June 2018

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA

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Rev Cory Germain
Pastor

Ann Osborn
Administrative Assistant

Joyce Jorgenson Choir Director Director How to reach us....
Church Office
507-235-5382
Hours:
Tuesday—Friday

Tuesday—Friday 9:30-12:30 p.m.

E-mail

ucc319@frontiernet.net

Web Site Address

www.fairmontucc.com

Address

319 Downtown Plaza Fairmont, MN 56031

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-9:30

Communion the first Sunday of every month.



Mon	Tue	. Med	Thu	Œ.	Sat
				H	7
5 10:00 Lakeview Communion	.ake .nic	6 5:00 Mission Board	7	&	6
11 12		13	14 7:00 Facilities Board	15	16
18 Parent To Parent 4:30-7:00 Communion	30lc Inic	20 5:00 Finance Board 5:30 Church Council	21	22 Newsletter Submission Deadline 9:00 am	23 Martin County Relay for Life
25 26		27 5:30 Free Comm Meal	28 9:30 Women's Bible Study	29	30



The Reverend's Ruminations

Whew, believe it or not we're all clear! Clear of what, you might wonder? Well, I'm sure some of you probably thought we would still have a few snow piles around in June!?! Spring may not feel like a very long season in southern Minnesota this year—as the high school athletes can attest—but we're all glad it finally took hold. Not the least of these are our farmers, and I pray that their planting season has gone smoothly and safely as God prepares to send moisture and warm sunshine in accordance with creation's plan.

Sunday School has wrapped up a fun-filled transition year, and our Christian Education Board is already making plans for next fall's kick-off. In the meantime, as was recently highlighted during worship announcements, there are great summer camp opportunities available at Pilgrim Point, Lakeshore Center at Okoboji, and other locations. If your child or grandchild has never been to church camp, I hope you'll encourage them to attend; they are a great environment of Christian learning and growth for kids of <u>all</u> ages. As I look at our family calendar for the summer months, it seems like activities are already beginning to fill it, and I'm sure that yours is much the same. So many things to do and people to see, so many "summer-only" places to visit. Where have those seemingly endless lazy summer days of my youth gone?

As you line up your family's getaways for the summer, please include First Congregational United Church of Christ in your plans. We switch to our 9:30am summer schedule starting Memorial Day weekend specifically so that you can worship God and still have most of Sunday available for additional summer activities. Even if you are out of town, I'd like to ask that you remember our congregation with your regular financial gifts. All too often churches find that tithe and offering numbers suffer alongside attendance during the summer months, which can make it hard to keep up with even regular operating expenses.

Some months ago, I heard a comment on a radio program that struck me as a profound truth. The quote, I later found, is credited to a man named Gordon Dahl: "Most middle-class Americans tend to worship their work, to work at their play, and to play at their worship." I don't have to ask whether you can see yourself or someone you know in that description—I know that most of us can identify with his statement.

We are bombarded every day with duties, responsibilities, phone calls, emails, emergency situations, and requests for help (or just a plain visit or meal) from family, friends, neighbors, organizations, co-workers, and sometimes complete strangers! And if we can pull ourselves away from all that work for awhile, then there are always our hobbies. Many of these are worthwhile pursuits in their own right—whether they keep us entertained, happy, healthy, or just plain sane—but they also usually demand time, money, and no small amount of work to be done well.

And where does that leave your worship and spiritual life? Low on the priority list? Something you know you should be doing more regularly, but just can't get to by the time you schedule everything else? And what about when you <u>do</u> get to the worship service? Are you tuned in to the Scripture readings, the prayers, and the sermon, or are you already planning the next part of your day or week in your head? Are you just playing at your worship?

In his Letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul writes, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2, NRSV)

Now, Paul isn't telling us to give up our jobs, our extra activities, or even our hobbies specifically. In fact, elsewhere in the same letter he even speaks about the civil responsibility of being subject to governing authorities. Paul is not oblivious to the fact that we live in the world and must work to provide for the well being of ourselves and our families. But what he <u>is</u> concerned with is that we are devoting too much of our time and effort to things that have little heavenly consequence. Paul challenges us toward an honest assessment of our priorities and an openness to the discernment of God's will for our lives. Listen closely and honestly, and perhaps you'll find that <u>you've</u> been setting the priorities in your life instead of God. Isn't it time that changed?

Yours in Christ,

1st CONGREGATIONAL UCC FAIRMONT, MN

Council Minutes for May 16, 2018

Present: Julie Elliott, Moderator; Dave Adams, Worship; Dean Grotte, Facilities; Jodi Kuhlers, Finance Sub; Mary Don Kislingbury, Missions; Cory Hainey, Diaconate; Marilyn Forstrom, Clerk; Pastor Cory Germain, Ex Officio

Absent: Ellen Germain, James Marushin, David Meschke, Robbin Celander, Deb Thate

Pastor Cory opened the meeting with food for thought and prayer.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as corrected: Members absent – remove Jodi Kuhlers and add Ellen Germain.

Treasurer's report was presented by Jodi K. Pledged giving is on track, Capital Fund is \$354 in the red and we were reminded that average monthly expenses are \$15,000. Motion was m/s/c to receive the report.

Pastor's Report: Normal activities of visitations, worship planning and communion at Lakeview and Goldfinch continue. Installation went well, Meals on Wheels delivered. Pastor Germain continues to be active in UCC as well as local community groups and MN Guard. The Germain family will be on vacation July 2-7

BOARD REPORTS

CE – More information is being gathered on Prairie River camp by Kiester for a possible family day camp.

Diaconate – Care Team continues their work. Diaconate of the month for May and June is Abigail Roiger

Facilities – Bids, insurance claim and plans for organ repair are moving forward. The air conditioner for front entry area and hallway is installed. Dean will check into getting tint for the back entry to cut down on afternoon heat. Bids have been gathered for new mower.

Finance - No report

Missions – Plans continue for Relay for Life with 2 corporate sponsors for our team and plans for dedication of the luminaries. Blessing Box for June is Habitat for Humanity with a work day being set up for 1st Cong. UCC

Worship – Summer hours will begin 5-27 with Joyce arranging summer music. Will look into summer joint worship with St. John's UCC. Board will serve May 30 free meal.

OLD BUSINESS

Sesquicentennial Anniversary plans are moving forward. It was noted that this event was not included in the 2018 budget. Motion was m/s/c to request the Finance Board to approve up to \$2000 for activities related to this event.

Dean presented several bids for the lawn mower. Motion was m/s/c to approve the purchase of the John Deere all wheel steering mower from the Truman business and gift the old mower to Pastor Cory.

NEW BUSINESS

Efforts will be made to recruit delegates to the annual meeting.

Pastor Germain closed with prayer and the meeting was adjourned.



MEMORIAL GIVING



Date			_	
	Memory/Honor of	Designation	Designation	From
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich			Thomas & Dona-Jean Biro
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich			Barbara & William Bittman
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish		Janine & Steve Draper
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich			Arthur & Julie Elliott
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich			T & M Fancher
2-Apr	Honor of Kay Hough's Birthday			Doug & Marilyn Forstrom
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich			Donna & Dean Grotte
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Educational Programs		Deb Heinrich
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich			Sandra Heinrich
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Strengthen the Church	1	Wanda Johnson
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	_		Roland & Ardyth Luhlin
2-Apr	Honor of Kay Hough's Birthday	Heifer Project		MaryDon Kislingbury
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	•		MaryDon Kislingbury
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich			Eloise Lidke
2-Apr	Memory of Richard Malo	Starfish		Georgia Malo
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish		Judith Orr
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich			Donna & Thomas Pederson
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich			Ken & Joy Rachuy
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich			Jon & Cheryl Rippke
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Capital		Pat & Randy Rowan
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	•		Mary Beth Snyder
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish		Larry & Carolyn Thompson
2-Apr	Jacob & Abby Shoen Anniversary			Margaret Weaver
2-Apr	Jerry & Sherry Voyles Anniversary			Margaret Weaver
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich			Margaret Weaver
2-Apr	Ron & Char Kost Anniversary	Starfish		Margaret Weaver
2-Apr	Tim & Kay Campe Anniversary		Starfish	Margaret Weaver
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich			Sweet Financial Services, Inc
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich			Illa Byers
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich			Tim & Kay Campe
2-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich			Elaine Zoeller
9-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich		Organ	Green Mill Fairmont
9-Apr	Ron & Char Kost Anniversary		Starfish	Pat & Randy Rowan
9-Apr	Memory of Peggy Heinrich		Organ	Memorials
-May	Honor of Pastor Cory Germain's Installation	Starfish	- · O ·	Cindy & Jon Anderson
-May	Honor of Pastor Cory Germain's Installation	Music		Dolores Gronewald
-May	Honor of Pastor Cory Germain's Installation	Starfish		Jane Kotewa
-May	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Organ		Roger & Marabelle Lindell
-May	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	O. Buil		Virginia Riedesel
-May	Kevin & Kelly Moller Anniversary			Margaret Weaver
-May	Jim & Barb Bock Anniversary		Endowment Fun	d Margaret Weaver
3-May	Honor of Pastor Cory Germain's Installation	Starfish	LIIGOWIIICIIC I UII	Tim & Kay Campe
3-May	Honor of Pastor Cory Germain's Installation	Capital		Roger & Marabelle Lindell

ANNOUNCING.

On Line Access to Church Directory and Your Giving History

Last fall the church council voted to update our membership software, which had never really been fully utilized. Our secretaries were having to keep multiple lists with people's names, addresses, phone numbers, etc. Sometimes they were having to update things in 6-8 different places! This software is also used to track pledges and giving, and that function was no longer going to be supported by the company.

The new software we chose is called ChurchTrac. It has allowed us to have everything we need in one place, without keeping multiple lists. It also has a Congregational Access feature. This will enable those who have e-mail addresses entered into the software to see their own information on line. This includes your name and address, an on-line version of the church directory, and your giving history. ONLY YOU will be able to see your giving history.

If you have an e-mail address on file with the church you should have gotten an e-mail about this. If you did not get an e-mail but you would like access, please give the e-mail address you would like to use to Ann. Once she has entered it into the software you will be able to log in. To access the on-line information, go to:

https://churchtraconline.com/member_access.php?church=5072355382

Enter your e-mail address. Then click on "I do not know my Passcode, or I do not have a Passcode". If your e-mail is in the software, you will get an e-mail with a temporary passcode. If you do not get this passcode, either it hasn't been entered into the software yet, or it is entered incorrectly. In this case, please let Ann know so she can get it entered for you. If you have other questions please let Julie Elliott know! Julie and Art Elliott

julieandartelliott@gmail.com

If you don't have a picture in the directory, or would like a different one, you can e-mail it to Julie Elliott at <u>julieandartelliott@gmail.com</u>. We can put individual pictures in in addition to the family ones if you'd like.



June Blessing Box – Habitat for Humanity



Habitat for Humanity of Martin and Faribault Counties

1

Vision: A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Mission Statement: Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

About the group: Habitat for Humanity of Martin and Faribault Counties is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes, communities and hope. Habi-

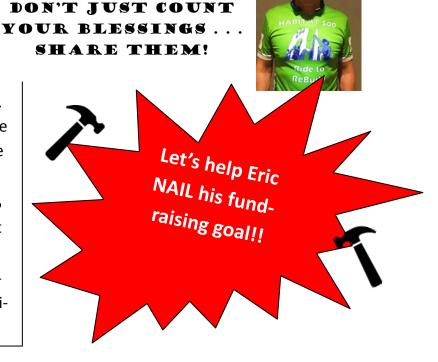
July 15-21, 2018 500 miles. 7 days. 135 participants.

Once again, our own Eric Johnson is raising money and awareness for Habitat for Humanity by participating in the Habitat 500 Bike Ride; Eric's 10th ride. Why does he do this? "The cause of Habitat for Humanity is dear to my heart because it is a partnership with families to create simple decent homes, stronger communities and a better world. No handout with HFH; it is a hand up. Each rider doing the full 500 miles_raises at least \$1,000." This is an annual fundraising event aimed at increasing awareness about the need for decent, safe, and affordable housing. Please consider making a donation to Eric and keep him in your prayers as he takes on this important

REMEMBER . . .

First Congregational UCC will host a

WORK DAY – or two – the
house on Hampton that Habitat for Humanity is currently renovating in Fairmont.
They family has been waiting for quite some
time to move in to their new home. Please
consider taking part in one of these work
days. We are looking at JUNE 16,
23, and/or JUNE 30. Please let
Kay Campe (507-236-9097) or the church
office know if you would be able to participate – no special skills are needed to participate – just an eagerness to help!



Martin County Relay for Life Events

Survivor Supper

Join us at the Relay for Life Survivor Supper and program on June 7th, 5:00PM, KC Hall Fairmont, MN. Survivor quilt raffle tickets. Free will donation for caregivers. Survivors eat free. RSVP by call or text to Torie @507-399-3667 by June 1.

5K Glow Fun Run/Walk at the Relay

Join a 5K where runners are also fueled by hope, courage, and passion. Sign up to help save lives from cancer. Come to Relay for Life and help us light up the night during this fun GLOW run/walk! Go to Martin County Relay for Life Facebook page, click on events, and choose Martin County Relay for Life 5K, under tickets available click on runsignup.com to register.

Relay for Life

Martin County Relay for Life is June 23 at the Martin County Fairgrounds from 3 to midnight. There are many things to do at the Relay. You don't have to be on a team to come out and enjoy all the events and support the Survivors and remember all those that have lost their fight against this terrible disease. Come out and help us save lives from cancer.









Another four weeks have passed since the last report. The following is a summary of what was received during those weeks and where we are as of the 13th of May 2018.

\$4,306 worth of Fareway slips were received or 2.29% of the total needed. Fareway is now at 87.72% of the goal, or \$131,580 of the \$150,000 goal.

\$12,593 worth of Hy-Vee slips were received or 8.40% of the total needed. Hy-Vee is now at 80.30% of the goal, or \$120,448 of the \$150,000 goal.

Keep those slips coming. Even older slips can still be used. The first three weeks of this period were very good, but for the week ending the 13th of May, less than a total of \$750 worth were turned in. Keep them coming.

- Jim Bock



The summer worship service time has changed to 9:30.

Sunday School and Choir Practice are on summer break.

The Facility Board is requesting donations for the new John Deere riding lawn mower the church is purchasing from Martin County Implement in Truman.

At this time, we are \$1680 short. Any financial help with this purchase will be much appreciated!



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

June 3

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger Head Usher: Brad Cone Reader: Abigail Roiger

Greeters: Abigail Roiger and Hailey

<u>June 10</u>

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger Head Usher: Bill Cowing Reader: Cynthia Celander Greeters: Byron & Becky Phillips June 17

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger Head Usher: Cory Hainy Reader: Joy Pollock

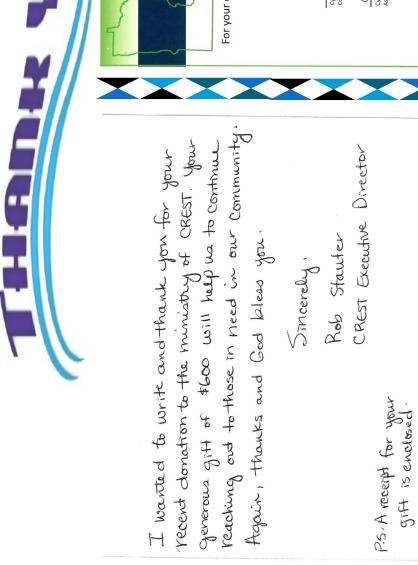
Greeters: Shelby & Don Marks

<u>June 24</u>

Diaconate: Abigail Roiger Head Usher: Lorin Pollock Reader: Ellen Germain Greeters: Bill & Pat Cowing

JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Friday, June 22nd by 9:00 a.m.
Please remember the deadline with schedule changes also.
Thanks much!



Certificate of Appreciation

For your outstanding contributions and generosity to the community as a volunteer tax preparation site, the Minnesota Department of Revenue presents

FIRST CONGREGATION CHURCH UCC

With this certificate of appreciation on April 26, 2018







it's descriptive name as new life "grows" even in times of loss. You are during good times and bad, including several honorariums that were given to celebrate my installation. We often receive donations after afloat so far this year. I have been humbly blessed to see donations funeral services as well, which helps this discretionary fund live into Thank you to all those who have kept our beloved Starfish Fund ~ Pastor Cory a generous and caring congregation!



HOT MEALS ON WHEELS

Thank you to all who delivered Hot Meals on Wheels: Lorin, Joy, Julie, Pastor Cory, Terry, George, Ruth Ann, Amanda, Alice, Randy, Sherry, Ann, Kevin, Cindy, David and Kay.

June Anniversaries

•	
June 1, 1974 Kim 4 Jan Shaffer	44 years
June 3, 1977 Dar 4 Jodi Kuhlers	41 years
June 5, 1971 Larry & Donna Christensen	47 years
June 5, 2010 Matt and Brandi Guritz	8 years
June 7, 2003 Shawn 4 Jessica Elliott	15 years
June 14, 1981 Eric & Catherine Johnson	37 years
June 14, 1991 Robbin & Cathy Celander	27 years
June 16, 1979 Conrad & Lori Zoeller	39 years
June 17, 1995 Cory & Christina Hainy	23 years
June 18, 2006 Daniel & Tatia Moller	12 years
June 19, 1971 Jim & Kay Hough	47 years
June 20, 1992 Dan & Deb Thate	26 years
June 21, 2008 Steve 4 Tranna Urban	10 years
June 24, 1967 J.R. 4 Jane Kotewa	51 years
June 30. 1956 Everett & Lee Hanning	62 years
June 30, 2001 Justin & Tara Thedens	17 years



June Birthdays

June 1	Rowena Nepomuceno
	Georgia Malo
June 2	Charlene Norris
June 3	Zoe June Becker
June 4	Karin Rosen
	Dave Martens
June 5	Ryan Guritz
	Everett Hanning
	Donna Christensen
June 6	Hailie Stenzel
	Annie Schaffer
	Tara Thedens
June 7	Pat Cowing
	Јаск Маскеу
June 8	Jon Riggs
June 10	Arden Hanson
	Char Kost
	Kara Rowan
June 11	Sue Eisenbacher
June 12	Joanne Eisenbarger
June 14	Randy Musser
June 15	Margo Becker
June 18	Roger Buchan
June 19	Rita Craven
June 20	Doug Forstrom
June 21	Bill Norman
June 24	Ruth Ann Jones
June 24	Easton Jorgensen
June 25	Phyllis Betts
June 26	Tom Rosen
June 28	Lori Thate
June 29	Eric D. Johnson
June 29	Elaine Zoeller