

November 2020

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



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

Sunday School 9:15

Worship 10:30

Communion the first Sunday
of every month.

November

2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Day Daylight Savings Time Ends Communion Sunday 10:30 Worship	2	3 10:00 Lakeview Communion	4 5:00 Worship Board 5:30 Diaconate 4:00 Confirmation	5 6:00-7:00 T.O.P.S.	6	7
8 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	9 5:00 FCH Foundation	10	11 4:00 Confirmation 4:00-6:00 Harvest Festival Pick-Up Times 5:00 Mission Board 5:30 2021 Budget Mtg 6:30 CE Board	12 4:00-6:00 DIY Harvest Festival Pick-Up Times 5:15 Hospitality 7:00 Facilities 6:00-7:00 T.O.P.S.	13 9:00 am Council Agenda Items Deadline	14
15 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	16	17 10:00 Goldfich Communion	18 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Church Council w/Finance Board 5:30 Free Community Meal Drive-thru	19 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00-7:00 T.O.P.S.	20 9:00 am December Newsletter Submission Deadline	21
22 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship CWS Blessing Box Collection	23 4:30-7:00 Parent To Parent	24 Pie Making	25 Pie Making	26  Happy Thanksgiving	27	28  Count Your Blessings
29 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Noisy Sunday Heifer International	30					



The Reverend's Ruminations – November 2020

Volume 1, Issue 8

First Congregational United Church of Christ

By the time you read this, I hope that you have voted (or are about to) in the general election. It's been a long, arduous season of campaign commercials, debates, town halls, and endless pontificating by all manner of self-appointed "experts" on television and social media. 2020 has been tough in so many ways that whatever the outcome of the various political races, I pray that peace will be the ultimate outcome!

We may sometimes be tempted to think that our modern society is far removed from the dusty old stories of the Bible, but often it just requires a "parable mind set" to hear applicable teachings about seemingly old-fashioned concerns that speak right to the heart of modern settings. For example, Jesus has some tough but encouraging words for Christians in our Sunday lectionary gospel readings from Matthew's 23rd and 25th chapters during November.

On All Saint's Sunday Jesus speaks of those in places of power, who love to be noticed in the public squares and greedily gather the honors and benefits of their positions. His warning? *"All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted"* (Matthew 23:12, NRSV). Is he calling out across the centuries as well, to those currently in power or seeking to rise to power? I'd like to think so, and I hope all our candidates get the message. Here in the church, many of those whom we honor each year on the first Sunday in November did hear and heed Jesus' teaching, humbling themselves as servants of the community, the church, and their families. For this, we in turn exalt them and the memory of their humble service.

The selection for that first Sunday of November ends with verse 12, but if you continue in the 23rd chapter, you'll hear Jesus really laying into the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees of the old-guard, establishment Jewish religion of his day. After lambasting their misuse of power, restriction of average parishioners, and swearing of false oaths, he says, *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!"* (Matthew 23:23-24, NRSV). We of course are in a season for considering tithes and offerings, but no matter whether those are in the form of valuable spices or cash contributions toward the church budget, the greater consideration across the ages is how our gifts support the "weightier matters" essential to ministry: justice, mercy, and faith.

There is much work to be done in all three of those essential areas here in our church and community, so as you reflect on the blessings and responsibilities of being a Christian in this wild and woolly world of 2020, would you also prayerfully consider how you might serve a more active role at First Congregational United Church of Christ for a time? We will soon be seeking board and council members for a new term, and I encourage each of you to take your turn in these valuable ministries of the local church. None of the board positions takes more than a few hours a month, and even our Church Council meetings are generally well under two hours—including a fair amount of laughter and occasionally some snacks!

Of course, we are always in need of short-term help in the way of kitchen workers, singers, Christmas decorators, ushers, greeters, or scripture readers as well. Some of these activities have had to change in the face of a pandemic, but the work of the church marches on. Won't you help us continue our ministries?

As we slide on toward winter, and what are bound to be some new or different holiday traditions, I pray that you and your family stay healthy, happy, and inspired in your walk of faith!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Cory Germain

Partners in Ministry

Ushers, Readers, Greeters
First Congregational UCC
November 2020

November 1

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger
Usher Kay Campe
Reader Kay Campe
Greeter Sue Kruse

November 18

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger
Usher Robbin Celander
Reader Cathy Celander
Greeter Cathy Celander

November 15

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger
Usher Jake Schoen
Reader Abby Schoen
Greeters Abby Schoen & Girls

November 22

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger
Ushers Larry Thompson
Reader Carolyn Thompson
Greeter Carolyn Thompson

November 29

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger
Ushers Larry Lasch
Reader Margo Weaver
Greeter Jane Kotewa

COUNCIL MINUTES
For 10-21-2020
First Congregational UCC

The Council met via Zoom. Moderator, Jane Kotewa, called the meeting to order and Rev. Germain led in devotions and prayer.

Members Present: Larry Thompson, Catherine Johnson, Jane Kotewa, Cory Hainy, Joanne Eisenberger, Dave Adams, Dave Meschke, Dolores Gronewald, and Marilyn Forstrom. Ex officio members: Pastor Cory and Dara Bliesmer, Ass't Treas.

Members Absent: Wendy Ziemer, Robbin Celander

Motion was M/S/C (Dolores/Cory) to approve the minutes of the September meeting as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Meschke reported that we have \$52,700 in checking, balance of investment is nearly the same as September report and, being 75% through the year, we have approximately 66% of expected income. Motion was M/S/C (Dave M., Larry T.) to receive the report. The Budget Committee will meet Nov. 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Pastor's Report: Pastor's report was received by email noting usual pastoral and Nat'l Guard duties and upcoming drill dates.

Board Reports:

Christian Ed.: No report

Diaconate: The Board met, discussed Board budget items, possible fundraiser ideas, Community Meal in October.

Facilities: Larry Thompson reported that the present snow blower not longer works and the Board is requesting permission to purchase a new snow blowing attachment for the current lawn tractor. Some money has already been donated to this purchase if approved and additional gifts will be requested in the newsletter. Motion was M/S/C (Larry/Dolores) to purchase snow blowing attachment at a balance of \$1200.

Hospitality: Members will be taking orders for and preparing pies for their Thanksgiving fundraiser.

Mission: November Community Meal will be held one week early to avoid the day before Thanksgiving. The Board will continue plans for a possible "Lil Food Library"

Worship: Plans were made for All Saints Sunday on Nov. 1 and we will proceed with plans for Christmas Eve.

Old Business: Larry T. reported that plans are to still repair north tower roof yet this year. Also, in the next two weeks, Krause Construction will measure stones that will be replace in the spring work. Council feels Covid 19 efforts are working satisfactorily so far. Pastor Cory will implement Confirmation plans in the next week or two. Catherine and committee are tweaking Bylaws changes. A big thank you to Ace, Ellen and Mary Don for sharing their thoughts on the Stewardship Drive theme of Three Great Loves. Well done!

New Business: Motion was M/S/C (Marilyn/Larry) to hold a Council fundraiser selling frozen ham loaves and mustard sauce in early November. Pastor Cory reported that a TOPS group would like to meet in our church on Thursdays from 6-7 and also a scrapbooking group to meet once a month. By general consent, Council agreed to these meetings as long Covid guidelines are met and meeting area and restrooms are wiped down when done.

The meeting was adjourned and Pastor Cory closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Marilyn Forstrom, Clerk

*Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
Speak of all His wonders.*
1 CHRONICLES 16:9



November Blessing Box

Our blessing box special offering this month is for Church World Service. For many years we have donated CWS blankets. This year, like last year, we are not only providing the option to donate blankets, but you can also choose the gift you'd like to give. Some of the gift options include: 5-gallon canister of water for a refugee (\$5), a blanket (\$10), a doctor's visit for a child (\$11), chickens for a family (\$15), garden starter kit for a community (\$18), a month of groceries for a refugee (\$25), a biosand water filter for a family (\$30), a piglet (\$43), a sheep (\$60), farmer's tool set (\$65). There are several more options available. Stop in a check out the display table for more info or email us with any questions. The blessing box offering will be taken on November 22, but you can always drop off or mail in your offering between now and then. Thank you, the Mission Board

P.S. Sunday, November 29th is Noisy Sunday! We'll collect in person that day, but will again have a can by the main entrance if you'd like to drop-off your coins during the week instead.

Memorials

Date	Memory/Honor of	Donor Designation	From
20-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt	Capital	Pat & Randy Rowan
20-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Verna Yarnall
20-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Memorials
27-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt	Capital	Jane Kotewa
4-Oct	Memory of Betty Jorgensen-Wise		Lyle & Charlene Norris
4-Oct	Memory of Betty Jorgensen-Wise		Donna & Dean Grotte
18-Oct	Memory of Barb Mosloski	Capital	Larry & Carolyn Thompson

*Interview with Virginia "Ginny" Riedesel on
October 13, 2020*



"Ginny" grew up in Topeka, Kansas...her given name is Virginia Nelson but she prefers to be called by her nickname. She went to grade school and high school and was graduated there. She attended Washburn University in Topeka for two years.

During this time she met Dan Coats. Dan was two years older and was a pre-med student in college. He was "exempt" from the service but he joined up anyway because all his friends were in the service. (This was in the "war years")

After one year of college, Ginny married Dan in when she was 18 in 1944. He was stationed in San Antonio, Texas Air Force where he was 2nd Lt. When he completed his service, they moved back to Topeka where he restarted medical school. Their daughter Cynthia was born in 1946 and their son Brian was born four years later in 1950.

Tragedy struck when they were headed from San Francisco to Fresno to visit his parents. Dan was driving and suffered an aneurism and died in the car. He was 27 and Ginny was 25. Cynthia was 4 years old and Brian was only three months old.

Ginny's father had died the year before. Her mother was left in a very large home and was pleased to open her arms and home to Ginny and the children.

Later on, Bill Riedesel's sister called Ginny to come to her home because they needed another person for cards...it was a set-up! Bill and she were married in 1955 in Topeka the day after Christmas. They went to Cuba for their honeymoon! She said he was a great guy who had never been married. She jokes that he married her so she would cook for him! In 1956 they moved to Fairmont because Bill was an Engineer at Fairmont Railway Motors.

Bill was a member of our church and the head of Trustees....so...Ginny joined our church and has always felt "at home" here. She joined the choir and has sung in choirs for 80 years. Bill adopted Cynthia and Brian. Then two boys were added to the family. Tom was born in 1960 and Chuck was born in 1966. The family would go to their cabin up north every summer for two weeks.

Ginny has served on many boards and held many offices--Women's Fellowship, Sunday School teacher, Circles, and Harvest Festival Committee. You will recall that Ginny has sung in choirs for 80 years but she decided to retire. Her beautiful voice is missed! Oh! and she has also given away her car and doesn't drive anymore.

She is such a delightful gal! We had such a great telephone visit.

- Submitted by Lee Hanning



Do-It-Yourself Harvest Festival

- Ham Loaves (frozen) \$3.00 each
- Mustard Sauce (half pint) \$2.00
- Pecans available at the door \$10.00

Order by November 7 by calling or texting
Marilyn Forstrom at 612-318-0500
or email her at mforstrom@gmail.com

Pick up between 4 and 6 pm Wednesday,
November 11 or Thursday, November 12 at the
back door of the kitchen, in the alley. If you are
unable to go out, we can arrange delivery for
you; please note that when placing your order.

Fundraiser sponsored by the
Church Council

We are unable to have our usual offering of wild rice in time for either the ham loaf or pie sale. However, we will have a limited supply available after Thanksgiving. If you would like some, please contact Marilyn Forstrom at 612-308-0500 or mforstrom@gmail.com

• If you wish to donate ingredients for the
• loaves, we can use the following:
• 16 cups of DRY bread crumbs
• 8 cups of tomato juice
• 8 cups of tomato puree
• OR you can make a monetary donation
• toward the cost of the meat...we will need
• approximately \$144. Thanks so much!



First Congregational UCC

319 Downtown Plaza

**Please drive thru back alley
for pick-up**

**(prep & serving following
covid-19 precautions)**

Free Community Meal

**5:30 pm on Wed,
November 18**

**Thanksgiving
Hotdish**

Mixed fruit

Friendship muffins

Bottled water

**Sponsored by
Mission board and friends**

THANKSGIVING PIE SALE



First Congregational United Church of Christ Hospitality Board

LIMITED SUPPLY AVAILABLE!

Pre-order required by November 15th.

Pick-up Wednesday, November 25th from
4:00pm to 6:00pm in back alley of the church
in Fairmont, Minnesota.

TO ORDER, CONTACT:

Deb Thate
(507) 236-4943

★ **PECANS** Purchase 1lb bag of whole or
crushed pecans for \$10.00!

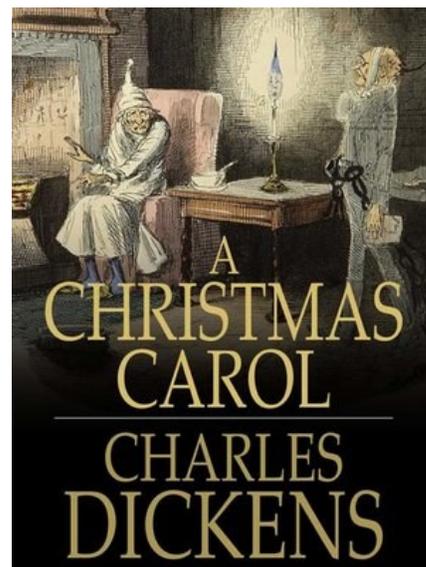
FRESHLY BAKED PIES

CHOOSE FROM:

- * Pumpkin
- * Pecan
- * Peanut Butter
- * Apple
- * White Chocolate Raspberry
- * French Silk
- * Banana Cream
- * Bumbleberry

\$20.00

*The third annual community reading of Charles Dickens' **A Christmas Carol** will take place on Thursday evening, December 17 at 7:00 pm Red Rock Center for the Arts. A freewill offering will be collected to support the important work of Heaven's Table Food Shelf.*



Do you like to read? Volunteer readers are needed to help with the third annual community reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Practice readings are beginning now and will continue through November. Contact Peter Engstrom for rehearsal dates, times, and locations: (507) 848-4414 or peter.g.engstrom@gmail.com

All activities will be guided by CDC and DPH COVID-19 guidelines, including masks and social distancing to ensure the health of all involved.

MEMBERS OF THE **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (PRC)** MET AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 16. LEE HANNING SERVES AS CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE, WITH MEMBERS: ERIC JOHNSON, ABIGAIL ROIGER, CINDY ANDERSON, JON NEITZEL AND PASTOR CORY.



From the Facilities Board:

The church's main snow blower has come to the end of its useful life after nearly 25 years of faithful service. Its drive system is completely worn out and parts to repair it are nearly impossible to find. We've decided that the best option is to purchase a snow blower attachment for our John Deere riding mower, but we need your help! A couple of pledges have already been offered, but if you'd like to donate toward a much-needed equipment purchase that will help keep our property clear and safe this winter, please contact Dean Grotte or Larry Thompson.

Orel Barker's 103rd Birthday is November 5th!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY OREL!



rightnow MEDIA

***All worship services from First Congregational UCC since March 22 are archived (by date) alongside the other great content on the rightnow MEDIA website & app!**

Once logged in to your *FREE* account on [rightnow MEDIA](#), 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!

~ Pastor Cory

It may be only days before the presidential election when you read this, but Andy Stanley (senior pastor of North Point Community Church near Atlanta) has a great three-part series that is relevant either before or after the big event. He has a powerful countercultural message for Christians living in the wildly polarized political climate of 2020. Here are brief descriptions of the three sessions in his **Talking Points: The Perfect Blend of Politics & Religion**:

What Is Jesus' Take on Politics?

Your favorite candidate will win or lose based on how our country votes this November. However, the church will win or lose based on our behavior between now and then.

How Christians Should Approach Politics

Our political views are shaped by a number of variables: our backgrounds, education, and personal experiences to name a few. It's easy to feel like our view is the right one, but the person beside you is more precious to God than your political view.

What Is the Role of the Church in Politics?

The unity and diversity of the early church shocked and intrigued the ancient world. Ours should as well.

It's interesting to watch children grow up and find ways to live out their faith. Some "grew up" in the public eye of reality TV for all to see, like Sadie Robertson Huff granddaughter of patriarch Phil Robertson from the long-running series, *Duck Dynasty*. Sadie was a teenager during the height of the show, but is now grown, married, and the author of several books on faith. She also has a new four-part series on **rightnow MEDIA** entitled **Fire and Faithfulness**:

We live in a world that doesn't care what God wants. Sure, they may not say it that way, but the messages that parade across social media declare that God's way just isn't worth it. But as Christians, we're committed to following Jesus in every aspect of our lives. Is it possible to live—or maybe even thrive—as a believer in our world today?

In this four-session series with Sadie Robertson Huff, discover the lost art of faithfulness in the face of a world that wants nothing to do with God. Trek through the story of four young Israelites who, when ripped from their homes, faced a choice: remain faithful followers in a foreign land, or bow before an empire that hated God.

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

9:00 a.m.

**November 20th is the
December Newsletter
submission deadline.**

**You'll find the full color version of the newsletter,
on the church website at:**

<http://www.fairmontucc.org/>

HyVee and Fareway Receipt Report

as of 18 October 2020

During the last five weeks, \$30,109.01 (22.74%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were turned in. After only 48 weeks, Hy-Vee reached \$150,001.27 (100.00%) and has \$17,140.80 (11.43%) toward the 13th \$150,000 goal. The reaching of the 12th goal was reached about a month earlier than I had first expected.

During the same five weeks, \$7,858.74 (5.23%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 114 weeks, Fareway is at \$126,150.53 (84.10%) toward our 3rd \$1,000 from Fareway Store. Based on history, it will be June of 2021 before the goal is reached.

Thanks for bring in or even mailing them to me. Even the very small amounts help. During these weeks, there were two for \$0.18. Yes, 20 gallon of gasoline at nineteenth of a cent per gallon and others where they paid less than 10 cents per gallon for 20 gallon. Remember this program started the first of March 2011, so any slips from then until now can be used. Any 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.

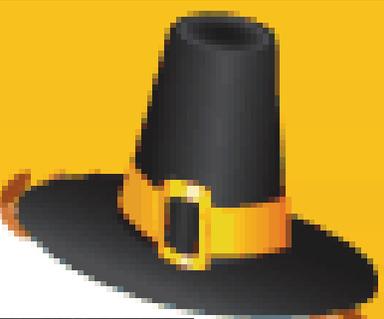
Reported by;
Jim Bock



Thank you!

Margo, Kathy, Marilyn and Sherry
for helping prepare last month's
newsletter for mailing.

You are very much appreciated!



BETTY CROCKER BANANA BREAD RECIPE

1 pkg. Betty Crocker cake mix
3 eggs
1/3 c. oil
4 mashed bananas

Mix and add additional ingredients for unique combinations:

(Bake at 350 for 45-55 minutes in larger pan, greased.)

CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE CHIP

Use Devil's Food cake mix, and 12 oz. chocolate chips

CHOCOLATE CHIP

Use yellow cake mix, add 12 oz. chocolate chips

STRAWBERRY BANANA

Use strawberry cake mix, add 1 pkg. frozen strawberries, drained and cut up

HAWAIIAN

Use yellow cake mix, add 1 c. macadamia nuts and 1 c. coconut.

Our favorite, of course, is chocolate chocolate chip. Any can be used as a bread or as a dessert.

Makes two large loaves or 3 smaller loaves.



Nov 3	David & Lisa Meschke	13 years
Nov 18	Gene & Barb Pitcher	42 years
Nov 21	Cory & Ellen Germain 	22 years
Nov 23	Bill & Pat Cowing	64 years
Nov 29	Bill & Barb Bittman	45 years
Nov 29	Byron & Becky Phillips	51 years

Nov 5	Orel Barker	Nov 20	Vince Vaughn
	Jessica Bicknase	Nov 20	Reid Michael Cain
Nov 8	Tom Jorgensen	Nov 23	Wanda Anderson
Nov 9	Joy Pollock		Lee Hanning
Nov 10	Conrad Zoeller		Reid Rosen
Nov 11	Bob Cone	Nov 25	Erica Thate
	Tana Lasch	Nov 26	Kate Hawkins
Nov 13	Dalton Massey	Nov 27	Jodie Whitmore
Nov 14	Hillary Forstrom	Nov 29	Ryan Meyer
Nov 15	Joe Christensen		Jeff Skog
Nov 16	Steve Draper		Dakota Gilbertson
Nov 17	Tyler Grefe	Nov 30	Jenny Willard
			Savannah Goerndt