

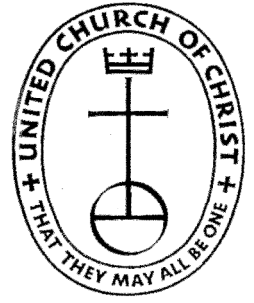
the Pilgrim Visitor

Congregational United Church of Christ

300 Maiden St. Mineral Point, WI 53565 * (608) 987-2025

www.mpucc.com

December 2009



From the Pastor:

A few weeks ago, a visitor to one of our churches took issue with my sermon for the day. "Take a number, pal." Actually, this visitor took issue with the heart of my theological perspective which he detected through my sermon. He sent me a long email to correct me, and I was hooked. First of all, I wasn't having a good day, and second, due to my youthful appearance, I can be sensitive to being "corrected" by my elders. Shocking, isn't it?

I sent my fingers flying across the keyboard, and I fired back an email. Unfortunately, in my anger and defensiveness, I wasn't concerned about being respectful. The next day I wanted that email back. I knew what I sent was just going to escalate the tone of the conversation rather than do anything helpful. I certainly hadn't done anything to help two differing Christian perspectives gain any understanding of one another. The tone did escalate and more shots were fired.

I apologized...eventually. I didn't apologize for believing the way I do, but for responding the way I did. Through all of this I was mindful of my need to wait again on the coming of the Christ child. I need the child to be born again into the midst of my weakness, to redeem and heal my wounds and hurt. And we all need the Christ child to be born again into the sticky webs of the problems of our time, however they impact us personally.

The scriptures assure us that God will be born in our lives again. God will break into our world anew. The child can indeed heal our wounds and give us new life. Even into our tired, worn out fights, this amazing Christ child can bring the possibility of something better.

May we all wait with great hope this Advent.

Pastor Todd

Interested in officially joining the church?
Contact Pastor Todd tslippert@mhtc.net or 987-2025

Youth Group

November Meeting Minutes –Nov. 8, 2009

I. Summer Mission Trip

A. About costs / fund raising

1. The trip to Denver next summer will not exceed \$650 per youth member. By working at the various fundraisers, a member can reduce the “out of pocket” cost of the trip considerably. Every time you work at an event, the money you earn is applied to the \$650 and reduces that amount. Most youth members who work an average number of fund raising events earn \$200-\$300 towards the trip, some earn much more than that.

B. Deposits due – Sunday Nov. 15

2. We are asking youth members to make a non-refundable deposit of \$100 by Nov. 15. Checks can be made out to “Mineral Point Youth Group” and mailed to Chuck Tennesen, 3893 Mill Creek Rd., Dodgeville 53533. Please contact Chuck if you want to go on the trip but are not able to make a deposit at this time or if you have other financial questions.

B. Members with trip deposits pd.

Melissa, Molly F., Collin, Troy, Kimber, Jacob, Alex Thompson, Leah, Luke, Cameron, Tressa, Tracy, Mary Kate, Amber E., Jared

C. Members also planning to go

Stephanie, Anna, Katie, Cody, Nolan – We anticipate hearing from others as well.

II. Youth Group Pasty Sale – Dec. 12

A. Google Docs – sign-up tool

Cheryl gave an overview of how to use Google Docs. to sign up to work, order pasties etc. She will be sending out written instructions on how to access this tool and have it ready for your use by the end of this week.

B. How you can be involved – Use Google Docs to sign up for:

1. Which shift(s) you can work
2. Parent workers (Parents earn ½ shift credit for each shift they help with for this event.)
3. Encourage your family to sign up to buy pasties.
4. Collecting phone orders counts as a work shift. These folks are:

Amber E., Amber W., Leah, Alex Thomp., Katie, Kimber, Tracy, Mary Kate, Troy, Luke

IV. Coming Events

1. Next tentative meeting – Sunday, Dec. 8 – 6:30 – UCC church hall

If you have a friend who might be interested in joining the Youth Group, please invite him or her to any of these events.

Mission Trip to New Orleans, 2010

As details fall into place for the January mission trip to New Orleans we find that we are in need of at least one more vehicle that can seat 5-6 people comfortably. If you, or some one you know, has a vehicle that could be used for the trip, please contact Chuck Steudel.

We will depart at 6:30am from the parking lot at the MP UCC church on Saturday, January 16 and will arrive at Little Farms UCC in River Ridge, LA on Sunday afternoon. (Saturday night will be spent at a hotel in W. Memphis, AR) We depart Little Farms Saturday morning, January 23, will again stay overnight in a hotel and return to Mineral Point on the afternoon of Sunday, January 24.

Pasty Sale

The Youth Group is having a pasty sale on December 12. If you want to order pasties, call Chuck Tennesen at 987-3835.

Workers are needed for the January pasty sale. Contact Karen (987-3835) or Deb (987-3597) and let them know if you can help. A sign up sheet will also be in the church beginning December 13.

Thank you,
Karen Tennesen and Deb Ivey; Pasty Sale Organizers

The next monthly UCC pasty sales will take place on:
January 9 February 13 March 13 April 10
If you have changes to your standing order, please contact Heather Dampf at the Church Office at 987-2025 or by email mpucc@gmail.com

Congregational United Church of Christ Council Meeting

Date: November 12, 2009

Members Present: Nancy Schmit, Todd Lippert, Greg Wilson, Karen Tennesen, Kandy Keuler,

Absent: Fritz Aschliman, Jim Bennett

Also Present: Marla Martin

- 1 Greg Wilson called the meeting to order.
- 2 Todd gave the opening prayer.

Financial Report and Bills Payable

Marla presented the financial report and the bills payable. The council reviewed each report. Lisa moved and Nancy seconded a motion to accept the bills payable. Kandy moved and Lisa seconded a motion to approve the financial report. The motion was approved unanimously. The council also approved Donnie's request for a new vacuum cleaner.

October Council Minutes

October council minutes were reviewed. Kandy moved to accept the minutes. Karen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report

- 1 Todd reported on the Rural Immigration Summit he helped plan in cooperation with the UW Extension. He feels this may be a possible ministry direction for the two churches.
- 2 Todd is involved in two Thanksgiving services this year. He is hosting the Mineral Point service and preaching at the service in Dodgeville. The Mineral Point service is Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00 p.m.
- 3 Due to the illness of Sarah's grandfather, Todd has spent many days out of town. He thanked the congregations for allowing him the flexibility to be with his family in Iowa.
- 4 The First Sunday in Advent is November 29th.
- 5 Christmas Eve Service in Mineral Point is at 6 p.m. The Service at Plymouth is at 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Todd will be on Vacation for the January 3 service.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds

No report.

Mission/Partnership

Mission Partnership reported they received \$187 for Neighbors in Need and they are gearing up for Advent. Check out their column in the Newsletter for December Activities.

Worship Committee

Kandy is the point person for poinsettias. She will also let us know the date for Advent decorating.

Finance reported by Nancy Schmit

The Finance Committee meets next Monday to draft the 2010 budget. It will be presented at the December Meeting.

Youth reported by Karen Tennesen

The Youth Group has chosen Denver as the Mission Trip destination in 2010. It was also noted that Dick hauled three huge boxes of food to the food bank as a result of Youth Group Spook House food donations.

Congregational United Church of Christ Council Meeting (con't)

Christian Education reported by Karen Tennesen

- 1 Andrea Wilson took the position for the nursery care provider on Sunday Mornings. She will be in the nursery from 10:15 to 11:45. Babies and very young children are welcomed in the Nursery during the whole time. We hope that pre-school children will stay in Worship through the children's message. Kayce Bayse will also help out.
- 2 We have 26 children registered for Sunday School.
- 3 6 Sunday school leaders met at the Pointer Café on November 14 to plan the Christmas Program. The Program is scheduled for December 20. Dress Rehearsal is Saturday, December 19 at 10:00 a.m.
- 4 Teachers and helpers are: Nancy Schmit, Karen Tennesen, Lisa Howard, Greg and Carrie Wilson, Phyllis Hanson, Angie Hendrick, Chris Heins. Others have come with their children and stayed to help or participate.

Mark Your Calendars

- 1 November 29 Advent Begins
- 2 December 12 Pasty Sale
- 3 December 20 Children's Christmas Program
- 4 December 24 Services at 6 p.m. in Mineral Point and 7:30 p.m. in Dodgeville

Our Next Council Meeting is December 10

The council unanimously agreed to conclude the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by Nancy Schmit

Beginning Balance	13,990.10
Income	12,098.57
Expenses	6,861.16
Ending Balance	19,227.51

Prayers Requested

Patty Johnston's son, Jerry, is going through stem cell treatment. Prayers and cards are welcome. There is also a caring bridge link: www.caringbridge.org/visit/jerryjohnston/journal

Stanford Hospital
300 Pasteur Drive
Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Unit
Jerry Johnston, Rm # E123
Stanford, CA 94305

Visiting Card List

Mae Kinsman
Sienna Crest Asst Living
210 Copper St
Mineral Point, WI 53565
987-7456
Merton & Alice Baker

975 N 5th Ave #107
St Charles, IL 60174
(630) 524-5248

Bob & Evelyn Ivey
730 Center St
Mineral Point, WI 53565
987-2116

Marge Johnson
Mineral Point Care Center
109 N Iowa St
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Christmas Eve Schedule:

The schedule for our Candlelight Christmas Eve Services is as follows:

6:00 pm at Congregational UCC in Mineral Point

7:30 pm at Plymouth UCC in Dodgeville

Feel free to attend the service that best accommodates your Christmas plans!



Mission & Partnership Notes November 2009

Mission / Partnership Notes for December 2009

Neighbors in Need (NIN): This UCC wide offering to support Justice and Witness Ministries was received on Oct 4th in the amount of \$187.00.

Iowa County Food Pantry: Need continues to be very high! On Oct. 10th students from the National Honor Society, MPHS conducted a door to door food drive on our behalf through a portion of Mineral Point. This was a service project for them and a very helpful way for us to gather food items. 50 sacks of food items were collected that morning. Our thanks to the NHS and their advisor, Ms. Patricia Schaefer. Also, on Oct 30, the Youth Group Spook House was held with 3 boxes of food collected. The local food pantry much appreciates this help.

Mississippi Trip: Chuck Tennesen, Fritz Aschliman and others from our church will again be traveling to Mississippi over the Thanksgiving holiday. They will be taking donated items, plus help local families while there. The M/P committee has approved a \$100 donation for this trip, we appreciate their continued commitment.

"Feed my starving Children": Pastor Todd was contacted by Hidden Valley Church to ask if we would consider being part of a next campaign for the Feed My Starving Children project. (You may recall this project from last year's event We have agreed to pursue intent to be part of the next project, please watch for more information as it unfolds.

Food Resource Project: We are at Harvest time: our soybeans are at harvest and our two feeder steers are pending sale. Thank you to the White families and to Mary Dunn for being host farms. All proceeds go to FRB projects in third world countries to enable them to become self sufficient farmers.

Christmas Fund: We will be receiving the UCC special offering for the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund at our Christmas Eve service. The Christmas Fund helps provide pension and health insurance supplemental help to lower income retired clergy and emergency assistance to clergy families.

ADVENT / ALTERNATIVE GIVING:

During Advent this year, we will offer some alternative giving options. Please stop at our display in the Chapel either prior to worship or during fellowship time afterward. Included this year are:

Church World Service: give a gift of: a blanket; rabbits; a soccer ball; rehydration kit; hygiene kit; seeds and tools; bees; chicks; sewing supplies; school kits; birthing kits; trees and many more.

CommunityConnectionsFreeClinic: We have committed \$250 to the Free Clinic and would like to challenge matching that gift during Advent.

Giving Tree: a local family Gift Giving opportunity

Local food Packages: collection of food and non perishable items for distribution in Mineral Point Just before the Christmas holiday.

Fair Trade Gift Items and Fair Trade coffees, tea and chocolate make great gifts.

PLEASE COME BROWSE

Food Pantry:

Specific needs include boxed deserts, peanut butter, beans, canned tuna, canned chicken

Our mission at the Congregational United Church of Christ is to celebrate God's love. As disciples of Jesus Christ we celebrate that love by responding to the needs of our congregation, community and the world through worship, education, fellowship, and service to all.

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday school 9am Worship 10:30 am Childcare provided		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Finance/MP 6:00pm Council 7:30pm	10	11	12 Youth Pasty Sale
13 Lessons & Carols @ Trinity Episcopal	14	15	16	17	18	19 Christmas program rehearsal 10am
20 Christmas program	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve service @ MPUCC 6pm Plymouth 7:30	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Ushers & greeters

*12/6	Lois Buckingham	Joyce Buckingham	Bill Buckingham	Jessie Potterton
12/13	Paul Berg	Sarah Berg	Linda Griffiths	
12/20	Duane Fitzsimmons	Barb Fitzsimmons	Mary Sue Radtke	
*12/24	Fritz Aschliman	Wanda Aschliman	Nancy Schmit	
12/27	Dick Josh	Kandy Keuler	Don Bennett	

Lay Readers

12/6	Deb Ivey
12/13	Chuck Tennessen
12/20	Nancy Schmit
12/27	Phil Crawford

You are welcome here

Phone: 608-987-2025
E-mail: mpucchrst@gmail.com
Website: www.mpucc.com

**Congregational
United Church of Christ**
300 Maiden St.
Mineral Point, WI 53565



CUCC- MP Staff

*January Newsletter deadline
Friday, December 18*

Pastor

Rev. Todd Smith Lippert
office 987-2025
home 935-0001
Email tslippert@mhtc.net

Office Administrator

Heather Dampf
Office 987-2025
Email mpucc@gmail.com

Maintenance

Don Huxtable
Council Chair
Greg Wilson



Poinsettia Order Form

Purchased by _____

In memory/honor of _____

\$10 standard ____ \$25 large ____

Donation for decorations \$ _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____