

THE SPIRIT IS MOVING AND GOD IS STILL SPEAKING! THE UNITED CHURCH OF NORTHFIELD MID MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER

1 March, 2011

Hi Everyone,

Winter is almost, *almost*, over and we can look forward to more sunshine, warmer days, and all that that will bring: birds returning and their morning chorus, flowers poking up out of the ground, no-seeyums,...Oh, wait! Those last things aren't something we look forward to! We do look forward to each new season, and each new season has its things we love, and those we don't. Yet each new season is something we live into, changing what we do to meet its demands. Spring means more time enjoying the flowers—but also more yard work.

We, as a church, have just finished up a series of readings from Matthew on Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount." We explored the lessons in it, and once again realized that his divine message is that we are to love one another. We examined what this looked like for his disciples—then, and today. Now we are entering the Easter season, which begins with Ash Wednesday on the 9th, moves through the six weeks of Lent and culminates with a celebration of Jesus' Resurrection on Easter day. This is a holiday we joyfully anticipate. Yet, as with Spring, there is work to do. The weeks of Lent ask us to look inward, examining our faith and the practice of it both personally, and out in the world. We cannot just jump to Easter!

This year, beginning with the first Sunday in Lent, we will meet for a short time after service on Sunday. We will be examining our care of the Earth, this incredible planet filled with life that we have the responsibility of stewardship for. The study is called the "Ecumenical Carbon Fast," and is an initiative of the New England Regional Environmental Ministries, UCC, but the call is going out to all denominations, and across the country. There will be daily suggestions for carbon-reducing activities, with a weekly focus. We will gather weekly to share our experiences, support one another, compare notes, share resources, and pray.

Humanity now recognizes climate change as a predominate scientific, economic and political issue, and also as a profound moral one. Lent is the time within the church year to face our mortality, just as it also awakens us to hope in God whose "steadfast love endures forever." Through doing this carbon fast, I hope we discover an enlivening of what it means to "love our neighbors as ourselves." This is a perfect follow-up to our time spent on the mountain with Jesus over the past few weeks. God is calling us to be the change we long to see. I hope many of you will engage in this spiritual discipline over the next six weeks, grateful for all God has entrusted to us, and trusting that with God all things are possible.

Blessings on your Spring!

Pastor Sherry Baer

LENT/EASTER HAPPENINGS:

Wednesday, March 9 - Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 P.M.

Sundays, March 13th through April 20th - Lenten Study group, "Ecumenical Carbon Fast." We will gather in Howe's Hall following the morning worship service.



March 27th - 3rd Sunday of Lent. One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering.

April 3rd - 4th Sunday of Lent, Communion Sunday, Baptism, and Dolma Sunday. One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering.

April 17th - Palm Sunday

April 22nd - Good Friday. Northfield United Methodist church will offer a performance of the *Stations of the Cross* again this year at 8pm. The United Church of Northfield has been invited to take part in this production (see invite below).

April 24th - Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service at 7:00 A.M. Morning Worship Service at 10:00 A.M.

YOU ARE INVITED....

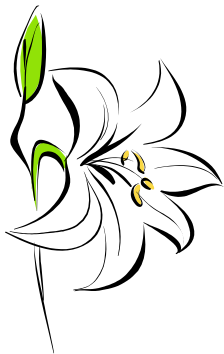
Hi to all,

Northfield United Methodist church will offer a performance of the Stations of the Cross again this year, on Good Friday, at 8pm. We usually do this every other year. Our church would like to invite the United Church of Northfield to take part in this production.

Young and old(er) are invited to participate on stage, behind stage (costumes, etc), singing, etc. Rehearsals usually take place during Holy Week. Charlene McCarney is the director of the performance. Please let me or Charlene know if anyone would like to take part-- we'd love to have you join us.

Blessings,

Paul Hoffman, Pastor Northfield United Methodist



EASTER LILY ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN.

Deadline to order is Saturday, April 2, 2011.

Each Plant is \$13.50. Contact: Bev Knox, 485-4101,
41 Washington Street, Northfield, Vermont, 05663.

Order Forms are available in back of the sanctuary and found in the back of this newsletter.



Lectionary Readings Lent, Easter

March 13, 2011

Psalm 32
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

March 20, 2011

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 27, 2011

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

April 3, 2011

Psalm 23
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

April 10, 2011

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

April 17, 2011

Matthew 21:1-11
Matthew 26:14—27:66 or
Matthew 27:11-54
Liturgy of the Palms
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11

April 24, 2011

Matthew 28:1-10
Acts 10:34-43 or
Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4 or
Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 (optional
gospel reading)

May 1, 2011

John 20:19-31
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9

May 8, 2011

Luke 24:13-35
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23

May 15, 2011

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

May 22, 2011

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

May 29, 2011

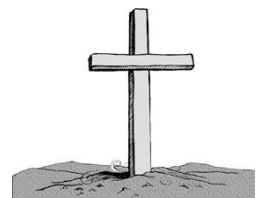
John 14:15-21
Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22

June 5, 2011

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

June 12, 2011

Acts 2:1-21
Numbers 11:24-30
(optional reading)
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23 or John
7:37-39





A Special Note from the Coordinators for the Ministry of Hospitality

Do you wonder how the scheduling of Ushers and Greeters is done?

It starts with Coordinator Liz Butler. Liz does the initial scheduling. So, if you know that you are going to be away, especially on vacations or out to camp in the summer, Liz is the first point of contact and you need to let her know as soon as possible so she does not schedule you for ushering or greeting during your time away. Liz can be reached at 485-8474.

Substitutions to the set schedule are handled by Judy Plumley. Judy finds a replacement for those people who cannot make their scheduled time(s). People need to call Judy (485-6117) as soon as they are aware of a conflict with their scheduled time so she has time to find a replacement. Please do not call Judy about conflicts with future dates that are not yet scheduled...give this information to Liz. Thank you. *Judy and Liz*

For March 20, 2011 - May 29, 2011

Please mark your calendars now as this is your only notification. If the scheduled dates do not work for you, please contact Judy Plumley at 485-6117 and she will locate a substitute. This works well with your help.

USHERS AND GREETERS

March 20: Ushers- Frank & Judy Plumley	Greeters- Barbara Barrows & Brenda Cruickshank
March 27: Ushers- Dean Howe & Max Green	Greeters- Judy & Lauren Howard
April 3: Ushers- Judy Knapp & Leah Knapp	Greeters- Nathan & Laura Ranker
April 10: Ushers- Ginny & Ray Kunkel	Greeters- Bev & Lorinda Dezotell
April 17: Ushers- Liz & Roy Butler (Palm Sunday)	Greeters- Linda & Burley Harvey
April 24: Ushers- Judy & Lauren Howard (Easter Sunday)	Greeters- Marilyn Bruce & Brenda Cruickshank
May 1: Ushers- Kevin & Kate Beal	Greeters- Esther & Philo Hardie
May 8: Ushers- Barbara & Kayla Barrows	Greeters- Judy & Frank Plumley
May 15: Ushers- Max Green & Dean Howe	Greeters- Annalill & Anita Crain
May 22: Ushers- Bev & John Knox	Greeters- Harriet Hirst & Evelyn Bird
May 29: Ushers- Bev & Ed Tucker	Greeters- Nate & Laura Ranker

COMMUNION STEWARDS:

April 3: John Knox, Bev Knox, Barbara Barrows, Beverly Dezotell
May 1: Roy Butler, Liz Butler, Laura Ranker, Audrey Avery

PLEASE SIGN UP IN HOWE'S HALL TO HELP WITH A COFFEE HOUR.

Monthly Coordinators: March - Billie Porter (485-4126); April - Judy Howard (485-3531); May - Bev Knox (485-4101).

Thank You for Serving in These Ways. We Appreciate Your Help!

FROM THE STEEPLE...

If our steeple could talk! There has certainly been a lot of activity around it lately. The Save Our Steeple Committee (Kevin Beal, Judy Knapp, Debbie Maloney-Evans, Frank Plumley, Larry Porter, and Laura Ranker) has been very busy since their formation in November. To date the restoration fundraising has yielded \$40,318.16!!! This is 40.6% of our goal of \$99,292.00. This is wonderful news but too early to sit back and relax. We still have \$58,973.84 to raise. So get out there- shake the bushes- tell our story and reach out to friends and family to help restore this historic landmark and symbol of our congregation.

Here is some history for you to tell all those who may be interested and wondering why they should get involved:

The steeple is an historic landmark in the center of our town and village. Housing the Village Clock, it has kept those with places to go and people to see on time for 175 years. Hanging in its thick timber yolk in the bell tower portion of the steeple is another historic treasure- the Holbrook Bell. This bronze bell is estimated between 700 and 1000 pounds in weight. It was cast in 1839 by George H. Holbrook of East Medway, Mass. Mr. Holbrook learned the bell casting business from his father Major George Holbrook who is believed to have apprenticed to Paul Revere. The Holbrook Foundry was known around the world for their quality bells. We do not know how the bell reached Northfield from East Medway or what it cost. Others like it at the same time period would have cost \$350-\$400.

The steeple appears to be original to the building erected by Charles Paine in 1836. Hanging in the Brown Public Library is a painting of the village in 1837 by Mary Ann Paine. It shows the church (then Paine Meeting House) and the steeple is prominent. The church is part of Northfield's Historic Depot Square District. There are only 2 remaining examples of 19th century architecture remaining in the District- the train station (now Merchants Bank) and the United Church of Northfield. The church is the older of the two.

The building is not only an historic treasure; it is also a community treasure. After all what would the Depot Square District be without this landmark? Where would people find cool grass and shade to watch parades and performances over the Labor Day weekend and Memorial Day commemorations? What would the hill look like if the church no longer stood? Or the steeple had to be removed?

The steeple & the committee need your help. How? Ideas for fundraisers, participation in upcoming events, and soliciting donations from friends and family. Together we can raise the money needed to restore the steeple for future generations.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MAY 1st - Wildflowers of New England presented by botanist Dr. Lauren Howard. This slide presentation and talk will be a welcome taste of spring, followed by a reception and raffle with gardening and wildflower related prizes from local businesses. UCN Sanctuary 3:00 p.m. with prize drawings at 4:30 p.m. Watch for more the details.

MAY 21ST - Variety Show and Silent Auction. 6:30 p.m.- 9 p.m. Northfield HS Auditorium. Local talent featured. Doors open @ 6:30 p.m. with silent auction; show starts @ 7:00 p.m. (contact person-Deb Maloney-Evans). Share your talent and enjoy your neighbors.

Bottle Returns:

Return your bottles to the Northfield **Convenience Plus, bottle redemption center** located at the Mobile station on N. Main St. Bring your bottle return receipt slip to the cashier inside and tell them you want to give the money to the United Church of Northfield "Save Our Steeple" Fund. The cashier will put the receipt slip into a special envelope marked for the UCN SOS FUNDS. (Ongoing)

Historical Walking Tour-Northfield. Time and Date TBA. Kevin Beal contact.

Tax deductible donations can be mailed to: UCN/SOS, P.O. Box 188, Northfield, VT 05663.

Visit our website:

www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org/sos



Early Bird Bible Study! Join Pastor Sherry Baer as she facilitates a Bible Study on **Monday mornings at 7:15 a.m.** at the home of Bev Knox, 41 Washington Street. All are welcome and encouraged to join the bible study group where there is lively discussions and new learning's.

Thank you!

*We have been collecting small bottles of lotion, shampoo and soaps that you had accumulated during your travels and were willing to donate to someone in need. **Thank you** also to the **Northfield Dental Group** for donating dental hygiene items.*

*This year we were able to provide the **Battered Women's Shelter** with the equivalent of a large shopping bag filled with these gifts!*

*We also received several larger bottles of toiletries marketed mostly for men. These we delivered to **The Veteran's Home** here in Northfield.*

Thank you so much. Your gifts were & are much appreciated.

As the need is ongoing we will continue this mission and you may bring donations at any time for the basket at the church.

Judy Plumley

News from the Men's Fellowship:

Thank you to all who came out on Saturday, March 5th for the men's fellowship breakfast and work party at the parsonage. We successfully completed the work we set out to accomplish and enjoyed a delicious breakfast at the same time.

The Men's Fellowship recently purchased a new coffee urn for the Church Kitchen. Be sure to use it when you host a coffee hour.



The United Church Kitchen needs your help. Kitchen items, such as the large wooden bowl, metal mixing bowls, sauce pots, and other items have come up missing. If you happen to see them please have them returned to the kitchen shelves. We miss these items and rely on them when we hold our fundraising dinners and fellowship meals; without them the preparation and serving of meals becomes difficult. The kitchen has also acquired quite a few lovely dishes, serving platters, and the like that may belong to you. Please be sure to pick up your dishes and take them home.

NEWS FROM THE MISSION PARTNERS

May is going to be Animal awareness month. On **Saturday, May 21st**, Pastor Sherry Baer will conduct a **Blessing of the Animals service** in the United Church parking lot. The time is tentatively set for 10:30 a.m. All animals must be in carries or cages or on leashes.

May is a fifth Sunday month and the **Mission Moment** will take place on **Sunday, May 22nd** with a guest speaker from the **Central VT Human Society** joining us for worship and providing a brief presentation. Donated items will be collected for the animal shelter for those wishing to make an offering. A display will be set up in Howe's Hall for those wanting to learn more about the Central VT Human Society.

June 4th is the mission **Food Bank work day**. We need 5 to 8 people, 14 years or older, for the day from 8:30 to 12:00. Workers must wear closed toe shoes (no sandals, flip flops, or open toe shoes allowed). Contact person: Chris Southworth. A sign up sheet will be circulated.

We are looking to provide our support and assistance to the Northfield United Methodist church in their efforts to hold the **Community Friday Night meals** held at the Northfield United Methodist Church every Friday evening. The United Church of Northfield would take on the full responsibility of one Friday Night meal a month. We are looking for volunteers willing to go to the United Methodist Church on a Friday night and prepare, cook, and serve a meal and clean up afterwards. The Norwich Volunteer Corp of Cadets also provides volunteers who help with the meals and who would be assisting as well. If you want to volunteer or have questions please call Chris Southworth at 1-802-793-5433.

Each month The Prayer Shawl group tries to gather for a time of fellowship, sharing, knitting and crocheting. If you would like to host a gathering one month please contact Mercedes Wright at keepsakefiber@yahoo.com or Chris Southworth chrisos@tds.net.



Although many of you are aware of our Prayer Team some may not know how it functions. I record the names, circumstances, etc. of those people mentioned during the Sunday worship service. I am also given written prayer requests from the collection plates. These are the people and circumstances that the Prayer Team is asked to pray for each week. I send out the prayers via email early in the week. If you have prayer requests that you would like included, please feel free to use the slips provided in the Order of Worship. We are also developing slips to be available in the pews. You may also email me fjplumley@tds.net with urgent prayer requests that may occur during the week.

Thank you. Judy Plumley



ORDER YOUR LILIES FOR EASTER NOW

Dear Members and Friends
of the United Church of Northfield,

As we anticipate the rebirth of springtime and the celebration of Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011 we are planning to order lilies from the florist to again grace our church sanctuary. Each plant will cost \$13.50. If you wish to participate in the purchase of one or more lilies, please fill out the form below and enclose a check written to the United Church of Northfield with a notation on the payment that it is for lilies and give it to BEVERLY KNOX or send it to her at 41 Washington Street, Northfield, Vermont, 05663 no later than SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2011

LILIES FOR EASTER

I/WE _____ wish to have (____) lily/lilies
(print your name here)

In memory of: _____

In thanksgiving for: _____

In celebration of: _____

Please check if you want to keep your lily/lilies or give it to someone in the nursing home.

I wish to keep the lily/lilies. _____ Yes _____ No

I wish to give the lily/lilies to the nursing home. _____ Yes _____ No

Your signature _____

Thank you,
Beverly Knox

United Church of Northfield
58 South Main Street
P.O. Box 188
Northfield, VT 05663
Phone: 485-4431
E-mail: uccnorthfield@trans-video.net
Website: www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011
Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

served with potatoes, carrots, Irish soda bread, various pickles
and homemade cake for dessert.

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. Take Out available starting at 4:30 P.M.

Adults \$10, Children 12 years and under \$5.

Handicap Accessible.

The United Church of Northfield 58 Main Street, Northfield, VT

Contact Persons: Judy Howard or Brenda Cruickshank

Church Number: 485-4431; Judy Howard - 552-4552

All proceeds to benefit the missions of the United Church of Northfield



Happy Belated Birthday and Anniversary to all those who celebrated their special day over the past few months and to those celebrating a Birthday or Anniversary in March or April we wish you all the best on your special day and a blessed year ahead.