

**WORSHIP**

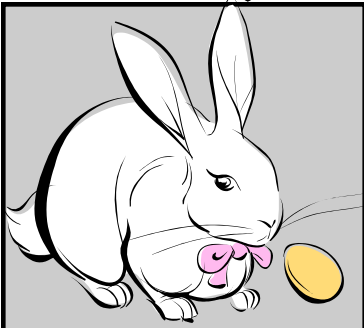


**Community Of Hope, UCC**

***GOD IS STILL SPEAKING!***

Worship Services | Every Sunday  
at 6:00pm

*Rev. Bob Lawrence, Pastor*



**HOLY WEEK**

**Thursday, April 1**  
**Maundy Thursday**  
6pm - special Taize service

**Friday, April 2**  
**Good Friday**  
7pm – Psalm 22

**Sunday, April 4**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**Sunrise service**  
7am – “Resurrection, Part 1”  
(Luke 24:1-12)  
8am – Community breakfast  
**Celebration of Easter**  
6pm – “Resurrection, Part 2”  
(Excerpts from the movie “Milk”)  
7pm – Community dinner

**Sunday, April 11**  
6pm – John 20:19-31

**Sunday, April 18**  
6pm – John 21:1-19

**Sunday, April 25**  
6pm – Acts 9:36-43

Well, it looks like spring is beginning to sneak up on us here in Tulsa. Many of us are wandering around in the semi-annual daze that follows the changing of our clocks, the daffodils in the planter box in front of the church are beginning to open, and the birds are desperately trying to raise their songs over the din of city life. And, soon after you get this newsletter, we will celebrate a religious recognition of new life on Easter.

Having lived through the first “real” winter in my life, I must admit that I am approaching this time of renewal of the earth, and the liturgical time of renewal and resurrection, with a deep sense of longing... a longing for warmth, a longing for the light of day, a longing for the diverse and amazing colors of spring, a longing for new life.

I find it hard to believe that we have been journeying together for only 7 months. In this time I have come to love the stories of what has brought each of us to this radically inclusive group of Companions called Community of Hope. Through the last half of our journey together, we have been looking at a renewal of the passions and visions that have continued calling this community together for almost 17 years now.

Most recently, I spoke of one of my deepest personal passions—one that I believe is at the heart of the abiding message of Community of Hope: the utter confidence in a “prodigal” God of lavish, reckless extravagance and abundance; a God that welcomes the stranger; a God that makes room for all; a God that joins us at our not-quite-round table; a God that empowers our ability to “choose hope, rather than curse the darkness.”

As we move into this period in which the earth around us reminds of re-awakening, I encourage you to re-awaken yourselves to that initial passion, the original vision that first called you to covenant to journey together with your Companions, and re-connect with us as we embark on bringing a vibrant message of hope to the various communities of Tulsa.

Your Companion in the journey,

## KIN-DOM DAY WORK PARTY

On Saturday, April 3, we will have a Kin-dom Day work party at Community of Hope to work on various small projects around our building and our grounds. We need help doing some miscellaneous clean-up and pruning in our planted areas, and various cleaning and organizing projects inside our building. Please join us that day any time between 10am and 2pm to help with some "spring cleaning"! A light lunch will be provided.



## PASTOR'S VACATION

Our Pastor, Bob, will be on vacation from Monday, April 12 through Monday, April 26. Rev. Lizette and others will be providing pastoral support during that period. If you need any assistance while Bob is on vacation, please call the church office and our pastoral care team will contact you.



## GARAGE SALE FOR COH

Our next garage sale is on Saturday, April 10th, from 8am to 3pm. Start collecting your gently used treasures to be donated. Please bring them to the church the week of April 4th. We will need volunteers to help set up on Friday, April 9th, and also to help on sale day of the 10th. Please contact Lizette or David if you would like to help.



## OKLAHOMANS FOR EQUALITY AWARD RECIPIENTS 2010

Each year OkEq recognizes outstanding individuals who have both helped change and shape our ever evolving community. This year we are pleased to announce the following winners. Please plan on joining us on April 24th when we will be honoring these special people at our 30th Anniversary Equality Gala.

### Community Hero:

2004 Oklahoma Marriage Discrimination Law suit  
Gay Phillips & Sue Barton

Sharon Baldwin & Mary Bishop

## BEVERLY'S CROCHET AND KNIT SOCIETY



Attention One and All: The second meeting of Beverly's Crochet and Knit Society will be held the Tuesday after Easter (April 6). Bring all your leftover Easter candy and we'll make packages for the kids at The Day Center. We are still looking for a host or hostess, but if no one speaks up quickly, we will

just meet at the Schmidts again. Connie still has yarn to share. See you then, Connie!

## THANK YOU, NEW TEAM MEMBERS!

We have received great response to our requests for help with some of our new teams and task forces. Thank you very much to the following volunteers:

- \* **Land Use Task Force** – Monica Lewis, Greg Kirby, Tess Tucker, Gary Meadows and TC Cassidy
- \* **Policy & Procedures Task Force** – Terry Bohannon, Gay Phillips, Jenny Kucera & Brian Patten
- \* **Web/Internet Team** – Tim Beauchamp, Ken Joslin, Lauren Whitman, Bob Fultz, Julie Tate & Bob Lawrence

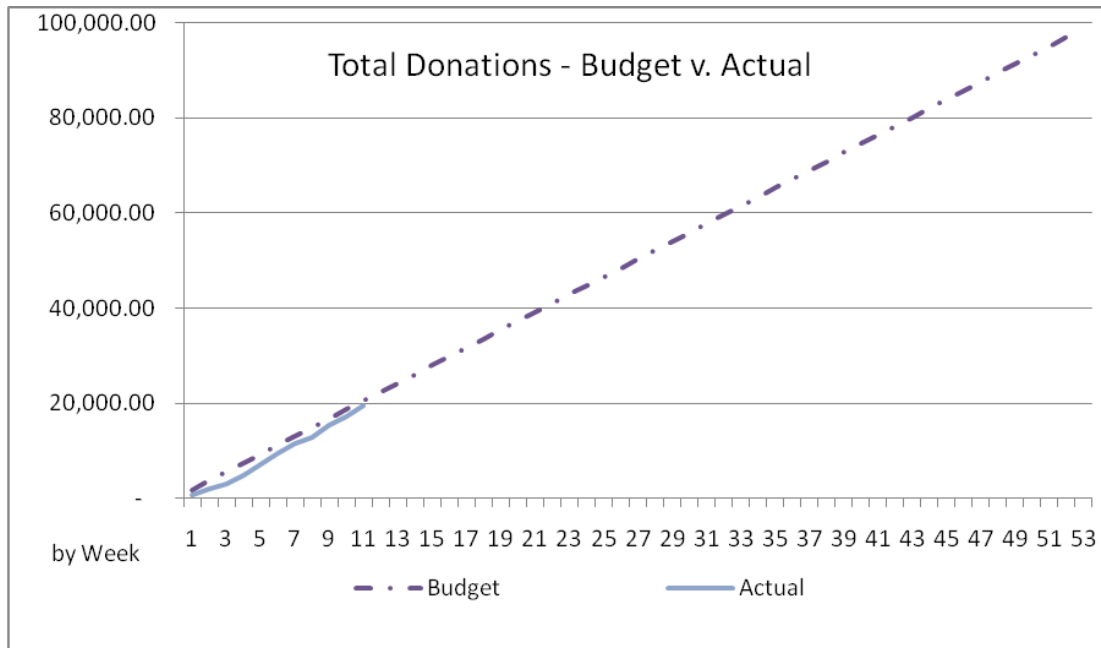
We still have a need for volunteers for other teams (see the article in this newsletter), so there's definitely a place for you here at Community of Hope, even in our various teams and task forces! Again, thank you to those who have volunteered so far.

# FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT—MARCH 17TH 2010

Greeting fellow companions,

In addition to an update of COH's financial health, there are a couple of other things on my mind this month – the passing of the budget and implications of that decision, and information about a couple of upcoming *Fundraising* activities.

First, the budget and current status: At our community meeting on Sunday, March 7, the companions agreed to accept my Financial Forecast showing \$111,000 of unrestricted income, of which \$97,000 is expected from donations. The chart below indicates our progress toward the donation forecast. As of March 14, Pledged Donations were at \$12,720 (97% of budget), Unpledged Donations were at \$6,771 (91.5%), and Total Donations were at \$19,491 (95%). Thank you, companions, for keeping your commitments to COH.



This year's financial forecast is a distinct departure from previous year's forecasts in that all of our ministry activities (HIV, NICA, Tables to Go, Friends Nourishing Friends) are included as line items in our budget. In previous budgets, these activities were treated as pass-through programs and were funded to extent that they could raise their own resources through weekly appeals or other fund raising activities and grants. Personally, I like the change. It is a statement that we, the Community of Hope, agree that these ministries are important and we will support them as presented in the budget. The subtle change is that we, the Community of Hope, agree to fund these activities without passing clip boards. For example, rather than spending \$25.00 buying ingredients and making chili for Ken V. on March 29, I will give an additional, unpledged donation of \$25.00 to support Friends Nourishing Friends. I encourage you to examine the ministry support you have given directly in the past, and be sure to continue supporting these activities as part of your COH donations.

A longer term impact of the revised budget process is to re-examine Governance procedures at the Community of Hope. Through the years, requests will change and external ministries will come and go. Part of our planning, not only for future budgets, will require that we make deliberate decisions on which ministries to support and to what level of financial commitment. If you are an energetic individual with good organizational skills and a strong historical perspective on COH's mission, here is an opportunity to get involved in *defining the processes* for deciding which direction we should be headed as we journey whole-heartedly into God's abundance.

Finally, there are two fundraising activities being planned, and you will find additional details elsewhere in the newsletter. Our first Garage Sale of 2010 is on Saturday, April 10. Please be sure to get out and support David and Lizette in this endeavor. And, the Third Annual Trivia Night is set for Saturday, May 1 at Fellowship Congregational (29<sup>th</sup> and Harvard). Gather your team of 8 fun-loving individuals and join us for an enjoyable evening. Remember that all proceeds of these fundraisers are important to fulfilling our mission and ministries in Tulsa, in Oklahoma, in the UCC, and in Nicaragua.

Peace,  
Barry Lazzer.

# LA IGLESIA UNIDA de CRISTO (IUC) - THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST en ESPAÑOL (UCC)

The United Church of Christ is committed to being a multicultural, multiracial church to the U.S. and to the world, and part of that commitment is to provide resources for all of our churches. Rev. Lizette Merchán got the chance to travel to Cleveland, Ohio - our church's denominational headquarters - to translate our UCC Polity and Programs. Through her efforts, the programs will be made available to the increasing number of bilingual ministries within our IUC~UCC midst. Check out our Español~Spanish resources at <http://www.ucc.org/espanol/>.

## COH RECEIVES COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



At its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Coronation Ball (“Adornment III”) on Saturday, March 13, the Royal Barony of All Oklahoma presented Community of Hope with their Community Service Award in recognition for the decades of consistent and unwavering support of the GLBTQ communities. Rev. Bob Lawrence accepted the award on our behalf and explained, “This is extremely touching because the Royal Barony is a fairly new organization that holds a variety of fundraisers to support the work and needs of the GLBTQ communities. To my knowledge, none of their members are Companions of Community of Hope, nor are they beneficiaries of any of our ministries. We were given this award because of the reputation we have in the community that even this fairly new service organization found helpful and supportive in their work. The Companions at Community of Hope should be very proud of this award.”

The Royal Barony of All Oklahoma, which was founded a little over 3 years ago, is a registered 501(c)3 organization that is part of the national Imperial Court community, which has been around for almost 50 years. They usually host fundraisers in local bars, with the proceeds going to such various organizations as the Matthew Shepard Foundation, Tulsa Cares, and Our House, Too. If you’d like more information about the organization, check out their Facebook page.

## 3RD ANNUAL COH TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT!

What is Team Trivia?

**Teams of 8 gather their knowledge to answer questions**

Do I have to be good at trivia?

**Absolutely not – choose your teammates well!**

**The evening is designed for fun!!**

What is the fundraiser for?

**Supporting COH in the delivery of programs that help improve professional services, food, and care for the marginalized in Tulsa.**



Saturday, MAY 1<sup>st</sup>

at Fellowship congregational, 2900 S. Harvard

\$12.50 – individual; \$100.00 – for a full team of 8 players

Snacks and refreshments will be available for donation (This is a fundraiser!)

**Time:** DOORS open at 6:30; GAME starts at 7:00 pm.

**Tickets:** Contact COH @ 918-747-6300 or [tulsacohope@yahoo.com](mailto:tulsacohope@yahoo.com)

**Be sure to pick a team name and come early to decorate your table!**

## NEW E-MAIL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM COMING SOON



At its meeting on Tuesday, March 16, the Coordinating Council approved the pilot purchase of new e-mail management software called “Constant Contact”. We have been testing out this new software using about 50 e-mail addresses and our Weekly Call. This new software will allow people to update their e-mail addresses with Community of Hope automatically using the internet, will allow people to sign up for our newsletter and Weekly Call on-line, and even allow for the creation and maintenance of specific, targeted e-mail lists that individuals can, once again, sign up for or remove on their own using the internet.

This new software should be up and running by the end of March, so look for a new version of the Weekly Call coming soon! If you are not getting a copy of our e-mail correspondence, please send a message to [admin@cohope.com](mailto:admin@cohope.com) and we’ll be sure to add you to this new system. Once you’ve been added, you can easily manage which communications you receive from us using the link that will be at the bottom of every e-mail we send using that system.

## NEW COMMUNITY OF HOPE E-MAIL ADDRESSES

As part of the re-design of our church’s web site, and the corresponding emphasis on using that as our central communication tool for those with internet access, the various e-mail addresses associated with Community of Hope are changing to reflect our website information. Effective immediately, please begin using the following e-mail addresses to contact the various staff members of Community of Hope:

Bob Lawrence	<a href="mailto:pastor@cohope.com">pastor@cohope.com</a>
Julie Tate	<a href="mailto:admin@cohope.com">admin@cohope.com</a>
Lizette Merchan	<a href="mailto:revlizette@cohope.com">revlizette@cohope.com</a>
Tracy Megli	<a href="mailto:music@cohope.com">music@cohope.com</a>

Please note that our previous e-mail addresses will remain active as well while we make this transition. We will be adding other e-mail addresses for you to use to communicate with our various ministry and volunteer teams. Once those addresses are available, we will let you know.

## US PASSPORT FAIR

Needing your passport to go to Nicaragua this year? Or just to have handy for your next vacation? The Catholic Charities is having a US Passport Fair on Saturday, March 27th, from 10am to 3pm. You can complete all necessary paperwork in order to receive your passport. The location is 2450 N Harvard. Call 918-508-7160 for more information. You will need to bring a CERTIFIED birth certificate OR a naturalization certificate AND a current drivers license OR a state ID card. The cost is \$75 for adults(16 and over) or \$60 for children(15 and under). There is a \$25 processing fee and a \$15 photography fee also for each passport. These costs are in line with submitting an application via the US government.



## NICARAGUA TRIP DATES CONFIRMED

The dates for our next trip to Nicaragua have now been confirmed. We will leave Tulsa on Saturday, July 24th, and return on Sunday, August 1st. Most of the time will be spent in our partner community of Chacraseca...seeing old friends, making new friends, and strengthening our relationships with our companions in Nicaragua. The cost of the trip is \$1,350 which includes airfare, lodging, food, in-country transportation, and interpreter. Please contact David Hoot at [davidhoot@hotmail.com](mailto:davidhoot@hotmail.com) or 918-747-8928 if you are interested in going or if you have any questions.

## SPECIAL EASTER WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

All of our Easter weekend activities are designed to give you some new perspectives on the role of Jesus' execution and the resurrection experience of his disciples following his death. Please join us as we look at how these new perspectives might empower our work and our lives together in community.

On Thursday, April 1 at 6pm we will observe Maundy Thursday during our final weekly Taize service. During that service, worshippers will have the opportunity to participate in a ceremonial washing of one another's hands or feet, to commemorate the story of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples as he prepared to share his last meal with them (see John 13:1-17). Also, we will have an open communion during the service in which participants will be invited to come forward and serve themselves, much the same way the disciples experienced that original meal. All of this will happen while the congregation sings contemplatively, by candlelight. This will be a deeply personal experience of commemorating the night before Jesus was executed.

On Friday, April 2, we will have a Good Friday service. We are still working out the details for that service, so

please watch for details about the time in the Weekly Call. We will be discussing the issues of suffering and death, and will be using Psalm 22 as our text. (Psalm 22 is the psalm Jesus quotes while dying.)

Our Easter activities begin Sunday, April 4 at 7am with a sunrise service, celebrated jointly with MCC-United and the Tulsa Center for Spiritual Living. We will look at the traditional story of Easter as told in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 24:1-12). Following that service, we will share a community breakfast. After breakfast, you are welcome to stay and worship with the folks from the Tulsa Center for Spiritual Living, or join the folks at MCC-United. Both of their services begin at 11am. Sunday evening at 6pm, we will have our main worship service in celebration of Easter, where we will use excerpts from the movie "Milk" to help us look at resurrection "in community."



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Building & Grounds Team** - We still have an immediate need for people to volunteer to serve on the Building & Grounds Team. This team is responsible for managing our building and grounds by setting priorities for building and ground maintenance projects, scheduling and organizing "Kin-dom Day Clean-ups", and recruiting volunteers or arranging for contractors to complete various projects including mowing the lawn, painting, and misc. building maintenance. (NOTE: The members of this team are not the people who need to \*do\* the various maintenance projects. Rather, they are the ones who will find the people to do the work.) This team will also be developing building use guidelines including policies and procedures for the use of our building by other groups and for special events such as weddings. Please consider volunteering to serve on this very important team that will be responsible for leading our efforts to responsibly manage our building and our grounds. We have two volunteers so far, but would like to have at least three more people. If you are interested, please contact Karen Boland or Bud Abbott, co-chairs of the Coordinating Council.

**Fundraising Team** - We also need people to serve on a fundraising team that will be looking at various opportunities to raise funds for our on-going work in the community, as well as raising funds for special ministry activities. In addition to helping to organize our regular annual fundraisers (Trivia Night and garage sales, for instance), this team will also investigate on-going fundraisers such as our Best Choice UPC program, on-line fundraising options through our web site, and perhaps even a scrip-type program where the church will be able to get a percentage of Companions' regular purchases, as well as other major fundraisers (Murder Mystery Dinner, dinner theater, etc.). This team will help us schedule various events, festivals, and celebrations throughout the year while also assisting with the funding of the work of Community of Hope. Again, this team will not be responsible for \*doing\* all the fundraising activities. Rather, they will help us identify possible activities, and then recruit the volunteers to organize and lead the activities. One person has agreed to serve on this team so far. If you're interested in helping us find new, exciting and fun ways to fund even more work in our communities, please contact Karen Boland or Bud Abbott.



# UCC RESPONDS WITH CHILEAN PARTNERS TO POWERFUL EARTHQUAKE

A devastating magnitude-8.8 earthquake struck Chile on February 27. It also set off a tsunami that threatened every nation around the Pacific Ocean. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) solidarity grants (part of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) , is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries) have been sent to three Global Ministries partners in Chile and Church World Service to support immediate response initiatives.

Messages of care, concern and support have been sent to Rev. Ulises Muñoz, Obispo Iglesia Pentecostal de Chile; Rosario Castillo, Educación Popular en Salud (EPES); Dora Canales, Comunidad Teológica de Chile, UCC-Global Ministries Partners, and Elena Huegel, Missionary with Global Ministries. All have reported back that they are safe and working to provide immediately available relief supplies.

OGHS and -Global Ministries staff are monitoring the unfolding disaster situation and will continue to update this site.

## How Can I Help?

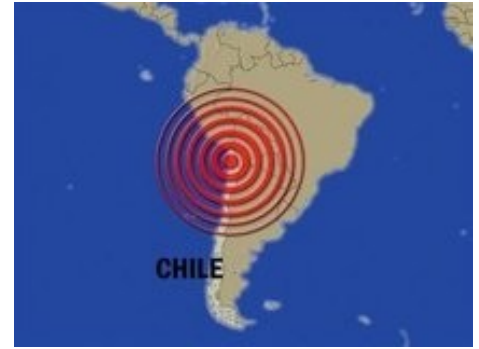
1. Pray for the people of Chile their leaders and emergency and emergency response workers.

2. Please help the people of Chile by sending gifts payable to your congregation marked

for Chile Earthquake with the request they be sent through your Conference office on to Wider Church Ministries.

OR

Send gifts, made out to United Church of Christ and marked in the memo portion "Chile Earthquake" to Wider Church Ministries; 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115, or make a secure online donation to the International Emergency Fund, please note "Chile Earthquake" in the comments section. <http://www.ucc.org/disaster/earthquake-strikes-chile.html>



## DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES AND EDUCATION (MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH)

Community of Hope's commitment with our surrounding community is strengthened through our partnerships with our local ecumenical, interfaith sisters and brothers. COH's Minister of Education and Outreach, Reverend Lizette, is happy to report her recent activity with the following partnerships:

\* Attending the 6th Sexuality Education Advocacy Training 2010. Anti-Racism/Anti Oppression in Washington, D.C. The Religious Coalition of Reproductive Choice, The United Church of Christ, the Union for Reform Judaism, Unitarian Universalist Association and Advocates for Youth work together to hold this training where I will learn how to be an effective religious and spiritual advocate for comprehensive sexuality education. The REAL Act: The Responsible Education about Life Act (REAL) would provide federal funding to states for comprehensive sex education programs. We will discuss the meaning of reproductive justice and bring an anti-racism/anti oppression perspective to the work all these bodies do.

\* Provided my services to facilitate the College Hill Presbyterian Church's Annual Retreat - leading and simultaneously translating the entire event in both English and Spanish. More than 50 individuals with the Hispanic congregation included time for reflection, challenge and opportunity as College Hill continues its multicultural, multiracial, more-light Presbyterian efforts in the Tulsa area.

\* For three weeks in a row, approximately 50 to 60

Catholic youth from the Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church gathered every evening to learn about feelings, behaviors toward sexuality, domestic violence, sexual abuse, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and how to be more assertive with their decision-acquisition and decision-making. This was a great opportunity to speak about empowerment of one's ways to relate as an informed and educated individual.

\* "Crisis or Confidence? Youth and Religion in America" at the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice's 2010 Interfaith Trialogue Series. Sponsored by OCCJ and funded in part by the Tulsa Library Trust's Alfred E. Aaronson Lecture Series Endowment, the three-part discussion series was a successful effort in conjunction with our own Julie Summers, who serves as assistant executive director of Camp Fire. YMCA -Representative, Gloria Buehring -Girl Scouts, Julie Summers -Camp Fire

\* Organizing upcoming educational events with the Tulsa Hispanic Resource Association to provide services, continuing education, and community outreach).

2010 continues to be a year full of opportunities for ALL of us to make a difference in this -our more JUST world!

Love to all,  
Rev. Lizette Merchán Pinilla

**A Congregation of the United Church of Christ**

**Community of Hope**  
**A SHALOM BASED COMMUNITY**

**Return Service Requested**

2545 South Yale Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74114-4837

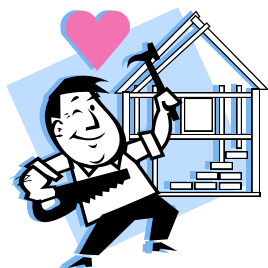


Nonprofit  
Organization  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
Permit No. # 1787  
Tulsa, Oklahoma



**We are a multiracial, multicultural, open and affirming, accessible to all,  
just peace church where God is still speaking!**  
**Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**

**THE BULLETIN BOARD**



**DON'T FORGET!**  
**APRIL KIN-DOM CLEAN UP DAY**  
**SAT. APRIL 3RD. 10AM-2PM**

**JOINT EASTER SUNRISE  
SERVICE WITH TULSA CENTER FOR  
SPIRITUAL LIVING**  
**SUNDAY APRIL 4TH 7AM**  
**FOLLOWED BY COMMUNITY  
BREAKFAST**



**Our vision is to be a community of faith, committed in the way of Jesus to the struggle for justice, compassion, and life-giving spirituality for all people; and our mission is to witness, in and through our life together, to the good news that the way of God is in our midst...and the journey is our home.**