

**The United Church of Northfield
Welcomes You To Morning Worship,
a Service of Holy Communion,
Affirmation of Baptism,
and Reception of Members**



***"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here."***

January 8, 2012 at 10:00 A.M.

We are a member of Vermont Conference, The United Church of Christ and are affiliated with the National Unitarian Universalist Association and the Northern New England District of the UUA.

Historically we are united from Congregational and Universalist roots.

On the First Sunday of each month we have Communion Sunday and our Dolma Sunday Offering (sponsored child of the Tibetan Children's Village, Dharamsala, India). We offer a Gluten Free Communion option.

We are handicap accessible.

The United Church of Northfield
Sunday, January 8, 2012

Prelude & Candle Lighting
Choral Introit
Words of Welcome
Gathering Song

Dan Bruce
UCN Choir

***Call To Worship:** (By Maren Tirabassi and Joan Jordan Grant)

Leader: God creates the heavens and stretches them in sunset-crimson
splendor and storm-purpled cloud.

**People: God spreads the earth with the blue and white of snow billows
and the sun-gold of sparkling icicles.**

Leader: Yet God breathes into every child the breath of life.

People: And God fills with spirit all who walk the journey-path of life.

Leader: Let us worship God, who flings the silver of the galaxies into deep
space beyond time as we know it.

**People: Let us worship God, who calls us by name and holds our hands
when we stumble.**

Hymn of Praise: "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" NCH 556

Prayer of Invocation: (seated and in unison)

**God, your creative power is all around us. Help us to discover your power
of creation is within us as well. May we accept the responsibility and
embrace the privilege of being your child. Help us to listen for your "still
speaking" voice and trust in your ability to bring order out of chaos and
life out of death. Amen.**

Prayer Response:

UCN Choir

Call to Confession: (by Rev. Rosemary McCombs Maxey at UCC Worship Ways)

Leader: People of God, we desire to be refreshed, renewed and changed.

Let us listen again to God's calling our names to encourage us and strengthen
our resolve to be God's people in faithfulness and peace-loving justice.

Prayer of Confession: (by Rev. Rosemary McCombs Maxey at UCC Worship Ways):
(seated and in unison):

**All: O God, we hear your voice and we see the way of Jesus set before us.
But it's hard, dear God, to try again and again to live up to our baptismal
vows and maintain our resolve to be your people in the world. In
repentance we ask you to forgive us. Set us once again on a holy path that
leads to you. Amen.**

Words of Assurance: (by Rev. Rosemary McCombs Maxey at UCC Worship Ways)

Leader: Sisters and Brothers, God hears our prayers and sets before us the
way of Jesus. God calls us and gives us enough grace and mercy to follow the
way. Thanks be to God.

The Congregation's Response:

Page 793 NCH

Holy, Holy, Holy, my heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God.

Choral Anthem: "Come all who thirst"

UCN Choir

A Time with Children: *There is no "A Time with Children" this morning. There is Discovery Hour for children of all ages in Howe's Hall.*

Sermon Hymn: "Let It Breathe on Me"

NCH 288

Scripture Reading

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 29 (NCH p. 638)

Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-5

New Testament: Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: "The Voice of God"

Rev. Jennifer Kimball

Prayers of the People, Joys and Concerns: *These are the joys and concerns of the people. Please share what you would like us to be praying for including a person's name if appropriate.*

Silent Prayer: We take a minute to be in silence to await God's peace.

The Lord's Prayer: (seated and in unison): **Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen**

Affirmation of Baptism

Vows of Renewal (by Rev. Rosemary McCombs Maxey at UCC Worship Ways)

Leader: God created new life forms and brought them up from the waters of chaos, embraced them, and called them good. Jesus, baptized in the river Jordan by John the Baptist, became living water for us and embraces all of us. Jesus embraces also you who are the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized and all others who come seeking. We follow Jesus with our baptism, marking a starting place for new life and new ways of being. We join Jesus in love and service. Let us prepare our hearts and minds to see, feel, and hear once again the vows of baptism.

Leader: Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your baptism?

People: I do.

Leader: Do you recognize the call of God to be God's people always?

People: I do.

Leader: Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?

People: I do

Leader: Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day?

People: I do.

Leader: Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?

People: I do.

Leader: In renewing your baptismal vows, remember your baptism as a mark of acceptance and welcome into the care of Christ's church where you may begin again your Christian faith and life.

Reception of Members: (John and Jennifer Kimball):

Leader: By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith. Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regular in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Leader: Let us, the members of the United Church express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

Leader and Deacons: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the United Church, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church.

Prayer

Hymn of Preparation: "Lord, I Want To Be a Christian" NCH 454 verses 1 & 2

Sacrament of Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Amen.

The Offering: In the bread and the cup of Communion and the water of Baptism we see how God fills us with simple, yet holy gifts. May we respond with generous giving and trust in doing so we are sharing the enduring gospel of God's love.

The Offertory

Dan Bruce

Doxology:

780 NCH

***Prayer of Dedication:** (standing in unison)

All: Bless these gifts, O God and bless this community in their use. May we all find our roots and nourishment in the love we know in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace of Christ:** "May the peace of Christ be with you."
Response: "And also with you."

Closing Hymn: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

NCH 293

Brief Announcements

Benediction

Choral Benediction: "Amen"

UCN Choir

Postlude

Dan Bruce

** Denotes standing if you are able. NCH is the New Century Hymnal with a black cover. PH is the Pilgrim Hymnal with a red cover.*

We extend a special thanks to Dan Bruce for providing the music and choir leadership this morning.

Giving for January 1, 2012: Pledge Income: \$332; Plate Offering: \$40; Heifer Offering: \$8.10 ,Total Heifer \$132.35, Goal: Tree Seedlings \$180. Thank you for your faithful giving.

The Ministry of The United Church of Northfield

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

Secretary: Laura Ranker

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Jennifer Kimball

Sexton: Arnold Nichols

Greeters: Bev and Lorinda Dezotell

Ushers: Judy and Lauren Howard

Choir Leadership Today: Dan Bruce

Pianist/Organist Today: Dan Bruce

Communion Stewards: John and Bev Knox, Barbara Barrows and Bev Dezotell

Deacon in charge: Chris Southworth

CONTACT INFORMATION

Reverend Jennifer Kimball: matisonjm@yahoo.com or
home phone number (802) 778-0813; cell (607) 434-5632.

OFFICE HOURS: (Pastor's study is located in Howe's Hall)

WEDNESDAY 9:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. .

Other Hours Available by Appointment.

FRIDAY - PASTOR'S DAY OFF

Church Office Phone: 485-4431;

Church e-mail: uccnorthfield@trans-video.net

Visit us at our website: www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org

SOS webpage-Visit us at: www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org/sos

THIS WEEK AT THE UNITED CHURCH

January 9, 2012 to January 15, 2012

Mon.: Bible Study at the home of Bev Knox from 9:00-11:00.

7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. Men's AA meets in Howe's Hall.

Tues.: Council Meeting at 7:00 P.M. with special joint meeting with Finance Committee

Wed.: 9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. CV Building Bright Futures (play group)

ages birth to 6 years old gather in Howe's Hall.

7:00 P.M. Women's 12 Step AA Meeting in Howe's Hall.

7:00 P.M. Choir rehearsal in the church Sanctuary; all are welcome.

Thurs.: Mayo Ministry Worship Service; see Rev. Kimball if you wish to participate

6:00 P.M. SOS Committee meeting

7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. BSA Troop 759.

Sunday, January 15th: 2012 Budget Informational meeting following worship.

Sunday, January 22nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE United Church of Northfield following the morning worship service.

Annual Reports NOW DUE to Secretary: email laura.ranker@racdc.com