

May 2022

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

Nonprofit
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Fairmont, MN 56031



First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031



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*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fairmont, Minnesota*

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
Minister

Ann Osborn
Administrative Assist

Joyce Jorgenson
Choir Director

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.

MAY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Communion</i> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	2	3 10:00 Lakeview Communion	4 4:00 Conf 6:00 Worship Brd 6:15 Diaconate 7:00 Choir	5 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	6	7
8 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	9	10 7:00 Facilities Board	11 4:00 Conf 5:15 Mission Brd 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Choir	12 5:15 Hosp Board 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	13 9:00 Council Agenda Items Due	14 Hospitality Pie Baking (K)
15 Confirmation Sunday 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship	16	17 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	18 5:45 Church Council 7:00 Choir	19 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	20 9:00 June Newsletter Items Due	21
22 10:30 Worship Grads & Teacher Recognition Blessing Box Collection	23	24	25 5:30 Free Community Meal 7:00 Choir	26 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	27	28
29 10:30 Worship <i>Noisy Sunday</i>	30	31				

FIRST CONGO NEWS

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

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

The Reverend's Ruminations - May 2022

"He is risen! He is risen indeed!" The spontaneous chorus of our joyous Easter Sunday celebration still echoes in my ears, and I hope it does for you too. We in the Christian tradition are Easter people, so let us not despair that one of our holiest days has so quickly passed. Easter (as a church season) is not done and gone, even if our big celebratory gathering was already a couple weeks ago. Unfortunately, mother nature paid no attention to our optimistic understanding that Easter should also signal the beginning of warmer spring weather in Minnesota?! It's just around the corner, I'm pretty sure.

It hardly seems possible, but two schoolyears have passed with the bright young ladies of our confirmation class. While there is still much for them to learn about being an active "adult" member in the United Church of Christ, they have made great progress in understanding the elements of reformed Christianity and have grown substantially in their personal faith. On May 15, we will welcome them into full membership of our congregation—and challenge them to live into their faith through continued learning and involvement in church missions and activities. As you perhaps write in a card congratulating them, would you consider sharing one of your fondest memories about confirmation and what has kept you connected to the church?

Moving forward through the church season of Eastertide, we will continue to celebrate the fact that Christ Jesus our Savior triumphed over the grave. The world would have us believe that this defining moment is just that—a *moment* to be commemorated once a year by getting dressed up and making a pilgrimage to church, flanked by an Easter egg hunt beforehand and dinner with grandma and grandpa afterward. But as I said, we Christians are Easter people. Easter, the celebration of Christ's triumph over the grave (and the broader events of his ministry that it signified) is not a singular date like a birthday, anniversary, or secular holiday to be observed once a year and then forgotten for another 364 days.

As Rev. Charles D. Reeb observed in his thoughts on Revelation 1:4-8 for the Second Sunday of Easter in the *Feasting on the Word* commentary,

"[We] need to be encouraged by the fact that God indeed defeated evil on Easter, and everything that is experienced until kingdom come is simply a 'mopping up' effort. Evil is a sore loser and does not take defeat very well. The job of the church is to crash the pity party of evil by announcing that the Lord God is 'Alpha and Omega.' The promise of Easter is that Christ is truly alive and is empowering the church to embody the victory of God" (394-95).

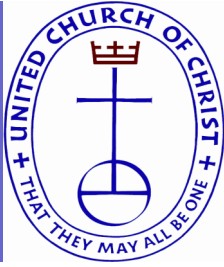
Throughout the Sundays of May, my sermons will come from lectionary passages in The Revelation of John—a biblical book that tends to scare more people than it inspires. But this apocalypse (literary genre containing visions or revelations from God) is not all hellfire and brimstone meant to give ominous clues as to the impending doom of humankind. Rev. Reeb offers this helpful background:

"The original audience... felt the disparity between being Easter people and living in the realities of a cruel world. The Christians in Asia Minor were being persecuted, and they needed help making sense of their faith in the midst of such trying times. How were they supposed to be faithful when being discouraged made better sense? Revelation was written to encourage these persecuted Christians to live in the power of the resurrection when evil seemed to be the only power at work in their world" (393).

Perhaps there are more commonalities to be found with the original audience of Revelation than we might have expected!?! We each experience trying times in this crazy world, but knowing the triumph of our Savior gives us confidence to face our challenges head on. We have Good News to share, and rather than cower in fear, we must be ready to proclaim Christ's victory—at Easter and throughout the year!

Yours in Christ's service,

Rev. Cory Germain



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC FAIRMONT, MN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 4-20-22

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC FAIRMONT, MN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 4-20-2022

Members Present: Abigail Roiger, Marilyn Forstrom, Robbin Celander, Cathy Celander, Kay Campe, Catherine Johnson, Larry Thompson, Dave Adams, Sue Kruse and Christina Hainy. Ex-officio members present: Dara Bliesmer, Ass't Treasurer. Visitor: Dean Grotte.

The Council met in the Chapel. The meeting was called to order and led in prayer by Moderator, Abigail Roiger.

Larry Thompson and Dean Grotte from Facilities board reported on looking at insurance for the church. They met with Adam Garbers (North Star Mutual Insurance Company) and are planning to look at another company as well.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed. Motion M/S/C (Catherine/Larry).

We met with our Edward Jones financial advisor, Dan Hamlet, via Zoom. He reviewed our investments and asked us to consider if the church's money is in the right accounts based on what we are planning to do with it.

Treasurer's Report: Catherine Johnson presented the treasurer's report. She noted that we are in good shape financially and that the budget seems accurate. A motion was M/S/C to accept the treasurer's report (Marilyn/Larry).

Finance/Business-Budget Committee Report: Robbin Celander explained about the restrictions on our endowments. A motion was M/S/C to sell a real estate stock and for the money to remain in the capital fund (Catherine/Marilyn).

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory was absent, but he had communicated that a church representative is needed for June 10 and 11.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: Catherine Johnson says they are thankful for all who filled Easter eggs for the hunt. The children have been busy with the Palm Sunday skit, the egg hunt and the Last Supper meal. Confirmation for the 4 confirmands is Sunday, May 15th. The first VBS "Adventure Night" is Wednesday, June 8th at Sylvania Park.

Hospitality: Cathy Celander reported that they made plans for the Pie Social on June 11th. Pork chops on a stick will also be available. Cathy will be preparing a list of items that can be donated for pies. Also, if food is brought to be shared on Sunday after church, please contact someone on the hospitality board first.

Facilities: Larry Thompson shared that the front sidewalk should be done before June 1st if weather cooperates.

Diaconate: Sue Kruse reported that they have been busy sending cards and that serving Communion has been going well.

Missions: Highlights of their minutes included: April 30th is the Adopt a Highway cleanup day, and Meals on Wheels will be delivered May 2-15th. Drivers are needed.

Worship: Dave Adams told us that pulpit supply is still needed for May 29 and June 12. Worship board is hosting the May Community Meal and is serving food inside the church. (take out is also available)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel Committee: Marilyn Forstrom reported that the committee members are Cory Hainy, Renae Vetter, and herself.

OLD BUSINESS:

Marilyn reported about the "Let's Talk" happy hour. Suggestions for the church were discussed and will be in the newsletter.

No new business.

The meeting was adjourned by Abigail Roiger.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Clerk

FIRST CONGO NEWS

We have been talking.

What do YOU think?

The Council has been asking members if there are changes/additions/activities that would be meaningful to our members. We have received a number of ideas for consideration. Please read through the following list and give us some feedback. Maybe you love it, maybe you hate it. Maybe you have other ideas or would like a variation of those included here.

Please contact any Council member in the next couple of weeks with your thoughts. We look forward to hearing from you!

Couple's Bible Study - Max 1 hour? Meeting day/time determined by group

Potlucks on any 5th Sunday

Saturday night worship service

One "contemporary" worship service per month or 5th Sundays

Wednesday night "Sunday School"

Always start worship at 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School during worship

Men's breakfast on Saturday a.m.

Women's Bible study other than current weekday morning

Large holiday celebration w/other churches - not Christmas or Easter

Sunday morning breakfast before Sunday School.

Publish youth activities calendar & encourage members to attend to support our youth

Mentors for confirmation students and new members

Council: Abigail Roiger (507-525-5771), Kay Campe (507-236-9097), Ellen Germain (507-525-8626), Larry Thompson (507-236-2250), Robbin (507-236-0691) and Cathy Celandier (507-236-7289), Marilyn Forstrom (612-308-0500), David Adams (507-236-7040) Izzy Cruz, Sue Kruse (507-432-8816), Catherine Johnson (507-236-1457), Pastor Cory (507-399-8282)



Confirmation

Confirmation will be May 15 during worship. Join us as we celebrate with Gretchen Jorgensen, Faith Kotewa, Maia Goerndt, Nola Thedens and their families on this very special day in their lives.



Christian Education News

Sunday School: This spring the Sunday School has been studying the life of Jesus. On April 15, there was a special evening meal and activities to learn about the Passover and the Last Supper. On Easter morning, after an Easter Egg hunt, we shared Resurrection rolls as the Easter story was read. **Come to the upper level at 9:15 to join Sunday School.** The last day of Sunday School for this year will be May 15.

Summer Camp: Now is the time to register for Faith Based Summer camps. The church is providing a \$100 contribution for each child or youth, for up to 12 children. Call or text Catherine at 507 236 1457 to arrange of the money.

Vacation Bible School: VBS this summer will be family events on the second Wednesday of June, July and August. Our theme is Adventures and Explorations in God's World.

June 8- 5-7:30 at Sylvania Park. Come and bring the kids, the grandkids, and/or the neighbor kids.

Supper, crafts, try a canoe or kayak, sing-a-long



Memorials

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
20-Mar	Memory of Char Kost		David Bishop & Nancy Rostvold
27-Mar	Memory of Gail Stremel	Starfish	Deb & David Adams
3-Apr	Memory of Laura Dunker	Starfish	Marilyn Forstrom
3-Apr	Jon & Cindy Anderson Anniversary	Starfish	Margaret Weaver
3-Apr	Honor of Jenny Willard's return!	Starfish	Ellen Germain
3-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Les Heinrich
10-Apr	Memory of Gin Mevissen	General	Les Heinrich
17-Apr	Memory of Joan Adams		Kevin & Kelly Moller
17-Apr	Memory of Marcia Winegar		Kevin & Kelly Moller
17-Apr	Memory of Tranna Urban	Capital	Kevin & Kelly Moller
17-Apr	Memory of Beverly Pugh		Kevin & Kelly Moller
17-Apr	Memory of Gail Stremel		Kevin & Kelly Moller
17-Apr	Memory of Char Kost		Kevin & Kelly Moller
17-Apr	Memory of Gail Stremel		Donna & Dean Grotte
17-Apr	Honor of Randy Kruse Birthday		Jane Kotewa
17-Apr	Memory of Gail Stremel		Lyle & Charlene Norris
17-Apr	Memory of Gail Stremel		Margaret Weaver
17-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Les Heinrich
17-Apr	Memory of Gail Stremel		RuthAnn Jones
17-Apr	Memory of Rodney Soens		Daniel & Debra Thate



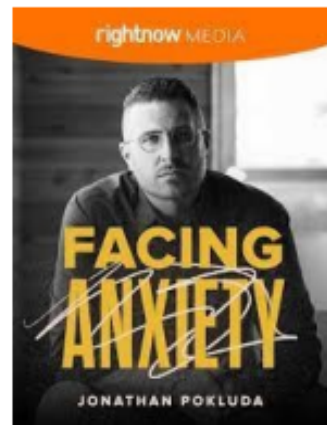
rightnow MEDIA

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

Have you ever felt yourself gripped by a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease, especially about something with an uncertain outcome? It's called anxiety, and everyone experiences it from time to time. But how do you deal with anxiety so that it doesn't overwhelm and overtake your life?

Anxiety is inescapable in today's world. When stress overpowers us and fear infects our minds, it can feel like the peace the Bible talks about is impossible to find. And no amount of pretending, overworking, or isolating ourselves will offer us the peace we need.

In this four-session series, pastor Jonathan Pokluda explores how Christians can face anxiety head-on. With real-life stories from people facing various kinds of anxiety, this series helps us see that peace can be found on this side of eternity.



Do you and your kids enjoy MUSIC? Are you looking for music that is based in the Bible and has real meaning that you can feel good about singing along to this spring and summer? Check out ***Worship in the Word with Shane & Shane***:



For years, Christian artists Shane & Shane have made Colossians 3:16 their mission: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." Now that they've been raising kids of their own, it's become their greatest desire for their children to know God's Word and have a vibrant, intimate relationship with Jesus—and they want to help make that a reality for your kids as well!

Join Shane & Shane and their friends and sing along with 10 beautiful, simple songs that were written straight from scripture, specifically with kids in mind. Watch the songs as they were recorded live, and learn from unique teaching and interview segments paired with each song.

*Still need to sign up for a FREE rightnow MEDIA account? There are 3 convenient ways:

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

Text **FCONG** to 49775, or scan this QR code with your smartphone camera or code reader:



Once logged in to your FREE account, you can click directly on "First Congregational UCC" near the top of the page to access the "Fairmont Worship Services" channel, or "Pastor Cory's Picks"—which 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

THIS 'N THAT

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



5-22
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www.familycircus.com

"How come you haven't been playin' much with the presents we bought you for Mother's Day?"



Thank you Sherry V.
for folding and
sealing the April
Newsletters!

HyVee and Fareway Receipts Report

Report as of 17 April 2022

During the last four weeks \$21,430.42 (14.29%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 38 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$149,747.91 (99.83%) toward the 14th \$150,000 goal. On Wednesday, I went to Church and picked up another \$771.10 worth of Hy-Vee slips to get to the 14th goal. I turned in \$150,000.88 net slips on Friday, the 22nd of April.

During the same four weeks, \$9,640.29 (6.42%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 67 weeks, Fareway is at \$96,563.16 (64.38%) toward our 4th \$150,000 goal. It will still take about a year to reach the \$150,000.

This program started the first of March 2011, so any slips from then until now can be used. Thanks to those who found slips going back to 2014 and turning them in. They all help. Any Fairmont 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 goal. Thanks to all who bring/mail the slips to the Church, or mailing them or dropping them off at my house. Even the very small amounts help.

Reported by;
Jim Bock



THANKS

To the Members of First Congregational Ucc:
The time has come to say a big

THANK YOU

to all of you for allowing the four of us the use of the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen the past 6 1/2 years for our monthly Parent to Parent group meetings. The interruption in our programming caused by the pandemic has caused us to "step back" for now. We will no longer be meeting on the fourth

Mondays of each month. You need to know that your space was the perfect venue for us; and we are truly grateful. For now please accept our thanks.

Sincerely,
Kate Hawkins
Val Jensen
Catherine Johnson
Alice Maday

Church Council Meetings

To return to 5:45 ~Abigail Roiger

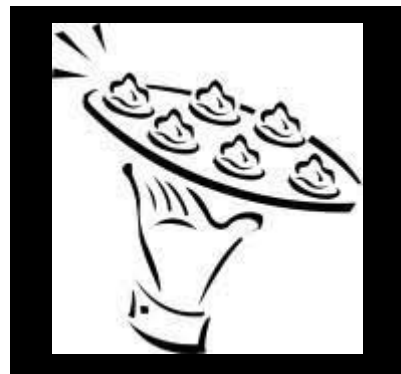
The PRC meets quarterly each year to discuss joys and concerns regarding our pastoral leadership. If you have input for the committee, please contact any of the PRC members: Jon Neitzel, Deb Thate, Sherry Voyles, Dave Meschke and Pastor Cory Germain.

READERS' RECIPES

OLIVE NUT SPREAD

- 2 8 oz. pkg cream cheese (I use 1 regular and 1 1/3 less fat)
- 1 jar green olives with pimento (reserve 2 T. juice)
- 2 T. soft butter
- 2 T. olive juice
- 2 cups toasted pecans or walnuts

Beat well with mixer and it will "chop" the olives and nuts. Use on crackers or rye breads.



BLUE CHEESE/CHEDDAR CHEESE BALL

- 2 oz. pkg. cream cheese (I use 1 regular and 1/3 less fat)
- 4 to 6 oz. blue cheese crumbled
- 8 to 10 oz. cheddar cheese, shredded
- 3 T. red wine vinegar
- 2 T. dried minced garlic or similar

Beat well. Chill until firmer, then roll in chopped toasted pecans or walnuts. Add parsley for color if desired.



TRISHA'S RANCH CHEESE LOG

- 12 oz. cream cheese softened (I use 16 and just add a little more everything)
- 1/4 c. sour cream
- 1/4 c. mayo

- 8 oz. sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 pkg. Ranch dressing dry mix

Mix together, and form into several logs. Chill to firm up, then roll each in toasted pecans.

Appetizers





A Tribute to Mothers

How Can I Thank You, Mom?

Let Me Count the Ways

By

Rebecca Barlow Jordan

I thank you for the tender care you gave to me each day;
the times you rocked me in your arms and sent bad dreams away.

I thank you for the times you picked me up from spills and falls,
for smiling with approval of my silly, childish scrawls.

I thank you for the times we spent vacationing through the years,
for always letting me collect my precious souvenirs.

I thank you for the bandaids, and the permanents, and tears,
for laughter and sweet music, for respecting childish fears.

I thank you for the stories and the prayers shared at night,
and even for the discipline to turn my wrongs to right.

I thank you for not giving up on me in adolescence,
for showing me throughout my life, it's love that makes a difference.

I thank you for the memories of years that fled by,
too fast, it seems, for now, I reminisce and heave a sigh.
And yet there's more to thank you for; there really is no end.

For even now as I extend this special thanks to you,
I say without a single doubt, my greatest joy will be
to echo to my children all the love you've shown to me.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC—FAIRMONT, MN

May Anniversaries

May 1	Kevin & Kelly Moller	40 yrs
May 3	Kris & Wendy Ziemer	25 yrs
May 3	Michael & Kara Rowan	8 yrs
May 6	Carolyn & Larry Thompson	56 yrs
May 6	Randy & Marcia Musser	45 yrs
May 9	Tom & Kathy Jorgensen	52 yrs
May 17	Izzy & Pauline Cruz	37 yrs
May 25	John & Sherry Larson	48 yrs
May 28	Dave & Sue Eisenbacher	11 yrs
May 30	Dave & Karen Cone	25 yrs



May Birthdays

1	Kamara Cone	16	Dylan Celander
4	Louis Kenneth Goerndt		Morgan Magnussen
6	Jodi Kuhlers	19	Alice Maday
9	Justin Thedens	20	EvaLyn Carlson
	Grace Kotewa		Anne (Saxton) Wenz
	Cameron Prindle	21	Jim Chipman
10	John Douglas Roiger	23	Maia Goerndt
12	Andrea Thate		Reagan Shoen
	Bennett Zabel	24	Lisa Meschke
	Ben Johnson		Paxton Rachuy
13	Sherry Larson	25	Lorie Zoeller
15	Larry Thompson	28	Hadley Becker
	Carolyn Thompson	31	Cory Hainy
	Joel Thate		
	Hanna Johnson		