

## Subject: News from Christ Congregational Church, UCC

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## ENewsNotes



April 2011

### ENewsNotes

**REMINDER, remember to change your clocks.**

Please remember to change your clocks an hour ahead this Sunday morning.

Don't be late for worship!

### From The Senior Minister

It's been a long wait for me. It's been an even longer journey for you. Now I'm finally here as your new Senior Minister. I am excited to worship with you, to get to know you, and to work together to spread the good news of God's inclusive love.

It will take me a little while to learn your names and faces. It would be a great favor to me if you wear name tags, or introduce yourself by name each time you see me.

On a "regular" work week, I plan on being in the church office on Monday through Wednesday, 10 AM to Noon and 1-5 PM. I will of course, be attending meetings in the evenings. Feel free to call, visit, or get in touch! I'm setting aside Thursdays for sermon writing and liturgical planning off site. Friday is my day off, as well as Saturday when I can spend time with

### In This Issue

[From the Senior Minister](#)

[A Note From Richard](#)

[One Great Hour of Sharing](#)

[A Message from the Board of Stewardship](#)

my family. Of course, if you have a pastoral care emergency when I'm out, please contact the office or send me an Email message.

You may notice a change in the worship bulletins. I decided to go by the title "Pastor Matt" instead of "Rev. Matt". I prefer the term "pastor" because it highlights a certain aspect of my job that has always been important to me: to shepherd, care, and lead. Here are a few things a pastor does:

1. Genuinely cares for the welfare of others, and not using them as a means to one's own ends.
2. Works for the wholeness of individuals, families, and communities.
3. Actively searches for the spiritually lost, leading them to protection and blessing.
5. Leads with gentleness and patience by example, not by manipulation or coercion.
6. Unifies "the flock " around a common vision of a meaningful life of service to others under God's faithfulness and bountiful provision.

I am so excited to share my calling with you; to minister to your spiritual, emotional, and intellectual needs by sharing Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed. I look forward to partnering with you as we learn what it means to equip each other to live lives of significance and service as servant-leaders in the church and the world.

Most Sincerely,  
Pastor Matt Braddock

### **A Note from Richard**

CCCs all:

Thank you for an unforgettable day of worship and celebration on Sunday. Myra and I sat at our kitchen table that evening, reading cards, opening gifts, crying and laughing...as if we hadn't cried and laughed enough already that day!

You have blessed us, and we shall not forget you. But I must tell you, I believe that the expensive, high tech compass you gave to me is, alas, broken. For the life of me I cannot get it to orient to North. It insists on pointing to Silver Spring. Myra and I discussed this, and we have determined that the cause is Matt. He must be magnetic. So follow him, and keep him oriented. He will do the same for you. You are in for a glorious journey together.

God Bless CCC!  
Much love,  
Richard and Myra

## **One Great Hour of Sharing Giving Help, Hope and Life**

CCC is a "5 for 5" church, collecting for all four of the UCC's special offerings and contributing to Our Church's Wider Mission through our unified budget. On the fourth Sunday in Lent, we collect One Great Hour of Sharing, which provides hope to people in more than 80 countries. The UCC works with international partners, and together we provide support to health, education, refugee, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives. We will collect One Great Hour of Sharing on April 3.

### **A Message From the Board of Stewardship**

The Board of Stewardship would like to again express our appreciation for all pledges, shares, special offerings and contributions of time and talent received this year. The Board is most grateful for the vision and support of Reverend Richard and we look forward to the ministry of Reverend Matt.

As we approach Pledge Sunday on April 10, consider the staff, programs and property of CCC. The Board asks that you also consider what you can do - financially, time- and talent-wise - to help "grow the promise" to support the staff, maintain the property, and sustain the community programs that CCC sponsors or in which it participates. Your contributions are important to fulfilling the vital mission of CCC! Blessings to all!

#### **Contact Information**

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