



FIRST UNITED
CHURCH of CHRIST
Northfield · Minnesota

The Chronicle

A monthly newsletter of The First United Church of Christ, Congregational
300 Union Street, Northfield, 55057
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Church



Church Summer Office Hours

Office hours through September 3 will be: 7:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Monday-Thursday.

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 7 for Labor Day.

Starting on Tuesday, September 8, regular church office hours will be from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.



Potluck Picnic for everyone

Everyone is invited to a Potluck Picnic at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 2nd at the church. A time for fellowship, fun and music - featuring the musical talents of Jerry & Inga Johnson and friends. Come listen and sing along with these fine musicians! Sponsored by the Adult Education Committee.

Worship Services

Sunday, August 2:

Bell Ringer: Bill Poehlmann
10:00 a.m. Worship
Focus: Evangelical Courage
Readings: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Ephesians 4:1-16
Music: Mark and Holly Fischer

Sunday, August 9:

Bell Ringer: Scott Richardson and his grandchildren
10:00 a.m. Worship
Focus: Bread of Life
Readings:
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6: 24-35
Music: Mary Savina

Sunday, August 16:

Bell Ringer: Bill Poehlmann
10:00 a.m. Worship
Focus: An Understanding Mind
Readings:
1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14
Ephesians 5:15-20
Music: Mary Ann Pulk

Sunday, August 23:

Bell Ringer: Bill Poehlmann
10:00 a.m. Worship
Focus: Holy Garments
Readings: Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
Music: Ann Wind

Sunday, August 30:

Bell Ringer: Scott Richardson
10:00 a.m. Worship, Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offering
Focus: Doers of the Word
Readings:
Song of Solomon 2:8-13;
James 1:17-27
Music: Bill Child/Wind Quintet



Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offering

Your gift to this special offering grows the UCC's future by funding The Stillspeaking ministry, new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership formation - especially among women and people of color. Your offerings will be directed to your church's conference, Local Church Ministries and the Stillspeaking Ministry.



In our Prayers

Mark Fischer and his family,
caring for his ailing father in
Michigan

The people of Myanmar,
suffering violence

All of those out of work and
struggling to find meaning in
their lives

Tim and Tanya Jackson
celebrating the birth of their
son Sean William

Elaine Eslinger and Don Perkins
celebrating the births of their
twins, Addison and Zachary

Tim Dellett, our friend from
Alamosa, Colorado, biking to
raise money for Habitat for
Humanity

Former members Jill and Tim
Fox, celebrating the birth of
their twins

Jerry Hankins, recovering from
surgery

Dan Kelly's Aunt Vera,
recovering from surgery

Guests who were attending the
meeting of the Hymn Society
at St. Olaf

Pat Lampe, who is largely
confined to her home (and
appreciates very brief visits)

Herb Fry, and his colleagues at
the Alliance for Housing,
working for safe and
affordable housing for all

Laurie Crelly, grieving with her
partner's family at the death of
an uncle

Tilman Achberger, recently
married

Wayne Grism, rejoicing in new
granddaughter Kaitlyn
Lorraine (mother Kim)

Bruhler Rasmusson family,
moving to Montenegro for the
coming school year

All the campers attending Pilgrim
Point camp, and the

volunteers who make the
programs possible

Sarah Entenmann, healing after a
difficult visit with family and
friends

Nancy Carriel, recently diagnosed
with breast cancer

Deb Olien and her family,
mourning the 4th anniversary
of the death of her husband,
Howard

Tim Schroer and Andrew Nelson,
adjusting to Andrew's new job
in Dallas and to living apart
during the week

Sarah Jane Stevens, recently
married

Bernice Schendel's friend, living
with cancer

Church members – youth and
adult – serving on the mission
trip in Alamosa, Colorado

Looking Ahead:

This year, Homecoming Sunday
and the Opening of Sunday
School will be on different days!
Mark your calendar now for:

- **Sunday, September 13:**
Homecoming Sunday – Bring
a Friend or Neighbor (it's also
Defeat of Jesse James Days
weekend).
- **Sunday, September 20:**
Opening of Sunday School for
children of all ages.

Women's Spirituality Group

We will meet on Monday,
August 24, at 7:00 p.m.

Peg Tilsen will talk to us about
labyrinths, and we'll discuss
rituals and activities that enhance
our spirituality.

The group is open to all women
of the church. Friends are
welcome.

If you have any questions, call
Cathy (645-7532).

Church Office Hours

June through August
Monday through Thursday
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Phones: (507) 645-7532, 645-4694

Fax: (507) 645-0930

Websites: www.firstucc.org
www.uccjrhigh.blogspot.com

Staff

Minister: Rev. Sandra Johnson
sandyjohnson@firstucc.org

Coordinator of Pastoral Care:
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cathycammack@firstucc.org

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cherduys@firstucc.org

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Director of Children's Music: Janet
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Custodian: Ron Olson

Childcare Coordinator: Tammy
Rischmiller
tammyrischmiller@firstucc.org

Night Security: Mark Fischer

Officer
Moderator: Ed Lufkin



Sign up for a cottage meeting

The Minister Congregation Ministerial Committee (MCRC) is sponsoring a "cottage meeting" to provide an informal gathering at 7:00 p.m. on August 4th with Sandy Johnson. Whether you know her well or not very well, especially if you are relatively new to the congregation, we do invite you to come.

Call the church office (645-7532 or Lois and Ed Langerak (645-8321) who will be hosting the event at their home (205 Manitou Street) to make reservations.



Dear Friends

One of the most important things that happens in a congregation is the opportunity for people of different ages to worship and work together.

Take a moment to notice how much time we spend with people who are the same age as we are, or at the same point in the family life cycle (e.g. have children of similar ages, or have retired at the same time). We enjoy spending time with people who have lived through the same history, loved the same music, and had many of the same experiences as we have.

But there is also something wonderful about spending time with people who are older or younger than ourselves. There are, after all, different gifts at different ages. Our youth and young adult members bring great energy and idealism, our elders bring wisdom and experience, and everyone brings the memories

and music that are special to them.

So here's an invitation for you: This week during coffee hour, speak to someone who is at least 20 years older or younger than you are. Ask an interesting question – maybe "What did you like best about today's service?" or "How about those Twins?" or "What other churches have you belonged to in your life?"

The exact question doesn't matter much; what matters is extending our circles of faith and fellowship to folks of all ages. And maybe a few new friendships will begin.

Grace and peace, *Sandy*

Have You Gone Electronic Yet?

Remember, you can sign up to receive this newsletter by email (just contact Elaine, at church@firstucc.org), or you can always find it on our church's website, www.firstucc.org.

And remember you can sign up to receive all the new posts and/or information on the website in your email, or add our website to your RSS feed. Stay in touch!



Pastoral Ponderings

Because the deadline for *Chronicle* articles occurs in the middle of each month, this news may be "old news" by the time you read it. Michael Jackson is dead. If there is anyone reading this who does not know this, my question is, "How did you manage to avoid the media circus?"

I was never a fan of MJ. That could be the result of hosting far too many slumber(less) parties and coordinating too many cake walks at school fairs where "Beat It" and "Billie Jean" forever blasted on the boom boxes. However, I have to admit that I was glued to the television last night during the replay of his funeral.

It was amazing to me that this man who had been so vilified the last several years of his life was suddenly deemed, by some reporters, to be the God of Rock and Roll. We are a fickle sort, aren't we? We can crucify, literally or figuratively, another human being; yet, after his/her death we chant our praise and adoration.

Maya Angelou's poem in honor of Michael was read during yesterday's funeral. One line in that poem has been nagging at me ever since: *We were enchanted with his passion because he held nothing; he gave us all he had been given.* Maybe this speaks to each of us. Do we use the gifts God has given us? Do we share those gifts with others?

Or, perhaps this line applies even more to the greatest gift God gave us....His son. In the Gospel of John (19:30), Jesus spoke these words as he died: "It is finished." His crucifixion and death were the passions that have forever enchanted us. He truly gave us all he had been given.

Peace always, *Cathy*



Faith Formation through Christian Education

Sharing, Caring, Learning and Serving



Children

Summer Sunday School Seasons of the Spirit

Sunday's at 10:15 a.m.
through August 30



▪ Multi-age class for ages 3-Grade 3; Grades 4-5 welcome as 'big buddy helpers'. Using multi-age curriculum.

- Offering: helping children learn Jesus teaching of caring for others...
- Monetary offering for CROP walk
www.northfieldcrophungerwalk.org/

September 20: School Year Sunday School www.spiritseasons.com/

Interested in being on a fall teaching team? Contact Cher Duys or children's committee

member: Sarah Carlsen, David Maki-Waller, Jami Reister, Deb Olien, Cynthia Osmundson.

Junior High Youth

Junior High (check email for updates)

- **Summer:** Check out Pilgrim Point camps at www.pilgrimpoint.org
- **September 20:** Youth Group resumes 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Senior High Youth

(check email for updates)

- **Confirmation** (Grade 9) begins October 4, each Sunday from 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Senior High Youth Group** (Grade's 9-12): resume meetings in September, after worship

Welcome back Senior High Youth Group and incoming freshman!

We are having a potluck August 23 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the front of the church. Bring something to share and join us for food, volleyball, and lots of fun!

Anyone interested in working with the AWESOME youth of our church? We are looking for people who would be willing to help with either the junior or senior high youth in any capacity! If you have any questions or would like to be a part of the coolest group of kids around contact Cher Duys for information.

- **CROP Walk**
Save the date: CROP walk, Sunday, September 27 @ Bethel Lutheran

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

The community of Northfield, Minnesota will be sponsoring five more noontime organ recitals. Each recital will be held from 12:15-12:45 p.m. enabling business persons and others to hear fine organ playing over their lunch hours. This is the third summer of noontime recitals.

The dates, schedule of performers, and places include the following:

Wednesday, August 5, Marilyn Schempp, United Methodist Church, 1401 South Maple St.

Wednesday, August 12: Sue Walby, First Congregational UCC, 300 Union St.

Thursday, August 13: Bob Henstein, United Methodist

Friday, August 14: Stephen May, Skinner Chapel, Carleton College

Saturday, August 15: Lori Ramig & Sarah Sorenson, Trinity Lutheran, 803 Winona

All recitals are free and open to the public. (Free-will offering at some recitals) For more information, please contact Rev. Richard F. Collman, Northfield, 645-1357 or email him at rkcollman@msn.com



Thank you . . .

- Thank you for the contribution to the CAC of Northfield for your gift which strengthens our work in the community.

Have you cleaned out your jewelry boxes or sewing supplies?



The Arts Committee is planning to sell jewelry (vintage is great) and sewing notions (old rick rack, lace, buttons, etc.) on Friday evening and Saturday, September 11-12 (during the DJJ Days).



This is a way to use our parking lot during the celebration to raise money for the church and to recycle items that we do not use.

Individual dealers will be able to pay a small fee to rent "X" square feet of our parking lot.

Broken and damaged jewelry will be accepted but pristine items are especially welcome.

Items to be donated may be left in the church office.

Please contact: Jan Stevens at 507-244-0500 if you are able to volunteer to help package items (in late August) or to help display and sell the items (on September 11 & 12).

The church itself will not be open for this event.

Jan Stevens
Arts Committee Member



Shawl Knitting Group

The Shawl Knitting Group will meet all summer long on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. Whoever is around, please join us.



The Begging Begins

Your Pastoral Care Associate is in need of recipes to be included in a small cookbook. This will be available to volunteers providing meals for those going through a difficult time. Due to the lack of response from an earlier request, it is now time to beg. So, please, please, email, mail, or drop off any recipe(s) that you think will be good for this project .

Thank you, *Cathy*



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