



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

The church office will be open from 9:00 a.m. – 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

July Worship Services



Sunday, July 3, 2011:

10:00 a.m. Worship at Valley Grove led by Rev. Cindy Mueller
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.

Sunday, July 10, 2011:

10:00 a.m. Worship led by Rev. Cindy Mueller
Sermon: Rev. Cindy Mueller
Readings: TBD
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Sunday, July 17, 2011:

10:00 a.m. Worship led by Rev. Cindy Mueller
Sermon: Rev. Cindy Mueller
Readings: TBD
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Sunday, July 24, 2011:

10:00 a.m. Worship
Sermon: TBD
Readings: TBD
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Sunday, July 31, 2011:

10:00 a.m. Worship led by Rev. Cindy Mueller
Sermon: Rev. Cindy Mueller
Readings: TBD
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

Phones: (507) 645-7532, 645-4694

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Staff

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Moving in to a new office, meeting so many wonderful people, talking with leaders of the church, getting acquainted with the church facility, finding out how the copier works and hooking up to the internet; a whirlwind of activity! And yet, how exciting it is to finally be here among you all.

You may have guessed, I love new beginnings! As a person called to serve churches during their interim times I have the pleasure of starting over and over again. First United Church of Christ has already proven to be overflowing with vitality and incredible people. As we become better acquainted with one another it is my hope that together we might take the necessary time to pause in all the hurriedness and listen for the Still Speaking God who is alive and at work in our midst. Interim times are always pregnant with possibilities and I believe you will not be disappointed by all we will accomplish together.

Please know I am available via the church office, my cell phone and through email. Although you can find me on Facebook – this is still a growing edge for me. If you are free for lunch (especially on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays – when I am generally in Northfield) please don't hesitate to join me. I love to explore the towns I serve and I know Northfield is a town I want to become better acquainted with.

I am currently living with my mother in Prior Lake, MN while serving this congregation. Once a week I will return home to Buffalo to spend time with my family. This is a new

adventure for me as much as it is for all of you. I am excited to see what God has in store for us on this journey.

With the Greatest of Hope,

Cindy Mueller

Bridging Minister
507/645-7532 (church)
763/439-3952 (cell)
952/447-2755 (Prior Lake residence)
CindyMueller@FirstUCC.org (email)



Pastoral Ponderings

Do you ever get a silly song stuck in your head? It's usually just a piece of the song that repeats in your mind most of the day. That happens to me quite often. Usually it's in the form of a nursery song-- thanks to the little ones who inhabit much of my life these days (three toddlers aged 1 ½-2 ½). This time, however, I have John Severson to thank for the "Mind Melody" I've had since his children's sermon last month.

For those of you who may have missed it, John sang a song called "The Lucky Penny" to the children. The song tells of a penny that is held tightly in the hand and does nothing. But, if you give that penny away or spend it, it just multiplies....in the same way that love does.

That message has been coming to me quite often lately in different ways. I heard a message about this on the radio. I read it in a daily devotion, and now I have John's penny song to hum. Because I think

God is being less than subtle with me, I'm trying to figure out what I am holding onto too tightly. I think I have figured out some of it. Fear often holds me back from using some of my gifts. Those are the "pennies" that I hold tightly in my

fist. But, there are other things I hold onto that cause me only distress. Those things are often mistaken beliefs. Even though on some level I realize those beliefs no longer serve me, my heart fears letting go of them. If I "open my fist" and let those mistaken beliefs fly away, what will replace them? Perhaps the idea is that they may not be replaced; they may, instead, be transformed. It must be hard for God to work through a closed fist or a closed heart.

In my Pastoral Prayer a couple of weeks ago, I talked about standing before God someday and being empty of all gifts, talents, and treasures. I want to do that because, only then, can I say, "Thank you, loving Creator, for all of these. I have used them well." What are you holding onto too tightly?

Peace always,
Cathy



Women's Spirituality Group

The *Women's Spirituality Group* will not meet during July. We will resume our gatherings on Monday, August 22, 2011. Watch the bulletin and bulletin board for further information. I'll be looking at some new materials over the summer and hope to have some ideas for you to ponder. Your ideas are always welcome. If you have any questions, please call Cathy at 645-7532.

~ *Cathy Cammack*



Inquirers' Classes

For those persons wishing to know more about the Church and/or wishing to join, the first of two Inquirers' Classes will be held after worship on September 18.



Council Corner & Search and Call Update

The Church Council welcomed Bridging Minister Cindy Mueller during its June 22 meeting. Cindy, who has spent her first week meeting with members and staff and getting to know our church, is already providing leadership and thoughtful counsel. We are glad to have her with us!

Shannon Garlitz provided the Council with an update on the work of the Personnel Committee. The trial custodial arrangement with ServiceMaster is going well, although we will continue to need to be flexible and understanding as gaps (e.g., the need to remove storm windows, certain supply purchases) are identified. The Council recognized the many volunteers who have staffed the church office during the search for a new Office Manager. We are pleased to announce that Jennifer Kluzak has accepted the position and will begin as Officer Manager in the next week. Welcome, Jennifer!

Cher Langley's last day was May 29 and Council leaders expressed their gratitude for Cher's thoughtful and careful assistance in the transition, ensuring that processes were documented and volunteers were prepared to assist over the summer. The Personnel Committee has met with the Children's, Youth, and Adult Education Committees, and they are working to outline a plan for program leadership in the fall. The mission trip is proceeding under the capable leadership of Jen Winterfeldt and church volunteers.

The Search and Call Committee has completed the church Profile, and the Senior Minister position was posted on June 22, 2011.

To view the posting, go to <http://www.ucc.org/classifieds/pdf/s/ucem.pdf>. In May, a congregational review of the Profile generated 11 pages of comments – this input was evaluated by a subcommittee of Search and Call and greatly strengthened the final document. The Profile was approved by Church Council in late May and the final draft is available in the church office for review. The Search and Call Committee will meet throughout the summer to review applications and initiate the interview process.

~Sarah Forster, Vice-Moderator



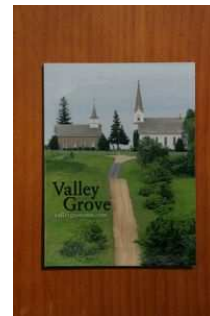
Service and Social Responsibility Committee Report

We allocated \$300 for Operation Backpack - to provide school supplies for children in need in Northfield, and \$200 to support the activities of Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel, and \$100 for iCAN, a child advocacy organization affiliated with the Joint Religious Legislative Council. We received thanks for the \$63,634.95 that we gave to OCWM in 2010, and for our participation in all 5 of the special campaigns the UCC sponsors each year, and for the fact that our OCWM support is more than 15% of the amount spent on local operating costs. The MN conference also thanked us for contributions to Japan relief. Your generous contributions are appreciated!

We anticipate observing a couple of special events in the fall - Moving Planet (a climate change awareness effort sponsored by 350.org) on September 24, and Food Sustainability Day on October 25.

We hope to have a panel of international students to talk about peace and justice issues in their home countries, and to have other opportunities to widen our perspectives on peace and justice concerns. In view of the gay marriage amendment voters will address in 2012, we will be working to defeat the proposal as it is inconsistent with our Open & Affirming position. We realize that we cannot approve or disapprove of any individual candidate for office, but we can and should advocate policies that reflect our faithful witness.

~Jan Mitchell, Chair



Save the Date for an Alternative Worship Service in August at Valley Grove

Our Sunday worship service on August 14th will be held at Valley Grove. A short intergenerational worship will begin in the church at 10:00 am.

Following our time together we will move outdoors and each will select an activity that will guide them to find God in the world around us. Worshipers from 7 years to 99 years can choose an activity to match their interest and physical ability. Child care will be provided for younger children.

This time together at Valley Grove will be led by the adult education committee.

~ Lynne Severson



July Bell Ringers

July 3: Children, at Valley Grove
 July 10: Scott Richardson
 July 17: Pete Carlson
 July 24: Frank Sheehy
 July 31: Nancy Johnson-Maloney

~ Gary Kasten



Women
at the Well

Women at the Well

Women at the Well is a small group that meets once a month for one hour to explore meditation, contemplation, and prayer. We meet at 5:00 on the 2nd Monday of each month. New members are invited to join us in August. If you are interested, please call Cathy at 645-7532.

~ Cathy Cammack



Widening the Welcome

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me,

and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” Matthew 10:40

At least one out of four families in a congregation is affected by a mental illness/brain disorder or disability. Join the movement. Attend the conference! September 29-October 1, 2011 Columbus, Ohio. Developing the life of congregations to include persons with disabilities and persons with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families.

www.wideningthewelcome.com



Young Adult Justice & Witness Leadership Training to be held in Seattle this September

UCC Justice and Witness Ministries is offering a justice leadership event for up to 20 young adults in the Seattle, Washington area, September 23-25, 2011. The information and application is available at <http://www.ucc.org/justice/training/training-calendar.html>. All accepted applicants will have travel expenses, meals and lodging covered. Funding for this is made possible thanks to Our Church's Wider Mission and Neighbors in Need.

The main goals for this training event are:

- 1) to support and network young adults interested and/or engaged in faith-based justice ministries;
- 2) to introduce young adults to the new UCC Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing (Justice LED) program, both to support their theological grounding for justice work and to use as a resource in their work with others; and
- 3) to introduce them to the new UCC Environmental Justice Center at Pilgrim Firs.

Deadline for applications is August 19th. **Why wait? Apply now!**



July Fighting Apostles Softball Game Schedule

- Sunday, July 10, 4:50 p.m. vs. Rejoice Disciples (Sechler 2)
- Sunday, July 17, 7:10 p.m. vs. Methodist White (Sechler 1)
- Sunday, July 24, 4:50 p.m. vs. Northfield E-Free Cedars (Sechler 1)
- Sunday, July 31, 4:50 p.m. vs. Trinity Red (Sechler 2)
- Sunday, June 26, 6:00 p.m. vs. Trondhjem (Babcock Park)

~ Scott Richardson



Church All-Star Challenge is back

All-Stars from 16 church league softball teams went go to bat for the Northfield Community Action Center Sunday, July 10, in the 22nd annual Church League All-Star Game.

We have \$2,500 of challenge money pledged by three local banks and Thrivent. If you want to help us redirect those funds to the CAC, consider participating in the UCC All-Star Challenge. We ask that you commit one dollar for every one of the 46 runs scored by the Fighting Apostles in the last two games in June.

There's no paperwork. Just make a spiritual commitment, and we will hear that and put you on the honor system. Checks can be made out to the CAC and given to Scott Richardson on July 3 or the 10th. We can make this happen.

~ Scott Richardson



Faith Formation through Christian Education

Children

June 19-August 28: Summer Sunday school ~ multi-age class: age 3 through grade 3; grades 4-6 participate with their family in worship.

Share a Sunday morning with the children as a leader! *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum provided. Interested? Contact Jami Reister, children's committee chairperson.

September 18: School year Sunday School begins. Looking for co-leaders! Contact Jami Reister.

Senior High Youth

2011 Trip of Service and Sabbath (formerly known as the mission trip).

July 17: Trip commissioning during worship. 11:30 -12:30 Potluck and parent/youth meeting

July 21: 5:30 p.m: Pack the Vans

July 22-Aug. 1: Trip of service and Sabbath to Alamosa, Colorado with stops at Camp Comeca and LaForet UCC Camp, Colorado Springs

Multigenerational

Pilgrim Point Camps & Retreats
<http://www.pilgrimpoint.org>

▪ **Middle School Week:** July 10-16 (Sunday thru Saturday)

▪ **First UCC at Pilgrim Point Camp:** July 22-24. Join our church family for a weekend retreat! Contact Phil Kasten for more information.

▪ **Senior High Week:** July 31-August 6

WFFF Wednesdays for Food, Fun and Faith. Will resume in the Fall. Contact Lynne Severson.



Want to receive *The Chronicle* by email?

To save mailing costs, and reduce paper consumption, we are encouraging people to receive *The Chronicle* by email. To update our lists, we have been calling people who now receive a paper newsletter and for whom we have no email. In many cases, we have had to leave a message asking people to call the church to express their preference and leave their email address, if that is how they would like to receive the Chronicle.

If you have found a voice mail asking you about this, and you haven't responded as yet, please leave word in the office (507/645-7523) soon so that we can update the mailing list for the August Chronicle.

We have also emailed folks who now receive paper copies to see what they prefer. If haven't responded and you wish in the future to get the Chronicle electronically, email your request to: church@ucc.org.



Welcome to Our New Office Manager

The church is pleased to announce that Jennifer Kluzak will be joining the church staff as Office Manager beginning in early July. Read more about Jennifer in the August edition of *The Chronicle*.



Thank You Volunteers!

A special thank you to all of the individuals who volunteered to work in the church office during June.

The following people spent many hours managing the front desk, handling phones/email/visitors, organizing the office, and helping staff and committees with special projects:

- Barbara Crouter
- Sarah Dennett
- Liz Hankins
- Jean Haslett
- Carl Henry
- Donna Jadwinski
- Margit Johnson
- Garda Kahn
- Kristin Kasten
- Nancy Lehman
- Mary Cay Longley
- Kaara Maki-Waller
- Jane McWilliams
- Adrie Mohrig
- Jean Parsons
- Phil Parsons
- Jane Scott
- Lynne Severson
- Janette Stromley
- Linda Wagenbach

The church office couldn't have run without you! Thank you so much for your dedication and hard work! Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

PILGRIM POINT

camps & retreats.

**1st Annual 1st UCC Retreat
to Pilgrim Point - All
Generations Welcome!**

*July 22-24, 2011 - email
phil.kasten@mcquay.com
NOW to express interest (to
reserve accommodations and
possibly a charter bus).*

Please mark your calendars:
There will be an opportunity to learn more and see a DVD on the camp after church on Sunday, June 12th in the Sanctuary.

Pilgrim Point Camp is our Minnesota Conference UCC Church Camp on Lake Ida near Alexandria. We will arrive for (Friday dinner and stay through Sunday morning. This is open to everyone of all ages and family types. We welcome everyone to join for an intergenerational gathering in a beautiful and spiritual lakefront setting.

There will be another UCC church attending as well, and the Pilgrim Point Program Managers have indicated they are interested in building a sense of community among all of the camp participants, in addition to helping individual churches explore being in community in playful, joyful ways. Not only will we be

enjoying one another in a new and beautiful lake setting on the point, the staff are looking to equip us with tools to continue this faith practice when we return home.

There will be at least two facilitated intergenerational activities each day in addition to five meals (no cooking!), vespers campfire, a sandy swimming beach with an aquaslide and lifeguards. Plans are underway for nature hikes, and there are several playgrounds and a ball field (Fighting Apostles?). We might even be arranging for boat rides! We'll start with an all-camp folk dance on Friday night, a craft and game activity on Saturday morning, and a variety show on Saturday night! There will be time on Saturday afternoon for us to each engage in activities as an individual congregation as well. We are also looking for volunteers to offer to lead whatever might be of interest.

The accommodations are comfortable and clean, with new mattresses in 2011. There is a dining hall as well as a large common room in our church's lodge with sofas, tables for puzzles and games, etc. The camp is on a prominent point extending from the east shore into the middle off the lake, with many waterfront activities (including lifeguards) and a large recreational area.

We have over 50 already planning on the retreat and are looking for more to sign up! Bring your 9 to dine group? Invite your friends? We will need volunteer help as well, so let me know if you'd like to help - would appreciate volunteers for programming and a small organizing committee to come forward to coordinate, publicize, etc.

Cost is estimated at ~\$20 per person for lodging **plus** a meal charge for five meals and snacks (required for all guests: 13 and up \$50; 4-12, \$36, under 3 free), with scholarships available if needed. We have also received an Outdoor Ministries Grant to offset some expense.

With enough interest, we can charter a coach bus - benefits include being "green," no driving or worrying about high gas prices or wear and tear on your vehicle, no need to stop for bathroom, no car seats, and no stress! Cost would be about \$35-40 per person.

For more information about Pilgrim Point, please visit their website at www.pilgrimpoint.org.

Thanks for the reply, **and please spread the word to others!**

Regards,
Phil Kasten
763.443.5817
phil.kasten@mcquay.com

JULY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Sunday Summer School 10:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Softball Game: Fighting Apostles vs. Trondhjem (Babcock Park)	27 Office Closed	28 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Strawberry Festival	29	30	1 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Organ Tuning	2
3 Sunday Summer School 10:00 AM Worship & Communion at Valley Grove	4 Office Closed (Holiday)	5 4:15 PM Men's Group	6 9:30 AM Summer Organ Recital Rehearsal 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM PM Summer Organ Recital 7:30 PM Boards & Committee Meetings	7 10:00 AM Knitting Group	8	9
10 Sunday Summer School 10:00 AM Worship 4:50 PM Fighting Apostles vs. Rejoice Disciples (Sechler 2)	11 Office Closed 5:00 PM Women at the Well (Parlor)	12	13 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting	14	15 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Growing up Healthy	16
17 Sunday Summer School 10:00 AM Worship, Mission Trip Commissioning 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM PM Mission Trip Parent and Youth Potluck and Meeting 7:10 PM Fighting Apostles vs. Methodist White (Sechler 1)	18 Office Closed 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast	19	20 7:00 PM Council Meeting	21 5:30 PM Mission Trip Pack the Vans	22 First UCC first Annual Pilgrim Point Camp 8:00 AM Vans leave for Mission Trip to Alamosa, Colorado	23 First UCC first Annual Pilgrim Point Camp Youth Mission Trip to Alamosa, Colorado
24 First UCC first Annual Pilgrim Point Camp Sunday Summer School Youth Mission Trip to Alamosa, Colorado 10:00 AM Worship 4:50 PM Fighting Apostles vs. Northfield E-Free Cedars (Sechler 1)	25 Office Closed Youth Mission Trip to Alamosa, Colorado	26 Youth Mission Trip to Alamosa, Colorado	27 Youth Mission Trip to Alamosa, Colorado	28 Youth Mission Trip to Alamosa, Colorado	29 Youth Mission Trip to Alamosa, Colorado	30 Youth Mission Trip to Alamosa, Colorado
31 Sunday Summer School Youth Mission Trip to Alamosa, Colorado 10:00 AM Worship 4:50 PM Fighting Apostles vs. Trinity Red (Sechler 2)	1 Youth return from Mission Trip to Alamosa, Colorado	2	3 7:30 PM Boards & Committee Meetings	4 10:00 AM Knitting Group	5	6