

THE UNITED CHURCH OF NORTHFIELD
JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

Jennifer's Journal

January 2012

On January 8th, John and I will become members of the United Church of Northfield. In the United Church of Christ *Book of Worship*, the reception of new members includes the following expression of gratitude: "We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith." As I prepare to formally become a member of the United Church, I find myself reflecting on my previous spiritual homes and thanking God for the opportunity to live and grow in those particular communities. My first church was a little church in Massachusetts that supported my ordination process and my preaching when I really had no idea what I was doing. But most of all they loved me as a child and continue to welcome me whenever I have an opportunity to visit as one of their precious children. My second official church home welcomed me as a new minister with lots of theory and very little experience. And for six years we were together sharing laughter, tears, frustration, and joy. Life and death, over and over again.

That is the beauty of church life, if one sticks it out. If a person is actively involved in her church over a long period of time, it is very likely she will be disappointed, frustrated, and let down at one point or another. The problem is churches are made up of people with all their quirks and imperfections. The beauty is the church is made up of people brought together by the love and life of Jesus Christ. I often marvel at all the different people I have met through my engagement in church life. Where else do you find such different people from such different backgrounds praying, eating, working, laughing, and crying together?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes in his book *Life Together*, "We prevent God from giving us the great spiritual gifts He has in store for us, because we do not give thanks for daily gifts... We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts." For Bonhoeffer, "the

Christian fellowship in which we have been placed" deserves daily thanks even when it falls short of our expectations.

The only way to know the deep and rich joy of a faith community is to be a part of one. Or to use Jesus' invitation, "Come and see." Come and see what a joy it is to worship, to spend time together sharing words and silence and song, to greet one another with the peace of Christ. Come and see what a joy it is to work side by side and to know we are not alone in our joys or our sorrows. Come and be challenged by different beliefs and experiences and then feast together at one table. It is true all churches have issues and challenges and it is also true that in facing difficulties together we become stronger in faith and action.

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it," Paul writes in First Corinthians. In this season when we are bombarded with products promising to improve our physical bodies, let us look to our spiritual body, the church. As many of us make resolutions to get in shape and lose weight, let us also consider how we can strengthen the body of Christ through our participation. If you are part of the church, thank God every day for this gift. If you are struggling with your experience of the church, stick with it and thank God for this gift and this opportunity to learn and to grow. If you have been away a while, come home. There is a place at the table set for you. If you are searching for a community of faith, as Jesus said, "Come and see."

As I thank God for all the communities of faith that have been my spiritual homes, I am also celebrating the opportunity to be a part of my new household of faith, the United Church. My prayer for all of us as we continue to live and learn together comes from one of my favorite hymns, "God, We Thank You for Our People": "By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still, eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will. Bind us close to one another, sharing life and birth and death. Welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth."
Pastor Jennifer

Worship Schedule for January

Date	Sunday	Scriptures	Theme
January 1	Chris Southworth to lead worship	Isaiah 60:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12	Epiphany
January 8	Baptism of Christ Communion Reception of New Members	Psalms 29 Genesis 1:1-5 Mark 1:4-11	Water, Chaos, and Spirit
January 15	2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Samuel 3:1-10 John 1:43-51	Voices in the Dark
January 22	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Psalms 62:5-12 Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Mark 1:14-20	Follow Me
January 29	4 th Sunday after Epiphany	Psalms 111 Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Mark 1:21-28	I Know Who You Are



Bible Study - Bible Study is led by Pastor Jennifer and meets Monday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00. All are welcome to join in this time of prayer, reflection, and study. Please see chart below for locations and Scriptures. *Please note that there is no Bible Study January 2 and 16.*

Date	Location	Scripture
January 2	NO BIBLE STUDY	
January 9	Judy Plumley's house (266 Central St.)	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Samuel 3:1-10 John 1:43-51
January 16	NO BIBLE STUDY	
January 23	Bev Knox's house (41 Washington St.)	Psalms 111 Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Mark 1:21-28
January 30	Bev Knox's house (41 Washington St.)	Psalms 147:1-11, 20c Isaiah 40:21-31 Mark 1:29-39



USHERS AND GREETERS - Please check the dates for Ushering and Greeting and call Judy Plumley (485-6117) if you find that you cannot be there the scheduled date and she will arrange a swap or a substitute. Thank you.

Jan 1

Ushers: Roy and Liz Butler
Deacon in Charge: Judy Plumley

Greeters: Frank and Judy Plumley

Jan 8

Ushers: Lauren and Judy Howard
Deacon in Charge: Chris Southworth

Greeters: Bev and Lorinda Dezotell

Jan 15

Ushers: John and Bev Knox
Deacon in Charge: Bonnie Gayle

Greeters: Esther and Philo Hardie

Jan 22

Ushers: Katie and Kevin Beal
Deacon in Charge: Bev Knox

Greeters: Burley and Linda Harvey

Jan 29

Ushers: Ray and Ginny Kunkel
Deacon in Charge: Liz & Roy Butler

Greeters: Brenda Cruickshank and Leah Knapp

Feb 5

Ushers: Dean Howe and Max Greene

Greeters: Marilyn Bruce & Harriet Hirst

Feb 12

Ushers: Barbara and Kayla Barrows

Greeters: Annalill and Anita Crain

Feb 19

Ushers: Roy and Liz Butler

Greeters: Evelyn Bird and Judy Knapp

Feb 26

Ushers: Lauren and Judy Howard

Greeters: Frank and Judy Plumley

Mar 4

Ushers: John and Bev Knox

Greeters: Bev and Lorinda Dezotell

Mar11

Ushers: Katie and Kevin Beal

Greeters: Esther and Philo Hardie

Mar 18

Ushers: Ray and Ginny Kunkel

Greeters: Burley and Linda Harvey

Mar 25

Ushers: Dean Howe and Max Greene

Greeters: Brenda Cruickshank and Leah Knapp



COMMUNION STEWARDS – We offer a gluten free communion option. Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month. In January 2012, Communion will take place on the *second* Sunday of the month.

January 2011: John and Beverly Knox, Barbara Barrows, and Beverly Dezotell.

February 2011: Roy and Liz Butler, Laura Ranker, Audrey Avery.

March 2011: Peter and Debbie Maloney-Evans and partners.

COFFEE HOURS: A time for fellowship.



Please consider signing up to host a coffee hour. Coffee hour hosts will be asked only to make coffee and tea water and a cold beverage. Anyone, on any given Sunday, wishing to bring a food item to share during the coffee hour is welcome to do so.

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Equal Exchange Fairly traded Gourmet Coffee and Gourmet Tea are available for sale during Fellowship Hour. You can also place an order by calling Chris Southworth at (802)-793-5433.

COFFEE: \$8.00 a bag for ground coffee

COFFEE: \$8.00 a bag for whole bean (Breakfast Blend or Mind, Body & Souls)

TEA: \$5.00 a box



**Mayo Nursing Home Worship**

The United Church will be leading worship at the Mayo Nursing Home on January 12<sup>th</sup> and February 9<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in helping with this ministry please contact Pastor Jennifer.



**Reception of New Members**

On January 8, Pastor Jennifer and John Kimball will be joining the United Church of Northfield during the morning worship.



**SUPPORT FOR THE LOCAL CERV**

In support of the Northfield Community Food Shelf, the United Church of Northfield Mission Committee wishes to increase our church's commitment to this vital community program and make it easier for individuals to support the mission effort. As the church moves forward collecting non perishable items for the food shelf, the Mission Committee will identify preferred items for donation on a given month. The committee hopes this will make it easier for those wishing to donate items while at the same time supporting the most urgent monthly needs of the food shelf. Other items are always welcome and individuals are encouraged to make their donations as they see fit. Donated items can be placed in the mission basket; a shopping cart, placed in the church sanctuary. The donated items will be brought forward on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday morning worship service during the offering time and blessed prior to being delivered to the food shelf.

***During the Month of January, the UCN will be collecting peanut butter and cereal items.***

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**Council Meeting** - January 10<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday at 7PM, Howe's Hall. An important discussion with the Finance Committee will take place regarding the UCN proposed 2012 Budget.

**SOS Committee** - January 12<sup>th</sup>, Thursday at 6:00 P.M. Howe's Hall.

**Deacons Meeting** - February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Wednesday 5:00 P.M. at the home of Beverly Knox, 41 Washington Street. NOTE THE CHANGE OF TIME .

**Annual Meeting of the United Church of Northfield** will be held **January 22<sup>nd</sup>** immediately following the morning worship service.

**Special Budget Informational meeting** will be held on **January 15<sup>th</sup>** immediately following the morning worship service.

**United Methodist Church (UMC) Free Friday Night Dinners** - The United Church of Northfield will continue to host the **Second Friday** night Dinner each month at Methodist Church. Volunteers are needed to assist with this effort. If interested, Call Chris Southworth at 485-8738 or 793-5433. We thank Bonnie Gayle and Harriet Hirst for leading this wonderful effort as we share in fellowship with the community.

**The Stewardship Committee and Finance Committee** would like to remind individuals to turn in their annual pledge card and their completed time and talent sheet. Anyone needing a pledge card or time and talent sheet should contact Lauren Howard (552-4552) or Barbara Barrows (485-7042) and they would be happy to help you



### A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY -

**Partnership, Committee, Treasurer and Pastoral annual reports are NOW DUE for inclusion in the 2011 United Church of Northfield Annual Report. Send reports to Laura at either email address ASAP. Thank you!! [laura.ranker@racdc.com](mailto:laura.ranker@racdc.com) or [uccnorthfield@trans-video.net](mailto:uccnorthfield@trans-video.net)**

## Desk of the Pastor:

Rev. Jennifer Kimball

Pastor's study is in  
Howe's Hall

Email Address -  
[matisationjm@yahoo.com](mailto:matisationjm@yahoo.com)  
Home phone number  
(802) 778-0813  
Cell (607) 434-5632.

## **OFFICE HOURS:**

**WEDNESDAYS**

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

Other Hours by  
appointment.

**FRIDAYS -**

**PASTOR'S DAY OFF**

Church Office Phone:  
485-4431

Church e-mail:

[uccnorthfield@trans-video.net](mailto:uccnorthfield@trans-video.net)

Visit us at our  
website:

[www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org](http://www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org).

SOS webpage-Visit  
us at:

[www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org/sos](http://www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org/sos).

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FORWARDING  
ADDRESS REQUESTED

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Bert Marshall here  
to speak on the  
Gospel of Mark  
during Lent  
on March 11, 2012  
at 2:00 pm  
following a simple lunch.**