

The “E Messenger”

Notes and Comments by Wade
050809

On this Sunday as we thankfully celebrate the Christian home. May we give thanks for the ministry of one of the historic congregations of the Northern Plains Conference United Church of Christ, First Congregational United Church of Christ of Fargo. We pray that God’s seeking vision might be with the members of this renewing congregation and their pastor, Kevin Cassidy-Maloney.

Last Sunday Peg and I had the pleasure of joining in worship with the member of Salem United Church of Christ New Salem and their acting pastor, Ron Hildahl. We want to thank the members of this congregation for their warm reception during the service of worship and the fellowship which followed.

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Black has been nominated to fill the position of General Minister and President, which was held by John Thomas. Dr. Black is currently the Conference Minister in the New York Conference. His nomination will be voted on during the General Synod meeting in Grand Rapids. You have been sent via email a piece that outlines Geoffrey Black’s background. I am confident that you join with me in wishing him well during the election process and into the future.

The sermon for June 7th (Annual Meeting Sunday) entitled “A Wild And Radical Believing” has been emailed to you and also put on the Conference Web Site www.npcucc.org and can be accessed under “E Messenger”. The hope is that a lay member of your congregation could use that sermon for the Sunday of Annual Meeting thus freeing up the pastor to remain at the meeting in Minot. If you have not received the sermon or have difficulty downloading it from the web site please do not hesitate to call the Conference Office and one will be mailed to you.

Our prayers are with Frank Picard, pastor of the Congregational United Church of Christ of Minot on the death of his brother Paul. May God’s healing and comforting blessing be with Pastor Picard at this time. Let us also hold in prayer Darlene Roehl, spouse of David Roehl of Hankinson as she recovers

from a heart attack. Darlene is at Innovis Hospital in Fargo. We pray that God's healing and caring grace be with her and her family at this critical time.

This Sunday as we celebrate the Festival of The Christian Home (Mother's Day) it will be my pleasure to join in worship with the members of the Congregational United Church of Christ of Garrison and their pastor, Stephen Holmes.

Let us not forget to lift up the Strengthen the Church Offering which we will be receiving on Pentecost, May 31. This special All Church Offering provides the means to support congregations when they are trying to enrich and deepen their ministries so that they might more fully meet the needs of future generations. This is the offering that enables new church development and that can give extra support to congregations at that critical time when they step outside of their box into the new and untried. It is also the offering that allows us to keep half of the proceeds within the Conference to be used for church vitality and development within the NPC. Please invite your members to be generous.

Around the NPCUCC 050809 – 051009

Date	Time	Event	Location
5/10	-----	Festival of the Christian Home	-----
5/10	10:00 am (ct)	CM shares in worship	Garrison
5/11	10:00 am (ct)	Conference Call on Conference Structure with John Thomas	-----
5/11	7:00 pm (ct)	Annual Meeting Planning	Minot
5/12	10:00 am (mt)	MV Cluster	Pierce Congregational Church (Check email announcement for directions)
5/13	7:00 pm (ct)	Global Warming Meeting	Bismarck
5/15	9:00 am (ct)	CHYS Finance Committee	Bismarck
5/16	11:00 am (ct)	ALWL #2	Bismarck