



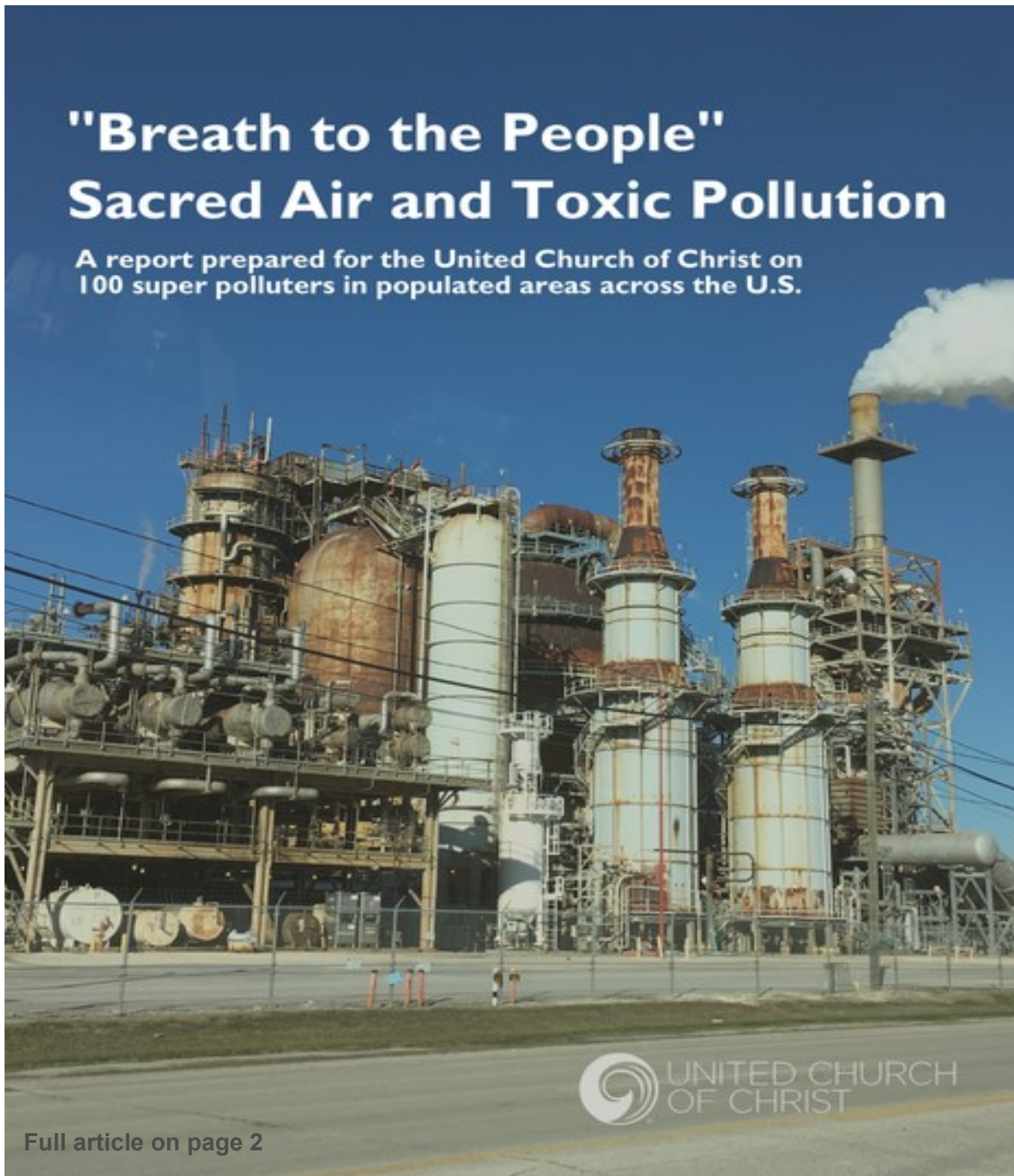
**PARKSIDE COMMUNITY  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Blessed Past ➡ Bold Future

March 2020

# "Breath to the People" Sacred Air and Toxic Pollution

A report prepared for the United Church of Christ on  
100 super polluters in populated areas across the U.S.



Full article on page 2

# Quoting Isaiah, UCC study lists 'Toxic 100' air polluters and calls for action

February 26, 2020

Written by **Hans Holznagel**

A U.S. map dotted with factory icons, unveiled online today, invites the public to see if the air they breathe contains toxic emissions from any of 100 "super polluters" in 28 states – facilities with thousands of children living near them.



The publisher of the map, the United Church of Christ, is encouraging people to click on it, see lists of chemicals being emitted near them and call on their elected representatives to stop the pollution – and to fight federal rollbacks in environmental protections.

Armed with data from a respected research firm, the UCC posted the map at a new website, [ucc.org/breathtothepeople](http://ucc.org/breathtothepeople), along with a detailed study listing these "super polluters" in heavily populated areas. Its title: "Breath to the People: Sacred Air and Toxic Pollution."

Church leaders unveiled the evidence at an Ash Wednesday news conference in Washington, D.C. The map shows clusters of these "Toxic 100" polluters in such areas as Houston, Louisiana's "Cancer Alley" and the southeast shore of Lake Erie.

Small children living nearby. Some 113,000 children under age 5 – the most vulnerable population because of their developing bodies – live within three miles of the listed facilities, according to the report. "Parents have no idea what their children are breathing, let alone the kids that play near them," said Yvette Arellano of Houston, which has the largest cluster of polluters on the map. She is an organizer and policy advocate with Texas Justice Environmental Advocacy Services, known as TEJAS. "Sometimes moms will take their children inside because it smells a very specific way. They don't know exactly what's affecting their kids, but they do know it's dangerous."

"Children are particularly vulnerable to toxic air pollution because their brains, their bodies, their lungs, all of their organs are still growing and developing," said Dr. Kristie Ross, a pediatric pulmonologist in Cleveland, who did not work on the report but was asked to comment on pollution and kids. "And when you expose somebody to a poison, like air pollution is, it can impact all of those things."

The report was produced by the Environmental Integrity Project, a nonpartisan watchdog that the UCC enlisted for the study (see related article). EIP based its research on self-reported data from the 15,500 facilities nationwide that are included in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Toxics Release Inventory. "Our analysis shows that over a third of all toxic emissions nationwide came from just 100 facilities that have at least 250 people living within a mile," the researchers said in the report. In choosing and ranking the Toxic 100, researchers took into account both the density of nearby populations and the toxicity of emissions. "Not all chemicals pose the same threat to human health at the same concentrations," they said. "A pound of ethylene oxide can do a lot more harm than a pound of styrene. Weighting chemical emissions by the harm they can cause if inhaled provides a more accurate indication of where emissions might pose the largest threat to human health."

Citizens urged to 'act now'

"We took the title of this study, 'Breath to the People,' from the Book of Isaiah because we believe clean air is a gift from God," said the Rev. Traci Blackmon, UCC associate general minister. "So are our precious children. They, like all people, deserve clean air to breathe. We have identified the facilities whose own reports show they are responsible for nearly half the toxic chemicals being pumped into the air in the United States. The good news is, we, the people, can mandate measures to significantly reduce their emissions. Local, state and federal authorities and the polluters themselves must act now to rid the air of toxic chemicals."

She encouraged concerned citizens to find their elected representatives, using the "Take Action" button at the report's website, and call for action regarding the named facilities. The report recommends:

Targeted enforcement by federal and state authorities to reduce emissions from facilities that release the most toxic pollution.



Action by regulators and the companies themselves to reduce leaks, known in the industry as "fugitive emissions." For example, the report says, companies that use or process carcinogens such as ethylene oxide or benzene should be required to install fence line monitoring systems to detect leaks and provide data to the public.

In an era of rapid expansion of the chemical industry, careful scrutiny of applications for expansions and new construction. "The well-being and fair treatment of residents of surrounding communities need to be top priorities," it says.

Requiring more industries and types of facilities to report emissions to the EPA. Municipal waste incinerators and gas processing plants, for example, do not currently have to.  
Rollbacks, ashes, environmental justice

Church leaders also urged concerned citizens to ask their representatives to resist efforts to gut environmental regulations.

"It is critical that we call on Congress to speak out against rollbacks of critical environmental protections by the administration, conduct meaningful oversight over violations of existing toxic air standards, and support robust funding for the Environmental Protection Agency," said an alert in the "Take Action" section of the report's website.

The news conference invoked the religious basis for environmental activism at several points. It concluded with a ritual for the start of the Christian season of Lent, in which clergy marked the hands or foreheads of participants with ashes. It also embraced the UCC's heritage of groundbreaking environmental justice work.

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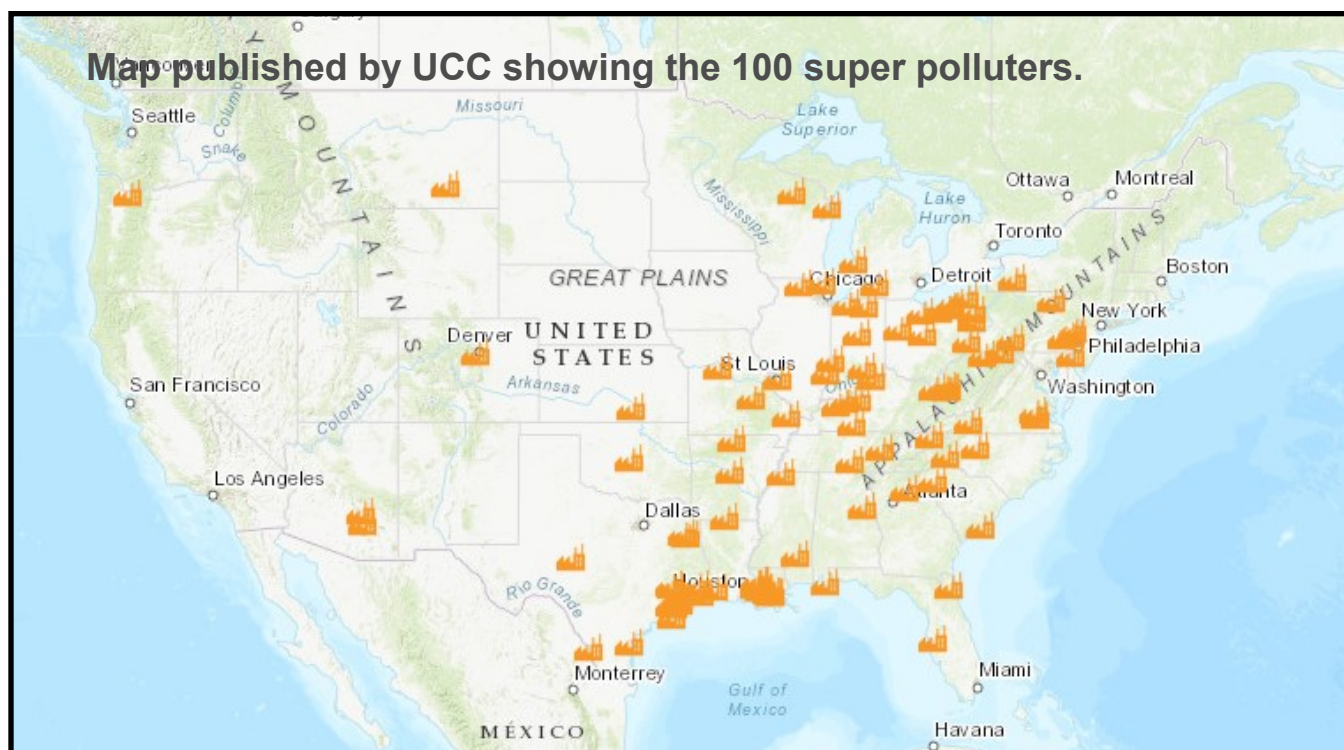
"It is not an accident that we are releasing this report on Ash Wednesday, a day associated with repentance," said the Rev. Brooks Berndt, UCC minister for environmental justice, the church's point person for the project. "In its Greek origins, repentance was about turning around and changing course to go in a better direction. As a nation, it is time for us to go in a better direction for the sake of our children and communities across the country."

Among the ministers speaking at the news conference was one representing the UCC's heritage of environmental justice, the Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. He led the UCC's Commission for Racial Justice at the time of its groundbreaking 1987 report, "Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States." More than 30 years later, it is still cited by journalists and academics.

Toxic air affects kids indoors, too. And speakers repeatedly stressed the vulnerability of the young. "Children are exposed to air pollution not only outdoors, but actually when they spend time indoors as well," said Ross, the Cleveland pulmonologist. "We carry heavy metals and other toxins in on our clothing, our shoes. They accumulate inside churches, schools, play areas, and children get exposure both when they breathe those things in and also when they touch the floor and then touch their mouths, and through exposure through their skin."

To the report's lead researcher, the "Breath to the People" project was personal as well as statistical. "I am passionate about reducing pollution, especially when it impacts people who don't have the power to do anything about it," said Courtney Bernhardt, EIP's director of research. "Becoming a mother gave new urgency to my work. My 2-year-old daughter depends on me and other grownups to make the right choices. Reducing toxic air pollution is one of the best choices we can make right now to ensure a healthier and safer future."

This article is an excerpt from [ucc.org](http://ucc.org).





UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all



We are a people of

EXTRAVAGANT

WELCOME

The UCC is a community of extravagant welcome and that extravagant welcome starts right here in our community. We invite you to be an active part of that welcome! Consider signing up to volunteer as a Reader, a Greeter, or an Usher for our 10am Sunday worship services. Sign up sheets are on the table by the office in the Fireside Room. Questions? Contact a Worship Committee member (Joan Brecke, Nancy Gierach, Pastor Susan) or the church office at 262-284-0588.

#### ***What's involved?***

**Reader:** A Reader simply reads the scriptures during service. Sometimes there is one, sometimes there is two or three. Whatever you are comfortable with, we can adjust accordingly. Worried about stumbling over big words? No problem. We will email you the reading in advance and help you with any pronunciations. And if you still stumble, remember the biggest mistake you ever make is being too afraid to make one!

**Greeter:** Are you an early riser or a morning person? Maybe you just like to make small talk? We need your skills to greet visitors at the door as they come to worship with us. A simple welcoming smile and a shake of hands will do, no need to be well versed on the UCC, Parkside, or theology. Greeters are expected to arrive by 9:30am and make themselves available after service to answer any questions should a visitor have any.

**Usher:** An Usher will arrive at 9:30am and duties include lighting the candles before service and snuffing them out after service, passing out the collection baskets and bringing them up to the altar. On communion Sunday, the Usher passes out communion. Note: communion is already setup for the Ushers, but the Ushers take the trays around to serve the worship participants. While this may sound a little more involved, with a short training session, you can do this!

FEED MY  
STARVING  
CHILDREN



### **Meal Packing Event at Portal in Grafton**

St. John XXIII Human Concerns, is once again hosting the Feed My Starving Children food packing event, at Portal, Inc, in Grafton, on the weekend of April 17-18, 2020. The goal is to pack 108,000 highly nutritious meals at 24 cents each, for the poorest of the poor around the world. There are 550 set up

and packing times available. Sign up begins Ash Wednesday, Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, or donate directly through the FMSC volunteer website-- [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org) selecting St. John XXIII. If you wish to donate, checks can be made out to Feed My Starving Children or St. John XXIII. Put MP 2004-012SC in the memo. Mail to: SJ23, FMSC, 1800 N. Wisconsin Street, Port Washington, WI 53074. For further information, contact Linda at 414.688.6462 or [portfmisc20@gmail.com](mailto:portfmisc20@gmail.com).



Present: Mark Gierach, Kathy Tauben, Sue Sarver, Joan Brecke, Kaitlyn Beck

Change to Council Meeting Minutes to read Motion made by Heather Rogge to condense the Annual report,-includes financials, staff & leadership council and ministries for 2020, second by Kaitlyn Beck. Motion made by Joan Brecke, second by Kaitlyn Beck to approve January minutes with changes. Motion passed. Treasurer report- Motion made by Kaitlyn Beck, second by Kathy Tauben to approve January financials. Motion passed. Click [here](#) to see the Treasurer Report or call the church office.

#### Committees:

Faith Formation & Youth- Meeting Thursday 13th. Refer to Newsletter

Stewardship- No meeting held

Worship- Services by Pastor Laura Blanco March 1, 15th, 29th, Pastor Ron Newlin March 8th & 22nd.

Building & Grounds- 3 quotes received on the smart thermostats for the fellowship hall & sanctuary.

Cleaning of furnaces price quote of \$1,200 from Carroll's Heating. Hot water heater was replaced in the parsonage. Looking to remove the brown fencing in spring. Cleaning was completed at the parsonage –the stove and garbage disposal possibly needs to be replaced.

Caring-Prayer list continue to be updated and distributed monthly.

Missions-Family Promise 1st week in March. Kathy Tauben is the new chairperson.

#### Old Business:

Church Steeple –nothing at this time

Discussion to continue as to rental of the parsonage.

#### New Business:

Congregational Visioning Meeting 2/15/20 8:00am

Motion was made by Joan Brecke, second by Kaitlyn Beck to adjourn, motion passed



Beginning this Spring, The Department of Transportation will begin a road construction project on Highway 33 and County Highway O, removing and replacing pavement at loop detector locations and updating signing and pavement marking. We might experience a little traffic congestion and/or lane closures — but Parkside will remain open and accessible and we will be here ready to welcome all our visitors!

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Congregational Visioning Meeting –February 15, 2020

Open with a prayer – Pastor Susan Drake

Review of Annual report – Motion by Ingrid Newlin to approve the Annual 2019 report, second by Chelene Golownia, motion passed.

Review of the 8/19/19 and 11/17/19 Congregational meeting minutes- motion by Joan Brecke, second by Chelene Golownia to accept, motion passed.

Items open for discussion –

Steeple repair project –approx. cost \$10,000, with the idea that the church is used by so many in the community Heather Rogge is willing to lead in setting up a Go Fund Me, we also would spread the word through churches website and Facebook.

Dishwasher- Repair or replace –15 yrs old. Motion made by Heather Rogge to replace the dishwasher up to \$6,000, second by Kaitlyn Beck, motion passed.

Church house- Cleaning has been completed, garbage disposal and possible stove needs to be replaced. Due to the condition of the wood fence, looking to remove in spring.

Interim/Bridge Pastor- 90 day contract offer has been made to Pastor Susan.

Vision-Mark opened with “Now, is not the time to look back at what has been, but to look forward to where we wish to go and then plan how we will begin the journey”.

Insight as to part of the discussion:

Personal Invitation

More of public profile

Increase being positive

Coffee shop /open mic night

Series of special events

Outreach to the community

What is our identity – what is the identity of our church?



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Closed with a prayer by Pastor Ron Newlin

# CARING MINISTRIES



# PRAYER

*changes things*

## Prayer Families for the Month:

March 1  
Robert Dickmann

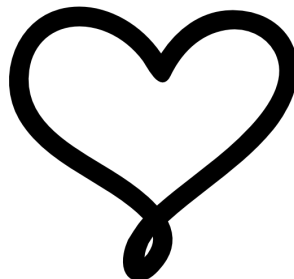
March 8  
Kathy Tauben

March 15  
Roger Geib

March 22  
Dan and Patty Gilbert

March 29  
Fred & Kathleen Learned

**Please sign the card in the Narthex for the weekly prayer family on Sunday and keep the family in your prayers. Your additional cards are appreciated by our prayer families.**



*Please join us for Holy Communion  
Served on Sunday, March 1  
at the 10:00am Worship Service*



**Gluten free**

Gluten-free wafers are available for communion. These wafers are free not only of gluten, but also free of wheat, casein, dairy, nut, egg, corn, yeast, and soy, and are low protein. If you need to avoid any of the above, please request a gluten-free wafer from an usher. They are in a screw-top container on a separate plate.



**ORGANIC FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE BARS  
\$4 EACH**



## Prayer Chain Information



To call in a prayer request  
Please notify  
**Jean Hamilton**  
262-284-3734  
hamiltonjm@yahoo.com  
or  
**Gail Weigel**  
dweigel@wi.rr.com

## Upcoming Hospital Stay?

*Please let the church office know if you or someone in your family plans to enter the hospital. Due to the HIPAA law, information isn't available when someone is admitted.*



## Parkside's Soup Ministry



There are times in each of our lives when a light meal is appreciated. Caring Ministries has quarts of homemade soup available. Please see any number of Caring Ministries Team if you know a member who would appreciate a quart.

## CARING MINISTRIES

Please remember to welcome our visitors, invite them to coffee fellowship, and talk with them.

Please see Gail if you would like to be a part of the Prayer Team. Our members receive an updated list each month and are asked to pray in their own way for a specific portion of the list.

Thank you for supporting Caring Ministries through Fair Trade, card sales, and recycling. Fair Trade items and handmade occasion cards are located on the shelf next to the office and are available for sale. The chocolate is delicious!

## HANDMADE ST. PATRICK'S DAY CARDS \$4 EACH FOR SALE IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM



# EASTER FLOWER

## ORDER FORM



***Flowers are the symbol of new life and resurrection.***

We are offering tulips, lilies, hyacinths, daffodils for \$12 each and kalanchoes for \$15 each.

You are invited to purchase an Easter Flower(s) for display at our worship services on Easter Sunday. You are welcome to take your flower home with you after the 10am Easter Sunday worship service.

**Please place completed forms AND YOUR PAYMENT in an envelope marked “Easter Flower Order” and give it to Penny Fransee or just drop it in the collection basket.**

**Orders must be received by PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Tulip(\$12)                  \_\_\_\_\_ Lilly(\$12)                  \_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth(\$12)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Daffodil(\$12)                  \_\_\_\_\_ Kalanchoe(\$15)

If you want to purchase flower(s) in memory or honor of someone, please indicate below.

**CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO PARKSIDE COMMUNITY UCC**

\_\_\_\_\_ In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In Living Tribute of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In Gratitude to God for: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Plants Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



PARKSIDE COMMUNITY  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

# PREPARE

THE SEASON OF LENT

LIGHT MEAL AT 6PM  
REFLECTION SERVICE AT 6:30PM

Led by Heather Rogge



No matter, how big or small of an amount you want to give, online giving and text giving is now available at Parkside Community UCC.

Did you forget to bring your checkbook to service? Is it more convenient for you to use your credit card? Were you not able to make it to service on Sunday? Now you can make your donation from home in your pj's.

Just visit our website and click "donate" from the top menu, or click [here](#) to be taken directly to the website. You can choose what fund your donation goes toward & the amount. Payments are made through a deduction from your bank account or with a credit or debit card. If you wish, you can setup automatic monthly deductions from your bank account by calling the church office at 262-284-0588.

For text giving, just text the word "Parkside" to the phone number 73256. You'll receive a reply with a link, then follow the simple instructions.

With online giving and text giving, Parkside Community UCC will incur standard processing fees, but if it's more convenient for you to give this way, please do so!

# We hope you will join us...



## SPOTLIGHT ON MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



In Thailand, a 13 year old girl arrives at the New Life Center, seeking relief from the cruel conditions that have brought her here. Her life up to this point has been mostly about survival. here, she meets others like her. Some are survivors of sexual abuse, domestic violence or human trafficking. Some have been forced to work when they wanted to go to school.

*What will the future be like when she is empowered to share her gifts with her community and the world?*

At the New Life Center she is met with the investment of time, support, and resources. And she is loved. She is allowed to imagine a new future. Finishing school. Learning a trade. Even going to University to earn a degree.

When you give to One Great Hour of sharing, you invest in the futures of these girls and countless others like them. Your gifts go to provide education, vocational training, basic necessities and much-needed community support. When we share the love of Christ in this way, we see lives transformed. Not just their lives, but ours as well. Because when we empower girls to build a life for themselves, we help God build a better world for us all.

As we invest in futures and serve as co-workers with God, the future becomes one of endless possibility and opportunity. What a great return on our investment!

**“For we are co-workers in God’s service;  
you are God’s field, God’s building.” —1 Corinthians 3:0**



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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Please submit newsletter items to the church at  
[saukvilleucc@att.net](mailto:saukvilleucc@att.net) by March 25.  
for the April 2020 Newsletter.

## Contact Us

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