

July 2023

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

Nonprofit
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Fairmont, MN 56031



First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031



WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fairmont, Minnesota*

How to reach us....

Church Office
507-235-5382

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

E-mail

uccsecretary319@gmail.com

Web Site Address

www.fairmontucc.org

Rev. Cory Germain
Minister

Christina Hainy
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 10:00

Sunday school 10:00

Communion the first Sunday of
every month.

July 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00 Worship	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i> 	5 6:00 Worship bd. 6:30 Community Worship (Sylvania Park)	6 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS	7	8 12:00-2:00 Birthday celebration for Elaine Zoeller (HH)
9 <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship in the Park (Sylvania Park)	10	11 10:00 Lakeview Communion 7:00 Facility bd.	12 5:30 Mission bd. 5:45 CE bd. 6:30 Community Worship (Sylvania Park)	13 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS 5:15 Hospitality	14 9:00 Council agenda items DUE	15
16 10:00 Worship 11:00-2:00 St. John's UCC Youth Fun Day	17	18 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	19 Adventure Trip Departure 5:45 Church Council 6:30 Community Worship (Sylvania Park)	20 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS 5:00-8:00 Hog Wild Days Heavenly Delights sale	21 9:00 August newsletter items DUE	22 Rummage Sale Drop Off begins! 5:00 Potluck for Sounds of Hope 7:00 Sounds of Hope concert
23 8:30 Breakfast with Sounds of Hope 10:00 Worship	24 Adventure Trip returns	25	26 5:30 Free Community Meal 6:30 Community Worship (Sylvania Park)	27 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS	28	29
30 10:00 Worship <i>Noisy Sunday Contemporary Blessing box collection</i>	31					

The Reverend's Ruminations - July 2023

Greetings in the name of Christ our Savior! I pray that this finds you adjusting to, and even enjoying, the heat and longer days of mid-summer in Southern Minnesota. For some of you, those extra daylight hours mean a little more unstructured time in the daily schedule. Perhaps you like to work in the yard or garden during the coolness of the early morning and stay indoors midday when it gets hot? Maybe your duties take you poolside for a few hours in the afternoon while the kids or grandkids splash around, or you're waiting patiently for a baseball or softball practice to get over. What helps occupy your personal time? What's on your summer reading list? Perhaps the reigning international best-seller?

The Bible can be a huge challenge to read if you attempt it from cover to cover, but perhaps your summer reading goal could be to examine a few small sections that follow our Sunday morning lectionary readings. July's epistle readings will again come from one of the Apostle Paul's most well-known letters: Romans. During the last three weeks of June, we read from chapters 4–6, and July will continue with another brief selection from chapter 6 before continuing with passages from chapters 7 and 8. Along the way, Paul wrestles with some of the same deep struggles we all share: turning toward righteousness and away from the temptations of sin; separating good and evil in our thoughts and actions; and overcoming weakness through the power of the Holy Spirit so that we cannot be separated from God's love.

July's gospel readings from Matthew will begin with chapter 10's encouragement toward extravagant welcome and continue with Jesus' familiar assurance that all who are "weary and carrying heavy burdens" can yoke ourselves to him and find not only rest, but encouragement and training. The last three weeks of July will include several familiar parables from chapter 13, and Jesus' explanation of their significance for our lives and the ministry of the church.

As we continue our sermon journey through the origins of our faith in the book of Genesis, chapters 22, 24, and 25 will guide us from Isaac's early life (and near-sacrifice at the hands of faithful Abraham), through the search for a suitable wife, and to the birth of his sons Esau and Jacob. Chapters 28 and 29 will then refresh our understanding of Jacob's famous dream about a ladder reaching from earth to heaven, as well as his long service to his kinsman, Laban, in return for the hand of both Leah and Rachel in marriage. Societal and religious customs were obviously much different in the culture of those early days, but there are still many lessons to be explored from the context of our modern era.

In response to some recent issues of inappropriate comments and conversations within our own church family, I would like to invite as many of you as possible to participate in a four-part group study called *Divided We Stand: How to Love When We Disagree*. We will meet in the chapel at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays, July 5 and 12, and schedule the two remaining sessions with those in attendance. Unfortunately, we do live in divided times. The tension of disagreement can be felt at dinner tables, in board rooms, at church gatherings, and in our communities. It can be hard to know how to engage with each other when the gap between us feels like it's widening. As a church family, we must be part of the solution instead of feeding the problem. Let's work together to be Christ's light in our world!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Cory Germain

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 6-21-2023**

Members Present: Abigail Anderson, Catherine Johnson, Sue Kruse, Larry Lasch, Erica Jorgensen, Amanda Forstrom, Joanne Eisenbarger, Amber Brummond, Cindy Huset and Christina Hainy. Ex-officio members present: Pastor Cory. Guest: Dean Grotte. (Absent: Robbin Celander, Kay Campe. Ex-officio members absent: Dara Bliesmer, Ass't Treasurer.)

The Council met in Heritage Hall at 5:45 PM. The meeting was called to order by Moderator Abigail Anderson. Pastor Cory led in prayer. Motion to approve the minutes from the May 17th meeting was M/S/C (Larry/Erica).

Treasurer's Report: Catherine reported that after five months, we have 40% of pledged giving received. We received a gift from the Don and Dorothy Simpson estate of \$3500 and received \$1000 from the Hy-Vee fundraiser.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory mentioned highlights from the last month. He has an upcoming graveside service and funeral.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: Amber told us that ten children attended the June VBS/potluck.

Hospitality: Erica reported that all the 35 pies (245 slices) were sold out and almost 200 pork chops on a stick were sold at the pie social/pork chop on a stick event.

Facilities: Larry said that Tim Campe will be leaving at the end of September, and Dean told us that they are looking to replace Tim for lawn care and snow removal within the church. If no one is found, we will need to hire a service.

Diaconate: Sue reported that they are not meeting during the summer, but she has taken over sending cards from Carolyn Thompson who has done this church mission for many years.

Mission: Amanda said Relay for Life is coming up at the fairgrounds. Over \$600 was donated.

Worship: Cindy reported that they cleaned/organized 2 storage rooms at their meeting. July 9th is a 9:30 AM joint service with St. John's UCC at Sylvania Park. They are looking for pulpit supply for August 13.

Rummage Sale Committee Report: Meeting is June 28 during community meal, drop-off is July 22-31 & sale is August 4-5. Volunteers needed!

OLD BUSINESS: IHD events-very successful! Thank you to everyone involved for all the work!

NEW BUSINESS:

-Tabling: updating names on safe deposit box

-Hog Wild Days (Crazy Days) on Downtown Plaza-Thursday, July 20th 5-8 PM. Working on baked goods to sell that night.

-Creating a Mystery Carpet committee to choose Sanctuary carpet. Amanda will make an announcement for volunteers (5-max) in church.

-Looking for a replacement for Financial Secretary for 2024. Kay will be Moderator in 2024 and needs to train someone in.

-Motion M/S/C (Joanne/Amanda) to have Situational Support Consultation Conversations for church. This is a free Conference service.

Moderator Abigail Anderson adjourned the meeting, and Pastor Cory closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Clerk

MEMORIALS

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
21-May	Memory of Ryan Lunn	Starfish	Tim & Kay Campe
21-May	Memory of Jean Schultz	Carpet	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
28-May	Memory of Roger Lindell	Starfish	Cindy & Jon Anderson
28-May	Memory of Roger Lindell	Music	Janine Draper
28-May	Memory of Roger Lindell		Dolores Gronewald
28-May	Jim & Barb Bock Anniversary	Starfish	Virginia Riedesel
28-May	Memory of Roger Lindell	Carpet	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
28-May	Memory of Jerome Kampert	Carpet	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
4-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell	Starfish	Ann Hartmann
4-Jun	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Carpet	Les Heinrich
4-Jun	Memory of Gin Mevissen	Starfish	Les Heinrich
4-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell	Starfish	Les Heinrich
11-Jun	Memory of Bonnie True	Starfish	Tim Rasche



Hy-Vee & Fareway Report as of 18 June 2023

During the last four weeks, \$8,510.57 (4.26%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 25 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$101,280.36 (50.64%) toward the 16th goal which is now \$200,000. We have been getting to the \$150,000 goal in about 44 weeks and the new \$200,000 will take almost 60 weeks.

During the same time, \$1,273.46 (0.85%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 11 weeks, Fareway is at \$13,262.33 (8.84%) toward our 5th \$150,000 goal.

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 Fast & Fresh (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

Chubb House Tea

Saturday, July 1, 2023

11:00am – 1:00 pm

This event is open to the public. Come join us
for tea, coffee and special treats.



Chubb House
209 Lake Ave
Fairmont MN

Your "Free Willl Donation" assists with the preservation of this Historical House.

Martin County Preservation Association manages the Chubb House and Red Rock.



*Come celebrate
Elaine Zoeller's
90th birthday with us!*

Saturday, July 8, 2023
Noon - 2 pm
First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN

~ No gifts, please ~



*If you are unable to make it,
drop her a note:*

Elaine Zoeller
118 Woodland Avenue
Fairmont, MN 56031

Or give her a call:

507-432-6434

She would love to hear from you!

WANTED

Ushers, Readers and Greeters for Sunday Worship!

Consider signing up on the sheet in the Narthex. If you have questions about the duties, mark that on the sheet and someone will contact you!



Our annual **Worship in the Park** joint service with St. John's UCC will be held **July 9 at 9:30 am** at the **Sylvania Park Bandshell**. Communion will be celebrated together, and coffee, juice, and rolls will be served for fellowship time. Come and worship God together outdoors!

Mission Minute:

- Thank you to everyone who helped with June's Relay for Life!
- July Blessing Box: Heaven's Table Backpack Program-the projected cost per child is \$100. They ended this past school year with 390 children throughout Martin County participating. This program provides a small bag of food that goes in the kids' backpacks on Fridays for the weekend.
- July Community Meal (7/26): East Chain 4-H Club



Community Announcement:

The **Fairmont fireworks display** has been changed to **Saturday, July 1st** for this year!

Christian Education News:



Several children of our church who will be attending church camps this summer:
 Going to Ingham Lake Bible Camp: Reagan Shoen, Presley Wegner, Remi Shoen, Henry Brummond, and Louis Goerndt

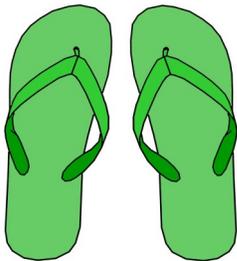
Our Confirmation students Sophia Brummond, Ella Ziemer, and Blakey Weber will be attending Ingham Lake Okoboji.

Koda and Kira Massey will be going to Lost Timber Bible Camp.

Please join the CE Board in praying that they each have a wonderful camp experience of fellowship, growth, and increased faith!

Camp counselors need prayer too! Cameron Germain and Emma Hueper are working as youth counselors at Lakeshore Center camps at Okoboji.

The **second VBS fun day** will follow the church garage sale on **Saturday, August 5th!** More details in the August newsletter!



St. John's UCC Youth Fun Time on July 16th will be a water event day (weather permitting) with:
-Kids needing dry and wet clothes and shoes
-Kids need water to drink and sunscreen
-Parents bring lawn chairs for kids and parents

Fun Time for all youth
Parents also welcomed

**** DATE CHANGE ** IN 2023**

Dates: Sat. June 3rd
Sunday July 16th
Time: 11:00 till 2:00

Sat. Aug 5th
Time: 9:00 till 1:00

Place: St. John's UCC
 301 North Main
 Fairmont, MN

Free Events:

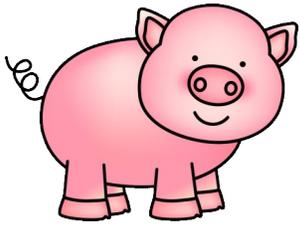
- Crafts
- Bounce House
- Water Slide
- Ring Toss
- Games
- Large Bubbles
- Noon Meal



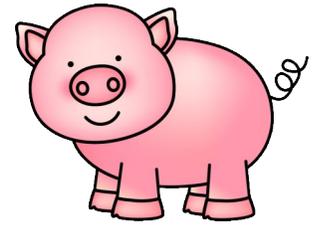








Join us for



Fairmont's Hog-Wild Days!!

Thursday night, July 20, 5-8 pm

on Downtown Plaza

for **Fun**, **Shopping**, and **FOOD!!**

(The downtown hogs will all be dressed up for the occasion)

First Congregational UCC is joining in
the fun by selling some

Heavenly Delights ...



Holy Hog Cookies



Blessed Bacon Brownies



Congregational Cupcakes

Menu subject to change!!

You've just got to try them!!!!

Congratulations

To the Hospitality board for a fantastic pie social/pork chop on a stick event! 245 slices of pie from 35 pies were sold out!! Almost 200 pork chops were served!

To the Breakfast on the Lawn crew who fed breakfast to many car show participants!

THANK YOU to the Bible Study Ladies for folding and sealing the June newsletter!

We have been asked to be a part of Community Worship at the Park.

Pastor Cory will be leading on Wednesday, August 23rd.

Wednesday

COMMUNITY WORSHIP

at the Park

SYLVANIA PARK BANDSHELL,
FAIRMONT

(RAIN SITE GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH)
EVERY WEDNESDAY, 6:30 PM
(JUNE 7 - AUGUST 30)

HOSTED BY
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, FAIRMONT

All Are Welcome

- LIVE WORSHIP BAND WITH SHORT, MEANINGFUL AND RELATABLE MESSAGES FROM AREA PASTORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- FREE ICE CREAM FROM O'SCOOPS ON JUNE 14 AND JULY 26



FIND US AT: GRACELUTHERANCHURCH.ORG



Thank you, Carolyn Thompson for all the years of sending cards to the Congregation and being the lead for Prayer Chain! You are appreciated!!

**Please contact Pastor Cory or the office if you have interest in being the contact person/ email initiator for Prayer Chain.



RUMMAGE SALE



BRING YOUR STUFF!!!

ALL-CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE!

The dates have been set to

Friday, August 4, 8 am - 6 pm
Saturday August 5, 8 am - noon

Heritage Hall

You can bring your **STUFF**
to the church **July 22-31**; hours will be posted

We will also have pickups available for those who can't
make the deliveries themselves!

Call or email the church office to arrange a pickup.

Items that sell well:

*Kids toys, sporting goods, household items, tools, games,
puzzles, books, jewelry, accessories, collectibles, etc.
(no clothing, please)*

LADIES & GENTS,
START HAULING!!!!!!

Sounds of Hope, Ltd.

International Arts & Performance Camps



We are excited to be hosting an energetic concert by Songs of Hope™ at our church on Saturday, July 22nd at 7:00 pm!

Songs of Hope™ is a six-week, overnight performing arts summer camp in Saint Paul, for kids aged 10 and older from around the world. More than just a performing arts camp, Songs of Hope™ offers participants a unique opportunity to live in community with kids from other countries and cultures while learning and performing music from many countries.

Each summer, a select group of nearly 70 children and young adults venture to Minnesota from Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and the U.S. They arrive as strangers but soon find themselves embraced in a closely-knit, supportive community as they learn popular songs and dances from each other's cultures. Then, they take these songs of peace, love, and respect into area communities like ours in a joyous celebration of cultural unity, delighting their audiences along the way.

The lessons learned during these six weeks are profound. The friendships are enduring. And the stories are inspirational. Taking part in the Songs of Hope™ camp is a transformational experience. To learn more about the organization, you can explore their website: <https://www.soundsofhope.org/>



How can you help?

The concert will be in our sanctuary. It is free and open to the public, so plan now to attend. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors! You'll see press releases in the local newspapers the week before.

We are responsible for feeding the group Saturday evening before the concert, as well as breakfast the next morning before they leave for New Journey UCC in Hutchinson. A sign-up sheet will be published soon, so please help show our legendary First Congo UCC hospitality!

Heritage Hall will provide a place for the kids (with chaperones) to stay overnight afterward. A few of the accompanying adults would love the opportunity to sleep in a real bed instead of on a floor, so if you could host someone, we'll have a sign-up sheet for that too!

Looking for:

Someone to provide lawn care and snow removal at First Congregational! This is a paid position! Please, contact Dean Grotte (507-236-0216) or Larry Lasch (507-432-8121) if you are interested. Thank you to Tim Campe for all your mowing and snow removal!!



Happy Independence Day



Altar Flower Signup: If there is a Sunday that has a special meaning to you and you would like to provide the flowers, please sign up on the calendar by the coat closet. Write your name and who the flowers are in memory/honor of. Please know that we appreciate you sharing your special memories/days with us! Contact Janine Draper with questions at (507) 236-3499.



The end of June Birthdays were cut off when the June newsletter was printed! **Wishing Elaine Zoeller and Eric D. Johnson a happy belated birthday!** They both have June 29th birthdays.

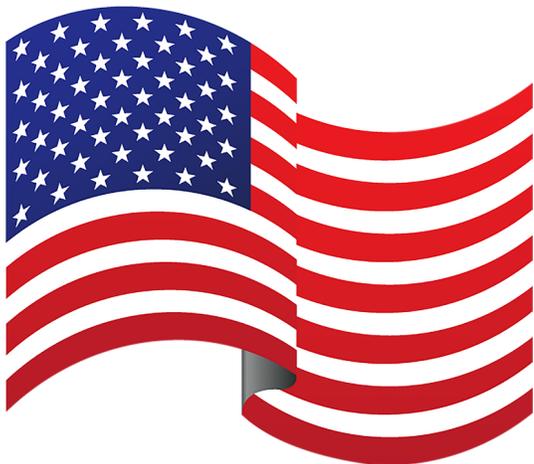
Pear/Walnut Salad

- Spring mix salad
- 2 stalks celery-chopped
- 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
- 2 Green onions, chopped
- 1 pear, peeled & sliced
- Gorgonzola cheese, crumbled
- ¼ C. candied walnuts



Patriot Salad

- Spring mix salad
- Sliced strawberries
- Blueberries
- Thin Rings of red onion
- Sliced almonds



Dressing for both salads:

- ½ tsp salt
- Pinch of black pepper
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 Tbsp. light Balsamic vinegar
- ¼ C. olive oil
- Poppyseeds (for Patriot Salad)

July Birthdays:

July 3	Catherine Johnson	July 19	Joy Rachuy
July 4	Judie Orr		Abby Shoen
July 9	Pauline Cruz		Sandi Smith
July 10	Julie Elliott	July 20	Kelly Moller
July 11	Sydney Hainy	July 21	Alex Neitzel
July 12	Pat Rowan	July 24	Nicholas Thate
July 14	Margo Weaver	July 25	Robbin Celander
July 15	Marilyn Forstrom	July 26	Cheryl Ashland
	Kevin Moller		Dolores Gronewald
	Emily Cain	July 27	Renae Vetter
July 17	Haley Harder	July 28	Whytnie Goerndt
July 18	Shelby Marks	July 30	Melissa Neitzel
		July 31	Courtney Grefe



July Anniversaries:

July 6	Lyle & Charlene Norris	60 years
July 9	Jason & Amber Brummond	12 years
July 13	Roger & Marian Buchan	66 years
July 14	Jon & Terry Riggs	33 years
July 20	Tracy & Jessi Kotewa	21 years
July 21	Brad & Vonnie Cone	22 years
July 22	Lorin & Joy Pollock	28 years
July 24	Jeff & Renae Vetter	36 years
July 25	Tony & Jenna Smith	8 years
July 26	Matt & Brittany Goerndt	9 years
July 27	Mark & Rita Craven	49 years