September 2020

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA FAIRMONT, MN 56031-1776 Nonprofit U.S. POSTAGE PAID Fairmont, MN 56031

First Congregational UCC 319 Downtown Plaza Fairmont, MN 56031







First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fairmont, Minnesota

Rev. Cory Germain Minister

Ann Osborn
Administrative Assist

Joyce Jorgenson Choir Director How to reach us....

Church Office

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

E-mail

uccsecretary319@gmail.com

Web Site Address

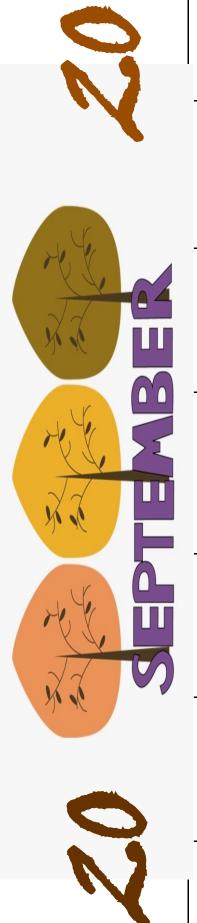
www.fairmontucc.org

Rev. Cory Germain Office Hours:

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

Worship Hours

Sunday School 9:15
Worship 10:30
Communion the first Sunday
of every month.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 5:00 Worship Brd 5:30 Diaconate 6:30 CE Board	E	4	5
6 Communion Sunday 9:30 Worship	Color Color	8 10:00 Lakeview Communion	9 5:00 Mssion Board 6:30 CE Board	5:15 Hospitality Board 7:00 Facilities	11 9:00 am Council Agenda Items Submission Deadline	12
13 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	14 5:00 FCH Foundation	15 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	16 5:30 Council & Finance	17	9:00 am October Newsletter Submission Deadline	19
20 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	21 4:30-7:00 Parent To Parent	22	23	24 9:30 Women's Bible Study	25	26 Relay for Life Drive Thru MC Fairgrounds
9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Blessing Collection: Neighbors in Need	28	29	30 5:30 Free Community Meal Drive-thru			



The Reverend's Ruminations - September 2020

Volume 1, Issue 6 First Congregational United Church of Christ

Believe it or not, "summer" as we know it in Minnesota is nearly gone! Sure, there will still be plenty of warm—even hot—days in September, but even with a fairly late Labor Day, it somehow seems like summer never quite reached its full potential. Sure, we've had a couple good ol' fashioned heat waves to remind us of the season; but with the ongoing pandemic, so many of the fun annual summertime events we know and love have had to be cancelled—some for the first time in decades.

As many of you know, I'm again participating in the Habitat 500 bicycle ride to raise money for Habitat for Humanity. Like many other activities, the ride organizers had to re-imagine their event—in this case a multi-day tour where participants ordinarily eat meals shoulder-to-shoulder and sleep in close proximity to one another on school gymnasium floors. The solution became a "virtual" Habitat 500, where riders each cover 500 miles at their own pace closer to home. In some ways this makes the miles easier, but the challenge is still daunting—and the hard part is that there aren't hundreds of other bicyclists sharing the joys and struggles of the open road. As I write this in the last week of August, I am over halfway to my 500-mile goal, but hopefully September will bring some milder weather in which to cross the virtual finish line. Thank you very much to all who donated toward my ride—and more specifically toward Habitat for Humanity of Martin and Faribault Counties. Through your support there is great work being done here in Fairmont and throughout Southern MN!!

Of course, the topic of conversation among church members throughout the country continues to be whether or not they have resumed in-person worship services. The answer to that at First Congregational United Church of Christ is finally, "YES." This is now an option for those who feel comfortable being in a congregational setting, but it is not the only option. We have had very good "attendance" by alternate means throughout the COVID-19 restrictions, so we plan for those online and cable options to continue and even improve. In fact, new online streaming hardware/software has recently been added to our existing HD camera system that will soon allow even our Facebook Live viewers to experience a much better quality picture and sound than the cellphone video format that Ellen has done such a good and faithful job sharing. I couldn't have kept services going without her!

Nothing is constant but change, and despite (or because of) our coronavirus separation this spring and summer, other changes are also happening at First Congregational UCC. MRCI (Managed Resource Connections, Inc.) has provided custodial services to our church for a number of years, as well as valuable training and employment for many community members with disabilities. But the restrictions brought on by the pandemic, and the resulting economic impacts, have caused a restructuring of MRCI's operations and a closure of their Fairmont facility. We muddled through for several months without much vacuuming, mopping, or dusting since no one was in the church building, but now we have hired the cleaning services of Jill Houge to again keep the building in tip-top shape. If you happen to stop by during the week, greet Jill—if you can catch up with her!

Our Assistant Treasurer of several years, Jodi Kuhlers, has also resigned to have more time to spend with her grandchildren and soon-to-be-retired husband. While Jodi's work behind the scenes is something many probably take for granted, without her efficiency and attention to detail, the church's bills would be a mess. We owe her a big THANK YOU! One of the joys of a small town is that family connections are everywhere, and we are blessed to announce that Jodi's daughter, Dara Bliesmer, has agreed to step into the Assistant Treasurer position. Dara has subbed for her mom in the past, and brings an accounting and business background that is sure to make the transition seamless. Welcome Dara! Updates and changes are also underway in our Christian Education program—including some great refreshing of the upstairs classrooms by our hardworking CE Board members—so stay tuned here in the newsletter and in upcoming email, and be sure to "like" our new Sunday School Facebook page: @FirstCongoUCCSundaySchool

Yours in Christ, Rev. Cory Germain



COUNCL MINUTES

For 8-19-2020

First Congregational UCC

Council met in person. The meeting was called to order by Moderator, Jane Kotewa who also led in prayer.

Members Present: Jane Kotewa, Robbin Celander, Larry Thompson, Joanne, Eisenbarger, Dolores Gronewald, Dave Adams, Wendy Ziemer, Catherine Johnson, Cory Hainy, Marilyn Forstrom.

Also present: Jodi Kuhlers, Ass't Treas., Dean Grotte

Members Absent: David Meschke

Motion was M/S/C (Ace/Larry T.) to approve the minutes of the July meeting as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Report had been sent to Council members prior to meeting. Jodi clarified a question from July meeting and noted correct date and numbers on July report. Being 67% of the way through our fiscal year, we have received 53% of budgeted pledges. Motion was M/S/C (Dolores/Catherine) to receive the report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory joined the meeting via Zoom and reported that his activities for the past month have been the usual. Currently is at Annual Training for Air Nat'l Guard.

Board Reports

Christian Ed: Wendy reported that curriculum has been chosen and ordered, Sunday School rooms are being painted, teachers are secured and Sunday School 2020-21 will begin 9-13-20. Chimes have been moved to the stage area with the assistance of Joyce J. and the north $3^{\rm rd}$ floor room will be used for Confirmation and Jr./Sr. High School activities.

Diaconate: No meeting

Facilities: Dean Grotte reported to the Council on unexpected repairs needed to the north tower in addition to other planned major maintenance projects. There was discussion regarding the possible need for a capital campaign. Motion was M/S/C (Cory H./Larry T.) to authorize Dean to get us on the contractor's project list with permission to pay a retainer fee up to \$10,000 if necessary and that Facilities Board would have an itemized list of projects and estimated costs to the council within two weeks.

Hospitality: No meeting

Missions: Joanne reported that Relay for Life is ongoing, August 30 is Noisy Sunday, September Blessing Box is Neighbors in Need. Since 4-H is unable to serve the Community meal as planned, Mission Board will do so.

Worship: Worked on plans for resuming in-person worship. Penny Reiter will do Pulpit Supply on August 23.

Old Business: Upon recommendation of the Personnel Committee, motion was M/S/C (Cory H/Wendy) to hire Jill Hough as cleaning contractor. Pastor Cory will work out details of duties, pay, etc with Jill to be reviewed after 60 days. Motion was M/S/C (Joanne/Larry) to hire Dara Bliesmer as Assistant Treasurer effective 8-25.

No New Business

The meeting was adjourned and Moderator Kotewa closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Forstrom, Clerk

First Congregational United Church of Christ Fairmont COVID-19 Safety Plan

SAFETY

Participants should understand and agree to the following COVID-19 Safety Plan for First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fairmont prior to attendance:

- Stay home if you or anyone in your household is sick or has symptoms associated with COVID-19: fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell.
- Persons who are at higher risk for severe illness (elderly or underlying health conditions) are strongly
 encouraged to stay home.
- Masks are required, whether homemade cloth or disposable. Disposable masks will be available at entrances if you need one. *CDC guidelines do not require children under age 2 to wear a mask.
- Use of hand sanitizer will be required upon entering the church.
- Signs are posted at church entrances listing other COVID-19 related restrictions and guidelines to be observed by all in attendance.
- Worship services will continue to be available via electronic means:

Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/firstconqofairmontmn/ [live at regular worship time or archived]
RightNow Media - https://www.rightnowmedia.org [contact Pastor Cory if you need access]
Fairmont Cable Channel 12 - Thursday afternoons at 2:00 pm

ATTENDANCE

Names of all in attendance will be recorded each Sunday. This contact tracking is necessary in case we become aware of a coronavirus case within the congregation and need to inform you of possible exposure.

CAPACITY

Percentage of total church occupancy is not an accurate method of determining safe seating capacity for worship services. Physical distance of at least 6' between individuals/family groups will be maintained when in the church building. To maintainthis distance:

- There are 12 pews available on the main floor, with one empty row between to ensure proper physical distancing between congregants.
- Seating estimates allow for a maximum of one couple on each end of a pew. Total will generally be 4 per pew, unless part of a larger family unit.
- 4 pews are also available in the balcony with same physical distancing restrictions as the main floor.

GREETERS

Greeters will meet people at the front and alley doors (original north entrance is closed) to ensure that everyone has, or is provided, a mask and uses hand sanitizer upon entering. Greeters will also ensure names of those in attendance are recorded as stipulated in "attendance" above.

HISHERS

Ushers will show people to appropriately spaced seating. Please follow the usher's directions and avoid congregating in church common areas.

At the end of the service the ushers will dismiss the congregation by rows. Please exit the church as you are dismissed and avoid congregating in church common areas. Socializing can be done outside at a safe distance.

CHANGES TO THE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

- No congregational or choir singing. Special music will still be provided.
- Offering plates are not being passed. Place offering in plates provided in the Narthex.
- Communion is still planned on the first Sunday of each month. Safe methods for distribution will be explained during the service.

SANITIZATION

Sanitizing will be done after services. Please refrain from entering any areas that have been taped off.

Rev. 3 - July 23, 2020

*All provisions contained herein are subject to change in accordance with local, state, and national public health guidelines.

Memorials

		Donor	
Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
19-Ju	Il Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Ann Hartmann
19-Ju	Il Memory of Jim Harper	Starfish	MaryDon Kislingbury
19-Ju	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Alice Maday
19-Ju	Memory of Ramon Rowan	Capital	Pat & Randy Rowan
26-Ju	Margo Weaver Birthday	General	Eric & Catherine Johnson
26-Jı	Memory of Ramon Rowan	Starfish	Wanda Johnson
26-Ju	Il Memory of Ramon Rowan	Starfish	MaryDon Kislingbury
26-Ju	ul Memory of Ramon Rowan	Starfish	Linda Meschke
26-Ju	ul Memory of Robert Zoeller & Allison Brown	Starfish	Tim & Kay Campe
2-Au	g Memory fo Glenda Hugget	Relay for Life	John & Sherry Larson
9-Au	g Memory of Eloise Lidke		Dolores Gronewald
9-Au	g Memory of Eloise Lidke	Starfish	Jane Kotewa
9-Au	g Joy & Lorin Pollock Anniversary	Starfish	Jane Kotewa
9-Au	g Memory of Ramon Rowan	Starfish	Lyle & Charlene Norris
9-Au	g Memory of Eloise Lidke		Judith Orr
9-Au	g Robbin & Cathy Celander Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
9-Au	g Memory of Eloise Lidke		David Meschke
9-Au	g Memory of Eloise Lidke	Starfish	Tim & Kay Campe
16-Au	g Memory of Eloise Lidke	4.75	Marla Anstey
16-Au	g Memory of Eloise Lidke		Helen Bellin
16-Au	Memory of Eloise Lidke	4	Barbara & William Bittman
16-Au	g Memory of Eloise Lidke	100	Marilyn Forstrom
16-Au	g Memory of Eloise Lidke		Hanson Doris
16-Au	g Memory of Eloise Lidke		Terry & Diane Johnson
16-Au	g Memory of Eloise Lidke		Ruth Ann & George Jones
16-Au	g Memory of Eloise Lidke	<u>Starfish</u>	MaryDon Kislingbury
16-Au	g Memory of Eloise Lidke		Clare Lidke

Partners in Ministry

Ushers, Readers, Greeters
First Congregational UCC
September 2020

September 6 Ushers Reader	Trenton Jorgenson Amanda Forstrom	Marilyn Forstrom
Greeters	Gretchen Jorgenson	Kathy Jorgenson
September 13		
Ushers	Robbin Celander	Eric Johnson
Reader	Cathy Celander	
Greeters	Julie Elliot	Kay Campe
September 20 Ushers Reader Greeters	Larry Thompson Abigail Roiger Abigail Roiger	Larry Lasch Carolyn Thompson
Greeters	Molgan Rolger	Carolyn Thompson
September 27		
Ushers	Cory Hainy	Dave Meschke
Reader	Margo Weaver	
Greeter	Jane Kotewa	Marilyn Forstrom

The Martin County Relay for Life will be holding a

Luminaria Drive Thru September 26 at the Martin County Fairgrounds!

Our team,

First Congregational (UCC)² United Cancer CRUSHERS **United Church of Christ**

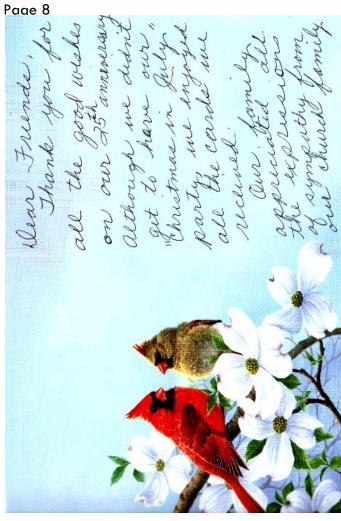
or have us do it for you. Each bag is \$10. Just fill out the form dedicate them to a loved one lost, someone currently battling, or anyone who's overcome cancer. You can decorate the bag will be selling luminarias, white paper bags that will be illuminated the night of the Relay Drive Thru. Luminarias honor every life touched by cancer. You can church or drop it off during office hours; there will want to pick up a luminaria to decorate, they will be a drop-off box in the church entryway. If you below and mail it with your donation to the be available next to the drop-off box. When we know more details about the Relay Drive Thru, we will let you know! It should be quite a site to see!!

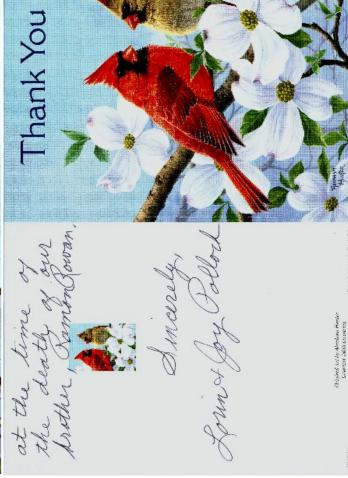
 $\hfill \square$ I want you to decorate my bag □ I will decorate my bag

Amount

Number of Bags











with Dave Wallien on July 30, 2020

Dave grew up in Montevideo and was very active in school and the community at large. He worked after school hours at J. C. Penney Shoe Store. During the summers, he continued to work at Penney's. The local Shoe Store--Frisholm's--hired him away from Penney's where he worked several years until the owner passed away. The owner's wife wanted Dave to have the store. He had a silent partner (who owned a store in Hutchinson). He managed the store until 1969 when he bought Braun's Shoe Store in Fairmont.

the school Orchestra, Chorus, Quartet,
& Pep Squad Singers. He was a part of a
barbershop and was happy to have been paid!
He was part of Kiwanis while there. He served in
the U.S. Army from 1948-1952 serving
stateside during the Korean War.

Over the years in Montevideo he participated in

Over the years in Montevideo he served on the City Council, Treasurer of the biggest church, was President of the PTA, was treasurer for the County Red Cross, and was elected to the Masonic Lodge for one year.

In 1969, he owned and operated Braun's Shoe Store for two years. He sold the store in 1971. Then he went on the road selling shoes in Iowa and Nebraska until he retired in 1994. He and his first wife had 2 children: Pam is in Creston, Iowa (who works in health

Pam is in Creston, Iowa (who works in health care) and Paul Is in Aberdeen, SD (who is a retired RR Engineer).

In 1971, at our church, Rev. Engstrom married Dave & Shirley. Shirley had three daughters: Sherry, Jodie Whitmore, who is a member of our church, and Liz.

At that time, Dave became a member of our church and has sung in our choir. (Overall he has sung in different choirs for more than 75 years!!) He was a member of our Board of Deacons for a number of years and continues to attend services here during the 6 months of summer. During the 6 months of winter, he spends his time in Arizona.

He continues to enjoy daily coffee hours with friends at Hy-Vee here in Fairmont and enjoys Sunday brunch with church friends following our Sunday church services. We miss him during the winter!

- Submitted by Lee Hanning



rightnow MEDIA

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

Once logged in to your FREE account on <u>rightnow MEDIA</u>, you can either scroll down the left side library list OR click on the LIBRARIES icon in the upper left corner of the screen and select "First Congregational UCC" to access the "Fairmont Worship Services" channel, or any of the other great resources on the site. "Pastor Cory's Picks" is where you'll find videos I've recommended here, as well as others that interest me. Stay tuned... the list changes as I discover new picks! ~ Pastor Cory

Summer is in the rear-view mirror, and as autumn sets in, perhaps some cooler days will have you gathered around a backyard bonfire. Will it be just you, or do you feel like maybe you should finally invite the neighbor you've seen coming and going from a distance all spring/summer? Sure, we're still in a season defined by separation, but how about some carefully-distanced fellowship with someone outside your immediate family? For many of us, it can be tempting to just mind our own business in our neighborhood. But is that really how God wants us to live? Take a few minutes to check out four short sessions of **The Art of Neighboring** by Dave Runyon. Here is a brief synopsis:

As followers of Jesus, we've been called to love both God and our neighbors. It's easier said than done, but if we push past the fear, time barriers, and pride that can keep us from engaging with others, we can build deep connections with the people in our neighborhood and, most importantly, please God.

In this four-session series based on their book The Art of Neighboring, Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon help us focus on the people within our neighborhood and learn what it means to be a good neighbor. They discuss the importance of pushing through the uncomfortable feelings that come with communicating, investing in, and caring for the people who live near us. What would our communities look like if we took Jesus's command to love our neighbors as ourselves seriously?

A new schoolyear is starting in some format, so this is an excellent time to incorporate a quick and fun devotional to your family's daily routine! Kids need heroes now more than ever, so encourage them to look in the BIBLE instead of other questionable sources! **5-MINUTE FAMILY DEVOTION-AL—OLD TESTAMENT HEROES** (as the title implies) is a 25-session series of short, 3-5-minute animated videos that can inspire further conversation at your house. Check out the description here:

We can learn so much from the heroes of the Bible! Some of them are unlikely heroes—ordinary people who God uses in extraordinary ways to move forward his great plan. This video devotional plan will uncover some of your favorite Bible characters and encourage you to see how God worked through them—and think about how God is working through you!

Have you tried out either of **rightnow** MEDIA's two new viewing/listening options? **Audio-only** is great for those who already enjoy listening to podcasts or audio books on their smart phones, allowing you to listen without having video playing; you can even turn off your screen altogether and put your phone in your pocket or a hands-free device in your car. If being alone is getting a little old for you, a **virtual watch group** allows you and a group of **rightnow** MEDIA users to watch the same video together and have conversations about it through an on-screen chat function. One person can invite others to join by sending a group link through email, social media, or a text message, and then play, pause, and rewind videos for the entire group. *This is currently available only on a computer, but a mobile option is in the works.

*Still need to sign up for a FREE account? Go to https://www.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/FCONG

During the last four weeks, \$22,663.22 (15.11%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were turned in. After only 38 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$122,439.67 (81.63%) toward the 12th \$150,000 goal which may be reached in November 2020 During the same four weeks, \$4,657.11 (3.10%) worth of Fareway slips were received.

After 98 weeks, Fareway is at \$110,511.27 (73.67%) toward our 3rd \$1,000 from Fareway Store. Based on history, it will be June of 2021 before the goal is reached. Thanks for bringing in or even mailing them to me. Remember this program started the first of March 2011, so any slips from then until now can be used. Ány 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

Reported by Jim Bock

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:

Cindy Anderson, Pastor Cory Germain, Lee Hanning, Eric B. Johnson, Abigail Roiger and Jon Neitzel.

Thank you Jodi Kuhlers for all your work and dedication to the Assistant Treasurer position these past years.

We hope you enjoy more time for fun with your Grandchildren and enjoyment in Darwin's retirement!

HyVee & Fareway Receipts Report as of 16 August 2020



Starting September 13th, the Worship Service time changes to 10:30; Sunday School (for all) starts at 9:15.

We are pleased to welcome to the staff:

Jill Houge, our new church cleaner. and Assistant Treasurer, Dara Bliesmer.

DENNIS THE MENACE

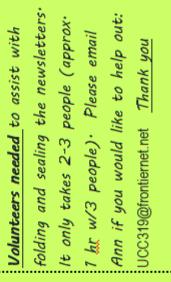


USTO GOTO SCHOOL... UNTIL WE GET A JOB!"

"What's for Dinner?"

I think people really enjoy reading and trying ter. Keep them coming! There is no limit to submitting a recipe to the church newslet-Thank you to those of you who have been how many you share, I 'll print them all! the recipes.

Information regarding the background of the recipe, pictures (e.g. the church office. (UCC31920 frontiernet.net) You can email, mail, or drop off a recipe to welcomed, appreciated and will be used! while making yourself, or with a child, finished product, etc.) are very much



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

Marilyn, Kathy J and Margo for your Thank you!

preparing last month's newsletter for willingness and helping hands in mailing

September 18th is the October Newsletter submission deadline. 9:00 a.m.



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Norwegian Rice Pudding

Spray inside double boiler before adding:

- 1/2 cup white rice
- 4 cup milk

Pinch of salt

Cook 1 and a half hours (or more), stir occasionally

Beat together in large bowl:

- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- l tablespoon butter

Add hot rice, a small amount at a time to egg mixture. Sprinkle cinnamon and sugar over serving

Recipe from Lillian Ash; submitted by Ginny Riedesel

September Birthdays

- 1 Daniel Moller Harold Stepanek
- 3 Bev Norman
- 7 Abby Namken
- 8 Eric Zoeller
- 10 Marian Buchan
- 12 Don Marks
- 13 Mike True
- 15 Oliver Thedens
- 16 Evie Wenz
- 17 Polly Mosloski

- 18 Dean Grotte Marie Stoeckman
- 19 Joanie Maday
- 21 Sarah Gerhardt
- 22 Dave Huset
- 25 Cathy Buckmeier Virginia Riedesel Jan Cone Amanda Jaskulke
 - Zack Ashland
 Terry Winegar

- 26 Ben Riggs
 Cameron Germain
 Chad Thate
 Tyler Goerndt
- 28 Jon Neitzel
 Patti Norman
 Dustin Bicknase
- 29 Mackenzie Jones
- 30 Tranna Urban





Sept 8	Andrew & Erica Jorgensen	2 yrs
Sept 8	Jeff & Jennifer Grefe	8 yrs
Sept 10	Justin & Tiffany Radcliff	9 yrs
Sept 11	Travis & Melissa Goerndt	16 yrs
Sept 13	Tyler & Jennifer Neist	17 yrs
Sept 13	Mike & Erin True	5 yrs
Sept 16	Joe & Morgan Christensen	3 yrs
Sept 19	Randy & Sue Kruse	5 yrs
Sept 22	Dan & Anne (Saxton) Wenz	8 yrs
Sept 29	Jacob & Tana Lasch	8 yrs