

September 2023

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*

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.

September 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



*so let us not grow weary in doing
what is right, for we will reap at
harvest time, if we do not give up.
galatians 6:9*

1

2

3

10:00 Worship
Communion

4

Labor Day

5

10:00 Lakeview
Communion

6

6:00 Worship
Board
7:00 Choir

7

11:30-2 MRCI
(HH/FS)
1:00 TOPS
(Ch)

8

9

10

10:00 Worship
with Ellen
Germain/
**Sunday School
starts!**

11

12

7:00 Facility
Board

13

**4:00 Confirmation
begins**
5:30 Mission Board
5:30 Diaconate
Board
5:45 CE Board
7:00 Choir

14

11:30-2 MRCI
(HH/FS)
1:00 TOPS
(Ch)
5:15 Hospitality
Board

15

9:00 Council
agenda items &
items for the
Oct. newsletter
DUE

16

10:00 -noon
K/HH reserved

17

10:00 Worship/
Sunday School

18

19

10:00 Goldfinch
Communion

20

4:00 Confirmation
5:45 Church
Council
7:00 Choir

21

11:30-2 MRCI
(HH/FS)
1:00 TOPS
(Ch)

22

23

**First Day of
Autumn**
2:00 Adopt-A-
Highway
Cleanup

24

10:00 Worship/
Sunday School
Blessing Box
collection

25

26

27

4:00 Confirmation
5:30 Free
Community Meal
7:00 Choir

28

9:30 Bible Study
11:30-2 MRCI
(HH/FS)
1:00 TOPS
(Ch)

29

30

The Reverend's Ruminations - September 2023

As I sit down to reflect with you, the Minnesota State Fair has just kicked off, and we wish our local 4-H competitors good luck at the big show! For many of us, The Great Minnesota Get-Together signifies a rapid downslope to Labor Day, and with it, the passing of another summer. I'm sure I'm not alone in wondering where those "lazy days of summer" from our childhoods went!?! Despite a few spurts of steamy hot temperatures, and the on/off smoky haze of Canadian wildfires, I'd have to say that summer has been pretty nice in Fairmont. Just when it seemed we were going to be severely affected by drought-like conditions, some much-needed rain fell while Ellen and I were on vacation out West, and it may be just enough to help area farm fields and gardens remain productive into autumn. Although we often arrive at the end of August feeling that summer has been too short, I hope that you and your family have had the chance to enjoy some of the sights, sounds, tastes, and activities that make summer in Minnesota so special!

With the inevitable return to school creeping up on children and parents alike, changes to the summer routine are upon us at church too. Keep in mind that our worship schedule is no longer changing with the seasons (remaining at 10:00 am all year), but Sunday School will resume on September 10th as part of the worship experience for families with children ages 3 through sixth grade. After a bit of a hiatus last spring, we will also be looking to offer a video-based adult faith formation option. Stay tuned for a scheduling decision on this class, and in the meantime, let me know if you have preferences on its timing.

I have acknowledged it many times before, but I'm sure you can agree that the Bible seems a daunting read if you attempt it from cover to cover. As you start to build an autumn or back-to-school routine, I encourage you to divide up the challenge by examining a few small sections that follow our Sunday morning lectionary readings. September's epistle readings will be drawn from the 12th through 14th chapters of Paul's Letter to the Romans and the first chapter of his Letter to the Philippians, while the month's gospel readings will continue to be drawn from Matthew, in his 16th, 18th, and 20th chapters. During our September worship services, my sermons will examine one of the primary ancestors of our faith: Moses. His birth narrative and "delivery" to Pharaoh's daughter amid the Egyptian king's death decree to all male Israelite babies is familiar to most of us from our formative Sunday School years, but we will also examine Moses' journey of leadership among the Israelites as they escape bondage in Egypt and begin to make their way toward the Promised Land.

Speaking (in a roundabout way) of travel, Ellen and I would like to thank you for your flexibility while we enjoyed our first "empty nest" vacation to the Badlands, Black Hills, Devil's Tower, and Yellowstone National Park. The travel went smoothly, the weather was cooperative—if even downright cold one morning—and the scenery was absolutely spectacular! As with most vacations, it was not long enough to do justice to the destination(s), but the rest and relaxation were wonderfully welcome after a busy early summer for both of us. Thank you also to all who supported us at City Band concerts and Fairmont Area Community Theater productions. We hope that our involvement in the community continues show forth the variety and talents with which God has graced this wonderful congregation. See you in worship soon, where we can all glorify and praise God together!



Yours in Christ,

Rev. Cory Germain



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 8-16-2023**

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Catherine made a correction in her July report that after giving was received in June, we are at 43% of pledged giving received (not 46%). At the end of July, we are at 46% of pledged giving received, which is low for this point of the year. A motion to receive the treasurer's report was M/S/C (Wendy/Sue).

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory reported about having three honor guards in one day, his vacation and upcoming airlift wing drill September 8-10.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: Wendy said that CE is excited to begin Sunday School on September 10th. They are planning for 2 classes. The youth loved their camp experiences this year. Pastor Cory told us that confirmation will begin on Wednesday, September 13th.

Hospitality: No representative was at the meeting. They did not meet in August.

Facilities: Dean reported that they cleaned up after the rummage sale, Jon Neitzel has been mowing, and the AC and heater will be not replaced until they stop working.

Diaconate: Sue stated that they have not met this summer.

Mission: Amanda said Kiwanis is serving the August Community Meal, the blessing box for September is for Neighbors in Need and Fall highway cleanup will be on September 23.

Worship: No representative. Upcoming pulpit supply will be Ellen on September 10.

Carpet Committee Report: The mystery committee has samples narrowed down and is getting quotes.

OLD BUSINESS:

-Still looking for a replacement for Financial Secretary. We will all bring one name for next meeting.

-Updates:

Going Hog Wild Days went even better than expected.

Sounds of Hope enjoyed Fairmont and were satisfied with their experience here.

Rummage Sale had just under \$2000 of profit.

NEW BUSINESS:

-North Star Mutual Insurance Company has a renewal amount of \$9,278 and goes into effect September 5.

OTHER:

-Situational Support Consultation is done with the interviews. They will be meeting with us after Labor Day.

-River Bend Business is closed right now in Fairmont.

Moderator Abigail Anderson adjourned the meeting, and Pastor Cory closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Clerk

MEMORIALS

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
23-Jul	Memory of Larry Currier		David Meschke
23-Jul	Memory of Keisha Gilbert	Starfish	Tim & Kay Campe
6-Aug	Jeff & Renae Vetter Anniversary		Margaret Weaver

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.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:

- ♦ The Campe & Poppe families on the passing of Keisha.



Congratulations to Braden & Brooke Grefe and their families on the baptism on Jackson Scott Grefe!

Mayo Clinic Health System is seeking interested individuals who want to volunteer. Volunteers provide patients and visitors with hospitality, services and amenities by giving of their time and talent to honor Mayo Clinic's commitment that the needs of the patient come first. Benefits to volunteering include meeting new people, offering your skills and caring spirit, making an impact on others, exploring opportunities in healthcare and giving back to your local community. Volunteers can fill several different roles including STEP Force, Oncology, Information Desk, Gift Shop, Hospice and more. Volunteers can view opportunities and apply online by visiting mayoclinichealthsystem.org/volunteer.

Elizabeth Sathoff

Volunteer Coordinator- Fairmont & St. James
Volunteer Coordinator- Hospice in Fairmont & St. James
Gift Shop- Fairmont Campus

Email: sathoff.elizabeth@mayo.edu

Phone: 507-238-8178





We are excited to be starting Sunday School on Sunday, September 10th during the service. All children are invited to join us upstairs after the children's service. We will commence around 11:10 AM. We are planning for two Sunday School classes this year, with the flexibility to combine on days with few kids. Abby Shoen will continue teaching the older kids, with Britney Goerndt helping as well.

The CE board and Sunday School families will help serve the free community meal on Wednesday, September 27th at 5:30 PM. We will be serving spaghetti, salad & cookies. All Sunday School families are invited to help!

Confirmation class will begin on Wednesday, September 13th at 4:00 PM.

Mission Minute:

September Blessing Box: Neighbors in Need (special mission offering that helps members live out their beliefs via acts of service). This year's focus is on environmental justice. As people of faith we are called to be better stewards of our planet. One third of your generous gifts directly support Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming, and grants.

September Volunteer Opportunity which ties in directly with this year's Neighbors in Need theme: it's time to pick up our **Adopt-A-Highway** section (2 miles of Hwy 15 right by Northrup). We will be meeting at the church on Saturday, September 23 at 2:00 to carpool to our highway location. Our rain date is Saturday, October 7. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church sanctuary, or you can contact Amanda Forstrom at 507-279-1607.

Just a quick reminder to add a little something to our **Little Free Pantry** whenever you are able. There has been a strong need weekly noted. Thank you!

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA, FAIRMONT, MN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023
Serving from 5:30 PM until the food is gone



ALL are Welcome!

Served by the CE Board and Sunday School Families

Church Family,

Thank you for thinking of me for my graduation! I love the planner and it will be great to use at Augustana!!

-Hannah

Church Family,

Thank you all for helping me celebrate my graduation. I appreciate all of the cards, gifts, and support over the years!

♡ Paige

The all-church rummage sale is over!!

Thanks to everyone who donated their **time**, **talents**, and **treasures**! It was a true team effort!

A lot of work went into it, but we were all able to clean up our own stuff a little and made just under **\$2,000** for our church.

Good job, everyone!!!

BLESS YOU ALL!

Kay Campe

Thank you for all of the prayers while my mother was in the hospital for surgery. She is continuing to recover at home, taking it day by day.

I'm so grateful for all of the support, and my mother is very appreciative of your prayers!

Sincerely,
Christina Hainy & family

THANK YOU to Kathy Jorgensen, Janine Draper and Margo Weaver for folding and sealing the August newsletter! Thank you to Kathy for filling in for the office also!



Songs of Hope 2023

*With all our hearts, we thank you for
your kindness and support.*



*"With every true friendship, we build more firmly the
foundations upon which the peace of the whole world rests."
Mahatma Gandhi*

All of this year's songs have been sung and dances danced. All the final tears have been shed and hugs shared. Now it is time to thank all of you who helped make Songs of Hope 2023 possible.

Thank you so much for your part in making this year a success. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for helping to make these performances and these friendships possible. We are deeply and sincerely grateful.

In Hope,

*Jeanne Junge
Artistic Director*

*Tom Surprenant
Program Director*

*Sounds of Hope, Ltd.
245 Summit Avenue – 3rd Floor
St. Paul, MN 55102 USA
Telephone: 651-225-4179 E-mail Address: info@soundsofhope.org
Web Site: www.soundsofhope.org*



Looking for:

Financial secretary needed for 2024. Kay Campe can help train you this year! Please, prayerfully consider. If interested, contact a member of Church Council or the office.

Hy-Vee & Fareway Report as of 21 August 2023



During the last four weeks, \$13,988.56 (6.99%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 34 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$129,256.33 (64.63%) toward the 16th goal which is now \$200,000. We have been getting to the \$150,000 goal in about 44 weeks and the new \$200,000 will take almost 60 weeks.

During the same time, \$7,973.84 (5.32%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 16 weeks, Fareway is at \$26,335.90 (17.56%) 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. Delivery slips/sheets can also be used. 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



Crisp Cucumber Salsa from Abigail Anderson

2 C. finely chopped seeded peeled cucumber
1/2 C. finely chopped seeded tomato
1/4 C. chopped red onion
2 Tbsp. minced fresh parsley
1 jalapeno pepper, seeded chopped
4-1/2 tsp. minced fresh cilantro
1 garlic clove minced
1/4 C. sour cream
1-1/2 tsp. lemon juice
1-1/2 tsp. lime juice
1/4 tsp. ground cumin
1/4 tsp. seasoned salt
Tortilla chips

In a small bowl, combine the first 7 ingredients. In another bowl, combine the remaining ingredients. Pour over cucumber mixture; toss gently to coat. Enjoy!

September Birthdays:

1	Daniel Moller	19	Joanie Maday
7	Abby Miller	21	Sarah Gerhardt
8	Eric Zoeller	22	Dave Huset
10	Marian Buchan	25	Virginia Riedesel
12	Don Marks		Jan Cone
13	Mike True		Amanda Jaskulke
15	Oliver Thedens		Zach Ashland
16	Evie Wenz	26	Cameron Germain
17	Polly Mosloski		Chad Thate
	Jeff Vetter		Tyler Goerndt
18	Dean Grotte	28	Jon Neitzel
	Marie Stoeckman		Patti Norman
			Dustin Bicknase

September Anniversaries:

Sept 8	Andrew & Erica Jorgensen	5 years
Sept 8	Jeff & Jennifer Grefe	11 years
Sept 11	Travis & Melissa Goerndt	19 years
Sept 13	Mike & Erin True	8 years
Sept 13	Tyler & Jennifer Weaver Neist	20 years
Sept 14	Jayden & Mariah Garlick	4 years
Sept 19	Dylan & Chelsea Celandier	3 years
Sept 22	Dan & Anne (Saxton) Wenz	11 years
Sept 29	Jacob & Tana Lasch	11 years