

**Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ  
615 West Wellington Avenue**

**Lenten Series 2008**

**When Faith Takes Form: Finding the Spiritual in Art**

This Lenten series will examine art and artists in a set of wide-ranging topics designed to stimulate thinking about the making of art and the role of the artist in contemporary society. Through slides, discussion, film, and art-making, Wellington friends and family are invited to explore the nature of art, the intersection of art and spirituality, historical examples for the church community, and the question of art in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in this five-week series.

We will gather in the dining room each Wednesday during lent at 6:00 PM for a simple meal followed by a program from 7-8:30 PM.

**Wednesday, February 13: Sacred Spaces**

Why does our sanctuary look the way it does? Learn some things about the history of church architecture, the struggles of early Christian communities to define themselves through their spaces for worship, and how different faiths treat space, light, color and form to enhance and support worship. Along with slides of examples from church history, our beautiful, historic sanctuary will serve as a focal point for this discussion.

**Wednesday, February 20 : The Passion in Art**

Artists have struggled for centuries to capture the mystery of Jesus' incarnation, life and death here on earth. How does one give visual form to the mystery of the divine? Depictions of the death of Christ, the cross, the burial and Resurrection have changed through history to express changing views of the nature of God and the church. In this Lenten season, view the story of the Passion of Christ as it has been portrayed through two thousand years of church history. Key symbols from the Christian tradition will be examined, and works of art from the Middle Ages to the present will be discussed.

**Wednesday, February 27: The Art of Protest**

Radical concepts presented in new art forms can shake the world. Reactions can be fierce and furious. Why did the Taliban need to blow up the Buddhas? This session addresses historic periods of iconoclasm, or the breaking of images, and also modern artists who reflect a commitment to social responsibility. From Vincent Van Gogh and Kathe Kollwitz, to Picasso's Guernica and contemporary street theater, we will view and discuss those artists who have taken a stand, expressed outrage, or designed art with the hope of changing the world.

**Wednesday, March 5: America and an Art for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

What are the new art forms that artists are using today to express their ideas? Can we find the spiritual in the art of our own time? American artistic traditions will be viewed in slides to set the stage for our examination of the contemporary art scene. From the last half of the 20th century into the present, we will look at how boundaries and traditional categories of art have been broken by a variety of artists to create an art of experience, an art of process, an art of community and an art of the unexpected.

**Wednesday, March 12: Artists Unite**

Draw on your own inner artist to create a community art work for Wellington. Informed by historical precedents and crafted with a 21st century artistic vocabulary, Wellington artists will brainstorm, plan, design, and begin the creation of new art works for our sanctuary and church. Banners, murals, labyrinths, paintings and video will be possible in this most creative session.

**ALL ARE WELCOME! For more information visit our website: [www.wellingtonaveucc.org](http://www.wellingtonaveucc.org) or contact the church office at 773-935-0642**