

October 2019

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 178

«AddressBlock»



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

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
Communion the first Sunday of
every month.



2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Sppt	2 3:45 Confirmation 5:00 Worship Brd 5:30 Diaconate Brd 6:30 Choir Practice	3	4	5
6 Communion Sunday 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	7 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Sppt	8 10:00 Lakeview Communion 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Sppt	9 3:45 Confirmation 5:00 Mission Board 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Choir Practice	10 5:15 Hospitality Bd 7:00 Facilities Brd	11	12
13 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	14 5:00-6:00 FCH Foundation 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Sppt	15 10:00 Goldfinch Communion 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Sppt	16 3:45 Confirmation 5:30 Council & Finance Board 7:00 Choir Practice	17	18 9:00 November Newsletter Submission Deadline	19
20 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	21 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Sppt	22 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Sppt	23 3:45 Confirmation 7:00 Choir Practice	24 9:30 Bible Study	25	26
27 Stewardship Sunday 9:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection (CUE) 11:00 Harvest Festival	28 4:30-7:00 Parent To Parent 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Sppt	29 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Sppt	30 3:45 Confirmation 5:30 Free Community Meal 7:00 Choir Practice	31		



The Reverend's Ruminations

Continuing with a theme started in my “ruminations” last month, Christian Education opportunities for everyone here at First Congregational UCC have been on my mind the last few weeks. I hope that you noticed what a great turnout we had for Rally Sunday on September 22nd, and how many of our children and young families were at the worship service. Let’s keep it up! Thank you to our Christian Education Board for putting together a fun welcome and some new ideas for our kids this fall, and thank you to Kay, Elaine, and Ellen for volunteering to teach the various age groups. They can always use extra adults to help, so don’t hesitate to pop in and pick up on the Sunday morning energy!

Our very active women’s Bible study continues on the fourth Thursday each month, confirmation has started on Wednesdays after school with two 7th-graders and two 8th-graders, and by the time you read this, morning Sunday School programs will be in full swing for all ages. Included in that list is a new class being offered for our teens 7th grade and up. Ellen picked up some comfy beanbag chairs and a soft carpet to turn our stage area into a fun and welcoming area for them to engage with curriculum from our church’s online streaming service, **RightNow Media**, entitled “Not a Fan.” The adult Sunday School will also be utilizing **RightNow Media** in the chapel as they did last year, and would welcome even more participants to keep the discussion lively.

As you can see, I’m enthused that we can truly say we have Sunday School opportunities for “children of all ages.” My plan is to also have coffee ready in the narthex by 9:15 on Sunday mornings as well, so whether you’re bringing a child or yourself to Sunday School, feel free to grab a cup before or after our worship service! We are encouraging members to help the environment by bringing a travel mug (or even a favorite old coffee cup) to cut down on the number of disposable cups we use, but don’t worry if you forget—we’ll have cups available here too.

As September somehow already winds to a close and the vibrant colors of October begin to pop, let us all remember to hold our area farmers in our prayers for a safe, successful, and timely harvest. Agriculture is the backbone of this region and directly impacts our church in countless ways, from the availability of church volunteers to the financial support that keeps our church running. As we know, the spring was strangely late, so this prayer request will likely continue well on into November if we can hold the white stuff off until more like December!?!

One final thought as I get ready to send this over to Ann so that the newsletters can get to the post office: our wonderful **STARFISH FUND** has been a blessing to many in the community throughout the summer, and even more active in September. As such, it has been severely depleted and could use a dose of support in order to keep spreading God’s blessing to members our community who very much need bits of financial assistance. Please consider making a donation to keep this valuable community mission active!

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? You are invited to share this link with a friend as well—it’s a great opportunity to talk about our church with them while you offer nourishment for their Christian walk!

If not, just type in the address below on your favorite internet browser:

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Fairmont

September 18, 2019 Council minutes

Moderator Catherine Johnson is out of town. Julie Elliot, past moderator, started the meeting at 5:38 p.m. with Pastor Cory leading an opening prayer. Marilyn Forstrom is ill, so David Adams acted as clerk.

Members present: MaryDon Kislingbury, Deb Thate, Dave Meschke, Dave Adams, Larry Thompson, Cory Hainy. Joanne Eisenbarger was present for Finance.
MSC to approve August minutes.

Treasurer report – With Jodi Kulhers on vacation, Dave was unable to get his current numbers for the meeting. He will send a report to Council members when Jodi gets back.

Finance Committee – Review of Stewardship materials was presented, Including a cover letter, bulletin inserts, pledge cards, poster, etc. Will make final decision on pledge card layout this month. Julie reviewed mailing list and will do some mass emails in addition to mailings. Number of church members with email access is close to 50/50 split and will save some postage with the preliminary mailing. Plan is to email bulletin inserts following the Sunday service to keep the message out there. Marilyn and Julie to stuff envelopes on Tuesday, October 15 in the morning (help encouraged), or Council will help finish at October 16 meeting.

Pastors Report – September 14 wedding, regular communions, and will participate in the 150th anniversary celebration for First Presbyterian of Winnebago (his home church) on the afternoon of October 13. Confirmation has started with 3 students on Wednesday after school at the church with Pastor Cory instructing.

CE report – Good plan in place for Rally Sunday, September 22. Building excitement for all ages to be able to attend a Sunday School class of some sort, while some adults may simply come to share in coffee fellowship before church.

Diaconate – Member list updates, and keeping members involved.

Facilities – Workday is Saturday, September 21 to paint shed and outdoor trim work. Stage area has been stripped and sanded; will be sealed on an upcoming Monday or Tuesday to allow cure time. Blinking LED lights have been replaced. Received quotes for carpet replacement in upstairs CE area.

Hospitality – Harvest Festival day and time changed to Sunday, October 27 from 11-1. Cookie walk is December 6.

Mission – October Blessing Box is CUE. Habitat for Humanity quilt raffle is being run by Eric Johnson on October 5. Upcoming Community Meal hosts are: September - Facilities, October - Diaconate, and November still open.

Worship - October 27 church service will be one hour earlier (starting at 9:30 a.m.) to allow for Harvest Festival meal afterward. It will also be Stewardship Sunday, when we will celebrate by receiving our pledges for the coming year.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Fairmont

September 18, 2019 Council minutes continued

It was noted that Chris Gardner, a motivational and inspirational speaker, is coming to town on October 1 at Fairmont High School.

MSC to begin 3rd floor carpet removal, order, and installation; determination will be made on whether a hard surface flooring or resurface of existing hardwood floor would be best for kitchenette area. The bid was \$11,000 for carpet and \$4000 for hard surface, with a substantial savings if the original flooring can be refinished instead. \$12,000 has been donated towards this project.

Safe Church policy – tabled to finalize review of language updates.

Budget meetings – Jodie K. and Dave M. to coordinate times. Preliminary work is under-way with the committee reviews. One meeting will be to compile known expenses and projections. The next one will project our revenues and make adjustments as needed.

A Congregational meeting is being planned for November 10. Agenda items include number of members serving on church boards (6 + 1 vs. 6), shifting finance duties to council, possible combining of other boards, maintenance issues, by-law updates, etc.

Personnel committee will setup appointments for annual staff reviews.

MSC to adjourn to choir and other commitments at 7:02 p.m.

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**!



First Congregational Treasurer's report

1-Sep-19

Checking

General Account	\$ 46,586.37	9/1/2019
Operating Funds	\$ 40,158.78	
Capital Fund	\$ 5,571.91	
Designated Funds	\$ -	
Mission Funds	\$ 1,141.52	
Payroll Taxes	\$ (285.84)	

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

Investments

Operating Reserve	\$ 100,805.17	9/1/2019
Capital Reserve	\$ 40,395.39	9/1/2019
Endowment	\$ 43,853.94	9/1/2019
Parsonage	\$ 16,741.18	9/1/2019
Total investment	\$ 201,795.68	9/1/2019

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	\$ 12,635.00	\$ 3,171.00	\$ 1,182.00	\$ 93.00	33%	
May	\$ 7,980.00	\$ 3,129.00	\$ 980.00	\$ 12,009.00	42%	
June	\$ 8,837.00	\$ 2,581.00	\$ 1,676.00	\$ 111.00	50%	
July	\$ 7,805.00	\$ 3,847.00	\$ 415.81	\$ 10,000.00	58%	
August	\$ 10,450.00	\$ 1,864.00	\$ 996.00	\$ 17.00	67%	
September	\$ 2,930.00	\$ 887.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 102.00	75%	8-Sep
October					83%	
November					92%	
December					100%	
2019						
Total Pledge Offering	\$ 75,797.00					
Total Non-Pledge Offering	\$ 23,630.00					
Total Offering	\$ 99,427.00				58%	
Budgeted Offering	\$ 170,000.00					
non-budget mission	\$ 7,723.09					



Chicago Theological Seminary

is located in the heart of Chicago, directly adjacent to the University of Chicago. Questioning, teaching, and transforming describe the education at CTS, education that prepares students themselves for transformative leadership. This is a community that demands engagement. The purpose is serious. The work is filled with joy.

Enrollment is on the increase at CTS, and 35% of our students are 30 years old or younger. A full 38% of all students in 2008-09 were raised in and nurtured by UCC congregations. At the same time, the student body remains broadly diverse, including fourteen different faith traditions and several international students.

Deep biblical scholarship, a strong witness for peace and justice, innovative work with youth, degree offerings including Master of Arts, Master of Divinity, Master of Sacred Theology, Doctor of Ministry, and Doctor of Philosophy, opportunities for students-at-large, and continuing education are just a few of the many riches of Chicago Theological Seminary.

Denominational diversity enriches the classroom experience; it also says something important about the seminary's commitments. Chicago Theological Seminary is committed to involving a whole range of voices in theological discourse. We are also committed to maintaining connections with the church communities with whom we are in partnership – individually and collectively. We look to the wider church as a resource and dialogue partner.

See also: www.ctschicago.edu

United Theological Seminary

is located in St. Paul, Minnesota. In a world of diversity, unceasing change, and increasing interdependence, we prepare women and men for ordained and lay ministry – leaders who will help churches and people everywhere open themselves to the power of God's love, justice and mercy.

Through customized programs of study that integrate the development of academic knowledge, practical skills, spiritual strength, and ethical commitment, our students are prepared for vibrant and relevant ministries.

The seminary is an intellectual resource for church and society. Dedicated, internationally recognized faculty members carefully guide students and also contribute to the intellectual strength of the church through research and publications, community education here at the seminary and in churches, and presentations at national and international venues.

Created as an ecumenical seminary of the United Church of Christ, United Seminary is a multi-denominational, international community that includes a rich mix of students from over 20 different denominations as well as other world religions. Graduates go on to serve the church and the world – as pastors and lay leaders of churches large and small, urban and rural; as denominational leaders; as chaplains; as teachers, and as executives and professionals.

Academic degrees at United include Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Ministry. United also offers certificate and non-degree studies and a variety of continuing education opportunities.

See also: www.unitedseminary.edu

Eden Theological Seminary

is located in St. Louis, Missouri. Eden is called to strengthen the life of the church by educating women and men for ministry, enlivening critical reflection on faith, and supporting bold Christian discipleship. A radical hospitality undergirds a diverse and faithful community who live, work, study and teach at Eden.

Eden is committed to the study of theology in the context of community – the academic community of learning, the faith community of ecumenical and interfaith partners and the broader world-wide community. A strong international student presence as well as international study opportunities are integral to Eden's educational programs.

We know that good pastoral leadership can make a tremendous difference in a church. Eden's extensive contextual education program provides students with opportunities for experiential learning and mentoring.

Academic degrees offered at Eden include Masters of Divinity (MDiv), Master of Theological Studies (MTS), Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS), Doctor of Ministry (DMin) and a dual degree program with the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University, offering a combined MDiv or MAPS and Master of Social Work. Eden also offers non-degree, on-line, and continuing education opportunities for lay persons and clergy alike.

Eden recognizes that vocational formation does not take place in an isolated setting. It involves not just the Seminary, but a broad network of people and communities, including the home congregation of Eden's students. At Eden, these communities are intentionally and thoughtfully included in the work of shaping calls.

See also: www.eden.edu

Current Seminary Information – 2008-09:

Total Enrollment	620	Average Tuition	\$11,600
MDiv Students	@ 50%	Average Cost	
UCC Students	@ 30%	incurred by the seminaries	
Students under 35	@ 50%	per student per year	\$36,500

Your support makes a critical difference!

October Blessing Box - CUE

Every year in First Congregational UCC's budget, there is a line item for **CUE**. Ever wondered what that was?

CUE stands for **Chicago, United, and Eden** – three seminaries located in our area that prepare students for a ministry in the United Church of Christ.

Chicago Theological Seminary is located in the heart of Chicago.

United Theological Seminary is located in St Paul.

Eden Theological Seminary is located in St Louis.

These local seminaries help prepare students to serve local UCC churches. Without these seminaries, finding ministers in the UCC would be more difficult than it is!

Helping support **CUE** has been a part of First Congregational UCC's mission for many years. Our spiritual support helps keep the seminaries running and providing a vital service to our faith community. Our financial support helps assure students can afford to receive the education they need to answer their call.

The mission board decided this is such an important mission of our church that it deserved a little extra attention.

You will find information about each seminary in this newsletter along with website details if you're interested in learning more.

We will be celebrating these seminaries **Sunday, October 27** and will be taking a blessing box offering to further our support of **CUE**. Please prayerfully consider your support.

Thank you from the students, faculty and staff of Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries!
Your gifts of support, made through CUE, are helping to prepare leaders for the
United Church of Christ at our UCC seminaries.

Together we are equipping God's people for ministry!

CHICAGO UNITED EDEN
CUE SEMINARIES *of the*



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Partners in Ministry

October 6

Diaconate: Cory Hainy
 Head Usher: Larry Thompson
 Reader: Lee Hanning
 Greeters: Brad Cone and Wendy Z.

October 20

Diaconate: Cory Hainy
 Head Usher: George Jones
 Acolyte: Maia Goerndt
 Reader: Lee Trunkenbolz
 Greeters: Don & Shelby Marks

October 13

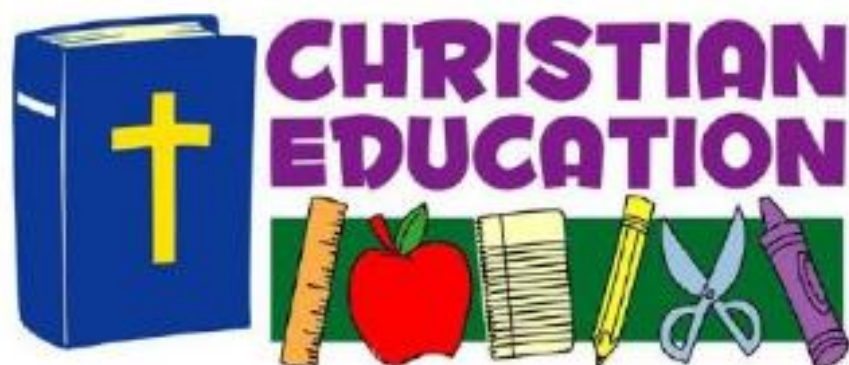
Diaconate: Cory Hainy
 Head Usher: Cory Hainy
 Reader: Cory Hainy
 Greeters: George and Ruth Ann Jones

October 27

Diaconate: Cory Hainy
 Head Usher: Randy and Pat Rowan
 Reader: Eric B. Johnson
 Greeters: Joe and Morgan Christensen

Memorials

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
18-Aug	Memory of Dick Kotewa		Maureen Boro
18-Aug	George & Ruth Ann Jones Anniversary	Starfish	Ann Hartmann
18-Aug	Memory of Bonnie Larsen	Starfish	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
18-Aug	Memory of Kay Hough	Starfish	Lorie Zoeller
1-Sep	George & Ruth Ann Jones Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
15-Sep	Memory of Dick Kotewa		Bonnie Johnson
15-Sep	Memory of Craig Nienkerk	Starfish	Jane Kotewa



Upcoming Dates:

October 20th: No Sunday School (MEA)

November 24th: Start of Christmas program practice

December 1st: Gingerbread House making and program practice

December 15th: Christmas Program

This year the Christian Ed department is using online Sign Up Genius for our Acolyte schedule. If your child is interested in signing up, here is the link.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f48a5ab28a13-20192020>

If you're unable to sign up online, please contact Melissa Goerndt and she will get you signed up.

Classes

Nursery/Lower Elementary: taught by Kay Campe Sundays 9:15-10:15am in the CE area.

Upper Elementary: taught by Elaine Zoeller Sundays 9:15-10:15am in the CE area.

Teen Class [Confirmation through 12th grade]: taught by Ellen Germain Sundays from 9:15-10:15am on the stage. The Class will be using Right Now Media.

Adult Class: taught by Rev Germain Sundays at 9:15am in the Chapel. The class will be using Right Now Media, topic to be determined.

CE Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Christian Ed area at 6:30pm
Co-chairs: Wendy Ziemer [ziemerwendy@gmail.com] and Melissa Goerndt [tmhmggoerndt@gmail.com]

Harvest Festival

“With Grateful hearts we celebrate the goodness in our lives.”

Sunday, October 27, 2018
Serving 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
319 Downtown Plaza - Fairmont

Ham Loaf Dinner

Adults: \$10.00
Youth (6-12): \$5.00
Children (under 5): FREE

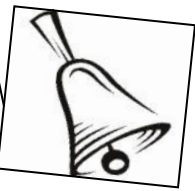
Items for sale:
Bake Sale Items,
Pecans, Wild Rice

**TAKE OUT OR DELIVERY AVAILABLE
BY CALLING 507-235-5382**

**DRIVE UP SERVICE AVAILABLE IN THE
ALLEY BEHIND THE CHURCH.**

**PLEASE CALL WITH ORDERS BY
NOON ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25TH.**





Ring in the Season with First Congregational UCC and the Salvation Army





COOKIE WALK INFORMATION

Save the date!

Our annual cookie walk will be Friday, December 6th 3-7 PM, with everyone's favorites to choose from along with pre-made trays! In order to make our fundraiser as successful as possible, we are asking for donations of the following ingredients. Let Cathy or Abby know what you would like to donate or watch for the sign up sheet at church!

30 lbs gold medal or pillsbury flour
25 lbs sugar
10 lbs unsalted butter
10 lbs salted butter
6 lbs salted dry roasted peanuts
10 lbs C&H powdered sugar
family size package of Hershey's kisses
4 pkgs mint truffle Hershey's kisses
5 pkgs Kraft caramels
6 lbs C&H brown sugar
4 pkgs flaked coconut
4 cans sweetened condensed milk
2 lg boxes Crispix cereal
2 boxes Cheeze-its-Spicy
large pkg mini pretzels

Please no generic/store brands,
and have donations at church by
November 4th! Thank you!





OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Kristen Campe
3 Elizabeth Norman
Adam Rachuy
4 Amanda Forstrom
Steve Urban
7 Mildred Brodt
Aubrey Elaine McAlister
11 Jenny Craven
Mike Thate
13 Logyn Cone
Jonissa Neitzel
15 John Holstine
17 Jon Anderson
18 Michael Rowan
19 Brian Thate
21 Sue Kruse

22 Jane Kotewa
Gracie Ziemer
David Adams
Jessi Kotewa
25 Kathy Jorgensen
28 Mark Becker
Staci Thompson
29 Angela Vaughn
30 Wanda Johnson
31 Barb Bittman

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 2	Brandon & Rachael Tonneson	9 yrs
Oct 9	Randy & Pat Rowan	48 yrs
Oct 15	Bill & Staci Thompson	14 yrs
Oct 20	Ken & Joy Rachuy	46 yrs
Oct 22	Kevin & Sarah Zabel	14 yrs
Oct 24	Steve & Janine Draper	39 yrs
Oct 31	Dean & Donna Grotte	49 yrs