

Vine Reporter

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March 2011

March Events - Mark Your Calendars!

Ash Wednesday Service . . .



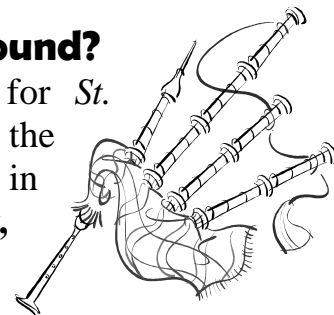
And pancake supper on **March 9th**. The supper will be prior to the service from **5:30 - 6:30 pm**.

The *Ash Wednesday* service, from **7:00 - 7:30 pm**, will include songs

and the imposition of ashes for those who choose to receive them.

What's that Sound?

Get in the mood for *St. Patrick's Day* with the sound of bagpipes in worship on **Sunday, March 13th**.



Bagpiper **Stuart Westburg**, donning a traditional kilt, will play "*Amazing Grace*" and other traditional hymns.

Lenten Bible Study:

Join your friends and church family at **Pastor Renae's home** for a Bible study on the *Book of Judges*. We will meet on the following **Tuesdays: March 22, 29 and April 5, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm**. Come and hear what Pastor learned in the class on *Judges* and gender at *Chicago Theological Seminary*. Refreshments will be served.



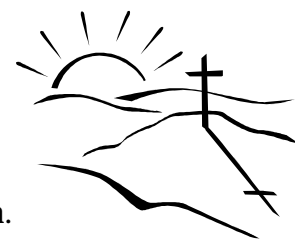
UNL Dairy Store Tour - Yum!

Come and watch them make ice cream! Free tour on **Wednesday, March 30th, 10:30 am, meet at the Dairy Store**, located in the *Food Industry Complex* building on UNL's East Campus. East campus is located from 33rd to 48th Streets on Holdrege.



Looking Ahead:

- Children will sing in worship on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, **April 17th and 24th**.
- Easter Cantata on Palm Sunday, **April 17th**.
- Maundy-Thursday Seder Supper and Tenebrae service **April 21st at 6:30 pm**.
- Good Friday prayer service led by Pastor, **April 22nd, from 12:00 - 12:30 pm**.
- Community Easter Egg Hunt at Vine Church on **Saturday, April 23rd**.
- Easter Sunday breakfast youth fundraiser from **9:00 - 10:00 am, April 24th**.



Mission statement - Vine Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, rooted in the soul of Christian belief, is an open and inclusive community of believers that provides care, support, and encouragement to individuals and families as they bear witness to their faith within and beyond the local church.





Every day we have glimpses of our Higher Self when we enter into what I call a 'state of grace.' We suddenly feel peaceful and contented and see beauty around us. These states of grace may last for hours or for just a few seconds. By developing an awareness of them, we can extend the time that we stay in the Higher Self before we fall asleep again and get carried away by the insecure self-cherishing of the ego.

- Joan Borysenko, Ph.D.

"The Kingdom is within you and all around you. When you know yourselves fully you will truly be known. And you will know that you are children of the everlasting one."

- Jesus (Gospel of Thomas)

Grace is the focus of these two quotes. My friend, Jane, from Birmingham, Alabama, brought it to my attention that grace is something we can practice. The definition of grace takes up almost a whole column in Webster's dictionary. It means so many things: mercy, clemency, pardon, forgiveness, the favor and love of God. I experience grace with you during worship service, especially times when a prayer concern is lifted or a song is performed by the choir that lifts me up and I can't hang on to them for longer than they choose to stay.

I also know what grace isn't. It isn't worrying and fretting over what is lacking in life, what we are not able to do, or what's not happening when we want it to happen. It is easy to get caught up in the "I can't's" and then grace is a long way from home. I think that this might be something of what Jesus was talking about in the Gospel of Thomas when He said if we are not a source of light, we are a source of darkness. There's no getting around the fact that sometimes we radiate darkness.

I believe we could radiate more God light and grace if we could love what we already have; if we could look all around us and recognize that this is the kingdom of God; if we could know ourselves fully and realize that we are children of the living God. Even saying those words to ourselves every day could bring a feeling of inner peacefulness. **And that is grace!** One heart at a time, one person at a time, inviting grace in, could change the world. Let's practice!

See you in Church!

Peace and Joy, Pastor Renae

Spring Forward! Sunday, March 13th, don't forget to set your clocks *forward* one hour before going to bed on Saturday.

From the Board of Trustees. . .

There is good news that, for the first time in many months, Vine is back in "the black," at least for the beginning of 2011, when January ended at \$13.93 to the good. To be sure, we are still carrying deficits from both this year and last, but January's numbers were a very good sign. Please do your best to keep your pledges up to date to help ease our cash flow challenges.

Planning is proceeding on the sanctuary renovation project and it won't be long before we begin holding worship services in Fellowship Hall. We will soon be setting up the Hall to make it as comfortable and useable as possible... both for worship and for its traditional gathering and social purposes. We know there are issues with the church Web site and with keeping temperatures properly regulated this winter. We also have a couple of roof leaks we are working on. Be patient with us as we work through these issues. *Thanks to all of you who attended our February 20th annual meeting.*

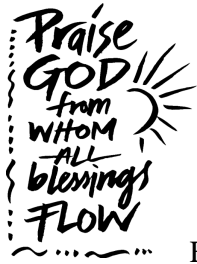
Got the Easter Spirit?

Join us *Sunday, March 6th*, after worship, in the Chapel for a planning meeting about our **Easter Egg Hunt for Saturday, April 23rd.**

We need many volunteers and ideas to share so we can make this a fun and enjoyable time for lots of kids.

Vine will be the place to hunt for Easter eggs this year, so come plan with us for this important community event!





Ministry, Mission and Fellowship

Friendly Fellowship: potluck dinner for everyone on **Tuesday, March 8th, 6:30 pm**, in Fellowship Hall. Please join us the second Tuesday of every month!

Holy Communion - on **Sunday, March 13th**, First Sunday of Lent, served by the Board of Evangelism.

Fellowship Hour Hosts are Needed: for **March 13, 20, and 27**. Please sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions about hosting Fellowship Hour, please call Cheryl Svoboda at 423-0307. Treats were provided in February by the **Board of Women's Ministries, Willis Moreland and family**, and the **Board of Trustees**. Thank you!

Explorers' Bible Study for March - We will meet in March on **Tuesday, March 1st**, exploring *Matthew 17:1-13*, and **Tuesday, March 15th**, exploring *John 3:1-17*. Each session meets at **1:00 pm** in the church office conference room. **A warm welcome is extended to any who care to join!**

Evening discussion group: will meet **Monday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m.** at the home of **Cheryl Svoboda, 6841 Deerwood Drive**. We will watch a video and discuss *Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry*, from the **Living the Questions** series. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Food for Matt Talbot Kitchen, Vine cooks and servers - Four times a year, members and friends of Vine Church cook and serve the evening meal for about 140-200 men, women and children at **Matt Talbot**. Food for *each* meal costs us about **\$150**. Therefore we need **\$600** for this year. Presently our balance in the fund is zero. In the past, your generous donations have kept us afloat. *Your support now is vital to our ministry of feeding those in need.* Kindly make your check out to Vine Congregational UCC Church and mark it: *Matt Talbot Kitchen Food Fund*. **May you be blessed for your generosity!**

Good News from SCRIP! We now have even more vendors from which to choose for your SCRIP purchases. In addition to *Greenfields* (\$5, \$10 and \$25) certificates, we have just added *Target* (\$25 and \$100), *Raising Cane's* (\$5) and *Granite City* (\$25). SCRIP funds have been used recently to purchase supplies to remodel the nametag board and for new heavy-duty entryway floor mats. It is **your** money at work simply by using SCRIP instead of cash, checks or credit cards for your usual household purchases. *On another note*, it is with regret that we have accepted the resignation of Mary Johnson from the SCRIP Committee. Mary has been a valued and hard-working member for a number of years, and we **thank her**. We have now welcomed Mark Beatty to the Committee and look forward to his contribution of time and expertise. **Stop by the SCRIP table any Sunday morning, ask questions, take home a SCRIP order form and consider what a difference you can make by using this fundraising program.**



Many thanks to all for your prayers and get-well cards and phone calls following my recent surgery. Thank you also, Pastor Renae for your prayers and for visiting me and Nancy in our home. All were very much appreciated. God Bless! ~ Lanny Goering

Thank you all for the prayers, cards, hugs, and kind words the last few weeks. We appreciate all of these gestures more than we can express. We've always known what a loving and caring "family" Vine is and are blessed to be part of this Church Family. In Christ's Love, Barry and Karen Hemmerling

Thank you for the cards, telephone calls, home visits, and prayers. This helps so much during my journey of cancer treatment. ~ Loena Mathews

Thank you Vine Family for your cards, lovely thoughts, and prayers in the recent passing of my mother, Anna Sultzbaugh. She enjoyed worshiping at Vine and the friendly fellowship she found here. In appreciation, Anica and Jeff Brown

CONGREGATION NEWS

New Members ♦ Baptisms ♦ Birthdays
Weddings ♦ Memorials ♦ Special Announcements

Happy Birthday!

1 – Deb Velder
6 – Joe Daddario
7 – Barb Renken
8 – Mike Mullin
8 – Ariana Niimi
9 – Brett Hemmerling
10 – Andrew Tyler
11 – Marylyn Brinkhoff
11 – David Moreland
11 – Cliff Brugman



12 – Ken Kokes
14 – Karen Simms
16 – Mark Kaufman
16 – Nick Evans
17 – Wilma Daddario
18 – Karen Robb
19 – Anne O’Neal
19 – Mary Niimi
20 – Mark Hassler
22 – Jennifer Loschen
22 – Emily Delisi

23 – Carol Rystrom
23 – Mitchell Anderson
25 – Ed Schlif
25 – Margaret Schaefer
25 – Karen Walls
25 – Melissa Ludwa
25 – Mike Remmenga
26 – Clara Breed
28 – Rick Otto
29 – Terry Williams

Celebrate Women Dinner: Spring is just around the corner and with that in mind, it brings the annual **Celebrate Women Dinner!** Please mark your calendars for **Friday, April 29th** and make plans to attend. The Board of Women Ministries is in the midst of planning the dinner and program, so stay tuned. Details will be forthcoming as they develop. **You will not want to miss it!** We promise you a most interesting and entertaining program!

For Vine Youth:

I'm Going to Kamp Kaleo this Summer! Give your child or youth the trip that will help form his or her spiritual life. Look at all of the summer camp choices at <http://www.kampkaleoontheriver.com/>. You can also check the narthex bulletin board or talk to Pastor for details. Get your registrations in early!

Senior High Sunday School meets every **Sunday morning** from **9:15 - 10:00 am**.

Youth Group meets the **1st and 3rd Sunday nights** of each month at **7:00 pm**.

Keep in Mind. . .

Boy Scout Sunday: **Sunday, March 6th** - the Scouts will greet, usher and read scripture.

Hearing Assistance - we have hearing devices that feed directly from our microphones in the sanctuary. Please consider giving them a try.

Check out the Church Calendar - it is posted on the **Narthex bulletin board**. Any updates/changes will be made to it as needed. Please contact the church office if you have any questions about the calendar, or need to add or remove a listing.



Lincoln Irish Dancer's Annual Spring Ceili: is **Sunday, March 13th, 6:30-8:30 pm** at the **Auld Pavilion in Antelope Park, 3140 Sumner Street**. Music provided by local band Paddywhack! Refreshments and silent auction. Adults: \$7, Kids (5-12): \$5, Max family: \$20.

Vine Church is on Facebook: if you are a registered user on *Facebook*, you can search for Vine Congregational United Church of Christ, and click the "Like" button.

Eternal Life: A New Vision - Bishop John Shelby Spong will deliver the **Monday, March 28th** lecture, **7:00 pm**, at First-Plymouth UCC church. A donation of \$5 is suggested. You are invited to attend.