

# September 2022

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA  
FAIRMONT, MN 56031-1776

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**Fairmont, MN 56031**



First Congregational UCC  
319 Downtown Plaza  
Fairmont, MN 56031



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*First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Fairmont, Minnesota*

How to reach us....

Church Office  
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Hours: Tuesday—Friday  
9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.

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**Web Site Address**

[www.fairmontucc.org](http://www.fairmontucc.org)

Rev. Cory Germain  
Minister

Ann Osborn  
Administrative Assist

Joyce Jorgenson  
Choir Director

**Rev. Cory Germain**

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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

Thursday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

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

**Worship Hours**

Worship 9:30

Communion the first Sunday of  
every month.

# SEPT. 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
 <p>"You may never know that Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have." —Corrie ten Boom</p>				1  11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	2	3
4 <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship	5 	6 10:00 Lakeview Communion	7 5:30 Diaconate 6:00 Worship Board 7:00 Choir	8 5:15 Hospitality Board 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	9	10
11 9:30 Worship	12	13 7:00 Facilities Board	14 4:00 Confirmation 5:15 Mission Board 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Choir	15  11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	16 9:00 Council Agenda Items Due	17
18 9:30 Worship	19 Pastor's Retreat (19th-22nd)	20 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	21 5:45 Church Council 7:00 Choir No Confirmation	22  11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	23 9:00 October Newsletter Additions Due	24
25 9:30 Worship  Blessing Box Collection Neighbors In Need	26	27	28 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Free Community Meal 7:00 Choir	29 9:30 Bible Study  11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	30	

# FIRST CONGO NEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA; FAIRMONT, MN 56031

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

## *The Reverend's Ruminations - September 2022*

Well, it finally got me. I guess I've been lucky for the last couple years—healthy in the face of the worst of the pandemic despite even family members succumbing to the dreaded COVID-19 infection caused by a coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. Yes, I received the now familiar, two-dose vaccine early in the pandemic, as well as a booster shot. Yes, I've tried to be careful about spending time among crowds, and wore a mask reliably during the height of public restrictions. And yet, after 28 months of carefully watching and learning, masking and isolating, vaxing and trying to continue living life, it finally got me.

And it's definitely not fun—but I don't have to tell you that!?! Almost everyone seems to have had an experience with COVID-19 by this time, whether you have endured it yourself or helped care for a family member very much under the weather. Some have even lost friends and family members to the virus, and will never forget the tragic, lasting impact it has had on your life. As I tested positive yet again today (now over six days since first seeing that second line on the 'ol home test), I was disappointed not to be able to return to the office. Yet we've become accustomed to alternative methods of communication, so all I needed to do was fire up my laptop to check my church email and get started on my monthly newsletter article(s).

Of course I still needed a subject on which to "ruminate," so as I concluded a brief lingering coughing spell, I began thinking about the many sicknesses mentioned in the Bible, how many of our ancestors were afflicted with diseases even less understood than COVID, and how faith has guided all of us during the darkest hours of our afflictions. In Psalm 41:3 we hear the Psalmist affirm, *"The Lord sustains them on their sickbed; in their illness you heal all their infirmities."* But some days, on our sick bed, we may wonder who—if anyone—is going to sustain us. When I was shivering under a blanket with a 101° fever, coughing so hard I thought my head would explode, I, too, struggled to hold fast to such assurances. But once the fever broke and I settled in to the next several days of generalized aches and coughs, I was able to pray and keep myself connected to God's providence.

In the ensuing days, you might say I followed in the footsteps of the prophet Daniel, persevering despite the fatigue that many of you have experienced with COVID: *"Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up again and carried on the king's business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain it"* (Daniel 8:27). With an official positive test, I couldn't officiate Orel Barker's funeral, but scrambled to put together the worship leader parts and a funeral meditation for our reliable friend, Chuck Rudolph, to step in and lead on short notice. Thank you, Chuck, for your incredible flexibility!!

Obviously, I couldn't attend my regularly-scheduled Air National Guard drill weekend either, but luckily we'd already planned an alternative worship experience at the Martin County Fair in my absence. I hope that many of you enjoyed the outdoor community worship service, especially since our annual "worship in the park" event with St. John's UCC was rained out only a couple weeks before!

As we move into September, I pray that the "normalcy" of a schoolyear schedule brings more of us back to worship together. Summer camping, fishing, and other special events always seem to be detrimental to church attendance, but as we try out a new 9:30 worship and Sunday School experience, it will only be successful if we all come together with an open mind and a commitment to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ's family. I promise I'll be healthy in the next few days, so I hope to see you soon!

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Cory Germain*

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC  
FAIRMONT, MN  
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 8-17-2022**

**Members Present:** Abigail Anderson, Cathy Celander, Kay Campe, Marilyn Forstrom, Catherine Johnson, Ellen Germain and Christina Hainy. **Members Absent:** Sue Kruse, Robbin Celander, Larry Thompson, Dave Adams, Izzy Cruz. Ex-officio members absent: Pastor Cory Germain and Dara Bliesmer, Ass't Treasurer.

The Council met in the Fireside Room at 5:45 PM. The meeting was called to order and led in prayer by Moderator, Abigail Anderson. Minutes of the July 20th meeting were approved as printed. Motion M/S/C (Kay/Cathy).

**Treasurer's Report:** Catherine Johnson reported that additional money was given for the pie/pork chop fundraiser. There are updated tax exempt forms available in the church office. Discussion was tabled on the parsonage fund and deciding which source of funds to use for the Krause Construction work.

**Finance/Business:** Stewardship Committee stated they have nothing to report yet.

**Pastor's Report:** As Pastor Cory was ill, Ellen Germain reported about Pastor Cory's upcoming activities.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

**Christian Education:** Ellen Germain reported that the youth had a great time at VBS. The CE board will meet 2 times in August to plan for Sunday school and for church starting at 9:30 with Sunday School after Children's Time.

**Hospitality:** Cathy Celander reported that the Hospitality board is looking at dates for the Harvest Festival and is attempting a full-fledge festival this year.

**Facilities:** A representative was not present. Catherine reported on repairing the outside steps with carpet (by main entrance). This discussion is tabled for the September meeting.

**Diaconate:** No report. A representative was not present.

**Missions:** No report. A representative was not present.

**Worship:** Marilyn Forstrom reported that the fifth-Sunday contemporary services will begin on October 30, 2022, and planning has begun. Joyce recommended that we pay for permission to print music from One License, approximately \$180. Steve Land will provide music on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Jenny will be on vacation on October 9, 16 and 23. Also, a reminder to members to sign up for altar flowers on specific Sundays will be in the next newsletter.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** The fall giving/pledge campaign will ask for pledged in by October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Names of volunteers were given out to boards from the paper survey.

**NEW BUSINESS:** An estimate from PC Janitorial Supply will be given to the Facility board to discuss.

Ellen Germain closed the meeting with a prayer, and Abigail Anderson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Clerk



## **Growing in Generosity, Rooted in Faith**

Fall is coming and with it comes our Annual Stewardship Campaign. We'd like to give you a few ideas to ponder as you begin to think about what you will give to the Church in the next year.

**Growing in Generosity** . . . Learning how to grow in generosity is connected to the resources you manage in your daily lives. Our three main resources are **time, money, and love**.

Do you sacrifice your **TIME** in order to invest and serve others? This one can be hard if you are not careful. It is easy to get swept up in "busyness" instead of reflecting on what God is directing you to do.

Do you freely give **MONEY** away and sacrifice what you want to buy in order to financially bless others? This one is difficult because being controlled by money and all that it offers is intoxicating.

Do you sacrifice your own need to be loved to demonstrate **LOVE** to others? There is something empowering when you know that you are loved by your Heavenly Father, allowing you to love others generously. When operating from a place of God's security, it is easier to pour out love on others.

Reliance on God gives you the ability to pull from His limitless reservoir; you can **grow in generosity** to experience the blessing of giving instead of focusing on the need for receiving. Imagine what a different world it would be if everyone would grow in generosity!

**Rooted in Faith** . . . We worship and serve a God whose entire essence is grounded in extravagant generosity. Our God, whose faith we are rooted in, is calling us to respond to His generosity with our own.

Prayerfully consider how you can **Grow in Generosity** . . . what will that look like . . . where is your faith leading you . . .

# MEMORIALS

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
24-Jul	Memory of Liz King	Starfish	Tim & Kay Campe
24-Jul	Memory of Liz King		Marilyn Forstrom
24-Jul	Memory of Liz King	Starfish	Ann Hartmann
24-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper		John & Donna Holstine
24-Jul	Memory of Richard Gould		John & Donna Holstine
24-Jul	Memory of Phyllis Betts		John & Donna Holstine
24-Jul	Memory of Phyllis Betts		Connie Lowry
24-Jul	Memory of Liz King	Capital	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
24-Jul	Cory & Christina Hainy Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
24-Jul	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Les Heinrich
24-Jul	Memory of Richard Gould		
31-Jul	Memory of Bev Norman	Starfish	Cindy & Jon Anderson
31-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper	Starfish	Tim & Kay Campe
31-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper		Cynthia Celandier
31-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper		Memorials
31-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper		Ida Mae Erickson
31-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper		Ruth Ann Jones
31-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper		Lyle & Charlene Norris
31-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper		Elroy & Sandra Nuss
31-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper	Capital	Kenneth & Joy Rachuy
31-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper		Michael Schmid & Susan Krueger
31-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper		Karen & Gordon Toupal
31-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper		Margaret Weaver
7-Aug	Memory of Char Kost		Bonnie Johnson
7-Aug	Memory of Liz King	Starfish	Jane Kotewa
7-Aug	Memory of Bev Norman		Pat & Randy Rowan
7-Aug	Memory of Bev Norman	Capital	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
7-Aug	Art & Julie Elliott Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
7-Aug	Memory of Faye Draper		Steve & Evelyn Tonneson
7-Aug	Memory of Faye Draper		Sally Hines
14-Aug	Memory of Dick Gould		David Bishop & Nancy Rostvold
14-Aug	Memory of Bev Norman		Marilyn Forstrom
14-Aug	Memory of Dick Gould	Music	Marilyn Forstrom
14-Aug	Memory of Bev Norman		Neil & Barbara Iverson
14-Aug	Memory of Bev Norman		Maynard Jagodzinske
14-Aug	Memory of Bev Norman		Lynn & Lyn Johnson
14-Aug	Memory of Bev Norman		Wanda Johnson
14-Aug	Memory of Bev Norman		Steven & Marcia Kotewa
14-Aug	Memory of Bev Norman		John & Sherry Larson
14-Aug	Memory of Bev Norman		Michael & Doreen Malone
14-Aug	Memory of Bev Norman		Rodney & kathrun Nakagaki
14-Aug	Memory of Bev Norman		Richard & Myra Nelson
14-Aug	Memory of Bev Norman		Memorials

September

## Christian Education News

### Sunday School: September 11! Save the day!!



Sunday School for ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade starts at 9:30. We will be joining worship until Children's Time then going to our classes. We will be done at 10:30. There will be two classes this year, one for younger children and one for older children. On September 11, parents will need to fill out Sunday School sign up forms in the back of the sanctuary.

**Vacation Bible School:** VBS evening activities happened in June at Sylvania Park and in August at Cedar Creek Park. We had lots of fun, had many chances to developed friendships, and gave thanks to God for our wonderful world! You can see pictures of the fun on our Sunday School Facebook page and on the Youth Activities page of our church website.

**Summer Camp:** Six children from our congregation were able to go to camps at Ingham Lake Bible Camp. They all report having a great time and are looking forward to going again next summer! Talk to Sophia, Blakelee, Henry, Louis, Remi or Presley if you want to hear more!

**Confirmation:** A new group is beginning confirmation this year. Confirmation is a two year program for students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older. Reverend Cory leads Confirmation. If you have a student interested in becoming part of Confirmation, please contact him.



**Christian Education for Grown-ups:** With the change in our worship time, Christian Education for grown-ups is changing too. Watch our website and Facebook for information about new groups for you to try!



# rightnow MEDIA

**\*Worship services from First Congregational UCC are available (& searchable by date) alongside the other great content on the rightnow MEDIA website & app!**

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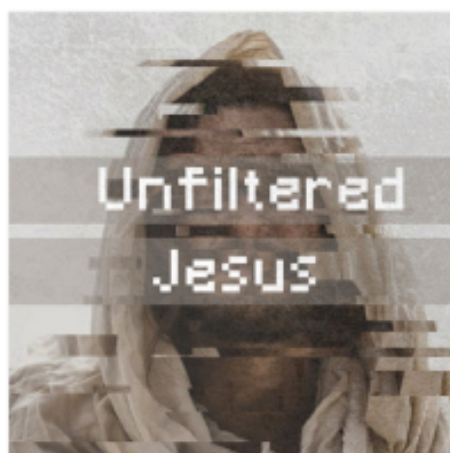
Now that summer vacation is nearly in our rear-view mirror, what are you most apprehensive about? Is it the crazy schedule that school, sports, work, fall chores, and special events inevitably bring back to our lives once "vacation" is over? Many of us struggle with the transition back to the structure and busy-ness of life after the freedom of summer. But don't just step timidly forward hoping you haven't forgotten to put one more item on your calendar! Take a look at the priorities of your life and learn to manage your time according to Christian principles with the short, four-part series ***Redeeming Your Time:***



***Our schedules are overwhelming. Even with the countless time-management resources available to us, our ability to find balance between work and life can feel fruitless. But when we look at the lifestyle of Jesus, we see an example of what it looks like to be efficient while finding balance.***

***In this four-session series, bestselling author Jordan Raynor discusses seven principles, rooted in the example of Jesus, that will help us use the time we have in the best way.***

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Do you ever feel like your Christian faith has to be run through a filter in order for people around you to accept it? Why is it that our loud, brash, unfiltered culture suddenly tightens up and tiptoes around what should be the most meaningful and powerful lessons that our Living Messiah shared about living a God-focused life? I challenge you to take about 15 minutes out of your evening over the next few weeks to engage with Pastor Drew Karschner's six-part examination of ***Unfiltered Jesus:***

***In this series, we'll look at Jesus's unfiltered character and unwavering commitment to follow the will of the Father. Filmed on location in Israel, we'll experience Jesus' life of dependence, faith, denial, love, obedience, and pursuit of people. The end goal is that we too may reflect the life of Jesus unfiltered.***

\*Still need to sign up for a FREE **rightnow** MEDIA account? There are 3 convenient ways:

Go to <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/FCONG>

Text **FCONG** to **49775**, or scan this QR code with your smartphone camera or code reader:



Once logged in to your **FREE** account, you can click directly on "First Congregational UCC" near the top of the page to access the "Fairmont Worship Services" channel, or "Pastor Cory's Picks"—which is where you'll find videos I've recommended here, as well as others that interest me. Stay tuned.. the list changes as I discover new picks! If you've discovered a show or video on **rightnow** MEDIA that you think others would enjoy, email me and I'll promote it in next month's column.

~ *Pastor Cory*



## HyVee & Fareway Receipts Report as of 21 August 2022

During the last four weeks \$17,814.59 (11.88%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 18 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$52,525.74 (35.02%) toward the 15<sup>th</sup> \$150,000 goal. Remember, Hy-Vee Gas can be used. A group of 36 slips with gas discount amounts, but no Hy-Vee Gas were turned in.

During the same four weeks, \$2,458.12 (1.64%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 85 weeks, Fareway is at \$111,180.20 (74.12%) toward our 4<sup>th</sup> \$150,000 goal. It will still take about 30 weeks to reach the \$150,000. Yes, four weeks ago, I said it would take 32 weeks to reach the goal, but the number of slips and their value has decreased to about \$600 per week during the last fifteen weeks while during January through April, they averaged about \$2,500 per week.

This program started the first of March 2011, so any slips from then until now can be used. Any Fairmont Fareway and Hy-Vee food store register slip can be used. Even slips from Hy-Vee Gas, Coffee Shop, Food Service, and Pharmacy help us toward the goal. Thanks to all who bring/mail the slips to the Church, or mailing them or dropping them off at my house. Even the very small amounts help.

**Reported by;  
Jim Bock**

PEANUTS



### MISSION MINUTE

Adopt-a-highway clean-up will be happening on September 24th. We need 12-15 people aged 12 and up. We'll be having a pizza party afterwards. Be looking for a sign-up sheet in the back of the church or contact Amanda Forstrom, phone: 507-279-1607, email: [amandaforstrom@hotmail.com](mailto:amandaforstrom@hotmail.com)

Blessing box is the Neighbors in Need special offering.

## THIS 'N THAT

# Gratitude

Thank you Kathy, Dolores and Margo for folding and sealing the August Newsletters!



**The PRC** meets quarterly each year to discuss joys and concerns regarding our pastoral leadership. If you have input for the committee, please contact any of the PRC members: Jon Neitzel, Deb Thate, Sherry Voyles, Dave Meschke and Pastor Cory Germain.

## From the Worship Board

Most of the flowers on the altar for Sunday worship services have been paid for from a donation by a member. We will continue this practice as long as there are funds. But we would like you to know that if you wish to provide flowers in memory of a loved one, you can sign up for the Sunday of your choice on the calendar to the right of the sanctuary entrance or call the church office at 507-235-5382.

Thank you in advance for your gift.  
~Marilyn Forstrom

**The newsletter is available (in color) on the church website.**

**<http://www.fairmontucc.org>**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the prayers and thoughts. I am feeling great after my recent surgery and appreciate all the love!  
Love, Paige Hainy



This recipe is from HyVee *Seasons* Magazine. I had to share it because I've

made it a few times and they are so delicious! I made the following changes, but you don't have to, they are good as is. I use: Albacore tuna, finely chopped red onion instead of green onion, I use coleslaw that has purple cabbage in it and made up with poppy seed dressing. I use Brownberry Wheat Sandwich Thins, buttered on each half, in place of pita sandwiches. ~Ann



**30**  
minutes  
or less

## Tuna Burgers & Cabbage Slaw

**Hands On** 15 minutes

**Total Time** 25 minutes

**Serves** 3 (2 half-loaf pita sandwiches each)

- 2 Hy-Vee large eggs, lightly beaten
- 3 Tbsp. finely chopped green onions
- 2 Tbsp. chopped Italian parsley
- 1 tsp. Hy-Vee lemon-pepper seasoning
- 1 tsp. Hy-Vee Dijon mustard
- 1/2 cup whole wheat panko bread crumbs
- 2 (5-oz.) cans Hy-Vee chunk light tuna in water, drained and flaked
- 2 Tbsp. Hy-Vee canola oil
- 1 cup finely shredded red cabbage
- 1/2 cup shredded carrot
- 3 Tbsp. Hy-Vee poppyseed salad dressing
- 6 half-loaf whole wheat pita breads
- 3 butter lettuce leaves, halved
- 1 small Granny Smith apple, cored and thinly sliced

**1. COMBINE** eggs, green onions, parsley, lemon-pepper seasoning and Dijon mustard in a bowl. Stir in panko. Add tuna, using a fork to combine. Form mixture into three 3 1/2-in. round patties.

**2. HEAT** oil over medium heat in a large nonstick skillet. Add tuna patties. Cook 6 to 8 minutes, or until lightly golden and cooked through (160°F), turning halfway through. Drain on paper towels.

**3. MEANWHILE,** combine cabbage, carrot and salad dressing. To serve, halve each burger; serve in pitas with lettuce, sliced apple and cabbage slaw.

Per serving: 500 calories, 18 g fat, 2.5 g saturated fat, 0 g trans fat, 175 mg cholesterol, 840 mg sodium, 54 g carbohydrates, 5 g fiber, 13 g sugar (0 g added sugar), 31 g protein. Daily Values: Vitamin D 6%, Calcium 8%, Iron 15%, Potassium 8%

**FOCUS GROUP**  
Brain-health nutrients represented in this sandwich: vitamins B1, B2, B12 and folate, plus vitamins A and C and omega-3 fatty acids.



**September Birthdays**

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

**September Anniversaries**

Sept 8	Andrew & Erica Jorgensen	4 yrs
Sept 8	Jeff & Jennifer Grefe	10 yrs
Sept 10	Justin & Tiffany Radcliff	11 yrs
Sept 11	Travis & Melissa Goerndt	18 yrs
Sept 13	Mike & Erin True	7 yrs
Sept 16	Joe & Morgan Christensen	5 yrs
Sept 19	Randy & Sue Kruse	7 yrs
Sept 22	Dan & Anne (Saxton) Wenz	10 yrs
Sept 29	Jacob & Tana Lasch	10 yrs

