

April 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.org

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.



April

2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday 	2	3 10:00 Lakeview Communion	4 5:15 Relay for Life Team Mtg 6:00 Diaconate Brd 6:30 Chime Choir	5	6	7
8 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	9	10	11 5:00 Missions Board 6:30 CE Board 6:30 Chime Choir 7:00 Choir Practice	12 7:00 (both) Facilities Board Hospitality Board	13	14
15 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	16	17 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	18 5:30 Church Council 5:00 Finance Board 6:30 Chimes Choir 7:00 Choir Practice	19	20 Newsletter Submission Deadline 9:00 am	21
22 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection Strengthen the Church	23 Parent To Parent 4:30-7:00	24	25 5:15 Worship Board 5:30 Free Comm Meal 7:00 Choir Practice	26 9:30 Women's Bible Study	27	28
29 Noisy Sunday 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	30					



April 2018 Pastor's Page

What a crazy spring we've had so far, considering that the official start of this long-expected season was only March 20. I've already forgotten whether March came in like a lion or a lamb, but either animal seems to enjoy roller coasters!?! Perhaps April can usher in a more steady climb toward warmer weather?

I have been encouraged, as I hope many of you have, by the good turnout we had for our Wednesday evening services during Lent, averaging about 30 people each week. For those who joined us, I pray that our "Journey of Stones" was a meaningful time of both mid-week fellowship and thought-provoking reflection, as we heard meditation titles like "Rejected Stones" and "Sticks and Stones." Our last two Wednesdays discussed the small stones we can bring to build alongside Peter (the disciple upon whom Christ said he would build his church), and called us each to realize that if we keep silent in the face of sin, even the rocks will cry out.

As we move through Holy Week and anticipate the joy of Easter by the time you receive this, I hope you have taken time to pause and consider the story of our Savior as he journeys to the hill called Golgotha. "Good News" is not always the impression we get from Jesus' final days, but we must remember that the bright joy of Easter morning does not come without the gathering clouds and darkness of his crucifixion. Arising out of that gloom, Luke relays this command in our Epistle lesson from Acts 10:42-43 on Easter morning: "[Jesus] commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Whether it's being re-commissioned with the disciples to forgive or retain sins, seeing ourselves in Thomas' very understandable doubtfulness, or being challenged to pick up the task of fishermen or shepherd, there is much for each of us Easter people to do and contemplate as we carry the Good News of the gospel into a bruised and hurting world. We need only turn on our TVs or open a newspaper to find many in need of the Savior's love. What role will you play?

It seems hard to believe that the long, reflective, and often cold journey of Lent has now come to an end. On Easter morning (April 1st—no foolin'!?!) we will all share in Communion as we joyfully exclaim, "He is risen!"—proclaiming the good news from John 20:1-18 for all the world to hear. I invite each of you to read ahead from John's gospel, and then gather together as brothers and sisters in Christ to enjoy the familiar story again for the first time as we celebrate the resurrection and worship our great God!

All too soon, even the excitement and joy of Easter morning will come and go. But as will be mentioned in our sermon that blessed morning, the challenge left to us is not only to remember Jesus' resurrection, but to continue believing and applying its joy in the days, weeks, and months afterward. I hope that you are always ready to boldly proclaim, "He is risen...He is risen indeed!"

In Christ's service,

Rev. Cory Germain

1ST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

FAIRMONT, MN

Council Minutes For

March 21, 2018

Present: Dave Adams, Dave Meschke, Cory Hainey, Pastor Germain, Deb Thate, Dean Grotte, Jodi Kuhlers, MaryDon Kislingbury, Julie Elliot, Marilyn Forstrom

Pastor Germain opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved as printed.

The Treasurer's report was received. Giving has been consistent.

Pastor Germain gave his report. His time for the past month has been spent on fairly "normal" activities. He will have Nat'l Guard commitments on March 23, 24 as well as April 7 and 21-28.

BOARD REPORTS

Christian Ed – Rotating volunteers for teaching Sunday School seems to be going well. Plans are made for participation in the Family Fun Fair. Adjustments to the schedule for giving Bibles to students were discussed and adjusted. Camping information will be gathered.

Finance – A new contract for garbage removal was presented reducing the cost from \$137/month to \$45/month for same service. Motion was m/s/c to accept the contract. Robbin Celander will be Finance Board Liaison; Jodi Kuhlers will fill open term on board thru 2019. The Board approved purchase of a new lawn mower at a cost of approximately \$3382. Funds will come from Erma Rosen memorial and matching from the congregation. A monetary gift from Ken Howes was designated for repair work on the organ.

Hospitality – We will not be participating in the Holy Hotdish event this year. The Board will organize a meal for Pastor Cory's installation.

Missions – They had 24 responses to their survey with 12 indicating an interest to meet and discuss mission opportunities. Plans are underway to have a Relay for Life team this year.

Worship – Preparations done in sanctuary for Easter. Penney Ritter will do pulpit supply on April 22. No Wed. night Lenten service on 3-28 but there will be a 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday service and also 6 p.m. Good Friday service.

Facilities – Dean presented a plan to replace several lights with LEDs at a cost of approximately \$3,429, \$1,236 rebate and annual savings of approximately \$320 with a payback period of approximately 7 years. Motion was m/s/c to have the board proceed. Bids were obtained from A-OK and Day Plmbg and Htg for air conditioning the east entry. The Board recommended the A-OK bid. A motion was m/s/c to proceed with purchase as long as the anticipated donation was received. If not, the purchase will be revisited.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sesquicentennial - Committee has been formed but no one yet to chair it.

AED – mounted outside of coffee room, batteries replaced and new paddles ordered. Training for AED use as well as safe church training will be upcoming.

Hospitality Board will look into replacement tables for the old tables in basement.

The Feris Organ Company started testing the organ to see what needs fixing. However, the power went out and they were unable to continue. Return will be scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pastor Germain's installation will be held at 3 p.m. on April 14.

Dave Adams presented an option for an "Event" sign to use in place of tag board in the church park to advertise various special events. Motion was m/s/c to purchase.

Meeting was adjourned

A decorative border made of black scrollwork and flourishes surrounds the text. It features a horizontal bar at the top and bottom, and vertical bars on the left and right sides, all adorned with elegant, swirling designs.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

a

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

for

REV. CORY GERMAIN

on

SATURDAY, April 14, 2018

at

3:00 PM

at

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**319 Downtown Plaza, Fairmont, MN
56031**

A reception and meal will be held following the installation service.

All clergy are invited to wear robes and red stoles.



DAVID MESCHKE INTERVIEW

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”, our hope for years to come. When asked about his favorite hymn, long time member David Meschke responded that this is the hymn that has comforted him and has spoken to him as economic and personal challenges have come to him. He also credits his fellow church members with loving and caring support throughout his lifetime as a part of First Congregational Church (UCC).

David is the fourth son of Martha Lou and Earle Meschke, farmers northwest of Fairmont. His grandparents, Walter and Hazel Norman, were longtime members dating from the early 1930's. Music was part of the Norman/Meschke heritage, with Walter singing in the choir well into his eighth decade. Mother Martha Lou was a part of the alto section of the choir, and coupled that talent with being an important leader of the Women's Association. David recalls Sunday school teachers Peggy Silker and Char Cost. He was confirmed by Pastor Richard Engstrom after classes held while students were on the “split shift” at the Junior high school.

Fellowship within the church community has been a major factor for David and his family as his sons grew up in the church. Son Jonathan farms with his dad, and Michael is an engineer for John Deere in Iowa. The choir community has been an integral part of David's church experience, and he credits the fun and food loving nature of the congregation as being important to him. Support and caring at the time of his parents' death and other troubling times, David remembers that the church “was there”.

Asked what he was most proud about our church as we celebrate 150 years, he said “The leadership in the community that comes from our members is very apparent. One can see the leaders on the Fair Board, Salvation Army, Heavens Table, Kiwanis, Rotary and other civic groups and various foundations serving children and families, and in almost every charitable group in the area.”

David, your contributions as a musician, as Treasurer, and serving on the Council presently are tributes not only to your strong faith, but also to that of your parents and grandparents. We thank you!

As we celebrate our 150 years, it seems a good idea to talk with some of our members who were raised in the church, were confirmed here, and remain active members. We are blessed to hear that history, and to celebrate the heritage of three and four generations of devoted members.

The following recipes come from the early cookbook and from "Feeding Our Flock" and are a part of the Norman/Meschke family favorites.

LIGHTNING CAKE (Hazel Norman)

1 ½ C flour
1 C. sugar
3 t. baking powder
½ t. salt
¼ c. melted butter
1 egg
Milk



Mix sugar and melted butter. Break egg into measuring cup and fill up with milk. Add flavoring and stir into flour mixture. Beat all ingredients steadily for 5 minutes. Bake as loaf, layer or cupcakes. (edit: 350 degrees)

PINEAPPLE TORTE (Martha Lou "Marni" Meschke)

1 c. butter
3 T. white sugar
1 ½ c. flour



Cream together butter and sugar. Add flour. Crumb together and pat evenly in a 9 x 13 pan. Bake at 350 degrees about 20 minutes or until shows a little brown on edges. Cool. (Can be done the night before.)

1 ½ cans if crushed pineapple (no 2 size)
2 (scant) c of sugar
4 ½ T cornstarch
6 egg whites

Cook pineapple, sugar and cornstarch until clear and thick. Cool. Beat egg whites very, very stiff and fold into the pineapple mixture. Pour over baked crust and bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool and serve with whipped cream. Serves 15

There will be a noon ecumenical Good Friday service at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, located at: 102 N Park St, Fairmont, MN
(next to the Martin County Library)

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

April 1- Easter Sunday

Diaconate: Eric Johnson
Head Usher: Cory Hainy
Reader: Dr. Alice Maday
Greeters: Cathy & Robbin Celander

April 8

Diaconate: Amanda Jaskulke
Head Usher: Lorin Pollock
Reader: Julie Elliott
Greeters: Brad Cone & Wendy Z.

April 15

Diaconate: Amanda Jaskulke
Head Usher: Robbin Celander
Reader: Eric B. Johnson
Greeters: Don & Shelby Marks

April 22

Diaconate: Amanda Jaskulke
Head Usher: Cory Hainy
Reader: Lee Trunkenbolz
Greeters: George & Ruth Ann Jones

April 29

Diaconate: Amanda Jaskulke
Head Usher: Randy and Pat Rowan
Reader: Cory Hainy
Greeters: Byron & Becky Phillips

April's Blessing Box is Strengthen the Church

Our congregation has a long history of being a "Five for Five" church, meaning we participate in all five of the UCC special offerings. In April, we will focus our blessing box on the Strengthen the Church offering. We will collect our offering the fourth Sunday of April, the 22nd.

The last Sunday of the month, April 29th, will be our first "Noisy Sunday" of the year! Bring your "Noisy" money and help the kids make lots of noise the 29th benefitting Heifer International!

MEMORIAL GIVING

Date	Memory/Honor of	Donor Designation	Family Designation	From
25-Feb	Honor of Michi Donnelly			Joy & Lorin Pollock
25-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller		Starfish	Virginia Riedesel
25-Feb	Memory of Robert Staloch			Margaret Weaver
25-Feb	Memory of Robert Zoeller	Starfish		Lance & Jennifer Willard



A Grief Support Group can help you:



- Share understanding, encouragement, and support as you try to find your “**new normal**” in life
- Realize that what you may be experiencing mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually are **common reactions of grief**
- Learn what **GRIEF** really is and how it affects your day to day life
- Identify helpful ways to cope with feelings and memories
- Explore healthy ways to **preserve memories** while discovering the importance of new roles and responsibilities since the death



Coping with the death of a loved one?

In Fairmont

When: Eight Consecutive Mondays, starting April 9th, 2018

Running for 8 Consecutive Evenings

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Where: “Fireside Room” at First Congregational United Church of Christ
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN

Trained Grief Facilitators: Gloria Senenfelder & Karla Tukua

Sessions are open to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one.

They are non-denominational in content and free of charge.

Prescreening is Required.

Call Naomi Segar at 507-526-7970 to inquire and preregister

Sponsored by UHD Hospice

A Service of United Hospital District





STARFISH FUND



Thank you to the many members and friends of First Congregational UCC who have supported our unique Starfish ministry over the years. After helping over 15 individual recipients from our community and congregation already in 2018, our fund is again in need of the very re-growth its name implies. Please consider a gift to Starfish this month, or at regular times in the future, so that we can continue this valuable outreach ministry.

Thanks, Pastor Cory



Thank You for my Retirement Party

I wish to thank Joy for hosting such a nice retirement party and all the ladies that prepared and served the meal.

I received many cards and gifts and want to thank all for the kind remembrances. The last 18 months have certainly felt like an uncertain journey but one thing that has never changed is my affection for the friends and members of First Congregational UCC.

*With grateful appreciation,
Michi*

Four weeks have passed since the last report. The following is a summary of what was received during those weeks and where we are as of the 18th of March 2018.

\$1,842.19 worth of Fareway slips were received or 1.29% of the total needed. Fareway is now at 80.90% of the goal, or \$122,851.03 of the \$150,000.00 goal. (This is 130 weeks worth of slips toward our second \$1,000. At this rate, it will take about 29 more weeks, until the 7th of October to reach \$150,000.)

\$6,536.84 worth of Hy-Vee slips were received or 4.36% of the total needed. Hy-Vee is now at 62.56% of the goal, or \$93,840.90 of the \$150,000.00 goal. (This is 25 weeks worth of slips toward our ninth \$1,000. At this rate, it will take about 25 more weeks, until the 2nd of September to reach \$150,000.) I know that does not look right. In 25 weeks, 62.56% has been received and take another 25 weeks to get the 37.44% that is left. People purchased more during November and December (over \$5,000 per week), purchasing less during the summer months (about \$3,500 per week).

Keep those slips coming. - Jim Bock

**MAY NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE: FRIDAY
APRIL 20th
BY 9:00 AM**





April Anniversaries

April 5, 1997	
Curt & Vicki Bicknase	21 years
April 12, 2008	
Amanda Ryan Cain	10 years
April 16, 2005	
Kirk & Gina Jorgensen	12 years
April 20, 2013	
Jacob & Abbey Shoen	5 years
April 20, 2004	
Eugene & Polly Mosloski	14 years
April 24, 1958	
Ron & Char Kost	60 years
April 27, 1985	
Tim & Kay Campe	33 years
April 30, 1966	
Jim & Barb Bock	52 years

April Birthdays

April 4	Josh Vetter Caleb Rachuy
April 5	Vonnie Cone Bill Cowing Dan Wenz
April 6	James Marushin Jan White Dave Meschke
April 7	Dan Thate
April 8	Khloe Zabel
April 10	Dorothy Simpson Marcia Musser
April 12	Doug Guritz Will Hawkins
April 13	Joyce Knudson
April 14	Randy Rowan
April 15	Chris Draper
April 16	Lyle Norris K.T. Magnussen
April 18	Terry Rigs
April 21	Cameron Hainy Arianna Moller Jerry Norman
April 22	Donna Grotte Rachael Tonneson
April 26	Lorin Pollock Ken Schwieger April Barkheim
April 28	Nola Thedens Michael Neusch
April 30	J.R. Kotewa