October 2020

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA FAIRMONT, MN 56031-1776 Nonprofit
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First Congregational UCC 319 Downtown Plaza Fairmont, MN 56031







First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fairmont, Minnesota

Rev. Cory Germain Minister

Ann Osborn
Administrative Assist

Joyce Jorgenson Choir Director How to reach us....

507-235-5382 Hours: Tuesday—Friday 9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.

Church Office

E-mail

uccsecretary319@gmail.com

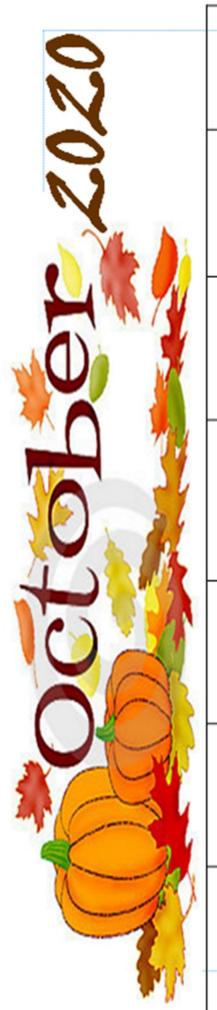
Web Site Address www.fairmontucc.org

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
Worship 10:30
Communion the first Sunday
of every month.



n	10	17	24	31 Software
٧	6	16 9:00 am Council Agenda ItemsSubmission Deadline	23 9:00 am November Newsletter Submission Deadline	30 October
1	8 5:15 Hospitality 7:00 Facilities Boards	15	22	29 9:30 Women's BibleStudy
	7 5:00 Worship Board 5:30 Diaconate	14 5:00 Mission Board 6:30 CE Board	21 5:30 Council & Finance	28 5:30 Free Community Meal Drive thru
	6 10:00 Lakeview Communion	13	20 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	27
	5	12 5:00 FCH Foundation	19	26 4:30 Parent To Parent
	union Sunday Worship	unday School Worship	unday School Worship	25 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Blessing Collection: Backpack Program
_		5 6 10:00 Lakeview Communion	5 6 10:00 Lakeview Communion Communion 12 13 5:00 FCH Foundation	6 10:00 Lakeview Communion 13 10:00 Goldfinch Communion Communion



The Reverend's Ruminations - October 2020

Volume 1, Issue 7 First Congregational United Church of Christ

Throughout the last six months, my constant refrain seems to have been, "Stay tuned!" Well, I'm continually encouraged by how many of you have indeed "stayed tuned" for the many adjustments necessary to survive and thrive amid a worldwide virus pandemic. Spring brought unprecedented school, church, and business closures that had some of us in a bit of a panic. Summer enticed us with beautiful weather that allowed many of us to get outdoors for exercise and limited travel, but event postponements and wide-spread festival cancellations kept us from enjoying the warmth and sunshine in quite the way we're accustomed to. Now this fall's "new normal" includes evolving school schedules and off-then-on sports seasons. At least autumn in Minnesota brings the welcome constant of cooler weather, beautiful leaves, and what appears to be an early-and-bountiful harvest.

As these many weeks have passed, we've adapted to various "virtual" forms of worship, Zoom Board and Council meetings, and now progressed to a "hybrid" streaming worship service with limited inperson attendance, physically-distanced and masked Board/Council meetings, outdoor Bible study (until it gets too chilly), and a well-received drive-thru version of our Free Community Meal. Through it all, we've each learned new skills and terms, reignited old methods of entertainment (perhaps even some good old methods of communication), and striven to prayerfully support one another through what are surely the strangest days many of us have ever experienced.

If that wasn't enough, we've also tried to move forward through the seasons of the church. We've recently added a new method of communion for those who choose to attend in person, using prefilled individual servings of juice and a wafer. The Christian Education Board has been hard at work cleaning and painting the Sunday School area on the church's third floor, only to have COVID-19 cases spike in Martin County and send the local school district into full distance learning—cancelling our annual Rally Sunday and Sunday School kick-off. But the refrain rings out again: "Stay tuned!" With a new curriculum to go along with the new-look Sunday School rooms, there are virtual options being prepared for our church kids. Emails will be going out to parents, but you're all encouraged to look up and "like" our new Sunday School Facebook page @FirstCongoUCCSundaySchool in order to keep up with the latest announcements and class options. Confirmation and adult options will be coming soon as well!

Now unless you've literally been living under a rock the last few months, you realize that there is something pretty important coming up in November. As your pastor, I have assured you in the past that I do not preach politics from the pulpit. Just like you, I have my opinions about the upcoming Presidential election; but one of the beautiful things about the United Church of Christ is that its membership encompasses a wide variety of personal political and social beliefs. Whether or not you have strong feelings one way or another, I absolutely encourage you to VOTE on November 3 (or by absentee/mail-in ballot if you do not feel comfortable going to a polling place amid the pandemic). As the prominent and influential Greek statesman, orator and general of Athens, Pericles, once said, "Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you." We are all members of this democratic nation, and we each have a role to play in keeping government accountable to the people it serves.

We just finished several weeks of studying Paul's Letter to the Romans during our Sunday sermons, and although we didn't specifically unpack the first half of his thirteenth chapter, I encourage you to open your Bibles at home and spend a few moments examining his wisdom about Christians and their relationship to the governmental authorities of our day. His words ring true centuries after they were penned! As we move toward another major election, I pray that our nation can find ways to unite itself and truly be guided by principles pleasing to our powerful and grace-filled God.

Yours in Christ.

Rev. Cory Germain

COUNCIL MINUTES

For 9-15-2020

First Congregational UCC

The Council met in person. In the absence of Moderator Kotewa, Clerk, Marilyn Forstrom opened the meeting. Rev. Germain led in devotion and prayer.

Members Present: Catherine Johnson, Larry Thompson, Cory Hainey, Dave Meschke, Wendy Ziemer, Dolores Gronewald, Joanne Eisenbarger, Dave Adams, Marilyn Forstrom. Ex-Officiao members Dara Bliesmer and Pastor Cory

Members Absent: Robbin Celander

The Clerk appointed Past Moderator, Catherine Johnson to act as Moderator.

Motion was M/S/C to approve the minutes of the August 19 meeting as printed

Treasurer's Report: Dave Meschke presented the report. We have received 53% of Budgeted offering plus the PPP payment. Motion M/S/C to receive the report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory reported on his activities since 7-22-20. Included were routine worship service prep, counceling, 2 funerals, Starfish aid, continuing ed., etc. as well as Guard Training.

Board Reports:

Christian Ed.: Wendy Z. reported that 3rd floor painting is nearing completion. Sunday School Rally Sunday will be delayed to Sept 27 with the first regular Sunday School classes on Oct. 4, 2020.

Diaconate: The Board continues to assist Pastor Cory with supporting members as allowable during the Pandemic.

Facilities: Larry Thompson reported that plexiglass barrier for soloist and pianist have been completed as well as a rack for new tablecloths. Thank you Jon Neitzel. A list of potential Capital Projects was included in the report.

Hospitality: Dolores Gronewald reported that in lieu of Harvest Festival, the Board will conduct a homemade pie sale around the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Mission: October Blessing Box will be Heaven's Table Backpack Program. Joanne presented a possible new mission project.

Worship: The Board continues to recruit individuals for ushering, greeting, readers and special music. The new video system for Sunday morning worship is in place and operational.

Old Business: COVID 19 abatement strategy was reviewed briefly. We will continue to request all persons wear masks in the building and use hand sanitizer. Motion was M/S/C to purchase foaming hand sanitizer w/mountable dispensers. Motion was M/S/C to proceed with repair of the rubber roof on north tower in October provided contractor can assure us it will not be damaged during work to be done in the spring. Estimate is \$7000 to \$10,000. Catherine presented the proposed Bylaws changes. They were reviewed and Catherine will send them out to Boards and Committees for their review. Stewardship drive was discussed. Jane, Ace and Marilyn will work with Pastor Cory to move forward with the drive. Motion was M/S/C to have ingathering of pledges on October 25, 2020. Ace and the Worship Board will look into the Convergence Music Project/music use permission.

New Business: None

Pastor Cory closed with prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Marilyn Forstrom, Clerk



Reloved,
let us love one another,
because love is from God;
everyone who loves
is born of God
and knows God.



Our Calling: Three Great Loves

By the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President

"Three Great Loves," a shared initiative of United Church of Christ congregations, conferences, and the national setting, engages all of us in faith-inspired work for a more just world. Together, we change lives.

This initiative reflects the deep purpose, mission, and vision of our Christian movement.

Our purpose arises from Jesus' greatest commandment: we will love the Lord our God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength; and our neighbor as ourselves.

Every congregation names its mission slightly differently, but as I travel around the country, I find our congregations living out their purpose through a missional commitment to love, welcome, and justice. Spoken in different ways, we share a common mission: united by the Holy Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we love all, welcome all, and seek justice for all.

Our mission as the United Church of Christ points towards a shared vision: a just world for all. Many of us came to the United Church of Christ because of this sense of purpose, mission, and vision. But we need to ensure we do more than speak words. We make our commitment real by embracing Three Great Loves:

The love of Neighbor The love of Children The love of Creation

Over the next few weeks, leaders in your congregation will share stories of the ways your congregation and our wider movement live out these Three Great Loves. And then, you will be asked to make a commitment of financial support to the work of your local congregation and the wider United Church of Christ.

We believe an entire Christian movement that is willing to engage in an extended time of mission to serve these "Three Great Loves" can change the world. We know that your part in this mission matters – no matter where you are located or how large or small your community.

Friends, the world needs our great love. Together, our love for the world can transform it.



As you may remember from our annual meeting, this year the Council has assumed the responsibility of the Finance Committee. David "ace" Adams is heading up the stewardship campaign, following the guidelines of **Three Great Loves.** Please use the enclosed card in an upcoming mailing with the details to make your pledge and return it either by mail or by attending worship Sunday, October 25.

While there are many ways to support the congregation, our annual campaign provides a chance to think in a particular and prayerful way about the choices we make with our money in support of the church. Without your gifts to the annual pledge campaign we would not be able to engage in the programs, projects, ministry and worship experiences that define our community life.

Especially now with the COVID-19 issues, deciding how much of our income to donate to charitable organizations can be difficult. We encourage the Biblical model of a tithe, a gift of 10% of one's income to charity. Knowing that our church is one among many organizations doing good and meaningful work, we encourage

our community to think of a tithe as giving 5% of income to the work of our church and 5% to the work of other charities one supports. We see tithing as the goal in our practice of abundant generosity.



Many more of us are on a journey towards abundant generosity. As you think about your own practice, we suggest steps in moving towards a tithe.

We hope that as you consider your giving for the coming year, you will take a step towards greater generosity in your pledge. All pledges and gifts to our congregation help strengthen who we are and what we can do together. Because of you, our church shares God's love.

Jesus calls us to share God's love. In the United Church of Christ, we respond to that call by embracing **Three Great Loves.** What we do reflects the wisdom of scripture, "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God" (1 John 4:7). When acting in loving ways, the very spirit of God moves through us.

Across our Christian movement, we embody God's love in three ways:

Love of Children
 Love of Neighbor
 Love of Creation

The ways we share God's love in our congregation may not look the same as the ways another United Church of Christ congregation witnesses to God's love.

Our priorities may differ. In fact, they differ within our own congregation. But that is what makes us a church, a church united in a shared commitment to be God's hands and feet in making a more just world for all.

Three Great Loves is us, collectively, as a united church, putting "hands and feet" to our Purpose, Vision, and Mission. Living out God's love, living out our purpose, vision, and mission, transforming the world, and making a just world for all through the lens of **Three** Great Loves.

That's what **Three Great Loves** is about. The amazing stories of our faithful and transformative ministries as we live out God's love and help make a just world for all. In October, we will hear our own stories during a Stewardship moment.

10/04 (Love of Neighbor)

10/11 (Love of Creation)

10/18 (Love of Children)

10/25 (Pledge In-Gathering)

The work of our congregation to manifest God's love in the world can happen because of the generous financial and volunteer support of our members and friends. Because of you, our church expresses God's love in our community.



and knows God.

October Blessing Box

This month's blessing box offering will go to Heavens Table Food shelf for the Back Pack Food Program. Since 2015 Heavens Table Food Shelf has worked with Martin County public elementary schools to provide weekend food for kids who are eligible for free and reduce



lunches. Last year this program served 350 kids. Each bag contains 2 breakfast items, 2 individual entrée items, 2 beverages and 4 to 5 snack items. Heavens Table cost per child is about \$72 per school year. Whether you give \$1, \$10 or choose to sponsor a child for \$72, every dollar helps. If you enjoy shopping and wish to donate food, please check the list below for items that will fit in the bags.

Individual servings of applesauce or other fruits (usually 4 servings to a pack)

Individual entrees such as Chef-Boyardee Beef-a-roni or Ravioli (7.25 oz size)

Individual breakfast cereal (1 oz size) or boxes of instant oatmeal packets

Hot cocoa mix (usually 10 to a box)

Individual juice - such as Juicy Juice or HyVee Coolers

Snack foods - 1 oz size or smaller - such as

Goldfish Honey Bear Graham Crackers,

Granola bars Pudding cups (usually 4 to a pack)

Financial donations can be mailed to the church or left in the back pack in the entryway. Food donations should be left in the entryway.

Bring your <u>empty plastic grocery bags</u> to church! Heaven's Table Food Shelf can use them. There will be a box in the entryway of the church where you can drop off your empty plastic grocery bags and we will get them to the food shelf. <u>Thank you!</u>



Memorials

Date	Memory/Honor of	Donor Designation	From
23-Aug	Memory of Tom Alsworth		Donna & Dean Grotte
23-Aug	Memory of Tom Alsworth		Philip & Shirley Hegdal
23-Aug	Memory of Tom Alsworth		Lyle & Charlene Norris
23-Aug	Joy & Lorin Pollock Anniversary		Virginia Riedesel
23-Aug	Art & Julie Elliott Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
23-Aug	George & Ruth Ann Jones Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
30-Aug	Memory of Eloise Lidke		Lorraine Reiter
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt	Starfish	Cindy & Jon Anderson
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Thomas & Jeanette Bare
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Susan, Kathy & Sherry - the Freeouf Girls
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt	Endowment Fund	James & Barbara Bock
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Robert & Debra Bonk
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt	Starfish	Tim & Kay Campe
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Cynthia Celander
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Marilyn Forstrom
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Donna & Dean Grotte
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Ann Hartmann
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Eric & Catherine Johnson
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Thomas & Kathleen Jorgensen
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt	Starfish	MaryDon Kislingbury
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt	Starfish	Linda Meschke
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Gayle & Angie Nelson
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Pamela Otto
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Doris Ourecky
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt	General	Ken & Joy Rachuy
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt	Starfish	Virginia Riedesel
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Stephen & Jane Sahly
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt	Capital	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Margaret Weaver
6-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Memorials
13-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Dolores Gronewald
13-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Mr & Mrs H Lynn Kelley
13-Sep	Memory of Mildred Brodt		Byron & Becky Phillips
13-Sep	Memory of Ramon Rowan	Capital	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
13-Sep	Memory of Eloise Lidke	General	Larry & Carolyn Thompson



Partners in Ministry

Ushers, Readers, Greeters
First Congregational UCC
October 2020

October 4

Diaconate: Cory Hainy

Ushers Trenton Jorgenson Brad Cone

Reader Kay Campe

Greeters Gretchen Jorgenson Kathy Jorgenson

October 11

Diaconate: Cory Hainy

Ushers Larry Thompson Jon Neitzel

Reader Marilyn Forstrom

Greeters Carolyn Thompson Sue Kruse

October 18

Diaconate: Cory Hainy

Ushers Eric Johnson Larry Lasch

Reader Margo Weaver

Greeters Catherine Johnson Jane Kotewa

October 25

Diaconate: Cory Hainy

Ushers Cory Hainy Marilyn Forstrom

Reader Amanda Forstrom

Greeter Paige Hainy Christina Hainy







Interview with Jodie Wessel Whitmore on

Jodie grew up in Fairmont and was confirmed in our church. She was graduated from Fairmont High School. After high school she attended Anoka Vo-Tech for about a year and then she found a position at Rise Inc. working with adults with disabilities. From there, she went to DAC in Sherburn.

She was married and had three children: Dayton, Cameron, and Colby. Unfortunately, Cameron was too small to survive. During this time she did day care for 22 years. She was a member of the Firemen's Women's Auxiliary.

Sometime after her divorce, she and Al Seibert became a devoted couple. She has been active in so many areas of the community--serving Rotary for seven years, Fairmont Area Foundation, a member of Fairmont Chamber of Commerce, and Moss (Appeal). She is currently at the former Village Cooperative--now The Meadows--for 15 years. She has served on several boards at church, Chair of our Harvest Festival, and a part of our choir.

Jodie became a part of another family when her mother Shirley Wessel married Dave Wallien in our church. During that time not only did Jodie sing in our choir but also Shirley & Dave did.

This vibrant woman has experienced much adversity but she continues to be a vivacious and joyful person.as evidenced by the laughter throughout our

interview!

- Submitted by Lee Hanning



rightnow MEDIA

*All worship services from First Congregational UCC since March 22 are archived (by date) alongside the other great content on the rightnow MEDIA website & app!

Once logged in to your *FREE* account on **rightnow** MEDIA, you can either scroll down the left side library list OR click on the LIBRARIES icon in the upper left corner of the screen and select "First Congregational UCC" to access the "Fairmont Worship Services" channel, or any of the other great resources on the site. "Pastor Cory's Picks" 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!

~ Pastor Corv

Since our Sunday School season is temporarily on hold, maybe it's time you and your family do a little self-study on Jesus. Yes, Jesus is a broad topic, but getting to know him and developing a closer relationship doesn't have to be a long, daunting task. In four short, 14-22 minute sessions, speaker and author David Nasser can help you understand quite a bit of what makes Jesus the center of our faith. Here is a brief synopsis of **Why Jesus?**:

Culture is blurring the lines between different faiths. It is increasingly difficult for people to grasp how their faith in Jesus Christ is unique.

In these four powerful video Bible study sessions, David Nasser addresses the tough questions that people have about Jesus and points them back to the scriptural truths about our Savior.

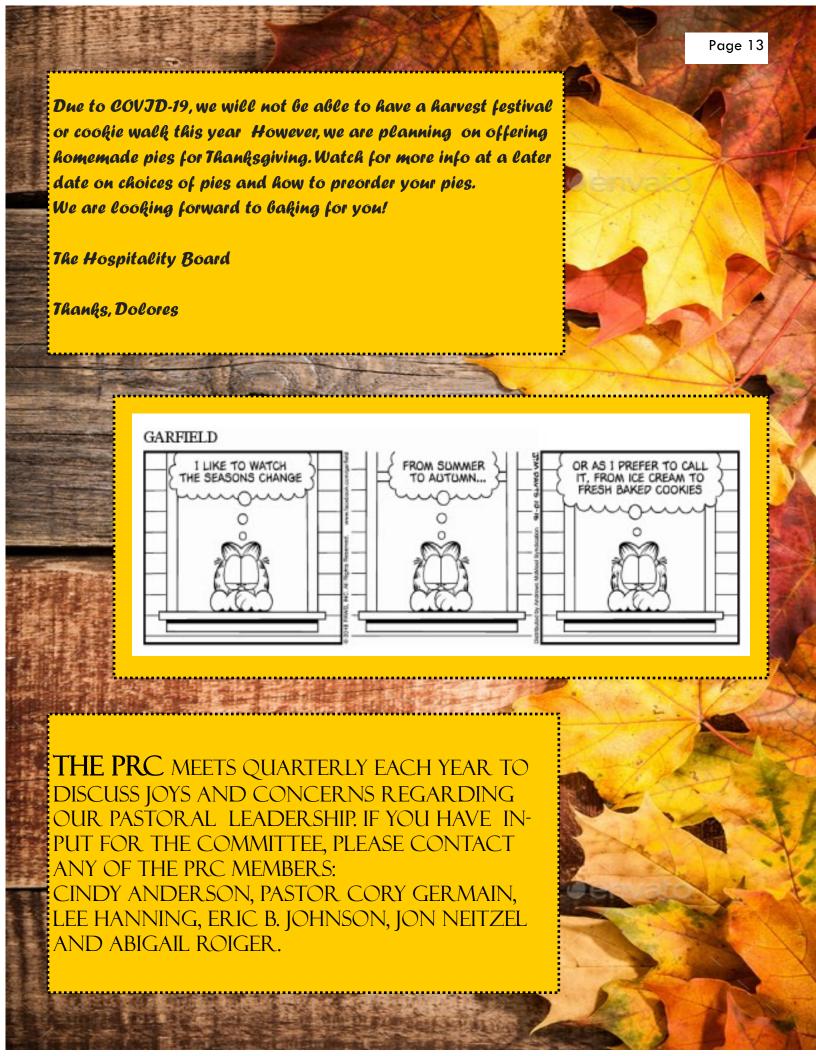
Filmed on location all throughout Israel and includes teaching from Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Mount of Olives and the Mount of the Beatitudes.

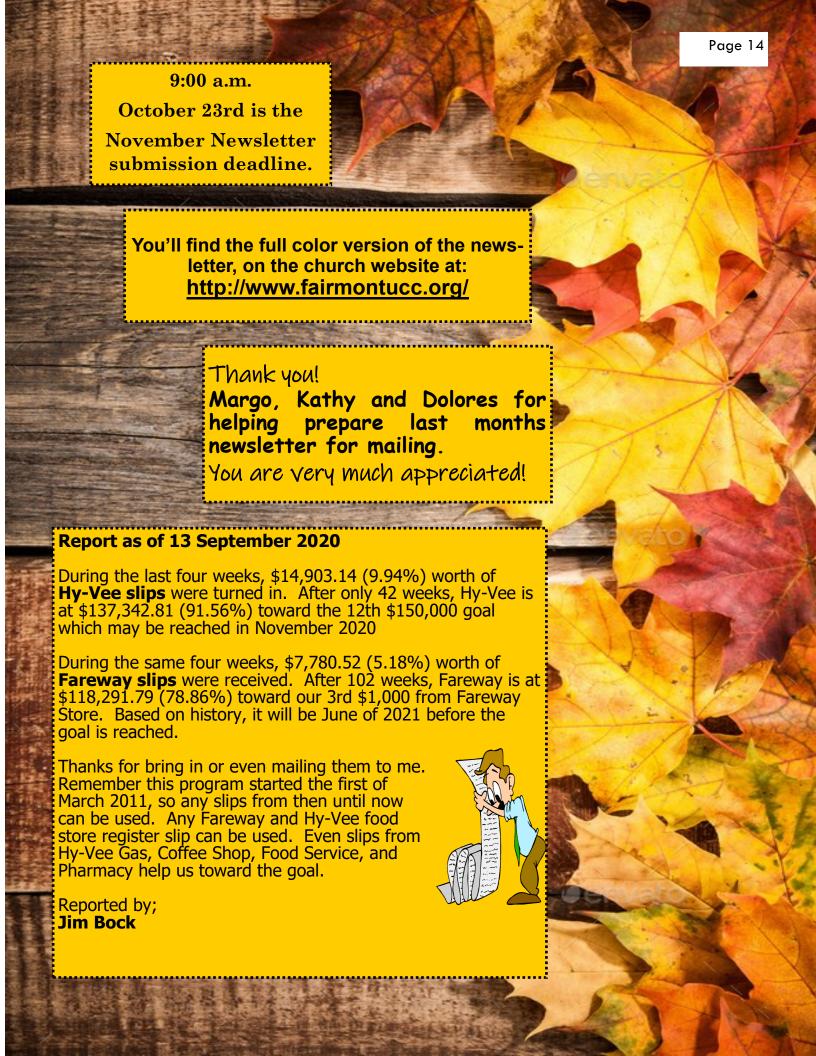
You'll notice elsewhere in this month's newsletter that we're entering stewardship season, a time when our Church Council and Boards will be looking at budgets and individual pledges for the upcoming year. Perhaps this would also be a good time for each of us to be honest about our family finances! Many of you are probably familiar with Dave Ramsey, the well-known teacher and advisor on the relationship between faith and finances. In a three-session series entitled *Life, Money & Hope*, Mr. Ramsey introduces the connection between money and the Bible Here is a quick description:

Is God concerned about your financial situation? What does the Bible have to say about debt? What is the most important thing to know about money?

In these three engaging 30-minute sessions, Dave Ramsey—a personal money management expert, popular national radio and television personality, and the best-selling author of Financial Peace and The Total Money Makeover—looks to Scripture as he discusses several critical issues about your personal finances.

^{*}Do you still need to sign up for a FREE **rightnow** MEDIA account? Go to **https://www.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/FCONG**





Tomato Basil Soup

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Tomato Basil Soup Recipe photo by Taste of Home

Ingredients

- · 4 medium carrot, finely chopped
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup butter, cubed
- 1 can (49 ounces) reduced-sodium chicken broth or 6 cups vegetable broth, divided
- 1 can (29 ounces) tomato puree (used 1 qt. home-canned tomatoes)
- 5 teaspoons dried basil
- 1-1/2 teaspoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon white pepper
- 1 can (12 ounces) fat-free evaporated milk
- Added 1 teaspoon soda

Directions

- In a Dutch oven, cook carrots and onion in butter over medium-low heat for 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally. Remove from the heat and cool slightly.
- In a blender, place 1/2 broth and the cooled vegetables; cover and process until blended.
 Return to the Dutch oven. Stir in the tomato puree, basil sugar, salt, pepper and remaining broth.
- Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 30 minutes. Reduce heat to low.
 Gradually stir in evaporated milk; heat through (do not boil).

Nutrition Facts

1-1/2 cups: 201 calories, 8g fat (5g saturated fat), 23mg cholesterol, 1004mg sodium, 24g carbohydrate (0 sugars, 3g fiber), 10g protein.

Anniversaries

Oct. 2 Brandon & Rachael Tonneson 10 years

Oct. 9 Randy & Pat Rowan 49 years

Oct. 15 Bill & Staci Thompson 15 years

Oct. 20 Ken & Joy Rachuy 47 years

Oct. 22 Kevin & Sarah Zabel 15 years

Oct. 24 Steve & Janine Draper 40 years

Oct. 31 Dean & Donna Grotte 50 years

Birthdays

- 2 Kristen Abbenhaus
- 3 Elizabeth Scheppman Adam Rachuy
- 4 Amanda Forstrom Steve Urban
- 7 Aubrey Elaine McAlister
- 11 Jenny Craven Mike Thate
- 13 Logyn Cone

 Jonissa Neitzel
- 15 John Holstine

- 17 Jon Anderson
- 18 Michael Rowan
- 19 Brian Thate
- 21 Sue Kruse
- 22 Jane Kotewa Gracie Ziemer David Adams Jessi Kotewa
- 25 Kathy Jorgensen
- 28 Mark Becker Staci Thompson
- 29 Angela Vaughn
- 30 Wanda Johnson
- 31 Barb Bittman