



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
Published Semi-Monthly
October 1, 2009



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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Harvest Festival Pot Luck Lunch

Sunday, October 18th
11:30 a.m. following Worship



Downstairs Fellowship Hall
Sponsored by Women's Fellowship

Bring your favorite dish to pass.
Beverage and rolls provided.

Please bring a food or dry goods item
for the Friends in Need Food Shelf.
Cash donations also accepted.

Let's share our bounty with those less fortunate.

There will be a prize awarded to the family bringing
the most family members to the luncheon.

Don't let the Vikings game keep
you away. A time of fellowship
is important too!



Questions? Please contact
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Rev. Désirée H. Gold, Pastor

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10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
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pastorgold@inbox.com



PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

Daniel Bies; Eric Bies; Kathy Biscoe; Bill & Isabel Board; Ron Bonnevier; Bill Bothun; Beth Davies; Diane Davies; Don Hanson; Kathy & Brad Huber; Chris Miller; Sandy Rabe; Jamie & Adam Roberts; Karen Spicer; Lucy Spicer; families facing unemployment issues.

Angie Barta (Doreen Barta's mother-in-law); Howard Biscoe (Rob Biscoe's brother); Dorothy Brown (Ashley & Luke Longmuir's great-aunt); Leo Buechler (former pastor); Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Joe Cornahey; Diane and Doris (friends of Carole Weitzel Biscoe); Roxanne Ebarb; Andrew Gatzemeyer (Doreen Barta's grandson); Kandy & David Hartson (Pastor Gold's parents); Brady Heschke (Marilyn Heschke's grandson); Gary Heuer (Rod Heuer's brother); Donna Johnson (Gary Afdahl's mother-in-law); Ken & Nora Krahn (missionaries); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn's Heschke's daughter); Richard Lara (in prison); Margie Mattison and family (Farmers' Market vendor); Doris Rosenfelt (Kathy Biscoe's mother); Mary Schmidt (Karen Schmidt's mother-in-law); Stordalen family; Gene Sauve; Mark Tinucci (Sandy Rabe's grandson & Karen Schmidt's nephew); Midge Youngquist's grandmother.

An Offering of Gold

Rev. Désirée H. Gold



On Thursday, October 1, the United Church of Christ will welcome a new General Minister and President. His name is the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black. Who is he, and why should we care that the UCC has a new General Minister and President?

Well, here's a little bit about him: His most recent position was as the New York Conference Minister, a role he had held since 2000. Prior to that, he served as a local church pastor for 15 years, a college chaplain, and a national UCC staff member. At General Synod 27 in Grand Rapids this summer, he was elected to succeed our outgoing General Minister and President, the Rev. John H. Thomas.

Rev. Black has degrees from Lincoln University and Yale Divinity School, and he was ordained in the American Baptist Church in 1976. He joined the UCC the following year. He is married to Patricia Williams-Black and is the father of one adult daughter, Makeda Black. (Those of you who were here on Sunday already learned this information by reading our special bulletin insert.)

Now, why should we care who this guy is? What does the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ have to do with our little corner of Minnesota, if he'll be off working at the national UCC offices in Cleveland, Ohio?

The UCC General Minister and President serves as spiritual and moral leader of our denomination. He will be a guide for the denomination during what are bound to be stormy years. Just as Rev. John Thomas helped see the United Church of Christ through churchwide and national controversies over such issues as marriage equality, the war in Iraq, and three U.S. Presidential elections, so Rev. Black will undoubtedly see us through similar and other unknown difficulties.

The United Church of Christ is a congregationally-based denomination, which means that each congregation makes its own decisions. The General Minister and President doesn't sit on a throne in the UCC Church House in Cleveland and tell us what we can and cannot do. Rev. Thomas did not say, "If you want to be in the United Church of Christ you have to believe thus-and-such about this or that issue." But when controversies arose he provided prayerful leadership to all sides. It will now be Rev. Black's responsibility to provide such spiritual and moral leadership.

The General Minister and President meets with national leaders (It would not be unusual for him or her to go to the White House), leaders of other Christian denominations and other faiths, and faith leaders overseas. The General Minister and President advocates for and is involved with various national and international mission projects, both those directly connected to the UCC and ecumenical projects.

In addition to these national and international interests, the General Minister and President interacts with individual conferences around the UCC (My dad heard the Rev. Thomas speak at the annual meeting of the Northern Plains Conference in North Dakota this past June). They provide support to conferences and the congregations within them and offer us a voice from the wider church.

So again, why should we care? The Rev. Elena Larssen, our own Associate Conference Minister in the Minnesota Conference, said it very well in a conversation I had with her this week. She said that the role of the national UCC offices and the General Minister and President is to "enhance and express the ministry of local congregations."

(continued on next page)

It's Confirmation Time!

If you are in 8th or 9th grade and have not been Confirmed yet, you are invited to attend CGUCC's 2009-2010 Confirmation Class. There will be an Orientation meeting for interested young people and their parents on Saturday, October 3 at 9:30 a.m. Second year students are asked to bring their mentors. We will determine the day, time and the frequency of our class at that meeting.

First and second year students will be together in the same class, as they have been the past couple of years. Second year students who complete the class will be Confirmed in May 2010.

If you have questions, please call Pastor Gold in the church office or contact her by email (pastorgold@inbox.com).

Confirmation Class



Cross Connection

A Periodical Newsletter of
**Cottage Grove United Church
of Christ**

Published on the 1st and 15th
of every month
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of every month

Edited by Becky Graff

**Back issues available on our
Church web site at
www.cgucc.org**

Submit articles via e-mail at
cgucc@usfamily.net or drop
them off at the office.

Becky Graff, Editor

Fall Conference Youth Event

The Conference Youth Event will take place Oct. 16-18 at Pilgrim Point Camp in Alexandria. This fall's topic is "Pluralism: Putting God in More Than One Box." CYE is a program of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ. Several of our CGUCC youth will be attending with Bruce Fiedler chaperoning. Registration deadline is Oct. 2.



Neighbors in Need Offering October 4

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. CGUCC will receive this offering on Sunday, October 4, during Worship, or you may mail a check to the church at any time and mark it Neighbors in Need.



Fall Adult Study Continues

The Adult Sunday School Class continues to study *Patience* by Calvin Miller. Class leader Wes Hillman invites all adults to join the class at 9:00 Sunday mornings. It's never too late to join!



(continued from previous page)

As Christians, we are called to care not only about the people within our own congregations; we are called to care about humankind as a whole. The General Minister and President helps us do that by overseeing the operation of a denomination that provides us with the resources to reach beyond ourselves. We are connected with people in need around the world through our special offerings. We are connected with other people of faith – both our own and other faiths – through the work of our General Minister and President and other national staff. We receive prayerful guidance not only from our local church pastors but from someone who is able to get closer to the issues than we ourselves may be.

As Rev. Geoffrey Black starts his new role this week, let us pray for God to guide him and give him strength. He'll need it.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gold

Contact Us

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



ACADEMY FOR VITAL CHRISTIANITY

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE TWIN CITIES
In partnership with the Minnesota Conferences of the
United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church
www.unitedseminary.edu

Are you interested in...

- deepening your faith and broadening your knowledge of the Christian faith,
- enhancing your participation in the church,
- expanding or renewing your capacity for service?

Consider taking an Academy for Vital Christianity class!



What are people saying about the Academy?

"...Dr. Carolyn Pressler's class, Bible 101, took me from a grainy, black-and-white home movie to a 3-D, Technicolor adventure!... I can't wait to discover what classes are planned for the next Academy!"
— Kay Myhrman-Toso, Woodbury MN

"The courses I completed fulfilled my unquenchable thirst for theology...what could be better...food, being in the company of people of faith, and theology...the inspiration for life and hope!" — Sarah Jessica, Duluth, Minn.

Who are the teachers?

United's internationally and nationally recognized regular, adjunct, and retired faculty, along with well-known regional experts.

What is the cost?

\$175 if you register 30 days before class start date. Regular price is \$225. Financial assistance may be available via the UMC and UCC conferences.

Academy classes are held throughout the state of Minnesota and the Twin Cities metropolitan area. For a complete list of classes and all class descriptions, see our Web site at www.unitedseminary.edu/CommunityPrograms/academy.asp.

Fall Academy Classes 2009-2010

- Bringing Global Music Into Worship..... Messiah UMC, Plymouth
October 22, 29; November 2, 12, 19 — Arthur Clyde
- Creation or Commodity: Biblical Perspectives on the Environment Centennial UMC, Roseville
October 22, 29; November 2, 12, 19 — Richard Weis
- Eco-Injustice: Responding as Artistic, Theological, and Spiritual Leaders St. Paul's UCC, St. Paul
October 10 & November 7 — Christine M. Smith
- From One Jesus to Many Christianities Wayzata Community Church, Wayzata
September 22, 29; October 6, 13, 20 — Paul Capetz
- Making Sense of Paul in a Global Village Normandale Hylands UMC
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 — Neil Elliott
Bloomington
- The Stories of Women In the Church Hazel Park Congregational UCC, St. Paul
October 20, 27; November 3, 10, 17 — Jeanne H. Klide
- Sunday School Teaching 101 St. Croix Valley UMC, Lakeland
September 21, 28; October 5, 19, 26 — Cindy Yanchury
- Wrestling w/the Problem of Evil & Suffering Plymouth Congregational, Mpls
October 8, 15, 21, 29; November 5 — Eleazar Fernandez

REGISTRATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Or register online at www.unitedseminary.edu/CommunityPrograms/academy.asp

Name _____

Address _____

City/ST/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Denomination _____

To Register - put an 'X' in the box of each class for which you wish to register

Amount enclosed \$ _____
\$175 early registration per class if 30 days before class start date. Otherwise, \$225.

Send registration to:

Susan Hastings
United Theological Seminary
3000 Fifth Street Northwest
New Brighton MN 55112-2598

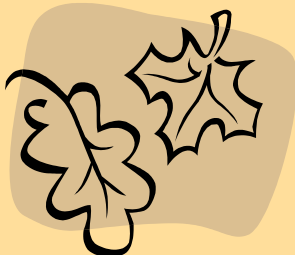
Questions?

651.255.6138 or rhiesner@unitedseminary.edu



October

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



CROP Walk October 11

CGUCC will once again host the area CROP Walk. Ten area churches are beginning and ending their walk at CGUCC beginning at 2:00 on Sunday, October 11. Sponsored by Church World Service, proceeds will benefit the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services and other international and local disaster relief, refugee assistance and long-term self-help development programs.

Join the fight against poverty—get involved in our local CROP Walk. Talk with Doreen Barta (458-9184) to become a walker, to financially support a walker, or to bring treats for the walkers to snack on as they finish their walk.



National Depression Screening Day

Human Services, Inc. (HIS) is offering free depression screenings during National Depression Screening Day, held this year on Thursday, October 8. Human Services, Inc. 8451 E Point Douglas Road in Cottage Grove will have professional staff available from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. No appointments are necessary. Just come in.

If you are concerned for yourself, or worried about someone close to you, this is an opportunity to meet one-on-one with a mental health professional to talk about your personal concerns. You will take a short questionnaire that gages your likelihood for depression. You will learn about local resources available to you. HIS is here to help.



Join the Foster Family Team

Washington County Community Services is currently experiencing a shortage of foster homes in your area. We have two types of foster care services in our country: foster care for consecutive stays for weeks/months of placement, and planned respite which is typically for 1-2 weekends a month. In particular, we are in need of people who are willing to care for teenage boys or girls, sibling groups, and children with special needs. We are also looking for people who would consider being concurrent permanent families for children who may not be returned to their parents. Caregivers receive training, support, and compensation. If you, or someone you know, are interested in giving the gift of family, please call today to find out how you can help. Foster Care of Washington County (651) 430-6455



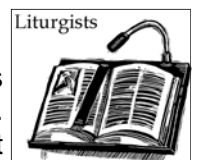
Is This Dish Yours?

There is quite a collection of dishes, serving pieces, pots and pans on a cart in the Gathering Room near the staircase. Thank you for bringing food to church to share, but now there are so many dishes in the kitchen that we need to clean out. Please check it out and see if any of them belong to you or someone in your family, then take them home to use again.



Liturgists and Greeters Needed

Thanks to all who have participated in Worship by serving as liturgists and greeters. There are new sign-up sheets out. Please sign up for your opportunity to share in this important ministry.



Sunday School Goes Nut Free

We have 3 children in Sunday School with allergies, one of them fairly severe; therefore we would like to keep the classroom section of the basement as nut free as possible as a preventative measure. For the safety of the children please keep this area NUT FREE! We would also like to request of those who love our children and bring treats for them, please make all treats for all ages nut free. Thanks so much!

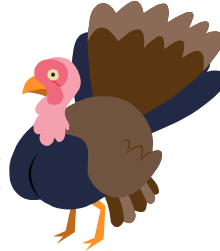
Debra Hanson for the CGUCC Sunday School



Turkey Dinner Follow Up

There will be a post Turkey Dinner meeting on Sunday, October 4 immediately following worship for all leaders and all who have comments or suggestions. We will update the 'book' at our meeting so the next overseer will be able to transition in with as much knowledge as we can pass on. I want to THANK everyone who helped to make this year a huge success from behind the scenes!!! MANY, MANY THANKS AND LOVE!

Donna Perkins.



Road Ditch Pickup

Once again it's time for that. The plan is to do it on October 24, meeting at the church a 9:00 a.m. for juice and rolls, and then to work. Please join us, as many hands make work light, and it doesn't take very long. It is a wonderful way to start the day. Remember to wear gloves, tough ones, as you don't want to get cut or scratched if you pick up broken glass. Any questions, call 459-9600.

Ruby Stratton



It's Flu Season!

Due to concerns about this year's flu season, we will remain in our pews during the Ministry of Friendship until further notice. We will still have plenty of opportunities to greet one another in Christian love, so we hope that everyone will practice good flu prevention strategies. Be well!



Married September 26

Kathy Sirois and Brad Huber were married at CGUCC on Saturday, September 26, with Pastor Désirée H. Gold officiating. Congratulations to the newlyweds, who will make their home in South Saint Paul.



Baptized September 20

During Worship on September 20, Ellie Grace Longtine received the sacrament of baptism. Ellie is the daughter of Jessica and Troy Longtine, and the granddaughter of proud grandparents Arlean and Bill Kropelnicki. Congratulations to Ellie and her family.



Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, October 4 World Communion

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship with
Neighbors in Need
Offering
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Turkey Dinner
Meeting

Sunday, October 11

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
2:00 p.m. CROP Walk

Sunday, October 18

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Harvest Festival
Pot Luck Lunch

Sunday, October 25

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship

Participating in Worship in October

Head Usher—Bob Janicek
Altar Team—Joyce Fries
Communion Preparation—
Bobbi Jo & Bob Janicek

Participating in Worship in November

Head Usher—Gary Thyren
Altar Team—Doreen Barta
Communion Preparation—
GeorgAnn Biscoe

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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 Markets of the Season
October 1 and 8, Thursdays 3:30—6:30 p.m.

Watch for local news coverage of our Farmers' Market vendors donating food to our local Stone Soup for free distribution to those who need help with groceries. This has been one of the joys of the CGUCC Farmers' Market this season.

What a great market year! Thanks to all who have made homemade goodies for the bake sale, and all who have donated time and energy in so many ways to make the market a successful community event. Thanks to members who have sold as vendors, and to all who have purchased local goods throughout the season. Thanks to the Farmers' Market Team, and to Pastor Gold for all your hands-on support of the Market. Together we have made this happen, with God's blessings, sunshine and rain.