



FIRST UNITED
CHURCH of CHRIST
Northfield · Minnesota

The Chronicle

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

Church Office Summer Hours

7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Monday - Thursday

Sunday, July 6 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for
infants through age 2

10:00 a.m. Worship at
Valley Grove

Scripture:

Matthew 22:15:22,
Psalm 100

Sermon: "Caesar's Share"

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 (not 29 as previously announced). 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 (not 29 as previously announced), Johnson Trail.
- Valley Grove Church is on the right side of the road about 0.9 mile from the stop sign.

11:00 a.m. Picnic

Lunch with Dessert

Potluck. All

worshippers 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.
- A blanket or folding lawn chair if you are uncomfortable sitting directly on the grass.

Lemonade will be provided.



Sunday, July 13

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for
infants through age 2

10:00 a.m. Worship

Quest Preacher: David Bly

Quest Organist: Steve Dunlop

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour sponsored
by Sarah Forster

6:10 p.m. Church Softball game vs.
Rejoice Prophets at Sechlar #2

Sunday, July 20 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for
infants through age 2

10:00 a.m. Worship

Scripture: Genesis 28:10-19a,

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

Sermon: "Stone Pillow"

10:15 a.m. Summer Sunday School
(age 3-grade 3, grades 4 & 5
welcome as Big Buddy Helpers)

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour sponsored
by Pat Kriesel

6:10 p.m. Church Softball game vs.
St. Dominic's White at
Sechlar #1

Sunday, July 27

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for
infants through age 2

10:00 a.m. Worship

Scripture: Genesis 29:15-28,

Matthew 13:31-33

Sermon: "Surprises"

10:15 a.m. Summer Sunday School
(age 3-grade 3, grades 4 & 5
welcome as Big Buddy Helpers)

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour sponsored
by Mary Savina

5:00 p.m. Church Softball game vs.
St. Peter's at Sechlar #1

Church Office Hours

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

September 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.confirmationucc.blogspot.com
www.uccjrhigh.blogspot.com

Staff

Minister: Rev. Sandra Johnson
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cathycammack@firstucc.org

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Childcare Coordinator: Tammy
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Night Security: Mark Fischer

Officer

Moderator: Kathy Kasten



In our Prayers

- Leisa Irwin, mourning the death of her mother, Marilynne Marti Rath
- Family and friends of Michael Frame, mourning his recent death
- Family and friends of Jean Boardman, sorrowing over her death
- Family and friends of Phyllis Clifford-Albers, grieving her recent passing
- The people of China, suffering after the recent earthquake and floods
- The people of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Indiana whose homes and businesses were damaged by recent storms and flooding
- Elaine Malecha (the church office manager) mourning the death of her uncle
- The teachers and school staff who work so hard to give our children a good education
- Peg Cerney and her family, mourning the death of her husband Frank
- Our Special Olympic Athlete Tanya Nuebel, who recently won 2 ribbons in the state competition

Shawl Knitting Group

The Shawl Knitting Group that meets at First UCC on the first Thursday of each month, will not meet again till Thursday, September 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Have a great summer and keep those needles clicking. Your shawls are greatly appreciated by all who receive them!

Coffee Hour

Have you noticed that some people are now drinking out of sesquicentennial mugs during coffee hour? The New Member Committee has designated these mugs (there is a sign indicating such use on the table beside them) to be used by visitors and new members during coffee hour. Why? We think that sometimes folks go unnoticed and this is one way we can extend our UCC radical hospitality to all! So, if you notice someone using a mug please introduce yourself, engage them in conversation and introduce them to others. The mugs are returned to the kitchen just like the cups and will be ready for use again the following Sunday.

Coffee Hour hosts needed!

Please consider sponsoring our coffee hour - there are plenty of dates open. The sign-up sheet and simple instructions for how to host are in the kitchen. Thank you.



Pastoral Volunteers

The volunteers have provided remarkable care to our members, especially during the past weeks. They have made pastoral visits, provided rides, and taken food to the homes of people who have been going through difficult times. It is through their generosity that we are able to offer such loving care to our members. To them, we send a great big THANK YOU!!

If you are interested in being on our pastoral volunteer list, just call or email Cathy at 645-7532 or cathycammack@firstucc.org.



Dear Friends,

Some of you may have heard a feature on National Public Radio called “This I Believe.” Listeners write short essays about important convictions that they hold, and the best ones are read on the air.

I have been thinking that I ought to write one that begins, “I believe in funerals ...”

Funerals are an important part of the life of a congregation as well as the lives of families. When we come together in a “Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of One Who Has Died” (the official title in the UCC Book of Worship), we affirm many things about our common life and beliefs.

First, we affirm that life’s sorrows and difficulties are best met in the midst of a loving and supportive community. We gather to offer our care and concern to one another.

Second, we affirm that our religious tradition has words, music, and rituals that express both our care and concern and our theological convictions. The things that are said, sung, and enacted at a funeral (or memorial service) do not minimize the sadness of death, but they do put that death into a larger perspective.

Third, we affirm that there are important landmarks in our lives and that it is “meet and right” (to use the words of the Book of Common Prayer) for the faith community to participate in those landmarks. Things really are never the same after someone dies, and the funeral or memorial service

becomes part of the “punctuation” that marks the changes.

Finally, we affirm the commendation of the person who has died into the eternal care of God. It is, of course, always hard to let go of those we love. But a memorial service or a funeral provides a time and place for that act of commendation.

It would be misleading to say that I *enjoy* funerals. But the truth is that I find this part of my ministry to be very meaningful and rewarding. It is such an honor to be included in this important moment in the life of a family and a community.

Don’t worry; I believe in many other things, too, not just funerals. As I write this, though, I have recently presided at four funerals (two for members and two for others in the community), and I am very mindful of the power and significance of these services for all of us.

Grace and peace, *Sandy*

Pastor Sandy’s Schedule

Pastor Sandy will be on vacation July 7-16. Please call the office if you have pastoral needs during this time.

Sermons

If you would like to read (or re-read) one of Pastor Sandy’s sermons, you can look on our church website www.firstucc.org or pick up a paper copy near the door to the parking lot.

Need Someone to Talk With?

Please don’t hesitate to call Pastor Sandy or Pastoral Care Associate Cathy Cammack if you would like a chance to talk about a concern, question, family problem, or personal crisis. If they are not available when you call, you may leave a confidential voice mail for either one of them.



Keep signing the Welcome Pads

Long-time members of First UCC often wonder why they should sign the welcome pads in the pews every week. The New Member Committee would like you to know that we certainly aren’t taking attendance! But your participation in signing the pads every week will encourage others in the pew to sign as well. If newcomers notice that no one else in the pew has bothered to sign, they will be much less likely to do so.

It seems like every time we meet, the New Member Committee wonders whether we should make a change what seems like a very inefficient system. We have considered many alternatives and continue to think that this is the best way to encourage visitors to let us know who they are, and a bit about what brings them here.

So although it isn’t particularly efficient, it *is* very effective. We hope you will continue to pass and sign the pads, and to send them back along to the starting point so that newcomers will know that it is important to us.



Pastoral Ponderings

Our church has experienced the deaths of several very vital members within the past year or so. These were people who served on committees, sang in the choir, sat next to us in the pews, and, in some instances, helped influence church policy. Individually, we mourn their passing, and as a church we grieve the loss.

We have the rituals that help us through the early days. We gather to celebrate the life, and we share stories and laughter that help keep the loved one's memory alive. However, we are wounded.....individually and collectively. How, as a church, can we begin to heal?

In grief work, we learn the importance of talking about the loss. For some people, this is very difficult to do. We Midwesterners aren't exactly known for our personal sharing. We often find it easier to just "move ahead" and deny the fact that we are in pain. It can be helpful to gather with others who share your loss and spend some time just talking about the person who has died and the contributions they may have brought to your group or committee.

Another important thing to realize is that your loss is unique. Your relationship with the deceased was different from the relationships others had with him or her. It is all right to personalize your loss. Perhaps you worked on a committee with the deceased, but in addition you may have given him or her a ride to and from meetings. You may have shared

experiences with one another. This makes your grief unique.

What sometimes happens is that we "rank" our loss. We may feel we "don't have the right" to feel so badly since we didn't "really know" the person as well as others may have. Grief is grief. It cannot be measured. We don't have to qualify or justify our pain. We need only to accept it.

And, the most important thing we must remember is to be gentle with ourselves. We have been wounded in body, mind, and spirit. It will take time for us to heal. And, we may just have to accept that there are certain losses from which we will never fully heal. The old adage, "Time heals all wounds," is not necessarily true. It sometimes only teaches us to live with the pain.

So, please share your stories, let the tears roll, laugh, and remember.

Peace always, *Cathy*



MCRC to sponsor "Cottage" gatherings

We are offering a series of informal "cottage" gatherings to chat informally with Pastor Sandy as a way of becoming better acquainted with her and other members of the congregation.

- Gathering in conjunction with a "Fighting Apostles" ball game - evening later in July hosted by Sue Mieska and Julie Maxson.
- Saturday, August 2, 9:30 a.m. at home of Sarah and Matt Forster, especially welcoming young children, child care provided, 408 2nd St. East.

We are asking you to "sign up" for a gathering by e-mailing or calling the church office or one of the hosts. Dates will also be listed on the church website. **Do join us for a casual summer visit!**

The members of MCRC are
Bill Bruibler, Ann Vohs, Kathy Kasten (as moderator),
Mary Hakes, Sue Mieska, Mike Garlitz, Ed Langerak
and *Molly Woehrlin*, chair

Women's Spirituality Group

Because of the 4th of July holiday, the *Women's Spirituality group* will not meet on Saturday, July 5. Instead, we will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday evening, July 7. Please join us for the movie *Simon Birch* followed by discussion. Iced tea and popcorn will be provided. This movie is the story of one young boy and his quest to find God's purpose for his life. It will tug at your heartstrings and send you away with a smile.

Please RSVP to Cathy (645-7532) by the morning of July 7 if you plan to attend.

Women's Retreat

Save the date for the Minnesota Conference UCC Fall Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Point Camp on September 19-21, 2008! The theme is Creative Peace: An Inspiring Approach to Nonviolence. The retreat will focus on Walter Wink's book "Jesus and Nonviolence: A Third Way." Brochures available on bulletin board or contact Liz Hankins at 664-3935, liz36hankins@yahoo.com.



Prayer Chain

Call Cathy at church if you have a prayer need for the prayer chain or if you want to join the prayer chain. This requires no meetings, no contributions---just your agreement to hold the needs of others in your personal prayer intentions.



Spring 2008 Tornadoes and Floods in

Central U.S.

Twenty one counties in Indiana, 43 counties in Iowa, and 30 counties in Wisconsin have already been declared disaster areas. In Michigan, hundreds of thousands remain without power because of the storms which snapped power poles across the state. Minnesota, Illinois, and Missouri are suffering under the impact of tornadoes and floods.

Upfront money – what will it buy? \$6.98 will purchase a Tyvek coverall with hood and boots, chemical splash goggle, nitrile glove, and N95 respirator. This equipment will help to protect home owners and volunteers during clean up. A minimum of 2000 pieces are being provided to Indiana only.

When long term recovery begins, funds will be needed to assist communities to rebuild. Large numbers of families who do not have insurance and will need assistance with repairing/rebuilding their homes.

The United Church of Christ is seeking \$200,000 for the current response and long term recovery efforts. (You may donate through First UCC, Northfield. Please indicate "Floods" on the memo line of your check.)



Northfield Church Softball

League Benefit All-Star Game

The 19th Annual Northfield Church Softball League Benefit All-Star Game will be held on Sunday, July 13, 2008 at Babcock Park. All proceeds will go to the Northfield Community Action Center. Players from all 16 teams in the Northfield Church Softball League will be participating. Cash and food donations will be appreciated. Several local banks and businesses are offering matching funds for this event. Our goal this year is to raise \$6,000 for the CAC.

The summer months are the time of year when the CAC has its greatest need, especially for the Food Shelf. Please come and watch a great game and make a donation at the game. If you are unable to attend the game but you still want to make a donation, please make your check payable to Northfield CAC and sent it to John Frederick, 9230 Edgebrook Drive, Northfield MN 55057.

Thanks for your support. You can make a difference in the lives of your Northfield neighbors. Any questions, call John Frederick at 645-8314.

Thank you

- Greetings and thanks to all of the wonderful people at First UCC who wrote blessings for my Ordination



Quilt, penned messages of love in my memory book, and sent lovely cards to help celebrate my ordination on April 19, 2008. My ordination was a glorious Kansas day and I felt immensely blessed by everyone who was there and also by all those whose

spirits I knew were there! During the ordination when I was blessed with the laying on of hands, I knew the spirit of First UCC was in that ordaining body and tears of joy streamed down my face. It was, indeed, a very holy moment! The congregation of First UCC had a very big role in helping me get to that holy moment. Gracias! Gracias! Gracias!

The Ordination Quilt will hang in my study at home so you will always be near as I meditate, pray and, let the Holy flow through me in the words and presence that I bring to people as a chaplain and preacher. Once again, Gracias, Dear Friends.

Blessings and Peace,
Rev. Kathy Baughman
Chaplain, Mayo Clinic Hospital
Arizona

- On behalf of American Friends of Asian Rural Institute, Inc., for your continued, generous support.

Stephen L. Gerdes, Treasurer

- so much for being such a welcoming congregation for me this year. I was worried about not having a church to call my own when I got to college, but after attending the UCC for a year I feel like I belong. Thank you also for the cookies during Finals Week – whoever baked them is quite a good chef! And it was nice to feel remembered when everything was so stressful. So thanks!

Laurel Schmidt
Carleton Student

Christian Education



Children

10:15 a.m. Sundays
on Sunday School level.

Missed the May parents

meeting? Parent resource packets and green volunteer cards available on church bulletin board or on parent resource table across from the nursery.

Sunday, June 15-August 24: Summer Sunday School – God Calls Us Around the World:

The Wonderful World of Mission. 10:15 a.m. for age three through grade 3; grades 4 and 5 are welcome as “Big Buddy Helpers.”

- Children will learn about mission sites and our friends around the world by exploring customs and cultures of countries through music, food, crafts, language, and more. Hear Bible stories and read missionary letters that will help them understand the special call to mission and focus on missions in the Philippines, Guatemala, Malawi, Pakistan, and Peru.
- The Summer Sunday School offering will help to buy a stove (\$210.) for a Guatemalan family, in partnership with UCC Global Ministries. www.globalministries.org/lac/projects/thrifty-stoves-project.htm.
- Adults can support this time of faith formation by volunteering to lead one Sunday; bringing in items from the countries we will be exploring; sharing stories of their time as a missionary or on a mission trip. For more information please

contact Cher Duys or Ruth Anne Rasmusson

- **Sunday, September 14:** School Year Sunday School resumes. Check our Seasons of the Spirit curriculum we will use in the fall at www.spiritseasons.com/. Interested in being on a fall teach team? Contact Cher Duys or a children’s committee member: Sarah Carlsen, Ruth Anne Rasmusson, Tracy Fossum, or Kathy Clark.

Nursery available for infants–two years of age.

Pockets magazines and board books in name tag kiosk.

The children’s worship bags are now hanging up outside the south-east Sanctuary door.

The children’s books are now in the children’s library on the Sunday School level along with videos, cd’s and more.



Junior High Youth

Please check your emails for more information.

Grades 7 & 8



Check out Pilgrim Point summer camps!

www.pilgrimpoint.org

(brochures are on the church bulletin board).

Youth Group to resume at 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on September 14.

Senior High Youth

for grades 9-12. Senior High Youth group will resume in September. please check email for updates)



Mission trip youth

Please continue to pray for us as we prepare for

living out our mission as we serve folks in Alamosa, Colorado.

- **Thanks to all who supported us through our fundraisers.** The Fall Mum Fundraiser Order Form is on the back page of this Chronicle. If you were unable to participate in the fundraisers and would like to share your financial support, donations are gratefully accepted.
- **Mission Trip commissioning will be on July 13, during worship.**
- **The Mission Trip youth will lead worship on August 31.**

Confirmation Class – Next class starts fall of 2009.

PCY’s resume meetings in September.



Adults/ Intergenerational

Check out www.pilgrimpoint.com for camp details i.e.

Falls Women’s retreat.

Camping on beautiful Lake Ida in Alexandria. Reservations needed prior to arrival.

Adult Leaders needed for Junior High Team. Contact Cher for more information.



Senior High Mum Fundraiser Order Form

Large/Very Large Mum Plants



Orders (with payment) are due by Sunday, August 3. 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 be 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 \$8.50 each.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____