

May 2019

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA
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WHEELCHAIR



How to reach us....

Church Office

507-235-5382

Hours:

Tuesday—Friday

9:30-12:30 p.m.

E-mail

ucc319@frontiernet.net

Rev Cory Germain
Pastor

Ann Osborn
Administrative Assistant

Rev. Cory Germain

Office Hours:

Tuesday 9 :00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday 1:00 p.m.– 5:30 p.m.

Friday 9:00 am—12:30 p.m.

Rev. Cory's phone: 507-399-8282

Worship Hours

Worship 10:30

Communion the first Sunday of
every month.

The Reverend's Ruminations



"He is risen!" "He is risen indeed!" The chorus of our joyous Easter Sunday celebration is still echoing in my ears, as I hope it is for you. It was such a beautiful weekend, and all the memorial flowers at the front of the sanctuary were a breathtaking reminder of not only God's creative hand, but our Savior's resurrection. Sure, we've had a few grey and cool days since, but just like the rain they sometimes bring, perhaps it's best that not every day is sunny and 80 degrees. Sometimes we need to be reminded to contemplate the stormy or challenging days of our lives as well. Some of them are part of the story of our Savior's post-resurrection appearances—and the challenges he presents to us.

Whether it's being re-commissioned with the disciples to forgive or retain sins, seeing ourselves in Thomas' very understandable doubtfulness, or being challenged to pick up the task of fishermen or shepherd, there is much for each of us Easter people to do and contemplate as we carry the Good News of the gospel into a bruised and hurting world. We need only turn on our TVs or open a newspaper to find many in need of the Savior's love.



Here in our own sanctuary, it's encouraging to see some new faces from time to time. Granted, they are often just visiting with relatives, whether for Easter or a big event like confirmation or graduation, but other times a visitor may come church shopping or just visiting in town. I hope that no matter the occasion, you have taken an opportunity to make them feel welcome. As followers of the Risen Christ, we have two basic calls in our Christian life. The "great commission" (to go and make disciples of all the nations, as referenced in Matthew 28) calls us to be fishermen—a job some of you might love doing on the lake, but which can feel a little awkward the first time it's done for people. Fear not, if a bunch of real-life fishermen and laborers could do it in Palestine, then any of us can do it too!

We, like Peter, are also called to actively participate in the life of Christ's church. In John 21, Jesus challenges Peter three times as they walk along shore of the Sea of Tiberias: "*Feed my lambs... Tend my sheep...Feed my sheep.*" You may not feel like you are the shepherding type, but anyone who has been involved in the life of the church has something to offer to (or gain from) others. We have all been down at some time or another, and know what a blessing it is to have someone reach out when you need a listening ear, some friendly advice, or a shoulder to cry on. We've all had questions about our faith, or church politics, or a particular Bible passage, and as helpful as the internet might be for research it can't replace human interaction and discussion about such moveable, personal, and spiritual subjects. A congregation is a place to gather and connect shepherds with sheep—even though you may not realize which one you are in a particular week!?!

Jesus our Resurrected Savior prays for us in John 17:25-26: "*Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.*" Fishermen and shepherds of First Congregational UCC, this is your call—to share that love with friends, neighbors, and the world so that the power of Christ's love can remake this world. Share the good news—our Savior is risen!

Yours in Christ's service,
Rev. Cory Germain



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:00 Worship Brd 5:00 Mission Brd	2	3	4
5 Communion 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Confirmation Honoring Graduates	6 5:00-6:00 FCH Foundation 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Support	7 10:00 Lakeview Communion	8 5:30 Diaconate 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Facilities Brd 7:00 Choir Practice	9 7:00 Hospitality Bd	10	11
12  <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	13 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Support	14	15 5:30 Finance Board 5:30 Church Council 7:00 Choir Practice	16	17 9:00 June Newsletter Submission Deadline	18
19 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	20 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Support	21 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	22 7:00 Choir Practice	23 9:30 Bible Study	24	
26 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection: Martin Co Relay for Life	27 <i>Memorial Day</i> 	28 4:30-7:00 Parent To Parent	29 5:30 Free Community Meal 7:00 Choir Practice	30	31	

THE FAMILY CIRCLES By Bill Keane



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"I think she's takin' their order
for breakfast."

Council Minutes for April 17, 2019
First Congregational Church UCC
Fairmont, MN 56031

Present: Deb Thate, Catherine Johnson, Dave Meschke, Cory Hainey, Larry Thompson, Julie Elliott, Robbin Celander, Mary Don Kislingbury, Ellen Germain, Marilyn Forstrom, Rev. Cory Germain **Absent:** Dave Adams

Moderator Johnson opened the meeting and Pastor Germain led in devotions & prayer.

Minutes of the March 2019 meeting – motion was made seconded and carried to approve as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Meschke reported that with 25% of year gone, we have received 20% of pledges. As of 3-31-19 our Operating Funds stood at \$26,202.14, total investments at \$198,372.96 with no money borrowed at this time. Dave has prepared an update for the newsletter.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Germain reported on his normal pastoral duties and one Nat'l Guard Drill day.

Christian Ed: Ellen reported that Confirmation will be held on May 5 as well as honoring our graduates.

Diaconate: Trana Urban resigned from the board due to health issues. Liaison, Cory H. will become voting member. Board continued with usual spiritual care.

Facilities: Larry reported on a bid of \$1300 to refinish the stage floor and floor in north room beside stage. Windows for the front entry were ordered in March to avoid a price increase April 1.

Finance: Investment funds were reviewed with Edward Jones representative.

Hospitality: Deb reported that the board will be ordering new pots and pans and serving the May Community Meal.

Missions: The food collected in March was taken to Heaven's Table We will be doing Meals on Wheels in May.

Worship: Plans made for Holy Week

Old Business: Searching for delegates to the Conference Annual Meeting June 7 and 8.

New Business: Tim Campe offered to do all summer lawn work and snow removal for \$100/month with the Facilities Board covering in his absence. Motion M/S/C to accept the bid pending approval from the Finance Board

Ice Cream Social will be held again June 8 in conjunction with Interlaken Heritage Days.

Motion was M/S/C to change phone and internet service from Frontier to Midco.

Motion was M/S/C to upgrade our Go Daddy website platform to new secure site offer.

Meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Cory

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Forstrom, Clerk



May Blessing Box – Martin County Relay for Life



Relay for Life is a community gathering that gives everyone an opportunity to fight cancer and help save lives. Teams camp out at the Martin County Fairgrounds and take turns walking or running around a path. Because cancer never sleeps, each team is asked to have a representative on the path at all times during the night.

At Relay for Life, survivors are celebrated and loved ones lost to the disease are remembered.

Again this year, First Congregational UCC will have a team walking in the relay. During the month of May, we will focus our Blessing Box on their efforts and show our support. You will have the opportunity to join their fight and CRUSH Cancer!!

**Join our
Team of
CRUSHERS!**

First Congregational (UCC)² United Church of Christ United Cancer CRUSHERS



**Martin County Relay for Life
Saturday, June 29, 2018
3 pm – midnight
Martin County Fairgrounds**



The money raised through Relay for Life helps to fight cancer on all fronts. Funds raised through Relay enable the American Cancer Society to help people stay well and get well, to find cures and to fight back. With cancer prevention and early detection programs; free services for cancer patients, like Road to Recovery, which provides free transportation to treatment; breakthrough cancer research funded by Society grants; and support for new laws to help fight cancer and increase access to quality health care, the American Cancer Society is doing everything possible to create a world with more birthdays.

There are many opportunities for you to get involved with First Congo's Cancer CRUSH!

- During May and June, we will be selling luminarias, white paper bags that will be illuminated the night of the Relay. Luminarias honor every life touched by cancer. You can dedicate them to a loved one lost, someone currently battling, or anyone who's overcome cancer. You can decorate the bag or have us do it for you. Each bag is \$10.
- Help us gather a list of those in our church family who have been touched by cancer. Give names to any team member.
- We will be having a Blessing Box collection on May 26. All donations will go to the team to help CRUSH cancer.
- You can give a donation to any team member.
- You can go online and donate to our team. Go to our webpage (listed below) and click on donate! We will have a link on our church Facebook page.
- Donate to the silent/live auction. See a team member if interested!
- Help us decorate bags!
- Join us on June 29th at the Relay!!!

https://secure.acsevents.org/site/SPageServer/?page=relay_donate_now&FR_ID=92587&ga=2.48014631.1668342513.1555438191-2018308280.1550855408

OR

www.relayforlife.org/martincountymn and find our team





Happy Easter!

It's been awhile since I've had a report in the monthly newsletter. Reason being, our church has been doing pretty well financially so far this year. I would like to point out a few items for you at this time. So far this year, we have received 20% of our expected offerings, and we are 25% of the way through the budget year. There are some good reasons for this. Weather and more weather! We have canceled some services and the weather has not been that great when church has been held. Also, with a cold long winter, everyone has had more expense at home too. Hopefully, going forward offerings will improve once the weather does. It does take a fair amount of money to operate the church, about \$15,000 per month. I would like to see us caught up before the middle of summer.

We did complete the organ project. About 80% of the repairs were covered by insurance claim from a power surge that caused damage. The balance not covered were items that were in need of attention for many years, namely the air chests that have been worn out for several years. The chests sort of look like an accordion, but ours had many holes worn in them, making it difficult to control volume.


We did complete a review of our investments with Edward Jones. We are quite conservative with are investments, with much of the money invested into Certificates of Deposit. We don't expect huge profits, but our risk is minimal.

As always, if anyone has a question or concern, please give myself or anyone on the finance board a call.


David Meschke

meschked@gmail.com
507-236-4896

Memorials



Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation		From
24-Mar	Memory of Mildred Hanlon's Birthday	Starfish		Margaret Weaver
31-Mar	Memory of ElVeda Bliss	Starfish		Jane Kotewa
7-Apr	Memory of ElVeda Bliss		Starfish	Marilyn Forstrom
7-Apr	Honor of Marriage of Ann Gronewald & Jeff Fordice	Food Drive		Dolores Gronewald
7-Apr	Memory of Gordon Franzen			Everett & Lela Hanning
7-Apr	Memory of ElVeda Bliss		Starfish	MaryDon Kisingbury
7-Apr	Memory of ElVeda Bliss	Starfish		Linda Meschke
7-Apr	Memory of ElVeda Bliss		Starfish	Virginia Riedesel
7-Apr	Memory of ElVeda Bliss	Starfish		Margaret Weaver
14-Apr	Memory of Jim Mathiason		Capital	Lyle & Charlene Norris



First Congregational Treasurer's report

31-Mar-19

Checking

General Account \$ 29,117.79

3/31/2019

Operating Funds**\$ 26,202.14**

Capital Fund \$ 4,196.23

Designated Funds \$ (3,160.36)

Mission Funds \$ 1,943.95

Payroll Taxes \$ (64.17)

*** Designated Funds include Fund Raisers, Memorials, and are not available for church operations

Investments

Operating Reserve \$ 99,475.39

3/31/2019

Capital Reserve \$ 40,089.13

3/31/2019

Endowment \$ 42,842.86

3/31/2019

Parsonage \$ 16,351.84

3/31/2019

Total investment \$ 198,759.22

3/31/2019

Money Borrowed

Capital Loan \$ -

Operating Loan \$ -

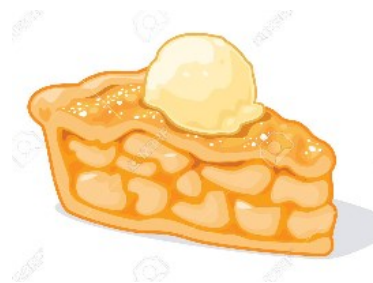
Total Money Borrowed \$ -

Offering History

	Pledge	Non-Pledge	non budget mission	capital	% of Year
2018	\$ -				
January	\$ 13,900.00	\$ 2,622.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 309.00	8%
February	\$ 5,090.00	\$ 1,437.00	\$ 214.00	\$ 42.00	17%
March	\$ 6,170.00	\$ 4,092.00	\$ 1,558.28	\$ 3,018.10	25%
April					33%
May					42%
June					50%
July					58%
August					67%
September					75%
October					83%
November					92%
December					100%
2019					
Total Pledge Offering	\$ 25,160.00				
Total Non-Pledge Offering	\$ 8,151.00				
Total Offering	\$ 33,311.00				
Budgeted Offering	\$ 170,000.00				
non-budget mission	\$ 2,472.28				

 20%

Pie and Ice Cream Social



Summer (and warm weather) will be here before we know it! Our church is planning for the annual pie and ice cream social (plus pork chop on a stick!) during Interlaken Heritage Days on June 8th from 11-3 (or until we run out). We will once again be asking for our church family to donate ingredients for this wonderful fundraiser! Below is a list of what we will need. Please contact Abby Namken at 507-236-8500 with what you would like to donate-texting is great so I can keep track! For quality purposes, please purchase brands as noted and drop off at church prior to June

2-10 lb bags Robin Hood flour (available at Fareway)

3-3 lb cans Crisco

10 lb bag of sugar

2 lbs bananas

12 cups fresh or frozen blueberries

24 cups chopped rhubarb

18 cups apples (fresh/frozen)

10 lemons

8 lbs fresh strawberries

2 lbs butter

10-8 oz containers Cool Whip brand whipped topping

4 pails of vanilla ice cream

6 cans cherry pie filling

Be watching for opportunities to sign up to help as well!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



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Fareway and Hy-Vee Receipts Report as of 17 April 2019

During the last four weeks, \$13,159.89 (8.77%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were turned in. After 5 weeks, we are at \$14,994.82 (10.00%) toward the 11th \$150,000 goal.

During the same four weeks, \$6,664.45 (4.44%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 31 weeks, we are at \$36,054.17 (30.32%) toward our 3rd \$1,000 from Fareway Store.

Once again, some of the slips went back a very long ways. The oldest were from June 2015. Yes, slips can go back to March 1, 2011. Someone even purchased 17 gallons of gas at 0.9 cents per gallon.

Fairmont Fareway and Fairmont Hy-Vee support Churches by giving back \$1,000 for every \$150,000 of net cash register and gas pump slips turned back in to them. Almost all receipts for purchases made at the Fairmont Fareway Food, Fairmont Hy-Vee Food Store and Fairmont Hy-Vee Fuel can be used toward the goal. Items that I subtract are: sales tax; cigarettes, alcohol products and gift cards. Everything else counts. Keep those slips coming! As stated above, even older slips can still be used as well as those where the gas was only \$0.18, yes, free gas except for the 9-tenths of a cent per gallon.

Reported by Jim Bock





LET'S CELEBRATE

Sydney's Graduation Party

Saturday, June 1st

Red Rock Center for the Arts

1-4 pm

Starting June 2nd, the Sunday worship time changes to 9:30. Also, no Sunday School will be scheduled starting June 2nd.

Rev. Germain's phone number has changed to:
(507) 399-8282

Partners in Ministry

May 5

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger
Head Usher: Everett Hanning
Reader: Catherine J.
Greeters: Donna G. and Sherry V.

May 12

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger
Head Usher: Larry Thompson
Reader: Eric B. Johnson
Greeters: Cory and Sydney Hainy

May 19

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger
Head Usher: Brad Cone
Reader: Margo Weaver
Greeters: Don & Shelby Marks

May 26

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger
Head Usher: Bill Cowing
Reader: Emma Germain
Greeters: Wanda and Mary Don



May Birthdays

May 1	Kamara Cone
May 2	George Jones
May 4	Louis Kenneth Goerndt
May 6	Jodi Kuhlers
May 9	Justin Thedens Grace Kotewa
May 10	John Roiger
May 11	Lorraine Harper
May 12	Andrea Thate Bennett Zabel Ben Johnson
May 13	Sherry Larson
May 15	Larry Thompson Carolyn Thompson
May 15	Joel Thate
May 15	Hanna Johnson

May 16	Dylan Celander Morgan Magnussen
May 17	Judy Olson
May 19	Alice Maday
May 20	EvaLyn Carlson Anne (Saxton) Wenz
May 21	Jim Chipman
May 23	Maia Goerndt Reagan Shoen
May 24	Lisa Meschke
May 25	Lorie Zoeller
May 26	Shawn Elliott
May 28	Hadley Becker
May 29	Marcia Winegar
May 31	Cory Hainy

May Anniversaries

May 1, 1982	Kevin & Kelly Moller	37 yrs
May 3, 1997	Kris & Wendy Ziemer	22 yrs
May 3, 2014	Michael & Kara Rowan	5 yrs
May 6, 1966	Carolyn & Larry Thompson	53 yrs
May 6, 1977	Randy & Marcia Musser	42 yrs
May 9, 1970	Tom & Kathy Jorgensen	49 yrs
May 11, 1985	Jim & Lori Marushin	34 yrs
May 25, 1974	John & Sherry Larson	45 yrs
May 28, 2011	Dave & Sue Eisenbacher	8 yrs
May 30, 1997	Dave & Karen Cone	22 yrs



JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Friday, May 17th, 9:00 a.m.
This applies to
calendar changes also.

Thanks much!