



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



Wednesday, January 14
7:00 p.m. Combined Council
and Trustee Meeting

Sunday, January 18
Budget Hearing
11:15 a.m.
(following worship)

Sunday, January 25
Annual Meeting
The Parish Life and Fellowship
Committee will provide a
sandwich luncheon following
worship for all who will be
staying for the annual meeting.

The annual meeting will take
place immediately after the
luncheon.

Childcare provided.



Nine to Dine

The Nine to Dine sign up for next year will be during the month of January. Please sign up in the church kitchen or after church any Sunday during January.

Dear First UCC Friends



Here in the arctic depths of a new Minnesota winter, it's a little incongruous to bring up the prospect of bringing cooler air into our church building and further reducing its temperature. But, in fact, that's one of the priorities the Trustees are currently tackling. You see, in recent years the church has accumulated a sizeable collection of gifts specifically designated for the possibility of air-conditioning our two largest spaces, the Sanctuary and the Assembly Room. Lately we have been meeting with potential contractors and selected the people to undertake the work.

We don't yet know whether we'll be enacting the whole plan at once or if we'll have to do it in phases. But it is safe to announce, gratefully, that we believe that by the time the '09 AC season rolls around — hard though it may be right now to believe that such a "thermal revolution" can ever take place — we will finally have an effective cooling system up and running at least in our worship space. We will keep you posted as the process unfolds.

Marty Pelikan
for the First UCC Board of
Trustees

Scripture Readings

January 4
Second Sunday after Christmas
A quiet Service

Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12
Sermon: Lectio Divina

January 11
First Sunday after Epiphany
Genesis 1:1-5
Mark 1:4-11
Sermon: Defining Moments

January 18
Second Sunday after Epiphany
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
John 1:43-51
Sermon: Can Anything Good ...?

January 25
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Mark 1:14-20
Sermon: Follow Me

February 1
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Transfiguration
Sermon: Powerful Words

January Childcare Volunteers

Sunday, January 4: Sarah Carlsen
Sunday, January 11: Bart Sneary
Sunday, January 18: Shari Sneary,
Hannah Morris
Sunday, January 25: Bev Fratzke

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.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
theowe@firstucc.org

Office Manager: Elaine Malecha
church@firstucc.org

Bookkeeper: Andrea Pegram
andreapegam@firstucc.org

Custodian: Ron Olson

Childcare Coordinator: Tammy
Rischmiller
tammyrischmiller@firstucc.org

Night Security: Mark Fischer

Officer

Moderator: Kathy Kasten



In our Prayers

Jan Shoger, healing from a new injury

All those who are touched with the challenges of mental illness

All of those who are involved with transgender issues, especially those who are transitioning

Cathy Cammack, celebrating the birth of new grandchildren Daisy and Bobby

Sarah Entenmann, relieved of some of her recent medical problems

Janet Muth and her family, glad to have a green card for a child her sister is adopting from overseas

Joan Reitz, recovering from hip surgery

Peg Tilson, concerned about her husband Ben's recent stroke and hospitalization

All those who are afflicted and affected by alcoholism and drug addiction

All those who are experiencing financial difficulties

Pastor Sandy's mother, Maryn Johnson, recently hospitalized

Bernice Schendel, continuing her recovery from back surgery

Mary Hakes, recovering from surgery and preparing for further treatment for breast cancer

The elders in our community, especially those without families nearby

The Rev. Barbara Martin, to be installed as minister at First Congregational UCC of Cannon Falls in January

St. Olaf Chapel

Pastor Sandy will be preaching at the St. Olaf Chapel service on Thursday, January 22, as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service is at 10:10 a.m. in Boe Chapel.



Help Wanted

The Church Council is looking for someone to coordinate the production of our next photo directory.

This project requires good organizational skills, good people skills, and the commitment to making this important resource available to all the members of the church.

The person who leads the project may choose to continue our practice of using a commercial photographer (with all of its pluses and minuses) or may opt to experiment with software that would let us produce our own directory (which means taking responsibility for the photography ourselves).

Co-coordinating the photo directory can be a great experience – an opportunity to connect with all the members of the church, and to create something that is useful for everyone! If this sounds like something you would like to do – or if you and a friend would like to take it on together – please be in touch with Pastor Sandy.



Friends,

Have you ever noticed how often our Worship Welcomer talks about the caring s/he has experienced as part of this congregation?

So I am always surprised to realize that many in our congregation don't have a very clear idea of what pastoral care is and how it is organized and offered in our church.

Pastoral care is the expression of Christian love, particularly as it is offered to one another in times of need. It often takes the form of prayer and spiritual companionship from a church member, a staff member, or the minister. Sometimes it is expressed in simple gestures like meals, rides, or other occasional chores.

The majority of pastoral care in this congregation is done by members – often spontaneously (that is, without any staff input or planning). When you stop to ask a friend about their health, when you offer a word of advice (or commiseration!) to a parent, when you pray for those who have been named in church – you are an agent of pastoral care.

In some situations, church staff members (particularly Cathy Cammack, our Pastoral Care Association, and Cher Duys, our Director of Educational and Youth Ministries) and I become involved. This often happens when there are illnesses, hospitalizations, family crises, or other difficult events. Cathy, Cher, and I keep in close contact about these matters.

Our Pastoral Care Team (formerly known as the Congregational Care Council) works with Cathy to recruit, train, and deploy volunteers as their talents and time are needed. If you have offered to provide meals or rides, you may get a call from one of the members of this Team from time to time.

It is also important to realize the limitations on what we can do for one another as pastoral care. The church is not, after all, a social service agency, and our staff does not include social workers or experts on the many dilemmas that challenges bring (financial, legal, and emotional). Moreover, even our practical assistance has some limits – we cannot sustain long-term commitments for cooking, transportation, or other needs.

What we can do for each other – what we do best – is to provide spiritual companionship for one another in difficult times. We help each other find meaning in the challenges we face and the losses we experience, and we share our convictions about God's will towards healing and reconciliation in all things.

I am always sad when I learn that a member has weathered a storm without the care and support of the church. If you find yourself in need, please be in touch with me or another member of the staff – you can call the church office, email one of us, or even contact us through the congregation's website, www.firstucc.org. Whatever you are going through, you don't have to go through it by yourself.

Grace and peace, *Sandy*

Christian Education

Children sharing and caring:



- \$200 collected for Heifer Project from game/puzzle sale sponsored by Grades 4-6
- Grades 2 & 3 donated to food shelf
- Kindergarten and grade 1 created Christmas ornaments for assembly room tree
- Wednesday Evening Advent gathering adults and children made cards for shut-ins

Youth sharing and caring:

- Junior High's bought Christmas gifts for a family of five children
- Made the Christmas Eve luminaries
- Senior High's served at Food Shelf

Children

*And there shall be a Light
in the Darkness...
Parents, please join us
at the Forster home
as we gather to share a meal,
share our stories and relax
during this time of Epiphany!*

January 24
5:00-8:00 p.m.

Parents at Matt and Sarah Forster's Home for a Potluck. Please bring a dish to share.

Children (Infant through Grade 6) at First UCC (nursery/big room). Childcare, games, activities and supper will be provided for children.



Shawl Knitting Group

The Shawl Knitting Group that usually meets at First UCC on the first Thursday of each month will not meet until Thursday, January 8 at 10:00 a.m. Bring your shawls to knit, your questions, and yourselves to learn.

Opiate addiction specialist to discuss signs, symptoms, prevention

Charles Reznikoff, MD, an Addiction Medicine specialist at Northfield Hospital, will talk about the nature of opiate addictions, addiction therapies and community prevention strategies Monday, January 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Conference Center at Northfield Hospital.

Dr. Reznikoff began seeing patients with opiate addictions in Northfield earlier this fall. He spends two Mondays a month at the hospital's Outpatient Clinic. His talk will focus on the signs and symptoms of opiate addictions and the patterns of behavior opiate addictions create. He will also talk about the services available through his clinic and measures individuals can take to deny access to opiates.

This program sponsored by Northfield Hospital in cooperation with the Northfield Area Parents Communication Network and the Northfield Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use.

"The presence of opiate addiction in Northfield has been well documented," said Julie Bubser,

coordinator for the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative. "Dr. Reznikoff will offer concrete information that will help us all understand this issue better."

The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Nancy Moe at 507-646-1035 or Julie Bubser at 507-664-3554.



- **Bob and I want to thank our friends and our dear Congregation** for their love and concern since my hip surgery on December 4th. Bob and I are so appreciative and hold this Congregation close to our hearts. May hope and love abide for the New Year! Joan and Bob Reitz
- **for your support of the game and puzzle sale!** With the \$172.35 raised, Heifer International will be able to provide a Flock of Hope (chickens, ducks, and/or geese), an additional flock of Chicks, a planting of Tree Seedlings (for forage, firewood, and soil stabilization), and a hive of honeybees (for crop pollination as well as honey and wax) to needy farm families.
The 4th, 5th, and 6th grade Sunday School Class
- **for your special gift.** With your gift, you are standing with us and the hundreds of Indian guest workers who were shamefully abused and swindled by the company that hired them. Your support will help these courageous workers as

they fight for their dignity and their rights in court.
Southern Poverty Law Center

- **for your contribution to the Community Action Center of Northfield** for the purposes of both Christmas and food.
The Community Action Center of Northfield
- **for your donation to Project SIGHT.** As you know, community support is vital to our organization in order to achieve our main objective of decreasing teen pregnancy.
Candace Nordine, Executive Director
- **for your continued gifts to us.** May God sustain us all in these very trying times! Blessings.
Back Bay Mission, Center for Community Ministry



First UCC to host Dan Chouinard, Prudence Johnson

First United Church of Christ "Congregational" is bringing highly-acclaimed Twin Cities musician Dan Chouinard and "Prairie Home Companion" singer Prudence Johnson to Northfield Saturday, January 31, for a musical tribute to three prolific composers who shaped the musical sensibilities of generations of Americans.

Their performance, "Here to Stay: Gershwin, Carmichael and the Great American Songbook," will celebrate the work of George and Ira Gershwin and Hoagy Carmichael. These giants of American popular song provided the soundtrack for the American experience during the first half of the 20th century. The music will begin at 7:30 p.m. at First UCC, 300 Division.

Dan Chouinard, an accomplished pianist and accordionist, is known for his unique blend of music and storytelling. He creates special programs for Minnesota Public Radio. Two recent shows, "Café Europa" (2005) and "Mambo Italiano" (2006), have been aired on Twin Cities public television.

Prudence Johnson, a frequent guest on Garrison Keillor's "Prairie Home Companion," launched her career with the vocal jazz group Rio Nido and has recorded three solo albums.

Chouinard and Johnson, who perform frequently together, will sprinkle the evening with authentic "old world" sounds plucked from the cafes of France and the streets of Italy. Chouinard promises a "relaxed, conversation-laced evening of

timeless tunes delivered with love and verve."

Tickets are \$15 and available at First UCC, 300 Union St., Northfield from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, or at Present Perfect, 419 Division St., Northfield.