

December 2020

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

Sunday School 9:15

Worship 10:30

Communion the first Sunday
of every month.



The Reverend's Ruminations - December 2020

As we enter the season of Advent with its anticipation of the Christmas event, old familiar feelings come over us. No matter what our age, this time of year brings twinges of anticipation. As children it was for the first snowfall, sledding, ice skating, hot chocolate, mom's holiday baking, and of course the Christmas presents that begin to appear under the tree. Come to think of it, some of the anticipation is the same as we grow older, only some of it starts to feel more like dread. When will I have to shovel that first snowfall or fire up the snowblower? Will I do some unexpected "ice skating" as I make my way to the grocery or the post office? How will I ever get all those cookies baked? And how will we afford to put any gifts under the tree this year in the midst of a pandemic? Will we even be able to have a family gathering if COVID-19 cases continue to stay at (or even set new) record numbers in the area?

It can start to feel overwhelming if we let ourselves lose too much of our childlike joy for the season, but that doesn't need to happen. Prioritize the most important of your chores, but don't forget to take time to watch those first flakes float down outside your window and just recall what a simple joy that felt like as a child. Take time to pray, thanking God that you are warm inside your home and asking that others less fortunate will find shelter against the cold. Open your Bible and read about the anticipation of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary in the first chapter of Luke as it points to the familiar story of Christ's birth that we'll share during the Christmas Eve service.

Ten years ago this month, anticipation of a different kind was building to a fevered pitch. The 419th Movement Control Battalion (US Army Reserve) and I had finished ten months of work in Afghanistan, trained our replacements to carry on the mission there, and couldn't wait to get on a plane headed back to the United States. Ellen and the kids, like all the families, were counting the hours until our arrival. The anticipation for all of us was not unlike the excitement of a five-year-old lying under the family Christmas tree on December 23rd—the presents are in place, but can't yet be opened. When the day finally arrived and I surprised each of the kids in their classrooms, it felt like Christmas had come early as I held each of them in my arms. Having experienced *that* joy, I can only imagine the feelings that must have washed over Mary as she held the long-anticipated messiah in her arms that first Christmas day.

To help focus your Advent season this year, I will be distributing a weekly email *Advent and Christmas Family Toolkit* which is being produced by the UCC Minnesota Conference. Look for it to be included with my weekly bulletin email that prepares you to attend church services either in person or virtually through our Facebook, RightNow Media, or church web pages (or Thursday afternoons on Fairmont cable channel 12). If you would like to go a little deeper in your Advent preparations—with a scripture reading, short reflection, and prayer each day—I also have printed copies of an excellent devotional published each year by Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Stop by the office during the week or pick one up in the narthex on Sunday.


My wish for you this Christmas season is that you never lose that Advent anticipation you knew as a child. Take time during this busy month to keep Christ in your Christmas!

Blessings to you and yours,

Rev. Cory Germain

December 20



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 Lakeview Communion	2 4:00 Confirmation 5:00 Worship Board 5:30 Diaconate	3 9:30 Bible Study 6:00-7:00 T.O.P.S.	4	5
6 <i>Communion</i> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	7	8	9 4:00 Confirmation 5:00 Mission Board 6:30 CE Board	10 5:15 Hospitality 7:00 Facilities 6:00-7:00 T.O.P.S.	11 9:00 am Council Agenda Items Deadline	12
13 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	14 5:00 FCH Foundation	15 10:00 Goldfich Communion	16 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Church Council w/Finance Board	17 6:00-7:00 T.O.P.S.	18	19
20 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection Christmas Fund	21	22	23	24 5:30 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25	26
27 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	28	29	30 5:30 Free Community Meal Drive-thru	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>		

COUNCIL MINUTES

For 11-18-2020

First Congregational UCC

The Council met via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Moderator, Jane Kotewa. Rev. Germain shared some thoughts on prayer and led in prayer.

Members Present: Jane Kotewa, Larry Thompson, Cory Hainy, David Adams, Dolores Gronewald, Wendy Ziemer, Catherine Johnson, Joanne Eisenbarger, Marilyn Forstrom. Ex-Officio member present were Pastor Cory and Dara Bliesmer, Ass't Treasurer.

Members Absent: Robbin Celandier and David Meschke

Minutes of the October 21, 2020 meeting were approved as printed. (M/S/C Larry/Cory)

Treasurer's Report: Motion was M/S/C (Dolores/Larry) to receive the printed report. Note was made of the helpful side notes that Dave Meschke, Treasurer had made available in his absence. Being 92% through the year, we have only received 76% of pledged and non-pledged giving but it is believed we will end the year in the black, thanks in part to the PPP loan received last spring. Dara reported that we received \$1632 in the form of a Cares Act Grant to cover video/streaming equipment.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory's report was received as printed indicating routine duties, a Right Now Conference and Legion Honor Guard duties.

Board Reports:

Christian Ed: Wendy reported that the new curriculum is working very well. Kits will be made and delivered to the children in lieu of in person "Gingerbread House" building.

Diaconate: Cory Hainy reported on their usual activities. Abigail Roiger is spearheading an online auction fundraiser. Watch for more information.

Facilities: Larry Thompson reported that approximately \$1500 of the \$2300 cost of the snowblower has been donated so far. Additional donations can be sent to the church office. The Board has been working on repair of damaged walls in the storage room on south side of the stage.

Hospitality: Dolores Gronewald reported that the Board has received orders for 69 pies for their fundraiser.

Missions: Joanne Eisenbarger reminded us that the Council had agreed to serve the Free Community Meal on Dec. 30. We plan to serve Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and bars. Joanne will do publicity.

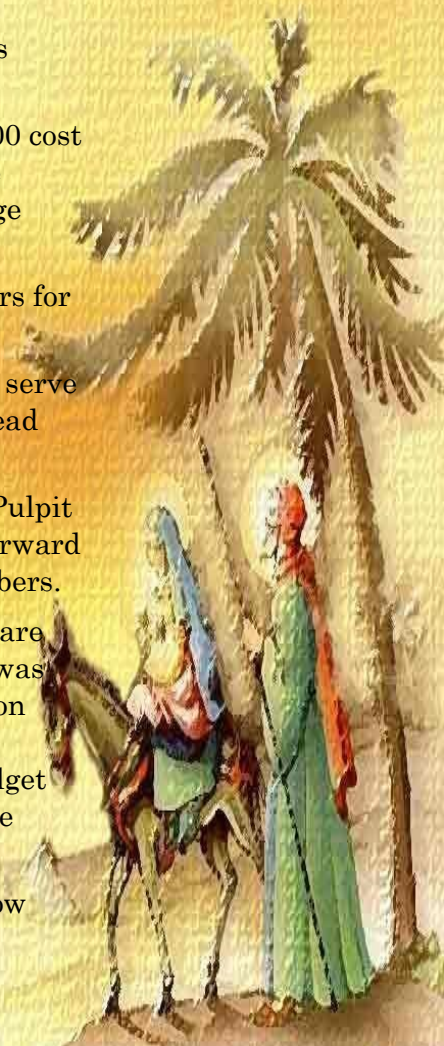
Worship: Seasonal decorating will be done following worship on Nov. 22. Pulpit supply has been arranged for 11-22-2020, working on 1-24-21. Plans are moving forward for Christmas Eve service and Blue Christmas service...depending on COVID numbers.

Old Business: Catherine had sent a report from Nominating Committee. Efforts are still in progress. Following discussion reviewing our new cleaning service, motion was M/S/C (Cory/Larry) to increase Jill's pay effective Dec. 1, 2020. There was discussion regarding ongoing COVID strategy, confirmation, Bylaw changes and plans for distribution. The sale of ham loaves netted approximately \$400. The proposed budget was received from the Budget committee. Motion was M/S/C to recommend it to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

New Business: The Annual Meeting date was set for January 31, 2021 with a snow date of 2-7-2021.

Pastor Cory closed with prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Forstrom, Clerk



Partners in Ministry

Ushers, Readers, Greeters
First Congregational UCC
December 2020

December 6

Diaconate: Eric B. Johnson
Usher Dave Meschke
Reader Kay Campe
Greeter Sue Kruse

December 13

Diaconate: Eric B. Johnson
Usher Trenton Jorgenson
Reader Ellen Germain
Greeter Kathy Jorgenson

December 20

Diaconate: Eric B. Johnson
Usher Eric Johnson
Reader Catherine Johnson
Greeters Catherine Johnson

December 27

Diaconate: Eric B. Johnson
Ushers Larry Thompson
Reader Carolyn Thompson
Greeter Carolyn Thompson

<i>Memorials</i>	Date	Memory/Honor of	Donor Designation	From
	25-Oct	Dean & Donna Grotte Anniversary	Capital	Jim Grotte
	25-Oct	Memory of Chuck Neusch		Lyle & Charlene Norris
	1-Nov	In Honor of Ginny Riedesel	Starfish	Marilyn Forstrom
	1-Nov	Memory of Todd Bauman	Starfish	Virginia Riedesel
	1-Nov	Steve & Janine Draper Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
	8-Nov	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Les Heinrich
	8-Nov	Dean & Donna Grotte Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
	15-Nov	Memory of Larry Carlson	Starfish	Marilyn Forstrom
	15-Nov	Memory of Betty Jorgensen-Wise	Starfish	Wanda Johnson

INTERVIEW

Wanda (Rowan) Johnson - Nov 10, 2020

Wanda (Rowan) Johnson was born in her grandparent's home in Emmett County, Iowa. At the time of her birth, it was usual to be "at home" with a midwife in attendance. She and her parents lived near Iowa Lake but moved to Martin County before she was two years old.

Wanda attended District 28 Country School near Granada. Ruth Anthony (a well-known Granada woman) was her teacher. When she reached 7th grade, the country schools were closed to the older students and transferred to Granada High School in Granada. Wanda was graduated in 1954 as Co-Valedictorian with classmate Janice (Porter) Oberg. LaRayne Hiller was Salutatorian. (I remember these girls and how smart they were...and I was a little "in awe" of their accomplishments!)

After graduation, Wanda worked at First National Bank in Fairmont for three years. During this time she became a member of First Congregational Church UCC of Fairmont. She met Ken Jorgensen and they were married in 1957. They lived on a farm south of Fairmont and were blessed with three children: Ken Jr., Jill, and Jim. Ken Sr. had served in the Air Force, was discharged, and was farming when sadly he died in 1963.

Wanda and her children moved to Willow Street in 1963. She began work for the Law Firm in Fairmont in 1967. She married Bruce Johnson in 1969 but later divorced in 1978. She went to Mankato



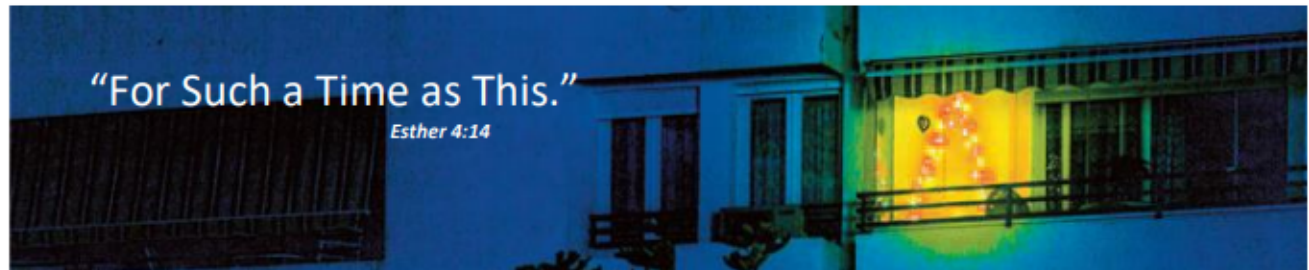
Extended Campus graduating in 1981. She then started Law School in 1983 and was graduated in 1986. She came back to the Law Firm where she worked until she retired.

She has been very active in our Church having taught Bible School and serving on a number of boards. She served on the Search Committee that called Rev. Lyle Norris to be our minister.

Did you know that Wanda is the oldest of 13?! Oh, and, she now considers herself "retired"!

During the snowstorm outside, it was such a delight to talk to Wanda and to reminisce!

- Submitted by Lee Hanning



Rev. Cathy Barker

My father, a UCC minister, died of cancer at age 54, just after Thanksgiving. I was fourteen; my brother and sister were grown and had to go back to their homes. Mom and I were lonely, confused about the future, and our financial picture was very shaky. For then, we faced a bleak Christmas . . . we didn't even want to think about that.

"Then came a check from the Christmas Fund. We were both deeply touched that our national Church somehow knew that we were in need and gave us this gift. It didn't solve all our troubles, but it made it possible for us to have Christmas. We felt the love behind the gift, and that was transformative.

"Throughout my mother's long life, she gave faithfully and gratefully to the Christmas Fund, and I have done the same through the churches I have served as pastor. I've often told our story, because I want people to know how important it is to reach out in this way.

"When the pandemic caused such upheaval, and an appeal came from the Pension Boards telling about the increased need for emergency funds, I sat right down and wrote a check. My husband and I are glad we could help."

The Rev. Jeanne Tyler was called to ministry in the 1960s, and along with her husband, John, spent 33 years jointly serving congregations in Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Iowa.

Born with cerebral palsy and diagnosed with moderate to severe hearing loss in the third grade, Jeanne became a fierce advocate for the church's awareness of, and response to, those with disabilities.

"There is a hidden cost of disability of which many are unaware," she explains. "The financial cost – speech therapy, hearing aids, motorized wheelchairs, specialized computers – all expensive. Without these, isolation and depression can set in."

Jeanne served with the UCC's Disabilities Ministries and in other capacities with the national church and was instrumental in the conception and funding of the Virginia Kreyer Endowed Scholarship Fund, which provides tuition and assistive technology for ministers with disabilities.

"I'm grateful for the United Church of Christ being with me on my journey, and it's essential that the church continue its commitment to clergy who have disabilities." Hearing aids have been a godsend to Jeanne, from the first ones she used while still in college. "They worked well for the time – I could hear the fire crackle for the first time and it was just thrilling."

After retirement, the high cost of newer technology hearing aids was problematic. A grant from the Christmas Fund filled the gap left by her insurance allowance, allowing Jeanne to have hearing aids that make all the difference. "As a pastor, I always asked people to support the Christmas Fund, to support those whose life work has been serving and empowering others, but I never thought I would be on the receiving end. I am humbled and grateful for this acknowledgement by my church that hearing aids are life-giving."

The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund



In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, which administers the Christmas Fund, experienced a 400% increase in requests for emergency grants over the previous year. Thanks to the generosity of more than 275 donors to urgent appeals for gifts to the Christmas Fund, UCBMA was able to say “yes” to each of these requests.

Most of the donors who responded to these special emergency appeals were older persons and nearly half were first-time contributors to the Christmas Fund. Many are also themselves recipients of Ministerial Assistance.

Here are just a few of the notes of thanks received from some of the Emergency Grant recipients:

“I must tell you that before I opened the envelope with the check I prayed that whatever the contents, that somehow I would make the days to come work . . . and when I opened that envelope with a great amount of trepidation, I could not believe my eyes that you and your Committee granted me even more than I had requested! I am still in shock, and still feeling so very grateful as I sit down with that fear off my shoulders.”

“Wow, what can I say but a very humble thank you. This is tremendously generous, and I never, ever expected it. The best I had hoped for was to cover my recent medical bill. I am surprised and tearfully grateful.”

“The emergency grant money arrived in last night’s mail. THANK YOU to all who approved this emergency grant. I will be able to pay back loans that were made to make rent. We will also be able to supplement our rent money for quite some time until greater income starts coming in. We are hopeful those days will come.”

“I’m speechless - Thank you all so very, very much! Keeping you all in my prayers. May the gift of your generous blessing spread wide and far.”

Each year, the Pension Boards receives many notes and letters of thanks from recipients of assistance made possible by your gifts to the Christmas Fund.

These letters come from both retired and active UCC pastors or their surviving spouses. Here are excerpts from just two of the letters received by the Pension Boards letting us know what a difference your generosity has made in their lives and the lives of their families. Here are excerpts from two notes received last year:

“My/our gratitude goes beyond words! With this gift I was able to pay the outstanding propane bill and have the propane tank refilled. It was depleted to 10% of capacity, and we have been having some very cold nights this winter. My husband’s illness has precluded him from doing any work for the last 6 months, and we have fallen way behind in our living expenses...”

“My church, although solvent, was unable to give me a raise this year and is experiencing a shortfall in pledges. Thank you again for your faithful and compassionate gift which has enabled us to keep warm!”

“This note is a heartfelt thank you for the very generous emergency grant that the Board provided us to help offset costs associated with my kidney transplant and follow-up medical procedures and appointments. Not surprisingly, our family prayed a lot in the months leading up to my transplant in great anticipation of what was coming, and in the time since, having received the gift of a ‘second chance’ at life... We are grateful for modern medicine, excellent medical providers, and the support of our local and wider church families and friends, including the United Church of Christ Pension Boards...”

“We never lost faith, trusting in Christ’s promise that we would not - and will not - have to walk alone. Thank you for meeting us along our path and for extending your outstretched hand to help us financially.”

DECEMBER BLESSING BOXES

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund



"For Such a Time as This" Esther 4:14

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Over the past nine months, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church have increased dramatically.

In such a time as this, the need for the Christmas Fund is more urgent than ever.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

We will take our offering for the Christmas Fund throughout the month of December.
Please prayerfully consider your gift.



Along with the Christmas Fund, we are asking that you consider giving a special offering to help the church meet its commitment to OCWM. Simply note OCWM on your offering.

WHY DONATE TO OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION?

Our Church's Wider Mission makes it possible to live out the vision of the United Church of Christ: United in Christ's love, a just world for all.



*Thank you!
Remember ... don't just count your blessings ... share them! God Bless!*

***All worship services from First Congregational UCC since March 22 are archived (by date) alongside the other great content on the rightnow MEDIA website & app!**

After a few months of fairly serious RNM recommendations, here's a fun one that you and your kids can check out in ***The Slugs & Bugs Show*** series just in time for Advent—***Make Ready for Christmas***:

As Randall and friends prepare for Christmas, Maggie decides to expand the annual Sing -Along into a full-blown Christmas Eve pageant spectacular! Randall introduces everyone to the season of Advent, and Doug discovers something mysterious going on when chocolate chips go missing. Neighbor Scott Hamilton announces he's building a huge 12 Days of Christmas display, and Maggie finds herself called on to sacrifice more and more of her pageant dreams to help her friends. With so much activity and a dizzying carousel of friends stopping by, will Christmas end in disappointment or will the Workshop bunch embrace the invitation of the season and experience the true meaning of Christmas?

Special guests: Scott Hamilton, Ellie Holcomb, Andrew Peterson, Buddy Green, Ron Block, Diana Beach Batarseh and Jeff Taylor.

There are many episodes of ***The Slugs & Bugs Show***, so if your kids enjoy these two half-hour episodes, go check out their other fun adventures!


I know it's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. It's been a wild and crazy year, so by this time maybe we're all ready to reflect on Jesus' coming with our family and church. We certainly need the hope of Jesus this winter! Similar to the four Sundays of the Advent season, author, pastor, and teacher J.D. Greear has a four-episode series focusing on the meaning of this blessed season. Take a break from the gloomy news programs and be inspired by ***Advent***:

The Christmas story, or Advent, is more than a sentimental myth or a quiet manger scene we use to decorate our living rooms. The Christmas story is the good news of God entering into our darkness. Join J.D. Greear in this four-session series as he takes a deeper look at Jesus as Emmanuel, our Wonderful Counselor, the Everlasting Father, and the great I Am. When you know Jesus, you will realize Christmas is more than a nice story—the arrival of Jesus changes everything.

***Do you still need to sign up for a FREE rightnow MEDIA account?**
Go to **<https://www.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/FCONG>**

Once logged in to your **FREE** account on **rightnow MEDIA**, 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



Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn	. . .	Crown Him with Many Crowns.
Weatherman's Hymn	. . .	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
Contractor's Hymn	. . .	The Church's One Foundation.
Tailor's Hymn	. . .	Holy, Holy, Holy.
Golfer's Hymn	. . .	There's a Green Hill Far Away.
Politician's Hymn	. . .	Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn.	. . .	Open My Eyes That I Might See.
IRS Agent's Hymn	. . .	I Surrender All.
Gossip's Hymn	. . .	Pass It On.
Electrician's Hymn	. . .	Send The Light..
Shopper's Hymn	. . .	Sweet Bye and Bye.
Realtor's Hymn	. . .	I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop.
Massage Therapist's Hymn.		He Touched Me.

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

55 mph	. . .	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph	. . .	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph	. . .	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	. . .	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	. . .	Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life, And pass it on to other folks.



T.O.P.S.

(Taking OFF Pounds Sensibly)

Meets weekly on Thursdays from 6-7:00 p.m.

Join us!

Contact Sherry Larson if you are interested in joining.

From the Facilities Board:

The church's main snow blower has come to the end of its useful life after nearly 25 years of faithful service. Its drive system is completely worn out and parts to repair it are nearly impossible to find. We've decided that the best option is to purchase a snow blower attachment for our John Deere riding mower, but we need your help! A couple of pledges have already been offered, but if you'd like to donate toward a much-needed equipment purchase that will help keep our property clear and safe this winter, please contact Dean Grotte or Larry Thompson.



Community Education & Recreation
714 Victoria Street
Fairmont, MN 56031
507-235-3141



Let CER help with your holiday shopping!



4-H Let It Snow!

This kit contains fun winter-themed crafts and science experiments, including:

- Fake Snow Experiment
- STEAM Snowflake Design Activity
- Exploding Snowman Experiment
- Beaded Snowflake Craft
- Yarn Winter Hat Decoration

Fee: \$6. Share your learning with us! Take a photo of your finished projects and email to gaals001@umn.edu *Note: Depending on the age of the youth member completing these projects, adult assistance may be required. Please read through the instructions prior to your youth member completing these projects to find where adult assistance may be needed.

4-H STEM

Get innovative and inventive with our fun 4-H STEM kit, that includes:

- Freestanding Marble Run
- Chemistry for Kids
- Cotton Ball Catapult

Fee: \$7. * Note: Depending on the age of the youth member completing these projects, adult assistance may be required. Please read through the instructions prior to your youth member completing these projects to find where adult assistance may be needed. **Choking Hazard: A marble is included in the kit. Please keep out of reach of those under the age of 3.**



4-H Baking Fun

Learn baking basics as you try out fun and new recipes, including:

- Three Ingredient Peanut Butter Cookies
- Easy Chocolate Fudge
- Beginner's Bread

Note: The expiration date on the flour that is included is June 2021 and the expiration date on the sugar that is included is September 2022. Fee: \$9. Share your learning with us! Take a photo of your finished projects and email to gaals001@umn.edu *Note: Depending on the age of the youth member completing the projects, adult assistance may be required. Please read through the instructions prior to your youth member completing these projects to find where adult assistance may be needed. Please use your best judgement in your youth member's kitchen skills. Children should be supervised at all times when using a stove/oven or a sharp knife.



Grow with 4-H

Come Grow With 4-H in this take home kit! This kit includes everything you need to explore plant growth in three different ways.

- Grass Head
- Sprout House
- Egg Carton Marigolds

Fee: \$9. Share your learning with us on FlipGrid at flipgrid.com/martin4hsummer

Take Home Kits Provided By Martin County 4-H

Acrylic Dip Painting Class-Virtual

#4596 Have fun learning the dip technique with acrylic paint and canvases! Our class will take place via Zoom. Participants will choose four colors of paint. Paints will be pre-mixed and available to pick up, with the rest of the materials, prior to the class on November 18/19. Dips will be done on an 8x10 canvas. Instructor: Jessica Schwantes-Greve. Fee \$34. **Deadline to register December 1.** Once registered the instructor will provide you with a link to participate via Zoom.

Monday, December 7
6:00 pm
Virtual Class



New Date



Club Invention[®]
AT HOME

VIRTUAL STEM
PROGRAMMING



WHERE BIG IDEAS BECOME
THE NEXT BIG THING[™]

From the makers of Camp Invention[®], the Club Invention[®] At Home program is a unique virtual option that allows young innovators to interact with a live instructor and have fun while learning to creatively solve problems.

STRETCH YOUR IMAGINATION WITH THESE ACTION-PACKED ACTIVITIES!

Innovation Force - Unlock your innovative superpowers by designing and creating your own imaginative superhero persona, disguise and gadget prototype!

Optibot - Build confidence as you customize your own self-driving robots and watch them complete twists and turns on obstacle courses you've designed! While testing your robots, you'll discover the science behind sensors like the ones in self-driving cars.

Participate on-site or at home! Contact Fairmont Area Schools CER for more information!

SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

Register at

<https://www.fairmont.k12.mn.us/cer-website>

Club Invention is for children entering grades 1-6.

Location: Fairmont Elementary School

714 Victoria St. Fairmont, MN 56031

Dates: November 30 - December 10, 2020 on

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays

Time: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Instructor: Mat Mahoney | mmahoney@fairmont.k12.mn.us

Price: FREE for the first 12 to register!

This program will be offered in-person and virtually! Families

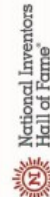
may choose their preference upon registration. For further

information, contact Roni Daurer with Fairmont Community

Education and Recreation

(507) 235-3141 | rdaurer@fairmont.k12.mn.us

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100% MATCHED FUNDS

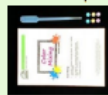
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A NONPROFIT PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME[®]



Science Explorers is now offering STEM Kits for students from preschool to age 12. Kits are educational, as well fun and engaging.

Much of the supplies needed to complete the experiments and activities will be provided in the kit. Families only need to provide items such as pencils, markers, scissors, water, cup, bowls, etc.



Science Explorers' Preschool Chemistry Fun Activity Kit

Recommended Ages: Experimenting with an adult ages 4-8

Experimenting under adult supervision, ages 8+

This kit will have your budding scientist exploring the Science side of STEM with engaging experiments and activities. First, learn about primary and secondary colors with Color Mixing Magic. Then, in States of

Matter your scientist will investigate the three most common states in our environment with four exciting experiments. Finally, with Silly Slime, learn why slime is delightfully bouncy, stretchy and sticky as your scientist mixes up their own batch of slime and explores its properties. This kit is more than hands-on...it's hands in! Be prepared to have fun and get messy. **Fee: \$38**



Science Explorers' Pre-Recorded Preschool STEM Sampler

Recommended Ages: Experimenting with an adult age 3.5 - 6

Join Science Explorers in a virtual preschool classroom as we explore three areas of STEM. We will investigate a tropical rainforest and its layers while learning about the unique animals that live there. Then we will examine the three most common States of Matter in our environment (solid, liquid, gas) with fun and exciting experiments. Lastly, we will use our natural curiosity to explore force with engaging activities. The kit contains an outline and much of the materials needed to complete the pre-recorded class. A 30-day link will be provided to access a private video on YouTube. **Fee: \$38**



Science Explorers' Pre-Recorded STEM Sampler for Fall 2020

Recommended Ages: Grades 2-6

Join Science Explorers in virtual laboratory as we explore three areas of STEM. First, discover the science side of STEM as we learn the difference between chemical and physical changes with sloppy, slimy, and messy experiments. Next, investigate technology as we learn if our hand is really quicker than the eye with various fun optical illusions. Then, discover engineering and math as we construct a marble roller coaster to learn about physics. This virtual class is filled with engaging experiments and activities. The kit will contain an outline and much of the materials needed to complete the pre-recorded class. A 30-day link will be provided to access a private video on YouTube. **Fee: \$61**

Science Explorers' Young Inventors Kit

Recommended Ages: Experimenting with an adult ages 8+

Experimenting under adult supervision, ages 12+

The Young Inventors kit is a child's first step into tinkering and inventing. You don't need to have gray hair and wrinkles to be an inventor. Children are natural inventors and are curious and imaginative all on their own. Did you know that a child invented the Popsicle or that a 16 year old invented the trampoline? Encourage your child's tinkering spirit with this fun and engaging kit as they build an electrical circuit and learn about pneumatics. Your child will be designing, building, and creating for ours on end. They may just invent the next "big thing". **Fee: \$66**



Science Explorers' STEM Sampler Kit 1 - States of Matter/Electrical/Aerospace

Recommended Ages: Experimenting with an adult ages 8+

Experimenting under adult supervision, ages 12+

Have fun with three STEM topics...chemistry, aerospace and electricity. First, your budding scientist will explore the three most common States of Matter in our environment: a solid, liquid and a gas. Next, discover the four forces that allow planes and rockets to fly: thrust, drag, weight and lift as you experiment with these forces with fun, hands-on experiments and activities while using a paratrooper to investigate drag, a disk launcher to explore lift and more. Then, you will build and test an electromagnet and learn how to the electromagnetic field was discovered. **Fee: \$36**

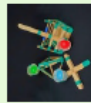


Science Explorers' STEM Sampler Kit 3 - The Science of Slime and Crazy Catapults

Recommended Ages: Experimenting with an adult ages 8+

Experimenting under adult supervision, ages 12+

Have fun with two hands-on STEM topics...Slime and Catapults. In this DIY kit, you will first investigate the chemical reaction that creates slime. Mix up your own batches of Glow, Silky and Foam Slimes as you discover why slime is delightfully bouncy, stretchy and gooey. Then, build three different catapults to examine how levers, energy, and Newton's Laws of Motion all work together as you fling ping-pong balls while practicing your launching and aiming skills. This kit is more than hands-on...it's hands in! **Fee: \$39**



Youth Scholarships

A limited number of youth scholarships are available for certain youth activities for students in the Fairmont Area School District. Please contact your school Social Worker for more information. *Special Thanks to Hunt Fund, Martin County Youth Foundation, and individual donations.*

UCare

All UCare members may take up to a \$15 discount per class on most classes. If a class is less than \$15, the member may take the class free of charge. Members must be on UCare at the time of registration, and through the duration of the class(es). Members will need to include their UCare ID number when registering. (UCare for Seniors members may now use up to 3 \$15 discounts per year.)

Fairmont Community Education and Recreation Class Registration Form (Forma de Registración para Actividades y Educación en la Comunidad)

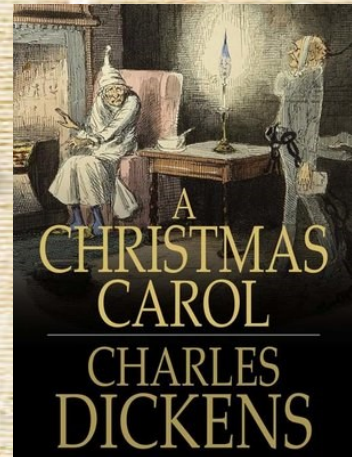
Phone (Numero): (507) 235-3141 - Website (Pagina): www.fairmont.k12.mn.us/ceer

Name(s) (Nombre): _____ Student Age (Edad): _____ Grade(Grado): _____
Address (Dirección): _____ City (Ciudad): _____ Zip (Código Postal): _____
Home Phone (Teléfono): _____ Cell Phone (Celular): _____
Work Phone (Numero de Trabajo): _____ Shirt Size (if applicable) Talla de Playera: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Course # (Curso) # _____ Fee (Costo) _____

Method of payment: Cash Check Visa MasterCard Dinero Cheque Visa MasterCard
Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____
Numero de Tarjeta: _____ Fecha de Vencer: _____
Signature _____ Date _____
(Firma): _____ (Fecha): _____

*(Pictures may be taken at CER activities and used for publicity purposes. Please advise CER if this is not desirable)
(Fotos usadas para promover a CER durante actividades. Por favor avise a CER si no desea que su hijo/a sea retratado)*

Our pecan fundraiser is still active. We have pieces and halves for \$10 per bag. Please stop by the church during office hours or if you need a delivery, please leave a phone message at the church. Wild rice will arrive on Dec. 23. Follow the same instructions to purchase it.



*The third annual
community reading of
Charles Dickens'
A Christmas Carol
will take place on
Thursday evening,
December 17 at 7:00 pm
Red Rock Center for the Arts.
A freewill offering will be
collected to support the
Important work of
Heaven's Table Food Shelf*



homemade MOOSE MUNCH

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 250 degrees F, and lightly grease a baking sheet.

Place the popcorn in a large mixing bowl, along with the nuts.

Melt the butter in a medium saucepan over low heat.

Stir in the brown sugar, corn syrup, and salt.

Increase the heat to medium and bring the mixture to a boil, stirring.

When the caramel comes to a boil, reduce the heat to medium low and allow to simmer, stirring, for 3 minutes (or until the temperature is registers about 235 degrees F on a candy thermometer).

Remove the pot from the heat and stir in the vanilla and baking soda (the mixture will foam up).

Slowly drizzle the mixture over the popcorn, while stirring/tossing the popcorn to coat it with the hot caramel. (It might be easier if you have a kitchen helper. One can pour while the other stirs.)

When the popcorn is well coated with caramel, spread it out in an even layer on a greased baking sheet.

Bake for 1 hour.

Allow to cool completely, then drizzle with melted white chocolate and melted dark chocolate.

Let the chocolate set, then break the moose munch into chunks and package up in mason jars, paper boxes, or cello bags for gifting.

Ingredients

2 3-ounce bags microwave popcorn (lightly salted), popped
1 cup cashews
1 cup whole almonds
1/2 cup unsalted butter
1 cup light brown sugar, packed
1/3 cup dark corn syrup
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
2 ounces white chocolate, melted
2 ounces dark chocolate, melted



Recipe from Baking a Moment (Adapted slightly from [Brown Sugar Mama's Butter Toffee Popcorn](#) recipe.)

Submitted by Ann ~ Careful, it's addicting!



HyVee and Fareway

Receipt Report as of Nov 15 2020

During the last four weeks, \$24,565.98 (16.38%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were turned in. After 7 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$41,706.78 (27.80%) toward the 13th \$150,000 goal.

During the same four weeks, \$15,819.98 (10.55%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 113 weeks, Fareway is at \$141,970.51 (94.65%) toward our 3rd \$1,000 from Fareway Store. These four weeks a large amount was received, equal to about 13 weeks. Now, we may reach the goal in February 2021.

Thanks for bringing into the Church, or mailing them to me. Even the very small amounts help.

During this period, slips going back to October 2015 were received. Remember 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



Thank you!

Margo, Kathy, Marilyn, Joanne and Dolores for helping prepare last month's newsletter for mailing.

You are very much appreciated!

You'll find the full color version of the newsletter, on the church website at:
<http://www.fairmontucc.org/>

Birthdays



Anniversaries

Dec 4	Don & Shelby Marks	38 yrs
Dec 7	John & Donna Holstine	57 yrs
Dec 9	Brian & Julie Thate	20 yrs
Dec 10	Greg & Cheryl Ashland	26 yrs
Dec 18	Ferry & Marcia Winegar	38 yrs
Dec 23	Robert & Diane Neusch	54 yrs
Dec 30	Lance & Jenny Willard	25 yrs

Dec 2	Antonio Johnson
	Betty Jones
Dec 3	Julie Thate
Dec 4	Harold Stepanek
Dec 5	Jim Hough
Dec 6	Mackenzie Brummond
Dec 7	Cynthia Celandier
	Mary Beth Snyder
Dec 10	Jenna McAllister
Dec 11	Jonathon Meschke
Dec 14	Jan Shaffer
	Kay Campe
	Christina Hainy
Dec 15	Jacob Shoen
	Braden Grefe
	Tabitha Wayman

Dec 17	Kim Shaffer
	Tim Huset
Dec 20	Craig Nelson
	Trenton Jorgensen
Dec 23	Caroline Olson
	Melva Tonne
Dec 25	Gretchen Jorgensen
Dec 26	Rev. Cory Germain
	Emma Germain
Dec 28	Cathy Celandier
Dec 29	Eric B. Johnson
	Jesse Lasch
	Kora Kay Lasch
Dec 30	Destiny Massey
	Ellen Germainii
Dec 31	Katelyn Draper