



CROSS CONNECTION

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



CGUCC 150th Anniversary Celebration

August 23-24, 2008

All-Church Picture
Banner & Keepsakes
Picnic, Catered Dinner
Car Show
Special Worship



Keep watching for more details, and mark
your calendar for the weekend of August 23-24.

LET'S PARTY!!



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

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Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

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Y.A.H.O.O.'S to Hang at Valleyfair

The Y.A.H.O.O. youth group will be heading to Valleyfair Amusement Park on Tuesday, July 15, 2008, for a day of roller coasters, rides, and water park fun! All youth (entering 7th grade through graduated high school seniors) are invited to spend the day at Valleyfair and bring their friends. Young adult and adult chaperones are also invited and encouraged to join the fun! The cost of the trip is \$30 per person for ticket and transportation. If we have a group of 15 or more we can get special discount pricing so get on the horn and call your family, friends, and relatives and ask them to come along!

To arrange for tickets and transportation, please **RSVP** for this event with Rev. Bryan by no later than **July 2, 2008**. You may e-mail him at olsonbw@hotmail.com, call him at 651-261-7125, or sign-up on the Valleyfair sheet in the church Gathering Room. Come to meet new friends, hang with old friends, and ride some sweet rides!!!



VALLEYFAIR

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, Bill Bothun, Beth Davies, Bob Fox, Ron & Joyce Fries, Don Hanson, Delores Janke, Doris and Burt Nieman and family on the death of their granddaughter Lynsay, Leona Perkins, Lucy Spicer, 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); Charis Hallen (Doreen Barta's son-in-law); 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); Patti Mogren; Amy Stoker (Jim & Jean's daughter); Nick (husband of Stoker's granddaughter); Midge Youngquist's grandmother; our soldiers around the world; all victims of floods, tornados, and other natural disasters.



In his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul writes eloquently about the point, purpose, and power of baptism. He describes the sacrament of baptism as an act of dying with Christ so that, like Christ, we may one day experience our own resurrections. In the act of baptism, water becomes both a symbol of death and new life. The waters of baptism serve two purposes; to drown our old life of sin and to cleanse us of that sin in preparation for our resurrection.

It is amazing for me to think of the millions of Christians around the world who are experiencing an "ordinary resurrection" at this very moment thanks to the baptism they received years ago. What do I mean by ordinary? I mean something that happens routinely, every day, not once-in-a-lifetime. The waters of baptism never stop flowing over us, around us, and through us. Every day the waters of baptism are at work putting our sins to death and raising us to new life. Just ask the father who chooses to stay home and take care of his children instead of going out to get loaded with his buddies. He is being washed by the waters. Or how about the young woman who can finally look at herself in the mirror and see the beautiful person she is instead of the imperfect object our culture has labeled her to be. She is being lifted out of the waters and into new life.

Most of us do not think about our baptisms that often, and that's a shame. I think we would find more hope if we took the time to reflect on the things God is doing to set our lives right each day instead of dwelling on those parts of ourselves that are still cast in the shadow of sin. We need to celebrate our "ordinary resurrections." Unfortunately, however, there will be no celebrations until we are able to recognize and acknowledge where and how the waters of baptism are acting upon our lives.

Summer is a great time to remember our baptisms. Almost all of us at one time or another this season will find ourselves in a lake, river, swimming pool, or bath tub. When you have the opportunity, I invite you to immerse yourself in the water. Be still and let it flow over and around you. At some point, let your entire body, including your head, fall below the surface of the water... and wait. Open your eyes underneath the water and see what you can see. Listen and absorb what you can hear. After a few seconds, raise your head and then your body completely out of the water and experience the feeling of release that comes with it. That freedom you feel when you emerge from the water is the power of God's love at work.

It is hard to believe sometimes but God's love for us is so strong that each and every time sin encroaches on our lives God is there to put that sin to death and cleanse us of all unrighteousness so that we emerge washed and ready to live the free and good life God wants us to live. God's promise to us through baptism is to love us every day in every way. In return, we promise to live a life free of the chains of sin that Christ released us from and to love God with all of our being. The good news for today is that God is working to bring us to new life. Our job is to recognize and live into those ordinary resurrections. See you in worship!

Peace,
Rev. Bryan

Summer Sunday School

June 1—July 27, 9:00 a.m. through Worship time

Kids from preschool through going-into 4th grade 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." (No Sunday School on July 6)



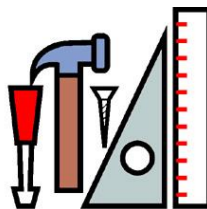
Sundae Sundays at CGUCC

We have a tradition in this church of having a special Sunday during each of the summer months when we serve ice cream sundaes and other treats. The free will offering from these "Sundae Sundays" goes to support our local Friends in Need Food Shelf. The area food shelves are serving record numbers of families during these difficult economic times, and it's extra hard when children are not receiving breakfasts and lunches at school during the summer. Please give generously for a good cause when you enjoy your ice cream on July 20, and August 17. Thanks for your support, and thanks to Judy and Ron Bonnevier for coordinating this effort.



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 436-3007.



We have our first listings:

Ken Huber, Home Building Services Inc., does architectural design, plans for new homes, additions, remodeling, kitchens and bathrooms. Ken can be reached at (651)459-7545, or at homebuildings@aol.com.

Brad Huber, B.M.H. Construction, does new home construction, remodeling, additions, and kitchen and bath updating. Brad can be reached at (651) 459-7545, or at homebuildings@aol.com.

Bill Larsen, Larsen Films, does video production of events, photo montages, and other video services. Bill can be reached at (651) 270-2730, or check him out at www.larsenfilms.com.

May we list you? Please call Steve or the church office to list your business.

A Fun Day at the Dome

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Cottage Grove U.C.C. Day at the Metrodome on Sunday, June 22, 2008. More than 30 people gathered for the grill out and ball game. A lot of fun was had by all as we witnessed a Minnesota Twins victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks. Special thanks to Bonngard's Family Meats for providing all of the hamburgers, hot dogs, and buns for the grill out.

If you missed the festivities last weekend and would like to be part of a Twins outing this year, there are a couple of other opportunities. There will be an OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) fundraiser at the dome on Saturday, August 2, 2008, when the Twins will take on the Cleveland Indians. Tickets for that game are \$17 each with \$5 from each ticket going to OCWM. Also, the faith communities in South Washington County will be spending a day at the dome on Saturday, August 16, 2008, when the Twins will take on the Seattle Mariners. Tickets for that game are just \$12. If you are interested in attending one or both of these games, please contact Rev. Bryan by July 15, 2008. He is coordinating both events.



Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, July 6

9:00 a.m. Summer Worship
NO Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

Sunday, July 13

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

Corn Booth Time Is Approaching Fast

There are about five spots left on the schedule for working at the corn booth at the Washington County Fair on July 30-August 3. If you can spare a few hours to help at the fair, please call John Perkins at (651) 459-8665. Thanks!





1858

*Cottage Grove
United Church of Christ
7008 Lamar Avenue, Cottage Grove
150 Years and Still Going Strong*



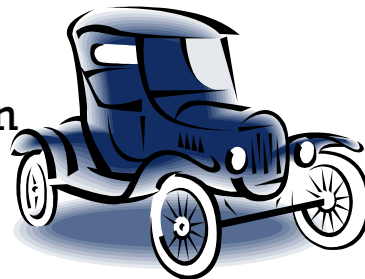
2008

CELEBRATE OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL WITH US
ON AUGUST 23, 2008

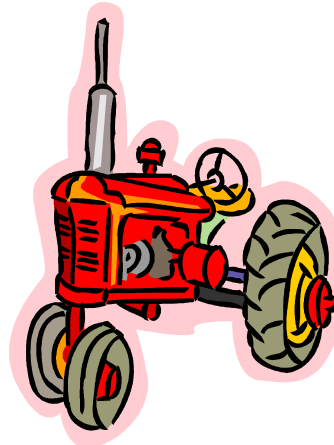
**150 Years of
Horsepower Show**

- Bring your horsepower from 1858 - 2008:
cars, trucks, tractors, steam engines, etc.
- People's Choice Awards for top 5
 - Pastor's Best of Show Award

Registration: 10:00 a.m. - noon
Show: Noon - 3:00 p.m.
Awards at 3:00 p.m.



To pre-register to show your vehicle:
Please call John Greenwell
At 651-459-4904



There will also be:

- Food
- Tours of our 1858
and 2008 churches
- Music
- Crafts
- And more.....





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.

JULY

- 2 - Emma Bonngard
Elsie Jacobs
Allison Resendez
Bob Resendez
- 4 - Dan Mathison
- 5 - Doris Nieman
John Smith
- 10 - Ann Weber
- 15 - Burton Nieman
- 16 - Rob Fritze
Karen Pribnow
- 17 - Karly Howard
- 19 - Bev Gross
Lisa Wohlers
- 21 - Randall Arntzen
- 22 - Ryan Asuncion
- 24 - Midge Youngquist
- 25 - Ryan Gottfried
- 27 - Dakota Smith
- 28 - Barb Arntzen
Kyle Marty
- 29 - Bud Gross
- 30 - Jennifer Stanger



NYE Gathering

All youth and adults attending this summer's U.C.C. National Youth Event are asked to attend a special gathering on **Wednesday, July 9, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** at the church. Final details and information about the trip will be shared at this gathering. We will also share a meal together and get to know one another better before we leave on our trip on July 23rd. It is important that all participants be in attendance. Parents of youth participants are also welcome to attend. Please contact Rev. Bryan if you will be unable to make this gathering.



Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life of the Cottage Grove Area — a 12-hour walk to celebrate survivors of cancer, remember those who have died from cancer and raise funds for cancer research — will take place from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday, July 11-12, at the Cottage Grove Junior High School track, County Road 19 and Indian Blvd. Everyone is invited to cheer for survivors and teams at the opening ceremony at 6 p.m. and stay for activities for the whole family. For details, call Relay chair Natalie Seim at (651) 459-0432 or e-mail seims@prodigy.net.



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, from 9-11:30 a.m. each day. **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. A registration form will be mailed to each Sunday School family, but if you need another form, they are available on the church web page, or call the church office. 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.

Ice Cream Social at Community UCC

Thursday, July 24, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., Community U.C.C. in St. Paul Park is having their annual Ice Cream Social. So after you have your hot dog or brat at the Farmers' Market, head on over to Community U.C.C. for your ice cream.



Now Save Your Plastic Egg Cartons

Gratitude Group wants to thank you for your toilet tissue and paper towel rolls and egg cartons. Now their only remaining need is for styrofoam egg cartons 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!



Calling All Crafters

The 150th Anniversary Team is looking for crafters to share their talents at the 150 Years of Horsepower Show on Saturday, August 23rd. Any crafts, new or old, for youth or adults, are welcome. If you are willing to demonstrate as you work on a project, teach a small project, or display some of your work, please contact Karen Greenwell (651-459-4904) or Karen Pribnow (651-436-5457).



Strawberry Days Parade

A special thank to Jerry Biscoe for all his hard work in making our float one big success. It was beautiful! Thanks go to Whispering Gardens who supplied the flowers and decorations for the float. The wagon was full of riders, and there were many walking to hand out flyers, farmers' market cards, and candy to the crowd. Another thank you to Kristina Pribnow and Gina Gross who carried the heavy 150th Anniversary banner all the way, in front of the float. Way to go!



Dear Church,

Thank you for all of your prayers! It means alot! I go to church every Sunday here at basic training! I also have a prayer group too! They have a great song here that I want to bring to our church. It's called "Awesome God!" It brings the Spirit out in all of us soldiers! I pray for the whole community every night! I really found God here! It's so amazing! Well I'll see all of you August 17th!

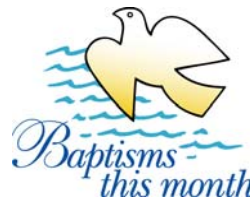


God bless you all,
Always, Daniel PV2 Bies

Sacrament of Baptism

In June we welcomed four children into the Body of Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

- Audrey Jada Miller, 6 months old, daughter of Erin Melissa Arellano and Eric Anthony Miller
- Kaden James Miller, 5 years old, son of Mindy Diane Sheedy and Eric Anthony Miller
- Austin James Wikman, a year old, son of Nichole Lee Bloomquist and James Jeremy Wikman
(These three children are all the great-grandchildren of Jean and Bud Bloomquist.)
- Ava Rae Youngquist, 4-month-old daughter of Allyson and Tom Youngquist, granddaughter of Midge Youngquist



Joined in Marriage

Jared Daggit and Katie Paulson were married at CGUCC on Saturday, June 7. Jared is the grandson of Sandy Rabe. Rev. Obid Hofland officiated at the ceremony. Congratulations to the newlyweds, and to their proud grandmother.



Celebration of Life for Lynsay Nieman

The funeral service for Lynsay Nieman, granddaughter of Doris and Burt Nieman, was held at CGUCC on Friday, June 27. Rev. Bryan Olson co-officiated and Women's Fellowship provided the luncheon following the service. We extend our sympathies to the entire Nieman family.



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Church of Christ**
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
July 10	July 15
July 25	August 1
August 11	August 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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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!!

Farmers' Market

CGUCC Parking Lot

Thursdays from 3:30—6:30 p.m.

It's been a cold, wet spring so the vegetables are slow in coming in, but soon we'll have lots for your summer table.

Vegetables, Fruits, Herbs, Breads
Jams, Jellies, Preserves, Pickles, Popcorn
Flowers, Plants, Crafts
Hot Dogs, Brats, Cookies, Beverages
Bake Sale, Ice Cream
Children's Activities, Drawings

Eat Healthy—Buy Local

