

April 2019

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA  
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WHEELCHAIR



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 :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*

"Well, I'm glad that's over!" *That* was WINTER; and what a winter it was!?! Now that the snow is miraculously disappearing (disappeared?), creatures great and small seem to have a different outlook—and all seem to be leaning wholeheartedly into SPRING. When we started our Lenten journey back at the beginning of March, it wasn't hard to be in a somber, reflective mood. The shorter winter days seemed to be dragging on forever, and we had even cancelled our last Sunday worship service in February because of yet another round of blowing and drifting snow. Now that Daylight Savings Time has kicked in and the robins have returned, perhaps you've found yourself making mental preparations for planting, fertilizing, cleaning, and events like confirmation or graduation.

One of the biggest Sundays of the Christian year is also on the horizon: EASTER! This year Easter falls on April 21<sup>st</sup>, calling us to hear once again the story that unites Christians throughout the world—the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. But before that bright and joyous day, there are still three weeks of Lent, including those fateful days of Holy Week observed as Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Many of us would rather gloss over the ridicule, pain, and suffering that Jesus endured during his final days in Jerusalem, choosing to focus instead on the glory of his Easter triumph over the grave—or even speaking of him as if he never died at all.

It's not unlike the way many of us would rather skip the mud, flooding, and inevitable rainy, windy days of early spring and jump right to those elusive calm, sunny, 70-degree days of later spring/early summer with their green grass, budded trees and flowers, and happily chirping birds. But despite such dreams, we know that the change of seasons is a longer, messier process than we'd like to admit. As we do look ahead, I invite you to consider some fresh insight on Christ's resurrection from a brief commentary I was just reading about Easter morning's epistle lesson from 1 Corinthians 15.

In this section of his letter, Paul spends quite a bit of time addressing some of the Corinthian congregants' doubt in the truth of the resurrection, as well as their fear about what may have happened to those who have died before the return of Christ. For Paul, and us as Christians, the resurrection of the dead is an essential belief—even if it is hard to wrap our analytical brains around. Paul was writing to this congregation only twenty or so years after the death and resurrection of Jesus; we're now over twenty centuries removed from the actual events, and we may not understand their importance much better. Death, in our human experience, is permanent. We sometimes talk of "cheating" it, but at the same time our mind tells us that death is the logical conclusion to what we know as life here on earth.

Rev. Lewis F. Galloway, senior pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, writes in *Feasting on the Word* (© 2009 by Westminster John Knox Press):

*"If there is no resurrection of the dead, and if Christ has not been raised from the dead, then the faith of the church is empty and without meaning. It is common in the church today for people to question, doubt, and even disbelieve the resurrection of the body... In this scientific age, people know all about the processes of nature... Modern medicine can resuscitate a body in certain circumstances, but no one has ever seen anyone raised from the dead who does not die again. People know the philosophical arguments against life after death; in this context, the testimony of the church can seem like a quaint myth leftover from a former age... There is every reason in the world to question, doubt, and disbelieve the resurrection, except one: 'But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died'" (1 Cor 15:20).*

We may have read Paul's letters, attempted to explain life after death to our children, or learned to recite flowery statements about resurrection in our denominational creeds—all without fully understanding how central they are to the faith that binds us as Christian disciples. Belief in the resurrection of the body is an affirmation of how valuable human life really is. After all, believing that Jesus overcame the power of the grave and was resurrected after three days is an affirmation of his entire life. As Rev. Galloway asserts:

*"Without the resurrection, the Christian faith can be reduced to little more than a moral code to guide well-meaning people about how to live their lives. How could anyone know that what Jesus said and what Jesus did are worth following? It is the resurrection that makes sense of the life and teachings of Jesus. Only in the light of the resurrection can believers understand the paradox of saving one's life by losing one's life... The doctrine of the resurrection invites people to join Christ in providing care and seeking justice for the most vulnerable people in our society and trusting that God will bless these efforts, even when the results cannot be seen. The resurrection gives the faithful the freedom to live their lives in the shadow of the cross, as Jesus did. The hope of the church [therefore] is not confined to this world."*

When we pause to consider the significance of Christ's resurrection—and in it, his promise of the forgiveness of sins and our own life after death—we are just beginning to scratch at the surface of what our faith life can and should do to guide the way we live our lives day in and day out.

May you come to know and live into the blessing of our Savior's resurrection this spring and throughout your days!

Yours in Christ's service,  
*Rev. Cory Germain*

## Council Minutes for March 20, 2019

### First Congregational Church UCC

#### Fairmont, MN

**Present:** Julie Elliott, Dave Meschke, Larry Thompson, Ellen Germain, Catherine Johnson, Dave Adams, Pastor Cory Germain, Robbin Celander, Mary Don Kislingbury, Cory Hainey, Marilyn Forstrom **Absent:** Deb Thate

Moderator Catherine opened the meeting and Pastor Cory led in prayer.

Motion M/S/C to approve the minutes of the February meeting as printed.

Dave Meschke presented the **Treasurer's report**. General account balance as of 2-28-2019 was \$40,830.21 after organ repair bill paid and Investments were \$205,095.09. With 17% of year passed we have received 14% of pledges. A gift was received for ½ of the entry windows replacement costs. Motion M/S/C to receive the Treasurer's Report.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Cory reported on his usual pastoral duties as well as his MN NG Norwegian Exchange. Upcoming activities include MN NG Strong Bonds marriage retreat on April 13, MN NG Chaplain training on May 4 and CE Seminar in May

#### Board Reports

**Christian Ed.:** Ellen G. reported on Sr. Recognition Sunday, Confirmation, Summer Camp opportunities as well as a program that can be used by members of all ages, individually or as groups as a learning resource. Cost is \$80 per month. Budgeted money can cover and needs no Council approval. Council did recommend that the program be used for 9 months and then reviewed for effectiveness.

**Diaconate:** Cory H. reported the usual Board activities

**Facilities:** Larry T. reported the Board will move forward with refinishing the stage floor and north storage room.

**Finance:** Robbin C. reported that the Board needs another member as Dave Martens has resigned.

**Hospitality:** No report

**Missions:** Mary Don reported that March 31 will be Noisy Sunday, April project will be "Strengthen the Church" and in May we will do Hot Meals on Wheels from the 1<sup>st</sup> thru the 15<sup>th</sup>. The Missions Board requested that they be allowed to plant a flowering tree on the church property. Motion M/S/C to do so under the supervision of the Facilities Bd

**Worship:** Ace Adams reported that after discussion at the last Council meeting regarding pay for Pulpit Supply speakers, it is the Board's recommendation to increase the pay from the current \$125 to \$150 plus mileage. Motion M/S/C

#### Old Business:

Cory H. is working on the work agreement for Pastor Germain. James Marushin will be asked to continue on the Personnel Committee

Larry T., Catherine and Marilyn will work together on transitioning website and computer set up and maintenance to a local professional.

#### New Business:

The meeting was adjourned and we closed with prayer led by Pastor Cory.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Forstrom, Clerk



# *The Last Supper Portrayal & Communion Service*

The Painting... The Word... The Music

All come to life on Maundy Thursday as we partake in the portrayal of Leonardo da Vinci's—The Last Supper.

*Maundy Thursday*

Thursday, April 18, 2019

6:30 pm

Fairmont Opera House

45 Downtown Plaza

Fairmont, MN 56031

Presented by : Grace Lutheran Church

300 S. Grant Street, Fairmont, MN 56031 — For more information call 507-238-4418



## APRIL BLESSING BOX – STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

The Strengthen the Church Offering is one of the five special offerings of the United Church of Christ. Our congregation has a long history of being a “Five for Five” church, meaning we participate in all five of the UCC special offerings. In April, we will focus our blessing box on the Strengthen the Church offering. We will collect our offering the last Sunday of April, the 28<sup>th</sup>.



### Strengthen the Church Offering

The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. – *Ephesians 4:11-12*

Please join us in planting the seeds needed to grow and sustain our denomination by making a gift to the Strengthen the Church offering.

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

In 2017, your support made possible:

- 12 awards totaling almost \$350,000 through the New and Renewing Spiritual Communities grant program!
- The Adese Fellowship program launched its first class of 14 future church leaders!
  - This 12-month program maximizes the capacity of fellows to launch business that will help end system poverty. Participants engage in theological reflection and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.
  - MEAGAN MCLEOD is an Adese Fellow residing in Philadelphia, PA. Through this program, she hopes to provide a place where single mothers can feel significant, secure, and supported through her organization, Healing Streams Center.
- The addition of 24 new faith communities to the UCC!
  - The New and Renewing Spiritual Communities grant strengthens UCC Congregations by providing funds to assist in community revitalization or support new churches. Grants are awarded each year to fund ministries that impact their communities towards a Just World for All.

This is in addition to the great ministry happening in our local conference!

**STRENGTHEN  
THE CHURCH**

*Remember . . . don't just count your blessings . . . share them!!*

### ***Get your wheels ready to move!***

Sign-up sheets will be in the back of the sanctuary to sign up for delivering Hot Meals on Wheels in Fairmont, May 1-15. We need four sets of wheels every Monday – Saturday, 11 am. It only takes about a ½ hour to complete this wonderful mission and the rewards are endless! Please consider taking part in this opportunity to serve our neighbors! Do it with a friend!!



## Memorials

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation		From
1/6	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Fund	Ellen & Craig Doty
1/13	Memory of Ron Kakeldey			Thomas & Maeverine Gibbons
1/13	Memory of Ron Kakeldey			Lyle & Charlene Norris
1/27	To Honor Jane Kotewa	Starfish		Margaret Weaver
2/3	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish		Les Heinrich
2/17	Bob & Jan Cone Anniversary			Margaret Weaver
3/10	Honor of Normans	Starfish		Marilyn Forstrom
3/17	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Organ Fund		Les Heinrich

## Partners in Ministry

### April 7

Diaconate: Kathy Jorgensen  
 Head Usher: Robbin Celander  
 Reader: Lee Hanning  
 Greeters: Brad Cone & Wendy Z.

### April 14

Diaconate: Kathy Jorgensen  
 Head Usher: Eric B. Johnson  
 Reader: Cory Hainy  
 Greeters: George & Ruth Ann Jones

### April 21

Diaconate: Kathy Jorgensen  
 Head Usher: George Jones  
 Reader: Lee Trunkenbolz  
 Greeters: Don & Shelby Marks

### April 28

Diaconate: Kathy Jorgensen  
 Head Usher: Randy and Pat Rowan  
 Reader: Eric B. Johnson  
 Greeters: Joe and Morgan Christensen

### **The deadline for ordering Easter flowers is April 8th.**

Available varieties will include:

- Lilies
- Cyclamen
- Tulips
- Azaleas
- Hydrangeas



There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Be sure to include who to dedicate them to "In Memory Of," "In Honor Of" or "Just Because."

**You can take home your Easter flower after the worship service on Easter Sunday, April 21st.**





909 Winnebago Avenue, PO Box 745  
Fairmont, MN 56031  
507-238-5424  
212 North Prairie Street  
Sherburne, MN 56171  
[heavenstable@gmail.com](mailto:heavenstable@gmail.com)

February 26, 2018

First Congregational Church UCC

Dear Donor,

On behalf of Heaven's Table Food Shelf I would like to THANK YOU for donating a total of 544.47 pounds of goods during 2018. This total is for food and non-food items you donated from January 1 through December 31, 2018.

Please note that letters for the monetary donations have been sent earlier as a separate mailing and are not included in this letter. The letters for time volunteered are separate but included in this mailing. Every volunteer hour, food donation, monetary contribution, or other item that Heaven's Table Food Shelf receives is important in meeting our mission "To serve the hungry in Martin County." Funds and donations received are put to use right here in Martin County.

One in 10 Minnesotans, or more than 500,000 state residents, are food insecure on a regular basis. 10% of seniors in Minnesota reported being threatened by hunger. Senior hunger is expected to rise as more Baby Boomers reach 60. There were more than 3 million visits to Minnesota food shelves in 2017. Almost half of these visits were made by children and seniors.

The amount of food and non-food you donated, whether large or small, is very much appreciated. Our success is a result of the many supporters such as you. Heaven's Table Food Shelf operates food shelves in Fairmont and Sherburne to serve the needy in Martin County. Heaven's Table also handles the distribution of the Nutritional Aid Program for Seniors (NAPS) and the backpack program for children in the Fairmont, Truman, and Martin County West school districts. All workers, including the HTFS Board Members, are volunteers, and items donated reduce the amount of money paid out to obtain food for our clients. If you know of anyone who would like to help in any way, please refer them to us.

Thank you again for your contribution to this important local mission.

If you have any questions regarding Heaven's Table Food Shelf, contact the food shelf at 507-238-5424.

Sincerely,

*Naomi Segar*  
Representative  
Heaven's Table Food Shelf

\*\*\*No goods or services were provided as a condition of contribution.\*\*\*

### *A Grief Support Group can help you:*

- Share understanding, encouragement, and support as you try to find your "new normal" in life
- Realize that what you may be experiencing mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually are **common reactions of grief**
- Learn what **GRIEF** really is and how it affects your day to day life
- Identify helpful ways to cope with feelings and memories
- Explore healthy ways to **preserve memories** while discovering the importance of new roles and responsibilities since the death



## *Coping with the death of a loved one?*

### In Fairmont

#### **When:**

**Eight Consecutive Mondays, starting April 1st, 2019  
Running for 8 Consecutive Evenings**

#### **Time:**

**6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

#### **Where:**

**"Fireside Room" at First Congregational United Church of Christ  
319 Downtown Plaza  
Fairmont, MN**

**Trained Grief Facilitators:** Gloria Senenfelder & Karla Tukua

### In Blue Earth

#### **When:**

**Eight Consecutive Tuesdays, starting April 2nd, 2019  
Running for 8 Consecutive Afternoons**

#### **Time:**

**1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

#### **Where:**

**"Corral Room" at St Luke's Lutheran Care Center  
1219 South Ramsey Street  
Blue Earth, MN**

**Trained Grief Facilitators:** Gloria Senenfelder & Karla Tukua

Sessions are open to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one.  
They are non-denominational in content and free of charge.

**Prescreening is Required.**

**Call Naomi Segar at 507-526-7970 to inquire and preregister**

**Sponsored by UHHD Hospice**  
A Service of United Hospital District



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"This guy looks like he's almost done!"

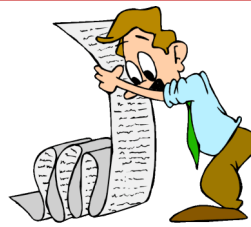
## MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Thursday, April 18th,  
9:00 a.m.

This applies to  
calendar changes also.

## Fareway and Hy-Vee Receipts Report as of

Report as of 17 March 2019



During the last four weeks, \$15,983.24 (10.66%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were turned in. After 36 weeks, we are at \$150,000.79 (100.00%) plus \$1,835.14 (1.22%) toward the 11th \$150,000 goal. Slips were taken to Hy-Vee on Thursday 21 March 2019. We should receive the \$1,000 within the next 8-10 weeks.

During the same four weeks, \$2,976.67 (1.98%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 27 weeks, we are at \$29,411.74 (19.61%) toward our 3rd \$1,000 from Fareway Store.

Again, some of the slips went back to November 2015. Yes, slips can go back to March 1, 2011. Yes, we have been collecting these slips since the 1st of March 2011.

Fairmont Fareway and Fairmont Hy-Vee support Churches by giving back \$1,000 for every \$150,000 of net cash register and gas pump slips turned back in to them. Almost all receipts for purchases made at the Fairmont Fareway Food, Fairmont Hy-Vee Food Store and Fairmont Hy-Vee Fuel can be used toward the goal. Items that I subtract are: sales tax; cigarettes, alcohol products and gift cards. Everything else counts. Keep those slips coming! As stated above, even older slips can still be used as well as those where the gas was only \$0.18, yes, free gas except for the 9-tenths of a cent per gallon. There have been a few with less than 18 cents as something was returned and purchased with only pennies due.

Reported by;  
Jim Bock



EVERY CHILD  
DESERVES  
A BIRTHDAY

options pregnancy center

Annual Fundraising Dinner

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Holiday Inn in Fairmont

Seating begins at 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner and Program 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Reservations Required.

Contact Options Pregnancy Center for  
information and complimentary tickets.

507-238-2330

cpcfmtmn@frontiernet.net

©prcresources.com

Spring



# ADRI

# 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Support	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 4:00 Worship Brd 5:00 Mission Brd 5:15 Diaconate 6:00 Lenten Svc 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Communion 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>8</b> 5:00-6:00 FCH Foundation 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Support	<b>9</b> 10:00 Lakeview Communion	<b>10</b> 5:30 Finance Board 6:00 Lenten Svc 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>11</b> 7:00 Hospitality Brd 7:00 Facilities Board	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Palm Sunday</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>15</b> 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Support	<b>16</b> 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	<b>17</b> 5:30 Church Council 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>18 Maundy Thursday</b> 6:00 Svc 9:00 April Newsletter Submission Deadline	<b>19</b>  <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 6:00 Svc	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>  <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>22</b> 4:30-7:00 Parent To Parent 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Support	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:30 Free Comm Meal 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>25</b> 9:30 Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection: Strengthen the Church	<b>29</b> 6:30-8:30 UHD Hospice Grief Support	<b>30</b>				





### April Anniversaries

April 5, 1997	Curt & Vicki Bicknase	22 yrs
April 12, 2008	Amanda & Ryan Cain	11 yrs
April 16, 2005	Kirk & Gina Jorgensen	14 yrs
April 20, 2013	Jacob & Abbey Shoen	6 yrs
April 20, 2004	Eugene & Polly Mosloski	15 yrs
April 24, 1958	Ron & Char Kost	61 yrs
April 27, 1985	Tim & Kay Campe	34 yrs
April 30, 1966	Jim & Barb Bock	53 yrs

### **April Birthdays**

April 4	Josh Vetter Caleb Rachuy	April 15	Chris Draper
April 5	Vonnie Cone Bill Cowing Dan Wenz	April 16	Lyle Norris K.T. Magnussen
April 6	James Marushin	April 18	Terry Riggs
April 6	Jan White Dave Meschke	April 21	Cameron Hainy Arianna Moller Jerry Norman
April 7	Dan Thate	April 22	Donna Grotte Rachael Tonneson
April 8	Khloe Zabel		
April 10	Dorothy Simpson	April 26	Lorin Pollock Ken Schwieger
April 10	Marcia Musser	April 28	Nola Thedens Michael Neusch
April 12	Doug Guritz Will Hawkins	April 30	J.R. Kotewa
April 13	Joyce Knudson		
April 14	Randy Rowan		