



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

Holy Week



Please plan to join us for the special services at 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.

Theme: From the Wilderness into Jerusalem
Ringing of the Steeple Bell:
Nancy Johnson-Maloney
10:00 a.m. Worship &
Communion by Intinction
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Mark 11:1-11
Music: Spirit Voices
Coffee Hour: Doug and Teresa Morris

April 9: Maundy Thursday
5:45 p.m. Annual Maundy Thursday Potluck in the Assembly Room, service around the tables led by members of the Deacons. The Parish Life and Fellowship (PLF) Committee requests you bring your own tableware and a generous (as in large serving 10-12) dish to pass. The PLF Committee will provide milk and juice.

Childcare for infants and toddlers.

April 10: Good Friday
8:00 p.m. Solemn service of readings at in the Sanctuary.
The Darkest Wilderness
Mark 14:1-15:47

Sunday, April 19: Easter 2
Theme: Children's Musical
10:00 a.m. Worship
Lectionaries: Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133

Sunday, April 26: Easter 3
10:00 a.m. Worship
Led by Val Veo
Luke 24:36b-48, Psalm 4
Promise for Everyone
Apostles French Toast Breakfast

One Great Hour of Sharing - Easter Sunday

Each year our congregation participates in this special mission offering of the UCC. OGHS supports programs internationally for building sustainable communities, welcoming refugees and reconstructing lives following disasters. This year we will take up this offering at both worship services on Easter, April 12.

OGHS helps partners to provide the displaced families in Darfur with water, sanitation, health and nutrition programs, as well as agricultural and school support. Our donations help displaced communities regain a sense of normalcy and plan, prepare, and pray for a better tomorrow.

The Service and Social Responsibility Committee invites everyone to contribute to this important effort.

Hallelujah!

April 12: Easter Sunday One Great Hour of Sharing

We will celebrate the joy of Easter at two services.

Ringing of the Steeple Bell:
Nancy Johnson-Maloney

Theme: What Now?

8:30 a.m. Easter Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday morning Coffee Hour (held immediately following the early 8:30 a.m. Easter Worship Service). Please come to join early worshippers and the choir for a social time before the 10:00 Easter Worship Service.

10:00 a.m. Easter Worship Service
Lectionaries: Isaiah 26:6-9
Mark 16:1-8





In our Prayers

Julia Savina, recovering after a fall
Adrie Mohrig, recovering from
eye surgery

Mary Hakes, continuing
treatment for breast cancer

Craig Holden, Dorothea
Hrossowyc and their family,
grieving the death of Craig's
mother, Evelyn Holden

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

Joe and Sarah (Schuurman)
Clymer, who celebrated their
wedding in our sanctuary on
February 28

Andrew and Betty Een, who
recently celebrated their 65th
wedding anniversary

Mark Fischer and his family,
continuing their concern for
his father's recovery from a
stroke

John Severson, mourning the
death of his mother

All those looking for work
Penny Cupp, happy to be home
again after a long
rehabilitation following her
injury

Peg Tilson and her family,
mourning the death of her
husband Ben

Daisy and Mike Christopherson
and their families, celebrating
the baptism of their daughter
Bella Rain

All those who use the Northfield
Food Shelf, and the volunteers
and donors who make it
possible

The Second and Third grade
students who participated in
worship on March 22, and
their teachers, Ruth Ann
Rasmusson and Sarah Forster

The children who were riding the
school bus during a recent
accident

All those who care for the elders
in our families and community



Shawl Knitting Group

The Shawl Knitting Group will
meet on Thursday, April 2, at
10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.



Inquirer's Class

An Inquirer's Class for those who
wish to know more about our
church and/or for those wishing
to join was 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.

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

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Officer

Moderator: Ed Lufkin



Dear Friends

I am always pleased when we get an email at church from someone who has read an item on our church website.

Last month I was deeply touched to receive a note from Liz, a woman in Erie, Pennsylvania, thanking me for a sermon I had preached (and posted on the website) last June. The text was the story of Abraham being asked to sacrifice his son Isaac. The title of my sermon was “My Least Favorite Story”.

Liz had just heard a sermon about this text in her own parish that had deeply disappointed and disturbed her. She was looking for a voice that found this Biblical text as upsetting as she did, and that offered some word of grace from it. After 90 minutes searching on the internet, she found my sermon.

I knew that many people in our local community explore our website to learn who we are – several of our newer members learned about us that way. What I hadn’t really realized was the potential of our website to extend our ministry far beyond the streets of Northfield.

I hope you will take a few minutes to look at www.firstucc.org. You’ll find the sermon every week, the Chronicle every month, plus news updates of other events in the church. The Deacons have some helpful documents online for ushers, greeters, and welcomers, and you can download or read our brochures

about weddings, baptisms, and funerals.

And I want to urge you once again to also spend some time at www.ucc.org – our church’s national website. It is absolutely loaded with resources that can be a boon to our congregation, and with news about ways to be involved in the benevolent and justice work of the church.

See you online ...
Grace and peace, *Sandy*

Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for a way to contribute to the life of our congregation? Here are some ways ...

Picture Directory Tsar: Do you enjoy meeting people? Organizing schedules? Having a beautiful and useful product when you are done? We are looking for someone to coordinate the production of a new picture directory for our congregation. Contact Pastor Sandy or Moderator Ed Lufkin if this sounds like fun!

Meal Coordinator: Do you like to help families through difficult times? Do you enjoy inviting other people to participate? We are looking for someone to occasionally coordinate meal donations for church members recovering from surgery or facing other challenges. Contact Pastor Sandy or Pastoral Care Associate Cathy Cammack to volunteer.

Choir Information Clerk: Do you have a few minutes each month to update a spreadsheet of the music the choir sings? Contact Music Director Chris Brunelle for more details.

Volunteer Opportunities

Maven: Do you love putting an artistic touch on bulletin boards? Do you get a lift from helping people use their gifts in the church? We are looking for someone to update our Volunteer Opportunities Board every week or two. Contact Pastor Sandy or seminary intern Val Veo to learn more about this fun job.

Keeping Up to Date

Do you ever wonder what all those boards and committees in the church are doing? Take a moment to look at the bulletin board near the “dish-return” window in the Assembly Room.

Every Board and Committee is invited to put up brief notes about the work they are doing and their hopes for the future. Catch a glimpse of all the ministry that goes on in our congregation ...

Women’s Spirituality Group



The *Women’s Spirituality Group* will meet on Monday,

April 27, at 7:00 p.m.

We will discuss Chapters 8 and 9 of *The Story of Ruth: Twelve Moments in Every Woman’s Life*, by Joan Chittister.

All women of the church and their friends are invited. Even if you haven’t read the book, please join us for lively discussion and friendship.

Pastoral Ponderings

An important part of my job is to coordinate occasional meals for members who are going through a difficult time. We have a great list of volunteers who help with this ministry.

When there is a new volunteer, he/she often asks for ideas of types of meals we provide. That's easy to figure out. This is Minnesota--soups and hot dishes! Sometimes, however, this is complicated by gluten-free or lactose-intolerant issues. Kid-friendly meals are appreciated in households with children, and the needs of those with diabetes are also considerations.

Yes, there is a reason for this rambling. I want to put together a small cookbook which will contain basic recipes for soothing and nourishing meals. (*A Potful of Pastoral Care*??) The book will be given to our pastoral volunteers who provide the meals. My brainstorm is for this book to have some simple hints on pastoral care, and maybe just a brief blessing or quote here and there.

In order to do this, I am asking for donations of ideas and recipes. Many of you have been doing this ministry far longer than I. Your suggestions will be appreciated. You can email or call me, or you can drop your recipe in my mailbox in the church office. If you have some ideas you'd like to discuss, just let me know, and I'll put on the tea kettle.

When we take a meal to someone, we are taking far more than just food. We are bringing the prayers and support of the entire church community; we are feeding souls

as well as bodies. Jesus knew the importance of feeding those to whom he ministered. He broke bread with them, he made sure the wine supply did not run dry, and he stretched a basket of loaves and fishes to feed a crowd. That "man" understood pastoral care!

Peace always, *Cathy*

Fighting Apostles are really cookin'

The Fighting Apostles will field an all-star lineup to provide a tasty, nutritious French Toast Breakfast Sunday, April 26, in the Assembly Room following church.

The menu includes French Toast, sausage, orange slices, coffee, juice or milk, all discounted heavily off standard ballpark pricing. Adults are \$5, kids 12 and under \$3 and, of course, many parents prefer the popular \$12 Family Pack.

The kids will have an opportunity to meet the players (after they are done cooking) and get their autographs. Proceeds from the event will cover the team's entry fee for the 2009 season.

Concert update

The insurance settlement from the theft of concert receipts on January 31 will allow us to comfortably cover our expenses and to probably wind up almost \$300 in the black.

Our insurance carrier, Constitution State Service, honored our best estimate of receipts and pegged our loss at \$2,315. Factoring in some

replacement checks and, of course, our \$1,000 deductible, our net was \$273.50. Had the theft not occurred, we estimate our net would have been around \$900.

In addition, the insurance company allowed \$1,194.37 to replace the jimmed file cabinets and to repair the doors that were damaged in the break-in.

Northfield Police say they have no suspects and no leads at this time. In all probability, the case will go unsolved and will simply become another dramatic chapter in First UCC history.

The concert committee -- First UCC Productions -- is moving ahead with plans for a third annual concert. While the monetary loss was disappointing, we remind ourselves that our primary objectives were to raise the church's profile and to have a wonderful evening of music. We believe both were achieved. And if we had any doubt, we share a note we received from Prudence Johnson after the concert:

"Thanks to you all for bringing Dan and me to the UCC. It was the kind of experience that reaffirms how much I love my job, and makes all the less pleasant aspects of being a freelance performing artist worthwhile. A beautiful piano, great soundman, thoughtful attentive hosts, exceptional Indian food, bars, and an audience so warm and connected, the word that keeps coming to mind is UNITY. We will be honored to come back if ever you should be so inclined."

Amen!

Scott Richardson
for the Concert Committee

Living the Faith: Called Out, Sent Forth

What does it mean to actually live your faith these days? What does this mean for those who dare to welcome ALL into the church, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender? These questions will serve as a catalyst for exploring the theme of the 2009 Minnesota Open and Affirming Celebration held Sunday, April 26, at Pilgrims United Church of Christ (UCC), 8801 Rice Lake road in Maple Grove. *“Living the Faith: Called Out, Sent Forth”* will be a time to learn and to worship, to share stories and to celebrate God’s welcome in the ministry of hospitality. The workshop is at 2:30 p.m., with worship beginning at 4:00 p.m.

This year’s workshop will be offered by Rev. Carolyn Pressler, Professor of Biblical Interpretation at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. The workshop is entitled *“Passion Fierce as the Grave: Embodied Love in the Older Testament.”* Two Minneapolis pastors will share a dialogue sermon at the worship service, Rev. Tony Clark of Minnehaha UCC and Rev. Jennie Ott of First Congregational Church of Minnesota UCC. They will be challenging the gathered to be bread for those hungering for acceptance by the church and the world. ONE VOICE, the praise band from Peace UCC in Rochester, will provide inspirational music. The public is welcome.

The “Open and Affirming” movement within the UCC began with a resolution passed by

the UCC General Synod in 1985 calling on all settings of the church to welcome all into the life and ministry of church, including those of different sexual orientations and gender identities. The United Church of Christ is the union of the Congregational Christian churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1957.

Northfield Ecumenical Women and the Fellowship of the Least Coin to meet

The tenth annual gathering of the N.E.W. and the Fellowship of the Least Coin will be held on Saturday, May 2, at 9:30 a.m. at the Little Prairie United Methodist Church (located south of Dundas).

The annual N.E.W. gathering continues the relationship among women in many congregations in the Northfield area to celebrate their diversity and the common bond that existed among them for over 55 years in the Church Women United.

All First U.C.C. Women are invited to come share a common worship learning experience. A continental breakfast will be served followed by a program featuring inspirational speaker Grace Lusher, affiliated for 12 years with the Stonecroft Christian Women’s Clubs. Her title is “Rags to Riches.” There will also be special music and an offering for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. The offering is sent to Church Women United to fund projects worldwide helping women and children.

Come for good food and good company!

Auxiliary announces book fair dates

The Great Northfield, Minnesota Book Raid, the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary's annual book sale, will be Tuesday, April 28 to Saturday, May 2, at the Northfield Ice Arena, South Highway 3, Northfield.

Book donations will be welcome at the arena beginning Monday, April 6. Hours of collection will be 4:00-6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

During the week of April 20 through April 24, the arena will be open to receive book donations from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. each day.

Sale hours will be 5:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28; 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 29-May 1; and 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 2.

The hospital auxiliary is dedicating funds raised this year to the development of the new Breast Care Center at Northfield Hospital.



Thank you for your gift to United Theological Seminary. Your gift will provide an exceptional theological education for our students and will support programs that strengthen and sustain communities of faith and their leaders.

Faith Formation through Christian Education

Sharing, Caring, Learning and Serving



Children

Children sharing, caring and learning:

- **Grades 2 & 3** prepared for and lead many aspects of worship on March 22
- **Grades 4-6:**
 - Shared information about food donation needs for Minnesota food share month
 - Shared their thoughts, inspired by Psalm 19.
God's love is as powerful as the largest mountain or a thundering earthquake.
God's peace is as deep as the Marianas trench.
God's justice is as long-lasting as happy memories or π .
God's commands are as fair as Yoda, and everybody gets a cookie.
God's decisions are as true as $2 + 2 + 4$.
God's ways are as beautiful as a flower, a butterfly, or a birthday cake.

Junior High Youth

March

- Shared drumming during worship each Sunday in Lent
- Completed the UCC sexuality curriculum, Our Whole Lives

April Meetings Sundays, after worship until 12:30 p.m. in junior high lounge

- April 5 - Spring break, no group
- April 12 - Easter, no group
- April 19 - Plan for April 26 worship leadership
- April 26 - Pizza party

Senior High Youth

April Meetings: Sundays after worship from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., begin in assembly room

- Check your email for weekly updates (Not on list? Email me: cherduys@firstucc.org)
- No meeting on Easter Sunday

Hanging Baskets (preordered): Ready for pick-up Sunday, May 3 through May 11. Remaining baskets will be resold or donated.

- *Thank you* for supporting this year's mission trip. Extra baskets ordered. Interested? Contact Cher Duys



Sunday Forum

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

Sunday, April 5

Haiti's Struggle Continues - discussion led by Paul Miller. Paul Miller is a member of the Haiti Justice Committee of Minnesota, a group that works for just U.S. policies towards Haiti.

He and his 16 year-old daughter, Natalie, were part of a 4-person delegation to Haiti for a week in January 2009. It was Paul's ninth trip to Haiti.

Paul will share information about their trip, talk about the groups they met with and address the current situation in Haiti.

Sunday, April 12 - Easter
No Adult Forum

Sunday, April 19

A Ministry Remembered by Fred Doty. Fred, a retired pastor now living in Mankato with his wife, Kathy, will share stories from his recent book.

In the book, Fred recounts taking part in civil rights protest marches and inviting Martin Luther King to speak at his church in southern California.

Sunday, April 26

Fighting Apostles' French Toast Brunch - No Adult Forum

From the CAC

Thursday's Table - A free meal served to Northfielders who could benefit from a free, nutritious meal is served in the NCRD dining room every Thursday from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Activity and Camp Scholarships are available. Contact 664-3550 for information.

Clothing and small household item donations needed
Call 664-3580 for more information.

Donated vehicles needed
Call 663-3558 for more information.

Pajama Sewers Needed
Pajama kits are now available at the NCAC Clothes Closet.

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 _____