

May 2023

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

Nonprofit
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Fairmont, MN 56031



First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031



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*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fairmont, Minnesota*

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
Minister

Christina Hainy
Administrative Assist.

Joyce Jorgenson
Choir Director

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 10:00

Sunday school 10:00

Communion the first Sunday of
every month.



MAY 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Meals on Wheels	2 Meals on Wheels	3 4:00 Confirmation 6:00 Worship Bd. 7:00 Choir Meals on Wheels	4 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS (CH) Meals on Wheels	5 Meals on Wheels	6
7 Communion 10:00 Worship/ Sunday School	8 Meals on Wheels	9 10:00 Lakeview Communion 7:00 Facilities Bd Meals on Wheels	10 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Diaconate Bd, Mission Bd 5:45 CE Bd 7:00 Choir Meals on Wheels	11 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS (CH) 5:15 Hospitality Bd. Meals on Wheels	12 9:00 Council Agenda Items Due Meals on Wheels	13
14 Mother's Day 10:00 Worship/ Sunday School	15 Meals on Wheels	16 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	17 4:00 NO Confirmation 5:45 Church Council 7:00 Choir	18 Ascension Day 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS (CH)	19 9:00 Newsletter items Due	20
21 Senior/ Teacher/SS children Recognition 10:00 Worship/ Last Sunday School	22	23	24 4:00 NO Confirmation 7:00 Choir	25 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS (CH)	26	27
28 Pentecost Sunday 10:00 Worship Blessing Box collection	29 Memorial Day 	30	31 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Free Community Meal			

The Reverend's Ruminations - May 2023

It seems hard to believe that the long, reflective, often cold and snowy journey of Lent is now in our past. Even the excitement and joy of Easter morning—pleasantly mild compared to the days and weeks leading up to it—may seem to have come and gone. But they are not. Easter may be a day on a calendar to some, who see only an opportunity to hide little plastic eggs, gorge on chocolate, or enjoy a fancy dinner with family. But we didn't come to church back on April 9th just to show off a new pastel dress or our finest Easter bonnet; we came to remember (or be jarred into recognition of) Jesus present in our own lives. The church *season of Easter* is not one day, but fifty—concluding on Pentecost Sunday (this year on May 28).

Sometimes we take the Easter message for granted, and forget what an incredible sacrifice Christ made for us upon the cross. We hear the narrative of Jesus' last supper with his disciples, but gloss over the intensely personal offering of "*my body broken for you... my blood shed for you.*" Amidst the busyness of our lives, bread seems like just a dietary staple; grape juice just a refreshing drink filled with healthy antioxidants. But when we receive Holy Communion together as we did on Easter morning, these same elements that we might take for granted in our own cupboard or refrigerator become a sacrament that unites us with fellow believers here in our own congregation, around the world, and—most importantly—with our risen Savior.

When we experience Jesus during special seasons like Christmas, Lent, or Easter, our senses become awakened to experience even our surroundings in a whole new way. Similar to Mary's experience outside the tomb, we are awakened to the physical, emotional, and communal experience of Jesus in our midst—through the taste of the communion elements, the familiar scent of spring flowers in the sanctuary, the stirring brass melodies accompanying a favorite hymn, the feel of the Bible on your lap, and the wooden pew at your back.

Our challenge now is not only to remember Jesus' resurrection, but to continue believing and applying its joy in our lives. I hope that you are always ready to boldly proclaim (as we have in the weeks since Easter morning), "*He is risen...He is risen indeed!*" Sitting in the pews on that bright, sunny Sunday morning it was easy to believe in and affirm the resurrection. But what about three or five weeks after Easter, when someone lets you down, or a friend or loved one suddenly dies, or the things that you gave up during Lent have already returned to your diet, even more tempting than before? Will Easter then be just a distant memory?

As we move through the fifty days of Eastertide and the month of May, our Sunday lectionary readings will include several selections from the Gospel of John, and you'll hear sermons from sections of early chapters in the Acts of the Apostles. While most of us are familiar with chapter two's story of the glorious Pentecost arrival of the Holy Spirit, we tend to wish we could skip accounts like chapter seven's stoning of Stephen. Stephen was one of seven deacons appointed by Jesus' original Apostles to distribute food and charitable aid to poorer members of the community in the early church, but ran afoul of some powerful synagogue leaders of the day for supposed blasphemy against Moses and God. When we consider the "struggles" of being a Christian in today's society (gathering food for Heaven's Table or our Little Free Pantry, delivering Meals on Wheels or serving a Free Community Meal, cleaning a section of highway ditch, or defending/debating our faith among an increasingly secular population), we have nothing to complain about!?!

As we march confidently into May, let us live and speak confidently of our risen Savior, offering peace and hope to those whom we encounter each day. Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Cory Germain



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 4-19-2023

Members Present: Abigail Anderson, Catherine Johnson, Kay Campe, Sue Kruse, Larry Lasch, Robbin Celandier, Erica Jorgensen, Amanda Forstrom, Amber Brummond, Cindy Huset and Christina Hainy. Ex-officio members present: Pastor Cory and Dara Bliesmer, Ass't Treasurer.

The Council met in Heritage Hall at 5:45 PM. The meeting was called to order by Moderator Abigail Anderson. Pastor Cory led in prayer. Motion to approve the minutes from the March 15th meeting was M/S/C (Catherine/Kay).

Treasurer's Report: Catherine Johnson reported that we are in good financial shape and that some money has already been donated towards new sanctuary carpet.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory reported that his time in Alabama was a good continuing education experience. He mentioned doing a graveside service on April 1st for a community member without a home church. He is one of the pastors on-call for that service. Coming up is a baptism, Emma's college graduation and an Air National Guard medical mission "deployment" to Idaho Native American reservations for two weeks in May.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: Amber Brummond noted that they were unable to meet this month. They will not be able to commit to helping at the front lawn carnival during IHD due to their schedules.

Hospitality: Erica Jorgensen said they are meeting on the April 25th and are serving the April free community meal.

Facilities: Larry Lasch brought in a carpet cleaning bid. A motion was M/S/C to hire Jill H. to clean the church's carpets for approximately \$354 (cost may vary slightly by amount of time spent cleaning). (Robbin/Erica)

Diaconate: Sue Kruse stated that they have been working on the Cares & Concerns list.

Mission: Amanda Forstrom said the March blessing box food drive for Heaven's Table brought in \$940 and 250 pounds of food was donated. Meals on Wheels will be delivered by our church May 1-15.

Worship: Cindy Huset reported that the Worship board will serve the May Free Community Meal.

Rummage Sale Committee Report: Kay Campe stated that the rummage sale is the first weekend in August. Dropoff dates are July 22-31. Clothing will NOT be accepted. The stage will be a storage location before the sale. Each board should try to clean out any of their items on the stage and in their areas. The committee will meet again in June.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussed IHD events. No committee right now for a front lawn carnival. Pork chop/pie social is 11-2. Quilt show is 10-3. Still looking at breakfast on the lawn for car show participants.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion on upgrading Dara's Quickbook software. Motion was M/S/C to move to online Quickbooks. (Catherine/Amber)
- Abigail summarized the questions/answer session by Rev. Kelly Gallagher about OCWM and the MN Conference. Rev. Gallagher mentioned the website several times: uccmn.org.
- Discussion on cleaning out the banner room. Each board can look at items stored there.
- Looking for donations of coupons for the Martin County Cleanup Days to get rid of items that cannot be donated after the church rummage sale.

Moderator Abigail Anderson adjourned the meeting, and Pastor Cory closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Clerk

MEMORIALS

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
19-Mar	Memory of Kenneth Rachuy	Wireless Mic	Jane Kotewa
19-Mar	Memory of Kenneth Rachuy	Wireless Mic	Joy Rachuy
26-Mar	Memory of Norman Kohlmeyer	Starfish	Jon & Cindy Anderson
26-Mar	Memory of EvaLyn Carlson		Mary Don Kislingbury
26-Mar	Memory of Verna Lunz	Capital	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
2-Apr	Memory of Kenneth Rachuy	Wireless Mic	Barbara & William Bittman
2-Apr	Memory of Verna Lunz	Starfish	Jane Kotewa
2-Apr	Memory of Verna Lunz	Carpet	Daniel & Debra Thate
2-Apr	Honor of Jim & Barb Bock		Margaret Weaver
2-Apr		General	Les Heinrich
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Les Heinrich
2-Apr	Memory of Verna Lunz		Memorials
9-Apr	Memory of Betty Schumann	Starfish	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
16-Apr	Memory of Verna Lunz		Cory & Carisa Andersen

*Our deepest sympathy to the family of Jim Hough
Jim passed away on April 22.*



Hy-Vee & Fareway Report as of 23 April 2023

During the last five weeks, \$18,416.20 (12.28%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 17 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$72,304.66 (48.20%) toward the 16th \$150,000 goal. If we could get to the \$150,000 by the 31st of May, we could get the \$1,000, BUT we received a letter from Hy-Vee stating that people are doing too good of a job saving their slips and the expense for this program is exceeding their budget, therefore starting the 1st of June, it will take \$200,000 worth of slips to receive the \$1,000. We have been getting to the \$150,000 goal in about 44 weeks and the new \$200,000 will take almost 60 weeks.

During the same time, \$10,078.34 (6.72%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 119 weeks, Fareway reached the goal for the 4th time and is at \$8,839.17 (5.89%) toward our 5th \$150,000 goal. The slips were turned into Fareway on the 9th of April.

This program started the first of March 2011, so any slips from then until now can be used. Slips from 2018 were received during this period of time. A couple of people did specials only at Hy-Vee and had a total bill of on 28 cents. They all help. Any Fairmont Fareway and Hy-Vee food store register slip can be used. Even slips from Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh (Gas), Coffee Shop, Food Service, and Pharmacy help us toward the goal. Thanks to all who bring/mail the slips to the Church, or mailing them or dropping them off at my house. Even the very small amounts help.

Reported by;
Jim Bock

RUMMAGE SALE



SAVE YOUR STUFF!!!

Spring is here and it is a great time to clean your house, garage, storage shed, wherever, and set aside some *good stuff* to sell on the **ALL-CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE!**

More information will be *coming soon*.

The dates have been set to

Friday, August 4, 8 am - 6 pm
Saturday August 5, 8 am - noon

You can bring your **STUFF**
to the church **July 22-31**

We will also have pickups available for those who can't make the deliveries themselves!

Items that sell well:

*Kids toys, sporting goods, household items, tools, games, puzzles, books, jewelry, accessories, collectibles, etc.
(no clothing, please)*

LADIES & GENTS,
START YOUR CLEANING!!!!!!

Mission Minute:

May's Blessing Box is for **Relay for Life. The Martin County event will be held on Saturday, June 24th from 4 PM-11PM. There will also be a car show there at the same time. If you'd like to be a part of our team, look for the signup at the back of the church.

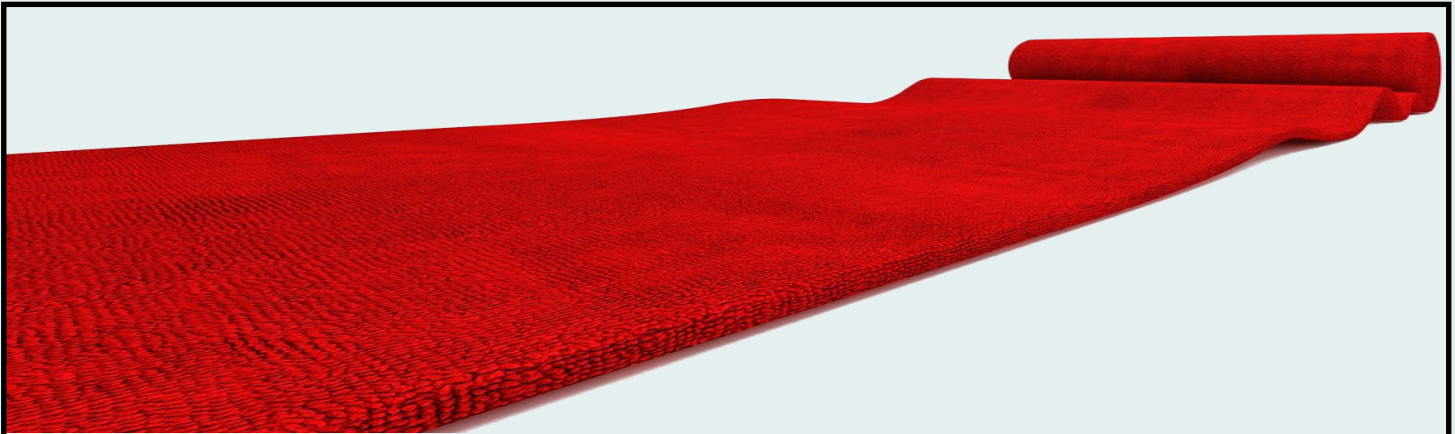
**We donated \$940 to Heaven's Table from the March Blessing Box, AND 250 pounds of food was donated!

We are delivering **Meals on Wheels May 1-15. Thank you to our volunteer drivers this year!

Christian Education News:

*Reminder to get your reimbursement forms turned in for any upcoming summer camps!

***LAST DAY** of Sunday School is **Sunday, May 21st!** On that day, we will have **Senior Recognition, Sunday School Children Recognition & Teacher Recognition!!**



Fundraising for NEW SANCTUARY CARPET!!

We are aiming to raise \$6000 in donations by June 15th for new carpet up the aisle in the sanctuary, on the stairs and up into the choir loft. Please, write "carpet" in the memo line of your check if you would like to donate! Memorials designated for the carpet will be accepted as well. All donations will be matched.

Fun Time for all youth

Parents also welcomed



SATURDAYS IN 2023

Dates: June 3rd

July 8th

August 5th

Time: 9:00 till 1:00

Place: St. John's UCC

**301 North Main
Fairmont, MN**

Free Events:

- *Crafts*
- *Bounce House*
- *Water Slide*
- *Ring Toss*
- *Games*
- *Large Bubbles*
- *Noon Meal*



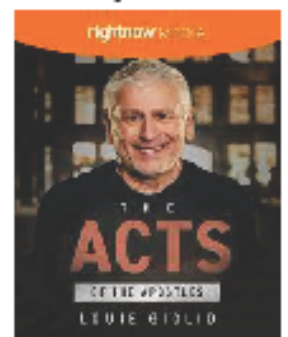
rightnow MEDIA

***Worship services from First Congregational UCC are available (& searchable by date) alongside the other great content on the rightnow MEDIA website & app!**

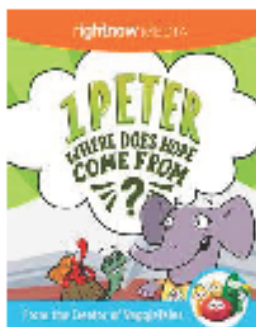
What now? Have you noticed that as a theme in my sermons since Easter? As we continue through the fifty days of the church's Easter season, many of us may be wondering that same thing. The world is quick to focus on the next big celebration or season at hand, seemingly unaware that Jesus' resurrection was not just a miraculous event, but a jumping-off point toward the future ministry of Christian disciples everywhere. As the introduction in *The Guidebook* version of the NRSV Bible translation says, "Acts is full of compromise, conflict, love, community, greed, generosity, powerful living, and violent death." If that sounds like the trailer to a new Netflix drama, think again!?! We will be continuing to interact with the book of Acts during worship services throughout May, so why not take a guided look at its background? Check out Louie Giglio's eight-session series, ***The Acts of the Apostles***:

In a world that is unsure of where to find truth or purpose, the book of Acts stands apart. It reveals God's plan for global redemption, his purpose for our lives, and the power he has given us to accomplish his mission.

Join pastor Louie Giglio in this eight-session series as he walks through the story of the early church. Acts may have been written two thousand years ago, but God is calling us to be a part of that story today.



For the children (and young-at-heart), there is sometimes a disconnect between "hoping" for a puppy or a new toy at the next birthday and the "hope" of eternal life that is such a part of our Christian faith and church conversations. I encourage you and your family to explore the hope expressed in 1 Peter (from which we'll also be reading during May worship services) through a unique and understandable animated series of 8-10 minute videos from a familiar creator:



Phil Vischer, Founder of Jellyfish Labs and co-creator of the acclaimed VeggieTales, dives into the book of 1 Peter to answer the question, "Where does Hope come from?" With the help of some animated friends, Phil unpacks what it means to live with hope for a better, heavenly home.

This third installment in the RightNow-exclusive series packs tons of good theology into short sessions that everyone can enjoy.

*Still need to sign up for a **FREE rightnow MEDIA** account? There are 3 convenient ways:
Go to <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/FCONG>

Text FCONG to 49775, or scan this QR code with your smartphone camera or code reader—>



Once logged in to your **FREE** account, you can click directly on "First Congregational UCC" near the top of the page to access the "Fairmont Worship Services" channel, or "Pastor Cory's Picks"—which 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! If you've discovered a show or video on **rightnow MEDIA** that you think others would enjoy, email me and I'll promote it in next month's column.

~ Pastor Cory

Thank you to our church family for your support and prayer while Carson was in the NICU. We are so grateful to have such vigilant prayer warriors in our corner!

Bless you all!

*With love and gratitude,
Steve and Janine Draper*



Thank you to Sherry Voyles, Kathy Jorgensen, Lorie Zoeller and Margo Weaver for folding and sealing the April newsletter!

Correction to last month's newsletter: Doug and Kris Fuller just celebrated their 41st anniversary on April 10th. Happy Anniversary!!

Your thoughtfulness at this time means more than words can say. Thank you for your kindness.

*The family of
Verna Lunz
Sincerely, Bob*



Congratulations to Scottie Jean Celander and her family on her baptism!!



Free Community Meal for May



Wednesday, May 31, 2023
Serving at 5:30 PM until gone
All are welcome!



First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN

Menu

Cheesy Beef Pasta
Hotdish
Garlic Bread
Green Beans
Bars

Served by the First Congregational UCC Worship Board

Congratulations to our graduating Seniors,
Hannah Goerndt, Paige Hainy and Skyler Weber!

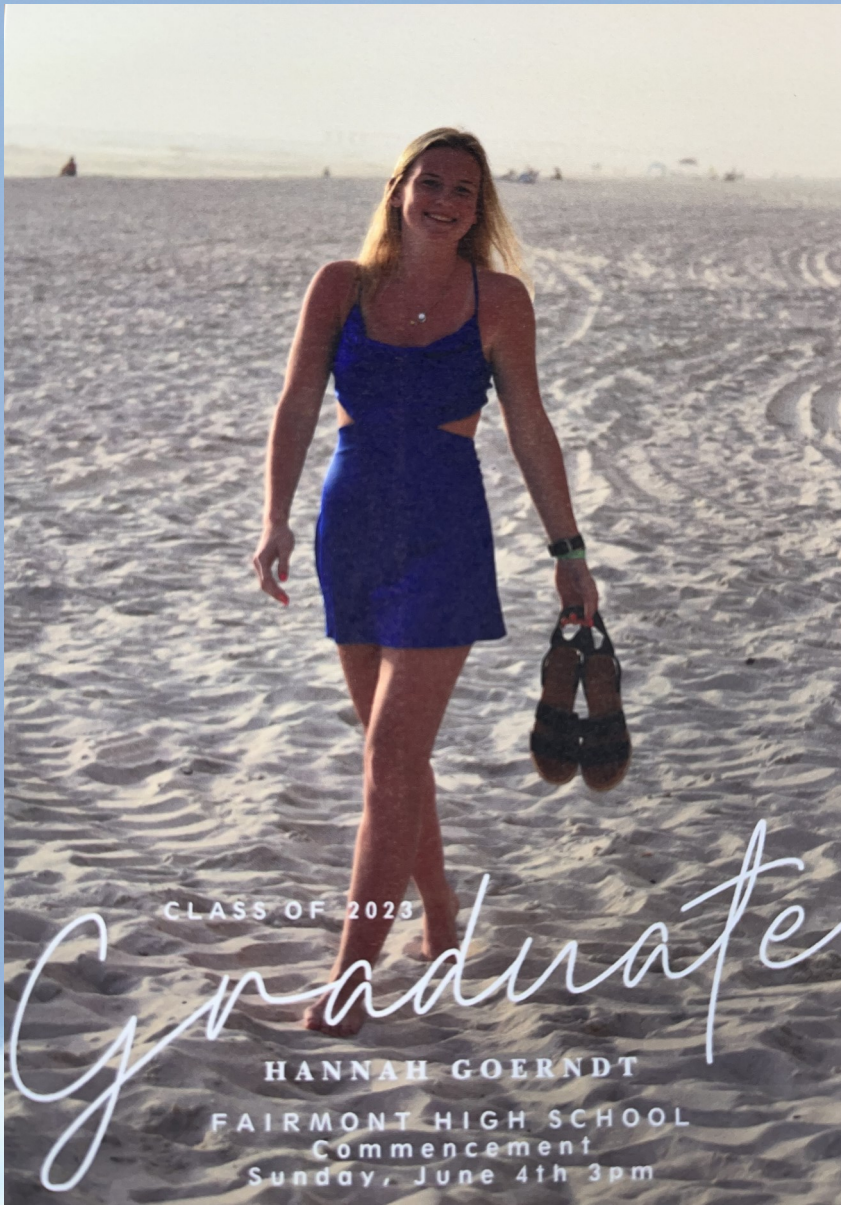


JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE

skyler
graduation party
weber

JUNE 3rd 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Down in the blue shop at Weiss Milling | 104 S. Dugan St. Welcome



CLASS OF 2023

Graduate

HANNAH GOERNDT

FAIRMONT HIGH SCHOOL
Commencement
Sunday, June 4th 3pm



Congrats

Please join us
to celebrate our graduate
Saturday, May 27th from 5-8pm
Chain of Lakes Yacht Club

H A N N A H
G O E R N D T

Hannah will be attending Augustana
University next fall. She will be
studying social work and psychology

CLASS OF TWENTY TWENTY THREE

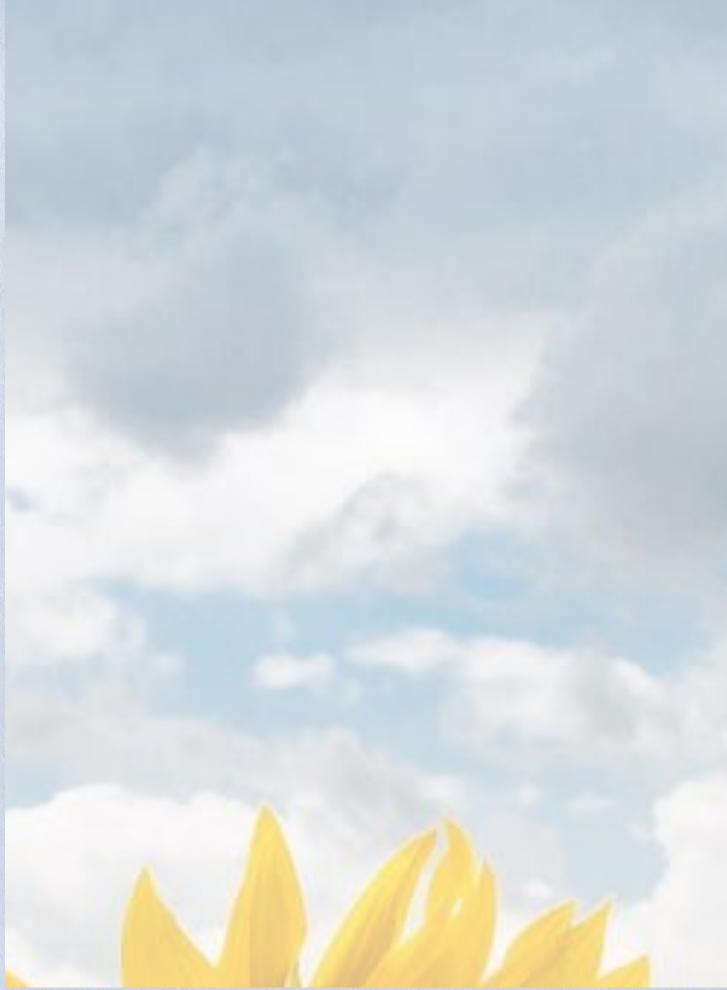


Paige Elizabeth Hainy

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2023

5-8 PM

Red Rock Center for the Arts



Commencement
June 4, 2023
Fairmont High School



Paige will be attending South Dakota State University to study Human Development and Family Studies.



Ellie Hall Shutterfly.
exclusively for shutterfly.com

These pickles are so good that you may want to plant cucumbers this month!! Thanks to Kay Campe and Elaine Zoeller for sharing this recipe. Thanks to Donna Grotte for sharing Bernice Dvorak's recipe (which was mostly the same). Huge jars of these pickles used to be found in our church refrigerator to be enjoyed at meals! They were made by various wonderful church ladies over the years!

Refrigerator Pickles

- 12 C Cucumbers, thinly sliced
- 4 C Onion, thinly sliced
- 3 C Vinegar
- 3 C Sugar
- 1/3 C Salt
- 1 tsp Celery Seed
- 1 tsp Mustard Seed
- 1 tsp Turmeric

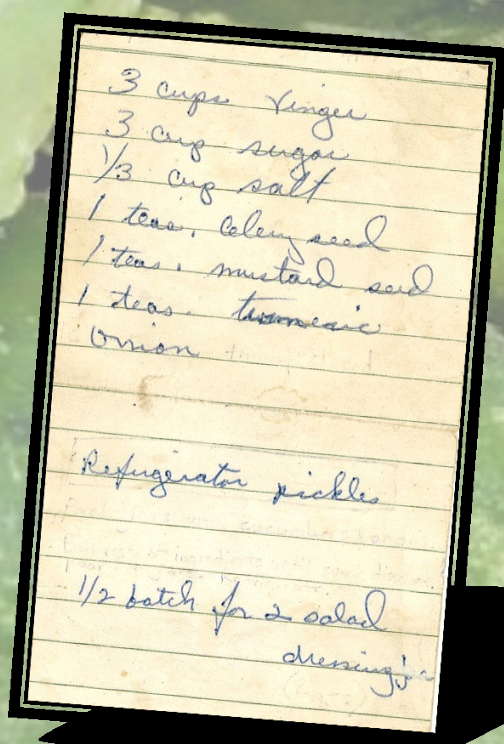
Pack jars with cucumbers & onions.

Boil rest of ingredients until sugar is dissolved.

Pour in jars. Cool. Cover tightly and refrigerate at least 24 hours.

Should make about 4 quarts.

Elaine's original recipe:



Bernice's notes:

Best to dissolve the sugar in the solution (sugar, turmeric, vinegar & pickling salt) first, and then cut up your cucumbers into the jar. Next, add the celery seed, mustard seed and the sliced onions (she notes peppers are always good added.) She uses a gallon jar. At first it looks like you won't have enough syrup but there is plenty. The cucumbers soften and you can push them down to add more cucumbers. Leave on the counter for about 24 hours. Then, refrigerate.

Happy May Day

Happy Anniversary to:

May 1	Kevin & Kelly Moller	41 years
May 3	Kris & Wendy Ziemer	26 years
May 3	Michael & Kara Rowan	9 years
May 6	Carolyn & Larry Thompson	57 years
May 6	Randy & Marcia Musser	46 years
May 9	Tom & Kathy Jorgensen	53 years
May 17	Izzy & Pauline Cruz	38 years
May 25	John & Sherry Larson	49 years
May 28	Dave & Sue Eisenbacher	12 years
May 30	Dave & Karen Cone	26 years

Happy Birthday to:

1	Kamara Cone	16	Dylan Celandier
4	Louis Goerndt	19	Dr. Alice Maday
6	Jodi Kuhlers	20	Anne (Saxton) Wenz
9	Justin Thedens	21	Jim Chipman
	Grace Kotewa	23	Maia Goerndt
10	John Roiger		Reagan Shoen
12	Andrea Thate	24	Lisa Meschke
	Bennett Zabel		Paxton Rachuy
13	Sherry Larson	25	Lorie Zoeller
15	Larry Thompson	31	Cory Hainy
	Carolyn Thompson		
	Hanna Johnson		