

August 2021

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

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First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031



WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE



*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

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

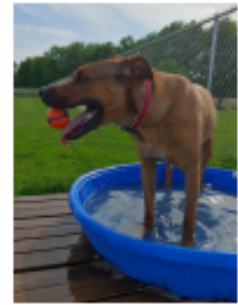


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 9:30 Worship	2	3 10:00 Lakeview Communion	4 5:30 Worship Board	5 6:00 T.O.P.S.	6	7
8 9:30 Worship	9	10	11 5:15 Mission Board 6:30 CE Board	12 5:15 Hospitality 7:00 Facilities 6:00 T.O.P.S.	13 9:00 am Council Agenda Items Deadline	14
15 9:30 Worship	16 5:00 FCH Foundation	17 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	18 5:30 Church Council	19 6:00 T.O.P.S.	20 9:00 am August Newsletter Submission Deadline	21
22 9:30 Worship Blessing Box Habitat for Humanity	23 4:30 Parent To Parent	24	25 5:30 Free Community Meal	26 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 T.O.P.S.	27	28
29 9:30 Worship <i>Noisy Sunday</i> Heifer International	30	31				

The Reverend's Ruminations - August 2021



As we swelter under yet another heat wave, still with little moisture on the crops and lawns, it's no doubt that we're in the "dog days of summer." I'm not so sure that the dogs of the area even enjoy having their persona attached to such heat, but who am I to change an historic idiom? Maybe we should all follow the lead of our canine family members, Lando (left) and Obi-Wan (right), and enjoy a dip in a pool or local lake!



Despite the undeniable summer climate, some of our church boards and the council have already begun looking ahead to what for many has become another checkpoint in the return from COVID restrictions: **autumn**—and a new school year. As I mentioned in last month's "Ruminations," we are cautiously optimistic that improved (albeit slowing) vaccination rates in the area may allow us to resume some of our favorite church activities like the Free Community Meal or an adult Sunday School class by September. Christian Education opportunities for all ages are set to kick off on September 12, so I hope that you will take part whether you're 3, 83, or anywhere between (and beyond)!

Before we get the cart before the horse (wow, another old idiom in the same article?), maybe we should think about August. "Minnesota's Other Big Fair" (the Martin County Fair) and THE Minnesota State Fair are still on the horizon, but will be here before you know it. At church during the month of August, our sermons will continue to draw from the epistle lessons in the Revised Common Lectionary, and specifically Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. We've already spent the last three weeks of July looking at selections from the first three chapters of Ephesians, so if you're staying cool indoors and are looking for an easily accessible book of the Bible, check out the remaining three chapters—or read through Paul's letter in its entirety to prepare for the upcoming worship experience.

The city of Ephesus was a metropolitan port city important to the Persian, Egyptian, and Roman Empires, and located near the western shores of modern-day Turkey. As such it was a melting pot of many cults and religions of those eras. Fairmont may not be quite as strategic or metropolitan, but our modern world continually bombards us with influences, both evil and holy, each and every day. As Paul encouraged the young Christian congregation in Ephesus, so I encourage you as it may apply:

"Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. That is not the way you learned Christ! For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." (4:17-24, NRSV)

May the remainder of your summer be filled with warmth, family, and opportunities of rejuvenation for your soul.

Yours in Christ's service,

Rev. Cory Germain

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN**

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – July 21, 2021

Members present: Dolores Gronewald, Wendy Ziemer, Larry Thompson, Abigail Roiger, Ace Adams, Jane Kotewa, Joanne Eisenbarger, Catherine Johnson, and Sue Kruse. Ex-officio members Rev. Cory Germain and Dara Bliesmer were also present. Robbin and Cathy Celander, Kay Campe, and Christina Hainy were unable to attend.

Vice Moderator Ms. Roiger opened the meeting, with devotions and prayer offered by Pastor Germain.

Minutes of the June Council meeting were approved as printed. Financial report was received as printed. A note from the Treasurer, Ms. Johnson, will be included in the August newsletter.

Pastor Germain reported that Communion services are again being enjoyed at Lakeview and Goldfinch, that worship in the park was a perfect day for enjoying God's world, and that he presided at two funerals for church members. He will be attending a Presbyterian chaplain training week in August in the Great Smokey Mountains, accompanied by Ellen.

BOARD REPORTS:

-C.E. is planning for Sunday School opening on September 12, and will have the Smart TV direct wired to the internet for more reliable use with the classes.

-Hospitality is discussing fall activities. Pies? Cookie walk? There is not yet a plan for Harvest Festival.

-Facilities reports that the north tower repair project is complete, and that the sidewalk on the southwest (main entrance) will be replaced yet this year. General maintenance work continues, with a workday scheduled this month.

-Diaconate reported that efforts continue to find rides for church for those who are unable to drive.

-Missions indicated that the Blessing Box for August will go to Habitat for Humanity. Total proceeds to date for the Relay for Life (including June Blessing Box) were \$1,988.

-Worship Committee did not meet this month.

OLD BUSINESS: Decision regarding the start of a Capital Campaign and Stewardship Drive will be made in August. The Multicultural event held June 24 on our campus and nearby was somewhat hampered by heavy rains, but late in the day was enjoyed by 200 folks. 10 vaccinations were given by Mayo staff in Heritage Hall.

NEW BUSINESS: New church email addresses will be set up for the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Financial Secretary for increased security. Plans will continue for a "Welcome Home" Sunday, perhaps to be combined with the opening of Sunday School and/or Stewardship efforts. Other ideas will also be considered.

Closing prayer was offered by Pastor Germain.

Meeting was adjourned by the Vice Moderator.

August 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.



2021 Habitat 500: Bike @ Home

Like 2020, the 2021 Habitat 500: Bike @ Home celebrates the 29-year history of the Habitat 500 Bike Ride while participants bike in their own communities. We invite riders to cycle any time between registering and September, for as many miles as they would like! Each rider pays a registration fee and raises funds from family, friends, businesses, and faith groups and designates the Habitat for Humanity affiliates they wish to support (both locally and around the world). Virtually any biker can participate! There is no age restriction—riders of any age may register; they require an additional waiver signed by a parent or guardian for those under 18. No special cycling skill or knowledge required. Where? Virtually anywhere! No need to travel for the Habitat 500. Grab a bike – new, old, purchased, or rental – and hop on. You can bike on a stationary bicycle or get outside

(weather permitting).

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 29th annual bike ride in 2021, 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 August for Habitat for Humanity on [Sunday, August 22]. You can drop off your donation or send it to the church; just note *Habitat*.

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

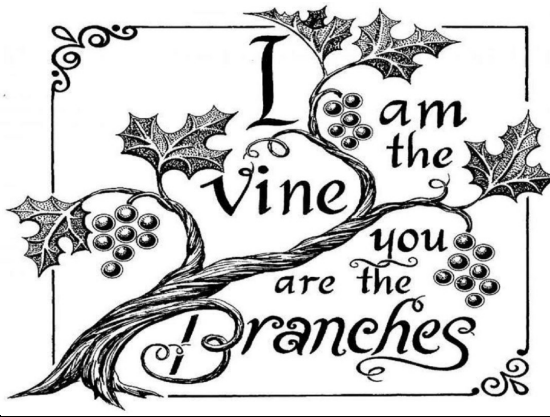
The local affiliate has some wonderful projects in the works. If you are interested in helping them, contact them at 507-526-2500 or habitat@bevcomm.net.

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



Memorials

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
20-Jun	Eric & Catherine Johnson Anniversary	Habitat	Ann Hartmann
20-Jun	Memory of Hollie Hogie		Wanda Johnson
20-Jun	Memory of Hollie Hogie		Lyle & Charlene Norris
27-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		Marsha Donnelly
27-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		Shirley Jordison
26-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		Kenneth Krueger
27-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		Keith & Karen Hertzke
27-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		Margo Weaver & Larry Vogel
27-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		Merlin Addar
27-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		Jane Kotewa
27-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		Wanda Johnson
27-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		Jolene & Joe Rosol
27-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		Pat & Ken Rose
27-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		Lynn Marushin
27-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		Gerald & Jo Hagen
27-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		Ken Reiman
27-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		Kay Schultz & Dave Kerman
27-Jun	Memory of George Jones	Capital	Jane Kotewa
27-Jun	Memory of George Jones	Capital	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
27-Jun	Robbin & Cathy Celander Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
27-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		Margaret Weaver
27-Jun	Eric & Catherine Johnson Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
4-Jul	Memory of George Jones	Starfish	Steve & Janine Draper
4-Jul	Memory of Hollie Hogie	Starfish	Jane Kotewa
4-Jul	Everett & Lela Hanning Anniversary	Starfish	Jane Kotewa
4-Jul	Kris & Wendy Ziemer Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
4-Jul	Conrad & Lorie Zoeller Anniversary	Starfish	Margaret Weaver
4-Jul	Cory & Christina Hainy Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
4-Jul	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	General	Les Heinrich
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones	Starfish	Cindy & Jon Anderson
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		Micahel & Patricia Byrne



Memorials


Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		Cynthia Celander
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		Robbin & Cathy Celander
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		William & Patricia Cowing
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		James & Ronda Cone
11-Jul	Memory of Mary Beth Snyder	Music	Steve & Janine Draper
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		Joanne Eisenbarger
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		Marilyn Forstrom
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones	Capital	Dolores Gronewald
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		Wanda Johnson
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones	Starfish	Joyce Jorgenson
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		John & Sherry Larson
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		RN & CM McMillan
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		Lyle & Charlene Norris
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		Kenneth & Joy Rachuy
11-Jul	Everett & Lela Hanning Anniversary		Virginia Riedesel
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		Virginia Riedesel
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		Pat & Randy Rowan
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		Kathleen Simpson
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones	Capital	Daniel & Debra Thate
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones	Music	Sharon Voyles
11-Jul	Memory of George Jones		Margaret Weaver
11-Jul	Everett & Lela Hanning Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
18-Jul	Memory of Mary Beth Snyder	Starfish	Cindy & Jon Anderson
18-Jul	Everett & Lela Hanning Anniversary		Marilyn Forstrom
18-Jul	Memory of Mary Beth Snyder		Wanda Johnson
18-Jul	Memory of Mary Beth Snyder	Capital	Jane Kotewa
18-Jul	Memory of George Jones		Linda Meschke
18-Jul	Memory of Mary Beth Snyder	Capital	Kenneth & Joy Rachuy
18-Jul	Memory of Mary Beth Snyder		Roger & Janet Smed
18-Jul	Memory of Mary Beth Snyder	Capital	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
18-Jul	Memory of Mary Beth Snyder	Starfish	Tim & Kay Campe
18-Jul	Memory of Mary Beth Snyder		Kay & John Kimmet

The background of the entire page is decorated with various slices of watermelon in red, green, and pink, some whole and some cut into wedges.

Thank you!

Thank you
Sherry V. for
folding and
sealing the
July news-
letters!

Thank you, Lee Hanning,
for all the wonderful
interview additions to the
newsletter!

A graphic featuring a black graduation tassel hanging from the top right, surrounded by a pattern of gold and black polka dots on a white background.

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for supporting me
during my high school graduation.
I have spent the summer working
as support staff at Prairie
River Camp in Brycelyn, MN.
I leave for school in late
August to run for the Buena
Vista Cross Country team.
Thank you for all your cards,
gifts, and prayers. Sincerely,
Cameron German

THANK YOU

INTERVIEW

Hi Everyone - Sorry there will not be an interview of one of our members this month. There **will** be one in the next Newsletter.

Last month's Newsletter omitted part of Everett's biography:

"He is a member of First Congregational UCC and served on the Diaconate Board. He has been a member of the Blue Earth Royal Chisellers in Blue Earth." (He loves to whittle.)

Thanks for all the wonderful comments about the interviews! Lee Hanning

9:00 a.m. August 20th is
the September Newsletter
submission deadline.

Giving...



Ending poverty begins
with agriculture.

Heifer International is on a mission to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities.

How can you help???

For several years, every month there are five Sundays we have a **NOISY Sunday** collection, making **NOISE** by dropping coins in our cans. Those coins have gone on to buy **many** animals over the years as part of Heifer International.

This August has five Sundays. We will have our cans out **all month long** – in the sanctuary and in the front entry – so you can **make NOISE all month long!**

**NOISY
SUNDAY**

**Come Make
Some NOISE
Aug 29!!!!**



Notes from the Church Treasurer

Thanks to everyone who so generously supports the work of this church! Here are some of the financial highlights for the first 6 months of 2021. People have given 45% of this year's budget of \$145,000. We budgeted very cautiously for 2021 due to the uncertainties created by COVID 19. The current bills for the North Tower roof repair and masonry work have been paid without having to borrow money. We applied for and received a 2nd PPP loan/grant of \$11,000. Thanks to all who have organized and participated in fundraisers. So far this year fundraisers have raised \$3250. The congregation continues to generously support mission projects beyond the general budget. So far, people have given \$3075 to mission projects. We are grateful that our church has received generous bequests from the Trusts of Warren and Mildred Brodt for capital improvements and for general programming.

**It's
Heart
work**

rightnow MEDIA

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

Life in a semi/post-COVID world seems to have been picking up speed from late spring through mid-summer... so much so that I've had to skip our ~~rightnow~~ MEDIA reviews for a few months to avoid creating a delay in our newsletter production!?! If you're like me, you're wondering yet again where those fabled "lazy days of summer" have gone. Maybe it's time to intentionally slow down and notice what God has created all around us. **Growing Slow** a six-session guided study of short (10-12-minute) "seasons" in your faith life, filmed over the course of an entire growing season on the farm. Speaker Jennifer Dukes Lee will help you:

- *gain the courage to slow down and enjoy your life*
- *uncover surprising truths that will help you grow, even in difficult seasons*
- *lay down burdens you've been carrying and receive God's healing*
- *find value in the good things you are already growing*

This study reveals how land is a picture of our steady growth into claiming the promises of God. The land is more than just a backdrop for the stories in the Bible. It is a central character in the magnificent narrative, from the very beginning when the creator God used dirt to make life on a farm called Eden.

Jennifer weaves these biblical lessons into her own experience of the importance of land, gleaned from her fifth-generation farm. The land—both then and now—teaches us how to un-hurry our hurry-sick hearts.

What have your kids (or grandkids) been up to this summer? Probably a few exciting adventures, if they're anything like we were as children! When they need something worthwhile to slow down and watch in the evening, how about inspiring them with some action sports adventures that help them think critically about their faith? **Reckless Love** does just that:

*Follow the ice climbing, four-wheeling, sky diving, and skateboarding adventures of Bob Goff, Greg Boyd, Mo Isom, and Karen McKinney as they seek one thing - **Reckless Love**. This fun and inspiring 4-episode video series asks the big questions while encouraging you to recklessly live out your faith.*

***Do you still need to sign up for a FREE ~~rightnow~~ MEDIA account?**
Go to **<https://www.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/FCONG>**

Once logged in to your **FREE** account, 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! If you've discovered a show or video on ~~rightnow~~ MEDIA that you think others would enjoy, email me and I'll promote it in next month's column.

~ Pastor Cory

Mandarin Orange Cake

Ingredients:

2c sugar
2c flour
2 eggs
2 small cans mandarin oranges,
drained (keep juice)
2t baking soda
2t vanilla
1t salt
1c chopped nuts
Combine all ingredients and mix well
with mixer.

Pour into a 13"x9" pan (I like to
use a well-oiled bundt cake pan)
Bake at 350 degrees for 30
minutes.

Topping:

3/4c brown sugar
3T mandarin juice
3T butter

Bring to a boil. Spoon or pour over
entire cake after baked.
Serve hot or cold.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"BUT I WANT A COOKIE SO BIG THAT
IT'S ACTUALLY A CAKE!"

RECIPE



Please send Ann your recipes
for the newsletter. You can
mail, email, or drop them off
at the church office.
We would love to share!



Happy Birthday!

Aug. 1	Tim Campe
	Paige Hainy
Aug. 2	Piper Lasch
Aug. 4	Lance Willard
	Byron Phillips
Aug. 5	Darla Guritz
	Matthew Cone
Aug. 6	Mary Don Kislingbury
	Bob Neusch
	Jeff Grefe
Aug. 7	Tyler Harder
	Tracy Kotewa
Aug. 8	Kris Ziemer
Aug. 9	Britney Goerndt
Aug. 10	John Larson
Aug. 11	Donna Holstine
Aug. 13	Deb Adams
	Amanda Cain
Aug. 15	Preston Rachuy-Davis
Aug. 18	Mark Grotte
Aug. 19	Abigail Roiger
Aug. 20	Karen Cone
Aug. 23	Alexa Steele
Aug. 24	Art Elliott
	T.J. Hawkins
	Bennett Draper
	Liz King
Aug. 25	Cindy Huset
Aug. 26	Hanna Goerndt
Aug. 27	Aubrey Lasch
Aug. 28	Linda Meschke
	Barb Pitcher
Aug. 31	Ann Erdman
	Beth Massey

Happy Anniversary!

Aug 1	Tabb & Molly Meyer	42 yrs
Aug 3	Art & Julie Elliott	47 yrs
Aug 3	Dave & Cindy Huset	36 yrs
Aug 12	Eric & Rowena Johnson	21 yrs
Aug 13	Billy & Jenna McAlister	10 yrs
Aug 26	David & Deb Adams	32 yrs
Aug 28	Mike & Lori Thate	39 yrs
Aug 31	Doug & Darla Guritz	52 yrs
Aug 31	Cameron & Dalene Prindle	18 yrs

