

The Tower

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Madison, Wisconsin

LXVIII

October 2, 2011

No. 32

Upcoming on Sundays

Sunday, October 2 – Kickoff for REACH and RENEW capital campaign

Worship on Sunday morning will be a kickoff for our REACH and RENEW capital campaign. Our preaching text focuses on Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount: *You are the light of the world.... Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven.* The anthem is a prayer that God will use our lives in faithful service. Communion will also be served, and the Deacons will be serving home Communion to shut-in members in the afternoon.

We will also participate in a REACH and RENEW luncheon in the dining room downstairs on Sunday morning. We will have pasta bar choices for lunch: stuffed manicotti, noodles with marinara sauce, or noodles with alfredo sauce. Annette Ellstrom, our campaign coordinator, will share some thoughts with us about giving to the campaign; and there will be videotaped presentations from other church members about why they are giving to the campaign. This is a day not to be missed.

Sunday, October 9 – Open and Affirming Sunday and Second Church Tour

It has been our church's tradition that the second Sunday in October is the day we celebrate our decision 19 years ago to be an Open and Affirming church. In the sermon that day, I will talk about my own, personal journey toward an open and affirming, fully accepting position toward gay and lesbian people, and how much I still have to learn. (I will not, however, begin as my predecessor at a small, rural Iowa church began a sermon there many years ago: *Sex, sex, sex, that's all anybody talks about these days.* An elderly woman in the congregation fainted and worship was disrupted and never got back on track. It was one of his last Sundays at that church.)

Immediately following worship this morning, Don DeBruin will give us a tour of the main musical instruments of the church – the organ and the piano. We will have time to ask any questions we want about them, and we will leave much better informed about those wonderful pieces. We will also learn where they need to be repaired.

Sunday, October 16 – Church Tour III before Worship

On this day, members of the Effective Space Utilization committee will lead a tour of areas of the church which we are hoping to renovate if we reach our challenge goal in the REACH and RENEW campaign. We will meet in the Sanctuary before worship, at 9am. Also, the Outreach Board will sponsor Bread for the World letter-writing before and after worship that day. And people participating in the Madison-area CROP Walk will begin gathering in our sanctuary almost as soon as we all leave the building.

Sunday, October 23 – Dedication of Prayer Shawls in Worship

We will be dedicating Prayer Shawls during worship on October 23. If you have a completed shawl, please drop it off at the church for Eldonna.

A Warning

On Sunday, two of the chaperones for the Milwaukee Drum Troupe stored some personal items in the Ministers' Study during worship. When they returned afterwards, money and other items had been taken from their purses. Anne Karch also had money taken from her purse in the basement on Sunday morning. There is some evidence that the thief wandered through most of the building in a search for money to steal. With this unfortunate incident, please let us be warned to keep close track of our purses and other valuables when we are in the church building.

Curt Anderson



JOIN US FOR MORNING SERVICE

Sunday, October 2, 2011
Worship at 10am in the Sanctuary
Communion will be celebrated

Scripture Readings:
Psalm 150, Matthew 5:14-16

Psalm 150 is one of the most joyous texts in the whole Bible, or in all of literature, for that matter. *Praise the Lord. Praise God ... in his mighty firmament, ... with trumpet, with lute and harp, with tambourine and dance.... Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.* You can almost hear the psalmist shouting and dancing as those words are spoken. I believe this Psalm is a call to turn our entire lives toward joy in God's blessings. Other Psalms also express this sense of joyful praise, but this last Psalm does so in only six verses. It is a fitting conclusion to the Psalter.

The passage from Matthew is familiar: *You are the light of the world.... No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it under the bushel basket.... Let your light shine before others.* We remember that at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is specifically teaching the disciples, who are sitting at his feet. The crowds of people overhear, and at the end they respond; but the teaching is aimed particularly at the disciples. This specific teaching, *You are the light of the world*, was meant for the disciples in Jesus day, and it is meant for Jesus' disciples – the church – today. Everything we do and say tells the world about Jesus. The light shines through our words and actions.

The Gathering Class – Prison Ministry Restorative Justice The enclosed brochure tells about several adult education options. Be sure to read about our Gathering Class on the Restorative Justice program our Prison Ministry runs. October 5, 12, 19, and 26. Dinner at 5:30. Class begins at 6:20.

Thanks! To all who completed surveys for the membership Renewal Committee. Results have been tabulated and will be passed on to the boards and committees. More information to follow soon.

Would you like to save some trees, copier toner, and staff time, with the advantage of receiving the Tower promptly and in **full color**, anywhere in the world? Just email Jill Farnsworth at office@firstcongmadison.org and **YOU** could be the 200th person on the list for the e-Tower! (Separate copies can go to multiple email addresses in the same household.)

WAYS TO SERVE

Madison Area CROP Walk! Sunday, October 16 is the date for the Madison Crop Walk hosted again by First Cong.

First Cong also has a team ONLINE for you to join or offer your support! Check out www.cropwalkonline.org/madisonwi and look for *FirstCongWalkers*. Paper pledge forms are also available from Jeff Rabe.



Thanksgiving Tradition

For almost 20 years, First Congregational has been home to a free Thanksgiving meal. Will you consider helping out and keeping up the tradition? If you are interested in being on a planning committee for the event, please meet in the student lounge following worship on October 9th. We are in need of several team leaders who could help this year or in the future. If you are interested in serving and cannot attend the meeting, please contact Jessica Flowers, 347-7716 or at jessicaflores.phd@gmail.com

FIRST CONG YOUTH

Youth Group Meeting Change!

We are changing things up a bit for Youth Group meeting times. Youth Group meetings will be held from noon – 1:30pm Sundays. BOUNCE, 7th & 8th Graders, will meet the 1st Sunday of the month. SAGE, Sr. High Youth, will meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Meetings will begin in October. Youth Bible Studies will remain the same, during worship:



BBQ (7th & 8th Gr) 2nd Sunday and GAS (Sr High) 4th Sunday of the month.



Don will announce upcoming Youth Hand chime Choir rehearsal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Book Study Women! Mark your calendars now to attend a morning of coffee (or juice), treats, and great conversation after reading *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion* by Sara Miles. Sara's work has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, The New Yorker, The Progressive, La Jornada, and Salon, among others. She has written extensively on military affairs, politics, and culture. Raised as an atheist, Sara Miles lived an enthusiastically secular life as a restaurant cook and a writer. Then early one winter morning, for no earthly reason, she wandered into a church. "I was certainly not interested in becoming a Christian," she writes, "or, as I thought of it rather less politely, a religious nut." But she ate a piece of bread, took a sip of wine, and found herself radically transformed. The mysterious sacrament of communion has sustained Miles ever since, in a faith she'd scorned, in work she'd never imagined. In this astonishing story, she tells how the seeds of her conversion were sown, and what her life has been like since she took that bread.



The class will meet on Saturday mornings October 8, 22, November 12 and 26 from 8:00-9:30am in the Student Lounge and will be facilitated by Eldonna Hazen. Books are available in the office for \$11. Please let Eldonna know if you plan to attend.

REACH and RENEW

Church Tours Yes, that's right, "tours" plural. We have 2 more very interesting tours of the church arranged in October.

On **Sunday, October 9**, at 11:15, Don DeBruin will lead us in looking at, and learning about, our organ and piano. When did we get them, what are they like, and what repairs need to be done to get / keep them in top shape?

On **Sunday, October 16**, beginning at 9am, a member of the Space Utilization Committee will lead us on a tour of all the work that might be done in our building if our capital campaign is completely successful. For example, see how easy it would be to add a room for a Sunday School class simply by putting in a hallway.



First Cong Animal Blessing is Saturday, October 8 at 10am. All pets are invited, and the humans who love them! If this would prove too stressful for your pet, bring a photo! Group and individual blessings plus fellowship with fellow animal lovers.



SHELTER THANKS Our church's efforts at the Single Women's Homeless Shelter at the Salvation Army are much appreciated by the residents there. First Congregational volunteers Judy Reed, Liz Severson, and Mari McCarty take turns bringing food and conversation each Monday night, along with your donations of toiletries, bedding, and clothing. The church office recently received a card signed by 15 of the women with grateful sentiments such as, "Thank you so much for Mondays and the snack," "Thank you for your kindness and all the hours you have volunteered," and the simple, "I love Mondays!"

With county budget cuts looming, your help is more crucial than ever. The shelter fills up early each night, and items are in short supply. There is a continuing need for unopened hotel-sized toiletries, tote and duffel bags, suitcases, clothing, towels, and bedding. Please bring items, clearly marked "Shelter," to the church office or call Mari McCarty (238-8837) for pickup. Please also think ahead to the Christmas gifts we will assemble in early December, when we will appreciate donations of costume jewelry and colorful scarves from your own collection to supplement the more practical items always included in the packages. Thank you.



A pasta bar with stuffed manicotti, noodles with marinara sauce or alfredo sauce, and salad. It's mouth-watering just to think about it. We hope you are making plans to be

at the **REACH and RENEW** luncheon on Sunday morning. In addition to the delicious food, there will be a presentation by campaign coordinator Annette Ellstrom, videotaped presentations from church members, singing, prayers – a spiritually uplifting and enjoyable time. We encourage you to be present with us.

Church Calendar October 2-9, 2011

Sunday, October 2

10:00am Sunday Worship ~ S
 10:15am Wee Worship ~ C
 11:00am Capital Campaign
 Kick-off Event ~ DR

Monday, October 3

5:15pm Stewardship Board ~ FR
 5:30pm Table Tennis Club ~ DR
 7:00pm All Boards ~ C
 8:00pm SA ~ Room 301

Tuesday, October 4

12noon Bible Conversations ~ SL
 5:15pm NA Women's ~ Room 301
 7:00pm Boy Scouts ~ DR
 7:00pm NA ~ Room 301

Wednesday, October 5

9:30am Worship Planning ~ MS
 10:30am Staff Meeting ~ MS
 5:30pm Gathering Class ~ DR, FR
 6:30pm Coventry Ringers ~ Room 301
 7:30pm Chancel Choir ~ Chapel

Thursday, October 6

Community Meal Day

5:00pm UADC event ~ DR
 5:30pm Eating Disorders Support
 Group ~ Room 301
 7:00pm Madison Area Jugglers ~ DR
 8:00pm AA ~ Room 301

Friday, October 7

5:30pm Table Tennis
 Club ~ DR

Saturday, October 8

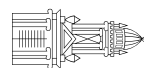
8:00am Women's Book
 Study ~ SL

Sunday, October 9

10:00am Sunday Worship ~ S
 10:15am Sunday School
 11:00am Piano & Organ tour ~ S
 11:00am Outreach Thanksgiving
 meeting. ~ SL



BBQ ~ Mid High Bible Study
 Big K ~ Big Kitchen
 BOUNCE ~ Mid High Youth
 Group
 C ~ Chapel
 DR ~ Dining Room
 FIGS ~ Families Including God
 and Stuff
 FR ~ Fellowship Room
 GAS ~ Sr. High Bible Study
 LRC ~ Learning Resource Center
 MS ~ Minister's Study
 S ~ Sanctuary
 SAGE ~ Sr. High Youth Group
 SL ~ Student Lounge
 SR ~ Salad Room
 YR ~ Youth Room



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1609 University Avenue
 Madison, Wisconsin 53726
 608-233-9751 (phone)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Worship attendance on
 Sunday, September 25, 2011 was 220.**

Staff:

Curt Anderson, Senior Minister
 Eldonna Hazen, Associate Minister
 Jerry Hancock, Director of Prison Ministry Project
 Donald J. DeBruin, Director of Music Ministries
 Jeff Rabe, Director of Christian Education for
 Children & Youth
 Rob Eagle, Bookkeeper
 Jill Farnsworth, Church Secretary
 David Krantz, Building Manager

Office Hours: 8am-12:30pm, 1:00pm-4:00pm,
 Monday -Thursday; 8am-noon Friday.

Phone: 608-233-9751

Fax: 608-233-7180

E-mail: office@firstcongmadison.org

Web Page: www.firstcongmadison.org
 Facebook.com/firstcongo

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES: Curt Anderson's
 phone is 836-1321, Eldonna Hazen's phone number is
 241-8117 and Jerry Hancock's phone is 658-6630.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 MADISON, WI
 PERMIT NO. 1395

OCTOBER 2011

Saturday October 1

7:00pm UW football parking
~ Outreach

Sunday, October 2

10:00am Sunday Worship ~ S
10:15am Wee Worship ~ C
11:00am Capital Campaign Kick-off
Event ~ DR

Monday, October 3

5:15pm Stewardship Board ~ FR
5:30pm Table Tennis Club ~ DR
7:00pm All Boards ~ C
8:00pm SA ~ Room 301

Tuesday, October 4

12noon Bible Conversations ~ SL
5:15pm NA Women's ~ Room 301
7:00pm Boy Scouts ~ DR, YR
7:00pm NA ~ Room 301

Wednesday, October 5

9:30am Worship Planning ~ MS
10:30am Staff Meeting ~ MS
5:30pm Gathering Class ~ DR, FR
6:30pm Coventry Ringers ~ Rm 301
7:30pm Chancel Choir ~ Chapel

Thursday, October 6

Community Meal Day

5:00pm UADC event ~ DR
5:30pm Eating Disorders
Support Group ~ Room 301
7:00pm Madison Area
Jugglers ~ DR
8:00pm AA ~ Room 301

Friday, October 7

5:30pm Table Tennis Club ~ DR

Saturday, October 8

8:00am Women's Book Study ~ SL

Sunday, October 9

10:00am Sunday Worship ~ S
10:15am Sunday School
11:15am Piano & Organ tour ~ S
11:15am Outreach Thanksgiving
meeting. ~ SL

Monday, October 10

5:30pm Table Tennis Club ~ DR
8:00pm SA ~ Room 301

Tuesday, October 11

12noon Bible Conversations ~ SL
5:15pm NA Women's ~ Room 301
7:00pm Boy Scouts ~ DR, YR
7:00pm NA ~ Room 301
7:00pm Piano Tech Guild ~ FR

Wednesday, October 12

9:30am Worship Planning ~ MS
10:30am Staff Meeting ~ MS
5:30pm Gathering Class ~ DR, FR
6:30pm Coventry Ringers ~ Rm 301
7:30pm Chancel Choir ~ Chapel

Thursday, October 13

5:30pm Eating Disorders
Support Group ~ Room 301
7:00pm Madison Area
Jugglers ~ DR
8:00pm AA ~ Room 301

Friday, October 14

5:30pm Table Tennis Club ~ DR

Saturday, October 15

11:00am UW Football
Parking ~ Youth

Sunday, October 16

9:00am Church Renewal Tour ~ S
10:00am Sunday Worship ~ S
10:15am Sunday School
11:15am Cherub Choir ~ Room 301
1:00pm CROP Walk

Monday, October 17

5:30pm Table Tennis Club ~ DR
8:00pm SA ~ Room 301

Tuesday, October 18

12noon Bible Conversations ~ SL
1:30pm Worship at Oakwood
5:15pm NA Women's ~ Room 301
7:00pm Boy Scouts ~ DR, YR
7:00pm NA ~ Room 301
7:00pm MOSES ~ C

Wednesday, October 19

9:30am Worship Planning ~ MS
10:30am Staff Meeting ~ MS
5:30pm Gathering Class ~ DR, FR
6:30pm Coventry Ringers ~ Rm 301
7:30pm Chancel Choir ~ Chapel

Thursday, October 20

5:30pm Eating Disorders
Support Group ~ Room 301
7:00pm Madison Area Jugglers ~ DR
8:00pm AA ~ Room 301

Friday, October 21

5:30pm Table Tennis Club ~ DR
5:30pm Toussaint Wedding
Rehearsal ~ S

Saturday, October 22

2:30pm Toussaint Wedding ~ S

Sunday, October 23

10:00am Sunday Worship ~ S
10:15am Sunday School
10:15am GAS ~ YR
11:15am Cherub Choir ~ Room 301

Monday, October 24

10:30am Stillpoint ~ SL
5:30pm Table Tennis Club ~ DR
6:00pm Executive Council ~ FR
8:00pm SA ~ Room 301

Tuesday, October 25

12noon Bible Conversations ~ SL
5:15pm NA Women's ~ Room 301
6:00pm Communion class ~ YR
7:00pm Boy Scouts ~ DR, YR
7:00pm NA ~ Room 301

Wednesday, October 26

9:30am Worship Planning ~ MS
10:30am Staff Meeting ~ MS
5:30pm Gathering Class ~ DR, FR
6:30pm Coventry Ringers ~ Rm 301
7:30pm Chancel Choir ~ Chapel

Thursday, October 27

5:30pm Eating Disorders
Support Group ~ Room 301
7:00pm Madison Area
Jugglers ~ DR
8:00pm AA ~ Room 301

Friday, October 28

5:30pm Table Tennis Club ~ DR
7:30pm con Vivo! Concert ~ S
11:00pm Halloween Concert ~ S

Saturday, October 29

No events planned, church locked

Sunday, October 30

9:00am New Member Class ~ SL
10:00am Sunday Worship ~ S
10:15am Sunday School costume
party ~ DR
11:15am Cherub Choir ~ Room 301

Monday October 31

5:30pm Table Tennis Club ~ DR
8:00pm SA ~ Room 301



GREETERS

First Sunday Team:

Dana Chabot (even-numbered months), Hub and Todd Pinkerton, Amy Smith

Second Sunday Team:

Jane Deyo, Fannie Hicklin, Austen Wygocki

Third Sunday Team:

Kathy Gansner, Steve Lerdahl, Betta Owens

Fourth Sunday Team:

Mary Ellen Gerloff, Karen Gussert, Irene Ilgen, Judy Whipple

Substitutes & Fifth Sunday:

Beth Cannestra, Robin Craig, Annette Ellstrom, David Ewing, Sarah Kissel, Audrey Marquardt, Mark Rzchowski, Jackye Thomas, Mark Thomas, Jody Varney, John Ehlke

USHERS

First Sunday Team:

Jane Deyo, Cathy Easter, Vicki Lovely, Janet Pugh, Kathy Gansner

Second Sunday Team:

Bob Burns, Jeanne Marshall, Janet Schrieber, Elizabeth Armstrong

Third Sunday Team:

Dorothy Brown, Ellsworth Brown, Ed Hasselkus, Tom Rickner, Samantha Rickner, Carol Toussaint

Fourth Sunday Team:

Katrina Dwinell, Kathy Gansner, Lance & Cheryl Bentley

Fifth Sunday Team:

Katrina Dwinell, George Elder, Josh Feyen

Subs:

Robin Craig, John Ehlke, David Ewing, Mark Rzchowski, Greg Ullstrom

OFFICE HOSTS

First Sunday: Fannie Hicklin

Second Sunday: Barb Williams

Third Sunday: Barb Williams

Fourth Sunday: Fannie Hicklin

Fifth Sunday & Sub: Janet Schrieber

SOUND SYSTEM

First Sunday: Rob Hetzel

Second Sunday: Mark Rzchowski

Third Sunday : Gary Pine

Fourth Sunday: Bob Burns

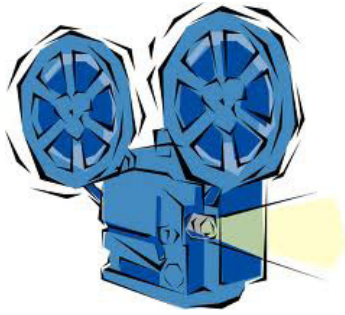
Fifth Sunday: Tom Pugh

BIRTHDAYS

Those celebrating 90+ birthdays are in listed in bold.

- 2nd Mary Metz
3rd Fred Coleman, William Taft
4th Nathan Jessup, Andrew Washicheck
5th Carolyn McKinney
6th Pamela Cramer
7th Gracie Kremer, Emma McKinney
8th Kari Faber, Tom Rickner, Patrick Burke;
Eric Statz
9th Gayle McFarland
11th Patricia Peters, Avery Rice-Arnesen
12th Katherine Wiggins
13th Kellen Rice, Megan Thomas
15th Julianna Corderman, Robin Craig, Eva Cornwell, Thomas Teal Lovely, Vicki Jessup
16th Carol Grogan, David Lytton-Sarazin, Skylar Meinholz, August Sager
18th Louisa Kovalic, Michele Last, Ellen Lewis, Ken Taylor, James York, Lydia Karch
19th Alliyah Williams
20th Rene Simon, John Sturges
21st Natasha Ketchum, Susan Robinson, Erin Vierstra
23rd Pamina Nemet
24th Robert Metz, John Toussaint
26th Jack Tupta
28th Pam Asquith, Jackson McIntosh, Maya Canavan, Catherine Easter
30th Tristan Cook
31st Erin Baumann, Dorris K. Belknap





Watching Movies Together

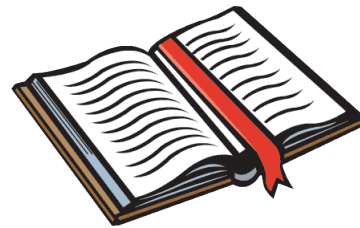
I saw the movie “The Tree of Life” this summer, when Joan and I were in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and I was taking a class at Calvin Seminary. Our professor said that it was the most theological movie he had ever seen. Joan and I went to see it the next afternoon, and I have to agree with his statement. Of course, it is also a movie filled with ambiguity and questions, questions that are not answered at the end of the movie. I found that the movie left me thinking about those questions for a long time afterward.

After the first of the year, when the movie comes out on DVD and is available for rental, I will ask one of the boards or committees of the church to sponsor a movie night so anyone who wants can watch it together and discuss it after the viewing. Perhaps we will be able to watch 2 or 3 movies together that way after the first of the year.

—Curt Anderson

Bible Conversations

Bring a bag lunch and join us for a casual hour of Bible Conversations on Tuesdays from 12:00-1:00 pm. Texts are discussed from the upcoming Sunday’s lectionary. Text and questions are available one week prior in the church office or on the church’s website. Discussion will be facilitated by Curt Anderson, Eldonna Hazen, or Jerry Hancock.



FiGS (Families Including God & Stuff) – “Modern Family”

In our next FiGs event, we take a closer look at what makes a Family.

Parents and Kids will learn about different types of families from the Bible and explore their own family make up.

Join us, *Saturday, November 19*, from 10:30 until lunch. For questions, please contact Jeff Rabe.

Adult Education Fall & Winter 2011–2012



First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Madison, Wisconsin

The Gathering – *Wednesdays October 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 5:30 pm in the dining room.* Join us for a light supper, with fellowship, sharing and learning on *Wednesday* evenings this Autumn. The Gathering is an opportunity for us to share a meal together, followed by classes which we hope will engage both your intellect and spirit. As usual, we will have a simple supper at 5:30. This year classes will begin a little earlier, running from 6:20 – 7:30.

Restorative Justice

Rev. Jerry Hancock

Director, The Prison Ministry Project

For the past five years the Prison Ministry Project of First Congregational has led restorative justice programs inside the walls of Wisconsin prisons. At our Gathering this fall we want to share with the congregation both our experiences and the basic concepts of Restorative Justice.

Restorative Justice is an exciting and increasingly important approach to social justice issues. There are many different ways of practicing restorative justice. Some programs, like ours, take place in prisons. Some take place on the streets of Milwaukee, like those led by former Supreme Court Justice Janine Geske. Regardless of the setting, all restorative

justice programs have this in common: bringing victims, offenders and the community together to repair the torn fabric of society.

The programs we lead are completely secular and everyone is welcome. But for us as a church it is how we respond to the Gospel's requirement that we visit people in prison. It is also an important part of how we understand forgiveness.

In our tradition we believe that our sins are forgiven by the free grace of God. But forgiveness between people is more complicated. Getting to forgiveness is sometimes thought of as a three step process: confession, contrition, and compensation. In our restorative justice programs we try in a variety of ways to work through those steps by helping prisoners, victims and the community understand the extent of harm caused

by crime and our shared responsibility to repair that harm.

We are excited about sharing our experiences in finding forgiveness, grace and healing inside prison walls. We hope you will join us.



Women's Book Study

This group is designed for women interested in reading and discussing books about spirituality or women's related issues. The group studies three books a year, meeting the first and third Saturdays of each month during the months of Oct/Nov, Feb/Mar and June/July.

A different book is chosen for each two month time period. The group meets on Saturdays from 8:00-9:30 am in the Student Lounge. Coffee, juice and treats are provided. The study is facilitated by Eldonna Hazen.