

# BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY

It took careful stoking of the sap-green and ivory wood-burning stove to keep the temperature at 350 degrees on the oven door dial. It was in this warm country kitchen that my family’s bread was baked twice a week. The mouth-watering aroma invited our sharing slices of this manna spread with butter and honey.

In the midst of our chatter, each morning our family of six gathered for breakfast, after outside chores were done. We paused before our meal to pray the Lord’s Prayer to give daily focus to our day. Now years later, it is meaningful for me to pray – “Holy One, \*Abba-Amma, hallowed be thy name.....give us this day our daily bread.....”, and then give thanks for the gentle diligence of my parents who nurtured our family in regular prayer life at home as well as in the worship and group life of a little white church along the Lincoln Highway in Ohio.

Written by JoAnn Klink

Our life is enriched by our experience and our connections in the worship and group life of faithful communities, including First Congregational UCC of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Come and. . .

## CONNECT \* LEARN \* GROW

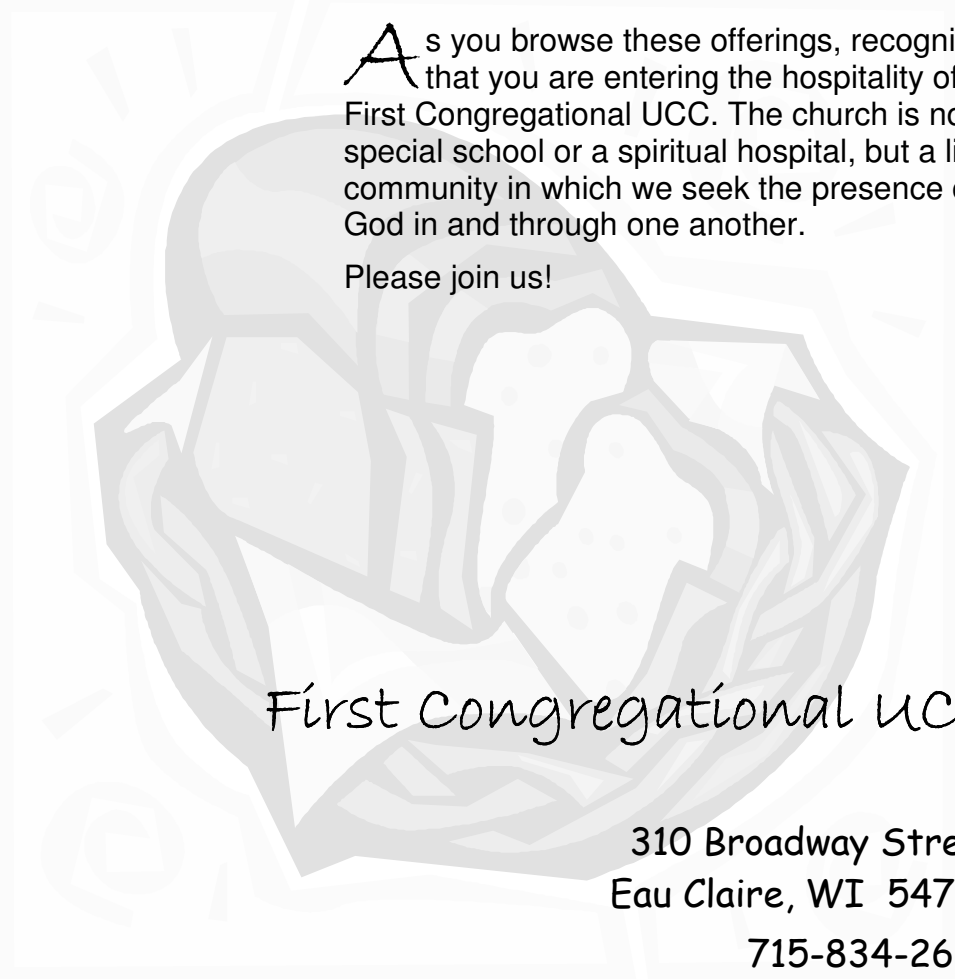
*\* Abba – intimate personal father, Amma--intimate personal mother (Aramaic)*

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Dates, times and contact information are listed with the event description. Registration for all events may be accomplished by calling the church office at 715-834-2668 or by [jillc@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:jillc@firstucceauclaire.org).

Registration costs are paid by cash or check made payable to First Congregational UCC; **please note the event on the memo line.** Scholarships are available. Please request childcare at the time of registration; we are happy to arrange it for you.

# BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY

Spiritual and Educational opportunities  
Winter—Spring, 2012



As you browse these offerings, recognize that you are entering the hospitality of First Congregational UCC. The church is not a special school or a spiritual hospital, but a living community in which we seek the presence of God in and through one another.

Please join us!

First Congregational UCC

310 Broadway Street  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

715-834-2668

[www.firstucceauclaire.org](http://www.firstucceauclaire.org)

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**Small Groups at First Congregational**  
**CONNECT · LEARN · GROW**

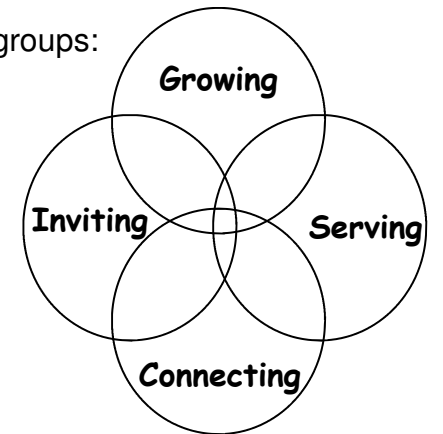
The vision for small groups at First Congregational UCC is to create a vibrant context for groups of individuals and families to be active in their own spiritual growth and to be fully integrated within the mission and ministry of the congregation. Meet people, engage the community and deepen your practice—in other words, this is where the rubber meets the road.

The congregation offers four different types of groups:

- **Spiritual Growth and Adult Education**
- **Mission and Social Justice**
- **Family Ministries**
- **Fellowship**

created around four dynamics

- **Inviting**
- **Connecting**
- **Serving**
- **Growing**



and held together by our covenant with God and one another. Each of these groups may emphasize one particular dynamic, yet will embody all four. For example, a book study will emphasize growing, yet will also be a group that invites, connects, and serves.

**GET INVOLVED — CONNECT \* LEARN \* GROW**

Small Group and Family Ministries would like to assist you in connecting with the group or the topic that is your “right fit”. Call the church office with your questions and suggestions. We want to know if there is more that we can do to support you in your journey of faith. You may reach us by contacting the church office at 715-834-2668 or by emailing Jill Christopherson, 715-834-2668, [jillc@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:jillc@firstucceauclaire.org)

## Fellowship

**GAMES NIGHT:** Everyone is welcome to Ingram Hall for a game evening. This group is for anyone who enjoys games and connecting with others. We have new games each time we meet or you may bring along one of your favorites. There is something here for everyone: singles, couples, and families of all ages. Get to know others in a fun, relaxed setting. Please feel free to bring a snack to share and enjoy during and between games. You will have fun!

**Sundays, 5:00—8:00 PM.**

**January 22**

**February 19**

**March 18** (check bulletin to confirm this date)

**April 22**

**May 20**

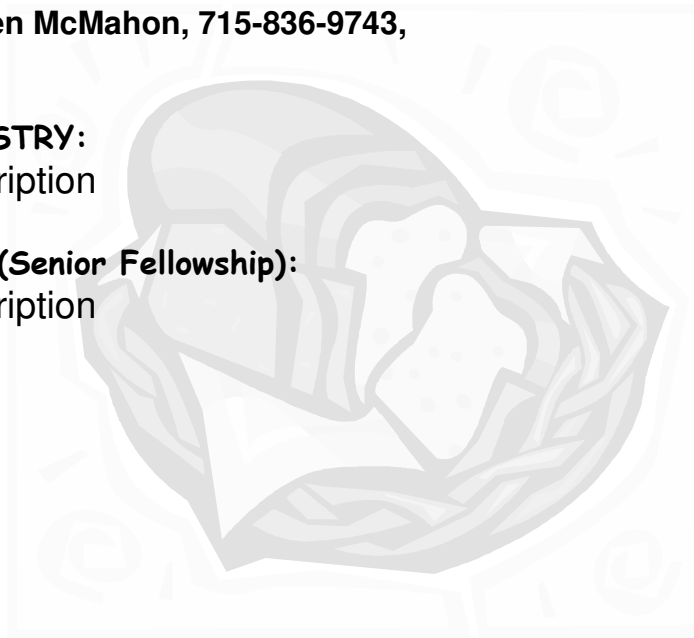
**Contact: Chris and Karen McMahon, 715-836-9743,  
mcmahonck@att.net**

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:**

See page 4 for a description

**PRIMETIME FRIENDS (Senior Fellowship):**

See page 5 for a description



## Adult Educational & Spiritual Growth

*There are many types and levels of studies at First Congregational UCC. Beginners are introduced and experienced students challenged. You may be certain that the studies listed have openings and are ready to welcome you.*

### Lenten Studies

**A Lenten Book Study: Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power—And How They Can Be Restored, by Marcus J. Borg:**

Lent is the six week period of preparation culminating in Easter. In the early church, persons who wished to become Christians would study and practice during Lent for Baptism into the Christian church on Easter morning. These days, it is easy to assume our knowledge of faith and practice faith casually. Marcus Borg says “Christian language has become a stumbling block in our time. Much of its basic vocabulary is seriously misunderstood by Christians and non-Christians alike. (Words) have acquired meanings that are serious distortions of their biblical and traditional meanings.”

This year during Lent, we have the opportunity to become more deeply acquainted with our language of Christianity. In three sessions, we will recover some of our Christian words and the actions that they empower. Words like salvation, redemption, forgiveness are not words for the head, but words to inform our hearts. Speaking Christian includes action. Borg urges readers to “consider whether we can be Christian without sharing God’s passion for transformation of ourselves and the world. His unequivocal answer is no; being Christian includes ‘speaking Christian.’”

**Wednesdays: Feb 29, Mar 7, Mar 14**

**5:15 – 6:45 PM**

**Leader: Rev Dr. Mark Pirazzini, 715-834-2668**

**Cost: (Book ordered through the church): \$14.00**

## Adult Educational and Spiritual Growth

**BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY – SUNDAY SERMON TEXT:** This drop-in, open Bible Study enjoys both spontaneous lecture and freewheeling discussion and receives all who come to study the scripture over lunch. Come as you are to probe the meaning of the lectionary text for the following Sunday. Lists of the texts are available in the church office. No registration is required.

**Tuesdays, 12:15—1:15 PM - Library**  
**Leader: Rev. Dr. Mark Pirazzini, 715-834-2668**

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** The love of knitting and crocheting has been combined with care to form a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Many blessings are included in every shawl. The knitter/crocheter begins each shawl with prayers for the recipient. Prayers are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. Don't let your skill level keep you from joining. Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry knit and crochet both individually and as a group. When the shawl is completed, it is offered in a final ritual. All are welcome to this ongoing, open group.

**1st Mondays, October—May 7:00-8:30 PM**  
**Contact: Barb Brenden, 715-832-6795 or Jeanne Fritts, 715-832-7786**

**TAI CHI :** Tai Chi is a form of gentle movement with meditation. It has many beneficial claims and is a very good, gentle way of exercising to improve general welfare. Our instructor, Sue Kilgore, teaches a modified Yang short form. Our one hour on Friday mornings includes a short time of greeting, readiness activities and practice. Tai Chi is truly open to persons at all activity levels. All are welcome to practice.

**Fridays, January 7 – May 31**  
**9:30 – 10:30 AM**  
**Contact: Pat Heins, 715-874-6645**  
**Cost: No charge**

## Family Ministries

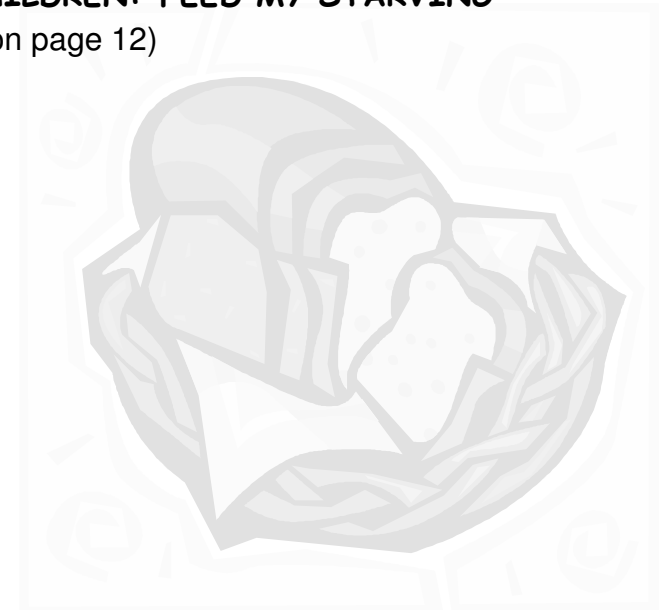
### **Celebration of the Family (formerly Nursery**

**Celebration):** It is the tradition at First Congregational UCC to celebrate the youngest members of our church family and their presence with us on the first Sunday in June, June 3.

This year, the program in Randall Park features the music of **Jack Pearson from Minneapolis** ([www.jackpearson.org](http://www.jackpearson.org)). Plan to join all the members of the church following worship for a picnic concert in the park. Activities for children, time for families to connect with one another and recognition of our nursery “graduates” makes this a memorable time. Picnic food and drink is offered by the Religious Education Committee and is no charge. Join us!

**Sunday, June 3**  
**11:00 – 12:30 PM**  
**Contact: Pam Braun, 715-832-2048, braunp@att.net**

**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN: FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN:** (description on page 12)



## Adult Educational and Spiritual Growth

**Fifth Sunday Forums: "Living FAITHfully":** Fifth Sunday Forums are a tickler for adult Sunday morning Adult Sunday school. Many receive all the challenge that they desire in the sermon time. What if you want more? What if you have questions?

These lecture/discussions for 2012 take place on the fifth Sunday of the month, January and April. The lecture/discussion opens a theological topic for our deeper understanding in a short amount of time. Let the information percolate and pursue the topic again with guidance in a follow-up conversation scheduled later on Tuesday night. Your questions and suggestions are welcome, please contact [jillc@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:jillc@firstucceauclaire.org).

**SO, WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE TRINITY?:** On January 29, 8:30 AM, we welcome Rev. David S. Moyer, former member of our congregation, now serving as the Conference Minister for the Wisconsin Conference UCC. Rev. Moyer has ministered in the Wisconsin Conference for three decades. As the pastoral leader of the Wisconsin Conference since 2001, he brings gifts of vision, leadership, friendship, good humor, hard work, and love for the church.

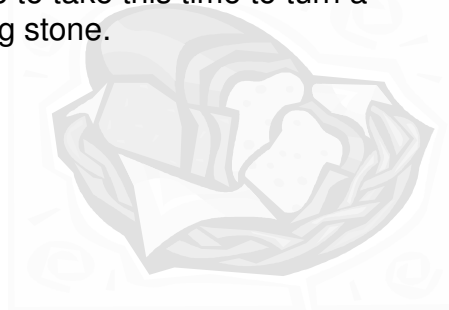
The Trinity is at the heart of Christian beliefs and doctrine. As early Christians pursued an understanding of the nature of God, the Trinity was created. Following the Council of Nicaea in 325, one important concept was established there, namely that Christ is eternal and of "one substance with the Father", in the words of the Nicene Creed. What do you believe about the Trinity and how do you understand it? How does it enrich your faith? Perhaps you would like to take this time to turn a theological stumbling block into a stepping stone.

Sunday, January 29  
8:30 – 9:30 AM

**Leader: Reverend Dr. David S. Moyer**  
**Contact church office, 715-834-2668**

Follow up Discussion:  
**Tuesday, February 7**  
**6:30 – 7:30 PM**

**Leader: Rev. Dr. Mark Pirazzini, contact church office, 715-834-2668**



## Family Ministries

*The home and our family relationships are the center of our spiritual life. The church is a resource to families and offers opportunities to nurture the life of children, youth, and parents in ways that bring faithful living as individuals and families. Check out these offerings. Plan to attend!*

### YOUR FIRST COMMUNION

First Congregational UCC invites children to take communion prior to confirmation, at a time when parents see that their children understand communion in an age appropriate way. Now, what does that mean? To prepare you as parents to share this event with your child, three opportunities are available. These are outlined below so that you may choose those that fit your family. Family worship on First Communion Sunday, February 6, 2011 provides an environment for children to participate fully in their first communion.

**Sunday, February 6 10:00 AM**

**Contact: Jill Christopherson, 715-834-2668,**  
**[jillc@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:jillc@firstucceauclaire.org)**

### Communion Stations

What does communion mean to you? And, how would my child "understand communion in an age appropriate way?" On Sunday, January 30, at 11:00 a.m. you may browse or browse with your children the Communion activity and learning stations in the lower level hallways. These stations provide a variety of ways to invite questions and develop with your child an understanding of this feast of the People of God. You may discover that your own understanding of communion expands.

**Individual learning stations for adults and children**

**Sunday, January 30, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 PM and**  
**Wednesday, February 2, 5:00 – 7:00 PM**

## Family Ministries

### First Communion Q&A

Wednesday, February 2, 5:30 p.m., Anyone who is interested may join us for the evening meal. Grab your plate (\$2.00) and look for the communion families as we eat together and discuss communion. In previous years, parents have asked questions regarding the theology of communion in other denominations and understanding what might be age appropriate. This time with Pastor Mark is intended to be casual. Registration is requested by January 31.

**Wednesday, February 2 5:30 – 6:00 PM**

**Leaders: Rev. Dr. Mark Pirazzini, with Jill Christopherson and Dianne Dow.**

**715-834-2668, [jillc@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:jillc@firstucceauclaire.org)**

**Cost: \$2.00 for meal**

### Communion Elements

Wednesday, February 2, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., we invite you or your child to help prepare the communion bread. Bread is the symbol of the body of Christ and helps us to really “get our hands on” what communion is. We will be working in the church kitchen.

**Wednesday, February 2 6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Registration requested by: Monday, January 31**

**Leader: Jill Christopherson, 715-834-2668**

**Interactive Family Worship:** Worship is not a private and personal experience. Together, our experience of the holy, is the way that our faith is shared and taught. Children are welcomed when families are together in the same room to worship. When we make room for children, both young and old learn that the message is important for them.

Another celebration of the family in worship together is scheduled for April 15 in Ingram Hall. Please join us!

### GAMES NIGHT

See page 18 for a description

## Adult Educational & Spiritual Growth

**PRIMETIME FRIENDS (Senior Fellowship):** All are invited to come to this friendly gathering where we have a wonderful home-cooked meal by some of the best cooks at 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational and then enjoy a guest speaker sharing information about interesting topics or sometimes a musical performance. It's a great way to stay connected with other members and enjoy food and fellowship. Transportation is available to those who need it, just call the church office to reserve your spot on the Monday prior to the meeting and request a ride.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, September – June 12 Noon Ingram Hall**

**Contact: Mary Barnes, Director of Elderlife, 715-834-2668 or [maryb@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:maryb@firstucceauclaire.org)**

**COMMON GROUND - UWEC:** It's all about students coming together to seek meaningful ways to live their faith in a diverse and changing world. A different topic each week, pushing the boundaries, sharing our varied life and faith experiences. Common Ground finds engaging the questions to be more important than making sure there is a definitive answer.

Come and engage in thoughtful faith exploration, with authentic interfaith dialogue. Some topics have included: “Science and Religion” (*Are Christianity and science compatible?*), “Social Justice: How can we make a difference in the world?” (*community organizing, rescue and rehab of victims of slavery and sex trafficking*); “Interfaith Dialogue” (*What do Muslims really believe?*); Service and Mission (*putting our faith into action here in Eau Claire and beyond*). Lunch is served at each meeting.

**Weekly (day changes each semester), September - December  
7:00 –8:00 PM**

**UWEC – Davies Center, (Room to be determined)**

**Contact: Lloyd Joyal, [joyalh@uwec.edu](mailto:joyalh@uwec.edu)**

**Facebook: Common Ground - UWEC; [www.uwec.edu/theministry](http://www.uwec.edu/theministry)**

**Cost: No charge**

## Adult Educational and Spiritual Growth

### On The Road

#### **MARCUS BORG RETREAT, April 20-21, 2012:**

*“Why Didn’t Anyone Tell Me This Before: Embracing an Adult Faith” is the focus of Dr. Borg’s presentation.*

Marcus J. Borg is an American Biblical scholar and author. He is a fellow of the Jesus Seminar, holds a DPhil degree from Oxford University and is Hundere Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture, an endowed chair, at Oregon State University, from which he retired in 2007. Borg is among the most widely-known and influential voices in progressive Christianity. On May 31, 2009, Borg was installed as the first canon theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

Tickets will be purchased for members of First Congregational UCC for this event. Group transportation and lodging will be arranged, but may be also be individually acquired. Cost for the ticket is \$65 and is the same cost for full or partial attendance. You may choose to attend only Friday or only Saturday. Deadline for registration is April 8. There is a price benefit for early registration.

The Retreat is held at New Richmond High School, 650 Richmond Way, New Richmond, WI, April 20-21. Registration begins at 6:00 PM on Friday, April 20 and concludes on Saturday at 2:45 PM. This event is sponsored by the United Methodist Churches.

**April 20– 21, 2012**

**Leader: The Rev. Dr. Marcus Borg**, Canon Theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, OR, and author.

**Sponsor: United Methodist Church, River Falls**

**Cost: \$65, plus meals and lodging**

**Contact the church office for information: 715-834-2668**

## Mission and Social Justice

### OKORA:

#### **The Eau Claire Winter Sustainability Festival and Okora, Uganda:**

A sustainable project is one that can be maintained once the funding agreement has ended. This relational project with Okora, Uganda trains village members in the practices needed to change their quality of life. We at First Congregational UCC are fortunate to have the abundance to provide the renewable resources for this project.

The Okora Committee has initiated the Eau Claire Winter Sustainability Festival, FREE to the public on Feb 11, 2012, 1-5:00 PM at Northstar Middle School, 2711 Abbe Hill Drive. The public is invited to browse 50 vendors with information about sustainable practices in healthcare, food production, and energy consumption. Activities for children to be hands-on with sustainable practices will keep them busy and informed. A silent auction of gifts, products, and services raises money for the Okora Sustainable Community Project.

Following the FREE Festival, you are invited to stay for music and dancing that follows. This ticketed event from 5:00 –7:30 PM provides a delicious catered meal and family-friendly music by Duck for the Oyster for \$15.00. Children are free for the meal and dancing. Please join us for this celebration. Celebrate the choices that are available to us in Eau Claire and support the new life in Okora Uganda.

**Saturday, Feb 11**

**1:00 - 5:00 PM Festival (free)**

**5:00 - 7:30 PM Dinner and dancing, Ticket at \$15.00**

**Contact: Jill Christopherson, 715-834-2668,**

**jillc@firstucceau Claire.org**

**Cost: \$15.00**

## Mission and Social Justice

**Just Cinema:** This series shows provocative films, engaging issues of justice for your enjoyment and discussion. Participate in interesting and, at times, challenging material viewed the way that it should be—in community. This is offered monthly in the chapel, beginning on February 23. The evening includes popcorn and moderated discussion following the film. There is no charge. Child care is provided on request.

**Contact: Bob Eierman, 715-834-3359, [eierman.family@gmail.com](mailto:eierman.family@gmail.com)**

### **Winter Bone** February 23, 6:30 PM

Seventeen-year-old Ree Dolly (Jennifer Lawrence) sets out to track down her father, who put their house up for his bail bond and then disappeared. If she fails, Ree and her family will be turned out into the Ozark woods. Challenging her outlaw kin's code of silence and risking her life, Ree hacks through the lies, evasions and threats offered up by her relatives and begins to piece together the truth. Nominated for 4 Academy Awards in 2011, including Best Picture.

### **The Flow** March 22, 6:30 PM

Irena Salina's award-winning documentary investigation into what experts label the most important political and environmental issue of the 21st Century - The World Water Crisis. Salina builds a case against the growing privatization of the world's dwindling fresh water supply with an unflinching focus on politics, pollution, human rights, and the emergence of a world water cartel. Interviews with scientists and activists reveal the rapidly building crisis, at both the global and human scale, and the film introduces many of the governmental and corporate culprits behind the water grab. FLOW also gives viewers a look at the people and institutions providing practical solutions to the water crisis.

### **Bruce Almighty** April 26, 6:30 PM

Bruce Nolan, a television reporter in Buffalo, N.Y., is discontented with almost everything in life despite his popularity and the love of his girlfriend Grace. At the end of the worst day of his life, Bruce angrily ridicules and rages against God and God responds. God appears in human form and, endowing Bruce with divine powers, challenges Bruce to take on the big job to see if he can do it any better.

## Adult Educational and Spiritual Growth

**Nourishment for Body and Soul—A Life Group:** This is a life group offered for persons facing lifestyle changes and health changes. The group eats together, shares resources, life experiences, and God's movement in our lives, in a reflective, prayerful atmosphere. This small group meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, 12:00-1:15 PM in the church library. Eating is a bond of community and you are invited to bring your own food each meeting to celebrate together. The group has openings for persons who would like to explore this journey together.

**Second and Fourth Wednesdays**

**12:00-1:15 PM**

**Leader: JoAnn Klink, 715-832-8522, [klinkjr@uwec.edu](mailto:klinkjr@uwec.edu)**

**Writer's Circle:** The First Congregational UCC Writer's Circle is a small group meeting the first Tuesday of each month in the member's homes. At the meetings members read a selection of prose or poetry they have composed. They are working on family histories, possible future books, mystery fiction or whatever came to mind when the muse visited. The writings are personal choice keeping in mind we are working in a spiritual setting.

**First Tuesday each month, January through December**

**7:00—8:15 PM**

**Contact: Jim Alf, 715-514-1840**



## Mission and Social Justice



JONAH is a congregation-based community-organizing body active through this congregation for four years, but in Eau Claire for almost seven years. JONAH stands for Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope. Through the training and practices of organizing, our JONAH Core Team is able to work on issues important to you! As a result of what you shared in our Issues Assembly on November 12, 2011, the following informational forums and actions are scheduled to advance these issues. New members and visitors are always welcome to Core Team meetings. You may contact Paul Savides, psavides@wwt.net or the church office at 715-834-2668.

### **Ragtime Festival, Saturday Evening, Meal at 5:00**

**PM:** For the last 4 years, JONAH has supported the Eau Claire Ragtime Festival by providing the Saturday, evening meal. The meal is served at 5:00 PM with music enlivening the atmosphere. The menu includes locally grown products, hearty soups, fresh baked bread and dessert. The proceeds from this meal supports the work that JONAH does in our community. All money raised by JONAH supports training and support for local leaders. The issues JONAH supports in the community include reducing our state jail population through the 11x15 campaign, developing a micro loans program to provide an alternative to pay day lenders and a sustainable environment with activities like Garbage to Gold.

Buy your ticket for Saturday night dinner, \$15, and support two great causes: Habitat for Humanity and JONAH.

**Saturday, January 14**

**5:00—7:00 PM**

**Cost: \$15.00**

## Mission and Social Justice

### **Voter ID: What do I need to know? How can I help?**

Join us in the Chapel on Sunday, January 15, from 11:30 – 12:30. You are invited to this informational meeting to hear how the new Voter Photo ID Law might affect members of our congregation. You are invited to attend if you think you will need assistance obtaining Voter IDs, if you want to assist with this process for our Congregation members or the Eau Claire area residents. Following general information, groups will form to design and implement a plan to insure that our members and all adults in our community will be able to exercise their guaranteed right to vote, especially those most vulnerable.

**Sunday, January 15**

**11:30 AM– 12:30 PM**

**Leader: Judy Beeksma, judith.beeksma@att.net, 715-838-9339**

**Hazardous Waste Recycling at First Cong:** You are invited to this forum to take full advantage of recycling for medications and hazardous wastes through First Congregational UCC. When fully implemented, members of the congregation who have difficulty getting to the quarterly, county-sponsored “Clean Sweeps” may have members of the JONAH Core Team assist in the recycling. Members would bring household chemicals (e.g., fertilizers, insecticides, oil, fuels, paints, fluorescent bulbs) to a safe and secure collection point at the church on the Sunday before each “sweep”. Items will be stored off site and properly recycled at “Clean Sweep”.

Similarly, JONAH is working with the Eau Claire County Sheriff’s Office to establish quarterly anonymous collections at the church of out-dated or unneeded prescription or over-the-counter medications to have these safely destroyed.

**Sunday, February 12**

**11:15 AM-12:15 PM**

**Leader: John Urice at jkurice@gmail.com or 715-834-2668**

## Mission and Social Justice

**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN:** Work at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is appropriate for children third grade and older, their parents and other adults. If you haven't volunteered at FMSC you are in for a great experience! FMSC is a Christian nonprofit organization with a mission to feed God's starving children, hungry in body and spirit. With amazing efficiency, volunteers pack nutritious meals made of rice, soy, vitamins and dehydrated vegetables. The food is then distributed to starving children in 45 countries—each meal providing all the nutrients a starving child needs for an entire day. We have reserved 15 spots for youth and adult volunteers to pack food from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., on March 12 at the Eagan, MN location. We will arrange to carpool to the cities. The ride home will yield valuable conversation about our call as Christians to feed the hungry.

**Saturday, March 12**

**11:30 –1:30 PM (plus transportation time) Leave at 9:00 AM**

**Contact: Jill Christopherson, 715-834-2668,  
jillc@firstucceauclaire.org**

## Adult Educational and Spiritual Growth

**10th ANNUAL DAVID P. LYONS LECTURE SERIES:  
APRIL 14-15, 2012**

The Lyons Lecture Series hosts John Dominic Crossan. Crossan is a celebrated lecturer and writer from the Jesus Seminar. His Irish accent and love for story telling endears the audience while his scholarship wins them. Born in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Ireland, in 1934, Crossan served the Catholic Church as an ordained priest from 1957 to 1969 when he joined DePaul University, Chicago. He remained in Chicago until 1995. He is now a Professor Emeritus in its Department of Religious Studies. In the last forty years, Crossan has written twenty-five books on the historical Jesus, earliest Christianity, and the historical Paul. Five of them have been national religious bestsellers for a combined total of twenty-four months. The scholarly core of his work is the trilogy from *The Historical Jesus: The Life of a Mediterranean Jewish Peasant* (1991) through *The Birth of Christianity: Discovering What Happened in the Years Immediately After the Execution of Jesus* (1998), to *In Search of Paul: How Jesus's Apostle Opposed Rome's Empire with God's Kingdom*, co-authored with the archaeologist Jonathan L. Reed (2004). He has lectured to lay and scholarly audiences. Ticket cost and transportation will be announced when established. Information will be made available well ahead of the registration deadline of April 1, 2012.

**Saturday, April 14**

**Sponsor: First United Methodist Church, Madison, WI**

**Registration Deadline: Sunday, April 1, 2012**

**Leader: John Dominic Crossan,**

**contact the church office, 715-834-2668**

**Cost: TBA**