



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
Published Semi-Monthly
August 15, 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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of Christ**
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CGUCC 150th Anniversary Celebration

August 23-24, 2008

1858—2008 . . . 150 Years and Still Going Strong

Saturday, August 23, 150 Years of Horsepower Show

10:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.



***Horsepower from 1858-2008: cars, trucks, tractors, steam engines, etc.
Tours of our 1858 and 2008 Church Buildings
Trolley Shuttle from Church to Show, Covered Wagon of Food,
Crafts***

Sunday, August 24, Special Worship Service and Catered Luncheon

10:15 a.m.

***Special guests, lots of special music, video of
church history***

***There will be interviews with long-time church mem-
bers, commemorative plates, mugs, and bells for sale,
new CD by JC Rock, placemats with a time-line of the
church's history, and lots of great fellowship with
church family and friends, old and new.***



Farmers' Market

**CGUCC Parking Lot
Thursdays from 3:30—6:30 p.m.**

Vegetables, Herbs, Breads, Jams, Jellies, Honey, Pickles, Crafts
Hot Dogs, Brats, Cookies, Beverages, Bake Sale, Ice Cream
Children's Activities, Drawings
Eat Healthy—Buy Local

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, families facing unemployment issues, Rev. Bryan Olson & our church during this time of transition.

Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Patricia Clark (Doreen Barta's mother); Alan Gausman (Russ Gausman's brother); 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; David Rowe (Doreen Barta's uncle); Amy Stoker (Jim & Jean's daughter); Agnes Thyren (Gary Thyren's mother); Nick (husband of Stoker's granddaughter); Midge Youngquist's grandmother; our soldiers around the world; farmers in Southern Minnesota who have experienced flooding and loss of crops.



On Sunday morning, July 27, 2008, over 2800 youth and adults from the United Church of Christ, including 11 from Cottage Grove UCC, gathered in the Thompson-Boling Arena at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville to listen to Rev. John Thomas, President and General Minister of the UCC, speak about holding out for hope in the midst of a violent world. His message could not have been timelier. For at the same moment he was sharing those words at the UCC National Youth Event, just miles away, a lone gunman entered the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church and began shooting. His violent rampage left one man dead and many others injured. After the gunman's arrest he was asked why he committed such a heinous crime. His answer was basically that he hated the "liberal" theological beliefs of the Unitarian Church and wanted to shut them up for good.

The UCC as a denomination, much like the Unitarian Church, believes in a "progressive" theology and participates in evangelical and justice ministries based on the actions and teachings of Jesus that are found in the Bible. Jesus lived and worked with the poor, the oppressed, the sinners, and the saints. Jesus espoused radical new ideas about God and religion that upset the status quo and made people think about what they believed and why they believed it. His teachings opened the eyes of many to see the love of God in a new way. His teachings also frightened a lot of people, however, because they were seen as a threat to the established order in First Century Palestine. Jesus was preaching that God could be known and understood in a new way from what the religions of the day were teaching. Unfortunately, Jesus also paid the ultimate price for standing up to the religious extremists of his time and telling them that there is more than one way to honor and worship God.

As some of our young people witnessed firsthand in Knoxville, Tennessee, whenever a theology or belief system about God is taken to an extreme it can lead people away from faith and into fanaticism. When this occurs, people stop allowing their beliefs to shape the foundation of their living and instead turn their beliefs into an idol that must be worshipped and obeyed at all costs. This type of belief system steers people away from seeking new revelations about God and forces them to uphold a corrupted and outdated theology by any means necessary just to prove to themselves that they are "right" while everyone else is wrong.

In the wake of such a senseless tragedy in Knoxville it would have been easy for the youth of the UCC to despair and silence their own beliefs for fear of being targeted themselves. But instead of swallowing their prayers, they released them to God in a special vigil at NYE on behalf of all the people involved in the Unitarian Church shooting. During the vigil, a special prayer was offered by Megan Diesselhorst, a youth from Annandale, VA, that spoke boldly about ending extremism of all forms and staking our hope on God who is working to make all things good.

Megan prayed, "O God of Peace and Love, you have been with us on this journey of growth, discovery, and reflection. We are amazed at the signs that you have given to us to show us the way to a better life of love, creation, and harmony. We confess that we all have faults, differences, and doubts. As your children we ask for your forgiveness and guidance to heal our brokenness... As a generation that has been confronted by 9/11, the shootings at other schools and colleges, as well as war, we trust in your power and wisdom to lead us to create a world of peace and wholeness. We leave here inspired, and ready to love. In your name we pray. Amen."

Amen! See you in worship.
Peace,
Rev. Bryan

Last Chance for Luncheon Tickets

Our 150th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon will be held on August 24, 2008, at 12:00 noon at the church. Worship service that day will be at 10:15 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m. Tinucci's will cater the meal of baked chicken and accompaniments.



You will need to have a ticket for the luncheon.

Tickets are on sale in the Gathering Room after Worship Services on August 17. Because we need to order our meals from the caterer, you will need to order your tickets no later than August 17th. Luncheon tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children aged 12 and younger. If you cannot be at the church to buy your tickets, please call Karen Pribnow at (651) 436-5457, or Karen Greenwell at (651) 459-4904.

150th Anniversary Worship Leaders Wanted

On August 24, 2008, Cottage Grove U.C.C. will be commemorating its 150th Anniversary with a celebratory worship service. If you would like to help lead this service, please contact Pastor Bryan ASAP. You can speak with him on Sunday, August 17th or e-mail or call him on or before Monday, August 18th. There are plenty of opportunities for you to offer your gifts during worship that Sunday, so please contact Pastor Bryan today!



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).



Donate Your Veggies

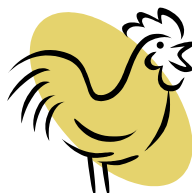
The Farmers' Market Team is setting up a vegetable booth at the Horsepower Show on Saturday, August 23, with all proceeds to go to the Capital Campaign. If you have vegetables to donate, please call Becky in the office or talk to Chris Miller to let the Team know you will be able to donate for the vegetable booth. Thanks!



Remember When?

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

Remember when Rev. Kock would come from the Cities to preach the German service? When it was German Sunday, we would go across the street to the Congregational English Church. They had peppy hymns and, of course, Alice Furber and Ray Bahe always played the violins.



Do you remember how they used to pick up the offering? We had a cloth bag attached to the end of a long stick. When the usher came to each church bench, he would just poke it in and you'd drop your money in. And if you didn't have much money, the minister got paid with a chicken.

Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, August 17

NYE Sunday
Sundae Sunday
9:00 a.m. Summer Worship
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:15 a.m. Bible Challenge
Small Group

Sunday, August 24

Anniversary Sunday
10:15 a.m. Summer Worship
12:00 Noon Anniversary Luncheon

Sunday, August 31

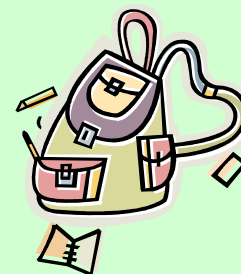
9:00 a.m. Summer Worship
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

Sunday, September 7

Rally Sunday

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

Back to School Supplies



Would you like to help some kids get supplies to start school off right? We know of a few kids who could really use your help to get what they need for fall. Please watch for the opportunity to contribute at the coffee bar for the next few Sundays, or donate a gift card for Target, or send a check marked "School Supplies" with your offering.

THANKS!!



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/cguccyouth>

YOUTH Events Calendar

Sept. 3, Wednesday, 6:00 pm
Confirmation 8

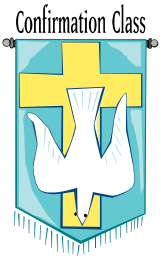
Sept. 3, Wednesday, 7:00 pm
Confirmation 9

Sept. 7, Sunday, 3:00 pm
Y.A.H.O.O. FEST

October 10, Friday
Music Builds Tour

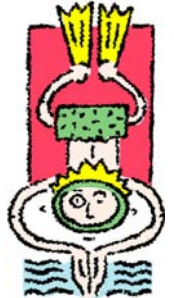
Confirmation Orientation Sessions

Orientation sessions for both 8th and 9th Grade Confirmation students will take place on **Wednesday, September 3**. **Confirmation 8** students will have their orientation session from **6:00-7:00 p.m.** with the **Confirmation 9** orientation to follow from **7:00-8:00 p.m.** New students are always welcome to join the Confirmation program. Please see Pastor Bryan if you are interested in participating in this two-year Christian Education program.



Y.A.H.O.O. Fest Returns – Pool Party Style

We will be kicking off the Y.A.H.O.O. year in style with a sweet pool party and picnic on **Sunday, September 7**, from **3:00-5:00 p.m.** There will be food, games, music, and prizes as we celebrate the beginning of another Y.A.H.O.O. year at Cottage Grove U.C.C. The Wilkinson Family (Alyssa, Bryce, Chase, Brian, and Carma) has generously agreed to host this awesome event at their home (10600 67th Street South, Cottage Grove). All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to attend and bring their friends. Please RSVP with Pastor Bryan by **September 1**. See you at the pool!



Seeking Christian Music Fans

Are you a fan of contemporary Christian music and the mission of Habitat for Humanity? Then the "Music Builds Tour" is for you!!! On Friday, **October 10, 2008**, Third Day, Switchfoot, Jars of Clay, and Robert Randolph and the Family Band will be performing a special concert at the Target Center to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Pastor Bryan is looking to organize a group of mission and music lovers to attend this concert. If we can gather a group of 15 or more we can get special discount pricing (\$28 per ticket). If you are interested in going to the concert, please contact Pastor Bryan by **September 14, 2008**, so that tickets can be ordered. This is NOT a youth only activity!!! All are invited to attend!



M&M's Help Feed Children

The most recent fundraising campaign for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is mini M&M's by the tube. You can buy a container of mini M&M's for \$1, and enjoy eating the candies. Then fill the empty tube with quarters and bring them back to church. If you fill the container with quarters 5 times, the money raised will feed a child for a year. The display with tubes of mini M&M's is in the Gathering Room. Pick up a tube and leave a dollar if you would like to participate.



Next Women's Fellowship Meeting

Thursday, August 21, Women's Fellowship meets at 7:00 p.m.



Special Anniversary Choir

Choir Director Emily Olson is putting together some special music and a very special choir to sing it. If you would like to join the choir for the Anniversary Worship Service, they will practice on Thursday, August 20 at 7:00 p.m., and on Saturday, August 23 at 9:00 p.m. Come join the choir!



Minnesota Conference UCC Names Two Associate Conference Ministers

On recommendation of the Search Committee and by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ has two new Associate Conference Ministers! They are Rev. Elena Larssen and Rev. Richard (Rick) Wagner, whose brief biographies are below. Both plan to be present for the two-day event on Recreating the Church September 14-15 at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo. They will officially begin their ministry among us on Monday, October 6.

Rev. Dr. Karen Smith Sellers, Conference Minister
Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



The Rev. Elena Larssen

grew up in rural northern California and is a 2002 graduate of the Pacific School of Religion. Her undergraduate work in the liberal arts was done at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Elena was ordained in 2004 by the Golden Gate Association of the Northern California Nevada Conference where her standing is now held. She served as campus minister at Stanford University and as an associate pastor in two settings, which has brought her most recently to the Chicago area.

In speaking about the Church today, Elena notes how ministry is both exactly as it has always been **and** dramatically different. In the present atmosphere where we are not the center of the culture and where authority must be earned, she still notes our "holy and prophetic power and authority" as Christ's disciples. Elena, her references testify, is someone who loves the Church.

Elena says about herself, "I am thankful that I have strong energy and an inquiring spirit as I listen and respond in service to the wisdom of Christ's church. But perhaps a key factor is that I am a hopeful, positive person, and I love doing ministry."

The Rev. Richard (Rick) Wagner

has served in the Minnesota Conference UCC since 1993 as pastor of Union Congregational UCC in St. Louis Park. He has been active in the MN Conference UCC as a member of the Committee on Ministry and the Board of Directors. Rick earned his M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School in 1982 and served pastorates in the Ohio and Illinois Conferences before coming to Minnesota.

Rick says, "I believe we have the opportunity, in a post-Christendom world, to rediscover a true sense of purpose for the church, but it will be a challenge because so many of our clergy and congregations still focus on organizational maintenance rather than mission...Many of our churches are facing adaptive challenges rather than minor problems that have technical solutions. It can be difficult to help them see this when they still hope for a magic bullet from the Conference or Cleveland."

Rick says, "I am also willing to learn new things, and I look forward to that, recognizing that an ACM position will stretch me in ways I cannot yet fully appreciate. Being physically fit and emotionally resilient are not insignificant assets in this regard. But perhaps my most important gifts are those of faith and of love for the church. Though these are God-given, they have been nurtured and encouraged by many others over the years. I long to share this faith and love with others throughout the Minnesota Conference."



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.

AUGUST

- 1 - Carole Biscoe
- 3 - Benjamin Denny
Bill Kropelnicki
- 6 - Jerry Biscoe
Don Korth
Kalistin Taylor
- 7 - Bonnie Euerle
- 9 - Rian Resendez
- 10 - Tara Bertram
Cody Utsch
- 12 - Richard Piel
Isaac Sorensen
- 13 - Megan Ryan
- 14 - Sean Jeffrey
- 15 - Shae Longine
Tony Weber
- 16 - Dan Howard
Joyce Nieman
- 17 - Rod Heuer
- 18 - Russ Gausman
- 20 - Sandy Rabe
Tom Youngquist
- 21 - Marilyn Heschke
- 23 - Daniel Bies
Mitchell Kottke
Bette Meyer
Brian Wilkinson
- 24 - Bill Biscoe
Ronald Fries
- 26 - Danita Bertram
Becky Graff
- 28 - Glen Biscoe
Aidan Lindeman
- 29 - Caiti Vink
- 31 - Adam Ratzlaff

Member Helping Member Directory

The listings below offer you the opportunity to call a church member when you are looking for a business? Give them a try.

Karen Fritze, Cake Cottage, cakes for weddings or special occasions, (651) 459-4460, www.cakestands.com

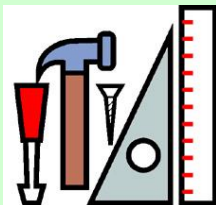
Brad Huber, B.M.H. Construction, new home construction, remodeling, additions, and kitchen and bath updating, (651) 459-7545, homebuildings@aol.com

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

Bill Larsen, Larsen Films, video production of events, photo montages, and other video services, (651) 270-2730, www.larsenfilms.com

Ramona Westerberg, The Healing Place, massage for facilitating health naturally, pain management, and pain relief, (651) 206-7141, or www.thehealingplacecg.com

Wayne Westerberg, Four Seasons Outdoor Services, tree removal, stump removal, trimming, snow removal and lawn maintenance, (651) 768-0833



If you would like to list your business, please call Becky in the church office, (651) 459-1501.

August 17 Is Last Sundae Sunday

Thanks for your support of Sundae Sunday over the summer, and thanks to Judy and Ron Bonnevier for coordinating this effort. We have helped feed many hungry families with our donations for ice cream.



Turkey Dinner Planning Underway

There will be a Turkey Dinner startup meeting on Sunday, August 17 at 10:15 a.m. following services for anyone interested in helping. If you would like to help but cannot be at the meeting, please call Donna Perkins at (651) 459-8665.



Thanks to All Bakers!

The bake sale at the Farmers' Market continues to be a huge success! The August 7 market hit a new record of over \$400 in sales and donations from those who choose not to bake. We now have many faithful customers who come each week to see what fresh baked and canned goods they can find at the market. Thank you to all—those of you who bake and can, and those of you who make cash donations!



Dear CGUCC Friends,

My niece Lauren was eight years old when she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes



a year and a half ago. Since then her family has learned how to count carbs to control blood sugars, test blood glucose levels 4-6 times a day by a finger prick, endure injections 4 times a day, and fit diabetes into their busy lives. Today there is no cure. We are praying that Lauren will see a cure in her lifetime.

On Saturday, September 20th I will be in Madison, WI for my first "Walk To Cure Diabetes". This annual event helps to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). Lauren's mom and dad, my sisters, nieces and nephews will be joining me at The Madison International Speedway under the team name Lauren's Loved Ones. As a member of the team, my personal goal is to raise \$1000; while our team goal is to reach a minimum of \$5000.

As many as 3 million Americans have type 1 diabetes, a disease most often diagnosed in childhood that strikes suddenly, lasts a lifetime, and carries the constant threat of deadly complications, including heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney failure, and amputation. JDRF's mission is constant: to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research. Thanks to dramatic research progress, a cure is now within reach. Approximately 85 cents of every dollar donated is put to research for finding a cure for this life-long disease.

I would truly appreciate any support you can give towards our mission! You may send a check directly to me made out to JDRF, but the quickest and easiest way to support our cause is to make a donation on-line at <http://walk.jdrf.org>. No gift donation is too small! And remember, your donation is tax deductible. Lauren and I, along with our family members, thank you for your support.

Thank you,
Sue Brown

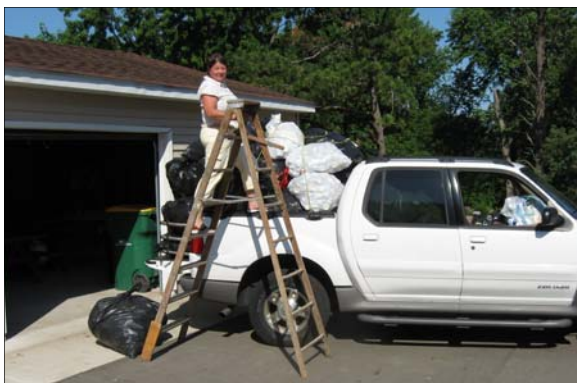
13291 Point Douglas Dr So
Hastings, MN 55033

SUMMER AT CGUCC

Summer began with a picnic for all and fun for the Sunday School kids



Then there was the Strawberry Days parade



Doreen Barta took ALL THE CANS for recycling, bringing in a can full of cash for the Y.A.H.O.O.'s

Carma and Bryan Wilkinson painted the corn booth before the Washington County Fair



Cross Connection

A Periodical Newsletter of
Cottage Grove United 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
August 25	Sept 1
Sept 10	Sept 15
Sept 25	October 1

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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Emily Olson
Director of Music

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Deb Hanson, Brenda Herrmann, BobbiJo Janicek,
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sherileewohlers@msn.com

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Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.—
12:00 noon

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Email: cgucc@usfamily.net

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!!

Rally Sunday September 7

See You on Sunday, September 7 as we bring our church family back together for the new program year.

