

September 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 :30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday 12:30 p.m. through
evening meetings & activities

Friday 9:30 am—12:30 p.m.

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

Worship Hours

Worship 10:30

Worship 10:30 Starting Sept. 8th

Communion the first Sunday of
every month.

The Reverend's Ruminations

Last month I closed my ruminations by encouraging you to "enjoy all the sunshine, warmth, community festivals, and county fairs that August has to offer, [praying also] that you look for God at work in the world around you." The last month and its mild temperatures have offered us frequent reminders of God's continued creation and blessing upon this beautiful area of our world. I hope that you have taken time to pause and just be still, feeling the peace that Christ offers to your life and not running yourself ragged to "enjoy" summer vacation!?!

In July and August, I enjoyed the opportunity of extra physical exertion on behalf of this congregation. In July, Eric Johnson, Staci Thompson, Kevin Benson, and I represented Habitat for Humanity of Martin and Faribault Counties on the Habitat 500 fundraiser bicycle tour in northern Minnesota. While Kevin had the misfortune of experiencing heart issues after the first day and ended up having triple-bypass surgery right in Duluth, he is recovering quickly and we pray that his determination will see him back and better than ever for the 2020 Habitat 500. The rest of us continued the ride with him constantly in our thoughts and prayers. I had the opportunity to meet several other pastors on the ride, which affirmed for me the importance of our congregation's continued support for such a valuable ministry of physical exertion, on-site construction work, and continued financial investment. We enjoyed getting to see a pair of Habitat homes in progress, while Staci and several of the riders took a day "off" the road to pitch in on some of the construction work.



In August, Eric Johnson (apparently a glutton for punishment much like myself) led another very successful "Adventure Crew" trip, this time to the beautiful North Shore of Lake Superior and the Superior Hiking Trail. We had 13 total participants (the biggest group to date), including four friends from outside our congregation who got to experience what a great Christian family is like in action. We hiked further than many thought they could, slept in tents, ate "camp" foods, jumped into rivers, kayaked, played games, and had devotions in beautiful surroundings and mostly good weather. Jon Neitzel and Eric did an excellent job planning, leading, and cooking for this motley bunch of adventurers, and a great time in God's creation was had by all!



As September now looms and children prepare to return to school, please pray for their continued success and safety in our area school districts. The calendar change also means that worship services will be moving back to 10:30 after Labor Day (starting September 8), and Sunday School opportunities for "children of all ages" will soon begin at 9:15 on Sunday mornings.

Watch for more information in your mailbox if you have a child in the congregation, but remember that **EVERYONE** is invited to be a part of some form of Christian education at First Congregational UCC. Being a Christian doesn't just mean showing up regularly for worship services; it's a life-long learning and growth process that can be both challenging and fun! If you'd like to see another study opportunity get started, please let me or a member of the C.E. Board know!

Yours in Christ's service,
Rev. Cory Germain

Have you set up a **FREE RightNow Media** account through our church and started checking out all the amazing Christian videos, studies, classes, and children's content available to you?

If not, just type in the address below on your favorite internet browser:
<https://www.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/FCONG>

Memorials

| Date | Memory/Honor of | Designation | | From |
|--------|-----------------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | | David & Deb Adams |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | | Cindy & Jon Anderson |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | | Thomas & Jeanette Bare |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | | David Bishop & Nancy Rostvold |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | | Barbara & William Bittman |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Starfish | | James & Barbara Bock |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | | Harry & Cherylann Brunbaugh |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | | Cathy & Robbin Celander |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | | Cynthia Celander |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | | Robert & Janet Cone |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | | William & Patricia Cowing |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | | Carol & James Dick |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | | Susan Downing |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | | Joanne Eisenbarger |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | | Arthur & Julie Elliott |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | | Joan Engquist |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | | Marilyn Forstrom |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | | Donna & Dean Grotte |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | | DA & CF Gustafson |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | | Everett & Lela Hanning |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | | Donna & John Holstine |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | | Amanda Jaskulke |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | | Eric & Catherine Johnson |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | | Maynard & Audrey Johnson |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | | Wanda Johnson |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | | Ruth Ann & George Jones |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | | Thomas & Kathleen Jorgensen |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | | Joyce Jorgenson |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | | Wayne & Charlene Kahler |

Memorials

| Date | Memory/Honor of | Designation | From |
|--------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | Debra & Kevin Kelly |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | MaryDon Kislingbury |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Tony Kowski |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | John & Sherry Larson |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Eloise Lidke |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | Roger Lindell |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Rosalie Fallat Lurth |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Peggy Heinrich | Starfish | Alice Maday |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | Mary Jo & Gary Manzey |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Shirley Maschoff |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Kevin & Kelly Moller |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Gayle & Angie Nelson |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | Marilyn & Matthew Nielsen |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Lyle & Charlene Norris |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | Judith Orr |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Joy & Lorin Pollock |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | Ken & Joy Rachuy |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Virginia Riedesel |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Tari Riley |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | Jon & Cheryl Rippke |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Tom Rosen |

A thought from the Mission Board . . .

Part of showing and sharing our love of God is to love and nurture his creations. Over the next year we will be highlighting different ways we can show that love. We are beginning our focus on cutting down on the amount of garbage we create. We'd like to encourage you to bring your own coffee mug or tumbler with you rather than getting a disposable cup.

We invite everyone to begin this by bringing one to **Sunday morning coffee** at church, to **Sunday School**, to **meetings**, to the **Community Meal!**



Memorials

| Date | Memory/Honor of | Designation | From |
|--------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Jan Shaffer |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Linda & Jerad Shaw |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Dorothy Simpson |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | Mary Beth Snyder |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Daniel & Debra Thate |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | Music | Larry & Carolyn Thompson |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dora Bozung | Starfish | Larry & Carolyn Thompson |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Margaret Weaver |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Ken Wolter |
| 21-Jul | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Miscellaneous Memorials |
| 28-Jul | Memory of Dora Bozung | | Jane Kotewa |
| 4-Aug | Memory of Kay Hough | Starfish | Cindy & Jon Anderson |
| 4-Aug | Memory of Kay Hough | Starfish | Dolores Gronewald |
| 4-Aug | Memory of Peggy Heinrich | | Les Heinrich |
| 4-Aug | Memory of Dick Kotewa | | Peggy Silker |
| 4-Aug | Memory of Kay Hough | Starfish | Larry & Carolyn Thompson |
| 4-Aug | Art & Julie Elliott Anniversary | Heaven's Table Backpack | Margaret Weaver |
| 11-Aug | Memory of Craig Nienkerk | | Lyle & Charlene Norris |

Partners in Ministry

September 1

Diaconate: Cory Hainy
 Head Usher: Everett Hanning
 Reader: Deb Adams
 Greeters: Wanda J. and Jane Kotewa

September 15

Diaconate: Cory Hainy
 Head Usher: Brad Cone
 Reader: Dolores Gronewald
 Greeters: Don & Shelby Marks

September 8

Diaconate: Cory Hainy
 Head Usher: Larry Thompson
 Reader: Jim Marushin
 Greeters: John & Cindy Anderson

September 22

Diaconate: Cory Hainy
 Head Usher: Cory Hainy
 Reader: Julie Elliot
 Greeters: Eloise Lidke and Melva

September Blessing Box – Neighbors in Need

*"When did we ever
see you hungry and
feed you, thirsty
and give you a
drink? And when
did we ever see you
sick or in prison and
come to you?"*

Love of children

*Then the King will say,
'I'm telling the solemn
truth: Whenever you
did one of these things
to someone
overlooked or ignored,
that was me—
you did it to me.'
- Matthew 25:37-40*

*"Don't burn out; keep
yourselves fueled and
aflame. Be alert servants
of the Master, cheerfully
expectant. Don't quit in
hard times; pray all the
harder. Help needy
Christians; be inventive in
hospitality." - Romans 12:12*

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on Sunday, September 22, 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 ucc.org/justice, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), 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.

Neighbors in Need also supports our **American Indian neighbors** in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. 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 A Just World for All possible.

For this to occur, it needs your support.

Please give generously.

And remember, contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made online at anytime:

ucc.org/nin



Fareway and Hy-Vee Receipts Report as of 25 August 2019

During the last five weeks, \$14,829.05 (9.88%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were turned in. After 24 weeks, we are at \$80,589.42 (53.73%) toward the 11th \$150,000 goal.

During the same five weeks, \$8,987.57 (5.99%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 50 weeks, we are at \$54,963.93 (36.64%) toward our 3rd \$1,000 from Fareway Store.

Thanks for bring in all those slips. Yes, even slips that go back to March 2011. Keep those slips coming. Reported by Jim Bock

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Friday, September 20th,
9:00 a.m.

(For calendar changes too.)
Thanks much!

**A HEARTY
THANK YOU**
to the
newsletter
volunteers!



“Watch for upcoming info on the harvest festival”





THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



1-12

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www.familycircus.com

By
and
JEFF
KEANE

"I drew somebody, Mommy, but
I don't know who it is."

A
B
C



DENNIS THE MENACE



"So, who chopped down
the cherry tree?"

"It wasn't me!"

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

TIME CHANGE

10:30 a.m.

Starting Sunday, September 8th.

RALLY SUNDAY IS

SEPTEMBER 22ND @ 9:15

Open to the Public!
Free Exercise Group

Meets 9:00 AM Mondays, Tuesdays,
Wednesdays & Fridays

In the Fellowship Hall of

United Methodist Church

119 E. Second St. Fairmont

Leslie Sansone's Low Impact DVD

"Walk Away The Pounds"

Coffee & Good Fellowship too!

Everyone Welcome!

CHOIR START-UP

CHOIR PRACTICE STARTS ON WED.,
SEPTEMBER 4TH, FOLLOWING THE CHOIR
POTLUCK AT 6:30 PM AT THE HOME OF
JOYCE JORGENSEN'.

THEREAFTER, ON WEDNESDAYS AT
7:00 PM AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC.



A Grief Support Group can help you:

- Share understanding, encouragement, and support as you try to find your “**new normal**” in life
- Realize that what you may be experiencing mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually are *common reactions of grief*
- Learn what **GRIEF** really is and how it affects your day to day life
- Identify helpful ways to cope with feelings and memories
- Explore healthy ways to **preserve memories** while discovering the importance of new roles and responsibilities since the death



Coping with the death of a loved one?

In Fairmont

When: Eight Consecutive Mondays, starting September 9th, 2019
Running for 8 Consecutive Evenings

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Where: “Fireside Room” at First Congregational United Church of Christ
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN

Trained Grief Facilitators: Gloria Senenfelder & Jean Bierly

In Blue Earth

When: Eight Consecutive Tuesdays, starting September 10th, 2019
Running for 8 Consecutive Afternoons

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where: “Corral Room” at St Luke’s Lutheran Care Center
1219 South Ramsey Street
Blue Earth, MN

Trained Grief Facilitators: Gloria Senenfelder & Karla Tukua

Sessions are open to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one.
They are non-denominational in content and free of charge.

Prescreening is Required.

Call Naomi Segar at 507-526-7970 to inquire and preregister

Sponsored by UHD Hospice

A Service of United Hospital District

Lee (Lela) & Everett Hanning
P. O. Box 156
Granada, MN 56039-0156

August 15, 2019

Letter to Church Newsletter
Rev. Cory Germain
Ann Osborn
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031

Early this afternoon I spoke to several local News Media regarding a disturbing phone call we received about our grandchild crying and asking for our help to get the grandchild out of jail. We asked if this was our grandchild's "name". The answer was yes and went on to say that only one phone call was allowed. We were instructed to bring \$2,000 right away so the child could be released. We asked if we could come to the jail and talk to the arresting officer.

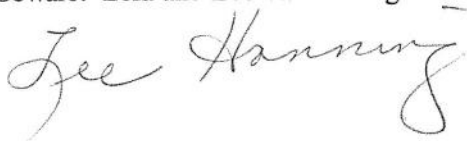
We were told it was either "Mr." Brooks or "Mr." Green. "Officer" Green answered and said our grandchild was under a gag order and had only one phone call and ours was the one call. He said he was from the State Police. I asked for his badge number--which he gave. He said he was *not* the arresting officer.

We said we would come to the jail and he said "No, we do not have a cash box here. You will have to go through the 'Bail' Dept." We asked for details of the arrest. He said our grandchild was with a friend in a car that neither one owned. The friend blew through a stop sign so the officer stopped them this morning. There were drugs in the vehicle. Then he told us the amount of bail was \$4,000. We told him we did not have that kind of money readily available. He said to go to the bank and get a "cash advance". I pushed for more details of the arrest and he said he was not the arresting "Officer" from the State so he would have to get the details while putting us on "hold".

In the meantime while I was on the phone waiting, my husband phoned our grandchild at work and talked to our grandchild. By then, I was disconnected from the "hold" call. I quickly called the Martin County Law Enforcement Center and notified them of the call. They said it was a SCAM and not to follow through. She also said to tell our friends and relatives about this miserable phone scam.

These two people were very pushy. The "grandchild" was crying and asking for help from us right away. The "Officer" became very brusque and insistent. We thought it was strange the officers were identified as "Mr." and the child's voice didn't sound quite right. Another red flag was the amount of bail increasing from \$2,000 up to \$4,000.

Beware! Lela and Everett Hanning

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lee Hanning", written in dark ink.

2019

SEPTEMBER



ShareFaith
PREVIEW ONLY

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| 1 9:30 Worship | 2  5:00-6:00 FCH Foundation 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Sppt | 3 10:00 Lakeview Communion | 4 4:00 Worship Brd 5:45 Diaconate Brd 6:30 Choir Potluck @ Joyce's House | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Communion Sunday 10:30 Worship | 9 5:00-6:00 FCH Foundation 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Sppt | 10 10:00 Lakeview Communion | 11 5:00 Mission Board 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Choir Practice | 12 7:00 Hospitality Bd 7:00 Facilities Brd | 13 | 14 |
| 15 10:30 Worship | 16 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Sppt | 17 10:00 Goldfinch Communion | 18 5:30 Council & Finance Board 7:00 Choir Practice | 19 | 20 9:00 October Newsletter Submission Deadline | 21 |
| 22 9:15 Rally Sunday 10:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection Neighbors in Need | 23 4:30-7:00 Parent To Parent 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Sppt | 24 | 25 5:30 Free Community Meal Church Council 7:00 Choir Practice | 26 9:30 Bible Study | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Noisy Sunday - Heifer International | 30 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Sppt | | | | |  |

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Daniel Moller Harold Stepanek | 25 Cathy Buckmeier Virginia Riedesel Jan Cone Amanda Jaskulke Zack Ashland Terry Winegar |
| 3 Bev Norman | |
| 7 Abby Namken | |
| 8 Eric Zoeller | |
| 10 Marian Buchan | |
| 12 Don Marks | 26 Ben Riggs Cameron Germain Chad Thate Tyler Goerndt |
| 13 Mike True | |
| 15 Oliver Thedens | |
| 16 Evie Wenz | 28 Jon Neitzel Patti Norman Dustin Bicknase |
| 17 Jeff Vetter Polly Mosloski | |
| 18 Dean Grotte Marie Stoeckman | 29 Mackenzie Jones |
| 19 Joanie Maday | 30 Tranna Urban |
| 21 Sarah Gerhardt | |



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------|--------|
| Sept 8 | Andrew & Erica Jorgensen | 1 yr |
| Sept 8 | Jeff & Jennifer Grefe | 7 yrs |
| Sept 10 | Justin & Tiffany Radcliff | 8 yrs |
| Sept 11 | Travis & Melissa Goerndt | 15 yrs |
| Sept 13 | Tyler & Jennifer Neist | 16 yrs |
| Sept 13 | Mike & Erin True | 4 yrs |
| Sept 16 | Joe & Morgan Christensen | 2 yrs |
| Sept 19 | Randy & Sue Kruse | 4 yrs |
| Sept 22 | Dan & Anne (Saxton) Wenz | 7 yrs |
| Sept 29 | Jacob & Tana Lasch | 7 yrs |