# August 2022

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





First Congregational United Church of Christ Fairmont, Minnesota

How to reach us....

Church Office

Rev. Cory Germain Minister

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Joyce Jorgenson Choir Director

#### 507-235-5382 Hours: Tuesday—Friday 9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.

E-mail uccsecretary319@gmail.com

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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

**Rev. Cory Germain** 

**Office Hours:** 

Worship Hours

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



# AUGUST 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	<b>3</b> 5:30-7:15 All Church Picnic	4 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	5	6
7 <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Worship	8	9 10:00 Lakeview Communion	10 5:15 Mission Brd	11 5:15 Hosp Board 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	12 9:00 Council Agenda Items Due	13
14 9:30 Worship	15	16 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	17 5:45 Church Council	18 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	19 9:00 Sept Newsletter Items Due	20
21 9:30 Worship	22	23	24	25 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 MRCI (HH/FS) 6:00 TOPS (FS)	26	27
28 9:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection	29	30	31 5:30 Free Community Meal			

# FIRST CONGO NEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA; FAIRMONT, MN 56031 VOLUME 3, ISSUE 7

#### The Reverend's Ruminations - August 2022

Welcome to August, family and friends of First Congregational UCC! It's hard to believe we're already entering the "final third" of what we commonly observe as Minnesota's **summer**—at least according to the traditional marker of summer vacation from area school districts. Never fear, there are plenty of warm (even hot) days yet to come, and plenty of church activities to keep you busy! To kick off a month sure to be filled with outdoor opportunities, we invite you out to a couple of our city's many beautiful **park**(s):

- On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, we'll enjoy an all-church picnic in coordination with our second evening of Vacation Bible School. Come on out to Cedar Creek Park and enjoy a nature walk or an introduction to disc golf (that's golf with frisbees, for the uninitiated) as well as an opportunity for intergenerational fellowship and a short Bible lesson.
- On August 7<sup>th</sup>, you're invited to our annual "worship in the park" shared worship service with St. John's UCC. It will be held at 9:30 at the Sylvania Park bandshell, with a potluck immediately following. This year the churches will be supplying fried chicken as the main dish, so we ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share—and hope that you'll take the opportunity to "reach across the aisle" to get to know our UCC brothers & sisters from just across the parking lot. In case you've never paused to think about it, Fairmont is extremely unique to have <u>two</u> UCC congregations in a town our size. That's something to celebrate! I can't think of any community outside the Twin Cities metro area where there is more than one UCC church.



As I came into work "ruminating" on a brief reflection for the newsletter, a perfect opportunity presented itself in the form of continued stone renovations being done on our building by Krause Construction. While they are not replacing the all-important cornerstone upon which the foundation lies, you might notice that in a couple locations they <u>are</u> working on stones near the corners. This got me

thinking about words penned by the prophet Isaiah: "Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes

need never be shaken." (28:16, New Living Translation). In the midst of a chapter which promises judgment against the corrupt rulers, priests, and prophets of Ephraim (a wild, uncultivated hill-country northeast of Jerusalem), the Lord offers through Isaiah a surprising word of hope to the people.



There have been many guesses as to the original intended interpretation of Isaiah's cornerstone image, but New Testament writers have seen in it the promised Messiah. Directly quoting Isaiah's words in both Romans 9:33

and 1 Peter 2:5-6, they have encouraged congregations (both then and now) to build their faith and religious practices on the one true cornerstone: Christ Jesus our Savior. As you work in your yard or garden



in the days ahead, or maybe even finish a summer building project, take some hydration breaks and ponder upon what or whom you are building your life today. Is it the cornerstone, Jesus? Or are there other—seemingly sturdy, yet untested—modern "cornerstones" that are competing for your trust? I pray that you are standing on the one true rock of our salvation!

Stay cool in August, and I hope to see you soon—both in our regular worship services and at some of the special events we have planned.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Cory Germaín

#### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC FAIRMONT, MN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 7-20-2022

**Members Present:** Abigail Roiger, Robbin Celander, Cathy Celander, Larry Thompson, Kay Campe, Dave Adams, Izzy Cruz and Christina Hainy. Ex-officio members present: Pastor Cory Germain and Dara Bliesmer, Ass't Treasurer. **Members Absent:** Marilyn Forstrom, Sue Kruse, Catherine Johnson, and Ellen Germain.

The Council met in Heritage Hall. The meeting was called to order by Moderator, Abigail Anderson. Pastor Germain led in prayer. Minutes of the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as printed. Motion M/S/C (Cathy/Larry).

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**Treasurer's Report:** Catherine Johnson was absent, but her report was read aloud by Dara Bliesmer. Thanks to the pie/pork chop fundraiser, we have had income equal to 49% of our yearly budget. In capital expenses, the new front sidewalk is complete. Reporting on the money designated for capital now shows nothing in our State Bank account. For easier understanding in our Edward Jones account, \$16,288.44 was moved from the Capital Reserve to the Operating Reserve, which is now at \$203,755.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Germain reported on his summer activities including a family vacation, training in Wisconsin, visits to Mankato and funerals.

#### **BOARD REPORTS:**

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**Christian Education:** CE board did not meet. Pastor Cory reported that June VBS was at Sylvania Park with kayaks, no July VBS due to schedules, and August VBS will be intergenerational at Cedar Creek Park.

Hospitality: Hospitality board did not meet.

**Facilities:** Larry Thompson reported that Dean Grotte finished the front sidewalk under cost. The \$1,041 cost estimate for the men's bathroom was approved. A motion to replace the shingles on the storage shed, estimated at \$500 or less was M/S/C (Robbin/Dave). There is no August facility board meeting. A motion to change our building insurance from Brotherhood Mutual to North Star Mutual Insurance Company with Adam Garbers was M/S/C (Dave/Robbin). This policy will begin when our existing insurance policy expires.

Diaconate: Diaconate board did not meet.

**Missions:** Izzy Cruz reported that Heaven's Table backpack program will be the recipient of the July Blessing box. September 24<sup>th</sup> is the date for the Adopt-a-Highway cleanup (October 1<sup>st</sup>-rain backup date). Many more people are needed to help.

**Worship:** Dave Adams reported that they have been working on pulpit supply for August. There is worship in Sylvania Park with St. John's (and possible potluck afterwards) on August 7th. Mark Gould will be pulpit supply on August 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be worshipping at the Martin County Fair on August 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30AM.

**OLD BUSINESS:** A motion to change service start times year-round to 9:30AM was M/S/C (Robbin/ Izzy). Sunday school will be immediately after the Children's Sermon. This has been discussed with the CE teacher.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Annual Stewardship Campaign will ask for pledges to be in by October 23<sup>rd</sup>. A committee has been started. Kay Campe is doing some research on online giving.

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

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Clerk

**The PRC** meets quarterly each year to discuss joys and concerns regarding our pastoral leadership. If you have input for the committee, please contact any of the PRC members: Jon Neitzel, Deb Thate, Sherry Voyles, Dave Meschke and Pastor Cory Germain.

# MEMORIALS

19-Jun	Conrad & Lorie Zoeller Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
19-Jun	Robbin & Cathy Celander Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
26-Jun	Memory of Char Kost		Jane Kotewa
26-Jun	Memory of Faye Draper		Jane Kotewa
26-Jun	Memory of Phyllis Betts		Jane Kotewa
26-Jun	Memory of LaSharon Osterkamp		Jane Kotewa
3-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper	Starfish	Cindy & Jon Anderson
3-Jul	Memory of Char Kost	Funeral Committee	Gretchen & Dougl <mark>as B</mark> ancks
3-Jul	Memory of Char Kost	Funeral Committee	Marsha Donnelly
3-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper	General	Dolores Gronewald
3-Jul	Memory of Char Kost	Funeral Committee	Wanda Johnson
3-Jul	Memory of Char Kost	Music	MaryDon Kislingbury
3-Jul	Memory of Char Kost	Funeral Committee	John & Sherry Larson
3-Jul	Memory of Char Kost	Funeral Committee	Lyle & Charlene Norris
3-Jul	Memory of Char Kost	Music	Joy & Lorin Pollock
3-Jul	Memory of Char Kost	Starfish	Virginia Riedesel
3-Jul	Memory of Phyllis Betts		Pat & Randy Rowan
3-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper		Pat & Randy Rowan
3-Jul	Memory of Faye Draper	Capital	Larry & Carol <mark>yn Thom</mark> pson
3-Jul	Memory of Char Kost	Funeral Committee	Margaret <mark>Weaver</mark>
3-Jul	Honor of Relay for Life Team	Relay for Life	Margaret Weaver
3-Jul	Memory of Phyllis Betts	Music	Jani <mark>ne &amp; Stev</mark> e Draper
3-Jul	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	<b>Starfish</b>	Les H <mark>einrich</mark>
3-Jul	Memory of Gin Mevissen	General	Les <mark>Heinrich</mark>
10-Jul	In Honor of Margo Weaver	Starfish	Eric & Catherine Johnson
10-Jul	Everett & Lee Hanning Anniversary	Starfish	Virginia Riedesel
10-Jul	Memory of Phyllis Betts	Capital	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
10-Jul	Memory of LaSharon Osterkamp		Margaret Weaver
10-Jul	Everett & Lee Hanning Anniversary	Starfish	Margaret Weaver
17-Jul	Elaine Zoeller Birthday	Flowers	Margaret Weaver
17-Jul	Memory of Phyllis Betts	-	Steve & Janine Draper
17-Jul	Memory of Norma Quiring		Steve & Janine Draper

# rightnow MEDIA

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



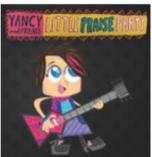
What have you checked out lately on **rightnow** MEDIA? In August my sermons will be examining the letter to the Hebrews, chapters 11 through 13. If you've never read Hebrews, I encourage you to peruse its thirteen short chapters filled with encouragement toward an original audience who had experienced a great deal of persecution and was working to rebuild a strong faith. Once you've read at least some of this powerful epistle, tune in to **The Book of Hebrews**. Here is a brief synopsis of the series, featuring eight 14-16 minute episodes:

The book of Hebrews was written to people in crisis. They were persecuted, tempted by the rampant sin around them, and doubting their faith in Jesus. It was not so different than what many of us go through today.

Join Dr. Derwin Gray in this eight-session series as he walks through Hebrews, teaching us how to live for Jesus in every season of life. Hebrews shows us that Jesus is better than anything the world can offer. We simply need to answer, "Am I willing to trust him above everything else?"

Kids of all ages love music, so why not encourage them to explore songs with more than just superficial themes? These are aimed at the elementary age kids living (or visiting) in your house, but you may soon find yourself singing along—the melodies and lyrics are well crafted to make a positive impact on all ages.

Yancy's Little Praise Party is about inviting young hearts to a relationship with Jesus by beginning a foundation of theology through the discipline of worship. She wrote these songs and crafted these arrangements with an intentional focus to this phase of life. You'll find songs with rich truth you want your family to take to heart like "With Me Every Day", "On & On" and "Oh I Know." Yancy's music is described as "everything kids love and everything adults value." This is music you want your kids to listen to and love. The bonus is you will too! Yancy's fun personality and colorful style engages kids to make Jesus loud! Now, let's have a Little Praise Party!



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

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

#### HyVee and Fareway Receipts Report Report as of 24 July 2022

During the last nine weeks \$24,742.56 (17.16%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received.

After 14 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$34,711.21 (23.14%) toward the 15 th \$150,000 goal. The 14th check has been received.

During the same nine weeks, \$6,980.37 (4.65%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 81 weeks, Fareway is at \$108,722.08 (72.48%) toward our 4th \$150,000 goal. It will still take about 32 weeks to reach the \$150,000.

It is interesting that the average weekly receipts from the prior 9 weeks to this report, Hy-Vee has been increased about \$275 per week, while Fareway has decreased about \$550 per week.

This program started the first of March 2011, so any slips from then until now can be used. Thanks to those who found slips going back to 2014 and turning them in. They all help. Any Fairmont Fareway 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 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

Diaconate Board & Church Family ' Thank you all so very much for your prayers and support. And to all those wonderful friends who took time out of their holiday weekend to serve lunch. We are so blessed. With grateful hearts we thank you all.

> We wish to acknowledge with sincere thanks the kind expression of your sympathy.

> > The family of **Faye Draper**

#### **Footprints In The Sand**

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD.

Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand.

He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it:

"LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied:

"My son, my precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you." *Author: Carolyn Joyce Carty* 

#### MISSION MINUTE

At the July meeting the Mission Board chose the date for the fall Adopt-A-Highway cleanup. It will be September 24th with a rain date of Oct 1st.

## A.W.A.R.E.\* - August Worship Announces Revitalizing Experiences

August 7 – 9:30 a.m. @ Sylvania Park Band Shell with St. John's UCC. Regular tithes & offerings for each church will be separated, and all loose offerings will be donated to Heaven's Table Food Shelf. Our potluck lunch will start with fried chicken supplied by the two churches, and you provide a side dish or dessert to share! (*Please call the church office by Friday morning to help us estimate how much chicken to order for Sunday.*)

August 14 – 9:30 a.m. @ First Congregational UCC, Mark Gould is assisting with worship and sharing his musical talents as Pastor Cory & Ellen are in Kentucky to see Emma graduate from R.O.T.C. Advance Camp.

August 21 - 10:30 a.m. @ Martin County Fairgrounds for the Community Worship Service in the Park;



Heart Song will play at 11:00. There is an admission charge of \$5.00 to attend the fair, so tickets will be available by calling the church by Wednesday, August 17. Those wishing to carpool can meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. (Pastor Cory will be at drill with the 133rd Airlift Wing)

August 28 – 9:30 a.m. Traditional worship at First Congregational UCC.

September 4 (Labor Day Weekend) - 9:30 a.m. Traditional worship at First Congregational UCC.

September 11 – \*<u>We will continue to worship at 9:30 a.m.</u> Families with children, please attend worship together, and after the children's message the students will be released to the upstairs classrooms for Children's Church/Sunday School. The worship service will conclude around 10:30 with fellowship in the narthex, and the



children will rejoin us for refreshments at this time.

AUGUST is the eighth month of the year, in the northern hemisphere usually considered the last month of summer; WORSHIP is to show reverence and adoration toward God and to honor God with religious rites; ANNOUNCE(S) is to make a public and typically formal declaration about a fact, occurrence, or intention; REVITALIZING is to give new life, energy, activity, or success to something; EXPERIENCES refer to perceptions, or the practical knowledge and familiarity that is produced by conscious processes.

WELCOME TO THE WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP OF THIS CHURCH



\*We hope you are AWARE of the steps being taken to adjust our schedule of worship during August and as we move forward into the fall season of worship at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fairmont. There have been requests over the years to remain at our 9:30 worship time year-round. This year we are implementing a format similar to what has been done with previous generations at our church. We hope that you will support the effort by trying something a little different from our norm. We would love to have you join us in worship and give us feedback!

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#### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC—FAIRMONT, MN

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

### All Church Picnic

Wednesday August 3 Cedar Creek Park 5:30- 7:15

Potluck- bring a dish to share

Disc golf- we will have discs to use or bring your own

Scavenger Hunt

Hosted by the Christian Education Board

#### I Am Your Church

I am your Church. I am here because men of intelligence and high ideals felt that I would be necessary to our community life and best interests. I am beautifully situated in your midst. In the very center of your community I will be cherished as a landmark to those who enter my portals within the coming year. I was built because wise men knew that your life would be incomplete without me. I am your Church. I am here to serve and teach the way to honesty, industry morality, and religion. All men need me as they need the Christ whom I exalt. Come worship with me and support me, with your presence, your influence and your prayers. (Found in Faye Draper's Bible)

Thank you Margo and Catherine for folding and sealing the July Newsletters!

Cursillo Ecumenical Picnic. Sunday, August 14, 2022 at Sylvania Park.

Pot luck, hamburger, hot dogs and lemonade will be furnished. From 4:00 to 7:00.

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#### **READERS' RECIPES**

#### **Broccoli Chicken Zucchini Boats**



These are absolutely delicious! lused frozen broccoli cuts. thawed. I added 1 egg as a binder, and sliced/ chunked mushroom s and a little garlic powder they were wonderful. A new favorite!

Aside from adding extra sour cream, you could do a light drizzle of ranch on top just to make the flavors pop that much more!

Yields 2 servings of Broccoli Chicken Zucchini Boats

#### THE PREPARATION

- 2 large (246 g) zucchini
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3 ounces shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup broccoli
- 6 ounces shredded rotisserie chicken
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- 1 stalk green onion
- Salt and pepper to taste

I made a delicious gratin out of the scooped out zucchini. In a small, shallow oven casserole pan that I sprayed, I added the following: zucchini pulp, bubbling butter, salt, pepper, garlic powder, Italian seasoning. I topped with remaining bubbling butter mixed with panko crumbs and paprika. I baked at 400 degrees for 15-20 minutes, until browned. I baked at the same time as the zucchini boats.

#### THE EXECUTION

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F and cut the zucchini you're using in half lengthwise. The longer the zucchini the better for this recipe.

Using a spoon, scoop out most of the zucchini until you're left with a shell about ½ – 1 cm thick.

Pour 1 tbsp. of melted butter into each zucchini boat, season with salt/pepper and place them in the oven. This allows the zucchini to cook down a little while you prepare the filling. This should take about 20 minutes.

4. Shred your rotisserie chicken using two forks to pull the meat apart. Measure out 6 oz. and put the rest in the refrigerator for another meal. A chicken, bacon, and ranch salad is perfect for lunch!

5. Cut up your broccoli florets until they're bite sized.

6. Combine the chicken and broccoli with sour cream to keep them moist and creamy. Season in this step as well.

7. Once the zucchini has had a chance to cook, take them out and add your chicken and broccoli filling.

 Sprinkle cheddar cheese over the top of your chicken and broccoli and pop them back into the oven for an additional 10-15 minutes or until the cheese is melted and browning.

9. Garnish with chopped green onion and enjoy with more sour cream or mayo!

This makes a total of 2 servings of Broccoli Chicken Zucchini Boats. Each serving comes out to be 492.5 Calories, 32.28g Fats, 10.74g Net Carbs, and 39.23g Protein.

Submitted by Ann

#### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC—FAIRMONT, MN

	Нарру Ві	rthday
	Aug. 1	Tim Campe
	A	Paige Hainy
	Aug. 2	Piper Lasch
	Aug. 4	Lance Willard
	Aug. 5	Byron Phillips Darla Guritz
	Aug. 5	Matthew Cone
	Aug. 6	Mary Don Kislingbury Bob Neusch
		Jeff Grefe
	Aug. 7	Tyler Harder
	Aug. 7	Tracy Kotewa
	Aug. 8	Kris Ziemer
	Aug. 9	Britney Goerndt
	Aug. 10	John Larson
	Aug. 11	Donna Holstine
	Aug. 13	Deb Adams
	7 tugi 10	Amanda Cain
	Aug. 15	Preston Rachuy-Davis
	Aug. 18	Mark Grotte
	Aug. 19	Abigail Anderson
D. S. S. S.	Aug. 20	Karen Cone
	Aug. 23	Alexa Steele
	Aug. 24	Art Elliott
		T.J. Hawkins
		Bennett Draper
	Aug. 25	Cindy Huset
	Aug. 26	Hanna Goerndt
	Aug. 27	Aubrey Lasch
	Aug. 28	Linda Meschke
		Barb Pitcher
	Aug. 31	Ann Erdman
		Beth Massey
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HappyAnniversary		
stuppystituversury		
Aug. 1 Tabb & Molly Meyer 43 yrs	Aug. 26 David & Deb	Adams 33 yrs
Aug. 3 Art & Julie Elliott 48 yrs	Aug. 28 Mike & Lori	
Aug 2 Dave 8 Cindy Huget 27 yrs	Aug 21 Doug 9 Dark	

Aug. 3	Art & Julie Elliott	48 yrs
Aug. 3	Dave & Cindy Huset	37 yrs
Aug. 12	Eric & Rowena Johnson	22 yrs
Aug. 13	Billy & Jenna McAlister	11 yrs

Aug. 26	David & Deb Adams	33 yrs
Aug. 28	Mike & Lori Thate	40 yrs
Aug. 31	Doug & Darla Guritz	53 yrs
Aug. 31	Cameron & Dalene Prindle	19 yrs