

February 2019

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA
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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 :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 10:30

Communion the first Sunday of
every month.



The Reverend's Ruminations

Can it be that we're already a month into 2019? It seems as though Christmas was just a week or two ago, even if we enjoyed some browner winter weather in between. I pray that your New Year's resolutions are still in effect and perhaps have perhaps spawned some healthy new habits!

As many of you know, Ellen and I recently had the opportunity to fly to New York City and attend a taping of *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* after winning a contest from KARE 11 TV in Minneapolis. It was fun to see how the show is put together, and amazing to realize that the majority of it is indeed "live on tape," recorded in one take. Occasionally Jimmy's words got tangled up and required a second take, but for the most part he is just as funny and spontaneous as he appears on TV! As a musician, I particularly enjoyed getting to hear the show's "house band," the Roots, play live.

It was a whirlwind tour to do in only three days, but we made the most of our time and took in some highlights of the "Big Apple" while we had the chance. After the taping on Monday night, we took in the crowds and myriad lighted billboards of nearby Times Square—a shining example of "the city that never sleeps." Tuesday we browsed around a bit in Chinatown, then spent several hours at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, a particularly impressive, and yet somber, reminder of the horrific event that changed U.S. history forever only 17 years ago. Of course we sampled some great food, including a slice of NYC pizza, snacks from a couple street vendors, and my personal favorite: a local bagel and smoked fish shop that I'm pretty sure would be my daily breakfast haunt if it were just a bit closer to Fairmont. Wednesday before flying home, we enjoyed touring historic Grand Central Terminal amid the hustle and bustle of its throngs of commuters.

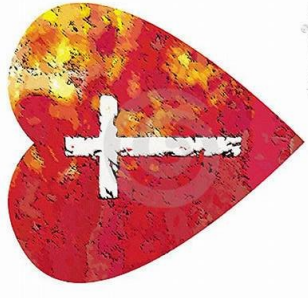
All that action, with the never-ending crowds of people and constant onslaught of traffic (including frequent horn-honking), was fun to visit for a while, but it made me realize how nice it is to live in a small town where my "commute" is five minutes and generally includes only one stoplight! I count it as a blessing to be in a town and church small enough that most of us are acquainted with each other's joys and sorrows, and are genuine in our care for one another.

The apostle Paul, writing to his congregation in Rome, encouraged them (and us) this way: *"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned... Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor."* (Romans 12:3, 9-10, NRSV) I encourage you likewise: continue to care for one another with the love of a Christian family, sharing a kind word or phone call and holding one another in prayer just as you are by others in this congregation. In this is the love which Christ models for us, given with the simple (yet sometimes challenging) command to do likewise to those around us.

Yours in Christ's service,

Rev. Cory Germain

FEBRUARY 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	4	5 10:00 Lakeview Communion	6 5:45 Diaconate 7:00 Choir Practice	7 7:00 Hospitality Brd 7:00 Facilities Board	8	9
10 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	11 5:00-6:00 FCH Foundation	12	13 4:00 Worship Board 5:00 Mission Board 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Choir Practice	14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY ♡	15	16 11:30 Kids Against Hunger Food Pack St John Vianney School
17 10:30 Worship	18 President's Day	19 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	20 5:00 Finance Board 5:30 Church Council 7:00 Choir Practice	21	22 March Newsletter Submission Deadline 9:00 am	23
24 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection: One Great Hour of Sharing	25 4:30-7:00 Parent To Parent	26	27 5:30 Free Comm Meal 7:00 Choir Practice	28 9:30 Bible Study		

Happy
Birthday

Happy
Anniversary

Feb. 1 Mark Craven
Feb. 2 Sarah Zabel
Feb. 3 Lori Marushin
Faith Kotewa
Feb. 4 Jim Bock
Joyce Jorgenson
Feb. 6 April Rachuy
Feb. 10 Jenna Moller
Feb. 13 Janine Draper
Remi Shoen
Feb. 16 Jim Marushin Sr.
Owen Becker
Feb. 17 Vicki Bicknase
Carter Rowan
Colby Whitmore
Feb. 18 Kirk Jorgensen
Feb. 19 Joe Craven
Courtney Kuperous
Feb. 21 Larry Lasch
Feb. 23 Lee Trunkenbolz
Feb. 25 Cindy Anderson
Feb. 27 Larry Christensen
Henry Brummond
Feb. 28 Matt Guritz

February 2, 1963

Bob & Jan Cone 56 years

February 14, 1998

Jon & Cindy Anderson 21 years

February 20, 1949

Bill & Bev Norman 70 years



Council Minutes for January 16, 2019
First Congregational Church UCC
Fairmont, MN

Present: Julie Elliott, Ace Adams, Robbin Celandier, Larry Thompson, Mary Don Kisingbury, Cory Hainey, Jodi Kuhlers, Deb Thate and Marilyn Forstrom. **Absent:** Pastor Cory Germain, Ellen Germain, James Marushin, David Meschke

Moderator, Julie Elliott opened the meeting. Ace Adams lead the Council in prayer.

Communications: Thank you was read from Joyce Jorgensen for her Christmas gift

A motion was M/S/C to approve the minutes printed with the addition that the Council agreed to serve the July community meal.

Treasurer's Report: It was reported that December giving was good. As of 1-1-2019 we have approximately \$25,700 in operating funds for current bills. Pledge giving for 2019 that was paid in 2018 was considerably smaller than usual.

No Pastor's Report

Board Reports:

CE – No Report

Diaconate – Cory Hainey reported that the Board met and made work assignments for the coming year. Pastor Cory reported that he is planning to have a new member class soon. He will be gone part of February and Jane Kotewa will make hospital calls while he is unavailable.

Facilities - Larry Thompson reported that the Board met and made work assignments for the coming year, They discussed the need for and cost of replacing the 3 panel windows in the front entry. The Finance Board and Council approved using Erma Rosen funds for one window with matching funds for the other to come from the congregation. Hertzke Construction will start replacement in March.

Finance – Robbin reported that the Board met, made plans to serve the community meal in February and officer assignments.

Hospitality – Deb Thate reported that they met and made work assignments for the coming year and she will bring the bids for a flower refrigerator to the next Council meeting

Mission – Mary Don Kisingbury reported that the Board met, made work assignments and plans for Kids Against Hunger team and Blessing Boxes as well as the upcoming Mission Possible night.

Old Business: The 2019 Budget was reviewed/discussed/clarified Motion was M/S/C to approve the budget as printed pending revisions.

New Business: Plans were discussed and made for the upcoming annual meeting. Lunch will be a Potluck.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marilyn Forstrom, Clerk

February Blessing Box - One Great Hour of Sharing



Purpose

One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. In the 1990s, receipts have exceeded \$20 million annually. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more.

History

In 1950, the title "One Great Hour of Sharing" was used for the first time. Its goal was to make the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffered the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time.

From the beginning this has been an ecumenical effort. As denominations changed and merged, One Great Hour of Sharing has varied from eight to twenty-nine participating communions. Currently, the One Great Hour of Sharing committee officially comprises eight Christian denominations: American Baptist Churches USA, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Church of the Brethren, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), United Church of Christ, and Church World Service. All denominations work in cooperation with Church World Service, the relief, development and refugee assistance arm of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

The purpose of One Great Hour of Sharing has remained the same: to collect special gifts to assist those in need. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. From the 1990s to the early 2000s, receipts have exceeded \$20 million annually. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, most use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid.

Contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing make a difference in the lives of real people. Leaders of impacted communities identify the needs of their people. Priorities for short, medium and long-term solutions are then made for the purpose of improving the quality of life for individuals and the communities. Around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing continues to respond to needs equally critical as when it was first created.

Now to God be the glory, who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.

Ephesians 3:20

We will take our Blessing Box offering Sunday, February 24

Memorials

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
25-Nov	Memory of Lois Nienkerk		Larry & Carolyn Thompson
25-Nov	Bill & Pat Cowing Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
25-Nov	Ken & Joy Rachuy Anniversary	Starfish	Margaret Weaver
25-Nov	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Kris & Wendy Ziemer
9-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Mildred Brodt
9-Dec	Memory of Ron Kakeldy		Cynthia Celander
9-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Starfish	Janine & Steve Draper
9-Dec	Memory of Bernice Germain		Dolores Gronewald
9-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Raleigh Haugen
9-Dec	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Leslie Heinrich
9-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Starfish	Jane Kotewa
9-Dec	Memory of Ron Kakeldy		Kevin & Kelly Moller
9-Dec	Memory of Pam Brandenhoff Askeland		Music Kevin & Kelly Moller
9-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Jennifer Weaver-Neist
9-Dec	Memory of Hermione Lasch		Mary Beth Snyder
9-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Capital	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
9-Dec	Memory of Ron Kakeldy		Margaret Weaver
9-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ New York Life - Edina Office
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Tom & Joan Andersen
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Cindy & Jon Anderson
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Daryl & Carol Bartz
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ David Bishop & Nancy Rostvold
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Barbara & William Bittman
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Edmund & Enid Bloedel
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Edward & Joan Bosanko
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Cathy & Robbin Celander
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Music	Cynthia Celander
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Robert & Janet Cone
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Allen & Carol Core
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ William & Patricia Cowing
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Cheryl & Larry Currier
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Trudi Detert
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Carol & James Dick
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Nancy & Dominick Driano, Jr
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Joanne Eisenbarger
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Arthur & Julie Elliott
16-Dec	Memory of Lois Nienkerk		Music Arthur & Julie Elliott
16-Dec	Memory of Lois Nienkerk		Music Jim & Tori Fiala
16-Dec	Memory of Lois Nienkerk		Organ Doug & Marilyn Forstrom
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Helen Gould
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Capital	Dolores Gronewald
16-Dec	Memory of Lois Nienkerk		Capital Donna & Dean Grotte
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Elizabeth Guzior
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Richard & Nancy Hamer
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Everett & Lela Hanning

Memorials

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
16-Dec	John & Donna Holstine Anniversary	Starfish	Ann Hartmann
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	S & R Hayes
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Donna Holstine
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Valerie Hooper
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Robert & Helen Hovde
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Holly Huso
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Bonnie Johnson
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Wanda Johnson
16-Dec	Memory of Lois Nienkerk	Organ	Wanda Johnson
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Ruth Ann & George Jones
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Starfish	Thomas & Kathleen Jorgensen
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Starfish	Joyce Jorgensen
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Ronald & Linda Karkela
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	John Kasper
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	MaryDon Kislingbury
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Gayle Larkin
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	John & Sherry Larson
16-Dec	Memory of Hermione Lasch		Winnebago Mfg
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Eloise Lidke
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Roger Lindell
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Jon & Jill Maakestad
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Linda Meschke
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Kevin & Kelly Moller
16-Dec	Memory of Lois Nienkerk	Music	Kevin & Kelly Moller
16-Dec	Memory of Lois Nienkerk	Organ & Capital	Memorials
16-Dec	Memory of Hermione Lasch		Margaret Weaver
16-Dec	Memory of Marilyn Thompson Christ		Margaret Weaver
16-Dec	Kay Campe Birthday	Starfish	Margaret Weaver
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Gerald & Susan Wegner
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Bank Midwest
16-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Dave Meschke
16-Dec	Memory of Virginia Charlton		Dave Meschke
23-Dec	Memory of Mildred Hanlon	Starfish	Wanda Anderson
23-Dec	Memory of Dorothy Krick	Starfish	Wanda Anderson
23-Dec	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Organ	Don & Arlene Fancher
23-Dec	Memory of Kevin Emery	Starfish	Wanda Johnson
23-Dec	Memory of Kevin Emery		Jane Kotewa
23-Dec	Memory of Evelyn Byers		Marjorie Markquart
30-Sep	Doug & Marilyn Forstrom Anniversary	Starfish	Margaret Weaver
23-Dec	Memory of Kevin Emery	Starfish	Alan Siebert & Jodie Whitmore
30-Dec	Memory of Doug Forstrom	Organ	Gerald & Gwen Johnson
30-Dec	Memory of Chas Draper		Jon & Cheryl Rippke
31-Dec	Inspired by MaryDon Kislingbury	Starfish	Bruce & Lynn Coffey
31-Dec	John & Donna Holstine Anniversary		Margaret Weaver

Partners in Ministry

Feb. 3

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger
Head Usher: Bill Cowing
Reader: Jim Marushin
Greeters: Jim & Megan Marushin

Feb. 10

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger
Head Usher: Cory Hainy
Reader: Abigail Roiger
Greeters: Joe & Morgan Christenson

Feb. 17

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger
Head Usher: Lorin Pollock
Reader: Cameron Germain
Greeters: Don and Shelby Marks

Feb. 24

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger
Head Usher: Larry Thompson
Reader: Deb Adams
Greeters: JR and Jane Kotewa

Head Ushers Needed We are in need of head ushers. Any "new" person that would like to be added to the head usher list please let Joyce Jorgenson or Ann know. Thank you.



It's what people can do that matters!

Greetings and Thank You!

Your support of MRCI means so much and affects so many lives, like Brian.

Brian began working at a body shop through a special program at MRCI when he was still in high school. After graduation, Brian applied for and got a fulltime job as an auto detailer at the same shop. He gained his independence and has excelled at his position. And that was 15 years ago!



"I'm so happy I've worked here 15 years. I feel great being 'the man'...working here!"

In the spirit of *what people can do*, MRCI is kindly asking for your continued support. Enclosed is a pledge card and envelope. Please find it in your heart to give generously.

Your donation goes to support a wide range of programs including career exploration, job training, recreational, social and creative activities, as well as things as basic and essential as transportation.

Your ongoing support will continue to improve the lives of so many and empower them to reach their personal goals through skill building and employment opportunities.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Brian Benschhof

Brian Benschhof, CEO

After a While

This was written by Veronica Shoffstall in 1971

After a while you learn the subtle difference
between holding a hand and chaining a soul.
And you learn that love doesn't mean leaning
and company doesn't always mean security.
And you begin to learn that kisses aren't contracts
and presents aren't promises.
And you begin to accept your defeats
with your head up and your eyes ahead,
with the grace of a woman, not the grief of a child.
And you learn to build all your roads on today
because tomorrow's ground is too uncertain for plans,
and futures have a way of falling down in mid-flight.

After a while you learn that even sunshine burns
if you get too much.

So you plant your own garden and decorate your own soul
instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers.

And you learn that you really can endure;
that you really are strong
and you really do have worth.
And you learn and your learn
with every goodbye you learn.

Submitted by Georgia Malo

MUCH THANKS!

Thanks to everyone for their thoughtful Christmas gifts. I really appreciated it. Happy New Year to all! - Jenny Willard

Thank you for your thoughtfulness! Thank you to the Church Council and a number of individuals who were so kind and thoughtful to me over the Christmas Holiday. The gifts were very much appreciated and enjoyed! ~Ann

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Friday, February 22nd
9:00 a.m.

This applies to
schedule changes also.



Jermont Congregational Church,
Thank you for the
donation following the
tornado and cleanup in
Granada. Everyone appreciated
your help.

City of Granada

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much
for your support of
Heaven's Table Food Shelf!
Because of your generosity,
we are able to help
more neighbors in need.

Dick Bay

David Bergt

Al Johnson

Greg Larson
Pauline Bergt

Arinda
W. Dwyer

Sue Redman

First Congregational United Church of Christ,

Thank you for the generous donation to our
lunch program! Your kindness is very much
appreciated and will assist many MCW
families.

Thank you,

Allison Schmidt

Allison Schmidt, Superintendent