



SPIRIT OF THE LAKES

An Open and Affirming, Just Peace, and Anti-Racist
Congregation of the United Church of Christ

UCC WOMEN'S WEEK (FEB. 1-7) AND ST. BRIGID'S DAY (FEB. 1)

Sunday, Feb 1, 2009

The United Church of Christ celebrates its 22nd annual Women's Week honoring the gifts of women in the church. This coincides with another important remembrance celebrated in parts of the world as distant as Ireland and Australia, St. Brigid's Day.

Brigid of Ireland is known in legend as an early bishop or abbess, one who ministered to the poor, supported the arts, scholarship and agriculture, and performed healing miracles. Stories tell that she wove a cross made of reeds to heal or convert a dying man. One common representation of that early cross is shown above.

Probably not by accident, St. Brigid's Day coincides with a pre-Christian Celtic festival, Imbolc. The first day of spring, it marked the time when ewes might be expected to come into their new milk, and thus spoke to hope, renewal, and the empowerment of women.

WE ENTER THE SANCTUARY OF THE SPIRIT

Welcome and Announcements

Music for Centering

Words of Greeting

Adapted from *Bless Sophia*

(Please rise as you are able.)

One: Welcome to the celebration of new life. The Divine One's gift of abundant life is renewed in you and me.

All: Praise the Holy One for today! Praise God for the creative spirit in our midst!

One: Be awake and know that the energy of the Divine is here. Let the Spirit in!

All: We are ready to pray and sing and rejoice. We are ready to be vessels for the Spirit's wisdom.

One: The breath of God touches everything. Everything touched by the breath of God, the Spirit, is changed.

All: We are a circle of the beloved gathering this day. Reborn by the power of our Divine Parent, we are born to change and be changed. Touch us. Change us. Source of all life!

Call to Worship

"This Is the Day"

New Century Hymnal 84

WE MEDITATE AND RENEW OUR SPIRITS

(Please be seated.)

Contemporary Reading

S....

Silent Reflection

Acknowledging Our Humanness

"Embodied Prayer"
from *Bless Sophia*

One: And so we pray,

All: This day all is praise and thanks for all our days.

We breathe and it is your breath that fills us.

We look and it is your light by which we see.

We move and it is your energy moving in us.

We listen and even the stories speak of you.

We touch and you are between finger and skin.

We think and the thoughts are but sparks

from the fire of your truth.

We love and the throb is your presence.

We laugh and it is the rustle of your passing.

**We weep and your Spirit broods over us.
We long and it is the tug of your kingdom.
To this we say, Amen.**

Words of Affirmation

Sharing Our Peace *(Please rise as you are able.)*

Hymn of Praise

“Surely the Presence”

Spirit Sings 154

WE LEARN AND GROW AS PERSONS

(Please be seated.)

***Sacred Reading from the
History of the Hebrew People***

Judges 4:4-10, 23-24 & 5:1-3

Message

“Power to the Women”

Rev. James Pennington

Silent Reflection

Hymn of Reflection *(Please rise as you are able.)*

“We Shall Overcome”

New Century Hymnal 570

WE OFFER OUR CONTRIBUTIONS

(Please be seated; please pass the Friendship Pad at this time.)

Offering

“I Will Lift My Eyes”

L..., solo

Offertory Hymn *(Please rise as you are able.)*

“The Doxology”

Spirit Sings 161

WE SHARE THE FEAST

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The God of new beginnings and each new year be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts with gladness, people of God!

**All: We lift them up to God, with our empowered creativity,
celebrations, and dreams!**

One: Let us give thanks to God and for our families and friends, and
those around the world.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

One: Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the furthest shore and star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for the moon in all its passages from waxing to waning, and the sun, the air and water. We thank you for this earth, for each cell that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation.

We thank you for your wisdom that empowers your people. We take courage from the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst; and the faithful men and women in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints...with Brigid of Ireland in her passion for women's leadership and community service...with all the women in our lives who nurture faith and leadership today...and with the company of heaven, we give glory to you:

Sanctus

New Century Hymnal 793

"Santo, Santo, Santo"

**¡Santo, santo, santo, mi corazón te adora!
Mi corazón te sabe decir: santo eres Dios.**

**Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God.**

Words of Remembrance (Please be seated.)

Our Table Prayer

"Bless This Table"

Spirit Sings 19

Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

Prayer

"Solstice Prayer" by Chuck
Dayton in *Bless Sophia*

**All: Our Creator,
Throughout the Heavens,
Hallowed be thy flame,
In a trillion suns,
Thy will be done,
In the tiniest cell,
Thy kingdom comes,
Give us each day,
A bird in flight,
A flower's perfume,
A bright star's light,
And lead us not on the path of greed,**

**But teach us to tread lightly,
Take only what we need,
For ours is the journey,
From ignorance to understanding
From separateness
To oneness,
Together with you,
The universe,
The energy, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Communion Invitation

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

New Century Hymnal 330

All: *(Verse 1:)*

**Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.**

(Refrain:)

**When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.**

(Verse 2:)

**Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees.**

(Repeat Refrain, above)

(Verse 3:)

**Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees.**

(Repeat Refrain, above)

Communion Hymns

“Sanctuary”

Green insert

“Heal Me”

Blue Insert

“God, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Pink insert

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD IN PEACE

(Please rise as you are able.)

Words of Sending Forth

Based on *Bless Sophia*

One: Now, in peace,

All: In balance,

One: We pass into the daylight,

All: Into the heartbeat of the world,

One: Walking with each other in love.

All: We go singing,

One: Faithful,
All: Flowing,
One: Troubling the water,
All: Standing by our sisters and brothers;
One: We go singing!

Hymn of Thanksgiving
"This Little Light of Mine"

Spirit Sings 170



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Today's cover illustration, adapted from a photo of a cross made from rushes in the traditional Irish style, is used as permitted by Cúl nacreann, the artist, at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/file:saint_brigid%27scross.jpg.

THIS WEEK AT SOTL

(All meetings/events take place at SOTL unless otherwise noted.)

Sunday, February 1

9:00 am Sunday school
10:00 am Worship with kinship following
4:00 pm TransVoices Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 4

7:00 pm Church Nite—a special Celtic Service

Sunday, February 8

9:00 am Sunday school
10:00 am Worship with kinship following
4:00 pm TransVoices Rehearsal

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SOTL

BIBLE STUDY. The next Bible study will be on Tues. Feb. 10, 7pm, at the home of A.... We'll be looking at Genesis 24, 25 and 26.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FEB 16, 17--See "Wider Community" below.

MEN OF SPIRIT! The next meeting of *Men of Spirit!* will be on Saturday, Feb. 14, from 8:30 am to 10:30 am at the home of J.... Please join us for a delicious brunch and inspiring conversation as we grow together in spirit and community. For information about *Men of Spirit!* please contact R...

BREAKFAST N' PRAYER. Meet SOTL members and friends at 7:00 am on Tues., Feb 17 at L..., for a monthly Breakfast 'n' Prayer. Prayer is provided free of charge, but please plan to buy your own coffee and/or food.

SAVE THE DATE! On Sunday, March 8, the Installation for Pastor James is being planned. It is tentatively scheduled for 2 pm, but please watch for further information.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

L... IN RECITAL. Everyone is invited to attend the MacPhail Center for Music Suzuki Seniors Concert on Sun. Feb. 8, 12:30 pm, Antonello Hall, MacPhail Center for Music, 501 South 2nd St., Mpls. L... performs. No admission fee, however, a donation to the MacPhail Center for Music financial aid program is encouraged.

HEALING TOUCH—ENERGY WORK. B... provides Healing Touch for those at SOTL who would like this service. B... is available by appointment on Tues. and Thurs. 10 am to Noon, and Weds. 5 to 6:30 pm. Please contact her at

PRAYER REQUESTS—Do you have a prayer request? Contact M... and she will pass on your request to others at Spirit who will keep you in their daily prayers.

BEFRIENDERS MINISTRY MESSAGE LINE—call 6...
Messages are checked daily.

IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

SOTL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Families Moving Forward is a Minneapolis faith-based organization that provides temporary emergency shelter. More than 40 congregations help. SOTL will join Lyndale UCC in hosting families at Union UCC in St. Louis Park. Volunteers are needed for Mon., Feb. 16 and Tues. Feb. 17 as hosts for kids or adults from 6-8:30 pm and also overnight, 8:30 pm-7:30 am. FMF also needs donated blankets. For more info or to sign up, please contact J...

FUNDRAISER CABARET TO HELP OUR MIDTOWN NEIGHBORS—"You Gotta Have Heart" will be Sat. Feb. 7, 6:00 pm, Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, 5011 31st Ave. S, Mpls. For more information or to make your reservations (\$30 per person) contact A...

ANTIRACISM STUDY DIALOGUE CIRCLES (ASDIC). Two new antiracism circles begin Feb. 3. For more information or to register please contact J...

WOMEN'S WINTER RETREAT. "Love & Laughter--God's Gifts." Luther Seminary, 1490 Fulham St. St. Paul, offers a Women's Winter Retreat on

Sat., Feb. 14, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. Humor comes from wisdom--the ability to understand who we are. The Bible is a great tool for that. Cost is \$30. For more information please contact L...

MISSION

Drawn by God's Spirit and rooted in gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied (GLBTA) experience, we, the members of Spirit of the Lakes UCC, covenant to create a loving faith community gathered around Christ's inclusive banquet and in nurturing circles. As we are touched and transformed by this inclusion, we are challenged by a liberating gospel to embody the values of spirituality, compassion, and justice making in our community and in the world.

HOW TO REACH US

	Phone/Email	Office Hours
Pastor James Pennington	608.628.5040 (cell) James@SpiritUCC.org	MWTh, 9 am-6 pm Or by appointment
David Lohman, Minister of Music	612.724.2313 David@SpiritUCC.org	
Deborah Smith, Office Manager	612.724.2313 Office@SpiritUCC.org	TuW, 9:30-1 pm Fri 9:30 am-Noon

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