

Tower Chimes

July 2011

First Congregational U.C.C.
1425 North 5th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501
Phone 970-242-0298
www.firstcongregational-ucc.org

First Congregational UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



***Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey.
You're welcome here!***



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A little known fact!

**This issue of the *Tower Chimes* went on-line *IN COLOR* at our website before you could receive it by mail!
www.firstcongregational-ucc.org**



Pastor's Page

I receive a daily e-mail piece from the United Church of Christ called the Daily Stillspeaking Devotional. It's free, it's wonderful, and if you have Internet access, I encourage you to go on-line and sign up.

At any rate, a couple of weeks ago, Pastor Martin Copenhaver (he's a UCC pastor in Wellesley, Massachusetts) wrote a piece that I loved, and want to share with you. It's great food for thought, especially during the summer, when it's so tempting to do "other stuff" on Sunday mornings than go to church.

"Excerpt from Psalm 111:1: 'Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.'

This fall, a beloved saint in our congregation, Marjorie Scoboria, died just short of her 104th birthday. The Sunday before her death she was in her usual spot in the congregation in the fourteenth row on the left...She was offering her witty little quips to those around her, standing for the hymns. In other ways, however, she was limited in how she could participate. In recent years, her eyesight and her hearing were almost completely gone, but she continued to come to worship every Sunday. When I asked Marjorie about that (after all, if I were over 100 old, I think I would stay in bed every once in a while), she looked surprised by the question, and replied, 'Because I need to be in the congregation with the people.'

Woody Allen famously said, 'Ninety percent of life is just showing up.' But he's wrong. Ninety percent of life is showing up over and over again.

People sometimes speak of 'going to church' on Sunday morning, as if the church had some kind of existence without the people, or as if it were a building. We all know the children's game, "Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people." That may be a good game, but it is bad theology. As Marjorie knew so well, the church is the people. So you have to show up. It's not a church until you get there.

Some of you already know this – and do show up, week after week, no matter what. Others of you might need a gentle reminder – it does matter whether you show up on Sunday or not. It matters to you. It matters to your sisters and brothers in our congregation. And it might even matter to God!

Blessings,
Pastor Sharyl



Reflections and Ramblings

On June 20 while I was at home recovering from the cold I had somehow obtained over the weekend, I had an opportunity to watch a few television shows between naps. One in particular struck me and it was “Cowboy Church” on the RFD Channel hosted by Reba McIntire’s little sister Susie. While Reba went on to become a well-known country music entertainer and actress, Susie pursued a career in Gospel music and became an award winning country Gospel singer. For those of you unfamiliar with this program, Susie usually sings some Gospel music, then her co-host and preacher Russ Weaver delivers a simple sermon, and on occasion like yesterday’s show they invite a guest preacher. Normally I don’t watch this program a lot, simply because so much of the sermon content and scriptural understandings are much more conservative than I am comfortable with, but something about the authenticity of the young guest preacher and his way of relating this message kind of drew me in.

Since the show was originally shown live on Sunday for Father’s Day, the sermon topic this young man chose was fathers, what it meant to be a good father, how dependent children are on fathers, and what an important bond of trust that implies. He then went on to say that we need to look at our relationship with God in much the same way that a child experiences a healthy relationship with a parent, that being one of openness and lack of fear. And, just as a child often needs to ask for guidance when things become overwhelming or push the child into areas where he or she may be uncomfortable, there are often times we need to do the same with God.

As I listened to this, I was struck by the fact that I had heard this same sentiment expressed in a conversation with a colleague at the Rocky Mountain Conference 2011 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. Unfortunately, as he pointed out, we as a culture are averse to asking for help, even when we really know we need it, an attitude particularly strong here in the Western United States. In fact we almost prize this attitude above all others, and celebrate those people in our lives who grit things out, cowboy up, ignore the pain and get on with life.

While I understand that this attitude can and often does have its proper place, sadly I think it does us a disservice when we apply it to all aspects of our lives. In particular, when we need an outside opinion or an expert’s help dealing with an issue for which we have few qualifications. If we are truly honest, I think all of us can probably think of times when someone not associated with the issue may see things we might not be able to see.

Just as my colleague and the show’s guest preacher pointed out, because this attitude is so prevalent in our secular lives, we also bring it into our spiritual lives. Just as we might need a different perspective on, say a health issue for example, I believe there are times when we just need God to guide us spiritually, to show us a different way, to challenge us with a new thought. Yet I think we resist God, just as we resist seeking a wise counselor whose wisdom could give us a different perspective in other areas of our lives.

Blessings,
Dan



Martha's Musings: "Surprised by Joy on a Summer Solstice Sunday"

It was 12:30 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall on Sunday, June 19. The cookies were long gone and the last of the coffee cups were sent by John R. through "Charlie," the giant dishwasher. And still we sat talking – 6 or so of us.

Sharyl had directed us back to the psalms in her sermon this morning, to help us encounter yet again the richness of our heritage. She talked about the psalms of praise, of repentance, of grief, of anger, loss, anguish. And then we ended our service by blessing each other with the gift of peace.

And now here we were, gathered in a circle to share and to wonder. We talked about how sometimes music takes us ever so close to a sense of the Holy, as it had this morning. And we remembered times when music and words and hugs had healed us and those we love and we shared stories.

We were "doing church." Listening to each other and holding our stories with care.

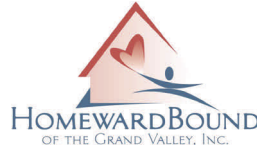
And I later thought that there are so many ways each of us can be involved in our chosen community of this church. We visit the sick and hold them in our hearts and prayers. We wash dishes and serve cookies. We play with a small child. We repair coolers and trim roses and paint rooms. We feed the hungry and we educate ourselves about why there is hunger. We invite others to come check out our community here. We ask the difficult questions. We make music and walk labyrinths. We greet visitors and help with worship and count money. We help develop budgets and manage our church's finances. We give – time, money and, yes, even undies! And we listen to each other's stories.

The "Time and Talent" sheets are one way we try to bring together the many ways we have of being church and our many personal gifts. Take the opportunity to complete one and you'll be amazed at the many ways you can be involved in our church as we seek to grow in our faithfulness to our community and to our world.

And find those ways you can say, "Yes." "Yes, I can greet." "Yes, I will play with a child." "Yes, I can serve coffee." "Yes, I would love to help make banners." "I can visit the sick."

Every "yes" enlivens us, brings us closer to each other and to the needs of our world, opens our hearts, and brings us joy. Every "yes" connects us with others who treasure the sacred alone and in community, who know it is important to gather in community, to show up, to get involved, to tell the stories and to listen. The more we hear "yes" the more alive we all become, and the easier it is for others to say "yes" along with you.

May you be at peace.
Martha Jones, Moderator



Meals at Homeward Bound

The 2nd Wednesday of each month's meal preparation will be led by Tom Hemborg, 257-0883 (**July 13th**). Please contact Tom to find out more or to join others in providing this valuable service. Many willing hands make fast work of a much needed task. All food preparation now takes place at the Shelter (per their request) followed by the meal service. Daytime helpers as well as evening helpers are needed and welcome.

HOMEWARD BOUND NEEDS

Homeward Bound (Homeless Shelter) does not have money in the budget for food and kitchen supplies — they depend entirely on donations. The food supply is currently very low. The number of guests is approximately 100 each night.

The following is Homeward Bound's "wish list": large cans of food (vegetables, fruits, meats, beans), coffee, paper towels and toilet paper, box dinners (macaroni & cheese, hamburger helper, etc.), pasta & pasta sauce, instant oatmeal, peanut butter & jelly, "zip lock" storage bags, and large garbage bags.

There is a bin on the M&O table in the Gathering Space for collecting these items. If you prefer to give cash, please mark your check or envelop with "Homeward Bound food".

"When you have done it unto one of the least of these, you have done it unto me." Matt. 25:40

New Addresses

Heidi Hess & Helen Bowman
 3276 1/2 Red Oak Court
 Clifton, CO 81520

At the end of **May (41.67%** of our Budget Year), our Pledges Paid stood at **49.7%! Great job!**



INCOME				NET INCOME	
May '11	\$19,337.03	May '11	\$19,376.47	May '11	\$-39.44
YTD	\$123,276.39	YTD	\$107,254.11	YTD	\$16,022.28
Annual Budget	\$250,070.00	Annual	\$250,070.00	Annual Budget	\$.00

JOYS



Pastor Sharyl's surprise party!
 Annual Congregational Meeting
 100 miles for "Undie" car so far
 Women's Fellowship Luncheon - success
 Keith Karau - retiring UCC minister
 Herod - 9th great grandchild (7 boys & 2 girls)
 100 Anniversary Colorado National Monument
 Open Heritage Garden
 New born Friesian horse
 Our Graduates
 65 hygiene kits for flood victims
 Silt - Congregational Church of the Valley -
 poured the foundation for their new building
 The Chancel Choir for another wonderful year
 Cal's Birthday
 Jodi's Race (2nd Annual)
 Barb Harbey's stem-cell going very well
 Anne Djokic's Birthday
 Charlie Dahl (Jan Scheevel) - home burnt in WI
 Barb Harvey - home soon
 Sharyl and Bob - great vacation
 Choir trip to Silverton!

First Sunday Night Movies will be suspended over the summer months because of holiday conflicts and vacation times. We will resume in October with, we hope, a new slate of movies which will encourage and provoke discussion on a wide range of topics that impact our community living and spiritual lives. We welcome your "nominations" for such DVD titles to show on our new HDTV, including (foreign- and English-language) movies that provide subtitles to help those with hearing difficulties to enjoy the shows too. Please write down or email your suggested titles for Jim & Judy Lauer (jimjudylauer@bresnan.net) or give written ones to Michelle in the office for Jim.

Thank you for your enthusiastic support for this program over the past four years.

...and Concerns

Babcia Baronowski - died (Brian M's roommate's mom)
 Sandra Sasser (Dan's friend) - grandfather died
 Friend diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
 Mr. & Mrs. Blackmore - he had triple by-pass surgery
 Tammy & boyfriend travel mercies (Linda's niece)
 Joyce long recovery from brain surgery
 Harveys - Denver (stem cell transplant)
 JoAnn Malone's (brother-in-law) died in Alabama
 Kaye Johnston (friend of Lila Woodward) - in burn unit at University Hospital in Denver
 Joplin Tornado - healing and mourning
 Respite Night - fun night!
 Norma Bishop - lung problems
 Ken's shoulder - rotator cuff injury
 Pat - discouraged & so tired with her multiple myeloma & complications, needs a reacher grab stick
 Bruce needs storage space for five treasure's of his mom's - please let church office know if you can help.
 Pastor Sharyl's Aunt Ann - liver cancer



Quilters, Knitters and those who crochet, BEWARE...

The middle of July will bring a meeting to organize the above citizens to make enough lap blankets to keep the congregation warm thru our cold Colorado winter. Watch your bulletin to be sure you are part of this project sponsored by Finishing Touches. For more information, please contact Annie Albrethsen.



July Birthdays

07/02 JoAnn Malone
 07/02 Carol Weatherholt
 07/02 Steve Hoefler
 07/04 Carolyn Ramsey
 07/06 Lila Woodward
 07/07 Guy Bender
 07/09 Jack Merwin
 07/09 Pat Malone
 07/11 Kaitlyn Kanocz
 07/13 Kassie Seppa
 07/14 Connie Clark
 07/16 Joe Roscoe
 07/18 Donald Everhart
 07/18 Sarah Koontz
 07/20 Marian Bender
 07/20 Jayne Carie
 07/21 Barb Harvey
 07/23 Mike Spangler
 07/23 Norman McLoughlin
 07/25 Dean Barnes
 07/26 Con Pyle
 07/27 Debra Shortess
 07/28 Gail Mosher
 07/29 Joanne Drake
 07/29 Martha Jones

Don't forget the **Finishing Touches Birthday Fund** to help with those "little" and important extra touches that are not otherwise in our Annual Budget. Thanks!



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We continue meeting together in the chapel on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 1:15 PM. We would enjoy having new members join us! Bring knitting or crocheting. We can supply patterns. All who are interested are invited! We talk, we make things, we catch up, and we enjoy each other's company! The Shawls and lap-blankets we make touch many people's lives with great comfort and care.

MEN'S COFFEE TIME!



Come One, Come All Men!
 Join us for a hot cup of Joe!
 We meet now at 10:00AM
 in Mayflower on Fridays—YO!



Bagels & Books

Saturday, July 16th, at 9:00AM

...at the **COMMONS DINING ROOM**

625 27 1/2 Road

To learn more about this group,
 call Nancy Price (523-0133)
 or Susan Swift (243-9607).

Friends of 1st on Fridays!!!

Friday, July 29th, at 6:00pm

Mayflower

**Inviting all "Young Spirited"
 folks to join the group for fun,
 food, and laughs!**

**Bring a snack to share.
 Hope to see you there!**

Worship at the Lakeshore

In case you've missed earlier info about this, please mark your calendars for our special lakeshore worship service next Sunday, July 3rd. Those who wish to carpool out to Highline Lake please meet at our church at 9:15am that morning. Those who want to drive directly to Highline Lake (north of Mack), please plan to be there by 10:00, when our service will begin.

Please bring: a lawn chair, sunscreen and/or hat, and a dish to share for our Summer Church Picnic which will follow worship at the Lake. We'll supply ham sandwiches, condiments, soft drinks and cake – you please bring a salad, a side, or whatever else sounds good to you!



NOON FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

The Noon Fellowship Luncheon, which meets on the first Thursday of each month at 12:30, is a no-host potluck for everyone in the church. There is no business or program—it is strictly a time to relax, enjoy good food and fellowship, and get to know, on a personal basis, other people in the church. Mark your calendar to attend on Thursday, July 7. If you have questions, contact Jim & Sandy Fox (256-9317) or Pat & Jo Ann Malone (523-5782).



COMING SOON...to a Church in your vicinity...**IT'S SHRIMP BOIL TIME!** Well, almost.

Plans are underway, so mark your calendar for Friday, August 26th at 6:00 PM.

It takes lots of hands to orchestrate the Shrimp Boil. We will be contacting you soon to request your help. Tasks include setting up, taking down, food preparation, and the fabulous silent auction to mention a few.

The funds raised will be donated to the new St. Martin's Place Veteran Housing which is now under construction at the site at Third Street and Pitkin Avenue. We plan to direct our donation to the furnishings of an apartment.

Blessings,
Mar Bilger, Vicki Brickey, Julie Krueger

PS The Church is the one you attend...FCC-UCC!

Council Notes

The regular June meeting of Council was replaced by a joint meeting of members of the previous Council along with new officers and members of the ministry teams. During the next month new ministry teams will be meeting with previous Board members to continue work on transitions.

Remember that the new ministry teams are primarily steering groups. They will be calling on many of you to help. We believe this streamlined model of governance will open up opportunities for people to be involved in new areas on a short term basis.

Following is a list of your new officers and members of Ministry Teams. An Assistant Moderator will be appointed by the Council in July.

Martha Jones, Moderator

Donna Hochmuth, Past Moderator and Chair of Staff Congregational Relations

Carolyn Ramsey, Treasurer

Nancy Price, Clerk

Karen Caton and David Hoefler, Lay Delegates

Ministry Teams

Worship & Celebration: Barb Harvey, Marie Koontz, Rose Ann Morey

Congregational Life: Gail Gordon, Carolyn Holmgren, Judy Lauer

Serving Our Community: Heidi Hess, Julie Kruger, Jan Scheevel

Finance & Property: Jack Roberts, Scott Sparks, Brian Mahoney

Church Directory Update

The Directory Photo Shoot dates will be August 16, August 17 and September 6, 7, and 8 from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The dates were split to accommodate the folks who are traveling and won't be back in town until after the Labor Day Holiday. We will begin the sign up for the shoot sessions beginning on July 10 and continue each Sunday through August 14. We will have a sign up table set up in Pilgrim Hall during coffee hour staffed by one of our volunteers. If it is not possible for you to make one of the above dates, we can work out schedules with one of the other churches doing their shoot on a different date or if this becomes too much of a problem we can possibly schedule an additional make up session when the photographers are back in the area.

To avoid many of the problems we had last time, we are working with a different church directory company called *Life Touch* whose representative has assured me that all photographers carry back up equipment and that their company has a much different way of dealing with shoot problems if they should arise.

In addition to having your photos in our church directory, this is also a wonderful opportunity to have photos to share with family and friends.

July 2011

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">3</p> <p>Communion Sunday (Worship at the Lakeshore)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">4</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">5</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">6</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">7</p> <p>12:30 PM Fellowship Potluck Luncheon (Pilgrim)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">8</p> <p>10:00 AM Caregivers' Support Group (chapel)</p> <p>10:00 AM Men's Coffee (Mayflower)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">9</p>																																																																																				
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">10</p> <p>12:00 PM -1:30 PM Joint Meeting - Old Council & New Ministry Teams</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">11</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">12</p> <p>10:00 AM Sheperds (library)</p> <p>3:30 PM Finance & Property Ministry Team</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">13</p> <p>1:00 PM Lunch Bunch (Berna B's)</p> <p>1:15 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry (chapel)</p> <p>6:00 PM -8:00 PM Living the Questions class (chapel)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">14</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">15</p> <p>10:00 AM Men's Coffee (Mayflower)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">16</p> <p>9:00 AM Bagels & Books at Commons Dining Room</p>																																																																																				
<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">17</p> <p>11:45 AM Women's Fellowship Coffee Sales</p> <p>Celebration of Sharyl's 10 year anniversary</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">18</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">19</p> <p>4:00 PM E-Team</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">20</p> <p>6:00 PM -8:00 PM Living the Questions class (chapel)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">21</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">22</p> <p>10:00 AM Caregivers' Support Group (chapel)</p> <p>10:00 AM Men's Coffee (Mayflower)</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">23</p>																																																																																				
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<p style="font-size: 2em; color: #8b0000;">31</p> <p>5th Sunday Potluck</p> <p>Fish Sunday (Food Basket)</p>																																																																																										

Tower Chimes

First Congregational UCC

1425 North 5th Street

Grand Junction, CO 81501

Email: office@firstcongregational-ucc.org

Website: www.firstcongregational-ucc.org

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Grand Junction, CO

Permit No. 18

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



July

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, July 10, will be Confirmation Sunday! Our recent group of confirmands will be formally joining our congregation as adult members. Be sure to come for worship that day, as we take vows together, welcoming them into our fellowship.

Tower Chimes DEADLINE

Please help us out by submitting your *Tower Chimes* report or article you would like to have in the August 2011 T.C. **no later than Wednesday, July 20th.**

Please e-mail your submissions to Michelle no later than midnight on **Tuesday, July 19th.** With Michelle's busy work schedule, submissions received after the deadline will not be accepted.

Thank You!