

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

Summer Office Hours

Elaine's office hours starting on June 1 will be 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 noon Monday through Thursday.

She will take vacation days on Monday, June 7 and Tuesday, June 8. *(If you plan to come to the office during her days off please call ahead to make sure someone is in the office.)*

Sundays in June

Sunday, June 6, 2010:

10:00 a.m. Worship & Communion
Sermon: Enough
Readings: 1 Kings 17:8-16, (17-24)
Psalm 146
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour in Recognition of the Choirs
6:10 p.m. Fighting Apostles Church Softball Game at Babcock vs. Emmaus

Sunday, June 13, 2010

10:00 a.m. Worship
Sermon: Extravagance
Readings: Luke 7:36-8:3
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
6:10 p.m. Fighting Apostles Church Softball Game at Sechlar #1 vs. Northfield E-Free

Sunday, June 20, 2010:

Father's Day

10:00 a.m. Worship
Sermon: What Are You Doing?
1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15a
Psalm 42
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
Fighting Apostles Church
Softball Bye #2 Game

Sunday, June 27, 2010:

10:00 a.m. Worship
Sermon: Passing the Mantle
Readings 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 100
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
2:00 p.m. Retirement Party for Sandy (Assembly Room)
5:00 p.m. Fighting Apostles Church Softball Game at Sechlar #1 vs. Methodist White

Sunday, July 4:

10:00 a.m. Worship Service at Valley Grove
11:00 a.m. Picnic Lunch with Dessert Potluck. 
All worshipers 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.

Retirement events planned

We will mark Rev. Sandra Johnson's retirement from her ministry at First UCC on Sunday, June 27, with a 10:00 a.m. service of leave-taking in the morning and a retirement party in the afternoon. Everyone is invited.

The Sunday morning service will be at the regular time and will include representatives from the Minnesota Conference of First United Church of Christ. There will also be communion that Sunday.

The party will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room and then move to the sanctuary for a tribute to Sandy and her shared ministry with us. The Deacons are coordinating the morning service; Ministerial Congregation Relations Committee, Parish Life and Fellowship and the Arts Committee are working together on the afternoon party. There will be a lot of food, fun and fellowship. Hope you can join us.

In Our Prayers

People of the Gulf Coast, whose lives and livelihoods have been interrupted by the oil spill. Our state and local government officials, making choices as they try to balance reduced budgets. David Maitland, who celebrated his 88th birthday in May. Ruth MacKenzie, who finished her time with us as seminary intern. The Junior High youth and leaders who participated in removing buckthorn.

Family of Nora DeMaster, whose ashes were buried in our Memorial Garden on May 23. All those who donate blood, and those who receive those donations. Those facing depression, losses, and sadness in their lives.



Congratulations to our New Members

May 2, 2010 (Confirmation)

Alicia Alyea, Allison Clark, Arlo Cristofaro-Hark, Kyra Ellen Duys, Alison Audrey Haider, Anika Claire Hodel, Marit June Hougen-Eitzman, Ivy Jean Johnson, Henry P. Jokela, Tate Delaney Maki-Waller, William Magdalena Marroquin-Haslett, Brandon Michael Miller, Hannah Rose Morris, Sullivan Kael Ojala-Helmbolt, and Katie Marie Stadler

May 9, 2010

Peter Gustaf Carlson, Tricia Ferrett, Elizabeth Hutchins, Joan Helen Lucas, Peggy and Frank Sheehy, Eric and Allison Thorkelson, and Michael Will



Congratulations to our Graduates

Jakob Anderson, Isaac Burton, Carly Davidson, Tokala Estes, Will Hardy, Rachel Henrickson, Lindsay Henrickson, Kasey Johnson, Kamille Kirchberg, Kira Kirchberg, Raena Mueller-Dahl, Megan Plank, Eli Szydlo, and Laurel Thompson

Church Office Hours
June through September 4
Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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
cherlangleyduys@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
ron@firstucc.org

Childcare Coordinator: Tammy Rischmiller



Goodbye, pot holes!

The City of Northfield has begun repairs to the infrastructure beneath 4th Street and soon will move their attention to Union Street. The Trustees are in close contact with the City and want to share the latest information.

First, you'll be happy to hear that our parking lot will remain open and accessible on weekends throughout the project. Also, 3rd St. will remain open for parking throughout the project. Parking will be tight, though, as Union and 4th Streets will be completely closed until the project wraps up at the end of August. We ask that you park as far from the church as is comfortable and leave the parking lot and nearer spots for our elders and others for whom a greater distance would be difficult.

Pete Carlson, Trustee



Studying our Church Building, + AC!?

Recently the Church Council approved a proposal from the Board of Trustees that the Church hire a qualified firm to conduct a comprehensive and detailed assessment of our historic building and all its systems. This will mark the first time such a study has been undertaken. The assessment, which we expect to be completed by the fall of this year, will be an invaluable tool in planning. It will help us anticipate and prioritize needs and manage the church's physical plant proactively, rather than from the reactive posture that has been the usual pattern. The study will also be of great value in gathering and

managing the capital resources the church needs to continue effective stewardship of the building and grounds.

One aspect of the church building that has been the subject of considerable study and concern in recent years (e.g., on the part of the Trustees and the Green Committee) is the possibility of air conditioning the Sanctuary and/or Assembly Room. This project is currently on hold, pending the building assessment and the development and implementation of a holistic plan for church capital fundraising. Our inquiry into the overall heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems of the church — existing and potential — has revealed an exciting and quite complex subject matter. We are confident that we will reach appropriate and achievable solutions, once the requisite pieces are in place.

*Sarah Beimers and Marty Pelikan,
for the Board of Trustees*

Minnesota Conference UCC Annual Meeting

Representatives of the UCC congregations in Minnesota will be gathering for our annual meeting June 11-13 at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph. Our delegates this year are Cher Langley Duys and Nancy Johnson-Maloney. Pastor Sandy will attend the meeting on Friday and Saturday, and return to Northfield to be present in worship on Sunday the 13th.

Worship at the Hospital Long Term Care Center

Our church will be taking its turn leading worship services at the Northfield Hospital Long Term Care Center this month. Pastor Sandy and members of the Board of Deacons will celebrate Communion in the hospital chapel on Wednesday, June 2, at 11:00 a.m., and will lead regular Friday morning services on June 4, 11, and 18 at 10:00 a.m. Please contact the church office if you would like to participate in this important community ministry.



Bell Ringers

June 6: Pete Carlson
June 13: Bill Poehlmann
(happy retirement!)
June 20: Sullie Ojala-Helmbolt
June 27: Scott Richardson



Strawberry Festival

On June 15, 2010, berries willing, the Congregational Care Council will again host the annual Strawberry Festival. Please join us from 2:00-3:30 p.m. for delicious strawberry shortcake with fresh whipped cream, wonderful musical entertainment, and fellowship.

If you need a ride, please call the church and leave a message.

All are welcome.

If you want to volunteer your time to help with this fun event, please call Bobbie Peterson at 645-6782 or Arthur Campbell at 645-7488.

Service and Social Responsibility Committee Report

The SSR Committee has the important task of allocating a portion of the contributions we make to Our Church's Wider Mission. Each month, Andrea Pegram forwards to us the month's 10% portion of OCWM income and we carefully review requests the church receives from many organizations as well as those we've supported traditionally. We try to make thoughtful decisions about each disbursement.

Last month, we instituted a new process so that members of the church community might help us by proposing causes they feel deserve our support. Jan Mitchell wrote about this in the May Chronicle. This month, we reviewed our giving patterns over the past 3 1/2 years in order to help us plan for future allocations. Thanks to data Andrea provided, we learned, for example, that the total disbursements for the last three years were: 2007, \$6,143.79; 2008, \$7,133.01; 2009, \$5,896; and to date 2010, \$2,600.

Recipients of OCWM funds this year are:

- \$500 Pilgrim Point
- \$200 Project SIGHT
- \$250 Ruth's House
- \$200 Rice County Habitat for Humanity
- \$200 Scholarships for Northfield Youth Sports Collaborative
- \$500 UCC Mission Trip fund
- \$500 Community Action Center general support
- \$200 Cannon River Watershed Partnership

We will continue to try to make careful decisions on behalf of the church community. We welcome comments and suggestions from all of you. If you want to make a formal suggestion, copies of the document we designed are in the church office.

Jan Mitchell, Jan Shoger, Paul Miller, Bob Entenmann, Nancy Lehman, Jane McWilliams

A Note from Tim Schroer

schroert@charter.net

I started to add up all of the family, friends, and colleagues I know/have known who have had to deal with Cancer in their lives. I stopped at 20 and just started to get angry. I am tired of hearing that this dreaded disease has affected too many good people... including my brother, my grandfather, my uncle, two aunts, classmates, church members, colleagues... I am tired of it.

So I am trying, in my own small way, to help make a small difference by doing something I love to make a difference. In celebration of my 50th birthday, I will be running with Fred's Team in the ING New York Marathon on November 7th to raise funds for crucial cancer research and I'm asking you to help me by donating to my run.

Fred's team is the official charity of the NYC Marathon. It is named after the founder of the marathon, who fought this disease. He created this team to combine his love of running, with the battle against Cancer. Money raised by Fred's Team goes to benefit Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital, a world-renowned

institution with unequalled expertise in diagnosing and treating cancer... funding will go towards research that can lead to new and better treatment options.

How You Can Help? Please make a gift to my Fred's Team run today. You can find out more about my Fred's Team event by going to the link below which will take you to my profile on the Fred's Team page (if you have problems with this just email me). **I have agreed to raise a minimum of \$5,000.** You can either donate online or you can download a form and send it in with your check. I also have forms available! *I appreciate any and all assistance large or small you can give me to help me reach my goal.* I am concentrating on my fund raising early so that I can focus on training when the race draws near. Please feel free to forward this information on to anyone you feel might be interested in helping me with my goal and supporting this important cause!

http://mskcc.convio.net/site/TR?px=1759919&fr_id=1310&pg=personal



Are you missing a plate, pan, serving spoon?

There is a large gathering of such items piling up on the two open shelves below the counter to your right as you enter the kitchen. These will be spread out on a table in the assembly room after church June 6, but you're invited to retrieve your belongings before that day. Please take a look. We need to get these things back to their owners!

Dear Friends,

I am going to save my “Good Bye” and “Thank You” letter until the July Chronicle, but several of you have asked about my plans for the future – so I thought I would give a brief update this month.

My partner, Jean Chagnon, and I will continue to live in Northfield. We love our home on Manitowish Street, and like all of you, we enjoy the amenities of life in this community.

I will become a member of another UCC church, though I haven’t yet decided which one. Jean and I will be church-shopping this summer to find the congregation where we feel most at home.

In July I am going to Girl Scout Camp in Iowa with my granddaughter Renee for a few days – a program called “Me and My Pal,” where we get to have fun together. Later that month, we’ll join Jean’s family for a vacation in Michigan. In August we’ll head for the North Shore, and the chance to visit lots of fabric stores during the Minnesota Quilt Shop Hop.

I am going to be working (a few hours a week) at Quilt Yourself, the studio in Savage where I have learned to do (are you ready for this?) “*Computer assisted long-arm quilting*.” Imagine a 16 foot long frame on which a quilt top, batting, and backing are stretched; the sewing machine moves along tracks above the fabric, and the computer tells the sewing machine where to stitch. Telling the computer what to tell the sewing machine is the fun part – and it uses both computer and artistic skills. I’ll be doing some basic custom quilting for their

customers, and probably helping out in other ways, too.

I am hoping to do some volunteer work for the Minnesota Conference – possibly meeting with seminary students who are new to the UCC, or maybe some consulting or coaching. I am pretty sure the Holy Spirit has more ministry in store for me – and not all of it will involve fabric!

I feel very fortunate to come to retirement in good health and with plenty of energy and enthusiasm left, so don’t be surprised if you see me around town, involved in something new that I haven’t yet imagined!

Grace and peace, *Sandy*



Pastoral Ponderings

As many of you know, we have an active prayer chain here at First UCC. Several members have offered to pray for those who express needs for themselves or for loved ones. The prayer chain is a very easy way to care for others. It involves no meetings, no rules, and little time commitment. So, how does it work?

When someone has a prayer need, he/she simply emails or calls me. I then email or call those who are on the prayer chain. I just ask them to hold this person/persons in their thoughts and prayers. What an easy thing to do for one another! You don’t have to gather with others, you don’t have to go to church, and you don’t have to tell anyone just how you prayed for the person. If you desire to keep your prayer request

anonymous, I do not include your or your loved one’s name when I alert the prayer chain members.

So, how do we “pray for someone”? We each have our own prayer rituals and practices. For some that may mean sitting for a period in stillness; for others it may be going for a walk and holding that person in your thoughts. And, for some, it may be as easy as simply saying, “Dear Lord, please be with _____ today as she/he struggles.”

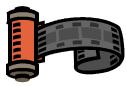
When I am home, I will often light a candle on my kitchen counter. It’s a reminder of someone I want to hold that day in prayer. Driving is also a great time to pray for others...including the one who just sped past you on the highway.

This morning I received a beautiful prayer request. It just asked us to offer prayers of gratitude for someone who made a difference in this person’s life during a recent crisis. What a lovely reminder that not all prayer has to be a petition or request.

If you want to be on the prayer chain, or if you have a prayer request, please call me (645-7532) or email (cathycammack@firstucc.org).

And as always, I hold this church community in my prayers.

Peace always, *Cathy*



June Women's Spirituality Group

The *Women's Spirituality Group* will meet throughout the summer on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The tentative plans for summer are:

June 28: Movie Night: We will watch the award-winning movie *Up*. Discussion to follow.

July 26: Experiential Night: We hope to have a presenter lead us in spiritual drumming, dance, etc. Ideas needed.

August 23: The Labyrinth: Details will come later.

If you have any ideas or questions, please call or email Cathy. (645-7532, cathycammack@firstucc.org)

Dear Members and Friends,

Let's gather together with other friends and colleagues of **Sandy Johnson** in the Northfield community and afar in **honor** of her retirement.

Reception



Sunday, June 27, 2010
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Assembly Room



Bulletin Board

Please remember there is a bulletin board -- *Congregation Connections*--

located to the right as you walk into the Assembly Room. This board is for goods or services you want to advertise for or request.

2010 Northfield Church Softball League

6:10 p.m. Sunday, June 6, at Babcock vs. Emmaus

6:10 p.m. Sunday, June 13, at Sechlar #1 vs. Northfield E-Free



Sunday, June 20: Bye #2

5:00 p.m. Sunday, June 27, at Sechlar #1 vs. Methodist White

Questions: Contact Shawn Dudley at 612-735-8250 or Don Enberg at 507-263-4567.

Have you cleaned out your jewelry boxes or sewing supplies?

The Arts Committee is planning to sell jewelry (vintage is great) and sewing notions (old rick rack, lace, buttons, etc.) during the DJJ Days.

This is a way to use our parking lot during the celebration to raise money for the church and to recycle items that we do not use.

Individual dealers will be able to pay a small fee to rent "X" square feet of our parking lot.

Broken and damaged jewelry will be accepted but pristine items are especially welcome.

Items to be donated may be left in the church office.

Please contact: Jan Stevens at

507-244-0500 if you are able to volunteer to help package items (in late August) or to help display and sell the items on the Friday and Saturday during the Defeat of Jesses James.

The church itself will not be open for this event.

Jan Stevens

Arts Committee Member



Thank you for sharing your musical talents throughout the year!

You are invited to a reception in honor of the First UCC choirs on **Sunday, June 6** in the assembly room following worship.

From the Interim Selection Committee

The Interim Selection Committee is tasked with finding an Interim Minister to help our congregation review current staffing, plan for short/long term financial needs, reorganize our governance and prepare the way for a long term "called" pastor. The committee received eleven applications and voted to interview three of the candidates. Interviews will be occurring June 14 through June 23. The committee's goal is to have an Interim in place during a July/August time frame.

How to Give Money to the Church

Sure – the easiest way to give money to the church is to slip a \$50 bill into the offering plate. Go ahead!

But giving money is a serious spiritual discipline, and I hope you will consider prayerfully and carefully the ways you might make a donation. Here are some ways you might consider:

Increase Your Pledge (or Make One!)

Remember that our yearly pledges have two parts – one that supports our *Operations Budget*, and the other that goes to *Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)*. Increasing your pledge for one or both of these is an easy way to show your appreciation for the church and to support its many ministries.

And if you haven't made a pledge this year, that would be a wonderful way to participate. Call the church office for the paperwork.

Donate to a Special Offering.

Several times a year you are invited to contribute to our UCC All-church offerings:

Neighbors in Need
(October)

the *Christmas Fund*
(December)

One Great Hour of Sharing
(April)

and *Strengthen the Church*
(August).

Make a One-time Gift.

Consider making a special one-time gift to the church. Those surprise donations make it possible for us to stretch our resources a little farther each year. Or you could make a gift in honor of someone – a great way to celebrate a birthday or anniversary.

If you have stocks that have increased significantly in value over the years, there may be a tax advantage for you in making a donation of those shares. Check with your financial advisor or accountant for details.

Remember the Church in Your Will

Many individuals who actively support their church during their lifetimes find it meaningful to include a bequest to the church in their estate planning. Your financial advisor can give you details about the ways that can be done.

Support the Minnesota UCC Conference Directly.

If you would like to contribute to the Minnesota Conference directly, go to www.uccmn.org and click on "Friends of the Conference."

Respond to UCC Requests for Disaster Relief and Justice Issues.

Go the UCC's national website (www.ucc.org) for information on how to support these important causes.

It is Easy to Give!

If you donate cash, please put it in an envelope with your name and the specific way you would like the money to be used. That helps our record keeping and lets us send you a Giving Statement quarterly.

If you write a check, please use the memo line to let us know how the money should be used.

If you would like to donate online, go to our congregation's website (www.firstucc.org) and follow the instructions there.

And if you have any questions

Please contact the minister, the treasurer (Phil Kasten) or the church bookkeeper (Andrea Pegram).



Faith Formation through Christian Education

Sharing, caring, Learning,
and Serving



Children

Childcare for

- infants through age 2, from 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 Resumes September 19
- Ages 3-Grade 6 after children's time in worship; return for worship closing

First Sunday of the Month

Resumes, October 3

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

Summer Sunday School

Ages 3-Grades 3

- Seasons of the Spirit multi-age curriculum
 - In preschool classroom church playground
- with Grades 4-6 participating in worship**
- Worship journals & bulletins just for you located on cart in back of sanctuary
 - June 6, after worship, Leaders gathering
 - June 20-August 29 multi-age class. Leaders are needed Please contact Cher Langley Duys or David Maki-Waller

Junior High Youth

Grades 7 & 8

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

Resumes on September 19.

- May 22 - 8 youth and 4 adults cared for God's creation by ridding the earth of more buckthorn at River Bend Nature Center. Hard work, fun, and a great picnic!



Senior High Youth

Grades 9-12 (check email for updates)

Senior High Youth Group

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

Resumes on September 19.

- Thanks to all who supported the recent fundraisers: hanging baskets and chili lunch!

Thank you,

- your partnership is ensuring that "no one goes hungry in Northfield!" is gratefully acknowledged. Thank you for your generous gift to the CAC. for making it possible for all children to access enrichment programs of their choice . . . sports, arts, camps, to grow up and grow strong.

- for your generous donation. The money will help us continue our support and services to our need community. Thank you so much for your contribution.
LaPuente Staff and Volunteers

- for your kind donation to the PALS program. Enclosed is a list of items that we are able to provide for the children.
(Donation of \$430. was given from the profits of the friendship

bracelets which were sold last fall and winter.)

- squishy balls for anxiety and anger release
- underwear
- snacks for trips
- new tables for the PALS room
- art supplies for our upcoming art show
- cleaning supplies
- funds to take summer out of valley field trips
- school supplies
- backpacks
- sunscreen
- bug repellent
- trips to Hooper Pool

The PALS Staff

Recycle your cartridges

Did you know that cartridges can take up to 1000 years to decompose?

Every remanufactured laser cartridge saves nearly 2.5 pounds of metal and plastic waste from being deposit in landfills.

Please deposit your used cartridges in the box (next to the door, as you go into the office), and the office will recycle them and use the money towards full cartridges.

Special Functions Committee

This is a group that has agreed to help organize and serve at special functions. Usually the events we host are memorial services and funerals. You'll also find us serving at occasional birthday parties at two of the care centers in town and other less regular events (like the farewell reception being held for Sandy Johnson). We are the crew that regularly cleans the kitchen.

None of our work can be done without the support of the rest of the congregation! If you would occasionally be available to help, please complete and return the following form to the church office - or leave it in a Sunday offering plate. You may call Bobbie Peterson (645-6782) with any questions.

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### Special Functions Volunteer Form

June 2010

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I'm occasionally able to help with funeral/memorial services in the following ways:

- \_\_\_\_\_ bring food (usually a pan of bars)
- \_\_\_\_\_ prepare for reception
- \_\_\_\_\_ usher
- \_\_\_\_\_ help in the kitchen operate sound system

- \_\_\_\_\_ serve at event
- \_\_\_\_\_ cleanup crew
- \_\_\_\_\_ I might consider joining the committee the next time there is an opening.