

June 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



WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE



*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.

JUNE 2023



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS K reserved (grad)	2 K reserved (grad)	3 9:00-1:00 Youth Fun Event at St. John's UCC
4 Trinity Sunday Communion 10:00 Worship	5	6 10:00 Lakeview Communion	7 5:00 Worship bd	8 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS 5:15 Hospitality bd	9 K /HH eserved (Hospitality bd) Narthex/Sanct. reserved (quilt setup)	10 8:00-10:00 Breakfast on lawn 10:00-3:00 Prairie Star Quilt show 11:00-2:00 Pie Social (HH)
11 10:00 Worship	12	13 7:00 Facilities bd	14 5:30 Mission bd 5:30 VBS Fun Day/All church potluck at Cedar Creek Park	15 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS	16 9:00 Council Agenda items & Newsletter items DUE	17
18 Father's Day 10:00 Worship	19	20 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	21 5:45 Church Council	22 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 1:00 TOPS	23	24 4:00-11:00 Relay for Life at MC Fairgrounds
25 10:00 Worship Blessing Box collection	26	27	28 5:30 Free Community Meal 5:30 Rummage Sale meeting (FS)	29 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 MRCI (CE) 1:00 TOPS (CE) 1:00 Funeral for Larry Currier	30	

The Reverend's Ruminations – June 2023

June... could it really be? Could summer finally be here? Yes, I realize that many of our school kids still have a few days remaining before the carefree days of summer vacation, or even graduation, but they're now so close you can almost taste the ice cream! Even those of us in the work world are looking forward to some welcome fluctuations in our schedules, a few annual town festivals or outdoor concerts, and maybe a vacation getaway with our families. We all know how quickly our short Minnesota summers can fill up with special activities, so I pray that you make the most of these warm months while also saving time to just relax, sip an iced tea, and share a conversation with friends or relatives on a deck, a dock, or around a campfire. Please do remember that we voted earlier this spring to keep our worship service at 10:00am year-round, even though our Sunday School will take a break until after Labor Day. We've been enjoying an increasing number in attendance over the last month or two, and I encourage you to help that trend continue even during the summer months!

As I "ruminate" near my cot in the relative comfort of the high school gymnasium in the Nez Perce reservation town of Lapwai, Idaho, during a two-week National Guard medical mission with the Native American population here, I am once again grateful for your flexibility on the two Sundays of my absence. I feel truly blessed to be allowed to continue my military ministry, and am so glad that you are such a self-sufficient congregation in your day-to-day operations! So far the weather and scenery of the Intermountain West have been amazing, but the living conditions, health, and job opportunities among the reservation community are eye-opening to say the least. From what I've heard, the conditions we'll encounter at our second mission location among the Shoshone-Piaute community in Southern Idaho/Northern Nevada are much more rural and even more disheartening. The good news is that the children we've been serving so far are still mostly happy-go-lucky kids similar to the ones we all know and love, so I pray that we're making a positive impact in their lives by providing dental exams, health education, and a few vaccinations. I will share pictures and talk with you about my experiences and observations sometime during June.

As we move into June and the church season "after Pentecost," our Sunday lectionary scripture readings will be from the Gospel of Matthew and Paul's Letter to the Romans, while my sermons will return to the Old Testament—specifically the opening book of Genesis. We'll start on Trinity Sunday with the familiar story of creation in chapter 1, but then explore parts of chapters 12, 18, and 21 in the following weeks—and continue with later chapters of this important foundation of our faith throughout July and even most of August. If you're looking for inspiration to dive back into your Bible this summer, Genesis would be more than just a convenient starting point; you'd be familiarizing yourself with the historical background of the sermons you'll be hearing!

In the interest of the limited writing time during military duty, I will forego my usual full page *RightNowMEDIA* review, instead encouraging you to not only read Genesis in the weeks ahead, but also check out a quick-but-informative six-session video series aptly titled *GENESIS*, by pastor Charlie Date. In it, he offers "a big-picture view of the foundational book of Genesis, exploring the splendor of creation and the significance of God's work in the lives of flawed yet faithful men and women. And while it tells of fascinating people experiencing transformational events, Genesis continually points us back to their God and ours, the Creator." As always, I've added this series to the "Pastor Cory's Picks" section in our church's section of *RightNowMEDIA*. I hope you'll tune it in some rainy or hot day in the weeks ahead and enjoy both the teaching and the amazing scenery among which it's filmed!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Cory Germain



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 5-17-2023**

Members Present: Abigail Anderson, Catherine Johnson, Kay Campe, Sue Kruse, Larry Lasch, Erica Jorgensen, Amanda Forstrom, Marilyn Forstrom, Joanne Eisenbarger, Wendy Ziemer and Christina Hainy. (Absent: Robbin Celandier, Cindy Huset. Ex-officio members absent: Pastor Cory and Dara Bliesmer, Ass't Treasurer.)

The Council met in Heritage Hall at 5:45 PM. The meeting was called to order and led in prayer by Moderator Abigail Anderson. Motion to approve the minutes from the April 19th meeting was M/S/C (Larry/Catherine).

Treasurer's Report: Catherine Johnson reported that money has been donated towards new sanctuary carpet. Jill has completed cleaning of the other carpets with a final bill of \$492.50 and donation of some of her time and cleaning chemicals. Dara is now using Quick Books online.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory is in Idaho on an Air National Guard medical mission. We read his report.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: Wendy Ziemer highlighted that there will be a VBS day on June 14th at Cedar Creek Park with an all-church potluck. Another VBS day is August 5th with the children helping with the rummage sale and selling lemonade and bars.

Hospitality: Erica Jorgensen said they are meeting May 18th to bake pies for the social.

Facilities: Larry Lasch stated that they will be shingling the storage shed on Saturday.

Diaconate: Sue Kruse reported that there was an addition to the Cares & Concerns list.

Mission: Amanda Forstrom said the April blessing box for Strengthen the Church brought in \$560. The Free Community Meal for April served 125 people. June 24 is Relay for Life at the fairgrounds.

Worship: Marilyn Forstrom reported about the upcoming graduate/teacher/children recognition Sunday, menu for May's Community meal and the June 7th work night.

Rummage Sale Committee Report: Kay Campe said to save the extra Fairmont Clean-up Coupons for church use before and after the rummage sale. Otherwise, nothing new.

OLD BUSINESS: IHD events: There will be a breakfast from 8-10 AM outside in the front of the church along with the quilt show and pie & ice cream social.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was M/S/C to approve the hosting of a concert, potluck supper, overnight stay and breakfast for Sounds of Hope. (Saturday, July 22-Sunday, July 23) Catherine Johnson will work with Pastor Cory on details.

Moderator Abigail Anderson adjourned the meeting, and Catherine Johnson closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Clerk

MEMORIALS

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
30-Apr	Jim & Barb Bock Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
30-Apr	Tim & Kay Campe Anniversary	Starfish	Margaret Weaver
7-May	Memory of John Rosenberg	Capital	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
7-May	Larry & Carolyn Thompson Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
7-May	Honor of Alice Maday	Starfish	Les Heinrich
14-May	Memory of Helen Stange	Starfish	Byron & Becky Phillips
14-May	Memory of Kenneth Rachuy	Carpet	Joy Rachuy
14-May	Kris & Wendy Ziemer Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
14-May	Tom & Kathy Jorgensen Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
14-May	Jacob & Abby Shoen Anniversary		Margaret Weaver



Our deepest sympathy and prayers to

- ♦ the family of Roger Lindell on his passing on May 18.
- ♦ the Currier family on the loss of Larry Currier. His funeral will be on June 29th at 1:00 PM.

Altar Flower Signup: If there is a Sunday that has a special meaning to you and you would like to provide the flowers, please sign up on the calendar by the coat closet. Write your name and who the flowers are in memory/honor of. Please know that we appreciate you sharing your special memories/days with us! Contact Janine Draper with questions at (507) 236-3499.

Hy-Vee & Fareway Report as of 21 May 2023

During the last four weeks, \$20,465.13 (13.64%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 21 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$92,769.79 (61.85%) 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. Based on the goal after the first of June, we are at 46.38% of the new goal of \$200,000.

During the same time, \$4,423.16 (2.95%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 7 weeks, Fareway is at \$13,262.33 (8.84%) toward our 5th \$150,000 goal.

This program started the first of March 2011, so any slips from then until now can be used. 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!**

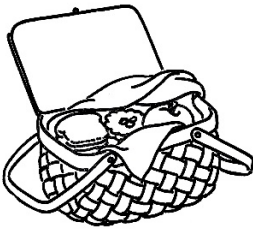
Items that sell well:

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

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

Fairmont Citywide Clean-Up: If you received **disposal coupons** from the city (on blue paper) and you are not going to use some or all of them, consider donating them to the church for pre-rummage sale church clean-up and post-rummage sale clean-out. If we do not use them, we'll donate them for others to use! Thank you!!

Christian Education News:



All Church Picnic Potluck *with* Vacation Bible School

Wednesday, June 14

Cedar Creek Shelter House

5:30-7:30 PM

Bring a dish to share. Water, Lemonade
and Utensils provided

VBS activities and a Scavenger Hunt

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










EVERY STEP BRINGS HOPE



2023



SATURDAY, JUNE 24TH, 2023

4:00PM - 11:00PM

MARTIN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

DONATE | REGISTER



Martin County RFL



Relay For Life of Martin County



MartinCo.Relay



Relay.org/MartinCountyMN

Mission Minute:

- **Blessing Box for June:** Meals on Wheels
- A **BIG Thanks** to Meal on Wheels volunteers from our church and the highway cleanup volunteers!

Thank
You

to Lorie Zoeller, Sherry Voyles, Kathy Jorgensen, Margo Weaver, Sue Kruse, Marilyn Forstrom, Cindy Anderson & Dolores Gronewald for folding and sealing the May newsletter!



Sounds of Hope Concert

Plan ahead!

July 22-23 our church will host the Sounds of Hope International Summer Camp Choir. This will be a fun and unique opportunity you won't want to miss!!

On Saturday evening, July 22 our church will host a potluck and a concert. The group will stay overnight in our church and we will have the opportunity to serve them breakfast the next morning before they travel on.



Notes from the Church Treasurer

Thanks be to God, and to the active givers of our church, that our church is in pretty good financial shape. As of the end of April, we have received 33% of the budgeted offerings. Thanks to each of you for your faithful gifts!! Our spending continues to be very close to what we budgeted with the exception of office/administration expense as we needed to make arrangements for a new copier and change to a online version of our accounting software after the budget had been approved. Utility costs are also above budget.

This summer we plan to have the carpet replaced in the sanctuary. Thanks to everyone who has made special contributions toward that project. We are very close to our \$6000 challenge and have received a match from a member for \$5000. So far, we have received a total of \$10,300 toward an estimated cost of \$12,000.

This church has been very generous in supporting our Blessing Box ministries by going above and beyond our general giving for church support. As of the end of April, \$3835.24 has been contributed for both local and wider church missions.

Summer is a busy time. Continuing to support our General Fund is a very important part of continuing our churches ministries. If you are not going to be able to be in church regularly, remember you can arrange electronic contributions to our church through your bank or you can mail your pledged and other giving to the church office.

First Congregational UCC, 319 Downtown Plaza, Fairmont. MN 56031

If you ever have questions or ideas about our churches finances, please feel free to discuss them with me. Phone or text (507-236-1457) or email me at cat.g.johnson@gmail.com.

Thanks to each and all of you for being so faithful in supporting our church as we strive to do the work Jesus would have us do!

Catherine



Breakfast on the Lawn

First Congregational UCC

319 Downtown Plaza

8:00-10:00 AM on Saturday, June 10



Serving:

Biscuits & Gravy

Caramel Rolls

Eggs

Coffee

Orange Juice

Water



PIE & ICE CREAM **SOCIAL**

& Pork chop on a stick!



SERVING 11AM-2PM

Serving an assortment of homemade pies.

\$5/slice with ice cream.

Pork chop on a stick \$5/ea. or 2 for \$9

1st Congregational UCC

319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont MN 56031

www.fairmontucc.org

June Free Community Meal

Wednesday, June 28th

5:30 PM until food is gone

First Congregational UCC

319 Downtown Plaza, Fairmont, MN

ALL are WELCOME!

**Serving: Grilled hamburgers
from the Butcher Block**

Baked beans

**Raspberry
salad**

Chips

**1919 Root
beer floats**



**Meal provided by family and friends
of Bonnie True**

Congratulations



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



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

Congrats

*Congratulations to our graduating high school seniors,
Hannah Goerndt, Paige Hainy and Skyler Weber!
Paige's graduation party & Skyler's graduation party are coming
up right away in June!*



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES:

Sydney Hainy graduated from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities as a candidate for distinction with a Bachelor of Design in Architecture (BDA) on May 11, 2022. She is a chef at Herbst Eatery & Farm Stand in St. Paul, MN.

Emma Hueper graduated from Buena Vista University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice on May 6, 2023. She was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Minnesota National Guard and will be attending further Army training in January 2024.

Gracie Ziemer graduated cum laude from Iowa Lakes Community College with an Associate of Science degree in Chemistry on May 13, 2023. She is planning to continue her education by pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. Her future goal is to teach chemistry.



Thank you to Abby Shoen and helpers for doing a wonderful job teaching our Sunday School students! Our church is so blessed to have Abby and all of the volunteers who help with Christian Education!



A SALAD RECIPE FOR JUNE:

Sherry Larson's Potato Salad from August 2013 Summer Potluck

5-6 potatoes—boil 15 minutes with skins on (make sure they don't get mushy), cool, peel & dice

10-12 slices bacon—fried, drained & chopped

A little chopped onions & celery

1 / 2 C. sugar

1 Tbsp. cornstarch

1 Tbsp. flour

1 tsp. salt & pepper to taste

1 / 2 C. distilled vinegar

1 / 2 C. water

Cook potatoes and bacon. Put them into a serving dish. Keep enough grease to cover the bottom of the bacon pan. Add the rest of the ingredients and cook until thick. Pour over the potatoes. Can serve warm or chilled.



Birthdays for June:

June 1	Rowena Nepomuceno Georgia Malo
June 2	Charlene Norris
June 4	Karin Rosen
June 5	Ryan Guritz Everett Hanning Donna Christensen
June 6	Hailie Stenzel Tara Thedens
June 7	Pat Cowing
June 8	Jon Riggs
June 10	Kara Rowan
June 11	Sue Eisenbacher
June 12	Joanne Eisenbarger
June 14	Randy Musser
June 18	Roger Buchan
June 19	Rita Craven
June 24	Ruth Ann Jones
June 24	Easton Jorgensen
June 26	Tom Rosen
June 27	Isaac Holtz
June 28	Lori Thate
June 29	Eric D. Johnson
June 29	Elaine Zoeller

Anniversaries for June:

June 1	Kim & Jan Shaffer	49 years
June 3	Dar & Jodi Kuhlers	46 years
June 5	Larry & Donna Christensen	52 years
June	Matt and Brandi Guritz	13 years
June 5	Tim & Abby Miller	2 years
June 14	Eric & Catherine Johnson	42 years
June 14	Robbin & Cathy Celander	32 years
June 16	Conrad & Lorie Zoeller	44 years
June 17	Cory & Christina Hainy	28 years
June 20	Dan & Deb Thate	31 years
June 24	Chris & Abigail Anderson	1 year
June 30	Everett & Lee Hanning	67 years
June 30	Justin & Tara Thedens	22 years