

## Presbytery of Des Moines

Equipping pastors and congregations  
in South Central Iowa with the tools  
to carry on God's awesome love.



# The Wider Circle E-News

## Mark your calendars this week for:

- **April 2** – CROSS Ministries meeting, 7 p.m. at Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **April 3-4** – Spring Connection for Youth (6th-12th graders), 7 p.m. – 3 p.m. at the United Presbyterian Church in Lenox
- **April 4** – Social Ministries Task Force, 9 a.m. at the Presbytery Office
- **April 7** – CCD Meeting, 2 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **April 7** – Compañeros Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines
- **April 15** – Older Adult Ministries Task Force meeting, 1 p.m., Presbytery Office, Urbandale
- **April 14** – Retired Pastor's Luncheon, 12:30 p.m. at Calvin Community, Des Moines

## Attend Two Rivers for Seder Meal in Des Moines

The Evangelism and Education Task Force of the **Two Rivers Regional Partnership** is sponsoring a Seder Meal and Communion Service on Maundy Thursday, April 10, 6:30–8 p.m., at **First Presbyterian Church**, 3100 Easton Blvd. in Des Moines. (Enter through west doors or back parking lot – main doors will be locked.) Menu: Rib eye, potato, and green beans. A free-will offering will be taken, for the DMARC Food Pantry. In keeping with tradition, bring a pillow to put on your chair for comfort. **Deadline for reservations is Palm Sunday, April 5.** This activity is sponsored through the Presbytery of Des Moines by The Two Rivers Regional Partnership churches – [Clifton Heights](#), [Cottage Grove](#), First, [Fort Des Moines](#), Knox United, [Highland Park](#), Park Avenue, and Union Park.



Seder Meal

## Mark your Calendars for Church Personnel Committee Training Workshops

All congregations are invited to attend regional training workshop being offered by the Presbytery of Des Moines Personnel Committee. The Rev. Bob Burnett, committee moderator, is encouraging all church volunteers who serve on either the personnel committee or as session elders to attend this important training in April and May, from 9 a.m. to Noon. Dates and locations are as follows:

- April 18** First Presbyterian Church in Newton
- April 25** First Presbyterian Church in Creston
- May 2** Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Indianola

To make your reservation, call Office Manager Betty Dyer at 515-276-4991 or e-mail her at [pbymdesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbymdesmoines@presbyteryofdesmoines.org), so we can have enough materials for everyone.

March 31, 2009

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



### We are located at:

2400 86<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 20  
Urbandale, IA 50322-4306  
515-276-4991

[officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org)

### Office Hours are:

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily

## This Week's Highlights

- Weekly Calendar Update
- Attend Two Rivers Seder Meal
- Mark your Calendars for Church Personnel Committee Training Workshop
- Join PC(USA) April 4 in monthly fast for Global Hunger
- Author Judy Cannato is *Spirituality in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* Speaker
- Cool Churches are becoming 'Green'
- Employment Opportunities

## Join PC(USA) April 4 in monthly fast for Global Hunger

The April fast materials are at [www.pcusa.org/foodcrisis/archive/april/](http://www.pcusa.org/foodcrisis/archive/april/), and the topic is Climate Change and Water, with a country focus on Peru. Fasts typically begin after a Friday evening meal and end with Communion on Sunday – about 40 hours. But you can create a different fast schedule if you celebrate communion on another Sunday, or if you want to break the fast with a simple communal meal, for example. If a water fast is not your cup of tea, see the “Fasting and Food Issues” topic [www.facebook.com/topic.php?uid=25180701228&topic=10879](http://www.facebook.com/topic.php?uid=25180701228&topic=10879), for ideas about other ways of participating. Fasting, whether from food or from something else that brings attention to God, is a spiritual practice that can take you on a faithful journey that may change you spiritually.

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## Author Judy Cannato is *Spirituality in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* Speaker

HIAWATHA – Jewish theologian Rabbi Abraham Heschel said that the only appropriate response to an encounter with the Holy is one of “radical amazement.” The discoveries of modern science over the last century provide us with new images for reflection. As this new telling of the Universe Story seeps into our awareness, it challenges the way we think and respond to the life around us.

Writer and retreat director Judy Cannato speaks on the connectedness of all creation during a *Spirituality in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* conference April 17 and 18 at St. Ludmila Catholic Church, 211 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. SW. in Cedar Rapids. Sponsored by Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center, Cannato will give two talks:

- Friday, April 17, from 7-9 p.m.: An Invitation to Radical Amazement. Cost is \$20.
- Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.: Creating a Field of Compassion: A Hopeful Response to the Challenge of Our Times. Cost is \$50 and includes lunch.

Tickets are available at Prairiewoods, 319-395-6700. Discounts are available if tickets are purchased before the event. Judy Cannato is a spiritual director at River’s Edge at St. Joseph Centre in Cleveland, Ohio and the author of *Quantum Grace: Lenten Reflections on Creation and Connectedness and Radical Amazement: Contemplative Lessons from Black Holes, Supernovas and Other Wonders of the Universe*, which won the 2007 Catholic Press Association award.

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## Cool Churches are becoming ‘Green’

**Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines** is sponsoring the “Cool Congregations” program. Congregations in the Des Moines metro area are participating in this interfaith workshop at Plymouth United Church of Christ in Des Moines on April 18. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. with check-in beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 4126 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines. To register, go to <http://plymouthgreen.org>. For questions contact Registrar Lisa Kamphuis at [likamphuis@aol.com](mailto:likamphuis@aol.com) or call the Plymouth church office at 515-255-3149. Along with this event, there are plans to have some other activities including a networking round table for congregations that have a green team.

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## Employment Opportunities

### **Secretary – First Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, Ia.**

Part-time job opening for a secretary with computer knowledge to take worship attendance, produce weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter. Call the church office at 515-262-5679 to talk with Pastor Ken Stuber. Or send resume with cover letter to 3100 Easton Blvd., Des Moines, IA 50317-3126.

### **Communications Director – Plymouth Congregational Church, Des Moines, Ia.**

Part-time Communications Director is needed approximately 25 hours of work per week. Responsibilities include developing and implementing a comprehensive communications strategy for Plymouth UCC. This position consults with staff members, ministers, and boards to enhance their work with internal and external audiences and coordinates all communications of the church’s overall messages. Bachelor’s degree in communications or equivalent experience is required. Knowledge of technology with a strong written and oral communications skills is needed. A Christian background is desired. To apply, contact Jennifer Hines, Plymouth Church Director of Administration at 515-255-3149, ext. 19 or [jhines@plymouthchurch.com](mailto:jhines@plymouthchurch.com).

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To remove your name from our mailing list, e-mail Kim Coulter [pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:pbycommunication@presbyteryofdesmoines.org).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org](mailto:officeinfo@presbyteryofdesmoines.org) or call 515-276-4991.

Learn more about the Presbytery of Des Moines at: [www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org](http://www.presbyteryofdesmoines.org).