

# The Church Bell

The Newsletter of the

*United Church of Christ, Congregational*

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November 2009

The members and friends of the  
United Church of Christ, Congregational  
of Vermillion, South Dakota  
invite you to a joyful gathering on  
**Heritage Sunday**  
honoring the connections of our past, present and future  
**Sunday, November 22, 2009**  
Morning Worship - 10:30 am  
Hunters Potluck Meal – Immediately Following Worship  
*(We are always eager to have our hunters bring wild game dishes to share.)*  
*Please bring your own table service.*

## **HEARTFELT THANKS**

With deep gratitude this week, our UCC Cabinet accepted the resignation of our parish steward, Joanne Allen. Joanne, who has been a vital member of our staff since 2003, has accepted a position at USD. We are all deeply grateful for the care and guidance Joanne has offered to us in an amazing variety of situations. We invite our entire church family to join us for a special Coffee Hi on November 8<sup>th</sup> to wish Joanne well in her new endeavors.

## **PARISH STEWARD**

The United Church of Christ, Congregational in Vermillion is currently considering applicants for the position of parish steward. Reporting to the pastor, the parish steward is responsible for managing the domestic affairs of the church in a half time position. Expressions of interest should include a cover letter and resume with three references to be received by the UCC no later than November 13, 2009. More details at [www.uccvermillion.org](http://www.uccvermillion.org). No phone calls please. The UCC is an equal opportunity employer.

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in the Mayflower Room. Hostesses will be Erna Carlson and Mardell Ebsen. Dorothy Blair will have devotions and Nancy Zuercher will tell about her trip to England.

### **CAROL SERVICE**

Our Adult Choir has begun work on George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* in anticipation of our Carol Sunday celebration on December 13, 2009. This exciting work which is accompanied by chamber orchestra was written in just 24 days. Although the work was conceived for secular theatre and first performed during Lent, it has become common practice since Handel's death to perform *Messiah* during Advent. Using wonder texts from the Hebrew Bible, this work will help us explore the relationship between Judaism and Christianity during this holy season. Any singers who would like to be a part of this major work are invited to join our choir on Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm for the next six weeks.

### **ADVENT SOUP AND STAR LIGHTING SERVICE**

On Sunday night, November 29<sup>th</sup> (the first Sunday of Advent), at 5:00 pm you are invited for a delicious soup supper and the lighting of our Christmas Star. Join us for a relaxing evening of music, food, fellowship, and brief worship. The Confirmation I class will provide soup as a fundraiser for their programs. Then, we will move upstairs at 6:00 pm for this simple tradition which opens the Advent season for our church family.

### **BIBLES TO THIRD GRADERS – What about you?**

Congratulations to our third graders! It is our tradition to present Bibles as a gift of growth from the church to all students in third grade. This will take place during worship on Heritage Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. And what about you – do you have a good Bible? It is important to the serious study of our faith. Let us know, we'll order one for you!!!  
*~ Diaconate Board.*

### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY PROVIDES SUPPORT**

It has been a responsive year for the Prayer Shawl Ministry. More than a dozen prayer shawls as well as several lap blankets have been delivered to members and friends of the Vermillion UCC and community. Recipients often express their gratitude and explain how much it means to be wrapped in the warmth of the prayers and caring wishes of their faith family.

Those who give of their time and talent to knit, crochet and sew these prayerful gifts are committed to the project but could benefit from some extra creative hands. A Prayer Shawl Starter Kit, containing instructions and all that is needed to either knit or crochet a shawl, is now available by contacting Cyndy Chaney, Prayer Shawl Ministry chair, at 624-6260. If you are someone who would like to contribute to the cause through the purchase of yarn, financial donations are welcomed.

### **VERMILLION FOOD PANTRY**

Food items most needed at the Food Pantry are: canned peas, soda crackers, jelly/jams, scalloped potatoes/instant potatoes, hot and cold cereal, creamed corn, chili and chili beans, tomato soups, pasta/spaghetti noodles, family size spaghetti sauces, popcorn, cans of fruit juice, toilet paper (wrapped 4 pkg), motel soaps, shampoo and conditioner, diapers, peanut butter, mixed vegetables, beef stews, rice meal packages, cake and muffin mixes, boxes of stuffing mix, bath size hand soap, tooth paste and new wrapped tooth brushes, tuna fish, pancake mix and syrups, Hamburger/Tuna Helpers, Jell-O and pudding mixes. There is an immediate need for chunky style soup. Our hope is to fill the four boxes in the church narthex as soon as possible. When you are shopping, pick up a can of chunky style soup.

## NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 1  
“The Divine Spark”  
**John 17: 20-24**  
*Communion*

November 8  
“Take My Yoke”  
**Matthew 11:25-30**

November 15  
“Sow to the Spirit”  
**Galatians 6:6-10**

November 22  
“33 Million Faces”  
**Genesis 1:27-31**  
*Hunters Meal*  
*LAF Celebration*  
*Bibles to 3rd graders*

November 29  
*Advent I*  
“New or Just Better”  
**Luke 4:16-30**  
*Starlighting Service*

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed the following new members into our family of faith on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>: Dawna Anderson, Bob and Barb Brockevelt, Levi Froke, Jake and Rachel Kerby, Matt and Donna Moen, Justin and Dana Stark, and Robin Lemieux.

### “ENCOUNTERS”

**by Elaine Miller, Assistant Pastor**

Several outdoor tasks requiring completion before winter’s arrival have been pressing me in a tight schedule since getting back to work in October. One of those fall jobs was to dig and move some perennials.

I’ve been watching this lovely flower bed in the back yard for two summers. The plants are hearty varieties but the weeds have become even stronger. I knew it would be a major effort in bringing the flowers back to their previous beauty so the solution was, in my mind, a matter of relocation. The problem, though, is I have very little knowledge of such endeavors.

It only took a couple of lifts of the garden fork to figure out it was going to be a BIG job! I narrowed the scope to just five plants. A more manageable plan. Then I dug each one with extra dirt to be stored in the outdoor shed over the winter months until I could put them in their new location next spring. Wrong!!!

I’m so grateful for my sister, the outdoor flower expert, who called that afternoon. She quite directly informed me of the appropriate process for these plants to have the best chance of blooming again. They are back in the ground with plenty of mulch to keep them well for a May transplant day.

There is something else I’m very grateful for....a year of learning about several major world religions that are really quite interconnected with our Christian faith. Many of us just didn’t know how they are connected. So here we are digging up bulbs and stems of ancient faiths, examining them for signs of life and health for a few weeks, and then placing them in the soil of our memories that waits for the day when love and peace bloom brighter than hate and distrust. God’s garden of world religion.

### NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Thank you for remembering our Neighbors In Need. Our congregation contributed \$372.00 towards this UCC ecumenical mission offering.

### THANKSGIVING MEAL

Again this year, the VMA is joining forces with the Welcome Table to provide our “Feed the Multitude” thanksgiving community meal. This year the meal will be held on Monday evening, November 23rd, 5:00-7:00 pm at the National Guard Armory in Vermillion. You can be a part of this important ministry either by providing a pie/dessert or coming to share your spirit. A signup sheet will be posted on the basement bulletin board. Thanks for sharing!

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

### Sunday, November 1

9:00 am Adult Bible Study  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi  
Diaconate meeting  
5:00 pm Confirmation I  
7:00 pm Unitarian Fellowship  
8:00 pm Taize  
V – III (High School Youth)

### Monday, November 2

7:00 pm NO Mayflower Mondays

### Tuesday, November 3

10:00 am Care Center Bible Study  
6:00 pm B.C.  
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (every Tuesday)

### Wednesday, November 4

3:10 pm Jolley LAF  
5:30 pm LAF  
7:00 pm Adult Choir

### Thursday, November 5

9:30 am Women's Fellowship  
6:00 pm Girl Scouts

### Sunday, November 8

9:00 am Adult Bible Study  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi  
2:30 pm Care Center Worship  
5:00 pm Confirmation I  
8:00 pm Taize  
V – III (High School Youth)

### Monday, November 9

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

### Tuesday, November 10

10:00 am Care Center Bible Study  
6:00 pm B.C.

### Wednesday, November 11

3:10 pm Jolley LAF  
5:30 pm LAF  
7:00 pm Adult Choir

### Thursday, November 12

10:00 am PALS  
6:00 pm MOPS

### Sunday, November 15

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi  
5:00 pm Confirmation I  
7:00 pm Unitarian Fellowship  
8:00 pm Taize  
V – III (High School Youth)

### Monday, November 16

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

### Tuesday, November 17

10:00 am Care Center Bible Study  
6:00 pm B.C.

### Wednesday, November 18

3:10 pm Jolley LAF  
5:30 pm LAF  
7:00 pm Adult Choir

### Thursday, November 19

4:00 pm PALS  
6:00 pm Girl Scouts

### Sunday, November 22

9:00 am Adult Bible Study  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi  
5:00 pm Confirmation I  
8:00 pm Taize  
V – III (High School Youth)

### Monday, November 23

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

### Tuesday, November 24

10:00 am Care Center Bible Study  
6:00 pm B.C.

### Wednesday, November 25

NO LAF  
7:00 pm Adult Choir

### Sunday, November 29

9:00 am Adult Bible Study  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Coffee Hi  
5:00 pm Advent Soup and Star Lighting  
8:00 pm Taize  
V – III (High School Youth)

### Monday, November 30

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

## NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Receipt of pledges is running a little behind normal for this time of year causing us to dip into our reserves to cover October expenses. This is a gentle reminder to update your pledge if you are able.

