

The Church Bell

The Newsletter of the

United Church of Christ, Congregational

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June 2009

“ENCOUNTERS”

by Elaine Miller, Assistant Pastor

Have you ever wished a day could have just a few more hours? Anyone who has traveled from east to west experiences such a phenomenon, especially when flying is the mode of transportation.

I returned last evening (May 24th) from a 10-day trip to Syria and Jordan. The travel group members got up at 6:30 a.m. (10:30 p.m. CDT – May 23rd) to begin the 21-hr. trek home from Amman, Jordan to Sioux Falls, S.D. The body has adjusted to the 8-hr. time difference over the past week so sleeping as a person flies into daylight is a difficult task. Thus the illusionary sense of extra hours of a day though the price will be paid on the other end through a consuming physical fatigue in an altered sleep pattern.

So, with all of that said, it is to be noted that the experiences in between those two points, trip beginning and end, is priceless. I spent three continuous hours writing down reflections and trying to process the trip itinerary of lands that connect me to its history – mind, body and soul. It’s an overwhelming task. I’m looking forward to sharing many of the days’ events in the near future. I’ll try very hard to keep it interesting with not too many details that mean the most to participants – except, of course, for the best stories.

What I want to tell you at this moment is this.....the welcome, the respect, and the tolerance of people of different religions is mind boggling. There exists at least as many divisions among the individual beliefs as we have in the U.S., but where our group traveled the differences of religious convictions are accepted and left to their own expressions of those convictions. That is not true in all places in the Middle East which is evident in the conflicts that arise in some of the bordering countries.

Christians, Jews, Moslems and others live and work side-by-side, aware of the multiplicity that exists, but first seeing the people as a part of the whole of creation. It’s not as clear cut as it sounds in this brief writing though it also isn’t as complicated as it has been made to be.

In this realization, I give thanks for all of you as you hold to a similar belief. The love, welcome, respect and tolerance articulated here to those who are within and those who are beyond our church doors is truly a gift to a world that needs that expression of God’s grace each day.

Salaam!
Elaine

SUMMER FAITH EDUCATION

Our CE Board has announced plans for our annual Summer Faith Education School for children. On June 8-12, 2009, we will gather the children of the church to celebrate using Bible stories of fellowship around the theme, “Promises to Keep.” This week-long program is full of opportunities for our children to share songs and stories, games and crafts, drama and dance, laughter and love. Our theme is rainbow oriented, so colorful snacks are welcome. If you are interested in helping in any way, please let the church office know.

JUNE WORSHIP 2009

June 7

“Every When”

John 3: 1-10

Communion

Baptism

June 14

“Promises to Keep”

Luke 10: 25-37

VBS Program

June 21

“Choosing to Build Something”

Ephesians 2:19-22

Confirmation

June 28

“Long Nights”

Psalms 30

Baptism

CONFIRMATION TRIP AND CELEBRATION

This week, 18 travelers from our Confirmation class headed out on their confirmation adventure. This trip will include work at a shelter, visits to several different spiritual and faith communities, as well as an overnight at a Trappist monastery. Thanks for all the support that has made this trip possible. On Sunday, June 21, 2009, our Confirmation class will be finishing up two years of careful work, and we will celebrate the rite of Confirmation. This is a very moving and uplifting ceremony. Please come and show your support to these young people as they formally choose to make a commitment of faith within our church family.

WELCOME TABLE – YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Our church family will be serving the Welcome Table on Monday, June 22nd. We will need volunteers to help with set up, serving and clean up. We will also need volunteers to bring medium size muffins, fruit and milk. Or, you can help by making a cash donation to help with the egg casserole expense. If you are able to help, look for the sign up sheet on the basement bulletin board, or call the church office.

WAKONDA UCC TO CELEBRATE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

A day of grand celebration is planned for July 26, 2009, in recognition of the Wakonda United Church of Christ, Congregational's **125th Anniversary**. It will begin with a festive worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a catered noon meal and an afternoon program of “Memories.” There will be good speakers, good music and a good time for all. The Celebration Committee (of course, that's the entire membership) invites our sister church, Vermillion UCC, to attend our festivities. We are excited and hope many will join us for the day. Notes of special remembrances are welcomed and can be sent to: Lois Dwyer, PO Box 436, Wakonda, SD 57073.

VERMILLION FOOD PANTRY

Summer food needs are: canned fruits, Hamburger/Tuna Helper meals, Jell-O/Pudding mixes, tomato soups, chunky soups, fruit juices, family size instant potatoes, family size spaghetti sauce, tuna fish 6 oz./wet packs, bar soap, motel size shampoo, motel size conditioner, jelly/jams 18 oz., cold cereals, muffin/cake mixes, vegetable soups, chicken noodle/rice soups, rice side dishes, scalloped potatoes, spaghetti noodles/pasta, microwave popcorn, toilet paper (wrapped, 4 roll package), family size toothpaste, 18 oz. peanut butter, pancake mix/syrups, Pork n Beans, creamed soups, soda crackers, old fashioned rice 1# packages, canned Irish potatoes, beef stews, canned peas, and diapers (4, 5, 6 sizes).

NO TIME CHANGE THIS SUMMER

**Throughout the summer our worship service will remain at its
regular time beginning at 10:30 am!**

The United Church of Christ Congregational

is pleased to invite you to

Promises to Keep: Building our Foundation

A Summer Faith Education School for Children

Stories and Songs

Food and Fun

Games and Crafts

Drama and Dance

Laughter and Loving

June 8-12, 2009 (Monday - Friday)

9:00 - 11:30 am

226 East Main Street - Vermillion

All children of the Vermillion community ages 3-12 are welcome to join us as we learn and explore the promises we make to one another which become our foundation as a family of faith

Please come and register on Monday, June 8th at 9:00 am. Admission is free!
There will be a celebration of our adventure at our morning worship on Sunday, June 14th.
Please call our church (624-3120) if you have questions.

Please share this brochure with children in your neighborhood.

JUNE CALENDAR

Monday, June 1

2:00 pm Camp Opera
7:00 pm Camp Opera Musicale

Tuesday, June 2

2:00 pm Camp Opera
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (every Tuesday)

Wednesday, June 3

2:00 pm Camp Opera
7:00 pm Camp Opera

Thursday, June 4

9:00 am PALS
2:00 pm Camp Opera

Friday, June 5

2:00 pm Camp Opera

Sunday, June 7

10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
Diaconate

Monday, June 8

9:00 am Summer Faith Education
2:00 pm Camp Opera
7:00 pm Camp Opera

Tuesday, June 9

9:00 am Summer Faith Education
2:00 pm Camp Opera

Wednesday, June 10

9:00 am Summer Faith Education
2:00 pm Camp Opera
7:00 pm Camp Opera

Thursday, June 11

9:00 am Summer Faith Education
2:00 pm Camp Opera

Friday, June 12

9:00 am Summer Faith Education
2:00 pm Camp Opera
UCC Annual Conference – Huron, SD

Saturday, June 13

UCC Annual Conference – Huron, SD

Sunday, June 14

UCC Annual Conference – Huron, SD
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi

Monday, June 15

9:00 am Camp Opera
7:00 pm Camp Opera Musicale

Tuesday, June 16

9:00 am Camp Opera

Wednesday, June 17

9:00 am Camp Opera
7:00 pm Camp Opera

Thursday, June 18

9:00 am Camp Opera

Friday, June 19

9:00 am Camp Opera

Sunday, June 21

10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi

Monday, June 22

9:00 am Camp Opera
7:00 pm Camp Opera Musicale

Tuesday, June 23

9:00 am Camp Opera

Wednesday, June 24

9:00 am Camp Opera
7:00 pm Camp Opera

Thursday, June 25

9:00 am Camp Opera

Friday, June 26

9:00 am Camp Opera

Sunday, June 28

10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
Cabinet

Monday, June 29

7:00 pm Camp Opera Musicale