

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](mailto: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  
Friday 9:30 am—12:30 p.m.

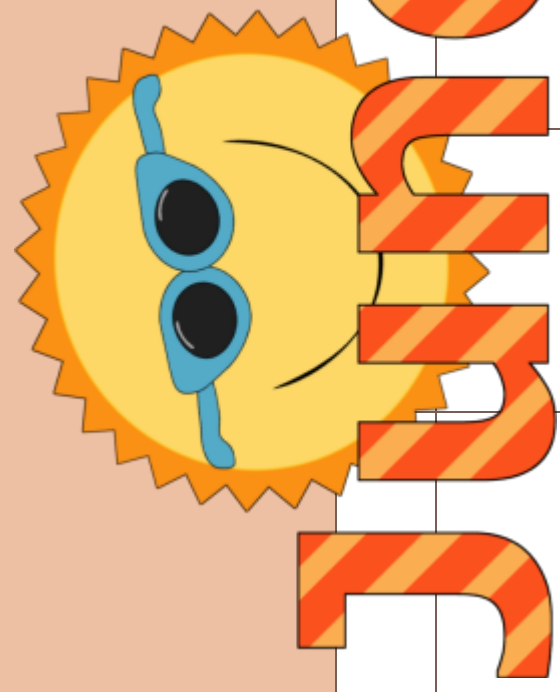
Rev. Cory's phone: 507-399-8282

**Worship Hours**

Worship 9:30

Communion the first Sunday of  
every month.

# 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> 9:30 Worship Communion	<b>3</b> 5:00-6:00 FCH Foundation	<b>4</b> 10:00 Lakeview Communion	<b>5</b> 4:00 Worship Brd 5:00 Mission Brd 7:00 Choir	<b>6</b> 5:15 Hospitality Bd	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 11:00-3:00 Pie/Ice Cream Social 1:00-4:00 Emma Germain Graduation Open House
<b>9</b> 9:30 Worship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 5:30 Finance Board 6:30 CE Board	<b>13</b> 7:00 Facilities Brd	<b>14</b> 9:00 July Newsletter Submission Deadline	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:30 Worship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	<b>19</b> 7:30 Church Council	<b>20</b> 9:30 Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:30 Worship Ride your bike to church! Blessing Box Collection: Habitat for Humanity	<b>24</b> 4:30-7:00 Parent To Parent	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 5:30 Free Community Meal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 3:00-midnight Martin Co Relay for Life—Fairgrounds
<b>30</b> 9:30 Worship Joint Srvc w/St. John's at First Cong. UCC Noisy Sunday: Heifer International						

## *The Reverend's Ruminations*

As I sit down to write this, I am recalling the trip I made home from a MN Valleys Presbytery meeting in Willmar yesterday evening through a steady rain, a temp only barely approaching 50 degrees, and winds gusting over 45 m.p.h. It is nearing the end of May, isn't it?!? Let us pray that June will finally usher in spring—and even summer—temperatures! On a more serious note, my most fervent prayers right now are for our farmers near and far, that they might get crops planted safely and in time for a good growing season. Believe it or not, my very un-scientific observation during a couple weeks' travels around Okoboji, Fairmont, Blue Earth, and all the way up to Willmar is that Faribault, Martin, and southern Watonwan Counties are the only ones with any crops poking through the soil as of yet. I know that's not saying much considering the date, but it's something for which we in this area can be thankful.



May found us celebrating the addition of three new confirmands to our ranks, recognizing the milestone of high school and college graduation for four other young church members, and of course giving thanks to our dedicated Sunday school and confirmation teachers for their work in training our next generation of Christian adults. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us: *"Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray."* (NRSV) As I like to repeat at each confirmation service, "confirmation is not graduation"—by which I mean that it is not a step away from church involvement, but quite the opposite: it is the next step toward even more involvement in the life of the congregation. Likewise, although graduation does signify the completion of an educational milestone, it needn't mean a departure from church life. Yes, our budding college students will be away from Fairmont much of the upcoming years, but I challenge them to find a campus ministry or local church in which to find spiritual nourishment as they stretch their wings away from parents who may have "ensured" that they attended Sunday school and worship on a regular basis.

I find it hard to believe that I am not writing such words of encouragement to a generalized group of graduates, but this year to my own daughter as well. Where have the years gone since she cooed softly in a baby seat on the floor of the choir loft during chapel services in Mannheim, Germany? Or started Sunday school, kindergarten, confirmation, or high school? I know I'm not the first one to ponder these questions, and I certainly won't be the last! The years pass all too swiftly, and we are left to marvel at how God has blessed us with such an amazing gift. Praying for Emma and all our graduates, I echo the words of Joshua 1:9, *"...Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."* (NRSV) New adventures await all of our graduates, but the faith learned through their family and their church will surely guide them all the days of their lives.

Speaking of faith formation, as was recently highlighted during worship announcements, there are now scholarships available to help our congregation's youth take part in a summer church camp experience. Whether it's through Pilgrim Point (ministering this year at Carleton College and Luther Crest Camp after their dining hall fire), Lakeshore Center at Okoboji (where Emma will be a counselor), Prairie River Youth for Christ Camp near Brice lyn, or other locations, if your child or grandchild has never been to church camp, I hope you'll encourage them to attend. As an extension of what we teach in church, they are a great environment of Christian learning and growth for kids of all ages. Contact one of our Christian Education Board members or myself if you need camp information.

As you line up your family's getaways for the summer, I hope you include First Congregational UCC in your plans. If you are going to be out of town, please make a point to continue your regular financial gifts toward the life of the church. Tithe and offering numbers often suffer alongside church attendance during the summer months, which can make it hard to keep up with our regular operating expenses. We'll switch to our 9:30am summer schedule on June 2 so that you can come to worship God and still have most of Sunday available for additional summer activities. I plan to offer a few fun and informal Sunday morning worship opportunities, so stay tuned to our website or Facebook page and don't miss out!

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Cory Germain*

**Council Minutes for May 15, 2019**  
**First Congregational Church UCC**  
**Fairmont, MN 56031**

**Present:** Catherine Johnson, Julie Elliott, Dave Adams, Dean Grotte, MaryDon Kislingbury and Marilyn Forstrom

**Absent:** Cory Hainey, Deb Thate, Robbin Celandier, Ellen Germain, Dave Meschke and Rev. Germain

The meeting was opened by Moderator Johnson with prayer.

Thank you from CREST was shared for our donation.

Motion was M/S/C to approve the minutes of the April meeting.

**Reports:**

No **Treasurer's** Report

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Cory's report was received. It included the usual pastoral activities, final Holy Week preparations, 2 funerals, and Guard training.

**Christian Ed.:** The Board met and will be offering scholarships to any church member desiring to attend a church camp or the Adventure Trip.

**Facilities:** Dean reported that the Board is looking for approval to replace the sidewalk from the south entry to the city sidewalk. This is needed due to settling/freezing/thawing. They are working with the city to get alley maintenance to enable us to level out and redo our parking area behind the church. They are also looking into bids for some tuck pointing needed. The church has received a generous gift from Mildred Brodt to repair or replace the flooring in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor CE area.

**Hospitality:** The Board is working on plans for making pies for the Pie and Ice Cream Social in June. They are purchasing new commercial pots and pans with funds donated by Mildred Brodt.

**Missions:** Cindy Martens has resigned and is moving out of town. Last Sunday in June is "Ride your Bike to Church Sunday". In July we will again participate in the Summer Hunger program.

**Worship:** Continues to work with Pastor Cory for Sunday worship items. Joint summer worship with St John's in the park will be on July 28 at 9:30 a.m. St. John's will host our congregation on Sunday when Pastor Cory is gone on July 14 and we will exchange this service likely on June 30 when we will meet at our church.

**Old Business:** Catherine shared our Safe Church Policy and that recommended by the Conference. Ours is in need of updating. Catherine, Julie and Cory will work on this and prepare a 1<sup>st</sup> draft for our next meeting.

**New Business:** Summer meeting time for the Council was discussed. It was agreed to try a new time of 7:30 p.m. for the June 19 meeting.

Other discussion was held regarding plans for safety in our church and mission dollars. No action taken at this time.

Meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Forstrom, Clerk

## Memorials

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation		From
12-May	Honor of Mildred Brodt			Thomas & Jeanette Bare
12-May	Memory of Ron Kost		Starfish	Donna Holstine
12-May	Memory of Jack Silker	Starfish		Jane Kotewa
12-May	Memory of Ken & Joy Rachuy's loved ones		Organ Fund	Lyle & Charlene Norris
12-May	Memory of Jack Silker - Thanks to the Ladies of the Church			Peggy Silker
12-May	Tom & Kathy Jorgensen Anniversary			Margaret Weaver

The Starfish Fund continues to be an important way in which First Congregational UCC ministers to lives throughout the Fairmont and Martin County area. In the first five months of 2019, I have been able to bless 28 different individuals and family units, both in our church and community. Already this year it amounts to nearly \$3,000 in aid, disbursed in the form of Poppe's gasoline vouchers, Fareway restricted gift cards, Prairie Lakes Transit tokens, and checks directly to various public utilities or landlords. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to administer the Starfish Fund on behalf of the congregation, and pray that you will continue to generously support our compassionate mission in the world.

Pastor Cory

### JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Friday, June 14th, 9:00  
a.m.

This applies to  
calendar changes also.

Thanks much!



First Congregational UCC

# Annual Pie and Ice Cream Social



**SATURDAY**

*June 8th*

**11AM-3PM**

*Serving Pork Chop on a Stick and  
Over 15 Different Kinds of Homemade Pie!*

First Congregational UCC  
319 Downtown Plaza, Fairmont MN

## June Blessing Box – Habitat for Humanity



### Habitat for Humanity of Martin and Faribault Counties

**Vision:** A world where everyone has a decent place to live.



**Mission Statement:** Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

**About the group:** Habitat for Humanity of Martin and Faribault Counties is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes, communities and hope. Habitat for Humanity of Martin and Faribault Counties is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. Habitat for Humanity was founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, durable place to live in dignity and safety, and that decent shelter in decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all.



### July 14-19, 2019 500 miles. 6 days. 135 participants.

Once again, our own Eric Johnson is raising money and awareness for Habitat for Humanity by participating in the Habitat 500 Bike Ride; Eric's 11<sup>th</sup> ride. Why does he do this?

"The cause of Habitat for Humanity is dear to my heart because it is a partnership with families to create simple decent homes, stronger communities and a better world. No handout with HFH; it is a hand up. Each rider doing the full 500 miles raises at least \$500." This is an annual fundraising event aimed at increasing awareness about the need for decent, safe, and affordable housing. Last year,

**Pastor Cory** joined Eric on a leg of the ride; this year, he is going to be riding the entire 6 days! Please consider making a donation to Eric and Pastor Cory and keep them in your prayers as they take on this important mission once again! Our Blessing Box collection for June will go to support Eric and Pastor

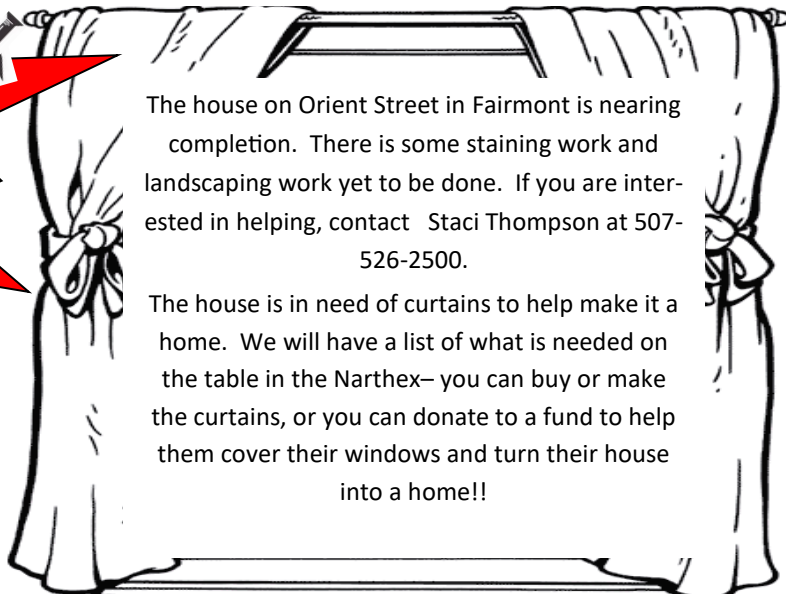
Blessing Box offering will be collected **Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**. To show support for the riders, please ride your bike to church Sunday, June 23 if you are able!!

**Let's help Eric & Pastor Cory NAIL their fundraising**

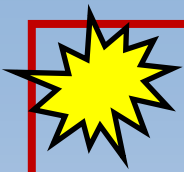
**REMEMBER ...  
DON'T JUST COUNT  
YOUR BLESSINGS ...  
SHARE THEM!**

The house on Orient Street in Fairmont is nearing completion. There is some staining work and landscaping work yet to be done. If you are interested in helping, contact Staci Thompson at 507-526-2500.

The house is in need of curtains to help make it a home. We will have a list of what is needed on the table in the Narthex– you can buy or make the curtains, or you can donate to a fund to help them cover their windows and turn their house into a home!!







## Special Music for June

June 2 -Chime Choir ( 3 pieces)

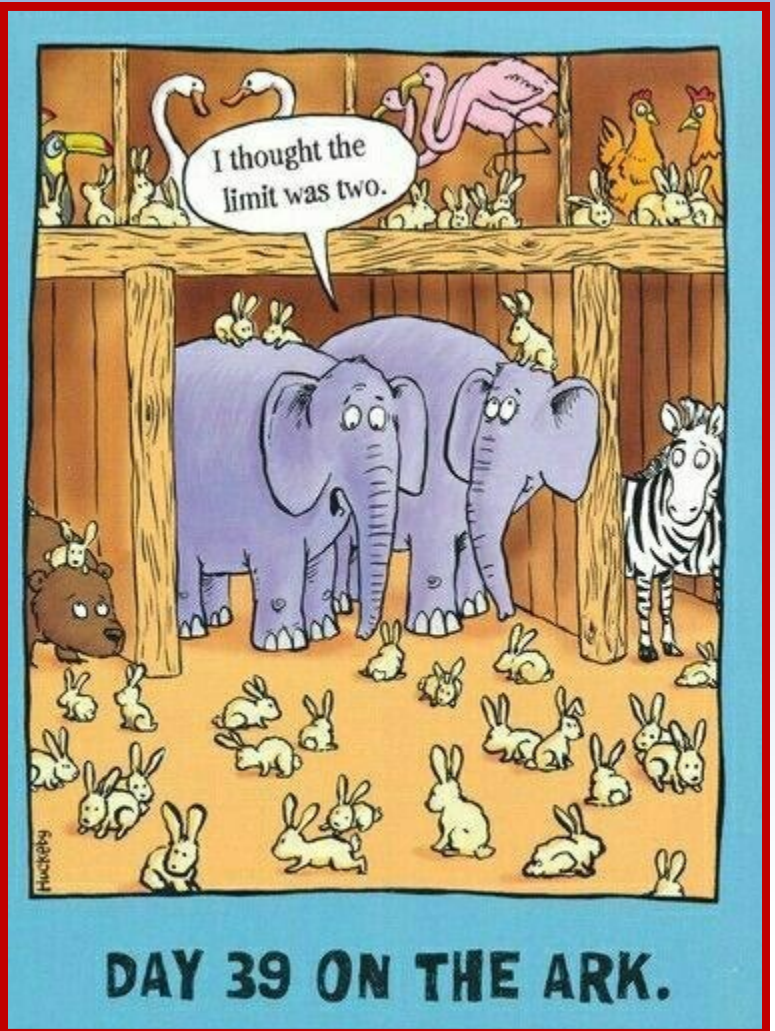
June 9 -UCC Choir with former  
Martin Co. Brass

June 16 -Dave Meschke

June 23 ---Tami Nestor

June 30---Mark Nass

July 7-- Erin True --violin



## **Fareway and Hy-Vee Receipts**

Report as of 20 May 2019

During the last five weeks, \$17,948.64 (11.97%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were turned in. After 10 weeks, we are at \$32,943.47 (11.96%) toward the 11th \$150,000 goal.

During the same five weeks, \$1,272.97 (0.85%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 36 weeks, we are at \$37,327.86 (24.88%) toward our 3rd \$1,000 from Fareway Store.

Thanks for bring in all those slips. Slips have been going back many months since I have been telling you that we can use them back to March 1, 2011. During this five weeks, slips went back to March 2018, i.e. over a year. Keep those slips coming.

Reported by Jim Bock



**Starting June 2nd, the  
Sunday worship time changes  
to 9:30. Also, no Sunday  
School will be scheduled  
starting June 2nd.**



**Rev. Germain's phone  
number has changed to:  
(507) 399-8282**





## 2019 Habitat 500 Volunteer Opportunities

July 14-19 Hermantown-Hibbing-Aurora-Hermantown

Here is a list of volunteer position descriptions:

- **Bike Mechanic:** Bike mechanic to help make minor repairs for riders along the road or at the overnight location
- **Route Marking:** Drive the route for the next day's ride and put down spray paint arrows and signs to direct riders (teams of two: one painter and one driver)
- **Gear Truck Driver:** Drive the rented Penske truck that carries riders' belongings from town to town and help set up at the overnight location
- **Rest Stop Volunteer:** Prepare and refill food and beverages for riders at a church or park, setting up tables and tents when needed (team of 3-4)
- **Caution Crew:** Assist the Support and Gear (SAG) team by guiding riders through dangerous intersections or confusing parts of the route
- **Nurse:** Medical professional to consult on any health issues that arise
- **Massage Therapist:** Certified massage therapist to help relieve riders' sore muscles

People can also sign up as a general volunteer and have us put them where we most need. All volunteers should be available for orientation on July 13th, then for the week to volunteer (July 14-19).

Ride Director: Kristin Skaar 612-331-4439 ext 4  
Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota  
Habitat500.org  
[kristin@hfhmn.org](mailto:kristin@hfhmn.org)

-Eric Johnson 507-236-1456 [ecjohn@frontiernet.net](mailto:ecjohn@frontiernet.net) 2019 rider, 11<sup>th</sup> ride  
To donate go to <https://p2p.onecause.com/habitat500/eric-johnson>

### **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 few months we will be highlighting different ways we can show that love. This month we are focusing on cutting down on the amount of garbage we create.

This month 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**!



Join the First Congregational UCC **United Cancer Crushers** and **Cancersaurus Rex**  
at **Cure-asic Park** (also known as the Martin County Fairgrounds)

for the Annual **Relay for Life**.

**Saturday, June 29, 3 pm – midnight.**

There will be a silent auction,  
entertainment,  
food, love, support  
and lots of **FUN!**



Luminarias to  
honor those who  
have dealt with  
cancer are on sale for \$10.  
We will have a dedication of the  
luminarias in church on  
Sunday, June 23.  
You can decorate them or have  
us decorate them for you.

Come out to see our own David "Ace" Adams  
have his hair cut to **CRUSH Cancer!!**



**Let's UNITE to CRUSH CANCER!!**





**OPEN HOUSE RECEPTION WILL BE IN THE CHAPEL AND NARTHEX AREA**

**June 2**

Diaconate: Kathy Jorgensen  
Head Usher: Robbin Celander  
Reader: Abigail Roiger  
Greeters: Abigail Roiger and Hailie

**June 9**

Diaconate: Kathy Jorgensen  
Head Usher: Cory Hainy  
Reader: Kay Campe  
Greeters: George and Ruth Ann J.

**June 16**

Diaconate: Kathy Jorgensen  
Head Usher: Eric B. Johnson  
Reader: Deb Adams  
Greeters: Don & Shelby Marks

**June 23**

Diaconate: Kathy Jorgensen  
Head Usher: Randy & Pat Rowen  
Reader: Ellen Germain  
Greeters: Cory and Sydney Hainy

**June 30**

Diaconate: Kathy Jorgensen  
Head Usher: George Jones  
Reader: Cynthia Celander  
Greeters: Jim & Megan Marushin

**Partners in Ministry**





June 1, 1974	Kim & Jan Shaffer	45 years
June 3, 1977	Dar & Jodi Kuhlers	42 years
June 5, 1971	Larry & Donna Christensen	48 years
June 5, 2010	Matt and Brandi Guritz	9 years
June 7, 2003	Shawn & Jessica Elliott	16 years
June 14, 1981	Eric & Catherine Johnson	38 years
June 14, 1991	Robbin & Cathy Celandier	28 years
June 16, 1979	Conrad & Lori Zoeller	40 years
June 17, 1995	Cory & Christina Hainy	24 years
June 18, 2006	Daniel & Tatia Moller	13 years
June 19, 1971	Jim & Kay Hough	48 years
June 20, 1992	Dan & Deb Thate	27 years
June 21, 2008	Steve & Tranna Urban	11 years
June 24, 1967	J.R. & Jane Kotewa	52 years



June 1	Rowena Nepomuceno
	Georgia Malo
June 2	Charlene Norris
June 3	Zoe June Becker
June 4	Karin Rosen
	Dave Martens
June 5	Ryan Guritz
	Everett Hanning
	Donna Christensen
June 6	Hailie Stenzel
	Tara Thedens
June 7	Pat Cowing
	Jack Mackey
June 8	Jon Riggs
June 10	Arden Hanson
	Kara Rowan

June 10	Char Kost
June 11	Sue Eisenbacher
June 12	Joanne Eisenbarger
June 14	Randy Musser
June 15	Margo Becker
June 18	Roger Buchan
June 19	Rita Craven
June 21	Bill Norman
June 24	Ruth Ann Jones
June 24	Easton Jorgensen
June 25	Phyllis Betts
June 26	Tom Rosen
June 28	Lori Thate
June 29	Eric D. Johnson
June 29	Elaine Zoeller