

March 2019

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA
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WHEELCHAIR



How to reach us....

Church Office
507-235-5382

Hours:
Tuesday—Friday
9:30-12:30 p.m.

E-mail
ucc319@frontiernet.net

Rev Cory Germain
Pastor

Ann Osborn
Administrative Assistant

Rev. Cory Germain

Office Hours:

Tuesday 9 :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 10:30

Communion the first Sunday of
every month.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	4	5 10:00 Lakeview Communion	6 4:00 Worship Board 6:00 Ash Wed Svc 7:00 Choir Practice	7	8	9
10 Daylight Savings Time 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:45 PRC	11 5:00-6:00 FCH Foundation	12	13 6:00 Lenten Svc 5:00 Mission Board 5:30 Diaconate 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Choir Practice	14 7:00 Hospitality Bnd 7:00 Facilities Board	15	16
17 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	18	19 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	20 6:00 Lenten Svc 5:00 Finance Board 5:30 Church Council 7:00 Choir Practice	21	22 April Newsletter Submission Deadline 9:00 am	23
24 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection: MN Food Share	25 4:30-7:00 Parent To Parent	26	27 6:00 Lenten Svc 5:30 Free Comm Meal 7:00 Choir Practice	28 9:30 Bible Study	29	30
31 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Noisy Sunday—Heifer International						

Happy Birthday

Mar 1	Greg Grotte
Mar 2	Barb Bock Dave Wallien Sophia Brummond
Mar 3	Jennifer Grefe Bill Thompson
Mar 4	Dimitrie Osmundson
Mar 5	Faye Draper
Mar 6	Ann Hartmann
Mar 7	Becky Phillips
Mar 8	Erin True Nanci Skog
Mar 10	Tabb Meyer Koda Massey Kira Massey
Mar 14	Jim Grotte Donna Mitchell
Mar 15	Darwin Kuhlert
Mar 18	Kerstin Johnson
Mar 20	Brad Cone

Mar 22	Kay Hough
Mar 23	Sandy Abraham
Mar 24	Michael Meschke Deb Thate Clint Forstrom
Mar 27	Rorik Cain
Mar 28	Verna Lunz Randy Kruse
Mar 29	Jennifer Neist
Mar 30	Amy Derrera Ken Rachuy



March 3, 2018
Robert & Alexis Thate 1 year

March 17, 2014
Vince & Angela Vaughn 5 years

March 29, 1985
Jim & Judie Orr 34 years

The Reverend's Ruminations

LENT...contrary to popular belief it is not found in your bellybutton or under your refrigerator!?! Or is it? In the literal sense of course, I'm playing with a child's humorous misinterpretation of a Sunday school teacher's pronunciation (particularly in the south). But then again, what does come to your mind when you think about the church season of Lent? Perhaps a period of personal "navel-gazing" as you examine your habits and beliefs, or a season of self-denial as you gaze longingly into the fridge at snacks you swore off until Easter?

Lent, after all, is a time in which all of us as Christians are called to draw ourselves into the story of Jesus' expanding ministry and the controversy it caused with the religious authorities of his day. It is observed as a season of soul-searching and repentance—a season for reflection and taking stock in preparation for Easter. We often choose to give up the comfort of a favorite food, drink, or habit in order to gain a better understanding of our Savior's suffering and temptation. By observing the forty days of Lent in this way, we seek in some small way to imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the temptation of the wilderness. Lent is a journey without which we would not be prepared to experience the joyous event of the Easter resurrection.

Each Wednesday evening during the season of Lent you are invited to pause in your busy week to sing, pray, and share in some additional thoughts on the scriptures leading us toward Easter. Ash Wednesday will begin the season on March 6 in the sanctuary, followed each week by short Lenten services at 6:00pm in the chapel (unless we outgrow the space). I hope you will invite a friend or neighbor and come as you are to get a little boost midway through your week!



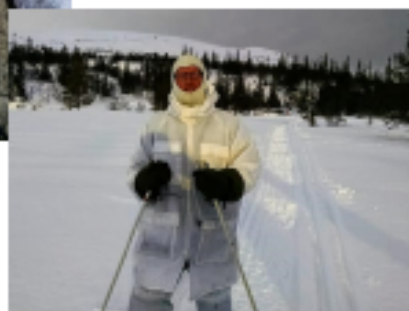
Wednesday
Lenten Services

As most of you know, I recently returned from a two-week adventure in Norway with the Minnesota National Guard. It was an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience that included cross country skiing, winter camping, dog sledding, historical and cultural tours, and lots of great food. It was also a wonderful opportunity to learn more about my Norwegian heritage and interact with many new friends. Among the many highlights were visits to several beautiful churches which made our 150-year anniversary seem like just a drop in the proverbial bucket. One of the most revered among them is Stiklestad Church, completed in 1180 over the site on which King (later Saint) Olaf II was slain during a famous battle in 1030. I also had the honor to share in leading worship and communion with one of the Norwegian Home Guard chaplains at Værnes Church, near the base where we stayed outside of Trondheim. The Værnes Church, one of the oldest in Norway, was completed in 1109! I look forward to sharing more about my journey in the coming weeks.

Yours in Christ's service,
Rev. Cory Germain



Stiklestad Church



Skiing at Haltdalen Training Center



Communion at Værnes Church

(Photo by Kristian Kapelrud, Norwegian Armed Forces)

March Blessing Box – Minnesota FoodShare



Hunger Facts

- Nearly one in ten Minnesotans experience food insecurity.
- 13.8% of children in Minnesota are food insecure.
- 9.5% of Minnesotans live below the poverty level.
- Over 3,000,000 visits were made to Minnesota food shelves each year, 2011-2017, with over 3.4 million visits in 2017.
- The number of food insecure seniors and seniors utilizing food shelves continues to increase.
- Minnesota's charitable food system (food shelves and food banks, meal programs, etc.) continues to run at capacity. Supporting government programs like SNAP ("food stamps") and creating a more just and equitable food system are integral parts of meeting the needs of food insecure households and working toward ending hunger in our communities.

MARCH MADNESS IS COMING TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL!!

This year we challenge the congregation to *get in the game* and help put a *slam dunk* on hunger in Martin County! We challenge you to bring back all 100 reusable orange grocery bags filled with food to help others less fortunate create their own *winning* meals!

Bags and grocery lists will be available beginning March 3, 2019, through the end of March. If you are unable to shop, your generous monetary donations are also welcome.

Join us each week to see what teams will face each other, hoping for a win!

Mar 3 – Meet our four teams! Cheer them on! Support your favorite!!

Victorious Veggies – non-perishable vegetables

Fantastic Fruits – non-perishable fruits

Meal Maniacs – non-perishable meals – meals in a box or can

Majestic Meats – non-perishable meats

Mar 10 – Team Fantastic Fruits squares off against Team Meal Maniacs

Mar 17 – Team Majestic Meats takes on Team Victorious Veggies

Mar 24 – Championship game . . . winner of the first two rounds will take each other on!

Mar 31 – Last chance to support your favorite team. Trophy presentation . . . you'll want to see who the winner is!



March Madness Annual Food Drive Kickoff is March 3rd!

March 10th—Bring non-perishable fruit and meals in a box or can.

March 17th—Bring non-perishable meat and vegetables.

March 24th—Bring your favorite foods.

March 31st—End of food drive

Noisy Sunday

March 31

Gather your coins to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate by giving to Heifer International.



THIS IS NO ORDINARY GIFT.

Giving an animal is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood.

If you need a coin container to accumulate your change, they are available in the Narthex.

Your animal donation will support the lives of families in need.



Martin County Relay for Life

If you are interested in taking part in the 2019 Martin County Relay for Life, please contact Jon Neitzel or Kay Campe. The relay is June 29, 2019. We would be happy to have you as part of our fantastic team!!

Memorials

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation		From
6-Jan	Memory of Doug Forstrom		Organ Fund	Ellen & Craig Doty
13-Jan	Memory of Ron Kakeldey			Thomas & Maeverine Gibbons
13-Jan	Memory of Ron Kakeldey			Lyle & Charlene Norris
27-Jan	To Honor Jane Kotewa	Starfish		Margaret Weaver
3-Feb	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish		Les Heinrich
17-Feb	Bob & Jan Cone Anniversary			Margaret Weaver

Partners in Ministry

March 3

Diaconate: Carolyn Thompson
 Head Usher: Everett Hanning
 Reader: Deb Adams
 Greeters: JR & Jane Kotewa

March 17

Diaconate: Carolyn Thompson
 Head Usher: Brad Cone
 Reader: Craig Nelson
 Greeters: Don & Shelby Marks

March 10

Diaconate: Carolyn Thompson
 Head Usher: Larry Thompson
 Reader: Jim Marushin
 Greeters: John & Cindy Anderson

March 24

Diaconate: Carolyn Thompson
 Head Usher: Bill Cowing
 Reader: Julie Elliott
 Greeters: Eloise Lidke and Melva Tonne

**HAVE YOU
 TALKED
 TO GOD
 TODAY?**

Just a Note:

Start thinking ahead about ordering Easter Flowers. Available varieties will include:

- Lilies
- Cyclamen
- Tulips
- Mums
- Azaleas
- Hydrangeas



More information will be forthcoming in the weeks to come. The deadline for ordering will be April 8th.

Fareway and Hy-Vee Receipts Report as of 17 February 2019

Fairmont Fareway and Hy-Vee support Churches by giving back \$1,000 for every \$150,000 of net cash register and gas pump slips turned back in to them.

During the last six weeks, \$28,226.21 (18.82%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were turned in. After 32 weeks, we are at \$135,852.69 (90.57%) toward the 10th \$150,000 goal. Keep up this rate and we could be at the \$150,000 before the next report.

During the same six weeks, \$12,194.70 (8.13%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 23 weeks, we are at \$26,435.07 (31.89%) toward our 3rd \$1,000 from Fareway Store.

With this report, some of the slips went back to 15 August 2015, over 200 slips from 2015 and 2016. Yes, slips can go back to March 1, 2011. Yes, we have been collecting these slips since the 1st of March 2011. We are about to start the 9th year of collecting. It does not seem that long ago that I started summarizing the slips to get the funds.

Almost all receipts for purchases made at the Fairmont Fareway Food and Hy-Vee Food and Fuel can be used toward the goal. Items that I subtract are: sales tax; cigarettes, alcohol products and gift cards. Everything else counts. Keep those slips coming! As stated above, even older slips can still be used as well as those where the gas was only \$0.18, yes, free gas except for the 9-tenths of a cents per gallon. There have been a few with less than 18 cents as something was returned and purchased with only pennies due.

Reported by;
Jim Bock

A hearty thanks goes out to our Newsletter Volunteers, Dr. Alice Maday and Ann Hartmann!



DENNIS THE MENACE



"IF YOU DON'T TELL DAD ABOUT THE TEACHER'S NOTE... I WON'T MENTION THE SPEEDING TICKET."

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Friday, March 22nd,
9:00 a.m.

This applies to
calendar changes also.