

February 2018

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA
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Rev Cory Germain
Pastor

Cheryl Ashland
Christian Education
Director

Ann Osborn
Administrative Assistant

How to reach us....

Church Office

507-235-5382

Hours:

Tuesday—Friday

9:30-12:30 p.m.

E-mail

ucc319@frontiernet.net

Web Site Address

www.fairmontucc.com

Address

319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031

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-9:30

Communion the first Sunday of
every month.



February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Communion Sunday 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	5	6 10:00 Lakewood Communion	7 5:30 Missions Board 6:00 Diaconate 6:25 Chime Choir 6:30 CE Board	8	9	10
11 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	12	13	14 6:00 Ash Wed Service 6:30 Chime Choir 7:00 Choir Practice	15 7:00 (both) Facilities Board Hospitality Board	16	17 Kids Against Hunger food pack St John Manney School 11:30-1:30
18 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	18	20 10:00 Goldfish Communion 5:30 Finance Board	21 5:30 Church Council 6:00 Lenten Service 6:30 Chime Choir 7:00 Choir Practice	22 9:30 Women's Bible Study	23 Newsletter Submission Deadline	24
25 Blessing Box Collection 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	26 Parent To Parent 4:30-7:00	27	28 5:15 Worship Board 6:00 Lenten Service 5:30 Free Community Meal 6:00 Chime Choir 7:00 Choir Practice			

FEBRUARY 2018 PASTOR'S PAGE



Are you ready for a new season? I know that's a loaded question in Minnesota, where we find ways to enjoy every season even if we find ourselves longing for warmer, snowier, drier, or greener when we're in the grips of just the opposite! But what I'm asking is if you're ready for another season in the life of the church. It may seem that the Christmas decorations are barely packed away, but the season of Lent is right on the horizon.

Lent may bring up different thoughts or emotions for different people, but in general it is observed as a season of soul-searching and repentance, a season for reflection and taking stock in preparation for Easter. Anticipation may run high as Advent leads us toward the Christmas celebration, but each year we Christians should also look forward to the penitential season of Lent.

That may sound like a strange statement, but perhaps we should pause to understand the blessings that Lent offers us. Among these is time set aside that allows us to focus on our own sins and then to place them purposefully 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 ourselves symbolically journey toward Jerusalem during the Lenten season. The blessing is that we do not walk the path alone—we journey with Jesus, the very one who calls us into discipleship.

A while ago I was reading some passages related to the Apostle Paul, and rediscovered one of his most important personal faith statements, found in his Letter to the Philippians. In 3:10-11 he says, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead." Now while we certainly are not called to physical death during Lent, we are challenged to give up the comfort of a favorite food, drink, or habit in order to gain a better understanding of our Savior's suffering, temptation, and ultimate death.

As we observe the forty days of Lent, we seek in some small way to become like Jesus—particularly following the example of his withdrawal into the temptation of the wilderness. Lent has often been called a journey, and this year I'd like to invite you to take part in a Wednesday evening sermon series entitled, "Journey of Stones," in which we'll look at the compelling metaphor of stones (and our willingness to throw them) as representative of our sins. I hope that you will join us!

Our Lenten services will start at 6:00pm on Ash Wednesday (February 14) in the sanctuary, and will continue each Wednesday evening through March 21 at 6:00pm in the small chapel. A service schedule for Holy Week (the last week of March) will be published in next month's newsletter. Bring your Bible and let us make the journey to Jerusalem together.

Yours in Christ's service,

Rev. Cory Germain

February Blessing Box – One Great Hour of Sharing

OGHS Sharing Calendar—*MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE!*

The purpose of the calendar is to help us focus on ways that God has blessed each of us, and to give thanks for those abundant blessings. The calendar also highlights some of the challenging situations in the world. Each day suggests a donation of coins or bills. Your household can decide what unit works best for you. It is easiest if you select one unit and use it throughout the days on the calendar. Your gift will be a blessing to others!

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

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DISASTER RELIEF	God provides for us more than we can imagine. Ephesians 3:20 With a thankful heart, share three units for all the ways God has provided more in your life than you expected.	Support disaster survivors by becoming an UCC Disaster Recovery Volunteer. Help communities rebuild: ucc.org/disaster Share one unit if you have ever volunteered at a disaster site, or two units if you have not.	Severe thunderstorms account for 60% of the \$23.8 billion dollars in damages caused by natural disaster in 2016. That number could double or triple in 2017. Share one unit if you have an umbrella and another if you have a raincoat.	The Caribbean was repeatedly impacted by disasters in 2017. Learn more about their resiliency through the Caribbean Initiative at: www.globalministries.org Give one unit for each country you can name in the Caribbean.	Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 Give one unit for each time in the past week someone has helped you, or you have helped someone else.	Almost everyone in the fire zone in Northern California had some level of damage from toxic ash, power outages and smoke to linens and bedding. Give one unit for each blanket in your home.	"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." Philippians 4:4 Share one unit for each person or experience that brought you joy today.
CHILDREN	"Let the little children come to me... for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." Luke 18:16 Share one unit for every child in your family and extended family.	Children remain the poorest age group in America. Some progress has been made in reducing poverty, but too many children are still hungry. Give one unit for each meal you've eaten today.	Children of a mother with 5 years of primary school education have a 40% higher survival rate than those from mothers with no education. Give one unit for each female in your family who has at least a 5th grade education.	Nearly half of all deaths in children under 5 are from undernutrition. This means that about 3 million young lives are lost each year unnecessarily. Give three units in honor of the children in your congregation.	Over the last decade child mortality rates have improved. Rising prosperity, education and the spread of health care are key factors. Give one unit for each job, degree and doctor associated with your household.	Children who have experienced a disaster in a year, are less likely to get vaccinated or to be on track with vaccines the following year. Share a unit for each check-up you had in the last year.	Girls are often excluded from educational systems, yet educating girls is the key to reaching many other development goals. Share a unit for each female teacher you have/had.
FOOD AND WATER	"I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink." Matthew 25:35 Give a unit in thanksgiving for each day this week you were not thirsty.	In the United States, 40-50% of all food ready for harvest never gets eaten. Give three units for each meal you ate today where you did not finish what was on your plate.	Due to hurricanes in 2017, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands sustained damage to their water systems. Give one unit for every glass or bottle of water you drank today.	The proportion of people living in extreme poverty is half of what it was in 1990. Yet 1.4 billion people live on less than \$1.25 per day. Share a unit for each meal you have eaten in a restaurant in the past week.	In 2014-15, 1.9 million people were reached with clean water and 3 million people with sanitation. Give one unit for each time you washed your hands today.	For every \$1 invested in water and sanitation, an average of \$4 is returned in increased productivity. Give one unit for each toilet and sink in your home.	In the first 2 years of a child's life, optimal nutrition fosters healthy growth and improves cognition while decreasing risks of obesity later in life. Share one unit for every scale in your home.
REFUGEES AND THE DISPLACED	"The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself." Leviticus 19:34 Give three units to support refugee resettlement in the US.	In 2016, there were 17.2 million people displaced from their homes due to conflict or persecution across international borders, 50% more since 2013. Give three units if you were never displaced from your home.	About 45% of the world's refugees reside in countries with per capita incomes below \$3,000—countries least able to afford them. Give three units if you or your household receives more than \$3,000 per month.	\$10 can provide a thermal blanket for a refugee, of 1 mat to prevent them from sleeping on the cold ground. Give two units for every thermal blanket in your home.	Over one thousand Puerto Ricans who self-evacuated after the 2017 hurricanes to Pennsylvania were looking for a "safe space." Share one unit for each bed in your home.	Adequate shelter is a basic human right, a basic necessity that every human being requires. Give two units if you live in a comfortable home.	Feel God's presence and joy through helping others. God loves a cheerful giver, so give whatever units you think would please God.

MISSION BOARD MINUTES

JANUARY 3, 5:30 PM



Members Present: MaryDon K, Margo W, Sherry L, Kay C, Deb A, Pastor Cory

Membership – MaryDon K (council), Margo W, Sherry L, Cindy M, Kay C, Deb A, Kay H

Sherry will contact Kay H to see if she wants to continue; have another member willing to serve out her term (thru 2019)

We will select officers next month

Blessing Boxes

2017 Schedule

Oct – School Lunch Meal Fund – collected to date 949.50

Match received in January

Paid out funds we had the end of December; will pay rest in January

Dec – Christmas Fund & Heifer Project – collected 800.475 & 314.29

Loose offering from Christmas Eve evening service went to Christmas Fund

2018 Schedule

Jan – Kids Against Hunger

Collection Jan 28

Bulletin inserts Jan 7 & 21; envelopes in bulletins on 1/28/18

Feb – One Great Hour of Sharing & KAH Food Pack

Kids Against Hunger Food Pack – Feb 17, 2018 at St John Vianney – one team registered

One Great Hour of Sharing

Collection Feb 24

Mar – Minnesota Food Share

Ask for volunteers at Annual Meeting to work up a theme – possibly focus on SOUP.

Bags? Yes – goes over well and useful. Most of the bags are returned full.

Survey asking about what mission projects congregation would like to see us do. This will be sent out with the annual meeting mailing. We will have them available in church. People can return to the offering plate, the church office, one of us or bring it to annual meeting. We should have copies available at the meeting and a place to collect them.

MISSION BOARD MINUTES CONT'D
JANUARY 3, 5:30 PM



Community Meals

Guidelines – Deb is contact

Signs – Ace is looking at electronic signs per council – need to get a new sign!

We have served approximately 1100 meals in 11 months.

Need to encourage boards to sign up for months in 2018, **especially February.**

2018 Schedule

January 31 – Mission Board – SOUPer Bowl Party

Chili, Chicken Noodle Soup, Corn Bread, Desert

February 28 _____

March 28 – Facilities

April 25 _____

May 30 _____

June 27 – East Chain 4H (Deb Thate)

July 25 _____

August 29 – CE

September 26 _____

October 31 - Diaconate

November 28 _____

December 26 _____

Other Mission Projects

Mission Trip

Survey – January newsletter/annual meeting mailing – return to office, offering, annual meeting

Habitat for Humanity asked for our help with their Feb 17 meal

Next Meeting: February 7, 5:30 pm (our regular meeting night is Ash Wednesday)

WORSHIP BOARD 12-27-2017

The meeting was called to order by Kelly. Present were Dave, Pastor Cory,

Barb, Donna, Ruth Ann and Cindy.

We took down the pew candelabras but did not change the red hymnals. Hymnals and taking down the Christmas decorations will be left until after church on Epiphany Sunday, January 7th.

The count was 135 in attendance for the Christmas Eve service. Thanks to Ruth Ann and family for taking care of the Worship Board duties for Christmas Eve service.

It was suggested that we price oil candles for the pew candelabras. Kelly will look into that before the next meeting. It was suggested that we might get battery operated candles for the young children for the Christmas Eve service.

We will need a supply pastor for February 4th. Kelly will call Penny Ritter. Tim Berg was suggested as a supply pastor. Kelly will contact the church conference for a list of possible Pastors that might do pastor supply.

Pastor is planning Lenten services on Wednesday evening's beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 14.

Planning is just getting started for the church 150 birthday celebration.

Kelly will write the report for Church annual business letter.

We have one vacancy on the Worship board. Dave Adams will be our liaison to the church council. Dave Meschke is going off the worship board. Thanks to Dave for your dedication to our board and for all you do for the church.

The next meeting date will be January 31. New meeting time and date will be discussed at that time as well as new officers for the coming year. Barbara Bock volunteered to be secretary.

Barbara Bock, Secretary



FACILITIES BOARD
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Fairmont MN

MINUTES OF JAN 11, 2018 MEETING WHICH CONVENED AT 7:00 PM

Attending: Brad, Dan, Jacob, Kris, Larry L, Tim, Larry T, Byron,
Absent:, Dean

Board Membership:

Chair:	Larry Lasch	1015 Hengen St.	432-8121 cell
Vice Chair:	Tim Campe	Campe.Tim@gmail.com	235-3660 home 236-7322 cell
Liaison:	Open		
Budget:	Kris Ziemer	ziemerkriss@yahoo.com	236-3254 cell
Sec:	Byron Phillips	bephillips@frontiernet.net	236-4020 cell
	Brad Cone	bradc@grahamtire.net	236-0860 cell
Nominating:	Dan Thate	Bookem66@hotmail.com	236-5443 cell
	Larry Thompson	larcart@frontiernet.net	236-2250 cell
	Jacob Shoen	jshoen50@hotmail.com	848-1784 cell

The board will meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm
Lawn Mowing/Snow Removal Schedule (Schedule runs from 0001 Monday morning thru 2359 Sunday.
If you are not able to meet the schedule, it is your responsibility to contact a substitute.
Schedule is posted in the Church office

NEW BUSINESS:

- Reviewed Leaders Guide.
- Elected officers for 2018
- Larry T. will put the 2018 Lawn Mowing/Snow Removal schedule together and post in Church Secretary's office.
- Facilities will do the **Community Meal - March 28, 2018.**
- Heritage Hall -tile (the same as the kitchen)will replace about 20' of carpeting where food is served/picked up. This work will start early February.
- Facilities - Capital Projects:
 - >Air conditioner for office hallway and entrance
 - >Convert lights throughout church to LED.
 - >New riding lawn mower.
 - >Ceiling Heritage Hall to cover-up duct work etc.
- Approved upcoming projects:
 - >Replace Fireside Room ceiling lights with LED lights.
 - >Replace lights above Downtown Plaza entrance with LED lights.
- Discussion on air conditioning hallways and entrance.
 - >1 furnace would heats/cools – nursery room, 2 office level bathrooms, 2 offices and copy room.
 - >2nd furnace would heat/cool 2 -alley level bathrooms, supply/utility room, Financial Secretary's office.
 - >Air conditioning discussion needs to involve A-OK people that know the furnace layout of the church.
- What can be done about AC and what cannot be done.
- Discussion about adding line item to budget "service – maintenance of equipment".
- Projects:
 - >LED lights in sanctuary.
 - >Bat control.
 - >Missing railing outside of kitchen – safety issue.
 - >Signage for parking in alley – unread able.



FACILITIES BOARD
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Fairmont MN

MINUTES OF JAN 11, 2018 MEETING WHICH CONVENED AT 7:00 PM - CONT'D

OLD BUSINESS:

Board members that have keys to church: Brad, Dean, Larry L, Larry T, Steve, Tim, and Byron
Liaison positions needs to be filled.

Kapp's Fire Protection 877-262-1141. = fire extinguishers.

Bat control-Looked at exterior of church exhaust/air inlets- need to check and replace screen. Repaired air inlet above classrooms.

Projects in the water leak north tower – a company from New Ulm came to look at roof/north tower. Upon inspection – the rubber mat that covers the roof and installation joints appear to be ok. The issue appears to be where the water flows from the flat roof to the downspout. The company will complete another job in town then with their equipment be able to access and repair the problem area.

GENERAL PROJECTS TO DO

Mount AED

Replace 26-year-old furnace. Estimate for material and labor is \$3,278.00

Other items

Reach outside the church into the community.

A list of projects that could be done to keep the church property in shape:

- >Stage area
- >Side rooms to stage
- >Patio in the Park
- >Ceiling Heritage Hall

Next meeting is **Thursday Feb 8, 2018 @ 7 pm.**



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

First Congregational UCC

MINUTES OF JANUARY 11TH MEETING WHICH CONVENED AT 5:00



Attending: Donna Grotte, Marabelle Lindell, Becky Phillips, Deb Thate, Abby Shoen, Catherine Johnson. Past members: Cathy Celander, Delores Gronewald.

Work meeting was held in preparation of breakfast burritos for fundraiser (snowmobile races) to be held at the Yacht Club on Jan. 13th.

November Minutes were handed out.

Sign up for 2018 Coffee Fellowship:
(to be posted in upstairs coffee room)

Jan.	Pat Cowing (236-4622)
Feb.	Catherine Johnson (236-1457)
March	Donna Grotte (236-0117)
Apr.	Marabelle Lindell
May	Pat Cowing
June	Becky Phillips (236-5136)
July	Marabelle Lindell
Aug.	Abby Shoen
Sept.	Catherine Johnson
Oct.	Donna Grotte
Nov.	Becky Phillips
Dec.	Abby Shoen

Hospitality Board officers for 2018:

Chairperson: (open)

Secretary: Becky

Nominating: Donna

Purchasing Rep: Donna

Hospitality meetings will continue to meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at either 5:00 or 7:00 PM or as called.

Contact to be made with Kay Campe to choose a Free Community Meal month. A Summer month has been chosen.

2018 Projects to be discussed in Feb.

Holy Hot dish in May

Harvest Fest in Nov.

Cookie Walk in Dec.

Chairman needed for Harvest Fest. Past chairmen, Jodi W. and Marilyn F. need to be contacted.

Feb. discussion: making lists of left-over food items after events in order to use them at another time.

What is available and where is it stored? To be posted in the kitchen and reviewed when someone is setting up next event.

Becky Phillips,
Secretary



DIACONATE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 3, 2018

Present: Ken Rachuy, Eric Johnson, Pastor Cory Germain, Jane Kotewa, Amanda Jaskulke, Abigail Roiger, Cory Hainy

Absent: Carolyn Thompson, Tranna Urban

Meeting opened with a prayer by Jane Kotewa.

Minutes of the December 6, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

Thank you Ken for your years on this board, it is greatly appreciated. Welcome aboard Abigail

Pastor Cory Comments: Visits continue to be made to those on the Cares & Concerns list

Care Team: treats were delivered at Christmas time. Be aware that prayer shawls/lap quilts are available for those on the list that might need it.

Council Update: Nothing to report at this time.

Membership: 1 death, Lucille Gorgen. Membership transfer was accepted for Megan Maruschin via email

Visitors: There are a couple of other people that have expressed an interest in joining.

Budget: Diaconate lines were approved as submitted.

February 11th those available from the board will deliver flowers and Valentine's

Diaconate Board Assignments 2018:

Chairperson: Jane Kotewa

Secretary: Amanda Jaskulke

Cards to the ill: Carolyn Thompson

Nominating Committee: Eric Johnson

Budget Committee: Abigail Roiger

Care Team Liaison: Carolyn Thompson/Tranna Urban

Deacon of the month:

January - Carolyn Thompson

February - Eric Johnson

March - Eric Johnson

Other months will be filled at the February meeting

Next meeting will be February 7th at **6:00pm**

Meeting Adjourned

Amanda Jaskulke, Secretary



1ST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES OF
JANUARY 17, 2018 MEETING

Present: Julie Elliott, Dave Adams, Ellen Germain, James Marushin, Cory Hainey, Jodi Kuhlers, Mary Don Kislingbury, Catherine Johnson, David Meschke, Marilyn Forstrom, and Rev. Cory Germain

Pastor Germain led in devotion and opening prayer

Joy Pollock joined the Council to inquire about plans for recognition for Cheryl and Michi. Plans were discussed and Joy will move forward with them. She also inquired regarding plans for moving forward without a CE Coordinator. Ellen and James shared the plans CE Board has made for this.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report was received. The church had a good year financially in 2017.

Minister's Report: Pastor Cory reported on a busy December and early January. He was able to take a couple of vacation days. He will not be gone on Feb. 4 as previously expected. He also shared upcoming activities on his part.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to elect Ellen Germain as CE Liaison.

Board Reports

Facilities – No liaison

Finance – Dave M. reported that the budget planning process went well and proposed budget was approved by the Finance Board. They also accepted a gift of 6 cemetery plots from the Fancher Family. These cannot be sold but used for those in need.

Hospitality – Catherine reported that the Board made breakfast burritos for the Icekahana/NSSR concessions and that Abby Namkin will be the chairperson this year.

Christian Ed – Ellen reported that board assignments (except chair/vice-chair) have been made and plans are in place for teachers of Pre –K-1 thru 6th grade. The Board is working on plans for the Family Fun Fair and Easter egg hunt.

Diaconate – Cory H. reported that visits continue to shut ins, treats were delivered at Christmas time and flowers and Valentine's will be delivered in Feb. Board assignments have been made.

Missions – Mary Don reported on the success of Christmas Fund offering and Heifer Project as well as upcoming Kids Against Hunger and One Great Hour of Sharing.

Worship – Ace reported on Christmas Eve attendance (135). Board is investigating oil candles for pew candelabras and making ongoing worship plans, including Lent.

Old Business:

Annual meeting will be January 28 followed by Potluck. Ace reported on the snowmobile race concessions (mixed – lower attendance, a lot of work, good for us to be out in the community as a church). Our Sesquicentennial celebration was discussed with possible time to tie into Interlaken Heritage Days (June 8-10). We will need someone to step forward to organize. Julie reported on the status of the church directories and the number of extras we should order. M/S/C to purchase 150 copies.

New Business:

There was discussion regarding the email vote to approve a new tile floor from the kitchen to the arch, as well as the need to have a "standard operating procedure" or flow chart for the appropriate process for approving donation/expenditures for projects. James will work on a draft for the next meeting.

A sizable donation has been made to the church for supplementing the local school lunch program for students unable to afford it. Pastor Cory will work on this with Cindy Martens and the Missions Board.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be February 21, 2018 at 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted: Marilyn Forstrom, Church Clerk



CE BOARD MET WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10TH AT 6:30

Present were Pastor Cory, Ellen, Tara, Melissa, Jessi, Kathy, Jim, Megan, and Kay.

Officers were appointed.

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary Kathy J

Nominating Jessi K

Budget Tara T

Ellen G will be the liaison for the board.

Chair and Vice Chair still have to be filled.

Curriculum was discussed (Feeding on the age) a motion was made by Ellen and second by Tara to order the two C D's one for Pre K-1,2 and one for 3-4. Cory will get this ordered and should be here by March. Till then we will work with what we have.

Teachers for the classes will be Kay for Pre-K-1 and board members with the help from volunteers from the congregation will do the 2nd through 6th grade. Ellen offered to do the prep work for these teachers teaching Sunday School.

Family Fun Fair is April 6th. Cory will check with CER and get us registered. Ideas should be brought to the next board meeting on what we will do. Missions would be willing to help with this. Keep in mind it is our 150 th Anniversary.

Easter egg hunt is coming up the end of March. We will have to have a craft project and enough candy to fill 500 eggs. We are not hosting this year but our help will be needed to help make it a good time.

We will host the free community meal in August.

We have to keep in mind to ask the congregation for help with any of these projects we do.

Vacation Bible School was brought up. Are we willing to have one, where is the interest at for this event.

Next CE Board will be held on February 7th at 6:30.

There will be no Sunday school on January 14th

Tara will teach on January 21 st. Ellen will sub for Kay

Jessi will teach on January 28 th

Melissa will teach February 4th Ellen will sub for Kay

Melissa will teach February 11th

The rest of February and March will be discussed at our next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted Kathy J





STARFISH FUND



Thank you to the many members and friends of First Congregational UCC who have supported our unique Starfish ministry over the years. After helping over 45 individual recipients from our community and congregation in 2017, our fund is in need of the very re-growth its name implies. Please consider a gift to Starfish this month, or at regular times in the future, so that we can continue this valuable outreach ministry. Thanks, Pastor Cory

MEMORIAL GIVING

Date	Memory/Honor of	Donor Designation	Family Designation From
3-Dec	Honor of Pat & Bill Cowing	School Lunch Program	Everett & Lela Hanning
3-Dec	Memory of Kathleen Thate		Virginia Riedesel
3-Dec	Memory of Kathleen Thate	Blanket Fund	Don & Shelby Marks
10-Dec	Honor of Lee & Everett Hanning	Starfish	Patricia Cowing
10-Dec	Memory of Kathleen Thate		Jane Kotewa
10-Dec	Memory of Cal & Jean Christensen	Starfish	Mick, Dawn, Kelly, and Bryan Parker
10-Dec	Memory of Kathleen Thate	Capital	Pat & Randy Rowan
17-Dec	Memory of times past		Marjorie Markquart

Lent





PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Feb. 4

Diaconate: Eric B. Johnson
Head Usher: Brad Cone
Reader: Joy Pollock
Greeters: Cindy and John Anderson
Acolytes:

Feb. 18

Diaconate: Eric B. Johnson
Head Usher: Cory Hainy
Reader: Cathy Celander
Greeters: Don and Shelby Marks
Acolytes:

Feb. 11

Diaconate: Eric B. Johnson
Head Usher: Bill Cowing
Reader: Tara Thedens
Greeters: Abigail Roiger & Wendy Ziemer
Acolytes:

Feb. 25

Diaconate: Eric B. Johnson
Head Usher: Lorin Pollock
Reader: Cameron Germain
Greeters: Brad Cone & Sherry Larson
Acolytes:

New Addresses:

Virginia Charlton
Kingsley Shores
16880 Klamath Trail, Apt # 234
Lakeville, MN 55044
(952) 435- 5160

Lorraine Harper
Brookdale
500 Carlson Parkway #347
Minnetonka, MN 55305
235-3842

Coming up:

March is Minnesota Food Share Month and we will be holding our annual food drive!



MARCH NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE: FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 23RD

BY 9:00 AM



First Congregational Church UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031-1776

Dear Friends:

Your generous donation to the Church World Service Blankets+ program tells people in crisis, "You're not alone. Someone cares."

We are deeply grateful for your support. Because of your compassion,

- Families who have lost their homes to tornadoes, floods, earthquakes and other disasters are getting help with blankets, emergency food and shelter – and with rebuilding their lives and livelihoods.
- People struggling against crushing poverty and harsh climates are learning sustainable farming practices that will help them keep food on the table – and take it to market.
- Vulnerable children have access to clean, safe water and the nutritional food essential to growth, development and life itself.

On behalf of all the people who feel more hopeful and less alone because of your generosity, we thank you. Please accept this Blankets+ certificate honoring your vital partnership with CWS in building a world where there is enough for all.

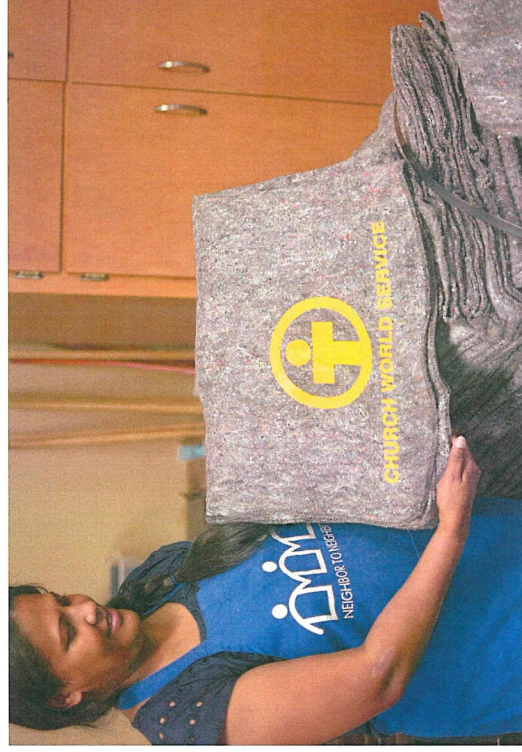
Sincerely,

Rev. John L. McCullough
President and CEO
Church World Service

P. S. To find out more about the individuals, families and communities you're helping, please read the most recent **Blankets+ report** enclosed here, or visit www.blanketsplus.org.

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Church World Service • Elihart Corporate Center • 28606 Phillips Street • P.O. Box 998 • Elkhart, IN 46515 • P (574) 264-3102 • F (574) 262-0966
New York Corporate Center • 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 700 • New York, NY 10115 • P (212) 870-2061 • F (212) 870-3220 • info@cwsglobal.org



CWS Blankets Honor Certificate

*In grateful recognition of your support
for emergency response and sustainable development
around the world through Church World Service.*

First Congregational Church UCC

Fairmont, MN

December 2017

Building a world with enough for all.



February Anniversaries

February 2, 1963

Bob & Jan Cone

55 years

February 14, 1998

Jon & Cindy Anderson

20 years

February 20, 1949

Bill & Bev Norman

69 years



February 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 Brown
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
Harry Brummond

Feb. 28 Matt Guritz