

National Avenue Christian Church

April 2011

Springfield, Missouri

Searching for the Ancient Paths

~ Lent 2011 ~

Thus says the Eternal One, "Stand at the crossroads and look. Ask about the ancient paths. Ask what the good way is, and walk that way. Then you will find peace within yourselves."

Jeremiah 16:6

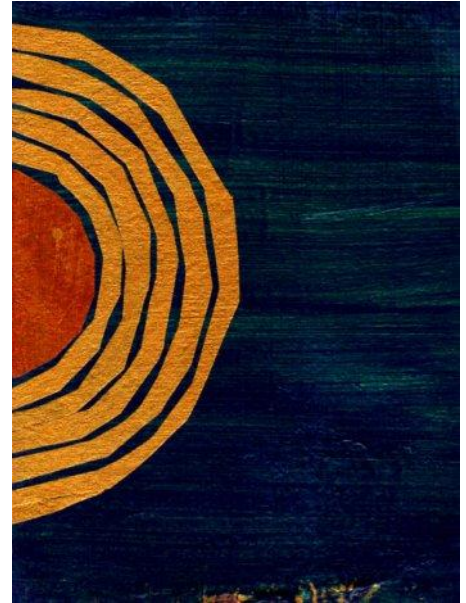
Lenten Schedule

Sunday, April 10th Fifth Sunday of Lent
10:00 am Worship ~ The Activist Way
3:00 to 5:00 pm ~ Walking the Labyrinth

Sunday, April 17th Palm Sunday
10:00 am Worship ~ Moving On
3:00 to 5:00 pm ~ Walking the Labyrinth
7:00 pm ~ A Special Musical Performance with
Selections from Mozart's Requiem at Stone Chapel,
Drury University Campus

Thursday, April 21st 6:00 pm ~ Maundy Thursday Dinners

Friday, April 22nd 4:00 pm ~ Midnight, Stations of the Cross



Ozark Food Harvest this Saturday...

We will work our usual day at Ozark Food Harvest this month which is this Saturday, April 9th. Contact Chad Young at cyoung@cameron-insurance.com if you can help this month or if you need additional information.

Saturday – April 16th ~ Modern Mystery Plays ~ Two One Acts. One Night. Zero Calories...

The plays are sponsored by United Ministries in Higher Education at MSU and National Avenue will host the production on Saturday evening, April 16th at 5:00pm. The first play is *The Stone-Thrower* by Heidi Diederich and directed by Blue Lightle. The second play, *Jonah: A Melodious Modern Re-telling* by Sheristen James, is directed by our own Geo Jones. Please plan on that evening and staying for a reception immediately following the plays. For more information contact Production Manager Sheristen James, or Producer, Howard Caverner at the House at MSU, 865-8177.

NACC Easter Egg Hunt:

It is time to get ready for the Easter Egg Hunt that will be held on ***Sunday, April 17 at 11:30 a.m.*** We are hoping and planning to have good weather on that day to hide the eggs on the lawn on the front and side of the church. The front area would be reserved for the older children and the side area for the younger children. Please think about bringing family and friends with you on that Sunday. It would be fun to see as many children as you would like to include in this project. We will need volunteers to be safety guards to keep the children from getting near the streets. Also, it would be great if you could contribute Easter baskets and/or money donations for buying those special eggs that we will call the golden eggs. These eggs would hold special prizes for the children to find. We have a budgeted amount in the education account to fill the other eggs. If you can volunteer to help, please contact Linda Bossi at 890-1079 or at jwbossi@aol.com or contact Nancy Allen at 832-1044 or nallen@missouristate.edu. Easter baskets can be taken to the parlor and money donations should be put in the offering designated for the Easter Egg Hunt or taken to the office. Thank you for your support. Nancy Allen and Linda Bossi

The Eikner-Smith Memorial Benefit Concert...

On the evening of *Palm Sunday*, a benefit concert in memory of Dr. Allen Eikner and our own Dr. Samuel Smith, will be held at Stone Chapel at Drury University. When Dr. Smith died last year, one of his requests was for Mozart's *Requiem* to be played at his funeral. Due to timing, we had to use a recording for a portion of this beautiful piece. So for the last few months, Kevin Williams, our wonderful and talented Music Director, has been dreaming of a concert that would honor Sam. The dream will become a reality at *Stone Chapel* on this special evening as our Chancel Choir and special musical guests present selections from the *Requiem*.

Last year, two funds were started at Drury to honor Dr. Smith and Dr. Eikner. A wonderful event was held last May to honor these two men who had strong impact on the School of Religion at Drury. Dr. Smith passed away last year and Dr. Eikner, just a few weeks ago and so as this concert was being put together it was decided to honor both of these wonderful men whose legacy will live on through our generous donations to these funds.

Although there is no admission charge for the concert, we are hoping that you make a contribution that evening in honor of one or both of these men. The endowment for Dr. Smith will become a source for permanent support of the Disciples on Campus fellowship at Drury and the endowment for Dr. Eikner will be used to support an annual lecture series in his honor at Drury. The concert will begin at **7:00pm** and a reception hosted by our Gallery Committee will be held immediately following the event.

Maundy Thursday Dinners...

Remembering that Jesus and his friends often gathered for meals, this year on Maundy Thursday, which is April 21st, several people in our congregation will be hosting dinners in their homes. On Maundy Thursday we recall Jesus' last meal with his disciples and the new commandment he gave to love one another. As part of the evening's meals, the Lord's Supper will be shared. It will be a special time together as we prepare to journey through Good Friday and the Stations of the Cross. If you would like to attend one of the dinners, please sign up at the Welcome Table in the Gallery.

Stations of the Cross...

For Christians throughout the world, the Stations of the Cross are synonymous with Lent, Holy Week, and especially Good Friday. They commemorate 14 key events on the day of Christ's crucifixion. The majority concern Christ's final walk through the streets of Jerusalem, carrying the Cross. Sometimes the "Stations of the Cross" are done in a walk as long as seven miles, with hundreds of people stopping along the way at each station for liturgy and prayer. The Stations originated in medieval Europe when wars prevented Christian pilgrims from visiting the Holy Land. European artists created works depicting scenes of Christ's journey to Calvary. The faithful installed these sculptures or paintings at intervals along a procession route, inside the parish church or outdoors. Performing the devotions meant walking the entire route, stopping to pray at each station. While much of what is depicted in the Stations does not come directly from Scripture, walking and praying the stations with an open heart and mind allows us to enter into the mystery of this day of sorrow and promise.

This year at National Avenue, several artists from our community have created some of the stations. Holly Elkins, who works with our Gallery at National Avenue will curate the works and creating the experiential path that will allow you to take this journey on Good Friday. Through the artist's individual interpretations of the stations, you will be encouraged *and* challenged to encounter the station and experience a small part of what this day was like for Jesus, for Jesus' mother, for Jesus' followers.

The Stations will be open this year from 4:00pm until 12midnight. Volunteers will be available to help you begin walking the Stations and you are invited to spend as little or as much time, as you wish.

Community Good Friday Service:

South Street Christian Church will host the Community Good Friday service this year at 12noon on April 22nd in their sanctuary. Many of the pastors from Disciples of Christ congregations in Springfield will be participating as well as some of their church musicians. Pastor Laura, Matt Gallion, Kevin Williams and Kelly Osborne will be helping with this meditative service and you are invited to attend as we remember together, the events of Good Friday.

Easter Services...

On Easter Sunday, April 24th, we will have two services – at 8:00 am and 10:00am. As is our tradition, our Youth will cook a pancake breakfast at 9:00am to benefit their trip funds. Please remember to invite family and friends for worship *and* for pancakes as we celebrate the Resurrection together.

Harvest on Wheels:

It is that time of year to begin thinking about planting those gardens and getting ready for the fresh produce season. The farmers market located at the Battlefield Mall will open its spring season this Saturday, April 9! We look forward to placing our collection areas at the church for you to bring your produce to the church for us to take to the Ozarks Food Harvest, The Kitchen and other food pantries. If you would like to gather produce or nonperishable items in your neighborhood, we have sacks with labels designated for the Ozarks Food Harvest that we can supply for you to have food drives. The collections would come back to our church for us to transport to Ozarks Food Harvest. If you would like to volunteer to work in our booth at the farmers market at the mall, collect produce to deliver to food pantries or help us glean gardens, please contact Linda Bossi at 890-1079 for volunteering and for more information.

A Spring Luncheon...

The Stewardship and Unitrust Committee are hosting a luncheon on Thursday, April 28th at 12noon in the parlor. Kirby Gould with the Christ Church Foundation [CCF] will be our speaker and will give a short talk and be available to answer questions concerning estate planning in light of the changing economic environment. Several members of National Avenue who have a relationship with CCF will join us at the luncheon to share their experiences with CCF. Please call the church office to RSVP for the event.

A Congregational Care Plan...

Our Elders and Deacons have begun implementing a plan for congregational care that was formed at the Deacon and Elder meetings this fall and in January. These groups were formed to help build community, ensure that our communications are reaching everyone, and to provide additional care to our members. You may have already been contacted by an Elder or a Deacon telling you of the plan or you will be receiving a card or note from them in the near future. Each person in the congregation has been assigned to a group that will be looked after by a group of Elders and Deacons. You will be provided with contact information for them and they will be available to help you as needs arise. If you have any questions about the new plan, please do not hesitate to contact our Elder Chairs, Neil Guion and Jill Denton or our Deacon Chairs, Stephanie Young and Charrie Dixon. We look forward to all these new connections.

■ National Avenue Christian Church ■

417/869-9176 • natlave@sbcglobal.net • natlave.com •

Rev. Laura Fregin, Senior Minister

Matthew Gallion, Pastoral Resident

Kevin Williams, Music Director

Rev. Hubert Lines, Minister of Visitation

Dr. John White, Scholar in Residence

Wayland Schue, Organist