




FIRST UNITED  
CHURCH of CHRIST  
Northfield · Minnesota

# The Chronicle

A monthly newsletter of The First United Church of Christ, Congregational  
300 Union Street, Northfield, Minnesota 55057  
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Church

## Sunday, May 4 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mission Trip Hanging Flower Baskets  
Ready for Pick-Up  
9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for infants  
through age 2: Care by Jane  
McWilliams and Allie Clark  
10:00 a.m. Worship &  
Communion   
Scripture: Acts 1:6-14  
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11  
Sermon: The Ends of the Earth  
10:15 a.m. First Sunday of the Month  
activities and Parents Gathering  
(after Children's Time)  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour (sponsored  
by Tracy O'Neill)  
11:00 a.m. Blessing of the Bikes  
11:15 a.m. Junior High Youth (No  
Junior Bell Choir)  
11:15 a.m. College Luncheon  
11:15 a.m. Adult Education: Earth



Fair sponsored by the  
Green Group will help us  
focus more on being better  
stewards of God's creation. Think  
about ways you can get to and from  
church that day (and each Sunday)  
with as little carbon impact as  
possible (walking, biking, car  
pooling, etc.). Free trees, CSA's,  
compact fluorescent bulbs, non-  
toxic cleaning materials,  
composting, energy audits, rain  
barrels, solar water heating and  
photovoltaics, Cannon Valley  
Watershed, American Blooms -  
cutting back on your lawn,  
sustainable home improvements,  
Carbon Neutral Action Pledge.  
5:00 p.m. Church Softball game vs.  
St. Dominic's Blue at Babcock Park


## Sunday, May 11 Pentecost Sunday Mother's Day

Mission Trip Hanging Flower Baskets  
Ready for Pick-Up  
9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for infants  
through age 2  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
Bell Ringer: Monica Cooper  
Scripture: Acts 2:1-21  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13  
Sermon: Many Gifts, One Spirit  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour sponsored by  
Molly and Bill Woehrlin and Mary  
Ellen Ross  
11:30 am. Angel & Rainbow Choirs  
End of Year Concert  
6:10 p.m. Church Softball game vs.  
Trinity Red at Seclar # 1

## Sunday, May 18 Trinity Sunday

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for infants  
through age 2: Care by Tracy  
O'Neill and Allie Clark  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
Preacher: Damen Heitmann  
Bell Ringer: Bill Poehlmann  
Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 13:11-13  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School and Youth  
Appreciation  
11:00 a.m. Chili Dinner fundraiser  
11:15 a.m. Adult Education: "King  
Corn" to follow Chili fundraiser.  
5:30 p.m. Senior High Youth  
7:20 p.m. Church Softball game vs.  
Trondhjem at Babcock Park

## Sunday, May 25 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for infants  
through age 2: Care by Kristen  
Kasten and Anika Hodel  
10:00 a.m. Worship,  
Baccalaureate   
Scripture: Psalm 131  
Matthew 6:24-34  
Sermon: Calm and  
Quiet  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour sponsored by  
PLF



## Monday, May 26 Memorial Day

Church Office closed

## Church Office Hours

June through August  
Monday through Thursday  
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

September through May  
Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### Phones

(507) 645-7532, 645-4694

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### Websites

www.firstucc.org  
www.confirmationucc.blogspot.com  
www.uccjrhigh.blogspot.com

### Staff

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Night Security: Mark Fischer

### Officer

Moderator: Kathy Kasten



## Welcome to our New Members

### Nalani McCutcheon

(H) 507-789-6519 or  
nalani@frontiernet.net

### Katherine Sandberg

(H) 507-789-6519 or  
katie315@frontiernet.net  
45820 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kenyon,  
Minnesota 55946

Nalani and Kathy have both joined  
by Reaffirmation of Faith. Their  
sponsor is Jan Mitchell.

Kathy and Nalani live near Kenyon  
with two dogs, Tiny Tim and Jo.

Kathy works as the coordinator of  
the Rice County Family Services  
Collaborative. She has two children  
Mitchell (& Bryan) Cole (born March  
11, 1980), who lives in Faribault, and  
John Sandberg (born February 11,  
1977), who lives in Mankato. Kathy's  
leisure activities include knitting,  
rollerblading, skiing, drinking good  
coffee, and spending time with her  
grandchildren Ayden and Isabelle.

Nalani has lived in Wisconsin,  
Missouri, Nebraska and Hawaii  
(leaving when she was 4 years old, so  
don't get jealous!). When she isn't  
working at River Bend Nature  
Center, she is likely found pulling  
European buckthorn from their  
property, drinking good coffee,  
listening to folk music, and reading  
engaging books. Her personal quest  
is to figure out how to stay "hip"  
when her 13-year-old nephew comes  
to visit!

### William (Bill) Wustenberg

### Wendy Wustenberg

(H) 651-460-8340 or  
alternetMD@frontiernet.net

### Russell Morris Wustenberg

operettaoffthewall@gmail.com  
20808 Ahern Boulevard, Farmington,  
Minnesota 55024

William, Wendy, and Russell have  
joined by Letter of Transfer from  
Lord of Life Church in Farmington.  
Their sponsors are Mary and Jeff  
Dunnewold and Gary Kasten.  
William and Wendy have two  
children, Lauren Ruth Wustenberg  
(born April 28, 1993) and Russell  
Morris Wustenberg (born February 6,  
1991). Lauren is in the Confirmation  
Class and Russell is joining First UCC  
today.

Russell is a singer and an actor. He  
loves choirs and looks forward to  
singing with our congregation.  
Russell also plays the trombone and  
enjoys doing dramatic readings.

### David and Laurie Hougen- Eitzman

(H) 507-334-3335 or  
Bigwoodsfarm@deskmedia.com  
10752 Nerstrand Boulevard,  
Nerstrand, Minnesota 55053

David and Laurie have both joined  
First UCC by Confession of Faith.  
Their sponsors are Ross and Jan  
Shoger. David and Laurie have two  
children, Mari (born April 22, 1995),  
and Theo (born November 16, 2000).  
David teaches Biology at Carleton  
during the school year. During the  
summer the Hougen-Eitzmans grow  
organic vegetables for their CSA  
(Community Supported Agriculture)  
farm near Nerstrand.

## and to our Confirmation students confirmed on Sunday, April 13

Sam H. Alberg, Melanie Laine  
Beaver, Alex H. Burkhart, Katherine  
Carlson, Peter Davidson, Jacob  
Anders Fure-Slocum, Bobby Hores,  
Logan Mueller-Dahl, Elena Ruth  
Dunnewold Ondich, Otto J.  
Pfefferle, Tipper Roster, McKinzie  
Sippola, Lauren Wustenberg

## RSS FEED

If you know what an RSS Feed is, please add [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org) to your Reader. If you don't know what an RSS Feed is, please check our church's website, [www.firstucc.org](http://www.firstucc.org), several times a week to keep up with all the news from First UCC.

## In our Prayers

- The (newly) Rev. Kathy Baughman, ordained in the Unitarian church on April 19
- Bob Lampe, doing rehabilitation after a stroke
- Mary Wood, mourning the death of her son-in-law Bruce
- Bob and Lin Bruce, welcoming their new granddaughter Sequoia Keely Bruce (parents Scott Bruce and Kristi MacKay)
- Our newly confirmed church members
- Tanya Nuebel, celebrating her Special Olympic performance in basketball

## Sandy's Schedule

Pastor Sandy will be away May 12 - 18 on vacation – a long-awaited trip to Alaska to help celebrate the graduation of her partner Jean's god-daughter Lindsey. She will then be away May 19-23 on study leave, to attend the Festival of Homiletics, a nationally known event that brings together the nation's most outstanding preachers for a week of sermons (okay, that only sounds like fun to a minister!)

The Board of Deacons will be responsible for the service on May 18, with seminary intern Damen Heitmann preaching.



## H. S. Graduation

We will be honoring high school graduates with a Baccalaureate service during worship on Sunday, May 25. We hope everyone will be present to offer them our prayers and best wishes.

Parents or graduating seniors, please notify the church of:

- those who will or will not be participating
- additional seniors to graduate who not on this list
- changes in graduates names to be printed in the bulletin (from the list below)
- how the graduates parents would like their names printed in the bulletin

### 2008 High School Graduates

Erik Burton, Claire Carlson, Joseph Cherny, Phoebe Currier, Sam Dunnewold, Gerrit Duys, Anna Fure-Slocum, Anders Hanson, Kellen Kirchberg, Maggie Kruse, Daniel Mueller, Daniel Sanderson, Karl Stromley, James Wilson, Dave Wornson.

The above information can be called in (645-7532), emailed to [church@firstucc.org](mailto:church@firstucc.org), or left on Elaine's desk in the church office.



## Dear Friends,

For the last few months, starting on my sabbatical, I have been exploring some of the ways that communications technology – especially the internet – can be used for extend our ministry and use our resources more effectively.

The most obvious result of that is our revised website – which is, I hasten to add, still under re-construction. We want [www.firstucc.org](http://www.firstucc.org) to do two things: first, to provide basic

information for seekers, friends, and members; and second, to display the wonderful variety of services, activities, and events that are part of our life together.

So we hope you will check the website often – it is going to be a place with previews of upcoming events as well as photos and reports of things that have already happened. If you have something you'd like to see there (especially if you have photos!), please pass it along to me (email is most efficient).

My other excursion into internet technology came from a class I took at United Seminary in April, where I was introduced to Facebook. For those of you who don't have youth or young adults in your family, let me explain: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) is an internet site for social networking -- widely used by young people. It offers ways of connecting – and staying connected – with friends anywhere in the world.

Don't worry – I am not going to be asking my young friends to be "friends" on Facebook. But I do think it is important for me – and all of you – to be aware of the social networking that is having such a huge influence on the lives of youth and young adults. It can be a very effective tool in ministry – but only if we are paying attention and listening.

I'm also working with the Minnesota Conference Committee on Ministry (which I chair) to see how we can use internet technology to reduce our use of paper and postage to circulate the dossiers in the ordination process. That's one place where communications technology partners with "green" values!

I hope that those of you who are more skilled and experienced in these areas will offer advice and suggestions to me and our church leaders about the ways we can use technology to better serve one another – and the wider world.

Grace and peace, *Sandy*



## Pastoral Ponderings

It seems that Spring just may come to Minnesota, after all. Believe it or not, for me, with this realization comes the idea of doing a little spring housecleaning.

I love to open windows, air out the house, clean some closets, get rid of things that no longer have a purpose, and lighten the place up a bit. So, this morning when I was making my “to-do” list, I decided to ask God to do a little spring cleaning with me, too. My prayer consisted of asking God to open the windows of my soul, to sweep away those beliefs and thoughts that interfere with our relationship, and to “freshen up” my faith.

On a different note, I want to mention three pastoral items.

(1) Please keep your eyes open for details of June’s Strawberry Festival. The exact date isn’t yet set; the Congregational Care Council is awaiting word on when the berries will be ready. As soon as I know, I will post the date in the bulletin, the June Chronicle, and the bulletin board.

(2) I also want to remind you that communication is the key to good pastoral care. So, if you or a loved one is experiencing a difficult time, please call either Rev. Sandy or me, and let us know how we can help.

(3) My job description requires that I attend worship twice a month here at First UCC. When I am here, I am working, so please feel free to approach me either before, or after the service. I usually stay around for a while afterwards, so please do not hesitate to “grab me” (not literally!) or stop in my office.

Happy Spring. Let’s invite God to sweep out our soul’s cobwebs and open us to a deeper relationship with our Maker.

Peace always, *Cathy*



## Women’s Spirituality Group

Please join us for our spring potluck brunch on Saturday, May 3, at 9:30 a.m. A discussion, “The Women Who Influenced Our Lives”, will follow the meal. Bring your ideas, your stories and/ or pictures, and a dish to pass, and join us for a fun-filled morning.

This group is open to all women of First UCC and their friends. Please RSVP to Cathy by May 1. (645-7532, ext. 203)

Our June group will be Saturday, June 7. Watch the “Pastoral Care” bulletin board for that month’s topic.



Mother’s Day is May 11 and so is the annual Twin Cities Race for the Cure. Sue Mieska is arranging for a bus to go to the race again this year. If you are interested in riding along on the bus please contact Sue. 645-1514, 645-4312 or [smieska@cardinalcorp.com](mailto:smieska@cardinalcorp.com). The bus will leave from the parking lot at Buntrock Commons on the St. Olaf campus, on Sunday morning at 7:00 a.m. and return about 1:00 p.m. For information about registering for the race please go to [www.komenminnesota.org](http://www.komenminnesota.org)



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Blessing of the Bikes at First UCC

Sunday May, 4, 2008 - right after worship. Riding season is upon us and it is time for our annual Blessing of the Bikes. Bring your bikes, trikes, mopeds, unicycles, anything with less than 4 wheels (wagons are ok). We meet in the church parking lot after worship for the Blessing.

## WOW’s (Wise Older Women)

All are welcome to gather for coffee and conversation with our neighbors at the Northfield Retirement Community on Wednesday, May 21. We meet in the Manor Dining Room at 9:30 a.m. Questions? Call Jane McWilliams, 645-8423.



## Prayer Chain

Call Cathy at church if you have a prayer need for the prayer chain or if you want to join the prayer chain. This requires no meetings, no contributions---just your agreement to hold the needs of others in your personal prayer intentions.

## Childcare needed

One adult and one youth volunteer are needed for each Sunday. If you are interested please sign up on the calendars in the nursery, or contact Tammy at 507-332-0382 or [rischmt@11.net](mailto:rischmt@11.net). Thank you.

Thank you too, to those who answered our requests for toys for the nursery. The Duplo table and Duplos and the numerous fruit and kitchen items are all appreciated.

*Tammy Rischmiller*

## Preaching on the internet

Whatever else we have learned from the kerfuffle about the Rev. Jeremiah Wright and his impassioned sermons at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, it is clear that once a video is on the Internet, it is entirely out of the control of the person who is pictured.

We've been talking about podcasting (voice only) my sermons on our website, and I think that's a good idea. But I will confess to some worry about people who will misuse my words and misrepresent my theology based on "sound bites" taken out of context.

Of course, I already have no control over my words once they are spoken. When someone tells me they really appreciate what I said in the pulpit, I have learned to ask what it was that they heard me say. Sometimes they report what I meant to say; sometimes they don't.

But the Internet multiplies that effect hugely -- and I will never get the opportunity to check on whether I have been understood or misunderstood.



## Art Show: Jesus Through the Ages

To inaugurate the soon-to-be-refurbished Assembly Room, the Arts Committee will host an art show devoted to the many ways that Jesus has been depicted through the centuries. The show will be on display in the Assembly Room from early May through early June. If you own a suitable work of art, either contemporary or historical, that you would like to be considered for inclusion in the exhibit, please get in touch now with a member of the Arts Committee (Gary Kasten, Jan Stevens, Jane McDonnell, Karen Achberger, Chris Brunelle).

## My Carbon Neutral Action Pledge

Last year, Como Presbyterian Church in the Twin Cities asked its members to participate in a carbon neutral action pledge. This was in response to their own church's efforts to go carbon neutral in accord with the Presbyterian General Assembly 2006 Recommendation. It began: "...the Christian mandate to care for creation and the Biblical promise of the restoration of right relationships between God, human beings, and the rest of creation impels and inspires us to act to reduce our energy usage. ... The urgency, injustice, and seriousness of this issue calls us as Christians to act NOW and to act boldly."

We are seeking First UCC members to make their own pledge. . .

**FIRST**, read the pledge below and check one or more things you will do.

**SECOND**, go to a computer, **log-on** to [www.mnenergychallenge.org](http://www.mnenergychallenge.org), and learn about your energy usage and ways to reduce it (and save money in the process).

**Third**, post this pledge where you can see it, give thanks to God's

creation by pursuing your goals, & return next year to report on what you have done & pledge action anew.

I pledge to work to become CARBON NEUTRAL. Select one or more actions listed below and pledge your commitment to take action and make a difference!

\_\_\_\_\_ replace 5 incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents. Save 535# CO2 emissions per year

\_\_\_\_\_ turn my thermostat down 2 degrees in winter & up 2 degrees in summer. Saves 2,000# CO2 emissions per year

\_\_\_\_\_ drive 10 fewer miles/ week by combining trips, carpooling, walking, biking or taking mass transit. Saves 500# CO2 emissions per year

\_\_\_\_\_ check tires weekly and keep them properly inflated. Saves 2500# CO2 emissions per year

\_\_\_\_\_ clean or replace furnace & AC filter regularly. Saves 350# CO2 emissions per year

\_\_\_\_\_ avoid buying heavily packaged, non-recyclable goods. Saves 500# CO2 emissions per year

\_\_\_\_\_ recycle as much as I can at

home, church, work and/ or school. Saves 500# CO2 emissions per year

\_\_\_\_\_ buy items made from recycled materials

\_\_\_\_\_ plant a tree or give to an organization to plant trees for me. One tree absorbs a ton of CO2 during its lifetime!

\_\_\_\_\_ you name the carbon reduction idea(s) & amount(s) saved; many more are out there.

\_\_\_\_\_ air dry my clothes 6 mo/ year Saves 700# CO2 emissions per year

\_\_\_\_\_ take my own bags to shop. Saves 500# CO2 emissions per year

### Your Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Going Carbon Neutral – Why it Matters:** Carbon dioxide (CO2) is the most common greenhouse gas and main culprit behind global warming that we can change. In the average Minnesota home (with vehicle), each person produces 10.8 tons of CO2 emissions per year, contributing to quantities building up as excess in the atmosphere & oceans.

# Christian Education



## Children

10:15 a.m. Sundays  
on Sunday School level.

**Sunday, May 4:** First Sunday of the Month (grades 4-6 participate in worship; preschool-grade 3 multiage class) - Mary and Claire Carlson share stories of their mission trip to Nicaragua and where all the donated toothbrushes went!

**and Parents Gathering during worship** (after children's time)

- Summer and Fall Sunday school curriculum information
- Pilgrim Point Camp information
- Hopes and Dreams for your child's faith formation at First UCC

**Sunday, May 11:** Angel and Rainbow choirs final concert

**Wednesday, May 14:** End of year party and potluck for Angel and Rainbow choirs



**Sunday, May 18:** Last Day of School Year Sunday School; children/ youth leaders appreciation time during children's time in worship

**Sunday, June 8:** Leaders training after worship

**Sunday, June 15-August 14:**  
**Summer Sunday School – God Calls Us Around the World: The Wonderful World of Mission.**

10:15 a.m. for age three through grade 3; grades 4 and 5 are welcome as "Big Buddy Helpers."

- Children will learn about mission sites and our friends around the world by exploring customs and cultures of countries through music, food, crafts, language, and more. Hear Bible stories and read missionary letters that will help them understand the special call to

mission and focus on missions in the Philippines, Guatemala, Malawi, Pakistan, and Peru.

- Adults can support this time of faith formation by volunteering to lead one Sunday; bringing in items from the countries we will be explore; sharing stories of their time as a missionary or on a mission trip. Please contact Cher Duys or Ruth Anne Rasmuson

▪ **Sunday, September 14:** School Year Sunday School resumes. Check our Seasons of the Spirit curriculum we will use in the fall at [www.spiritseasons.com/](http://www.spiritseasons.com/). Interested in being on a fall teach team? Contact Cher Duys or a children's committee member: Sarah Carlsen, Ruth Anne Rasmuson, Tracy Fossum, Kathy Clark

**Nursery available** for infants–two years of age.

**Pockets magazines and board books** in name tag kiosk.

**The children's worship bags** are now hanging up outside the southeast Sanctuary door.

**The children's books** are now in the children's library on the Sunday School level along with videos, cd's and more.



It's not too late to sign up!  
Opportunities for ALL Ages! See information on bulletin board near church office, check [www.pilgrimpoint.org](http://www.pilgrimpoint.org) or contact Cher Duys or Sarah Carlsen.



## Junior High Youth

Please check your emails for more information.

Grades 7 & 8

11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sundays

**May 4: Help out with Earth Day Fair** in the Assembly Room

**May 11 (Mother's Day): Race for the Cure®.** Register today. <http://www.active.com/register/index.cfm?eventid+1487643&subeventid+920178&teamid-488664> Be sure to sign up under the team name "Breast Friends of Northfield" so that Sue Mieska can get a shirt for you. Also sign up to take the bus from Northfield by calling Sue Mieska (645-4312) or emailing her at [smieska@cardinalcorp.com](mailto:smieska@cardinalcorp.com).

**May 18: Support the Senior High Mission Trip Youth Chili Fundraiser**

**Senior High Youth** (please check email for updates)

**May 4: Meeting with past youth trip participants.**

**May 18: Chili Fundraiser**

**Mission trip youth:** Please pray for these youth who will be serving in Alamosa, Colorado with Habitat for Humanity and LaPuente Home: Anne Raoh, Tokala Estes, Kasey Johnson, Maggie Kruse, Isaac Burton, Jakob Anderson, Kira Kirchberg, Kami Kirchberg, Kathleen Pender, Daniel Mueller, Will Hardy, Raena Mueller-Dahl, Logan Mueller-Dahl, Carly Davidson.

Please continue supporting the Senior High service project by dropping off diapers for the food shelf.

**Confirmation Class** – Next class starts fall of 2009.

PCY's resume meetings in September



## Adults/ Intergenerational

### Mark your Calendars

**May 4 through 11** (Mother's Day): **Mission Trip Hanging Flower Baskets ready for pick-up.** Please pick up your pre-ordered basket. Sorry, but flower baskets not picked up by or on May 11 will be resold or distributed to others. Thank you for supporting us!

**May 18: Senior High Mission Trip Chili Fundraiser** to support the mission trip! Tickets available beginning May 4.



Adults \$7.00; families \$20.00; Children 3-10 years, \$5.00; Children under 3, free.

### Adult Education

**May 4: U.C.C. Earth Sunday Fair**



Free trees, CSA's, compact fluorescent bulbs, non-toxic cleaning materials, composting, energy audits, rain barrels, solar water heating and photovoltaics, Cannon Valley Watershed, American Blooms—cutting back on your lawn, sustainable home improvements, Carbon Neutral Action Pledge.

**May 11: Mother's Day.  
No Adult Ed.**

**May 18: Showing of feature-length film "King Com"** after Youth Mission Trip Chili Dinner fundraiser.

### May 25: No Adult Education

**Adults needed for Senior High Mission Trip Leadership** (July 25-August 4) to Alamosa, Colorado working with Habitat for Humanity and LaPuente Home.



Lead and learn with fourteen youth as they live out their mission of Jesus teaching to serve with those experiencing the affects of poverty and homelessness. Leadership training with Pete Duys and Dana Holden (experienced co-leaders!). Contact Cher Duys or Youth Committee: Sue Kirchberg, Angie Kruse, Larry Fowler, or Kevin Peterson.

### Northfield Ecumenical Women to gather at St. Peter's on May 3

All Northfield women are invited to the ninth annual gathering of Northfield Ecumenical Women at 9:30 on Saturday morning, May 3 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Special music will be provided by Northfield Youth Choirs *Can Bria*, comprised of about 25 girls in grades four through nine. Singing under the direction of Liz Shepley, the choir will perform "And Nature Smiled" and "Bless the Lord O My Soul." Donna Rae Scheffert will speak on "Glorifying a Generous Spirit" and there will be a freewill offering to benefit the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Coffee, fruit cup and coffee cake will be served and child care will be available.

Questions? Please call Hazel Peterson at 645-9276.

### First UCC to Host Movie Showing

We are pleased to be hosting a showing of For the Bible Tells Me So at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 16. This acclaimed video is a moving documentary about five families and their reactions to having a gay son or daughter. For more information about the movie and a great trailer, go to [www.forthetbibletellsmeso.org](http://www.forthetbibletellsmeso.org). This showing is free and open to the whole community so please invite your neighbors to join us.

### Another Perspective on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

May 15, 1948 is a date of great significance for both Israelis and Palestians, although the two groups of people experienced the events of that date very differently. We know the Jewish story of the Holocaust, but many of us are not aware of the Palestinian story. The Christian Palestinian organization, Sabeel, has created an 80-piece photo exhibit called "Our Story" which will be on display May 12-17 at St. Olaf College.

This series of photos was inspired by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust museum in Jerusalem. It provides another view of that May 15 sixty years ago which marked beginning of the state of Israel, and the beginning of the Palestinian *Nakba*, "the catastrophe." The exhibit is sponsored by Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/ Israel (an ecumenical group) and by Oles for Justice in Palestine.

All are welcome to walk through the exhibit, learn, and be touched by the story.

This exhibit will be coming to our church soon. Watch for it!

Mary Wood, SSR Committee

## April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

HOPE Center is asking for help to raise awareness and to contribute financially for support of its advocacy services.

Every \$25.00 raised will be represented by one luminary displaying the church (or other donor) name on the evening of May 22, a Luminary Celebration. On that night at Northfield's Bridge Square, HOPE Center will create a visually powerful and inspiring statement about the strength of individual survivors and the power of community. There will be music to enjoy and moments for reflection. Please come to this special event.

- We affirm the human tragedy of domestic and sexual violence
- We are breaking the silence
- We believe that change is possible
- We are investing in a violence-free community.

The SS&R Committee has designated April 20 as Luminary Celebration Day in our congregation.

Located in Faribault, the HOPE Center (Healing, Outreach, Prevention and Education) provides advocacy services and other forms of support to victims of domestic and sexual violence through healing, outreach, prevention and education.

Safeline: 800-607-2330

## A Grief and Loss Support Group will be held

You are invited to a Grief and Loss Support Group on **Wednesdays from May 28 – July 2, 2008** at Bethel Lutheran Church from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

This is a Christ-centered small group, combining education and support that is designed for adults grieving the death of a loved one. We will use the book Understanding Your Grief—Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart. Registration is open to members from Bethel and UCC churches. For more information or to register, please contact Cathy Cammack, Pastoral Care Associate at the First UCC, 507 645-7532 or Pam Santerre, Pastoral Minister at Bethel Church, at 507 786-8951.

### **Ten Touchstones in Understanding Your Grief:**

Open to Presence of Your Loss  
Dispel the Misconceptions about Grief

Embrace the Uniqueness of Your Grief

Explore Your Feelings of Loss  
Recognize You Are Not Crazy  
Understand the Six Needs of Mourning

Nurture Yourself

Reach Out for Help

Seek Reconciliation, Not Resolution

Appreciate Your Transformation

## Dear UCC Friends,

Thank you all for the generous gifts and good wishes on my "retirement" from the bookkeeper position. I am enjoying having more time to bake, and I make frequent use of the clever "million dollar" hotpads stitched by Pastor Sandy.

You might not think that there is much of a spiritual element to the bookkeeper's job, but I often imagined that I could see the

prayers written between the lines on your checks. I feel honored that you trusted me to keep track of those silent messages, and to send your resources into the world, near and far, to power the hands and feet of God. My own spiritual journey was deeply enriched by sharing your faith and hopes in this special way.

Peace and blessings, *Sarah Dennett*

## Thank you

- For our continued support of the ISLA program in Nicaragua. Our March team of volunteers just returned from a very successful trip. During their visit to Jalapa they worked with community members to help build a new school, conducted several workshops on preventative health care for women and continued the work in the women's health screening program and the mental health care program.
- on behalf of the staff and board of directors of Dakota County Technical College for your generous support.
- for your generous contribution to the CAC of Northfield designated for Thursday's Table.
- for the gift that we have recently received from you in support of theological education at Chicago, United and/ or Eden Seminaries.
- for your generous sharing of Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support last year and for your part in making that happen.
- for your contribution towards our Hope Center's Luminary Celebration . We hope that you will stop by Bridge Square on May 22 to honor victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Hope Center



## 2008 First UCC Church Softball Games

**Sunday, May 4 at 5:00 p.m.:** First UCC vs. St. Dominic's Blue at Babcock Park

**Sunday, May 11 at 6:10 p.m.:** First UCC vs. Trinity Red at Sechlar # 1

**Sunday, May 18 at 7:20 p.m.:** First UCC vs. Trondhjem at Babcock Park

**Sunday, June 1 at 5:00 p.m.:** First UCC vs. Methodist White at Sechlar # 2

**Sunday, June 8 at 6:10 p.m.:** First UCC vs. Methodist Maroon at Sechlar # 1

**Sunday, June 15 at 7:20 p.m.:** First UCC vs. Trinity Blue at Babcock Park

**Sunday, June 22 at 5:00 p.m.:** First UCC vs. Little Prairie at Sechlar 1

**Sunday, June 29 at 7:20 p.m.:** First UCC vs. New Covenant at Babcock Park

**Sunday, July 13 at 6:10 p.m.:** First UCC vs. Rejoice Prophets at Sechlar # 2

**Sunday, July 20 at 6:10 p.m.:** First UCC vs. St. Dominic's White at Sechlar # 1

**Sunday, July 27 at 5:00 p.m.:** First UCC vs. St. Peter's at Sechlar # 1

**Sunday, August 3 at 5:00 p.m.:** First UCC vs. Rejoice Disciples at Sechlar # 1

**Sunday, August 10 at 5:00 p.m.:** First UCC vs. Bethel at Sechlar # 2

**Sunday, August 17 at 2:00 p.m.:** 19<sup>th</sup> Annual ALL STAR GAME for Northfield CAC