

Congregational Church of Pinehurst, UCC

On Sunday, March 11, the United Church of Christ (UCC) joins with six other denominations to participate in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), an offering to support the UCC's disaster relief ministry around the world. The 10:00 a.m. worship service, led by Pastor Terry Yasuko Ogawa, will be participatory and include responsive readings, litanies, and prayers recognizing both our limitations and abilities to meet the world's greatest needs through faith and action. Immediately following the service everyone is invited to the Hearth Room for fellowship hour with coffee and light refreshments.

The National UCC and Pastor Terry note that OGHS is the special mission offering of the UCC that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. Seven denominations - *American Baptist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Church of the Brethren, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), UCC, and Church World Service* work together to develop common promotional materials thereby sharing ideas, costs, and a commitment to faithful service. Each denomination receives and manages its respective OGHS offerings, and together raise over \$10 million annually.

Saturday, March 10 is Annual Spring Clean-Up Day at CCP (Rain date:

March 24.). Work starts at 9:00 a.m. Council leader Ron Adams hopes to inspire a great turnout of volunteers to work both inside and out. "Any help, any abilities: we have a place for you! Let's get the church all pretty for Easter! Look for sign-up sheets in the Narthex and choose your favorite chore!"

CCP's Lenten Social Justice Bible Challenge continues, and many readers are opting to participate in the optional group discussions on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:45. After a simple supper of homemade soup & bread, Pastor Terry facilitates conversation about the previous week's readings. Responses vary widely, as individuals' life experiences are reflected in their understandings. Pastor Terry encourages new people to feel free to drop in – "Just come enjoy the fellowship."

Mark your calendars now for Easter Week activities -- Good Friday Worship Service at 5:30 p.m. on March 30, Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on April 1st, the Easter Worship Service at 10:00 followed by a children's Easter Egg Hunt on the church grounds.

Congregational Church of Pinehurst, UCC is an official Open and Affirming faith community that welcomes everyone, regardless of where they might be on their faith journeys. The Open and Affirming designation recognizes a core principle: "We value and respect differences in all people's religious backgrounds, personal experiences, gender definition, and cultural experience. We welcome everyone." The church is located at 895 Linden Road across from Elliott's Restaurant. For more information call the church office at (910) 295-2243 Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

or visit www.youarewelcomehere.org or the Facebook page.

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