



*Keeping in  
touch with the  
heart of the  
faith community  
of  
Gaylord  
United  
Church  
of  
Christ*

*A Welcoming  
Congregation*

# Parish Paper

August 2011

Vol. 39, 8

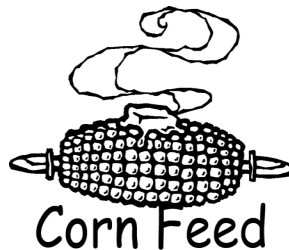


Plan on attending the Women's Fellowship  
**Annual Pie and Ice Cream Social**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2011**

serving from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- More information on page 5 -



**Men's Fellowship Corn & Bologna Feed**

**Sunday, August 21, 2011**

Come join us for the annual Men's Fellowship  
Corn Feed on Sunday, August 21.

Serving will begin after Fellowship Time.

If you have tomatoes, cucumbers or a salad or dessert to  
share it would be welcome.

The men will provide the corn, bologna, beverages and plates.

**Everyone is welcome to come!**

**Ushers:** Gail and Dick Estenson  
Beth Wilson

**Greeters:** Barb and Arlen Sneltsjes  
8-7, 8-14  
Chuck Klimmek and Pauline Marlinski  
8-21, 8-28

**Acolyte:** Alex Evers

**Fellowship Hour:**

August 7 ..... open  
August 14 ..... Ecumenical Worship in Park  
August 21 ..... open  
August 28 ..... open

**Lectionary Readings for the Month of August**

**Aug. 7, 2011: Eight Sunday after Pentecost**  
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b;  
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33. UCC Theme:  
When All Seems Lost.

**Aug. 14, 2011: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 56:1; Psalm 67; Genesis 45:1-15; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28. UCC Theme:  
Bold Moves.

**Aug. 21, 2011: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20. UCC Theme: Be Transformed.

**Aug. 28, 2011: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28. UCC Theme: Spirit-Led Living.

**In our prayers recently:** The students in the Graduating Class of 2011, those attending the MN Conference Annual meeting in June, New Ulm UCC, the community of New Ulm and Pastor Hank after the recent loss and tragedy there, Dick Estenson, our nation and all government leaders.

Pray for Aaron Solomonson, Alex Thoele, Mark Thoele, May and Raymond Ysasaga, Colton Kroells (nephew to Sandy Wentzloff), Daniel Britt and others serving in the military and those who have been ill or are homebound.

Congratulations to Beth Wilson on the arrival of a new granddaughter born to Rebecca and Sim Phanthanivong on Friday, June 3. Kiana Mya was 7 lbs and 20" long.

Pastor Hank will be on vacation August 1-18. Emergency pastoral needs are handled by calling Deacons Aggie Schue or Jim Peterson.



**Plan on attending the  
Ecumenical  
Worship in the Park  
Sunday, August 14  
beginning at 10:00 a.m.  
with American Lutheran,  
Gaylord UCC and St. Paul's Lutheran.  
Bring your own lawn chairs.  
Coffee will be served after the service.**

**Pilgrim Point Camp**

**Pilgrim Point Camps and Retreats is a ministry of the MN Conference United Church of Christ located in Alexandria, MN.**

**Conference Sponsored Camps and Retreats:**

- ◆ Senior High Week: July 31 – August 6, 2011
  - ◆ Young Adult Weekend: August 19-21, 2011
  - ◆ Men's Retreat: September 9 – 11, 2011 NEW
  - ◆ Women's Retreat: September 16 – 18, 2011
  - ◆ Middle School Fall CYE (formerly known as Confirmation Retreat): October 7-9, 2011
  - ◆ Senior High Fall CYE: October 21-23, 2011
- Scholarship money is available to help pay your fee. More information and sign up sheets are on the table in the Fellowship Hall.**

**News and Notes:**

- ◆ **August Worship time is 9:00 a.m. with Fellowship Time following. August 14 Worship will be in the Park beginning at 10:00 a.m.**
- ◆ **Worship time in September is 11:00 a.m. with Fellowship Time at 9:45 a.m. Sunday School starts September 11 at 10:00 a.m.**
- ◆ **Mark your calendar for October 6th when we will be having the Blackwood Gospel Quartet back by popular demand. More information will follow.**



## **Pastor's Report on 2011 Minnesota Conference UCC Annual Meeting held in June.**

This annual event is always a RENEWING and RECONNECTING, INSIGHTFUL and INSPIRING time of ministry for me. This year's theme was "Faith in Action." Next year's theme will focus on the Conference's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

### **RENEWING**

Congratulations! To both New Ulm UCC and Gaylord UCC for being honored with a "Green Church" designation. Category check-list:

- ◆ Celebrates Earth Day in worship or celebrates a similar "earth stewardship awareness" worship.
- ◆ Acts to reduce waste, use re-usable products, and recycle recyclables.
- ◆ Acts to reduce energy usage of current appliances and utilities and/or has purchased at least one Energy Star rated appliance.
- ◆ Has engaged in at least 5 other earth friendly activities.

### **RECONNECTING**

....Our Conference churches help us to celebrate the strength and diversity of our UCC witness in the state.

\*See a map of the MN Conference UCC Churches on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

....Susan Lester, a former UTS Seminary Intern who served with me several years ago, surprised me when she suddenly appeared to tell me that she is back in Minnesota and glad to be serving the Welcome and Sherburn UCC churches not far from here. Blessings to Susan on her new Call!

### **INSIGHTFUL**

....30-plus Workshops ranging from Hispanic Immigration and Native American issues to Social Media Outreach and new Christian Education ideas.

....an honest and sobering report on "numbers" across the UCC from Executive Conference Minister Rev. Karen Smith-Sellers. The good news is that the Minnesota Conference should be financially solid this coming year.

### **INSPIRING**

....Sunday's Closing Worship Service was a unique blessing in hearing the range of prayer/ministry concerns for: our children and youth, certain individuals with health issues, members (and families) in the armed services, those facing addiction/alcoholism, various global settings of injustice and conflict, our pastoral leaders and churches....(and more) as a reflection of the loving prayer concerns—from individual to community needs -- shared by every setting of the Church of Jesus Christ on Sunday morning. The "red decor" of Pentecost enhanced our Worship which also included new music, the liturgy and songs presented on large screens (as well as bulletins), and sharing Holy Communion by going forward with "Intinction."

....I didn't get to hear Friday's Keynote Preacher, Rev. Otis Moss III, Minister of Trinity UCC in Chicago, (President Obama's home church), but folks said it was a powerful message on "faith in action."

+ + + +

**TWO GREAT EVENTS** for Middle School UCCer's are coming up in October, 2011:

- "Urban Immersion" a long-standing program of the Minneapolis Council of Churches. Info has been sent out to families with a few possible dates. Please respond to the Cindy in the church office - ASAP if you have preferences. We are planning this as a "Shared Ministry" event with New Ulm UCC!
- Pilgrim Point Middle-School event with Musician and Speaker, Brian Sirchio, Oct. 7 to 9. If there is interest for this event as well, we will try to make it happen with adult chaperones who volunteer.

### **FINALLY**

**Thanks to the Gaylord UCC church family** for all of the prayers for New Ulm UCC, the New Ulm community and for me during these past weeks of much loss and tragedy in New Ulm.

**Sincerely, Pastor Hank**

## AUGUST PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Vacations, Gaylord's wonderful new aquatic center, mosquitoes, rain, storms, **hot** weather and the unexpected...all part of the last two months. And all constant reminders that God is with us through the wonderful, memorable times and the difficult, unexpected events as well.

After some time away from the usual routine, it's sometimes difficult to get back into the swing of things again and it requires extra focus and concentration. With the June/July Parish Paper drafted in late May, it's been awhile since I've done this and it seems to be taking me a bit longer to get organized this month. Thank goodness, again, for Cindy's patience!

With vacations, out of town visits or guests and other summer obligations, church attendance declines even though church operations continue as usual. Please remember that staying current with your pledge and giving is very important during the summer months when it's so easy to forget.

Our New Ulm brothers and sisters in Christ have suffered devastating losses recently, and Pastor Campbell has been very busy serving those who are affected and who mourn. Please keep the families and friends of those who perished in the tragic fire in your prayers, as well as the Fenske family. Thank you for your understanding when our regular service was cancelled on July 10<sup>th</sup> to help lighten the demand on Pastor Hank as he delivered funeral messages on Friday and Monday, and again later that week for two more families. The calling tree was implemented to encourage our members to attend the ecumenical polka service at Paisley's Day in the Park on Sunday, July 10. I have heard that several people did not receive notice of the change and I apologize for any confusion or inconvenience caused. At times when our methods are imperfect, your understanding and forgiveness are greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers and concern during the past two months following Dick's stroke, as well as for cards, visits, calls and food. We are blessed to live in the wonderful community of Gaylord and to be a part of this loving and caring congregation. We have felt the power of your prayers through this unexpected and somewhat alarming medical matter. Dick is making steady progress as strength and mobility improve on his left

side with help from the efficient and delightful occupational and physical therapists at Oak Terrace. We have so much to be grateful for!

During times of unexpected challenges, our Lord and Savior is ever present, helping us to find the strength to move forward and face whatever is before us. Thanks to our prayer chain leaders and members for lifting up the needs and concerns of our members and others throughout the area. The power of prayer is phenomenal and is felt in so many ways.

The Eggstravaganza Pie Social is just around the corner. If you haven't yet signed up to bake, donate, serve or help in other ways, there is still time.

The Blessing of the Pets Service on July 17<sup>th</sup> was enjoyed by those attending, human and furry. Thanks to Jane for taking some pictures of our four legged friends. And thanks to Pastor Hank for recognizing the importance of pets in our lives.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Street House has been discussed at length at our Council meetings and some small, inexpensive improvements have been recently made. The housing market is very slow, and it is unlikely it will sell in the near future. If the opportunity arises, we will rent the property through the winter and hope and pray for a buyer on the horizon. Please continue to keep this matter in your prayers.

God be with each of you through the joys and challenges, and give you courage and strength to face the unexpected.

Next Council Meeting Wednesday, August 24 at  
6:00 p.m.

Gail Estenson, Council Chair - 2011



**The community theater production has been tentatively moved to September 17.**

**Tryouts will be at UCC on Thursday, August 18 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Contact Darrel Mosel for more information.**



**FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2011**

serving from

**11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

*Featuring:*

**Sloppy Joes    Chips & Pickles**

**Desserts    Ice Cream    Beverages**

**Thank you** to everyone who has signed up to work, bring pies or desserts, or give a donation. We hope everyone will participate in some way to make our annual Pie and Ice Cream Social a success. If you haven't signed up, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall or contact Karen Peterson or Harriet Troidahl.

**Please drop off your pies and desserts**

**Thursday by 7 p.m. or**

**Friday morning before 9 a.m.**

### **Women's Fellowship**

**Women's Fellowship will have our regular meeting on Monday, August 8 at 12:00 p.m.**

**and**

**Thursday, August 11 at 9:00 a.m.**

**to set up for the Pie Social.**

**We could use your help - Come join us!**

**Workers should report to help on Friday by 9:00 a.m. Thank You.**

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### **Youth News**

Pastor Hank is planning a special Urban Immersion mission trip event in late September or October with students in grades 7 – 9. Urban Immersion Service Retreats is a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. This event will combine an overview of poverty and its causes with hands-on help for those in need. Ultimately, the retreat participants are encouraged to apply their service learning experiences to address poverty issues in their own communities.

For more information contact Pastor Hank.

### **Update from the Mission Board**

The Mission Board From the Heart offering collected \$80 in June for the Salvation Army. Our next collection will be August 7<sup>th</sup> and will be for the scholarship fund. This will go to college students that are members of our congregation and must be used for books or toward their tuition. During the month of August and September we will have a box out to collect items for the Sibley County Backpack Project and for our local Sibley East schools. Items collected before August 22 will go toward the Backpack Project and anything collected after that will be given to Diane Mosel to be used at Sibley East for students in need.

**Supplies needed include: crayons, pens, pencils, colored pencils, pencil boxes and bags, markers, glue sticks, glue, erasers, scissors, rulers, notebooks, and two-pocket folders.**

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### **CC&O Update - Paisley's Day in the Park**

A big "Thank You!" to everyone who helped make the fundraiser on July 10<sup>th</sup> for Paisley Lindemann a success! The United Church of Christ ice cream booth was a big hit and we raised almost \$900 for Paisley's medical expenses. If you're in the United Farmers Coop, please thank manager Wendy for UFC and Cass-Clay Dairy's donation of all the ice cream. In addition, First National Bank Minnesota and ProGrowth Bank donated all the cups and napkins we needed.

Once we found a working soft-serve ice cream machine, things went well thanks to a lot of people. Greg & Deb Swenson donated the use of their ice cream machine. Pauline Marlinski, Jane Peterson and Beth Wilson worked well together organizing and trouble-shooting. Muscle power came in the form of Chuck Klimmek, Howard Armstrong and Dale Johnson. In addition, a special thank you to Howard and Chuck for all the extra time and energy spent dealing with the machine problems.

Booth workers who kept the ice cream flowing included Sue Keithahn, Fran Armstrong, Howard Armstrong, Jane Peterson, Beth Wilson, Marian Pfarr Saxton, Jaci Tourtellott, Abby Tourtellott, Denise Tourtellott, Kathy and Dale Tourtellott, Mary Thoele, May Ysasaga, Pauline Marlinski and Diane Mosel.

***Good job, everyone!***

## The United Church of Christ

The characteristics of the United Church of Christ can be summarized in part by the key words in the names that formed our union: Christian, Reformed, Congregational, Evangelical.

**Christian.** By our very name, the United Church of Christ, we declare ourselves to be part of the Body of Christ—the Christian church. We continue the witness of the early disciples to the reality and power of the crucified and risen Christ, Jesus of Nazareth.

**Reformed.** All four denominations arose from the tradition of the Protestant Reformers: We confess the authority of one God. We affirm the primacy of the Scriptures, the doctrine of justification by faith, the priesthood of all believers, and the principle of Christian freedom. We celebrate two sacraments: baptism and the Lord's Supper (also called Holy Communion or the Eucharist).

**Congregational.** The basic unit of the United Church of Christ is the congregation. Members of each congregation covenant with one another and with God as revealed in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. These congregations, in turn, exist in covenantal relationships with one another to form larger structures for more effective work. Our covenanting emphasizes trustful relationships rather than legal agreements.

**Evangelical.** The primary task of the church is the proclamation of the Gospel or (in Greek) evangel. The Gospel literally means the "Good News" of God's love revealed with power in Jesus Christ. We proclaim this Gospel by word and deed to individual persons and to society. This proclamation is the heart of the leiturgia—in Greek, the "work of the people" in daily and Sunday worship. We gather for the worship of God, and through each week, we engage in the service of humankind.



MINNESOTA CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"The Mission of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ is to increase the love of God and neighbor by strengthening covenantal relations among all settings of the United Church of Christ and by working with our ecumenical and interfaith partners."

The Minnesota Conference UCC is:

- ♦ driven by mission rather than maintenance;
- ♦ committed to spiritually enlivened strategic initiatives rather than to survival;
- ♦ focused on Christian formation and discipleship of children, youth and adults;
- ♦ directed toward identifying and nurturing these gifts and leadership abilities in laity;
- ♦ devoted to strengthening, building, and inviting congregations; and
- ♦ dedicated to prophetic witness.

There are 136 churches of the MN Conference UCC with 32,250 members covering 87,000 square miles. See the map on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

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## Sink or Swim

People's stories about learning to swim often sound like this: "My dad tossed me into the water. I didn't have a choice — I flailed around until I found myself swimming!"

But an elderly Christian tells a variation of this story: "Wanting to teach me to swim, my father threw me off the dock into the lake. I sank." But then he goes on: "So my father jumped in with me."

The storyteller's wisdom shines in his application: "God doesn't toss us into life and leave us alone to sink or swim. By sending Jesus, God jumped right in with us to save us from death, hold us protectively and help us navigate life."



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This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Gaylord United Church of Christ. Articles and announcements are due the third Wednesday of the month.

**Sunday Worship—9:00 a.m.**

**Coffee-Fellowship Hour Follows Worship**

Sunday School—Sept.—May

Communion is the 1st Sunday of the month

**Pastor, Rev. Hank Campbell**

Council President, Gail Estenson

Church Secretary, Cindy Johnson

### *August Birthdays*

01.....Jane Peterson  
07.....Marie Berg  
08.....Adam Cowell  
08.....Shannon Hruska  
12.....Bill Cowell  
12.....Scott Troidahl  
14.....Orville Saxton  
20.....Lorraine Mueller  
23.....Jenni Wolverton  
24.....Jan Carlson  
25.....Nik Beglau  
25.....Joanne Kolstad  
28.....Brit Keithahn  
28.....Arlen Sneltsjes