

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

October Sunday Worship Services



Sunday, October 4:

World Communion Sunday

Bell Ringer: Julie Maxson

10:00 a.m. Worship &

Communion;

Commissioning of

Confirmation Group

Readings: Matthew 3:13-17

Mark 14:22-25

Sermon: We Are One at

Baptism and the Table

Music: Rainbow and Angel

Choirs

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour: Teresa
& Doug Morris

11:15 a.m. JH Youth Group

11:30 a.m. Adult Forum: Paul

Miller will give us an overview

of the struggle for justice for

Haiti's people

11:30 a.m. SH Youth Group

4:00 p.m. Confirmation



Sunday, October 11:

Bell Ringer: Leota Goodney

10:00 a.m. Worship

Readings: Romans 14:7-8

1 Corinthians 12:12-21

Sermon: We Belong to Christ

Music: Spirit Voices

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour: Cissi

McChesney

11:15 a.m. JH Youth Group

11:20 a.m. Inquirers Class (Parlor)

11:30 a.m. Adult Forum: Paul

Miller will lead a discussion of

the book "On That Day

Everybody Ate," by Margaret

Trost. This is the story of one

woman's account of her

experiences in Haiti.

11:30 a.m. SH Youth Group

4:00 p.m. Confirmation



Sunday, October 18:

10:00 a.m. Worship

Readings: Micah 6:6-8

James 1:22-25

Sermon: We Thank God by

Working for a Just and

Loving World

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour: The Beth

Kallestad family

11:15 a.m. JHigh Youth Group

11:30 a.m. Adult Forum: Ruth

McKenzie, our seminary intern

from UTS, will lead this forum.

4:00 p.m. Confirmation



Sunday, October 25:

Reformation Sunday

Bell Ringer: Phil Parsons

10:00 a.m. Worship, Bibles to

Children

Readings: Psalm 46:1-11;

1 Kings 19:9-12

Sermon: We Listen for the Still-

Speaking God

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour: Garda

and Bob Kahn

11:15 a.m. JH Youth Group

11:30 a.m. SH Youth Group

11:30 a.m. Adult Forum: A panel

Discussion of Health Care

Issues

4:00 p.m. Confirmation

In our Prayers

Tina and Mike Schlottman,
renewing their wedding vows
on their 10th anniversary
Leah Borris, on her way to Maine
for 3 months as an outdoor
educator

Betsy Hakes, celebrating her
marriage to Ryan Eagle
Carol Rutz, accompanying her
mother, who has entered
hospice care
Julia Savina, who has entered
hospice care, and her daughter,
Mary, who accompanies her
Nancy Carriel, recovering from
breast cancer surgery
Suzie Nakasian, recovering from
breast cancer surgery
Doug and Pat Kriesel, celebrating
their 50th wedding anniversary
Ruth MacKenzie, our new
seminary intern, and all
seminary students
Sarah Entenmann, grateful for a
clean bill of health four years

after her breast cancer treatment
 Jerry Hankins, continuing his recovery from recent surgery, and his wife Liz
 Marty Pelikan, recovering from a broken foot
 Mark Fischer, accompanying his father (in Michigan) through many medical procedures
 Our federal legislators, as they work toward health care reform
 Sue Mieska, marking 21 years of sobriety, who asks us to remember both those in recovery and those who struggle with relapse



Trustees busy at work

The Trustees have decided to clean and dispose of some of the items in the storage room under the Sanctuary.

1st: Ron and the Trustees will be placing post-it-notes on items which they believe should be moved out or disposed of. This will be done by Sunday, October 4, 2009

2nd If you have items stored in the storage room (under the Sanctuary) which you may want to keep in storage please stop down (by Sunday, October 11) and make sure the items do not have a post it note on them. If you see an item with a post-it-note on it which you wish to keep, please make sure the remove the note and leave a message for Ron or the Trustees to keep that item.

3rd The Trustees will then remove items with the post-it on them on Sundays after worship.

Thank you.

Generous Congregations

Pastor Sandy and Treasurer Phil Kasten will be attending a special program called *Equipping Leaders for Generous Congregations: Fundraising and Financial Transformation*, in Dallas, Texas October 8-10.

This event is hosted by Local Church Ministries of the UCC and the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, and we were invited because of our history of generous support of Our Church's Wider Mission.

The Minnesota Conference is paying for representatives from four churches to attend the event, with the hope that we will share what we learn with other churches as well as our own congregations.

Communicating Across the Generations

Pastor Sandy will be attending a Minnesota Conference event, *Communicating Across the Generations* October 1-2.

She will also attend *Ministering to the Missing Generation* at United Seminary on October 30.




Preventive Medicine

We are all hoping that the worries about the H1N1 flu turn out to be unwarranted. At the same time, we all want to take sensible precautions to avoid a serious outbreak of this illness.

So let me suggest some common-sense practices for all of us:

- If you are not feeling well, and there is any chance you have the flu, stay home.
- If someone in your household has been ill and it might have been the flu, stay home.
- Observe good personal hygiene – particularly frequent hand-washing.
- Choose a method of *Passing the Peace* during worship that feels safe to you – you do not need to shake hands if you don't want to. Consider a hand on the shoulder, a nod of the head, or just a big smile.
- Understand if some church programs are postponed or cancelled because of illness.

Theo Wee's (First) Forty Years: A Celebration

In the fall of 1969, Theo  Wee became the organist and choirmaster of First UCC. On November 8, 2009, we will celebrate her four full decades of music-making with a service of music, words, and festivity. Please make sure to attend and enjoy the new organ work that has been commissioned for her, an elegant light lunch after the service, and several apt surprises. And don't worry--we're simply celebrating Theo's *first* 40 years of service!



Pastoral Ponderings

Last week I attended a presentation on “Styles of Grieving”. This was held at St. John’s Lutheran Church, presented by Douglas C. Smith, and sponsored by the Northfield Hospice and the Northfield Grief Coalition. Mr. Smith ended his presentation with a short sermon he said he uses to close his workshops and presentations. He is my inspiration for this writing today.

In 2 Timothy 4:18-21, the apostle Paul told Timothy of his hardships and his belief that his death was approaching. He urged Timothy to “Do your best to get here before winter”.

Mr. Smith used the term “Come before winter” as a reminder to us all to pay attention to those things that need our attention now. Of course, he spoke mainly of being there for those who are most in need of our care and presence. Timothy didn’t heed Paul’s request soon enough and never saw Paul again.

Over my desk, I now have a little note that says, “Come before winter”. I am using it as a reminder to stop putting off those little niceties/caring behaviors that I “intend” to do for those I love. I made a list of the things I have on my “one-of-these days” list. They now scream out for action, and I am attacking them one by one. Among the things on that list are the notes I have “been meaning to send” to a couple of my parents’ old friends. I also have my great aunt, whom I last saw in May, who loves calls and visits. It’s time to make another

visit, and I am determined that she will get a weekly call. (She sounded so good last night!) I took a basket of muffins over to some elderly neighbors from Russia whom I had “meant” to meet when they first arrived...a year ago. I am trying to remember that someday there will not be another chance to do some of these things. Winter tends to come when we least expect it.

Peace always, *Cathy*

Women’s Spirituality Group

Please join us on Monday, October 26, for the monthly *Women’s Spirituality Group*. We meet at 7:00 P.M. on the fourth Monday of each month and welcome all women of the church and their friends.

In October we will read and discuss excerpts from Teresa of Avila’s *Interior Castle* (taken from *Devotional Classics*, edited by Richard J. Foster and James Bryan Smith). Copies of this reading are available in the office, or you can ask another group member to share.

Begging Works

Thank you to several members who heeded my begging request for recipes. There is still time to turn in recipes which you think may be helpful for our pastoral meal volunteers. Just email or put them in my church mailbox....pretty please? If you have any questions, just call me at 645-7532.

Thank you, *Cathy*

Church Office Hours
June through September 4
Monday through Thursday
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

September 8 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

Pastoral Care Associate:
Cathy Cammack
cathycammack@firstucc.org

Director of Educational and Youth
Ministries: Cher Langley 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
theowee@firstucc.org

Office Manager: Elaine Malecha
church@firstucc.org

Bookkeeper: Andrea Pegram
andreapegram@firstucc.org

Custodian: Ron Olson

Childcare Coordinator: Tammy
Rischmiller
tammyrischmiller@firstucc.org

Night Security: Mark Fischer

Officers

Moderator: Ed Lufkin
Vice Moderator: Tracy Fossum

Shawl Knitting Group

Contributions of money are needed to buy more yarn to keep the shawl knitting groups going. The yarn to knit one shawl costs about \$15. When we started knitting shawls a number of years ago we had a few knitters. The Memorial Committee could keep up with our request for money for the yarn.

Now the knitters are as young as six and on up to working women, retirees, and now our new intergenerational knitting group. We knit all the shawls that go out to our church members. We now have labels to sew on a corner of each shawl saying "prayerfully made by First U.C.C. knitters."

If you are so inclined to contribute to this project please write a check to First UCC church - Northfield and on the memo line write "Prayer Shawls".

Peace always, *Cathy*

Inquirers' Class

An Inquirers' 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, October 11, after worship.

For those wishing to join, new member information forms will be due in the office by Sunday, October 18.

Those planning to join will meet with their sponsors at 7:00 p.m. on November 1 and be welcomed into membership on Sunday, November 8, during worship.



Sing the New Century at Pilgrim Point Camp!

On October 3 at Pilgrim Point Camp, Minnesota's own effervescent Arthur G. Clyde, the editor of our New Century Hymnal, will be present to lead us forward singing into the new century.

Choral experience is not at all a requirement for participation in the events of the day. For added information, check the Pilgrim Point website, www.pilgrimpoint.org, ask your music director or call Judy Rose at 1-320-852-6973.



2009 Holiday Greens Order Form - Senior High Fundraiser

Return this form with payment to: First UCC Church office, 300 Union Street, Northfield, Minnesota 55057 by Sunday, October 25th. Sorry, but orders without payment will not be accepted.

_____ Number of 24' balsam wreaths @ \$15.00 each.
Total amount attached \$ _____.00

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

All wreaths ordered must be picked up from Sunday, November 15 through Sunday, November 29. Wreaths not picked up by Sunday, November 29 will be resold or donated.



First United Church of Christ
 300 Union Street, Northfield, Minnesota 55057
church@firstucc.org 507-645-7532

September 30, 2009

Dear First UCC Members and Friends:

What matters? What really matters? The answers are numerous but included in these I am sure is our faith in God and the love and kindness we share with our fellow human beings. Once again we have the opportunity to demonstrate "what matters" by giving some of our financial resources to our church to continue its excellent programs and projects both within Northfield and around the world.

Last year, despite challenging economic times, we only missed our target by 5%. That is remarkable and a testament to your dedication to the First UCC mission! This year, let's pull together to reach the goal we came so close to hitting last year:

- **\$300,000** for local expenses that provides support for our ministries within First UCC, Northfield, including worship, programs, staff and facilities.
- **\$71,000** for OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) that provides support for local groups and causes and for our Minnesota Conference and national settings of the United Church of Christ.

Now it's easier than ever to make a gift or pledge:

- **Visit firstucc.org** and click on "Give Now" for one-time and recurring gifts or "2010 Pledge Form" to pledge now and pay later.
- **Please** return the pledge form at the bottom of this letter. Pledge forms will also be included in the October 11th bulletin, and can be found in the foyer outside the church office.

Note: If you wish to transfer your 2010 contributions electronically from your checking or savings account or from your credit card, you will need to complete the authorization agreement accompanying this letter.

Please know that gifts of any size are greatly appreciated and will be used to further the work of the missions of our church. Thank you for your thoughtful stewardship.

*Tracy Fossum, Doug Kriesel, Shawn Nuebel, Elizabeth Olson,
 Bob Reitz, Jessica Stadler, Sandy Johnson, ex officio
 The Stewardship Committee*

*Please return the bottom half of this sheet (in the envelope provided) as soon as possible,
 or bring it to worship on Sunday, October 25, 2009 for the Dedication of Pledges. Thank you.*



2010 Pledge Sheet

Telephone #: _____
 Name/s: _____
 Street: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____

Giving #: _____
For Office use Only

E-mail: _____

My/our **TOTAL** pledge to First UCC of Northfield for 2010 is \$ _____

Please allocate this support as follows: \$ _____ towards 2010 **Local** expenses

\$ _____ towards **OCWM** during 2010

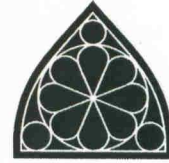
Yes! I will give through the EFT service, StillspeakingMoney®. (Note: A new "Electronic Giving Authorization Form" must be filled out each year.)

I have questions about StillspeakingMoney®. Please call me at: _____

Electronic Giving Authorization Form

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
300 UNION STREET
NORTHFIELD, MN 55057
507-645-7532

UCC361200



**FIRST UNITED
 CHURCH of CHRIST**
 Northfield · Minnesota

Type of Authorization Form:

<input type="checkbox"/> New authorization	<input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date(s) or frequency
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal of existing account	<input type="checkbox"/> Change banking/credit card account information
<input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount	<input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

<p>Date of first donation: ____/____/____</p> <p>Date of last donation (optional): ____/____/____</p>	<p>Frequency of donation:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1st and 15th</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1st</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15th</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly (Jan 15th, April 15th, July 15th, Oct. 15th)</p>	<p>Church fund designations and amounts:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2010 Local Operations \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2010 OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) \$ _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total Local/OCWM \$ _____</p>
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Special Collections in 2010:

<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota Food Share	\$ _____	Debited on March 15 th
<input type="checkbox"/> One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ _____	Debited on April 15 th
<input type="checkbox"/> Strengthen the Church	\$ _____	Debited on August 15 th
<input type="checkbox"/> Neighbors in Need	\$ _____	Debited on October 15 th
<input type="checkbox"/> The Christmas Eve Offering	\$ _____	Debited on December 15 th

CREDIT CARD

Please charge my donation to my (check one): Visa MasterCard American Express Discover Card

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

I authorize the above church and Vanco Services, LLC to charge my credit card in accordance with the information above.

Signature (as it appears on the credit card): _____ Date: _____

CHECKING / SAVINGS

Please debit my donation from my (check one):

Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #)

Checking Account (attach a voided check to this form)

Routing Number: _____
Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3

Account Number: _____

I authorize the above church and Vanco Services, LLC to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.

Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____

Contributions Made Easy!



Want to save time, simplify your life, and support our mission and ministry? StillspeakingMoney®, our Electronic Funds Transfer program, can help you do just that! The StillspeakingMoney® program allows you to make contributions without writing a check or reaching into your wallet for cash. Here is how it works: You authorize a specified amount of money to be electronically transferred directly from your checking, savings, or credit card account to First UCC's bank account. You also specify the frequency of the transfer to allow you to keep track of your contributions. It is fast, safe, easy, and costs you NOTHING! First UCC will issue you a giving statement for your tax records, and your bank statements will provide you with a record of transfer as additional proof of your contributions. You can change or cancel your authorization at any time, but we believe that you will enjoy the benefits of StillspeakingMoney®! More information about this giving option will be provided with your stewardship materials, or contact Andrea Pegram (andreapegam@firstucc.org).

Give Online at



www.firstucc.org

We are pleased to announce the addition of online giving capabilities to our website at www.firstucc.org. Now, you

can create and manage your donations to First UCC quickly and securely from the comfort of your own computer. You have the ability to draft one-time or recurring transactions from your checking, savings, or credit card account directly to the church's bank account. Coming soon, we also plan to offer online transactions for church fundraisers and other special purchase events. Visit our website and click on the "Giving" page, and you will be directed through the process of online giving.



First UCC Accepts Credit Cards!

In addition to accepting cash and checks, First UCC now accepts credit cards for donations and purchases. This payment option is available through our website at www.firstucc.org, or by stopping into the church office and completing an authorization form. When using your credit card, please consider offering an additional \$3 to help the church offset the transaction cost.



Looking For an Easy, Unique Gift?

Look no further! First UCC offers three fantastic gift options (think holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, or a treat for yourself!). Each Sunday, after worship service, a table is located

outside the sanctuary which offers the following items for purchase:

- Scrip cards (many denominations available)
 - Pre-paid gift cards to all of your favorite retailers, including gas and food retailers
- First UCC cookbooks (\$10/each)
 - A compilation of yummy recipes for church suppers and other sacred feasts, submitted by First UCC members and friends
- *Forever Singing As We Shine* music CD (\$10/each), a beautiful compilation of vocal and instrumental music written, arranged, and/or performed by First UCC choirs, musicians, and friends in celebration of our Church's sesquicentennial.

A way to Save each month for First UCC

(without even giving):

Have You Gone Electronic Yet?



Remember, you can sign up to receive this newsletter by email (just contact Elaine, at church@firstucc.org), or you can always find it on our church's website, www.firstucc.org.

And remember you can sign up to receive all the new posts and/or information on the website in your email, or add our website to your RSS feed. Stay in touch!



Faith Formation through Christian Education

Sharing, Caring, Learning and Serving



Children

Child care

- infants through age 2, 9:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
- infants through grade 6, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

School Year Sunday School

Adults: Support the children by being a helper. Sign up on bulletin board across from office
Ages 3-Grade 6

- after children's time in worship; return for worship closing
- www.spiritseasons.com/

First Sunday of the Month

- **Multi-age Class**, ages 3 through Grade 3, www.godlyplay.org
- **Grades 4-6** participate in worship with family

October 25: 2nd grade Bible Presentation during worship. Bible exploration with Pastor Sandy after worship.



Junior High Youth

Grades 7 & 8 each Sunday from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Senior High Youth

Grades 9-12 (check email for updates)

Senior High Youth Group

Meets each Sunday, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

October 16-18: No Senior High Youth Group due to Conference Youth Event.



Confirmation (Grade 9) begins October 4, each Sunday from

4:00-6:00 p.m.



Adult Education: Sunday Forums

Join us in the sanctuary after worship each week
 Child care is available downstairs until 12:30 pm

October 4: Haiti's History - Paul Miller will give us an overview of the struggle for justice for Haiti's people

October 11: Discussion of the book *On That Day Everybody Ate* by Margaret Trost, led by Paul Miller. This is the story of one woman's account of her experiences in Haiti. Books are available through Anne Meyer-Ruppel and the Service and Social Responsibility Committee.

October 18: Ruth McKenzie, our seminary intern from UTS, will lead forum this week.

October 25: A panel discussion of Health Care Issues



Thank you

- for your generous donation to Pilgrim Point Camp. Your pledge has been placed in a FY 2010 donation account for camp continuation.
- for your generous gift to Neighbors in Need in 2008! Two-thirds of your NIN offering goes to support Justice and Witness Ministries and one-third to support the Council of American Indian Ministry.
- for your continued support of the ISLA programs in Nicaragua. Funds from your contribution will go toward education, medical, and construction programs. With each trip we strengthen our relationship with the people of Jalapa and provide needed services.



Dear Friends

I hope you have come to WFFF already – that’s our *Wednesdays for Food, Fun, & Faith* evening. If you haven’t attended yet, I hope you will try to come soon.

WFFF is important because we all hope for the church to be a genuine community – a place where we are known for whom we really are, and a place where we can share our faith journeys and our life journeys with one another.

It takes some effort to build a genuine community – time spent together, the willingness to share important thoughts and feelings, and an investment in our common life.

That’s more than we can accomplish in an hour (or even an hour and half!) on Sunday morning when we gather for worship. That’s more than we can accomplish in the hour (or hour and a half) that we spend at a meeting during the week. It is more than we can accomplish by reading the newsletter and checking the website periodically.

I know that time is a precious commodity for many members of our congregation. But I can’t think of a better investment of the time we do have than spending it together for food, fun, and faith. Sharing a meal, laughing and playing together, and deepening our relationship with God and one another – these are the building blocks of a healthy life as well as a healthy community.

You don’t have to do anything to get ready – just come. Supper is provided (with a free will donation), and there will always be something interesting to do, whatever your age. Bring a friend if you would like.

And if you have a great time – you might even offer to help some week.

See you Wednesday! *Sandy*