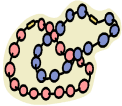




FIRST UNITED
CHURCH of CHRIST
Northfield · Minnesota

The Chronicle

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



Vintage Jewelry and sewing notions sale

The Arts Committee is planning to sell vintage jewelry and sewing notions in the parking lot of First UCC on Saturday, September 6, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Items we have include:

- 19th & 20th century jewelry “real” and faux
- A piece of Hardanger lace
- Great 50s & 60’s costume jewelry
- Fantastic lace and woven trims – ideal for “fibre arts”
- Old buttons
- Artwork
- Vintage sewing tools
- Broken jewelry pieces and beads

What is “vintage”? Vintage is anything over 3 years old! I am cleaning out my own old jewelry boxes, including broken pieces of jewelry and beads for crafters to purchase.

Please call or email me with any questions or suggestions.
Jan Stevens, Arts Committee
Member, cell: 507-244-0500.

Sunday, September 7 17th Sunday after Pentecost

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.

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for infants through age 2
10:00 a.m. Worship & Communion



Scripture:
Exodus 3:1-15,
Romans 12:9-21
Sermon “I Am Who I Am”
Musicians: Spirit Voices
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Sunday, September 14 18th Sunday after Pentecost Homecoming Sunday

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for infants through age 2
10:00 a.m. Homecoming Worship
Scripture: Romans 14:1-12,
Matthew 18:21-35
Sermon: “Seventy-Seven Times”
10:15 a.m. Sunday School (age 3-grade 6)
11:00 a.m. Homecoming Potluck
Please bring 1 or 2 generous dishes to pass (main dish, salad, fruit, bread, or desserts). Table

settings and beverages will be provided.
11:15 a.m. Junior High Youth Group (grades 7 & 8)

Sunday, September 21 19th Sunday after Pentecost

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for infants through age 2
10:00 a.m. Worship
Scripture: Exodus 16:2-15,
Matthew 20:1-16
Sermon: God’s Unfairness
10:15 a.m. Sunday School (age 3-grade 6)
10:15 a.m. Sunday School Parents Meeting
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Junior High Youth Group (grades 7 & 8)
6:00-7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group (grades 9-12)

Sunday, September 28 20th Sunday after Pentecost Recovery Sunday

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for infants through age 2
10:00 a.m. Worship
Scripture: Philippians 2:1-13,
Matthew 21:23-32
Sermon: “What Part Don’t You Understand?”
10:15 a.m. Sunday School (age 3-grade 6)
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Junior High Youth Group (grades 7 & 8)

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

Office Manager: Elaine Malecha
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



CROP Walk

What would it be like if you were the one of every six people in the world living on less than \$1 per day? How would you feed your family? Where would you live? How could you educate your children? Won't you join with your friends and neighbors as walkers in the Northfield CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, September 28 at 2:30 p.m. The walk begins and ends at St. John's Lutheran Church. If you are unable to walk, you can sponsor a walker. You can even walk on the web. To sign up, visit www.cropwalkonline.org.



In our Prayers

Sarah Entenmann, continuing to seek relief for health problems
Marty Rath and Donna Buell, new pastors at Northfield United Methodist Church
All those who labor for peace, in ways both great and small
Vic Ebert, continuing his recovery from heart surgery
Carl Henry and his family, mourning the death of his aunt
Grace Day
The safety of everyone traveling and beginning school this fall

Dear friends,

Autumn is always marked by the beginning of a new school year, and we look forward to another year of Sunday School, Junior and Senior High youth programs, and adult forums. It's also the time we welcome our new seminary intern.

This year we have one more program beginning – an exciting new enterprise called “**Leadership 21.**” Last winter we received a small grant from the Fund for

Theological Education (FTE) that lets us offer a group for college students who are considering vocations in ordained ministry. These are the people who will be the leaders of our churches in the twenty-first century (hence the name of the group).

Seven students (6 from Carleton and 1 from St. Olaf) will be meeting with me (and I hope with some of you!) starting this fall, gathering information and experience that will help them discern whether they do, indeed, have a call to ordained ministry. Each student will also plan and carry out two projects in the church during the year – working with members, committees, and staff to enrich our life together.

How do they have time for all that? Well, that's where the FTE grant comes in. We are able to pay students for 3-4 hours a week at the same rate they would earn on campus for work-study jobs. That will mean that they really can devote some time to this important process of discernment.

You'll be meeting the students and hearing more about their ideas for projects soon – watch for them!

Grace and Peace, *Sandy*

Possible Pastoral Care Need

A member of the congregation is facing possible back surgery this fall and there may be a need for someone to come in and provide simple meals and stay with this person for a while. This could involve several volunteers who would be willing to “take shifts”. If you are interested, please contact Cathy (645-7532) at church.

Minister's Schedule

Pastor Sandy will be away on vacation September 17-23. If you have a pastoral need or concern, please contact the church office for help.

Joseph Lee Heywood Award

Scott Richardson is the winner of this year's Joseph Lee Heywood Award, part of the celebration of Defeat of Jesse James Days.

Pastor Sandy will be offering the prayer at the service honoring Heywood at the Northfield cemetery on Wednesday, September 3, at noon, and offering the blessing at the banquet honoring Scott Wednesday evening.

Seminary Intern

On Homecoming Sunday we will be welcoming our seminary intern for the 2008-09 school year, Valerie Veo.

Val is a graduate of St. Olaf, where she was one of the founders of the Progressive Christian Fellowship (a group Pastor Sandy often attends). She is a member of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), and is a student at United Seminary in New Brighton.

Val will be involved in many aspects of the life of the congregation this year, including working with the Junior High group, visiting our home-bound members, and preaching and leading worship.



Women's Spirituality Group

The next gathering of the Women's Spirituality group will be on Monday, September 22, at 6:30 p.m. We will have a potluck supper followed by a planning session. Please bring a dish to share and your ideas for topics and activities for the year. Please call Cathy (645-7532) if you have any questions.



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 are looking forward to a great 2009-10 Confirmation Program!



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, November 2, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. We'll welcome the new members on Sunday, November 9, during our morning service.

Watch for further information.

Update on Pledged Donations for 2008

The members and friends of First UCC Northfield are a caring and sharing group of God's people and this is certainly reflected in the pledged donations to our church programs. We have exceeded our six month pledge goal and at this point we are still on track to meet the 2008 pledge goal for the operations budget. Our congregation has a 150 year history of meeting its financial obligations and this year is no exception. Thank you for your generosity.

As we begin to plan the operations, capital, and outreach budgets and prepare the stewardship campaign for next year, we are confident that you will continue to contribute your time, talents, and financial resources for the missions of our church.

Douglas Kriesel
Member, Board of Trustees and
Stewardship Committee



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.



Shawl Knitting Group

The Shawl Knitting Group that meets at First UCC on the first Thursday of each month, will meet again at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 4.



Pastoral Ponderings

With school starting again, there has been much talk lately about lowering the legal drinking age to either 18 or 19. There are strong arguments on both sides. Don't worry; I am not going to try to solve that issue in this. I did grow up in Wisconsin when 18 was the legal drinking age for beer and malt liquors. The ironic part of it all was that you could go to a beer bar and drink, but you could not purchase carry-out liquor. That may have been an effort to keep drinking only in the hands of those who were 18 or older. The down side of that was that the "beer bars only" were often out in "the boonies". So, teenagers drove on windy, country roads after having imbibed far too much in the "legal beer bar".

The reason I'm bringing this up is that Faith Partners is a vital part of the ministry here at First UCC. This program offers support and referral sources for individuals and families experiencing difficulty with substance abuse. It does not take the place of AA and other support groups, nor does it offer chemical dependency assessment or treatment. Instead, it offers a place for people to come for acceptance and belonging--something those in the midst of this pain don't often feel.

Substance abuse affects most of us in some way or another. Many of us have family members who have struggled with alcohol and other drug dependency/abuse. We may have friends or coworkers who are or have been affected by it. And, we may struggle with it within ourselves. Shame is often present

which makes it difficult to reach out to others for support.

Drug dependency/abuse is not a personality flaw. Just "saying no" is not enough. Drug addicts and alcoholics are not "bad people" who spend the day on the couch or in the gutter. They are often high functioning, professional, "good people" who feel they have a dark secret to hide. That shame often is what keeps them from seeking help.

In a town such as Northfield, where there are two highly-respected colleges, and where people seem to bond together for the good of the community, it is hard for those whose families carry the pain of addiction. How often do we hear someone stand up during "Joys and Concerns" and ask for prayers because "I let my sobriety slip last night"?

If you or a loved one struggles with this, please know that you are loved and accepted in this community. If you need help, please contact a Faith Partners member, Reverend Sandy, or me. We do not have answers for you, but we can point you in the direction of help.

Isn't it amazing that Jesus was able to give us the example of unconditional love during his lifetime? He befriended beggars, tax collectors, thieves, and friends who disappointed him. If we are to be his hands and feet here on earth, how can we do any less?

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.

Do you contract or know of a reliable snow removal service?

We are interested in contracting for snow removal this winter. This would include removing snow from the parking lot and sidewalks. For more details contact the church office at 645-7532 or church@firstucc.org.



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.



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.

Grief expert to address loss

Paul Johnson, an expert on grief and loss, will be the featured speaker at Northfield Hospice's bereavement informational meeting Monday, September 8, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Northfield Hospital in the Conference Center.

A nationally-known educator and trainer, Johnson is a bereavement services coordinator at Health Partners Hospice of the Lakes in Minneapolis and an extended adjunct professor in the College of Adult and Professional Studies at Bethel College. His talk is

titled: "Meeting the Challenges of Losses in Our Lives."

The talk is designed for those who have lost through death a significant person in their lives and are seeking to understand the changes and difficulties that follow. It will serve as a prelude to a six-week bereavement support group offered by Northfield Hospice. The group, facilitated by Amanda Pettis, MSW, a hospice social worker, will begin on Monday, September 15, 6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. in the hospital's Meeting Room A and then will meet every Monday through October 20.

The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, call 507-649-1527.



- for your recent contribution to Cannon River Watershed Partnership. We are stronger going into 2008 because your contribution helps build our programs.

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.

Summer Sunday School: God Calls Us Around the World: The Wonderful World of Mission

Thanks to all who led the multi-age class this summer! We celebrate that their 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). Seasons of the Spirit curriculum: www.spiritseasons.com/.

Sunday School Leaders:

Preschool Class

Beth Kallestad, Tracy O'Neil,
Substitutes: Tracy Fossum, Mike & Tina Schlottman

Kindergarten & Grade 1:

Grades 2 & 3:

Sarah Forster, Ruth Anne Rasmusson

Grades 4-6:

Caroline Fure-Slocum, Matt Forster, Mary Caroline Henry

Leaders gathering
September 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday School level 'work morning' Thanks to all who participated in making the mezzanine level more welcoming!

Pockets magazines and board books in name tag kiosk.

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

The children's books, cd's and videos are in the children's library on the Sunday School level.

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.

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

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 for our Mum fundraisers.

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

Confirmation Class – Next class starts fall of 2009.



Adults/ Intergenerational

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

Sunday School Helpers: Please support our children by signing up on the helper rotation sheet outside the Sunday School rooms.

CROP Hunger Walk September 28:



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!

Additional "Cottage" meetings scheduled

After three lively and successful "cottage" meetings with Pastor Sandy and an intergenerational mix of church members and newcomers, more have been scheduled for the fall.

7:00 p.m. on Monday September 29th
at home of Penny and Bill Cupp (626 Zanmiller Drive).

7:00 p.m. on Tuesday October 21st
at home of Jan Mitchell (506 East 7th Street).

Mark your calendars and do join us, by calling the hosts or the church office (645-7532).

