



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 September



Sunday, September 5 Labor Day Weekend

9:50 a.m. Childcare
10:00 a.m. Worship &
Communion
Bell Ringer: Leota Goodney
Readings: Deuteronomy
30:15-20; Luke 14: 25-33
Reader: Leota Goodney
Sermon: Love Me Most, by Jeff
Barton
Music: Jonathan Een Newton,
cello
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour



Sunday, September 12 Strengthen the Church Special Offering

9:50 a.m. Childcare
10:00 a.m. Worship
Welcomer: Sullie Ojala-
Helmolt
Bell Ringer: Bill Poehlmann
Readings: Exodus 32: 7-14;
Luke 15: 1-10
Reader: Carol Rutz
Sermon: Banking on
Tomorrow, by Jeff Barton
Music: Spirit Voices
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
5:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal &
Dinner (at E. Olson's)



Sunday, September 19 Homecoming Sunday

9:50 a.m. Childcare
10:00 a.m. Worship
Bell Ringer: Sully
Ojala-Helmolt
Welcomer: Anika Hodel
Music: Senior Choir
Readings: Amos 8: 4-7;
Luke 16: 1-13
Reader: Bob Entenmann
Sermon: A High Price for
Dusty Grain, by Jeff Barton
10:15-11:00 a.m. Preschool-grade 6
Sunday School starts
11:00 a.m. Homecoming Potluck!
Please bring a generous dish to
pass - and please label the dish,
especially if it contains
ingredients of interest to those
with wheat or nut allergies (e.g.,
"lime jello, nut free." Contact
Sarah Forster, Parish Life and
Fellowship Committee, with
questions 507-664-0162.
11:15 a.m. JH Youth Group
11:15 a.m. SH Youth Group



Sunday, September 26

9:50 a.m. Childcare
10:00 a.m. Worship
Bell Ringer: Scott Richardson
Welcomer: Beth Kallestad

Guest Preacher: Clyde Steckel
(for more information see
article inside this Chronicle -
Clyde Steckel to Preach on
Sunday, September 26)
Readings: Amos 6: 1a, 4-7;
Luke 16: 19-31
Reader: Loy Jeffrey
Music: Senior Choir
10:15-11:00 a.m. Preschool-grade 6
Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Parent's Meeting
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
11:15 a.m. Root Beer Floats
11:15 a.m. JH Youth Group
11:15 a.m. SH Youth Group
2:00 p.m. CROP Walk at United
Methodist Church



Do you know what the 350 Campaign is about?

If not, read on: Carbon dioxide
in Earth's atmosphere is currently
about 390 parts per million - too
much! Scientists agree that a
sustainable level is 350 parts per
million, and the 350 campaign is
an international effort to bring us
to that lower level. On October
10 (10/10/10), people all over the
world will take local action to
improve the situation - planting
trees, contacting policy makers,
or just enjoying a carbon free
walk or bike ride. The Service &
Social Responsibility Committee
encourages you to participate

individually, as a family, or with the congregation. We welcome suggestions about how we might act collectively on this. Climate change is an urgent concern, and the evidence keeps mounting. God's magnificent creation deserves our respectful stewardship.



The View from My Pane

Jeff Barton,
Interim Minister

It's great to be in Northfield and joining with you in your ministry during the interim season at First UCC. Let me be sure to thank those who have done so much to make it possible for me to arrive here, begin this work with you, and have a place to live. And let me also thank the many who suggested ideas, offered possibilities or explored options that were not (or have not yet been) chosen. I am most appreciative to you all.

The view from my pane as I write today is of the Union Street road repair and reconstruction. Maybe that's a useful image for us all. In an interim season a congregation is given a chance to make what has been good and useful even better. The transition is not always easy and it's often a bit messy. Sometimes old patterns face temporary detours. Sometimes new patterns are discovered that are worth continuing. Sometimes extra effort during the transition can help to insure that the outcomes meet and surpass the standard expectations. We'll have to see.

During the coming months I'll use this corner of the Chronicle to keep you informed about Intentional Interim Ministry both in general practice and in the particular setting here at First UCC. In the meantime, I'm excited about what a thoughtful, caring, vibrant and healthy faith community you have formed at First UCC. It will be my privilege to minister to and with you in Christ's Spirit and as together we voice the good news of our Still-Speaking God during the interim ahead.

Faithfully, *Jeff*

Contact information for Jeff Barton

Email: jeffbarton@firstucc.org
Office phone: 507-645-7532
Cell phone: 507-301-5742

Mailing address - please use the church office for mail at
300 Union Street,
Northfield, MN 55057



Women's Spirituality Group

The Women's Spirituality Group will meet on Monday, September 27, at 4:15 p.m. in the church parking lot. Jan Mitchell will lead us on a nature walk at Bridgewater Elementary School. If you prefer to drive to the site alone, we will meet you there about 5:30 p.m.

Please call or email Cathy at 645-7532 if you plan to attend.

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: Jeff Barton
jeffbarton@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: Christopher Brunelle
chrisbrunelle@firstucc.org

Director of Children's Music:
Shana Hodel
shanahodel@firstucc.org

Director of Spirit Voices:
Bob Gregory-Bjorklund
bobgregory@firstucc.org

Organist: Theo Wee
theowee@firstucc.org

Office Manager: Elaine Frandrup
church@firstucc.org

Bookkeeper: Andrea Pegram
andreapegam@firstucc.org

Custodian: Ron Olson
ron@firstucc.org

Childcare Coordinator:
Tammy Rischmiller



Pastoral Ponderings

I've been thinking lately about how our bodies and spirits seem to prime themselves for the changing of the seasons. I think this is true in a climate such as we have here in Minnesota.

In about late February, I'm mentally and emotionally finished with winter. I feel ready to throw away the windshield scraper, the ugly snow boots, and the heavy layers of clothing. I look forward to Spring-- flowers, green grass, and open windows. This gently eases in to summer and sunshine, dinners on the deck, and road construction. However, by late August or early September, my spirit longs for cooler days, sweatshirts, and soups. Before I know it, I'm already thinking of a snowy day, an evening by the woodstove, and the holidays. I'm not exactly sure how this happens, but I'm convinced that our bodies somehow are primed for these seasonal changes, and our spirits begin to anticipate the events associated with the weather changes.

In a similar way, I see parallel changes in the life of this church. Let me digress for just a moment. When Sandy announced her retirement last January, many of us were shocked. It seemed that everything was suddenly turned upside down. But, after a while, we were lulled into the upcoming change. Before we knew it, the change was upon us. Our minds turned to farewells as well as anticipation of the people and changes that would follow her leaving. She left, and for almost two months, we were without

one specific leader. Some of us were fearful. What will happen to us? Who will do this? Who will take care of that?

But, guess what? We were just fine. We each tapped into our own gifts and talents and took upon tasks that we may have otherwise not tackled. A sense of leadership and community was apparent within the congregation and the staff. The church did not fall apart. The services were well attended. Staff did not run amok. We all worked together during this season of transition (and road construction!). And we primed our spirits and hearts to welcome the one who would lead us through this new time in the church.

So now, we are in this new season---the season of interim---the time between "no longer and not yet". We are excited about our new leadership, and we anticipate a new energy within the church. And when the time is near for a permanent pastor to join us, we will be primed and ready for it.

May you be open to the celebrations of the seasons....whether they are from nature or from your heart.

Peace always, *Cathy*



Thank you

- for your gift of \$200 to the What If: Foundation. Your continued and very generous support makes such a difference in the lives of children we serve in Port-au-Prince.



Don't forget the annual Defeat of Jesse James

Jewelry and sewing supplies sale

The Arts Committee is once again planning to sell jewelry (vintage is great) and old sewing notions 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 also be able to pay a small fee to rent "X" square feet of our parking lot.

Needed during the next 10 days

- **Jewelry**
New or old, pristine items are especially welcome but both broken and damaged jewelry will be also be accepted.
- **One or more wood window or door screens to display jewelry**
Please contact Jan directly at 507-244-0500 for information.
- **Volunteers are needed** to help sort, package, set up and display; to sell on Friday, September 10 and or Saturday, September 11 during Jesse James Days; and to clean up.

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

Please contact: Jan Stevens at 507-244-0500 as soon as possible if you are able to donate or volunteer in any way.

The church itself will not be open for this event.

Jan Stevens



**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.

**God is still speaking -
are you listening?**

Our Sunday Forum classes will begin on October 3 with a focus on vocation, calling, passion, work. These are common themes and questions in our lives of faith. Join others after worship for sessions on immigration, the economy, Haiti, Burma, caregiving, and the arts.

Listen for God's call to you and how you will respond.

**The place God calls you to
is the place where your deep
gladness and the
world's deep hunger meet.**

from Frederick Buechner

**Clyde Steckel to Preach
on Sunday, September 26**

We are fortunate in having Clyde Steckel, an ordained UCC minister and Emeritus Professor of Theology at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, as our guest preacher on September 26. Rev. Steckel has thought deeply about the need for UCC congregations to determine their mission and vision and has recently published a helpful and provocative book on the necessary UCC transition from the assumptions of modernity to those of post-modernity. This is an important transition if we are to have a continuing faithful and strong ministry in our world.

As First UCC, Northfield, begins the search for a new called pastor, we are called upon to reexamine our vision for our church. Rev. Steckel's insights should prove to be helpful to us all as we begin the work of envisioning our future. Please pencil in on your calendar the special significance of our Sunday, September 26, worship service. Rev. Steckel will also participate in the adult education meeting in the sanctuary directly after worship.



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.

**Options in Aging:
Finance, Housing, Care,
and Funeral Planning**

Save the Date!
All-Day Workshop

When? Saturday, October 9, 2010

Where? Northfield United
Methodist Church

On Saturday, October 9, 2010, a free, all-day workshop will be presented at United Methodist Church and sponsored by Bethel Lutheran Church, St. Dominic's Catholic Church, First United Church of Christ, and the Northfield United Methodist Church.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. This workshop will feature four presentations:

9:00 -10:30 a.m. Estate Planning, Health Directives, and Power of Attorney

10:45 a.m. -12:15 p.m.
Options in Senior Housing

1:00-2:30 p.m.
Hospice and Palliative Care

2:45-4:00 p.m. Funeral Planning

Funding for this workshop is provided by a Heritage Grant from St. Paul Family Resources which was awarded this year to First United Church of Christ.

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

Faith Formation through Christian Education

Sharing, Caring, Learning and Serving
Cher Langley Duys, Director of Educational & Youth Ministries



Children

Childcare with Tammy
Rischnmiller, childcare coordinator

- 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
Begins September 19

Ages 3-Grade 6 after children's
time in worship; return for
worship closing

Leaders

Preschool:

- Jamie Reister

K/Grade 1:

- Shari Sneary

Grades 2/3:

- Tracy O'Neill

Grades 4, 5, 6:

- Mary Caroline
- Henry & David Beimers.

Leadership team members needed.
Contact Cher

- *Seasons of the Spirit*, curriculum
www.spiritseasons.com
- *The Seasons at Home* – back of
worship bulletin
- September 15 from 6:00-
7:30 p.m., Leaders' Gathering
- September 26: After children's
time in worship, Parents'
Gathering and after worship:
Root Beer Floats on the front
lawn

First Sunday of the Month

Resumes on October 3

Leaders: Shana Hodel & Cher

Multi-age Class, Ages 3 through
Grade 3,

Curriculum: Godly Play,

www.godlyplay.org

Grades 4-6 participate in worship
with family.

Children's Cart in sanctuary:

worship bulletins, books & art
supplies

Summer Sunday School

Thanks to all who led and learned
from our children this summer.

The children (average of 12-15)
explored stories of our faith
through activities and had fun
playing outside and reading in the
children's library along with
bringing food offerings for the
food shelf.

Pilgrim Point Summer Campers

Ask a camper to share a story!

Junior High Adventure Campers

- Henry Beimers
- William Beimers
- Alex Battiste
- Christoph Hodel
- Tate Maki-Waller.

Senior High Camp

- Katie Carlson



Family Camp

- Petek-Johnson Family
- David Terry
- Jack & Casey
- Max Kasten.

Thanks 1st UCC for providing
scholarship money to make camp
a possibility!

Watch church bulletin board
about exciting Pilgrim Point
news. Interested in a 2011
summer weekend church family
retreat? Contact Cher

Junior High Youth

Grades 7 & 8 Sundays at
11:15 a.m.– 12:30 p.m. Resumes
on September 19.

Leaders

- Shana & Marty Hodel
- Cher

Activities Coordinators

- Amy Haslett-Marroquin
- Leah Penn Boris.

Leadership team members needed.
Contact Cher

The youth will explore stories of
our faith through, *Seasons of the
Spirit* curriculum
(www.spiritseasons.com); live out
Jesus' teaching to serve others;
lead worship by reading, greeting
and sharing music; build
community by participating in
fun activities!

Senior High Youth

Grades 9-12 Sundays at

11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Resume, September 19 (email Cher to be placed on email list for updates)

Leaders

- Simone & Tony Stano
- Mary Carlson
- Cher

The youth will have opportunities to explore and support their spiritual journey with 'Seasons of the Spirit' curriculum

(www.spiritseasons.com), service projects, UCC Conference wide youth events, retreats, mission trip, worship leadership participation and community building through fun events!

Summer Mission Trip

Thanks to all who supported our ninth year serving with Habitat for Humanity and LaPuente enterprises in Alamosa, Colorado. Appreciation to SSR for scholarship money. Gratitude to Rae Thompson and Jen Winterfeldt who joined me on the leadership team for our 10 youth participants. ~ Cher

- Photos and highlights: www.firstucc.org website
- Church bulletin board
- October 17 – Sunday Forum, after worship

Mums Sunday, September 5 through 12. Preordered mums will be ready to pick up. Any remaining will be donated or resold. There will be extras. Thank you for supporting our senior high ministries!

Multigenerational

WFFF Wednesday for Faith, Fellowship and Food
Resumes: Wednesday, October 6 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Multigenerational gathering
5:30 p.m. Supper
6:00-7:00 p.m. Childcare,
K-Grade 1 activities,
Rainbow Choir, Grades 6-12
Homework Café Adult Classes

Volunteers needed

Hospitality (set up, cooking, clean up) and children's activities.
Contact Cher



Service in the Summer Rice County Habitat for Humanity Volunteers

Anne Rohn, Kami Kirchberg, Kira Kirchberg, Kathleen Pender, and Cher worked on 2 homes this summer, including roofing!

You too can be a HFH volunteer:
Contact Pam @ 507-323-0170 or
ricehabitatvolunteer@gmail.com



Food Shelf
Adults and Mission trip youth filled the volunteer shifts in June. Thanks! Interested in volunteering? Contact Katrina at
karlsen.katrina@communityactioncenter.org

CROP Walk (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty)



Sunday, September 26, 2:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church, Northfield.

Join us or sponsor a walker. All proceeds go to support the ministries of Church World Services.

Hunger Facts : If all 36.2 million Americans faced with food insecurity stood in line at a food pantry in New York, the line would stretch to Los Angeles and back, twice!
www.churchworldservice.org



Were you there?

Sixty adults and twenty children/youth enjoyed a beautiful day and meaningful worship experience at Valley Grove Church on August 15th. We explored out in the prairie, sang together, collected items from nature to draw, and had time for devotional reading and meditation. Thank you to Jan Shoger, Gary Wagenbach, Elizabeth Olson, Cher Langley Duys and John Severson for their leadership.

Each activity brought us to a better appreciation of God's wondrous creation.

As they community gathered for a picnic lunch, we heard the following comments:

- *What a perfect way to spend a Sunday morning!*
- *We should do this every time we come out here!*
- *I noticed that everyone was so engaged in the activity they chose.*
- *I especially enjoyed having 3 youth who had been on the Mission Trip be a part of our group!*
- *Everyone in our family had such a good time today!*
- *Let's plan to do this again!*

Lynne Severson



Church to celebrate Chopin's birth with concert.

First United Church of Christ of Northfield is celebrating the 200th birthday of Frederic Chopin with a concert Saturday, October 9, 7:30 p.m. performed by Horacio Nuguid of Rochester, Minnesota.

Nuguid, the founder and artistic director of the Rochester Chamber Music Society, will play a wide range of Chopin's compositions during the 75-minute recital. Tickets are \$20 and available from First United Church of Christ (usually open Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., feel free to call ahead, 645-7532, to make sure the office is open) or Present Perfect, 419 Division St, in downtown Northfield.

"This is an exciting opportunity to hear some of Chopin's best compositions played by someone who fully appreciates the nuances Chopin intended," says Christopher Brunelle, Director of Music at First UCC. "We think this concert is the perfect way to pay tribute to a composer of Chopin's stature."

Frederic Chopin was born in March of 1810 in Warsaw, Poland to a Polish mother and a French father. He is considered a master of Romantic music. He was a child prodigy, who was a prolific composer during his short lifetime. He suffered most of his adult life from a chronic lung condition and died in 1849 at the age of 39. Most of his compositions were written for the piano as a solo instrument.