

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

Sundays in November



Sunday, November 1:

Confirmation Trip

Bell Ringer: Bill Poehlmann

10:00 a.m. Worship &
Communion

Focus: In the Lap of a Widow

Readings: Ruth 1:1-18,

Psalm 146

10:15 a.m. Multi-age Sunday
School Class (ages 3-grade 3)

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour: Kathy
Clark, Susannah Ottaway,
Michele Wardn

11:15 a.m. JH Youth Group

11:30 a.m. SH Youth Group
(Leaf Raking)

11:30 a.m. Adult Forum: Brief
History of Burma and a Baptist
Christian mission.

7:00 p.m. New Members &
Sponsors Dessert Meeting



11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour: in honor
of New Members and Theo
Wee, sponsored by Bobbie
Peterson

11:15 a.m. JH Youth Group

11:30 a.m. SH Youth Group

4:00 p.m. Confirmation



Sunday, November 15:

Preordered holiday wreaths
available for pickup in entry

Bell Ringer: Leota Goodney

10:00 a.m. Worship, Neighbors in
Need Offering

Focus: Singing Praise

Readings: 1 Samuel 1:4-20;
1 Samuel 2:1-10

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Harvest Meal

11:15 a.m. JH Youth Group

11:30 a.m. SH Youth Group
(Harvest Meal)

No 11:30 Adult Forum – see
4:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. Confirmation
(downstairs)

4:00 p.m. Feeding Program

Presentation (author Margaret

Trost) Paul Miller will talk
about the What If? Foundation
(Sanctuary) followed by dinner
(Assembly)



Sunday, November 22:

Bell Ringer: Bill Poehlmann

10:00 a.m. Worship

Guest Preacher: Rev. Elena
Larsen, a MN Associate
Conference Minister

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour: The
Maki-Wallers

Turkish scarves will be for sale
during the Coffee Hour

11:15 a.m. JH Youth Group

11:30 a.m. SH Youth Group

11:30 a.m. Adult Forum: Burma –
Prospects for the future of one
of the poorest countries in the
world.

4:00 p.m. Confirmation



Sunday, November 29:

No SH Youth Group

No Confirmation

Bell Ringer: Scott Richardson

10:00 a.m. Worship, Advent
Pageant (led by Ruth
MacKenzie)

Focus: Advent Pageant

Reading: Luke 1:1-7

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour

11:15 a.m. JH Youth Group

11:30 a.m. Adult Forum: Book
discussion of “The First
Christmas” by Marcus Borg &
John Dominic Crossan



Sunday, November 8:

Bell Ringer: Scott Richardson

10:00 a.m. Worship, Reception of
New Members, Celebration
of Theo Wee’s First Forty
Years at First UCC

Focus: Make A Joyful Noise

Readings: Psalm 98;

2 Samuel 6:1-5

Musical Sermon: a new organ
work commissioned for Theo
Wee

10:15 a.m. Sunday School



In our Prayers

For the time being, to preserve the privacy of our members and friends, we will not publish prayer concerns in the online version of The Chronicle.

Please consult the minister or church office if you have any questions.

Jerry Hankins, recently hospitalized but continuing his recovery
Carol Rutz and her family, mourning the death of her mother, Kathleen Hamrum
Family and friends of Pat Lampe, mourning her death
Julia Savina, continuing in hospice care
Those suffering from the H1N1 flu and their families.

Ministry to Long Term Care Center

This month Pastor Sandy, organist Theo Wee, and members of the Board of Deacons will be leading worship at the Northfield Hospital Long Term Care Center. If you would like to participate in this important ministry, please contact Pastor Sandy.

Guest Preacher on Sunday, November 22

On November 22, we welcome the Rev. Elena Larssen. Elena is one of the Associate Conference Ministers in the MN Conference of the UCC. She has an undergraduate degree in theatre, and has worked in both parish and campus ministry. She (like

our Pastor) is a graduate of Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Don't miss meeting one of our most vital church leaders!

What's an Advent Pageant?

A lot happened before that night in Bethlehem (check the first part of the Gospel of Luke) – and this year we will begin the Advent season with a pageant starring Elizabeth and Zechariah, Anna and Simeon. The pageant will be the “sermon” on Sunday, November 29, the first Sunday of Advent.

The idea came from the Rev. Nancy Swanson, who originally wrote it for Hazel Park Congregational Church. Our version was adapted and directed by our seminary intern, Ruth MacKenzie.



2009 Holiday Wreaths

All preordered holiday wreaths 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.

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

Seminary Intern: Ruth MacKenzie
ruthmackenzie@firstucc.org

Officers

Moderator: Ed Lufkin
Vice Moderator: Tracy Fossum



Dear Friends,

If you are going to be traveling over the holidays or during the cold winter months, I hope you will find time to worship at a UCC church in the place you are visiting.

It is easy to forget that our wider church includes congregations with many styles of worship and outreach. You might find a Samoan church in Seattle, a Hispanic congregation in Phoenix, or an African-American congregation in North Carolina.

If you attend a congregation that was part of our “Evangelical and Reformed” tradition, you might find worship that reminds you of our sister Lutheran churches. And whatever the history of a congregation, you might end up in a church with rock music or a gospel choir or a harpsichord.

And you might hear preaching from pastors who are young (or old), men (or women), learned (or funny), straight (or gay, bi-sexual, or transsexual), or ...

Visiting other churches helps make us aware of the habits we have in our church – sometimes gratefully aware, sometimes critically aware. I have brought back ideas for our church from my travels (like our response “Your prayer is our prayer now” from the UCC church in Tampa, Florida).

Most of all, it is good to worship with people who are our partners in ministry across the country – to put a face on our wider church, and remind ourselves that the United Church of Christ is much

more than any one local congregation – even ours!

1.

Grace and peace, *Sandy*



Pastoral Ponderings

y

For the past several weeks, Rev. Sandy and I have been working on a grant application which, we hope, will bring funding for a project that is dear to both of us. The grant is titled *Partners in Senior Caregiving*. It is our hope to provide resources, library materials, and spiritual and pastoral support to those who care for aging loved ones.

Many of us have already cared for a spouse or aging parents as they faced the end of their lives. And many of us will find ourselves in that situation in the near future. So often, these things happen with little or no warning, and we become unexpected caregivers. Via a website and other referral information, we hope to provide a “place to go” when life tosses a hurdle our way. Northfield is a community with ample resources. What makes our plan different is that as a faith community, we can bring the spiritual aspect into this support.

We are a community that cares for one another. We come together to provide meals, visits, rides, and prayer for those who struggle. But who provides care, emotionally, physically, and spiritually, for those who are caregivers? I’d like to ask you to please keep the caregivers in your thoughts and prayers. Your friends who care for an aging spouse or parents need your love and support, too. Here are just a few suggestions of ways you can

provide nurturing for the nurturer:

- Offer to provide a meal. Ask in advance what day will work best. Knowing ahead of time that a meal doesn’t have to be planned is a great help for someone already overburdened.
- Ask your friend out for coffee or lunch. Be a supportive “ear”/presence.
- Offer to include his/her errands when you run yours.
- If possible, offer to sit with his/her loved one so respite time is possible.
- Offer to car pool children to and/or from school, sports, or lessons.

In other words, think of the daily tasks you typically perform, and use those as ideas for lightening another’s burden.

Peace always, *Cathy*

Women’s Spirituality Group

The *Women’s Spirituality Group* will meet on Monday, November 23, at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss a short article by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Copies are available in the church office.

Please join us for friendship and lively discussion. All women of the church are invited. Friends are welcome.

Please note: the group regularly meets on the 4th Monday of each month.

If you have any questions, please call Cathy. (6435-7532, ext. 203)



Environmental Stewardship

As you reflect on sustaining the Church and its mission financially, please take this opportunity to join people of faith around the world in also making us better stewards of God's creation. Scientists report that a 350 parts per million carbon dioxide level is the highest, safe level to stem global warming. (The atmosphere is now at 386 ppm.) 350 ppm has become a goal among environmentalists for the upcoming Copenhagen accords. (See 350.org for more details.) The U.S. Senate is presently taking up this matter in an important energy and environmental bill. Write your senators expressing your faith-based desire to see a world well cared for by adhering to scientific wisdom about 350 ppm and related matters. (Senator Klobuchar sits on a key subcommittee and needs support she can show others for this position.)

The First UCC Green Group

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!



Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering November 15

The Service and Social Responsibility Committee has scheduled the fall special offering, Neighbors in Need, for Sunday, November 15, 2009. This denomination-wide appeal supports UCC ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. One third supports the UCC Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM).

New York City's Poverty Initiative, dedicated to creating generations of religious and community leaders committed to building a movement to end poverty, is a Justice and Witness Ministries recipient. Dedicated to completing the unfinished business of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., this organization provides training and opportunities to organizations working with meeting the needs of the poor. In the past year, 150 people from more than 35 low-income communities in New York City, Charleston and West Virginia participated in training sessions.

A CAIM recipient is the All Nations Church in Minneapolis, which provides and Word and Sacrament ministry among the

large community of Indian people in that city. It works with other organizations to provide social service, including a childcare center.

Offering envelopes will be in the bulletin on November 15. Contributions may also be made on line at: <http://firstucc.org/weblog/post/1193/#more-1193>. Click on "Give Now."



Turkish Scarves for sale

On Sunday, November 22, during the coffee hour, Turkish scarves will again be available for sale. These scarves are all cotton, washable and are made by women in Kaynasli, Turkey, whose lives were sent into turmoil by a devastating earthquake ten years ago. The proceeds from these scarves help these women pay for their children's educations and for daily necessities. This is a project of the UCC which is coordinated by Barry and Diana Hanke of the Rochester Congregational UCC and Gary and Kathy Kasten of our own church.



Advent Yoga

Yoga classes as a Spiritual Exercise will be held at First UCC from 8:45 to 10:00 a.m. on the following Saturday mornings during Advent: December 5th, 12th, and 19th.

Please contact Bob at 645-9279 with questions or if other times would work better (he might be willing to change if enough people request it).

Advent Yoga is sponsored by the Deacons. There is no charge but a free will offering will be taken. All are welcome.



Women's Spirituality Group

The *Women's Spirituality Group* will meet on Monday, November 23, at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss a short article by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Copies are available in the church office.

Please join us for friendship and lively discussion. All women of the church are invited. Friends are welcome.

Please note: the group regularly meets on the 4th Monday of each month.

If you have any questions, please call Cathy. (6435-7532, ext. 203)



Longest Night

Please mark your calendars for the *Longest Night Service* which will be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evening, December 21.

This is a lovely service of music, prayer, and reflection. It honors the fact that, for many people, the holidays can be reminders of grief and loss. Those reminders seem, otherwise, incongruent with the festivity of the season.

Join us for a brief respite from the shopping, cards, and craziness.



Laura Baker's 10th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Laura Baker Services Association will hold their annual free Thanksgiving Dinner from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving Day) at the Millis Dining Hall, 211 Oak Street, Northfield.

If you need a ride, or know of someone who needs a meal delivered to their home, call Jan (645-8866 ext. 107) by November 20.



PEO Fundraiser

Have Breakfast with Santa at First UCC on Saturday morning, December 12. Watch for more details.



Faith Formation through Christian Education

Sharing, Caring, Learning and Serving



Children

Childcare

- infants through age 2,
9:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m. and 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



Junior High Youth

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

Additional group events

- Sunday, October 25 from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: Leaf Raking, bring gloves!
- Saturday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. (meet at NAG theater): Donata's Gift (group tickets)
- Date TBA (either December 11 or 19): Heart of the Beast theater, La Natividad
- Saturday, January 23 from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.: MN UCC Conference Junior High Service days in Minneapolis



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.

- November 1: **Leaf Raking**
- November 8: 10:00 a.m. **worship leadership:** greeting, scripture, usher; **Lunch** with congregation
- November 15: **Harvest meal** w/congregation
- November 22: 11:30 a.m.– 1:00 p.m., **Pizza & Movie**
- SUMMER: July 23–August 2, 2010 **Mission Trip** to Alamosa, Colorado serving Habitat for Humanity and La Puente

Thanks to all who preordered wreaths!

Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class will be held on Sundays from 4:00-6:00 p.m.



Adult Education: Sunday Forums

Join us after worship each week. Childcare is available downstairs until 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 1:

Brief History of Burma (Myanmar) and a Baptist Christian mission. Za Tuan and Khan Lun, our guests from Myanmar, will introduce this isolated and mostly Buddhist country governed by a military government.

Sunday, November 8:

No Adult Forum

Sunday, November 15:

4:00 p.m. Sunday Forum with Paul Miller (Sanctuary) followed by dinner (Assembly).

Sunday, November 22

"Burma (Myanmar) – Prospects for the future of one of the poorest countries in the world". Burt Levin, Tun Myint, and Gary Wagenbach, presenters. A national election may be held in 2010. Nobel Peace Prize recipient Aung San Suu Kyi is again under house arrest. How does the ruling military junta think about the future? How do Burmese expatriates think about the future?

Sunday, November 29:

We discuss The First Christmas, a new book by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. The discussion will continue on December 6 and 13. Books will be available for purchase for \$11. beginning November 1.

"In The First Christmas, two of today's top Jesus scholars join forces to show how history has biased our reading of the nativity story as it appears in the gospels of Matthew and Luke... they explore the beginning of the life of Christ, peeling away the sentimentalism that has built up over the last two thousand years around this most well known of all stories to reveal the truth of what the gospels actually say."


Join us for this new and challenging look at the Christmas story!


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 Christmas 

\$ _____ 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 _____