

## Lay Coordinator ♦ March 2008

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Most of our churches refer to Lent as a time in the wilderness. Lets be honest, wilderness for the Southwest began the day the Packers lost! **The good news is we don't have to wait till the Packer season starts up for Easter to happen and our time in the wilderness to end!**



This is the time that **One Great Hour of Sharing** materials appear in our churches. Did you know that OGHS funds go 100% to direct aid for those in need? OGHS makes a covenantal promise that they will find other sources to cover their administrative costs. You can't find another giving deal this great, I say go for it! In addition to OGHS collections, everyone is signing up now to provide Gardens of Springtime plants for Easter Sunday. We have thoughts of all those tulips, lilies and daffodils to keep us warm through these snowy days. We also have celebrations of warmth and joy like the ordination of Lois Rosko and her installation at **Reeseville UCC**. Congratulations to Lois and congratulations Reeseville!

**Paoli Zwingli UCC** is having a spaghetti supper/game night March 7. Everyone is welcome to come and bring their favorite board game and/or a deck of cards. Live alone and wish you had someone to play with, here is your chance!

Is it already time for rummage sales? Mark your calendars now! **McFarland UCC** is having their big Trash and Treasure Sale April 5. **Lake Edge UCC** is not having their big, one-day All-Church Parking Lot Sale until Aug 2 but they are already advertising for storage space. This sounds like a do-not-miss!

A great way to minimize your impact on the world's resources is to do your shopping at a resale venue. Another good way to learn more about being good stewards is to attend Faith, Food and Earth Day, which will be held on Sunday, April 13 at **Madison Community of Hope UCC** from 3 to 7. This interdenominational event is being organized by a number of Madison churches and will include speakers, workshops, exhibits and a community meal of locally produced foods. There might even be some Potter's Crackers there!

While we are looking ahead, a great musical opportunity for area youth and adults alike is coming up. Friday evening, April 11, the high school choir and the bell choir from the First Congregational UCC in Crystal Lake will be performing a concert at **Janesville First Congregational**. They will perform traditional pieces as well as selections from Godspell.

April is full of opportunities, don't miss the Turkey Ala King dinner April 23 at **Lake Mills UCC**.

Like most folks, I am always looking for a good book recommendation. Both **Fitchburg Memorial UCC** and **Platteville First Congregational** are reading and discussing *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson so it must be good! **Verona Salem UCC** is reading *Long Way Down* by Nick Hornby.

Folks at **Monroe St John's UCC** are on the move! In an effort to motivate each other to a healthier lifestyle, Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00 to 7:00 pm, members are meeting up at the church and walking together, rain or shine!

*"In all things give thanks to God"* The Green County Food Pantry reports that thanks to all the local support they receive, they were able to help 164 families in the month of December. This came to 277 adults and 194 children. **Monticello Zwingli UCC** members donated 118 pounds of food in the month of December!

Harvest of Hope Farmers Market and Brunch will be held Mar 29 at **Columbus Olivet UCC**. This is the third year they have participated in this program.

There is both an evening and a daytime Knit and Crochet group at **Orchard Ridge UCC** that meet monthly. They are always willing to take your yarn leftovers and turn them into hats, mittens and lap afghans that they give away. Contact Orchard Ridge if you are looking for a home for leftover yarn.

Speaking of looking for a home, do you have any placemats from the Wisconsin Council for Health and Human Service Ministries floating around your church that you don't anticipate using up this year? (These are the placemats that WCHHSM gives away every year at the Conference Annual Meeting.) If you have some spares could you bring them along when you come to the Southwest Association Spring Meeting April 26?

Easter Sunday, March 20 **Madison Orchard Ridge UCC** will hold their sunrise service at 6:00 am on a nearby farm. Members will have a chance to celebrate Easter and watch the rising sun in a peaceful rural setting. What a treat!



My son shaved his head. I hadn't noticed that he was down to just a baby fine fringe because I never saw him without his ubiquitous baseball hat. He is in grad school and it is interview time so he had called and told me that he had shaved the fringe, bought his first clothes that weren't blue denim and confessed that he had even gone to a tanning booth to get rid of his hat line! Nonetheless, I was unprepared. I drove over to the UW engineering campus for a lunch date last week and was shocked, "Who was this striking man in the sport jacket walking confidently towards my car? Could it possibly be my Pete? It was!"

Just like our kids magically grow up, just like the promise of Easter, radical transformation is possible, life is full of happy surprises!

**Joyous Easter! Go and Serve and Celebrate!**