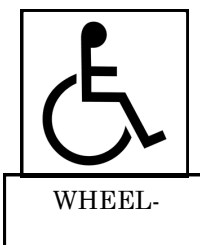


June 2020

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

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID



Rev Cory Germain  
Pastor

Ann Osborn  
Administrative Assistant

Joyce Jorgenson

How to reach us....

Church Office  
507-235-5382

Hours:  
Tuesday—Friday  
9:30-12:30 p.m.

**E-mail**  
[ucc319@frontiernet.net](mailto:ucc319@frontiernet.net)

**Web Site Address**

**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

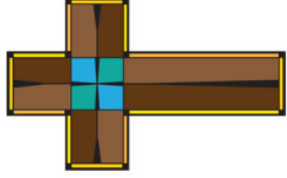
**Worship Hours**

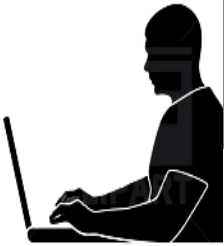
Worship 9:30  
Communion the first Sunday of  
every month.



# 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5:00 Worship Board	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Communion Sunday 9:30 Worship	<b>8</b> 5:00 FCH Foundation	<b>9</b> 10:00 Lakeview Communion	<b>10</b> 5:00 Mission Board 6:30 CE Board	<b>11</b> 5:15 Hospitality Board 7:00 Facilities Board	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30 Worship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	<b>17</b> 5:30 Church Council w/Finance Board	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 900 a.m. July Newsletter Submission Deadline	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <i>Happy Father's Day!</i> 9:30 Worship	<b>22</b> 4:30-7:00 Parent To Parent	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:30 Free Community Meal	<b>25</b> 9:30 Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection : <b>Habitat for Humanity</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				





# The Reverend's Ruminations

Volume 1, Issue 3

First Congregational United Church of Christ

## *The Reverend's Ruminations - June 2020*

It hardly seems possible, but Minnesota's traditional months of summer are upon us. Without all the spring sports schedules and end-of-school-year activities (sadly, including graduation ceremonies), it really feels difficult to mark the passing of spring into summer. This will definitely be one for the history books—a new defining moment in all our lives. By now, “cabin fever” has started to feel like a permanent condition instead of a temporary ailment cured by the warm sunshine of spring!?!

Of course the thing on many people's minds in the past few days is President Trump's sudden declaration of churches as “essential services”—something for which many groups and individuals have been clamoring for weeks or even months. Some of our brothers and sisters in the Catholic and Lutheran traditions were even threatening to violate Governor Walz's executive order and begin holding in-person worship services this last weekend, before the national guidance changed to allow such.

HOWEVER, let me be clear: this change does NOT mean that we will immediately be returning to “business as usual” at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fairmont. This will be a very gradual and deliberate transition, guided not by the demands of emotional protesters, but informed by scientifically-backed guidance from medical professionals at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health, as well as evolving guidance from the UCC Minnesota Conference. To quote our Conference Minister, Rev. Shari Prestemon:

*“Over the past few weeks, we have proven that we can facilitate rapid change in the Church when it comes to the health and safety of our members and communities! We have created new, virtual forms of worship, provided ongoing care and support for one another, and continued to conduct business and decision-making — and we have done all of it with grace, patience, and a sense of humor! Now we are shifting into yet another season of this pandemic, when once again we as churches must make critical decisions about how we will move forward given evolving information and circumstances.”*

Her encouragement, with which I heartily agree, is that we resist any temptation to rush back to in-person activities until we have made every effort to ensure that we can do so safely. We need to remember that the discernment we exercise now can be of enormous importance to the lives of those we hold dearest. The Church Council and I have many things to prayerfully consider before resuming any form of in-person worship, most important among which is: how can we do so in a manner that is safe for the majority of our congregation? In case you've forgotten the “view from the pew” during this extended absence, we're a pretty grey congregation (i.e., over age 60, to be generous with our demographics). Think what you may about the coronavirus, but it will have a say in everything we do for the foreseeable future!

In conversations with friends, family, and fellow pastors, I have repeatedly stated that no matter when or how we resume in-person worship, I think we will continue to make our services available online through RightNow Media and/or Facebook Live. This online presence (in addition to our weekly broadcast on Fairmont's cable access channel) has opened up a much broader audience than we could have imagined. Even before COVID-19, we didn't often see more than 75-85 people in our pews on a Sunday morning except for special events; meanwhile, our Facebook worship services since the pandemic response started have been averaging over 200 views nearly every week! Virtual services certainly do not take the place of the fellowship we experience when gathering together to pray, sing, and worship side-by-side, but offering an alternative to those outside our geographic area or who have no church home is a great mission requiring very little additional labor.

As I have repeatedly encouraged, please continue to keep in touch with one another. You may be getting out in public more than you have in recent weeks, but many are rightfully exercising caution about their public exposure for any number of personal or medical reasons. Human interaction, whether face-to-face, through video technologies, or by phone are important to everyone's mental and spiritual well-being. Be a blessing to one another through the guidance of the Holy Spirit!

Yours in Christ,  
**Rev. Cory Germain**



**Council Minutes**  
**For**  
**First Congregational UCC**  
**5-20-2020**

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

**Members Present:** Joanne Eisenbarger, Wendy Ziemer, Dolores Gronewald, Larry Thompson, Jane Kotewa, Catherine Johnson, Cory Hainey, David Meschke, David Adams, Marilyn Forstrom and Rev. Cory Germain, Ex Officio

**Absent:** Robbin Celandier

**Also Present:** Jodi Kuhlers, Asst. Treasurer

**Minutes** of the April meeting were approved as printed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave Meschke presented the financials and noted that being 33% of the way through the year, we have received 35% of pledges. .

Motion was M/S/C to receive the financials.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Cory shared his activity report for the past month including his usual pastoral duties, Continuing Ed and Airlift Wing drills.

**Board Reports**

**Finance:** Motions was M/S/C to approve the electronic vote to apply for the PPP loan from the Federal Government. The PPP loan application was sent in and approved. The check has been received and will show up in next month's report. The loan will cover approximately one month of our on going expenses. As long as we retain all employees through the end of June, the loan will be forgiven.

**Christian Education:** Wendy Z. reported that the Board is planning graduate and teacher recognition for Sunday, May 31. The Board would like the two Sunday School rooms on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor be painted. She will work with Facilities Board.

**Diaconate:** Since IHD has been cancelled, the Board will be making alternate plans. Alternate ways of serving communion when we are able are being considered.

**Hospitality:** No report

**Missions:** Joanne Eisenbarger noted that May 31 is Noisy Sunday. The collection cans will be located inside the main entry for members to drop of their change. Checks mailed to the church for Heifer Project will be appreciated and Pastor Cory will include in that Sunday's service. Sherry L. organized volunteers for Meals on Wheels.

**Worship:** Board will serve Free Community Meal on Wednesday, May 27. It will be a drive thru experience in the alley. Board arranged for Karen Koerder as pulpit supply on Sunday, May 17.

**Facilities:** Board has scheduled a work day for Saturday, May 23 to move shrubs to make room for a new air conditioning unit.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Discussion regarding how we might like to show our church's appreciation to all essential workers in our community. It was decided that Pastor Cory will thank from the pulpit and a Facebook "collage" will be created with creative contributions from as many members as possible.

The meeting was adjourned...abruptly by Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Forstrom, Clerk

Due to the Interlaken Heritage Days Event being cancelled, we won't be having our Annual Pie and Ice Cream Social. We are currently exploring other options for the pie social this year. Be watching your email for updates! ~ Abby Namken

**Don't forget! Our summer worship service time changes to 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Sunday School will resume in the fall.**

We've all seen changes in our lives as a result of the COVID-19 response, and that has been true for the Starfish Fund as well. With increased efforts on the part of the state's Human Services department (as well as widespread stimulus checks, lower gas prices, and subsidized rides on Prairie Lakes Transit), there has actually been a notable decrease in requests for help during April and May. However, I'm certain that this is only a temporary adjustment, and as Minnesota "turns the dial" back toward what we think of as normal, we will see such requests pick up again. In the first five months of 2020, I have been able to bless 14 different individuals and family units, both in our church and community. Already this year it amounts to just over \$1,300 in aid, disbursed in the form of Poppe's gasoline vouchers, Fareway restricted gift cards, Prairie Lakes Transit tokens, and checks directly to various public utilities or landlords. I am honored to administer the Starfish Fund on behalf of the congregation, and pray that you will continue to generously support our compassionate mission in the world. *Pastor Cory*

**When using the Hy Vee or Fareway cards for grocery items, please leave the RECEIPT and PURPOSE of charge either in the Treasurer's cubical or Jodi's folder in the office. This includes flowers which we normally don't get a receipt for. Inform Jodi of the amount and purpose by leaving a note in treasurer file or by email or text since there is no actual receipt to turn in. Or, for your convenience, there are forms available outside the Administrative Assistant's office to easily fill in the information. You can leave them in the acrylic wall pocket with the receipt and we'll find them.**



## June Blessing Box – Habitat for Humanity



### Habitat for Humanity of Martin and Faribault Counties

**Vision:** A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

**Mission Statement:** Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

**About the group:** Habitat for Humanity of Martin and Faribault Counties is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes, communities and hope.

Habitat for Humanity of Martin and Faribault Counties is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. Habitat for Humanity was founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, durable place to live in dignity and safety, and that decent shelter in decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all.



### Update: The Habitat 500 is going virtual for 2020!

Habitat Minnesota and the Habitat 500 Committee have decided to move from an in-person format to a virtual format for the Habitat 500 Bike Ride in 2020. They have carefully monitored Minnesota's health and government expertise and believe this is the best decision at this time; the health and safety of the riders and volunteers is paramount. They're excited to move forward in planning a virtual event, and provide participants ways to bike, connect with one another, and, most importantly, raise funds and awareness for Habitat for Humanity!

Pedal to build a *cycle of hope*. Raise money and awareness for Habitat for Humanity. Participate in the Habitat 500 Bike Ride. Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota is pleased to host the 28th annual bike ride in 2020, in partnership with its 28 Habitat affiliates. The Habitat 500 is a fundraising event aimed at increasing awareness about the need for decent and affordable housing. A team of over 40 volunteers and 135 riders work together to raise funds and awareness through this annual bicycle ride! Learn more by exploring their website: <https://habitat500.org/> Since the ride is virtual this year, you have the luxury of joining the ride without having to travel; you'll be able to sleep in your own bed! Let us know if you decide to join and we will be sure to support you!

We will be collecting our Blessing Box offering in June for Habitat for Humanity on Sunday, June 28. You can drop off your donation or send it to the church.

Please check out the Martin-Faribault County Habitat for Humanity Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Habitat-for-Humanity-of-Martin-and-Faribault-County-217467414943061/>

The local affiliate has some wonderful projects in the works. If you are interested in helping them, contact them at 507-526-2500 or [habitat@bevcomm.net](mailto:habitat@bevcomm.net).

**REMEMBER . . . DON'T JUST COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS . . . SHARE THEM!**



# Class of



GHEC Comencement  
Friday, May 29, 2020

Open House

Saturday, July 18, 2020  
10:00am - 1:00 pm

533 1st Ave NW, Winnebago

THE STEPS  
you take  
DON'T NEED TO BE  
big,  
THEY JUST  
NEED TO  
take you  
IN THE  
right  
direction



Please Join Us in Celebrating with

Hailie Stenzel-Wallace



## Interview with Melva Lou Tonne April

Melva Lou (Roforth) Tonne was born on the first farm north of the Martin County Fairgrounds in 1933 to Melvin and Louise (Plumhoff) Roforth. She lived with her parents on a farm west of Granada; then Rose Lake farm, and started school in first grade. She tells how a Fairmont school teacher drove from Fairmont, picked her up, and took her to a country school until March 1st where her teacher taught grades 1-8.

While the family still lived on the Rose Lake farm, her father milked cows, had feeder cattle, six horses, and farmed *without a tractor*. On March 1 the family purchased and moved to the farm a quarter-mile north of Granada where Melva finished grade school and high school.

Melva was graduated from Granada High School in 1952. She had been in band, (drums!), chorus, Quartet, and Sextet in high school with a beautiful voice that could carry the difficult mid-range harmony. (As an underclassman, I remember her voice and always hoped I would get to sing with her.)

She was a member of 4-H doing food demonstrations with her cousin Lois. Melva was a great cook. (Later she was a junior leader in 4-H and continued doing so when her children participated.)

She attended Mankato Commercial College for ten months until she got a job at the Fairmont Railway Motors using her aptitude on office machines.

She met her husband Gene when he transferred from country school to Granada High. They were married in the Grace Lutheran Church in Fairmont on August 1, 1953. He worked for the Fairmont Creamery until he went into construction with Hodgman's.

They were blessed with three children, Lesia, Bob, and Linnea.



When Melva & Gene started farming, she tells how she harvested and plowed but *would not* plant because she didn't want other farmers to tease her about "crooked" rows. The Tonne family moved to the Roforth family farm north of Granada. While they were still going to the Grace Lutheran in Fairmont, they had to drive past the Congregational UCC Church of Granada. The would notice so many of their friends parking at Congregational UCC of Granada and so they decided to join. Their membership continued until the Granada church closed in 2007 so they decided to join First Congregational UCC of Fairmont.

After Gene's death, Melva decided to move into Granada in 2013. She now lives on Main Street (not too far from us). Even though she has always enjoyed (and preferred) being a "country gal" and not so much a "small-town" gal, the house in town is a better situation for her.

Oh! On December 23 (at Christmastime) remember to wish her a Happy Birthday!

- Submitted by Lee Hanning



# rightnow MEDIA

**\*All worship services from First Congregational UCC since March 22 are now available alongside the other great content on the rightnow MEDIA website & app!**

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, as the list changes as I discover new picks!

~ Pastor Cory \_\_\_\_\_

Knowing that our youth are done (or nearly done) with school in its virtual format, I thought they could use some short, yet thought-provoking, videos to help inspire their faith as summer begins. In the brief study, ***King David: Trials, Temptations and Triumphs***, pastor and author David Nasser offers a unique look at one of the most familiar characters of the Bible. Here is the synopsis of Nasser's study, each episode of which is just twenty minutes or less:

*Hollywood couldn't write a more conflicted and compelling story about a boy who would become king. But this humble shepherd boy who became the greatest king of Israel also struggled with sin, authority, purity, and integrity.*

*In these four inspiring youth Bible study sessions, David Nasser looks at the trials, temptations, and triumphs that King David faced and shows how the truths found in David's life are relevant to the real-life issues students encounter every day. Filmed on location in Israel!* \_\_\_\_\_

In keeping with a theme of lessons from historical Biblical figures, I encourage adults or families to check out a five-session study (again only 15-20 minutes each) featuring lessons from Daniel, entitled ***Thriving in Babylon***. Author and pastor Larry Osborne helps us look at being faithful Christians in an ever-changing world that seems intent on pulling us away from our beliefs. [There are additional resources offered to go along with this study, but are not necessary to enjoy it.] Here's the synopsis:

*These are confusing times for many Christians. Traditional biblical values are not only rejected; it seems as if they're attacked on every front. It's all happened at warp speed, leaving many of us spiritually and culturally disoriented or even fearful, frustrated, and angry. How can we spiritually survive in an increasingly spiritually hostile environment? And is there any hope for the next generation?*

*In this series, we're introduced to a man forced to live in a fast-changing and godless society. This man faced fears about the future, concern for his safety, and the discouragement of a world that seemed to be falling apart at warp speed. That man was Daniel, and with the power of hope, humility, and wisdom, he not only survived, but thrived.*

*Each session also includes real-life stories of people struggling to thrive in an ever-increasing godless society. Though Daniel lived thousands of years ago, he has much to teach us today.* \_\_\_\_\_

Do YOU have a favorite **rightnow** MEDIA video or study that you think others should know about? If so, drop me an email so I can help get the word out in upcoming newsletters. If there's one you'd like to see our church offer as a group study, please let me know as well. We can order the additional resources and even schedule a new study day/time if there is interest!

\* If you still need to sign up for a *FREE* account, go to <https://www.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/FCONG>

As always, please feel free to share this link with your family and friends! It doesn't cost us anything extra to have more people access this great resource through our account!

## Memorials

<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Memory/Honor of</b></i>	<i><b>Designation</b></i>	<i><b>From</b></i>
3-May	Memory of Jo Montgomery		Wanda Anderson
3-May	Donna Grotte Birthday	Starfish	Ann Hartmann
3-May	Jim & Barb Bock Anniversary	Starfish	Ann Hartmann
3-May	Memory of Dorothy & Don Simpson		Kathleen Simpson
10-May	Memory of Eloise Lidke	Starfish	Jon & Cheryl Ripke
10-May	Tim & Kay Campe Anniversary	Starfish	Margaret Weaver
10-May	Jim & Barb Bock Anniversary	Endowment	Margaret Weaver
17-May	Memory of Lyle Spitzack		Joanne Eisenbarger
17-May	Alice Maday Birthday	Starfish	Ann Hartmann
17-May	Tom & Kathy Jorgensen Anniversary	Starfish	Virginia Riedesel
17-May	Tom & Kathy Jorgensen Anniversary		Margaret Weaver



### June 7

Diaconate: Kathy Jorgensen  
 Head Usher: Brad Cone  
 Reader: Alice Maday  
 Greeters: George and Ruth Ann J.

### June 21

Diaconate: Kathy Jorgensen  
 Head Usher: Cory Hainy  
 Reader: Ellen Germain  
 Greeters: Shelby & Don Marks

### June 14

Diaconate: Kathy Jorgensen  
 Head Usher: George Jones  
 Reader: Deb Adams  
 Greeters: Bill & Pat Cowing

### June 28

Diaconate: Kathy Jorgensen  
 Head Usher: George Jones  
 Reader: Cynthia Celander  
 Greeters: Wanda J and Jane K

## Partners in Ministry



Hope is the thing  
with feathers  
that perches in the soul  
and sings the tune  
without the words  
and never stops at all.

-Emily Dickinson

Thank you for your service!  
We could not run  
Hot Meals on Wheels  
without your help!

Hot Meals on Wheels Board



Thank You



WE Would Like to  
Thank everyone who  
Remembered us on our  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with  
Cards, Flowers, Money  
and Blessings.

This Church Family  
is Wonderful

=

Tom & Kathy Jorgensen



# What's COOKing?



## Rhubarb Bread or Muffins

- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  c. vegetable oil
- 1 egg
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1 c. buttermilk
- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. finely cut rhubarb
- $\frac{1}{2}$  c. chopped walnuts
- 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. flour
- 1 t. baking powder
- 1 t. baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$  t. salt

Beat first five ingredients, then add rhubarb and nuts. Fold in flour, soda, BP and salt. Pour into greased muffin pans or two smaller size loaf pans.

Topping: 1 T. butter,  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. white sugar, 1 t. cinnamon. Sprinkle on bread or muffins and bake at 375 degrees for 25 to 35 minutes (muffins) or 40 to 45 minutes for loaves at 350 degrees.



## HyVee and Fareway Receipts Report as of May 17 2020

During the last five weeks, \$9,051.69 (6.03%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were turned in. After only 25 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$62,285.33 (41.52%) toward the 12th \$150,000 goal.

During the same five weeks, \$2,035.08 (1.36%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 85 weeks, Fareway is at \$87,775.32 (58.52%) toward our 3rd \$1,000 from Fareway Store.

By Jim Bock



Because of the current situation, can't estimate how many more weeks it will take to reach the goal.

During the last four weeks, the number and value of slips was about two thirds per week that were being received prior to the Stat At Home directive. Thanks for bring in or even mailing them to me. I am looking for a large quantity when we are allowed us to get-to-gather again.



*To view the full color version of the newsletter, you'll find it on the church website at:*

<http://www.fairmontucc.org/>

**9:00 am, June 19th is the July Newsletter submission deadline.**

The PRC meets quarterly each year to discuss joys and concerns regarding our pastoral leadership. If you have input for the committee, please contact any of the PRC members:

### Pastoral Relations Committee

Cindy Anderson, Pastor Cory Germain, Lee Hanning, Eric B. Johnson, Abigail Roiger.  
Church Pastoral Relations Committee

### CALLING ALL COOKS!

Would you like to submit a recipe to the church newsletter?

Feel free to do so!

If you don't see yours published first, please know that I'll make a file of them and put them in as I'm able.

Perhaps, your first recipe could be one you made during the quarantine.

If you have any info regarding the background of the recipe, if there is room, I'll publish that too!





### June Anniversaries

June 1	Kim & Jan Shaffer	46 years
June 3	Dar & Jodi Kuhlers	43 years
June 5	Larry & Donna Christensen	49 years
June 5	Matt and Brandi Guritz	10 years
June 7	Shawn & Jessica Elliott	17 years
June 14	Eric & Catherine Johnson	39 years
June 14	Robbin & Cathy Celander	29 years
June 16	Conrad & Lori Zoeller	41 years
June 17	Cory & Christina Hainy	25 years
June 18	Daniel & Tatia Moller	4 years
June 20	Dan & Deb Thate	28 years
June 21	Steve & Tranna Urban	12 years
June 30	Everett & Lee Hanning	64 years
June 30	Justin & Tara Thedens	9 years

### June Birthdays

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