



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
Published Semi-Monthly
October 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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JC ROCK IN CONCERT AT CGUCC



Get ready to let the Holy Spirit rock and roll its way into your heart on Saturday, October 4, 2008, as JC Rock performs live at Cottage Grove U.C.C. This community concert will feature a mix of contemporary Christian music and JC Rock's own original song parodies. Invite your families, friends, neighbors, and anyone else you would like to this fabulous concert event. Admission is FREE! A goodwill offering will be received.



The festivities kick-off at 5:30 p.m. with a SILENT AUCTION to benefit both the CGUCC Capital Campaign and the Friends in Need Food Shelf. The CONCERT begins at 6 p.m., with DESSERT and FELLOWSHIP time to follow at 7 p.m. Silent auction item winners will be announced at 7:15 p.m.



If you are interested in donating an item or items to the silent auction, please contact the church office at 651-459-1501. Let's get ready to rock! Mark your calendars to attend the concert today!

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, Emily and baby Joel Spicer, families facing unemployment issues, Rev. Bryan Olson & our church during this time of transition.

Jim Auers (Karen Banaszewski's friend); Jason Biscoe (Joyce & Jerry Biscoe's son); Alma Buechler (former pastor's wife); Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Patricia Clark (Doreen Barta's mother); Alan Gausman (Russ Gausman's brother); Trygg Hemstad (3-year-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 Eboné Koerselman); David Rowe (Doreen Barta's uncle); Victoria Schmuki (Pam Schmuki's mother-in-law); Agnes Thyren (Gary Thyren's mother); Elaine Torseth; Midge Youngquist's grandmother; our soldiers around the world.



In just a few short days, on October 12th, our congregation will be hosting the 2008 South Washington County CROP Walk. On that day, we will be joining thousands of other walkers across the United States in raising money to fund vital disaster and hunger relief ministries around the globe. A majority of the funds raised will go to Church World Service, a non-profit ministry organization that provides much needed assistance to people and places devastated by natural disasters, war, and famine. This year alone, Church World Service has led relief efforts in places like China, Haiti, Iowa, Myanmar, and Texas, to help feed and house people in the aftermath of cyclones, earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes.

CROP Walks have been a part of my ministry for over 20 years. I began walking in the CROP Walk when I was 10 years old. I have walked hundreds of miles in my lifetime to raise money for Church World Service and local hunger agencies. It feels wonderful to put my feet to use in service of God each year because I know my efforts are going to build up the Body of Christ in my local community and around the world.

Putting an end to world hunger can seem like an overwhelming task at times, but the hope that this amazing goal can be achieved in our lifetime grows stronger each time a new person commits himself or herself to "walking the walk" of sacrifice and service. It is amazing what one individual or a small group can accomplish when they dedicate themselves to eliminating hunger. Below are just a few of their stories.

Dr. Meg Gring Whitley, professor of French and Spanish, and long-time CROP Hunger Walk organizer for Young Harris College in Young Harris, Georgia, started a new CROP Hunger Walk last October at Lake Winfield Scott, where her husband, Rev. Fred Whitley, United Methodist Minister and Campus Minister at YHC, has a summer ministry. This past fall at her urging, the college bookstore sold bags of Halloween candy, with all the proceeds benefiting the YHC CROP Hunger Walk. Dr. Gring Whitley's 2007 efforts raised over \$16,000 for the CWS/CROP mission, bringing her 17-year total to just over \$129,000.

For five-year old Rebecca Cherry of Corydon, Indiana, taking part in her community's CROP Hunger Walk was something she couldn't really explain, but she knew she was helping to feed other children. Rebecca convinced one of her grandmothers to take her door-to-door on their street. "Will you sponsor me on the CROP Walk," she'd begin. "My grandma can tell you more about it." In 2007, she raised \$439.50 plus \$200 from her church, Bethany United Methodist of New Middletown, bringing her total to \$639.50!

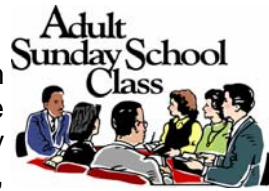
Rachel Kauffman and Susan Givler decided to coordinate the CROP Hunger Walk in Bellefontaine, Ohio, in 2007 and to give it a new twist: a Grandparent and Grandchild Walk. "It is important to us that we pass on this commitment of serving others to the younger generation," says Susan. Eleven grandparent-grandchildren sets were part of the more than 200 Walkers who raised over \$23,000 – an increase of 1050% over the last time Bellefontaine CROP walked!

These are just three stories out of hundreds that could be told of people who decided to put their faith into action and make a difference in their world by walking for and alongside those who must walk for their food and water every day.

(continued on next page)

Creating a Vital Congregation

The first **Adult Education Seminar** of the new program year will begin on **Sunday, October 5**, as we explore what it takes to create a vital congregation in this day and age. This six session seminar, led by Rev. Bryan, will focus on developing strong leadership, mission-based outreach, and spirit-filled worship to increase congregational vitality. Classes will be held on **Sunday mornings** from **9:00-10:00 a.m.** in the **Fellowship Lounge**. This seminar is open to all youth and adults, including Jr. and Sr. High students. Please **RSVP** for this seminar by contacting Rev. Bryan or placing your name on the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room.



Bible Challenge Complete!!!

On Sunday, October 5, 2008, the inaugural Bible Challenge group at CGUCC will be meeting for the final time to celebrate their achievement of reading the entire Bible in one year! Congratulations to all those who took the challenge and committed themselves to reading the scriptures daily. Those who wish to begin the challenge for themselves will still be able to find the reading plan and study guide questions online at www.cgucc.org. Just click on the "Bible Challenge" header on the left column of the home page and you will be ready to start your own biblical adventure. Please contact Rev. Bryan if you are interested in being part of a new Bible Challenge discussion group.



A Call for Liturgists and Worship Leaders

As members of Christ's church, we are all ministers in the faith. As ministers, we are each called to share our gifts and participate in worship in a variety of ways. If you would like to participate as a liturgist and worship leader on Sunday mornings, please sign-up on the sheet in the Gathering Room or e-mail Rev. Bryan at olsonbw@hotmail.com. Thank you!



Finance Team Needs Assistance

The Finance Team is looking for two or three new volunteers to help count the offering following worship on Sunday mornings. Counters would need to be available one or two Sundays each month. Please contact **Bruce Fiedler**, Church Treasurer, if you are interested in assisting with this ministry.



**OFFERING
COUNTERS**

Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, October 5

World Communion Sunday Neighbors in Need Offering

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Adult Education
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Bible Challenge
Small Group Discussion

Sunday, October 12

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Adult Education
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
2:00 p.m. Crop Walk

Sunday, October 19

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

Sunday, October 26

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

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Each of us can make a difference in the fight to end world hunger. How will you help this year? Will you participate in the CROP walk yourself? Will you sponsor a walker? Will you volunteer at the local food shelf or work a shift at Feed My Starving Children? What is Christ calling you to do to help make sure all people are fed? Think about it! Pray about it! See you in worship!

Peace,
Rev. Bryan



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/cquccyouth>

YOUTH Events Calendar

October 10, Friday
Music Builds Tour

October 17-19, Conference
Youth Event

CGUCC to Host Annual C.R.O.P. Walk

The annual South Washington County **C.R.O.P.** (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk will take place on **Sunday, October 12, 2008** (2-4 p.m.) in Old Cottage Grove. Registration for the walk will take place at Cottage Grove U.C.C. along with an Opening Ceremony and post-walk refreshments.

The C.R.O.P. Walk raises much-needed money for Church World Service, an international hunger and disaster relief organization, as well as Friends in Need, our local food shelf in South Washington County. This is an ecumenical community event that brings people together from all "walks" of life to "walk" for those in need. Last year, 140 walkers, representing 15 faith communities from South Washington County helped raise over \$14,000 to alleviate hunger in our communities and throughout the world. Our goal is to raise over \$20,000 this year!

All members of CGUCC are asked to prayerfully consider whether they can walk in this event, sponsor a walker with a financial donation, or both. How can you help? To sign up to be a walker, please see our C.R.O.P. Recruiter, Doreen Barta, before or after worship over the next few weeks to get your donation form and registration materials. We also need volunteers to serve as stewards on the day of the walk. Stewards will be responsible for greeting walkers and helping them find their registration tables in the Gathering Room as well as setting up and serving refreshments following the race. If you would like to serve as a C.R.O.P. Steward, please contact Rev. Bryan.



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.

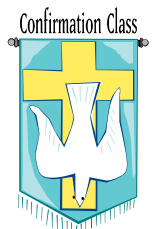
Conference Youth Events are an excellent opportunity for U.C.C. youth throughout the state of Minnesota to gather together for a time of faith-building, fellowship and fun. Youth participate in a variety of different activities throughout the weekend, including creative and thematic workshops, recreational 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!

Confirmation

Confirmation students and mentors will gather for their first class session on **Saturday, October 4th** from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. The session is entitled, "**The Church: God, Ours, Mine!**" – an exploration of how the church relates to our daily lives.





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.

OCTOBER

- 1 - Carl Manke
Craig Meyer
Marcus Cherry
- 2 - Benjamin Ratzlaff
Louis Janicek
Marshall Janicek
- 3 - Al Gobel
Doug Nelson
- 5 - Bud Bloomquist
Carma Wilkinson
Bruce Sorensen
- 6 - Bud Kieffer
Chris Miller
Riley Utsch
- 8 - Erik Eshom
- 9 - Butch Pribnow
- 10 - Joyce Biscoe
- 11 - Tammy Brown
- 12 - Ron Bonnevier
- 15 - Don Wellck
- 16 - Tim Bloomquist
- 17 - Karen Schmidt
- 18 - Karin Manning
Don Biscoe
- 21 - Matthew Mohrlant
- 23 - Julie Christianson
- 25 - Stacy Meyer
- 26 - Bob Howard
- 29 - Amy Weiby
- 29 - Colton Rabe
- 30 - Jackie Mohrlant
John Palmer
Jenni Huber
Brenna Fritze
- 31 - Breeanna Marty

New Baby Announcement

Chris and Emily Spicer announce the arrival of their son, Joel Richard Spicer, born on September 26th, at 29 weeks 2 days gestation, and weighing just 2 pounds and 13 ounces. Joel seems to be doing well, but will be at Children's Hospital for a number of weeks. Emily was well enough to go home on Monday, September 29.



Proud grandparents are Dick and Karen Spicer, great-grandparents are Red and Lucy Spicer.

If you would like to follow Joel's progress, Emily and Chris have established a web site at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/emilyspicer>. You are invited to visit and sign their guest book.

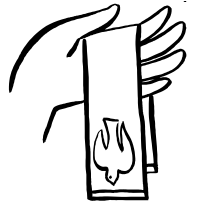
Imagine Another World Is Possible

This Sunday, October 5, we will be receiving the Neighbors in Need offering, which supports the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Please give as generously as you are able!



Shower of Stoles

Community U.C.C. in St. Paul Park will be hosting the "Shower of Stoles" at their church until October 19, 2008. The "Shower of Stoles" is a selected collection of actual liturgical stoles representing the lives of GLBT clergy who have either had their ordination status rescinded or given it up voluntarily due to discrimination they have encountered regarding their sexual orientation. These stoles bear witness to the huge loss of leadership that the church (27 denominations) has brought upon itself by excluding dedicated and able people. Anyone wanting to view the stoles should call the church first for the best time to come.



Big Thanks to Bill Larsen

The interview with long-time members of the church which was shown on Anniversary Sunday, August 24, was created by our own member Bill Larsen. Disks of the interview are available from the church office. Thank you, Bill, for a job well done!



Lifespan of Highway Litter

Item.....	Decomposition Time
Glass Bottle.....	Approx. 1 Million Years
Plastic 6-Pack Cover.....	450 Years
Aluminum Can.....	200-500 Years
Rubber Boot Sole.....	50-80 Years
Leather.....	Up to 50 Years
Nylon Fabric.....	30-40 Years
Plastic Film Container.....	20-30 Years
Painted Wooden Stake.....	13 Years
Plastic-Coated Paper.....	5 Years
Wool Clothing.....	1-5 Years
Cigarette Butt.....	1-5 Years
Cotton Rag.....	1-5 Years
Orange or Banana Peel.....	2-5 Weeks



Watch for the opportunity to pick up litter on the road by our church.

Many, Many Thanks!

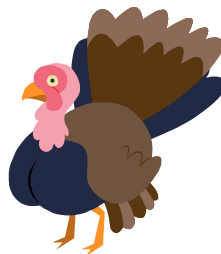
Thank you's are in order for so many. For your cards, notes, phone calls, and concern for me while I had my hand surgeries, thank you! For your patience while I was away and while I catch up, thank you! To Sue Brown, Chris Miller, Ron Bonnevier, and Bev and Bud Gross who worked in the office and put out the bulletins and Cross Connections, thank you! To the Farmers' Market Team and friends who covered my job at the market so I could take time away to recuperate, thank you! Partnering in ministry among you is a blessing, as I receive so much. Thank you!

Becky Graff
Administrative Assistant



Turkey Dinner Wrap

A big thank you goes to everyone who helped make the turkey dinner a success! A special thank you goes Donna Perkins who chaired the event with the help of John Perkins.



The event started long before the dinner was served on Sunday with the phone committee coordinating the volunteers. The advertising committee posted the event in the community, and the shopping was done by Joyce and Jerry Biscoe. On Friday the turkeys were prepared, and Saturday was busy with many volunteers peeling the vegetables, chopping the giblets, mixing the dressing and decorating the dining room.

Sunday started out at 4:45 a.m. with the Weiby and Wohler families cooking squash. There were thirty-two turkeys roasted by 9:00 a.m. Thanks to Wally Fritze who roasted many of those turkeys. The take-out room ran smoothly and the dining room crew did a fantastic job. Much appreciation goes to those who stayed after the dinner to clean and put the church back in order. The beautiful fall decorations were arranged by Joan Goebel and Donna Perkins.

It takes many people to make this dinner happen. A great big THANKS goes to all who helped in some way.

Tickets Sales:

5 Children
9 Youth
314 Adults
230 Take Out
558 Total Dinners

Communications and Advertising Committee

Remember When?

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

Remember in 1912, when they started the Ladies' Aid? Those women were always so busy in the church. They could cook big meals and they would all get together to clean the church. The Ladies' Aid meetings were held in the homes in those days. If you were unable to help clean the church, you had to give a dollar.



Cross Connection

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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
October 10	October 15
October 27	November 1
November 10	November 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

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12:00 noon

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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!

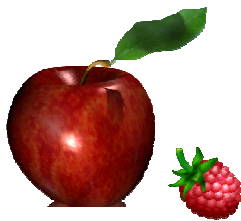
Final Farmers' Market

of the Season

Thursday, October 9

CGUCC Parking Lot

3:30—6:30 p.m.



**Fruits, Vegetables, Herbs, Breads, Jams, Jellies, Honey,
Pickles, Crafts**

Hot Dogs, Brats, Cookies, Beverages, Bake Sale

Eat Healthy—Buy Local

