

October 2025

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



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*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Fairmont, Minnesota*

Rev. Cory Germain
Minister

Christina Hainy
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:

Monday 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

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.

Rev. Cory's phone: 507-399-8282

Worship Hours

Worship 10:00 AM

Sunday school 10:00 AM.

**Communion the second
Sunday of every month.**

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Mission Bd 6:00 Worship Bd 7:00 Choir	2 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	3 11:00 REM Exercise (HH)	4
5 10:00 Worship with Blake Potthoff Sunday school	6	7 10:00 Lakeview Communion	8 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Diaconate Bd 5:45 CE Bd 7:00 Choir	9 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch) 5:30 Hospitality Board	10	11
12 10:00 Worship Communion Sunday school 11:15 Adult Sunday school	13 9:00 Council agenda items DUE 5:30 Hospital Foundation	14 6:00 Facilities Board	15 4:00 Confirmation 5:45 Church Council 7:00 Choir	16 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	17 9:00 November newsletter items DUE	18 6:00 Game Night
19 10:00 Worship Sunday school	20	21 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	22 4:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir	23 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	24	25 5:00 Progressive Dinner
26 10:00 Worship Sunday school <i>Blessing Box collection</i>	27	28 11:00 Newsletter assembly	29 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Free Community Meal 7:00 Choir	30 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	31 Halloween  11:00 REM Exercise (HH) 4:00 Trunk or Treat	

The Reverend's Ruminations - October 2025

Recently I had the honor of addressing the students, teachers, and parents of Genesis Classical Academy in Winnebago on the occasion of their annual convocation service to start the new school year. As I "ruminated" on what to say, I came across a sermon by Rev. Leonard Sweet that drew inspiration from a familiar curriculum that many military chaplains and I have used encourage honest and open communication in marriages and other interpersonal relationships. I bet you're familiar with it too, at least in passing, even if you haven't learned all its pointers in a seminar at work or school: Steven Covey's *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1990). It was on *The New York Times* bestseller list for over 5 years straight when it first came out, and has since sold over 40 million copies worldwide and been translated into more than 50 languages.

I'll spare you the enumerated details of the "Seven Habits" book/curriculum, but generalize by saying that although the late Mr. Covey was not a pastor, he taught (preached?) that principles, morals, values, and accountability actually belong in our offices, schools, the military, and perhaps most importantly in our personal relationships. The basis of his teaching was that the qualities that result in "principle-centered leadership" include nothing more than fairness, integrity, honesty, human dignity, service, quality, and excellence. In order for a business, a school, or any institution or relationship (including a church) to flourish and grow, they have to go through a moral transformation that puts these concepts at their core.

Rev. Sweet, drawing inspiration from the well-known "Seven Habits," suggested that Christians (Christian students, teachers, and parents in the case of my recent audience) should operate from a similarly-titled "Five Habits of Highly Spiritual People" by applying the ideals I also briefly shared in a recent children's sermon: **Dream, Scheme, Team, Lean, and Beam.**

1. DREAM – Don't be afraid to dream God-sized dreams. Keep alert. Be attuned to everything happening around you without getting sucked into any of it.
2. SCHEME – Scheming can have a negative connotation; but in this case, "scheming" means to lead a disciplined life that will enable your dreams to come true. Keep your head clear, and focus on both your spiritual wellbeing and your life projects while you stay focused on God's plan and purpose for your life.
3. TEAM – Humble yourself to the realization that you can't do it all by yourself. Every one of us has weaknesses that would make it extremely hard to go through life completely on our own. We succeed when we rely on God's strength first and foremost, but then also network with others who follow Christ!
4. LEAN – Cast your fears and anxieties upon your rock and foundation — our triune God. Believe in God's care, trust in Christ's love, and rely on the presence of the Holy Spirit. Lean also on the team—your church family.
5. BEAM – This has two meanings: Like a laser beam, go straight to God's word for strength, steadfastness and confidence. Once you home in on Biblical teachings, stand firm in your faith and live out your faithfulness, something to be done both individually and as a church. By doing this the Word of God shines out of you like a beam of sunshine into a world that desperately needs some light.

With these "five habits" as our base, I trust that God will use each and every one of us to do great things in this community and the world — now and evermore!

Yours in Christ's service,

Rev. Cory Germain

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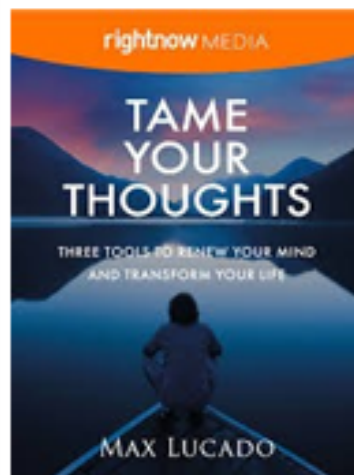
Are you interested in how Bible history corresponds to world history? Have you ever wished you could go on a trip to the Holy Land to see some of the famous sites where Jesus' ministry took place? Well, without having to get a passport and book an expensive plane ticket, you can do some great exploring—with a knowledgeable guide—from the comfort of your couch by viewing **Excavating the Evidence for Jesus - The Top-10 List for Christ's Ministry**:

Archaeologist and author, Dr. Titus Kennedy, explores the scripture, history, archaeology, and evidence for the ancient world surrounding the public ministry of Jesus Christ. The home base for the series is Dr. Kennedy's research lair, a secret basement where he stores maps, slides, tools, and artifacts from his various excavations and adventures. In addition to teaching with a collection of resources, Titus treks outside his lair for special visits to Israel's archaeology sites and museums. Designed for all ages, *Excavating the Evidence* is fun and educational, encouraging families to dig deeper into the Gospels together.

Is the world around you making you anxious? Have you been feeling weighed down by worry? Or caught up in a web of self-critical thoughts? The good news is that with God's help, you can learn to renew your mind, break free from negative patterns, and become a little more like Jesus every day. If you'd like to learn how, pastor, speaker, and best-selling author Max Lucado has an easily-accessible six-session Bible study just for you, called simply **Tame Your Thoughts**:

[Lucado's] three scripture-based tools will help you take every thought captive and test the messages that replay in your mind against the truth of God's Word. You will also learn to overcome common thought traps like anxiety, guilt, rejection, dissatisfaction, and more. No matter who you are or where you come from, progress is possible.

**A book and separate study guide are available for purchase if you want to dive deeper, but are not required to follow this series on rightnow MEDIA.*



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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 grows as I discover new picks! If you've found 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



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 9-17-2025**

Members Present: Carol Barrick, Cynthia Celander, Amanda Forstrom, Christina Hainy, Cindy Huset, Catherine Johnson, Sue Kruse, Larry Lasch, and Abby Shoen. **Members Absent:** Kay Campe, Sherry Larson. **Ex-officio Members Present:** Pastor Cory and Dara Bliesmer, Asst. Treasurer.

The Council met in Heritage Hall at 5:45 PM. Vice Moderator Amanda Forstrom called the meeting to order, and Pastor Cory led in prayer.

Motion to accept the agenda was M/S/C. (Larry Lasch/Catherine Johnson) Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on 8/2025, was M/S/C. (Carol Barrick/Catherine Johnson)

Treasurer's Report Catherine Johnson reported that offering was down in August. The new Edward Jones fund is labeled Investment Reserve. Budget planning should begin for the church boards. Projected budgets are due to the treasurer or assistant treasurer by Nov. 14 (or earlier.) The budget meeting will be Dec. 2. (Supper at 5:30 PM/ meeting at 6:00 PM.) She is working on the particulars with the Minnesota paid leave law. A motion to receive the treasurer's report was M/S/C. (Abby Shoen/Cynthia Celander)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory told us about his activities for the month, including serving at the King Korn Day booth, speaking at an Early Risers Kiwanis meeting and preaching at Community Worship at the Park.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: Abby Shoen said Sunday school has started. They will be doing Trunk or Treat on October 31st on the front lawn of the church. It is a circus theme with a tent and a photo booth. Candy donations are welcome!

Hospitality: No meeting this month.

Facilities: Larry Lasch stated that a new latch is needed in the main floor men's restroom. They are wanting all the boards to review the items on the stage so the congregation have a chance to take items they are interested in.

Diaconate: Sue Kruse reported that they are serving the October free community chili meal and have been busy with the Cares & Concerns list.

Mission: Amanda Forstrom said that the August Blessing Box raised \$530 for Habitat for Humanity. The August free community meal hosted by Kiwanis served approximately 98 meals. Ditch cleanup is on Sunday, September 21.

Worship: Cindy Huset stated they are planning the Christmas decorating and have been working on assembling name tags with magnets.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: The Stewardship Ingathering will be on Sunday, November 9th.

Budget: All budget proposals are due to Church Treasurer on November 14th. The budget meeting will be on December 2nd.

Personnel: Meeting in October.

Funeral Committee: Cynthia Celander said that the funeral meal went well, and they served a little over 100.

OLD BUSINESS: Council goals for the year were discussed. Online giving is going reasonably well. Cookie Walk and Glows Parade plans are in progress. Carol Barrick is working on setting up a new directory with photos taken in September 2026.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

Pastor Cory closed the meeting with a prayer, and Amanda Forstrom adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Church Clerk



MEMORIALS

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
7-Sep	Memory of Ginny Riedesel	Starfish	Kay Campe
7-Sep	Memory of Ginny Riedesel		Dolores Gronewald
15-Sep	Memory of Ginny Riedesel	Starfish	Cindy Anderson
15-Sep	Memory of Ginny Riedesel		Pat Rowan
15-Sep	Memory of Dale Anderson		Pat Rowan
15-Sep	Memory of Jerome Maday	Capital Camp	Carolyn & Larry Thompson
15-Sep	Memory of Ginny Riedesel	Capital Camp	
15-Sep	Memory of Melva Lou Tonne	Capital Camp	



Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:
The family of Virginia "Ginny" Riedesel



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 Kay Campe with questions at (507) 236-9097 or kayanncampe@gmail.com.

If you would like to provide treats and coffee after a church service, please sign up in the binder on the back table of the sanctuary. Please ask a hospitality board member (Terri Luetgers, Rebecca Lunz, Sherry Larson, Donna Grotte, Jon Neitzel or Tara Thedens) if you have any questions.

Hy-Vee & Fareway Report as of Report as of 21 September 2025

During the last 4 weeks, \$22,426.99 (11.21%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 41 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$171,506.90 (85.75%) toward the 18th goal which is \$200,000 and maybe reached around the end of November 2025.

During the same time, \$4,365.70 (2.91%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 128 weeks, Fareway is at \$137,259.84 (91.51%) toward our 5th \$150,000 goal. It could take 15 weeks to reach the 5th \$150,000 goal and maybe reached around the middle of December 2025.

Any Fairmont Fareway and Hy-Vee food store register slip or deliver pages can be used. Slips from Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh (Gas), Coffee Shop, Food Service, and Pharmacy help us toward the goal. Thanks to all who are turning in their slips.

Reported by;
Jim Bock





Let's Get to Know Our Church Family...

Question #7: Did you have any childhood nicknames? How did they come about?

Everett Hanning	Red-my hair was red, Carrot top
Sandi Smith	Sam - Mom & Dad fought over my name for over a week, Dad wanted Samuel, Mom wanted Sandra
Tim Campe	Many!!!
Cheryl Ashland	Menard because my dad always took me shopping at Menards with him.
Cynthia Celander	Tink - only a few people are still living to even remember it. My dad started with the name, but I don't know why.
Kay Campe	Pumpkin, Dolly - my Dad
Ellen Germain	Ed- they were my initials
Carol Barrick	Cookie - I was curly haired, chubby & loved cookies - my dad gave it to me
Lela Hanning	Lee, Twerp, Shorty
Margo Weaver	Margo - unable to pronounce given name, Margaret
Randy Musser	Mouse - thru football & Coach Mahoney - a player that could get thru a small area. Class-mates still call him this!
James Bock	Jimmy in school as there were 3 James (the mother of one wouldn't let anyone call them by any other name but "James," the other was called Jim because his parents called him that, that left me as "Jimmy") In high school, many of my classmates called me BOSCO, which was short for BOSS COW. Because I named the cows and some were named the same as the girls in the school, a boy called me Boss Cow a few times. A girl changed it to BOSCO which stuck.

**Our goal for 2025 is to grow stronger, closer & more supportive as a church family!! There's still time to turn in your questionnaire!
Get one from the table by the office.**





PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Saturday, October 25th

Sign Up By Oct 19 in the Narthex or call the office, 507-235-5382

Starting at 5:00 PM at the Meadows, 1310 Adams Ave

Diners “progress” to different homes for each course

Suggested donation: \$12/person

**Menu: miscellaneous appetizers, fresh green salad, ham loaves with mustard sauce,
Yukon Gold creamy potatoes, green beans with almonds & dessert**

Questions: call Jane, 507-848-4038, or Marilyn, 612-308-0500.

Rummage & Bake Sale

2025

Thursday, October 16th 4 p.m.—8 p.m.

Friday, October 17th 8 a.m.—8 p.m.

**Saturday, October 18th 8 a.m.—noon
(\$3.00 Bag Sale)**



**Huge
Sale!**

**Infant through Adult Clothing & Shoes
Toys Books Furniture
Household Items +++ Much Miscellaneous
Taking donations Oct 11 until noon Oct 14**



Martin Luther JR/SR High School

**315 Martin Luther Drive Northrop, MN
4 miles north of Fairmont & 1/2 mile west www.martinlutherhs.com
Honoring Christ...Welcoming All**



FALL GAME NIGHT

Saturday, October 18th

6:00 PM

Heritage Hall

**Bring a dish/appetizer
to share & be ready
for some FUN!**



**Setting up online giving to
First Congregational UCC,
Fairmont**

See the links on our church
website, fairmontucc.org,
or
Scan the QR code



Or use this web address:

<https://firstcongoucc.churchtrac.com/give>

You will be taken to our ChurchTrac
page where you will be asked to
sign in or create an account.
ChurchTrac will link you to Stripe,
the secure payment system.

Giving can be done through your
checking account or by credit card.



MISSION MINUTE:

Blessing Box: CREST (Caregiver Response Effort & Service Team)
CREST was founded in 1997 to enhance the quality of life of those they serve, caregivers and receivers, helping seniors stay independent at home. The organization is governed by a board of directors and serves over 200 persons annually in Martin County.

Free Community Meal: On Wednesday, October 29, the diaconate board will be serving chili. Please join us and invite family and friends!



CE NEWS:



Trunk or Treat is Friday, October 31st from 4:00—5:00 PM in the church's front yard! There will be a photo booth, cider & popcorn, and, of course, CANDY! Stop by!



Promo Video:

Please send 10 second video clips of church events to Abby Shoen, abby.shoen43@gmail.com. Abby is graciously planning to compile them into a promotional video for our church!

Dave Wallien would love to receive some mail from his church family! Brighten his day by mailing a greeting to:



Dave Wallien
1425 15th Ave. SE, Room #207
Aberdeen, SD 57401

October Partners in Ministry:

Diaconate: Tom Barrick

Usher: Michael Rowan

Readers:

5th: Kay Campe

12th: Carol Barrick

19th Eric B. Johnson

26th: Amanda Forstrom

St. John's UCC is hosting

Oktoberfest

on Tuesday, October 7th,
from 5:00 to 7:00 PM or until the food is gone.
The menu is pulled pork, mashed potatoes &
gravy, German potato salad, green beans,
applesauce, dinner roll, pie & coffee.

The suggested donation is \$10.
Call 507-235-3500 for takeout orders.



October Treats:

5th: OPEN (as of printing newsletter)

12th: Carol Barrick

19th: Becky Lunz (Hospitality Bd)

26th: OPEN (as of printing newsletter)





Please submit good news to the newsletter to share with our church family! Honor roll, Dean's list, participating in club or team activities, etc. We **love** to hear what is happening in each other's lives! Email the office at uccsecretary319@gmail.com, call (507) 235-5382, or stop in!



Congratulations to Reagan Shoen for receiving her Bible on Sunday, September 14th!



If you are a **SNOWBIRD**, please let the office know your snowbird address and how long to send mail there if you haven't already! Call the office, 507-235-5382, or email at uccsecretary319@gmail.com. Thanks!



Larry Vogel's Annual Bonfire will be on Saturday, November 1st.

More information will be coming at church in October!



Church Treasurer Needed:

Would you like to serve our congregation in a new and interesting way? Do you like paying attention to \$ and Cents while someone else does the actual math?

Consider being nominated for the **Church Treasurer position starting in 2026**. It takes about 6 hours a month to do the tasks. The Treasurer signs checks, tracks on the monthly financials, reports and participates on Church Council, and leads the budget process. Access to the internet to use online programs is needed.

The Assistant Treasurer does the accounting and writes checks.

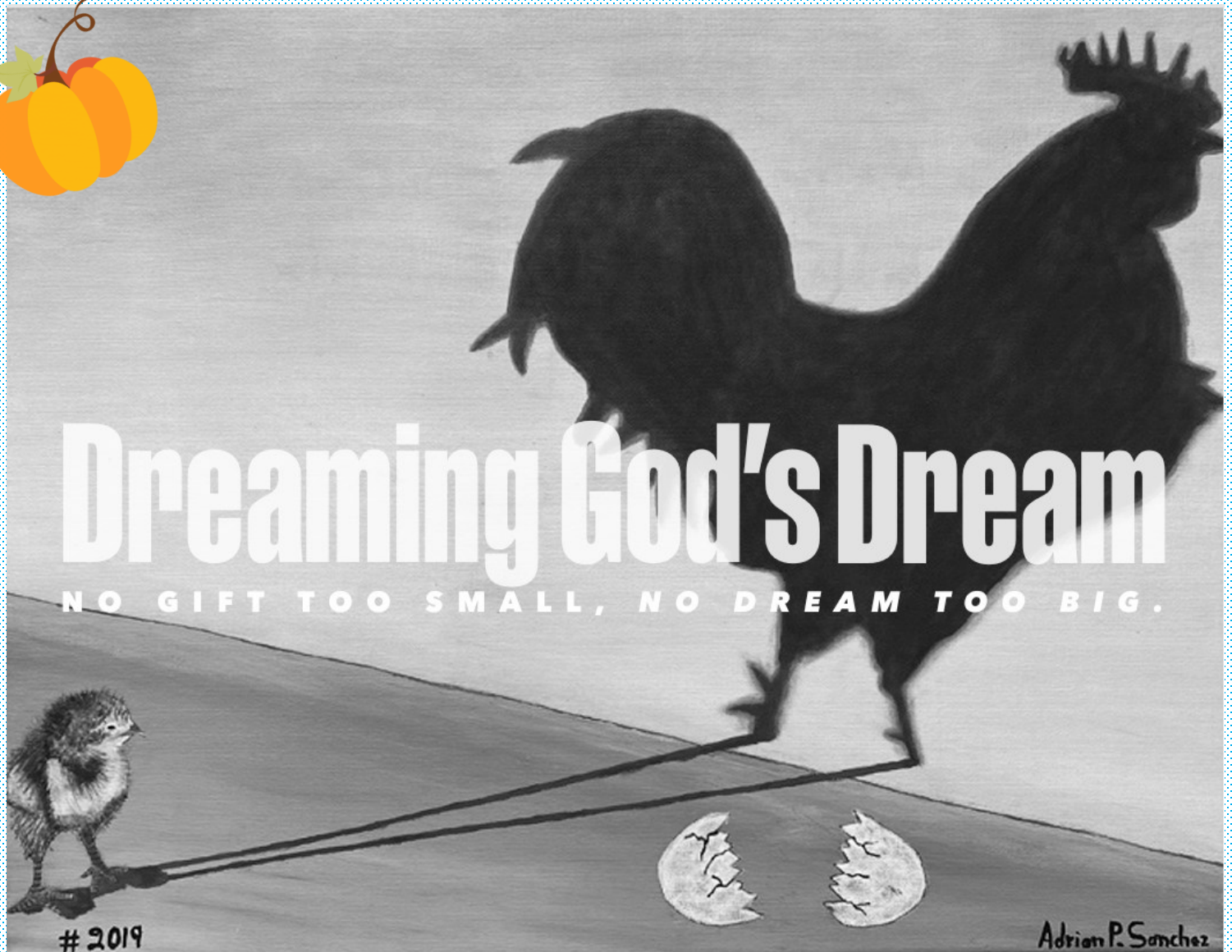
If you are interested talk to Cynthia Celandier, Catherine Johnson, or Kay Campe.



Thank you, Bible study ladies & friends, for assembling the September newsletter!

:) Christina





Stewardship 2025

Our annual giving drive for the 2026 church budget will be starting in October and culminating with Stewardship Sunday on **November 9th**. Please be looking for more info coming in the mail and during services.

Glow's Soup Supper Fundraiser

Save the date: November 21st from 4:45-6:30 PM

Helpers will be needed to freeze apple slices, donate ingredients, make apple crisp, bake rolls, make soup, serve soup, and clean up!

Watch for more information and sign up lists!!



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UCC'S
CHILI
FREE COMMUNITY
MEAL

Wed. Oct. 29th 5:30 PM

ALL are WELCOME!

319 Downtown Plaza, Fairmont, MN

Served by the Diaconate Board



MENU:

Chili
Garlic Bread
Homemade Applesauce
Bars & Cookies
Milk, Coffee, Water

fairmontucc.org

Salted Caramel Apple Pie Bars

Shared by Barb Bock

Ingredients:

Shortbread Crust

- 1/2 cup (8 Tbsp; 113g) **unsalted butter**, melted
- 1/4 cup (50g) **granulated sugar**
- 1 teaspoon **pure vanilla extract**
- 1/4 teaspoon **salt**
- 1 cup (125g) **all-purpose flour**

Apple Filling

- 2 large **apples**, peeled and thinly sliced (1/4 inch thick)
- 2 Tablespoons **all-purpose flour**
- 2 Tablespoons **granulated sugar**
- 1 teaspoon **ground cinnamon**
- 1/8 teaspoon **ground nutmeg**

Streusel

- 1/2 cup (43g) old-fashioned **whole rolled oats**
- 1/3 cup (70g) packed light or dark **brown sugar**
- 1/4 teaspoon **ground cinnamon**
- 1/4 cup (31g) **all-purpose flour**
- 1/4 cup (4 Tbsp; 56g) **unsalted butter**, cold and cubed
- **Homemade salted caramel or store-bought caramel sauce**



Instructions:

1. **Preheat the oven to 300°F (149°C).** Line the bottom and sides of an 8-inch square baking pan with parchment paper leaving enough overhang on all sides. Set aside.
2. **Make the crust:** Stir the melted butter, granulated sugar, vanilla, and salt together in a medium bowl. Add the flour and stir until everything is combined. Press the mixture evenly into the prepared baking pan. Bake for 15 minutes and then remove from the oven. (As the crust bakes, you can prepare the filling and streusel.)
3. **Make the apple filling:** Combine the sliced apples, flour, granulated sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg together in a large bowl until all of the apples are evenly coated. Set aside.
4. **Make the streusel:** Whisk the oats, brown sugar, cinnamon, and flour together in a medium bowl. Cut in the chilled butter with a pastry blender or two forks (or even with your hands) until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Set aside.
5. **Turn the oven up to 350°F (177°C).** Evenly layer the apples on top of the warm crust. It will look like there are too many apple slices, so layer them tightly and press them down to fit. Sprinkle the apple layer with streusel and bake for 30–35 minutes or until the streusel is golden brown.
6. **Remove from the oven and allow to cool for at least 20 minutes at room temperature,** then chill in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours (or overnight). Lift the foil or parchment out of the pan using the overhang on the sides and cut into bars. I usually cut them into 16 smaller bars, but you can cut them into 12 larger bars. Once cut, drizzle some salted caramel sauce on top of each. These apple pie bars can be enjoyed warm, at room temperature, or even cold.

Recipe from sallysbakingaddiction.com

OCTOBER

Happy Birthday!

Oct 2 Cheryl Rippke
Kristen Abbenhaus
Oct 3 Elizabeth Scheppman
Adam Rachuy
Oct 4 Amanda Forstrom
Steve Urban
Oct 7 Aubrey McAlister
Oct 11 Jenny Craven
Mike Thate
Oct 13 Logyn Cone
Jonissa Neitzel
Oct 15 John Holstine
Oct 17 Jon Anderson
Oct 18 Michael Rowan

Oct 19 Brian Thate
Oct 21 Sue Kruse
Oct 22 Jane Kotewa
David Adams
Jessi Kotewa
Gracie Ziemer
Oct 24 Melissa Goerndt
Oct 25 Kathy Jorgensen
Oct 28 Staci Thompson
Oct 29 Angela Vaughn
Oct 30 Wanda Johnson
Oct 31 Barb Bittman

Happy Anniversary!

Oct 2	Brandon & Rachel Tonneson	15 years
Oct 9	Randy & Pat Rowan	54 years
Oct 15	Bill & Staci Thompson	20 years
Oct 24	Steve & Janine Draper	45 years
Oct 31	Dean & Donna Grotte	55 years

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is incorrect, please notify the church office.