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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

PASTORS:

Rev. Kay Miller-Todd &
Rev. Richard Miller-Todd

(Jan-March and
July-September)

Rev. Theron (Tom) Conrey

(April-June and
October-December)

Sunday Services and

Sunday School:

9:00 AM

LENT AND EASTER SERVICES

Ash Wednesday, March 1, is the beginning of Lent. We began the Lenten season with a drama, music and love feast. The love feast is a tradition where buns and coffee are served during a time of fellowship during the worship service. The theme of our service was taking on positive behaviors and projects during the Lenten season as we prepare ourselves for Easter.

During Holy Week, we will have our usual services: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunrise and Easter morning services. After our Easter Sunrise service, we will have an Easter Breakfast and after the Easter morning service, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. (See page 4 for exact times.)

JODI SCHLENKER'S PRESENTATION TO EMILY AT HER ORDINATION:

"Today, we come to celebrate Emily. She does not want us to give her all this attention. This is what makes Emily such a great servant for God. Emily has been a part of the Berwick Congregational Church for the last 20 years. We have watched her grow up into a confident well-spoken young woman. We are so proud of her choice to follow God's calling. We know she has the heart to serve God's people in many ways. Her future will be full of many adventures.

On behalf of Berwick Congregational Church, I am honored to present her with this stole. Wear it with pride and know those who have given it to you love you."



Congratulations to Emily Miller-Todd who was ordained as a minister at First Congregational Church in Anaheim February 26. Jodi and Bob Schlenker drove from Iowa to be there and Jodi presented her with the beautiful purple stole given to her as a gift from our congregation. Proud parents, Rich & Kay Miller-Todd, and brother Ben also made the trip from Iowa!

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MARCH MISSION SUPPORT— INDIAN TRAILS

Mission work with Indian Trails began in Arizona and has extended into Mexico as men and women have been trained for Christian ministry. The Rev. Dr. Tom Gossett was the founder of the Indian Mission which has grown over the past 50 years. Important programs include: Babylink which enables newborns to receive a layette; Elderlink which is an outreach to the elderly and their particular needs; The hunger program that provides temporary assistance to the hungry. Regular support is given to indigenous ministers seeking to reach their own people for Christ.

Indian Trails is under new leadership following the death of Dr. Gossett. This is a vital mission to the American and Mexican Indians. It has been a mission of the National Association for many years.

The Covenant Bible Study group continued to meet at Kathy Hansen's house on Tuesday evenings in January and February. This second eight-week session of the study has been entitled: Living. Our last meeting for this session will occur on March 7. After a break, the group will begin its third and final session on Trusting.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Jodi Schlenker
- Charles & Hazel Neagle and Vicky Baker
- Gerald Banning
- Don Townsley (Shirley's father)
- Mike Pearce
- Margaret Carlson
- Lori Holmes' mother

APRIL MISSION SUPPORT - HOPE MINISTRIES

Hope ministries is an outreach to the homeless and those dealing with alcoholism. It is a coming together of separate mission agencies to create an organization able to meet a number of life issues.

Our church delivered sandwiches to the Hope site on 6th Avenue for years. The sandwich program was initially focused on the homeless living under the bridges. Later the sandwiches acted as lunches for residents at the shelter who needed food on the job. This site assists former alcohol clients who are setting out on a new course. These men are employed by day and come to the shelter for food and housing while they get on their feet.

Hope also operates a housing unit for single parent households. This ministry enables families to get on solid ground before venturing out into permanent housing.

COMMUNITY FOOD ASSISTANCE

Our church supports the local food pantry, IMPACT, through monthly donations. In March, we will be providing diapers and in April we will be providing packages soup mixes. Recently, we have also begun exploring how to provide volunteer help to IMPACT.

On March 9, the church will begin offering an emergency food pantry from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays. In the Spring/Summer, we plan to have an outdoor distribution box so that the pantry is accessible at any time.

We are grateful that Ray and Amy Sprague have been offering fresh eggs to the congregation on Sunday mornings.

In April, we will be beginning to plan for our community garden. All of you who enjoy gardening will be able to use your gifts in this special way. Contact Lois Allen to see how you can help.

PRAYER WARRIORS

Jodi Schlenker has coordinated a group to pray for the many needs facing those in our congregation and community. The group is called the "Prayer Warriors." It meets after church on the fourth Sunday of the month. Current needs are placed on a prayer board in the sanctuary and members of the group send cards of encouragement to those whose needs have been identified.



THANKS TO OUR MANY HELPERS

USHERS:

March 5—Karen & Nelson
 March 12—Lori & Don
 March 19—Kathy
 March 26—?
 April—Unscheduled

COMMUNION:

March 5—Karen & Nelson
 April 2—Patty

FELLOWSHIP:

Mar.12—Karen & Nelson
 April 9—Jodi

SUNDAY SCHOOL—

March 5—LuAnn & Maya
 March 12—Lori H.
 March 19—?
 March 26—?
 April 2—Shelly
 April 9—LuAnn & Maya
 April 16—Lori H.
 April 23—Karen P.
 April 30—Shelly

CLEANING THE CHURCH:

March 5—John & Janice
 March 12—Patty & Kathy
 March 19—?
 March 26—Shelly
 April 2—Jodi
 April 9—?
 April 16—Patty & Kathy
 April 23—Shelly
 April 30—John & Janice

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

After worshipping at Berwick for several months, John and Janice McKinney joined the church on January 15, 2017. Both John and Janice are retired and they have a small acreage in Berwick where John has sheep and goats.



JANICE AND JOHN

Janice and John love being grandparents and great-grandparents. They live at 5396 NE 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313. Welcome John and Janice!

INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR OUR CHURCH BOARD

On Sunday, March 12, we will be having an installation service for our board. The board works faithfully and diligently all year long to plan activities that will minister to our community and our congregation. Come join us as we celebrate their service. Our current board members are Nelson Pearce, chairman, Karen Pearce, secretary, Patty Smith, Kathy Hansen, Shirley Holmes, Lori Holmes, Jodi Schlenker, Judy Sprague and Shelly Kern, treasurer.



Pastor Tom, Pastor Kay, Rev Rich

IOWA-NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION NEWS

The semi-annual meeting of the Iowa-Nebraska Association is scheduled for April 29 in Elkader. This will be an exceptionally exciting meeting because of the gathering of the vicinage council for the ordination to the pastoral ministry of Linda Hauschild who is now serving the First Congregational Church of Elkader. Pastor Kay will be moderator of the council and Rev. Charles Packer, who grew up in the First Congregational Church of Marshalltown and is now serving Pine Hill Congregational Church in West Bloomsfield, MI, will be delivering the ordination sermon. Rev. Packer will also be speaking to the association about CFTS (Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies).

The Little Brown Church has called their new pastor and we offer them congratulations.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION NEWS

The 63rd Annual Meeting and Conference is scheduled for June 24 to June 27 at Piedmont College in Georgia. Our church, along with other Iowa-Nebraska churches, hope to host missionaries from the Philippines sometime between June 7 and June 14.

CELEBRATION OF OUR MINISTERS

This year, we are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Rev. Rich's service to our church and Pastor Tom's 5th Anniversary! On Sunday, April 29, we will have a potluck brunch after the worship service so that we may show our appreciation to these ministers for all these years of service to us (joined now "officially" by Pastor Kay)! We are so richly blessed to have three wonderful, caring ministers!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Wednesday, March 1—Ash Weds 6:30 PM
Sun., March 12—Church Board Installed
Sun, April 9—Palm Sunday (youth Sun.)
Thurs, April 13—Maundy Thurs 5:30 PM
Sun, April 16—Easter Sunday:
 6:45 AM Sunrise Service
 7:15 AM Easter Breakfast
 9 AM Worship /Sun. School Egg Hunt
Sun., April 29—Minister Appreciation Brunch
Sun. May 7—VBS Breakfast 10 AM
Sat. May 13—“High Tea” (tentative date)

To contact Berwick Church:

Church Phone: **515-262-0949**
 Revs. Kay & 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

JANUARY—FEBRUARY NEWS

- In January, the church installed Pastor Kay Miller-Todd as minister. Pastor Linda Hauschild of First Congregational Church of Elkader delivered the installation sermon. Pastor Terry Collins of Lamoille Congregational Church read the Charge to the Minister that had been prepared by Rev. Dan Vellinga of First Congregational Church of Marshalltown (who was officiating at a funeral and unable to attend). Jodi Schlenker welcomed all the churches to the service. Jan Wilson, moderator of the Iowa-NE Association, welcomed Kay on behalf of the IA-NE churches, and Pastor Tom Conrey presented the Charge to the congregation. The Nebraska churches were represented by Linda and Chris Barnes from First Congregational Church in Ashland. Prior to the service, a luncheon was served and it was good to have fellowship with members from our sister churches.
- On February 12, our fifth annual Valentine Brunch was held at the Big Steer in Altoona for widows/widowers in our church and community. Shirley Holmes has done an impressive job of coordinating this event each year. Each guest received a corsage and gift basket of homemade fudge. Thanks to Shirley and the sponsors who made this event special.
- In January, Gerald Banning and Margaret Carlson visited with Charles and Hazel Neagle in Perry and in February they visited with Jean Jeanette in Nevada. Pastor Kay and Janice McKinney had a wonderful time escorting Gerald and Maggie and getting to be part of the fellowship of these long-time friends. Rev. Rich visited with Betty Davis at Kennybrook Village in Grimes and with Don Townsley at Sunnyview in Ankeny.



Berwick Congregational Church

MEMORIAL FOR ARNIE DIEST

Rev. Rich officiated at the funeral of Arnie Diest in January and the reception was held at the church. Thank you to the family and friends of Arnie who donated to the Berwick Church's Compassion Fund in his memory. The Compassion Fund is used to help those who have an emergency need in the Berwick Community. This is a very fitting memorial for Arnie, who showed compassion to those in Berwick for so many years.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Vacation Bible School breakfast will be Sunday, May 7th at 10:00 AM. Come and enjoy pancakes and much more to help purchase the new and exciting "Super Hero" curriculum we will be using this year. Vacation Bible School is July 9-13.