

August 2023

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

Nonprofit
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Fairmont, MN 56031



First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031



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*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fairmont, Minnesota*

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
Minister

Christina Hainy
Administrative Assist.

Joyce Jorgenson
Choir Director

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 10:00

Sunday school 10:00

Communion the first Sunday of
every month.



AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:00 Worship Board 7:00 <i>Divided We Stand</i> discussion groups (Ch)	3 11:30-2 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	4 8:00-6:00 Church Rummage Sale (HH)	5 8:00-3:00 Church Rummage Sale/ (HH)
6 10:00 Worship <i>Communion</i>	7	8 10:00 Lakeview Communion 7:00 Facility Board	9 5:30 Mission Board 5:45 CE Board	10 11:30-2 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS (Ch) 5:15 Hospitality Board	11 9:00 Council agenda items due	12
13 10:00 Worship led by Blake Potthoff	14	15 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	16 5:45 Church Council 7:00 <i>Divided We Stand</i> discussion groups (Ch)	17 11:30-2 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	18 9:00 Sept. Newsletter items due	19
20 10:00 Worship	21	22	23 6:30 Pastor Cory leading Community Worship (Sylvania Park)	24 11:30-2 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	25	26
27 10:00 Worship <i>Blessing Box collection</i>	28	29	30 5:30 Free Community Meal 7:00 <i>Divided We Stand</i> discussion groups (Ch)	31 9:30 Bible Study 11:30-2 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)		

The Reverend's Ruminations - August 2023

Greetings in the name of Christ our Savior! As I "ruminate" upon the month ahead, I pray that the temperatures and humidity will moderate a bit from these final days of July. Summer is always going to be warm (even hot, depending on who you ask), but oppressive dew points really take the fun out of a southern Minnesota day or evening! Ellen and I, like many of you, have a much-needed tent camping vacation planned during much of the 2nd and 3rd weeks of August, so we're hopeful that western South Dakota and Wyoming will have conducive weather for such an adventure.

In the meantime, I want to thank you for the many prayers, well wishes, and cards following my recent surgery to repair a long-time deviated septum. As in many cases, the recovery is the longer, harder part of such a procedure. The outer "cast" and inner tubes were removed from my nose just a week after the surgery, but then the soft tissue swelling set in! So while I can tell that my breathing is going to be much more balanced between both nostrils, right now it still feels as if I'm very congested. Complete healing is predicted to take as much as 3-5 months, but the swelling should continue to decrease substantially in the next few weeks and allow my breathing to be much freer.



What some already know about the day of my surgery is that it was not as early as many such procedures, meaning that after four hours in the operating room and a couple more to come out of anesthesia and be released, we were travelling home from Rochester as the sun set. Nearing Fairmont in the dark, we hit a deer in the I-90 construction zone on the western edge of Blue Earth. We were uninjured, but definitely upset to end such a day by leaving my car for a tow truck on the Huntley exit ramp!?! After several days and a bit of runaround, my insurance company finally decided that fixing a 2003 Honda Element was not feasible and declared it totaled. My coverage on it was good, so I hope to find a worthy replacement soon!

Despite these challenges and setbacks, I (as I hope you do) hold tight to the everlasting refuge found in God's protection. The author of Psalms, so frequently a voice for our fears or frustrations, is also a source of affirmations to which we cling. Such is the case in the opening of Psalm 57: *"Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by"* (57:1, NKJV). Everyday "calamities" are rarely long-lived, and with God's calming presence to uphold us, the ensuing days usually dawn brighter than the "pit" to which the Psalmist so frequently refers.

As our third month of Minnesota summer progresses, I pray that you and your family find the rest and refreshment of time spent together, the opportunity of experiencing beautiful surroundings, and the assurance of God's continual presence in your lives.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Cory Germain



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 7-19-2023**

Members Present: Abigail Anderson, Catherine Johnson, Sue Kruse, Larry Lasch, Amanda Forstrom, Joanne Eisenbarger, Wendy Ziemer, Kay Campe and Christina Hainy. Ex-officio members present: Pastor Cory and Dara Bliesmer, Ass't Treasurer. (Absent: Cindy Huset Erica Jorgensen, Robbin Celandier.)

The Council met in Heritage Hall at 5:45 PM. The meeting was called to order by Moderator Abigail Anderson. Pastor Cory led in prayer. Motion to approve the minutes from the June 21st meeting was M/S/C (Amanda/Sue).

Treasurer's Report: Catherine reported that after six months, we have 46% of pledged giving received. A report of each board's spending for the first 6 months was distributed to board representatives in attendance. The carpet fund has \$11,135.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory reported on May and June's highlights.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: Wendy stated that the CE board did not meet in July and are unable to have VBS or sell lemonade & bars at the church rummage sale.

Hospitality: No representative.

Facilities: Snow removal, one furnace and getting a Poppe's gas account for Jon Neitzel's mowing was discussed.

Diaconate: No summer meetings. Sue is sending out cards.

Mission: Amanda said the Strengthen the Church blessing box raised \$560. Relay for Life had poor attendance, and this may be our last year with a physical team there. Ghost teams were discussed. Heaven's Table Backpack program was explained.

Worship: No representative. Pastor Cory told us that Ellen will be filling in on Sunday, Sept. 10.

Rummage Sale Committee Report: Volunteers are needed!

Carpet Committee Report: A mystery committee has met and is working on deciding on a carpet.

OLD BUSINESS:

-Motion M/S/C to designate the Moderator and Treasurer to be signers for the safe deposit box at State Bank. (Catherine/Joanne)

-Hog Wild Days and Sounds of Hope updates. Motion M/S/C to use the Hog Wild fundraiser to buy a hog(s) for the Heifer Project. (Larry/Amanda)

-Looking for a replacement for Financial Secretary as Kay will be the Moderator next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

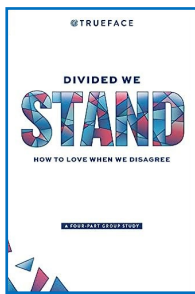
-Motion M/S/C to pay substitute cleaner, Mary, the same pay as Jill.

Moderator Abigail Anderson adjourned the meeting and closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Clerk

MEMORIALS

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Daryl & Carol Bartz
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Tim & Kay Campe
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		James & Ronda Cone
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell	Carpet	William & Patricia Cowing
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Marilyn Forstrom
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Donna & Dean Grotte
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Everett & Lela Hanning
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell	Starfish	Joyce Jorgenson
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		DC & BJ Lindell
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Kelly & Kevin Moller
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Lyle & Charlene Norris
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Byron & Becky Phillips
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Joy & Lorin Pollock
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Pat & Randy Rowan
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Kim Shaffer
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Paul & Diane Sheely
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Margaret Weaver
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Jody Whitmore
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Lorie Zoeller
18-Jun	Memory of Roger Lindell		Memorials
25-Jun	Eric & Catherine Johnson Anniversary	Music	Virginia Riedesel
25-Jun	John & Sherry Larson Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
25-Jun	Cory & Christina Hainy Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
25-Jun	Conrad & Lorie Zoeller Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
25-Jun	Eric & Catherine Johnson Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
2-Jul	Memory of Dorothy Saxton	Carpet	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
2-Jul	Memory of Larry Currier	Carpet	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
2-Jul	Memory of Bonnie True	Starfish	Bobby True
2-Jul	Memory of June True	Starfish	Bobby True
2-Jul	Memory of Robert G True	Starfish	Bobby True
2-Jul	Everett & Lee Hanning Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
2-Jul	Memory of Brady Hensley	Starfish	Tim & Kay Campe
16-Jul	Elaine Zoeller Birthday	Starfish	Deb & David Adams
16-Jul	Memory of Arlene Peterson	Music	Janine Draper
16-Jul	Memory of Larry Currier		Marilyn Forstrom
16-Jul	Jeff & Renae Vetter Anniversary	Starfish	Ann Hartmann
16-Jul	Eric & Catherine Johnson Anniversary	Starfish	Ann Hartmann
16-Jul	Elaine Zoeller Birthday	Starfish	Ann Hartmann
16-Jul	Elaine Zoeller Birthday	Flowers	Eric & Catherine Johnson
16-Jul	Memory of Larry Currier		Joy & Lorin Pollock
16-Jul	Cory & Christina Hainy Anniversary	Starfish	Virginia Riedesel
16-Jul	Lyle & Charlene Norris Anniversary	Starfish	Virginia Riedesel
16-Jul	Elaine Zoeller Birthday	Starfish	Margaret Weaver
16-Jul	Elaine Zoeller Birthday	Flowers	Jodie Whitmore



Thank you to those who joined us for the first of four "Divided We Stand" discussion groups in early July. We will resume on Wednesday, August 2nd at 7:00pm in the chapel. The remaining sessions will be Wednesdays, August 16th and 30th.

Thank you to everyone who helped First Congregational UCC host the Sounds of Hope concert on July 22. If you missed it, you missed a fun and inspiring group of energetic kids from around the world!

So many of you were involved in so many ways to help make this a success:

Thank you to all the people who donated food, money toward food, or helped with the Saturday night dinner and Sunday morning breakfast. Everyone with Sounds of Hope praised the deliciousness of the meals. Minnesota hotdish was a hit!!

At the risk of unintentionally missing anyone, we'd like to thank all those who prepared food, served, donated toward, or volunteered at the dinner or breakfast meals:

Sherry Voyles, Audrey Blien, Kathy Jorgensen, Delores Gronewald, Amanda Forstrom, Margo Weaver, Larry Vogel, Jane Kotewa, John & Donna Holstine, Jim & Barb Bock, Joyce Jorgenson, Lorin & Joy Pollock, Carolyn Thompson, Deb Adams, Marilyn Forstrom, Catherine Johnson, and Pastor Cory.

Thank you to Larry Thompson for recording and livestreaming the performance.

Thank you to the overnight hosts, Brad & Vonnie Cone and Catherine Johnson, who provided much-appreciated beds and showers for some of the adults.

Thank you to Pastor Cory for coordinating with the Sounds of Hope director and staff, arranging local publicity, setting up the mini-concert at Woodland Manor, assisting with transportation, and many other host details.

Each one of you are very much appreciated!!

* If you couldn't attend the concert in person, you can watch it through our Facebook page or the BoxCast link on our church website.



Hy-Vee & Fareway Report as of 23 July 2023

During the last five weeks, \$13,987.41 (6.99%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 30 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$115,267.77 (57.63%) toward the 16th goal which is now \$200,000. We have been getting to the \$150,000 goal in about 44 weeks and the new \$200,000 will take almost 60 weeks.

During the same time, \$3,826.37 (2.42%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 16 weeks, Fareway is at \$18,362.06 (12.24%) toward our 5th \$150,000 goal.

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 Fast & Fresh (Gas), Coffee Shop, Food Service, and Pharmacy help us toward the goal. Thanks to all who bring/mail the slips to the Church, or mailing them or dropping them off at my house. Even the very small amounts help.

Reported by;
Jim Bock

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:

- ♦ Gina Jorgensen and her family on the loss of her brother, Jeff Steele.

RUMMAGE SALE



Friday, August 4th 8:00 AM—6:00 PM
Saturday, August 5th 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

Great deals on:

- Toys
- Sporting goods
- Household items
- Furniture
- Tools

- Games
- Puzzles
- Books
- Jewelry
- Lemonade & bars!!

**Stop by Saturday afternoon
for EVEN BETTER DEALS!!**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN

Proceeds will be used to further the missions of the church.

*Thank
You*

Thanks to everyone for the wonderful birthday celebration at the church. I saw so many friends and family. It wore me out, but it gave me lots more memories! Thanks, too, for all the calls, cards, and visits. They meant so much. You are all so special to me!
Elaine Zoeller

We asked for help with Downtown Fairmont's Hog-Wild Days (Crazy Days) ... and boy did we get it!!

- Thanks to the **bakers**: Margo, Barb, Abigail, John, Catherine, Christina, Kathy, Kay, Ace & Marilyn
- Thanks to the **sellers**: Margo, Abigail, John, Kathy, Kay, Amanda, Jodie, Kelly, Ace, & Pastor Cory
- Thanks to everyone who came and **tried some of our Heavenly Delights** ... so, so many!! We are happy to announce that we **SOLD OUT!!** We split the earnings between the general fund and Heifer International ... our goal was to raise enough to buy a pig ... we raised enough to buy **TWO PIGS** for a needy family!!

THANK YOU!



Mission Minute:

The blessing box for August: CREST. They are "volunteers helping neighbors in need" and are helping meet the needs of Martin County's aging population and their caregivers.

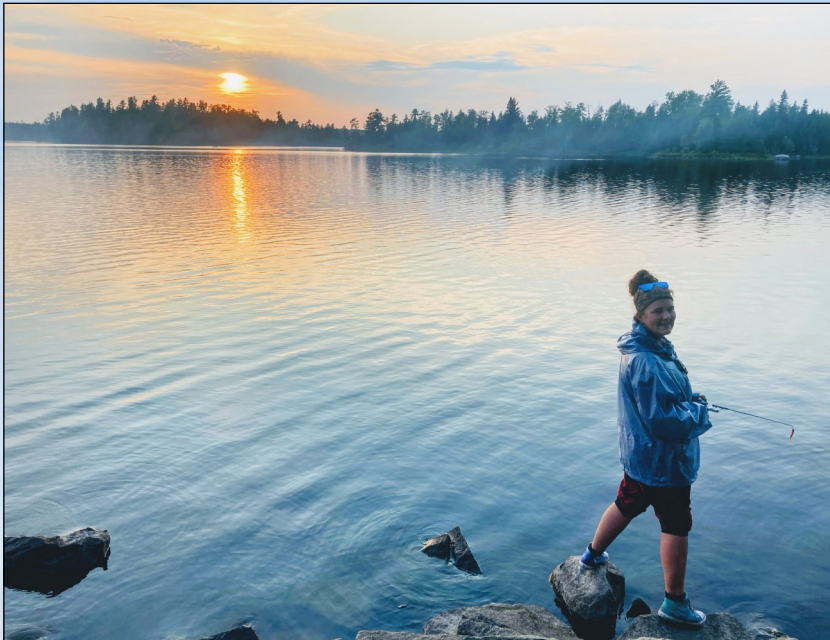
August's free community meal: Kiwanis

Christian Education News:

The second VBS fun day (that was scheduled for Saturday, August 5th) has been **CANCELLED** due to unforeseen circumstances.

However, the final Youth Fun Day at St. John's UCC is on Saturday, August 5th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Adventure Trip photos:





THANK YOU

to Kathy Jorgensen, Sherry Voyles and Margo Weaver for folding and sealing the July newsletter!

Help Wanted

Looking for:

Financial secretary needed for 2024. Kay Campe can help train you this year! Prayerfully consider.

Looking for:

Someone to provide snow removal for First Congregational! This is a paid position! We have the snow removal equipment to use. Just looking for the labor! Please, contact Dean Grotte (507-236-0216) or Larry Lasch (507-432-8121) if you are interested.

We have been asked to be a part of Community Worship at the Park.

Pastor Cory will be leading on Wednesday, August 23rd.

Wednesday

COMMUNITY WORSHIP

at the Park

**SYLVANIA PARK BANDSHELL,
FAIRMONT**

(RAIN SITE GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH)

EVERY WEDNESDAY, 6:30 PM

(JUNE 7 - AUGUST 30)

HOSTED BY

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, FAIRMONT

All Are Welcome

- LIVE WORSHIP BAND WITH SHORT, MEANINGFUL AND RELATABLE MESSAGES FROM AREA PASTORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- FREE ICE CREAM FROM O'SCOOPS ON JUNE 14, AND JULY 26



FIND US AT: GRACELUTHERANCHURCH.ORG



rightnow MEDIA

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

In recent sermons, we have been examining one of the important “teaching characters” of the Old Testament: Jacob. He presents a very human character—one in whom we are likely to catch glimpses of ourselves. There is much to learn from Jacob’s character and interactions with his ancient community, and we’d be wise to draw from this important ancestor of our faith in figuring out how to face the ever-changing world around us. Next time you’re thinking about a brief video respite from the summer’s heat and humidity, check out South African banker and Christian philanthropist Ken Costa’s series, *Found in the Fight*:

If you’ve ever tried to fake it ‘til you make it, you’re not alone. We can all be tempted to hide the truth about ourselves, or change our true identity, to get ahead in life. We long for acceptance, affirmation, and approval because we forget who we really are: loved by God. In this six-part series, Ken Costa explores the riveting, far-from-perfect life of Jacob, who wrestled with God to discover his identity and learned, as we can, that when we’re brave enough to stop deceiving ourselves and others, we’re free to know God, know ourselves, and be who He created us to be.



As the “dog days of summer” set in, are the children in your life looking for something fun and engaging to watch while they’re taking a break in the air conditioning? How about a classic Christian series that has stood the test of time—and now been updated for a new generation? Turn on *Superbook* for them! If you’re not familiar, here’s a description:



Let The Adventure Begin! Join Chris, Joy and Gizmo as they travel through time and space to relive the greatest stories ever told! *Superbook* has been broadcast in over 90 countries and translated into 48 languages. There are 26 exciting episodes and more in production!

Superbook is created by an award-winning team of artists and storytellers whose credits include *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King* and *Mulan*. Based on the classic series from the ‘80s, *Superbook* has been completely reimaged and reanimated for today’s audiences.

*Still need to sign up for a **FREE rightnow MEDIA** account? There are 3 convenient ways:
Go to <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/FCONG>

Text FCONG to 49775, or scan this QR code with your smartphone camera or code reader—>



Once logged in to your **FREE** account, you can click directly on “First Congregational UCC” near the top of the page to access the “Fairmont Worship Services” channel, or “Pastor Cory’s Picks”—which 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



Hot Chicken Salad (from Christina Hainy)

4 C cooked, diced chicken (small pieces or shredded)

2 Tbsp lemon juice

$\frac{3}{4}$ C mayo

1 tsp salt

2 C diced celery

4 hard-boiled eggs-diced

1 can cream of chicken soup

1 tsp grated onion

Small jar pimento, drained

1 C shredded cheddar cheese

Mix and place in a 9 x 13 inch pan. Bake 20—25 minutes at 400 degrees.

Topping:

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ C crushed potato chips

$\frac{2}{3}$ C sliced almonds, toasted (To toast: Bake on a baking sheet at 350 degrees for 5-8 minutes until light golden brown. Watch carefully & stir 1 or 2 times.)

During the last few minutes of baking, add the topping.

Happy Birthday!

Aug. 1	Tim Campe Paige Hainy
Aug. 2	Piper Lasch
Aug. 4	Lance Willard Byron Phillips
Aug. 5	Darla Guritz Matthew Cone
Aug. 6	Mary Don Kislingbury Bob Neusch Jeff Grefe
Aug. 7	Tyler Harder Tracy Kotewa
Aug. 8	Kris Ziemer
Aug. 9	Britney Goerndt
Aug. 10	John Larson
Aug. 11	Donna Holstine
Aug. 13	Deb Adams Amanda Cain
Aug. 15	Preston Rachuy-Davis
Aug. 18	Mark Grotte
Aug. 19	Abigail Anderson
Aug. 20	Karen Cone
Aug. 23	Alexa Steele
Aug. 24	Art Elliott
Aug. 25	Cindy Huset
Aug. 26	Hannah Goerndt
Aug. 28	Linda Meschke Barb Pitcher
Aug. 31	Ann Erdman Beth Massey

Happy Anniversary!

Aug. 1	Tabb & Molly Meyer	44 years
Aug. 3	Art & Julie Elliott	49 years
Aug. 3	Dave & Cindy Huset	38 years
Aug. 12	Eric & Rowena Johnson	23 years
Aug. 13	Billy & Jenna McAlister	12 years
Aug. 26	David & Deb Adams	34 years
Aug. 28	Mike & Lori Thate	41 years
Aug. 31	Doug & Darla Guritz	54 years