



# CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ  
Published Semi-Monthly  
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## 150 Years and Going Strong



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

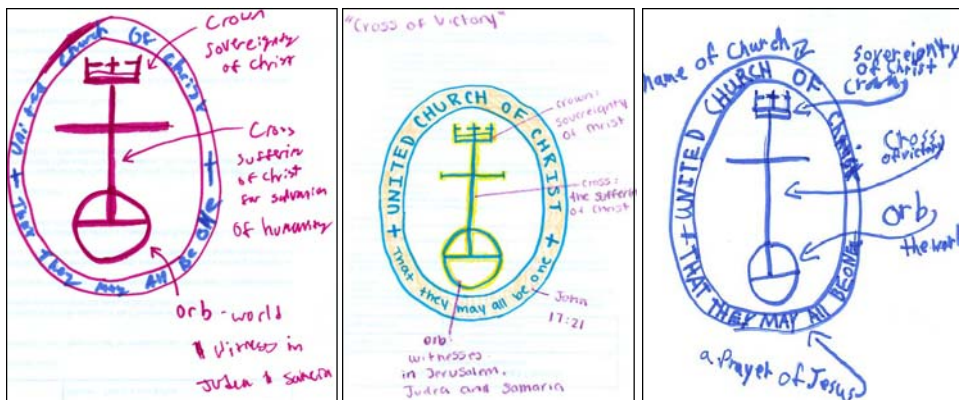
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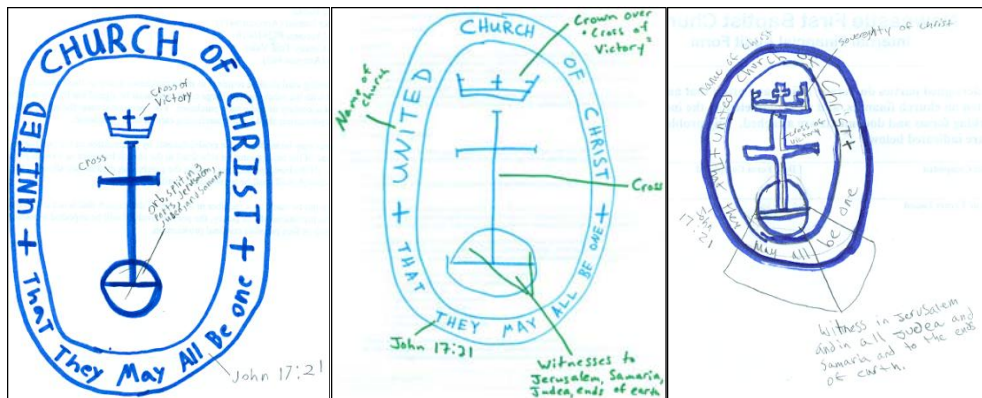
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### The Meaning of the UCC Symbol

We see the UCC symbol many different places around our church...but do you know what it means? During a study of the history of the United Church of Christ on Feb. 20, our Confirmation students learned the symbol's meaning. They were then given the opportunity to draw their own UCC symbols with explanations. We were missing several students that day, which is why there are only six (one of them is mine).



According to the United Church of Christ web site ([www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)), "The symbol of the United Church of Christ comprises a crown, cross and orb enclosed within a double oval bearing the name of the church and the prayer of Jesus, 'That they may all be one' (John 17:21). It is based on an ancient Christian symbol called the 'Cross of Victory' or the 'Cross Triumphant.' The crown symbolizes the sovereignty of Christ. The cross recalls the suffering of Christ—his arms outstretched on the wood of the cross—for the salvation of humanity. The orb, divided into three parts, reminds us of Jesus' command to be his 'witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8). The verse from Scripture reflects our historic commitment to the restoration of unity among the separated churches of Jesus Christ."



## Rev. Désirée H. Gold, Pastor

Office Hours  
Tuesday—Thursday  
10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.  
Office Phone:  
**(651) 459-1501**  
Rev. Gold's e-mail:  
**pastorgold@inbox.com**



### PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

Doreen Barta; Nita Bertram; Kathy Biscoe and family on death of Kathy's brother John Rosenfelt; Bill and Isabel Board; Bill Bothun; Beth Davies; Don Hanson; Ruby Hanson; Brenda Herrmann and family on death of Brenda's brother; Huber family on Brad's call back to Iraq; Marshall Janicek; Arlean Kropelnicki; Chris Miller; Joann Nelson; Richard Piel; Kristina Pribnow; Sandy Rabe; Jamie and Adam Roberts; Lucy Spicer; Bonnie Vink and family on death of Bonnie's mother.

Angie Barta (Doreen Barta's mother-in-law); Abi and Tracy Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friends); Patricia Clark (Doreen Barta's mother); Jim Gregory; Obid Hoffland (former pastor); Donna Johnson (Gary Afdahl's mother-in-law); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn Heschke's daughter); family of Wendy Kuehl (Jessica Carr's classmate); Richard Lara (in prison); Jason Lindemann & family; Fred Minster (Stan Barta's cousin); Luke Patnode (son of Hunter Hakkila's teacher); family and friends of Joan Peterfeso; Marilyn Sauerman (Pastor Gold's cousin); David Sauve (Beatrice Sauve's brother); Gene Sauve (Ron Bonnevier's friend); Emilie Stordalen (Pastor Gold's cousin); Lowell Torseth and family (wife Elaine died); John Vorlicky (Jamie Roberts' father); Andrew Witherspoon; Lorraine Wohlers; Midge Youngquist's grandmother and mother.

### An Offering of Gold

Rev. Désirée H. Gold



I began serving as the pastor of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ on March 1, 2009, which means that it has been one year since I became your pastor. During these past twelve months I have met and gotten to know this congregation. I have been through an entire cycle of church holidays and traditions. I have acclimated myself to the community. In short, a lot has happened.

People frequently ask me if I feel settled yet, and I answer that it takes me at least a couple of years to feel really settled in a church that I am serving. One cycle of holidays and traditions doesn't quite cement them in my own mind and heart. One year of introductions and new relationships doesn't allow me to know you as well as many of you know one another. One year of living in a community doesn't mean I know how to get everywhere without a map. It will still take me a while yet to get to know you, this church, and the community in which it stands. That said, I have *begun* to make strides in that direction, and as I look toward our second year together I am excited about deepening my relationship here.

I already love my drive to work, on country roads beside cornfields. I have *thoroughly* enjoyed our snowy winter (as concerned as I am about flooding in Fargo), and I have been reminded over and over again why I moved back to the prairie. While church dinners are good from coast to coast, the Jello salads (or Jello desserts, depending on your terminology) and hot dishes bring me back to my childhood. I can buy lefse at any grocery store in town! Who wouldn't want to live here?!

Then there's church. The past year has been a challenge, as I have tried to figure out how things work around here, but it has been a good challenge. I have worshiped with you, on Sundays, holidays, weddings, and funerals. I have learned with you, in Confirmation and Sunday School. I have worked with you, in a myriad of team meetings, at the Farmers' Market, and in the office. I have eaten with you, during communion, Fellowship, and special dinners. I have visited with you, at church and in your homes.

It is difficult to roll an entire year of mutual ministry into the nutshell of a newsletter article, but I can only imagine the predicament I will be in *next* March 1. This first year together has only been the beginning, and I look forward to doing a great deal more ministry with you, as Cottage Grove United Church of Christ looks toward the future. May God guide our every move and give us vision.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Gold

P.S. Many of you have asked about Ben's work situation. The grant he submitted last year was finally accepted, and he will formally begin his position as a visiting researcher in the physics department at University of Minnesota on March 1.

### Save the Date

On Sunday, April 11 (the Sunday after Easter) we will welcome several new members into our church family. We have finished our classes but are waiting to hold the reception because a prospective member has been out of town and because the Easter season seemed a more appropriate time than Lent for this joyous celebration. If you are interested in joining Cottage Grove UCC but did not attend the new member classes, please speak with Pastor Gold.



## ***Easter Memorial Garden Order Form***



Each year the members and friends of CGUCC dedicate flowering plants in memory of loved ones who have died, or in honor of loved ones who are still living. Flowers will be delivered to the church, and may be picked up after the second service of worship on Easter morning, or the following week at the church. You may order flowers by giving this form to the ushers or mailing it to the church. Orders must be received by Sunday, March 21. **Please include your payment and dedication with your order.**

I would like to order flowers for the Easter Memorial Garden in the Sanctuary on Easter.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Lily (\$15 each)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Hyacinth (\$12 each) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shades of Pink Azalea (\$20 each) | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Hydrangea (\$20 each) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red Tulip (\$12 each)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Mum (\$12 each)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Easter Basket (\$35 each)   |   |

I would like the dedication to read (please **PRINT CLEARLY**)

In loving memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

My name \_\_\_\_\_

| <i><b>Cross Connection</b></i>   | <i><b>Contact Us</b></i>  |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">A Periodical Newsletter of<br/> <b>Cottage Grove United Church of Christ</b><br/>                     Published on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup><br/>                     of every month<br/> <u>Deadlines are the 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of every month</u><br/>                     Edited by Becky Graff</p> <p><b>Back issues available on our Church web site at</b><br/> <u><a href="http://www.cgucc.org">www.cgucc.org</a></u></p> <p>Submit articles via e-mail at <a href="mailto:cgucc@usfamily.net">cgucc@usfamily.net</a> or<br/>                     drop them off at the office.<br/> <span style="float: right;">Becky Graff, Editor</span></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Cottage Grove United Church of Christ</b></u><br/>                     7008 Lamar Avenue South<br/>                     Cottage Grove MN 55016<br/>                     (651)459-1501 <a href="http://www.cgucc.org">www.cgucc.org</a></p> <p><b>Rev. Désirée H. Gold</b>, Pastor<br/> <span style="float: right;"><a href="mailto:pastorgold@inbox.com">pastorgold@inbox.com</a></span></p> <p><b>Gary Afdahl</b>, Director of Music</p> <p><b>Becky Graff</b>, Administrative Assistant<br/> <span style="float: right;"><a href="mailto:cgucc@usfamily.net">cgucc@usfamily.net</a></span></p> <p><b>Deb Hanson, Brenda Herrmann, BobbiJo Janicek</b>,<br/> <span style="float: right;">Sunday School Team</span></p> <p><b>Sheri Wohlers</b>, Custodian<br/> <span style="float: right;"><a href="mailto:sherileewohlers@msn.com">sherileewohlers@msn.com</a></span></p> <p><b>John Greenwell</b>, Church President</p> |



# calendar

## **March**

- 4 - Paul White
- 6 - LeeAnne Eshom
- 7 - Cooper Blair
- 8 - Zachary Richter
- 9 - Samuel Ratzlaff
- 13 - Debra Hanson  
Melinda Lindeman
- 14 - Erich Fiedler
- 15 - Jan Huber
- 17 - Doreen Barta  
Emily Denny  
Mark Rabe
- 18 - Orinne Dunbar
- 22 - Ryan Bertram  
Bryce Wilkinson
- 23 - Bryan Hakkila  
Alyssa Manning
- 24 - Diane Davies  
Tucker Herrmann  
Nicholas Warner
- 25 - Gayle Korth  
Janice Munson
- 26 - Jessica Kottke
- 27 - Amanda Cherry  
Emma Weber
- 29 - Karson Kropelnicki  
Donna Marty
- 30 - Rod Vink



## Celebrate Seminaries March 7

Our congregation will celebrate the work of CUE, (Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries) on Seminary Sunday, March 7, 2010. The role of our seminaries in the life of our churches is critical. Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries train individuals for ordained ministry, and they provide resources for lay leadership programs, Christian Education and youth programs. In addition, our seminaries provide leadership, preaching, and continuing education opportunities at conference and association meetings. All of our churches are enriched by the work of our UCC seminaries.



CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION

## One Great Hour of Sharing March 14

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of [Our Church's Wider Mission \(OCWM\)](#), is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries.

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

OGHS is a Lenten Offering. The OGHS offering is received the fourth Sunday of Lent, March 14, 2010.



## To My Friends at CGUCC

I am thankful for all the cards and greetings I received following my recent surgery. I am doing very well, and hope to be back soon.

With many thanks,  
Kristina Pribnow



## Many Thanks

Thank you to the Women's Fellowship (and any others whom we may be forgetting) for your time and hard work for Tom Fritze's funeral. During a difficult time, you made everything so easy for all of us. Also, thanks to all who donated salads and desserts for the meal after Tom's service.

We appreciate all of you!  
Brenda Herrmann and family  
Gene, Terry, John and Kenny Fritze



## Note of Thanks

Thank you for all your prayers and expressions of concern during my recent surgery and recovery. A special thanks to Steve and GeorgAnn Biscoe and Butch and Diane Davies for their transportation help.

Peace, Obid Hofland



## Trash to Treasure Sale Soon

The dates to put on your calendar are April 16 and 17, the two days of the big annual Trash to Treasure sale. Start sorting and saving. We will have space to start accepting things at the church following the annual Palm Sunday breakfast.



## Coming Up in Worship

### Sunday, February 28

9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. Worship with  
Blessing of Marvelous  
Mitten Makers  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship  
11:45 a.m. Christian Education  
Team Meeting

### Sunday, March 7

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

### Sunday, March 14

Daylight Saving Time Begins  
One Great Hour of Sharing  
Special Offering  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship

### Sunday, March 21

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

### Sunday, March 28

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Participating in Worship in March**

Head Usher—Wes Hillman  
Altar Team—Yvonne  
Bonngard  
Liturgist—Midge Youngquist  
Communion Preparation—  
Diane Davies

### **Participating in Worship in April**

Head Usher—Ken Huber  
Altar Team—Midge  
Youngquist  
Liturgist—  
Communion Preparation— Jan  
and Ken Huber

We need communion stewards  
for June. If you are able to  
take a turn preparing com-  
munion, please call Pastor  
Gold or Becky in the office.

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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!

## Heaven Cents

Introducing our new logo inspired by Sheri Wohlers design and created by Troy Pribnow for CGUCC.

Many traditions "give up" something during Lent. Heaven Cents would like to encourage you to "try something new" and that something new would be SCRIP! Give it a try and see what you think. From now until Easter, receive a **FREE** cascading card file with your order to store your scip cards conveniently.

New to the program and using the internet, go to [shop-withscrip.com](http://shop-withscrip.com) using Enrollment Code: B79185A723386 and set up your family account.



New to the program and not using the internet, talk with Diane Davies and she will help you get started.

You can buy groceries, gas, clothing, fast food, slow food, medications - do all of your shopping with Scrip. You get the same value for your dollar and the church receives a rebate that helps pay down our loan principle. It does not cost you a penny more than you are already spending. The gas cards work in the pay at the pump so you still do not have to go inside. Scrip cards work for birthdays, confirmations, graduations, weddings - all kinds of special occasions as well.

Happy Shopping! Diane Davies  
(651) 436-7234 h, (651) 336-6138 c