



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
August 1, 2010



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

Contact Us

Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

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www.cgucc.org



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Church President

American Red Cross Blood Drive at Cottage Grove United Church of Christ Thursday, August 19, 2010 3:00—7:00 p.m.



What Is Reaped for What You Sow?

by Debra Hanson

I've given blood in the past. I have since I was 18. Not regularly, not every time I could, but I've given. I know personally that giving blood isn't always easy. I, for one, have a tendency to pass out. I also don't feel "right" for two or three days while my body is recuperating from the blood loss. While it has never happened to me, I've heard the horror stories of how someone got a nurse that left their arms black and blue or poked them multiple times. Yet I continued to give. Sporadically. I thought about people that might be receiving my blood. Car accident victims always leapt to mind. Surgeries gone wrong. I always thought that someday, I too might need blood. What better way to protect myself against the eventual happening? Give now, so someone will give for me later, right?

I never realized that they would be giving for my daughter; that a child might need blood had never really entered my frame of reference. That MY child might need blood was inconceivable. Yet, there she was, in the hospital, declining, on a respirator with a central line in her neck for all the medications they were giving her. The doctor telling me that her hemoglobin is low and we are going to give her some blood to help her fight. In other words, to try to have her stop declining, to give her the strength to stay alive. It worked. Ruby is alive. She is vibrant. As the blood that some unnamed person gave flowed into her veins, it gave her the strength to fight, to stabilize and eventually to recover.

So now, the only thank you that I can give to that person is to give my blood and to ask you to give your blood. Because what is an hour, a few days, a bruise or an extra needle poke against the chance for another 80 or 90 years of life for a child? If I had asked you while Ruby was in the hospital to give blood for her, to save her life, I have no doubt that you would have said yes. Ruby is no longer in the hospital, but I'm still asking. Give blood and save her life, or the life of another. You might never know what will be reaped for what you will sow, but look at Ruby and see what is possible.

Rev. Désirée H. Gold, Pastor

Office Hours
Tuesday—Thursday
10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
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Rev. Gold's e-mail:
pastorgold@usfamily.net



PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

Gary Afdahl; Nita Bertram; Joyce Biscoe; Lyle Biscoe; Isabel Board; Ron Bonnevier; Greg Bonngard and family; Bill Bothun; Beth Davies; Jim Gregory; Don Hanson; Ruby Hanson; Huber family; Bud Kieffer; Arlean Kropelnicki; Bernice Kuehn; Gloria Mathison; Chris Miller; Joann Nelson; Mike Roberts; Pam Schmuki; Red Spicer; Brian Wilkinson & family on death of Brian's grandmother; Lisa and Josh Winger (just married).

Jim Boucher (coworker of Traci Larsen); Christopherson family (Elaine Mitchell's friends); Don (Kathy Janke's friend); Brady Heschke; Donna Johnson (Gary Afdahl's mother-in-law); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn Heschke's daughter); Natalie Labelle (Joyce Biscoe's 2-year-old friend); Richard Lara (in prison); Gary Lindemann; Michelle & Marty Logan, Tucker & Michael; family of Rod Nilses-tuen (Karen Banazewski's cousin); Rev. Bryan & Emily Olson (expecting a baby in January); Gene Sauve (Ron Bonnevier's friend); Sue (former JC Rock member); Al Wilmont (Joyce Fries' nephew); victims of the gulf oil spill; families of Pakistani plane crash victims.

An Offering of Gold

Rev. Désirée H. Gold



Jesus said "Let the little children come to me" (Matt. 19:14; Mk. 10:14; Lk. 18:16), and I do not know of anyone at Cottage Grove United Church of Christ who wants to banish children from our church. In fact, I have heard people lament that our Sunday School is not overflowing like it once was (most mainline churches are lamenting this same problem). I know I am not the only person who giggles when children dance in

worship or say something amusing during the Time with Children – although I try very hard not to make the children's sermon merely a "cute kid display." I am thrilled that we have a staffed nursery every single Sunday, although I do my best to let parents know that their children are welcome to be in worship too. Obviously, the parents and grandparents of young children want their children to feel welcomed at CGUCC. If their children aren't welcomed here, parents and grandparents probably won't feel welcomed either.

It is with this in mind that I bring to you a dilemma: After several years of good service, our three Sunday School superintendents, Bobbi Jo, Brenda, and Debra have stepped down from their positions. All three are willing to continue on as Sunday School teachers, and are willing to assist and/or guide whoever takes over as superintendent. The trouble is, as of right now we are without a Sunday School superintendent/s. The superintendent chooses curriculum, coordinates the Sunday School teachers and program, and carries out many other necessary tasks. Without a superintendent/s it is difficult to have a Sunday School, and it then becomes very difficult to truly welcome children to our church.

I am a hopeful person, so I believe that a solution will be found, and we will go into the fall season with children in our Sunday School and adults to lead them. (Update: The Education Ministries Team has agreed to usher us into the fall year, but we still need a superintendent.) But at this point I do not know what that leadership will be. This leads me to ask:

Will you take on the role of Sunday School superintendent for Cottage Grove UCC? Bobbi Jo, Brenda, and Debra will tell you that it is not an easy job, but it is a necessary one, and it may mean the difference between welcoming children to our church or sending them somewhere else. The Board of Shared Ministries is committed to working with the new superintendent/s to make the role as easy as possible. Our hope is that it will become a rewarding position, in part because you will see the difference you have made in the life of a child.

It is said that "children are our future," but they are not just our future. Children are also our present. They are here *right now*, blessing us with their presence, and we want to keep it that way.

In addition to the Superintendent position/s, we have four other open positions. The Gifts Coordinator creates and maintains a database of church talents. (We could really use someone in this position right now to help us fill all the other positions!) The Nurture/Education coordinator oversees several ministry teams, including Education Ministries. The Evangelism Team shares the Good News of Jesus Christ with the community and the world – Troy Pribnow has agreed to help with this team, but he cannot do it alone. The Communications/Marketing Team leader helps us get word out about our church by submitting news releases, working on the church web site, coming up with ideas for the new church Facebook page, and talking about other ways to make CGUCC more visible. Perhaps you are the perfect fit for one of these positions!

As I ask for your help doing the work of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ, I also want to celebrate the hard work already being done, by folks who have been at it for a while and by our newest church leaders.

(continued on next page)

Sacrament of Baptism

On Sunday, July 11, Brooklyn Marie Lee received the Sacrament of Baptism. Brooklyn's parents are Heather Marty and Britt Lee. Congratulations and our best wishes go out to Brooklyn and her family.



Sunday School Leaders Meeting

All are invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday, August 18 at 7:00 p.m. to review our new Sunday School curriculum and line out a tentative plan for the school year. We are making some positive changes this year and hope you will join us!



Outdoor Worship September 5

We were rained out on July 4 when we planned to worship outdoors, so we are going to try again on Sunday, September 5, Labor Day weekend. We will be on the East lawn this time. Please bring your lawn chairs, and it's not too early to start praying for good weather!



Sundae Sundays this Summer

The final Sundae Sunday this summer, sponsored by the Outreach Team, is August 15. Everything needed is donated so all of the free will offerings taken are sent to the "Friends In Need Food Shelf" in St. Paul Park. Please join us after worship for fun, fellowship, and to help support a needy organization after worship on August 15.



The Outreach Team

Pastor on Vacation

Rev. Gold will be on vacation August 10-11, 23-24, and 26-31. In the event of a pastoral emergency during her absence on Aug. 23-24 and Aug. 26-31, please call Rev. Oby Ballinger from Community UCC in St. Paul Park. His cell phone number is 612-462-0973.



(continued from previous page)

We are most grateful for the service of those who have recently vacated positions. Brenda, Bobbi Jo, and Debra took on a tough job and led our children well. Donna Perkins did a fabulous job as Turkey Dinner chairperson. Bill Larsen brought new ideas to Nurture/Education. Chris Miller was an asset to the Communications/Marketing Team. Wes Hillman brought expertise to the Gifts Coordinator position. Bette Meyer excelled at "Caring and Sharing." Now Joyce Fries has become the leader of the Caring and Sharing Team, and Troy Pribnow has taken on the Turkey Dinner. Thank you, all of you!

Our church cannot do the work of Christ without the hard work of individuals. I know that people are busy. We *all* are. I know that you may not be able to serve in a leadership capacity right now, or you may be tired from past service. But I hope that you will keep CGUCC high on your priority list, and that you will seriously consider filling one of our open positions.

If you have any questions, feel free to talk with me, President Elect Midge Youngquist, or Church President John Greenwell.

Have a blessed rest of the summer!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gold

Coming Up in Worship

Participating in Worship in August

Head Usher—Rod Heuer

Altar Team—Karen Fritze

Communion Preparation—Karen Pribnow

Liturgist—

August 1 - Joan Thyren

August 8 - Joan Thyren

August 15 - Pam Dahlstrom

August 22 - Leona Perkins & George Ronn

Participating in Worship in September

Head Usher—Ron Bonnevier

Altar Team—Claudia Weisskirk

Communion Preparation—Gary and Joan Thyren

Liturgist—to be announced

Cross Connection

A Periodical Newsletter of
Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

Published on the 1st and 15th
of every month

Deadlines are the 10th and 25th
of every month

Edited by Becky Graff

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

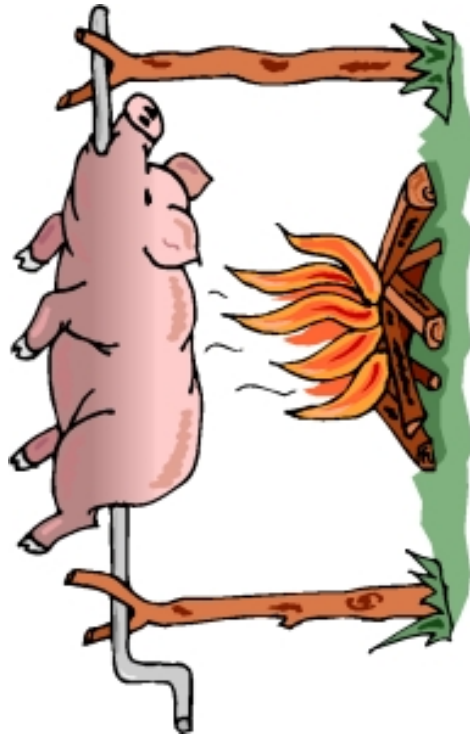
Submit articles via e-mail at
cgucc@usfamily.net or drop
them off at the office.

Becky Graff, Editor

12th Annual All-You-Can-Eat Pig Roast

Saturday, August 14, 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

*Fundraiser to support Friends in Need Food Shelf
Emergency Crisis Fund and Stone Soup*



St. Rita's Church
8694 80th St. S, Cottage Grove
rain or shine

In the last 11 years, this fundraiser has donated more than \$79,000 to feed and care for our community! You are invited to be a part of the fundraising this year by using the attached coupon at Applebee's this weekend (you must bring the flyer with you), and by attending the pig roast on August 14.

Sponsored by the Men's Clubs of All Saints,
St. Luke and Zion Lutheran Churches,
St. Rita and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Churches

A background image for the Applebee's Dining to Donate flyer. It features a close-up of a pig's head, partially obscured by a glass of beer and a white plate with a fork. The pig's head is the central focus, with its eye and ear visible. The glass of beer is on the left, and the plate with a fork is on the right. The overall scene is set on a white tablecloth.

Applebee's™
Dining to Donate
Enjoy a meal that's filling – and fulfilling.

Dine at Applebee's® and 20% of your bill will be donated to **Annual Pig Roast**

Present this flyer to your server on **July 30, 31 & Aug 1st**
Open To Close
8380 E Point Douglas Rd.
Cottage Grove MN 55016
651-458-5837
You must bring this flyer for your donation to be counted.

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Calendar



August

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



Heaven Cents Update

As of 7/28/2010, "Heaven Cents" has raised **\$2,733.24** to reduce our mortgage!!!! That's FREE MONEY, folks, and all you had to do for it was SHOP as



usual at your favorite stores using Scrip Cards purchased through CGUCC. It's that simple!!!!

If you have any questions about the program, talk with some of our members who use Scrip faithfully week after week or contact Diane Davies at Dianedavies48@yahoo.com or call her at 651-436-7234.

Remember you get full value for your money. Let's say that you buy a \$100 gift card at Cub. You pay the Church \$100 and receive a gift card valued at \$100. The Church collects a \$2.00 rebate from Scrip for your purchase. Or you buy a Bonngard's Family Meats gift card for \$100, you spend \$100 and get a scrip card from Bonngard's for \$100 and the Church collects a \$5.00 rebate. Each retailer sets the value of the rebate given. The rebates range from 2% to 25% of your purchase. It works! You just have to plan ahead a bit for your purchases. Here are some of my favorites and their rebate percentage:

Applebee's	8%
Bath & Body Works	13%
SuperAmerica	4%
Cub	2%
Herbergers	8%
Home Depot	4%
Talbots	13%

Give it a try. It's fun and easy and makes a donation to the Church without costing you a cent!!!!

Happy Shopping
Diane Davies, Scrip Coordinator

Turkey Dinner Planning Underway

Troy Pribnow has offered to chair the Turkey Dinner Team, and has called a planning meeting for Sunday, August 15, right after Worship. All who are able to help with planning are encouraged to attend.



Corn Booth at County Fair

Chairperson John Perkins reports that there are still a few openings in the work schedule for the corn booth at the county fair, August 4-8. If you could pick up a shift, please call John at 459-8665. Then be sure to stop at CGUCC's booth when you are at the fair, and get your steamy hot corn on the cob and icy cold lemonade.



CUE Seminaries Say Thanks

Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries provide a vital ministry in the United Church of Christ by training and equipping leaders for ministry with individuals, congregations, and in the wider world. Each seminary strengthens the life of the church by enlivening critical reflection on faith, and supporting bold Christian discipleship. Each school is a vibrant, caring, and challenging place in which to pursue theological education.



Thank you for making theological education a vital ministry of your congregation. Your support is an investment in the future of the United Church of Christ!

Fundraiser Cookout

Cottage Grove UCC will have a fundraiser cookout on Saturday, August 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Bonngards' Family Meats, corner of 70th Street and Keats (County Rd 19). Brats, hot dogs and meal deals will be available. 90% of the proceeds will go to reduce the new church addition debt, and 10% will go to Stone Soup Thrift Shop. We hope to see you all there for some great food & fellowship!



CGUCC and Farmers' Market on Facebook®!



Cottage Grove United Church of Christ and the CGUCC Farmers' Market both have pages on Facebook. Become our "fans," so you can stay up to date on current events and connect with other church members and with the wider world. *Facebook is a registered trademark of Facebook, Inc.*

Thursdays 3:30-6:30 p.m.

in CGUCC Parking Lot

Our market now has multiple vegetable vendors, along with jams and jellies, pretzels, breads, jerky, frozen meats, t-shirts, and post cards. Our church folks continue their bake sale, popcorn, ice cream, hot dogs and brats, cold drinks, and Kids' Korner every week. Come and see what's new at the market this week.



Caring and Sharing Information

Who doesn't like getting something cheery and pretty in the mail that doesn't require a reply with a check? No one we know, so if you have a family member, co-worker, friend, neighbor or anyone you think would like a smile, all you have to do is let us know and we'll send them a card. Just give us a name, address, and reason; the reason part is so we send the proper card to them. On the information table is a small form to fill out for us to do this, especially if they live in another state. This doesn't apply to just sick, hospitalized or homebound, but good things too, like weddings, births, promotions, a new home, special birthday, etc. Fill out a form and give it to Lynn Ronn, Bette Meyer, Jean Gausman, Joyce Fries, Pastor Gold, or place it in the collection plate, and a card will be sent. This won't cost you anything except two minutes to fill out the form, so get to it!



Lynn Ronn, Caring and Sharing

Sincere Thanks

Thanks to everybody who prayed for the return of my good friend Angi Tschida. She has turned herself in after 25 days missing, and is home safe. Thanks for all the prayers and support.



Thank you,
Cole Bertram

Many Thanks!

A big thank you to Sue Brown who worked in the office, filling in for me while I was on vacation. It made my vacation more relaxing, Sue, knowing you were there!

Becky Graff

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

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

Jerry Perkins, JBPerkins Architect, architectural services for commercial, retail, medical, and restaurant buildings, (651)436-6966, jbperk@usfamily.net

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.

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

Welcome Back Rally Sunday and Pot Luck Picnic

On Sunday, September 26, CGUCC will welcome everyone back from their summer vacation with a Family Worship Service and Sunday School Orientation.

All adults and children will begin the day with **Family Worship at 10:15** (9 AM Sunday School will resume the following week). Following a festive opening, the children will retire to their respective classes for orientation.



Following the Worship Service the congregation will have an all church pot luck picnic on our beautiful church grounds. Hot dogs with fixings and beverages will be provided. Please bring a salad, hot dish or dessert to share, and bring your lawn chairs or picnic blanket.

Many hands make light work.

If you are willing to help with the picnic, please contact Elaine Mitchell.