

October 2022

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



WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE



*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

Ann Osborn
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 9:30

Communion the first Sunday of
every month.

OCT. 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever. Isaiah 40:8</p>						1
2 <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship Sunday School	3	4 10:00 Lakeview Communion	5 4:00 Conf 5:30 Diaconate 6:00 Worship Board 7:00 Choir	6 5:15 Hospitality Board 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	7	8 2:00-4:00 Bridal Shower Honoring Emma Germain
9 9:30 Worship Sunday School	10	11 7:00 Facilities Board	12 4:00 Conf 5:15 Mission Board 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Choir	13 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	14 9:00 Council Agenda Items Due	15 2:00-4:00 Baby Shower Honoring Chelsea Celander
16 9:30 Worship Sunday School	17	18 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	19 4:00 Conf 5:45 Church Council 7:00 Choir	20 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	21 9:00 November Newsletter Additions Due	22
23 9:30 Worship Sunday School Blessing Box Little Free Pantry Stewardship Sunday	24	25	26 4:00 Conf 5:30 Free Community Meal 7:00 Choir	27 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	28	29
30 9:30 Worship Sunday School Noisy Sunday Heifer Intl	31					

FIRST CONGO NEWS

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

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 9



The Reverend's Ruminations - October 2022

I'd like to start my "ruminations" this month by reiterating a huge THANK YOU to all who helped fill in during worship or meetings, sent cards, and especially sent up prayers for my recovery from COVID back in the latter part of August. It hardly seems possible that I've been back in the swing of things for a month, but the increasing activity of September has really made the time fly. Whether you've had an extended illness or just an extended vacation in the past, I'm sure you know the feeling!?! If your autumn schedule seems to be in a freefall (pun intended), then you really should take a look at my **rightnow** MEDIA recommendations both this month and last. I think you'll find them inspiring and helpful.

Perhaps some of my emphasis on examining over-taxed personal schedules and looking at healthy ways to function in this crazy world comes from my recent 4-day retreat experience with about 20 fellow pastors at Clearwater Forest Presbyterian Camp near Deerwood, MN. Admittedly, it was tough to even squeeze a time of respite *into* my crazy schedule after back-to-back Friday and Saturday National Guard trainings and drill, but it was definitely worth the effort! Many of you have likely realized that if you don't schedule even your relaxation into your planning calendar, it can quickly fall by the wayside. Once away from our homes and churches, much of our time was intentionally unstructured to allow for personal study, hiking, relaxation, birdwatching, kayaking, etc., but we came together as a group for morning and evening devotional services as well as lunch and dinner. Campfire conversations were plentiful, and helped us realize that we all shared in the joys as well as the struggles of full-time church ministry.

Pastors are a varied and talented bunch of people, and at least seven of us brought musical instruments of some type in addition to some talented singers, so our corporate worship time was a beautiful experience filled with music. We enjoyed some very quiet, contemplative worship settings as well as some acoustic praise songs—and a couple of us even tried our hand (voice) at being the solo cantor for call-and-response sung prayers. The music and worship structure were led by the wife of an ELCA Lutheran minister in Willmar who is working on her master's degree in liturgical music through a program at St. John's University, so it was nice for a bunch of pastors to be involved in worship to varying degrees while not having to be in charge of organizing or leading the service!

The idyllic Northwoods setting at Clearwater Forest also meant entirely different scenery than the wide-open farmfields of southern Minnesota, or even our beautiful Fairmont lakes. There the poplar, birch, and northern oak trees intermingle with the pines and cedars, and were just beginning to offer glimpses of the eye-popping color that is sure to be peaking in the next week or two. Bald eagles were numerous, often with their yearlings nearby learning to hunt, and the unmistakable call of the loons really put me in a relaxed mood. I enjoyed a calm morning kayak outing with a couple pastor friends, and was even able to be close enough to a pair of loons to see one of them come back to the lake surface with a fish in its mouth! As we concluded our time together at the camp Thursday morning, I took advantage of the beautiful weather and proximity to one of my favorite mountain bike destinations (Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area in Crosby-Ironton) to also get some strenuous exercise before driving home to Fairmont.



As we look forward into October, let us pause to contemplate the change in physical as well as spiritual seasons in our lives. The Apostle Paul does just that in our epistle selections from his Second Letter to Timothy. As his impending execution draws near, Paul processes his sadness at death, reflects on his life and ministry, and comes to grips with feelings of being deserted by many. In spite of much that would seem negative, he pens words of encouragement to Timothy (and indeed, to all Christians)—helping us realize God's imminently faithful character despite the struggles of our earthly lives. May we lean into his reflections as we watch the fields and leaves move through this season just as we all must do.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Cory Germain

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 9-21-2022**

Members Present: Abigail Anderson, Kay Campe, Marilyn Forstrom, Dave Adams, Ellen Germain, Jim Bock and Christina Hainy. Ex-officio members Present: Dara Bliesmer, Ass't Treasurer. Guest present: Cory Hainy. Members Absent: Cathy Celander, Robbin Celander, Catherine Johnson, Sue Kruse, Larry Thompson. Ex-officio members absent: Pastor Cory Germain.

The Council met in the Heritage Hall at 5:45 PM. The meeting was called to order by Moderator Abigail Anderson. Ellen Germain led in prayer. Minutes of the August 17 meeting were approved as printed. Motion M/S/C (Kay/Marilyn).

Representative of the Personnel Committee, Cory Hainy, reported that Church Secretary, Ann Osborn, is resigning. There was discussion about the position. The Personnel Committee is planning to inform church members of the open position in an email and make an announcement on Sunday in church.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Catherine Johnson was absent. The report was read by Assistant Treasurer Dara Bliesmer. Side door steps were brought to our attention by insurance and approved by the treasurer to be carpeted. Time to start on the 2023 budget for personnel committee and boards. The year to date offering is at \$106,536, which is 63% of budget. Motion was M/S/C (Ellen/Marilyn) to use the parsonage fund for general capital expenditures. Motion was M/S/C (Marilyn/Jim) to receive the Treasurer's report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory was absent. Ellen Germain reported about his August and September activities. Motion was M/S/C (Abigail/Dave) to receive the Pastor's Report.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: Liaison Ellen Germain reported on upcoming youth activities. Youth can dress up and will sing on October 30. Gingerbread houses will be made on December 4. The Christmas play will be performed on December 18. A bulletin board will be updated with the children's activities and photos. After January 1, they would like to revisit the decision to have 9:30 church (with Sunday school after Children's Time) because of their concerns.

Hospitality: Liaison Cathy Celander was absent. Ellen Germain reported that the Harvest Festival date is October 23 from 11AM to 1PM. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 5 and under. There will be in-house dining, pick-up meals and meal delivery. Friday, October 21 is the deadline for meal delivery signup. There will be no bake sale this year, and they're planning for 300 meals.

Facilities: Liaison Larry Thompson was absent. Discussion about the carpeting the old entry steps that have been repaired was discussed.

Diaconate: Liaison Sue Kruse was absent. There was no report.

Missions: Liaison Jim Bock reported that the October Blessing Box is designated for the Little Free Pantry. The September Free Community Meal will be hosted by the Chubb House volunteers. Adopt-a-Highway cleanup will be September 24.

Worship: Liaison Dave Adams reported they will try going back to assigning volunteers for ushers, greeters, etc. for six months at a time as in the past.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Personnel Committee representative presented at beginning of meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: The Stewardship/pledge campaign will be "Growing in Generosity, Rooted in Faith." Pledge cards are typed up and the letter is being written. The first week in October it will be sent in the mail. The Harvest Festival and Stewardship/pledge campaign will be Sunday, October 23.

NEW BUSINESS: Feedback on 9:30 AM church time. We will be trying this out for a few months. We will be giving away free cider and popcorn during the Glows parade in November. Approval for autopay for the Midco bill was given to Dara.

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

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Clerk

Growing in Generosity, Rooted in Faith

Have you been prayerfully considering how you can

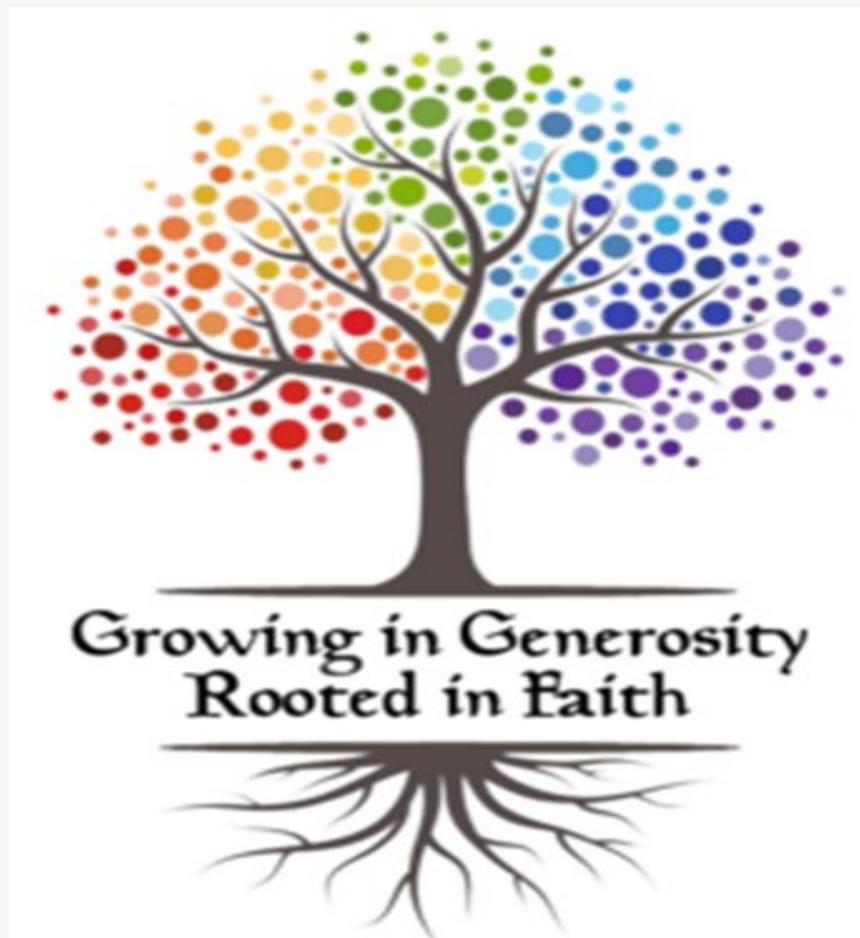
Grow in Generosity? What will that look like?

Where is your faith leading you?

Love . . . Time . . . Money

Stewardship Sunday is October 23rd

Become part of our Tree of Faith





PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

baby shower

HONORING

Chelsea Celandor

October

15

2-4PM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA | FAIRMONT | MN
RSVP TO ABBY M 507.236.8500

Registered at Babylist
babylist.com/baby-chelsea-celandor

Memorials

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
28-Aug	Memory of Steve Streit	Starfish	Cindy & Jon Anderson
28-Aug	Mary Don Kislingbury Birthday	Heifer Project	Wanda Johnson
28-Aug	Memory of Phyllis Betts		Wanda Johnson
28-Aug	Memory of Orel Barker		Wanda Johnson
28-Aug	Pat Rowan Birthday		Wanda Johnson
28-Aug	Kara Rowan Birthday		Wanda Johnson
28-Aug	Margo Weaver Birthday		Wanda Johnson
28-Aug	Memory of Ethel Heimann	Starfish	Byron & Becky Phillips
28-Aug	Memory of Orel Barker		Pat & Randy Rowan
28-Aug	Memory of Orel Barker	General	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
28-Aug	Jeff & Renae Vetter Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
4-Sep	Memory of Bev Norman	Starfish	Virginia Riedesel
4-Sep	Memory of Faye Draper	Music	Virginia Riedesel
4-Sep	Memory of Bev Norman		Lenore Wendt
4-Sep	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Les Heinrich
4-Sep	Memory of Bev Norman		Memorials
4-Sep	Deb & Ace Adams Anniversary	Starfish	Margaret Weaver
11-Sep	Honor of Dean Grotte	Starfish	Les Heinrich
11-Sep	Honor of Joanie Maday	General	Les Heinrich
18-Sep	Memory of Tranna Urban	Capital	Stephen Urban

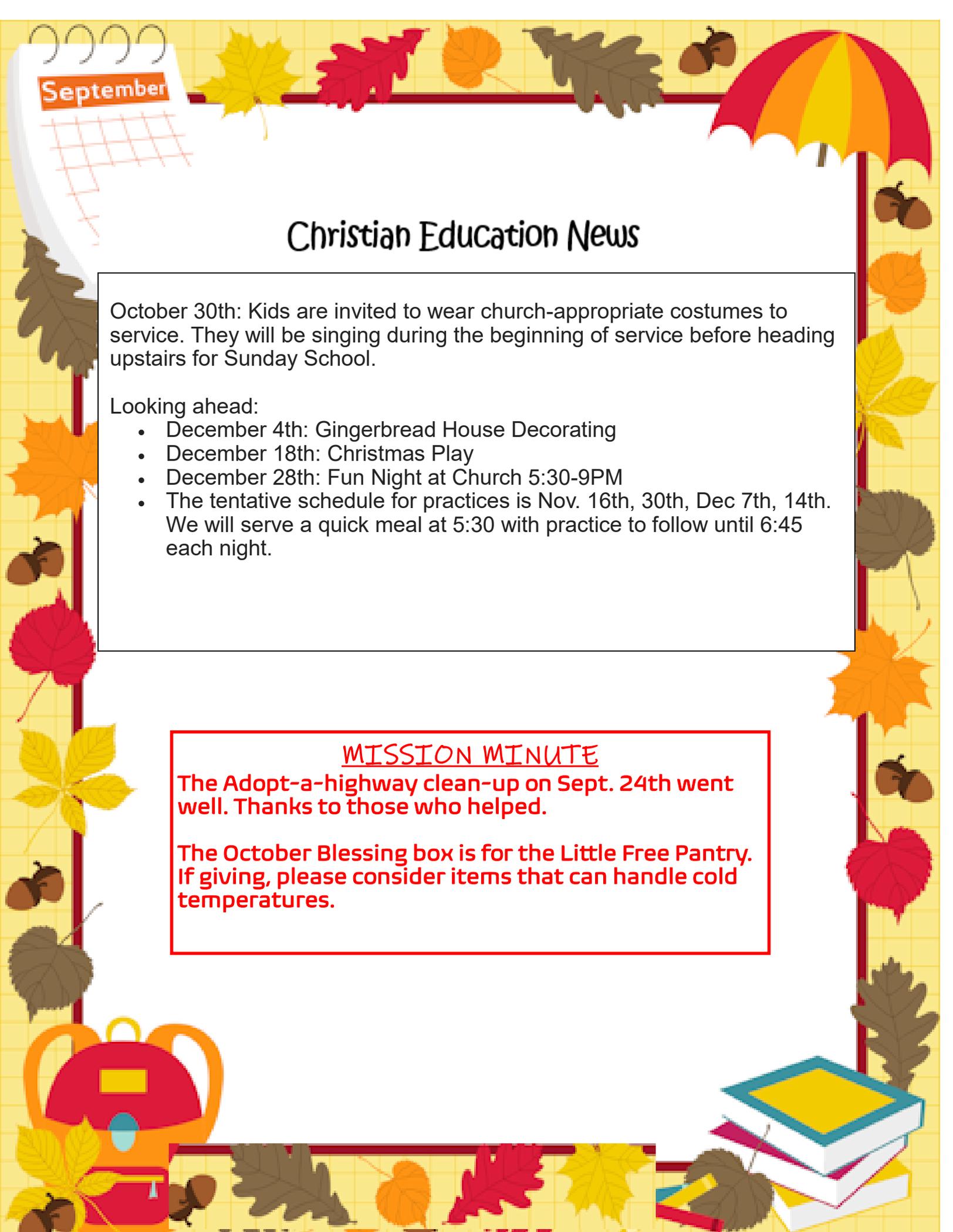
HyVee & Fareway Receipts Report as of 25 September 2022

During the last five weeks \$36,618.22 (24.41%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 23 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$89,143.96 (59.43%) toward the 15th \$150,000 goal.

During the same five weeks, \$8,414.14 (5.61%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 90 weeks, Fareway is at \$119,594.34 (79.73%) toward our 4th \$150,000 goal. It will still take about 24 weeks to reach the \$150,000.

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. 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**



September

Christian Education News

October 30th: Kids are invited to wear church-appropriate costumes to service. They will be singing during the beginning of service before heading upstairs for Sunday School.

Looking ahead:

- December 4th: Gingerbread House Decorating
- December 18th: Christmas Play
- December 28th: Fun Night at Church 5:30-9PM
- The tentative schedule for practices is Nov. 16th, 30th, Dec 7th, 14th. We will serve a quick meal at 5:30 with practice to follow until 6:45 each night.

MISSION MINUTE

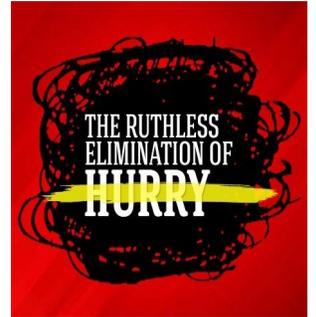
The Adopt-a-highway clean-up on Sept. 24th went well. Thanks to those who helped.

The October Blessing box is for the Little Free Pantry. If giving, please consider items that can handle cold temperatures.

rightnow MEDIA

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

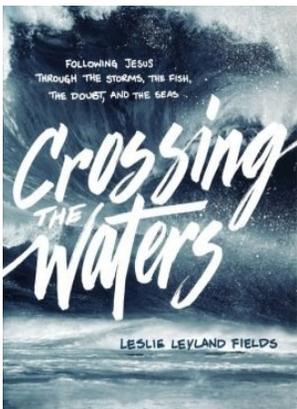
Maybe I'm recognizing something about my own life, but I doubt it's unique to me. One of last month's recommendations was entitled "Redeeming Your Time," but maybe we all need a little extra encouragement to examine a pervasive problem in our lives today: hurry!? If your fall schedule already includes school, sports, harvest, fall yard work, holidays, and other special events, then you're probably already in a hurry. If so, I encourage you to slow down for just a few minutes a week to learn from pastor John Comer in his five-part series, ***The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry***, summarized here:



We are all busy. Some of us can't remember the last time we rested or even had free time. Our busyness can feel productive but it is a toxic distraction, sapping our spiritual, physical, and emotional vitality. It may seem like we have no choice but to live at a frantic pace, but God has a better path for us.

Join pastor and author John Mark Comer in this five-part series as he addresses one of the greatest threats to our spiritual lives: hurry. Instead of allowing our calendars and screens to control our lives, Jesus offers us a new rhythm of life, overflowing with grace, peace, and beauty.

How about a little off-shore adventure as you learn more about one of the greatest fishers ever known? Join Leslie Fields for her unique take on the gospel story and the fishermen with whom Jesus worked in ***Crossing the Waters***:



Get ready for the wettest, stormiest, wildest trip through the Gospels you've ever taken! The Gospels are dramatic and incredibly wet, set in a rich maritime culture on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Yet we've missed much of this perspective—until now.

In this 6-part series, Leslie Leyland Fields, author, speaker, and seasoned Alaskan fisherwoman, takes us on a journey through the life of Christ. She leads us across the waters of time and culture out onto the Sea of Galilee, through a rugged season of commercial fishing with her family in Alaska, and through the waters of the New Testament beside the ragtag fishermen disciples. Her own story and her fresh insights will challenge our understanding of Jesus and what it means to "Come, follow me." fresh insights will challenge our understanding of Jesus and what it means to "Come, follow me."

*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.



YOU'RE INVITED TO A

bridal
SHOWER

HONORING

Emma Jermain

DATE *Oct 8* TIME *2-4 pm*

LOCATION *1st Congregational UCC.*

HOSTED BY *Abby Bernst* *Fairmont*

RSVP *Open House*

REGISTRY *Target*

** Bring your favorite pie recipe to share with the bride.*

THIS 'N THAT

Gratitude

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: Jon Neitzel, Deb Thate, Sherry Voyles, Dave Meschke and Pastor Cory Germain.

Thank you Dolores, Sherry V, Kathy, Margo and Cindy A for folding and sealing the September Newsletters!

(The newsletter is available in color on the church website.)

<http://www.fairmontucc.org>



*To the Members of
First Congregational UCC:*

I have decided to resign my position with the church, due to an increase in hours with another job.

My 5+ years have been a really good experience and I hope my performance pleased the church as well.

I have learned a lot and really enjoyed working here - especially, the people!

I take a lot of memories with me and hope to maintain many friendships.

Thank you for making my job so enjoyable!

*Appreciatively,
Ann*

Harvest Festival

Sunday, October 23, 2022

Serving 11:00 AM-1:00 PM



First Congregational
United Church of Christ
319 Downtown Plaza-Fairmont

Ham Loaf Dinner

*Ham loaves, mustard sauce, hash brown casserole, cranberry relish, rolls
and cupcakes*

Adults: \$12.00

Youth (6-12): \$6.00

Children (5 and under): FREE

DINE-IN, TAKE OUT OR
DELIVERY AVAILABLE

PLEASE CALL 507-235-5382
WITH ORDERS FOR TAKEOUT
OR DELIVERY BY NOON ON
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21ST

TAKE OUT AVAILABLE BY
DRIVING UP IN THE ALLEY
BEHIND THE CHURCH



SLOW COOKER SAUERBRATEN BEEF

- 2 LB. BEEF STEWMEAT (1 INCH PIECES)
- 1 C. CHOPPED ONIONS
- 1 C. BEEF BROTH
- 11 C. RED WINE VINEGAR OR CIDER VINEGAR
- 2 DRIED BAY LEAVES
- 6 C. UNCOOKED MEDIUM EGG NOODLES (12 OZ.)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ C. CRUSHED GINGERSNAP COOKIES (ABOUT 15)
- 2 t. PACKED BROWN SUGAR
- 2 t. CHOPPED FRESH PARSLEY

In 3.5 or 4 qt. slow cooker, mix beef, onions, broth, vinegar and bay leaves.

Cover, cook on low heat 7 to 9 hours

About 15 minutes before serving, cook noodles as directed on package. Remove bay leaves from beef mixture. Stir in crushed cookies and brown sugar. Cover; cook low 15 minutes or longer until mixture is bubbly and thickened. Serve beef mixture over noodles; sprinkle with parsley.



And for dessert . . .

SOUR CREAM BUNDT COFFEE

First Sour Cream Bundt Cake

- 1 yellow or French vanilla cake mix
 - 1 small box vanilla instant pudding
 - 4 eggs
 - 1 c. sour cream
 - $\frac{1}{4}$ c. oil
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ c. hot water
 - 1 t. vanilla (optional)
- Mix together and beat well for 3 minutes.

Streusel:

- 1 c. chopped nuts
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. sugar
- 3 t. cinnamon

Glaze: (optional)

- 2 c. powdered sugar
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1 t. cinnamon

1-2 T. Cream

Spread $\frac{1}{2}$ cake mixture in well greased bundt pan. Spread with streusel. Cover with remaining batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes on rack, then remove to plate. When cool, cover with glaze if desired.

Second Sour Cream Bundt Cake

- French Vanilla Cake mix
- 4 eggs
- 1 c. oil
- 1 c. sour cream

Streusel

- $\frac{3}{4}$ c. sugar
 - 2 t. cinnamon
 - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped nuts
- 

October Birthdays

2	Kristen Campe	22	Jane Kotewa
3	Elizabeth Scheppman		Gracie Ziemer
	<u>Adam Rachuy</u>		David Adams
4	Amanda Forstrom		Jessi Kotewa
	Steve Urban	25	Kathy Jorgensen
7	Aubrey Elaine McAlister	28	Mark Becker
11	Jenny Craven		Staci Thompson
	Mike Thate	29	Angela Vaughn
13	Logyn Cone	30	Wanda Johnson
	Jonissa Neitzel	31	Barb Bittman
15	John Holstine		
17	Jon Anderson		
18	Michael Rowan		
19	Brian Thate		
21	Sue Kruse		

October Anniversaries

2	Brandon & Rachael Tonneson	12 yrs
9	Randy & Pat Rowan	51 yrs
15	Bill & Staci Thompson	17 yrs
20	Ken & Joy Rachuy	49 yrs
22	Kevin & Sarah Zabel	17 yrs
24	Steve & Janine Draper	42 yrs
31	Dean & Donna Grotte	52 yrs