

February 2020

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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First Congregational UCC  
319 Downtown Plaza  
Fairmont, MN 56031



WHEELCHAIR



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 9:30 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

Opportunities for all ages through adult!


Worship 10:30

Communion the first Sunday of  
every month.

# 2020

# February



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Communion Sunday 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00 Lakeview Communion	<b>5</b> 3:45 Confirmation 5:00 Worship Board 5:30 Diaconate Board 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>6</b> 5:15 Hospitality Board 7:00 Facilities Board	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>10</b> 5:00-6:00 FCH Foundation	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 3:45 Confirmation 5:00 Mission Board 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>13</b>	<b>14 Happy Valentine's Day</b>	<b>15</b> 11:30-1:30 Kids Against Hunger Food Pack
<b>16</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>17</b>  4:30-7:00 Parent To Parent	<b>18</b> 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	<b>19</b> 3:45 Confirmation 5:30 Church Council w/Finance Board 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 a.m. March Newsletter Submission Deadline	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection One Great Hour of Sharing	<b>24</b> 4:30-7:00 Parent To Parent	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 3:45 Confirmation 5:30 Free Comm Meal 6:00 Ash Wed Service 7:00 Choir Practice	<b>27</b> 9:30 Women's Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

## *The Reverend's Ruminations*

Are you ready for a new season? I've asked that loaded question in years past, but realize that as Minnesotans, we inevitably find ways to enjoy each season—even if we do find ourselves longing for warmer, snowier, drier, or greener days when we're in the midst of the opposite! And while I'm pretty sure you ARE ready for a new season in the climatological sense, I'm really asking whether you're ready for another season in the life of the church. It seems I just came down from putting the Christmas tree in the attic, but the season of Lent will be arriving already by the end of February!



Lent brings up different thoughts or emotions for different people, but in general it is a season of soul-searching and repentance, a season for reflection and taking stock in preparation for Easter. Anticipation seems to naturally run high as Advent leads us toward the joys of Christmas, but each year we Christians should also see opportunity in journeying through the penitential season of Lent.

That may sound like a strange statement, but perhaps we should pause to understand the blessings that Lent can offer us. Among these is time intentionally set aside to allow us to focus on our own sins and then place them symbolically at the foot of the cross, knowing that Christ has already paid the penalty in our place. Another blessing comes from the chance to study the ways in which we symbolically journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem during the Lenten season. The good news is that this is not a solo pilgrimage—we journey alongside Jesus, the very one who calls us into discipleship.

As we observe the forty days of Lent (beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing to Easter, not counting Sundays), many choose to give up the comfort of a favorite food, drink, or habit in order to gain a better understanding of our Savior's suffering and temptation in the wilderness. Others may use the season as an opportunity to make good on a New Year's resolution such as reading more of the Bible or completing a daily devotional. Whether or not you have done either before, I encourage you to consider ways in which Lent can be a meaningful season of drawing closer to Jesus. Without the darker moments of contemplation and repentance in Lent, the joy and celebration of Easter pales like the color of a cheap plastic egg left outside in the bright sun.

In the epistle readings from 1 Corinthians during the first three Sundays of February, the apostle Paul continues to address the members of a newly-formed Christian community in the Greek seaport city of Corinth. Much of his letter seeks to calm the dissent that has arisen among the Corinthian Christians, hoping to keep their focus correctly on the gospel of Christ. Among his nuggets of wisdom, St. Paul says, "*...the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*" (1 Cor. 1:18, NRSV) If we pause during the Lenten season to contemplate our faith, all of us should come to realize that the joy of Christ's birth must also include his death. Even though the celebrations of Christmas and Easter seem worlds apart, they are intimately connected for those who follow Jesus. During Lent, we can solidify that connection by placing ourselves into the journey with Christ toward the cross.

This year's Lenten services will start on Ash Wednesday (February 26) at 6:00pm in the sanctuary, and will continue each Wednesday evening through April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm in the small chapel. A service schedule for Holy Week (April 6-12) will be published in our upcoming newsletters. Bring your Bible and let us make the journey to Jerusalem together.

Yours in Christ,

**Rev. Cory Germain**

**Council Minutes  
For  
First Congregational UCC  
1-15-2020**

The meeting of the old and new Councils was called to order by Moderator, Catherine Johnson. Rev. Germain led in devotion and prayer.

**Members present** Jodi Kuhlers (Ass't Treas.), Catherine Johnson (2019 Moderator), Jane Kotewa (2020 Moderator), Wendy Ziemer (new CE), Julie Elliott (retiring Past Moderator), JoAnn Eisenbarger (new Missions), Cory Hainy (Continuing Diaconate), Larry Thompson (Continuing Facilities), Robbin Celander (at large), Ellen Germain (Retiring CE), Dave Adams (Continuing Worship), Marilyn Forstrom (Continuing Clerk) and Pastor Cory Germain

**Not Present** were Dolores Gronewald (New Hospitality) and David Meschke (acting Trea

**Minutes** of the December were approved as printed.

**Treasurer's Report** from Dave Meschke was read by Robbin Celander. He reported the balances as of 12-31-2019. We received 99% of funds that were pledged and our offerings exceeded our budget. Motion was M/S/C to receive the report.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Cory presented his report which included his usual pastoral duties, Nat'l Guard days, local Legion honor guard activity and assistance with area Presbyterian meeting. He alerted the Council to upcoming drill days/weekends. Ellen will do Pulpit Supply for 2-9-2020.

**Moderator's Report:** Catherine met with Pastor Cory to review tracking of his vacation/sick/Guard days. They also reviewed methods used for tracking donations and expenditures for the Starfish Fund. She found all to be in good order.

**Board Reports**

**Christian Education:** Wendy reported that they are very grateful for the new flooring in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Christian Ed. Area, are continuing with their responsibilities but still need one more board member as they have many responsibilities and need a full Board.

**Diaconate:** Cory H. reported that the Board reviewed the membership list, moved 11 members designated as Active to Inactive, accepted the transfer of Curt and Terry Luetgers to join our congregation and removed Judy Olson from the membership list per her request.

**Facilities:** Larry Thompson reported on the Boards to do list as well as a list of capital projects and costs that will be needed in the near future.

**Hospitality:** No report but it was noted that the commercial refrigerator died and rather than pay an expensive repair bill for this old refrigerator, an "executive decision" was made to purchase a new one. The Council agreed. A generous donation has been given to pay for the new unit.

**Missions:** JoAnn reported that several openings remain for preparing and serving the Community Meals. If anyone is aware of an outside group who may be interested (East Chain 4H is serving twice), have them contact a board member.

**Old Business:** The church office is in need of a color printer to replace current one which is not working. Motion was M/S/C to have Jim Bock, Pastor Cory and Ann to use their best judgment to replace.

Work on the Safe Church Policy is still in progress.

**New Business:** Discussion of plans for the 1-25-2020 Annual Meeting took place.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Forstrom, Clerk

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
BLESSING BOX OFFERING  
FEBRUARY 2020**

**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.**

**Invest in futures**

Give to One Great Hour of Sharing



## **A MISSION OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

**In April of 2020, Marilyn Forstrom and Hillary Forstrom Harrison will be joining a group of volunteers from Children of the Nations on a medical mission trip to Dominican Republic. This group will consist of a surgical team (Hillary) and their non-medical support volunteers (Marilyn) who will spend a week helping to meet some of the surgical and basic medical needs of impoverished children in the area served by COTN. To read more about the work of this Christian organization, you can go to <https://cotni.org/where-we-serve/dominican-republic>.**

**If you would find it in your heart to contribute financially to help defray the cost of medical supplies and transportation, food and lodging for volunteers, you can do so online at <https://cotni.org/venture/trips/377855/participant/386744>. You can also donate by writing a check to COTN and mailing it to PO Box 3970, Silverdale, WA 98383 or give it to Marilyn and she will send it in for you. Please include "Marilyn Forstrom" on the memo line so the support reaches our team (Levin Surgical Team). All donations are tax deductible.**

**Thank you in advance and, of course, prayers are always welcome too!**

**Marilyn and Hillary**

# rightnow MEDIA

As members and/or friends of First Congregational UCC, I hope you've taken the opportunity to start enjoying the great streaming video service that we offer to you *FREE OF CHARGE* through **rightnow** MEDIA. The website has a great selection of Christian shows, Bible studies, conferences, and study resources for all ages.

Starting this month, I'm going to highlight a couple of videos that you might enjoy checking out. I hope you enjoy these brief reviews, and if you've discovered a **rightnow** MEDIA video that you think others would enjoy, please let me know so that I can include them in future issues of our newsletter!

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Just in time for the Super Bowl, I've chosen one by former NFL quarterback Tim Tebow called ***This Is The Day***. Here's the synopsis:

*Have you ever felt stuck? Sometimes life feels rigid—as if nothing could ever really change. Maybe we're afraid of taking a step of faith. Or maybe we're too injured from the past to move forward. Or maybe life threw us a curveball and we still don't know how to react.*

*No matter where you find yourself, you can make the most of today. In this inspirational series, Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow shares stories from his life to illustrate what it means to seize each day for God's glory. He challenges us to step out in courage because this is the day to act.*

If Tim's quick, 4-session series sounds good to you, it's available in the "Pastor Cory's Picks" channel of our *First Congregational UCC* library on the **rightnow** MEDIA home page.

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Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott have several marriage-enrichment and parenting studies available on **rightnow** MEDIA, and their conversational team approach is very easy to engage. Their newest study is entitled ***Your Time-Starved Marriage***, and as the title suggests, it helps couples old and new examine the importance of quality time with your spouse. Here's the synopsis:

*After resolving communication meltdowns, finding time together is the number one relational need of most couples. Where does time go? We try to make it. Save it. Seize it. Buy it. And borrow it. And yet time continues to elude too many couples.*

*The moments you miss together are irreplaceable; gone forever.*

*In this six-session series, relationship experts Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott will help you better manage the priceless resource of time. They will show you how to reclaim the time you've been missing and how to maximize the moments you have together. This is not about being more productive, but about being more connected.*

The Parrott's six-session series of 12-18 minute videos won't take up too much of your all-important free time, but could be just the conversation starter that you and your spouse need to help you find time for the most important relationship in your life! They reference their new book by the same title, but it's not necessary to purchase it to get plenty of helpful tips from the videos. They can be found in the "Resources 4 Fairmont Families" channel of our *First Congregational UCC* library on the **rightnow** MEDIA home page.

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\* If you still need to sign up for a FREE account, go to <https://www.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/FCONG>

Please feel free to share this link with your family and friends! It doesn't cost us anything extra to have more people access this great resource through our account!

# Newsletter

*To view the full color version of the newsletter, you'll find it on the church website at:*

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

*A special thank you goes out to the volunteers who assist with getting the newsletter out each month.*

## Partners in Ministry

### **February 2**

Diaconate: Carolyn Thompson  
Head Usher: Robbin Celander  
Acolytes: Gretchen Jorgensen and Trenton Jorgensen  
Reader: Alice Maday  
Greeters: John & Cindy Anderson

### **February 9**

Diaconate: Carolyn Thompson  
Head Usher: Eric B. Johnson  
Acolytes: Ella Ziemer  
Reader: Jim Marushin  
Greeters: Wanda J. and Sherry L.

### **February 16**

Diaconate: Carolyn Thompson  
Head Usher: Everett Hanning  
Reader: Abigail Roiger  
Greeters: Don & Shelby Marks

### **February 23**

Diaconate: Carolyn Thompson  
Head Usher: Larry Thompson  
Acolytes: Abby Shoen  
Reader: Julie Elliott  
Greeters: Joe & Morgan Christiansen

### **The Church Pastoral Relations Committee**

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 listed below:

Cindy Anderson  
Pastor Cory Germain  
Lee Hanning  
Eric B. Johnson  
Abigail Roiger

### DENNIS THE MENACE



"YOU MEAN WE HAVE TO PAY FOR THESE SEATS?"



# Fairmont, Trimont, Truman, & Welcome Recycling

## 2020

Clip & Save!



### THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT THE RECYCLING PROGRAM

These rules apply to curbside collection in Fairmont, Trimont, Truman, Welcome and all the drop county sites for RURAL residents. For recycling programs in other communities, you should consult your local city hall.

Use the BROWN & YELLOW Recycling Cart correctly.

Each household has been issued one BROWN & YELLOW recycling cart on wheels.

These recycling carts must stay with the house if you move. They are the property of Martin & Faribault County Recycling Program.

Have your cart on the curb unobstructed by 7 a.m. on collection day.

The curbside recycling pick-up schedule is available from Hometown Sanitation, 507-235-5665. In Trimont, Truman and Welcome printed schedules are available at your city hall. Schedules are also available on Hometown's Sanitation's website [www.hometownsan.com](http://www.hometownsan.com).

Drop sites in the county are for **RURAL Residents**, not city residents and/or business. **DO NOT** leave garbage at these drop-sites!

There is no curbside collection on the 5th week of any month.

Pick-Up during major holiday weeks (New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day) is delayed one day.

### WHAT TO DO

All items placed in the BROWN and YELLOW recycling cart must be CLEAN with no dirt or food residue. Food containers must be washed out. Labels on cans are OK.

All recyclable items are placed in the BROWN and YELLOW recycling cart and co-mingled or mixed together.

#### ACCEPTABLE ITEMS - MUST BE CLEAN

- Newspaper, Magazines, Miscellaneous Paper Products
- All white and colored writing paper, computer paper, magazines, and newspapers including inserts
- Junk Mail
- Corrugated cardboard (the double-walled cardboard with the wiggly center) (Flatten boxes before putting in cart)
- Phone Books
- Magazines including Reader's Digest
- Catalogs
- Boxboard from chip, cereal, and cracker boxes
- Newspapers and shiny inserts
- Please do not bundle newspapers in anything other than brown paper grocery bags
- Tin or Aluminum Cans
- Food and pet food cans
- Soda and beer cans
- Clean aluminum foil and aluminum foil pans
- Glass
- Clear, green, brown or blue food or beverage container glass
- Wine, beer and other alcoholic bottles
- Soda bottles
- Salad dressing bottles
- Plastic
- All plastic bottles and jugs with a screw top lid or that have a neck smaller than the base
- Two liter bottles
- Plastic milk jugs
- Bleach bottles
- Yogurt Containers

#### Proper Curbside Placement of Cart on Recycling Day

- Use the BROWN and YELLOW recycling carts; the yellow barrels from the former recycling program will no longer be an acceptable recycling collection device. They will be emptied.
- Make sure that the front of the cart faces the street.
- Place your cart 5 feet away from all obstructions, including cars, poles, and at least one foot away from additional carts.
- Please don't load your cart with more than 100 lbs.
- If your cart is damaged or broken, please call 507-776-3232.
- MATERIAL LEFT OUTSIDE YOUR CART WILL NOT BE PICKED UP.

### WHAT NOT TO DO

NO plastic bags! This also means no plastic bag liner in the recycling cart.

DO NOT place garbage in these recycling containers  
**UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS - DO NOT PLACE IN YOUR BIN**

- NO Garbage
- NO Hazardous Waste
- NO Scrap Metal such as metal pipe, hangers, wires or automotive parts
- NO Hot or Cold ashes
- NO Concrete, rocks, gravel or wood
- NO Pizza boxes, egg cartons, or ice cream cartons
- NO Snack food bags (like chips or popcorn bags)
- NO Fast food containers, cups or wrappers
- NO Styrofoam, foam cups, foam containers or styrofoam peanuts
- NO Bubble wrap
- NO Plastic toys or furniture
- NO Plastic film or grocery bags
- NO Plastic wrap or dry cleaning bags
- NO Softener's Salt bags
- NO Milk bags
- NO String, twine, cotton balls
- NO Paper, towels napkins, tissues
- NO Baby diapers
- NO Garden product containers such as pesticide containers
- NO Cups, coffee filters, tea bags
- NO Waxed paper or waxed anything like milk cartons, drinking boxes, frozen food boxes
- NO Candy or gum wrappers
- NO Bathroom waste paper
- NO Photos, slides transparencies
- NO Aerosol cans, paint cans
- NO Paper, towels napkins, tissues
- NO Motor oil gasoline containers
- NO Light bulbs, pens
- NO Drinking glasses
- NO Window glass, mirrors
- NO Pottery, ceramics
- NO Disposable razors, needles
- NO Toys, dishes, glasses, medicine containers
- NO Plastic cups, silverware, trays
- NO Toys, dishes, glasses medicine containers
- NO Dead animals

If you have any questions about carts or what can be recycled call

**Billieye Rabbe at 507-776-3232**

If you have any questions about routes or collections call:

**Hometown Sanitation, 235-5665**

**or 1-877-545-4877**

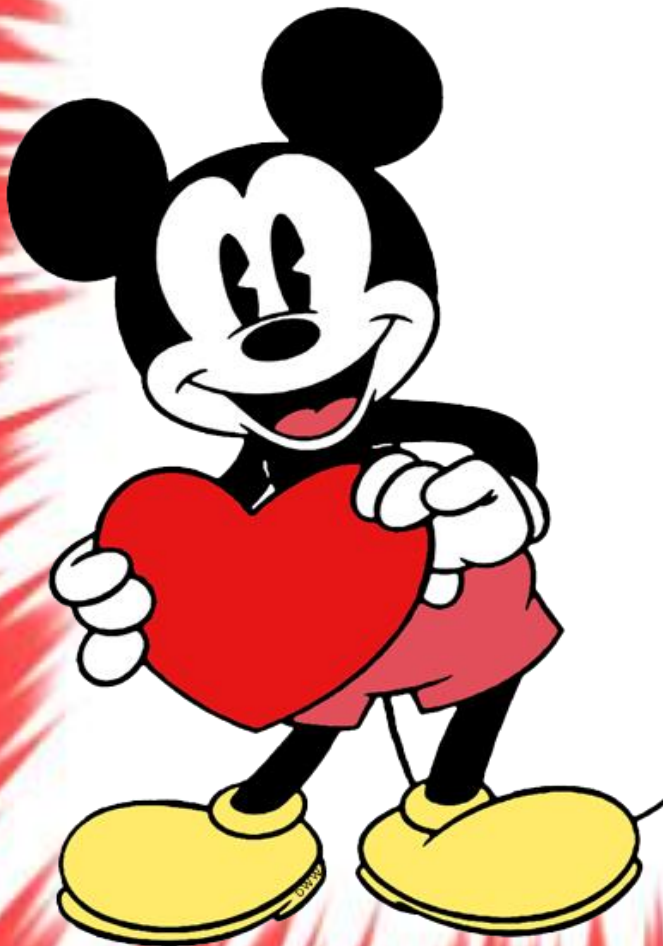


### Anniversaries

Feb. 2 Bob & Jan Cone  
57 years



Feb 14 Jon & Cindy Anderson  
22 years



### Birthdays

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