

The Church Bell

The Newsletter of the

United Church of Christ, Congregational

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October 2009

“Encounters”

By Elaine Miller, Assistant Pastor

The time spent with my daughter and her family was a special time in itself, but it also provided a quite unexpected encounter.

I’ve never been to a WWII concentration camp in my previous travels in Europe though I’ve been to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. several times. The camp at Flossenbug, Germany is just a 45-minute drive from the Vilseck Army post, so we made the trek there one sunny September afternoon. It was as much of a stirring experience as I had imagined it would be, and even more. At the end of the self-guided exploration we discovered **this was the place** where Dietrich Bonhoeffer had been imprisoned by the Nazis, the result of his role in the Resistance’s ill-fated plan to assassinate Hitler. Ultimately, he was hanged there on April 9, 1945, just five days before Flossenbug was liberated. Oh, my goodness! I’d read about Bonhoeffer in one of the many biographies written about him. He was known to be a liberal thinker, a pursuer of justice, and is claimed by a number of Christian traditions as one of their noted theologians. He was young and bright, and bold in confronting the slowness of the church to stop the evil taking place in his homeland. And here I stood reading the visitor’s sign – this was where his voice was silenced. Or was it....

I’m no expert on Bonhoeffer but I offer you this thought: anyone who wishes to look a bit deeper into Christianity’s place among other world religions might consider reading some of his provoking work written while at Flossenbug camp, “Letters and Papers from Prison.” (Eberhard Bethge, New York: MacMillan Co., 1972). He came to some bold conclusions such as suggesting the need for a “religionless Christianity,” even as he called Christians to a closer walk with Christ. May each of us be bold in our witness as we strive to follow in the way of Christ.

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 4 – World Communion

“TTT”

Mark 6:30-37a

Communion

October 18

“Spiritual Evolution”

Matthew 5:17-20

October 11

“The Ancestors Dance”

Isaiah 60:1-7

Black Elk Vision

LAF Celebration

October 25

“33 Million Faces”

Genesis 1: 27-31

UNITED CONGREGATIONAL WOMEN

Our hostesses for Women's Fellowship on Thursday, October 1st at 9:30 am are Eileen Turner and Phyllis Noble. Jill Macy will have devotions and Vicki Walker will have the program, "Sharing the Dream in Guatemala".

NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday morning October 18, 2009, we will be receiving new members into our church family. There will be an orientation gathering on Sunday night, October 11th, at 7:00 pm in the Mayflower Room. If you are interested in membership or know of someone who might be, please contact Steve, Elaine or any member of our Diaconate Board.

WHAT A WELCOME!!!

I am both humbled and delighted by the welcome I received in worship on Sunday morning, September 20th! I had been teasing members of the choir for a number of years about a church in California that welcomes their pastor into worship with spotlights and lasers, high-energy music and introduction, and ultimately wild applause. Remember to be careful about what you ask for...you can watch the welcome on youtube – “Steve Miller’s Sunday Surprise.” Here’s the introduction: And now....., entering the sanctuary of the United Church of Christ, Congregational in Vermillion, South Dakota: Please welcome the man who....Adds the energy to Sunday mornings; Corrals the chaos of Wednesday nights; Puts the splash into baptism; And makes us feel alllllll right; the Speaker of Stories; the Teller of Tales; the Tinkler of Tingshas and the Banger of Bells; the Maker of Melodies; the Sultan of Song; the Prancing Preacher of Parables, Both Short and Long - Starting at the Pastor position, Wearing home team colors, In his 28th year out of Springfield College: Pastorrrrr Steeeeeeeve Millerrrrrrr.....

NEIGHBORS IN NEED – IMAGINE ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. We will be including a special NIN offering on October 11, 2009 as part of our LAF Celebration. For more information about Neighbors in Need you may go to <http://www.ucc.org/nin/>.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

<u>Thursday, October 1</u>	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study	
9:30 am	United Congregational	10:30 am	Worship
	Women	11:30 am	Coffee Hi
<u>Sunday, October 4</u>	5:00 pm	Confirmation I	
9:00 am	Adult Bible Study	7:00 pm	New Member Orientation
10:30 am	Worship		Middle School Lock-In
11:30 am	Coffee Hi	8:00 pm	Taize
	Diaconate meeting		V – III (High School Youth)
5:00 pm	Confirmation I	<u>Monday, October 12</u>	
7:00 pm	Unitarian Fellowship	7:00 pm	Mayflower Mondays
8:00 pm	Taize	<u>Tuesday, October 13</u>	
	V – III (High School Youth)	6:00 pm	B.C.
<u>Monday, October 5</u>		<u>Wednesday, October 14</u>	
7:00 pm	Mayflower Mondays		NO LAF
<u>Tuesday, October 6</u>		7:00 pm	Adult Choir
6:00 pm	B.C.		
7:00 pm	Boy Scouts (every Tuesday)		
<u>Wednesday, October 7</u>		<u>Thursday, October 15</u>	
3:10 pm	Jolley LAF	7:00 pm	Trustees meeting
5:30 pm	LAF	<u>Sunday, October 18</u>	
7:00 pm	Adult Choir	9:00 am	Adult Bible Study
<u>Thursday, October 8</u>		10:30 am	Worship
8:00 am	PALS	11:30 am	Coffee Hi
6:00 pm	MOPS		Cabinet meeting
	Girl Scouts	5:00 pm	Confirmation I
<u>Sunday, October 11</u>		7:00 pm	Unitarian Fellowship

8:00 pm Taize
V – III (High School Youth)

Monday, October 19

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

Tuesday, October 20

6:00 pm B.C.

Wednesday, October 21

3:10 pm Jolley LAF

5:30 pm LAF

7:00 pm Adult Choir

Thursday, October 22

4:00 pm PALS

6:00 pm MOPS

Saturday, October 24

10:00 am Vision Meeting – Future Story
Session

Sunday, October 25

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, October 26

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

Tuesday, October 27

6:00 pm B.C.

Wednesday, October 28

3:10 pm Jolley LAF

5:30 pm LAF

7:00 pm Adult Choir

VERMILLION FOOD PANTRY

Food items most needed at the Food Pantry are: peas, soda crackers, pancake mix, syrups, jelly/jams, and scalloped potatoes/instant potatoes. 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.

