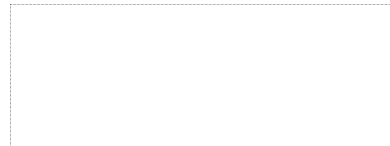




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April 2013

BREAD

7020 Cass Street Omaha, NE 68132 (402)556-6262 www.fumcomaha.org

Worship Schedule

Sundays

8:30 & 10:50 a.m., Sanctuary

Taizé Worship

Saturday, April 6

5:00 p.m., Mead Chapel

Pastors:

Jane Florence, Senior
Debra McKnight, Associate

"We are a United Methodist congregation of all sexual orientations and gender identities making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We stand in solidarity with Reconciling Ministry Network working against injustice and discrimination through peace and justice."

BREAD is published once monthly.

Submit your articles by the 15th of each month to Roberta.Coss@fumcomaha.org.

Copies of BREAD are available in the printed version mailed to your home or found around the church building, the electronic version e-mailed to the address you provide, or the electronic version on the church's website.

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	Mins w/Cognitively Impaired & Healing Arts.....	Sue.Rood@fumcomaha.org



Rev. Dr. Jane Florence

Ponderings from Your Pastor...

In December 1945, an Arab peasant was digging for fertilizer near the town of Nag Hammadi when he unearthed a red clay jar over three feet high. After hesitating, he smashed the jar and discovered within it 13 papyrus books, bound in leather. When he returned home, he dumped the books on the straw piled next to the oven. For the next few weeks, his mother burned much of the papyrus with the straw to kindle the fire. Finally, he took a book to the priest, and a teacher suspected it had value.

The manuscripts were sold on the black market through antiquities dealers for years until most were confiscated and placed in the Coptic Museum in Cairo. The story of these texts continue much like a true-to-life academic spy novel or *Da Vinci Code* movie. In the end, the Nag Hammadi find presents 52 texts of Coptic translations of early Christian gospels that were previously unknown. The original writings were composed perhaps in the mid-second century, but some of the traditions reflect Christianity earlier than Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

In a sermon series April 21-May 19, I will share teachings from these writings of early Christian communities. We will look at some of Paul's writings and other New Testament gospels through the lens of these Gnostic Christians to hear an ancient voice that was silenced by the powers which became dominant in our faith tradition. I will also host an education hour discussion during these weeks in the Parlor between services.

I hope you will be present in worship and study to explore another tradition of the early followers of the Way of Jesus.

See you Sunday!

Confirmation Sunday is April 7

On Sunday, April 7, 13 young people will profess their faith in the Way of Jesus. Claiming their baptismal identity as beloved, they will covenant with this congregation to a journey of growth in faith, love and justice. Please be present for and with them to welcome them and renew your own covenant in solidarity and hope.



Summer Camps @ the Kids Zone

Everywhere Fun Fair

If you liked "Operation Overboard" in 2012 or "Shake it Up" in 2011, then you are going to love "Everywhere Fun Fair." Join us as we experience a global celebration with the look and feel of a world's fair. Children will make friends with neighbors around the world and discover that God's love can be found everywhere, including their own neighborhoods. We will explore Music, Drama, Games, Art & More.



PreK-6th Grade
July 15-19
Mon-Fri 9 am - Noon
Only \$25 per student

Acting Out!

Join us for this brand new ACTING camp. We will spend two weeks learning music, acting, and dancing in the exciting musical, *We Are United*. We will also be learning about ways that we can serve OUT in our community and work together just like the characters in the musical.



Completed 2nd - 6th Grade
June 17-21 & 24-28
Performance: June 28 @ 7:00
Mon-Fri 9 am - 4 pm
Only \$50 per student

Registration forms are available online at www.fumcomaha.org

Questions? Contact:

Barrett Scroggs, Director of Children's Programming
Barrett.Scroggs@fumcomaha.org • 402.556.6262 x1008

First United Methodist Church



Find us on Facebook! Search "The Kids Zone @ First Church" and be sure to "Like" us.

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Friday & Sunday, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
Closed Saturday

Faith Community Nurse: Jan Dixon, 402-571-4076
Community Counselor: Becky Herber, 402-354-6891, ext. 12

Urban Abbey website: www.UrbanAbbeyOmaha.com

Welcoming

Attendance for March 2013

	Total Attendance	First Time Visitors
3/3/13	399	4
3/10/13	256	5
3/17/13	317	3
3/24/13	411	5
3/31/13	will be included in May issue of BREAD	

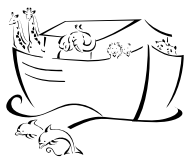


From the Library Shelf...

"Food, Society and Environment" by Charles L. Harper (FUMC member, retired Creighton professor) discusses the important links between food issues from different perspectives and areas of scholarship, insights, and perspectives—a very readable book! Thanks Charlie!

"The Storm of Sex Addiction" by Connie A. Lofgreen (FUMC member, Marriage and Family Therapist and Certified Sex Addiction Therapist) has practical tools for anyone caught in the web of sex addiction, partners of sex addicts, and therapists who specialize in this area. Thanks Connie!

You can find these and MANY more books in the Adult Library (room 107) and in the Gathering Place.



Noah's Ark Library—

This is the children's library located directly across from Cary Hall in the north education wing.

If you've checked out a book or other media that needs to be returned, the blue bin right outside the door can be used for that purpose and is there all the time!

We've been experiencing a very large number of books, tapes and CDs that were checked out and not returned. We want to keep this library open and **we need your help** to do this! Please check to make sure that all items you have checked out from the library have been returned and if not, please get them to the church office right away (no questions asked!). Thanks so much!!!

Questions can be answered best by Kathy England at 402-292-1312 or volunteermomke@cox.net.

Ever visit the Rose Theatre for children with your families? Check on the bookcase near the bulletin board for some of the books that are being presented this year like *Lilly's Pur-*

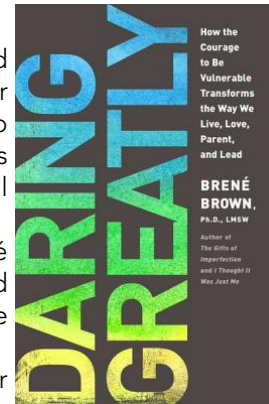
ple Plastic Purse and other books with our heroine. You may even find a few free passes for your family and/or friends so you may attend. (This play runs March 29-April 14) Hurry in! There are others that are coming up soon so come ready for some fun. The program booklets are in good supply so check them out and see what else you might want to read and then enjoy as a family.

April 18 Book Review

This review was originally scheduled in February, but with our crazy winter weather, we had to cancel and are so pleased that Rev. Debra McKnight is available and will share this wonderful book with us!

The book, **Daring Greatly**, by Brené Brown explores our vulnerability and how we relate to one another. The author says, "Courage is our value".

Please join us for coffee in the Parlor at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you!



Save the Date!

Saturday, May 4, 2:00 p.m., room 112

Shower for Baby McKnight-Ramsey!

More information to follow!



Are you interested in joining with other United Methodist Women in supporting missions locally and throughout the world? You can choose to be a member-at-large or an active member in the FUMC unit. A member-at-large can support UMW by making a financial contribution, baking cookies, or helping in any way your time allows. A member-at-large can attend no meetings or any meeting of her choice. Contact Suzanne Morgan, Nancy Cozhiar, or any UMW member for more information.

Mercy & Justice



We are open for business @ 1026 Jackson Street in the Old Market

www.UrbanAbbeyOmaha.com

Manager: Jim Dias
402-898-7600

UrbanAbbey@fumcomaha.org

Coffee Shop Hours:

Monday-Friday, 6:30 am-10:30 pm

Saturday, 8:00 am-10:30 pm

Sunday, 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Women's Networking Night @ Urban Abbey

Wednesday, April 3, 5:30-7:00 pm

Join us for coffee and table conversations as we explore the theme, "What I know now that I would share with my daughter, sister or friend" and gain a little context from our friends at the Women's Fund of Omaha about why women connecting with other women matters. Bring your voice, your experience and share your passion with others on this special night of conversation.



Wesley Pub—a gathering for questions not

answers, conversation not condemnation. Bring your own beverage, voice and thoughts to our evening of reflection through music, poetry, traditions and scriptures.

Wednesday, April 10, 7:30 pm

"From Urban Abbey to Downton Abbey"

Our community partner for the month of April is the Intercultural Senior Center. Their mission is to give and maintain dignity, power, self-worth and prosperity for seniors and their families and better their quality of life through education, advocacy, and other services which increase opportunities for independence and longer, healthier lives. 10% of all Urban Abbey coffee bar sales and 100% of the bagged "ISC Coffee Blend" sales (coffee comes from small-scale farms where farmers receive a living wage) go to support their work for change. Join us to learn more and support these great organizations with every cup of coffee.

Youth Raise Awareness of the Homeless at Box City 2013

You don't have to sleep in a box all night to be part of Box City 2013! Bring a lawn chair to listen to speakers Erin Porterfield from Metro Area Continuum of the Care of the Homeless (MACCH); Craig Howell, Chief Service Officer with the City of Omaha & Outreach; and Shawn Miller from Youth Emergency Services. When you go home to your warm bed, the 100 youth that are spending the night in a box will put together 500 toiletry bags including shampoo, bar of soap, toothbrush, and toothpaste. These bags plus "rent" to spend the night and canned goods collected will go to YES! here in Omaha. Join us **Friday, May 3 @ 7:30 p.m.** to raise awareness of the homeless in Omaha.

Marlo Thomas' "Free to Be...You and Me" Coming to FUMC!

On Friday, May 17 and Sunday, May 19, First Church will present the musical, "Free to Be...You and Me," conceived by Marlo Thomas. Ms. Thomas is best known for her leading role in the 1960's TV series, "That Girl," and is also recognized along with others like Gloria Steinem for being on the leading edge of the feminist movement. The musical is based on a children's book that, instead of telling boys and girls who they should be, would open them to the possibilities of who they could be. Life-enhancing themes are imaginatively blended with music and humor to expand all of our personal horizons, while dispelling some old constraints and worn-out conventions in the process.

Mark Kurtz is the musical director and Fran Sillau is the staging director. We are looking for singers and actors from the church and around the Omaha community to be a part of the production.

Because the musical consists of several independent scenes and songs, our thought is to give each performer a few songs/scenes to be involved in, so that it will not require a great deal of time to rehearse. We will also allow people to be "on book" so that memorization is not required.

If you are interested in being considered for a part of this production, please contact Mark Kurtz at mark.kurtz@fumcomaha.org or 402-556-6262 x1021 to schedule an audition time. **Audition dates are Friday, April 5, 6:00-8:00pm and Saturday, April 6, 1:00-3:00pm.** If you cannot make either time, a special time can be arranged for you. If you want to be considered for a singing part, please prepare a song excerpt (no more than one minute.) We look forward to hearing from you!

Autism Awareness Month

April is Autism Awareness Month. During the month, the Autism Society of Nebraska will be in the Gathering Place with information on Autism Spectrum Disorders, which affects 1 in every 88 individuals.

One year ago, through your donations at our fellowship meal, room 207 upstairs in the Kids Zone was transformed into a "Sensory Integration Room" for students on the Autism Spectrum. This is a space where students on the Autism Spectrum can calm down before entering their Sunday school class or church service. We have welcomed numerous new families this year due to this room and have also created an internship program for local college, graduate, and doctoral students.

On Sunday, April 14, the Family and Children's Council is sponsoring an educational forum during the education hour in Cary Hall. We will explore clips from Temple Grandin's film as well as join in conversation on the importance of offering this type of programming for our community. **Join us Sunday, April 14 at 9:35 in Cary Hall.**



Be sure to "Like" us

First United Methodist Church-Omaha

The Kids Zone @ First Church

First United Methodist Church-Omaha Youth

Urban Abbey Omaha

Inspiring

Worship Assistants for April

April 7—Confirmation Sunday

Lectionary: Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

Acolytes (10:50 only): Nora Graham & Nyaboth Pal

Coffee Servers: Tim Dreher & Mark Darby

Greeters:

8:30—Alan & Jann Dappen (Captain), Kevin & Patty Bain, Chuck & Mary Haskell

10:50—Joanne & Roger Burns, Dave England, Jodi & Steve Sindelar, Daryl Traster

Ushers:

8:30—Bruce & Dottie Deines (Head), Rosemary Hroch, Jean Wilmoth

10:50—Jean Keeney (Head), John Freeman, Ken Jones, Jim Keeney

April 21

Lectionary: Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

Acolytes (10:50 only): Molly Young & Paul Bierman

Coffee Servers: Kevin & Patty Bain

Greeters:

8:30—Marilyn Hansen (Captain), Mako Jacobs, Shirley Ward

10:50—Barb Bredthauer, Dave England, Ruthie Lees, Kay Peters

Ushers:

8:30—Bruce & Dottie Deines (Head), Rosemary Hroch, Jean Wilmoth

10:50—Michael Gordon (Head), Rosemary Opbroek, Judy Torrens, Daryl Traster



April 14—Native American Ministries Sunday

Lectionary: Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Acolyte (10:50 only): Philip Andress

Coffee Servers: Barry & Sherry Houston

Scripture Readers:

8:30—Alan Dappen

10:50—Marylin Stewart

Greeters:

8:30—Carol & Michael LaCroix (Captain), Carmen Burr, Ranita Lilyhorn

10:50—Dave England, Judy Nauman, Nancy Simpson, Lucy Wood

Ushers:

8:30—Bruce & Dottie Deines (Head), Rosemary Hroch, Jean Wilmoth

10:50—Kevin Graham (Head), Paul Ing, Harlan Sayles, Shirley Ward

April 28

Lectionary: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

Acolytes (10:50 only): Abby & Ellie Siebe-Walles

Coffee Servers: George & Sally Winn

Scripture Readers:

8:30—Mary Bahney

10:50—Carol Sundermeier

Greeters:

8:30—Nancy & Walt Coziahr (Captain), Carol & Michael LaCroix, Emogene & John Whitten

10:50—Dave & Kathy England, Ann Hudson, Lowen Kruse

Ushers:

8:30—Bruce & Dottie Deines (Head), Rosemary Hroch, Jean Wilmoth

10:50—Bob Dorr (Head), Jo Ann Cooper, Paul Gadzikowski, Mark Schulze

Upcoming Worship Themes You Won't Want to Miss:

June—God on Vacation

July—Awakenings with Jesus and Buddha

August—Sin, Death, Satan and Hell

September—The Struggle to Belong

Spirituality



Taizé Services

Taizé worship is an invitation to listen and to open hearts and minds to the Divine Presence. It is prayer.

Taizé services are inspired by the Taizé ecumenical monastic community in France in the small village of Burgundy. The community was founded by Brother Roger Schutz during the Second World War.

Each Taizé service is unique but common characteristics include a period of silence, the use of candles and the meditative weaving together of readings, prayer and music.

Taizé services are held on the first Saturday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in Mead Chapel. All are welcome!



CENTER FOR
Faith Studies

Bishop John Shelby Spong
April 12-14

The Center for Faith Studies at Countryside Community Church, 8787 Pacific Street, hosts Episcopal Bishop Spong for presentations from his recent book *Eternal Life: Beyond Religion, Beyond Theism, Beyond Heaven and Hell*.

Over the past four decades, Spong has become one of the definitive voices for intelligent and progressive Christianity. At this weekend gathering, he will offer perspectives on whether people living in the 21st century can still believe in eternal life with credibility, proposing a way to envision eternal life that rises out of a contemporary understanding of life and consciousness.

Bishop Spong's schedule includes a patron dinner Friday night, lectures, Q & A, and book-signing on Saturday, and preaching Sunday at both the 9:00 a.m. (Classic) and 11:00 a.m. (Jazz) services at Countryside. Full event brochures are available.

Please contact Director Cyndi Kugler at 402-391-0350, ext. 121 or cyndik@countrysideucc.org.

Dig Into Bible History—Literally!

Kristy Leahy, the Coordinator of Excavations of the ancient city of Bethsaida informs us that there is still space for this summer's archeological dig! Walk in the footsteps of Jesus and the Apostles, spending your days digging and your evenings on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

Individuals or groups can be accommodated. Anyone can join; if you have an interest in Biblical history and a desire to dig in the sand, they would love to welcome you.

Two sessions are still accepting volunteer excavators:

Session 1: Sunday, May 19 to Saturday, June 1

Session 2: Sunday, June 2 to Saturday, June 15

For more information on cost and how to sign up, check out world.unomaha.edu/Bethsaida.



Rev. Debra McKnight

From Debra's Desk...

One not-so-warm spring day in March, folks driving past Urban Abbey saw a diversity of young people, signs raised and spirits high. Something has happened at the Urban Abbey that was not a part of any plan we could have made a year or even two years ago. We have become a safe place.

Safe Place is a national program of care and support for the most vulnerable, homeless youth. Thinking of young people as wondering where they will spend the night or worried about having enough to eat when they should be stressing over prom season tells us something is deeply wrong. Young people often choose homelessness as safer than an abusive home and many are forced to leave by parents who do not support their budding sense of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Thank God YES! works to make safe space.



Our partners at Youth Emergency Services oversee this program locally; they invite and train local folks, like ourselves, to be safe places that can respond in critical moments of crisis in the life of a young person.



Urban Abbey is an ideal safe place not only because of its downtown location but because of its wide range of business hours. What makes it even better is this moment is the culmination of so much collaboration. The Youth Group led the way in this partnership through Box City and blanket making. As we opened the Abbey, this partnership was natural, and not only have we raised nearly \$1000 for their work in the month of December, but we have collected countless supplies from folks who may or may not be a part of this church. We have invited the community into this mission, built awareness and started a program of job training skills with Youth Clients who want to learn about the work it takes to run a coffee shop, relate to customers, and develop unique skills with our baristas. We can't wait until they are our partners again for May.

Thank you for taking a risk to be in this unique ministry together. It has meaning because so many hands and hearts are a part of its foundation and it will continue to make a difference if you will do the work of inviting folks into our safe space. **Debra**

Supporting

Please remember in prayer
these members of Our Church Family

For Continued Healing: Kay Bain, Dick Burroughs, Phyllis Burroughs, John Carpenter, Milo Cowdery, Michael Dantzer, Milton Davison, Betty Dorr, Terri Elliot-Mason, Kathy England, Leah Gadzikowski, Ella Gerber, Charlie Gould, Garnet Hafer, Paul Halverson, John Hansen, Gladys Haskett, Jim Horrocks, Daline Jensen, Diane Jensen, Eileen Johnson, Lee Kaiser, Ross Kaiser, Sarah Kaseforth, Nan Knicely, Sharisse Kroh, Bev Lobo, Deborah Mabry-Strong, Mildred Mattson, Norm Miller, Bonnie Morehead, Marv Morgan, Suzanne Morgan, Zaiga Moriarty, Loren Mullins, Ella Muntz, Cheryl Nelson, Helen Nipper, Elna Peirce, Dorothy Pennington, Arlene Peterson, Victoria Peterson, Joan Pruett, Dale Seyl, Laura Seyl, Mary Ellen Shuler, Ed Schwenk, Lois Weirich, Aliyah White, Carol Windrum, Jack Wright

Sympathies to: Niki Zickefoose Kinart on the death of her grandmother, March 14.

Celebration of the Baptism of: Tammie Benish, March 17.

Celebration of these New Members: Tammie Benish and Cheryl Mach who joined on March 17.

Please let the church office know if you are hospitalized or if there has been a family loss.



Submit your prayer requests to Marylin Stewart at MarilynS@aol.com or call the church office at 402-556-6262 x1001.

Please follow these brief guidelines when submitting a request for the Prayer Chain:

- Use names without describing the need. Give the first or full name and relationship—friend, brother/sister, spouse/partner, parent, child, etc.
- Give a brief statement of need—illness, grief, crisis
- Get permission from the person to be listed on the Prayer Chain before contacting Marylin or the church



Together, Inc. thanks us for our monthly donation. To find out more about Together, Inc., go to their website at: www.TogetherOmaha.org.

Dear First UMC Omaha: Several of your members donated their time and energy at **Mount Sequoyah Center** in Fayetteville, AR at SERVE Work Week March 11-15, 2013: Walter Coziahr, Nancy Coziahr, Jamie Peery, John Whitten, and Emogene Whitten were a part of the volunteer team.

Thanks to continuous volunteers and donors like your church members, Mount Sequoyah is able to grow and advance our efforts in stewardship and serving others.

We were able to utilize each volunteer's gifts and skills during their time with us. From giving rooms a fresh coat of paint to sewing accent pillows for our newly renovated cottages, each volunteer was able to make an impactful difference to the Mountain.

Thank you for all that you do to support church members such as these. We enjoyed spending to time with each and every one of these gifted individuals. We look forward to seeing them and many other volunteers in the years to come. Sincerely, Mount Sequoyah Staff

To learn more about Mount Sequoyah, visit their website at: www.mountsequoyah.org.

To learn more about our Volunteers In Mission teams, please contact either Mike & Rhonda Rosenthal, 402-572-6208 or Bruce & Dottie Deines, 402-330-8169.



Moving For Better Balance Class Begins April 9

Exercise is one of the most important ways to lower your chances of falling. It makes you stronger and helps you feel better. Exercise that improves balance and coordination is a Moving for Better Balance Class!! Lack of exercise leads to weakness and increases your chances of falling—1 out of 3 people age 65 and older fall each year.

Ask your doctor or Health Care provider if this class would benefit you. Moving for Better Balance begins Tuesday, April 9 at 3:30 p.m. in Mead Chapel on Tuesdays and Thursdays through July 11. There is no cost to participate. Contact Jan Dixon, Certified Instructor, to enroll—402-571-4076; 2dixons@cox.net. —Health Ministries

Faith Studies@First

What's going on in the Kids Zone?

Join us each Sunday morning at 9:35 for Hosanna Choir and other creative activities upstairs in the Kids Zone (room 208). Parents, be sure your child arrives at 9:35 so that we have plenty of time for fun and learning.

Adult Classes

These classes meet Sunday mornings at the church in the room listed at 9:35 unless otherwise noted.

All are welcome to any class.

Boomers +/- —This class will explore themes as they relate to our faith, spirituality and progressive theology. A service opportunity in the form of a Sunday noon Fellowship Meal will be accepted on April 21. This class meets on the **Stage**.

Connections—Conversations around sermon scriptures and their meaning for us in this time and in our individual lives will continue into April. On April 14, Connections members will attend the education forum on Autism (see article on page 7). Beginning April 21, the Rev. Dr. Jane Florence will teach a five-session class on the Gnostic Gospels. Millennial and GenXers mostly make up this group, but anyone who is curious about the topics is most welcome. Come to the **Parlor**.

FaithLinks—Each week a new, stand-alone topic from a current event or contemporary problem is explored within the context of the Christian Faith. You, your viewpoint, and opinion are welcome to this intergenerational class and no preparation is required! Find them in room **111**.

Galileans—This class is hosting a variety of presenters which you are invited to hear during this month. On April 7, Nathan Morgan will speak about the Big Garden Project of the Missouri River District's United Methodist Ministries. On April 14, Mary Fraser Meints, Executive Director of Youth Emergency Services (Y.E.S.) will relate the good work that is done by that agency. On April 21, the unfolding changes brought about by our nation's first comprehensive health care legislation will be explained by Dr. Rowen Zetterman, former Dean of Creighton's Medical School. Sunday, April 28 will find this class going back to the Bible—way back!—as world-renowned archeologist Dr. Rami Arav of UN-O speaks about discoveries made over the last 25 years of the Bethsaida Excavation Project. There is plenty of room for guests. Y'all come to room **112**.

Explorers—On April 7, 14, and 21, this group will unlock the mysteries of The Gospel of Mark with the Rev. Mark Kemling, who has been engaged in deep, reflective study of this text for the past two years. On April 28, the group will begin the study of a book that contrasts Christianity with another faith tradition, leaving the reader with a better understanding of both. That book is *Without the Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian* by Roman Catholic Professor of Theology, Paul F. Knitter. If you want to join in any of these adventures for the mind and heart, this group will welcome you in room **108**.

Centering Prayer—This prayer time begins with 10 minutes of fellowship, followed by a 20-minute sit in silence, closing with The Lord's Prayer. This sacred time is set aside for you to be present in each moment and to willingly consent for the Divine to work within you, in community with others who are doing the same. This is a contemporary form of an ancient spiritual practice. All are welcome in **Mead Chapel at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday**. Another Centering Prayer time is offered on the **second and fourth Thursdays** monthly at **6:15 p.m.**, also in **Mead Chapel**.

Sophia's Path—Sophia's Path is a group of women (but men are welcome!) meeting weekly to learn, reflect, support one another, and grow together. This group meets **Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.** in room **111**. They will be starting a new book study soon. Keep an eye on **Announcing** for specifics. **Childcare is provided in room 105**. Come join them! Questions? Contact Maria Walker mariabwalker@yahoo.com.

Continuing to Live the Questions Class—Led by the Rev. Dr. Jane Florence—topics are on progressive theology and are discussion-based. Questions are welcomed and encouraged. This class meets on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays monthly at 6:30 p.m.** in room **113** and continues with a DVD-assisted study titled *Emerging Voices, Emerging Church*. It explores the power, the Bible, spiritual practice and transformation through the lenses and words of Spong, Crossan, Borg, Rohr, Chittister, and Taylor. Following that, background and information related to the Gnostic Gospels will be introduced for discussion and reflection. (Questions, skepticism, and even disagreement will not result in excommunication.) Give yourself the gift of this time, place and good company in which to explore ideas which can give deeper meaning to your life.

Lectionary Bible Studies are small groups that delve into the background, context, and meaning of weekly scriptures chosen for focus in common by many Christian denominations. See the weekly calendar in **Announcing** or check out the church calendar on our website for meeting times and places.