can only be in a posture of worship if we find our way to the pew for an hour. God calls us to go out and be an active participant in the faith. As Christians we are challenged to rethink our understanding of worship. Can it take place in the workplace or at another location if we are open to his Spirit? I think that is true when it is done in the context of serving a covenant community.

Rev. Rich