

August
2015

Good News!

United Presbyterian Congregational Church
214 Vaughn Avenue, Ashland WI 54806
(715) 682-3093



*From the
Pastor's
Desk
- and his*



Sunday Pockets

This month has an anniversary. Oh, it's not just Sharon's and my wedding anniversary, but it is also the birthday of the Federal Income Tax. It was signed into law on August 5th by President Abraham Lincoln as an emergency measure to help fund the Civil War. While it is doubtful that any of us will celebrate the "birth" of the income tax, it does provide an opportunity to reflect on what we take to church each Sunday.

As I child, I took two things as I walked to church each Sunday. One was my black, name embossed copy of the Bible (RSV). The other was my Sunday School collection envelope. Oh, there was also a third item I took to church: my younger sister Sally. We would walk the 8-10 blocks from our home to First Congregational UCC in Wisconsin Rapids. Unless the weather was really bad: blizzard and 10 degrees or colder. Then a ride would be given. Need I say that the journey was uphill, both ways!

Today we usually only carry one item to church: our collection or offering envelope. Some consider the "offering" a form of church "tax", similar to the Income Tax. For some of us that "tax" is a percentage of income: 2, 4, 5% or more of our income.

But I would contend that we need to take more of the secular world to church than a gift of money in an envelope. Before we leave home for church we should stuff our pockets with everything of the past week we can get in them! This may sound like an unusual idea for those of us who think that when we enter the space of the church we should leave behind all our secular worries and concerns. Instead, I think we should bring the whole world to church: all of our world.

Most religion tends to cause a division of the world and time into two zones: sacred and secular. But the actions of Jesus intended to awaken us to the sacredness of the world and people. His life, death, and resurrection were intended to heal the division(s) of the world and bring us closer to God.

So in our worship service, during the offering, we can empty out our pockets and lift up to God everything that we have done, said, and thought in the week. As we lift them up, all of these seemingly insignificant things we have done like paying taxes and taking out the trash, they are presented to God as gifts.

So, this Sunday, as you prepare to leave for church, hear the voice of your pastor saying, "Don't forget to put your collection envelope in your pocket." Hear too, the voice of Jesus saying, "And don't forget to fill your pockets with your world!" And don't forget your sister either.

Peace,



Bill





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What's Going On?

Faith In Action Taking on Summer Projects for Seniors

Faith In Action is currently taking requests from senior citizens in the Ashland area for help with minor home repair projects. The program also takes requests from seniors for help with light housekeeping, yard work, shopping, and laundry, respite, fix-it jobs, friendly visits, lamp repair, Pet 'N Pals visits, or Arts/Sports Buddy companions. New volunteers always welcome. If you are a senior that could use a helping hand, call today. 715-682-4414 x 3 or email fia.volunteer@ashlandaging.org.

Fill the Box!

The large wicker box in the Narthex of the church is empty! Let's fill it! The second Sunday of each month is designated "Fill the Box" Sunday and this month it is on August 9thth! Please bring your non-perishable food items to worship. The children will help collect the items during the Children's Chat and bring the items to the front of the sanctuary to help fill the box. The items will be taken to The Brick for the food pantry. Let's continue to **Fill the Box** each second Sunday with non-perishable items and a noisy collection of coins with everything going to The Brick.

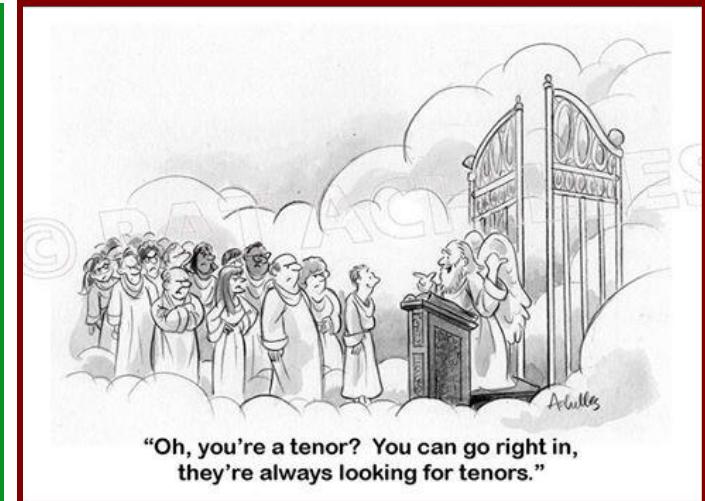
REMEMBER to bring your non-perishable food item (s) every 2nd Sunday to worship.

These items go to The BRICK each month and are very appreciated.

Donations for the Women's

Association may be placed in the Grannie's Attic room. The craft and quilting supplies may be placed in the room between Grannie's Attic & the Confirmation Class room. The space for everything is labeled so please place your items accordingly. Did you know they collect school supplies, Campbell's Soup labels, used postage stamps and sewing supplies for Appalachian Mission? Not to mention a basket for the local ministry – non-perishable food items. Check it out!

If you have any questions, please contact Kat Whitten or Bea Hayen.



Tenor-Bass Choir Forming

The once-a-year summer tenor-bass choir will be performing Sunday, August 23 during the worship service. Practices for the song "Let the Name of the Lord Be Praised" are scheduled for Wednesday, August 19th and Thursday, August 20th from 7:30-8:15 p.m. each day and also at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 23rd prior to the 9:30 a.m. service. The Wednesday rehearsal will begin after the session meeting concludes. The song is about 50% unison so, according to the director Diana Mann, that section of the song will be easy and the section that is in parts will be fun.

It would be wonderful to have as many tenors and basses as possible, so please join in. Feel free to invite any other tenors or basses that may be interested and please let Diana Mann know if you will be participating in the choir.



Rebecca Nelson and Bob Drevlow provided special music on Sunday, July 26th.

Church Family News



Our Sympathies go out to:

The family of Yvonne Gilbert who passed away on Wed., July 22nd at the Golden Living Center. She was very active in the Women's Association. Her memorial service will be at 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 19th at the church with visitation one hour prior to the service.

Congratulations to:

Danielle Penney and Roth Edwards were married on July 11th in the church.

Trevor Hmielewski and Holly Sawoechki. Were married at the Apostle Island's Golf Course on Saturday, July 18th.

Military Notes



If anyone wishes to write letters or send care packages to Rachel Michler:

NOTE: NEW ADDRESS:

Rachel Michler @ PO Box 17013,
Parris Island SC 29905-7013

Participation in the Church Survey Was Successful

The Pastor Nominating Committee would like to thank all those who participated in the recent church survey. By the time the survey closed on May 31st, 110 members and friends of the congregation took the time to thoughtfully review and complete this necessary step in our search for a new pastor. The members of the committee recognize that completion and submittal of the extensive survey was asking quite a bit from the busy lives of our members and friends. However, the time and effort expended by those who participated is greatly appreciated. Competing the survey was a necessary step in the process of calling our next pastor. The information gathered was necessary to insure that the congregation was given an opportunity to be heard on the future direction of the ministries of our community of faith and the qualities and competencies desired of our next spiritual leader. In addition to providing guidance on the calling of our next pastor, survey results will be invaluable in assisting session understand our members vision for the future and

how our church fits into the larger Ashland community. The committee recently received the results of the survey and will be reviewing the data during the month of July to arrive at an understanding of what the survey is telling us, how the information will be utilized in our efforts to fill the pulpit, and how to share the results with the session and congregation.

The members of the committee thank those who participated in the survey once again for participating in the future of our church. The committee also thanks the congregation for its patience as the first pastoral search that the United Presbyterian/Congregational Church has undertaken in more than 30 years continues. The committee asks for your continued prayers as it enters into the next stage of the calling of our next pastor.

Pastoral Nominating Committee

New Associate Conference Minister for UCC Named

Rev. Dr. Rob MacDougall has been called as the Associate Conference Minister for the Northwest Association. As our church has UCC affiliation, Rob will be serving our church as liaison with the greater church and as a resource person for both pastor and the church.

Rob grew up in Racine, WI, just a few blocks from the best Danish bakery in the city. He attended St. Olaf College, graduating with a B.A. in social work. He worked doing chemical dependency prevention with youth in Milwaukee and Minneapolis before deciding to attend seminary. Rob graduated from Pacific School of Religion with the M. Div. Degree in 1985. He was ordained the same year at his home church, First Congregational UCC of Minneapolis. His first call was to St. Paul's UCC in Minneapolis where he was the associate pastor with the Rev. Ted Trost, whose brother Fred later became Conference Minister of the Wisconsin Conference. After three years, Rob received a call to serve First Congregational UCC, Menomonie, WI where he served for 27 years.

Rob received a D. Min. degree at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in 2005. His thesis focused on issues around clergy retirement. Rob married Wendy Randall in 1981. They met at St. Olaf. Wendy is a pediatric nurse practitioner and is the current director of the Dunn County Health Department. Rob and Wendy have three adult children and one grandchild.

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Mark Your Calendar...



Standing meetings for out of facility groups:

- 1) Wednesdays Noon: AA group meets in lounge.
- 2) Wednesdays in Dining room from 1-3 pm: Ceramics Class for disabled adults.
- 3) Sundays at 7:00 pm – NA group meets in lounge

Calendar Items for Church members:

August 2 nd :	9:30 worship with communion 7:00 pm - SNL
August 3 rd :	Bill Handy Not in office today
August 4 th :	9 am staff meeting
	5 pm Facility and Grounds Meeting
August 5 th :	1 pm Women's Canasta
	5-6:30 Middle School youth meet at Prentice Park
August 6 th :	Men's Breakfast at Lakeshore Café at 7 a.m.
August 9 th	9:30 am Worship 7:00 pm - SNL
August 10 th	Bill Handy not in office today
August 11	4 pm – Stewardship Meeting
August 12	5-6:30 pm – Middle School youth at Prentice Park
	5:30 pm – PNC meet in Lower Level Lounge
August 16 th	9:30 am worship 7 pm – SNL
August 17	Bill Handy not in office today
August 19	1 pm – Women's Canasta 5:30 pm – SESSIN meeting
	5-6:30 – Middle Schoolers meet at Prentice Park
August 20 th :	Men's Breakfast at Lakeshore Café at 7 a.m.
August 23 rd	9:30 am Worship 7:00 pm SNL
August 24 th	Bill Handy not in office today
August 26	5-6:30 pm – Middle Schoolers at Prentice Park
August 30	9:30 am Worship 7:00 pm SNL
August 31 st	Bill Handy not in office today

UCC Synod Report by Deanne Allen UCC Church of Cable, WI

The theme for Synod 2015 was Finding God in Unexpected Places, based on the verses from Genesis 28: 15-16. In his dream God reassures Jacob that the covenant he made with Abraham and Isaac would be kept through Jacob. When he awoke, Jacob says, "Surely God is in this place, and I did not know it." Jacob's words remind us that we encounter our Still Speaking God in unexpected places and moments.

Our President and General Minister Geoffrey A. Black retired this year. Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer was overwhelmingly elected to his position. Rev. Dr. Dorhauer stated that his plan for moving the church forward revolves around "connection and convergence." He wants to build closer ties to and reconnect the national setting with local churches. Rev. Dr. Dorhauer urges us to take risks in ministry and use the power of the UCC to be a voice for those with no voice. We in the UCC are extremely blessed to continue to have excellent, committed leadership at the national level.

There were over 730 Synod delegates from 38 conferences across the country, but there were over 3,000 in attendance – visitors and observers. The main business of Synod is to consider resolutions presented for adoption. Resolutions can be presented by any individual, church, association or conference. This year delegates considered and voted on 16 resolutions. Each resolution is a topic of discussion in and of itself. They are listed on the official UCC website at ucc.org and also on the Wisconsin Conference UCC website. I urge you to read them. Just some of the issues covered in the resolutions include mass incarceration and *The New Jim Crow*; full communion relationship with the United Church of Canada; renewable energy; and seeking a Just Peace in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict with divestment from companies profiting from the expanded Jewish settlements. We are blessed to be a part of a church that opens itself to address the issues of our day.

One particularly moving moment was when the South Dakota Conference was recognized for returning land previously owned by Native Americans, then owned by the Conference and now returned to the Native American population. The transfer of deeds is complete!

A huge thank you to the Northwest Association for giving me the honor of being a delegate at Synod this year! May we all listen deeply to our God who speaks to us in the most unexpected places!

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Happy Birthday!

August Schedule

August 1	Briella Traaholt, Mary Jean Doane, Andrea Robertson, Tyler Wickman, Jenna Vernon, Holly Hatcher, Sharon Hammond
August 2	Emily Wickman
August 3	Gwen Gilbert
August 4	Julie McKuen, Nicole Erickson, Jill Rogers, Marshall Swanson
August 5	Mark Brown, Matt Cogger, Catie Cogger, William Torres, Pat Allen
August 6	Stephanie Mahnke
August 10	Carter Evenson
August 13	Jill Zifko, Madison Smart, Meghan Friesen
August 14	Max Lindsey
August 17	David Miller, Quinlynn Walworth,
August 18	Scott Bretting, Mary Louise Mrdjenovich
August 19	Spencer Clark
August 20	Josh Penney
August 21	Sue Martinsen
August 22	Bailey Setzke, Dale Despard
August 23	Ray Stuart, John Bochler
August 24	George Setzke
August 25	Dale Torres, Jacque Dallenbach
August 26	Mychaela Moore, Laura Halker
August 28	Daniel Gilbert, Meggan Traaholt
August 29	Madison Beeksma
August 30	Trevor Pufall

Usher Schedule

Aug. 2	Pete and Diana Mann and Recruit
Aug. 9	Gerald, Becca and John Nelson
Aug. 16	Greg and Julie Radke and Anna Dufford
Aug. 23	Chuck Gottschall, Linda Bailey and Sharon Handy
Aug. 30	Kim Bro, Becky Brown and Carol Eder

Coffee Hour/Greeters Schedule

Aug. 2	Kat Whitten and Sherry Hanson
Aug. 9	Robert and Lori Mahnke
Aug. 16	Cindy and Bruce Beifuss
Aug. 23	Cheryl and Bob Drevlow
Aug. 30	Ruth Smith and Julia Waggoner

Recording/Radio (played at 10:30 am 1400 AM)

Aug. 2	Chuck Gottschall
Aug. 9	Bruce Beifuss
Aug. 16	Dick Whitten
Aug. 23	Jim Roguski
Aug. 30	John Urling

Lay Readers

Aug. 2	Lynn Adams
Aug. 9	Linda Bailey
Aug. 16	TBD
Aug. 23	Sue Hopkins
Aug. 30	Julia Waggoner



*Celebrating and
Blessing our Great Lake Superior*



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Contact Information

Bill Handy Interim Pastor	682-3093 upccpastor1@gmail.com
Kate Bernardo Secretary	682-3093 tbpresbych1@presbych.com
Allison Radke Youth Minister	682-3139 upccyouth@gmail.com
Cindy Johnson Treasurer	682-3093 blueharley@centurytel.net

Moving or new email address? Please give all information for your address or email change to the church office.

Information for the church newsletter. Please forward your information for the Sept. issue of *Good News!* to the church by August 25th.



Ben Cogger



Our Vision:

"To be a welcoming family of God that joyfully embraces the servant life in Christ."

LOG ON at: <http://presbych.weebly.com>