

March 2021

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

Nonprofit
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Fairmont, MN 56031



First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031



WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fairmont, Minnesota*

Rev. Cory Germain
Minister

Ann Osborn
Administrative Assist

Joyce Jorgenson
Choir Director

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

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

Sunday School 9:15

Worship 10:30

Communion the first Sunday
of every month.

March

BIRTHDAYS

Mar 1	Greg Grotte	Mar 12	Jayden Huset
Mar 2	Barb Bock Dave Wallien Sophia Brummond	Mar 14	Jim Grotte Donna Mitchell
Mar 3	Jennifer Grefe Bill Thompson	Mar 15	Darwin Kuhlers
Mar 4	Dimitrie Osmundson	Mar 18	Kerstin Johnson
Mar 5	Faye Draper	Mar 20	Brad Cone
Mar 6	Ann Hartmann	Mar 23	Sandy Abraham
Mar 7	Becky Phillips	Mar 24	Michael Meschke Deb Thate Clint Forstrom
Mar 8	Erin True Nanci Skog	Mar 27	Rorik Cain
Mar 10	Tabb Meyer Koda Massey Kira Massey	Mar 28	Verna Lunz Randy Kruse
		Mar 29	Jennifer Neist
		Mar 30	Amy Derrera Ken Rachuy

March Anniversaries

March 3	Robert & Alexis Thate	3 years
March 17	Vince & Angela Vaughn	7 years
March 29	Jim & Judie Orr	36 years

March

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Worship Board 5:30 Diaconate 6:00 Virtual Lenten Svc	4 6:00-7:00 T.O.P.S.	5	6
7 <i>Communion</i> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	8 5:00 FCH Foundation	9	10 1:00 Goldfinch 4:00 Confirmation 5:00 Mission Board 6:00 Virtual Lenten Svc 6:30 CE Board	11 5:15 Hospitality 7:00 Facilities 6:00-7:00 T.O.P.S.	12 9:00 am Council Agenda Items Deadline	13
14 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	15	16	17 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Church Council 6:00 Virtual Lenten Svc	18 6:00-7:00 T.O.P.S.	19 9:00 am April Newsletter Submission Deadline	20 <i>Spring Begins</i>
21 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	22 4:30 Parent To Parent	23	24 4:00 Confirmation 6:00 Virtual Lenten Service	25 9:30 Women's Bible Study	26	27
28 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Blessing Box Collection MN Food Drive	29	30	31 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Free Community Meal Drive-thru			

Hello.
March.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 2-17-2021**

The Council met via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Moderator, Jane Kotewa. Reverend Germain led in prayer.

Members Present: Dave Adams, Larry Thompson, Sue Kruse, Abigail Roiger, Kay Campe, Wendy Ziemer, Catherine Johnson, Jane Kotewa, Marilyn Forstrom. Ex-officio members Pastor Germain and Dara, Bliesmer Ass't Treas.

Members Absent: Robbin and Cathy Celandier.

In the absence of January Minutes, they will be approved at the March meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Catherine reported that several 2021 pledges have been paid in full. She and Dara are working with State Bank to complete paperwork for forgiveness of the first round PPP of \$12,300. They are also working on application for the County Relief program. Motion was M/S/C (Abigail/Larry) to receive the Treasurer's report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Germain reported on his usual Pastoral duties as well as Assistance to Jackson, Blue Earth and Winnebago Presbyterian churches, Legion Honor Guard and Air National Guard service.

Board Reports:

Christian Education: Wendy reported that the board will meet this evening. Activities are ongoing.

Hospitality: No report

Missions: Kay Campe reported that Jim Bock has added the board. Blessing Box for March will be the Minnesota Food Drive.

Worship: Dave Adams reported that plans are in place for Lent and Easter. There was discussion regarding excess supply of red hymnals and updating of the church website.

Facilities: Larry Thompson gave an update on the north tower. It was suggested that perhaps repair/painting of the louvers on the tower could be included.

Diaconate: Sue Kruse reported that thank yous are being sent for the Auction donations and Valentines will go out to those on the care and concern list.

OLD BUSINESS: Annual meeting was discussed and agreed that the Zoom/In Person combination worked quite well and could be used again if necessary.

NEW BUSINESS: Membership of PRC was reviewed. Abigail Roiger's term is complete. Pastor Germain will present his choice to serve and another member will also be recommended at the March meeting for approval by the Council.

Pastor Germain closed with prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Forstrom, Clerk

1st Congregational UCC North Tower Problems

Construction: The North Tower has a flat rubber membrane roof that is approximately 2 feet below the top of the side walls of the tower. There is a hatch door in the roof for access from below and a scupper (drain) through the south wall just above the roof for water drainage. This rubber membrane goes up the inside walls of the tower approximately 8 inches and secured with a termination strip to the brick.

The North Tower has had a history of leaking water over several years. This is the chronological order of events to the best of our knowledge.

A number of years ago we discovered water leaking from roof area in the north tower. Investigation found that the hatch door had come loose allowing rain, birds and debris to fly or fall into the first floor of the tower. We removed the bird and debris from the tower and refastened the hatch door thinking this resolved the water leak.

A year or two later, we discovered the tower was still leaking. This time the scupper had deteriorated and was plugged with debris allowing water to build up on the roof. We unplugged and replaced the scupper, thinking this resolved the water leak.

Last year we discovered the tower was still leaking. We had Laraway roofing come and look at the roof. They determined the termination strips were deteriorated and leaking as well as the rubber membrane needed replacement. They also determined some of the brick had come loose from the side wall due to water damage. They estimated the cost of these repairs to be \$13,160.00. However, they said there may be more water damage discovered after the old roof is removed. These repairs would be added to the above estimate. It should be noted the roof was replaced in the somewhere around 1994. The life expectancy for this type of roof is 15 to 20 years. We will have Laraway inspect the South Tower roof at the time they work on the North Tower.

Also last year, we discovered some of the stone trim on the North Tower had deteriorated and chunks of it were falling down on the outside steps leading into North Tower. Upon closer inspection, we found some stone trim on other parts of the Church had deteriorated. We also found that brick joints were in need to tuck-pointing. We had Krause Construction (Specializes in Church Restoration) come and look over our Church building problems. They indicated we needed to replace some stone trim, do some tuck-pointing and then spray a sealant over outside brick, stone and tuck-pointing to repel water infiltration. They estimated this cost to be \$75,000.00.

Facilities will contact the above two contractors to see if they would be willing to repair and or paint the exterior wood trim up in the tower. If they will not, we will try to find someone else to do this task.

Laraway will do the roof replacement and repairs in the spring of 2021. After that Krause Construction will do the stone replacement, tuck-pointing and sealing.

Please contact Dean Grotte or myself if you have questions.

Respectfully,

Larry Thomson & Dean Grotte from the Facilities Board

Hunger Facts MINNESOTA

*Impacted by Covid-19, data from 2020 is still being evaluated. The following information is compiled from the most complete data and projections collected and available at the time of publication.

After years of steadily declining food insecurity rates, it was projected that food insecurity in Minnesota in 2020, impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, could rise to 13%.¹

9% of Minnesotans had incomes below the poverty line (\$25,926 for a family of four) in 2020. This included 11% of Minnesota's children.²

A record over 3.8 Million visits were made to food shelves during 2020.³

More than 400,000 Minnesotans receive nutrition benefits via SNAP each month.

71% of those served by SNAP are children, seniors and people with disabilities.⁴

Minnesota's charitable food system (food shelves and food banks, meal programs, etc.) continues to run at capacity. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated this, making it critical to focus on creating a more just and equitable food system that meets the needs of all Minnesotans.

Food security is "access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life."⁵

Food insecurity means access to adequate food is inconsistent and limited by a lack of money and other resources throughout the year. Food insecure households report their diets to be of reduced quality, variety, or desirability and/or experience disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.⁶

Equitable access to food means all individuals have "a voice in and access to a nourishing food system," regardless of race, socioeconomic class, location, gender, and other social identities.⁷

"Food justice" is the concept that communities have the right to grow, sell, and eat healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate food whose production supports the well-being of the land, workers, and animals." Food justice is based on the idea that "access to nourishing food is a basic human right."⁸



¹ <https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/coronavirus-hunger-research>

² <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics.aspx>

³ <https://talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/minnesota-2020-report/>

⁴ Hunger Solutions (<https://www.hungersolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Food-Shelf-Visits-2020.pdf>); Sources: Food shelf reports to MN DHS with analysis by Hunger Solutions

⁵ <https://mn.gov/dhs/farm-bill/>

⁶ US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service

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⁸ <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/localfoods/resources-2/food-systems-equity/>

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40

Years of Minnesota FoodShare March Food Drive

Days of Lent

Days of Giving . . . Consider Sharing 40 Blessings!

40 Days of Lent – From Ash Wednesday – Easter, not counting Sundays. Check off each day as you share your blessings!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday	29	30	31	1 Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter Sunday						

The 40 Days Food Drive – March Blessing Box – Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

During this season of Lent, as we think of our neighbors and reflect on our blessings, we are asking you for your help in meeting the need. Please help us gather 40 bags of food for Martin County Food Shelves during the 40 days of Lent, February 17 – April 3.

Do something special this Lent: help fight hunger one day at a time! Place one non-perishable item into a bag each day during Lent (40 days = 40 items). **Return the bag** and its contents to the church by Easter Sunday, April 4. If you would like to **pick up a reusable grocery bag**, come to the church during office hours; they will be available in the entry. If you want to drop off your filled bags, feel free to drop them off in the church entry during regular hours. All items will be blessed before taking them to the food shelves.

If you are unable to gather items for the food shelf, you can still take part! Try this; add an extra place setting at your family table. Each day as you share your meal with your family, add a monetary donation to the place setting; a donation that will help support those struggling with food insecurity. At the end of the 40 days, gather the money collected in your extra place setting and drop it off at the church, designating March Food Drive. We will pass that on to the local food shelves.

Last year during the March Food Drive Heaven's Table raised 17,000 pounds of food and \$53,051.00; First Congregational UCC – Fairmont was part of that effort. In a very difficult year, your donations helped get your neighbors thru and let them know someone cares.

Thank you for walking this Lenten journey with us, helping to feed a neighbor!

*Interview
with Julie (Lane) Elliott
and Arthur Elliott*



Julie (Lane) Elliott was born July 1953 in the Fairmont Community Hospital in Fairmont, Minnesota to Hayden and Lucile Lane. She lived with her parents in Granada where she attended school and was graduated in 1971. She was very active in the Granada Congregational Church where she was in Pilgrim Fellowship, the church choir, was the church organist for several years, and cleaned the church, too! She was in the school choirs and band!

As you can see, she was a busy gal! (She was even a babysitter for our three kids!)

She was awarded a scholarship from Walter Reed Institute of Nursing, attended two years at Winona State and then enlisted in Walter Reed where she was commissioned as an officer serving three years til 1978.

Julie met Art in the Mess Hall of Walter Reed in 1973 and they were married in 1974!

Now a little background on Art--Arthur Elliott--was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1948 and went to school there. He went to Walter Reed and served to Viet Nam for three years. Then he and Julie moved to Fairmont where he worked at the Fairmont Railway Motors and held several other positions over the years.

Julie served a few years at the Fairmont Community Hospital and moved into Public Health and eventually to the Fairmont Clinic where she served for 24 years and is now retired!

She had joined Fairmont UCC Church in early 1979 and a few years later Art joined also.



Their two children--Amanda and Shawn--were baptized and confirmed in the Fairmont UCC.

Amanda was married here. Julie & Art's three grandchildren have been baptized here!

Art & Julie are now starting a new chapter in their lives--moving to Osseo, Wisconsin to be closer to Amanda's family. They will be looking for another church there and possibly they will join the UCC in Osseo.

We will surely miss these two folks and we wish them well in their new church and new home!

Another side note:

Julie's mother Lucile Lane went to our church (Fairmont Congregational) and her grandparents Victor and Clara Small went here also.

Rev. Lyle Norris preached his first funeral service for Victor in 1979.

- Submitted by Lee Hanning

Memorials

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
24-Jan	Memory of Bonnie True	Starfish	Joseph & Jolene Rosol
31-Jan	Memory of Betty Pannkuk	Starfish	Jim Grotte
31-Jan	Memory of Jack Mackey	Starfish	Jim Grotte
31-Jan	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Pat & Randy Rowan
31-Jan	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Les Heinrich
7-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Cindy & Jon Anderson
7-Feb	Memory of Jack Mackey	Starfish	Ann Hartmann
7-Feb	Memory of Jack Mackey	Starfish	MaryDon Kislingbury
7-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Michael & Jeanine Ransom
7-Feb	Memory of Jack Mackey	Starfish	Pat & Randy Rowan
7-Feb	Memory of Jack Mackey	Starfish	Peggy Silker
7-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Margaret Weaver
7-Feb	Memory of Jack Mackey	Starfish	Margaret Weaver
7-Feb	Memory of Jack Mackey	Starfish	Lenore Wendt
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Cheryl & Zachary Ashland
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Allan & Nancy Ashland
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Bill & Barb Helburn
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Phoebe Praxl
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Steve & Diana Welander
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Art & Julie Elliott
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Bill & Carol Rausch
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Doug & Judi Leet
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Char & Wayne Kahler
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Connie & Steve Flohrs
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Theresa Sunde
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Lynette Shaw
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Ace & Deb Adams
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Kim & Randy Sokoloski
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Larry & Ili Lutgens
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Keith & LaVonne Kasten
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Kathy Werner
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	George & Lucille Teats
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Angela Teats
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Eric & Catherine Johnson
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Lorraine Freitag
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Dean & Donna Grotte
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Elaine Zoeller
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Jane Kotewa
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Tim & Kay Campe
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Kent Schultz
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Joe Burke
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Gene & Nancy Baker

Memorials cont'd.

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Bruce Boyce & Sally Takala
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Joanne Eisenbarger
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Joyce Jorgenson
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	MaryDon Kislingbury
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Linda Meschke
14-Feb	Memory of Jack Mackey	Starfish	Byron & Becky Phillips
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Virginia Riedesel
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
14-Feb	Memory of Jack Mackey	Starfish	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
14-Feb	Memory of Jack Mackey	Starfish	Marilyn Forstrom
14-Feb	Memory of Greg Ashland	Starfish	Marilyn Forstrom
14-Feb	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Les Heinrich
14-Feb	Memory of Jack Mackey	Starfish	Les Heinrich

Ushers, Readers & Greeters

March 7

Diaconate: Carolyn Thompson
 Usher Cory Hainy
 Reader Paige Hainy
 Greeter Christina Hainy

March 21

Diaconate: Carolyn Thompson
 Usher Larry Lasch
 Reader Ellen Germain
 Greeter Sue Kruse

March 14

Diaconate: Carolyn Thompson
 Usher Robbin Celander
 Reader Cathy Celander
 Greeter Cathy Celander

March 28

Diaconate: Carolyn Thompson
 Ushers Eric Johnson
 Reader Catherine Johnson
 Greeter Catherine Johnson





Are you looking for an interesting and fun project?

Do you like scrapbooking?

Do you enjoy working on the computer?

Would you like to add a little spice to your life?

If so, the church can use help with keeping up the facebook page and website.

Please call the office if this sounds appealing to you.

Also, anyone who has photos to share for updating the web page, please email or drop them off to the church office.

Consider adding something new to your life . . . or perhaps you're already a pro and could lend a hand. Either way, we would welcome the assistance!

9:00 a.m.

March 19th is the
April Newsletter
submission deadline.

Thank you!

Marilyn, Carolyn and Joanne for
helping prepare the February
newsletter for mailing.

Thank you for your helping
hands and willing hearts!



Sunday, March 14

BLONDIE

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:

Cindy Anderson, Pastor Cory Germain, Lee Hanning, Eric B. Johnson, Jon Neitzel and Abigail Roiger.

Pecans Anyone?

I still have almost 2 cases of pecans, whole and chopped at work. If anyone is interested, they can pick them up here. 1310 Adams Ave.

The Meadows, behind Bomgaars, 238 -7102.

I can give them to Dolores, or I can bring both boxes to the church. I still sell them here at the building. Just let me know.

Jodie M Whitmore

HyVee and Fareway Receipts Report
as of 14 February 2021

During the last four weeks, \$13,086.64 (8.72%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were turned in. After 24 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$75,823.44 (50.55%) toward the 13th \$150,000 goal.

During the same four weeks, \$4,062.84 (2.71%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 6 weeks, Fareway is at \$8,100.51 (5.40%) toward our 4th \$150,000 goal Fareway Store.

Thanks for bring into the Church, bring them or mailing them to me. Even the very small amounts help. 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 Gas, Coffee Shop, Food Service, and Pharmacy help us toward the goal.

Reported by;
Jim Bock



When I asked my husband which recipe to submit, without having to think much about it, he suggested this one. One of THE BEST Crock-pot meals I've made - love this



Tortellini Soup

- 1 bag frozen tortellini
- 1 small bag of fresh spinach
- 2 cans of Italian style diced tomatoes
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1 brick of cream cheese
- 1 lb Italian sausage

Brown the sausage and add all ingredients to a Freezer Gallon Ziploc bag.

To Cook: Directions say to "Add to crockpot and cook on low for 5-6 hours."

Suggested Sides: baguette bread

Very tasty. I made it with Jimmy Dean sausage. I have made it w/o sausage (also good if you're not a sausage fan). I like using fresh spinach (chopped), but have also squeezed out all the moisture I can from frozen spinach and that worked fine. My suggestion: Cook only 5 hours, not 6. I added: garlic, pepper and salt, but you don't have to.

Reserve back some of the chicken broth to add at the end, only if necessary (so it doesn't get too soupy).

Recipe submitted by Ann
Created by Ruth Borgstrom Baldwin

Don't be
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The Reverend's Ruminations - March 2021

"In like a lion and out like a lamb" goes the old saying. But what happens to that proverb if March comes in more like a lamb? Let's hope that the two animal metaphors are not automatically reversed! In the end, weather will be what it will be, and we will do our best to adapt—whether that means bundling up against the bitter below-zero temps of a few weeks ago, or pulling out the shorts a little earlier than expected.

As I alluded in last month's "Ruminations," this year's mid-week Lenten services are going to stay online. I know this was a disappointing decision for some, but part of what has made them such meaningful times of reflection in the past has been the opportunity for a smaller, more intimate gathering in our chapel. Even with COVID gathering restrictions being loosened a bit lately, I felt that the number of people who regularly attended in past years pointed toward an even smaller group this year, and gathering in a small space would be a risky proposition.



Ash Wednesday affirmed that the option of a virtual service can be a real blessing during these crazy times. With an extra "share" to some friends and relatives, our Ash Wednesday service enjoyed nearly 250 views on Facebook! I know that it is not ideal for everyone in the congregation because of internet access, but if there is a way I can provide a printed copy of a sermon or a DVD copy of a service, please contact the church office and we'll try to oblige.

As we move forward in our Lenten journey, our family finds itself contemplating not only a spiritual journey, but health. Despite our best efforts and an overall healthy year amid the pandemic, Ellen ended up testing positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday, February 23. She wisely chose not to attend worship the previous Sunday, so it is unlikely there is any risk to the congregation. She has not encountered any respiratory issues thus far, but has battled intermittent fevers and reports that the body aches are the worst she's experienced since undergoing chemotherapy fifteen years ago! As of this writing, Cameron and I are symptom-free, but of course will be tested after the appropriate delay in accordance with CDC guidance. My prayer for Ellen, as well as any who have (or may) contract this insidious virus, is that they feel God's presence with them even as they monitor their own symptoms, and that it quickly run its course without any lasting side effects. We must all do our part to slow the spread, so please continue your individual protective measures and get vaccinated when it is available to you!

One of our lectionary passages in March is Psalm 107. A portion of it recalls God's healing actions and offers thanksgiving for deliverance from affliction. Perhaps it can help focus our prayers during this year's Lenten journey:

*Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;
he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.
And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.*

(Psalm 107:19-22, NRSV)

Lent helps guide us toward the joy of Christ's resurrection on Easter, but it is attained only through the forty days of his temptation, trial, and crucifixion. Stay healthy and trust that God is with us amid all the trials of life!

Yours in Christ's service,

Rev. Cory Germain