

July 2021

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

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First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031



WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fairmont, Minnesota*

Rev. Cory Germain
Minister

Ann Osborn
Administrative Assist

Joyce Jorgenson
Choir Director

How to reach us....

Church Office
507-235-5382

Hours: Tuesday—Friday
9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.

E-mail
uccsecretary319@gmail.com

Web Site Address
www.fairmontucc.org

Rev. Cory Germain

Office Hours:

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday 12:30 p.m. through
evening meetings & activities

Thursday 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Rev. Cory's phone: 507-399-8282

Worship Hours

Worship 9:30
Communion the first Sunday
of every month.

The Reverend's Ruminations

What a difference a year (or two or more) makes!?! As I sat down to write this month's "Ruminations," Ellen had just shared a Facebook memory picture of much younger Emma and Cameron holding a "Welcome home, Dad" sign as I arrived for a mid-tour leave from Afghanistan near the end of June in 2010. That got me reminiscing (and looking back with the help of my Google calendar) over Julys-gone-by, where I noticed some fairly significant milestones in the years since:

In July of 2016, I had already done two long-distance Skype interviews with the First Congregational UCC pastoral search committee, and was wrapping up operations in Kuwait with the 682nd Engineer Battalion. The following month would bring a final interview in Fairmont and an offer to become your settled pastor later in the fall. July of 2017 and 2018 were rather "normal," with a little bit of family vacation as well as involvement in the Blue Earth Town & Country Players' musicals. In July of 2019 I had just returned from a short-notice Army Chaplain class at Fort Jackson, SC and was preparing to ride the Habitat 500 with Eric Johnson. Ironically, by July of 2020 I swore into the Air National Guard--and we were still planning how and when we might resume in-person worship after months of COVID restrictions. Now here in July of 2021, I have been back from Air Force Chaplain training for just over a month, and worship services are *finally* back to a mostly "normal" in-person format. As they say, nothing is constant but CHANGE!

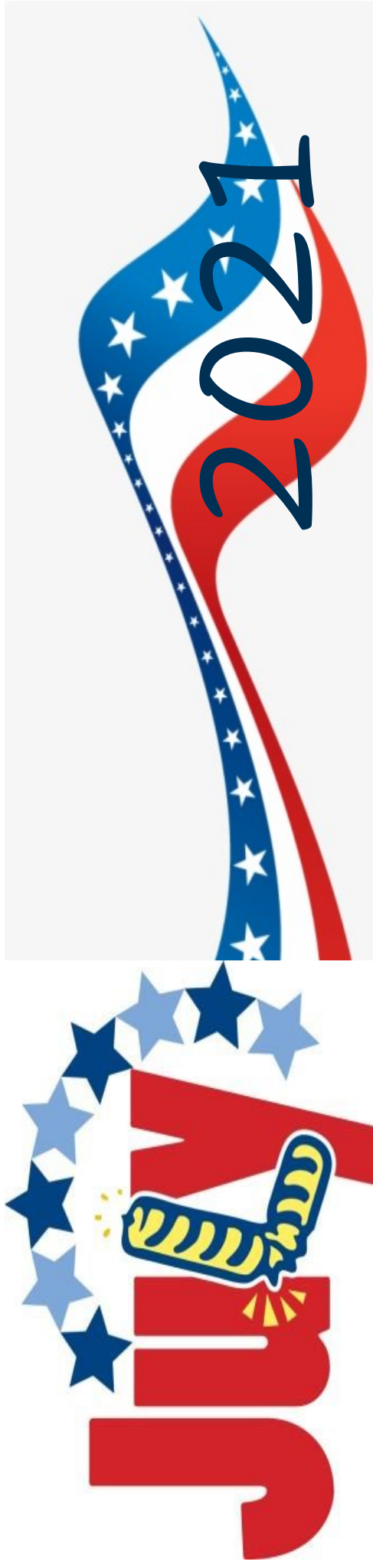
Speaking of change, after a couple summers without enough children to make Vacation Bible School possible, we have just concluded a successful three-day run of evening VBS with over a dozen kids in attendance at its peak. This is thanks to a greatly-increased enthusiasm for Sunday School and VBS by our energetic Christian Education Board, who deserve our thanks—and probably a bit of a summer break themselves! If you have children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews, or even neighbors who are school age, I hope you'll encourage them to regularly attend Sunday School when it resumes in September. Our children are the future of First Congregational United Church of Christ, so please keep encouraging their attendance and involvement!


IF our country and state continue to see improved vaccination rates, I hope that other activities of the church can resume or shift back toward "normal" (whether that's the "old normal" or a "new normal"). By August or September, it's likely that we'll once again be able to host our Free Community Meal indoors, and perhaps the choir will be able to resume singing as well. This all remains to be seen, and really is a "team" effort of both congregation and community, so continue to pray—for health, common sense, and a spirit of cooperation throughout the world.

As the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us, *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven... I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him"* (3:1, 12-14, NRSV). I pray that you and yours will stay cool in the weeks ahead, and find moments of summer relaxation that recharge your physical and spiritual batteries for the seasons ahead.

Yours in Christ's service,

Rev. Cory Germain



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 T.O.P.S.	2	3
4 Communion 9:30 Worship 	4	6 10:00 Lakeview Communion	7 5:30 Worship Board	8 5:15 Hospitality 7:00 Facilities 6:00 T.O.P.S.	9	10
11 9:30 Worship Combined Svc w/St John's UCC @ Sylvania Park	12 5:00 FCH Foundation	13	14 5:15 Mission Board 6:30 CE Board	15 6:00 T.O.P.S.	16 9:00 am Council Agenda Items Deadline	17
18 9:30 Worship	19	20 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	21 5:45 Church Council	22 6:00 T.O.P.S.	23 9:00 am August Newsletter Submission Deadline	24
25 9:30 Worship Blessing Box Heaven's Table Back- pack Program	26 4:30 Parent To Parent (Lincoln Park)	27	28 5:30 Free Community Meal	29 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 T.O.P.S	30	31

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 6-16-2021**

The Council met in Heritage Hall. The meeting was called to order by Moderator, Marilyn Forstrom.

Pastor Germain led in prayer.

Members Present: Larry Thompson, Marilyn Forstrom, Abigail Roiger, Dave Adams, Cathy Celander, Sue Kruse, Jane Kotewa, Wendy Ziemer, Kay Campe, Christina Hainy. Ex-officio members: Pastor Germain and Dara Bliesmer, Ass't Treasurer.

Members Absent: Robbin Celander, Catherine Johnson.

Minutes of the May meeting had a minor change in attendance.

Treasurers Report Treasurer was not in attendance, but the report was available. Motion was M/S/C (Dave/Wendy) to receive the Treasurer's report.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education VBS is June 21-23 at night.

Hospitality: Cathy reported that pies were made, and the Pie Social and pork chops on a stick for IHD were successful.

Missions: Kay reported that Relay for Life is approaching and is a drive-thru this year.

Facilities: Larry reported that Krause Construction is finished except for some painting. The free community meal on June 30th will serve pork on a bun, baked beans, chips, ice cream sandwich and water. They will be building some shelves in the scraping room to store community meal food supplies.

Diaconate: Sue reported that rides to church were discussed. A schedule will be made.

Worship: Dave reported that there will be a joint Sunday service at Sylvania Park with St. John's on July 11th. Ellen Germain will be preaching on June 27th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Capital Campaign Report: Marilyn reported that they are thinking of having a kick-off meal in September. Possibly running with stewardship.

OLD BUSINESS:

Brodt gift: A motion was M/S/C (Dave/Abigail) to transfer the Brodt gift to Operating Reserve at Edward Jones.

IHD review: 125 pork chops and 35 pies were sold. We will do our own advertising next year to include our address.

Latino Community Vaccination/Multicultural Event: June 26th 2-6pm. The basement will be used for giving vaccinations (Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson) and for using restrooms. Park will be used for activities.

COVID changes: It is posted to wear a mask in the church if you are not vaccinated.

NEW BUSINESS: Rental of a room in the church discussed. The room is being used already.

Pastor Germain closed with a prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Clerk

In Memory of

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
23-May	Memory of Hollie Hogie	Capital	Daniel & Debra Thate
30-May	Memory of Hollie Hogie	Starfish	Cindy & Jon Anderson
30-May	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Les Heinrich
30-May	Memory of Hollie Hogie	Capital	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
7-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey		David Meschke
6-Jun	Memory of Jack Mackey	General	Les Heinrich
6-Jun	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Les Heinrich

DEAR ONE AND ALL —
 THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE
 LOVING AND CARING THOUGHTS AND
 PRAYERS. I FELT EACH AND
 EVERY ONE. MY TREATMENTS HAVE
 GONE VERY WELL AND NOW ON TO
 THE NEXT STEPS. PRAYER CHAINS DO
 WORK !!

SINCERELY

ANN
 HARTMANN



Ms. Ann Hartmann
 1018 N Hampton St
 Fairmont, MN 56031

Thank you!

What is a vacation?

A vacation is a succession of 2's. It consists of 2 weeks, which may be 2 short. Afterwards, you are 2 tired 2 return 2 work, but 2 broke not 2. Therefore, be sure 2 bring or mail 2 to the church your 2 weeks' offering before you leave. (If not, we will be 2 far behind 2 to do all the things for the Lord that he wants us 2 do.)



-Submitted by Mary Don Kislingbury

July 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.



BackPack Program

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 put in the offering plate, mailed to the church or left in the back pack in the entryway. Food donations should be left in the entryway.



Happy Anniversary Hannings!

Everett was born at home in Granada to Hilda (Johnson) and Walter Hanning. He is the oldest of 4 sons. His family moved to Granada homes or farms almost every year until he graduated from high school in 1955. He was an honor student during high school years and was co-captain of the basketball and football teams. During his school years he did odd jobs for several different people in town and helped several farmers during the summer months as well as working at the pea viner (southeast of Granada.)

After graduation he worked for Hodgman Construction until he was hired at the Fairmont Railway Motors/Harsco going from the drafting department to the Foundry and then Welding Department where he was ultimately promoted to Welding Supervisor. He retired 37 years later.

Everett served in the National Guard from 1957-1963. He worked at Winnebago Manufacturing until the "Motors" called him back. He was the owner/operator of Hanning Saw Sharp at home in Granada. After retirement he worked at Kevko Mfg. in Fairmont part-time for 20 years.

He was a 20-yr member of Granada Fire Dept. and Fire Chief for 8 years. He served on the Granada City Council, Granada Chamber of Commerce, Granada Congregational UCC Church Council, & Sunday School Teacher. He was Sound Technician for Cong. UCC Choir, Sound Technician of Granada Community Choir, Sound Technician at Gila Mt. United Methodist of Yuma, Az. Earth. (He loves to whittle!)

He asked Lee (Lela Eisenbarger) for a date late in their freshman year and dated her all through their high school years and beyond until they were married on June 30, 1956, and are celebrating 65 years of marriage in a few weeks!

Lee was born at Hunt Hospital in Fairmont to Ernest & Dora (Godfrey) Eisenbarger. She is the oldest of 3 kids. Her sister Donna Mae only lived one day. Her brother Clifford was 5 years younger than Lee. During high school, Lee was an honor student graduating as salutatorian of their class of 1955.

She attended Mankato Commercial College and then began working at Fairmont Hospital Building Fund and Fairmont Hospital. She attended Prairie Lakes Extended Campus in Fairmont and Arizona Western College, in Yuma, AZ in the mid-1990's where she & Everett wintered from 1993-2004.

She has been a private secretary, bookkeeper, office manager, Church Director of Music in Granada and Yuma, Az, Church organist in Granada as well as Sherburn. She has been a payroll clerk, and restaurant Hostess.

Lee has been a 4-H member and leader, served on Granada Chamber of Commerce, Granada Jaycee Women, Fairmont Hospital Auxiliary, Granada Congregational Member, Church Council member, Granada Church Remodeling Chair, Mother's Club, sang in Granny's Gals, member of Mayflower Circle, Women's Fellowship, Sunday School Teacher, Church

Everett & Lee have three children:

Kevin, Teresa (m. to Dave), & Chris (m. Linda).

Linda has 2 children: Jodi & Jon. (They are both married with families.)

Teresa has 4 children: Anne, Ashley, Austin, & Tomarah.

Anne has 4 children: Madison, Arik, Charley, and Lincoln.

**Interview with Everett and
Lee Hanning - June 14, 2021**

Friendly Reminder: To save on wear and tear, we do not loan our tables out for members' use.

HyVee and Fareway Receipts Report

Report as of 13 June 2021

During the last four weeks, \$7,918.39 (5.28%) worth of

Hy-Vee slips were turned in. After 37 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$125,355.47 (83.57%) toward the 13th \$150,000 goal.

During the same four weeks, \$5,274.98 (3.52%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 19 weeks, Fareway is at \$32,061.12 (21.37%) toward our 4th \$150,000 goal.

Thanks for bring into the Church, or mailing them to me. Even the very small amounts help. This program started the first of March 2011, so any slips from then until now can be

used. I was surprised that with all

that was going on at the church on

Saturday, the 12th of June, only one

slip from Hy-Vee gas was turned

in for the week. Any Fairmont Fare-

way and Hy-Vee food store register slip can be used. Even slips

from Hy-Vee Gas, Coffee Shop, Food Service, and Pharmacy help us toward



We are looking for church members willing to drive shut-ins to worship services. Please call the office with Sundays that will work for you and we will create the schedule. Thank you!

Taste and see
that the LORD
is good.

Psalm 34v8



9:00 a.m.

July 23rd is the
August Newsletter
submission deadline.

Thank you Sherry V. for
folding and sealing the
June newsletters!

SEIFRIED PORTRAIT DESIGN AUCTION

CERTIFICATE

The church has an available certificate, donated by Seifried Portrait Design, good for \$125.00 for a family session. This item has an expiration of 7/31/21.

The 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 our members:

Cindy Anderson, Lee Hanning,
Pastor Cory Germain, Jon Neitzel,
Dave Meschke and Deb Thate.

You'll find the full-color version of the newsletter on the church website at: <http://www.fairmontucc.org/>

Orzo Salad



I had some leftover spinach orzo, so I concocted a salad.

Here's how I made it:

2 cups orzo, that has been cooked per pkg directions in milk and chicken broth.

Cool well and add:

Plenty of diced celery
(3-4 ribs)

1/2 of a red onion, diced

1/2-2/3 cup Kalamata olives,
sliced in half

1 can chick peas (otherwise
known as garbanzo beans),
rinsed and drained well

Plenty of fresh spinach, sliced in ribbons or small bite-sized pieces.

Dress with Aldi's Tuscan Garden Mediterranean Salad Dressing

(or your favorite Italian or vinaigrette dressing) Toss well. Crumble in Feta Cheese to taste. Refrigerate awhile before serving.

This salad keeps well.



JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

July Anniversaries 2021

July 6	Lyle & Charlene Norris	58 years
July 9	Jason & Amber Brummond	10 years
July 13	Roger & Marian Buchan	64 years
July 14	Jon & Terry Riggs	31 years
July 17	Mark & Margo Becker	17 years
July 20	Tracy & Jessi Kotewa	19 years
July 21	Brad & Vonnie Cone	20 years
July 22	Lorin & Joy Pollock	26 years
July 22	Jeff & Nanci Skog	36 years
July 24	Jeff & Renae Vetter	34 years
July 25	Tony & Jenna Smith	6 years
July 26	Matt & Brittany Goerndt	7 years
July 27	Mark & Rita Craven	47 years
July 30	Dave & Cindy Martens	38 years

July Birthdays 2021

July 1	Roger Lindell	July 17	Emily Rose Cain
July 3	Catherine Johnson	July 17	Haley Harder
July 4	Judie Orr	July 18	Shelby Marks
July 9	Ken Howes		Dalene Prindle
July 10	Julie Elliott	July 19	Joy Rachuy
July 11	Sydney Hainy		Abby Shoen
July 12	Pat Rowan	July 20	Kelly Moller
July 14	Margo Weaver	July 21	Alex Neitzel
July 15	Marilyn Forstrom		Sarah Wannarka
	Kevin Moller	July 24	Nicholas Thate
		July 25	Robbin Celander