

June 2021

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

Nonprofit
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Fairmont, MN 56031



First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031



WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fairmont, Minnesota*

Rev. Cory Germain
Minister

Ann Osborn
Administrative Assist

Joyce Jorgenson
Choir Director

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

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.

The Reverend's Ruminations - June 2021

Summer greetings to you and yours! It's hard to believe that the last time I shared my "ruminations" in the April newsletter I had just found out I would be attending the Air Force Basic Chaplain Course at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. The time seems to have flown by, and here I am back in Minnesota after successfully graduating and being declared "worldwide qualified" by the USAF Chaplain Corps College. As the highest-ranking student in the class, I was appointed as the class leader, which meant that I was in charge of distributing information to my classmates, making sure that each of them was present before class started, and even inspecting dress uniforms prior to graduation. None of that was new to me after years of enlisted and officer service in the Army, so it was a good ministry I could offer to both the faculty and my fellow students. There were several others with some prior service in either the Army or the Navy, and a mix of ages that even included one six months older than me! I wish I could say I now know the Air Force chaplaincy inside and out, but there will still be things to learn as I continue my service.

The casual picture to the right (taken at the airport after graduation) is me with the Air Force Chief of Chaplains, Major General Steven Schaick—who happens to be ordained in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) just as I am. He was the featured speaker at our graduation, and spoke passionately about the future of the chaplaincy from his perspective leading the corps for the past several years.



Speaking of graduation, I'm certainly not the only one. Graduation season is upon (or even past) us after a second strange, COVID-influenced year for students, teachers, and parents alike. This year's seniors did get to have some of the "normal" experiences that the class of 2020 missed, but it was challenging. Ellen and I cannot believe that we'll be "empty nesters" in the fall; it seems just yesterday that both our children were snapping those first-day-of-school photos with backpacks nearly as big as they were! Where has the time gone? We wish all our graduates well as we pray for their success and safety.

One of the points I made during our VERY busy Pentecost/Confirmation/Communion/Graduate/Teacher Recognition Sunday is that no matter our physical age, the journey of our faith is ongoing. Our new class of confirmands are not "graduating from" anything, but rather "into" adult membership and additional church involvement. This is actually true for each church member. The journey of faith is an ever-winding road, and none of us are fully mature in our faith until the day we meet God face-to-face—so we must find ways to feed our Christian curiosity and bolster our faith. Sunday School classes will be taking a break for the summer months, but I encourage everyone to take advantage of the church's ongoing subscription to RightNow Media as a free way to encounter new and exciting paths to support your faith journey. This online streaming service offers thousands of great Bible studies, Christian movies, faith conferences, and children's programs—and even includes an archive of our First Congregational UCC worship services. If you encounter a study that you'd like to share or have us offer as a class in the fall, please let me know!

As we march headlong into summer, we would do well to contemplate these words from God, as told through the prophet Isaiah:

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (55:10-11, NRSV)

May your summer be filled with warmth, family, and a chance to rejuvenate your soul.

Yours in Christ's service,

Rev. Cory Germain

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 5-19-2021**

The Council met in Heritage Hall. The meeting was called to order and led in prayer by Moderator, Marilyn Forstrom.

Members Present: Larry Thompson, Marilyn Forstrom, Abigail Roiger (via Zoom), Dave Adams, Cathy Celandier, Sue Kruse, Jane Kotewa, Catherine Johnson (via phone), Wendy Ziemer, Christina Hainy. Ex-officio members: Pastor Germain and Dara Bliesmer, Ass't Treasurer.

Members Absent: Robbin Celandier, Kay Campe

Minutes of the April 21 meeting were approved as printed with a minor change. Motion M/S/C (Larry/Abigail)

Treasurers Report: \$42,010 has been paid so far for Capital fund improvements. Catherine will be reopening the line of credit in late May. Motion was M/S/C (Dave/Wendy) to receive the Treasurer's report.

Finance Report: A \$30,000 gift was received from the Brodt's. We have tabled how to invest/code this gift until June's meeting. Short term disability insurance for Pastor Germain passed by council email.

Pastor's Report: Not presented at this meeting as Pastor Germain was out of town.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: Wendy reported that plans are made for Sunday, May 23rd. Also, there are 8 youth going to faith-based camps this summer. Motion was M/S/C (Catherine/Jane) to approve up to \$1000 for camps over what was already budgeted. Catherine is planning VBS (June 21-23) and will be calling to ask members for help at VBS.

Hospitality: Cathy reported that over 90 people attended April's Community meal. They are planning on the Pie Social and pork chops on a stick for IHD.

Missions: Meals on Wheels was provided by 16 members of the church and 4 others from the community. June's Blessing Box Offering will be for Relay for Life.

Facilities: Larry reported on projects. Krause Construction will be finishing up a few stones and doing sealing work. Motion was M/S/P (Larry/Catherine) to schedule Sherburn Nursery to work on the approach to the storage shed in the late summer/early fall. Cost is about \$2,290. Motion was M/S/C (Larry/Abigail) to fix some of the gutters that need replacing in the late summer/early fall for \$1000 max.

Diaconate: Sue reported that ladies will be continuing to call members on the members list. Any special concerns that are received will be acted on right away. Also, a reoccurring notice will be in the bulletins and newsletters.

Worship: Dave reported that they will be preparing/serving the Free Community Meal on May 26. They are looking into a joint Sunday service in the park with St. John's and another one outside for the congregation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Capital Campaign Research Committee: Marilyn will be calling members to join the committee. Please, consider being a part of the committee.

OLD BUSINESS: A motion M/S/C (Wendy/Larry) to update COVID policy per state guidelines. Also, we will be posting about IHD on church website and on Facebook.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion was M/S/C (Abigail/Sue) to allow the use of the church on June 24, 25 or 26 afternoon for COPAL (Communities Organizing Latinx Power and Action) to provide COVID vaccines. COPAL is a nonprofit that is working with MN Dept. of Health to reach the Latino Community.

Marilyn closed with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Clerk

In Memory of

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR MEMBER JACK MACKEY

Celebration of Life for member Jack Mackey will be Monday, June 7 at 11:30 a.m. in our sanctuary. Visitation with his family will be one hour prior to the service here. Jack passed in late January and his family chose to do his celebration on what would have been his 79th birthday. Lunch will follow in Heritage Hall with inurnment in Lakeside Cemetery beside his wife, Mary Ellen, who died in 1988.

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
25-Apr	Jim & Barb Bock Anniversary	Starfish	Ann Hartmann
25-Apr	Ann Hartmann Birthday	Starfish	Alice Maday
25-Apr	Tim & Kay Campe Anniversary	Starfish	Margaret Weaver
25-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Les Heinrich
9-May	Memory of Harold Stepanek	Music	Virginia Riedesel
9-May	Larry & Carolyn Thompson Anniversary	General Fune	Margaret Weaver
16-May	Tom & Kathy Jorgensen Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
16-May	Jim & Barb Bock Anniversary		Margaret Weaver

The Pastoral Relations Committee meets quarterly each year to discuss joys and concerns regarding our pastoral leadership. If you have input for the committee, please contact any of our members: Cindy Anderson, Lee Hanning, Pastor Cory Germain, Jon Neitzel, Dave Meschke and Deb Thate.

Coming up. . .

Worship Time Change

June 6th will start our 9:30 worship service



Join us for a graduation open house
in honor of

Cameron Germain

06.05.21
4-7 PM

The Refuge
125 N Moore St, Blue Earth, MN



Class
of 2021?

Gracie Ziemer

VBS

Call the church office to register your child(ren) and order a T-shirt
Help needed with Vacation Bible School

- Donate to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox service project. A list of suggested items to fill the shoeboxes is on our church website. Donations can be placed in the Christmas box by the church office. Thank you!!
- ♦ Help make, serve and clean up supper. On June 21, 22, and 23 4-6 people are needed for about an hour to help with the simple supper for the Vacation Bible School kids and adults. Volunteer for the night of your choice by calling or emailing the church office. Thanks!!!
Catherine

Christian Education News

Interlaken Heritage Days Parade: Saturday June 12- Parade 6 pm. Our Sunday School kids will have a unit in the parade. Join others in front of our church to watch the parade if you are not in the parade.

Summer Camp: Since the MN Conference no longer has Pilgrim Point camp, our church will pay up to \$250 per child/youth member to attend any faith based camp they chose. Some of our kids are planning to attend camps at the Lakeshore Center at Okoboji. Information went home with the Sunday School and Confirmation kids.

Vacation Bible School

June 21-23 from 5:30 to 7:15. Supper included. For ages 3-12. To register your kids, your kids friends, your grandkids, and your grandkids friends. Please let the church office know the child's name, age, and T-shirt size!

The Theme will be "I wonder". We will "wonder" about the gifts/talents that God has given us, what we can learn from others, and how we can serve others. We will do some tie dye, make some musical instruments, learn some songs, do some experiments, pack shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and have fun making joyful sounds of praise to the Lord.

The service project will be collecting and packing shoeboxes of supplies and gifts for Operation Christmas Child. To donate items for the boxes, see our church website for a list of needed and suggested items. There will be a box for donations near the church office.

FYI- MN Conference Outdoor Ministries 2021

- Fall Conference Youth Event, October 8-10 at Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center
- Middle School Retreat, July 12-14, Shalom Hill Farm Windom MN
- High School Retreat, July 17-19, Shalom Hill Farm Windom MN
- Families Canoe Adventures, three one-day events (dates TBA)

9:00 a.m.
June 18th is the
July Newsletter
submission deadline.

The Hospitality Board will be sponsoring a pie social on Interlaken Heritage Day, Saturday, June 12, 2021 during the Classic Car Show on Downtown Plaza, from 11:00-2:00 pm. We will also be serving Pork Chops on a stick that day.

Pie Social Ingredient Donations

****For quality control purposes, please purchase brands as noted and drop off at church prior to Thursday, June 10, 2021 unless noted differently.****

2-10 lb bags Robin Hood or Gold Medal Flour_____

(to be dropped off by 5/24/21)

3-3 lb cans Crisco_____

(to be dropped off by 5/24/21)

1 10 lb bag of sugar_____

(to be dropped off by 5/24/21)

3 boxes Kraft Minute Tapioca_____

(to be dropped off by 5/24/21)

2 4oz pkg. of Bakers unsweetened chocolate_____

2 lbs of bananas_____

18 cups fresh or frozen blueberries_____

10 lemons_____

6 quarts fresh strawberries_____

3 lbs butter_____

10 8 oz containers Cool Whip_____

2 5 qt pails vanilla ice cream_____

2 5 qt pails vanilla ice cream_____

1 5 qt pail vanilla ice cream_____

3 cans Wilderness cherry pie filling_____

3 cans Wilderness cherry pie filling_____



The **Martin County Relay for Life** will be holding a
Luminaria Drive Thru June 26, 4-8 pm
 at the **Martin County Fairgrounds!**



Our team,

First Congregational (UCC)²
United Church of Christ
United Cancer CRUSHERS

will be selling luminarias, white paper bags that will be on display at the Relay Drive Thru. Luminarias honor every life touched by cancer. You can dedicate them to a loved one lost, someone currently battling, or anyone who's overcome cancer. You can decorate the bag or have us do it for you. **Each bag is \$10.** Just fill out the form below and mail it with your donation to the church or drop it off during office hours; there will be a drop-off box in the church entryway. If you want to pick up a luminaria to decorate, they will be available next to the drop-off box.



There will be a Drive-Thru Survivorship dinner on Tuesday night, June 8th from 5-7:30 at the Fairgrounds.

Relay for Life Luminaria

My Name _____

My Address _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Number of Bags _____ **Amount** _____

- ☐ I will decorate my bag
☐ I want you to decorate my bag



Interview

with Bill & Pat Cowing
May 14, 2021



Pat (Patricia Moore) Cowing was born to John and Wanda Moore at home in Guckeen, Minnesota and was delivered by her Grandmother who was a practical nurse. She is the oldest of 4 kids.

She attended first grade in Guckeen School. They moved to Welcome where Pat went to Country School for one year. Then the family moved back to the farm outside Guckeen. Pat went to school in Granada and sang in the high school choir until she graduated in 1956.

Bill was born to George & Bertha Cowing on the family farm, rural Granada, and went to Huntley High School graduating in 1955. He was co-captain of the Huntley Football Team and also the Huntley Basketball Team. Pat & Bill met at a Granada vs Huntley ball game held in the Huntley gym.

They were married the following year in November 1956 in the Chapel of First Congregational Church in Fairmont, Minnesota by the Rev. E. E. Manes (after deer-hunting season!!)

They will be celebrating 65 years this year!!! (Congratulations!!)

They belonged to the Granada Congregational Church where they were very active in the church. They were part of the remodeling of the church when the addition was put on it. Bill served on the church council and ushered. Pat sang in the choir, was a member of the Mother's Club, and sang in the "Granny's Gals". She served on the church council as church secretary two different times.

She and Joyce Rice planned the Worship Dedication service for the newly remodeled church. When the Granada church closed, they joined First Congregational UCC of Fairmont.

They have two children--Larry and Sherry. Larry and Allison have 4 children: Tyler, Trever, Paige, and Ciara and one grandchild Fletcher. Sherry and Pat have two children: Amanda "Mandy" and Christopher "Chris". Mandy is married to Austin Willey and has two step-children, Madison and Tyler. Chris is going to be married this coming September and they will live in the Cities.

For 56 years Pat and Bill lived on the family farm where Bill farmed with his Dad and then with their son Larry until Bill retired. They moved to Eltinge Place in Fairmont for seven years until they moved to their present home on South Orient. Over the years they liked to dance, travel across the USA, Alaska, Hawaii and parts of Canada also.

Note: We had such a good time visiting and laughing during the interview.

Submitted by Lee Hanning

HyVee and Fareway Receipts Report

Report as of 16 May 2021

During the last five weeks, only \$13,617.64 (9.08%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were turned in. After 33 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$117,437.08 (78.29%) toward the 13th \$150,000 goal.

During the same five weeks, only \$2,308.43 (1.54%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 15 weeks, Fareway is at \$26,786.18 (17.86%) toward our 4th \$150,000 goal.

Thanks for bring into the Church, or mailing them to me. Even the very small amounts help. This program started the first of March 2011, so any slips from then until now can be used. During these five weeks, there were a number of with only \$0.18 or less for gas. They help us reach the goal. Keep them coming. 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.

**Reported by;
Jim Bock**



DENNIS THE MENACE

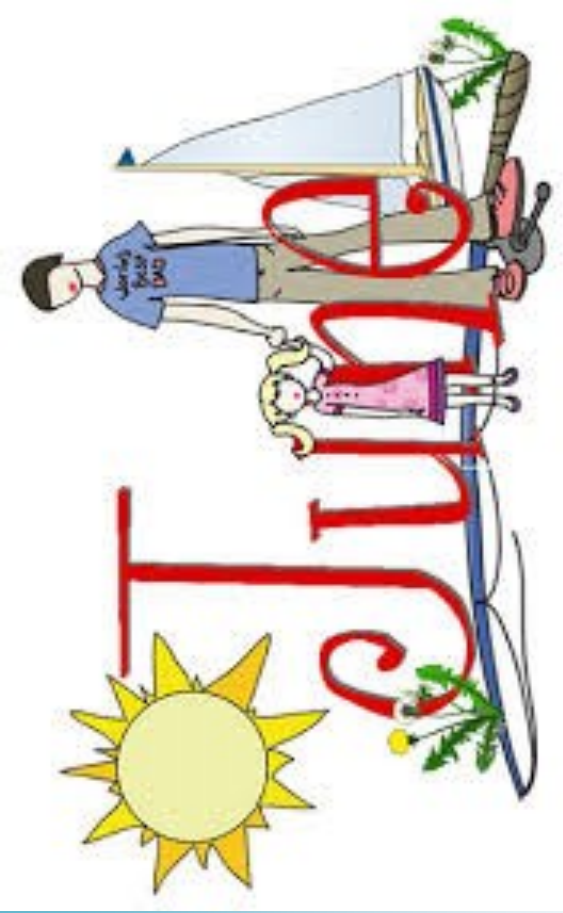


"HOW CAN MR. WILSON RUN OUT OF PATIENCE?
HE NEVER USES ANY OF IT!"

HAPPY Father's DAY!

SEIFRIED PORTRAIT DESIGN AUCTION CERTIFICATE

The church has an available certificate, donated by Seifried Portrait Design, good for \$125.00 for a family session. This item has an expiration of 7/31/21. Any amount bid will go to the church. Please call the church office if interested.



2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 5:30 Worship Board	3 6:00 T.O.P.S.	4	5
6 <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship	7	8 10:00 Lakeview Communion	9 5:15 Mission Board 6:30 CE Board	10 5:15 Hospitality 7:00 Facilities 6:00 T.O.P.S.	11 9:00 am Council Agenda Items Deadline	12 11:00-2:00 <i>HPD Pic social</i>
13 <i>Father's Day</i> 9:30 Worship	14 5:00 FCH Foundation	15	16 5:30 Church Council	17 6:00 T.O.P.S.	18 9:00 am July Newsletter Submission Deadline	19
20 9:30 Worship	21	22 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	23	24 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 T.O.P.S.	25	26
27 9:30 Worship Blessing Box Relay for Life	28 4:30 Parent To Parent	29	30 5:30 Free Community Meal			



June Birthdays 2021

June 1	Rowena Nepomuceno Georgia Malo
June 2	Charlene Norris
June 3	Zoe June Becker
June 4	Karin Rosen Dave Martens
June 5	Ryan Guritz Everett Hanning Donna Christensen
June 6	Hailie Stenzel Tara Thedens
June 7	Pat Cowing
June 8	Jon Riggs
June 10	Arden Hanson Char Kost Kara Rowan
June 11	Sue Eisenbacher
June 12	Joanne Eisenbarger
June 14	Randy Musser
June 15	Margo Becker
June 18	Roger Buchan
June 19	Rita Craven
June 24	Ruth Ann Jones
June 24	Easton Jorgensen
June 25	Phyllis Betts
June 26	Tom Rosen
June 27	Jace Prindle
June 28	Lori Thate
June 29	Eric D. Johnson
June 29	Elaine Zoeller

June Anniversaries 2021

June 1	Kim & Jan Shaffer	47 yrs
June 3	Dar & Jodi Kuhlers	44 yrs
June 5	Larry & Donna Christensen	50 yrs
June 5	Matt and Brandi Guritz	11 yrs
June 7	Shawn & Jessica Elliott	18 yrs
June 14	Eric & Catherine Johnson	40 yrs
June 14	Robbin & Cathy Celander	31 yrs
June 16	Conrad & Lori Zoeller	42 yrs
June 17	Cory & Christina Hainy	26 yrs
June 18	Daniel & Tatia Moller	5 yrs
June 20	Dan & Deb Thate	29 yrs
June 21	Steve & Tranna Urban	13 yrs
June 30	Everett & Lee Hanning	65 yrs
June 30	Justin & Tara Thedens	20 yrs

