



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
Published Semi-Monthly
September 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!*

Inside this Issue:

Turkey Dinner	1
Good News.....	2
Congregation News.....	3
Youth Notes	4
JC Rock Concert	5
Grief Support	6
Neighbors In Need.....	7
JC Rock	8

**Cottage Grove United Church
of Christ**
7008 Lamar Avenue South
Cottage Grove, MN. 55016-2397
Tel: 651-459-1501
Fax: 651-459-8688
Web: www.cgucc.org
Email: cgucc@usfamily.net

Annual Turkey Dinner

Celebrating our Sesquicentennial

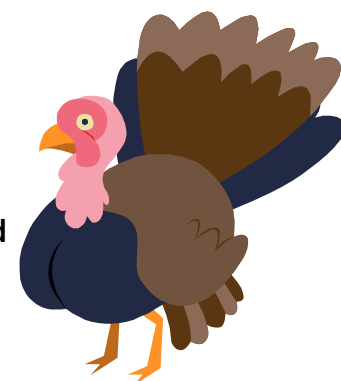
150 Years and Going Strong

Sunday, September 21, 2008

11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Homemade turkey dinner with all the
trimmings:

roasted turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed
potatoes, squash, cranberries, coleslaw,
rolls, pie, coffee, milk



Ticket Prices

\$10 for age 15-adult

\$7 for 4-14 years old

Free for children 3 and under

\$10 for "Take Out" meals

**Come and bring your friends and family to this
annual event in the life of our church!**

Preparations are now taking place and your help is needed! Saturday, September 20th bring a potato peeler and help out beginning 9:00 a.m. If you are not signed up to help during the dinner please contact Donna Perkins at 459-8665. We also could use some people power to help clean up after the dinner. Sheri Wohlers would appreciate any help you can give. Also needed are covered ice cream buckets. If you have anything to donate to the Country Market contact Chris Miller at 436-3308. Worship Service is at 10:15 a.m. and the Turkey Dinner will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Once again let's work together at this great opportunity to serve our community. Come Share the Spirit!

Thanks,
Bev Gross, Advertising

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.

Jason Biscoe (Joyce & Jerry Biscoe's son); Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Patricia Clark (Doreen Barta's mother); Alan Gausman (Russ Gausman's brother); 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); Molly Livingston (grandmother of Eboné Koerselman; Agnes Thyren (Gary Thyren's mother); Elaine Torseth; Midge Youngquist's grandmother; our soldiers around the world.



Seven years have passed since that tragic day in September 2001 when over 3,000 Americans lost their lives in the terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington. Each year, the anniversary of these attacks is used both as a memorial to the victims and as a reminder that peace in our world has not yet been fully achieved.

I have to admit that on each September 11th, I am conflicted about how to honor this horrific day in our nations history. As I was reflecting on my feelings and emotions about this year's 9/11 anniversary, I opened my e-mail and found a wonderful devotional by Rev. Quinn Caldwell, Associate Pastor at Old South Church in Boston, MA. Rev. Caldwell's devotional opened my heart and guided me in an appropriate way to honor the passage of September 11, 2008.

I have copied the devotional below for you to read and experience. It comes from the daily e-mail devotional on i.ucc.org. If you are interested, you can receive daily U.C.C. devotionals like this in your e-mail inbox by going to <http://i.ucc.org/FeedYourSpirit/Subscribe/tabid/101/Default.aspx>.

Blessings and peace to you all! See you in Worship!
Rev. Bryan

Thursday, September 11

Doing Right By the Dead

[Bible Excerpt from Exodus 13:17-22](#)

Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place."

Reflection by Quinn G. Caldwell

How we treat those who have died matters. What we do with their remains, how we tell the stories of their lives, and what we do with their names matters. The Israelites were in a mighty hurry to leave Egypt, but they made time to get the remains of their ancestor Joseph and bring them with them, as they promised.

If you are like me, your thoughts today will be much occupied by the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center--and by the wars they have spawned. There have been over 4,700 American military deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan, plus coalition troops and civilians. Only the God that marks the fall of every sparrow knows how many Iraqis and Afghans have died.

Today seems an appropriate day to remember and mourn those who have died in these wars. There is a list of U.S. casualties at <http://www.icasualties.org>; information for some Iraqis can be found at <http://www.iraqbodycount.org/database/individuals>. Choose a few of these names and spend some time with them today. You might simply say them out loud, or say the Lord's Prayer for each of them, or pray them in another way. You might just sit with them in silence.

Find a way to mourn and honor these dead today. Because how we treat them matters.

(continued on next page)

Creating a Vital Congregation

The first **Adult Education Seminar** of the new program year will begin on **Sunday, October 5, 2008**, 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.

(continued from previous page)

Prayer

God, bring these dear children of yours close, right into the heart of you, and give them a home in your light. In the name of Jesus, killed in violence and firstborn from the dead, Amen.

About the Author

Quinn G. Caldwell is Associate Pastor, Old South Church, Boston, Massachusetts.

The Stillspeaking Daily Devotional is a free service and is supported by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission. Scripture quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, adapted. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, September 21

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Turkey Dinner

Sunday, September 28

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship



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.



JC ROCK

*"The Truth,
The Light,
The Way"*

In Concert

October 4, 2008 at 6:00pm



Amy Jo Corson, Lee Fredrickson, Tom Pechacek, Janice Pechacek, Steve Hansen, Patty Most

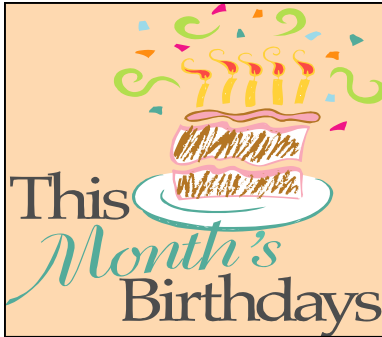
Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

7008 Lamar Avenue South
Cottage Grove, MN. 55016-2397
Phone: 651-459-1501
Email: cgucc@usfamily.net

JC Rock has a unique way of spreading God's word through musical parodies. We sing parodies, which are popular songs with entirely different lyrics, keeping the familiar melody with a great new meaning. We also enjoy performing traditional and contemporary Christian music. Spreading God's message through music is our way to honor Him for the gifts He has given us, and our way of letting all who hear us know, that Jesus died for each of us and his kingdom is waiting for us all.

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 6:00 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.

Visit our web site at - www.JcRock.com



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.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Jerry Stratton
- 4 - Kristina Pribnow
- 6 - Al Miller
- 7 - Jack Ratzlaff
- 8 - Cole Bertram
Steve Biscoe
Karen Fritze
Morgan Marty
Pam Schmuki
- 9 - Judy Lauber
- 11 - Marie Berndt
- 12 - Zachary Larsen
- 14 - Stanley Barta
Nathan Bloomquist
- 15 - Delores Janke
Darlene Kieffer
- 17 - Roby Graff
- 18 - Mary Pat Marty
Koryn Warner
- 19 - Christopher Spicer
- 20 - Scott Spicer
Shawn Spicer
- 21 - Ryan Hunter
Michaela Mills
- 22 - Bruce Fiedler
Mark Hunter
- 24 - Traci Larsen
- 26 - Sarah Sieben
- 27 - Mackenzie Denny
John Perkins
- 29 - Don Berndt
- 30 - Jean Stoker

New Grief Support Series

An Ecumenical Education and Support Grief Series will be offered for six Mondays beginning September 22nd and ending October 27th at the Senior Center Lounge in the District Program Center, 8400 E. Pt. Douglas Rd., Cottage Grove, Minnesota from 7:00-9:00 P.M.

Presenters each week address some phase of the grief/healing process. Persons who experience grief may come for one or all the sessions. Following each talk refreshments will be served, those who wish may stay for small group discussion.

There is no charge. If you have any questions, you may call Kok Funeral Home at (651) 459-2875.

Sincerely,
The Ecumenical Support Planning Committee

Administrative Assistant Out of Office

The week of September 22-26 I will be out of the office. Volunteers will be covering the office and creating the publications, so you may talk with them when you call in. If you need my personal attention, please be patient and I will get back to you. Thank you.

Becky Graff, Administrative Assistant



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
Drawings for Door Prizes

Eat Healthy—Buy Local



Remember When?

From stories told in 1940 by Lucy (Brown) Spicer and Hilda (Bahls) Lindeman
Remember the church dinners the ladies put on at the Community Hall? The women brought in their kerosene stoves to heat water for coffee and dishes. The stove also helped keep the food warm. The line of people to be served stretched out to the road. The chicken dinner with all the trimmings cost 25 cents.

Polka Mass At St. Thomas Aquinas

St. Thomas Aquinas church will be hosting a Polka Mass with a dinner and dance to follow on Saturday, October 4, 2008. All are welcome! Mass begins at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6:15 p.m. and the dance to follow from 7:30-10:00 p.m. There will be an obstacle course for the young and plenty of fun for all. Tickets are available in advance. For more information, please go to www.st-thomas-aquinas.com or call the church at 651-459-2131.

Neighbors in Need— Imagine a World Free from Hunger



Acting on the call to witness for justice, Churches United of the Quad City Area of Iowa and Illinois reach out in care for the hungry. In 2007, with help from the Neighbors in Need offering, Churches United served 29,966 meals from three sites within the Quad Cities. Every night of the week, Churches United offers an enjoyable and nutritious meal for free. Anyone is welcome at any of three meal sites regardless of address, economic level, race, nationality, age or religion.

During 2007, Churches United was able to respond to 26,415 visits to their 24 food pantries providing emergency food assistance to over 88,350 families. Their food pantries make food available for households in need, satisfying hunger for three to five days. Items that are given include pastas, cereals, canned vegetables and fruits, canned meat, soup and, when available, fresh meat and dairy items.

Over 300 volunteers work in the food pantries and serve at the meal sites of Churches United. In addition to the support they received from a 2007 Neighbors in Need grant, they are proudly supported by Tyson Foods, Thomas Proestler Company, Fareway Grocery Stores, local churches and faith groups who are dedicated to creating a community free from hunger.

Imagine a world free from hunger—one community at a time. You can help: please give generously to the Neighbors in Need offering on October 5 on World Communion Sunday.

Thanks

Our thanks go to Derek Rasmussen who has been spending time at the church mowing the lawn and trimming trees. Also a big thank you goes to Bob Howard and Steve Radke for painting the roof and cross. Thanks for a job well done!

Sundae Sunday Thanks

Thank you to everyone who participated in this summer's Sundae Sundays. The free will offering came to \$260.00 and a check for that amount has been sent to "Friends in Need Food Shelf" in St. Paul Park.

Friends in Need

On behalf of all the less fortunate of South Washington County please accept our thanks for your generous contribution to Friends In Need Food Shelf. Please know that your donation will be put to very good use.

Friends in Need Food Shelf

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
Sept 25	October 1
October 10	October 15
October 27	November 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

Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

7008 Lamar Avenue South
Cottage Grove MN 55016
(651) 459-1501
Web: www.cgucc.org

Rev. Bryan Olson, Pastor
olsonbw@hotmail.com

Emily Olson
Director of Music

Becky Graff, Administrative
Assistant
cgucc@usfamily.net

**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

Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
7008 Lamar Avenue South
Cottage Grove, MN. 55016-2397
Phone: 651-459-1501
Email: cgucc@usfamily.net

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!

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!

