

# THE SPIRIT IS MOVING AND GOD IS STILL SPEAKING!

## THE UNITED CHURCH OF NORTHFIELD

### MID NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

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*Jennifer's Journal*  
November 2011

Thus says the LORD: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.

-Jeremiah 6:16

As the United Church of Northfield, we are at a crossroads. We are at a time of endings and new beginnings and numerous paths lie before us. The temptation is to jump in and get busy. The prophet Jeremiah invites us to take some time to stand at the crossroads. This exact moment will never come again. This particular intersection of past and future makes for a very interesting present. The United Church is experiencing the ending of a fulfilling relationship with its Bridge Pastor as well as the conclusion to a long pastoral search. My family is in the midst of transitioning from six years of life and ministry in New York. We come together with all sorts of hopes, experiences, and lessons learned. Let us take a moment to stand at our unique crossroads and recognize how awesome it is that God has called us together in this place and time. Let us take the opportunity to look and to ask for the ancient paths. For Jeremiah, the ancient paths are found in the Israelites' shared story beginning with creation moving through the Exodus to the Promised Land. This story includes also the laws given to Moses by God to guide the lives of the people of Israel. This too is our ancient paths. We also are to look to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and all the faithful people who have given of themselves for his sake.

Even more specifically our ancient paths include the story of the United Church and its community and people. There is much to learn about where we are going by taking some time to remember where we have been. I look forward to hearing the stories of the United

Church and Northfield in the upcoming months. I also look forward to hearing your stories and getting to know the members and friends of the United Church.

Jeremiah advises us to look and ask for the ancient paths because that is where the good way lies. In the ancient paths we discover why our church was born and what has kept it alive all these years. This is not to say we keep reliving past, but rather we build upon the wisdom and love of our ancestors. There are so many things about the United Church that excite me: Bible Study, the church's child welcoming atmosphere, its commitment to Heifer Project and other local and world missions, the music, the monthly worship at Mayo Nursing home, the way people take care of each other. Not one of these strengths was born overnight. Each is a culmination of the church's dedication to living out its relationship with Jesus through many generations.

The United Church has walked in the good way for a good many years. Standing at the crossroads, it is a blessing for us to look back and look around and let what we see guide us as our journey continues. Although the road ahead will have its share of challenges and surprises, walking in God's way provides rest for our souls. In the words of Jesus, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."<sup>1</sup>

May we stand, look, ask, walk, and rest our souls together as the good way leads us on from this crossroads and beyond.

Blessings, Pastor Jennifer

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<sup>11</sup> Matthew 11:28-30

## Worship Schedule for November

Date	Sunday	Scriptures	Theme
November 6	All Soul's Communion	Amos 5:18-24 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13	"Plug in the Nightlight"
November 13		Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30	"Children of Light"
November 20	Reign of Christ	Psalm 95:1-7 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46	"The Hope to Which We Are Called"
November 27	First Sunday of Advent	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Isaiah 64:1-9 Mark 13:24-37	"Wake Up"

**Bible Study** - Bible Study meets Monday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 at Bev Knox's house. Each week we will be discussing the Scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. See Worship Schedule for Scriptures.

**Mayo Nursing Home Worship Services** - will be held on Thursday, December 8 at 3:00 P.M. Please contact Pastor Jennifer if you interested in helping out with the service.

**The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service** - will be Tuesday, November 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the United Church. Pastor Jennifer will be delivering the message. There will be a reception following the service.

### **PASTORS OFFICE HOURS:**

*Pastor's study is in Howe's Hall*

**TUESDAY:** 9:00 A.M.- 11:00 A.M.

**WEDNESDAY:** 1:00 P.M.- 2:00 P.M.

ALSO BY APPOINTMENT.

**FRIDAY - PASTOR'S DAY OFF**

***Pastor Jennifer will be out of town November 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. In case of a pastoral emergency please contact Deacon Bev Knox at 485-4101 or call Jennifer's cell phone at (607) 434-5632.***

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Reverend Jennifer Kimball  
email - mationjm@yahoo.com  
home phone - (802) 778-0813  
cell phone - (607) 434-5632.

Church Office Phone: 485-4431  
Church e-mail: uccnorthfield@trans-video.net  
Church website:  
www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org  
SOS webpage-  
www.unitedchurchofnorthfield.org/sos



**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.

**Nov 13<sup>th</sup>**

Ushers: Liz and Roy Butler  
Deacon In Charge: Chris Southworth

Greeters: Evelyn Bird and  
Barbara Barrows

**Nov 20<sup>th</sup>**

Ushers: Max Greene and Dean Howe  
Deacon In Charge: Liz and Roy Butler

Greeters: Ester and Philo Hardie

**Nov 27<sup>th</sup>**

Ushers: Beverly and John Knox  
Deacon In Charge: Bev Knox

Greeters: Lauren and Judy Howard

**Dec 4<sup>th</sup>**

Ushers: Kate and Kevin Beal  
Deacon In Charge: Bonnie Gayle

Greeters: Linda and Burley Harvey

**Dec 11<sup>th</sup>**

Ushers: Ray and Ginny Kunkel

Greeters: Audrey Avery & Harriet Hirst

**Dec 18<sup>th</sup>**

Ushers: Judy Knapp and Leah Knapp

Greeters: Brenda Cruickshank and  
Marilyn Bruce

**Dec 25<sup>th</sup>**

Ushers: Barbara and Kayla Barrows

Greeters: Annalill and Anita Crain



**COMMUNION STEWARDS** – We offer a gluten free communion option. Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.

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

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

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



**COFFEE HOURS: A time for fellowship.**

*The coffee hours are being simplified and we will save the fancier coffee hours for special occasions. 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.*



WORDS TO REFLECT ON ...



**People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.**

**If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.**

**If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.**

**If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.**

**What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.**

**If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.**

**The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.**

**Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.**

**In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.**

-Attributed to Mother Teresa



Advent November 27<sup>th</sup> through December 18<sup>th</sup>:  
We will celebrate the four Sundays of Advent with a Processional Drama, Lighting of the Advent Candle with scripture reading, and song. If your family would like to participate in this special time please contact Roy Butler.



United Church of Northfield  
**Save Our Steeple fund**

## **RAFFLE**

Buy your ticket(s) now

### **Grand Prize:**

One night stay at The Essex, Vermont's  
Culinary Resort and Spa; plus dinner  
for two at The Tavern at Essex; Value  
\$319

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** 2 Bash Badges at  
Smuggler's Notch Ski Area;  
Value \$230

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** Vermont Products Gift  
Basket; Value \$100

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**Drawing on December 4, 2011**  
Winners must be 18 years or older  
Limited to 200 tickets

\$20 per ticket  
\$50 for three

## **United Methodist Church (UMC) Free Friday Night**

**Dinners** - This month, the United Church of Northfield will help host the **Thanksgiving Friday Night Dinner on November 18<sup>th</sup>**, in order to help Pastor Paul Hoffman. Anyone wishing to help out on that day can call Harriet or Bonnie at 485-3770. Thanks, Bonnie Gayle.

Going forward, the United Church of Northfield will continue to host the **Second Friday** night Dinner each month and we are looking for volunteers to assist with this effort. If interested, Call Chris Southworth at 485-8738 or 793-5433. This is a wonderful way to share in fellowship with the community.

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### **SUPPORT FOR THE LOCAL CERV -**

Please bring in  
non-perishable

food items that will go to the Northfield Food Shelf (peanut butter, cereal, soup, crackers, rice, hamburger helper, canned fruit, meats, etc.). Donated items can be placed in the mission baskets now located inside the sanctuary at the rear corner of the church.

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The S.O.S Fund recently received gracious donations from the Northfield Savings Bank (\$5,000) and the Dolly Stone Fund (\$2,000), bringing us closer to reaching our goal. We are most grateful to them.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

**Council Meeting** - November 15<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 7 PM, Howe's Hall.

December 20<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 7 PM, Howe's Hall.

**Finance Committee** - November 14<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 5:30 PM Howe's Hall.

**Deacons Meeting** - December 7<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 4:45, home of Bev Knox.

**SOS Meeting** - December 1<sup>st</sup>, Thursday, 5:30 PM Howe's Hall.

**Mayo Ministry** - December 8<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, 3:00 PM Mayo Nursing Home.

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### **Advent Open House at the Parsonage**

Pastor Jennifer, John, Chloe and Matison invite the members and friends of the United Church to join them in welcoming the season of Advent. On **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00** they will be hosting an **Open House at the Parsonage, 356 Central Street**. Please stop by for cookies, coffee, hot chocolate, cider, and other holiday treats.

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**Poinsettias Orders** being taken now, \$13.50 per plant, orders due Monday, November 28, 2011 to Bev Knox.

Dear Friends and Members of the United Church,

As the holidays are approaching, we are planning ahead to order our poinsettias from the florist. We hope to grace the church with the beauty of several poinsettias. Each poinsettia will cost \$13.50 a plant this year.

If you wish to participate in the purchase of one or more poinsettias, please fill out the form and a check and send it/or give it to Beverly Knox, 41 Washington Street, Northfield, Vermont, 05663 by **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>**.

Please make the check payable to the United Church with a note on the bottom of the check for poinsettia(s).



### **POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS**

I/WE WISH TO HAVE \_\_\_\_\_ POINSETTIA(S)

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

OR

IN THANKSGIVING

FOR \_\_\_\_\_

OR

IN CELEBRATION OF \_\_\_\_\_.

THE PRICE OF A 6" STANDARD SIZE PLANT IS \$13.50.

COLOR CHOICE: RED \_\_\_\_\_ PINK \_\_\_\_\_ WHITE \_\_\_\_\_

MARBLED \_\_\_\_\_ NOVELTY \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK OFF WHETHER YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR POINSETTIA(S) OR GIVE IT TO SOMEONE IN THE NURSING HOME.

I WISH TO KEEP THE POINSETTIA(S) \_\_\_\_\_.

I WISH TO GIVE THE POINSETTIA(S) TO THE NURSING HOME \_\_\_\_\_.

SIGNATURE'S NAME OF PERSON PURCHASING THE POINSETTIA(S)

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**HOLY HUMOR:**

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny.

"How could he, with just two worms."

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THE UCN  
NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY INSTEAD OF  
THROUGH THE US POSTAL SERVICE? JUST SEND US YOUR  
CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS AND WE ARE HAPPY TO MAKE  
THIS CHANGE. CONTACT US AT [uccnorthfield@trans-video.net](mailto:uccnorthfield@trans-video.net)  
THANK YOU.**

