

November 2019

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA  
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WHEELCHAIR



How to reach us....

Church Office  
507-235-5382

Hours:  
Tuesday—Friday  
9:30-12:30 p.m.

**E-mail**  
ucc319@frontiernet.net

Rev Cory Germain  
Pastor

Ann Osborn  
Administrative Assistant

## **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

Opportunities for all ages through adult!

Worship 10:30

Communion the first Sunday of  
every month.

# 2019

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Communion Sunday 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00 Lakeview Communion	<b>6</b> 3:45 Confirmation 5:00 Worship Brd 5:30 Diaconate Brd 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Congregation Conversation	<b>11</b> 5:00-6:00 FCH Foundation	<b>12</b> 6:00 2020 Church Budget Meeting	<b>13</b> 3:45 Confirmation 5:00 Mission Board 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>14</b> 5:15 Hospitality Bd 7:00 Facilities Brd	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>18</b> 9:00 December Newsletter Submission Deadline	<b>19</b> 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	<b>20</b> 3:45 Confirmation 5:30 Council & Finance Board 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>21</b> 9:30 Bible Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection CWS Blanket & Starfish	<b>25</b> 4:30-7:00 Parent To Parent	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5:30 Free Community Meal 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## *The Reverend's Ruminations*

The blessings and responsibilities of being a Christian have been on my mind recently. As I write this, we're in the midst of a busy week preparing for our annual Fall Festival Ham Loaf Dinner (at a new date and time). It takes a lot of work—and no small bit of organization—to bring together an event like this, but when I see Heritage Hall filled with church and community members enjoying a great meal and supporting our church financially, I am reminded of the blessing of leading an active and vibrant church. Members of our church, both young and old, diligently carry out the responsibilities of advertising, preparation, serving, and cleanup—and deserve our heartfelt thanks for making it a welcoming and delicious dinner. Their efforts help our church continue to put its best foot forward in our community. If you didn't have a chance to be involved this time around, please plan to volunteer next time! Blessings and responsibilities go hand in hand.

As I visited and shared communion with our members at Ingleside, Goldfinch Estates, Woodland Manor, and Lakeview Care Center (as well as a home visit) over the last few weeks, I was again reminded of the blessings of being a Christian (and specifically United Church of Christ). It was evident in the camaraderie we enjoyed, as well as our common belief in the importance of the sacraments.

In many of these locations, we sit together around a table or even a comfortable living room setting and share "communion" in two senses: we take part in the blessed sacrament of the Lord's Supper, but we also spend time catching up on ideas, opinions, and feelings about our own lives and the life of the church. Many times our members long to be able to visit the church building again, but more often they wish they could see their old friends from the congregation. Do you notice the implied responsibility that accompanies the blessing of our many devoted older church members?

At the beginning of last month (amidst the normal busy-ness of church and community activities) several of the ladies of our congregation volunteered to support the family of Bill Norman as both they and we grieved his passing. The funeral and reception were held at Lakeview Care Center in this case, but our members stepped forward to share the church's love by serving the coffee and bars—and of course many hugs and kind words with Bev and the rest of the family. What more poignant illustration of the awesome blessing and important responsibility of being a Christian, than to gather around the loved ones of one of our own members as they encounter the reality of death?

Jesus spoke many times of both the blessing and the responsibility of being a Christian. In the Gospel of Mark he says: *"...but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many"* (10:43-44). Our dual responsibility is to serve both Christ and those who are in need; but the blessing we know as Christians is that our Savior Jesus died for us, rose in glory, and continues to serve at the right hand of God for all eternity.

As you reflect on the blessings and responsibilities of being a Christian, would you prayerfully consider serving in a more active role at First Congregational United Church of Christ for a time? We are in the process of seeking board and council members for a new term, but always need short-term help in the way of kitchen workers, singers, Christmas decorators, or scripture readers as well. It may take a village to raise a child, but it takes an entire congregation to keep a church functional and vibrant!

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Cory Germain*



## Partners in Ministry

### **November 3**

Diaconate: Eric B. Johnson  
Head Usher: Eric B. Johnson  
Acolytes: Maia Goerndt & Gretchen Jorgensen  
Reader: Catherine Johnson  
Greeters: Donna G. and Sherry V.

### **November 17**

Diaconate: Eric B. Johnson  
Head Usher: George Jones  
Acolytes:  
Reader: Margo Weaver  
Greeters: Don & Shelby Marks

### **November 10**

Diaconate: Eric B. Johnson  
Head Usher: Robbin Celander  
Acolytes:  
Reader: Dolores Gronewald  
Greeters: Cory and Christina Hainy

### **November 24**

Diaconate: Eric B. Johnson  
Head Usher: Everett Hanning  
Acolytes:  
Reader: Kay Campe  
Greeters: Wanda and Mary Don

*November 10. Congregational Conversation immediately following worship. Topics of discussion will include considering whether we need to change the number of people serving on each Board, whether some Boards could be combined, whether changes need to be made to the By-Laws, and some upcoming maintenance issues, plus. If you have issues/ ideas you would like to bring up, please let Moderator Catherine know. Thank you all for planning to attend!*

*On Nov 12 at 6 pm, the Build the 2020 Church Budget Meeting will be held. The Church Council, the Finance Board, and a representative of each Board and Committee are expected to attend. Using the information from our Stewardship campaign, we will build the proposed budget for 2020 which will be presented to the whole congregation at the Annual Meeting. Pizza provided!*

*Let me know if you have questions, concerns, ideas!!*

*Thanks,  
Catherine*



## November Blessing Box - CWS *Best Gift*

### Church World Service - Share Your Love with Others

**Christmas will be here before you know it!** Christmas is a special time of year. We love to gather with family and friends to sing, eat and exchange gifts. Some gifts you receive will show up in next year's white elephant gift exchange, others will find their place in a dusty shelf in the garage and there will be a few that hold a spot in your heart for at least a year, hopefully a lifetime.

That's why kids write letters to Santa Claus. It's the **hope of getting a gift that's wanted**. A gift that means something.

Families around the world, just like yours, are gearing up for the end of the year. Here are a few things our families in need have put on their list this year. Some families would love to get **educational toys** for their kids. Others more than anything would love **seeds and tools** for the opportunity to have a small farm with more nutritious food. Entire communities would love to have a **well** closer to their houses, so they don't have to walk miles and miles to get water.

**You have the chance to give these families gifts**, not ones that will be left in a dusty garage somewhere, but gifts that will change their hearts and lives forever. A gift that will let them know that **they are not alone** and that **someone cares about them**.

The mission board decided to give the congregation the chance to choose what gifts we give to those less fortunate this year. You can choose from options such as **books for 10 students** for just \$20; **10 concrete blocks** for house walls for just \$10; **Two hens and a rooster** for \$18; a **goat** for \$65. Discuss this as a family and choose a gift that has special meaning for you!

This year decide to make CWS Best Gift a part of your family's Christmas traditions. You can look through the catalog on the display table at church or choose a gift from the bulletin insert. **Give a gift with more meaning this year!**

Give a gift in honor of a special someone in your life. Cards will be available to give to your loved one, letting them know you gave a wonderful gift in their honor.

For more information on CWS Best Gift or to donate online, visit <https://cwsbestgift.org/>



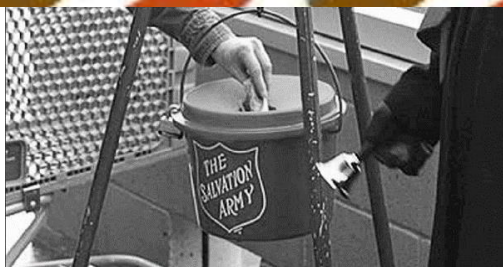
“  
Then, opening their treasures,  
they offered him gifts, gold and  
frankincense and myrrh.”

- MATTHEW 2:11

⊕ CWS *Best Gift*







## Ring in the Season with First Congregational UCC and the Salvation Army

***Get your ringing arm in shape*** - Salvation Army Bell Ringing is coming!!

Our church will be ringing the red bell again this year.

Please consider taking a one-hour slot, or two, or three, or . . .

We will have a sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary in November.

Our congregation is ringing at **HyVee, December 2-7, 11 am – 7 pm**, 8 slots per day.

Please consider being part of this important local mission!

***PSALM 100:4 ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING AND  
HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE; GIVE THANKS TO HIM AND  
PRAISE HIS NAME.***

### **A thought from the Mission Board . . .**

Part of showing and sharing our love of God is to love and nurture his creations. Over the next year we will be highlighting different ways we can show that love. We are beginning our focus on cutting down on the amount of garbage we create.

We'd like to encourage you to bring your own coffee mug or tumbler with you rather than getting a disposable cup.

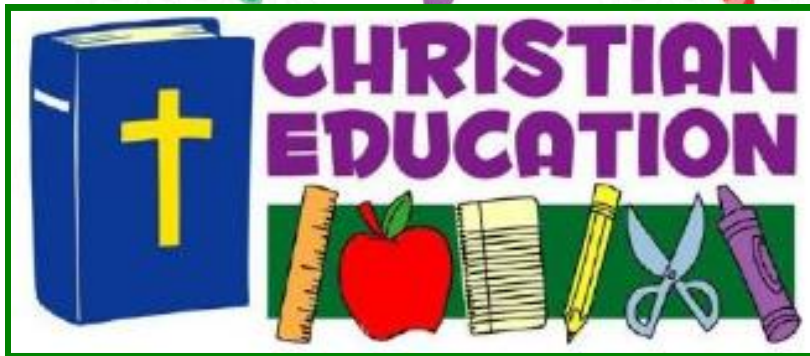
We invite everyone to begin this by bringing one to **Sunday morning coffee** at church, to **Sunday School**, to **meetings**, to the **Community Meal**!



# Memorials

Date	Memory/Honor of	Donor Designation	Family Designation	From
22-Sep	Deb & Ace Adams Anniversary		Starfish	Margaret Weaver
22-Sep	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish		Les Heinrich
29-Sep	Robbin & Cathy Celandar Anniversary			Margaret Weaver
6-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman	Starfish		Cindy & Jon Anderson
6-Oct	Mildred Brodt Birthday	Starfish		Alice Maday
6-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman	General		Larry & Carolyn Thompson
6-Oct	Memory of Allison Zoeller Brown	Starfish		Lorie Zoeller
6-Oct	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish		Les Heinrich
6-Oct	Memory of Allie Brown			Amanda Jaskulke
13-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman			Darwin & Marlyn Cook
13-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman			Marsha Donnelly
13-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman			Faye Draper
13-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman			Dwayne & Jean Ehlert
13-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman			Marilyn Forstrom
13-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman	Starfish		Wanda Johnson
13-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman			MaryDon Kislingbury
13-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman			Steven & Marcia Kotewa
13-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman			John & Sherry Larson
13-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman			Eloise Lidke
13-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman			Beverly Norman
13-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman			Joy & Lorin Pollock
13-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman	Music		Virginia Riedesel
13-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman			Joseph & Jolene Rosol
13-Oct	Memory of Lucille Gorgen	Starfish		Margaret Weaver
13-Oct	Memory of Bill Norman	Starfish		Jane Kotewa
20-Oct	Mildred Brodt Birthday	Capital		Jane Kotewa





*Sunday, December 1st—*  
*Gingerbread crafts, breakfast*  
**ALL KIDS WELCOME!**



**Looking for donations of:**

Graham Crackers  
Powdered Sugar  
Candies, etc.  
to build our houses.

*Sunday, December 15th*  
*Children's Christmas Program*





Have you set up a **FREE RightNow Media** account through our church? It's easy to use, and offers hundreds of amazing Christian videos, studies, classes, and engaging faith-based children's content. You can stream them anywhere on your computer, tablet, smart TV or phone! You are encouraged to share this link with a friend as well—it's a great opportunity to talk about our church with them while you offer nourishment for their Christian walk!

To get started, just type in the address below on your favorite internet browser:

**<https://www.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/FCONG>**

## *Fareway and Hy-Vee Receipts*

*During the last eight weeks, \$45,827.89 (30.55%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were turned in. After 32 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$126,417.31 (84.28%) toward the 11th \$150,000 goal. At the current rate, in 5 or 6 weeks, we will be at the \$150,000 goal.*

*During the same eight weeks, \$10,483.21 (6.99%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 59 weeks, Fareway is at \$65,447.14 (43.63%) toward our 3rd \$1,000 from Fareway Store. At the current rate it will still take another year and half to reach the \$150,000 goal*

*Thanks for bring in all those slips. I believe there were 5 sacks/envelopes with about a year's worth of slips and other slips going back to January 2017. Yes, even slips that go back to March 2011. Keep those slips coming.*

*Reported by Jim Bock*



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"How 'bout we make this be one of our good ol' days, Grandma?"

## *Newsletter*



*Thank you to all our wonderful newsletter helpers!*



### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**Due to Thanksgiving week, the December Newsletter deadline will be earlier than usual.**

**Please have all submissions and calendar changes in by Monday,**

**November 18th by 9:00 am.**

**(with the exception of Church Council meeting minutes, due November 21st by 9:00 am.)**



## **SAVE THE DATE!**

*Our annual Cookie Walk will be Friday, December 6th 3-7 PM, with everyone's favorites to choose from along with pre-made trays!*

**In order to make our fundraiser as successful as possible, we are asking for donations of the following ingredients. Let Cathy or Abby know what you would like to donate or watch for the sign up sheet at church!**

30 lbs gold medal or pillsbury flour  
25 lbs sugar  
10 lbs unsalted butter  
10 lbs salted butter  
6 lbs salted dry roasted peanuts  
10 lbs C&H powdered sugar  
family size package of Hershey's kisses  
4 pkgs mint truffle Hershey's kisses  
5 pkgs Kraft caramels  
6 lbs C&H brown sugar  
4 pkgs flaked coconut  
4 cans sweetened condensed milk  
2 lg boxes Crispix cereal  
2 boxes Cheeze-its-Spicy  
large pkg mini pretzels

**Please no generic/store brands, and have donations at church by November 4th! Thank you!**



## **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Nov 5	Orel Barker
	Jessica Bicknase
Nov 8	Tom Jorgensen
Nov 9	Joy Pollock
Nov 10	Conrad Zoeller
Nov 11	Bob Cone
	Tana Lasch
Nov 13	Dalton Massey
Nov 14	Hillary Forstrom
Nov 15	Eloise Lidke
Nov 15	Joe Christensen
Nov 16	Steve Draper
Nov 17	Tyler Grefe
Nov 20	Vince Vaughn
Nov 20	Reid Michael Cain
Nov 23	Wanda Anderson
	Lee Hanning
	Reid Rosen

Nov 25	Erica Thate
Nov 26	Kate Hawkins
Nov 27	Jodie Whitmore
Nov 29	Ryan Meyer
	Jeff Skog
	Dakota Gilbertson
Nov 30	Jenny Willard
	Savannah Goerndt

## **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Nov 3	David & Lisa Meschke	12 yrs
Nov 18	Gene & Barb Pitcher	41 yrs
Nov 21	Cory & Ellen Germain	21 yrs
Nov 23	Bill & Pat Cowing	63 yrs
Nov 29	Bill & Barb Bittman	44 yrs
Nov 29	Byron & Becky Phillips	50 yrs