



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

*A Welcoming
Congregation*

Parish Paper

July 2013

Vol. 41, 7

Outdoor Worship and Blessing of the Pets (All inclusive)

Sunday, July 28, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

Large City Park Shelter

Bring your own lawn chair.

We invite friends and neighbors to come and join us for this unique *Service in the Park* as we give thanks for the special gifts that are shared through our pets.

All are welcome - pets not required!!

Invite a friend!

After the service we will be joined by **Christian Lilienthal** and two of his menagerie (a blue and gold macaw and a sulfur crested cockatoo) for an hour long program sure to entertain and inform.

Refreshments will also be served.



Blessing
of Pets

The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our creator.



- Ushers:** Phil Keithahn, Dale Tourtellott
Jaci Tourtellott
- Greeters:** Candy and Don Swenson
7-7, 7-14
Michelle Exsted, Shaylee and Krystal
7-21, 7-28
- Acolyte:** Alex Evers

Fellowship Hour:

- July 7open
July 14open
July 21open
July 28open

Lectionary Readings for the Month of July

- July 7, 2013: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**
2 Kings 5:1-14, Ps 30, Gal 6:7-16, Luke 10:1-11, 16-20. UCC Theme: Surprising Powers.
- July 14, 2013: Eight Sunday after Pentecost**
Amos 7:7-17, Ps 82, Colossians 1:1-14, Luke 10:25-37. UCC Theme: Caring Neighbors.
- July 21, 2013: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**
Amos 8:1-12, Ps 52, Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42. UCC Theme: Word and Work.
- July 28, 2013: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**
Hos 1:2-10, Ps 85, Colossians 2:6-15, Luke 11:1-13. UCC Theme: Shaped by Prayer



Among those who were recently lifted up in prayer:
Our church, the United States of America and its leaders, those who attended the MN Conference UCC Annual Meeting, those who have been ill or are home bound and those at Oak Terrace. Pray for Brit Keithahn, Alex Thoele, Mark Thoele, May and Raymond Ysasaga and others serving in the military.

Congratulations to Jason and Linda Pinske on the birth of a son, Jaxon Theodore Nicolai Pinske, on May 5. Jaxon weighed 10 lbs and 9 oz and was 23” long. *Congrats also to Grandpa Ted Pinske!*

**Mark Your Calendars for
Vacation Bible School Day Camp**

- Who:** Kids entering kindergarten - 6th grade
What: Day Camp led by Green Lake Bible Camp
Where: American Lutheran Church -
911 8th Street, Gaylord
When: Sunday, July 28 through
Thursday, August 1. 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Why: Day Camp is a spiritual growth experience
and is a lot of fun!
Cost: \$55.00 – fee to be paid by the
Board of Christian Education.
Complete a Registration Form,
available on the table in the Fellowship Hall,
and return by Sunday, July 21.
Questions: Call American Lutheran Church at
237– 2428.

**It wasn't the two services that was getting
to Pastor; it was the *two coffee hours!***

Pastor Hank's 4 cups:

1. Desperate cup
2. Second cup
3. Clarifying cup
4. Jitter cup

“Church Vitality” is always one of the essential topics at Annual Meeting – whether it is in the Keynote Speeches, Worship or Workshops. It’s important to note that despite the declines in attendance and resources, the priority of the Christian Church is making faithful disciples, not simply adding to membership rosters.

Resolutions are always on the docket. This year there was only one and it passed by an overwhelming margin: Divestment of UCC Funds from companies whose primary income is from fossil fuels (to investing in companies dedicated to ecological alternatives to fossil fuels). It would be gradually implemented over 5 years, and would affect pastor’s pension funds and other UCC stewardship investments. Resolutions are not mandates but recommendations to the local churches.

Workshops covered topics ranging from “The Forgiving Church” to “Advance Directives” to “Immigration Reform” to “Indian Boarding Schools” to “Vitality Initiatives” to “Social Media Ministry” to “Liturgical Art.” The two workshops I chose to attend were “The Forgiving Church” and “Amicus Prison Ministry.”

The Amicus program – basically to be a volunteer “friend” who will make monthly visits to an inmate - is one that anyone can be a part of with very little training. The waiting list is long for dedicated Amicus friends serving as a vital support to incarcerated women and men in several of our Minnesota prisons. The workshop featured an ex-convict and Amicus friend sharing about their unique and transformative relationship. Jesus - “as you visited the prisoner so have you visited me.” – from Matthew 25

The “Forgiveness” workshop explored the on-going challenge and blessing of forgiving – from the high profile case of murder victim Trayvon Martin’s family... to the various broken relationships that can occur in any church family where “we often share in our most vulnerable moments.” We reflected on what does (i.e. release) and does not (i.e. reconciliation) constitute forgiveness. There are many key Bible passages, and also various rituals and opportunities for the unconditional gift of forgiveness to happen in church settings.

Transitions are a special concern for the MN Conference at this time. A new Lead Conference Minister will hopefully be called soon to replace Rev. Karen Smith Sellers who is now retired.* One of our two Associate Conference Ministers, Elena Larssen, will be leaving in July as well.

The PET mobility-scooter project could be a special mission opportunity for UCC!

We celebrated our Gaylord UCC witness as a MN Conference UCC “**GREEN CHURCH!**”

I appreciate this yearly opportunity to reconnect with fellow Clergy, to be fed in Worship and inspired for the emerging possibilities of ministry in these changing times.

*As of June 22 Rev. Sharon Prestemon has been Called as the new Conference Minister. God’s Blessing upon “Shari.” Her bio is posted on the bulletin board.

BLESSINGS, HANK

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!

Pastor Hank will be away on vacation July 13 - 14. For emergency Pastoral needs contact Deacons Harriet Troidahl or Dale Johnson. Thank you to Rev. Brian Brosz for leading Worship on July 14.

Hank’s usual office hours or time of visiting are Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1- 4:30 p.m. and Friday afternoons as needed. If you need to reach him call the church office 237-2595 or New Ulm UCC at 507-354-4242 or his cell 507-217-9848.

Council Highlights from June 12 meeting.

Continuing the Conversation.....On the Way to Taking Action!

What an exciting evening at the Gaylord UCC on June 12!

Twenty-seven members and friends joined together for food, celebration and commitment as we discussed the NEXT STEPS in our quest to become a vibrant congregation.

We enjoyed a delicious dinner provided by the Keithahns.

We celebrated successful connections we've already made with our ministries to the community: Taking our Lenten suppers and services to Oak Terrace Retirement Center; sponsoring a successful Food Shelf fundraiser, Election Day luncheon, Ice Cream Social; hosting exciting music and inspirational programs such as Beads on One String, Singing Friends concert, Dick Kimmel as well as our own musical talents of singers and musicians; planting trees to help the earth; and sharing our faith at Pepsi with the Pastor. *Well done!*

Five initiatives were chosen to continue sharing our time, talent and treasure:

- ♦ **MISSIONS:** an exciting mission/work project will be presented to the congregation sometime in July. It is called "*Personal Energy Transportation*" (PET). Learn more by visiting www.petmntc.org.
- ♦ **WORSHIP:** Three groups are organizing to work on *worship and the sanctuary*: technology, special services, and adding color.
- ♦ **COMMUNITY:** Become a "4-X" Community-focused Church – Let's work on having *4 special worship* services a year, *4 great speakers* or programs a year, and *4 wonderful musical* events a year.
- ♦ **YOUTH:** After-School program - Try a simple service project for a specified amount of time.
- ♦ **PRAYER:** Use the prayer chain to pray for and support these initiatives, and explore other ways to come together in prayer.



JOIN IN THE EXCITEMENT!

OPPORTUNITIES AND MORE INFORMATION WILL BE COMING SOON!

Our next regular Council meeting will be July 10 at 5:00 p.m.

Pauline Marlinski, Council President

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship had their spring outing on Wednesday, May 16 and enjoyed a wonderful day in Mankato at Drummers and then on to St. Peter. We had lunch at Whiskey River and did a little shopping at the St. Peter Co-op.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, July 8 at 12:00 p.m. Come join us.



“Ice Cream News”

Our annual Ice Cream Social will be held on Friday, August 9

servicing from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

We will be serving

Sloppy Joes, chips, pickles, ice cream, pies, cakes and desserts!!

A sign up sheet will be on the table in the Fellowship Hall for donations of pies, cakes, desserts, and workers. **Please consider helping in some way.**



While taking photos of the earth, the space shuttle Columbia made a surprising discovery: Underneath the harsh Sahara Desert were 26 lakes, as well as miles of underground rivers. That region's inhabitants face tough conditions because those abundant resources haven't yet been tapped.

Churches often suffer a similar problem. Congregations can't reach their full God-given potential unless people discover and use their gifts. When we tap into our talents, however, God promises that we “will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.”

(Isaiah 58:11, NIV)



Pastor Hank will again be hosting “*Pepsi with the Pastor*” **Thursday, July 11, 18 and 25 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at EJ's Restaurant in Gaylord.**

These will be casual supper get-togethers with an invitation to share some “faith conversation.”

A topic will be discussed each week:

1. How important do you think the act of serving others is to Christianity?
2. Why do you think Christianity is becoming less appealing to the youth of today?
3. What do you feel are the most important aspects of the Christian faith?

There's still time to come to the Point!

HURRY UP AND REGISTER!

for

“Radical Hospitality”

Middle School Camp - July 21st - 26th, 2013

Senior High Camp - July 28th - Aug 3rd

Adult leaders are encouraged to attend with youth.

We are having a camping weekend with New Ulm UCC again this summer August 30 - Sept. 1. Check out the signup sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

Mark your calendar for other Camps and Retreats at Pilgrim Point Camp:

July Family Camp - July 14-19

August Family Camp - August 4-9

Eco Justice Training - August 11 – 14

Women's Retreat - September 20—22

Fall Middle School CYE - October 4 – 6

Fall High School CYE - October 18 – 20

Scholarship money is available to help pay for camp.

Update from the Mission Board

Thanks to all who contributed \$139 to the From The Heart Offering for the Mission Board scholarships for our local UCC students. We want to encourage students attending post secondary education to apply for scholarships. Applications are available on the table in the Fellowship Hall, and should be given to any Mission Board member or turned into the secretary's office by July 17.

We received the following letter from the OCWM Subcommittee of the MN UCC Conference:

Your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission have made such a difference in the lives of people in the wider church and around the world. Thank you for your faithfulness to the mission we hold in common. We wish you all good in this church year. We pray God's blessing on each of your congregations. We deeply appreciate your effort and your dedication to the whole Church with your \$9490 in 2012.

We also received a thank you from Rev. Karen Smith Sellers, Conference Minister and Geoffrey A. Black, General Minister and President of UCC:

Thank You to the members of United Church of Christ Gaylord for being a 5 for 5 congregation of the United Church of Christ in 2012. A 5 for 5 Congregation supports Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and the Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Fund, and Strengthen the Church Special Mission offerings of the United Church of Christ.

Our next From The Heart Offering will be July 14, and it will be given to the Salvation Army. Thank you again for your contributions to assist others in need!

The Importance of Prayer

Prayer is the Christian's life. Though every other ordinance be attended to, yet if this one be neglected, all is in vain. It is as impossible for the soul to be spiritually alive and active without a punctual course of fervent and believing prayer, as for the body to be alive and active without breath.

Prayer has more influence on the sanctification of the soul than all other ordinances. It is going directly to God to receive the life-giving Spirit according to an absolute and often repeated promise: "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." -Edward Griffin



Garden Produce

During the spring, summer and into the fall, the Mission Board sponsors plants, fruits, vegetables, flowers, and various other items that you can purchase with a donation to the Mission Board. These donations are used by the Mission Board for their scholarships and various other Mission projects. A plastic container is conveniently located for your donation.

If you wish to donate some of your extra garden produce, plants, etc. have it ready and on the table in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. Thank You.

Coffee Hour

During the summer months coffee hour is open to anyone that wants to serve coffee and treats and keep the proceeds for their group. We ask that you put up a sign that states what group is serving. Thanks.



Considering the staggering height of redwood trees, we assume they must need incredibly deep roots. But these giants have extremely shallow roots, growing only 4 to 6 feet deep.

Instead of heading downward, the roots extend outward — spreading out as far as 125 feet. Stability occurs because the roots intertwine with those of neighboring trees. This network allows redwoods to stand tall despite strong winds and storms.

In a similar way, such interconnectedness keeps the body of Christ standing strong. Psalm 133:1 urges believers to "dwell in unity." In order to inhabit one another's lives, we must share our stories, offer forgiveness and provide encouragement. Through those actions, our roots spread wide as we support our brothers and sisters in Christ.

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

Sunday Worship—9:00 a.m.

Coffee-Fellowship Hour 10:00 a.m.

Communion is the 1st Sunday of the month

Pastor, Rev. Hank Campbell

Council President, Pauline Marlinski

Secretary, Cindy Johnson

July Birthdays

04..... Susan Schmitt
07..... Marc Troidahl
11..... Jean Feehan
11..... Todd Pauly
12..... Renate Henriksen
16..... Karen Peterson
19..... Dick Carlson
19..... Jason Pinske
20..... Cole Bruhn