

The Church Bell

The Newsletter of the

United Church of Christ, Congregational

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September 2010

To all of our members and friends old and new . . .

The Diaconate Board of the
United Church of Christ, Congregational
requests the honor of your presence at a

Homecoming Celebration

September 12, 2010

Adult Bible Study – 9:00 am

(Reminder: Our children's education programs are on Wednesday nights!)

Morning Worship Service – 10:30 am

Barbeque and Fellowship – 11:45 am

No RSVP required. Please join us and bring a friend!

Dear Friends,

Our theme for this program year, “Called to Go Deeper” (see Luke 5:1-11), is an invitation to go deeper in our faith. We can do this in two specific areas: deepening our relevant understanding of the foundations of our Christian faith (How do we really understand what we believe? What does this understating mean in the world in which we live? How do we make this meaning central to our lives?) and deepening our ability to listen for God's voice and spirit; and reflect on a deeper truth in the world. As part of our learning, we are asking every board, committee, LAF, choir, confirmation class, Bible study, fellowship gathering, etc. to add a time for silence and reflection with time for specific questions set up for each group! (Why do we do what we do? How does what we believe shape what we do? How does this action reflect our wider goals as a church? What things should we stop doing – what new things should we start doing?) Also, we are adding more prayer and silent time into our week, among other times this will include a morning prayer service shared with our friends at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (please see the opportunities page for details). It is our hope that these gentle offerings and invitations will help us focus on our future as a church family. It is an exciting time to start a new year with you. May God continue to bless us richly,

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 5

“I Am (I Am) Responsible”

Exodus 3:13-15

John 8:12-14

Communion

Chamber Singers

September 12

“The Character of God”

Micah 6:6-8

John 1:14-18

Homecoming Sunday

September 19

“A Conscious Act of Will”

Ruth 1:6-19a

John 15:9-15

September 26

“Partial Justice”

Deuteronomy 16:18-20

Matthew 20:1-16

NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday morning October 24, 2010, we will be receiving new members into our church family. There will be an orientation gathering on Sunday night, October 17th, 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.

“ENCOUNTERS”

by Elaine Miller, Assistant Pastor

You may have heard that the pews are empty in Protestant churches in Europe. Churches are state supported so they don't depend upon the weekly offering to keep the doors open and pay their ministers. I can't speak for ALL of the churches in Europe but I can tell you about one on Gamla Stan, the Stockholm Cathedral, that this statement isn't true. It is a medieval building from 1279 that has been a Lutheran church since 1527, located in the oldest part of the city. It is surrounded by every manner of tourist shop you can imagine. It houses a couple of great sculptures and has an ornate high pulpit. The marriage of Sweden's Crown Princess was held there this summer. But it is also an alive and practicing congregation that serves many of the people who live above and behind the shops and narrow walking streets of the Old City. There are daily morning and evening prayers, two Sunday services, and a mid-week service in the manner of Taize. It is pastored by three female priests and one male priest.

How do I know all of this? Well, I and three others of our group who were in Stockholm in early August went to worship at the Cathedral. Much to our surprise, there were about a hundred Swedish-speaking worshippers there, too. The welcome by the two younger ordained women, also shared in English, quickly helped us feel at home as we were told, “The service will be in Swedish but you will be with us in spirit,” and “This table is open to everyone.”

This is the welcome that brought my Swedish cousin, Gunilla, who lives on Gamla Stan, into the church. She told me how her spirit was renewed by the music, prayer, candles and meditative silence of Taize. She shared many insights from her encounter with the nurture and care of the “inner” church as we ate lunch together in the midst of a mass of people who were most interested in the “outer” church. Most of all, she was glad that she had listened and responded to the calling of her soul to “go deeper.”

May each of us discover new depths of the Spirit's call.

BE A GUEST CHEF

There is an opportunity for budding or incognito food experts from among our church family to cook for our LAF community. How would you like to be a “Guest Chef,” at one of our LAF meals? The Chef is the person in charge of the menu for a meal during one of the five LAF sessions in our upcoming year? You would have terrific support in planning, buying and preparing the meal from our kitchen guru, Rich Braunstein, along with a fabulous team of LAF volunteers. If such an undertaking appeals to you, please talk to Rich, Steve or Elaine, or any of the LAF and Christian Education Team members. We are ready to help make your dream of cooking for a crowd come true!

YOUR UNUSED MATERIALS – OUR TREASURE

We are always striving here at UCCV to find new ways to care for one another and the wider community. One idea that recently surfaced is to design and make greeting cards. These would in turn be sent with personal notes from our Caring Ministry Team to people who have experienced a new joy or a difficult sorrow. Specially crafted cards would add another level of caring to those who receive them. The hope is to start with some of our Jolley LAF kids in the first session this fall. As time goes on it could become a project for more LAF kids, and interested adults, to provide a creative quantity of cards. What we need right now are supplies. Anyone who has been a scrapbook organizer or card designer is asked to consider bringing their no-longer-used materials and tools to Elaine's office at the church as soon as possible. We thank you for your help and look forward to this new endeavor.

EMERGING MINISTRIES SUMMIT

Through meetings and conversations across the S.D. Conference over the past two years, a new model has been formulated for the purpose of networking churches and their members in a desire to connect people with common ministry directions. One of the goals is to encourage creativity in accomplishing Conference-wide programs of education, nurture and mission. In support of that goal, an "Emerging Ministries Summit" is planned for Saturday, September 18 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at First Congregational UCC in Pierre. Pastor Elaine will attend and co-facilitate the perceived common interest in "Mission Opportunities Locally," one of six possible emerging ministries. It is hoped each church will participate by sending representatives to this gathering. Elaine would like 3 or 4 people from UCCV to accompany her to Pierre. Interested persons should call the church office by Monday, September 13th at 624-3120.

"SONGS OF PEACE" CONCERT

First Congregational UCC in Sioux Falls has hosted a "*Songs of Peace*" Concert each September since the events of 9/11. It has been one way to lift the hearts of people in hope of grace and healing for a world which at times is overwhelmed by violence and war. This year's concert will be held on Friday, September 10, at 7:30 p.m. It features area singers and instrumentalists from the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Jack Mohlenhoff, along with readings by Kathryn Timpany. Pastor Elaine is among the voices of the choir. All are invited to come and allow the spirit of peace to work within each of us.

VERMILLION FOOD PANTRY

Food items most needed at the Food Pantry (located at Trinity Lutheran Church, 816 E. Clark Street): jelly/jam, cold cereal, instant potatoes, boxes of stuffing mixes, Jell-O and pudding mixes, soda/graham crackers, scalloped potatoes, cake mixes, hand soaps, peanut butter, pancake mixes, muffin mixes, shampoo, toilet paper – 4 roll packs wrapped, canned pears, creamed corn, canned white potatoes, creamed soups, macaroni, microwave popcorn, syrup, Pork N Beans, applesauce, Tuna/Hamburger Helper, assorted vegetables, vegetable and assorted soup, spaghetti noodles and sauce, family size tooth paste, sugar, small cans tuna/chicken, white rice, catsup, tomatoes, chicken noodle soup, tooth brushes individually wrapped and flour.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 1

5:30 pm LAF Registration
7:00 pm Adult Choir

Sunday, September 5

10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi

Tuesday, September 7

6:00 pm B.C.
7:00 pm Boy Scouts (every Tuesday)

Wednesday, September 8

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

Thursday, September 9

10:00 am UCC hosts VMA
6:00 pm Milk 'n' Cookies

Sunday, September 12

8:15 am Morning Prayer Service
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:45 am Homecoming Barbeque
12:00 pm Confirmation I Org. Mtg.
1:00 pm Clay County Jail
8:00 pm Taize

Monday, September 13

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

Tuesday, September 14

6:00 pm B.C.

Wednesday, September 15

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

Thursday, September 16

4:00 pm Headstart - PALS
7:30 pm Trustees meeting

Sunday, September 19

8:15 am Morning Prayer Service
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
Cabinet
7:30 pm V-III
8:00 pm Taize

Monday, September 20

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

Tuesday, September 21

6:00 pm B.C.

Wednesday, September 22

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

Thursday, September 23

6:00 pm Milk 'n' Cookies

Sunday, September 26

8:15 am Morning Prayer Service
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hi
8:00 pm V-III
Taize

Monday, September 27

7:00 pm Mayflower Mondays

Tuesday, September 28

6:00 pm B.C.

Wednesday, September 29

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

Thursday, September 30

9:30 am Headstart - PALS

UCC members and friends are welcome to attend a Morning Prayer service any week day at St. Paul's Episcopal Church beginning at 8:15 am.

Growth Opportunities This Fall

Worship, Music, Education, Spiritual Nurture, Fellowship, and Service

(For information on any activity, please contact the persons listed in parentheses or call the church office: 624-3120)

Faith Education for Children *pre-school – 5th grade* (CE Board/LAF Team)

The Loaves and Fishes (LAF) Gathering

Registration Gathering: Wednesday, September 1, 2010, 5:30-6:30 pm, in the Mayflower Room

First Meeting: Wednesday, September 8, 3:12-5:30, 5:30-6:45 pm

Regular Gatherings: Wednesday afternoons and evenings, 3:12-5:30, 5:30-6:45 pm

Music, art, story and ritual will lead us into an experience and an exploration of our faith stories and Biblical foundations. Children are our focus but all ages are welcome. Dinner is served!!

Please come to our registration for more information!!

Adult Bible Study (Barry and Mary Vickrey)

First Meeting: Sunday, September 12, 2010, 9:00 am, in the Mayflower Room

Regular Meetings: Sundays, 9:00-10:15 am, in the Mayflower Room

All adults are invited to join this lively conversation about the scripture text for the day.

This is a great way to prepare for the message heard in the worship which follows.

Milk ‘n’ Cookies (formerly MOPS - Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) (Angela Anderson)

First Meeting: Thursday, September 9, 2010, 6:00 pm, in the church basement

Regular Meetings: Second and Fourth Thursdays, 6:00 pm, in the church basement

Moms and their pre-school aged children are welcome to come together for fellowship and support in this important program.

Mayflower Mondays Adults (Steve Miller)

First Meeting: Monday, September 13, 2010, 7:00 pm, in the Mayflower Room (UCC basement)

Regular Meetings: Mondays, 7:00-8:30 pm, in the Mayflower Room (UCC basement)

Come join our on-going discussion about the basic tenants of our Christian faith. What do we really believe and how do we live that belief? Drop-ins are always welcome.

B.C. (Before Confirmation!) 6th – 7th grade (Steve Miller)

First Meeting: Tuesday, September 7, 2010, 6:00 pm, in the church basement and Lighthouse

Regular Meetings: Tuesdays at 6:00 pm, in the Lighthouse

Middle school aged youth will begin to prepare for our confirmation process through study and reflection, service and play. This is a dinner gathering!

Confirmation I 8th grade (Steve Miller)

Organizational Meeting: Sunday, September 12, 2010, 12:00 pm, in the Sanctuary

Regular Meetings: TBA, in the Lighthouse

Confirmation is the rite of passage when young adults examine their spiritual identities and struggle to find their own path and make their own personal faith decisions.

Confirmation II 9th grade (Levi Froke, Gina Zuercher, Steve Miller)

First Meeting: Sunday, September 12, 2010, TBA in the Lighthouse

Regular Meetings: Sunday evenings, TBA, in the Lighthouse

Our experience-based discovery process continues. Other high school aged youth who wish to deepen their faith commitments are welcome.

V-III - High School Fellowship

(Eric Wiedenman, Caleb Miller)

First Meeting: Sunday, September 19, 2010, 7:30 pm, meet at the church

Regular Meetings: Sunday evenings, 8:00 pm, in the Lighthouse

*A relaxed time for high school fellowship and conversation.***Taize Prayer Service**

(Rita Powell)

First Meeting: Sunday, September 12, 2010, 8:00 pm, at Danforth Chapel

Regular Meetings: Sundays, 8:00-8:45 pm, at Danforth Chapel

*A quiet, reflective evening prayer service using the beautiful music of the Taize Community. A meditative way to mark the new week. All University and Vermillion community are welcome.***Morning Prayer Service**

(Steve Miller, Rita Powell)

First Meeting: Sunday, September 12, 2010, 8:15 am, in UCC sanctuary

Regular Meetings: Sunday - Friday, 8:15-8:45 am, Sunday @ UCC and M-F @ St. Paul's

*A daily Morning Prayer service – a time for silence and reflection – shared with our friends from St. Paul's Episcopal Church - all are welcome. Please note different locations.***United Congregational Women All Women**

(Dorothy Blair, Phyllis Noble)

First Meeting: Thursday, October 7, 2010, 9:30 am, in Pilgrim Hall

Regular Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 9:30 am, in Pilgrim Hall

*A fellowship and learning opportunity for all women in our community.***Senior Choir 9th grade - adult**

(Gretchen Burbach)

First Rehearsal: Wednesday, September 1, 2010, in the choir loft

Regular Rehearsals: Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:15 pm, in the choir loft

*All are welcome to join our joyful and prayerful song. Childcare will be provided.***Celestial Bell Choir Adults**

(Anthony Burbach)

First Rehearsal: Mid- October, in the Music Room

Regular Rehearsals: TBA – chosen by the group

*Our bell choir is a playful way of sharing music with the congregation in a non-stressful environment. Beginners are always welcome. We will be working on special music for the holiday season. E-mail Anthony if you are interested or have questions – burbaca@sanfordhealth.org.***Prayer Team**

(Marj Coker)

*Would you be willing to offer a few minutes of prayer each day on behalf of those in our community who have special needs and concerns? This is an important work which helps sustain the pastoral ministry to our church family. To learn more about being a part of the prayer team, contact Marj Coker at 624-4646 or mccreads@yahoo.com.***Caring Ministry Team**

(Marj Coker)

*Our lay visitation program provides friendship and support to those in our church family whose ability to get out and about is limited. There are many ways to help. If you would like to be involved in any of our caring ministry, contact Marj Coker at 624-4646 or mccreads@yahoo.com.***Prayer Shawl Ministry (Mantles of Love)**

(Cyndy Chaney)

Regular Meetings: TBA

Care for others and the love of knitting (and crocheting) have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Many clicking needles and flying hooks are needed to make these special prayer shawls.