

THE MUSTARD SEED



Vol. 36, Issue 2, October, 2008, Edition

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*Coming Up...
See inside for
details*

Sept. 28—
Conversation on Race
Oct. 5—Visitor Sunday
Oct. 5—Communion
Breakfast
Oct. 5—World
Communion Sunday
Oct. 5—Neighbors in
Need Offering
Oct. 12-18—Families
Moving Forward
Oct. 12—Flu Shot
Clinic
Oct. 12, 19, 20—New
Member Classes
Oct. 14—Pilgrim Guild
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Coleen Rowley
Oct. 19—Peace with
Justice Sunday
Oct. 19—Mission Fair
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insert



World
Communion
Sunday
October 5

**From Your
Pastor
And
Teacher**

“Living Wide Open”

I will not die an unlived life.
I will not live in fear of falling or catching fire.
I choose to inhabit my days,
to allow my living to open me,
to make me less afraid,
more accessible,
to loosen my heart until it
becomes a wing, a torch,
a promise.

I choose to risk my significance, to live so that
that which came to me as seed
goes to the next as blossom
and that which came to me as blossom
goes on as fruit.

~Dawna Markova

I Will Not Die an Unlived Life

Can you imagine a church that only looks at heaven? Can you imagine a life that is only focused on personal salvation? Can you imagine a life where you were always right and convinced that everybody else was wrong? I CAN'T. I WON'T. I will not live an unlived life.

Life is about growing and learning and questioning. Joy is about being surprised by God. Wisdom and truth are not stagnant or stationary; they are dynamic things that allow us experiment and try new things. This season of dying offers the greatest of all colors and scents. This season of harvest is the greatest example of how death brings about new life and new ways of being. Let us choose to be generous today. Let us choose to risk a little bit in the hopes that the seed we plant will come back to us someday as blossom. All the gardeners in the congregation know that you cannot control the path of the vine or on which branch there will be a flower. The best we can do is water and weed our way into the holy relationship of growing and learning. In the coming weeks, you will be asked to consider your pledge to the ministry of RUCC. My invitation is for you to live and plant and grow, and look for how God will surprise you in the days to come.

See you in church,
T. Michael



October Schedule

Worship in September

October 5. Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. Worship at 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion. Infant and Toddler Care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 year olds through 2nd grade, from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3: 4b-14; Matthew 21: 33-46.

October 12. Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Worship at 10:00 a.m. Infant and Toddler Care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 year olds through 5th grade from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Exodus 32: 1-14; Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4: 1-9; Matthew 22: 1-14.

October 19. Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Service at 10:00 a.m. Infant and Toddler Care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 year olds through 5th grade, from 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Exodus 33: 12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8; Matthew 22: 34-46.

October 26. Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost. Service at 10:00 a.m. Infant and Toddler Care available. Bible Adventures for children 3 year olds through 5th grade, from 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. Lectionary texts: Deuteronomy 34: 1-12; Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17; I Thessalonians 2: 1-8; Matthew 22: 34-46.

Worship in October

Worship is not just going through the motions at RUCC. We are a congregation searching for meaning and truth. We are a congregation that gathers to worship God, but also gathers to examine our own faith and path. We come with open hearts and open minds so that we can experience not only the love of God in our midst, but we will also learn ways to live out that love in our lives. Don't you think its time that you invited a friend to come and experience the joy of being in this Spirit-filled community?

October 5th – WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
Scripture Texts: Exodus 20: 1-4,7-9,12-20; Matthew 21:33-46

Sermon: “The Purpose of the Ten” – Rev. T. Michael Rock

Parables and Commandments fill our readings today. What is their purpose in our life? Why are there just ten commandments? What does it mean to follow them or not? How can we connect our faith to the events at the foot of Mount Sinai?

October 12th – YOUTH SUNDAY

Scripture Text: Philippians 4:1-9

Sermon: “The Meaning of Church” – RUCC Youth
This summer, a small group from RUCC went to Chicago to live in a small church on the northside and to work at one of the greatest hunger relief agencies in the United States. Although the work with fun and felt great, what we really learned on our trip was what church was all about.

October 19th – JUST PEACE SUNDAY –

Scripture Texts: Exodus 33:12-23; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Sermon: “Being Seen, Being Known” – Rev. T. Michael Rock

Celebrating “Just Peace Sunday” is a lot like celebrating being human. When we learn to live and love ourselves the only response is peace in our selves and peace in the world. Isn't that what living is all about?

October 26th– UCC Higher Education Sunday

Scripture Texts: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 22:34-46

Sermon: “The Greatest Commandment and the Commander”– Frank Bennett, Preaching

We often strive to humanize Jesus so that we can relate to Him; He is with us, but not one of us. He is the Messiah who has come from God, and His authority and mission set Him apart. Towards the end of His ministry in the gospel of Matthew, Jesus instructed the priests and His disciples to remember the “greatest commandment”: “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*” *This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* What new insight can we gain from this essential text?

SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE **September 28th – following worship**

Grab a cup of coffee and head back to the sanctuary for an important discussion on race, diversity, the role of the church and our personal power. Last year, our denomination encouraged all UCC churches to engage in this conversation as a way to start the discussion. This is important for all of us and I hope you'll attend. There will be child care provided. If you have any questions, please contact T. Michael.

THE MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

This summer I was caught in a wonderful conversation about the meaning of communion. This is a sacred meal that can be packed with meaning and transformational possibilities. Too often we pass it by as "normal" or "regular" and miss the significance of how it can connect us to community. My conversation partner reminded me that the biblical communion meal takes place at the end of the meal. The precursor to the meal is conversation, building the community and sharing stories. So, the invitation: **Communion Breakfast on October 5th**.

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. – Full breakfast will be served in Fellowship Hall

Free will offering will be accepted.

Our October Breakfast Host: Willa Truehart

Because this first Communion Breakfast is also on Visitor Sunday, what a great way to introduce your friends and neighbors to RUCC.

If you have any questions, please talk with T. Michael.

World Communion Sunday is October 5th



On October 5th we will celebrate World Communion Sunday along with Christian congregations throughout the world. In these times when much divides groups and countries, this is an opportunity to celebrate unity through one sacred ritual of our faith. We will be using breads from many cultures in the communion service.

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY **OCTOBER 19th**

RUCC has been a Just Peace Church for over 15 years. This is a commitment to ending violence and living out an ethic of peace in the world and also

in our own lives. This Sunday will celebrate this long commitment to peace and justice and challenge us to continue this work in all our words and actions.

If you have any questions about this special offering, please see T. Michael or a member of the National and Global Ministry



RUCC Hosts Families Moving Forward **Week of October 12**

For the week beginning October 12, 2008, RUCC will be hosting four families from the Families Moving Forward program. When the families arrive at RUCC at the end of each day, our role is to provide dinner, evening hospitality, and sleeping quarters for each family. By providing material needs - food, shelter, transportation - Families Moving Forward is a "safe harbor" for families as they move toward a more independent life.

The homeless rate for families is currently at an all-time high. Families Moving Forward as well as the three other emergency shelter programs are at 100% capacity; each program turns away large numbers of families every month. To accommodate for the unprecedented need, Hennepin County is housing families who are not able to access the emergency shelter programs at the Drake Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. Although we only host Families Moving Forward two times each year, we are an essential cog in the wheel of shelter for these families.

More information will be coming in email, bulletins and a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have questions or would like to get ahead of the calendar and volunteer for a specific time or task, contact T. Michael Rock or Lyn Koss at 952-933-5538 or koss2@comcast.net.

Families Moving Forward Bedding Alert!

Since our next Families Moving Forward week is coming up quickly (October 12), I'm gently reminding anyone who has not yet returned bedding from our last adventure to please return it ASAP. Also, we seem to be low on twin sheets. Donations are always welcome!—Peggy Spielman



Happy Birthday!
Greetings and best wishes to all members and friends of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ who celebrate their birthdays in October.

Chioma	Onwukwe	October	1
AJ	Sonquist	October	4
Mary	Welton	October	4
Lissa	Pelzer	October	7
Brad	Walker	October	7
Lynne	Wicklund	October	7
Nikki	McKinley	October	11
Edith	Middleton	October	12
Kyle	Wicklund	October	12
Claire	Nicholson	October	15
Jan	Headley	October	17
Bill	Bossert	October	19
Morgan	Rock	October	20
Ceabern	Squires	October	21
Giuseppe	Mendolia	October	22
Tracy	Thomas Wilson	October	23
Ellen	Thompson	October	23
Joe	Conner	October	25
Vicki	Nicole	October	28
Bill	McKinley	October	29
Linda	Ward	October	30
Elwood	Hansen	October	31
Caitlyn	Master	October	31

**Coleen Rowley to Speak at RUCC
 Thursday, October 16**

Coleen Rowley, former FBI agent, whistleblower, Time Magazine’s “Person of the Year” and peace activist will speak about her own life’s journey and experiences when she appears at Robbinsdale UCC at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 16. The event is sponsored by Northwest Neighbors for Peace and RUCC’s National and Global

Ministries.

Coleen grew up in Iowa and received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1980. Shortly after, she became a Special Agent with the FBI and served in Omaha, Nebraska, Jackson, Mississippi, New York, Paris and the Montreal consulate. In 1990 she was assigned to the FBI’s Minneapolis office where she became the chief legal advisor to the office.

After the September 11, 2001, attacks, she wrote a paper for FBI Director Robert Mueller documenting how FBI HQ personnel in Washington, D.C., had mishandled and failed to take action on information provided by the Minneapolis Field Office regarding suspected terrorist Zacharias Moussaoui. She later testified before the 9/11 Commission about the FBI’s mishandling of information. She retired from the FBI in 2004. Mrs. Rowley jointly held the Time “Person of the Year” award in 2002 with two other women credited as whistleblowers.

Coleen Rowley is an exciting person to hear. She has lots of energy and is a delight to meet. We have a rare opportunity to hear her story.

**Tuesdays w/T
 A Bible Study for Beginners
 Every Tuesday at 6 p.m.**

The Apostle Paul: A Journey in Faith

This Bible Study is looking at Paul’s theological development. We will look at how he moved from conversion, to ideological zealot, to missionary. There will be lively discussion and a wonderful opportunity to discover our faith in a new way. This Bible Study is open to everyone. There is no homework, and all that is required is that you come open to our Still Speaking God.



Thanks from the Worship Ministry!

The Worship Ministry wishes to thank all those children and adults who participated in the journey of “The Box” throughout the summer. Both children and adults contributed items, and several adults tapped their spontaneous creativity for the first time in leading the “What does this have to do with our relationship with God?” discussion with the children. All survived. If you would like to participate in this portion of our worship service, please contact Sheryl Fisher.



Community News

BAPTISM

Blake Anderson, born October 26, 2007, was presented for baptism on September 7. His parents are Ross and Amanda Anderson, and his grandmother is Lyn Koss.

THANKS

Thank you to our very special church family for your prayers, cards, and loving support during these past few weeks. Ken will begin radiation/chemo treatment shortly and it gives us much comfort and encouragement knowing we are not alone in this process. Blessings to you all. *Ken & Kay Barker*

We would like to thank all our wonderful friends at RUCC for the many cards, phone calls, and prayers we received after our accident. It surely is helping in the recovery process. Jim is doing well, and Faye is making daily progress. We'll soon be good to go! Thank you again. *Jim and Faye Paster*

SPECIAL CONCERN

Please keep these RUCC friends in your prayers.

Gerald Abild
Gert Anderson
Sylvia Anderson
Jeanne Angel
Ken Barker
Pat Bobleter
Jane Boggs
Zane Brown
Amanda Busch
Shirley Dayton
Rodney Giddings
Ruthe Hawn
Janet Johnson
Curtis Johnson
Kira Johnson
Madge Johnson
Lois Larsen
Alice MacPherson
Kathy Plumb
Ellinor Porter
Barbara Sexton
Helen Thiel
Barbara Webber
Joan Young

—YOUTH AT RUCC—

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH

2nd Sunday – Sr. High Youth (Youth Room)
Gather to talk about relevant issues for your faith and life.

3rd Sunday – Middle School Youth (Youth Room)

Gather for activities and discussion that affect every girl and boy in middle school.

YEP 2 FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL and YEP 2 FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Stay tuned for some great events in fun and mission!

Cherish Our Church: Come help give our church a scrubbing!

All ages welcome. Saturday, October 11, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.. Lunch provided. Please bring indoor and outdoor cleaning supplies. Thanks!



Many thanks to our Trustees Ministry for seeking the contract and overseeing the construction of our new entry stairs. We also are thrilled to have a new dishwasher in the kitchen.

And coming soon: refinished terrazzo floors and parking lot repair and striping. We're looking good, thanks to the Trustees!!

Movie Night! On Saturday, October 25, Faith Formation will sponsor a showing of "Young @ Heart," a documentary featuring Young@Heart chorus, a group of Massachusetts senior citizens who thrill audiences worldwide with their unusual -- and unusually poignant -- versions of rock songs.

Meet Bethel Community on October 5th

We are continuing to support the ministry of El Bethel Community Christian Center by opening our building to them on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings for Bible Study. All are invited on the afternoon of October 5th to celebrate their First Anniversary as a congregation. There will be a dinner following the service, so please let the office know if you are attending. 2:30 Worship – 5:30 Dinner.

October Schedule...

**INTERFAITH LEISURE AGE
9 AM. SOCIAL HOUR
12 NOON LUNCH AND PROGRAM:
Lunch Reservations Required
Elim Lutheran Church.**

3748 West Broadway in Robbinsdale

Oct. 2: Songs from Colleen Wold Hiebeler.

Oct. 9: Jim Berner plays keyboard and sings.

Oct. 16: Blood pressures taken 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Program: Liz Johnson performs favorites.

Oct. 23: October Birthday Party. Program: Mary Hall presents 40s music.

Oct. 30: Halloween Party. Program: Lynn Dechert's 3 piece band.

Leisure Age meets on Thursday from 9:00-2:00. Lunch costs \$8.00. It is now necessary to make reservations if you plan to attend. If you're present one week, you can sign the reservation book that is passed at the table to attend the following week. If you are not present, you can make reservations Monday 9 a.m. to noon by calling Jean Lindstrom at 763-537-1171. You may also use this number to cancel a reservation.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Leonard Sidle, 763-504-0465

or Keith Smith, 612-588-140

Thank You...Interfaith Leisure Age was pleased to have the assistance of the following servers and clean-up crew on September 4 and 11. Serving this way is part of RUCC's community outreach.

Thanks to Mary Lou Welton, John Lloyd, June Long, Sandra Nelson, Virginia and Don Anderson, Vince Flesness, Jan Paulsen, Ken Evans, and Kathy and Bill Herrmann. Thanks again—*Keith Smith and Leonard Sidle*

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on **October 5th**, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts.

Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal

budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM).

Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. Please give generously on October 5th. Also see the website at www.ucc.org/nin

National and Global Missions Ministries

All Are Welcome at Pilgrim Guild

The Pilgrim Guild will meet Tuesday, October 14th. Social time begins at 12:00 noon, followed by dessert and beverages served by Jim and Louiva Puffer. Come meet our student minister, Frank Bennett, in our smaller setting. We encourage you to come and bring friends. If you are not on our calling list, just contact Jan Paulsen, Keith Smith, or the Puffers.

VISITOR SUNDAY – OCTOBER 5

The Communication and Evangelism Ministry has designated October 5th as Visitor Sunday. What a special opportunity to invite new persons to worship with us on World Communion Sunday! Everyone is encouraged to invite a neighbor or friend to join our worship community that Sunday.

Please help to make October 5th a special occasion at RUCC by inviting someone to join you at Church that day. Be sure your guest fills out a name tag, wear your nametag, and help to extend our warm hospitality to visitors who are with us on Sunday, October 5th.

Jim Benshoof



Mission Fair-Alternative Gift Sale – October 19

Do you have that person that is *impossible* to buy a gift for, but one who is concerned about others? We have the answer! After church on October 19, we will hold an Alternative Gift Sale. You will have an opportunity to make a donation to one (or more) of several missions, local and national in the name of that gift recipient. You will receive information about the ministry and a card to give to your gift recipient. This will be a celebration of the true meaning of Christmas, to express the message of love which Jesus brought to our world.

Also in October, watch for the special **Neighbors in Need** offering on October 5. This is one of the UCC national appeals and helps to make our congregation “Five for Five.”

We will also offer the Greater Gift sale again this year. You can order special items made by craft people around the world. Watch for it in November.

From United Theological Seminary...

Fall 2008

Academy for Vital Christianity Class Offerings

“Reimagining the Church for Our Contemporary Time” Taught by Dr. Eleazar Fernandez, Professor of Constructive Theology.

Dates: Thursdays - October 16 and November 6

Times: 9:30 AM-3:30 PM

Location: New Brighton, United Theological Seminary

Cost: \$225.00

Registration deadline: Thursday, October 2nd

[Registration required](#)

“Living a Contemplative Life in a Helter-Skelter World” Taught by Rev. Martha Postlethwaite, Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Formation.

Dates: Thursdays - October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Times: 7:00-9:00 PM

Location: Bloomington, Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church

Cost: \$225.00

Registration deadline: Thursday, September 18th

[Registration required](#)

“Evangelism: Embracing the “E” Word” Taught by Dr. Cindi Beth Johnson, Director of Community Programming in the Arts, Religion and Spirituality.

Dates: Mondays - October 27, November 3, 10, 17, 24

Times: 7:00-9:00 PM

Location: Roseville, Centennial United Methodist Church

Cost: \$225.00

Registration deadline: Monday, October 13th

[Registration required](#)

“Faithful and Free: Interpreting the Older Testament with Integrity” Taught by Dr. Carolyn Pressler, Professor of Biblical Interpretation.

Dates: Saturdays - November 8 and 22

Times: 9:30 AM-3:30 PM

Location: Plymouth, Messiah United Methodist Church

Cost: \$225.00

Registration deadline: Saturday, October 25th

[Registration required](#)

“The Great Theologians of Church History Speak to Today: Augustine and Luther” Taught by Dr. Paul Capetz, Professor of Historical Theology.

Dates: Saturdays - October 4 and November 8

Times: 9:30 AM-3:30 PM

Location: Downtown Minneapolis, Plymouth Congregational Church

Cost: \$225.00

Registration deadline: Saturday, September 20th

[Registration required](#)

See UTS website for registration:

<http://www.unitedseminary.edu/CommunityPrograms/academy.asp#registration#registration>

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

BEING FORMED NOW!!

So many wonderful new families among us of every size and shape. What a blessing. If you would like to join Robbinsdale United Church of Christ, please join us for lunch following worship on Sunday, October 12th, for a time of Introduction to Membership, and Sunday, October 19th, for a more in-depth look at RUCC and how to be involved. The last meeting will take place on Monday, October 20th, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. It is this final meeting where people then choose to join our family of faith. If you have any questions or know someone who may be interested please contact T. Michael at 612-275-0387.

Faith Community Nursing in Action

This fall the Faith Community Nursing program will be offering new opportunities for our congregation. We will be offering blood pressure checks once a month on the second Sunday of each month. We will also be offering a flu shot clinic on October 12th after our church service, starting at 11:15 AM. Please sign up on the poster in the narthex. We would like to have at least 60 people participate. The Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association will bill insurance if you have your insurance card with you. If you are not insured, the cost will be \$20.00 payable at the clinic. Please join us. If you have any questions please feel free to call Linda Smith at 612-867-0088.

We will be providing additional information on a variety of subjects in this space as well as offering educational opportunities throughout the year. If you want help with a health issue for you or a family member, please feel free to call Linda at the above phone number.

November Issue. . .

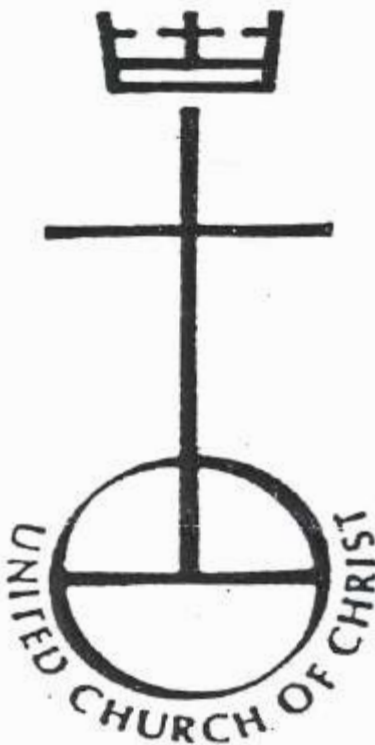
Mustard Seed



Please place all articles for the next issue of the Mustard Seed in the box marked "Mustard Seed" on the shelf inside the door to the workroom in the church office, *e-mail* to thewillses@aol.com (preferred) or mail them to Barbara Wills, 6214 Upland Lane No., Maple Grove 55311, so that they are received by the deadline.

NOV. ISSUE DEADLINE
Sunday, October 26 , 11 a.m.
No exceptions please.

(Nov. issue will be mailed Friday, Oct. 31.)



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