



The Messenger

Garfield Park United Church of Christ

March 2010

Indianapolis

Family reading time

Since summer, I've been gradually working through C.S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia with my daughters. This has been one of the most treasured times of our relationship. My dad used to read these books to

From Pastor Mark

me before bedtime, and I've sought to continue the tradition with my own children. Lewis said he was "aiming at a sort of pre-baptism of the child's imagination" in these books. The parallels to the life of Christ and lessons for the Christian faith are striking.

It's especially important that our children are reading good books that reinforce a Christian worldview. Much of what children are exposed to these days involves "nuanced" characters that blur the lines between good and evil. In adult moral development, it's important to understand how complicated humans are, but children need to start with a more basic, foundational, clear-cut approach to morality rather than with confusion. Narnia has "good guys" and "bad guys," and the redemption of both is the goal.

The Chronicles of Narnia is a seven-book series about children who are drawn into a magical world called Narnia. The king of Narnia is a lion named Aslan, who serves as a direct portrayal of Jesus Christ. Here are a few Christian themes in each book:

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe – Aslan is killed on the stone table by the White Witch, in a very clear allusion to Jesus' substitutionary atonement. He is raised from the dead, and the stone table cracks in two, much like the curtain of the Temple was torn in

(Continued inside)

★ See insert honoring Pastor Tom & Susan ★
★ Thanks to all who attended last month's retirement party and especially ★
★ to those who made the great event possible! ★

Lent & Easter Calendar

March 3: Souper Supper & Service
Immanuel UCC, 5:30 p.m. supper
7 p.m. service

March 6: Men's Lenten Breakfast
Feidens UCC 8 a.m.

March 10: Lenten Service
Garfield Park UCC, 7 p.m.

March 13: Men's Lenten Breakfast
St. Peters UCC, 8 a.m.

March 17: Lenten Service
Olive Branch Christian Church, 7 p.m.
Bruce Simon preaching

March 20: Men's Lenten Breakfast
St. John's UCC Southport, 8 a.m.

March 24: Lenten Service
Pleasant Run UCC, 7 p.m.

March 27: Men's Lenten Breakfast
Zion Evangelical Church, 8 a.m.

March 28: Palm Sunday

April 1: Maundy Thursday
Special Worship, 6 p.m.

April 2: Good Friday
Special Service, 7:30 p.m.

April 3: Easter Egg Hunt
10 a.m. Garfield Park UCC

April 4: Easter Sunday!
Regular service times
9:15 a.m. Easter breakfast

OUR PURPOSE: By faithful lives in Jesus' community
We strive to lead everyone to know and love God

Teens to go bowling

We begin our month with lunch and Youth Fellowship right after church on March 7. Hopefully, if the weather is

Teen's Team for Christ

broke a little, we might head to Pizza Hut to share lunch

and fellowship. If you can, bring some money to chip in, if not come anyway. During this meeting I hope to plan the Easter Breakfast and think on next year's theme for Valentines Dance.

Our next event will be bowling at the Expo Bowl. We will have lunch right after church and then head to the bowling alley on March 21. More details later to be given on price and such.

Hope you will join us, when we get together, we always have a great time!

Love Don & Sandy Young

p.s. The best things in life are free, a warm hug, a kind word, a smile.

Summer camp dates

Although the snow has just melted, it's already time to start thinking about summer camp at Merom. Here are the dates:

June 14-19	Faith Journeys	3rd-2010 grads
June 20-26	All Ages 2	3rd-2010 grads
June 20-26	Adventure Camp	high school & up
June 27-30	Grades 3-4-5	3-5th grades
June 30-July 4	Backstage Pass	8th-2010 grads
July 4-10	Creative Spirit	6th-2010 grads
July 7-10	Just You & Me Kid	4yrs & up
July 11-17	Tri-Level	4th-2010 grads
July 18-24	All ages 1&3	3rd-2010 grads

Want more information? Go to www.merom.org or find the Merom Conference Center on Facebook.

You can also email questions to summer-camp@merom.org.

Pastor Mark continued from the cover

two.

Prince Caspian – During their journey to help a rightful heir secure the throne, the children fail to trust Aslan's guidance, and this makes their journey harder. Aslan's way looks impossible, but turns out to be the only safe (and easiest) route.

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader – One of the characters, through greed, turns into a dragon, and needs Aslan to peel off layer after layer of dragon's skin, taking off the old self and putting on the new self (Eph.4:22).

The Silver Chair – Aslan gives the children signs to follow up on a mountain, but when they descend to embark on their mission, it becomes hard to stick with the signs, much like Moses and the Ten Commandments (Deut.6-7).

The Horse and His Boy – Prince Rabadash plans to invade Narnia, but his plot is foiled by the children. Because of his pride and refusal to repent, Aslan temporarily turns him into a donkey the same way God humbled proud King Nebuchadnezzar by making him like a wild animal living outside (Daniel 4).

The Magician's Nephew – Chronologically first in the series, this includes a creation account of Narnia, which is sung into existence by Aslan. There is also an account of how the Fall took place. The book parallels Genesis 1-3 and reminds us of the beauty of God's creative process.

The Last Battle – The last days of Narnia culminate with the faithful going to "Aslan's country" (heaven). There is an Aslan-counterfeit just like there are counterfeits of the Trinity (and particularly of Christ) in the book of Revelation. Most interesting of all is how such counterfeits lead people to become cynical about the real thing. Unfortunately, Lewis' theology goes astray in this book when a character who worshipped Tash (parallel to Satan) gets credit for serving Aslan (parallel to Jesus) simply because of his sincerity.

Apart from this one lapse, I wholeheartedly recommend all seven books for children and adults. The first two books have been made into movies, and the third is coming to theaters in December.

THOUGHTS: What the caterpillar calls the end of the world,
the Master calls a butterfly. - David Bach



For Kids!

DIRT CUPS

Make this easy snack for your family or your friends at Sunday school. As you eat it, celebrate the miracles God brings in the spring.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving size) box of chocolate instant pudding
- 1 (8 oz.) tub of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) plastic cups
- gummy worms and frogs
- plastic flowers (optional)

What you do:

1. Mix milk and pudding in a large bowl. Beat with a whisk until well blended. Let stand 5 minutes.
2. Add whipped topping and half of the crushed Oreos.
3. Place 1 tablespoon crushed Oreos in each cup. Fill cups $\frac{3}{4}$ full with pudding.
4. Top with remaining crushed Oreos.
5. Chill at least 1 hour or until ready to serve.
6. Decorate with gummy worms and/or frogs.
7. Place the stem end of the plastic flower into the center of the pudding dessert.

Time Steppers on tap for March

Young at Heart will enjoy a Time Steppers program for this month's meeting.

Young at Heart Bring a friend, place setting, and well-filled dish and share a pleasant afternoon with us on March 8. We have some wonderful programs, lunch and lots of friendly friends new and old. After a short business meeting (about 15 minutes) at noon, we play bingo.

Future meetings:

- April 12: Easter program by Pastor Mark
- May 10: Candy & Ray - brother and sister gospel singers
- June 14: Jockish Florist by David Watt
- July 12: Charlie Kemp entertaining with stories

News from the Library

New items have been added to the Church Library. You will find the books on the Library Table in the Welcome Area during the month of March.

- **Books for kids** – Baby Jesus Visits the Temple by Alice Earnheart Maas, and The Seeds That Grew and Grew by Jeffrey E. Burkart.
- **Books for tweens** – Mandie and the Medicine Man, Mandie and the Charleston Phantom, Mandie and the Abandoned Mine, Mandie and the Hidden Treasure, and Mandie and the Mysterious Bells by Lois Gladys Lopard.
- **Books for adults** – Beautiful Bible Stories by Charles P. Roney, The Living Bible – Large Print Edition by Tyn-dale House, Men Are Like Waffles, Women Are Like Spaghetti by Bill and Pam Farrel, Who Are You to



How do I borrow something from the church library?

To borrow a book, sign and date the card from the back of the book. Place the card in the card box.

To borrow a CD, DVD, or a VHS tape, fill out the form on the clipboard.

Due dates

Books	4 weeks
CDs	3 weeks
DVDs	2 weeks
VHS tapes	2 weeks

Return all materials to the Library located downstairs in the Church lounge. The return box is on top of the filing cabinet.

THE WORD: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
— Philippians 4:4 (NIV)

How to use credit cards responsibly

Some say that no one should have a credit card. They argue that charging purchases puts people on the path to financial ruin. To be sure, there are people who would be better off without credit cards. However, just because some people get into car accidents doesn't mean no one should own a car.

Used responsibly, credit cards can work in your favor. The responsible use of a credit card involves three steps.

- Only charge pre-planned budgeted amounts. If you have a budget that allows you to spend \$75 on clothing this month, you can charge \$75 worth of clothing.
- Track your use of your card as you make purchases. If you use budget software like Quicken or an online tool like Mint.com, your credit card transactions will be reflected in your budget within a couple days of each charge. This is an important step that is often missed by people who either don't track their spending or do so with a manual system like a paper & pencil budget or an Excel spreadsheet. If you don't track your use of your card as you make purchases, the monthly bill often seems surprisingly high.
- Pay the balance in full each month.

Good Sense If you follow these three steps you can take advantage of numerous credit card benefits. Among them:

Purchase protection. When I make a purchase with either of my cards, if the item is stolen or accidentally damaged within 90 days the card companies will reimburse me for up to \$1,000.

Price Protection. With one of my cards, if I find the same item for a lower price within 60 days of purchase, I will be reimbursed for the difference.

Extended warranty. Both of my cards double the manufacturer's warranty on many purchases for up to one additional year.

Car rental insurance. Before renting a car, it's a good idea to check the terms of the insurance policy on the vehicle you own and also the terms of your credit cards. Our agent told me that for the most part the same coverage that applies to the vehicle we own applies to a vehicle we rent. The one exception is that if we're in an accident with a rental car, the rental car company will charge a daily rental fee for every day the car is being repaired ("loss of use"), which would not be covered.

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I then checked with our two credit card companies. Both offer free "secondary" insurance, assuming you use their card to pay for the rental and decline the rental company's coverage. Secondary insurance covers anything not covered by the insurance policy on the vehicle we own, such as the deductible. However, loss of use turns out to be a gray area. One card company rep said technically they do cover that, but only if the rental car company provides adequate documentation, which it rarely does (how's that for an honest answer?).

Neither credit card company covers pick-up trucks or full-sized vans. One does not cover full-size SUVs. One company provides coverage for rentals lasting up to 15 days, the other for 30 days. Both companies provide coverage for rentals from most rental agencies, but this was not always the case, so it's especially important to make sure your card will cover a rental from the agency you are considering. If traveling overseas, one of our cards will not cover rentals in three countries; the other offers no coverage in six countries.

Other benefits mentioned by MSN include discounted roadside assistance and insurance for lost or damaged luggage. Here are a couple of other credit card perks.

Discounts. You may be accustomed to looking for coupon codes and searching for other discounts on the web. Did you know that credit card companies offer their own discounts for various merchants? There are programs offered by Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.

Faith-based rewards. In an unapologetic mention of my primary sponsor, Christian Community Credit Union (CCCU), not only do their credit cards provide points that can be redeemed for travel or merchandise, but every time you use one of their cards CCCU also makes a donation to various Christian ministries. To date, that amount has totaled nearly \$3 million dollars.

Freebies. This is the benefit most people are familiar with. While many credit card companies are becoming stingier with their reward programs, we recently got a new camcorder with a retail price of over \$500 just by using points.

Bottom line? There are financial advantages available to those who use credit cards responsibly. Do you know about the various perks available from your credit card company?

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THE WORD: Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. — James 3:10 (NIV)

Work camps offer chance to help this summer

This summer, the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC will offer another opportunity to help flood victims .

The conference is putting together two work camps:

- June 13-26 - Eastern Kentucky
- June 27-July 10 - Louisville

The cost of each is \$95 a week or \$20 a day.

If you're interested in attending — or interested in leading a team from Garfield Park UCC — contact Pastor Mark or Lesley Weidenbener, chair of the Ministry Alive Team.

If you'd like additional information about the camps, you can email Mary Anna Speller at maryannaspeller@gmail.com or call 736-8707.



March Birthdays!

Anniversaries!

Congregation notes

A note from Pastor Tom on the “transition”

Some folk I love are having a hard time understanding what it means, or why, that I won't be their pastor anymore, though I will continue to be their friend.

Working on part time didn't “work.” I still did pastoral leadership seven days a week. My wise MD said this is not unusual for professionals—we just see the need. I'm not ready to carry the leadership weight further.

I do believe it is God's very good time to move on beyond my leadership!

It would not be fair to the church, or to me, if people didn't start looking to the woman or man who is the next pastoral leader to have all the opportunities to bond that the sacraments, rites, Worship and pastoral care of the church provide.

Please pray for our church. You are all special treasures in Jesus' mission here, as well as in Susan and my lives!

Thank you, in Jesus' Love, pastor tom



Do you have someone to thank? A note, event or sentiment you'd like to share with the congregation?

Let me know by emailing me at lweidenbener@yahoo.com or putting a note in The Messenger mailbox by the choir room.

Beyond March

Upcoming events



Check Your Calendar

- Good Friday, April 1
- Easter Egg Hunt, April 3
- Easter, April 4
- Taylor Youth Conference, April 23-25
- All-Church Picnic, June 13
- Fish Fry 2010, June 25-26
- All-Church McCormick's Creek Retreat, Sept. 24-26

THOUGHTS: You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. - John Wesley

A **THANK YOU** from Pastor Tom

Susan and I can hardly thank you enough for the considerations, celebration, and love, shown us in our quarter-century pilgrimage with you are God's precious Garfield Park United Church of Christ.

And then the "retirement" Sunday - was heart-warming - and about as spectacular as I could take. A lot of folks worked so hard to put it together - THANK YOU SO MUCH! -and to all of you who came or sent greetings in any way.

Then ("also" seems so weak) the immensely generous gift-check from the church to accompany all the thoughtful gifts and goodies on the tables and the videos.

I'm praying for all your involvement in God's continuing work in and through Garfield Park UCC, and everywhere else God's sovereignty leads you, as well as for God to guide our continuing friendships, in Jesus' Love, /pastor tom blossom

Holy Week Schedule



March 28: Palm Sunday

April 1: Maundy Thursday
Special Worship, 6 p.m.

April 2: Good Friday
Special Service, 7:30 p.m.

April 3: Easter Egg Hunt
10 a.m. Garfield Park UCC

April 4: Easter Sunday!
Regular service times
9:15 a.m. Easter breakfast

**Get dates for all Lenten services
and events on the front cover.**

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Garfield Park United Church of Christ
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Sunday Worship Services

8:15 a.m. Early Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Morning Mission for kids

10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

Church office hours 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mon-Fri

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MARCH 2010

*Bible studies listed
in italics. See below
for information.*

<p>Sunday Worship Schedule 8:15 a.m. Early Worship 9:15 a.m. Godspace Adult Class 10:30 a.m. Worship</p>

<p>For KIDS on Sundays 9:15 a.m. Morning Mission 10:30 a.m. Jesus'sSpace.com (after Children's Message)</p>
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 <i>7:30 pm Renew Bible Study</i>	2 <i>6:30 pm Men's Accountability Group</i>	3 10:10 am Tutoring 5:30 pm Souper Supper w/7:30 pm service Immanuel UCC 6:30 pm NA meeting 7 pm Choir practice	4	5	6 8 am Men's Lenten Breakfast at Friedens UCC Game Night - 6 pm	
7 Communion Teens Team Lunch & Visit after 3rd service 4 pm Volleyball 5 pm H2H	8 Young at Heart - noon <i>7:30 pm Renew Bible Study</i>	9 <i>6:30 pm Men's Study</i> 7 pm Choir practice	10 10:10 am Tutoring at School 34 6:30 pm NA meeting 7 pm Lenten Service at GPUCC	11 7 pm Church Council Call Terry 881-8807	12	13 8 am Men's Lenten Breakfast at St Peters UCC	
14 Christian Ed board - after 3rd service 2 pm - Volleyball 6 pm Eclipse 3d	15 <i>7:30 pm Renew Bible Study</i>	16 <i>6:30 pm Men's Accountability Group</i>	17 10:10 am Tutoring 6:30 pm NA meeting 7 pm Lenten Service Olive Branch Church Bruce Simon preaching 7 pm Choir practice	18	19 5 pm Violet Loper & Grant Short Rehearsal	20 8 am Men's Lenten Breakfast at Saint John UCC Southport	
21 Teens Team - after 3rd service 2 pm Volleyball	22 <i>7:30 pm Renew Bible Study</i>	23 <i>6:30 pm Men's Study</i>	24 10:10 am Tutoring at School 34 6:30 pm NA meeting 7 pm Lent Service at Pleasant Run UCC 7 pm Choir practice	25	26	27 8 am Men's Lenten Breakfast at Zion Evangelical	
28 Palm Sunday Pastor Tom Appreciation/Celebration event after 3rd service 6 pm Eclipse 3d	29 <i>7:30 pm Renew Bible Study</i>	30 <i>6:30 pm Men's Accountability Group</i>	31 10:10 am Tutoring At School 34 6:30 pm NA meeting 7 pm Choir practice	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Bible Study Information Renew Bible Study, open to new members, call Susan 882-4016 Men's Accountability Group, closed, call Mark 783-1087 Men's Study, open to new members, call Terry 881-8807 Prayer Group, meets at agreed upon times, call Louella 972-6947 Ladies' Bible Study, open to new members, call Lisa at 882-7264</p> </td> </tr> </table>			<p>Bible Study Information Renew Bible Study, open to new members, call Susan 882-4016 Men's Accountability Group, closed, call Mark 783-1087 Men's Study, open to new members, call Terry 881-8807 Prayer Group, meets at agreed upon times, call Louella 972-6947 Ladies' Bible Study, open to new members, call Lisa at 882-7264</p>
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