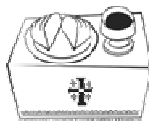




FIRST UNITED  
CHURCH of CHRIST  
Northfield · Minnesota

# 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



## Minister's Musings

Halford E. Luccock, a great preacher of a generation ago, once said that the chief point of the Christmas story is that “the baby grew up.” The fact that Christmas is the story of a baby helps explain its inexhaustible pull on the heart and mind of us all. But, says Luccock, this very fact can become a liability. These are his words:

“[We can] become so entranced with the beautiful story of a baby in a manger that [we] miss the chief point of the story, and hence do not feel the compulsion which it lays on life. We can become so charmed with the story of a baby that we grow sentimental about it; it does not ask that we do anything about it; it does not demand any vital change in our way of thinking and living.”

That is why this Christmas season, even as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we will do well to remember that the baby Jesus did not remain a baby. We will do well to remember that, significant as Christmas is, it is far from the end of the story. Rather, it is but the beginning. The baby Jesus grew up, and in his maturity we see a way of living that calls for a change in our own. The grown-up Jesus trusted in God's gracious promises. The grown-up

Jesus loved others as God loved him. The grown-up Jesus reached out to the excluded and embraced those whom the world would ignore and deny. The grown-up Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, and comforted the dying. The grown-up Jesus envisioned and embodied a world of mercy and justice and peace. The grown-up Jesus lovingly demands the same of us and, as we respond in faith, we will be the transformed people – the vitally changed people – these days require.

Halford Luccock asks: “Is our Christmas only a story about a baby, or is it more, a deathless story about a person into whom the baby grew, who can redeem the world from its sins, and who calls us into partnership with his great and mighty purposes?” Surely, it is the latter. At this time of Advent and Christmas we kneel in adoration before the manger. At this time we kneel in humility and repentance and commitment before the cross.

May this season, filled with the greatest of expectations, be one that calls us forward into a new tomorrow where we commit ourselves to live as the grown-up Jesus lived; always seeking to follow in his ways as we work to create a just world for all God's children.

*With the Greatest of Hope,  
Pastor Cindy Mueller*



## One Step Forward, One Step Back?

As we progress through this time of transition, the search committee is hard at work on this congregation's behalf. Their workload has grown exponentially as they are interviewing candidates. As efforts are made on this front we must not forget to do the necessary work of preparing ourselves to receive a new Pastor which, for some, includes the need for healing to take place. Both Bob Griggs and I would like to offer a listening ear to anyone interested in processing this time of transition. It is our hope to offer a safe place to vent in a neutral environment while assisting you in creating a way to move forward. Please feel free to make an appointment with either of us. In general, one (if not both) of us is in Northfield Monday – Friday and Sundays of course.

Healing does not always come about as quickly as we would like. If we can assist you in your journey toward healing, we are merely a phone call away.

~ Pastor Cindy



## December Stewardship Message

### Too Good To Be True Giving

*"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn will break upon us." Luke 1:78*

These words come from the amazing poem known as the Benedictus, the blessing of Zechariah on his surprising gift-son, John (the Baptist). Zechariah is one of those minor characters in the birth narratives of Jesus, often lost in the shuffle of shepherds and magi that populate our Christmas pageants. Yet Zechariah gives us a great gift for Advent: the gift of the skeptic.

When an angel told Zechariah that his middle-aged wife Elizabeth would have a baby, he didn't believe it. All his life this man had been faithfully serving God; clearly he was a sincere believer. He held onto his faith through the years of their infertility and who knows how many other problems in their lives. But when an angel promises something "too good to be true," the skeptic in Zechariah comes out and he rejects the God he has relied on when things have been truly bad.

This Christmas let us be about giving to the world in ways that are too good to be true. Let the skeptics see that love is more powerful than anyone expects it to be. Let us, in the image of God, give of ourselves in life-transforming ways beyond presents under the tree, just like Zechariah and Elizabeth and John. Nothing about God is ever too good to be true! Merry Christmas.

*~ Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven, Connecticut.*



## SSR Update

The Service and Social Responsibility Committee is happy to report that the congregation donated \$347.04 to the Mission: 1 solicitation for hunger issues on November 6. That more than meets the SSR challenge of \$333.33, so the total donated from the congregation will be \$680.37. Moreover, at least 35 letters were sent to Senators Klobuchar and Franken and Representative Kline, encouraging them to make issues of world and domestic hunger high priorities.

**Needed: One lover of outdoor service work to coordinate the congregation's Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup project.** Kaara Maki-Waller has ably organized the twice-yearly clean-ups of "our" two-mile section for the last several years and she and her family are now leaving the area. The Service and Social Responsibility Committee is recruiting a new coordinator. Please contact Jan Mitchell, chair of SSR, at 507-645-6734 or [denmark60@gmail.com](mailto:denmark60@gmail.com) if you are interested. You can find more information about the program at: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/adopt/index.html>.

**Reminder from SSR:** The SSR committee allocates ten percent of our total OCWM contributions. We encourage members of the congregation to contact us with suggestions of places to send donations. We especially want to contribute to organizations with which members of the congregation have personal connections. Many of these are local non-profits, some are state-wide and others national or global in scope. Request forms are always available on the SSR bulletin

board and can be dropped in the SSR mailbox in the office.

*~ The Service and Social Responsibility Committee (SSR): Jan Mitchell, Barbara Cronter, Garda Kahn, Matt Rohn, Mary Savina*



## Grief Support Groups

There are two upcoming Grief Support Groups in the Northfield area. The first group is open to anyone who is grieving a loss and will begin this Monday, Nov. 7th from 6:30-8:00pm in the lower level of St. Dominic Catholic Church. The contact person is Nancy Ludescher, 507-645-8816 ext. 203. The group will run each Monday for six weeks, ending on Dec. 12th. The second group is specifically for parents grieving the loss of a child. This group will begin Tuesday, Nov. 8th and run for six weeks through Dec. 13th. The contact person for the group is Sherri Bunch Quass, 507-645-4300.



## Children's Education Committee News

**Do you have just 45 minutes to spare ONCE in the next five months?** Our Sunday school classrooms are in need of helpers! Our Safe Church policy **requires** us to have two adults in each classroom; if we do not have a helper, Sunday school cannot be held. We still have many openings in all classrooms throughout the school year. There is no prep work involved – simply be present in the classroom to assist the teacher. See what fun you have been missing on the lower level, and sign up on the Children's bulletin board by the restrooms today!

**Hearts are everywhere!** Have you seen the little red heart boxes in the offering plates? We have changed how we handle Sunday school offering, so here's the scoop: We will no longer collect offering from the children during Sunday school. Instead, children are welcome to give their offering during offering time in the sanctuary. However, instead of placing their money just in the plate, they get to put it in their special box in the plate! Why separate the moolah? Sunday school offering is not designated towards the general church funds; instead, we have a special charity that receives the children's gifts. Right now, the children's money is benefiting Feed My Starving Children. (Did you know one meal for a hungry child costs just 24 cents? No amount is too little!) So look for the little heart boxes!

**Any junior ushers out there?** If your child would like to help pass out children's bulletins or bring offering forward during worship, let a CE member know! We are always in need of volunteers, and it is a great (and easy) way for him/her to participate in our worship service.

**The crafts are coming!** Please join us for WFFF on Wednesday evenings (5:30-7:00pm) during Advent. The CE committee will be sponsoring Advent crafts in the Assembly Room following supper. These will be inter-generational events the whole family can enjoy as we welcome the Advent season!

**Nametags!!!** If you need a nametag for your child, let us know! (First, check the children's nametag display! Some nametags have already been made for you!) But if you still need one let one of the CE members or church office know, and we will get one to you.

**11:15 - 11:15 - 11:15 - 11:15:** Sunday school ends at 11:15, not 11:00am! We still have families

getting their children early from Sunday school, even though their teachers have lessons planned until 11:15. Take a quiet moment after worship, have some coffee, enjoy adult conversation, and rest assured that teachers will bring your children UP to the Assembly Room (east wall area) at 11:15! Certainly, there are times when you need to leave a bit early and fetch them from their classrooms, but otherwise plan to find them in the Assembly Room at 11:15! Thank you!

~ CE Committee: Jami Reister, Deb Olien, Shari Sneary, Melissa Sharpe

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**JRLC Grant**

Congratulations to [Joint Religious Legislative Coalition \(JRLC\)](#) and Alison Killeen, JRLC Statewide Organizer. They received a \$1000 grant from your very own United Church of Christ [Neighbors in Need](#) offering and that money will go toward some of the busing costs for the March 2012 [Day on the Hill](#). Never been to a Day on the Hill? This is your year! From JRLC, "Every year JRLC hosts our Day on the Hill lobby day at the State Capitol. Participants are briefed about justice policy issues at the St. Paul RiverCentre in downtown St Paul, MN, and then are bused to the capitol to rally in the capitol rotunda, lobby members of the state legislature, and communicate with the Governor and other leadership. Debriefing and evaluation forms show that this event results in hundreds of in-depth conversations with legislators. These conversations produce valuable information about legislative support and objections, and other significant political intelligence. JRLC's Day on the Hill literally fills the Capitol building and impresses upon lawmakers that the social justice agenda must be considered."



**December Sunday Forums**

Following worship @ 11:30am

Please join us at our Sunday Forums as we explore the many aspects that form our faith.

**Dec. 4 How One Chaplain Understands and Works with a Multifaith Community** led by the Rev. Carolyn Fure-Slocum, Carleton College Chaplain

**Dec. 11 The Nature of Religion:** Join us for a discussion of how "nature" and environmental concerns relate to religion and to explore what high school and college students think about both religion and the environment. Matt Rohn will lead a conversation based on a chapter of Jim Farrell's new book *The Nature of College*. You can read the chapter, "The Nature of Religion" at: [www.stolaf.edu/dept/art/faculty/rohn/NatofRelFarrell.pdf](http://www.stolaf.edu/dept/art/faculty/rohn/NatofRelFarrell.pdf). Copies are also available in the church office.

**Dec. 18 No Forum (Amahl)**

**Dec. 25 No Forum (Christmas)**

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**December Bell Ringers**

- Dec. 4: Steve Wilmot
- Dec. 11: Brad Hoff
- Dec. 18: Pete Carlson
- Dec. 24: Gary Kasten
- Dec. 25: Bill Poehlmann



## Feed My Starving Children

Saturday morning, November 12, twenty-four of our 4th-8th graders and four of their younger siblings joined with six adults from our congregation and a large number of other volunteers from the community to help package meals for hungry children. They worked hard for two hours in assembly-line fashion putting measured amounts of rice, soy protein, dried vegetables, and flavor powder (also containing vitamins and minerals) in labeled plastic bags, heat-sealing the bags, and packing them 36 to a box for transport all over the world. This year the two-day operation in Northfield involved a total of over 1,200 volunteers trying to package enough bags to make 350,000 meals! Many will go to starving children in East Africa. Our kids packed about 50 boxes. Do the math: with each bag making six meals that's 10,800 meals. The children also brought with them a little over \$250 to help with the cost of ingredients and transportation. They had worked raking leaves for members of the congregation and picking rocks out of the soon-to-be grassy area at Way Park to earn the money. Our children really care about the needs of people both near home and far away, and they are eager to help. You will be hearing about more projects as the year goes on.

~ Mary Caroline Henry



## How *Feed My Starving Children* is Feeding Our Spirits at Home

Every now and then, life hands you one of those inspiring moments. If you're lucky that moment changes your perspective, alters your behavior, or maybe even teaches you a bit more about gratitude. For our family, one of those moments found us at the *Feed My Starving Children* (FMSC) event on November 12th, and perhaps it will inspire you as well.

As a Children's Education Committee member and a Sunday school teacher, designating our Sunday school offering to *Feed My Starving Children* has been a meaningful experience. As a parent, seeing my children actually package the meals in community with our faith family was a tremendous gift. Watching twenty-eight children and youth from First UCC (along with several adults) cheerfully don hair nets and roll up their sleeves reminded me how incredibly thankful I am to be part of a church family that emphasizes social responsibility and service, even for its youngest members. The fact that the two-hour session produced enough meals to feed 144 children one meal a day for a year is both amazing and inspiring.

However, the real "take-home" moment for me was almost missed. A bustling crowd, a spacious warehouse, and a questionable PA system left a lot to be desired as the FMSC staff person summarized the work session. Yet, despite the poor acoustics, I managed to catch one statement she made regarding her own practice of giving to those in need. In her home, they place a quarter in a jar every time they eat a meal, with the funds being designated for FMSC. Since each

FMSC meal costs about twenty-four cents, they are essentially feeding a hungry child every time they sit down for a meal.

Ever since we left the FMSC work site that day, our family has also been "feeding" a child three times a day as we partake of our meals. After our prayers, and before we eat, one of our children places a quarter in the black bowl Ben recently made in pottery class, the one that now sits in the center of our table. In a symbolic - yet tangible - way, we make sure another less fortunate child is fed as we ourselves are blessed with abundance. As we hear the chink of a coin hitting the growing pile of quarters, you can almost hear a hungry, rumbling tummy be stilled. And each time the quarter drops, it is done with such intention and purpose by the giver that I am humbled by the lessons my children are learning. They may forget to make a bed or feed a pet, but the quarter is not forgotten at mealtimes.

Although we have already done some preliminary math, our children are excited to see how many hungry mouths will be fed with our quarters by the time FMSC is back in town next year. And we, as parents, are thrilled to see them learning gratitude and service. While our family has given some time and money to a worthy cause, it really has given us something much, much greater in return. And for that, we are not only inspired, but also truly grateful.

~ Jami Reister



## December Sound Technicians

- Dec. 4: John Severson
- Dec. 11: William Beimers
- Dec. 18: Henry Beimers
- Dec. 25: TBD



## Bible Study

On the recent survey circulated by our Board of Deacons, a number of members expressed a desire for a bible or book study. In response, we will be offering an opportunity for study and discussion on Saturday, December 17 from 10:00 – 11:30am in the parlor, with the intention being to continue one Saturday a month in the new year.

For the first session, Pastor Bob Griggs will be leading us in reflection and discussion of some of the psalms. We'll also take some time to plan what the group would like to focus on: more biblical texts, a book, a series of readings, whatever those assembled would find most rewarding.

If you have suggestions, please contact Pastor Bob.



## Take a Few Extra Steps and Burn a Few More Calories ~ All in the Name of Hospitality

The safety of our older members and visitors is important to the church so we are requesting that, if possible, you leave the church parking lot spaces for these members. Thank you for understanding and being willing to provide an extravagant welcome to both our elders and our visitors.



## 2012 Mission Trip

Hi to all High School youth and their parents,

I want to gather all youth and their parents to discuss the next mission trip. I have reserved the Big Room downstairs for this meeting on Sunday, December 11th at 11:30am.

Please come with calendars in hand and any pertinent information regarding when you are NOT available to go on a trip.

We will be discussing possible locations for the next mission trip and try to get a handle on what time of the summer works best for the largest number of people. At this point, all I know is that we will NOT be going on July 29th - August 4th.

Those in attendance at this meeting on Sunday, December 11th will have a larger say in where/when this trip will be taking place next summer - please make your presence a priority.

I look forward to beginning to plan for this annual event with you all.

~ Pastor Cindy



## A Christmas Pledge

As a grandparent, I especially look forward to the Christmas season this year. Before Jeff and I had children, holiday celebrations were pretty much shaped by our extended families. While those were important at the time, it wasn't until we had children of our own that we began to shape holiday rituals and traditions of our own.

Advent and Christmas are very important seasons. During these

seasons we celebrate God's greatest gift of love to us, the gift of God's son, Jesus Christ. However, it is all too easy to lose sight of the real meaning of the season in the hustle and bustle of shopping, decorating, entertaining and traveling.

As we begin to shape our own family rituals and traditions (with children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews), it is important to keep the reason for the season at the heart of our celebrations. For instance, in the coming years, I want my grandchildren to understand the meaning behind the tradition of giving gifts at Christmas – I want them to understand that it is not the gift, but the love behind the gift that is important.

I'd like to share with you *A Christmas Pledge* from Unplug the Christmas Machine by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Stacheli:

Believing in the true spirit of Christmas I commit myself to:  
Remember those people who truly need my gifts;  
Express my love in more direct ways than gifts;  
Examine my holiday activities in the light of my deepest values;  
Be a peacemaker within my circle of family and friends;  
Rededicate myself to my spiritual growth.

Perhaps you and/or your family would want to consider adopting this pledge or writing your own pledge this holiday season.

May this, the holiest of seasons, be filled with joy, laughter, hope and family.

~ Pastor Cindy

**Resources on Advent and Traditions:**

*Treasury of Celebrations* by Carolyn Pogue (Kelowna, BC:

Northstone Publishing, 1996). Contains creative ideas for sustainable, family-friendly ways to observe Advent.

***Unplug the Christmas Machine: A Complete Guide to Putting Love and Joy Back into the Season*** by Jo Robinson and Jean C. Staeheli (HarperCollins, 1991 – Willow Morrow and Company, Inc. 1991). Thoughtful examination of the practices that surround Western Christmas celebrations, and some alternatives.

***Hundred Dollar Holiday: The Case for a More Joyful Christmas*** by Bill McKibben (Simon & Schuster, 1998). Practical and spiritual, suggesting how to rein in the excesses of the holiday season and deepen our experiences of time, care, and companionship.

***Disturbing Complacency*** by Lisa Bodenheim (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2007). Bracing daily devotions for Advent that provoke, challenge, and connect our seasonal practices with the Bible's call to peace and justice for all.

***Buy Nothing Christmas:*** A website devoted to helping people get off the consumer treadmill of Christmas, with humour. Includes alternative Christmas carols, resources to share, youth study guides, and information kits to promote "buy nothing" holidays in your church or community. Go to [www.seasonsonline.ca](http://www.seasonsonline.ca), and click on Links; Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, 2011–12; SeasonsFUSION.



## Stewardship Update

So far our stewardship program is producing great results! If you didn't get a chance to participate in Consecration Sunday on Oct. 30 and/or fill out a 2012 Estimate of Giving Card, please do so at your earliest convenience and return it to the church office.



## UCC Daily Devotional

**Daily Devotional** The national UCC website provides the opportunity to subscribe to a daily emailed devotional at <http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/daily-devotional/>.

The following is a recent devotional from the site:

### Followership

**Matthew 9:9** "As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him."

**Reflection by Anthony B. Robinson**

If you experienced a college orientation this fall there's a pretty good chance that the college or university touted itself for being in the business of "educating tomorrow's leaders." It's difficult, however, to imagine a school that would announce we "educate tomorrow's followers."

Leadership is all the rage. What about the other side of the coin? What about followership?

Unitarian minister Paul Beedle

describes "followership" as "the discipline of supporting leaders and helping them lead well. It is not submission, but the wise and good care of leaders, done out of a sense of gratitude for their willingness to take on the responsibilities of leadership, and a sense of hope and faith in their abilities and potential."

For Christians, followership shouldn't be a foreign concept. The initial words of Jesus to his disciples were, "Follow me." If our ultimate followership is of Jesus, then one penultimate expression of Christian discipleship is good followership in relation to the leaders we call and elect.

Beedle is right. Good followership is not submission or blind loyalty. It is thoughtful and responsive. And it is also, as he says, a "discipline." Being a good follower asks something of us.

Often these days, we put such emphasis on leadership that when we get the "leader" we imagine our work is done. Then we're surprised when yet another leader fails to be "the one." Effective leadership involves a partnership of leaders and followers. It involves followers who appreciate the importance and challenge of leadership. It involves followers who are willing to manage their expectations and not insist on their own way.

Just as leadership is something we grow into and grow at, so it is with followership. Jesus' followers, the disciples, weren't always all that good at it. But they kept at it and before long it was their turn to be leaders.

### Prayer

We thank you, God, for those who have accepted the task and challenge of leadership in our church. Teach us to be good, wise and mature followers to your glory. Amen.



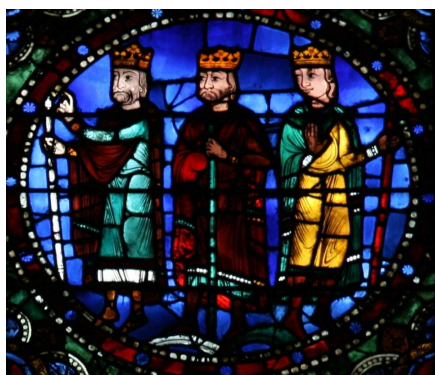
## December Trustee Counters

Pete Carlson  
Nancy Johnson-Maloney

## Amahl and the Night Visitors

Mark your calendars for the weekend of Advent IV, when Gian Carlo Menotti's beloved Christmas opera will be performed at First UCC. *Amahl* tells of a young boy and his mother who are visited by the Three Magi on their journey to Bethlehem. The all-Northfield cast includes Christopher Brunelle, Bob Gregory-Bjorklund, and Jim McKeel as the Three Kings, Tracey Engleman (St. Olaf Music Dept.) as the Mother, and Carson Babbini as Amahl. With a shepherds' chorus, beautiful orchestral music (conducted by Marty Hodel), and a timely and touching story, this delightful 50-minute show is suitable for young and old alike.

There will be three performances. The tickets for Friday, Dec. 16 (8:00 pm) and Saturday, Dec. 17 (8:00 pm) are \$10, available at First UCC and at Coldwell Banker (419 Division St.). On Sunday, Dec. 18, the morning service will feature *Amahl*; no tickets are required, and a free will donation will be taken.



## New Church Artwork

A new print, "The Prodigal Son," by Japanese artist Sadao Watanabe, hangs in the assembly room. This was a gift to the church from Mary Wood on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.



## Christmas Sharing

Christmas Sharing is a program sponsored by the Community Action Center of Northfield, which will be providing gifts for over 900 children that live in the Northfield School District. A Christmas Sharing donation box is located in the church foyer by the bulletin boards. Please place new, unwrapped toys in the box before Tuesday, Dec. 13. Your support of this program is greatly appreciated!



## Flower Power

The flower power fund is used by the church to purchase flowers or plants on a certain Sunday and occasion as needed. If you would like to designate a Sunday or specify that you are giving in honor or memory of someone, please do so with your payment of \$15.00 per plant. Payments (made payable to First UCC with "Flower Power" clearly written in the memo line) may be placed in the Sunday offering plates or submitted to the church office. Order forms are also included in the weekly bulletin.



## Christmas Week Worship Schedule

- Sunday, Dec. 18, 10:00am: *Amahl* opera
- Tuesday, Dec. 20, 7:00pm: *Longest Night* service
- Saturday, Dec. 24, 4:00pm: Christmas Eve service
- Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:00am: Christmas Day service



## Important Dates to Note

Pastor Cindy will be away on continuing ed leave Nov. 28 through Dec. 4, and away on vacation Dec. 26 through Dec. 31. Please contact Pastor Griggs in her absence during these times.

The church office will be closed Dec. 27 and Dec. 28.

### First UCC Staff:

Interim Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Mueller  
cindymueller@firstucc.org

Interim Assoc. Minister: Rev. Bob Griggs  
bobgriggs@firstucc.org

Office Manager: Jennifer Kluzak  
church@firstucc.org

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle  
chrisbrunelle@firstucc.org

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

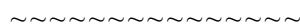
Director of Children's Music: Shana Hodel  
shanahodel@firstucc.org

Organist: Theo Wee  
thewee@firstucc.org

Bookkeeper/Chronicle: Andrea Pegram  
andreapegram@firstucc.org

Childcare Coordinator: Tammy Rischmiller  
tammyrischmiller@firstucc.org

Security: Mark Fischer  
markfischer@firstucc.org



Office Hours: 9:00am - 2:00pm,  
Tuesday through Friday

Website: www.firstucc.org

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



## Statistical Report as of 11/22/11

	Total Pledges for 2011	Current Estimate of Giving Cards for 2012 (148 cards received)	No Estimate of Giving Card yet, but had a 2011 pledge (48 cards are outstanding)	Projected 2012 for Estimate of Giving Cards	Projected % Increase from 2011 to 2012
<b>Local Ministry</b>	\$327,991	\$293,269	\$51,396	\$344,665	5.08%
<b>OCWM</b>	\$55,062	\$61,472	\$ 8,047	\$69,519	26.26%
<b>Total</b>	\$383,053	\$354,741	\$59,443	\$414,184	8.13%

### Lay Leaders of First United Church of Christ

#### Council

##### **Officers:**

**Moderator** - Brad Hoff

**Vice-Moderator** - Sarah Forster

**Treasurer** - Phil Kasten

**Assistant Treasurer** - Leota Goodney

**Clerk** – Jane McWilliams

**Members at Large** - Carol Rutz, Bob Bruce, Kaara Maki-Waller

**Nominations** –Phil Parsons, Chair

**Personnel Subcommittee** - Shannon Garlitz, Chair

**Minister-Congregation Relations Subcommittee** – Scott Richardson, Chair

#### Boards

**Deacons** – Bill Poehlmann, Chairperson

**New Member Sub-Committee** –Jean Haslett & Pat Kriesel, Co-Chairs

**Trustees** – Pete Carlson, Chair

**Memorial Committee** – Grace Buck, Chair

#### Committees

**Arts Committee** – Lynne Severson & Nancy Lehman, Co-Chairs

**Christian Education (CE)**

**Children's Ministry** (birth – 6<sup>th</sup> grade) – Jami Reister, Chair

**Youth Ministry** (7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) – Ann Wind, Chair

**Adult Ministry** – Lynne Severson, Chair

**College Relations** - John Severson, Chair

**Parish Life & Fellowship (PLF)** – Linda Wagenbach, Chair

**Search & Call Committee** - David Beimers, Chair

**Service & Social Responsibility (SSR)** - Jan Mitchell, Chair

**Special Functions** - Bobbie Peterson, Organizer

**Stewardship** – Shawn Nuebel, Chair



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[www.firstucc.org](http://www.firstucc.org)

Rev. Mueller will be on Continuing Ed leave Dec. 1 through Dec. 4, and on vacation Dec. 26 through Dec. 31.

Generally Rev. Mueller is in Northfield Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Sunday  
 Generally Rev. Dr. Griggs is in Northfield Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Sunday

DECEMBER 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> <b>ADVENT I</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service & "Hanging of the Greens" <b>11:15 AM</b> Coffe Hour <b>11:15 AM</b> Middle School Youth Group	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Stepsisters (#113) <b>4:45 PM</b> Angel Choir Rehearsal <b>5:30 PM</b> WFFF <b>6:15 PM</b> Rainbow Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b> Senior Choir Rehearsal <b>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Amahl rehearsal	<b>1</b> <i>Cindy on Continuing Ed Leave</i> <b>10:00 AM</b> Prayer Shawl Knitting Group <b>1:30 PM</b> Office Staff Meeting	<b>2</b> <i>Cindy on Continuing Ed Leave</i>	<b>3</b> <i>Cindy on Continuing Ed Leave</i> <b>9:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> Transition Northfield <b>9:30 AM</b> Stepsisters (#113) <b>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM</b> Amahl Rehearsal
<b>4</b> <i>Cindy on Continuing Ed Leave</i> <b>Spirit Voices Sing During Worship</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion <b>11:15 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>11:15 AM</b> Middle School Youth Group <b>11:30 AM</b> High School Youth Group (led by Maki-Wallers)	<b>5</b> <b>4:15 PM</b> Men's Group	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Stepsisters (#113) <b>4:45 PM</b> Angel Choir Rehearsal <b>5:30 PM</b> WFFF <b>6:15 PM</b> Rainbow Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b> Amahl Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b> Senior Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b> Trustees <b>7:00 PM</b> Nominating Comm <b>7:30 PM</b> Adult/CE <b>7:45 PM</b> SSR	<b>8</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Personnel Committee Meeting	<b>9</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> PEO Breakfast with Santa Setup	<b>10</b> <b>6:30 AM - 2:00 PM</b> PEO Breakfast with Santa <b>9:30 AM</b> Stepsisters (#113) <b>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> Amahl Rehearsal
<b>11</b> <b>Children's Choirs sing during Worship</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service & Sunday School <b>11:15 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>11:15 AM</b> Middle School Youth Group <b>11:30 AM</b> Mission Trip Planning Meeting (Big Room)	<b>12</b> <b>6:00 PM - 7:30 PM</b> Girl Scouts (Big Room)	<b>13</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Cabinet Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> CE Meeting <b>12:00 PM</b> Stepsisters (#113) <b>4:45 PM</b> Angel Choir Rehearsal <b>5:30 PM</b> WFFF <b>6:15 PM</b> Rainbow Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b> Deacons Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Senior Choir Rehearsal <b>8:00 PM</b> Amahl Dress Rehearsal	<b>15</b> <b>1:30 PM</b> Office Staff Meeting	<b>16</b> <b>10:30 AM - 2:00 PM</b> Growing Up Healthy Multi-Cultural Cooking Club <b>8:00 PM</b> Amahl Opera	<b>17</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Stepsisters (#113) <b>10:00 AM - 11:30 AM</b> Bible Study/Book Study (Parlor or Big Room) <b>8:00 PM</b> Amahl Opera
<b>18</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship & Amahl Opera <b>11:15 AM</b> Coffee Hour <b>11:15 AM</b> Middle School Youth Group <b>11:30 AM</b> High School Youth Group	<b>19</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> NRC Lunch	<b>20</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Longest Night Service	<b>21</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Stepsisters (#113) <b>4:45 PM</b> Angel Choir Rehearsal <b>5:30 PM</b> WFFF <b>6:15 PM</b> Rainbow Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00 PM</b> Council Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Stepsisters (#113) <b>4:00 PM</b> Christmas Eve Service
<b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>11:15 AM</b> Coffee Hour	<b>26</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> <i>Cindy on Vacation</i> <b>6:00 PM - 7:30 PM</b> Girl Scouts (Big Room)	<b>27</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> <i>Cindy on Vacation</i>	<b>28</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> <i>Cindy on Vacation</i> <b>NO CHOIRS</b> <b>NO WFFF</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Stepsisters (#113)	<b>29</b> <i>Cindy on Vacation</i>	<b>30</b> <i>Cindy on Vacation</i>	<b>31</b> <i>Cindy on Vacation</i> <b>9:30 AM</b> Stepsisters (#113)