



NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

Progressive | Spiritual | Inclusive



MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

THE SEASON OF LENT AT NCC

Traditionally during this season, Christians give something up for the six weeks of Lent. The practice originated in the Roman Catholic tradition, where people gave up something they really liked and struggled to do without during Lent up to remind them of the sacrifices Jesus made during his wilderness sojourn for 40 days and nights, and the ultimate sacrifice of his life. In past years we have challenged NCC'ers to participate in a variety of twists on that observance, including doing something extra for others during Lent. So instead of giving up chocolate or wine, one might send a note of encouragement or love to a different person each day, or pay for someone's coffee anonymously, or do a favor for someone with no strings attached. It's a neat experience if you want to give it a try.

This year during Lent we will be using the theme **"What Does The Lord Require of You?"** as the basis for our Sunday mornings together (beginning March 9), leading up to Palm Sunday and Easter. We will consider things we may need to DO for the sake of the well being of all creation, as well as what we may need to STOP DOING for the good of all. Reflections from Bob and Susan, as well as a couple of guest speakers (from Illinois People's Action and Friends Forever) will help us consider peacemaking and justice concerns, as well as inviting us to think about personal issues we might consider, as we explore together what the Lord requires: "To seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God."

Daylight Savings Returns

Remember to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 8 so that you are on time for NCC the next morning. Daylight Savings begins at 2 am on Sunday, March 9.



New Covenant Community
210 W. Mulberry St.
Normal, IL 61761
309.454.7362
www.nccnormal.org

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

WOMEN'S RETREAT

The NCC Women's Retreat is **April 11 - 13**. We will be returning to the Villa Maria Retreat Center on Lake Springfield as usual, from Friday evening through Sunday lunch. Registration materials will be available at NCC on Sunday mornings beginning March 9.

Registration deadline Monday, April 1 (no fooling!) — your form AND check must be submitted in order for you to be officially registered. Space is limited, so register ASAP — once we are full we will start a waiting list.





■ 510 E. Washington Street, Suite 309 ■ Bloomington, IL 61701 ■ (309) 827-9627

February 5, 2014

Dear member of Illinois People's Action,

Thank you for your membership and support in 2013. This is your 2014 Annual Dues reminder. IPA is YOUR faith and community-based, non-profit organization. We take no government money. We rely on membership dues from congregations and organizations like yours.



Visit our website for more information on our many campaigns:

www.illinoispeoplesaction.org

and frequent our facebook page:

www.facebook.com/ILPeoplesAction

Because of your ongoing commitment in 2013 on the following issues, together we:

- **IMMIGRATION REFORM:** 22 IPA leaders, both undocumented immigrants and allies, walked a 30-mile Pilgrimage lifting up the need for a pathway to citizenship, concluding with a mass rally of 300+ outside Congressman Davis' home office in Taylorville. (Pilgrims pictured above).
- Participated in the Governor's bill signing ceremony creating driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants, making our roads safer and preventing unnecessary arrest and deportations. Conducted driver's license training workshops for 1,000 persons in 5 cities.
- Mobilized 300+ for May 1st Immigrant Justice Rallies in Peoria and Bloomington.
- **FRACKING:** Submitted over 32,000 comments to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to strengthen proposed natural gas fracking rules. 1,000+ people attended public hearings, including 300 in Decatur.
- IPA leaders continue to meet with critical legislators on strengthening the rules.
- Organized 1,000+ people against natural gas fracking, including hosting the national premiere of the movie, "Gasland II" with writer and director, Josh Fox (pictured below).
- **PAYDAY:** Forced Regions Bank to stop offering its 300% APR interest loan program, and coordinated the national campaign.
- Secured an anti-payday lending restrictive zoning ordinance in Decatur, preventing 2 payday stores from re-opening and 1 from setting up shop.
- **CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY:** Generated movement on requiring large, publicly-traded corporations to disclose the amount of state taxes paid. Over 2/3 pay no state tax at all and this information is secret.
- Organized powerful face-to-face meetings between IPA grassroots and faith leaders with national decision makers like: Richard Cordray, Director Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Sarah Bloom-Raskin, Governor of the Federal Reserve System; Senator Dick Durbin (meeting in the IPA office on immigration reform). IPA leaders also met with Congress members Bustos, Davis and Schock, and participated in Lobby Days at the State Capitol.

All of this is possible because of our vision for a more just society and our work together to make it happen. We thank you for your support and look forward to our continued partnership in 2014.

Don Carlson, Executive Director

Enc: 2014 Dues Notice





March Birthdays

- 5 Brenda Huber & Jewel Beale
- 11 Rita Lenahan
- 12 Russ Rutter
- 14 David Rademacher
- 22 Mark Lewis & Matthew Dahmm
- 30 John Kirk
- 31 Karyn Turner

If we don't have your birthday, please let Susan Ryder know so that we can include you next year!



NEWS THAT STAYS NEWS: SUSTAINING OUR WORLD THROUGH POETRY

April 22, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, 211 N. School St.

Religion, Culture, & the Arts at First United Methodist Church of Normal is celebrating National Poetry Month and Earth Day by sponsoring a poetry reading featuring Kathleen Kirk, Scott Poole, Judith Valente, and Rev. Susan Baller-Shepard. Poetry Radio producer Bruce Bergethon of WGLT will introduce this event.

PARTNERS IN HEALING



NCC is a delegate congregation to Advocate BroMenn Medical Center. As part of that delegation, we participate in a project of intentional prayer for specific medical units associated with BroMenn on a rotating basis with other local congregations.

Each congregation is asked to pray for patients receiving medical care in a specific unit, as well as for the staff who are treating them and/or for their families for a month. NCC will be praying for the patients, family, and staff of the Emergency Department at Advocate BroMenn Regional Medical Center for the month of March.

Advocate BroMenn's Emergency Department is located on the lower level of the medical center. The Emergency Department has 25 beds for patients experiencing medical and psychological emergencies, including cardiac problems, strokes and traumas.

MARCH CALENDAR

Sundays

Worship at 10:30am

Sunday School meets during worship



March 18 at 6:30pm ~ Steering Committee Meeting

March 20 ~ April newsletter deadline

To keep up to date with NCC happenings make sure to check out the NCC calendar online at

www.nccnormal.org/calendar.htm

If you would like to add an NCC-related event to the NCC calendar, email Susan or Bob Ryder with the info. We can only include events to the calendar if we know about them!

NEWSLETTER CALL FOR NEWS

Please share reports and announcements, what you are reading and poetry you've written, or let us know of a news story we could mention.

Please email articles to Susan Ryder at normal@sue@aol.com

by March 20 for the April newsletter

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