



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



Sunday Worship Services during May

Sunday, May 3

10:00 a.m. Worship

Bell Ringer: Phil Parsons

11:00 4th Annual Blessing of the
Bikes (Church parking lot)

11:00 a.m. Gathering in the
chapel/library (following
worship) for those who joined
First UCC between the Fall of
2006 and the Fall of 2008!

Bring your coffee.

Sunday, May 10: Mother's Day

10:00 a.m. Worship
& Communion



Bell Ringer: Leota Goodney

Sunday, May 17

10:00 a.m. Worship

Bell Ringer: Bill Poehlmann

Sunday, May 24

10:00 a.m. Worship

Sunday, May 31

10:00 a.m. Worship

Bell Ringer: Bill Poehlmann



Shawl Knitting Group

The Shawl Knitting
Group will meet on Thursday,
May 7, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.
All are welcome.



In our Prayers

- Julia Savina, who is back at her apartment at the NRC
- Garda Kahn for her granddaughter, Aletta
- Bob Entenmann and family, mourning the loss of his uncle Art
- Rev. Sandy Johnson and family, mourning the loss of her mother, Maryn Johnson
- Those who need healing both physically and mentally, including victims and perpetrators
- Those who have suffered the loss of a loved one in the last year and that we may continue to remember them through the stories they gave us
- Those who have cancer and their loved ones
- The men and women in the military who are away from their families and for the coping of their families in their absence
- Employees, and also employers who have to make difficult decisions in this recession (both known by us and in the wider world)
- Young people who are having a hard time "getting started"
- All those affected by floods and natural disasters
- All who lead and take part in making our worship services



H. S. Baccalaureate

We will be honoring high school graduates with a Baccalaureate service during worship on Sunday, May 24. We hope everyone will be present to offer them our prayers and best wishes.

Parents or graduating seniors, please notify the church of:

- those who will or will not be participating
- additional seniors' to graduate who are not on this list
- changes in graduates' names to be printed in the bulletin (from the list below)
- how the graduates' parents would like their names printed in the bulletin

2009 High School Graduates

Monica Cooper, Charlie Hakes, Katy Hores, Sofie Jokela, Nick Kanazawa, Shona Keller, Gabe Moll, Kathleen Pender, Anne Rohn, Adrian Thomas

The above information can be called in (645-7532), emailed to church@firstucc.org, or left on Elaine's desk in 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

(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
andrapegram@firstucc.org

Custodian: Ron Olson

Childcare Coordinator: Tammy
Rischmiller
tammyrischmiller@firstucc.org

Night Security: Mark Fischer

Officer

Moderator: Ed Lufkin



Welcome to our New Members received on Sunday, April 26

David and Sarah Beimers

749 Sibley Drive
Northfield MN 55057

Telephone: 507-301-3329

Emails: dbemiers@gmail.com;
sjbeimers@gmail.com

David and Sarah are joining by Letter of transfer from Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights, Ohio. They live with their three children: Henry (born May 30, 1997), William (born May 30, 1997), and Ann (born August 14, 2001). They moved to Northfield from northeast Ohio, where they lived for four years while David completed graduate school. Previously longtime residents of St. Paul, they were eager to return to Minnesota with their family. They chose Northfield for its welcoming community, excellent schools, vibrant downtown, progressive UCC church and (convenient) location between Sarah's job at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul and David's faculty position at Minnesota State University in Mankato. David's interests include teaching Sunday School/Youth activities, cooking, and stewardship. Sarah's interests include cooking, knitting, and historic preservation.

Rev. Laurie (Lauretta) Crelly

20032 Ideal Way
Lakeville MN 55044

Telephone: 952-469-3902

Email: lcraezer@yahoo.com

Laurie is joining by Letter of transfer from Minnehaha UCC in Minneapolis. She was ordained in

2004 and served at Parkview UCC in White Bear Lake. More recently she has worked as a community organizer in the LGBT community and is currently developing a new multifaith outreach ministry to LGBT people who have been hurt by religious bigotry. She and her partner/wife, Denise Chan, live in Lakeville. Denise's daughter, Teresa, is a Junior at the U of M studying Architecture. Laurie enjoys singing, drama, and good conversations about matters of faith.

**Morgan Rae McCarty and
Carol Thomas**

313 6th St. S.E.

Northfield, Minnesota 55057

Telephone: 507-645-6466;

Email: Thomas-

McCarty@live.com

Carol and Morgan are both joining by Reaffirmation of faith. The Thomas-McCarty family moved to Northfield in August of 2008. They were looking for a small but accepting community to raise their family in. Carol works in St. Paul while Morgan is able to be a stay-at-home mom. Before becoming a mom Morgan taught elementary and preschool. Their have two children: Cheyenne Louise Thomas-McCarty (born November 08, 1996) and Mariah Louise Thomas-McCarty (born November 28, 2004). They are in the process of adopting Cheyenne, who also goes by Carly. The girls enjoy Sunday School and the whole family feels blessed to have found a home in Northfield and at First UCC.

Joe and Amanda Paul
18 Fareway Court
Northfield, Minnesota 55057
Telephone: 952-818-0991
Email: a_james_paul@yahoo.com;
a_navickis_paul@yahoo.com

Joe and Amanda are both joining by Confession of Faith. Joe was born in North Dakota and Amanda in Connecticut. They met in Duluth while in college and were married in June of 2006. They moved to the Twin Cities in 2007 and to Northfield in 2008. Joe works at Northern Brewer as their Warehouse and Production Manager and Amanda works at Clean Harbors Environmental Services in Cannon Falls, Minnesota. They look forward to bringing their first child (expected in the beginning of May) into such a wonderful community and as part of the First UCC.

Melissa Sharpe
319 Plum Street N.
Northfield, Minnesota 55057
Telephone: 507-301-3291
E-mail:
melisssa.m.sharpe@gmail.com

Melissa is joining by Reaffirmation of faith. She lives with her husband, John Sharpe, and their two children, Calvin (born September 25, 2004) and Oliver (born November 5, 2008). Melissa cannot resist chocolate chip cookies. Or smooching her baby's head. Or playing with her four-year-old's curls. Therefore, she ends up doing major multitasking when she does her job as a corporate trainer for a computer consulting company. She knows she has hobbies, but frankly cannot remember what they are. Her life is very, very full, and very, very fun!

Corey and Jessica Stadler
12062 Ibson Avenue
Northfield, Minnesota 55057
Telephone: 507-663-0887

Corey and Jessica are both joining by Confession of Faith. They have five children: Alicia Alyea (born February 9, 1994); Katie Stadler (born February 16, 1994); Kristie Stadler (born August 4, 1997); Kaycie Ackerman (born November 23, 2000); and Isabelle Stadler (born March 29, 2005). They live outside of town on a hobby farm and raise cows, horses, chickens, turkeys, lots of cats, and a dog. Corey has been a member of the Northfield Fire Department for about 20 years, has some medical background, and likes to tinker with handyman skills (plumbing, electrical, wood working, fixing things) passed on by his father. Jessica enjoys drawing, painting, and enjoying the outdoors. She also loves to cook, bake, do home repairs, and paint, and she is good at organizing people and activities.

Jennifer Ross Wolff and David Wolff
960 Summerfield Drive
Northfield MN 55057
Telephone: 507-645-8622
Email: wolff@carleton.edu;
wolffmusic@hotmail.com

Jennifer is joining by Letter of transfer from 1st United Methodist Church, Marshall, Illinois and David is joining by Reaffirmation of faith. They have two children: Nathan Ross Wolff, born March 26, 2005, and Rachel Katherine Wolff, born July 14, 2007. Jennifer is interested in some day singing in the choir.



Pastoral Ponderings

In 1914, Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May to be a national holiday. He asked Americans to use this day to publicly express reverence for mothers. I'd like to use this space to do just that.

I am grateful for all of the women in my life who have helped me along in my journey. Shortly after the birth of my first daughter, five generations of women celebrated my first Mother's Day with me. I'm also grateful for all the other women in my life who have guided and nurtured me. My mother died twenty years ago, and not a day goes by that I don't miss her. But, in her absence, I have been blessed with the love and guidance of so many other women, and today I give gratitude for them, also.

My deepest sympathy goes out to Rev. Sandy whose mother recently passed away. For her and for all whose mothers are no longer here on earth, I pray that happy memories will comfort you on this special day. And, I ask for blessings on those who will soon become mothers....whether through childbirth, adoption, or foster care. It is a great love when one can "mother" another woman's child.

Peace always, *Cathy*



Dear Friends

The month of May brings us Mother's Day and June will bring Father's Day. Some of you will remember church services from your childhood in which mothers and fathers were particularly honored – corsages and boutonnieres, special music, perhaps even a related sermon.

Though many families enjoyed these celebrations, they also brought some problems. Adults who were not parents felt left out, and sometimes slighted. Those who had longed to have children often felt a particular sadness. Moreover, people whose relationships with their own parents were difficult or dysfunctional felt a sense of loss rather than of joy.

Often the justification for marking Mother's Day and Father's Day in church was supporting traditional family values. It is good to remember, though, that the Bible is not at all consistent in portraying family values,

In the Hebrew Scriptures, we find families of every configuration, including polygamy – the offspring who were the fathers of 12 “tribes of Israel” were borne by four different mothers, two of whom were slaves!

And in the new testament, Jesus rejected the idea that only his mothers and siblings were his family – everyone who followed him were kin to him.

So I usually mark Mother's Day and Father's Day with special

prayers – prayers that acknowledge the complexity of our relationships with own parents and (for those who are parents themselves) with our children. And I try to include prayers for everyone who has been “father or mother to us” through our lives.

I hope that in this season of honoring Mothers and Fathers you will remember not only your own parents, but all of the people who have nurtured, encouraged, and challenged you along the way.

Grace and peace, *Sandy*



Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for a way to contribute to the life of our congregation?

Occasional Driver There is a need for an occasional ride to church for one of our older members. If you are interested in helping with this, please call Cathy. 645-7532, ext. 203.

The New Member Committee is seeking your help New members join us at two times during the year, in the spring and in the fall. At that time we look for people among the members who can be sponsors for these new members and help them become better acquainted with us and feel at home at First UCC. This is one of the shorter-term commitments the church is promoting for those who want to do something in the church but cannot take on positions of two and three years. If you want to learn more about being a sponsor for a new member, please contact one of the New Member

Committee members. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Liz Hankins, Brad Hoff,
Ross Shoger, Jean Haslett
Julie Maxson, Bernice Schendel*

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.

Volunteer Opportunities

Bulletin Board: 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.



**Attention!
Parents of
Children up to
6th Grade -
Keep May 17th open!**

On Sunday, May 17th, you are invited to support our senior high youth's *Chili Lunch* following worship - AND - join other parents for some lively discussion around your table.

We will reserve tables just for you in the Assembly Room, and the discussion will be on a chapter from the book, *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee*, by Wendy Mogel. Child care will be provided during the discussion. We hope you will plan to come.

**Women's Spirituality
Group**



Because the fourth Monday falls on Memorial Day, we

will meet one week early on Monday, May 18, at 7:00 p.m. We will wrap up our discussion of Joan Chittister's book, *The Story of Ruth*.

Please bring your ideas for our next project to this gathering.



**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 fun, food, fellowship!

Questions call Harriet (645-8787) or Arlene (645-4856).



**Habitat for
Humanity
Fundraisers**

Sunday, April 26: Dinner, Silent and Live Auctions:

5:30 p.m. Social, 6:30 p.m. Dinner at the Faribault American Legion \$25.00 Admission. Includes Dinner. Donation Value is \$13. Tickets available at the door or by calling 507-323-5167.

Friday, May 15: Garage Sale:
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 6: from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Faribault Armory, \$1.00 Admission Bring your donations to the trucks in the Edina Realty parking lots in Faribault or Northfield during business hours from April 29 to May 14.



- A huge thank you to the Deacons for remembering staff during Holy Week. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.
The Staff
- We would like to thank you for your very generous support of the 2009 Minnesota FoodShare Campaign in Northfield. First UCC congregation members donated \$2,727.16 and 63 pounds of food.
Judy Bickel, Northfield CAC
- For your recent contribution of \$100.00 to CRWP 2009. We are stronger going into 2009 because of your contribution. CRWP staff are expanding their expertise and effectiveness in areas which are important to improving water quality
- We thank you for your donation. It is so encouraging to know that you value our program and the many children we serve we year.
Blessings to you,
Kathy Lansing
Director of Project Friendship
- We give thanks for your congregation and for your support of the special Mission offerings of our church.
Sheila Hussing
MN Conference OCWM Team


Faith Formation through Christian Education

Sharing, Caring, Learning and Serving



Children

- May 17: School year Sunday
School ends
- Celebrate children and youth leaders during worship
- Support our Senior High mission trip youth by attending Chili Fundraiser and also attending the Sunday Forum (see Adults Education) which is offered specifically for parents



June 21- August 30: Summer Sunday School

- Multi-age class for Ages 3-Grade 3; Grades 4-5 welcome as 'big buddy helpers'. Using Seasons of the Spirit multi-age curriculum.
- Adults can support this time of faith formation by volunteering to lead one Sunday
- June 7: Leaders' training
- Sept. 20: School Year Sunday School resumes
- Adult leaders needed. Curriculum and training provided. Interested? Contact Cher Duys

Preschool

- Heifer Project Bees – raised \$101.00 by selling the bookmarks they made

Sunday School children

- Collected \$35 for One Great Hour of Sharing

Youth

Junior High

- Sundays, after worship until 12:30 p.m. in junior high lounge (to resume on September 20)
- Shared their gifts and leadership during worship, April 26
- **May Meetings:**
- May 1-3: Urban Immersion Service Retreat
- May 10: Celebrate your Mom. No meeting
- May 17: Support the Senior High Mission Trip chili dinner fundraiser after worship. No meeting

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

- *Thank you* to all who preorder hanging baskets to support this summer's mission trip. Extra baskets ordered. Interested? Contact Cher Duys

Senior High

Meetings: Sundays after worship from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., begin in assembly room (to resume on September 20)

- May 1-3: Urban Immersion Service Retreat
- May 10: No meeting. Celebrate with your Mom!
- May 17: Support your Senior High mission trippers by attending the chili fundraiser after worship.

Pilgrim Point Church Camp

It's not too late to sign up. See

information on Bulletin board (including brochures), check www.pilgrimpoint.org or contact Cher Duys

Senior High Mission Trip Chili Fundraiser

May 17, after worship. Please support the youth as they prepare to journey for the 8th year to Alamosa, Colorado where they will continue building relationships in service with Habitat for Humanity and La Puente homeless shelter. Adults \$7; Families \$20; Children under 3 free

Adult Education

Sunday, May 3: Nancy Braker, Director of the Carleton College Arboretum, will lead a discussion on ecological restoration. An introduction to the restoration at the Arboretum will provide context for discussion on how we make natural resource management decisions on both the small (backyard) and large (ecosystem) scale.

Sunday, May 10: No Adult Education (Mother's Day)

Sunday, May 17: Parents with children through grade 6 are invited to support the Senior High Mission Trip youth by eating at their fundraiser lunch and sitting at reserved tables. There will be discussion topics from the book "The Blessing of a Skinned Knee."



Northfield Church Softball Schedule

Sunday, May 3
6:10 p.m. at Sechler

#2
St. Paul's vs First UCC

Sunday, May 10
6:10 p.m. at Babcock
Trondhjem vs. First UCC

Sunday, May 17
5:00 p.m. at Babcock
St. Dominic's White vs First
UCC

Sunday, May 31
5:00 p.m. at Babcock
City Light (New Cov) vs First
UCC

Sunday, June 7
7:20 p.m. at Babcock
First UCC vs Bethel

Sunday, June 14
5:00 p.m. at Sechler 1
First UCC vs Trinity Blue

Sunday, June 21
5:00 p.m. at Babcock
Trinity Red vs First UCC

Sunday, June 28
5:00 p.m. at Sechler 2
First UCC vs Emmaus

Sunday, July 12
2:00 p.m. at Babcock Park
20th Annual ALL STAR GAME
for Northfield C.A.C.

5:00 p.m. at Babcock
St. Dominic's Blue vs First UCC

Sunday, July 19
6:10 p.m. at Sechler 1
St. Peter's vs First UCC

Sunday, July 26
7:20 p.m. at Babcock
First UCC vs Rejoice Disciples

Sunday, August 2
7:20 p.m. at Sechler 1
First UCC vs Methodist White

Sunday, August 9
6:10 p.m. at Sechler 2
First UCC vs Methodist Maroon

Sunday, August 16
Just For Fun Playoff

Questions, contact John
Frederick 645-8314 or email
ljfrederick@charter.net