

“...that they may
all be one...”

Uniter

A Just Peace, Open and Affirming Church

August 2010

Union Congregational United Church of Christ, St. Louis Park, MN

Join us in worship Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Childcare is provided for ages 8 and younger.

Sunday morning worship: 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship: 11:00 a.m.

Aug. 1 First Sunday after Pentecost
Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

Aug. 8 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

Aug. 15 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

Aug. 22 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Aug. 29 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Communion. Gospel: Luke 14: 1,7-14

Farewell and Blessings, June

June Sand is an exceptional woman. She is grounded in her faith, which has led her to a variety of ministries. She has been a compassionate and wise parish nurse to the people of this community of faith. She is diligent in her work, thoughtful and direct in her suggestions and responses, caring in her relationships, and a professional in her chosen field. I have valued her opinions and suggestions, and she has always come through when I needed outside referrals. June will be deeply missed by this community of faith—those she called on, those who have worked with her as a colleague. Thank you, June.
Mary Kay

Meet our new Parish Nurse

We are pleased to announce that we have hired a new parish nurse, Janet Hamilton. The Parish Nurse committee interviewed candidates and recommended Janet to the Executive Council who unanimously approved Janet for the position. She has extensive experience in the medical field including Head Nurse of a Medical-Surgical unit, supervisory experience in long term care facilities, and hospice experience along with mental health experience. She completed the Parish Nurse training program. June will assist to transition Janet to those individuals she has been seeing in her parish nurse ministry. Welcome Janet, we look forward to sharing this ministry with you.



Vacation Bible School August 9-12

9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Ages 4 - 5th grade

VBS is for all children

Come to the marketplace!

Co-Sponsors: Mizpah United Church of Christ &
Union Congregational United Church of Christ
Suggested donation \$15.00/child (\$40.00
max./family)

Please contact Union Church
for registration information.

952/929-8566 or www.unionslp.com

From the Interim Pastor

I have heard several intriguing phrases lately—none intended to be theological, but I believe there is at the very least room for theological conversations.

First, call me naïve or maybe it was growing up a preacher's kid, but I never have thought greed was good. Yet, I'm hearing that phrase lately—greed is good and it is what keeps our economic system going. I doubt that Adam Smith ever used that phrase. And today it seems as if greed has gone viral with larger and larger amounts of our nation's wealth in fewer and fewer hands. Nobody needs, nor is worth, several million dollars in compensation—but it seems to be a way in which a few people can claim to be the winners. But the cost to a whole nation is so great. I don't recall Jesus saying this or even implying it. The early church certainly wasn't based on greed.

The next intriguing comment came from a reporter commenting on one of these millionaires, BP's CEO. The reporter suggested that his responses to questions asked about the oil spill were on "the light side of reality." In other words, he was making light of something that had major ramifications in the reality of people's lives, the environment and the economy of the area. I would suggest that God calls us to look at the "deep side of reality." That is to educate ourselves, seek factual news, not merely opinions, analyze what is happening and respond appropriately. If as faithful people of God we understand that all people are loved by God and that all people are our neighbors, then we do have a responsibility to look deeply at the issues facing our world. Quite honestly, it'd be much easier to live in the world of the "light side

of reality"—much easier. Except I have too many "neighbors" throughout the world who are hurting and God needs me/us to help God transform the world.

And finally, after seeing the movie Toy Stories 3, (take plenty of tissues—very touching and tender) with my two granddaughters, Sophia the older, 5 ½ asked me if going to the movie was a treat or a reward. I had them all to myself for almost two days. The first day we bought new dolls along with a new outfit. The next morning they cleaned their rooms and the family room so quickly that I rewarded them with another trip to the store to buy another doll outfit. Then we went to the movie. I explained that the movie was a treat.

I used her question for the "Story For All Ages". After some conversation about the difference between reward and a treat I shared that God's love for all the people of the world, including them is a treat not a reward. There is nothing we can do to earn God's love, it just is. It is our choice as to how open we are to God's influence in our lives and we can choose to shut God out. However, God's love is unconditional, profound and constant.

God's love is indeed a treat, but in sharing that love with others we do need to look at the "deep side of reality" and remember that we are stewards of God's creation, all of God's creation and sharing is appropriate..

Mary Kay

Union UCC

952/929-8566

info@unionslp.com

Staff:

Interim Minister:

Mary Kay Sauter

CE/Vol. Min. Dir:

Brenda Clarno

Sr. Choir Director

Art Clyde

Organist, Bell Choirs
& Children's Choirs:

Peggy Johnson

Parish Nurse:

Jan Hamilton

Youth Leader:

Sarah Baptiste

Office Admin:

Sue Scully

Officers:

Moderator:

Barb Johnson

Vice-Moderator:

Mark McHenry

Treasurer:

David Lee

Clerk:

Lisanne Oster

Board Chairs/Reps:

Benv. & Comm.

Outreach:

Ben Cleveland

Christian Education:

Janna Hazeltine

Diaconate:

C. Cleveland/S. White

Finance:

Randy Pratt

Trustees:

Ralph Eischen
Membership/Church

Growth:

John Clarno

Pastoral Relations:

John Malmstedt

Personnel Comm.

Peggy Franson

Youth Comm.



Our August Birthdays

1	Kathlyn Secund Kay Toy	15	Ron Caldwell
2	Beth Tiefenthal Bob Eckers	16	Gene Blake
3	Arden Kindt	18	Kelly Lund
4	Brandon Thomas Bradley Palmer	19	Shirley Upham Dan Freese
5	Isabel Anderson	23	Kristin Anderson
6	Lois Thorne	24	Noah Anderson
7	Jennifer Torkelson	25	Joan Clarno Ralph Eischen Peggy Johnson
9	Betty Danielson Robin Ray	26	Aidan Gillen
10	Camille Peterson	27	Joan Williams
11	Mike White	29	Cindy O'Neil
12	Robert Chapek Mitch Lund	30	Ray Daniels
14	Miriam Harvey Bob King	31	Tom Thompson Carol Lambrecht Cindy Lund Jim Cipera

We remember in prayer:

Those recently experiencing illness, injury or hospitalization, including: **Suzie White, John Malmstedt, Jo Senander, Greg Engebos, Sally Nelson.**

We extend prayers of Christian sympathy to the families and friends of our members whom have died recently:

Sue Seidlitz, died June 2, 2010;
Mary Johnson, died June 9, 2010; and
Todd Bachman, died June 18, 2010.

Thank you.

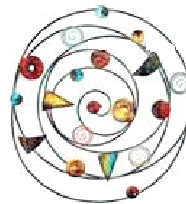
*Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the prayers and outpouring of love, food, and friendship during this very difficult time. Your kindness has helped these past few weeks.
Todd Bachman Family*

FMF visits in August Aug. 29 – Sept. 12, 2010

Families Moving Forward will once again be a guest of Union Church. Please watch for volunteer signup sheets!

Be a reader

Lay readers fulfill an important role in our worship experience each Sunday. They lead, or read, the Call to Worship, Prayer of Invocation and Scripture. The Diaconate Board is currently updating the list of lay readers and preparing the schedule for next year. If you would like to be added to or (heaven forbid) removed from the list, please contact John Malmstedt (952/541-1735) or the church office (952/929-8566) by August 10. We hope to have the new schedule available before Labor Day. Thank you.



Faith Stories

2010 MN Conference
United Church of Christ
Women's Retreat
Sept. 17-19, 2010
Pilgrim Point Camp,
Alexandria, MN

Our Speaker: Our keynote speaker and worship leader will be the *Rev. Vicki Wunsch*, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Vicki's experience has included facilitating a wide variety of workshops and trainings for churches.

Workshops include:

Karma and Reincarnation
The Transgender Journey
Discerning Your Personal Myth
Reflecting with Nature
The Turkish Scarf Project
Finding Yourself with Art
Surviving Cancer and Homicide

Registration deadline: Sept. 3, 2010

**Brochures available on the bulletin board
and at**

www.mizpahucc.org or 952/935-5509



Just from June

It is with a great deal of joy that I have been reviewing the past few years as your parish nurse at Union. The new terminology is Faith Community

Nurse, and that fits each of the nurses that are part of the Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS) network. We represent Jewish congregations, Catholic parishes, Christian denominations and Muslim mosques.

Union's original Parish Nurse Committee, headed by Barb Eischen, worked with Joy Gordon, (JFCS), to begin this ministry and to plan to sustain it as a paid staff position. The original grant of \$10,000 came from grant monies administered by JFCS. JFCS had the foresight to envision congregational nurses serving a growing number of seniors in the St. Louis Park community through an established faith community.

The St. Paul Foundation, a UCC organization, supplied the second grant of \$10,000. JFCS followed with a \$7000 grant the third year, and St. Paul Foundation contributed another smaller amount this fourth year. Grant money requires the initial application as well as keeping statistics and sending in reports on a monthly basis. This consumes a fair amount of time.

My thanks go out to the two organizations that have supported Union the past four years. I also want to thank all the members of Union who have left memorial gifts and/ or supported this ministry with their many gifts both of time and money. You are all very dear to me.

The very good news is that a new friend of mine will be your Faith Community Nurse. Jan Hamilton is a warm, caring nurse who will assume this role. She will be introduced in church on July 25. Next month in the *Uniters* she will introduce herself and give you specifics on how to reach her. She has an office now. Jan will share space in the first office next to Brenda's office. Please introduce yourself to Jan and welcome her to Union. My prayer would be for this ministry to continue to serve the homebound, the fragile, the tormented, the

forgotten and all the members of this congregation.

"I thank my God every time I remember you."
Philippians 1:3.

Be well. June

Turkish Scarf Project

Traditional Hand-edged scarves from the women of Kaynasli, Turkey

It is supposed to be good news when a new business venture is successful, which is what has happened with the scarf project. What started after the horrific 1999 earthquake as women with no business training, few materials, and no community support, has been such a success that we will be seeing fewer scarves and eventually none from the current source. The scarves are becoming so successful, they are looking for a wider market base than that offered through churches.

Within a year or two we may not be receiving the scarves, necklaces, pins or other items. The women of the village of Kaynasli are looking for worldwide markets and finding success there, also. Union Church has scarves and items now, but there is no definite timetable for the supply being available. Also, the cost of the scarves has increased – to \$23 each. Other items have not changed.

I have enjoyed working with the scarf project. Opening each box sent to me has been like Christmas – full of beautiful surprises! What the women do with fine cotton scarves, tiny crochet hooks and thread in tiny stitches is amazing. I have also enjoyed being able to bring the beautiful scarves to many of you who have enjoyed them.

So, what is good news for them will soon be lost to us unless we have access to their new markets, at costs undoubtedly higher than we now pay. For now, check out what is new.

Call me with questions at 952/473-8637, preferably in the afternoons.
Jean Daniels

Requested Recipe

KIT KAT BARS

Mix together in medium saucepan:

1 cup butter or margarine

1 cup brown sugar

½ cup granulated sugar

½ cup milk

2 cups graham cracker crumbs

Heat to boiling; boil for 5 minutes more, stirring often.

In greased 9" x 13" pan layer:

Club crackers

½ of the cooked mixture,

Club crackers

½ cooked mixture

Club crackers

Add topping:

1 cup chocolate chips

2/3 cup peanut butter

Melt together & spread over top. Cut into bars.

Note: If you place the crackers lengthwise in the pan, you will need 30 per layer. (one box has 3 pkgs of 45 each)

Norma Heinbuch

Address Changes:

Please contact the church office at 952/929-8566 or info@unionslp.com for new information on the following:

Elinor Dunnewold

Sarah & Wolf Baptiste

(same building, new apartment number)

New Info:

Beth Tiefenthal

Pastor Search News

We have reached an exciting phase of the pastor search process. Our position was posted on the national UCC job listing site. We have received an initial flurry of responses from pastors seeking new positions. Our healthy, vibrant church, located in a wonderful part of the country, makes Union an attractive opportunity.

The next step is to screen the pastor profiles we have received and then conduct phone interviews. We are grateful for your prayers and blessings as we move through the next phase of our search process.

Blessings,

Barb Eischen and the Pastor Search Committee

Union's Prayer Shawl Ministry

The age-old tradition of a Prayer Shawl Ministry is active at Union. Busy members knit and crochet shawls which incorporate prayers for the recipient. The beautiful and multi-colored shawls are given by our minister, our parish nurse and members of the church to those who might be in need of extra prayers and comfort. Some of these occasions/situations include:

- illness.
- special birthday.
- those who are our servant leaders.
- those who are aged and homebound.
- special occasion as a birth or wedding.
- living in poverty, injustice or discrimination.
- experiencing grief.
- those who live alone.

Each shawl is entered into a journal that records the person that made the shawl, the recipient, the color, the occasion and the date.

If you are interested in this project, the knitting basket, with directions and yarn, is next to the fireplace in the church library. When you finish your shawl, please enter it in the journal and leave it with the pastor. Jean Daniels and Carolyn Cleveland have been instrumental in getting and keeping this ministry growing. Please contact them with questions. Any donations to the purchase of yarn would be greatly appreciated.

STEP Back-to-School

Registration Open: Back-to-School Program

St. Louis Park Emergency Program (STEP) will be registering for their Back-to-School Program from **Mon., July 12 thru Thur., August 5, 2010**. Registration is open to children living in St. Louis Park and entering grades K to 12, no matter what school they will be attending. St. Louis Park households can register during their food appointments or during walk-in times:

Mon. – Thur.: 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Tues.: 6:00 – 7:00 pm

To register, households must bring a picture ID, current utility bill, as well as identification for each child to show date of birth. If there are questions for registration, please call STEP at 952/925-4899.

Donations of School Supplies and Funds are

also needed to help serve an estimated 700 St. Louis Park students who use STEP's Back-to-School Program. A contribution of \$40 will sponsor one student with grade appropriate school supplies, including a backpack. Critically needed school supplies needed are:

Backpacks (no wheels)

1" 3-ring Binders

Zippered 3-ring Binders

Large Scissors

Erasable Black Ink Pens

Blue (only) Ballpoint Pens

Zippered Pencil Pouches

5-tab Binder Dividers

Crayola Colored Pencils, 12 ct

Crayola Washable Markers, 8 ct

Purple (only) College-Ruled Notebooks

Folders WITHOUT fasteners

Donations can be dropped off at STEP, 6812 W. Lake St. during business hours. For more information, please call STEP at 952/925-4899 or visit www.STEPslp.org.

St. Louis Park Emergency Program (STEP) has served the St. Louis Park community by empowering lives and restoring hope to those in need since 1975. STEP provides 1,600 people each month with basic needs including food, clothing and transportation in addition to its many seasonal initiatives throughout the year.

Women's BWCA Trip

The CLUCS (Church Ladies of Union Canoeing Society) had a wonderful time on Horse Lake. There was an abundance of loons, wild blueberries, biting insects, friendship and laughter. We enjoyed leisurely morning coffee by the lakeshore, beautiful weather (until the morning we paddled out), and two awesome day trips -- including one up into Canada to see some really neat pictographs.

We sustained no injuries, despite Rachel's attempt to portage upside down, and some pretty rugged portages. It was a fantastic trip, and we're already dreaming of next year.

Many thanks to Rachel for her organizing and leadership, and to our spouses for keeping the home fires burning.

Sarah Stanley



L to R: Carolyn Cleveland, Judi Harvey, Rachel Shoger, Kris Kulevsky, Sarah Stanley

Our support is appreciated

Dear Members of Union,

In these economically challenging times, we wish to reaffirm our appreciation to you for the financial support that's helping to make Pilgrim Point Camp 2010 a reality. The newly formed Pilgrim Point Camp Committee is working hard to secure the future of PPC. Thank you for all your support.

Kim Shaffer

On behalf of the Pilgrim Point Camp Committee

Sing and Ring!

Choir rehearsals will resume on **Wednesday, September 8**, and both returning and new members are invited to attend. Please let Peggy Johnson know if you would like to join the adult bell choir so we can plan for the proper number of ringers (952/926-0550).

Informal suppers are served on Wednesdays from **5:15 – 6:20 p.m.** for choir members and their families and anyone else who wants to join us “just for fun.” We are a happy, active bunch! Brenda Clarno coordinates the meals and greatly appreciates folks who will take a turn setting tables and cleaning up after supper – just as in any family.

A pot-luck dinner to kick off the year for adult singers and ringers and their spouses/significant others will be held at **Art Clyde & Carol Birkland’s home** (2155 Sheridan Hills Rd, Wayzata) on Wednesday, **September 1, at 6:30 p.m.** You may call Peggy at home or at church to let her know what you will be bringing so we can balance the number of salads, main courses, etc., or we can “wing it” and hope that we accidentally end up with all desserts!

Please consider joining one of our choirs this year. We would love to have you join us for music making and fellowship.

Wednesday Rehearsal Schedule

- 4:30 Joy Ringers
Handbells for 4th grade and older
- 5:15 Cherub Choir
Kindergarten through 2nd grade
- 5:40 Cherub Choir and Joy Singers together
- 5:50 Joy Singers
3rd through 8th grade
- 6:20 Belles and Beaus
Handbells for Adults and Youth in 9th – 12th grade
- 7:30 Senior Choir
Adults and Youth in 9th -12th grade



Serving teens in the following Minnesota school districts:
Eden Prairie
Hopkins
St. Louis Park
Wayzata

August Loose Coin Offering

Teens Alone provides free and confidential counseling and crisis services year round to youth and parents in the western suburbs. Teens Alone is a non-profit organization that addresses issues of drug/alcohol

abuse, emotional, sexual and physical abuse, racial issues, pregnancy, sexual orientation, family breakups and teen homelessness.

Teens Alone's primary goal is to help prevent families from breaking apart and, if they are already separated, help in the reunification effort. It is difficult, if not impossible for students to be effective learners if their home is a battleground or they don't know where they will be sleeping night-to-night.

Last year Teens Alone counselors saw a four-fold increase in the number of throwaway and homeless youth. Most suburbanites think if they don't see kids in sleeping bags under bridges, we don't have a homeless problem. Yet it seems like every time we talk about "couch-hoppers" (those youth who go from friend to friend's houses until a parent asks them to move on), someone says, "Oh that's what it's called. Those kids have been at my house before. It never occurred to me to call them homeless!" Because suburban youth's problems may be better hidden, the community is surprised to find out such things are going on in their own neighborhood.

Help end youth homelessness!

Host a viewing party, a brown bag lunch, or talk about in a classroom. View a 30 minute TPT DVD entitled *Homeless Youth: Finding Home*, then see what YOU can do to help end youth homelessness. Contact Lydia at 952/988-4086 or lydia@teensalone.org.

Office:
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Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

August 2010

Upcoming Events:



- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aug. 9-12 | Vacation Bible School |
| Aug. 23 | September <i>Uniter</i> Deadline |
| Aug. 29-Sep.12 | Families Moving Forward at Union |
| Sep. 1 | Sr. Choir/B&B picnic |
| Sep. 6 | Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday |
| Sep. 8 | Wed. Eve Dinner/Choirs begin |
| Sep. 12 | Re-Union Sunday |
| Sep. 17-19 | UCC Women's Retreat – Pilgrim Point |