## June 2024

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





First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fairmont, Minnesota

Rev. Cory Germain Minister

Christina Hainy Administrative Assist.

Joyce Jorgenson
Choir Director

How to reach us....

Church Office 507-235-5382 Hours: Tuesday—Friday 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

#### E-mail

uccsecretary319@gmail.com

#### Web Site Address

www.fairmontucc.org

## **Rev. Cory Germain**

#### **Office Hours:**

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Wednesday 12:30 p.m. through evening meetings & activities Thursday 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Friday 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Rev. Cory's phone: 507-399-8282

### **Worship Hours**

Worship 10:00
Communion the second
Sunday of every month.

# June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:00 Worship		10:00 Lakeview Communion	5:30 Mission Bd 6:00 Worship Bd	I:00 TOPS (Ch)		8-10 Breakfast on the Lawn 8:00 Sanctuary reserved II-2 Pie Social (HH)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:00 Worship Communion		7:00 Facilities Board		I:00 TOPS (Ch)		
16 Father's Day	17	18	19	20 First day	21	22
8:30 All-Church Breakfast (HH) 10:00 Worship	9:00 Council agenda items due	10:00 Gold- finch Commun- ion	5:45 Church Council	of Summer I:00 TOPS (Ch)	9:00 July Newsletter items due	
		-Childre	n's Commu	nity Theatre (H	<b>H</b> )———	_
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:00 Worship			5:30 Free Community Meal	9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Newsletter assembly 1:00 TOPS (Ch)		
		-Childre	n's Commui	nity Theatre (HI	i)	-
10:00 Contemporary Worship Blessing box Noisy Sunday						

## The Reverend's Ruminations - June 2024

Wow, is it **JUNE** already? After only a few *really* warm days in May, I haven't even made the big seasonal clothing switch to/from the attic! I guess it would probably be safe to do so by now. Even if our wardrobes are still a little confused, I'm sure you're already beginning to make summer plans with your family and friends. Standing here at the edge of Minnesota's "official" summer season, it always seems like there will be plenty of carefree, unscheduled days ahead — until we really try to make a reservation or block out a week for a vacation getaway!?!

No matter how your summer calendar events begin to come together, please keep First Congregational UCC in your plans. Since early last spring, we've been keeping our worship service at 10:00am year-round for ease of planning, although our Sunday School is now on break until after Labor Day. IF you find yourself out of town and unable to join us in person, our worship services are available live or later through the **BoxCast** button on our church website (*fairmontucc.org*), on our **Facebook** page (*facebook.com/firstcongofairmontmn*), or through your own <u>free</u> **rightnow** MEDIA account. We're also on **Fairmont cable access channel 12** on Thursday afternoons at 2:00 if you're back in town then. On behalf of the Church Council, I also encourage you to continue your regular financial gifts toward the life of the church year-round. Tithe and offering numbers frequently suffer alongside church attendance during the summer, which can make it hard to keep up with regular operating expenses.

We always love to welcome members, friends, and outside groups to provide special music during the summer, so if you'd like to volunteer — or have a contact for someone you'd like to invite — please let Joyce Jorgenson or me know so that we can get them on our church calendar. I will be away for annual training with the Air National Guard throughout the last week of June, but the office will be open normal hours. I will check email and texts occasionally during that time, but may need to refer you to one of our Council or Board members for more timely attention during my absence.

As we move into June and the church season "after Pentecost" or "Ordinary Time," our Sunday lectionary scripture readings will be from the **Gospel of Mark** (chapters 2-5) and Paul's **Second Letter to the Corinthians** (chapters 4, 6, and 8). Now that the "Season of Easter" is complete, my sermons will return to the Old Testament — specifically **First and Second Samuel**.



These books are named after Samuel, the last in a line of judges to rule over the nation of Israel before its people demanded that a king be appointed over them instead. One of the timeless themes reflected in 1 Samuel is an ongoing tension among the people about the role and amount of power allowed the government in ancient Israel. As the book's introduction explains in *The Guidebook NRSV Study Bible*, "This period of Israelite history is filled with mighty struggles and colorful personalities, including a king who gradually loses his sanity and a shining hero who replaces him." Sounds like it could be the plot of a modern novel or movie!?! We will be examining several chapters across both of these historical books until mid-August, so if you're looking for inspiration to dive back into your Bible this summer, 1 & 2 Samuel would offer an excellent opportunity to familiarize yourself with the historical background of the sermons you'll be hearing.

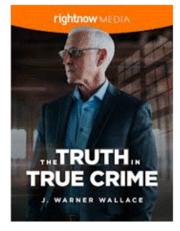
I pray that your summer months will provide opportunity for rest, relaxation, family time, and maybe some much-needed outdoor projects!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Cory Germain

## rightnow MEDIA

Worship services from First Congregational UCC are available & searchable by date alongside the other great content on the <u>free</u> **rightnow** MEDIA website & app!



What kind of shows do you tend to watch? Currently, one of the most popular television or streaming genres is "true crime," episodes of non-fiction that focus on real-life crimes, usually violent in nature, and the individuals involved in them. This doesn't seem like something a pastor would be recommending!?! But what is it about the shocking reality of human cruelty that seems to attract so many viewers and armchair detectives? Here is an opportunity to understand some of what draws us to watch these gut-wrenching shows, while also learning something about ourselves and how God calls us to act in the world. Check out *The Truth in True Crime* this month on **rightnow** MEDIA:

For decades, cold-case homicide detective J. Warner Wallace investigated the causes behind deaths and murders, chasing one lead after another as he attempted to solve the case. These cases exposed the truths of human nature: what's important to us, what threatens our well-being, and what causes us to flourish. This 16-session series introduces you to an investigation from Wallace's detective career and teaches guiding principles to help you thrive as a human being created in the image of God.

Now that the kids are home for the summer, you'll likely soon hear the phrase, "I'm bored!" Whether you're a parent, grandparent, or temporary care provider, you can be ready for rainy days, sick days, or just a little "feet off the floor" time before the next adventure. *GizmoGo!* is a series of six, 24-28 minute episodes designed to hold the attention of your 5-12-year-old for just those summer moments:

Learn a lot we did not know, while we help each other grow! Join Miss Tina, Gizmo, Widget, Rig, Gears, and the rest of their friends at Quantum Labs as they learn important lessons from the Bible. Sing and dance along to all-new songs with Miss Tina and the bots, follow along on their wacky adventures, and mostly importantly, learn about God's love for you when you watch **GizmoGO!** 



\*Do you still need your own <u>FREE</u> **rightnow** MEDIA account, or would you like to share this great resource with a friend?

There are 3 convenient ways: Go to <a href="https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/FCONG">https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/FCONG</a>
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 grows as I discover new picks! If you've discovered a show or video on **rightnow** MEDIA



## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC FAIRMONT, MN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 5-16-2024

**Members Present:** Abigail Anderson, Kay Campe, Christina Hainy, Cindy Huset, Catherine Johnson, Sue Kruse, Larry Lasch, Marcia Musser and Jon Neitzel. Ex-officio members present: Pastor Cory. Members Absent: Amber Brummond, Jane Kotewa, and Abby Shoen.

The Council met in Heritage Hall at 5:45 PM. Moderator Kay Campe called the meeting to order, and Pastor Cory led in prayer. A moment was taken to celebrate generosity in the church which included Meals on Wheels delivery and being a "5 for 5 Church."

Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 17, 2024, was M/S/C. (Larry Lasch/Marcia Musser)

**Treasurer's Report:** Catherine Johnson reported that an investment work group met to review our current investments. They suggested the Cornerstone fund as a new name for the Endowment fund. Reports of the boards' current year-to-date spending were distributed to each board for review. A motion to receive the treasurer's report was M/S/C. (Larry Lasch/Marcia Musser)

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Cory highlighted work on the website domain, the invocation at Bravo Zulu House groundbreaking, and Confirmation Sunday. He has an upcoming promotion in the MN National Guard to Lieutenant Colonel.

#### **BOARD REPORTS:**

**Christian Education:** No representative. They are considering a different Sunday school time for next year.

**Hospitality:** Jon Neitzel will be posting posters around town for the two IHD events at our church. **Facilities:** Larry Lasch reported that they approved the newest draft of the Facility and Property Use document.

**Diaconate:** Sue Kruse stated they have been sending cards. Eric Johnson and Sue Kruse have been accompanying Pastor Cory on visits.

**Mission:** Marcia Musser reported that they need groups to serve the Free Community Meals in July, November, and December. The Church Council will serve July's meal.

Worship: Cindy Huset said that several musicians were discussed to fill in for Jenny Willard.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** We are still looking for a Vice Moderator. We are looking for a pianist as well.

**OLD BUSINESS:** We will be working on our Congregational Work Evaluation for next meeting. The two pianos are gone. Future boards of the month will be contacted. A motion was M/S/C to approve the Church Facility and Property Use document with discussed edits. (Marcia Musser/Larry Lasch) MN Conference UCC Annual Meeting, IHD, welcome signs, and the website were all briefly discussed.

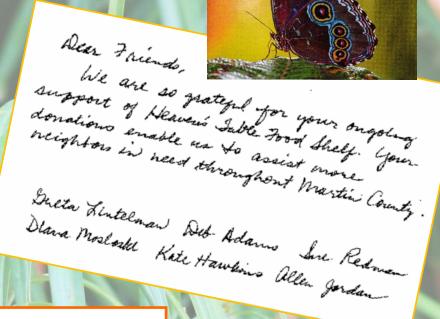
**NEW BUSINESS:** A motion was M/S/C to allow the Opera House to use Heritage Hall in the last two weeks of June for their Youth Theatre Camps. (Catherine Johnson/Marcia Musser) We have a Minnesota Valley Action Council (MNVAC) employee who will be doing work for the church. MNVAC pays their salary.

Moderator Kay Campe adjourned the meeting. Pastor Cory closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Clerk

## WE ARE BACK ON THE WEB!!

The newsletter is available (in color) on the church website. Upcoming events, birthdays & anniversaries and the church calendar are updated there as well. Check it out!



## **Fellowship Opportunities:**

All-Church Breakfast: Sunday,

June 16th is the next All-Church Breakfast. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 -9:30 AM. The menu is a surprise!

**Nomads & Women's Coffee** will take a break during the warm weather. We will start back up in the fall! If you are Interested in hosting or helping with either event, let the office know!

Thank you to the wonderful ladies who assembled the May newsletter!!

#### **Mission Minute:**

June's blessing box: Youth Summer Church Camps

Many of us fondly remember the fun we had at summer camp as kids. Right now we have several kids who are excited about a return trip to camp or their first times at summer camp. However, these camps are expensive, and we'd like to help defray some of the cost of the registration fees. Please, consider donating to our youth. If we have any excess funds, we'll roll them over to next year's camps. Thank you!!

### **Christian Education:**

Congratulations to our two high school graduates, Trenton Jorgensen and Mathew Cone!

**Thank you to our teachers** for a great year of Sunday school and Confirmation ending in a fun day at Sylvania Park!

Put August 4th on your calendars for VBS at the Shoen farm!

## BOARD



## Facilities Board

·UPKEEP AND MAINTENANCE OF CHURCH FACILITY AND GROUNDS.
·DO CAPITAL PROJECTS AS NECESSARY.

·COORDINATE AND HIRE OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS SUCH AS LAWN MOWING, SNOW REMOVAL, CLEANING OF FACILITY, ETC. ANNUALLY REVIEW THESE WRITTEN CONTRACTS.

·WORK WITH OTHER BOARDS AND COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL PROJECTS, SUCH AS CARPETING SANCTUARY.

**·MEET MONTHLY** 

•MONTHLY, TOUR FACILITY CHECKING FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND LOOKING FOR POTENTIAL ISSUES NEEDING ATTENTION.



SYLVANIA PARK BANDSHELL, FAIRMONT EVERY WEDNESDAY, 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM

MAY 22 - SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

HOSTED BY: GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

LIVE WORSHIP BAND WITH MEANINGFUL MESSAGE FROM AREA PASTORS

AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

FIND US AT: GRACELUTHERANCHURCH.ORG RAIN SITE: SYLVANIA PARK SHELTER



Tune Diaconate: Kris Fuller

Usher: Ellen Germain/Jon Neitzel

Readers for:

2nd: Cynthia Celander

9th: Abigail Anderson

16th: Kay Campe

23rd: Ellen Germain

30th: Sandra Smith

**July Diaconate:** Dave Huset

Usher: Jon Neitzel/Ellen Germain

Readers for:

7th: Amanda Forstrom

14th: Margo Weaver

21st: Marilyn Forstrom

28th: Dolores Gronewald



## Heavenly Father,

On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the example of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with your strength and peace. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### SUMMER FUN

St. John's UCC Church \*\*PARENTS/GUARDIAN\*\*

RSVP on all days, require 3-day notice of attendance before event CALL 507-235-3500 (number of kids and adults)

June 15 (Sat) starting at 8:30 at St. John's UCC Church (kids bring water bottle)

- Trailer ride to Heritage Acres
- Nature Walk on walking path
- Fishing, bait will be provided (kids bring fishing poles)
- Hot meal at noon back at church





- July 13 (Sat) GREAT PLAINS ZOO trip to Sioux Falls, SD (meeting at 8:30 at St. John's UCC Church)
  - Parents to provide transportation and cost of a meal
  - Entry fee at zoo will be provided



#### Aug 10 (Sat) meeting at 2:45 at Fairmont Aquatic Park

- Swimming (3:00 till 5:00)
- Entry fee at park will be provided



Sept 8 (Sun) after church at St. John's UCC Church (approx. 10:30)

- Games at St. John's UCC Church (Bubbles, Bouncy House, etc.)
- Hot meal at noon at church







## **MEMORIALS**

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
21-Apr	Memory of Linda Meschke	Capital Fund	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
21-Apr	Memory of Eunice Eisenmenger, Arlys Malo, Jack Doolittle, Linda Meschke		Janine Draper
28-Apr	Honor of Jim & Barb Bock Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
28-Apr	Honor of Kay & Tim Campe's Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
7-Apr	Memory of Linda Meschke	Capital Fund	Kris & Doug Fuller
12-May	Honor of Tom & Kathy Jorgensen's Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
12-May	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Les Heinrich
12-May	Memory of Gin Mevissen	Starfish	Les Heinrich
12-May	Memory of Rod Heinrich	General Fund	Les Heinrich
12-May	Memory of Julie Kasten	Starfish	Les Heinrich
19-May	Memory of Linda Meschke		Wanda Johnson
19-May	Memory of Linda Meschke		Joyce Jorgenson
19-May	Memory of Linda Meschke		John & Sherry Larson
19-May	Memory of Linda Meschke		Virginia Riedesel
19-May	Memory of Linda Meschke		Margaret Weaver
19-May	Honor of Larry & Carolyn Thompson's 58th Anniversary		Margaret Weaver



Prayer Request Cards are now on the table in the Narthex. Please share your joys and concerns on the card and return it to the usher prior to the Pastoral Prayer if you would like your request included in our prayers during the worship service.

### Hy-Vee & Fareway Report as of 19 May 2024

During the last 4 weeks, \$14,238.80 (7.12%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 24 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$95,314.99 (47.66%) toward the  $17^{th}$  goal which is now \$200,000.

During the same time, \$2,786.85 (1.86%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 59 weeks, Fareway is at \$65,844.63 (43.90%) toward our  $5^{th}$  \$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. Delivery slips/ sheets can also be used. Thanks to all who bring/mail the slips to the Church, or mailing them or dropping them off at my house.

Reported by; Jim Bock





Blessings to you all~

Our church is in need of a Vice Moderator for this year, who will then become our Moderator next year. The longer we wait to fill this spot, the less time the person has to get used to the role of what is expected as Moderator.

Our church's congregation is getting older. If you were to look around, I would bet that a good majority of the older population have spent their time on one board or another. It's time to look to the younger generation that will be keeping our church alive to step up and fill vacant positions.

A little story about myself. I know all too well how scary it can be taking on this leadership role in our church. When I was first asked to become Vice-Moderator, I was scared. I had a lot on my plate and not a lot of help. I was afraid that I would be running the whole show by myself, and that is not what I wanted to do. After several days of praying on it and talking with Catherine, I accepted the position. What changed my mind was, the council works as a TEAM! I wouldn't be doing everything by myself. I'm just there to lead, be the shepherd if you will, to guide us all to do God's will. There are several members of the council to lean on and ask for help. Everyone is willing to help you out in whatever you may need. Typically, this is a 3-year run: Vice Moderator 1 yr., Moderator 1 yr., Past Moderator 1 yr. I stayed on for 2 years as Moderator, knowing that I had Kay coming up to take my place. Timing wise that worked out best for everyone. Now you may be thinking, but I don't want to have to make difficult decisions or face conflict in the church. Believe me, I didn't either. The first year as Moderator was a piece of cake, and so will yours. The tough times come around, but with long spans in between them. I pray that I have served as Moderator the 2nd year for that purpose. It was tough, but I had God and our council members and the UCC Conference to lean on. The support from the congregation was overwhelming as well. Thank you for supporting and believing in me. At the end of the night, I knew I would be ok. God would bring the people in my life that are needed for the situation.

Fast forward to today. As Past Moderator, I sit back at council meetings and relax. I am just one of the others. However, as Past Moderator, it is my duty to find people to fill open positions in the church. I have not heard of any names to even ask. If you would be interested in the Vice Moderator for 2024, I ask that you please take some time and pray about accepting this position. If it puts your mind at ease, I already have a Vice Moderator for 2025. Please consider helping the greater good of our church. I am available to talk to you if you have any questions.

If you do not want to serve as Vice Moderator but know of a good candidate, please let me know that too. You may call, text, or email me.

Blessings and prayers to you, Abigail Anderson - Past Moderator 2024 507-525-5771 abigailroiger@gmail.com



## **Breakfast on the Lawn**

First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza

8:00-10:00 AM on Saturday, June 8

Serving:

Biscuits & Gravy \$2.50

(Extra Gravy \$0.50)

Cinnamon Rolls \$1.50

Egg \$0.50

Coffee \$2.00

Orange Juice \$2.00

Water \$1.00





2 Events on

Saturday, June 8th at

First Congregational

UCC!

## PIE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL & BBQS!!

First Congregational UCC 319 Downtown Plaza Fairmont, MN

Serving an assortment of homemade pies. \$5/slice with ice cream. \$5/BBQ and chips

SAT. JUNE 8, 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

www.fairmontucc.org

## Celebrating Generosity

There is always so much going on at First Congregational UCC! We are Celebrating the Generosity shown to our Church Family and our community...

- Sunday School celebration at the park
- Our 2 high school graduates-Mathew & Trenton
- Our fantastic Sunday School teachers
- Bible Study
- All-Church Breakfast
- Sunday School "Store"
- Raising Camp Funds
- Relay for Life blessing box
- Hospitality Free Community Meal in April
- Our faithful 3 confirmands-Ella, Blakely & Sophia
- Mother's Day worship
- Website back online
- First Aid & CPR training
- Joint Choir with Grace Lutheran

- Facilities Free Community Meal in May
- Lakeview Communion
- Goldfinch Communion
- Newsletter & helpers
- Readers, Ushers, Greeters
- Church Service Broadcasts
- Altar Flowers
- Prayer Chain
- Hy-Vee & Fareway Receipts
- Free Little Pantry
- Serving our Church Family
- Meals on Wheels delivery
- Being a Five for Five Church
- Community Worship starting on Wednesdays





These are just a few examples of the generosity we need to celebrate each and every day. We are so fortunate to have a Church Family with such diverse passions and generous souls! Be sure to give a little "thank you" to those who give so generously!

Thank you all for sharing your time, talents, and treasures!

Looking forward to what's to come . . .

This delicious, easy recipe for June was shared by Abigail Anderson:

## Better than Takeout Chicken Fried Rice

(from therecipecritic.com)

PREP TIME: 20 minutes COOK TIME: 20 minutes SERVINGS: 8 servings

## **Ingredients:**

- 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
- l Tablespoon soy sauce
- l pound chicken cut into small pieces
- 3 cups cooked rice, chilled
- 2 Tablespoons sesame oil
- l small white onion, chopped
- 1 cup frozen peas and carrots, thawed
- 2-3 Tablespoons soy sauce, more or less to taste
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 Tablespoons chopped green onions (optional)

#### **Instructions:**

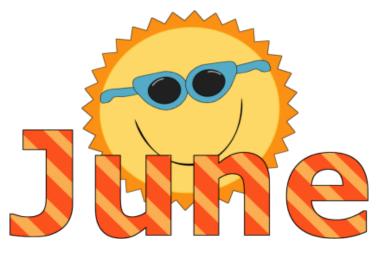
- 1. In a large skillet or wok, add vegetable oil and soy sauce. Add in the chicken and cook until lightly brown and cooked throughout. Remove and set aside.
- 2. Pour sesame oil in the bottom of the pan, add white onion, peas and carrots. Fry until tender.
- 3. Slide the onion, peas and carrots to the side, and pour the beaten eggs onto the other side. Using a spatula, scramble the eggs. Once cooked, mix the eggs with the vegetable mix.
- 4. Add the rice and chicken to the veggie and egg mixture. Pour the soy sauce on top. Stir and fry the rice and veggie mixture until heated through and combined. Add chopped green onions, if desired.

#### **Nutrition:**

Calories: 200kcalCarbohydrates: 20gProtein: 9gFat: 9gSaturated

Fat: 2gCholesterol: 61mgSodium: 301mgPotassium: 151mgFiber: 1gSugar: 1gVitamin

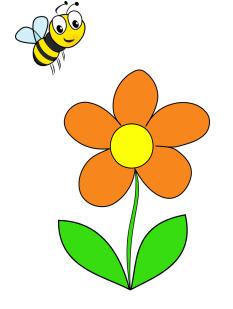
A: 1774IUVitamin C: 4mgCalcium: 23mgIron: 1mg





## **Birthdays:**

June 1	Georgia Malo Rowena Nepomuceno	June 11 June 12	Sue Eisenbacher Joanne Eisenbarger
June 2	Charlene Norris	June 14	Randy Musser
June 4	Karin Rosen	June 18	Roger Buchan
June 5	Everett Hanning	June 19	Rita Craven
	Ryan Guritz	June 24	Ruth Ann Jones
	Donna Christensen		Easton Jorgensen
June 6	Tara Thedens	June 26	Tom Rosen
	Hailie Stenzel	June 27	Isaac Holtz
June 7	Pat Cowing	June 28	Lori Thate
June 8	Jon Riggs	June 29	Elaine Zoeller
June 10	Kara Rowan		Eric D. Johnson



## **Anniversaries:**

Iumo 1	Vim & Ion Chaffon	E0 ****
June 1	Kim & Jan Shaffer	50 years
June 3	Dar & Jodi Kuhlers	47 years
June 5	Larry & Donna Christensen	53 years
June 5	Matt and Brandi Guritz	14 years
June 5	Tim & Abby Miller	3 years
June 14	Eric & Catherine Johnson	43 years
June 14	Robbin & Cathy Celander	33 years
June 16	Conrad & Lorie Zoeller	45 years
June 17	Cory & Christina Hainy	29 years
June 20	Dan & Deb Thate	32 years
June 25	Chris & Abigail Anderson	2 years
June 30	Everett & Lee Hanning	68 years
June 30	Justin & Tara Thedens	23 years