



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

Pastoral Care

If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Cathy Cammack, our Pastoral care Associate at 612-306-3281 or 952-435-3507.

If Cathy cannot be reached, you may call Bobbie Peterson, the chairperson for the Congregational Care Council at 645-6782.

Summer Office Hours

Elaine's standard office hours on during the summer will be 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Sundays in August

Sunday, August 1

10:00 a.m. Worship & Communion, led by Loy Jeffrey
Bell Ringer: Leota Goodney
10:15-11:00 a.m. Preschool-grade 6 Summer Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
5:00 p.m. Fighting Apostles at Sechlar #2

Sunday, August 8

10:00 a.m. Worship
Bell Ringer: Sullie Ojala-Helmbolt
Kari Berit to speak on caregiving (see article inside this Chronicle)
10:15-11:00 a.m. Preschool-grade 6 Summer Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
6:10 p.m. Fighting Apostles at Sechlar #1



Sunday, August 15

On August 15, our Sunday worship service will be held at Valley Grove. A short intergenerational worship will begin in the church at 10:00 a.m. Following our time together will move outdoors and each will select an activity that will guide them to find God in the world around us.

Worshippers from 7 years to ninety-nine years can choose an activity to match their interest and physical ability. Child care will be provided for younger children.

Come dressed for outdoor activities! Please bring: - a lawn chair or blanket, insect repellent, raincoat or umbrella,

and a picnic lunch - Beverage 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.

10:00 a.m. Worship at Valley Grove, led by Lynne Severson and Gary Wagenbach
11:00 a.m. Picnic at Valley Grove Just For Fun Playoffs

Sunday, August 22

10:00 a.m. Worship, Rev. Jeffrey Barton speaking (please see more information inside this Chronicle - about our new interim).

Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Luke 13:10-17

Sermon: *Let's Untie That Donkey*

Bell Ringer: Julie Maxson

10:15-11:00 a.m. Preschool-grade 6
Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Sunday, August 29

10:00 a.m. Worship

Preacher: Rev. Jeffrey Barton

Readings: Jeremiah 2:4-13

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Sermon: *Dining on Good Fruit*

Bell Ringer: Chris Brunelle

10:15-11:00 a.m. Preschool-grade 6
Summer Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour



Interim Pastor Announcement

On Friday, July 9, we finalized our agreement with the Reverend Jeff Barton to be our interim minister. He will be with us for at least one year, starting on August 22. Jeff is committed to helping us create a vision for the future and to restructure our church and programs accordingly.

Biography - Jeff Barton has been in United Church of Christ programs and congregations since 1979 when he was a seminary intern at Parkview Congregational UCC in Aurora, Colorado. He has been a pastor, a campus minister, an associate pastor, a senior minister and a UCC conference association

minister. Jeff has served the UCC in Idaho, New Hampshire and Montana for longer calls and in Wyoming, Wisconsin and Oregon for shorter terms and interims. He has served as an interim minister in four settings before ours, and is looking to continue to do intentional interim work for the extension of his active ministry career. Jeff has been with Casas Adobes UCC in Tuscon, Arizona since February of 2009, with his last Sunday being July 11. He is a native of Minneapolis, and has academic degrees from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington and from the Iliff School of Theology in Denver. He now permanently resides among the mountains, rivers and people of the Portland, Oregon area, where he enjoys skiing in the winter and river rafting in the summer. He has a 21 handicap in golf and prefers jazz and blues in his musical tastes. Jeff has two young adult children. Jed lives and writes in Billings, Montana and Katie (Carleton alum, 2007) has started her graduate studies in medical school in Portland, Oregon. Jeff has a significant other, Rev. Mary Sue Evers, a UCC pastor in the Portland, Oregon, area.

A special thanks to the Interim Selection Committee: Brad Hoff, Jerry Mohrig, Beth Kallestad, Kathleen Pender, and David Beimers. They did an extraordinary job. Their thoughtful approach to this process has brought us the best possible candidate.

Additional kudos to Phil Kasten who has been an integral part of negotiations -- ensuring we got the best of the best while, at the same

time, being a careful steward of our congregation's resources.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Please be sure to submit your recommendations for permanent call committee members to me by **August 1**. They may be sent to tracyfossum@gmail.com or submitted in writing and placed in the Moderator's mailbox in the church office.

2. The Nominations Committee will take your recommendations and begin putting together the permanent call committee.

3. Once the slate of call committee candidates is ready, I will call a special congregation meeting, to be held on a Sunday after worship. The announcement of the meeting date/time will happen three weeks prior to the meeting - giving everyone enough notice to attend. At the special meeting, the Congregation will have the opportunity to vote the slate up or down.

4. The approved slate for the permanent call committee begins their work.

This is an exciting time to be a part of First UCC Northfield! I am glad that we are all on this faith journey together during this important transition. As always, you may pass along questions or comments to me or any member of the Council.

Tracy Fossum, Moderator,
Church Council

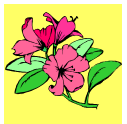


**Shana Hodel,
Director of
Children's Music**

We welcome Shana as our new Director of Children's Music. She is a member of First UCC and a teacher at Northfield's Montessori School.

Shana brings us a wealth of experience in leading children and in teaching and playing music. She has been involved with the church's musical life for a decade, and she looks forward to working with youth of all ages.

Her official duties begin on September 1. Please welcome and congratulate Shana in her new position, and if you want your children to add their music to our church, do get in touch with her.



**Kari Berit to
Speak
at First UCC**

America is aging, increasing the demand for elder care. Financial resources are shrinking. Unexpected family emergencies, such as an older adult falling and breaking her hip, add to the dilemma. Limited public options and expensive private services often force the adult daughter (or son) into an unexpected caregiver role.

Do you understand the issues of aging? Are you ready to take on the complicated health care system on behalf of your parent? Do you and your siblings all agree on care? Similar scenarios will affect six adults out of 10. Fifty-nine percent of Americans will become informal caregivers

according to the National Family Caregivers Association study of 2009.

As many of you know, First UCC was awarded a Heritage Gant earlier this year to be used to support caregivers.

Join author, radio show host and national speaker, Kari Berit, as we kick off our Fall series on caregiving—Sunday, August 8 at 10:00 a.m., regular worship.

If you have any questions, please call Cathy Cammack, at 645-7532.



**Women's
Spirituality
Group**

The Women's Spirituality Group will meet on Monday, August 23, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. This group meets on the 4th Monday of the month. Please mark your calendars because there are five Mondays in August.

Check the Pastoral Care bulletin board inside the west entrance for upcoming details.

All women of First UCC are invited. Friends are welcome. Call Cathy if you have questions or ideas. 645-7532.



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.

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

Interim Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey D. Barton
(starting August 22, 2010)

Pastoral Care Associate:
Cathy Cammack
cathycammack@firstucc.org

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

Director of Music: Christopher Brunelle
chrisbrunelle@firstucc.org

Director of Children's Music:
Shana Hodel
(starting September 2010)

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
andreapegam@firstucc.org

Custodian: Ron Olson
ron@firstucc.org

Childcare Coordinator:
Tammy Rischmiller



Pastoral Ponderings

A topic that is very dear to me, and which may sound rather strange to you, is grief. Over the years I have counseled and been present to people with numerous issues in their lives. The common factor that I have seen with most of these issues is grief.

We often think that grief is only associated with death. That is not completely true. Grief is what we experience with any type of loss in our lives. Those losses may include, but are not limited to: loss of a relationship, a body strength or ability, employment, lifestyle, identity, and loss of dreams; what we expected or hoped for is not going to be realized.

A loss may include numerous other losses within it. For example; in the event of a divorce, there is the obvious loss of relationship. However, there can also be loss of lifestyle when assets are divided, there can be loss of identity (“Who am I now? I’m not a wife/husband. I’m not part of “a couple” anymore....), and there is definitely loss of dreams. People do not go into marriage anticipating it to fail.

There are multiple losses with aging. There are often disabilities; the body can no longer do what it once did. There can be loss of identity when we no longer see ourselves in a career or a community. We may not feel a sense of belonging or a sense of contributing. We may become very angry that we didn’t accomplish some of the things we had hoped to accomplish. We may no longer feel needed.

The reason I stated that the topic of grief is dear to me is because I often see such growth through grief. When something hurts so very much, we have a choice to give up or to find new ways to live our lives. I see people often take up new interests, seek new relationships, and find new ways of “being in this world”. Maybe I can’t be the participant who walks or runs for a worthy cause, but I can help raise funds to support that cause. Or, maybe I make some new friends in a support group where we understand one another’s loss. Perhaps my divorce causes me to seek training for a new job or career. And maybe with the new job new friends and interests come into my life.

If you are experiencing loss in your life, talk with friends and family, a minister or mental health professional. Consider joining a support group where you can gain tools to help you through the difficult time. Let others know how you feel and what they can do to support you through this time. And, most of all, be gentle with yourself. Eat healthy meals, exercise, get 6 to 8 hours of rest a night, and pursue recreational interests at least once or twice a week. Give you body and spirit time to do the healing they know so well to do.

Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.
(Matthew 5:4)

Peace always, *Cathy*

Picture Directory

Picture directories are available in the church office for those whose picture is in the directory.

Additional copies are available for \$5.00 each.



First UCC Hosts Vintage Band Festival Events

Mark your calendars for August 5-8, when Northfield will enjoy the return of the Vintage Band Festival (<http://vintagebandfestival.org>), organized by St. Olaf professor of music Paul Niemisto. Our church was one of the hosts at the first festival, in 2006, and once again our sanctuary will be home to several of the more than 75 concerts scheduled for the weekend. On Friday, August 6 at 12:30 p.m., we will host the Kentucky Baroque Trumpets (<http://kybaroquetrumpets.com>), and on Saturday, August 7 at 1:30 p.m., the Chicago Gargoyle Brass (<http://www.gargoylebrass.com>) will perform works for brass and organ. The music for our service on Sunday, August 8 will be provided by the Dodworth Saxhorn Band (<http://www.dodworth.org>). All events of the Vintage Band Festival are free and open to the public, and you are heartily encouraged to attend as many of these excellent concerts as your summer schedule can hold. Each concert needs the help of several volunteers; if you are willing to help, contact Patsy Dew (patsy.dew@gmail.com).



Faith Formation through Christian Education

Sharing, Caring,
Learning and Serving



Children

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

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

Offering: Food Shelf (food or
money)

- Ages 3-Grades 3
 - Seasons of the Spirit multi-age
curriculum
 - In preschool classroom &
church playground
- Grades 4-6 participating in
worship
 - Worship journals & bulletins
located on cart in back of
sanctuary
- multi-age class to-August 29
 - Leaders needed. 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

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, September 19



Mark Your Calendar

On Sunday, August 15, the Adult
Education Committee is planning
a worship service at Valley Grove
church that will include
devotional time, music, and a
chance to experience the out of
doors in new and meaningful
ways. This interactive,
intergenerational worship will be
followed by a picnic.

During a Sunday Forum in April,
we learned how important it is
for all of us to spend time outside
and to model this appreciation of
nature for our children.

Join us on August 15 as we
immerse ourselves in God's
creation. You may even choose
to go on a Scavenger Hunt for
God!

Check the church website,
August *Chronicle* and your
weekly bulletins for more specific
information.

Adult Education Committee



From the SSR Committee

Many of our members are active
in local nonprofits, and the
Service & Social Responsibility
Committee would like to amplify
those efforts. We have some
OCWM money to allocate, and
although we receive appeals from
national and international
agencies, we would prefer to
support the work of our
parishioners locally. Please
complete a Justice Grant
application (found on the SSR
bulletin board or in the office).
and we will consider at our next
meeting.

What is the 350 campaign? And
how is it connected to 10/10/10?
Watch the SSR bulletin board for
more information . . .



2010 Northfield Church Softball

League

5:00 p.m. Sunday, August 1, at
Sechlar #2 vs. Methodist
Maroon

6:10 p.m. Sunday, August 8 at
Sechlar #1 vs. Trinity Blue

Sunday, August 15: Just For
Fun/Fellowship Playoff



Commemorative Hospital Walk to benefit HealthFinders

Northfield Hospital & Clinics
will commemorate its 100 years
of service to the Northfield
community with a three-mile

historical walk Saturday morning, Aug. 14. The event will benefit HealthFinders Collaborative, a local health care collaborative serving uninsured and under-insured residents of Rice County.

Walkers will meet at Eighth and Water, the site of the first Northfield Hospital, at 9:00 a.m. and then walk to Way Park, the site of the 1939 hospital. After a brief rest, they will complete the historical trail by walking to the new hospital at 2000 North Avenue, where there will be refreshments and music. There is no fee for the walk and no registration is required. Everyone is invited to come and join in. Transportation will be available to bring people back to the downtown from the hospital after the walk, or walkers are invited to make their own arrangements.

HealthFinders will be selling T-shirts and accepting donations at the event to raise funds for its general operations said.

For more information, go to www.healthfindersmn.org

American Red Cross

Please consider giving at the upcoming Bloodmobile at the Northfield Ballroom, 1055 Highway #3, North on Monday, August 9 and Tuesday, August 10, 2010 from 1:00-7:00 p.m. each day.

To make an appointment, call Merrell at 507-645-9821 prior to

the drive dates. For donor eligibility questions call 1-800-Give Life.



Thank you,

. . . to the anonymous donor who donated the toys to the Nursery. It is greatly appreciated. The toys of the Noah's ark, trains and more are awesome. It is always a fund surprise to see new toys. The children also love new toys. Thank you so much.

Tammy Rischmiller

. . . so much for your generous contributions in the past years. Every year Ruth's House provides hundreds of women and children with safe shelter, whether they are fleeing from a life of domestic violence, oppression or addiction. Without Ruth's House many of these women and children would have no where "safe" to go to.

Ruth Hickey,
Executive Director

. . . for your gift to the Rice County Habitat for Humanity. The need for affordable house in in Rice County alone through 2010 is 3,000 homes.

Gina G. Franklin
Development Director

. . . for the contribution to the CAC of Northfield. Your gift strengthens our work in the community - giving hope back to people in poverty and giving

voice and action to neighbors like you who care about them.

Jim Blaha,
Executive Director



Jewelry and sewing supplies are needed

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

We will use our parking lot during the celebration (and have purchased an instant tent in case of rain, etc.) 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