



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
Published Semi-Monthly
September 15, 2009



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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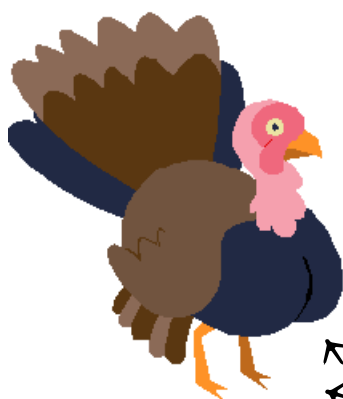
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**Cottage Grove United Church
of Christ**
7008 Lamar Avenue South
Cottage Grove, MN. 55016-2397
Tel: 651-459-1501
Email: cgucc@usfamily.net
Web: www.cgucc.org
Farmers' Market: www.cguccfm.com

Annual Turkey Dinner Country Market and Quilt Raffle

Sunday, September 20, 2009

11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Take-Out Available



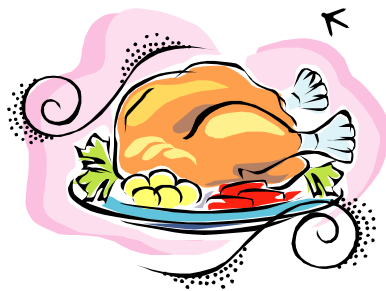
Tickets Available at the Door
Adults—\$10
Children 5 to 14—\$5
Children 4 and under—Free
Take-Out Meals—\$10

The **Country Market** will be back
this year as part of the Turkey Dinner.

Crafters are welcome
to bring their items for sale.

Women's Fellowship will keep
15% of the total sales,
so please mark prices on your items
accordingly.

Anyone interested in participating,
please call Chris Miller
at (651)436-3308.



Rev. Désirée H. Gold, Pastor

Office Hours
Tuesday—Thursday
10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Office Phone:
(651) 459-1501
Rev. Gold's e-mail:
pastorgold@inbox.com



PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

Daniel Bies; Eric Bies; Bill and Isabel Board; Ron Bonnevier; Bill Bohun; Beth Davies; Diane Davies; Don Hanson; Chris Miller; Sandy Rabe; Karen Spicer; Lucy Spicer; families facing unemployment issues.

Angie Barta (Doreen Barta's mother-in-law); Howard Biscoe (Rob Biscoe's brother); Dorothy Brown (Ashley & Luke Longmuir's great-aunt); Leo Buechler (former pastor); Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Cheryl (Joyce Fries' daughter); Diane and Doris (Carole Weitzel Biscoe's friends); Roxanne Ebarb; Andrew Gatzmeyer (Doreen Barta's grandson); Kandy and David Hartson (Pastor Gold's mother and father); Brady Heschke (Marilyn Heschke's grandson); Gary Heuer (Rod Heuer's brother); Donna Johnson (Gary Afdahl's mother-in-law); Ken & Nora Krahn (missionaries); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn Heschke's daughter); Richard Lara (in prison); Margie Mattison, her husband, and family (Farmers' Market vendor); Gene Sauve; Mary Schmidt (Karen Schmidt's mother-in-law); Dan Sipe and Rob Cox (death of Dan's father); Stordalen family (Pastor Gold's cousins); Mark Tinucci, Jr. (Sandy Rabe's grandson and Karen Schmidt's nephew); Midge Youngquist's grandmother; our soldiers around the world.

An Offering of Gold

Rev. Désirée
H. Gold



There's an old joke that goes, "How many church members does it take to change a light bulb?" Answer: "Change?! Who said anything about change?!" Indeed, we church folk often find it difficult to change the way we do things. We treat this, that, and the other as though it were the unchangeable Word of God – even if, in reality, the practice in question is something the church adopted in relatively recent history. We find our traditions comforting, and there is nothing wrong with finding comfort in church...as long as we're not going to church *just* to comfort ourselves, and as long as we don't continue traditions *just* because "it's always been that way." It is important, as Christians, to look at the way we do things from time to time and to discern whether or not God is calling us to make changes to present practice.

At our Music Ministry Team meeting last week, we discerned that several changes to our worship service were in order. Most of these changes are minor. You will notice a difference in the way we open the worship service, with the inclusion of a new Processional and more formal entry. Our hope is that this will focus the minds and hearts of the congregation to the task at hand: that of worshiping and praising God. Several other small changes have been made to the worship music, both to streamline the service and to live into the idea of a "blended" worship service, containing different musical elements. For example, on some Sundays we will pray the traditional "Lord's Prayer" and on other Sundays we will sing "Our Father" with JC Rock, instead of doing both of them every Sunday.

The largest change to the worship service, however, has nothing to do with music. The difficult decision was made to stop shaking hands and hugging during the Ministry of Friendship. This decision is painful for me, because the Ministry of Friendship (or Passing of the Peace, or whatever you want to call it) has been one of my favorite elements of worship since I first began attending church. However, we have all heard warnings about the upcoming flu season, and there is particular concern about the H1N1 virus. The Ministry of Friendship, as we currently know it, is a perfect opportunity for spreading germs. I pray that we will not become so germ-wary that we stop sitting near one another in church or greeting one another with Christian love. It is my intent to go back to our current hand-shaking once this flu season is over. But I do think it is prudent, and in keeping with Jesus' healing ministry, to minimize close personal contact when we are facing a flu season of such unknown severity.

In lieu of our present practice, we will remain in our pews during the Ministry of Friendship. I am working on changing the language a little, so that it becomes more meaningful and not simply rote speech. Stay tuned in the weeks to come.

There will still be plenty of other opportunities to greet one another personally at church, so I ask that we all practice good flu prevention strategies. Get a flu vaccine. Wash your hands frequently. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Finally, *stay home if you're not feeling well!* God will excuse your absence from church, and the rest of us will thank you. (As always, I am available to provide pastoral care if you are ill.)

The decisions regarding music were made by the entire Music Ministry Team, and the change to the Ministry of Friendship was something we also discussed at that meeting. We hope that you will continue to feel

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Fall Adult Study

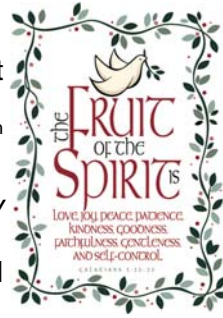
It's not too early to start thinking about the Fall Adult Study. Come, join the discussion, fellowship, and fun.

When: Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Starting September 27th for 7 weeks

Topic: *Patience*, using the *Fruit of the Spirit Study Guide* by Calvin Miller

Books: Will be passed out at the first meeting and will cost approximately \$10.

There will be a sign-up sheet at church, or you can call Wes Hillman at 651-768-0121.



Chancel Choir Rehearsals Begin

The Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. Director Gary Afdahl always welcomes new voices in the choir. Please see him after worship on Sundays and let him know you would like to sing with the choir.



Imagine Another World Is Possible They Could Be Homeless

Sue Kupfer, coordinator of Urban Mission Experience/St. Louis, as program for youth in grades 6-12, says she is "touched by the youth that come to work with us and the transformation that occurs for some as they experience how God's love and grace touches lives."

A recent experience that touched Sue's heart involved a 7th grader named Josh who was part of a middle school group from a St. Louis suburb. The kids took part in a walk through downtown St. Louis that depicts, in a small way, the path a homeless person would need to travel to have their basic human needs met.

After walking 'The Trail,' Josh said that after this experience he would not view people in the same way. When noticing a person with a backpack, he would not assume they were a student, and when noticing someone carrying a suitcase he would not assume they were a traveler. Josh said with tears in his eyes, 'They could be homeless and need our help.' This meant that Josh 'got' what we hope the youth coming to our program will understand.

As a 2008 recipient of a Neighbors in Need grant, Urban Mission Experience/St. Louis' goal is to try to open the eyes of young people to issues of poverty, hunger, oppression and discrimination. Your gift to this special UCC offering provides significant help toward that goal.

CGUCC will receive our Neighbors In Need offering on Sunday, October 4. Thank you!



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spiritually nourished by worship at CGUCC, in all its forms. As always, worship belongs to God but is planned by humans, and I hope you will let me know how you feel about these recent changes. Your feedback is helpful to all of us who are involved in planning and leading the worship service.

May God bless you always...and *Gesundheit!* to those of you have an early introduction to the flu season! Be well.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gold

Cross Connection

A Periodical Newsletter of
**Cottage Grove
United Church of Christ**
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of every month
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of every month
Edited by Becky Graff

Back issues available on our
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www.cgucc.org

Submit articles via e-mail at
cgucc@usfamily.net or drop
them off at the office.

Becky Graff, Editor

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9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon



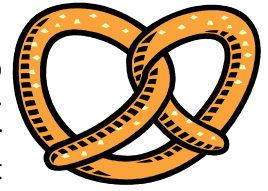
September

- 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 - Isabel Board
Zachary Larsen
- 14 - Stanley Barta
Nathan Bloomquist
- 15 - Darlene Kieffer
- 17 - Roby Graff
- 18 - Mary Pat Marty
Koryn Warner
- 19 - Désirée Gold
Christopher Spicer
- 20 - Scott Spicer
Shawn Spicer
- 21 - Ryan Hunter
Michaela Mills
- 22 - Bruce Fiedler
Mark Hunter
- 24 - Traci Larsen
- 26 - Sarah Sieben
Joel Spicer
- 27 - Mackenzie Denny
John Perkins
- 29 - Don Berndt
- 30 - Jean Stoker



Thank You!!

Mikenna and I would like to thank those of you who were nice enough to buy Grandpa's Pretzels at the Farmers' Market these past couple months. My granddaughter and I got the idea while tending to the Kids' Korner the first week. We thought it would be fun to sell something & maybe add a game to play. It didn't take long to decide our product would be pretzels. Everyone loves them. Grandpa used to make them for all of us and you just can't stop eating them. So we made a list of what we needed, shopped for the best prices and started to bake. We kept a notebook so we would know what our costs were, so we would know how much to charge for the pretzels and still make a profit. We got together each week before Thursday and mixed and baked and bagged and in between batches, we played cards or practiced with the bean bags. We kept track of how many bags we sold each week and how much money we made. We talked about what we should do with the money we earned. I told Mikenna about a program that raised money to feed kids who don't get enough to eat and how lucky we were that we always had enough and then some. We decided to give some of our profits to that program. So each week we set aside 10% of Mikenna's profits and all of my profits. Mikenna got to keep the other 40% and has spent some of it; she bought a Wii game, and her best and favorite purchase was an American Girl Doll. She still has a lot left and is not rushing to spend it too fast. After all, she worked very hard to earn it. Our total for Feed the Children is \$275.58. I am sending them a check this week.



Last Thursday was our last day at the market because Mikenna started fourth grade this week and has a busy schedule. We both had such a wonderful time making and selling the pretzels together. We always looked forward to it and have already started making plans for next year. It provided such a wonderful opportunity for us to work and learn together.

Price of Pretzels - \$2.50 per bag Fee for market space - \$10.00
Time spent together - PRICELESS

Thank You! Judy and Mikenna Lauber

Sing the New Century Hymnal with Art Clyde

Spend Saturday, October 3rd at Pilgrim Point Camp singing the *New Century Hymnal* with its editor! Grab this amazing opportunity to learn the stories behind your favorite hymns, and hear the reasons they're included. Best of all, we will be singing together! Warm up your vocal chords and come on out for this wonderful experience!



Installation at St. Paul's UCC

Rev. Norma Rae Hunt will be installed as pastor at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave., St. Paul, on Sunday, September 20 at 3:00 p.m. Your presence will be both a sign and symbol of support as neighbors and partners in wider covenant.



No Sunday School Next Sunday

Because of the activity level around the Turkey Dinner, Sunday School will not meet next week. See you in Sunday School in two weeks.



Friends In Need Say Thanks

On behalf of all the less fortunate of South Washington County please accept our thanks for your generous contribution to Friends In Need Food Shelf. Please know that your donation will be put to very good use. Thank you!

Michelle, Friends In Need Food Shelf



New Questions Change Everything!

Women's Critical and Creative Dialog with the Bible

The 2009 Hedgerow Seminar focuses on the Old Testament. Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Sept. 21—Dec. 7 at Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave, St. Paul. Participants will read and reflect with scholars, especially women scholars, who ask new questions, initiate transforming conversations, nourish our spirits, and draw us into work for a just and holy world. Instructor: Joan Mitchell, CSJ, Ph.D. To register, call 651-696-2788, or go online: www.wisdomwayscenter.org. Syllabus is online. For more information, please see Rev. Gold.



Visiting Other Churches?

Our Administrative Assistant is wanting to update the look of our bulletins and newsletters, and is asking for your help. If you visit another church, or get another church's newsletter, will you please deposit them in the "Bulletins/Newsletters" basket on the table in the Gathering Room? It is often fun and helpful to get new ideas from other churches. Thanks!



Many Thanks!

Our thanks go out to Elaine Mitchell for taking care of the Coffee Bar this summer. We really appreciate all the efforts she has put into this. This fall we welcome back Coffee Bar hosts Joyce Biscoe and Jean Gausman along with Elaine. Many thanks to all of these ladies for their faithful service. If anyone would like to help make cookies, bars, donuts, coffee or juice, your contributions would be greatly appreciated.



Bev Gross

CGUCC Farmers' Market Feeds the Hungry Thursdays 3:30—6:30 p.m.

Many bushels of vegetables have been donated to Stone Soup for them to distribute to those who need food, thanks to the Farmers' Market vendors who donate their produce. The market will continue Thursdays through October 8, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Come join the fun!



UCC MN Conference Budget Vote

The Minnesota Conference of the UCC will have a vote on the budget at a Special Meeting of the Conference on Saturday, September 26, 2009, beginning at 1:00 pm at Wayzata Community Church.

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Liturgists and Greeters Needed

Thanks to all who have participated in Worship by serving as liturgists and greeters. There are new sign-up sheets out. Please sign up for your opportunity to share in this important ministry.



Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, September 20

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

Sunday, September 27 Rally Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Adult Class
Begins
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship

Sunday, October 4 World Communion

Sunday
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
including Adult Class
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship

Participating in Worship in September

Head Usher—Ken Huber
Altar Team—Claudia
Weisskirk
Communion Preparation—
Gary and Joan Thyren

Participating in Worship in October

Head Usher—Bob Janicek
Altar Team—Joyce Fries
Communion Preparation—
Bobbi Jo & Bob Janicek

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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!

It's Confirmation Time!

If you are in 8th or 9th grade and have not been Confirmed yet,
you are invited to attend CGUCC's 2009-2010
Confirmation Class.

Confirmation Class



There will be an Orientation meeting for interested young people and their parents on Saturday, October 3 at 9:30 a.m. Second year students are asked to bring their mentors. We will determine the day, time and the frequency of our class at that meeting.

First and second year students will be together in the same class, as they have been the past couple of years. Second year students who complete the class will be Confirmed in May 2010.

If you have questions, please call Pastor Gold in the church office or by email (pastorgold@inbox.com).