



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



Church Summer Office Hours

7:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Monday-Thursday

June Worship Services

Sunday, June 7: Trinity Sunday

Bell Ringer: Brad Hoff

10:00 a.m. Worship
& Communion



Focus: Mysterious Encounters

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8;
John 3:1-17

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour: Sarah
and Brad Hoff

Sunday, June 14:

Bell Ringer: Julie Maxson
(or Gary Kasten)

10:00 a.m. Worship (led by the
Deacons)

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour: Arts
Committee, The Phil Kasten
Family, Jan Stevens. New
piano inauguration.

Sunday, June 21:

Pastoral Care Sunday

Bell Ringer: Leota Goodney

10:00 a.m. Worship

Focus: Asleep on the Job

Readings: Psalm 133;
Mark 4:35-41

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour: Tom
Benson, Paul, Delia, and Mim
Mueller

Sunday, June 28:

Bell Ringer: Leota Goodney

10:00 a.m. Worship

Guest Preacher:

Rev. John Severson

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Sunday, July 5: At Valley Grove

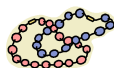
Bell Ringer: Leota Goodney

10:00 a.m. Worship

Focus: Sent with Power

Readings: Psalm 48;
Mark 6:1-13

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour



Vintage Jewelry and sewing

notions wanted

The Arts Committee is planning to sell vintage jewelry and sewing notions during the DJJ Days on Friday evening and Saturday, September 11-12. We are tying in with the same group that does the Vintage/Antique Show with the Historical Society during the Northfield 4th of July celebration. This is a way to use our parking lot during the celebration to raise money for the church and to recycle our goods. Individual dealers will be paying a small fee to rent "X" square feet of our parking lot. The church itself will not be open for this event.

This will be a fun event to staff on that day and to sort, package, and display the vintage costume and real jewelry donated to us.

We will be selling what we have left from last September's sale and will need more. Broken and damaged items will be accepted but pristine items are especially welcome. Old-buttons, rick-rack, and lace are desired as well.

You may leave items in the church office. Please email or call Jan Stevens if you are able to volunteer to help sort and package later in August.

Please call or email me with any questions or suggestions.



Jan Stevens
Arts Committee Member
cell: 507-244-0500.



In our Prayers

Erica Achberger, recovering from injuries in a work accident

Bernice Schendel, recently hospitalized

Amanda and Joe Paul, celebrating the birth of their daughter Hattie

All those who have been afflicted or affected by addictions and alcoholism

The Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the UCC, and our lay delegates Sue Mieska, Julie Maxson, and Nancy Johnson-Maloney. Val Veo, who completed her term as our seminary intern on May 17

Ann and Rick Wind, celebrating the marriage of their son Mike to Lara Holver

All the families celebrating graduations this spring

The women and men serving in the military around the world, and their families back at home

All those caring for dear ones who are ill or injured in body, mind, or spirit



Dear Friends

Last week we lost one of the great maple trees on the boulevard in front of the church. We were having a staff lunch in the assembly room when Linda Wagenbach came in and told us about it.

The wind had split the tree in two; one half had broken off the street light on the pole next to it, the other half was still standing. We called the city.

In the afternoon, a crew came and removed the half that was on the

street. And then the workers climbed in the “cherry picker” and began taking down the other half, too. In a couple of hours, there was nothing left but a low stump.

I felt very sad as I watched the tree taken apart. The workers were careful – respectful even, I think. That tree has watched a lot of history in Northfield, and a lot of comings and goings at the church.

But as I have thought about it this week, my sadness is tempered by the knowledge that trees have been damaged by wind for as long as there have been trees and wind. The workers may have speeded up the process a little, but it is the way of the world that living things grow, thrive, and then die and are replaced by other living things.

“To every thing there is a season ...” wrote the ancient author of the book of Ecclesiastes. We are grateful for all the seasons of that great tree, and we are grateful for the seasons to come – whose special gifts are not yet known to us.

Grace and peace, *Sandy*

Pastor Sandy’s Schedule

Pastor Sandy will be attending the Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting on June 5 and 6, but will return to lead worship with us on Sunday June 7.

She will be on vacation June 10-14, attending her daughter Amanda Plemmons’ graduation in Bellingham, Washington. The deacons will lead worship in her absence.

And she will be attending the UCC General Synod in Grand Rapids, Michigan June 26-30 and on vacation July 1-3. Rev. John Severson will lead worship on June 28; Sandy will be back for our service at Valley Grove on July 5.

From the Service and Social Responsibility Committee



The church received letters of gratitude from two organizations to which we made contributions recently. Executive Director of the Community Action Center thanked the congregation for the contribution of \$2,727.16 to the Food Shelf and for the gift of \$2,000 toward general support. Blaha said, “Your financial support at this time is critical . . . it gives us the ability to meet the costs of providing service to our Northfield Neighbors. We are seeing many new faces terrified at the prospects or lack thereof of this economic market.”

Angelica E Koch, director of HealthFinders Collaborative, noting that since June 2005, they have served more than 2,500, and the number continues to grow, thanked the congregation for the donation of \$100.00. HealthFinders provides medical care for low-income and uninsured residents of Rice County. Services include helping patients manage weight and diabetes, providing prescription assistance, and helping people apply for other programs for which they qualify. “Thank you for thinking of us. We are fortunate to be a part of such a caring and giving community.”



Pastoral Ponderings

I tend to feel sorry for people who live in climates where the four seasons are not as dramatic as they are here. After the long, icy, cold winter months, Minnesota just bursts with color and rebirth in June.

It always amazes me how something as fragile as a young plant can grow to bear heavy tomatoes, eggplant, beans, and other vegetables and fruit in so short a growing season. Part of their strength comes from their ability to be flexible. Like palm trees, they can sway with the breezes and hold strong during heavy rain.

It reminds me of the need for us to learn from nature. If we are hard and immovable, we will not sustain the blows life tosses at us. If we are rigid in our beliefs, we cannot be open to the valuable thoughts and opinions of others. So, my plan is to practice being a young seedling or a swaying palm tree. I want to learn this response when I hear things with which I may not agree: "You may be right." That does not mean I necessarily agree. It only means I can be open to another's opinion. How many senseless battles are fought between two sides that refuse to be flexible? If the plants and trees can sway with forces much mightier than they, how can I do or be any less?

Jesus taught us this lesson when he asked forgiveness on those who persecuted him. "Forgive them. They know not what they do." He didn't waste time trying to convince them. He accepted that all they could see were their

own inflexible beliefs. Ironically, his death took place on a rigid tree that no longer could bend in the wind. There must be another metaphor there!

On another note, I wish a Happy Father's Day to all who provide a father's love, guidance, and care to others who may or may not be their own biological children. You are mentoring or have mentored the next generation's leaders and healers. How blessed you are!

Peace always, *Cathy*



Women's Spirituality Group

Please join this lively group at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month. All women of the church, and their friends, are invited.

Summer events include: **June 22**, we will meet at the home of Gary and Mary Carlson for a prairie walk to celebrate the summer solstice. Meet first in the church parking lot where we can arrange car pooling.

July 27, we will have a light potluck meal and gather to hear stories from our own Cissi McChesney.

On **August 24th**, we will hear a presentation on labyrinths. Please check the Pastoral Care bulletin board for more information on this vital women's ministry.

If you have any questions, please call Cathy at 645-7532.

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

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Custodian: Ron Olson

Childcare Coordinator: Tammy
Rischmiller
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Night Security: Mark Fischer

Officer
Moderator: Ed Lufkin



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Shawl Knitting Group

The Shawl Knitting Group will meet all summer long on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. Whoever is around, please join us.



Come to coffee hour on June 14

Thanks to a generous gift from Andrew and Betty Een and support from the Memorials Committee, we now have a lovely Steinway upright piano in our Assembly Room. Come to coffee hour on Sunday, June 14 to hear Andrea Een, Theo Wee, and Chris Bunelle inaugurate this fine addition to the musical resources of our church.

Volunteer Opportunities

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 to learn more about this fun job.

UCC Members Working at Thursday's Table



In an arrangement through the Service and Social

Responsibility Committee, six men from the UCC Men's Group worked at Thursday's Table at the Community Action Council dining facility on May 14. Each Thursday of the month, free dining is provided for those persons and families in the area who need food assistance. The men and worked various jobs and ate with the nearly 200 community diners. Jerry Mohrig and Dick Crouter served desserts and coffee, Ed Lufkin and Ross Shoger washed dishes, Bill Woehrlin served at the beverage table, Bill Haslett and Doug Kriesel vacuumed and washed tables after dinner.

Bobbie Peterson, Nancy Casper and Jan Shoger also work regularly at Thursday's Table. UCC members will be volunteering next November to work Thursdays if you are interested in joining in. It is a much-needed service to community members during these hard financial times.



Children



Children's Name tags

- Is your child's name tag missing?

Misspelled? Non-existent? If you need a new or replacement name tag for your child (ages 3 through 12 grade), make your request on the Welcome pads in the pews.



Summer Sunday School - Summer Seasons of the SpiritSunday's at

10:15 a.m. June 21- August 30

▪ Multi-age class for Ages 3-Grade 3; Grades 4-5 welcome as 'big buddy helpers'. Using multi-age curriculum.

The children will:

- Explore faith stories
 - Bring English or Spanish children's books for offering.
- Mission trip youth will take them to Colorado for children who are homeless or in transitional housing.
- Have fun!

Adults can support this time of faith formation by:

volunteering to lead one Sunday; Please contact Cher Duys or childrens' committee

Leaders training: Sunday, June 7, after worship

September 20: School Year Sunday School resumes using the same curriculum

www.spiritseasons.com/.

▪ Interested in being on a fall teaching team? Contact Cher Duys or children's committee member: Sarah Carlsen, David Maki-Waller, Jami Reister, Deb Olien, Cynthia Osmundson.

Junior High Youth

Check email for updates.

Summer: Check out Pilgrim Point camps!

www.pilgrimpoint.org

September 20: Youth Group resumes 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Senior High Youth

Check email for updates.

Confirmation (Grade 9) begins October 4, each Sunday from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Senior High Youth Group (Grade's 9-12): resume meetings in September, after worship

Mission trip:

▪ Please continue praying for us as we prepare for living out our mission to serve folks in Alamosa, Colorado.

▪ Thanks to all who supported us through our fundraisers. If you were unable to participate in the fundraisers and would like to share your financial support, donations are gratefully accepted.



Multi-generational

Sunday, June 28: Let's go out to the ballgame! Come cheer on our Fighting Apostle's baseball team and afterwards stay for a potluck. (See article on cover of this newsletter.)

Northfield Church Softball Schedule

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
and Potluck Dinner (see article on cover of this newsletter)

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



Thank You

- On behalf of the HealthFinders Collaborative, Inc., I am writing to express my sincerest thanks for your ongoing support and generous donation. As with many organizations, HealthFinders is faced with the challenge of financial cutbacks and is diligently working towards keeping its doors opened. Your donation will help to insure we continue providing free medical care to the uninsured.
- For your very generous contribution to the Community Action Center of Northfield designated for Food Shelf purposes. Your financial support permits us expanded purchasing power to meet the costs of providing food to our Northfield neighbors



Noontime Organ Recitals

The community of Northfield, MN will be sponsoring nine noontime organ recitals in July and August. Each recital will be held from 12:15-12:45 p.m. enabling business persons and others to hear fine organ playing over their lunch hours. This is the third summer of noontime recitals.

The dates, schedule of performers, and places include the following:

Wednesday, July 8:

Susan Beisner
Boe Chapel
St. Olaf College

Wednesday, July 15:

Lawrence Archbold
Carleton Music & Drama Center
110 Winona Street North

Wednesday, July 22:

Richard Collman
Skinner Chapel
405 1st Street East
Carleton College

Wednesday, July 29:

Jack Mohlenhoff
St. John's Lutheran
500 3rd Street West

Wednesday, August 5,

Marilyn Schempp
United Methodist Church
1401 South Maple Street

Wednesday, August 12:

Sue Walby
First Congregational UCC
300 Union Street

Thursday, August 13:

Bob Henstein
United Methodist

Friday, August 14:

Stephen May
Skinner Chapel
Carleton College

Saturday, August 15:

Lori Ramig & Sarah Sorenson
Trinity Lutheran
803 Winona

All recitals are open to the public. There will be no charge but there will be a free-will offering at some recitals.

For information, contact Rev. Richard F. Collman, Northfield, 645-1357 or email him at rkcollman@msn.com



Pastoral Sunday

On Sunday, June 21, there will be pastoral care displays in the Assembly Room during the coffee hour. Members of the Congregational Care Council will be present to answer any questions you may have regarding the help and services that are available.

First UCC offers help to individuals and families within the congregation who are experiencing difficult times in their lives. Assistance with rides, meals, visits, etc., is part of the care we offer. Please take time to speak to the CCC members, visit the tables, and become familiar with this wonderful ministry in our church.



Strawberry Festival

The annual Strawberry Festival is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. All members of the church are invited to this fun event. In addition to delicious strawberry shortcake (with fresh whipped cream!), there will be musical entertainment.

Please RSVP (645-7532) by Thursday, June 18, if you plan to attend. To help us order enough berries, we need to know how many guests will attend.

If you need assistance with a ride, please let us know.

If you have any questions, please call Cathy at the number listed above.



Let's go out to the ballgame!

Come cheer on our Fighting Apostle's baseball team and then stay for a potluck! The game is from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at Sechler #2 on Sunday, June 28. We have reserved the shelter next to the playground, so we can start the potluck soon after the game.

Please bring drinks, plates & utensils for your family, along with a dish to pass. We hope to have some grills available.

Questions? Ask Sarah Carlsen (scarlsen11@gmail.com) or David Maki-Waller (david.maki.waller@gmail.com).