



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

## August Worship Services

**Sunday, Aug. 5, 2012, 10:00 a.m.**

*Readings: 2 Samuel 11: 1-15*

**Sunday, Aug. 12, 2012, 10:00 a.m.**

*Readings: 2 Samuel 11:2-12:13a*

**Sunday, Aug. 19, 2012, 10:00 a.m.**

*Readings: 2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33*

**Sunday, Aug. 26, 2012, 10:00 a.m.**

*Readings: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14*

I sat and stared at that quote and thought about times when I've stared at the clouds, not wanting or needing to do anything else. I thought about those times when I've listened to the water: brooks bubbling over shallow, rocky bottoms, oceans steadily sending waves ashore. I thought about that free, centered feeling: when feet feel rooted to the ground yet nothing is weighing on the shoulders or on the mind.

My pulse started to slow.

I talk about the need for Sabbath regularly. This is due in part to the need for an antidote for the breakneck pace of our culture and work, but this is also because Sabbath is surprisingly central to our faith. God demands that we rest, and God demands that the Pharaohs of our world and of our lives, allow us to rest. No matter what the Pharaohs say, we can't make bricks forever. God wants us to be fully human, and to be human, we need to do nothing sometimes. God knows that we need time to re-create ourselves.

I hope that this summer you have been able to rest, to lie on the grass under a tree, or listen to the water or watch the clouds. If you haven't, let August be the month. If you have already felt the cool grass, listened to the water or watched the clouds, then you already know how important it is for you to do this again soon.

We won't be wasting time. We'll be coming back to life. If there's anything that the world needs and that God wants, it is people who are fully alive.

~ Rev. Todd Smith Lippert



## Moderator's Minute

During its July 18 meeting, Council approved the Faith Formation Task Force's proposal to change our worship time and shift the meeting time for Christian education programs to before worship. Beginning September 16 (Homecoming Sunday), worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. and Sunday school for children through grade 5, as well as opportunities for additional programming for adults and older children and youth, will be offered at 9:15 a.m. More information about this new model is provided in the following pages and we are developing strategies for communicating these changes to the congregation and wider community.

In the coming months, Church Council will continue to move forward on several governance issues identified by the Constitutional Review Task Force. Together with Pastors Todd and Bob, church officers are looking at a particular approach to reconfiguring our administrative structure in a



## Minister's Musings

### Fully Alive

Looking through my morning emails, my pulse quickening as I'm reminded of all that needs to be done and all that should have been done already, my eyes focused on the subject line, "rest." The email was from *inward/outward: A Project of the Church of Our Savior* (you can subscribe by going to [inwardoutward.org](http://inwardoutward.org)). I opened the email and read this quote by Sir J. Lubbock: "Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."

Preach it, brother!

manner that may enable us to more effectively carry out the ministries of our church. The model being discussed has been successfully adopted by many congregations (including Mayflower UCC), is reflective of best practices in church governance, and is mindful of the realities of volunteer engagement in this day and age. I look forward to sharing more about these conversations in the weeks ahead.

Council also took steps to address another issue raised by the Constitutional Review Task Force by establishing a finance committee. This committee, which will be evaluated and adjusted as necessary in six months, will provide depth and continuity when treasurers change, strengthen accountability and scrutiny of our financial records, and will provide strategic direction for the finances of the church. During this initial period, the committee will be composed of the treasurer, associate treasurer, a representative from stewardship, and two at-large members appointed by the Moderator. This structure dovetails with the governance model we are currently evaluating, and church leadership continues to plan to formalize and codify these changes in our governing documents, including the church constitution.

~ Sarah Forster



### August Bell Ringers

- Aug. 5: Steve Wilmot
- Aug. 12: Julia & Beth Kallestad
- Aug. 19: Bill Poehlmann
- Aug. 26: Scott Richardson



### August Trustee Counters

- Leota Goodney
- Pete Carlson/Marty Pelikan



## August Stewardship Message

### Stewards Gifted by God: Our Talents, Vocation and Life-long Learning

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.  
~ 1 Peter 4:10*

All are gifted by God and all are called. Too often the notion of call has been understood as a calling to ministry, with a path that leads to ordination. But God grants all persons varied talents and abilities and calls us all to serve in many ways. We are all ministers! We use the process of discernment, of reflecting on life's journeys, to open us up to hearing God's voice urging us in a certain direction, whether in an educational or vocational path, love, a spiritual journey or some other aspect of life.

The church is looked to by many for vision, direction, and courage. People long to know the scriptures, to become articulate about faith, and to see more clearly the relationship between the gospel and the realities of the world. As many head back to school after summer breaks, it is good to stop and remember that life-long learning, in or out of schools, enables us to discern the shape of discipleship throughout the changing course of our lives.

As centers of hope and transformation, local churches engage, in the tradition of Jesus, in discerning, cultivating and using the gifts of Christ's disciples for the common good.

~A message from "Stewards in the Household of God: A Resource for Holistic Year-round Stewardship" available from United Church of Christ Resources



## SSR Update

July and August are relatively quiet times, though the OCWM money that all generously give continues to do important work in this community and around the world. Intensive work continues with some of us generating conversations in opposition to the state constitutional amendment on the ballot in November that would limit who could marry in Minnesota. Please join others in doing this. Those who have studied this and with whom we are partnering believe that conversations offer the best possibility for this to be the first state to defeat such an amendment. Join others in conversation training, and as you might be able each Tuesday, 6:30p.m.-9:00ish now into November at the church, where Northfielders are doing phone conversations. Bring a cell phone if you can; training, good scripts and support will be there.

Various organizations have thanked us for past months contributions: WINGS; the Asian Rural Institute (who give a shout-out to Marge Tarr); Operation Backpack; HealthFinders Collaborative; CaringBridge. The national UCC has also recognized us as a "5 for 5" congregation because of our actions last year in raising money for all 4 of its special missions offerings: 1 Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and The Christmas Fund.

~ Matt Rohn, SSR Chair

### Thank You...

... for your generous contribution of 45 pounds of food to the CAC Food Shelf for June 2012. ~ Jim Blaha, Executive Director, Community Action Center of Northfield.





## Children's Education Committee News

The Children's Education Committee (CE) and the Faith Formation Task Force are excited to bring you news of a NEW faith formation program that will kick off this fall!

CE has spent more than a year exploring and researching new ways of making our faith formation program more relevant, meaningful, and sustainable for our children and their families. Several weeks of WFFF discussions, the development of a Faith Formation Task Force, various meetings with committees and staff members, two congregational meetings, countless hours of discussion, and a survey have all helped to develop a new model of faith formation that will serve children ages 3 through grade 5 and their families. The Deacons are in full support of the plan, and the Council has voted unanimously to support the Children's Education committee and Task Force in their new endeavors.

The new faith formation model will be introduced on September 16, 2012. Children's Christian education programs will begin at 9:15 a.m., structured in traditional classrooms but using a new curriculum that CE is very excited about implementing. There will be new opportunities for youth and adult programming during this time as well. One Sunday a month, we will have a large group faith formation experience to help strengthen the family and faith connection.

Also beginning on September 16, our worship service will shift to 10:30 a.m., allowing families to worship together as we work to more extravagantly welcome our children into the faith journey of our church. We are also very eager to provide

new service opportunities for our children and families, helping our entire congregation live out its service mission.

When asked if they would be more or less likely to participate in the life of our church, should worship and faith formation time be separated, 71% of families who responded to the survey indicated that they would participate at the same level they currently engage in at church. This is exciting news for us as we work to better fulfill the baptismal covenants to our children, and we appreciate the congregation's willingness to take a leap of faith as we explore new ways of strengthening our children's programming at First UCC.

We are thrilled for the opportunity to live into what we feel is our calling to better serve the children of this church and their families. We greatly appreciate the support of so many groups and individuals as we have worked to develop this new programming. We have a tremendous amount of work to do but are eager to start this new journey!

We are currently planning a faith formation kick-off event for September 16, so keep your eyes open for more details!

~ Jami Reister, Chair of Children's Education Committee Faith Formation Task Force



## Fall Inquirers' Classes

The Fall 2012 Inquirers' Classes are scheduled for **Sunday mornings after Worship on October 14 and 21**. These gatherings are for those persons who want to know more about First UCC or who wish to join.

~Jean Haslett & Pat Kriesel



## Noontime Organ Recitals

The community of Northfield will be sponsoring three noontime organ recitals in August. Each recital will be held on a Wednesday from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. enabling people to hear fine organ playing over their lunch hours. This is the sixth summer of noontime recitals.

Wed. Aug. 1: Wyatt Smith, Student at Univ. of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD, Studio A, Skifter Hall, Christiansen Music Building, St. Olaf College.

Wed. Aug. 8: Rosalie Alcoser, Organist & Choir Director at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Rochester, MN, United Methodist Church, 1401 S. Maple St.

Wed. Aug. 15: Catherine Rodland, Artist-in-Residence at St. Olaf College, St. John's Lutheran Church, 500 3rd St. West.

All recitals are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Richard F. Collman, [507-645-1357](tel:507-645-1357) or email him at [rkcollman@msn.com](mailto:rkcollman@msn.com).



## Pastoral Care Volunteers Needed

First UCC is in need of volunteers to provide pastoral care to members in need. If you are interested in being a visitor, caregiver supporter, driver, meal provider, or childcare provider, please contact Rev. Bob Griggs at [bobgriggs@firstucc.org](mailto:bobgriggs@firstucc.org) or 507-645-7532.

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGE**

Beginning September 16<sup>th</sup> worship will begin at 10:30 am. Faith Formation for all ages will begin at 9:15 am. This change will allow children to participate in all of worship, and it will model that worship is our most important spiritual practice.



**A Gentle Reminder**

Summer is a time of travel and vacation for many of us. It's a time to renew and restore, whether it's at a nearby lake or with family a thousand miles a way. As you enjoy the remainder of summer, this is a gentle reminder to please keep current with your financial support to our church. With payrolls and other obligations to meet, our church needs our regular support. Thank you!



**Yoga at First UCC  
To Return in  
the Fall!**

Yoga at First UCC enjoyed a lovely 12 weeks over the late spring/early summer. The gentle class in the back of our beautiful sanctuary was blessed each morning by sunbeams streaming through the stained glass windows. People stretched, meditated, and relaxed. Thanks to the many people who participated and, in doing so, made the class special!

Yoga will return in the fall; exact date TBD.

May you find some time each day when you have nowhere to be, and nothing to do.

~Melissa Sharpe



**August Sound Techs**

- Aug. 5: William Beimers
- Aug. 12: Mark Fischer
- Aug. 19: John Severson
- Aug. 26: Alex Battiste

**First UCC Staff:**

Senior Minister:

Rev. Todd Smith Lippert  
pastortodd@firstucc.org

Interim Associate Minister:

Rev. Dr. Bob Griggs  
bobgriggs@firstucc.org

Office Manager:

Jennifer Kluzak  
church@firstucc.org

Director of Music:

Christopher 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

Handbell Choir Director:

Janet Lewis Muth  
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Organist:

Theo Wee  
theowee@firstucc.org

Bookkeeper / Chronicle:

Andrea Pegram  
andreapegram@firstucc.org

Childcare Coordinator:

Tammy Rischmiller  
tammyrischmiller@firstucc.org

Sexton:

Mark Fischer  
markfischer@firstucc.org

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

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

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



## 2012 Lay Leaders of First United Church of Christ

### Council

**Moderator** – Sarah Forster  
**Vice-Moderator** – Greg Muth  
**Treasurer** - Phil Kasten  
**Assistant Treasurer** – Leota Goodney  
**Clerk** – Jane McWilliams  
**Members at Large** – Carol Rutz, Bob Bruce,  
Jerry Mohrig

### Committee Council Representatives

**Arts Committee** – Lynne Severson  
**Board of Deacons** – Kathryn Jamison  
**Board of Trustees** – Michael Garlitz  
**Christian Education Committee** – Jami Reister  
**Nominations Committee** – Molly Woehrlin  
**Parish Life & Fellowship** – Cynthia Lund  
**Service & Social Responsibility** – Barbara Crouter  
**Stewardship Committee** – Shawn Nuebel

### Committee Chairs

**Adult Education Committee** – Gary Wagenbach  
**Arts Committee** – Lynne Severson & Nancy Lehman  
**Board of Deacons** – Anne Meyer-Ruppel  
**Board of Trustees** – Mary Doezema Cooper  
**Christian Education Committee** – Jami Reister  
**College Relations Committee** – Jan Mitchell  
**Minister-Congregation Relations Subcommittee of  
Council** – Scott Richardson  
**New Member Subcommittee of Board of Deacons** –  
Jean Haslett & Pat Kriesel  
**Nominations Committee** – Phil Parsons  
**Parish Life & Fellowship Committee** – Gary Kasten  
**Personnel Subcommittee of Council** – Shannon Garlitz  
**Service & Social Responsibility Committee** – Matt Rohn  
**Special Functions Committee** – Bobbie Peterson  
**Stewardship Committee** – Shawn Nuebel



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## AUGUST 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Stepsisters (#113) <b>7:00 PM</b> MCRC meeting	<b>2</b> <i>Pastor Todd Off-Site Reading/Writing Day</i> <b>10:00 AM</b> Prayer Shawl Knitting Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Cabinet	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Stepsisters (#113)
<b>5</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion <b>11:15 AM</b> Coffee Hour	<b>6</b> <b>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM</b> Election Setup <b>4:15 PM</b> Men's Group	<b>7</b> <b>PRIMARY ELECTION</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Bible Study with Pastor Todd <b>1:00 PM</b> Office Staff Meeting <b>6:00 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Marriage Equality Phone Bank	<b>8</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Children's Faith Formation meeting (Jami's house) <b>9:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b> Election Takedown <b>12:00 PM</b> Stepsisters (#113) <b>7:00 PM</b> Deacons Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Trustees	<b>9</b> <i>Pastor Todd Off-Site Reading/Writing Day</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Stepsisters (#113)
<b>12</b> <i>Pastor Todd on Youth Mission Trip</i> <b>YOUTH MISSION TRIP (CHICAGO)</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service & Sunday School <b>11:15 AM</b> Coffee Hour	<b>13</b> <i>Pastor Todd on Youth Mission Trip</i> <b>YOUTH MISSION TRIP (CHICAGO)</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Pastor Todd on Youth Mission Trip</i> <b>YOUTH MISSION TRIP (CHICAGO)</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Bible Study with Pastor Bob <b>6:00 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Marriage Equality Phone Bank	<b>15</b> <i>Pastor Todd on Youth Mission Trip</i> <b>YOUTH MISSION TRIP (CHICAGO)</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Stepsisters (#113) <b>7:00 PM</b> Council	<b>16</b> <i>Pastor Todd on Youth Mission Trip</i> <b>YOUTH MISSION TRIP (CHICAGO)</b>	<b>17</b> <i>Pastor Todd on Youth Mission Trip</i> <b>YOUTH MISSION TRIP (CHICAGO)</b> <b>10:30 AM - 2:00 PM</b> Growing Up Healthy Multi-Cultural Cooking Club	<b>18</b> <i>Pastor Todd on Youth Mission Trip</i> <b>YOUTH MISSION TRIP (CHICAGO)</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Stepsisters (#113)
<b>19</b> <i>Pastor Todd on Youth Mission Trip</i> <b>YOUTH MISSION TRIP (CHICAGO)</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service & Sunday School <b>11:15 AM</b> Coffee Hour	<b>20</b> <i>Pastor Todd on Vacation</i> <b>8:30 AM</b> Men's Group Breakfast	<b>21</b> <i>Pastor Todd on Vacation</i> <b>12:00 PM</b> Bible Study with Pastor Bob <b>6:00 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Marriage Equality Phone Bank	<b>22</b> <i>Pastor Todd on Vacation</i> <b>12:00 PM</b> Stepsisters (#113)	<b>23</b> <i>Pastor Todd on Vacation</i> <b>12:00 PM - 1:30 PM</b> Book Discussion	<b>24</b> <i>Pastor Todd on Vacation</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Pastor Todd on Vacation</i> <b>9:30 AM</b> Stepsisters (#113) <b>10:00 AM</b> Bible Study
<b>26</b> <i>Pastor Todd on Vacation</i> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service & Last Summer Sunday School <b>11:15 AM</b> Coffee Hour	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Bible Study with Pastor Todd <b>1:00 PM</b> Office Staff Meeting <b>6:00 PM - 9:00 PM</b> Marriage Equality Phone Bank	<b>29</b> <i>Pastor Todd Off Site at Conference</i> <b>12:00 PM</b> Stepsisters (#113)	<b>30</b> <i>Pastor Todd Off-Site Reading/Writing Day</i> <b>4:00 PM</b> New Member Subcommittee Meeting	<b>31</b> <i>Pastor Bob at Wedding Rehearsal in Brainerd</i>	