



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
Published Semi-Monthly
September 1, 2008



150 Years and Going Strong



*No matter who you are
or where you are
on life's journey,
you'll find a home here!*

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of Christ**
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Come Back to the Heart of Worship

Rally Sunday

September 7, 2008

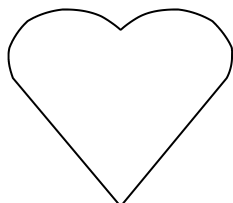
See You on Sunday, September 7 as we bring our church family back together for the new program year.

**Sunday School 9:00—10:00 a.m.
for all children 3 years old—6th grade**

**Worship at 10:15 a.m.
followed by Fellowship Time**

Photograph of the entire Congregation

**Let's put YOU in this heart!
You are part of the HEART
of Worship at CGUCC!**



See you at Church!

Rev. Bryan Olson Transitional Pastor

Office Hours
Monday—Thursday
Beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Office Phone:
(651) 459-1501
Rev. Olson's e-mail:
olsonbw@hotmail.com



PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

Daniel Bies, GeorgAnn Biscoe and her family on the death of GeorgAnn's niece's baby Austin Griemann, Bill & Isabel Board, Bill Bothun, Beth Davies, Bob Fox, Ron & Joyce Fries, Don Hanson, Ruby Hanson, Delores Janke, families facing unemployment issues, Rev. Bryan Olson & our church during this time of transition.

Jason Biscoe (Joyce & Jerry Biscoe's son); 1Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Patricia Clark (Doreen Barta's mother); Alan Gausman (Russ Gausman's brother); Todd & Jean Herbst (Jeff & Krisi Jacobs' friends); Trygg Hemstad (3-yr-old relative of Russ Gausman); Ken & Nora Krahn (missionaries); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn's Heschke's daughter); Ron Lindeman (Diane Davies' cousin); Molly Livingston (grandmother of Ebone Koersdam); David Rowe (Doreen Barta's uncle); Agnes Thyren (Gary Thyren's mother); Elaine Torseth; Midge Youngquist's grandmother; Dalton & Ethan (young relatives of Becky Graff); our soldiers around the world.



What a wonderful time it was last weekend as we celebrated 150 years of ministry at Cottage Grove United Church of Christ. The weather was perfect; the community gathered for a festive party, and the Holy Spirit was alive in our hearts as we worshipped God. It was a great way to honor the congregation's rich history and to look forward to its bright future.

Anniversaries are special moments to pause and remember the sagas and stories of our past, but they also mark the passage of time which is always moving forward into the future. This church, merged from the faith and traditions of four different denominations, has changed dramatically over the past 150 years and will continue to grow and change in the next century and beyond.

Change is unavoidable. God's creation is constantly evolving and no part of that creation is immune to the force of change. Human beings are no exception. We are always adapting to and experiencing change in our lives, but we are also agents of change as well. Our actions and decisions make an impact on God's creation. The things we do, say, and pray do have the power to change the world; for better or for worse.

In the next few months this congregation will be undergoing some significant changes. Emily and I will be concluding our interim ministry with you and a new music director and pastor will be called to lead Cottage Grove U.C.C. into the future. It will be a time of mixed emotions as we say goodbye to one another and you welcome new leaders into your midst. There will be sadness that comes with a sense of loss, but also the thrill and joy of anticipation as you look forward to a new era of ministry at CGUCC.

I feel blessed to have been a part of this vibrant community of faith for the past five years and am excited about our remaining time together. Your faith and support has helped me to grow and mature as a pastor and I thank God for calling me to minister with you in this place. I pray that God will guide us to accept and embrace the changes that are coming and to remember that God is working through Christ to make all things good. This church is embarking on a new era of ministry and much will change as Christ and the Holy Spirit work among you. It will be awesome to see what God will do with this community of faith over the next decade and I cannot wait to hear the stories you will be telling on your 160th Anniversary!

Peace and blessings,
Rev. Bryan

Remember When?

From stories told in 1940 by Lucy (Brown) Spicer and Hilda (Bahls) Lindeman

Remember when we had communion and had only one big cup and after so many people had drank from it, the preacher would wipe the rim and pass it on again? We used only one cup until one family had T.B., and then we got separate cups.



Remember when we had a men's quartet? It consisted of Richard Kohls, Emil Kohls, Herman Lorenz, and Fred Spedino. Could they ever sing! Edna Radke played the organ for them, and they always sang at the mission feasts.

United Church of Christ,

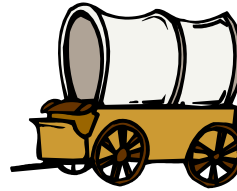
Thank you for your generous hospitality this past week for the Sports/Arts Camp. Your building was great and your staff was most welcoming. God Bless!



Sports/Arts Camp
St. Luke's, St. Rita's

Profits from Covered Wagon

The Covered Wagon Lunch Deals sold at the church during the car show made a profit of \$225, which was donated to the Capital Campaign. Thank you to Bill, Carma, Joan, Yvonne, Jan, Shauna, Emma, Michaela and Bonngard's Family Meats for helping to make this a huge success. – Danyll & Donna



Administrative Assistant Out of Office

The week of September 8-12, and the week of September 22-26 I will be out of the office. Volunteers will be covering the office and creating the publications, so you may talk with them when you call in. If you need my personal attention, please be patient and I will get back to you. Thank you.

Becky Graff, Administrative Assistant



Farmers' Market CGUCC Parking Lot Thursdays from 3:30—6:30 p.m.

Vegetables, Herbs, Breads, Jams, Jellies, Honey, Pickles, Crafts
Hot Dogs, Brats, Cookies, Beverages, Bake Sale, Ice Cream
Drawings for Door Prizes
Eat Healthy—Buy Local



Turkey Dinner Time

The Turkey Dinner is upon us once again. You will be getting a call soon from one of the team members about what you can do to help. If you do not get a call and would like to get in on the fun, please call Donna Perkins at (651) 459-8665. There is something special about our country church. How many churches put on a dinner like this any more, with real mashed potatoes, dressing, and that wonderful squash? We need to give ourselves a pat on the back, that such a dinner still exists. Let's come together as a church family and reach out to the community and each other. Let's make this a dinner to remember.

Bev Gross, Advertising



Seeking Christian Music Fans

Are you a fan of contemporary Christian music and the mission of Habitat for Humanity? Then the "Music Builds Tour" is for you!!! On Friday, **October 10, 2008**, Third Day, Switchfoot, Jars of Clay, and Robert Randolph and the Family Band will be performing a special concert at the Target Center to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Pastor Bryan is looking to organize a group of mission and music lovers to attend this concert. If we can gather a group of 15 or more we can get special discount pricing (\$28 per ticket). If you are interested in going to the concert, please contact Pastor Bryan by **September 14, 2008**, so that tickets can be ordered. This is NOT a youth only activity!!! All are invited to attend!



Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, September 7

Rally Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Congregation Photo
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

Sunday, September 14

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

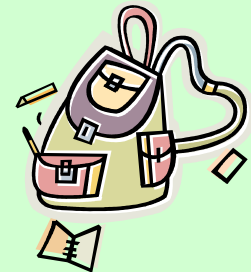
Sunday, September 21

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Turkey Dinner

Sunday, September 28

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

Back to School Supplies



Would you like to help some kids get supplies to start school off right? We know of a few kids who could really use your help to get what they need for fall. Please watch for the opportunity to contribute at the coffee bar for the next few Sundays, or donate a gift card for Target, or send a check marked "School Supplies" with your offering.

THANKS!!



Y.A.H.O.O.

(Youth Aspiring to Help Out Others)

Y.A.H.O.O.s is the Youth Ministry program of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ in Cottage Grove, MN.

As Y.A.H.O.O.s, we work to serve Christ by using our spiritual gifts for the benefit of our church, our community, and our world.

All youth grades 7 through 12 are invited to participate.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cguccyouth>

YOUTH Events Calendar

Sept. 3, Wednesday, 6:00 pm
Confirmation 8

Sept. 3, Wednesday, 7:00 pm
Confirmation 9

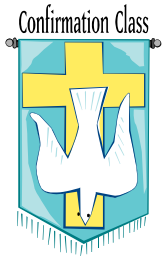
Sept. 7, Sunday, 3:00 pm
Y.A.H.O.O. FEST

October 10, Friday
Music Builds Tour

October 17-19, Conference
Youth Event

Confirmation Orientation Sessions

Orientation sessions for both 8th and 9th Grade Confirmation students will take place on **Wednesday, September 3**. **Confirmation 8** students will have their orientation session from **6:00-7:00 p.m.** with the **Confirmation 9** orientation to follow from **7:00-8:00 p.m.** New students are always welcome to join the Confirmation program. Please see Pastor Bryan if you are interested in participating in this two-year Christian Education program.



Y.A.H.O.O. Fest Returns – Pool Party Style

We will be kicking off the Y.A.H.O.O. year in style with a sweet pool party and picnic on **Sunday, September 7**, from **3:00-5:00 p.m.** There will be food, games, music, and prizes as we celebrate the beginning of another Y.A.H.O.O. year at Cottage Grove U.C.C. The Wilkinson Family (Alyssa, Bryce, Chase, Brian, and Carma) has generously agreed to host this awesome event at their home (10600 67th Street South, Cottage Grove). All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to attend and bring their friends. Please RSVP with Pastor Bryan by **September 1**. See you at the pool!



CYE to Be Held at Pilgrim Point

The Minnesota Conference of the U.C.C. will be hosting its **2008 Fall Youth Event** at **Pilgrim Point Camp** in **Alexandria, MN**, on **October 17-19**. The title of the retreat is "*Destinations Unknown*." The event will focus on exploring what it means to be a Progressive Christian in an Open & Affirming, Just Peace, Accessible to All religious tradition like the United Church of Christ.

Conference Youth Events are an excellent opportunity for U.C.C. youth throughout the state of Minnesota to gather together for a time of faith-building, fellowship and fun. Youth participate in a variety of different activities throughout the weekend, including creative and thematic workshops, recreational outings (i.e. bowling, swimming, etc.), and worship. *It is truly a unique experience that should not be missed.*

All U.C.C. youth and their friends in grades 9-12 are eligible to attend the Fall CYE. Registration forms were mailed to all Senior High youth on August 25, 2008. The registration fee for the event is \$75 if you register before September 12, 2008. Anyone registering between September 13th and October 3rd will have to pay the full registration fee of \$85 (Event fee + late registration fee). So get your forms in early!!! Scholarships are available for this event. Please see Rev. Bryan for more details. Please submit your registration form, along with payment, to Rev. Bryan. Make all checks payable to: **MN CONFERENCE UCC – YOUTH FUND.**

If you have any questions about the CYE or the registration form, please contact Bryan either via e-mail at olsonbw@hotmail.com or telephone at (651) 459-1501. Thanks!

M&M's Help Feed Children

The most recent fundraising campaign for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is mini M&M's by the tube. You can buy a container of mini M&M's for \$1, and enjoy eating the candies. Then fill the empty tube with quarters and bring them back to church. If you fill the container with quarters 5 times, the money raised will feed a child for a year. The display with tubes of mini M&M's is in the Gathering Room. Pick up a tube and leave a dollar if you would like to participate.



Youth Events



If your birthday is in the church records, it will appear here. If yours does not appear, please let Becky in the office know when your birthday is and we will get it in next year. And please call if your birthday is wrong so we can get it right.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Jerry Stratton
- 4 - Kristina Pribnow
- 6 - Al Miller
- 7 - Jack Ratzlaff
- 8 - Cole Bertram
Steve Biscoe
Karen Fritze
Morgan Marty
Pam Schmuki
- 9 - Judy Lauber
- 11 - Marie Berndt
- 12 - Zachary Larsen
- 14 - Stanley Barta
Nathan Bloomquist
- 15 - Delores Janke
Darlene Kieffer
- 17 - Roby Graff
- 18 - Mary Pat Marty
Koryn Warner
- 19 - Christopher Spicer
- 20 - Scott Spicer
Shawn Spicer
- 21 - Ryan Hunter
Michaela Mills
- 22 - Bruce Fiedler
Mark Hunter
- 24 - Traci Larsen
- 26 - Sarah Sieben
- 27 - Mackenzie Denny
John Perkins
- 29 - Don Berndt
- 30 - Jean Stoker

Dear Rev. Bryan Olson and CGUCC,

On behalf of your covenantal partner church, 1st Congregational UCC in Zumbrota, I extend warmest greetings and congratulations on your congregation's 150th birthday. I hope you have the collective breath to blow out those candles! Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend your celebration on August 23-24, 2008, as I will be away that weekend officiating at my goddaughter's wedding. I will continue to keep your anniversary festivities in my joyous prayers. In August, 2006, I was serving the Cannon Falls UCC church when it observed its 150th anniversary. And when I began my called ministry at the Zumbrota UCC church last September, shortly after my tenure ended with you, this church commemorated its 150th anniversary just 2 weeks into my call here. So I know something about the pride and gratitude your Cottage Grove UCC church must be realizing these days.

You are in a season of theological and historical reflection and remembrance. You will strengthen your covenant with each other and the MN Conference UCC. Each of our church's historical commitment to social justice is central to its identity, but so are strong traditions of evangelical piety and thirst for more fervent worship and church life. My prayer for your church and for mine is that we continue disciplined theological reflection in order for us to renew our identities and mission in this new century. We exist not in isolation, but in company with all who call upon the name of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

You are blessed by the presence and ministry of your Pastor Bryan and all your gifted lay leaders. You are all shining lights in our UCC circles. With your continued leadership in faith expression, I am confident your faith community will maintain its attention to God's comforting, and yet so often afflicting, Word that continues to reach into the core of our being and purpose. God bless you on your 150th anniversary!!

I remember you always with the fondest love!!

In Christ's Love,
Rev. Dr. Gary Titusdahl, 1st Congregational Church in Zumbrota, MN



Lost in the Kitchen

I have been looking for and not able to find my large glass crystal bowl that came with a tri-colored pepperoni pasta salad in it for a funeral luncheon. I can best describe it as a large bowl with a scalloped edge and a small base that it sits on; it has crystal points around the center and smoother diamond cut towards the top and bottom. I have checked the kitchen several times and have not been able to locate it. If you have seen my bowl, please call me at 1(715) 262-3587.

Thanks, Joyce Biscoe



To the Congregation of CGUCC

We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone in the congregation for all your prayers, cards, thoughts, and food donations at Lynsay's funeral. We lost our beautiful daughter, but it is comforting to know we have such a supportive group of people. We now know she is pain and cancer free.

Thank you,
Family of Lynsay Nieman



Neighbors in Need—Another World Is Possible

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 5, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, or national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties,, and environmental justice.



Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska.

Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. Please give generously. And remember, contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made on-line at any time at: www.ucc.org/nin.

Invitation from the Pumpkin Patch

If you sell commercial pumpkins and would like to set up a trailer/booth at the annual giant pumpkin growers' weigh-off at the end of September, please call Bob Janicek at (651) 458-1021 to get all the details.



Women's Retreat: Creative Peace!

An Inspiring Approach to Nonviolence: 2008 Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Point Camp, September 19-21, 2008. The main focus of the retreat will be the book: Jesus & Nonviolence: A Third Way by Walter Wink. Women can still register for the retreat by leaving a message at 651-917-7435, the home of Doris Utke. This is a beautiful time at Pilgrim Point Camp, both peaceful and colorful. Please join us!



Cottage Grove Thanks Bev Gross for Historic Preservation

"The City Council and the Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation of the City of Cottage Grove present the 20th Annual Preservationist of the Year Award to Beverly Gross. Awarded August 13, 2008, City Council Meeting. In recognition of continued efforts towards the research and education about the unique social and historic qualities of Cottage Grove."
 Congratulations, Bev!



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 Published on the 1st and 15th
 of every month
 Edited by Becky Graff

**Back issues available on
 our Church web site at
www.cgucc.org**

Deadline	Issue Date
Sept 10	Sept 15
Sept 25	October 1
October 10	October 15

Submit articles via e-mail at cgucc@usfamily.net or drop them off at the office. Thanks for all the information you submit to share with the congregation! Keep it coming!
 Becky Graff, Editor

Contact Us

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Office Hours:
 Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.—
 12:00 noon

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 Email: cgucc@usfamily.net

STOP!!
 If you would rather not receive this news
 letter, please call or send an e-mail, and we
 will take you off our mailing list. Thanks!

Annual Turkey Dinner
Celebrating our Sesquicentennial
150 Years and Going Strong
 Sunday, September 21, 2008
 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Homemade turkey dinner with all the trimmings:
 roasted turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash,
 cranberries, coleslaw, rolls, pie, coffee, milk

Ticket Prices
\$10 for age 15-adult
\$7 for 4-14 years old
Free for children 3 and under
\$10 for "Take Out" meals

**Come and bring your friends and family to this
 annual event in the life of our church!**

