



CROSS CONNECTION

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



What's Happening at CGUCC??



*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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Summer Sunday School

June 1—July 27, 9:00 a.m. through Worship time
Kids from Preschool through going-into 4th Grade
Children will have their own special time during the
summer while parents attend Worship. Come,
bring your friends, and enjoy the summer in "God's
Big Backyard." (There will be no Sunday School on
July 6.)



Strawberry Days

Our church will have a float in the Strawberry Days
parade in Cottage Grove on June 14. If you would like
to help with the float or be part of the parade, please
call Jerry Biscoe at (715) 262-3587.

2008 Farmers' Market

This year's Farmers' Market is June 19-October
9, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. each Thursday. There will be
vendors selling their goods, children's activities
each week during the summer, CGUCC folks selling
food, baked and canned goods, and ice cream from
the Caring and Sharing Team on the last Thursday
of each month. Come and join the fun!!



Twins Game and Grill Out

Sunday, June 22, we will be grilling brats,
burgers, and hot dogs in the church parking
lot immediately following worship, and then
heading to the Metrodome to watch the Min-
nesota Twins take on the Arizona Diamond-
backs at 1 p.m. Tickets for the game are just
\$12!!! Reserve your tickets by June 8 by e-
mailing Rev. Bryan at olsonbw@hotmail.com
or by signing up at the Welcome Table in the
church Gathering Room.

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, Bill & Isabel Board, Judy & Ron Bonnevier, Bill Bot-hun, Beth Davies, Fiedler Family at the death of Don Fiedler on 4/20/08, Bob Fox, Ron & Joyce Fries, Don Hanson, Sue Howard, Delores Janke, Leona Perkins, Lucy Spicer, Jean Stoker, families facing unemployment issues, Rev. Bryan Olson & our church during this time of transition.

Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Alan Gausman (Russ Gausman's brother); Todd & Jean Herbst (Jeff & Krisi Jacobs' friends); Trygg Heustad (3-yr-old relative of Russ Gausman); Ken & Nora Krahn (missionaries); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn's Heschke's daughter); Ron Lindeman (Diane Davies' cousin); Sharon Matzke (Bette Meyer's friend); Patti Mogren; Lynsay Nieman (Burt & Doris's granddaughter); Doris Rosenfelt (Kathy Biscoe's mother); Amy Stoker (Jim & Jean's daughter); Nick (husband of Stoker's granddaughter); Cayel (2-yr-old relative of Becky Graff); our soldiers around the world.



Over the past few months our nation and our world have been ravaged by natural disasters. Cyclones, earthquakes, tornadoes, and wildfires have left millions of people without food, fuel, or shelter. In the wake of these devastations, many of us want to reach out and help our neighbors in need but do not know how. Below are a few practical ways we can put our hands and hearts to work for Christ in a practical way to help the survivors of these natural disasters.

Pray – The first step we can take to help rebuild hope in hard hit communities is to pray for the families of victims and the survivors of the recent disasters.

Donate – We can contribute with financial gifts or by donating relief supplies. To ensure that our financial and material gifts get to the people who need them most, we must be sure to give to a reputable, well-established organization. A few of these organizations are listed below:

United Church of Christ Disaster Relief Fund
(www.ucc.org/disaster)

American Red Cross (www.redcross.org)

Church World Service (www.churchworldservice.org)

Give Blood – We can literally save a life by giving blood. When disaster occurs at home or abroad, donating to our local blood banks will help keep national and international blood supplies stocked and ready for transfer to wherever they are needed. To find out how to give blood in the Cottage Grove area, go to www.redcross.org.

Go Volunteer - We can help by going as a volunteer to assist with relief efforts. To ensure our time and skills will be best utilized, however, it is important to go with an organized agency. The Disaster News Network reports, "It may be compassionate, but it's not helpful to show up without being affiliated with an organization that's already officially approved." If we just show up unannounced we may actually hinder the relief efforts by getting in the way. It is best to coordinate a group effort and call ahead to establish a date and time to volunteer.

With tornadoes touching down recently in Coon Rapids and Hugo, MN, there will be plenty of opportunities to help our neighbors in the Twin Cities with their clean-up and rebuilding efforts. If you would like to participate with the church in a disaster relief effort in the Metro area, please contact the church office so we can coordinate a volunteer opportunity.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the victims of these recent natural disasters. Let us now be prayerful about how God is calling us to help in the aftermath. Blessings to you all. See you in worship.

Peace,
Rev. Bryan

Women's Fellowship on Thursday, June 19

Women's Fellowship will be meeting on Thursday, June 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Lounge. Bev Gross will be the hostess. On the agenda will be discussion regarding holding a food safety training for faith-based organizations, the pressure system recently installed by John Perkins, and other items. Anyone involved with food preparation at the church is encouraged to attend to help decide about having training.



Save Your Egg Cartons

Gratitude Group is in need of egg cartons both paper and Styrofoam, for use in the Kids' Korner at the Farmers' Market. Please bring the cartons to church and place them on the shelf above the coat rack in the gathering room. Thanks!



Have You Turned In Your Capital Campaign Pledge Card?

If you haven't turned in your Capital Campaign Pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. We would like to receive your pledge card back even if you feel you cannot pledge anything at this time. This will then prevent us from giving our members who have not pledged a follow-up phone call.



CGUCC to Start Electronic Giving

The church has made an agreement to work with VANCO Services, Inc. to electronically transfer your donations to the church. You can have a weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or one time deposit. The electronic transfers can be for your general fund as well as your capital campaign contribution. What a great way to continue to contribute to the church during the up-coming summer months!!!
For more information and/or an authorization form please see Bruce Fiedler.



Pastor on Vacation

Rev. Bryan Olson will be on vacation from June 2 through June 9. If you have a pastoral emergency, you may call Rev. Janet Shannon from Community U.C.C. at their church at (651) 459-2543, or on Rev. Shannon's cell phone at (612) 272-6226.



On Vacation

I will be out of town on vacation from Thursday, June 5 through Wednesday, June 12. As Rev. Bryan will be gone much of the same time, there will be someone in the office to answer the telephone most mornings, but if you need work done in the office, it will need to wait until I return.



Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, June 1

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

Sunday, June 8

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

Sunday, June 15

Graduate Recognition

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

Sunday, June 22

9:00 a.m. Summer Worship with Baptisms
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Tailgate Party
12:00 p.m. Twins Game
3:00 p.m. Eagle Scout Ceremony

Sunday, June 29

9:00 a.m. Summer Worship with Baptism
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship



Y.A.H.O.O.

(Youth Aspiring to Help Out Others)

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

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>

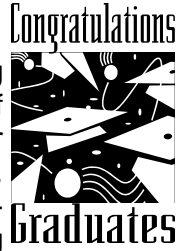
YOUTH Events Calendar

July 23-28—National Youth Event in Knoxville, TN

Graduate Recognition

Cottage Grove U.C.C. will be recognizing and honoring our High School and College graduates during the service of worship on **Sunday, June 15, 2008**. If you or someone in your family is graduating this year, please inform Becky or Rev. Bryan in the church office so that we can make sure all graduates from CGUCC are recognized for their outstanding achievement.

In addition, if you are a graduate and would like to offer some "words of wisdom" or "life lessons" to our upcoming grads, please submit them in writing to the church office by Thursday, June 12, 2008, for use in the recognition service on June 15th.



Register for Cottage Grove Area Sports Camp

Our congregation, along with St. Luke's Lutheran and St. Rita's Catholic Church, will be hosting the second annual Cottage Grove Area Sports Camp on August 11-14, 2008. **Lamar Park** will be the host site for this camp. The camp is specifically designed to help children in K-6th grade to strengthen their faith as well as their athletic abilities. The camp is run entirely by church staff members and volunteers from the three Cottage Grove congregations. Adult chaperones from each congregation will be needed to provide supervision.



Cost of the camp is \$40 per child. *Each child that registers for the CG Sports Camp will get a free ticket to the Minnesota Twins game on Saturday, August 16, 2008, at 2 p.m.* Parents and friends can purchase additional tickets to the game for just \$12. Partial camp scholarships are available upon request. To secure your child's spot in the Sports Camp, please complete the pre-registration form below and return it to the church office by **July 1, 2008**. Please contact Rev. Bryan if you have questions about the camp or how to register.

Want to see a slideshow from last year's sports camp? Then logon to the CGUCC website at www.cgucc.org and click on Sport Camp Slideshow.

Sports Camp Pre-registration Form

Participant Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Grade: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail (optional): _____

Interests (check all that apply):

Basketball Soccer Softball Arts/Crafts

Cheerleading/Dance Other _____

“Pick me . . . Pick me . . . Pick me!!!”

Service as understood by Shrek's favorite Donkey

Continuing our discussion of spiritual gifts, let's take a look at the gift of **COMPASSION**. This definition is taken from Spirit Gifts One Spirit, Many Gifts by Patricia D. Brown. “Tabitha was a disciple who had the gift of compassion. We learn in Acts 9:36 that throughout her hometown of Joppa she ‘was devoted to good works and acts of charity.’ The gift of compassion enabled her to have genuine empathy for others. She joyfully translated her compassion into good works. Her deeds of kindness reflect God's love. Like Tabitha, persons with the gift of compassion have a special ability to work with the afflicted, poor, and abused. They care for the ‘least of these,’ as Jesus taught his followers in Matthew 25:42-45.”

MERCY is another name for the gift of **COMPASSION**. In today's words, it is the ability to empathize with others and then stand in their shoes and act in ways to help them on their journey. Mother Teresa is an exceptional example of a person with the gift of compassion.

People with this gift, however, do not have to be a Mother Teresa. We can use this gift by responding to those around us in loving and caring ways. Here are a few opportunities available to us at CGUCC:

1. Care provider for the elderly
2. Mentoring
3. Elder care drivers
4. Participate in the Crop Walk
5. Help out the Friends in Need Food Shelf
6. Organize health ministries
7. Take part in local mission opportunities
8. Help out the Stone Soup Thrift Shop

I'm sure as you read this definition, leaders within our own community come to mind for you that have this spiritual gift. Our Caring and Sharing Team is made up of people using their gift of compassion or mercy for the good of our community.

TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Caring & Sharing Team

This team is led by Bette Meyer. Their mission is to give support and encouragement to members of our congregation and members of the greater community through making and sending greeting cards. I know these gals are experiencing the joy of helping others. They make really beautiful cards that certainly make the day of those on the receiving end. The Sunday School and others benefit from the generosity of this group.

Is compassion one of your spiritual gifts? Do you have talents that would lend themselves to good use in this area? If you'd like to become involved in fulfilling the body of Christ on the Caring and Sharing Team, contact Bette Meyer. (Her contact information can be found in the church directory.)

MORE TO COME...

Diane Davies, Gifts Coordinator



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.

JUNE

- 1 - Krisi Jacobs
Donna Ryan
- 4 - Roberta Arntzen
Alexis Resendez
Patty Sorensen
- 5 - Anna-Marie Larsen
Mike Roberts
- 6 - Jason Ernster
Tim Power
- 7 - Karen Banazewski
- 9 - Deidra Murr
- 10 - Emily Christianson
Braden Hanson
- 11 - Katie Weiby
- 12 - Matthew Lindeman
Tim Mohrlant
Kathy Warner
- 14 - Greg Eshom
- 18 - Danyll Mills
- 20 - Emily Biscoe
- 21 - Claude Schmuki
- 22 - Derek Rasmussen
- 25 - Jessica Marty
- 26 - Corrie Kropelnicki
Susan Weiby
- 27 - Amanda Marty
- 29 - Jean Bloomquist
Ira Mitchell IV
Liz Youngquist
- 30 - Troy Madsen
Bryan Olson
Joan Thyren

Member Helping Member Directory

Would you like to be able to call a church member when you need to hire someone for a task around your house, garage, or business? Steve Miller has come up with the idea of compiling our own members' business directory, listing who does what within the congregation, so if you need work done, you know who you can call. Good idea? If you would like to be listed, please talk with Steve after worship, or call him at 651-436-3007.

CALENDAR

The latest copy of the June calendar is on the church web site at www.cgucc.org.

Thank You, Danyll

Sunday School Superintendent Danyll Mills has retired her position as of May 18. Danyll began serving as Superintendent three years ago. We appreciate all the love, dedication, and hard work Danyll has graced the Sunday School with over these last three years, and we wish her well as she moves into other areas of service at CGUCC.



Sunday School Duties Now Shared

Folks have determined that it will take three people to fill Danyll Mills' shoes as Sunday School Superintendent, so Deb Hanson, Brenda Herrmann, and BobbiJo Janicek will take on the responsibilities beginning this summer. Thank you, Friends, for your willingness to serve the children of this church.



Many Thanks

Thank you to all who helped with the family picnic on May 18th: Brenda Herrmann, Bobbi-Jo Janicek, Tammy Brown, Candy Resendez, Stacy Meyer, Bonngard's' Family Meats, those who cooked, those who donated baked goods and those who donated candy, and all the others who worked quietly behind the scenes. Thanks! It was a wonderful gathering!



More Thanks

To John Perkins, Jerry Biscoe, Jerry Stratton, and to those of you work so diligently on the building and grounds, THANKS. The lawn looks beautiful, and little improvements keep appearing in the building.

Thanks from Becky and Bryan in the Office

To Women's Fellowship for purchasing, the Design and Decorating Team for selecting, and John Perkins for hanging the very welcome blinds in the administrative offices.

Thanks for Office Help

The office runs as smoothly as it does thanks to the help of many volunteers: Bev and Bud Gross who mail the Cross Connection, Sandy Rabe who maintains the formal church membership books, and the many faithful who come when they are needed to help in so many ways. You are appreciated!

Emily Hartung's Birthday

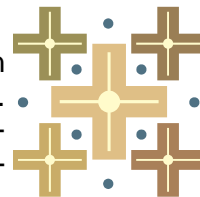
The family of Emily Hartung (*former member of CGUCC*) invites you to join her in celebrating her 90th birthday at an Open House on Sunday, June 15, from 1-4 p.m. at the Woodbury United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall 7465 Steepleview Road. No presents please, your presence and/or a card are the true gift.



Diane Hartung

Father's Day Christian Festival

Whirlwind Ministries of Cottage Grove is sponsoring a Christian Festival on Father's Day, June 15 at Kingston Park from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The activities include various styles of Christian music, word services, healing tents, carnival rides, and food vendors. See poster on bulletin board for more information.



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

Back issues available on
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www.cgucc.org

Deadline	Issue Date
June 10	June 15
June 25	July 1
July 10	July 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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**Deb Hanson, Brenda
Herrmann, BobbiJo Janicek**,
Sunday School Team

Sheri Wohlers, Custodian
sherileewohlers@msn.com

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

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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!

STOP!!

CGUCC 150th Anniversary Celebration August 23-24, 2008



Celebration!

Plans for the church's 150th Anniversary Party are moving right along. Banners are being made, keepsakes are being ordered, caterers are being booked, a car show is being organized, and the Anniversary Team is just getting warmed up! Keep watching for details, and mark your calendar for the weekend of August 23-24.

LET'S PARTY!!

