

June 2022

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

Nonprofit
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Fairmont, MN 56031



First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031



WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE



*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

Worship 9:30

Communion the first Sunday of
every month.

JUNE 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00 Worship Brd	2 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	3	4
5 <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship	6	7 10:00 Lakeview Communion	8 5:15 Mission Brd 5:30-7:15 VBS 6:30 CE Board	9 5:15 Hosp Board 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	10 9:00 Council Agenda Items Due	11 Pie & Ice Cream Social
12 9:30 Worship	13	14 7:00 Facilities Board	15 5:45 Church Council	16 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	17 9:00 July Newsletter Items Due	18
19 <i>Father's Day</i> 9:30 Worship	20	21 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	22	23 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	24	25 MC Relay for Life
26 9:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection	27	28	29 5:30 Free Community Meal	30 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)		

FIRST CONGO NEWS

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

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 5

The Reverend's Ruminations - June 2022

It seems that every few years we experience some strange weather here in Minnesota. Maybe it's a "basketball tournament" blizzard, a series of gully-washer spring rainstorms, a sudden out-of-season tornado, or a summer of extreme heat and drought that tests our resilience as well as that of our local crops. This spring it's been the wind, gusting and relentless. I feel like it's only in the last week or so that we've enjoyed some calmer breezes. As many of us have prayed (this year, and three years ago, and probably others), may June usher in some more "normal" temperatures, sun-shiny days, and maybe a little less wind!?! Bring on the lush green fields!

Here at First Congregational United Church of Christ, we just celebrated the addition of four new confirmands to our ranks, and the very next week also welcomed six new members (three couples) through letters of transfer from other congregations. We've already seen several of them jump into active membership with both feet, and I hope you've had a chance to greet them. We don't have any high school graduates among our ranks this year, but our own Sydney Hainy graduated early from the University of Minnesota after entering with quite a few college credits earned during her high school days here in Fairmont. Congratulations, and blessings on your future endeavors!

Thanks also to our dedicated Sunday school teachers for their work, from a very early age, in training our next generation of Christian adults. It was a successful year of Christian Education activities for children and adults alike, and there are summer opportunities like Vacation Bible School, camps (with scholarships available), and even another Adventure Crew outing that are already being planned. We're even working on a multi-generational campfire/mini-campout near Fairmont that will be fun for the whole family. Check out the C.E. page in this newsletter for more information on our summer activities.

In upcoming sermons, we'll be looking at selections from Paul's Letter to the Romans during the first two weeks of June (Pentecost Sunday and Trinity Sunday), followed by three weeks unpacking sections of his Letter to the Galatians. As I recently congratulated and challenged our confirmation students, it occurred to me that we are all challenged when it comes to being "active adult members" of a congregation. As J. William Harkins suggests in his perspective on Galatians 3:23-29 in the *Feasting on the Word* Bible commentary, "In the 'family narrative' of the people of Israel... Paul understood the 'law' as serving a kind of parenting, disciplinary role until such time as the children of Israel became grown-ups—in short, until they became fully functioning adults." He goes on to ponder, "What might it mean to become an adult in relation to Christ—to use Paul's language—to become a grown-up child of God?" I don't promise that we'll discover all the steps necessary for such development over the next month, but I think we will find ourselves challenged toward continued growth that may inspire new discoveries about our faith life!

As you line up your family's getaways for the summer, I hope you include First Congregational UCC in your plans. We'll be switching to our 9:30am summer schedule on June 5 so that you can come a bit earlier to worship God and still have most of Sunday available for additional summer activities. However, if you are going to be out of town, you can always catch our worship services—either live or later—through the BoxCast link on our church website, on our Facebook page, or through our RightNow Media channel; we're also on Fairmont cable access channel 12 on Thursday afternoons at 2:00 if you're back in town then.

Please also make a point to continue your regular financial gifts toward the life of the church year-round. Tithe and offering numbers frequently suffer alongside church attendance during the summer months, which can make it hard to keep up with our regular operating expenses. Plans are in the works for special music during the summer, as well as a few fun and informal Sunday morning worship opportunities, so stay tuned to our website or Facebook page and don't miss out on the excitement at "First Congo"!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Cory Germain



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC FAIRMONT, MN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 5-18-22

MEMBERS PRESENT: Abigail Roiger, Marilyn Forstrom, Cathy Celander, Catherine Johnson, Larry Thompson, Dave Adams, Sue Kruse, Izzy Cruz, and Kay Campe. Ex-officio members present: Dara Bliesmer, Ass't Treasurer. Visitor: Dean Grotte.

The Council meeting was called to order in Heritage Hall by Moderator Abigail Roiger. Pastor Cory led with an opening prayer.

Todd Sauvageau from American Church Group was present and reviewed the Church's present insurance policy and premiums. Discussion was held and questions asked regarding the policy. The policy is due for renewal in September. Council thanked Todd for his presentation and willingness to review the policy. Council will review the policy again when renewal notices are mailed out mid-summer and decide if the congregation will keep the current policy or opt for a policy with a local contact.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as printed. Motion M/S/C (Ellen/Kay).

Treasurer's Report: Catherine Johnson presented the report. She indicated the sidewalk and stone work will require additional money. Council requested sidewalk work not to begin until after the June Pie Social; Larry will follow up with Dean. Discussion was had on different formats for giving, with the understanding any different formats would have to be secure. Motion to accept the treasurer's report M/S/C (Ace/?).

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory reported normal duties for March, April, and May. Pastor outlined upcoming drills, events, and vacation.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: There were four confirmands; please read their statements of faith. Sunday school is complete for the year. Vacation Bible school will be the second Wednesday evening of the Month. June's class will be led by Eric and Catherine Johnson. Abby Shoen & Erica Jorgenson will lead July's evening. An adventure trip is in the works as is a church-wide campout.

Hospitality: Working on pie social for June 11th. The group is looking for helping hands to serve on the 11th and are still short a few ingredients. Announcements will be made in church.

Facilities: The lawn has been dethatched and fertilized. The board may look at shingling the shed.

Diaconate: Sue reported confirmation is complete. The board is working on reintroducing pre-COVID processes.

Missions: Izzy reported all slots for Meals on Wheels were filled. Thanks to everyone who helped. Hospitality Board served 125 at the April Free Community Meal. Adopt a Highway is in the books and work is being done on the Relay for Life.

Worship: Worship Board is hosting the May community meal. The board is looking at a joint service this summer with St. Johns. Worship is taking information received from the Let's Talk meetings and planning is underway for several contemporary services.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

There was no old business or new business. Next meeting will begin at 5:45.

Pastor Cory closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned by Abigail Roiger.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Celander, Clerk Pro Tem



Martin County RELAY FOR LIFE

Saturday, June 25th

4:00pm to 10:00pm

Martin County Fairgrounds

1600 N Bixby Rd, Fairmont



Martin County RFL

*Celebrate.
Remember.
Fight Back!*

Schedule Of Events

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 4-7pm | Silent Auction + Survivor Registration |
| 5-7pm | Pork Meal at the Doug Out |
| 7:05pm | Live Auction on Stage |
| 7:10pm | Opening Ceremony
Survivor Ceremony + Butterfly Release |
| Dusk | Luminaria Lighting |
| 10pm | Closing Ceremony + Candlelit Lap |

Live Entertainment by the BeeKay's & Much More!



Relay.org/MartinCountyMN



Relay For Life of Martin County



Martinco.relay



The **Martin County Relay for Life** will be *In-Person*
Saturday, June 25, 4-10 pm at the
Martin County Fairgrounds!

Our team,

First Congregational (UCC)²

United Church of Christ

United Cancer CRUSHERS

will be selling luminarias, white paper bags that will be on display at the Relay Drive Thru. Luminarias honor every life touched by cancer. You can dedicate them to a loved one lost, someone currently battling, or anyone who's overcome cancer. You can decorate the bag or have us do it for you. **Each bag is \$10.** Just fill out the form below and mail it with your donation to the church, drop it off during office hours, or put it in the offering plate. If you want to pick up a luminaria to decorate, they will be available on a table in the Narthex.



There will be a Survivorship dinner on Tuesday night,
June 14th at 5:30 pm at the KC Hall.

Relay for Life Luminaria

My Name _____

My Address _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Number of Bags _____ Amount _____

- ☐ I will decorate my bag
- ☐ I want you to decorate my bag





Christian Education News

Sunday School: See the display about the Sunday School children in the back of the narthex. Thanks, Abby, for helping them put that together!! Sunday School is over until fall. Look for more classes, more learning, and more fun in the fall!

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 the month. See the VBS announcement for more information about the first one on June 8th. Everyone welcome! Bring yourself, your grandkids and /or your neighbors!!! RSVP to the church office please.



Wednesday– June 8 –5:30 to 7:15

Whole Family Adventure Picnic

Sylvania Park Shelter House on Beech St

Dinner, craft, lesson, songs, try a hammock, paddle a canoe or kayak, make s'mores

Adventure with God in our Wonderful World

Bring your own lifejacket and dress for mess

Let the church office know how many of your family are coming–
call 507 235–5382 or email uccsecretary319@gmail.com

rightnow MEDIA

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



During the last two weeks of June and the first week of July, we will be looking at selections from Paul's Letter to the Galatians during our Sunday sermons. Galatians is not a long book—only six chapters—but it is packed with important discussions about how the Christian faith differs from the laws and traditions of the Jewish faith that many of its original converts still remembered. If you've ever wanted to unpack a book of the Bible, give Galatians a read, and then tune in to The Book of Galatians with Kyle Idleman from Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY:

If someone asked you to explain the gospel, what would you say? What is the good news of the Christian faith? Writing to the Galatians, Paul made it clear how easily we can be tempted to turn toward fraudulent gospels, especially those that teach we can earn God's love through our works. Though they may have the appearance of truth, they are lifeless and leave us empty in the end.

In this Book of the Bible series, Kyle Idleman dives into the book of Galatians, one that contains some of the clearest explanations of the gospel in the New Testament. Through biblical study and engaging lessons, Kyle shows that true freedom is found in surrender, not self-dependence. Because our gospel is not one based on our works, but faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Looking for something the entire family can enjoy and learn from? Check out ***Bible Unearthed*** to whet your appetite for more Bible discoveries in the year to come:

This 12-part series explores the history, importance and impact of archaeology and how discoveries help us better understand the ancient world. Dave Stotts, host of Drive Thru History®, introduces his friend and expert, Titus Kennedy, PhD, to unpack the world of archaeology in the Holy Land. They are joined by longtime travel companion and Drive Thru History® writer, Randall Niles.

The team teaches from an interactive studio filled with artifacts, models, slides and gizmos. There are also fun cutaways to Titus and Dave at dig sites and museums throughout Israel and the Mediterranean region. The team gets dirty with the basic tools, technologies and discoveries of archaeology, while focusing on the key locations and artifacts that make the Bible come alive.

*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

HyVee and Fareway Receipts Report Report as of 22 May 2022



During the last five weeks \$9,221.62 (6.15%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 5 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$8,968.65 (5.98%) toward the 15th \$150,000 goal. The reason that the five week total is more than how much we have for the 15th is that some of the slips got us the 14th \$150,000.

During the same five weeks, \$5,178.55 (345%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 72 weeks, Fareway is at \$101,741.71 (67.83%) toward our 4th \$150,000 goal. It will still take about 39 weeks 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

Gratitude

To my father.
If I can become half the man he is,
I'll have achieved greatness.

Author Unknown



Thank you
Bible Study Ladies
for folding and sealing
the May Newsletters!

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.

Thank you for delivering meals! We could not provide this service to our community without your help.
Hot Meals on Wheels Board
Erin, Jo Ann, Karen

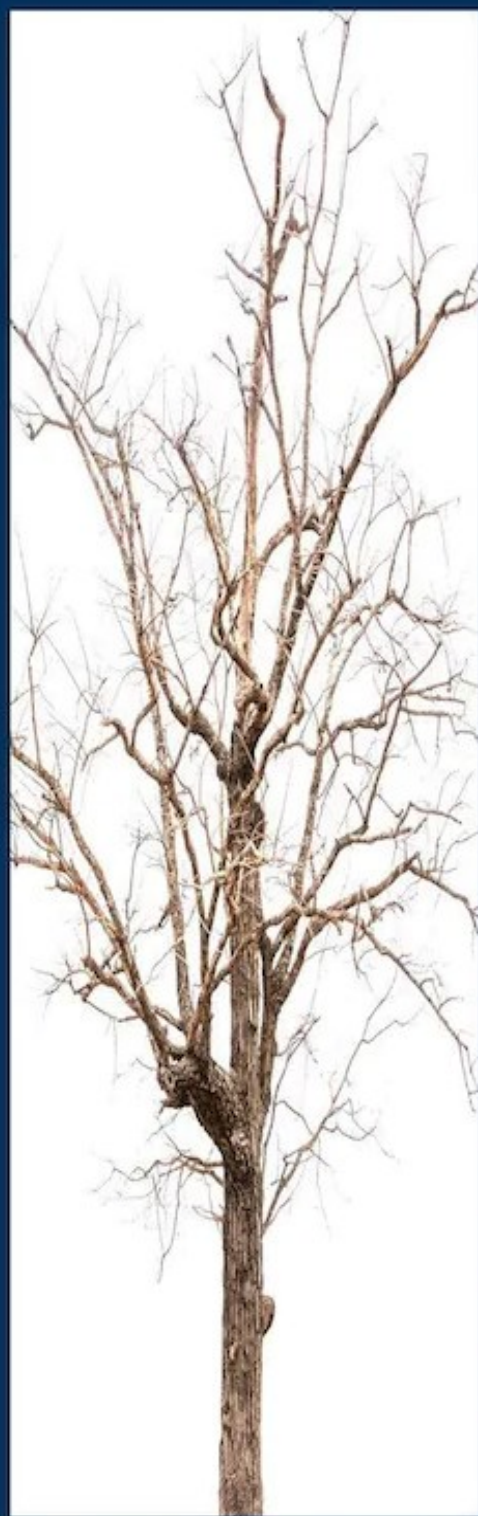


Happy Fathers Day



BLONDIE





A Tribute To My Dad

Who is that man with the gentle face,
Who in his youth kept a hectic pace,
To provide for his family, all that he could,
Who is that man so giving and good?

Who is that man with the ready smile,
Who always took time to sit for a while?
He was there when his family needed him there.
Who is that man with the gray in his hair?

Who is that man who encouraged us all,
And helped us up when we took a fall,
Spending a lifetime extending his hand,
Who is that kind, compassionate man?

Who is that man who we all adore,
The man who these words of devotion are for?
I'll tell you with all of the love that I can,
My Dad is that truly exceptional man!

Copyright 1994 Genie Graveline

This page intentionally left blank.

READERS' RECIPES

Chicken Pot Pie

(The best I've made!)



Copyright 2005, Ina Garten, All Rights Reserved

Total: 1hr 55 min
Prep: 30 min
Inactive: 30 min
Cook: 55 min
Yield: 4 individual pot pies

Ingredients

3 whole (6 split) chicken breasts, bone-in, skin-on

3 tablespoons olive oil

Kosher salt

Freshly ground black pepper

5 cups chicken stock, preferably homemade

2 chicken bouillon cubes

12 tablespoons (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter

2 cups yellow onions, chopped (2 onions)

3/4 cup all-purpose flour

1/4 cup heavy cream

2 cups medium-diced carrots, blanched for 2 minutes

1 (10-ounce) package frozen peas (2 cups)

1 1/2 cups frozen small whole onions

1/2 cup minced fresh parsley leaves

For the pastry:

3 cups all-purpose flour

1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt

1 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 cup vegetable shortening

1/4 pound cold unsalted butter, diced

1/2 to 2/3 cup ice water

1 egg beaten with 1 tablespoon water, for egg wash

Flaked sea salt and cracked black pepper

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Place the chicken breasts on a baking sheet and rub them with olive oil. Sprinkle generously with salt and pepper. Roast for 35 to 40 minutes, or until cooked through. Set aside until cool enough to handle, then remove the meat from the bones and discard the skin. Cut the chicken into large dice. You will have 4 to 6 cups of cubed chicken.

In a small saucepan, heat the chicken stock and dissolve the bouillon cubes in the stock. In a large pot or Dutch oven, melt the butter and ~~sauté~~ saute the onions over medium-low heat for 10 to 15 minutes, until translucent. Add the flour and cook over low heat, stirring constantly, for 2 minutes. Add the hot chicken stock to the sauce. Simmer over low heat for 1 more minute, stirring, until thick. Add 2 teaspoons salt, 1/2 teaspoon pepper, and heavy cream. Add the cubed chicken, carrots, peas, onions and parsley. Mix well.

For the pastry, mix the flour, salt, and baking powder in the bowl of a food processor fitted with a metal blade. Add the shortening and butter and mix quickly with your fingers until each piece is coated with flour. Pulse 10 times, or until the fat is the size of peas. With the motor running, add the ice water; process only enough to moisten the dough and have it just come together. Dump the dough out onto a floured board and knead quickly into a ball. Wrap the dough in plastic and allow it to rest in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.

Divide the filling equally among 4 ovenproof bowls. Divide the dough into quarters and roll each piece into an 8-inch circle. Brush the outside edges of each bowl with the egg wash, then place the dough on top. Trim the circle to 1/2-inch larger than the top of the bowl. Crimp the dough to fold over the side, pressing it to make it stick. Brush the dough with egg wash and make 3 slits in the top. Sprinkle with sea salt and cracked pepper. Place on a baking sheet and bake for 1 hour, or until the top is golden brown and the filling is bubbling hot.

SOME
Super Heroes
Don't have
CAPES...
They are
called
DAD



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC—FAIRMONT, MN



Anniversaries and Birthdays

June Anniversaries

June 1	Kim & Jan Shaffer	48 yrs
June 3	Dar & Jodi Kuhlers	45 yrs
June 5	Larry & Donna Christensen	51 yrs
June 5	Matt and Brandi Guritz	12 yrs
June 5	Tim and Abby Miller	1 yr
June 14	Eric & Catherine Johnson	41 yrs
June 14	Robbin & Cathy Celander	31 yrs
June 16	Conrad & Lori Zoeller	43 yrs
June 17	Cory & Christina Hainy	27 yrs
June 18	Daniel & Tatia Moller	6 yrs
June 20	Dan & Deb Thate	30 yrs
June 30	Everett & Lee Hanning	66 yrs
June 30	Justin & Tara Thedens	21 yrs

June Birthdays

June 1	Rowena Nepomuceno	June 11	Sue Eisenbacher
	Georgia Malo	June 12	Joanne Eisenbarger
June 2	Charlene Norris	June 14	Randy Musser
June 3	Zoe June Becker	June 15	Margo Becker
June 4	Karin Rosen	June 18	Roger Buchan
	Dave Martens	June 19	Rita Craven
June 5	Ryan Guritz	June 24	Ruth Ann Jones
	Everett Hanning	June 24	Easton Jorgensen
	Donna Christensen	June 25	Phyllis Betts
June 6	Hailie Stenzel	June 26	Tom Rosen
	Tara Thedens	June 27	Jace Prindle
June 7	Pat Cowing		Isaac Holtz
June 8	Jon Riggs	June 28	Lori Thate
June 10	Arden Hanson	June 29	Eric D. Johnson
	Kara Rowan	June 29	Elaine Zoeller