

# The Church Bell

The Newsletter of the

## United Church of Christ, Congregational

226 East Main Street, Vermillion, South Dakota 57069

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June 2011

Dear Friends,

This summer our worship and education life will focus on the theme “In the Midst of New Dimensions” as we continue the process of long range visioning (*see the simple plan on page 2*). Part of the next step is to invite you to share your ideas with the whole church family by writing an essay (*see the prompt below for directions*). As you recreate and rejuvenate this summer, take some time to write and share your ideas. This is an exciting time to be a part of our family of faith – thank you for your commitment!

### **PLEASE SHARE YOUR VISION – IMAGINE THE CHURCH**

We invite each of you to re-imagine the Vermillion UCC by writing an essay. (We suggest a length of 500 words.) Often we rethink institutions when there is a crisis. There is no crisis in our church. In contrast, we have an abundance of good spirit and energy, talent and resources, facilities and land. It is because of this abundance that we ask for your considered opinion about the mission of our church. As you think about our future, you might conclude that the current mission (however you describe it) needs no changing. You might also argue for a completely new vision for our church family. It is up to you. As you write, please try to define what you perceive as the mission of the UCC and how you think that mission can best be served. Feel free to express your vision for the overall mission of the Vermillion UCC or for a specific program. Feel free, as well, to address things we are already doing but could do better, things we should start doing, or things we should stop doing. We will share all responses anonymously with the rest of the congregation in the fall so that we can focus on ideas and not personalities. It is our hope that this process will provide a means to share our hopes with each other and to clarify our spiritual mission. Please e-mail your essay to [uccv@uccvermillion.org](mailto:uccv@uccvermillion.org) (or bring a hard copy to the church office by July 17<sup>th</sup>).

### **JUNE WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

June 5 – 9:30 am\*\*

“We are a Family...”

**I Corinthians 12:12-26**

*Communion*

*VBS Celebration*

June 12

“...with a Purpose...!”

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

June 19

“...on a Quest...!”

**Philippians 4:8-13**

*Confirmation*

June 26

“...to Serve!”

**Galatians 5:13-15**

### **\*\*EARLY WORSHIP!\*\***

This summer, our Diaconate board has decided to return to an old custom by changing our Sunday morning worship time during the summer months. **Beginning on Sunday morning, June 5<sup>th</sup>** and ending August 28<sup>th</sup>, we will meet on **Sunday morning for worship at 9:30 am**. This earlier time is an encouragement to re-create and rest on the Sabbath day. We hope that we will all have a beautiful summer!!

## **Long Range Visioning Plan – An Evolving Process**

**History:** Over the last 15 years, due to our steady growth and the creation of several new ministries and programs, we have undertaken various conversations about how to remain vibrant and faithful into our future. At our annual meeting in January of 2009, a directive was given to the Cabinet to undertake a process of long range visioning. With the purchase of new land in 2010, the energy for this process was heightened. A rough outline of a plan was formed and is constantly being crafted. Here is the latest update:

**Stage 1 – Listening:** Beginning at our annual meeting in January of 2011, an invitation was offered to our entire church family to set aside some quality time each week until Easter to listen, pray, think and dream about the “vocation” (the work that we are called to by God) of our church into the future. Twenty-six members made formal commitments of listening while several others spent valuable “listening” time.

**Stage 2 – Education and Gathering:** This summer, we hope to continue our process through two endeavors: education and gathering.

1. We would like to research and publish a document which includes a wide variety of possibilities for ministry. Churches often have an insular existence. But we shall look around this summer: What are other churches doing in the way of creative ministries and programs? What can we learn from others about ourselves and our future?
2. Ask anyone in our church family who is interested to compose a personal vision statement about the future of the church. A prompt will be provided, and we hope this will invite creative thinking and a wonderful cross-section of ideas. These statements will also be published.

**Stage 3:** This fall, informed by the publication of our research and personal vision statements, we will gather in thoughtful community conversation in the form of cottage meetings as we have done in the past. These meetings will be led by trained facilitators and carefully recorded. Ultimately our goal would be to share a report with the annual meeting in 2012. This kind of process allows us all to participate in the vision of our church family and all of us to be responsible to one another and the Spirit as we continue to live and grow as a congregation.

## **CONFIRMATION TRIP AND CELEBRATION**

On May 25, 2011, 17 travelers from our Confirmation class headed to Denver on their confirmation adventure. This trip will include work at a homeless shelter, visits to several different spiritual and faith communities, as well as a hike in the mountains and a Colorado Rockies baseball game!! Thanks for all the support that has made this trip possible. On Sunday, June 19, 2011, 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**

We invite you to join us Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> to serve the Welcome Table. This is a great opportunity for our church family to serve the community. We will need donations of food and/or money and also volunteers to prepare the food, serve/clean up that evening. The sign-up sheets are in the Mayflower Room (basement).

## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The 2011 South Dakota Conference UCC Annual Meeting will be hosted by First Congregational United Church of Christ in Pierre, SD beginning Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. The theme will be “Rivers of Living Water”.

### **FYI, Part 3 – JWM and OCWM**

The May issue of the “Bell” contained an article by Rev. Ted Huffman which identified a treasure of supportive ministries accessible to all U.C.C. congregations through Local Church Ministry (LCM). This month, Rosanne Dyce-Anderson, Licensed Pastor with the Willow Lake United Church of Christ, shares her report of the Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) as it assists local congregations and all settings of the church respond to God's commandments to do justice, seek peace and effect change for a better world. “OCWM basic support and special support provide funding for some of the work of Justice and Witness Ministries: the Neighbors in Need (NIN) special mission offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States; the Immersion Centers of Centro Romero on the California-Mexican border, Franklinton Center at Bricks, North Carolina, Washington, DC and Pilgrim Firs Center for Environmental Justice located in the Pacific Northwest; and domestic justice issues such as bullying and harassment, campaign finance reform, environmental, health care, HIV/AIDS, human rights, immigration, job creation, juvenile justice, public education, sexuality education, violence and women’s rights. International justice issues addressed at this time are Afghanistan, climate change, Congo, Cuba, globalization, global security, Israel/Palestine, the Middle East and North Africa. For more information on what OCWM does to support justice ministry issues log into [www.ucc.org/justice](http://www.ucc.org/justice).” Together churches help make these valuable resources available by our contributions to **Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM)**. Just one tenth of the \$10,000 budgeted this year by our church for OCWM is received by the ministry offices at the “Church House” in Cleveland. Thank you for your time. Next month, the final article - “FYI – OGM and OCWM.” ~ Elaine

### **JUNE CALENDAR**

<b><u>Wednesday, June 1</u></b>		<b><u>Sunday, June 12</u></b>	
9:00 am	VBS	9:30 am	Worship
<b><u>Thursday, June 2</u></b>		10:30 am	Coffee Hi
9:00 am	VBS		Confirmation Interviews
<b><u>Friday, June 3</u></b>		<b><u>Friday, June 17</u></b>	
9:00 am	VBS	1:00 pm	Baking Bandits
	SD Conference Meeting	<b><u>Sunday, June 19</u></b>	
	In Pierre	9:30 am	Worship
<b><u>Sunday, June 5 – 9:30**</u></b>		10:30 am	Coffee Hi
9:30 am	Worship		Trustees meeting
10:30 am	Coffee Hi		WSSC meeting
	Diaconate	7:00 pm	Unitarian Fellowship
7:00 pm	Unitarian Fellowship	<b><u>Friday, June 24</u></b>	
<b><u>Tuesday, June 7</u></b>		1:00 pm	Baking Bandits
7:00 pm	Boy Scouts (every Tuesday)	<b><u>Sunday, June 26</u></b>	
<b><u>Friday, June 10</u></b>		9:30 am	Worship
1:00 pm	Baking Bandits	10:30 am	Coffee Hi
		<b><u>Thursday, June 30</u></b>	
		10:00 am	PALS

**VERMILLIOM FOOD PANTRY**

Items needed this summer at the Food Pantry (located at Trinity Lutheran Church, 816 E. Clark Street):

Jams and Jelly – store items	Cereal – small boxes	Spaghetti Sauce – all sizes
Mixed Fruits – cans	Mashed Potatoes – large	Motel Shampoos/lotions
Mac N Cheese – 7 oz. sizes	Pancake Mix – all sizes	Toothpaste – family size
Syrup – .99 cent sizes	Rice Dinner Pouches	Tuna Fish
Bath Bars of Hand Soap	Detergent – liquid med.	Peas - cans
Peaches – cans	Muffin Mixes – small pouches	Pears - cans
Scalloped Potatoes – boxed	Assorted Veggies – cans	Shampoo – 8 ozs.
Tuna and Hamburger Helper	Rice – 1# and 2# bags	
Beef Stews	Diapers – 2 thru 6 sizes	
Cake Mixes – full sized	Any Pasta – 1# and 2# bags	

# The United Church of Christ Congregational

is pleased to invite you to

In the Midst of New  
Dimensions:

We are the church together!

A Summer Faith Education School for Children

Stories and Songs  
Food and Fun  
Games and Crafts  
Drama and Dance  
Laughter and Loving

May 31-June 3, 2011 (Tuesday - 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 what it means to be a church.

Please come and register on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am. Admission is free!  
There will be a celebration of our adventure at our morning worship on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Please call our church (624-3120) if you have questions.

*Please share this brochure with children in your neighborhood.*