



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

July Worship Services

Sunday, June 5:

Bell Ringer: Rev. Sandy and the children

10:00 a.m. Worship at Valley Grove Church

Focus: Sent with Power

Readings: Psalm 48;
Mark 6:1-13

Focus: Deeds of Power

11:00 a.m. Picnic Lunch with Dessert Potluck. All worshippers are invited



to stay in this peaceful setting for a picnic lunch. Each family is asked to bring: their own picnic meal and dishes; a dessert to share with others; and a blanket or folding lawn chair if you are uncomfortable sitting directly on the grass.

Lemonade will be provided.

Directions to Valley Grove Church:

- Go South on 246 (Division Street) past the High School.
- Continue on 246 for approximately 10 miles. Don't forget to turn South (right) on

246 where it turns just before you get to Dennison.

- Turn West (right) on County 30. The church is on the South (left) side of the road – about one mile.

Or take the scenic route:

- Go South on County 246 (Division Street) past the High School.
- At the sign for Valley Grove Road (Route 30, also Hall Avenue), turn South (right).
- At the stop sign turn left on to 135th Street.
- At the next stop sign, turn right on Ibsen.
- At the following stop sign, turn left on Route 30, Johnson Trail.
- Valley Grove Church is on the right side of the road about 0.9 mile from the stop sign.

Sunday, July 12

Bell Ringer: Leota Goodney

10:00 a.m. Worship

Focus: Dancing for God

Readings: 2 Samuel 6:1-5,
12b-19; Psalm 24

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Sunday, July 19:

Bell Ringer: Greg Muth

10:00 a.m. Worship

Guest Preacher

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Sunday, July 26:

Bell Ringer: Greg Muth

10:00 a.m. Worship

Focus: Abundant Life

Readings: Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour



Sign up for a cottage meeting

The Minister Congregation Ministerial Committee (MCRC) is again sponsoring a few "cottage meetings" this summer to provide an informal gathering with Sandy Johnson. Whether you know her well or not very well, especially if you are relatively new to the congregation, we do invite you to come. If you would like to participate in a guaranteed enjoyable evening, please call the church office or the hosts:

July gathering: Tuesday, July 21,
7:00 p.m. at home of Molly and Bill
Woehrlin, 302 Maple Street
(645-9619)

August gathering: Tuesday,
August 4, at home of Lois and Ed
Langerak, 205 Manitou Street
(645-8321)

News from the Church Library

Spring cleaning has brought new shape and purpose to our Church Library located in the former chapel area. Please feel free to browse the collection, peruse a volume while comfortably seated in the parlor, or sign out a book to read at home and return on the note cards provided.

The goal of the Library is to be a current collection with relevance to the life of the congregation. The shelves are conveniently divided into 30 sections and each section offers titles about a particular topic or general subject. (Examples: About the Bible; Theology; Spirituality; Devotional Resources; Sexuality;; Families and Parenting; Ageing, Death and Dying; Open and Affirming; By and About Members of our Congregation; American Protestantism/UCC History; Ecology and Earth Care, etc.) The Children's Library remains downstairs near the Sunday school rooms. Faith Partners continues to maintain its own collection in the parlor.

Several new books have been donated to the collection recently.

-- David Maitland has given the Library a copy of his autobiographical memoir. Another copy is in the church archives.

-- Lynne Severson has donated several new books:

The Blessing of a Skinned Knee by Wendy Mogel (Scribner, 2001). A chapter from this book was used in the May 17 gathering at church for parents of children through the 6th grade. Rev. Robert Thompson, school minister for the Phillips Exeter Academy, made the following comments about this helpful book: "While reading this book, I felt that I was being tutored by an elder in the ways of the world.... As a parent, I was encouraged in the very ways that our generation of parents is baffled.

The author has hit on all of the issues that are difficult: materialism, permissiveness, guardianship against the destruction of humane values, and preservation of sacred time and space in a harried, dislocated world." *Money and Faith: The Search for Enough*, with Henri Nouwen, Dave Barry, and others. Ed. by Michael Schut. (Morehouse, 2008). Julie Maxson led a discussion using this book this past spring in our Adult Forum. Designed for individuals and small groups, this book includes chapters by a diversity of voices exploring the place of money in our lives and the way to sustainable living. Attention is paid to the impact of our choices on globalization, fair trade, etc. as well as individual ethics with regard to money and economics. A study guide is included.

Knitting into the Mystery: A Guide to the Shawl-Knitting Ministry, by Susan S. Jorgenson and Susan S. Izard. Written by a Roman Catholic spiritual director in private practice and an ordained UCC pastor, this book provides a history of shawl knitting ministry as well as practical chapters on knitting patterns and organizing a shawl ministry. "Prayers for the Seasons of Life" are also included in a closing chapter. The authors report that there are 38 million people in the United States involved in this ministry, including our own shawl-knitting group at our church. Cathy Cammack has had a copy of this book in her library for some time, but now we have two more copies to share with the congregation in the Church Library.

The Church Library collection will hopefully be a dynamic one with new titles coming and other titles "retiring" when they become less relevant. If you would like to suggest a title or to donate a volume, please contact Lynne Severson or Cynthia Lund. If you are the author of a book which you think the congregation would like to share, we would like to include it in the collection. Monetary donations for

the purchase of new books are also welcome in the church office.

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

Mark Allister and Meredith Lindstrom, who celebrated their wedding in our sanctuary on May 31.

Mark Fischer and his family, continuing their concern about his father's health

The citizens of Iran, as their country is in turmoil

The young adults in our community who are not able to find the jobs in the careers they have prepared themselves for

Pastor Tim McDermott (of Bethel Lutheran Church) recovering from injuries from a hiking accident

Arthur Campbell, recently hospitalized

Pat Lampe, recently hospitalized

Friends of Irene Duba, a young person injured in a bicycle accident in Northfield

Craig Holden, recovering from knee surgery

Rev. Fred Doty, celebrating the 60th anniversary of his ordination

Members of the United Church of Christ gathered in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for the church's General Synod

Gina Washburn and Andy Franklin, who celebrated their wedding at Valley Grove Church on June 20

Tonya Nuebel, who won a medal and two ribbons at the recent Special Olympics state track meet

Mary Cay Longley, concerned about her mother's health and living situation

Kaara Maki-Waller, concerned about her parents move to an assisted living facility and her father's ongoing health challenges

Recent high school and college graduates and their families



Dear Friends

The Work of the People is an important part of our worship service each week – and not just because lots of information is shared.

Our announcements make it clear that the work of the church is the work of the whole congregation, and that our involvement is both local and global. It gives members a chance to see our lay leaders, and to learn the names and faces of people who have particular passions and projects. And it gives an opportunity for the youngest members of our church community to share what they are learning and doing with the rest of us.

Some announcements meet these goals better than others; here are some tips for effective use of the Work of the People:

1. Be sure the microphone is working correctly
2. Introduce yourself, and name the group you represent (if any)
3. Be brief!
4. Be positive! Share your excitement and sense of urgency
5. Don't try to use guilt or financial woes to motivate people; focus on the ministry you are doing
6. Give a sentence or two of background if you are bringing up a new or unfamiliar topic (but remember #3!)
7. Have the vital information at hand and state it clearly
8. If the information is already in the bulletin, ask people to read the details there

Our guests and visitors often tell me that the Work of the People is the part of the service that tells them the most about our life as a faith community. Let's keep trying to make it an effective and meaningful part of Sunday mornings.

Grace and peace, *Sandy*

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Sandy will be out of the office June 26 to July 4. From June 26 to 30, she will be attending the UCC General Synod in Grand Rapids, Michigan; July 1-4, she will be taking vacation time. She will be back to lead worship at Valley Grove Church on Sunday, July 5.

She will also be on vacation from July 16-20.



Save the date Sunday, August 2

We're having a Potluck Picnic for the family at the church
**Sunday evening, August 2,
beginning at 4:30 p.m.**

A time for fellowship, fun and music - featuring the musical talents of Jerry & Inga Johnson and friends. If you enjoyed their music in church on Sunday, June 14th - there's more to come this evening. Come listen and sing along with these fine musicians!

More specific information will be coming in July.

sponsored by
the *Adult Education Committee*

Opportunities to Serve

Church members and friends often tell me that they would like to help out, but can't make the 2- or 3-year commitment to be on a board or committee. Here are some opportunities for you!

Picture Directory Czar: Do you enjoy meeting people? Organizing schedules? Having a beautiful and useful product when you are finished?

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 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 to learn more about this fun job.

Website News

Don't forget to check in our church website at www.firstucc.org. It's a great place to find:

- The most recent edition of The Chronicle
- Pastor Sandy's sermons (and occasional Musings ...)
- Photos of special church events
Timely announcements – meeting changes, special services and events, funerals, and the like
- Information about baptisms, weddings, and funerals
- Information for ushers, greeters, and welcomers (under Deacons Resources)
- Links to other United Church of Christ resources

If you want to introduce our church to your friends or neighbors, just send them the link to the website – they'll learn all about us!

Daily Devotional

Every day I look forward to reading the UCC daily devotional in my email. These brief reflections are written by a variety of interesting UCC personalities – pastors, chaplains, conference ministers, and lay folks.

If you would like to subscribe (or just read a few to get a sense of them), check the recent notice on our website (www.firstucc.org) or go to the UCC national online community at www.i.ucc.org and look for the word "Subscribe." Or even easier: send me an email at sandyjohnson@firstucc.org, and I will forward you the devotion of the day!

Pastoral Ponderings

A friend recently loaned me the book, *Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. It's a

book that reminds us that, if we see God in everything and everyone, we can do no less than treat all things with reverence.

As I was reading this morning, I thought of Grandma Edna. She was a woman who treated all people and all things with reverence. Every part of her yard showed care. From the small circle of marigolds she planted at the base of her clothesline to the fields of flowers, vegetables, and berries she lovingly tended, nothing was neglected. Not even the garden tools! Each evening she would gently wipe away the dirt on her spade or rake, dip it in a tub of sand and oil to prevent rust, and hang it on the proper hook in the shed.

She showed the same care, attention, and reverence to the people in her life. Salespeople, traveling missionaries, or strangers seeking directions were welcomed into her home and offered coffee and a cookie with the same respect and hospitality she showed family and friends.

Grandma saw God in everything and everyone. Her life was a life of reverence. From the basket of jams and bread she delivered to shut ins, to the hymns she hummed as she baked her lefse, her life was a living prayer. No one left her home or her arms without feeling loved and nurtured.

So, Saturday afternoon as I planted the marigolds around my clothesline pole, I said a prayer of thanks to the God who gave us the marigolds, the birds of the air, and the Grandma Ednas of the world.

Peace always, *Cathy*

Presentation for Caregivers

Joanne Reynolds, a former award-winning journalist and leading authority on care giving, has generously offered to lead an evening workshop for those who are involved in any care-giving capacity. This includes those who care for family members, those who work with people who are ill or struggling, and church volunteers and friends who provide care for others.

This two-hour workshop will be held in the Assembly Room on Thursday, July 16, 2009, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Please check the Pastoral Care bulletin board inside the south door for more information.

If you have any questions, please call Cathy. (645-7321)

Women's Spirituality Group

The *Women's Spirituality Group* will meet on Monday, July 27, at 7:00 p.m. Please join us for coffee and dessert as we listen to our "resident storyteller", Cissi McChesney, share some of her short stories with us. All women of the church are invited. Friends are welcome.



Northfield 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:

Wed. July 8: Susan Beisner, Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College

Wednesday, July 15: Lawrence Archbold, Carleton Music & Drama Center, 110 Winona St. 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 St. W.

Wednesday, August 5, Marilyn Schempp, United Methodist Church, 1401 South Maple St.

Wednesday, August 12: Sue Walby, First Congregational UCC, 300 Union St.

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 free and open to the public. (Free-will offering at some recitals) For more information, please contact Rev. Richard F. Collman, Northfield, 645-1357 or email him at rkcollman@msn.com

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

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Websites

www.firstucc.org
www.uccjrhigh.blogspot.com

Staff

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Night Security: Mark Fischer

Officer

Moderator: Ed Lufkin



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One-Time Volunteers Needed for Sunday School Projects

Yes, you can support our youth and not over-commit your time! If you can volunteer for any of the following projects and help us improve the “look” of our Sunday school spaces, contact a member of the Children’s Education Committee (David Maki-Walker, Jami Reister, Cynthia Burton, Deb Olien, Sarah Carlsen or Cher Duys), or sign up on the main bulletin board by the church office. No offer refused!

1: Can you **help us paint on July 21** (priming) **and/or on July 23** (painting)? We want to update/brighten the colors of the “big room.” Any amount of time helps!

2: Can we **borrow your painting supplies** (ladders, rollers, brushes, cleaners, and/or drop cloths)?

3: Do you have an eye for design and spacing? We need a volunteer or two to **position and hang art work** (which we have) in the Sunday school areas.



Children

Summer Sunday School Seasons of the Spirit

Sunday’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.

- Offering: helping children learn Jesus teaching of caring for others...
 - Through July 19 - gently used children’s books in Spanish or English to send with the Mission trip youth for LaPuente’s PALS program www.lapuente.net/Pals.php
 - After July 19 – monetary offering for CROP walk www.northfieldcrophungerwalk.org/

September 20: School Year Sunday School

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

Junior High (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.



Northfield Church Softball Schedule

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



help us update our membership database

We are in the process of updating our membership database. During the next month or so we will have boxes of envelopes which will be addressed to each household, a letter explaining further what is needed and a white sheet (approximately 1/3 of a page each) for each person in the household.

Please update or fill in any missing information on each sheet and return to the church office as soon as possible. If all the information is current please sign each sheet and return them to the church office.

In addition to the information we have had in the past we will also ask for a default email. This is new and I have added it for those in the household who do not have an email. An example would be if a household had a child who was too young to have their own email (or never checked their email). At your direction I would put the mother's or father's email address as the default email address for that child. We could easily then send an email to each child in a certain class. The mother/father would retrieve it and show it to the child (allowing both the child and a parent to see it) and no one would be out of the loop.

When the information sheets are updated they can be placed in the offering plat on Sunday, left on my desk, mailed to the church office, or placed in the locked box outside the main church office door.

Thank you for helping,
Elaine Malecha



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.