



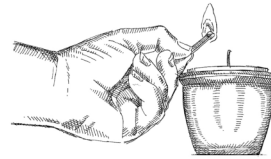
*Keeping in
touch with the
heart of the
faith community
of
Gaylord
United
Church
of Christ*

*A Welcoming
Congregation*

Parish Paper

November 2013

Vol. 41, 11



All Saints/Memorial Sunday, November 3

You are invited on this join us on this day to come forward during the Worship Service to light a small candle in memory of a special saint who has blessed your faith journey. We will also be lighting special Candles of Memorial for our UCC Parishioners who have passed away since last year.



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 27, 7:00 p.m. at Gaylord United Church of Christ. The offering will go to the Sibley County Food Shelf.



Please join us Sunday, December 1st at 7:00 p.m. for the Hanging of the Greens - Sunday, December 1

Come join us as we sing Christmas carols, decorate the sanctuary, and tell the Christmas story. Youth of the congregation will once again be leading the service and our Choir along with some of the New Ulm UCC choir will be singing.

A light lunch will be served after the program.

**There is a sign up sheet for anyone willing to
donate cookies for the lunch.**

Ushers: Ewald and Ruby Keller
Greeters: Dale and Cindy Johnson
11-3, 11-10
Bonnie and Rueben Meyer
11-17, 11-24
Acolyte: Logan Wagenius

Fellowship Hour:

November 3.....open
November 10.....open
November 17.....open
November 25.....open

Lectionary Readings for November

Nov. 3, 2013: Hab 1:1-4; 2:1-4, Ps 119:137-144, 2 Thes 1:1-4, 11-12, Luke 19:1-10. UCC Theme: Transforming Love.

Nov. 10, 2013: Hag 1:15b-2:9, Ps 145:1-5, 17-21, Job 19:23-27a, Luke 20:27-38. UCC Theme: Hold on to Faith.

Nov. 17, 2013: Isa 65:17-25, 2 Thes 3:16-13, Ps 98, Isa 12, Luke 21:5-19. UCC Theme: Infinite Possibilities.

Nov. 24, 2013: Jer 23:1-6, Ps 46, Col 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43. UCC Theme: Together in Christ.

Among those who were lifted up in prayer this past month: Dayle Troidahl, Howard Armstrong's brother Greg, others who have been ill or are home bound, those at Oak Terrace and farmers as they bring in the harvest.

Also pray for our Gaylord UCC visioning process as we Continue the Conversation.

Pray for Brit Keithahn, Alex Thoele, Mark Thoele, May and Raymond Ysasaga and others serving in the military.

Our prayers are with Jean Feehan as she makes her new home in St. Paul to be near her daughter.

Jean's new address is:

**New Harmony Care Center
135 Geranium Ave. E. Room 150 B
St. Paul, MN 55117**

Please call the Church Office: When your phone number, address or email address change so records can be updated, when you or a loved one are admitted to the hospital, or your group plans to hold a meeting so it can be placed on the church calendar.

Upcoming at UCC:

- ♦ **All Saints/Memorial Sunday with Communion – Nov. 3 during our Worship Service.**
- ♦ **Sunday, Nov. 10 - *From the Heart* offering for Santa's Helpers.**
- ♦ **Choir Practice - Wed. Nov. 6, 13, & 20 at 6:30 p.m.**
- ♦ **Confirmation Class - Nov. 13 at 4:00 p.m.**
- ♦ **Women's Fellowship meeting - Wed. Nov. 13 at noon.**
- ♦ **Church Council meeting -Wed. Nov. 13 at 5:00 p.m.**
- ♦ **Priscilla Circle meeting - Thurs. Nov. 21 at 2:00 p.m.**
- ♦ **Sunday, Nov. 24 - Stewardship Sunday with Guest Speaker Carol Meyers-Dobler from "Partners for Affordable Housing,"**
- ♦ **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service at Gaylord UCC - Wed. Nov. 27 at 7:00 p.m.**

Sharing and Celebrating

I hope that in this Stewardship time each one of us might be renewed with that deeper Spiritual sense of commitment to the things of God as witnessed through the Church in every time and place – including Gaylord, Minnesota. In so doing, we commit to a future in God’s hands without knowing exactly what the future will bring. And thus, we make a faith-based and financial “pledge” commitment to God’s ministry in our local UCC Church and beyond. Jesus is our prime example for discovering the deeper human blessings which come from giving from our personal resources. If we believe in the way of Jesus the Christ, we will give in time, talent and treasure. So, let’s gather together in this Stewardship time, as Christians have done through the ages, in Gaylord and around the globe, for sharing and celebrating Christ’s love.

Practically speaking, can the value of God’s Church be reflected in your household budget? That’s not a new idea, but a truth that produces well being for the inward needs of the self, as well as for the well being of others....in body, mind, and spirit.

I thank you for your faith pledge for the year 2014, so that we can plan and vision the steadfast ministries and the new possibilities of our distinctive Gaylord United Church of Christ!

In the Spirit of Stewardship, Pastor Hank Campbell

P.S. May we appreciate these “essentials” of structure and practice in the life the Church:

- ◆ Worship, sacraments, and spiritual life.
- ◆ Music, art, and symbols.
- ◆ Proclamation within and outside the community.
- ◆ Education at all stages of life.
- ◆ Call and nurture of leaders.
- ◆ Marriage, family, and inter-generational life.
- ◆ Fellowship and care for one another.
- ◆ Service and witness, in and outside the church.
- ◆ Stewardship.
- ◆ Physical presence in the world.
- ◆ Governance which orders the life of the church and sets it apart from the world.
- ◆ Ecumenical relations among Christians and other religious groups. -from UCC Resources

Sunday, Nov. 24, our Worship Service will lift up “Homelessness Awareness Week” with Guest Speaker Carol Meyers-Dobler, CEO of “Partners for Affordable Housing,” of Mankato. This agency serves a number of counties in our area including Brown (New Ulm) and Sibley (Gaylord) with people who are homeless or seeking affordable housing. It is good for the Church to know our “partners” which are helping those in need around us. Especially this relevant issue as we head into winter and the Holidays.

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

Pastor Hank’s usual office hours or visiting hours during the week are typically Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday afternoons as needed. If you need to reach him call the church office 237-2595 or his cell 507-217-9848.

NOVEMBER PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Autumn is such a great season! It's a time of changes and surprises. The weather varies, the colors change weekly, and everyone seems to be scurrying around getting ready for winter, while still trying to hang on to as many outdoor activities as we can.

Changes have been occurring at the Gaylord United Church of Christ, also. Members and friends are getting involved in different projects and so many of us are talking and thinking and "Continuing the Conversation....on the Way to taking Action!" I think it is wonderful that people have opinions and advice and are willing to get involved as the council tries out new ideas and starts taking action. I'm excited to hear about all the ideas the Congregational Care and Outreach Board is working on. It's great to see confirmands and their mentors working with Pastor Hank on a new confirmation year.

Please say thank you to the Trustees and their helpers for the extra clean-up work on the exterior of the church, and the repair of the big sliding doors at the back of the sanctuary. The Board of Christian Education and the choir are gearing up for Christmas. The Stewardship Committee is working on a new giving program. Then there are the special projects we've been undertaking. When you read this, the congregational meeting will have occurred where you'll have heard an update about the Personal Energy Transportation (PET) project, the church website and the audio-visual system. So many things going on that I'm sure I've forgotten to mention some!

One item of old business that continues to remain on the Council agenda is that of filling the Vice-President slot. ***Just a reminder that my term is over at the annual meeting in January.*** I would love for someone to step up now so that you'll have this last quarter of 2013 to prepare for your presidency in 2014. ***Our church needs your leadership!***

The next council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13th at 5:00 pm. Anyone is welcome to join us!

Pauline Marlinski, Council President

Stewardship Sunday—November 27

With the In-Gathering
of our Time, Talents and Treasures.

"Surprising Gifts"

"May God...who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in you..." 2 Thessalonians 2:17

There are two kinds of gifts. The ones you expect, on Christmas or your birthday, and the much rarer kind—the ones that come out of the blue, for no apparent reason. Just because someone was thinking of you, or loves you... or wanted to encourage you or say "thank you."

Surprise gifts may be the best gifts of all. We're not expecting them, so when we get them, we're especially pleased and grateful. A surprise gift, no matter how small, can make your day.

What would happen if you considered all the gifts you've been given in life a surprise? Something you didn't expect and could not have predicted? What if you thought of every good thing in your life as a surprise gift from God?

In the scripture above, Paul is giving a pep talk to persecuted early Christians. He reminds them that God's gifts are a constant surprise—given for no other reason than to say "I'm thinking of you. I love you. Have courage. You're doing a good job." Gift giving can be predictable, an obligation tied to the calendar. Or it can be a surprise. **What will your giving be?**

All are Gifted by God

As centers of hope and transformation, local churches engage, in the tradition of Jesus, in discerning, cultivating and using the gifts of Christ's disciples for the common good.

All are gifted by God and all are called. Too often the notion of call has been understood as a calling to ministry, with a path that leads to ordination. But God grants all persons varied talents and abilities and calls us all to serve in many ways. We are all ministers! We use the process of discernment, of reflecting on life's journeys, to open us up to hearing God's voice urging us in a certain direction, whatever our path.

Mission Board Report

The October From the Heart offering was \$169, which went to The Neighbors In Need project. Thank you for donating to the project that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.



Our November 10th From the Heart offering will go to Santa Helpers. Santa's Helpers is coordinated by the Sibley County Public Health and Human Services. This is a program to help disadvantage families in Sibley County. The workshop served 222 families and 254 kids last year. Their goal is to make holidays brighter for those less fortunate.

In addition to the offering taken November 10, we are also asking our church members to donate new toys, games, hats and mittens, quilts and wrapping paper. These items can be brought to church in November and placed by the Mitten Tree in the lobby of the church. Donations will be accepted thru December 8th. We will be working with the Education Board to have the confirmation participant's help go buy gifts for children with our money we collect.

The program will be held at the Human Services office on December 10 and 11. Anyone interested in volunteering to sort and wrap gifts, chaperone and clean up can contact Santa's Helpers committee at 507-237-4000.

We also want to continue to ask for food donations for the Food Shelf as the holidays approach to help families in need. Your donations or assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you to those who donated their time to deliver Meals on Wheels in October. Our church will again be delivering Meals on Wheels in January.

Mission Board



Women's Fellowship News

Women's Fellowship will sponsor their annual Christmas Party and decorate the church for Hanging of the Greens on Tuesday, November 26 at 5:30 p.m. with a catered supper. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the Fellowship Hall in order to provide a head count for the meal. *All women of the church are invited to participate in this fun-filled evening where we enjoy food and fellowship as we look forward to the Advent Season.*

~

Priscilla Circle will meet Thursday, Nov. 21 at 2:00 p.m. Hostesses: Eunice Gasow and Harriet Troidahl. You are encouraged to bring donations for Santa's Helpers. *Come Join Us!*



Poinsettias will again be available to purchase from the Sibley Masonic Lodge. The order blank is on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Place your order soon - Delivery will be in late November. *Thank you.*

“Bringing Kids to Church”

You are doing something really, *really* important. I know it’s not easy. I see you with your arms overflowing, and I know you came to church already tired. Parenting is tiring. Really tiring.

I watch you bounce and sway trying to keep the baby quiet, juggling the infant car seat and the diaper bag as you find a seat. I see you wince as your child cries. I see you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks to try to quiet them.

And I see you with your toddler and your preschooler. I watch you cringe when your little girl asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice let alone a church whisper. I hear the exasperation in your voice as you *beg* your child to just sit, to be quiet as you feel everyone’s eyes on you. Not everyone is looking, but I know it feels that way.

I know you’re wondering, is this worth it? Why do I bother? I know you often leave church more exhausted than fulfilled. But what you are doing is *so* important.

When you are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this worship thing we do isn’t about Bible Study or personal, quiet contemplation but coming together to worship as a community where all are welcome, where we share in the Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, I have hope that these pews won’t be empty in ten years when your kids are old enough to *sit quietly and behave in worship*. I know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it’s too late. They are learning that worship is important.

I see them learning. In the midst of the cries, whines, and giggles, in the midst of the crinkling of pretzel bags and the growing pile of crumbs I see a little girl who insists on going two pews up to share peace with someone she’s never met. I hear a little boy slurping (quite loudly) every last drop of his communion wine out of the cup determined not to miss a drop of Jesus. I watch a child excitedly color a cross and point to the one in the front of the sanctuary. I hear the echoes of Amens just a few seconds after the rest of the community says it together. I watch a boy just learning to read try to sound out the words in the worship book or

count his way to Hymn 672. Even on weeks when I can’t see my own children learning because, well, it’s one of *those* mornings, I can see your children learning.

I know how hard it is to do what you’re doing, but I want you to know, *it matters*. It matters to me. It matters to my children to not be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about faith, to see young people... and even on those weeks when you can’t see the little moments, it matters to your children.

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome, that *their* worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are *enough* right here and right now as members of the church community. They don’t need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly (or perfectly timed depending on who you ask) cries and whines *are* a joyful noise because it means they are present.

I know it’s hard, but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family - with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy – are not simply tolerated, you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship.

This post originally appeared on I Am Totally *That* Mom and The Huffington Post.



United Church of Christ
 318 4th Street - P.O. Box 385
 Gaylord, MN 55334-0385
 Return service requested



Daylight Saving time ends Nov. 3

Gaylord United Church of Christ - UCC
 318 4th Street
 P.O. Box 385
 Gaylord, MN 55334-0385
 507-237-2595 or 507-237-5846
 Email — uccgaylord@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship - 11:00 a.m.
 Coffee-Fellowship Hour 9:45 a.m.
 Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. Sept. - May
 Communion is the 1st Sunday of the month
 Pastor - Rev. Hank Campbell
 Council President - Pauline Marlinski
 Church Secretary - Cindy Johnson

November Birthdays

05.....	Roy Farr
05.....	Hayden Ott
10.....	Marshall Messner
10.....	Diane Bias-Mosel
12.....	Michael Mosel
14.....	Marian Pfarr-Saxton
15.....	Kathy Tourtellott
16.....	Jan Walsh
18.....	Kevin Thies
20.....	Chenelle Messner
20	Allen Meyer
23.....	Madison Pfarr Walker
23.....	Gary Schmitt
25.....	Ewald Keller
25.....	Aaron Solomonson
25.....	Bill Walker
26.....	Deb Meyer