

# Steeple Notes

Volume 34 Issue 3 "Inspiring Faith. Improving Lives." March, 2019

## HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

9209 E. 29th North  
Wichita, KS 67226  
(316) 634-0430



### Palm Sunday Service

Join us as we celebrate Palm Sunday, featuring our children's Choir!

April 14, 2019  
10:30am

### Tenebrae Good Friday

A reflective service with readings and music.

April 19, 2019  
7:00pm

### Easter Sunday Service

A traditional Easter Service featuring Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass with full orchestra and UCC's Chancel Choir.

April 21, 2019  
10:30am

### Easter Egg Hunt

A fun filled Easter Egg Hunt in our beautiful courtyard.

April 21, 2019  
12:00pm

#### \*Palm Sunday Service

Join us as we celebrate Palm Sunday, featuring our children's Choir!

4/14/2019 @ 10:30am

#### \*Tenebrae Good Friday

A reflective service with readings and music.

4/19/2019 @ 7:00pm

#### \*Easter Sunday Service

A traditional Easter Service featuring Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass with full orchestra and UCC's Chancel Choir.

4/21/2019 @ 10:30am

#### \*Easter Egg Hunt

A fun filled Easter Egg Hunt in our beautiful courtyard.

4/21/2019 @ 12:00pm

THE HEAD-TO-TOE PANTRY FOR APRIL HAS BEEN  
FUNDED BY PEN-FED REALTY.

## Deacon's

The Board of Deacons continues to be busy serving UCC in various capacities. We are so grateful to those of you who have provided cookies and other treats for the coffee fellowship. We welcome more sign ups. The schedule is on the PIC board in fellowship hall.

Our next event that we are planning is the all church picnic and ice cream social. We have scheduled this annual event on Sunday, June 2, immediately after church. The Deacons will provide grilled hamburgers and hot dogs. We are asking the congregation to bring additional food items to enjoy. We will be eating inside, but will have games and other activities outside for the children of all ages to enjoy. Please watch for more specific information in May.

We enjoy our service to UCC and happily welcome anyone who would like to volunteer to help with coffee time, clean up, and special events. If you would enjoy a "one and done" volunteer opportunity, we are the place to be.

## Church Growth

The Board of Deacons continues to be busy serving UCC in various capacities. We Sustainable seems to be the new byword – sustainable food sources, sustainable energy sources, etc. At UCC, we are looking for sustainable growth to ensure that our church continues in the foreseeable future. The Growth Committee has researched churches who also continue to grow despite the current trend of declining attendance in traditional church settings. So many of the things we discovered can be found at UCC – thoughtful sermons, a great variety of music, inclusivity, outreach. Religion and spiritual beliefs can be very private and sensitive things to people, but UCC has so many features to offer to anyone who may be looking for a place to worship. Now we just need to get the word out to folks. Please join us on March 31 for a Congregational Café to learn how to invite guests to church. Several of our student choir members have something planned, so you don't want to miss that. And cookies.

**ORDER YOUR NEW UCC POLO SHIRT TODAY! CHOOSE FROM THREE COLORS, MALE AND FEMALE STYLING! ORDER ONLINE AT UCCHURCH.ORG OR WATCH FOR SALES DURING FELLOWSHIP TIME!**

## Outreach

**Outreach in Action.** Last year, thanks to UCC, adults ready to take their GED exams received scholarships to cover the cost of the tests. Each of the three tests they must pass cost \$66. Many of these students live at or near the poverty line, and this expense is a barrier to their GED completion. The Outreach Board made a \$1,000 contribution from its operating budget to the organization that supports these students – the Next Step Alliance – to pay the modest cost of these important tests. The Board recently received a bounty of handwritten notes from some of the students who received scholarships. A sample of their messages is the best way to describe the outcome of this ministry:

*“Thank you so much, UCC! I appreciate this award so much. This blessing could not have come at a better time, as rent and bills needed to be paid, so I had no money for the tests. You have provided me this wonderful opportunity to graduate. So thank you for your generous donation to me and others.....for [our] future.”* -Brandon

*“I sincerely appreciate the opportunity you have granted me with this scholarship. I was deeply touched by receiving it and am more determined now than ever to get my GED.”* -Phoebe

### UCC House Church on Racial Justice

Nearly 20 of us continue to meet each Tuesday evening in March for study and at times, difficult conversations about racial injustice in communities, including our own.

Our current focus is on the book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, by Michelle Alexander. We have read the shocking mountain of evidence revealing that the criminal justice system is decidedly not racially color blind. We have learned that the continuing War on Drugs leads to African American men being surveilled, detained, arrested, convicted, and incarcerated at rates wildly disproportionate to Caucasians who commit similar crimes. We have learned that contrary to the teachings of Jesus, our system continues to punish offenders after they have served their prison sentence – through barriers to employment, housing, health care, voting, and jury service.

Two guests have enhanced our understanding of these injustices, and a path toward right relationships and criminal justice reform. We have been privileged to learn from Dr. Reems, Garvey Distinguished Professor of Business History at WSU, along with his wife Neisha, a health care administrator, and our own Professor Jim Rhatigan.

On April 9, our final guest will be hosted in UCC fellowship hall and is open to UCC members and the community. Kiana Knolland, from Kansas ACLU, will inform us of how the American Civil Liberties Union is partnering with others in Kansas to promote criminal justice reforms. **Mark your calendars now – Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. – for this timely and important House Church forum.**

 House  
Church

**universitycongregationalchurch**

9209 E. 29th Street North . Wichita, KS 67226

316.634.0430 [www.ucchurch.org](http://www.ucchurch.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**APRIL CALENDAR**

4/02/19 - 07:00pm - House Church

4/04/19 - 11:00am - Stephen Ministers

4/09/19 - 07:00pm - House Church - Combined in Fellowship Hall

4/16/19 - 07:00pm - House Church

4/14/19 - 10:30am - Palm Sunday Service, featuring children's choir

4/18/19 - 09:00am - Pantry Workday

4/18/19 - 11:30pm - Men's Luncheon

4/19/19 - 07:00pm - Good Friday Tenebrae Service

4/20/19 - 09:00am - Pantry Open

4/21/19 - 10:30am - Easter Service - Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass

4/21/19 - 12:00pm - Easter Egg Hunt in courtyard

4/24/19 - 10:00am - Larksfield Class

4/28/19 - 10:45am - Board Meetings

4/29/19 - 06:30pm - Council Meeting

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***Among Our Own***

Esther Doner, Leon Greene, Bill Sullivan, Jon Romain, Sue Raymond, Mark Campbell,  
Diane Leisy