

August 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](mailto: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 9:30

Communion the first Sunday of  
every month.

## *The Reverend's Ruminations*

As August approaches and my schedule continues to be packed, I can hardly believe that 2/3 of Minnesota's unofficial days of summer have already come and gone. I was certainly hoping to spend a little more time relaxing near a campfire or paddling casually around our area lakes in a kayak!?! I guess there's still time for some of those activities, but if you're like me, when the calendar turns over it often incites a bit of panic in our hearts. I hope that you and your family have been enjoying your summer days during June and July by taking part in your favorite outdoor activities, whether those include the ball diamonds, boating, swimming, camping, playing outside, or just lounging in the shade with a cool drink. Many of us still have plenty of those activities planned in August, including our intrepid "First Congo UCC Adventure Crew," so I pray that the weather cooperates and that you play safely at whatever brings you summertime enjoyment.

Our Christian Education Board, like many others, has taken a brief summer vacation, but will be working hard in August to prepare for the return of Sunday School with opportunities for "children of all ages" (as the circus barkers used to say). Yes, that means 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 have children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, or even neighbors—young or old—who will be participating this year please be sure that our Christian Education Board is aware so that they can plan for attendance in the fall. Volunteers are always needed too—including part-time teachers—so please consider getting involved wherever your gifts might allow. Our adult study class will pick up in September just like the children's classes, so come check it out too!

If the remaining summer finds you with some extra moments available for reading, I challenge you to read ahead on our Bible passages for Sundays in August and beyond. Our epistle readings will cover portions of Colossians, Hebrews, and both 1 & 2 Timothy over the next three months, while our gospel readings will be from Luke's 12<sup>th</sup> chapter during most of August and then continue on to reach his 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter by the beginning of Advent (way down the road in December). I suppose by then we'll be lamenting the cold and the increasing pace leading toward the holidays!?!

It has been a blessing for both UCC congregations in Fairmont to have each other to lean on this summer as each pastor squeezes in a little time off. On June 30 we welcomed our brothers and sisters from St. John's UCC, then only two weeks later they hosted many of you while I began pedaling in the Habitat 500; and then two weeks after that we joined together for our annual "Worship in the Park!" I hope perhaps through these three services you have had a chance to meet a fellow UCC-er in the Fairmont area and realize how many similarities we share.

As you enjoy all the sunshine, warmth, community festivals, and county fairs that August has to offer, I pray that you look for God at work in the world around you. The breezes, lapping waves, singing birds, and even the rain remind us that God is still creating and blessing our world. Listen closely, pause to be still, and know the peace that Christ offers in your life today, tomorrow, and always.

Yours in Christ,

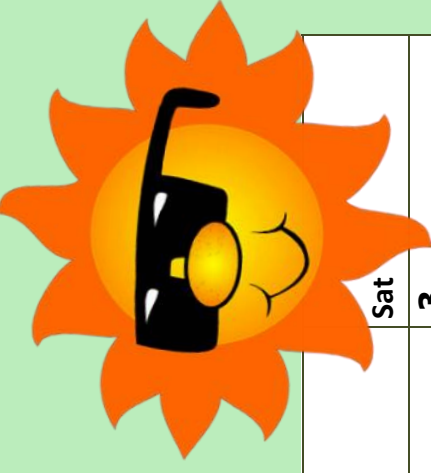
*Rev. Cory Germain*

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>

# Welcome AUGUST

# 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>4</b> 9:30 Worship Communion	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 Lakeview Communion	<b>7</b> 4:00 Worship Board	<b>8</b> 7:00 Hospitality Bd 7:00 Facilities Bd	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>11</b> 9:30 Worship	<b>12</b> 5:00-6:00 FCH Foundation	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 5:00 Mission Bd 6:30 CE Board	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:30 Worship	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 September Newsletter Submission Deadline	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection Backpack Program	<b>26</b> 4:30-7:00 Parent To Parent	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:30 Free Community Meal 6:00 Finance Board meets with Church Council	<b>29</b> 9:30 Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

*A d v e n t u r e C a m p*

*T r i p*

**Council Minutes for July 24, 2019**

**First Congregational Church UCC**

**Fairmont, MN 56031**

**Present:** Rev. Cory Germain, Catherine Johnson, Ellen Germain, Dave Adams, Dave Meschke, MaryDon Kislingbury, Julie Elliot, Corey Hainy, Marilyn Forstrom

**Absent:** Robbin Celander, Deb Thate, Larry Thompson

**Finance Board:** Joanne Eisenbarger

The meeting was opened by Moderator Johnson. Opening prayer by Ellen Germain.

Motion was M/S/C (Corey H/Julie E) to approve the minutes of the June Meeting.

**Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave Meschke presented the Treasurer's Report. With 50% of the year behind us, we have received 44% of pledged dollars. Motion was M/S/C to receive the Treasurer's Report.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Corey presented his report. It was a very busy report with a number of funerals, Starfish assistance, Communion, Guard training and continuing education days.

**Finance:** Due to the decreasing size of the Board, the remaining members will temporarily meet with the Council to conduct the business of the Board. Motion was M/S/C (Corey H./Dave Adams) to order digital Stewardship materials from the Conference to use for our 2020 Stewardship Drive. Materials will be reviewed at August meeting and plans for the drive made at that time. The Stewardship Drive will begin 9-29 with intake of pledges on 10-27-19. The Board requests that all Boards present a list of any major projects they may expect in 2020 BEFORE the Budget Committee meetings begin.

**Christian Ed:** No meeting

**Diaconate:** No meeting

**Facilities:** The Board had Jetter Clean run camera thru tile to try to determine drainage problem. Located a collapse of the tile. The Board is investigating the best ways to repair this, gutters on south side of church and sidewalk repair. Estimate for cost to repair all is possible in excess of \$10,000. Window coverings on outside of Heritage Hall also need repair. Fairmont Glass has been contacted for cost of repair.

**Hospitality:** No meeting

**Missions:** In an effort to be more "Green", members are encouraged to bring their own coffee cup for use following worship.

**Worship:** No meeting. Plans have been made for the joint Sunday in the Park service and Potluck with St. John's,

**Old Business:** Plans were finalized for the Council to serve the July Community Free Meal on July 31, 2019. Updated Safe Church Policy will be forwarded to the Council members to READ and complete so we can offer input and adopt.

**New Business:** The Personnel Committee will begin meeting soon so their reviews can be completed before Budget Committee begins meeting. Motion was M/S/C (Ellen/MaryDon) to ask the Facilities Board to investigate the price of security options for the front entry.

The next Council meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on August 28, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned and Pastor Corey closed with prayer.

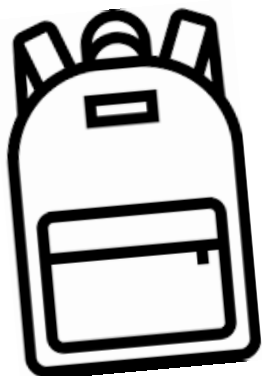
Respectfully Submitted, Marilyn Forstrom, Clerk



## Memorials

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation		From
23-Jun	Memory of Dick Kotewa		Music	Georgia Malo
23-Jun	Memory of Dick Kotewa		Music	David & Lisa Meschke
23-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper			David & Lisa Meschke
23-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper			Harold Stepanek
23-Jun	Memory of Dick Kotewa		Music	Harold Stepanek
30-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper			David Bishop & Nancy Rostvold
30-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper			Cynthia Celander
30-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper			Arthur & Julie Elliott
30-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper			Everett & Lela Hanning
30-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper			Ramona Harper
30-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper			Carol & Paul Henry
30-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper			Wanda Johnson
30-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper			MaryDon Kislingbury
30-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper			John & Sherry Larson
30-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper			Eloise Lidke
30-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper			Joy & Lorin Pollock
30-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper	Music		Virginia Riedesel
30-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper	General		Larry & Carolyn Thompson
30-Jun	Memory of Lorraine Harper	Starfish		Margaret Weaver
7-Jul	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish		Les Heinrich
7-Jul	Conrad & Lorie Zoeller Anniversary		Starfish	Margaret Weaver
7-Jul	Everett & Lee Hanning Anniversary			Margaret Weaver
7-Jul	Memory of Lorraine Harper			Marilyn Forstrom
7-Jul	Memory of Carol Martens			Marilyn Forstrom
7-Jul	Memory of Dick Kotewa	Starfish		Susan Jaqua
14-Jul	Memory of Dora Bozung			Arthur & Julie Elliott
14-Jul	Memory of Dora Bozung			Marilyn Forstrom
14-Jul	Memory of Dora Bozung	Starfish		Ann Hartmann
14-Jul	Memory of Dick Kotewa			Randy & Pat Rowan
14-Jul	Memory of Lorraine Harper			Randy & Pat Rowan
14-Jul	Memory of Lorraine Harper			Lorraine Harper Estate

# July & August Blessing Box – Backpack Program



Heaven's Table offers a backpack program for needy children in Martin County's public schools, including Martin County West, Truman, Fairmont and Granada-Huntley-East Chain. The food shelf bags food for children in kindergarten through sixth grade.



Children who come from families that meet the guidelines for free and reduced school lunches also meet the guidelines for the backpack program.



The program began in 2015. When it first started it served 136 students. By the end of the first year, that number increased to 256. In the 2017-18 school year, **Heaven's Table packed food for about 350 kids in Martin County each week.** The bags are distributed by the schools on Fridays before the children go home for the weekend. Teachers discreetly place the bags in the backpacks of participating students.



**The bags include kid-friendly meals and snacks that are easy for kids to prepare over the weekend, including two main courses, two breakfast items, two drinks, and four to five snack items.** The food shelf tries to include items that are as nutritionally-balanced as possible.

The average cost per bag is \$2.50. Heaven's Table estimates costs for 2018-19 will be around \$35,000. We estimate it costs \$100/child/year.

**Our goal is to sponsor at least 5 kids for the year!**

**Our blessing box offering for July and August will go to help support this program. *Please prayerfully consider***

**Remember,  
don't just  
count your  
blessings . . .  
share them!**





## ***Partners in Ministry***

### **August 4**

Diaconate: Mike True  
Head Usher: Cory Hainy  
Reader: Alice Maday  
Greeters: Bill & Pat Cowing

### **August 18**

Diaconate: Mike True  
Head Usher: Eric B. Johnson  
Reader: Jim Marushin  
Greeters: Don & Shelby Marks

### **August 11**

Diaconate: Mike True  
Head Usher: Robbin Celander  
Reader: Craig Nelson  
Greeters: John & Cindy Anderson

### **August 25**

Diaconate: Mike True  
Head Usher: Randy & Pat Rowen  
Reader: Abigail Roiger  
Greeters: Wanda J. and Sherry L.



## **Free Community Meal – August – Make it Local!**

The Mission Board is making the **Free Community Meal for August** and would like to make it as much of a **“Locally Grown/Raised”** meal as we can. We have some **creative** cooks who would like to make something interesting!! **If you have any locally grown/raised products that you would like to donate to the meal**, let a member of the Mission Board know as soon as possible.

**Help us share a fantastic Martin County Meal with our neighbors!!!!**





## Fareway and Hy-Vee Receipts Report as of 21 July 2019

During the last five weeks, \$19,300.61 (12.87%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were turned in. After 19 weeks, we are at \$65,760.37 (43.84%) toward the 11th \$150,000 goal.

During the same five weeks, \$5,271.70 (3.51%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 45 weeks, we are at \$45,976.81 (30.65%) toward our 3rd \$1,000 from Fareway Store.

Thanks for bring in all those slips. During these five weeks, there were 11 slips from March 2015 through May 2017 with over 40 slips from December 2017 through December 2018 and for course January 2019 to July 21, 2019. Keep those slips coming. ~ Reported by Jim Bock



*Thank you* to the members of First Congregational UCC for the special thoughts, prayers, cards, concern and support given me at the time of my Mother's passing. You are genuinely caring folks who faithfully rally on people's behalf during such times. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.  
~ *Appreciatively*, Ann Osborn

### 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**!

### **To Church Family,**

*We feel truly blessed to have been cared for in such a loving and faithful way by our brothers and sisters in our church during the illness and passing of our husband and father, Dick Kotewa. He enjoyed every note that arrived before his death, and his family appreciated all the lovely cards, notes, gifts, food and kind words as we began this new chapter in our lives. We are truly grateful, and celebrate each day that Dick was a man of faith who is now safe and well with our Lord and that we are part of a faith living church.*

*With love,  
Jane Kotewa*







**Thank you** for your recent gift to Relay For Life® to help fight cancer.  
Your lifesaving gift gives hope for the future.

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
319 Downtown Plz  
Fairmont, MN 56031-1713



July 15, 2019

Dear First Congregational United Church of Christ,

Thank you for helping make the Relay For Life event a success. Together, we honored all cancer survivors and remembered loved ones lost. Because of your support, we're able to take action against this terrible disease.

You are helping boost our efforts to provide patient programs and services, emotional support, and trusted information for those facing a cancer diagnosis – and their families. And you're helping lead the fight to end cancer for our loved ones by supporting vital research.

**We're so grateful for your support.**

Your gift is helping us save lives. In fact, thanks in part to medical advances supported by American Cancer Society donors like you, cancer death rates are the lowest they've been in decades.

**Together, we've come so far. Your gift makes all the difference.**

First Congregational United Church of Christ, with your help, we're making breakthroughs against cancer. And now we hope to double our research investment to discover better treatments, find cures, and save more lives.

**Thank you again for helping save lives and lead the fight to end cancer.**

We sincerely appreciate your generosity, and thank you for helping the American Cancer Society attack cancer on all fronts.

Warm regards,

Gary M. Reedy  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Cancer Society

Please keep this letter as a receipt for your tax records.



Gift Date	Gift Amount
06/27/19	\$622.00

No goods or services were provided for this gift. Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please consult your tax advisor regarding specific questions about your tax deductions.

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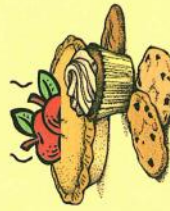


# 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Bazaar & Bake Sale

## Friday, August 9, 2019

### 7:30-10:30am

Egg Bake, Coffee Cake, Fruit Cup  
& Coffee will be served



Baked Goods



Garden Produce



Handmade Crafts



St. John's UCC  
Cookbooks

St. John's United Church of Christ  
301 North Main St Fairmont MN

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Aug. 1	Tim Campe Paige Hainy	Aug. 13	Amanda Cain
Aug. 4	Lance Willard Byron Phillips	Aug. 15	Preston Rachuy-Davis
Aug. 5	Darla Guritz Matthew Cone	Aug. 18	Mark Grotte
Aug. 6	Mary Don Kislingbury Bob Neusch Jeff Grefe	Aug. 19	Abigail Roiger
Aug. 7	Tyler Harder Tracy Kotewa	Aug. 20	Karen Cone
Aug. 8	Kris Ziemer	Aug. 23	Alexa Steele
Aug. 9	Britney Goerndt	Aug. 24	Art Elliott T.J. Hawkins Bennett Draper Liz King
Aug. 10	John Larson	Aug. 25	Cindy Huset
Aug. 11	Donna Holstine	Aug. 26	Hanna Goerndt
Aug. 13	Deb Adams	Aug. 27	Greg Ashland Aubrey Lasch
		Aug. 28	Linda Meschke Barb Pitcher
		Aug. 31	Ann Erdman Beth Massey

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Aug. 1, 1979	Tabb & Molly Meyer	40 years
Aug. 3, 1974	Art & Julie Elliott	45 years
Aug. 12, 2000	Eric & Rowena Johnson	19 years
Aug. 12, 1956	George & Ruth Ann Jones	63 years
Aug. 13, 2011	Billy & Jenna McAlister	8 years
Aug. 26, 1989	David & Deb Adams	30 years
Aug. 28, 1982	Mike & Lori Thate	37 years
Aug. 31, 1969	Doug & Darla Guritz	50 years