



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

Special Days and Activities During Lent



Sunday, March 1: Lent 1

10:00 a.m. Worship
Psalm 25:1-10; Mark 1:9-15
Theme: Paths into the Wilderness
Communion (In the pews)



March 4: Lenten Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
6:30 p.m. Lenten Service (Adults)
and Musical Practice (children)

Saturday, March 7

8:45 - 10:00 a.m. Movement to
Meditation (Assembly Room)

Sunday, March 8: Lent 2

10:00 a.m. Worship
Psalm 22:23-31; Mark 8:31-36
Theme: Promises in the Wilderness
Music: Spirit Voices and Children's
Choirs
Baptism: Bella Rain Christopherson



March 11: Lenten Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
6:30 p.m. Lenten Service (Adults)
and Musical Practice (children)

Saturday, March 14

8:45 - 10:00 a.m. Movement to
Meditation (Assembly Room)

Sunday, March 15: Lent 3

10:00 a.m. Worship
Psalm 19; Exodus 20:1-17
Theme: Guidance in the Wilderness
Preaching: Val Veo

Music: Marty Hodel and Emily Way



March 18: Lenten Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
6:30 p.m. Lenten Service (Adults)
and Musical Practice (children)

Saturday, March 21

8:45 - 10:00 a.m. Movement to
Meditation (Assembly Room)

Sunday, March 22: Lent 4

10:00 a.m. Worship
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
Theme: Healing in the Wilderness



March 25: Lenten Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper
6:30 p.m. Lenten Service (Adults)
and Musical Practice (children)

Saturday, March 28

8:45 - 10:00 a.m. Movement to
Meditation (Assembly Room)

Sunday, March 29: Lent 5

10:00 a.m. Worship
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119:9-16
Theme: Covenant in the Wilderness
Baptism: Elsa Charlotte Peterson



Holy Week

Plan now to attend church
during Holy Week, and
invite family and friends to join us
for these beautiful and moving
services.

April 5: Passion/Palm Sunday

Come celebrate! Marty Hodel's jazz
combo and the Spirit Voices will
lead worship with rhythm, volume,

and pizzazz. Your spirit will be stirred.

10:00 a.m. Worship
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Mark 11:1-11
Theme: From the
Wilderness into Jerusalem
Communion (Intinction)



April 9:

Maundy Thursday

5:45 p.m. Dinner and
Table Communion Service
Childcare for infants and toddlers



April 10: Good Friday

8:00 p.m. Service

Hallelujah!

April 12: Easter Sunday

8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Easter Worship
Services



In our Prayers

Daisy and Mike Christopherson,
celebrating the birth of their
daughter, Bella Rain
Kara and Clay Peterson, celebrating
the birth of their daughter, Elsa
Charlotte
Mary Hakes and her family, as she
continues treatment for breast
cancer

Our new church officers and members of boards and committees

Tina Schlottman and Emily Borene and their families, mourning the death of their long time child care provider, Jolene

John Beckman, mourning the death of his service dog Bruiser

John Severson and family mourning the death of John's mother

The youth and adults from our congregation and the Unitarian Universal fellowship participating in the OWL program (Our Whole Lives sexuality curriculum)

All those who have lost their employment, and those who are at risk for doing so

Russ Grism, recently hospitalized

Children who face challenges in school, and the parents, teachers, and aids who help them

Undocumented immigrants to our country and their families, unsure of their futures

All of those mourning the death of little Cal Daniel – his parents Steve and Emily, his brother Wyatt, and his grandparents Phi and Fred LaMarche

All those for whom bitter winter weather is a hardship and not just an inconvenience

Bernice Schendel, glad to be back in worship after a longer-than-hoped-for recovery from surgery

Our seminary intern, Val Veo, and all who discerning their call to ministry and preparing to serve



Coffee Hour

March 1: Mary Savina, Suzanne Riesman

March 8: Corey and Jessica Stadler

March 15: Sarah and Matt Forster

March 22: Amy Sieve and Jerry Johnson

March 29: Greg and Janet Muth



Bell Ringers

March 1: Bill Poehlmann

March 8: Leota Goodney

March 15: Bill Poehlmann

March 22: Scott Richardson

March 29: Scott Richardson

April 5: Nancy Johnson-Maloney

Worship at Northfield Hospital

Local churches take turns providing worship services each Friday morning at the chapel in Northfield Hospital's Long Term Care Unit.

Pastor Sandy and the deacons will be leading those services on March 6 and 13 and again in June. Pastor Sandy will also be leading a Communion Service on Wednesday March 4. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Pastor Sandy at the church office.



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

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Websites

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Officer

Moderator: Kathy Kasten



Dear Friends

The United Church of Christ and its predecessor churches (Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church of North America) have always valued an “educated clergy.” Do you know what an active part our congregation takes in the education and training of future leaders for the church?

First, we have solid programs in Christian Education for the children and youth. We encourage them not only to learn the stories and values of our faith, but also to ask questions, challenge tradition, and dig deeper for the answers to important issues.

Second, we have a robust Confirmation program – one that is grounded in the goal of helping youth become lifelong disciples. We understand that to mean that they will be lifelong learners, lifelong community members, and lifelong servants.

Third, we regularly sponsor a seminary intern from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. This year Valerie Veo is serving with us, getting an opportunity to develop her leadership, worship, and pastoral care skills. Thanks to a generous gift from a member, we are able to support our interns without using money from our general operating budget.

This year, we began a small program called “*Leadership 21*” for college students who are considering a call to ordained ministry. We are providing them with information and experiences that will help them discern whether they are called to leadership of the 21st century church. This program has been financially supported by the Fund for Theological Education (FTE).

And finally, as your pastor, I chair the Minnesota Conference’s Committee on Ministry – the body that provides nurture and oversight of the authorized ministers in our state. In that capacity I have the pleasure of mentoring those who are entering ministry, welcoming those who are new to Minnesota, and developing policies to improve the practice of ministry in all of our UCC churches.

I hope you can see how important all of you are in each of these areas! All of these programs depend upon the generous gifts of time and talents from our members. And those gifts are wonderful investments in the future of the church!

Grace and peace, *Sandy*

PS: Our FTE Grant for the *Leadership-21* program runs out this year, and I am hoping to find a new source of support so that we can continue. If you have any ideas of individuals or institutions that might be interested in contributing to this leadership development initiative, please let me know.

Shawl Knitting Group

The Shawl Knitting Group will meet on Thursday, March 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room or the Parlor.

Vacation Schedule



Pastor Sandy will be on vacation from March 12 to 17. Our seminary intern, Val Veo, will preach on Sunday the 15th, and the Deacons will provide leadership for the service.

March is Minnesota FoodShare Month

Each year the Northfield Community Action Center joins other groups in the state in a campaign to call attention to and so support food assistance. More people living in Northfield are turning to the CAC for assistance than ever before. In 2008, for example, the CAC served an average of 385 households per month, up 20% from 2007. At the same time, thanks to the Northfield community’s generosity, the agency was NOT forced to cut the number of pounds distributed per household, and they hope they never have to.

Both monetary and food donations are necessary to permit the CAC to meet the growing needs. During worship in the coming weeks, members of our congregation will call attention to the local needs and to ways we can help. FoodShare donations need to be turned in or reported to the CAC on Monday, April 6. This provides us plenty of time to give this important effort our thoughtful consideration and generous support. Monetary contributions may be given during the offering, with checks make out to the CAC, with FoodShare on the memo line. Food donations may be left in the boxes near the south entrance of the church.



Pastoral Ponderings

The newest additions to our family arrived on December 2. Our son and his wife welcomed twins, a boy and a girl, who were safely and lovingly delivered at Northfield Memorial Hospital.

The twins are not our first grandchildren. So far we have a 9-year old who plays hockey, a 7-year old who loves animals, a 6-year old who is tackling Kindergarten, a two-year old who is navigating potty training, a one-year old who is giving up her bottle, and now the twins who are just being

“cute”. They eat, sleep, smile, and wait for their next feeding. They don’t have to “behave” to be loved. They just get to “be”.

The more time I spend with the babies, the more they teach me about the unconditional love God has for all of us. It is so easy for us to get lost in all the tasks and activities of life and forget that when it comes to “earning” God’s love, that’s not necessary. While I don’t think we would get far in life just trying to be “cute”, we do, sometimes, need the reminder that God created us out of love. And that love cannot be earned or lost unless we choose not to accept it.

If two and a half month old babies can be such examples of giving and receiving love, how may we strive to model that same love and acceptance toward others?

And, just maybe, all we needed to learn, we didn’t learn in Kindergarten. We learned it in the reflection of God in the faces of others who smiled lovingly at us.

Peace always, *Cathy*

Women’s Spirituality Group

The *Women’s Spirituality Group* will meet on Monday, March 23, at 7:00 p.m. We will continue the discussion of Joan Chittister’s book, *The Story of Ruth: Twelve Moments in Every Woman’s Life*

Join us for discussion and friendship. We invite all women of the church, and friends are welcome.

Pastoral Care Suggestions

A nice way to remember someone who is going through a difficult time is through a note, visit, or phone call. This is easy if you keep a pencil handy and take notes during *Joys and*

Concerns on Sundays. An easy way to do this is to jot notes on your bulletin.

And just a reminder: please call the church if you or another member is going through a difficult time and are in need of pastoral care. We can not help if we aren’t aware of a problem.



§ “I get by with a little help from my friends ...” For several months the melody has stayed with me, except it keeps coming out “I get by with a lot of help from my friends.” I thank God in my prayers for all of you and your prayers, cards, letters, phone calls, visits, food and for accompanying me on errands and taking me to appointments. My heart overflows with gratitude for all the ways you have helped me; I could not have managed without you. First UCC, Northfield, has a history of “When someone is in need, we are there.” It takes on special meaning for those of us on the receiving end. Thank you and may God continue to bless this church family.

Bernice Schendel

§ your generosity helps to sustain The Coalition as we work to transform church and society toward the full inclusion of lgbt/same-gender loving people and our families.

§ for giving so generously through the Heifer gift catalog. It’s been called the most important gift catalog in the world. And there’s a good reason! Every gift you give helps create permanent solutions to poverty and hunger for children and families all around the world.

§ on behalf of Wayside House for your recent donation. Wayside House empowers women to

recover sobriety, identity, family, home and community by providing treatment, housing and supportive services.

§ for your recent gift for the ministry of Pilgrim Point Camp. Together we will work to keep Pilgrim Point a place where we can embrace God’s creation, renew our spirits, and experience God’s community.

§ for your generous contributions to the CAC of Northfield and designated for Christmas Sharing purposes and General Contributions.



Christian Education



Children Children sharing, caring and learning:

- Preschoolers offerings for Heifer Project Bees
- Grades 2 & 3 offerings for the Humane Society

Junior High Youth Youth sharing, caring and learning:

- Shared their singing voices with the congregation during worship
- Continue the UCC sexuality curriculum, Our Whole Lives

Senior High Youth



Habitat for Humanity and LaPuente Home

2009 Senior High Mission Trip- Alamosa, CO

www.habitatcolorado.org/SanLuisValley/
www.lapuente.net

Friday, July 24, to Monday, August 3

Ever wanted to: Build a passive solar adobe home with Habitat for Humanity? Make creative meals for 60 folks at a homeless shelter and listen to their life stories? Stay in a

yurt? Walk an outdoor labyrinth? Hike in the mountains?

Join us to do all that and more as we seek to live out Jesus teaching to serve folks challenged with poverty, hunger and homelessness in our 8th year in Alamosa, Colorado. They are looking forward to seeing us!

***Registration deadline extended to March 15.**

§ **Payment plans and partial scholarships** are available by contacting cher@firstucc.org ahead of time.

§ **Registration forms** are available on the bulletin board by the church office or by emailing cherduys@firstucc.org.

Youth Group

New Time... Check your email for other Sunday happenings in March

Dates: Every Sunday after worship, beginning March 1

Time: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

March 1 – Potluck

§ Bring a dish to pass. Beverages provided.

§ **Social Justice Action:** We will have www.ucctakeaction.org 'action alert' postcards to fill out and send to our legislators

§ **Table talk topics**

Sunday Forum

The theme for the adult forum during the Lenten season will be ***Simplifying our Lives.***

March 1

David Paxson, President, World Population Balance. "Humane Population Reduction - The Overriding Issue of Our Generation"

March 8

Olivia Frey sharing information from the British *Transition Handbook*. "If I were to wake up in the UK of twenty years hence, which had successfully undergone a transition of the kind we are talking about, life would be very different from the present...Let's take a look at how 2030 might look from the perspective of someone in 2030 looking back."

March 15

We are hoping to have a speaker on food and sustainability issues

March 22

"Simplicity in Music" with Marty and Shana Hodel

March 29

Julie Maxson will lead us in a discussion of the book *Money and Faith*. "Money, poverty and wealth gained more of Jesus' attention than most any other subject, yet we rarely talk about the stuff."



Fifty Years of Changing Lives!

It's time to start thinking about your summer plans and coming to Pilgrim Point Camp for fun, friends, fellowship and faith formation. We are certain that you will find a program that will enrich your life and your journey of faith. After all, Pilgrim Point Camp exists to provide places and opportunities to celebrate God's creation, to nurture Christian community, and to foster personal renewal and growth. For fifty years, Pilgrim Point Camp has been the Outdoor Ministries site for the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thousands upon thousands of people have come here over and over again to experience God's presence in their lives and in this special place. Come and be a part of the Pilgrim Point experience in this 50th anniversary year!

Children, Youth and Young Adult Camp Opportunities (Completed grade)

Tenderfoot Camp (K-1).....	June 7-10
Kids Camp (2nd-3rd)	June 14-19
Rainbows and Beyond (9th-12th)	July 12-17
Creative Craft Camp (5th-8th)	July 5-10
Junior Camp (4th-5th)	June 21-26
Junior High Adventurers (6th-8th)	July 5-10
Junior High Camp (6th-8th)	June 28-July 3
MAD Camp (5th-8th)	August 2-7
Conference Youth Event (CYE)	October 9-11
Conference Youth Event (CYE)	October 16-18
Senior High Camp (9th-12th)	July 26-31
Confirmation Camp	October 2-3
Young Adults Camp!(18 and older)	August 7-9

The majority of pictures in this year's 50th anniversary brochure are from the late 60s, the 70s, and the early 80s.

Intergenerational Camp Opportunities

Memorial Day Camp & Fishing	May 22-25
Birding Camp	June 12-14
Fishing Camp	June 12-14
50th Anniversary Celebration	July 19th
Work Week I	July 5-9
Work Week II.....	August 9-13
Clergy Camp	August 16-21
July Family Camp	July 19-24
August Family Camp	August 2-7

Adult Camp Opportunities

Adult Craft Camp	June 26-28
Youth Leaders Retreat	August 21-23
Quilt Camp I	June 26-28
Quilt Camp II	September 25-27
Women's Retreat	September 18-20
Young Adults Camp! (18 and older).....	August 7-9

I'm told brochures are soon coming to First United Church of Christ or access it now at <http://www.pilgrimpoint.org/pdf%20Files/pdfs/2009%20Brochure%20web%20quality.pdf>

Flower Power

This year the flower power fund will be used to purchase flowers or plants on certain Sundays and occasions when needed. If you would like to designate a Sunday or specify that you are giving in honor or memory of someone, please fill out this form. Thank you for your generosity.

Please make your check payable to First UCC and return with this form to:
First UCC, 300 Union Street, Northfield, Minnesota 55057 or place them in the Sunday offering plate.

I have enclosed \$_____ to help purchase plants/greens (at \$15.00 each) to decorate the church.

\$_____ to be purchased when needed



\$_____ to be used at Easter



In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Given by (*your name as it should be printed in the bulletin*)

Your phone _____ Your E-mail _____

2009 Hanging Spring Flower Baskets Senior High Mission Trip Fundraiser

We will be taking orders (with prepayment only) on Sunday, March 8, and Sunday, March 15.
You may also fill out this form and place it in the Sunday offering plate (by Sunday, March 15) with your payment. Please make your check payable to First UCC, Marked SH Baskets.

Each basket will have 3-5 plants.

We have also been assured of first plantings this year so we will be receiving mature plants.

____ Number of 12 inch diameter baskets for sun @ \$25.00 each.

____ Number of 12 inch diameter baskets for shade @ \$25.00 each.

Total amount attached \$_____.00

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Ordered baskets will be available for you to pick up after worship on Sunday, May 3, and Sunday, May 10 (Mother's Day). Sorry – but flower baskets not picked up by/or on Sunday, May 10 will be resold or donated.

Burglary at First UCC During Concert

On Saturday, January 31, during the concert, the church was burglarized.

The burglar jimmied opened the locked hallway door to the Minister's office, two locked file cabinets in the Office Manager's office, the locked door to the Bookkeeper's office and two more locked file cabinets in her office

They took two bank bags. One held the ticket money from 100 tickets which were sold by Present Perfect, the other the money from tickets sold at the door. We believe the loss was in the neighborhood of \$2000.

The police were called and an insurance report has been filed.

The volunteers handling the money were careful, prudent and thorough; they bear no responsibility for this loss.

We expect that the burglar discarded the checks that were taken. Nonetheless, if you wrote a check at Present Perfect or at the concert, please watch your bank account carefully, and let us know if it is cashed. If you bought tickets from the church office before the day of the sale, your check was most likely cashed by the church. If you are not sure when you wrote a check, please call the church office and we can let you know if we deposited it or not.

If you would like to replace a check that was stolen, please write Concert Replacement on the memo line.

My earnest hope is that our distress about the robbery will not overshadow our delight and appreciation for Saturday evening. Dan Chouinard and Prudence Johnson performed wonderfully, and the reception that followed was crowded, friendly, and fun. Thanks to all who made it happen!

If you have any further questions, please contact the church office at 645-7532.

What does church have to do with environmentalism?

Join people from faith-based institutions throughout Northfield (including at the 2 colleges) on March 5, 7:00 p.m. in the St. Olaf College Library, room 525, to discuss this and what different churches have been doing and might do in sharing ideas and resources in the future. The facilitator for the discussion will be Woodrow Wilson Visiting fellow Robert K. Musil. He has been active in his own church and on a national level in tackling environmental issues. We encourage people to obtain a very short excerpt available of his new book *Hope for a Heated Planet: How Americans Are Fighting Global Warming and Building a Better Future* (Rutgers University Press, 2009). The excerpt and a few words from Dr. Musil will help initiate the discussion. Your church may have the excerpt or obtain a copy & more information about this event from Matt Rohn (rohn@stolaf.edu or 786-3479).

Have you met our seminary intern, Val Veo?

Val will be with us through May as part of her M. Div. program at United Seminary. She's working with our Junior High students, coordinating the new evening knitting group, learning about pastoral care, and assisting in worship leadership each week. She's eager to meet as many members as possible – so look for her during coffee hour or make a date for coffee on a Wednesday, when she is in Northfield.

Bluegrass Returns to First UCC on March 29

We are honored to bring back Valerie Smith and Liberty Pike featuring Becky Buller for a concert in the sanctuary on Sunday March 29 at

3:00 p.m. They are a nationally known bluegrass band based in Nashville, and Becky is an old friend of ours from St. James, Minnesota. String Fever (our local bluegrass band) will open for them. We will charge \$10 at the door. Give us a call at 645-8338 if you have questions or want to help. Thanks, *Holly and Mark Fischer*

Come and Play with the Children!

The children in our nursery during worship on Sunday need more adult volunteers to care for them. You can sign up for a single Sunday, or one Sunday a month. Contact our Childcare Coordinator, Tammy (tammyrischmiller@firstucc.org) to sign up.

Inquirer's Class

An Inquirer's Class for those who wish to know more about our church and/or for those wishing to join will be held in the Parlor on Sunday, March 29, after worship.

For those wishing to join, new member information forms will be due in the office by Sunday, April 5.

Those planning to join will meet with their sponsors at 7:00 p.m. on April 19th.

New Members will be received during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on April 26.

Upcoming Baptisms

We look forward to two baptisms this month: On March 8, Bella Rain Christopherson, daughter of Mike and Daisy Christopherson; and on March 29, Elsa Charlotte Peterson, daughter of Kara and Clay Peterson.

If you or someone in your family wishes to be baptized, please contact Pastor Sandy to begin the process. You can also find information about baptisms on the church website, www.firstucc.org.