



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 during February

### Sunday, February 7:

Nursery: Kristie Stadler  
Bell Ringer: Peter Carlson  
Sound System: Christoph Hodel

10:00 a.m. Worship &  
Communion



Focus: Deep Water  
Readings: Isaiah 1-13;  
Luke 5:1-11

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

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour  
(Hankins)

11:15 a.m. Jr. H. Youth Group

11:30 a.m. Sr. H. Youth Group

1:00-4:00 p.m. Deacon's "Find  
Your Voice" Retreat

4:00-6:00 p.m. Confirmation

### Sunday, February 14:

#### Transfiguration

Nursery: Grace Morris  
Bell Ringer: Leota Goodney  
Sound System: Henry Beimers

10:00 a.m. Worship

Focus: Bright  
Readings: Exodus 34:29-35;  
Luke 9:28-36

Bell Choir

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour (Fossum)

11:15 a.m. Jr. H. Youth Group

11:30 a.m. Sr. H. Youth Group

4:00-6:00 p.m. Confirmation

Wednesday, February 17  
Ash Wednesday

### Sunday, February 21:

March Chronicle articles are due  
in office

Nursery: Christoph Hodel

Sound System: John Severson

10:00 a.m. Worship, Spirit Voices

Focus: Tempted . . . Again  
Readings: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;  
Luke 4:1-13

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour

11:15 a.m. Jr. H. Youth Group

11:30 a.m. Sr. H. Youth Group

### Sunday, February 28:

Nursery: John Menk  
Bell Ringer: Pete Carlson  
Sound System: Christoph Hodel

10:00 a.m. Worship

Focus: Confronts Danger  
Readings: Psalm 27;  
Luke 13:31-35

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour  
(Savina/Riesman)

11:15 a.m. Jr. H. Youth Group

11:30 a.m. Sr. H. Youth Group

4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class

### Looking Ahead:

March 28: Palm Sunday

April 1: Maundy Thursday

April 2: Good Friday

April 4: Easter (one service)



### In Our Prayers

Pat and Scott Richardson,  
concerned about their brother-  
in-law Ken's serious illness  
The people of Haiti, and those  
coming to their aid  
The Confirmation group,  
learning about other churches  
Middle School youth, who  
recently participated in the  
Conference Middle School  
Service Day  
Those who experience depression  
during the winter months  
Those who are at risk for falls in  
icy weather

**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.

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**Websites:** [www.firstucc.org](http://www.firstucc.org)  
[www.uccjrhigh.blogspot.com](http://www.uccjrhigh.blogspot.com)

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### Officers

Moderator: Ed Lufkin  
Vice Moderator: Tracy Fossum



## Dear Friends,

I have been thinking a lot lately about what we mean by “membership” in the church.

For those of us who grew up in the 50's and 60's, membership meant being involved in an organization – attending meetings, being on committees, making financial contributions, and thinking of yourself as “belonging.”

But there are lots of kinds of membership today – and most of them are far more casual than the one I just described.

So for example, you can be a “member” of Minnesota Public Radio just by making a donation. You don't get to decide anything, but then you don't have to do anything else either.

Other “memberships” are really just arrangements for particular kinds of services. So you join AAA to get maps and emergency road service, or you join a health club to use the gym and swimming pool.

And then there are things we are members of without any initiative on our parts at all: the human race, the United States of America, the Baby Boomer generation (or whatever generation you may be part of).

I hope being a church “member” means more than any of these things. I hope church members feel spiritually called into the congregation – called by our worship, by our commitment to social justice, by our practice of caring for each other, or just by a

vague yearning to know God more fully and more faithfully.

Let's all try to make this particular “membership” a vital part of our lives.

Grace and peace, *Sandy*

## Church Council Advance

You have heard of groups going on “retreat,” right? Well our Church Council is going on “Advance”!

The new Council will meet from 9:00 to 1:00 on Saturday, February 6 to make plans and start work for the New Year. Breakfast will be provided, along with lots of interesting things to think and talk about.

## Yoga as a Spiritual Discipline

The Deacons are co-sponsoring Yoga as a Spiritual Discipline during lent. These classes will start at 8:45 a.m. with some meditation, and will go until 10:00 a.m., finishing with meditation time. All are welcome whether or not you have ever done any meditation or any yoga. Class will be offered on the following Saturdays: February 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, and March 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>. Please note that there will not be classes on February 27<sup>th</sup> or March 6<sup>th</sup>. You are welcome to come to which ever classes fit your schedule, and you are encouraged to meditate on the Saturdays on which there are no classes. Questions to Bob, 645-9279.



## Ash Wednesday

Please join us for our Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday evening, **February 17, at 6:15 p.m.** As usual, we will gather beforehand for supper, then gather in the sanctuary for a service that begins our Lenten season. This is a service for people of all ages, and we look forward to being together that evening.

## Special Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will hold a special meeting on Wednesday Evening, February 17, following the Ash Wednesday Service (about 7:00 p.m.). The Board of Trustees is invited to join the council for this meeting.

Our guest will be the Rev. Elena Larssen, Associate Conference Minister, who will provide information to the Council about the process of saying good-bye to Pastor Sandy and preparing for our next pastoral leader.

For further information, contact Moderator Tracy Fossum or Vice-Moderator Brad Hoff.

## Hard Hearts and Grace

Our church will observe Lent, a time set apart for reflection and self-examination, by inviting singer/songwriter Neal Hagberg (of Neal and Leandra) to inspire and challenge us with his music. Neal recently released a solo CD, "It's Not As Simple As It Seems," which puts a human face on the suffering we experience and,

subsequently, cause in the world. No topic is off limits - war, homophobia, abortion, religious fundamentalism, or even forgiveness.

Neal will lead worship and Adult Education on Sunday morning, February 21 and March 21. During Adult Education the congregation will have an opportunity to respond to the issues raised during worship. During the subsequent Wednesday evening services we will continue to explore the topic "hard hearts and grace" through song, liturgy, scripture, and reflection. Neal will return on Sunday, March 21 to complete our Lenten journey before we move on to Palm Sunday and Easter.

As always supper is 5:45-6:30 p.m. and worship 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Deacons



## The BIG One: All Boards and Committees

### Meet Together

That's right: all the members of all the boards and all the members of all the committees and all the members of all the sub-committees are invited to a gathering on Wednesday, March 3.

Here's what we want to accomplish that evening:

- Coordinate calendar events for 2010
- Go over administrative procedures that help everyone's work to go more smoothly
- Connect groups that have overlapping programs and

responsibility so you can work together better.

So really - if you are on any board or committee, we want you to come to this! Really.

## Old Picture Directories Available

We will soon be working on a new photo directory for the church - but we just found quite a number of the old directories in the office.

If you would like to have one, please check at the table in the back of the sanctuary - and help yourself till they are gone!

Please keep in mind that many phone numbers and emails, etc. in these directories are out of date.

## Don't Forget about your unused jewelry

Remember the First UCC Annual Jewelry Sale which is held in the church parking lot during the DJJD weekend in September.

Last fall we made \$1439 for the church. This is a great way to recycle. All the money goes to the church. We have a lot of fun pricing and selling the jewels. Many church members enjoy buying items from members and friends as remembrances. Jewelry of all kinds is wanted.

Donations can be left with Elaine anytime during the year, or by contacting me, Jan.

Jan Stevens, 507-244-0500 for donations and to volunteer to price and/or to sell.



## It's Almost Time...

First UCC is getting ready to produce a new pictorial directory with Olan Mills! Our photography dates are Monday, April 5 through Thursday, April 8. Photos will be taken from 3:00–9:30 p.m. on each of those days in the Assembly Room. Look for more information to come. If you wish to sign up early, you may do so beginning Sunday, February 7. Simply go online to the church's website at [www.firstucc.org](http://www.firstucc.org) and once you enter your home information click "save" and the available times will be displayed for you. Also beginning that Sunday, you may call 1-800-866-2263, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. 9:00 p.m. to schedule or change an appointment.

If you are interested in serving as a host during the photography dates please contact Shari Sneary by calling her at 581-5339 (Dundas) or e-mail her at [snearyfam@yahoo.com](mailto:snearyfam@yahoo.com).

We look forward to the new directory and remember, it won't be complete without YOU!

## What Happens Next about Pastor Sandy's Retirement?

Here is a (fairly) brief description of the process we will be following in the next few months. Associate Conference Minister the Rev. Elena Larssen will meet with the Council and Trustees on February 17 to provide more details.

## How UCC Churches Call New Ministers: A Brief Outline of the Search and Call Process

### The Process Begins

- Minister announces retirement

### Months before Minister's Departure

- Associate Conference Minister meets with church leaders to explain process and provide counsel
- Minister prepares materials and information for the use of Interim Minister (annotated membership lists, calendars of events, reports, files, and the like)
- Church identifies qualities needed in Interim Minister
- Church selects Interim Minister (Church Council and Personnel Committee are responsible for this process; Associate Conference Minister provides names of qualified candidates)
- Leaders help members understand the terms of the Minister leaving (for example, she will not perform weddings, baptisms, funerals for church members in the future)

### When the Minister Departs

- A Service of Farewell is conducted
- Appropriate celebrations are held

### During the Interim/Search Period

- Interim minister provides pastoral leadership for the church and consultation for the search process
- Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) is selected (as directed in church constitution)
- Church Profile is created (by PSC or others); this document describes the church in depth

and sets forth the congregation's hopes for its new minister; it generally takes 3-6 months to complete the Profile

- Church Profile is reviewed by others in the church and by Associate Conference Minister
- The position is listed in UCC "Employment Opportunities"
- Associate Conference Minister provides the PSC with Ministerial Profiles (dossiers) of clergy seeking new calls and with training in how to read and evaluate them
- PSC reviews Ministerial Profiles and chooses which applicants to interview by telephone
- PSC invites some applicants (usually 2 or 3) for local visits (interviews and preaching in a "neutral pulpit", that is, another church similar to ours)
- PSC prayerfully discerns whether to call one of the applicants (if not, the review and interview process begin again)
- If the applicant agrees to be the candidate, the PSC facilitates negotiation of contract terms and approval by church council and notifies the congregation
- Candidate comes for a "Candidating Weekend" that includes meeting members and staff and leading worship on Sunday
- Congregation votes on the call

### And Then ...

- Congregation welcomes new minister
- A service of Installation is scheduled

The entire process usually takes 12-24 months, but there is no deadline. It is much more important to move through the process carefully than to hurry it along.



## Faith Formation through Christian Education

Sharing, Caring, Learning and Serving

### Pilgrim Point Camp

Our church camp Pilgrim Point, in Alexandria, Minnesota, has announced it's summer camp opportunities for all ages! Please check out the schedule at: <http://www.pilgrimpoint.org>. If you are unable to access the internet, a copy of the schedule is posted on the main church bulletin board outside the office.



### Children

*Save the DATE:*

### Join us for the Winter Parents Gathering and Potluck!

Saturday, February 6, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Carlson Hoff family home at 826 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West.

Please bring a dish to share.

- A-G Main Dishes
- H-P Salads, Breads, Fruits, Vegetables
- Q-Z Desserts

Childcare sharing encouraged. Sheet on bulletin board to help coordinate efforts. No childcare provided at church.

Please RSVP on bulletin board sign up sheet or call/email Cher at the church.

### Childcare

- 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

Thanks to all adults who have signed up as helpers. More opportunities available. Sign up on bulletin board across from office

### Ages 3-Grade 6

- after children's time in worship; return for worship closing
  - Thanks to all who contributed to the hygiene kits for Church World Service.
  - Thanks to all who contributed to the Giving Tree-mittens, scarves, hats

### First Sunday of the Month

- Multi-age Class, ages 3 through Grade 3, [www.godlyplay.org](http://www.godlyplay.org)
- Grades 4-6 participate in worship with family.



### Junior High Youth

Grades 7 & 8

Sundays at 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### Senior High Youth

Grades 9-12 (check email for updates)

### Senior High Youth Group

Sundays at 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group scheduled to meet on February 7, 21, and 28.

Thanks to all who shared worship supper leadership during January.

- March 5-7, MN Conference UCC High School Youth Event. Faith and Politics: Where do they intersect? How do we live in both worlds? Early registration by February 1 is \$75, after February 1 registration will be \$85.
- SUMMER: July 23 - August 2, 2010 Senior High Mission Trip (9<sup>th</sup> year) to Alamosa, Colorado

serving Habitat for Humanity and La Puente.  
[www.habitatcolorado.org/San Luis Valley](http://www.habitatcolorado.org/SanLuisValley) & [www.lapuente.net](http://www.lapuente.net).  
Cost \$425.

Registration and first payment of \$250 are due on February 20. Balance due on April 20. Payment plans and partial scholarships are available - Please contact Cher.

- Confirmation each Sunday from 4:00-6:00 p.m.



### Adult Education: Sunday Forums

**February 7 - How's the water?** Join us for a conversation with Beth Kallestad from the Cannon River Watershed Partnership to learn about surface water quality in the Cannon River watershed, what CRWP is doing, and what you can do to protect and improve the streams and lakes in our area.

**Theme for Lent 2010:**  
**How do we continue to have hope and healing?**

- February 14 - "From Darkness to Light, From Depression to Joy" Andrea Een will speak about her struggles with depression and moving beyond it.
- February 21 - Neal Hagberg will lead the conversation as we respond to the themes he presents in his music during the worship service.
- February 28 - Psychiatrist and author, Henry Emmons, will discuss his recent book, The Chemistry of Joy, and ways of dealing with depression.

## Officers and Committees

(All phone numbers on this list are home telephone numbers unless indicated otherwise.)

Please contact Elaine at [church@firstucc.org](mailto:church@firstucc.org) with any changes or updates (including Chairs, Council Representative, Secretary, etc. to these Committees.

### 2010 Officers and Committees

<b>Moderator:</b> Tracy Fossum (10)	507-301-3016	<a href="mailto:tracy.fossum@gmail.com">tracy.fossum@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice-Moderator:</b> Brad Hoff (10)	507-645-7850	
<b>Treasurer:</b> Phil Kasten (10)	507-663-7067	<a href="mailto:philkasten@gmail.com">philkasten@gmail.com</a>
<b>Assistant Treasurer:</b> Leota Goodney (10)	507-645-8174	<a href="mailto:leotagoodney@hotmail.com">leotagoodney@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Clerk:</b> Carol Rutz (10)	507-645-7316	<a href="mailto:crutz@carleton.edu">crutz@carleton.edu</a>

#### Arts Committee

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507-645-4871	Lynne Severson (12)	<a href="mailto:jbseverson@aol.com">jbseverson@aol.com</a>

#### Board of Deacons

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#### Board of Trustees

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## Pastoral

### Ponderings

When Sandy came in the office a couple of weeks ago and announced there was a “Mandatory staff meeting in five minutes,” we had no idea what was about to come. You could have heard a pin drop in the moments that followed the announcement that she will retire the end of June.

I feel a very deep sadness over her leaving. I have learned much from her, and I have appreciated the faith she puts in her staff. However, it’s hard not to be happy for her. She will have time to spend with her family and opportunities to pursue or renew hobbies and other interests.

Change is difficult but also exciting. We do not know who will shepherd this church for the next few years, but we do know that he or she will come into a strong community of believers who worship together and care

for one another. I’m sure we will hear new ideas and learn new ways, and I’m just as sure that there will be some grumbling and foot dragging because of these new ways.

I pray that God will send us a person of wisdom, discernment, and compassion. I pray, too, for the interim minister who will prepare us for new leadership. And, I pray for Sandy as she enters this new life journey. All will be well.

Peace always, *Cathy*



## Women’s Spirituality Group

The Women’s Spirituality Group will meet on Monday, February 22, at 7:00 p.m.

We will continue our reading and discussion of *Take This Bread*, by Sara Miles. Please read Chapters 5-8 before our group meets.

This group is open to all women of First UCC. Friends are welcome.

If you have any questions, please call Cathy---645-7532, extension 203.

## Do you enjoy sewing?

Join some Sewists for All Day Sewing. We sew from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on one or more days a month at the church.

Next scheduled date: February 8 in the Big Room on the lower level of the church.

Call Jan Stevens, 507-244-0500 or [janstevens@realtor.com](mailto:janstevens@realtor.com)

## Thank You

. . . so much for your wonderful gift of \$1000.00 to the What If? Foundation. It will make such a difference in the lives of the children we serve in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, helping to provide 1500 desperately needed meals.

**“Finding Your Voice” Retreat with Ruth MacKenzie**  
**Sunday, February 7, 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Ruth MacKenzie, First UCC’s seminary intern, will lead “Finding Your Voice,” a memory workshop devised to unearth hidden gifts and build community through storytelling on Sunday, February 7, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in our church Assembly room.

Ruth has presented this workshop annually at the Wilder Foundation in St. Paul for the past 12 years, and at many churches throughout the region. As many of you are discovering, Ruth is a singer, writer, and composer who has been a member of the Twin Cities arts community for many years, is now our seminary intern. Along with purely artistic endeavors, Ruth has brought her writing and performing abilities to many organizations such as NSP, the Metropolitan Council, First Bank Systems, Minnesota Corrections Agency, and the Wilder Foundation, creating live performances and workshops that address issues affecting the workplace such as racism, gender equity, change, gifts and talents.

Please join us for a workshop of spiritual deepening and fellowship, a great gift to yourself as you begin 2010. Best of all, Ruth is giving this workshop to our community at NO CHARGE to participants. Sign up on the clipboard at the church office. Questions? Contact Mary Carlson, 645-4593.