

March 2018

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA
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Rev Cory Germain
Pastor

Ann Osborn
Administrative Assistant

Joyce Jorgenson
Choir Director
Director

How to reach us....

Church Office

507-235-5382

Hours:

Tuesday—Friday

9:30-12:30 p.m.

E-mail

ucc319@frontiernet.net

Web Site Address

www.fairmontucc.com

Address

319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031

Rev. Cory Germain

Office Hours:

Tuesday 9 :00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday 1:00 p.m.– 5:30 p.m.

Friday 9:00 am—12:30 p.m.

Rev. Cory's phone: 507-848-7305

Worship Hours

Worship-9:30

Communion the first Sunday of
every month.

March 2018 Pastor's Page

How is your Lenten journey? We're not quite to the midway point in the season of Lent, so perhaps it's a good time to pull over and check the map or GPS for progress. Often we approach Ash Wednesday with the best intentions of joining Jesus on his journey to the Cross: we've decided on a bad habit or a tempting food to give up, or a new discipline that can help us grow in our spiritual faith. But sometimes as the midwinter days drift slowly along, we find ourselves slipping—not on ice or packed snow, but away from our chosen Lenten discipline. I pray that you have kept your grip so far, able to stay your course, and in doing so have found a stronger connection or relationship to the journey of our Savior.

One of the blessings that Lent brings is a chance to gather halfway through our busy week to sing, pray, and share in some additional thoughts on the scriptures from our Journey of Stones sermon series. These Wednesday evening Lenten services will continue through March in the chapel at 6:00pm (unless we outgrow the space). I hope you will invite a friend or neighbor and come as you are to get a little extra fuel in your spiritual tank during the week!

Another blessing of the Lenten season comes from knowing that, just as Minnesota's seemingly permanent winters DO eventually come to an end, Lent is a period of time that will joyously culminate in Easter—that day when the Christian Church throughout the world celebrates together the victory Christ won as he rose from the dead. Soon and very soon (April 1st – no foolin'!) we too will gather joyously to celebrate because his Easter resurrection is ours!

Recently I uncovered a challenging quote I had saved several years ago from Mohandas Gandhi, who remarked, *"I like your Christ; I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."* Even within the body of Christian believers some of us may find ourselves agreeing with this statement because human beings can often disappoint us. When someone points to the misdeeds of a professed Christian as a reason not to embrace the faith, we may tell them to look at Jesus instead. Or in the case of his letter to the Philippians, Paul calls his audience to look at him and his followers—and imitate them.

Philippians 3:17 says, *"Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us."* Now that sounds like a risky proposition if we fast-forward to some of the high-profile religious leaders who have fallen so mightily in recent decades! I know I'm certainly not ready to put myself on that kind of pastoral pedestal—I'm only human and still in need of guidance as much as the next person!?!

The challenge is nonetheless laid down. Paul calls us to imitate his faith and practices, and luckily for us he was a prolific New Testament writer. Now we might be tempted to dismiss Paul as some kind of ego-maniac for putting himself out there as one to be imitated, but he isn't actually making a claim to be perfect. Indeed, he can't deny his checkered past under the name Saul, when he was a great persecutor of Christians. He had done well for himself in that Roman-dominated culture, but by the time of his writing he says, *"Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord"* (Philippians 3:7-8).

What may have sounded like vanity on Paul's part is actually a challenge for his audience—both then and now—to imitate him in the single-minded pursuit of sharing in Christ's suffering, and in knowing the power of Christ's resurrection (see Philippians 3:10-11). Paul is not so much holding himself up as the perfect example, but is speaking from the experience of devoting his whole life to following the one who is the true, ultimate example of humility and self-sacrificial service: Christ Jesus our Lord.

As we continue on this Lenten journey, let us find moments to pause and draw inspiration from Paul's journey—and through it may we find ourselves drawn into his teacher's journey. See you along the way!

In Christ's service,
Rev. Cory Germain

March

2018

			Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
Sun	Mon	Tue				
4 Communion Sunday 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	5	6 10:00 Lakeview Communion	7 6:00 Lenten Service 7:00 Choir Practice	8 7:00 (both) Facilities Board Hospitality Board	9	10
11 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	12 5:30 Missions Board	13	14 6:00 Lenten Service 6:30 CE Board 6:30 Chimes Choir 7:00 Choir Practice	15	16	17
18 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	18	20 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	21 5:00 Finance Board 5:10 Church Council 6:00 Lenten Service 6:30 Chime Choir 7:00 Choir Practice	22	23 Newsletter Submission Deadline	24
25 Blessing Box Collection 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	26 Parent To Parent 4:30-7:00	27	28 5:15 Worship Board 5:30 Free Comm Meal 6:00 Lenten Service 6:30 Chime Choir 7:00 Choir Practice	29 9:30 Women's Bible Study	30	31



1ST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES OF
FEBRUARY 21, 2018 MEETING

- I. Rev. Germain led opening Prayer and Worship.
- II. Roll call: Julie Elliott, Deb That, Dave Meschke, Jim Marushin, Deb Thate, Mary Don Kislingbury, Ace Adams, Ellen Germain. Visitor- Joy Pollock
Ex officio: Rev. Cory Germain, Catherine Johnson
- III. Communications: Julie read a letter from the MN Conference. The conference will be inviting us to participate in a discussion about Conference processes and what is important to us.
- IV. Minutes from Previous Meeting- Were approved as printed
- V. Joy brought attention to the maintenance needs of the third floor area, particularly as related to use by the AARP Tax Aide program.
- VI. Reports
 - a. Treasurer's Report: The report was received. Our finances continue to hold steady. Thanks to the congregation for our continuing stewardship.
 - b. Pastor's Report: Rev. Cory attended 3 days of continuing education at Luther Seminary. He has completed the paperwork to apply for dual standing in the MN Conference of the UCC. He met with the Conference sub-committee on ministerial standing on Feb. 15. He participated in 3 days of military chaplain activities. Home visiting and nursing home visits continue. Lenten services and Easter preparations have begun
 - c. Board Reports:
 - CE- Melissa G and Wendy Z will be co-chairs. Many of the slots for teaching Sunday School have been filled, but still need a volunteer for March 4.
 - Diaconate -Visits to homebound continue with Valentines treats being delivered. Joe Christensen's transfer of membership into the church was accepted and 2 members were moved from the inactive to active status.
 - Facilities -A liaison with Council is still needed. Working on converting lights to LED's. Getting bids for a new lawn mower. Working on heating and air conditioning concerns.
 - Finance -Reviewed investments. Looking at organ repairs and how to pay for them. Recommended that Jody Kuhlers become a Board member of Finance, and Robbin Celander serve as Finance Liaison to the Council. MSP to approve
 - Hospitality-Will be providing Hors d' oeuvres for the Habitat for Humanity dinner. Considering whether we will participate in Holy Hot Dish this year.
 - Mission-Food Pack went great. OGHS collection is next Sunday. Gearing up for a "Souper" Food Drive in March. Still need volunteers for May, Sept, Nov and Dec Community Meals.
 - Worship-Kelly M. will be Chair. Looking for Pulpit Supply for April 22

1ST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES OF
FEBRUARY 21, 2018 MEETING - **cont'd**

- d. Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary Theme/Committee- Thanks to all who volunteered to be a part of the committee. The committee still needs a chairperson or co-chairs.
- e. Heritage Hall High Use area tile project- in process. We need to stay off the area until it is completed and sealed. Community meal may need to have an altered location or be cancelled.
- f. The new membership management software has been installed. Those involved are learning how to use it and are entering the data needed to make it fully functional.

VII. New Business

- a. Dual Standing/Installation- Rev. Cory has received dual standing in the UCC and Presbyterian Church to serve at Fairmont First Congregational UCC. An installation service followed by a meal is being planned for a Saturday afternoon this spring.
- b. Conference Annual Report- need data to complete the report. Julie will work with the CE Board to gather data about Sunday School participation.
- c. The Church use policy was referred to Facilities and Hospitality for updating.

VIII. Other Business- Thanks to all who worked to create our new church directory.

- IX. Ongoing Old Business – tabled for another meeting (See Bottom)
- X. Closing Prayer was led by Julie Elliott

Next Meeting: March 28, 2018

Ongoing Old Business

- A. Safe Church Policy
 - a. Information sent to boards
- B. Church Website
- C. Convergence Music Project CMP video
- D. Church Pamphlet
- E. Church Council Positions
- F. Proposed Memorial Project and Railing/Fence for Back of Park Area

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Johnson, substitute Church Clerk for Marilyn Forstrom



March Blessing Box – Minnesota FoodShare

Be a SOUPer Hero this March!!

**Not all SOUPer heroes wear capes . . .
some wear APRONS!**

This year we challenge the congregation to put on their own SOUPer hero aprons and gather the ingredients to their favorite SOUP recipes. We challenge you to bring back all 100 reusable orange grocery bags filled with food to help others less fortunate create their own delicious SOUP!

Bags and grocery lists will be available beginning February 25, 2018, through the end of March. If you are unable to shop, your SOUPer generous monetary donations are also welcome.



Join us each week to meet a **First Congregational UCC SOUPer Hero**

Mar 4 – Captain Carrot encourages you to bring SOUPer vegetables

Mar 11 – Ninja Noodle will flip if you bring SOUPer noodles

Mar 18 – Professor Protein kindly requests you bring SOUPer proteins (meat, beans, etc)

Mar 25 – SOUPer Fruity would be ecstatic if you brought fruit (yes, fruit goes in SOUP, too)

History of the March Food Drive

Minnesota FoodShare began its work in 1982 with a campaign advanced by congregations to restock food shelves in the 7-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The effort was so successful, and the need was so evident, the March Campaign became a statewide program just one year later.

The largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together various community organizations, businesses, and faith communities to help stock nearly 300 food shelves statewide. In 2017, over \$8 million dollars and 4.7 million pounds of food were raised by Minnesota food shelves and Minnesota FoodShare.

Minnesota FoodShare envisions a Minnesota where all residents have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity. The March Campaign addresses these issues directly.

We have held many food drives over the years, but in 2012, First Congregational UCC, Fairmont held its first annual Spring food drive. The drive has evolved over the years but remains focused on helping the food shelves that serve the residents of Martin County. Our March Blessing Box offering will go to the Salvation Army and Heaven's Table Food Shelves, serving Martin County.

Remember, don't just count your blessings . . . share them!

As we look towards celebrating 150 years in this church's history, it is apparent that food has always been an important element of our fellowship together. Our "Feeding the Flock" cookbook was done in 1989, and contains some treasures and real treats. Just for fun, here are two of those recipes that are tried and true.

CHICKEN ASPARAGUS BAKE

8 small boned and skinned chicken breasts
cooking oil
salt and pepper
2 (10 oz.) pkg. frozen asparagus or 2-3 lbs fresh
1 can cream of chicken soup
1/2 c. mayonnaise
1 t. lemon juice
1/2 to 1 t. curry powder
1 1/2 c. grated cheddar cheese

Season chicken breasts with salt and pepper. Brown in oil. Place in greased 8x 10 (or 9 x 13) and layer thawed asparagus on top. (If using fresh, cook 2 minutes in boiling water and drain well.) Mix soup, mayo, lemon juice and curry powder. (May add mushrooms and water chestnuts if desired.) Spread soup mixture over layers. Cover with cheese. Bake 30 minutes at 375. (May add crushed potato chips on top last ten minutes.)

HAWAIIAN PUPUS

1 c. chopped black olives
1/2 c. chopped green onions
1 1/2 c. shredded cheddar cheese
1/2 c. mayo
1 t. curry powder
Salt to taste
1 pkg. English muffins, split

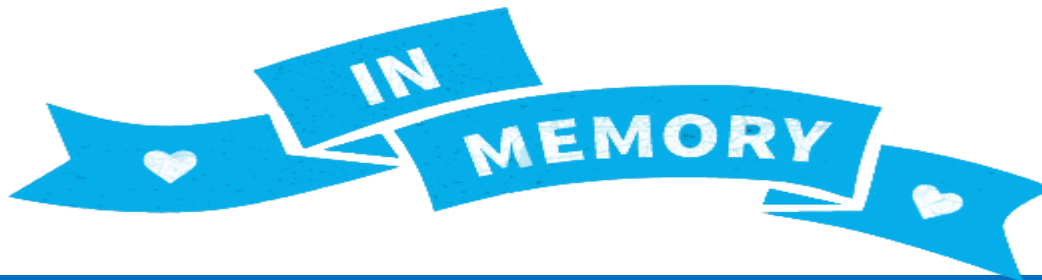
Combine ingredients except muffins. Spoon mixture onto muffins and broil until cheese melts. Cut into quarters to serve.

A can of shrimp may be substituted for the ripe olives for a shrimp cheese appetizer.

One would think that cooks in the 80's must have liked curry powder! Next month we'll skip all that!

MEMORIAL GIVING

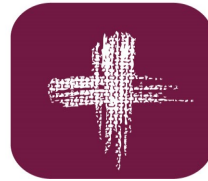
Date	Memory/Honor of	Donor Designation	Family Designation	From
7-Jan	Memory of Jim Thompson	Starfish		Arthur & Julie Elliott
7-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen	Starfish		Doug & Marilyn Forstrom
7-Jan	Memory of Jim Thompson	Music		Dolores Gronewald
7-Jan	Memory of Jim Thompson		Starfish	Donna & Dean Grotte
7-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen	Music		Joyce Jorgenson
7-Jan	Memory of Jim Thompson		Starfish	Jane Kotewa
7-Jan	Memory of Jim Thompson		Starfish	Eloise Lidke
7-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen	Capital		Roger & Marabelle Lindell
7-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen	Starfish		Virginia Riedesel
7-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen	Capital		Pat & Randy Rowan
7-Jan	Memory of Jim Thompson	Starfish		Larry & Carolyn Thompson
7-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen	Starfish		Larry & Carolyn Thompson
7-Jan	Memory of Jim Thompson		Starfish	Jerry & Sherry Voyles
7-Jan	Memory of Jim Thompson		Starfish	Margaret Weaver
14-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen		Capital - Tile Flooring	Marsha Donnelly
14-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen		Capital - Tile Flooring	Clifford & Joanne Eisenbarger
14-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen		Capital - Tile Flooring	Arthur & Julie Elliott
14-Jan	Memory of Jim Thompson	Starfish		Arthur & Julie Elliott
14-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen		Capital - Tile Flooring	Erpelding, Voigt & Co, LLP
14-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen		Capital - Tile Flooring	Everett & Lela Hanning
14-Jan	Memory of Jim Thompson		Starfish	Everett & Lela Hanning
14-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen		Capital - Tile Flooring	Lorraine Harper
14-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen		Capital - Tile Flooring	Bonnie Johnson
14-Jan	Honor of Larry Vogel Birthday			Eric & Catherine Johnson
14-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen		Capital - Tile Flooring	Wanda Johnson
14-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen		Capital - Tile Flooring	MaryDon Kislingbury
14-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen		Capital - Tile Flooring	Eloise Lidke
14-Jan	Honor of Larry Vogel Birthday	Starfish		Alice Maday
14-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen		Capital - Tile Flooring	Byron & Becky Phillips
14-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen		Capital - Tile Flooring	Daniel & Debra Thate
14-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen		Capital - Tile Flooring	Jerry & Sherry Voyles
14-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen		Capital - Tile Flooring	Margaret Weaver
22-Jan	Memory of Jim Thompson			Barbara & William Bittman
				Dolores Gronewald
22-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen		Capital - Tile Flooring	& add'l memorials
28-Jan	Memory of Lucille Gorgen			Lyle & Charlene Norris
28-Jan	Memory of Jim Thompson		Starfish	Lyle & Charlene Norris
28-Jan	In appreciation of Children's music - Jenny & Lance Willard			Margaret Weaver
4-Feb	Roger & Marabelle Anniversary			Margaret Weaver
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	DJ & David Adams
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller	Starfish		Jon & Cindy Anderson
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	Barbara & William Bittman
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller	Starfish		Tim & Kay Campe
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	Arthur & Julie Elliott
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller	Starfish		Dolores Gronewald
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	Everett & Lela Hanning
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	Eric & Catherine Johnson



MEMORIAL GIVING - Cont'd

Date	Memory/Honor of	Donor Designation	Family Designation	From
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	Wanda Johnson
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	Thomas & Kathryn Jorgensen
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller	Music		Joyce Jorgenson
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller	Starfish		MaryDon Kislingbury
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	David Meschke
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	John & Sherry Larson
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	Ken & Joy Rachuy
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	Daniel & Debra Thate
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller	Starfish		Larry & Carolyn Thompson
4-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	Margaret Weaver
11-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	Jane Kotewa
11-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	Eloise Lidke
11-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller	Capital		Roger & Marabelle Lindell
11-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	Jean & Tom Maday
11-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	Lyle & Charlene Norris
11-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller	Capital		Pat & Randy Rowan
18-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	Cynthia Celander
18-Feb	Honor of Lee Hanning Birthday	Kids Against Hunger		Clifford & Joanne Eisenbarger
18-Feb	Bob & Jan Cone Anniversary			Margaret Weaver
18-Feb	Jon & Cindy Anderson Anniversary		Starfish	Margaret Weaver
18-Feb	Cliff & Joanne Eisenbarger Anniversary		Starfish	Margaret Weaver

Lent



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

March 4

Diaconate: Eric Johnson
Head Usher: Larry Thompson
Reader: Deb Adams
Greeters: JR & Jane Kotewa

March 18

Diaconate: Eric Johnson
Head Usher: Brad Cone
Reader: Craig Nelson
Greeters: Don & Shelby Marks

March 11

Diaconate: Eric Johnson
Head Usher: Doug Forstrom
Reader: Jim Marushin
Greeters: Cindy & John Anderson

March 25

Diaconate: Eric Johnson
Head Usher: Bill Cowing
Reader: Julie Elliot
Greeters: Eloise Lidke and Melva Tonne

A medley of songs, from the musical "Joseph," will be presented by our choir (and others) on March 11 at 10:30. Come and hear Jacob and his 12 (or 11 sons) complain about the favorite one--JOSEPH. Listen as the choir men turn into cow-boys and ride their horses. Watch the choir enjoy the beach in their sun hats and glasses. Oh, and did I mention, Elvis may appear.

See you March 11th - Joyce

March is Minnesota Food Share Month and we will be holding our annual food drive!

New Addresses:

Virginia Charlton
Kingsley Shores
16880 Klamath Trail, Apt # 234
Lakeville, MN 55044

Lorraine Harper

Brookdale
500 Carlson Parkway #347
Minnetonka, MN 55305

It's time to order plants for Easter.
Help make our sanctuary look like a
colorful Spring garden. Plants that
will be available are lilies, tulips and
cyclamen for \$15.00. Mums will be
\$17.00. There will be a sign up sheet
in the back of the church. Orders
must be placed no later than
Wednesday,
March 21.

- Barb Bock



We will be accepting donations of
candy and/or money for the
annual Easter egg hunt up until March
14th.

—Melissa Goerndt

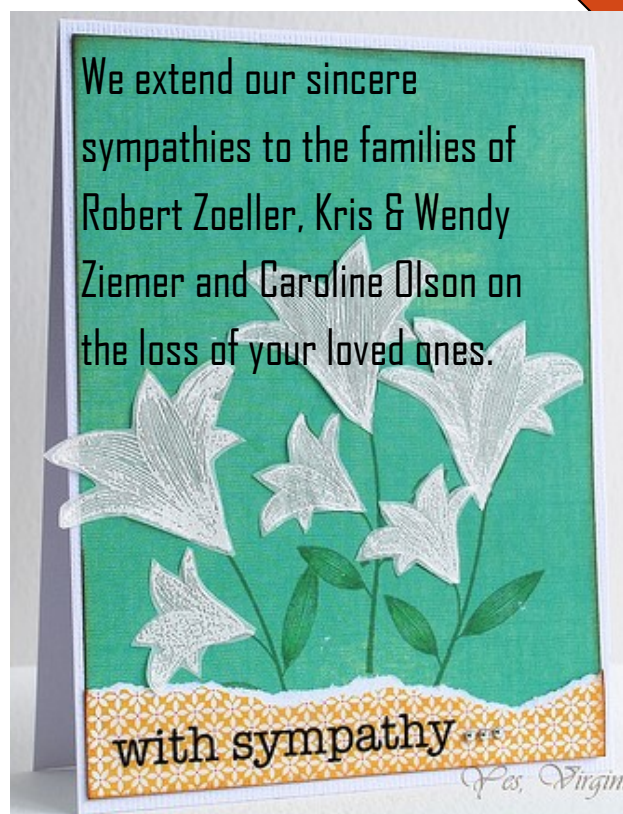
**APRIL NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE: FRIDAY
MARCH 23RD
BY 9:00 AM**





A BIG Thank You to all who kept us in your thoughts and prayers during the time Cliff was hospitalized in Missouri and since our return home to Minnesota. It meant so much to us.

Cliff and Joanne
Eisenbarger



Seven weeks into 2018 and 945 Slips were turned in for Fareway with \$25,493.37 worth of purchases. That brings Fareway to \$120,908.94 in 126 weeks toward the 2nd \$1,000.

During the same seven weeks, 2,554 Sips from Hy-Vee were turned in. They totaled \$87,304.06 worth of purchases. That brings Hy-Vee to \$87,304.06 in 23 weeks toward the 9th \$1,000.

Keep those slips coming.



Jan. 31, 2018
Dear Church Family,
We would like to extend our appreciation to all of you for your kindness. The prayers, thoughts, cards and food are greatly appreciated. We can feel your love and God's presence as we go through this "journey"! Thank you especially for your prayers which are deeply felt! God Bless!
Joan & Kay Hough



March Anniversaries

March 17, 2014

Vince & Angela Vaughn 4 years

March 29, 1961

Jerry & Sherry Voyles 57 years

March 29, 2985

Jim & Judie Orr 33 years

March Birthdays

March 1	Greg Grotte
March 2	Barb Boxk
	Dave Wallien
	Sophia Brummond
March 3	Jennifer Grefe
	Bill Thompson
March 4	Dimitrie Osmundson
March 5	Faye Draper
March 6	Ann Hartmann
March 7	Becky Phillips
March 8	Erin True
	Nancy Skog
March 10	Tabb Meyer
	Koda Massey
	Kira Massey
March 14	Jim Grotte
	Donna Mitchell
March 15	Darwin Kuhlert
March 18	Kerstin Johnson
March 20	Mildred Hanlon
	Brad Cone
March 22	Kay Hough
March 23	Sandy Abraham
March 24	Michael Meschke
	Deb Thate
	Clint Forstrom
March 27	Rorik Cain
March 28	Verna Lunz
	Randy Kruze
March 29	Jenifer Neist
March 30	Amy Derrera
	Ken Rachuy