



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
(through August)
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Monday - Thursday

Sunday, August 3 18th Sunday after Pentecost

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

10:00 a.m. Worship &
Communion



Scripture:

Genesis 32:22-31,
Matthew 14:13-21

Sermon "Scoundrels and Saints"

Musicians: Jennifer Rowe and
Rebecca Dyer

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: Nancy
Carriel & Daisy

5:00 p.m. First UCC Softball game
vs. Rejoice Disciples at Sechlar #1

Sunday, August 10 19th Sunday after Pentecost

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for
infants through age 2: Greg and
Janet Muth

10:00 a.m. Worship

Scripture:

Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b,
Matthew 14:22-33

Sermon: "Into the Storm"
Musician: Rebecca Dyer
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: Sarah
Carlsen and Brad Hoff
5:00 p.m. First UCC Softball game
vs. Bethel at Sechlar #2

Sunday, August 17 20th Sunday after Pentecost

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for
infants through age 2: Don and
Elise Eslinger, Allie Clark
10:00 a.m. Worship, Strengthen the
Church Offering

Scripture:

Psalms 133,
Matthew 15:21-28

Musician: Andrea Een

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: Ed and
Doris Srsen

2:00 p.m. 19th Annual ALL STAR
GAME for Northfield CAC

Sunday, August 24 21st Sunday after Pentecost

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for
infants through age 2: Kristin
Kasten, Hannah Morris

10:00 a.m. Worship

Scripture: Exodus 1:8-2:10,
Psalm 124

Sermon: "Courageous Women"

Musician: Bill Child and the Wind
Quintet
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: Hankins
and Woehrlins

Sunday, August 31 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

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

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour: Doug and
Teresa Morris

Vintage Jewelry and sewing notions

The Arts Committee is planning to
sell vintage jewelry and sewing
notions during the DJJ Days on
Saturday, September 6. We are
tying in with the same group that
does the Vintage/Antique Show
with the Historical Society during
the Northfield 4th of July
celebration. This is a way to use
our parking lot during the
celebration to raise money for the
church and to recycle our goods.
Individual dealers will be paying a
small fee to rent "X" square feet of
our parking lot. The church itself
will not be open for this event.

This will be a fun event to staff on
that day and to sort, package, and
display the vintage costume and

real jewelry donated to us. We will be selling what we have left from last September's sale and will need more. Broken and damaged items will be accepted but pristine items are especially welcome. Old buttons, rick rack, and lace are desired as well.

There is a box in the Church Office to collect items and a sign up sheet for volunteers to help sort and package later in August.

Please call or email me with any questions or suggestions.

Jan Stevens, Arts Committee Member, cell: 507-244-0500.



In our Prayers

Pastor Sandy's mother, Maryn Johnson, recovering from a broken hip

Kelly Jordan and Hans Peterson, whose wedding on July 19 was presided over by Pastor Sandy at Skinner Chapel

Those who struggle with chronic illnesses and health conditions
The Minnesota Conference UCC, and Conference Minister the Rev. Karen Smith Sellers,

experiencing many transitions in professional and support staff

Our youth and adults on the Trip to Alamosa, Colorado to work with Habitat for Humanity and La Puente shelter

Nell Holden, leading a group of teenagers on a wilderness canoe trip on Lake Huron

Members of the Armed Forces returning (especially from Iraq and Afghanistan) with injuries to body, mind, and spirit

Vic Ebert, recovering from heart surgery

Stan Stevens, recovering from a fall

Peg Cerny, recovering from a foot injury

Dear friends,

I hope you are coming to one of our Cottage Meetings! (Dates and times are in this *Chronicle* or on our website under "Cottage Meetings.")



So often when I am at the church I am busy with an activity or a meeting, and I don't get a chance to really sit and visit with the members and friends of the church. Of course, that means that you don't get a chance to sit and visit with me, either.

These Cottage Meetings are a chance to do that – to get better acquainted and to talk about some of the questions you may have about your faith, the life of the church, or even about the minister!

Many of you have become part of the congregation in the years since I arrived in 1997, and haven't heard much about my spiritual journey, or about my personal life, family, interests, and hobbies. In turn, I usually hear your stories only when you are joining the church, or when some crisis or need arises.

If we want to have a strong faith community, one in which our fears and doubts can be shared along with our joys and concerns, we need to be acquainted with one another. And just as importantly – we need to have FUN together!

These gatherings are informal, relaxed, and not intended to solve any problem, set any agenda, or raise any money.

Just one request – please call the office (or send an email to church@firstucc.org) so our hosts know how many people to expect.

See you there! *Sandy*

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
sandyjohnson@firstucc.org

Coordinator of Pastoral Care:
Cathy Cammack
cathycammack@firstucc.org

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

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle
chrisbrunelle@firstucc.org

Director of Children's Music: Janet
Lewis Muth, janetmuth@firstucc.org

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

Organist: Theo Wee
theowee@firstucc.org

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church@firstucc.org

Bookkeeper: Andrea Pegram
andreapegram@firstucc.org

Custodian: Ron Olson

Childcare Coordinator: Tammy
Rischmiller
tammyrischmiller@firstucc.org

Night Security: Mark Fischer

Officer

Moderator: Kathy Kasten



Shawl Knitting Group

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

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



Welcoming New Members

If you have been thinking about becoming a member of our congregation, you are invited to an Inquirers' Meeting on Sunday, October 12 after worship. Those who decide to join will meet again on Sunday evening, November 2, at 7:00 at the church. We'll welcome the new members on Sunday, November 9, during our morning service.

Watch for further information in next month's Chronicle.



No Confirmation Class this year

Mid-sized churches like ours sometimes have a year when there are few children in a particular grade. This coming year, we have a very small crop of 9th graders – the youth who are usually part of our Confirmation Program.

Our program is based on the relationships that are nurtured among the young people and with the adult leaders, and it includes several service projects and field

trips. Because of these factors, it really requires a group of 8-10 youth for the program to work.

Since our 9th grade group is smaller than that, we'll be postponing their Confirmation experience until the fall of 2009 (when they are starting 10th grade), when they will join that year's 9th graders. We're looking forward to a great 2009-10 Confirmation Program!



Looking Ahead to September

For the first time in several years we will be having worship in our own sanctuary on Defeat of Jesse James Days Weekend (Sunday, September 7).

Our friends at Carleton College, where we have often worshipped on DJJD weekend, will not be in session yet. More importantly, many guests, visitors, and new residents are looking for a church home that day, and we want to be ready to welcome them.

So we will see you here, in our building, on Sunday, September 7.



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.

Strengthen the Church

Strengthen the Church is the UCC's annual offering to help build our denominational future. Channeled to your church's Conference, Local Church Ministries and now The Stillspeaking Ministry, these gifts fund new congregations and renew existing ones; they underwrite programs for youth and nurture new leaders. Through Stillspeaking they grow the UCC's presence as a community of extravagant welcome.

This year's offering will be on August 17, in honor of the founding of our own First UCC church.



Pastoral Ponderings

It's true. It has to be. God really does laugh when we make plans. I learned this lesson last week.

Things had been quite hectic in my life, and I decided that I needed to take a couple of days off just to regain a little balance in my life. So, because I like to have a plan, I made this list of all I planned to do with those days. My list wasn't a "to do" list; instead, it was a "to be" list.

As I started the week, I was determined to be "mindful" and "intentional". I was going to take time for some writing, meditation, prayer, and plain over-all self care. That didn't exactly happen. (This is where God started to giggle.) The week started out with some of our grown children deciding that, "Since Mom is off, let's have a cookout." Then, one of the grandchildren thought it would also be a great time for a sleepover. (Are you seeing where this is going?) And, since it was a sleepover, we could do a movie, too.

My week ended up being filled with family, friends, and fun. I did slip a few house projects in it, but something more important started happening. I was slowly realizing that I didn't just let the dogs out anymore. I walked around the yard or sat on the step with them. When I went to the movie with Peyton, I didn't look at my watch at all. I had no reason to rush off as soon as the final credits rolled. I went out to my "Ya Ya Herb Bed" and took the time to actually stop and smell the herbs. One afternoon I read a book (with no

redeeming quality whatsoever), and another afternoon I took a nap. I wasn't even sick!

Did I "sit down and meditate"? Did I kneel and pray? This is when I began to hear this deep chuckle. I realized that, although the week wasn't going the way I had planned it to go, I was learning to be mindful. I was living intentionally. I just didn't have to name it or label it in the moment. God had a different plan for me. It was much more subtle, but the lessons were still there.

*Be still and know that I am God.....*I heard that. I also heard, "Oh, Cathy, you and your plans.....you crack me up."

Peace always, *Cathy*



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.

Strengthen the Church Offering

An annual UCC offering to help build our denominational future. Channeled to your church's Conference, Local Church Ministries and now The Stillspeaking Ministry, these gifts fund dew congregations and renew existing ones; they underwrite programs for youth and nurture new leaders. Through Stillspeaking they grow the UCC's presence as a community of extravagant welcome.

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Be a good steward

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Would you like to sign-up for the e-mail version of the UCC Chronicle?

Each e-mail copy requested saves trees, toner, and transportation-related expenses such as gas and pollution.

You may sign-up on the signup sheet in the church kitchen, leave a note in the office for Elaine, or email her at church@firstucc.org.



Women's Spirituality Group

We will meet Monday evening, August 18, at 6:30 in room #115. Please join us for the movie, *Shirley Valentine*, followed by a discussion. Popcorn and iced tea will be provided. (and maybe even a little chocolate!)

All women of First UCC and their friends are invited to this lively gathering of women.

If you have any questions, please call Cathy at 645-7532.



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.

Recognizing Israel: Recognizing Palestine

Hear Father David Smith tell of his experiences in four months of working with a Peace Team in the West Bank and Gaza, on Sunday, August 24, 7:00 p.m. at St. Dominic's Church in Northfield.

Fr. Smith, honored professor emeritus at St. Thomas University and founder of their Peace and Justice Studies, has studied and taught in Central and South America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East on poverty, development, and how various religions deal with issues of justice and peace.

You can see Fr. David on YouTube, playing his violin for Palestinians waiting at the Bethlehem Checkpoint at 4:00 a.m. to get to work in Jerusalem. Go to www.youtube.com search for "Bethlehem Checkpoint 4:00 a.m."



- Your gift provided help and hope for tens of thousands of children, adults, and families in need.
Catholic Charities
- For believing in the mission of La Puente. We have a new Health Access Coordinator. She joined us in May and has been busy since. She helps people navigate the health care system and receive services they need.
LaPuente Home Staff & Volunteers
- To all of the generous members of the UCC who devoted their time and kindness towards our family during Geoff's deployment. Thank You! All the meals during the year were so appreciated. Every Monday night, without fail, we received fabulous meals from caring hands. Bless you all! A special thanks to Bobbie Peterson for coordinating everything. God bless you for your help.

Sincerely,
The Tisdale Family

Our Website

Are you reading www.firstucc.org?

It's the place to find an up-to-date church calendar, Sandy's sermons, and details about church activities and events.

If you have suggestions or questions about the website, check with Pastor Sandy or with our bookkeeper, Andrea Pegram, who is the staff person working on it.

Christian Education



Children

Nursery available for infants—two years of age.

10:15 a.m. Summer Sunday School: God Calls Us Around the World: The Wonderful World of Mission - for age three through grade 3; grades 4 and 5 are welcome as "Big Buddy Helpers."

The Summer Sunday School offering will buy a stove (\$210.) for a Guatemalan family, in partnership with UCC Global Ministries.

10:15 a.m. School Year Sunday School for ages 3 through grade 6, will resume on Sunday, September 14 (after Children's Time during worship). Check our Seasons of the Spirit curriculum we will use in the fall at www.spiritseasons.com/.



Pool Party & Potluck on August 20

(for families with children grade 6 and under)
5:00-8:00 p.m.

5:00-6:00 p.m. Supper provided
Cost: City Pool Admission
Sponsored by Northfield Children's Ministry Education.

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

Junior High Youth

Group (for grades 7 & 8) to resume at 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on September 14. Please check your emails for more information.

Conference Youth Event @ Pilgrim Point Camp. October 17-19. Contact Cher by email for more details.

Senior High Youth for grades 9-12 to meet again on September 21st.

Senior High Youth will usually meet on the first and third Sunday of each month from 6:00-7:30 p.m. - please check email for updates.

Thanks to all who supported us through our fundraisers. The Fall Mum Fundraiser Order Form is on the back page of this Chronicle.



The Mission Trip youth will lead worship on August 31.

Confirmation Class - Next class starts fall of 2009.



Adults/ Intergenerational

Leader needed in the Kindergarten/Grade 1 classroom. Please contact Cher Duys if you are interested.

Sunday School level clean up 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. on August 20 - Help make our Sunday School Level more welcoming for children. Painting, cleaning, sorting and fun! Bring Bag lunch (Beverages and Dessert provided.)

September 28: CROP Walk



Children's Music News - Calling all singers! We will begin

our choir year on Wednesday, September 10th. Rehearsal times will remain the same this year:
3:30 to 4:15 p.m. Angel Choir (age 4 through Kindergarten)
4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Rainbow Choir (grades 1-5)

One change to the choir program this year is that we will not be having a snack. Parents, please plan to feed hungry kids before they come to choir, and start preparing your kids for this change now so we can have a smooth start. Thank you!

Youth Bells (grades 6-8) will take place on the first Sunday of the month following worship. We will meet October 5, November 2, and December 7. We will only have 3 rehearsals, so don't miss any!

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: _____