

November 2021

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

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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



Sunday School 9:15

Worship 10:30

Communion the first Sunday of
every month.



2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 4:00 Confirmation 5:15 Mission Board 5:30 Worship Board 6:30 CE Board	4	5	6
7 Daylight Savings Time Ends Communion Sunday 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	8	9 10:00 Lakeview Communion	10 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Diaconate	11 Veteran's Day 5:15 Hospitality 7:00 Facilities Board 6:00 TOPS	12 9:00 a.m. Council Agenda Items Deadline	13
14 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	15 5:00-6:00 FCH Foundation	16 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	17 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Free Community Meal 5:45 Church Council	18 9:30 Bible Study 6:00 TOPS	19 9:00 a.m. December Newsletter Submission Deadline	20
21 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	22 5:30 Parent To Parent	23	24	25 	26	27
28 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection	29	30				

The Reverend's Ruminations - November 2021

Well, here we are, "falling" toward another page on the calendar—one that is always full of changing temperatures, changing scenery, and sometimes even a change in life focus. We have fewer "snowbirds" among our congregation than in years past, but have you found yourself changing your daily activities as the days have grown shorter? Are you staying indoors more often or watching more TV? Have you begun craving the flavors of fall, like chili or roasted meats and root vegetables? What... did you think I meant pumpkin spice everything?!?

It's amazing how changing temperatures and amounts of daylight can influence our mental attitudes and even our physical health. Having holidays to celebrate and additional activities to attend during the winter months can be helpful, even if the weather sometimes influences our plans. If the warmer months kept you travelling or otherwise occupied, I hope that you'll take the opportunity of the approaching winter season to get involved in a church activity that can be a blessing to your soul. Before you know it, we'll be decorating the sanctuary, packing boxes for *Operation Christmas Child*, building gingerbread houses, and practicing for the children's Christmas program. Maybe you could volunteer some time to help make these a success? There is an ongoing monthly women's Bible study if you haven't gotten involved yet, and I'd like to start a monthly men's breakfast devotional in the new year. If you have other ideas for activities that reach members or the broader community with similar schedules or interests, please let me know!



Thanksgiving is of course the next waypoint on many peoples' minds, and while not every family's celebration will yet be back to "normal" because of the ongoing pandemic, I pray that you can find much to be thankful for in 2021.

I am particularly thankful to say that, as of the first of November, I've been your pastor now for five years! Where have those months and years gone?

We've encountered many ups and downs together, but to my recollection the "ups" have far outnumbered the "downs." We've celebrated the big sesquicentennial of Congregational ministry in Fairmont, baptized and confirmed several young members, enjoyed fall festival and other potluck meals, hosted vacation Bible school, reinvigorated our Sunday School programs, and celebrated both weddings and funerals for members of our church family. These are not my achievements, but yours as a congregation; I'm just happy to say that I am a part of all the hard work and the resulting ministry that is continuing to better our community and advance the cause of Christ in a world longing for hope. Perhaps our thankfulness is best expressed by the Psalmist:

"Praise the Lord! I will thank the Lord with all my heart as I meet with his godly people. How amazing are the deeds of the Lord! All who delight in him should ponder them. Everything he does reveals his glory and majesty. His righteousness never fails. He causes us to remember his wonderful works. How gracious and merciful is our Lord!" (Psalm 111:1-4, New Living Translation)

As the leaves disappear and something whiter inevitably threatens to fall, I pray that you feel yourself wrapped in the warmth of God's everlasting presence!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Cory Germain

rightnow MEDIA

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

There is something for everyone on rightnow MEDIA! Maybe you (or one of the men in your family) have wondered if there is anything out there geared toward a man's spiritual growth? Well look no further. In ***Called to Act: 5 Uncomplicated Disciplines for Men***, Vince Miller combines scriptural truth with basic, fundamental, spiritual disciplines that are broken down into actionable steps made just for men:

If you are a man who feels that spiritual growth is at times frustrating—you are not alone! Most men find spiritual growth over complicated, but it doesn't need to be that way. In the series, Called to Act: 5 Uncomplicated Disciplines for Men, speaker and author Vince Miller provides an understanding of five essential spiritual disciplines that ignite a lifelong journey of spiritual development made just for men. Leave the ranks of the hesitant and join a movement of men.

Do you enjoy seeing a good magic show? Do you also struggle occasionally with questions of faith? We all do! But God is with us through all the many "illusions" that life throws our way. Gather your family and prepare to be both challenged and entertained by Christian speaker and illusionist Harris III. ***Shattered*** is a series of five episodes that will help you look at God's truth and your faith from a different angle:

Next Step's Shattered series showcases master illusionist Harris III as he uses the power of illusion and the gospel to bring people closer to a loving and living God. Uncover the lies and deception in the world as they fall away in the truth of Christ. Get ready to have your faith boosted, and your worldly illusions shattered!

***Do you still need to sign up for a FREE rightnow MEDIA account?**

There are 3 convenient ways: Go to <https://www.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/FCONG>

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



Once logged in to your **FREE** account, you can either scroll down the left side library list OR click on the LIBRARIES icon in the upper left corner of the screen and select "First Congregational UCC" to access the "Fairmont Worship Services" channel, or any of the other great resources on the site. "Pastor Cory's Picks" 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

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 10-20-2021**

Members Present: Marilyn Forstrom, Abigail Roiger, Cathy Celander, Jane Kotewa, Sue Kruse, Wendy Ziemer, Kay Campe, Catherine Johnson, and Christina Hainy. **Ex-officio members present:** Pastor Germain and Dara Bliesmer, Ass't Treasurer. Robbin Celander, Larry Thompson, and Dave Adams were unable to attend.

The Council met in Heritage Hall. The meeting was called to order by Moderator, Marilyn Forstrom. Pastor Germain led in prayer. Minutes of the September 15 meeting were approved as printed. Motion M/S/C (Jane/Abigail).

Treasurer's Report: Catherine presented the treasurer's report. We have received \$1000 from the HyVee program because of the efforts of Jim Bock! However, September's giving across the board was down. There will be a budget building meeting on Tuesday, November 30th at 5:30PM for pizza/6PM meeting. This includes Church Council members, Council Representatives from each board, Budget Representatives from each board, and Members-at-large: Deb Thate and Dave Mescke. Each board should have their proposed budget numbers to Catherine with details before the meeting. Motion to receive treasurer's report was M/S/C (Jane/Wendy).

Finance/Business: Nothing decided at this meeting.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory presented the report for September and October highlights. He explained he will be at National Guard drills one Sunday/month in 2 out of the 3 months during each quarter.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: Wendy shared that tonight is the movie/fun night for youth. There will be a Trunk or Treat coming up on October 31st immediately after church. November 7th is Operation Christmas Child box-packing during Sunday school and December 5th will be gingerbread houses during Sunday School.

Hospitality: Cathy reported that a COVID-friendly cookie walk is planned. They are selling only made-up trays (2 sizes) and will take preorders until November 14th.

Facilities: A few projects are still planned for this fall. Materials for the shed have arrived.

Diaconate: Sue reported that they are doing the Community Meal this month. They are working on deciding on a budget representative.

Missions: Kay reported that the Adopt a Highway programs is on hold because of no response from the program. They will be providing the November Community meal. Jon Riggs is building the Free Little Pantry. They are thinking about a fundraiser for the Glows Parade on Friday, November 19th.

Worship: Marilyn reported that Acolyte training will be soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship Drive: Marilyn reported that letters at the end of September have been sent. Pledges can be sent by email or text this year as well as by returning pledge cards.

Nominating/Budget: Representatives were recorded by Jane.

OLD BUSINESS: Pastor Cory will update signs to strongly encourage all to wear masks inside the church. Jane will be writing thank you notes for gifts to the church.

NEW BUSINESS: There was discussion on a possible Glows Parade float. Boards should update Talent surveys. We are adding "What can the church do for you?" to survey and wanting to talk about the future of the church to members of all ages to brainstorm what attendance in the future looks like.

Pastor Germain closed with a prayer, and the meeting was adjourned by Marilyn Forstrom.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Clerk



DO YOU LIKE TO READ?



A CHRISTMAS CAROL



We need volunteer readers for a
community reading of

"A Christmas Carol."

Hope to see you at the first practice on

OCTOBER 27, 2021

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Martin County Library

110 N. Park Street Fairmont, MN

This is the third annual community reading of the story by Charles Dickens. This performance will not be the play, but a community reading of the story itself, as written by Charles Dickens in 1843. The book in its entirety will be read to the public the second week of December.

..... **QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL 507-848-4414**

Hy-Vee and Fareway Receipts Report as of 17 October 2021

During the last five weeks \$18,804.38 (12.54%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were turned in. After 12 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$53,695.8 (35.30%) toward the 14th \$150,000 goal.

During the same five weeks, \$5,899.12 (3.93%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 41 weeks, Fareway is at \$52,128.57 (34.32) toward our 4th \$150,000 goal.

Thanks for bringing the slips into the Church, or mailing them to me or dropping them off at my house. Even the very small amounts help. 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.

**Reported by;
Jim Bock**



9:00 a.m., November 19th, is the December Newsletter submission deadline.

November Blessing Box – CWS Blankets

CWS Blankets: because our neighbors deserve warmth and comfort

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). God has blessed us with so much, and we have much to share. Share this love by providing Church World Services Blankets to those in need. Each blanket costs only \$10, but these blankets can be a vital resource for someone needing a little support, warmth, and encouragement.

When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.

2020 was challenging, but congregations stepped up and provided 101,472 CWS Blankets and Kits to families impacted by the pandemic, hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, and other crises including homelessness and poverty.

Here's how the gifts helped in 2020:

21,855 blankets 39,855 Hygiene Kits 32,820 School Kits 6,942 Cleanup Buckets

As we head into the holiday seasons, we invite you to reflect on all the many blessings that have been bestowed upon you. We will be collecting our blessing box offering for the Church World Services Blanket Fund this month. Each time you snuggle in with your favorite blanket, think about being without it . . . and add to your blessing box offering.

You are welcome to give a donation anytime during November and December by leaving a donation in the in the church office or leaving it in the offering plate with a designation of Blankets. Many people like to give to the Blanket Fund in honor or memory of a loved one. There are cards available on the back table or in the church office you may give to those you are honoring to remind them of the gracious gift give you gave in their name.



For more information on
CWS Blankets or to donate
online, visit
<https://cwsblankets.org/>

**They are also
filled with
abundant joy,
which has
overflowed in
rich
generosity.**

2 Corinthians 8:2

The **November Free Community Meal** is moved ahead a week, to **November 17**. Consider it a prelude to Thanksgiving! We will be serving a **"Martin County Flavored" Thanksgiving Casserole!**

If you are interested in **helping**, let a Mission Board member or the church office know, and we will put you to work! If you are interested in **baking pumpkin bars**, let us know!! This will be a drive-thru event – invite your family and friends to join us!



Mark your Calendars

Hello Parents,
This year is off to a great start and we have so many fun things planned for this year. Below is a list of what we have going on this year so that you can be prepared to join in on the fun!



Christian Ed

NOV 7 *Operation Christmas Child*

We will be packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year. Attached you will find a list of appropriate items and items to avoid. If you would like to donate items for the boxes, consider taking your child shopping at Walmart or the Dollar store to help pick out items for the boxes. Getting them involved will not only be fun, but will make the project more meaningful for the kids. Donations for the boxes can be dropped off in the large Donation box by the stairs anytime up to November 7th. We will pack boxes during Sunday School that Sunday. Jr and Sr high kids are invited to help!

Nov 17 *Christmas Program Practice*

We will be having a lot of fun with this year's Christmas Program and we will be starting practice Nov 17th with a pizza party. Drop kids off at 6:30 and pick up at 8PM. Community meal will also be that night so feel free to swing through the line for supper. *Additional practice dates set tentatively for Dec 1st, 8th, and 15th at 6:30.*

Dec 5 *Gingerbread Houses!*

We will be building Gingerbread houses during Sunday School in the basement and also practicing our music for the Christmas Program.



Dec 19 *Christmas Program*

The Grinch Who Found the Christ in Christmas! Bring your kids to Sunday School in their best Whoville attire (unless they are playing a special part). We will be doing a final practice before the big show during service!

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
Sept 26	Brad & Vonnie Cone Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
Oct 17	Memory of Lori Marushin	Starfish	Cindy & Jon Anderson
Oct 17	Memory of Lori Marushin	Capital	Larry & Carolyn Thompson

Memorials

Poinsettia Ordering

You may be shocked to see poinsettias in the November Newsletter since we don't usually order them until December. But like so many other things, availability of the flowers is unsure and the store needed our order by Oct. 29. So we ordered a variety of size and color in advance of our usual sale date late in November.

You can purchase one of these to decorate the sanctuary during Advent in the memory or honor of someone you love. Just contact Marilyn Forstrom to choose the size and color you want.

Marilyn

mforstrom@gmail.com

or 612-308-0500

The Worship Board



"The essential fact of Christianity is that God thought all humanity worth the sacrifice of His Son." - William Barclay

2021 Cookie Walk Ingredient Donations

1. 30 lbs Gold Medal or Pillsbury Flour _____
2. 25 lbs Sugar _____
3. 5 lbs Unsalted Butter _____
5 lbs Unsalted Butter _____
5 lbs Unsalted Butter _____
4. 5 lbs Salted Butter _____
5. 2 lbs Salted Dry Roasted Peanuts _____
6. 12 lbs C&H Powdered Sugar _____
7. 2 Containers Cornstarch _____
8. 1 Family size bag Hershey's kisses _____
9. 4 pkgs. Mint Truffle Hershey's kisses _____
10. 6 lbs C&H Brown Sugar _____
11. 1 Large Hershey's cocoa _____
12. 1 Large Jif Creamy Peanut Butter _____
13. 1 lb. salted cocktail peanuts _____
14. 1 8 oz Watkins vanilla _____
15. 1 large box Rice Krispies _____
16. 24 oz. white chocolate baking bars _____
17. 3 bottles dark molasses _____
18. 4 12 oz bags Hersheys or Nestles Milk Choco Chips _____
19. 3 pkgs. White Almond Bark _____
20. 2 12 oz. bags Hersheys or Nestles SemiSweet Choco Chips _____
21. 2 pkgs Chocolate Almond Bark _____

Please have ingredients at church prior to Wednesday,

November 3rd if possible. Hospitality Board appreciates your donations!

COVID

Cookie Walk

December 3rd • 5 - 7:30 pm

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**

319 Downtown Plaza, Fairmont

*Selling trays of assorted
homemade cookies*

LARGE TRAYS - \$25

SMALL TRAYS - \$15

**Guarantee by taking pre-orders
until Thursday, November 14th.**

*Contact the church office Tuesday
to Friday from 9:30am to 12pm at:*

uccsecretary319@gmail.com

507-235-5382



Ingredients:

1 c sugar
1 c coconut
1 stick margarine
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
3 c cooked, mashed sweet potatoes

Boil potatoes whole then peel them (if using canned potatoes, drain well). Mix all ingredients together and put in ovenproof casserole dish.

Mix together:

1 c brown sugar
1 stick melted margarine
1/2 c chopped pecans

Spread over sweet potatoes.

Bake 30 minutes in 350 degree oven.

Sweet Potato Casserole

Many years ago my sister gifted me with a recipe book. Among other tasty dishes, within its pages, was this recipe for Sweet Potato Casserole. I have made it for many Thanksgiving dinners. I hope you enjoy trying this dish! ~ Ann

HAPPY Anniversary!

Nov 3	David & Lisa Meschke	14 yrs
Nov 18	Gene & Barb Pitcher	43 yrs
Nov 21	Cory & Ellen Germain♥	23 yrs
Nov 23	Bill & Pat Cowing	65 yrs
Nov 29	Bill & Barb Bittman	46 yrs
Nov 29	Byron & Becky Phillips	52 yrs



happy birthday

Nov 5	Orel Barker
	Jessica Bicknase
Nov 7	Alyzae Prindle
Nov 8	Tom Jorgensen
Nov 9	Joy Pollock
Nov 10	Conrad Zoeller
Nov 11	Bob Cone
	Tana Lasch
Nov 13	Dalton Massey

Nov 14	Hillary Forstrom Harrison
Nov 15	Joe Christensen
Nov 16	Steve Draper
Nov 17	Tyler Grefe
Nov 20	Vince Vaughn
Nov 20	Reid Michael Cain
Nov 23	Wanda Anderson
	Lee Hanning
	Reid Rosen

Nov 25	Erica Thate
Nov 26	Kate Hawkins
Nov 27	Jodie Whitmore
Nov 29	Ryan Meyer
	Jeff Skog
	Dakota Gilbertson
Nov 30	Jenny Willard
	Savannah Goerndt