



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

Summer Office Hours

Elaine's standard office hours on during the summer will be 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Sundays in July

Sunday, July 4, 2010:

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. Worship Service at

Valley Grove. Music: Theo Wee

11:00 a.m. Picnic Lunch
with Dessert Potluck.



All worshipers are invited

to stay in this peaceful setting for a picnic lunch. Each family is asked to bring their own picnic meal and dishes; a dessert to share with others; and a blanket or folding lawn chair if you are uncomfortable sitting directly on the grass. Drinks will be provided by the Parish Life and Fellowship (PLF) Committee.

Directions to Valley Grove Church:

- Go South on 246 (Division Street) past the High School.
- Continue on 246 for approximately 10 miles. Don't forget to turn south (right) on 246 where it turns just before you get to Dennison.

- Turn west (right) on County 30. The church is on the south (left) side of the road – about one mile.

Or take the scenic route:

- Go south on County 246 (Division Street) past the High School.
- At the sign for Valley Grove Road (Route 30, also Hall Avenue), turn south (right).
- At the stop sign, turn left on to 135th Street.
- At the next stop sign, turn right on Ibsen.
- At the following stop sign, turn left on Route 30, Johnson Trail.
- Valley Grove Church is on the right side of the road about 0.9 mile from the stop sign.

Sunday, July 11, 2010:

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. Worship. Music: Will Hardy

10:15-11:00 a.m. Preschool-grade 6
Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

7:20 p.m. Fighting Apostles at
Sechlar #1 vs. Little Prairie

Sunday, July 18, 2010:

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. Worship. Music: Bob Kahn

10:15-11:00 a.m. Preschool-grade 6

Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

6:10 p.m. Fighting Apostles at
Babcock vs. St. Dominic's Blue

Sunday, July 25, 2010:

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 a.m. Worship. Music: Mark
and Holly Fischer

10:15-11:00 a.m. Preschool-grade 6
Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

6:10 p.m. Fighting Apostles at
Babcock vs. Bethel

In Our Prayers

Patte Rhodes, who has moved to South Carolina to be closer to family and is searching for her new home

All those who are out of work or working less than they would like

Barbara & Dennis Altstaetter's granddaughter Elizabeth, who recently underwent cancer surgery

Our friends and neighbors in nursing homes and long term care facilities

Those who have lost their homes and family members in the mudslides of Guatemala
UCC clergy serving as military chaplains, especially the Rev.

Charlene Johnson from the Minnesota Conference Children (and teachers!) enjoying their summer vacation from school
 Bernice Schendel, continuing her recovery from shoulder surgery
 Paula Lawrence, recently hospitalized
 Jerry Hankins, recently hospitalized
 All the creatures harmed by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico
 Those in our community who continue to work on behalf of the people of Haiti
 Monica and Tom Liddle, UCC missionaries in East Timor
 Those recovering from damage caused by tornados, especially remembering the residents of Wadena, where Bob Griggs is serving as Interim Pastor
 Family and friends of Blake Beske, killed in a bicycle accident in Faribault
 Damen Heitmann, our former seminary intern, who has been called to the UCC church in Little Falls, and will be ordained July 24 at his home church in Marengo, IA



Dear Friends,

My heart is overflowing with gratitude for the ministry we have shared since 1997.

I have been fortunate to work with talented and loyal staff members and equally talented and loyal volunteers, all of whom care deeply for this congregation.

I have been blessed by all the members who have shared important life events with me – both the joyful and the sorrowful.

I have been privileged to watch toddlers grow into teenagers, to preside at the weddings of young adults whom I have confirmed, and to celebrate and remember the lives of the saints who have died.

The congregation has both changed and endured during my tenure here. Over 60% of the members have joined since I became pastor, and the mix includes more young families and children than it did in 1997. Our building and grounds have been spruced up in several ways, and our staff has increased by two (Bookkeeper and Pastoral Care Associate).

At the same time, the church continues to focus its life on worshipping God, caring for one another, nurturing the faith, and changing the world. We just keep finding new and compelling ways to do those things. This is, in the current vocabulary of the UCC, a “vital congregation.”

As I have said many times, my retirement is a bittersweet experience. I am proud of the work we have done together, and pleased that I am leaving a church that is vibrant, faithful, and fun to be part of. At the same time, I am deeply sad to separate myself from a congregation that has fed my own spiritual life so deeply and given me the opportunity to exercise my gifts for ministry.

I am confident that this congregation will continue its vital and generous life, and will form a strong bond with your next minister. And I am confident that the Holy Spirit still has vital work for me – though the shape of that work is not yet apparent.

So I wish you well, and pray for God’s blessings on all you do. And I bid you an affectionate and appreciative farewell.

Grace and peace, *Sandy*

Church Office Hours

June through September 4
 Monday through Thursday
 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

September 8 through May
 Monday through Friday
 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

Fax: (507) 645-0930

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

Staff

Minister: _____

Pastoral Care Associate:
 Cathy Cammack
cathycammack@firstucc.org

Director of Educational and Youth
 Ministries: Cher Langley Duys
cherlangleyduys@firstucc.org

Director of Music: Christopher Brunelle
chrisbrunelle@firstucc.org

Director of Children’s Music:
 Shana Hodel

Director of Spirit Voices:
 Bob Gregory-Bjorklund
bobgregory@firstucc.org

Organist: Theo Wee
theowe@firstucc.org

Office Manager: Elaine Malecha
church@firstucc.org

Bookkeeper: Andrea Pegram
andreapegram@firstucc.org

Custodian: Ron Olson
ron@firstucc.org

Childcare Coordinator:
 Tammy Rischmiller



Pastoral Ponderings

The word on my mind this morning is “collaboration”. There are many reasons for this; the one that quickly comes to mind is that I have been “collaborating” quite a bit this past month.

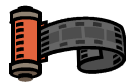
There were several events that required a group effort. In early June, several staff members hosted a luncheon honoring Elaine Malecha’s almost twenty-one years as the office manager here at church. The day before the luncheon, some of us met, prepared salads, and gathered supplies. Music played in the background, and laughter spiced up the food. On June 14, staff members gathered at my home to honor Sandy’s retirement. We shared foods, much laughter, and many stories. On June 15, the Congregational Care Council hosted the annual Strawberry Festival. The morning of the festival, several people met in the kitchen at church and began hulling and slicing fragrant, fresh strawberries. Laughter was, again, a welcomed guest. Each of these events contained two similar characteristics: (1) they involved cooperation and collaboration among the people involved, and (2) the group effort provided laughter which lightened the work.

Last week I completed the ten-month program in pastoral specialist certification I have been pursuing at United Theological Seminary. This was a collaborative sharing group consisting of eight students who were involved in pastoral care. (ministers, chaplains, and one pastoral care associate!). We

presented case studies, shared strengths and weaknesses, and we each benefitted from the pastoral experiences of one another. It was the group process that made this course so beneficial.

Reflecting on these events has helped me better to understand the importance of having a church community. I would not have learned from a book what I learned in the sharing group at UTS. And preparing the foods and planning the events would not have been as much fun without the laughter and fellowship included in the process. For a long time, I thought I went to church to have the peace and quiet I thought I needed to reflect and pray. Through this congregational, collaborative experience, I have learned that I do need quiet reflective time; however, even more, I need to see my faith in community and relationship with others.

Peace always, *Cathy*



June Women’s Spirituality Group

The Women’s Spirituality group will meet on Monday, July 26, at 7:00 p.m. Please check the Pastoral Care bulletin board for details.

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

Call Cathy (645-7532) if you have any questions.

Pastoral Care

If you or a loved one is in need of pastoral care, please contact Cathy, the Pastoral Care Associate, either at church, (645-7532) or on her cell phone (612-306-3281). She can also be reached via email at: cathycammack@firstucc.org.

Cathy coordinates pastoral needs and is available for pastoral counseling.



Free summer movies in Northfield

Free 7:00 p.m. Summer movies in Northfield (Just Food Co-op community room) regarding Palestine. Call for more details. Wednesday, July 7: “Encounter Point”; and Wednesday, July 14: “Rachel Corrie Project



Bulletin Board

Please remember there is a bulletin board -- *Congregation Connections*-- located to the right as you walk into the Assembly Room. This board is for goods or services you want to advertise for or request.



Q2 Giving Statements

Second quarter giving statements will be mailed in early July. Please review them carefully and notify the bookkeeper, Andrea Pegram (andrapegram@firstucc.org), of any questions.



2010 Northfield Church Softball League

7:20 p.m. Sunday, July 11, at Sechlar #1 vs. Little Prairie
 6:10 p.m. Sunday, July 18, at Babcock vs. St. Dominic's Blue
 6:10 p.m. Sunday, July 25, at Babcock vs. Bethel
 5:00 p.m. Sunday, August 1, at Sechlar #2 vs. Methodist Maroon
 6:10 p.m. Sunday, August 8 at Sechlar #1 vs. Trinity Blue
 Sunday, August 15: Just For Fun/Fellowship Playoff



Shana Hodel, Director of Children's Music

We welcome Shana Hodel as our new Director of Children's Music. She is a member of First UCC and a teacher at Northfield's Montessori School.

Shana brings us a wealth of experience in leading children and in teaching and playing music. She has been involved with the church's musical life for a good decade, and she looks forward to working with youth of all ages.

Her official duties begin on September 1. Please welcome and congratulate Shana in her new position, and if you want your children to add their music to our church, do get in touch with her.



Many of You Stepped Forward to Work at the CAC Food Shelf

The Service and Social Responsibility Committee sought volunteers to work in the month of June at the local CAC food shelf. It has been wonderful how many different people of all ages came forth to work one or two shifts. We even have a reserve list of several people who volunteered after the work slots were filled.

Many, many thanks to the following folks who helped feed families in need in the Northfield area: Lynne Severson, Frank Sheehy, Sarah Entenmann, Charlotte Smith, Hannah Morris, Anika Hodel, Bob Entenmann, Garda Kahn, Jane McWilliams, Molly Woehrlin, Mary Kay Longley, Mary Dunnewold, Jane Scott, Jan Mitchell, Ivy Johnson, Henry Jokela, Sullie Ojala, Brabdon Miller, Stacy Nguyen, Peggy Sheehy, Phil Parsons, Elizabeth Hutchins, Jean Haslett, Kathy Clark, Mary Wood, Jami Reister, Carol Dean, Jan Shoger, Adrie Mohrig, Ross Shoger, Trish Ferrett, Mike Will, and David Beimers.



Service and Social Responsibility Committee

Allocations

At our June meeting, the committee reviewed the requests we had received and made the following contributions:

\$200 to Women for Women International, based in Central Islip, NY, whose mission is to

provide women survivors of war, civil strife and other conflicts with the tools and resources to move from crisis to self-sufficiency.

\$400 to the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, an ecumenical organization which mobilizes communities to influence public policy in Minnesota.

\$100 to Bread for the World, a collective Christian voice, which urges our decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad.

\$300 to American Friends of the Asian Rural Institute. ARI is an international training center in Japan where participants from developing countries are invited to study sustainable, organic agriculture techniques, leadership and community development.

\$200 to What If? Foundation, which supports feeding and educational programs for impoverished children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The funds for these contributions come a portion of the congregation's pledges to Our Church's Wider Mission. The committee has created a system for members of our church community to help us make choices. There are forms posted on the committee bulletin board which can be completed and left in the SSR box in the office.

Mark Your Calendar

On Sunday, August 15, the Adult Education Committee is planning a worship service at Valley Grove church that will include devotional time, music, and a chance to experience the out of doors in new and meaningful ways. This interactive, intergenerational worship will be followed by a picnic.

During a Sunday Forum in April, we learned how important it is for all of us to spend time outside and to model this appreciation of nature for our children.

Join us on August 15 as we immerse ourselves in God's creation. You may even choose to go on a Scavenger Hunt for God!

Check the church website, August *Chronicle* and your weekly bulletins for more specific information.

Adult Education Committee

Faith Formation through Christian Education



Sharing, Caring,
Learning and Serving



Children

Childcare

- infants through age 2, 9:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
- infants through grade 6, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

School Year Sunday School

Resumes September 19
Ages 3-Grade 6 after children's time in worship; return for worship closing

First Sunday of the Month

Resumes, October 3

- Multi-age Class, ages 3 through Grade 3, www.godlyplay.org
- Grades 4-6 participate in worship with family.

Summer Sunday School

Offering: Food Shelf (food or money)

- Ages 3-Grades 3
 - Seasons of the Spirit multi-age curriculum
 - In preschool classroom & church playground
- Grades 4-6 participating in worship
 - Worship journals & bulletins located on cart in back of sanctuary
- June 20-August 29 multi-age class
 - Leaders needed. Contact: Cher Langley Duys or David Maki-Waller



Junior High Youth

Grades 7 & 8
Sundays at 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Resumes on September 19

Senior High Youth

Grades 9-12 (check email for updates)

Senior High Youth Group

Sundays at 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Resumes, September 19

- Thanks to all who supported the recent fundraisers: hanging baskets and chili lunch!
- See Fall Mum Fundraiser Order Form on the back page of The Chronicle.
- Mission Trip Commissioning will be on July 18 during worship.
- Please pray for our 11 youth and 3 leaders while they are on their trip of service, social justice & Sabbath: July 23-August 2 serving Habitat for Humanity and LaPuente home in Alamosa, Colorado.

Every camper loves mail!

Pilgrim Point Camp, 2059 Pilgrim Point Rd., NW, Alexandria, MN 56308

- Jr. High Adventure Camp, June 27-July 2: Tate Maaki-Waller, Henry and William Beimers, Alex Battiste, Christoph Hodel
- Sr. High Camp, August, 1-6: Katie Carlson

Family Camp, July 18-23: Terry Petek, Dave Johnson, Kasey & Jack; Max Kasten

From the Interim Selection Committee

The Interim Selection Committee is tasked with finding an Interim Minister to help our congregation review current staffing, plan for short/long term financial needs, reorganize our governance and prepare the way for a long term "called" pastor. The committee received eleven applications and voted to interview three of the candidates. Interviews took place June 14 through June 23. The committee's goal is to have an Interim in place during a July/August time frame.

Jewelry and sewing supplies are needed

The Arts Committee is once again planning to sell jewelry (vintage is great) and old sewing notions (rick rack, lace, buttons, etc.) during the DJJ Days.

We will 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 the Friday

and Saturday during the Defeat of Jesses James.

The church itself will not be open for this event.



Jan Stevens
Arts Committee
Member

Dear Members and Friends,

A very special "Thank you" to all who participated in any way to the beautiful luncheon given in my honor.

Thank you to those who gave of their time: to organize and plan, to decorate, to set up, to cook, and to serve those who came.

Thank you to those who came to the party and enjoyed the day with me, and others.

Thank you to those who sent or brought cards, flowers, gifts, stories, and good wishes.

And most of all "Thank you" to all of you for a very enjoyable 20 plus years working at First UCC of Northfield.

Elaine Malecha

Thank you,

- for letting us use the UCC Kitchen and Big Room. It made our class much more effective and enjoyable.
The Art Tech School
- for your gift to the UCC Haiti Earthquake Relief fund. Thank you for sharing your resources and helping to change lives.

Susan M. Sanders,
OGHS Administrator

- so much to all our friends and members at UCC! With donations like yours we are able to implement our strategic plan in the watershed, organize our Second Annual Watershed Wide River Cleanup set for September 2010, research and speak about land use changes that might degrade water quality, encourage and promote sustainable agriculture, and meet with schools and groups to build awareness of water quality issues.

Beth Kallestad, CRWP

- for your generous contribution to the CAC of Northfield designated for general support.
Jim Blaha,
Executive Director, CAC
- Dear Ladies of First U.C.C., to all of you for providing such a lovely lunch after my sister Alice Burton's memorial service. It was wonderful for all of us, many from out of town, to be able to share informally over a meal. It greatly eased the minds of the Vermont children nieces who were in charge. It's a wonderful service you provide!

Sincerely, *Priscilla Murray*

- for your financial support that is making Pilgrim Point camp 2010 a reality. The newly formed camp committee is working hard to secure the future of PPC.
Thank you for your support.
Jock Olson for the Pilgrim Point Camp Committee

Senior High Mum Fundraiser Order Form

Large/Very large Mum Plants

Orders (with payment) are due by Sunday, August 1. Only prepaid orders will be accepted. Please arrange to pick up mums early September/Labor day Weekend. (Watch bulletin for pick-up times to be announced – all orders not picked up will either be resold or donated depending on demand for extras). Thank you for your order.

Wanted

_____ Bronze
_____ Pink
_____ Purple
_____ Red
_____ White
_____ Yellow

I am enclosing a total of \$_____.00 for _____ plants at \$10.00 each.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____