

July 2024

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

Nonprofit
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First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN 56031



WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE



*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:

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

Communion the second

Sunday of every month.



July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10:00 Lakeview Communion	3 5:30 Mission Bd 6:00 Worship Bd 6:30 Pastor Cory leading Community Worship	4  Independence Day <hr/> Church Office Closed <hr/>	5	6
7 10:00 Worship	8	9 7:00 Facilities Board	10 5:45 CE Board	11 11:30 MRCI (FS/ HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	12	13
14 9:30 Worship in the Park Joint Service with St. John's UCC (Sylvania Park) Communion	15 9:00 Council agenda items due	16 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	17 5:45 Church Council	18 11:30 MRCI (FS/ HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	19 9:00 August Newsletter items due 5:00 Heavenly Delights for Hog Wild Days	20
21 10:00 Worship	22	23	24	25 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Newsletter assembly 11:30 MRCI (FS/ HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	26	27
28 10:00 Worship Blessing box	29	30	31 5:30 Free Community Meal			

Celebrating Generosity

Here's what our congregation has been up to – there is so much going on – join us in Celebrating the Generosity shown to our Church Family and our community. Since last month, your generosity has been on full display . . .

- Bible Study
- Father's Day All Church Breakfast
- Raising Camp Funds



- IHD Breakfast on the Lawn
- IHD Pie & Ice Cream Social
- Facilities Free Community Meal
- East Chain 4-H Free Community Meal
- Lakeview Communion

- Goldfinch Communion
- Newsletter & helpers
- Readers, Ushers, Greeters
- Worship
- Contemporary Worship
- Fill in Pianists
- Rightnow Media
- Opera House Summer Youth Theatre
- Operating Website
- Wednesday Community Worship at Sylvania
- Church Service Broadcasts
- Altar Flowers
- Prayer Chain
- HyVee & Fareway Receipts
- Free Little Pantry
- Serving our Church Family
- Noisy Sunday – Heifer Project

These are just a few examples of the generosity we need to celebrate each and every day within our Church Family. Each of these items ignited a different passion in those who took part. We are so fortunate to have a Church Family with such diverse passions and generous souls!



*Thank you all for
sharing
your time, talents,
and treasures!
Looking forward to
what's to come . . .*





**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
FAIRMONT, MN
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 6-19-2024**

Members Present: Abigail Anderson, Kay Campe, Marilyn Forstrom, Christina Hainy, Sue Kruse, Larry Lasch, and Marcia Musser. Ex-officio members present: Pastor Cory and Dara Bliesmer, Asst Treasurer. Members Absent: Amber Brummond, Catherine Johnson, Jane Kotewa, Abby Shoen and Tara Thedens.

The Council met in Heritage Hall at 5:45 PM. Moderator Kay Campe called the meeting to order, and Pastor Cory led in prayer. We celebrated generosity in the church, naming several recent events for which we are thankful.

Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 15, 2024, was M/S/C. (Abigail Anderson/Marcia Musser)

Treasurer's Report Dara Bliesmer reported about moving some of our money market cash into a CD on a quarterly basis. At the end of May, we received 38% of pledged giving, which is slightly down. Pledged giving has decreased from the beginning of the year. A motion to receive the treasurer's report was M/S/C. (Abigail Anderson/Marilyn Forstrom)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory has officiated a wedding and a funeral, marched in two local parades, made several home visits to Mankato, had a few reflective pastoral supervision Zooms and did the invocation for the Relay for Life Survivor Supper in the last month.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: No representative was present.

Hospitality: No representative was present.

Facilities: Larry Lasch reported that they have dealt with water in the basement several times, leaky toilets and served the May community meal. The facilities board would like to be informed when special events occur so they can prepare for them. The office will make a checklist of "things to do" for special events.

Diaconate: No summer meetings.

Mission: Marcia Musser reported that we need hosts for the November 20 and December 18 community meals. Also, we received a thank you from the Conference for donating to 5 for 5. We are one of only 42 congregations in Minnesota to support this!

Worship: Marilyn Forstrom discussed music replacements for Jenny that have been lined up and upcoming pulpit supply. Worship in the Park with St. John's UCC is July 14.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: We are still looking for a Vice Moderator.

OLD BUSINESS: We worked on our Congregational Work Evaluation and will think about additions. We will take a photo (for Board of the Month) at the July Community Meal. IHD fundraisers were a success! We will look at permanent signs by the entrance of the church. The Opera House is enjoying the use of Heritage Hall for their youth theatre camps.

NEW BUSINESS: Council will be serving cheesy turkey sandwiches, pickles, Italian pasta salad, bars and beverages at the July community meal. We will discuss preparations and workers at the next meeting on July 17.

Moderator Kay Campe adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Clerk

MEMORIALS

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
2-Jun	Honor of Kevin & Kelly Moller's Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
9-Jun	Honor of Mary Fuller & Amelia Fuller Birthday	Starfish	Kris & Doug Fuller
9-Jun	Memory of Bonnie True	Starfish	Bobby True
9-Jun	Memory of June True	Starfish	Bobby True
6-Jun	Memory of Robert G True	Starfish	Bobby True
9-Jun	Honor of Vince & Angela Vaughn's Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
9-Jun	Honor of Eric & Catherine Johnson's Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
16-Jun	Memory of Becky Phillips	Flower Fund	Dolores Gronewald
16-Jun	Honor of Kim & Jan Shaffer's Anniversary	Music	Joyce Jorgenson
16-Jun	Honor of Kim & Jan Shaffer's Anniversary	Starfish	Virginia Riedesel
16-Jun	Memory of Becky Phillips	Capital Fund	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
16-Jun	Honor of Kris & Wendy Ziemer's Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
16-Jun	Honor of John & Sherry Larson's Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
16-Jun	Honor of Cory & Christina Hainy's Anniversary		Margaret Weaver



Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:
Byron Phillips and family on Becky's passing
and on the passing of Becky's older brother,
James Hauck.

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 Dolores Gronewald with questions at (651) 249-6236.

Pastor Cory is available for counseling, home visitation and hospital visitation. Please notify the church office (235-5382) or Pastor Cory (399-8282).



Prayer Request Cards are now on the table in the Narthex. Please share your joys and concerns on the card and return it to the usher prior to the Pastoral Prayer if you would like your request included in our prayers during the worship service.

JULY'S BOARD OF THE MONTH



WORSHIP

Worship Board members are David Meschke, Margo Weaver, Dolores Gronewald, Cindy Huset, Ellen Germain and Marilyn Forstrom. Joyce Jorgenson is an Ex-Officio member.

The Worship Board efforts focus on making Sunday morning worship as meaningful as possible for all in attendance. These efforts include arranging for altar flowers, Christmas decorating and Christmas Eve service preparations, paraments and banners, pulpit supply, plans for special recognitions, baptisms and funerals.

In other words, it is a labor of love.

Mission Minute:

July Blessing Box: Heaven's Table Backpack program.

Starting in late September, brown bags will be placed in participating kids' backpacks on Fridays for them to take home for the weekend. The contents include 2 items for breakfast, 2 dinner/meat items, 2 beverages, and 4 snacks. This past school year 326 kids across Martin County participated and 11,408 bags were sent home. The average cost per bag is \$3. The program serves K-6 public school kids at Martin County West, Truman, Granada-Huntley-East Chain, and Fairmont Schools. Heaven's Table Food Shelf runs the program, using separate financing other than the food shelf.

Thank you so much for your consideration in donating to this need!



VBS is at the Shoen farm
on Sunday, August 4th !!

It's a Luau on the Farm from 10 AM-4 PM!

Rides will be provided if needed.

More info coming soon!



Prayer Chain:

We are looking for a volunteer to lead our active prayer chain. The prayer chain leader sends emails, calls those without email and is a contact for those requesting prayers. Please contact Pastor Cory or the church office if interested!

Congratulations to Pastor Cory for being selected for Lieutenant Colonel for the MN Air National Guard!

No All-Church Breakfast for July. Give Jon Neitzel suggestions for future breakfasts.

Thank you to the Rowan family for supplying the church office with paper bags!



Thank you to Lorie Zoeller, Margo Weaver, Kathy Jorgensen and Cindy Anderson for assembling the June newsletter! Thank you to Sandra Smith for stapling them!



CONGRATULATIONS!
to Robert and Rebecca Lunz
on their marriage on
Saturday, May 25th!



July Diaconate: Dave Huset
Usher: Jon Neitzel/Ellen Germain
Readers for:
7th: Margo Weaver
14th: Amanda Forstrom
21st: Marilyn Forstrom
28th: Dolores Gronewald



Congratulations to
Eric and Kristen (and big brother,
Archer) Abbenhaus on the birth of
Ellie Kay on Saturday, June 15th!

August Diaconate: Sue Kruse
Usher: David "Ace" Adams
Readers for:
4th: Carolyn Thompson
11th: Ace/Deb Adams
18th: Cynthia Celander



First Congregational UCC,

Thank you so much for letting us use
your space this year. It was a nice fit for our
K-2 camp. The kids enjoyed coming and
were thankful to have a place to perform
this year, as were the adults!

Megan Potthoff



SUMMER FUN
St. John's UCC Church

**** PARENTS/GUARDIAN ****

RSVP on all days, require 3-day notice of
attendance before event **CALL 507-235-3500** (number of
kids and adults)

June 15 (Sat) starting at 8:30 at St. John's UCC
Church (kids bring water bottle)

- Trailer ride to Heritage Acres
- Nature Walk on walking path
- Fishing, bait will be provided (kids bring fishing poles)
- Hot meal at noon back at church



July 13 (Sat) GREAT PLAINS ZOO trip to Sioux Falls, SD
(meeting at 8:30 at St. John's UCC Church)

- Parents to provide transportation and cost of a meal
- Entry fee at zoo will be provided



Aug 10 (Sat) meeting at 2:45 at Fairmont Aquatic Park

- Swimming (3:00 till 5:00)
- Entry fee at park will be provided



Sept 8 (Sun) after church at St. John's UCC Church (approx. 10:30)

- Games at St. John's UCC Church
(Bubbles, Bouncy House, etc.)
- Hot meal at noon at church





Notes from the Church Treasurer

Early summer 2024

Thanks be to God, and to the active givers of our church, that our church is in pretty good financial shape. As of the end of May, we have received 38% of the budgeted offerings. Thanks to each of you for your faithful gifts!! Our spending continues to be very close to what we budgeted, though utilities are above budget. We need to continue to remember that we will need to increase our giving and fundraising to meet the budget.

Thanks to all of you who participated in so many ways in the Breakfast on the Lawn and Pie Social Fundraisers. Breakfast on the Lawn raised \$362 and the Pie Social raised \$1776.

The carpet project is completed. At the time of the carpet installation, the front of the sanctuary was rearranged. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the gorgeous new piano and to the future upkeep of the organ.

The next major project is replacing the aging, squeaking furnace/ air conditioner that is part of the climate control for our sanctuary. It has functioned for a year or more beyond its predicted life span. Facilities and the Church Council have decided it is more cost effective to plan to replace it this summer rather than wait for it to fail at some inconvenient time. The cost will be approximately \$10,000. If you feel called to contribute, please label your gift as for the furnace.

Our Blessing Box ministries are supported by going above and beyond our general giving for church support. As of the end of April, \$5,302 has been contributed for both local and wider church missions.

Summer is a busy time. Continuing to support our General Fund is a very important part of continuing our church-ministries. If you are not going to be able to be in church regularly, remember you can arrange with your bank to send a check or you can mail your pledged and other giving to the church office.

First Congregational UCC, 319 Downtown Plaza, Fairmont. MN 56031

If you ever have questions or ideas about our church's finances, please feel free to discuss them with me. Phone or text (507-236-1457) or email me at cat.g.johnson@gmail.com

Thanks to each and all of you for being so faithful in supporting our church as we strive to do the work Jesus would have us do!

Catherine



All Are Welcome!

COMMUNITY WORSHIP

SYLVANIA PARK BANDSHELL, FAIRMONT
EVERY WEDNESDAY, 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM

MAY 22 - SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

HOSTED BY: GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

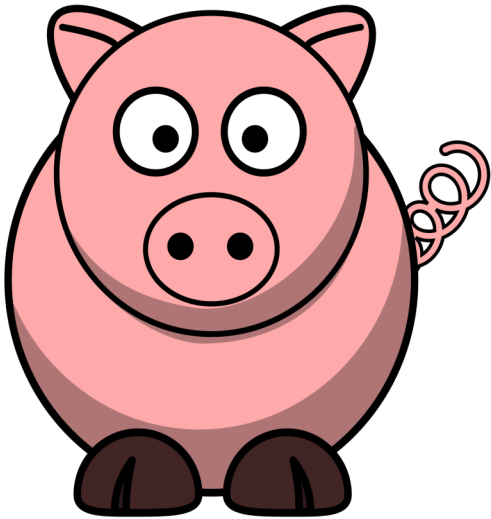
LIVE WORSHIP BAND WITH MEANINGFUL MESSAGE FROM AREA PASTORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

FIND US AT: GRACELUTHERANCHURCH.ORG
RAIN SITE: SYLVANIA PARK SHELTER




Heavenly Delights are BACK!

On Friday, July 19th, we will be serving bacon-y sweet treats in front of the Imagine mARTin Hub, 103 W. 1st Street, for the community and for some pig-collecting friends from Nashville who are traveling to see Fairmont's hog statues! Starting at 5:00 PM, Martin County Pork Producers are serving pork chops on a stick, and we'll provide the desserts! There will be live music and the Downtown shops will be open for Hog Wild Days sales! Check your email and the Sunday bulletin for opportunities to donate ingredients, bake treats or serve!!



FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

**First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza, Fairmont**



**MENU: Cheesy Turkey Sandwiches
Pickles
Italian Pasta Salad
Bars
Milk, coffee or water**

Hosted by
Church Council

**Serving
5:30 PM until
food is gone**

fairmontucc.org

Church Council will be looking for ingredient donations for the Cheesy July Free Community Meal! A donation sign-up will be in the Narthex and in your email soon!

Gardeners, they will be looking for some fresh produce (broccoli, bell peppers, zucchini, & carrots) for the meal!

Thanks for your help!!!

This sweet dessert for July makes use of abundant summer zucchini crops!

Zucchini Chocolate Cake

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 to 1 1/2 tsp. vinegar or lemon juice
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. cloves
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 2 cups grated zucchini, blotted with paper towel
- 1/2 to 1 cup chocolate chips (can also add 1/2 cup chopped nuts)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Grease & flour a 9 x 13" pan.

Combine milk and vinegar (or lemon juice) in a bowl. Let milk stand to sour, about 5 minutes.

Cream butter, oil and sugar. Add eggs, vanilla, sour milk; beat together. Add dry ingredients; stir until just combined. Fold in zucchini. Pour into pan. Sprinkle with chocolate chips. (and chopped nuts if using).

Bake for 45 to 50 minutes until toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.



July Birthdays:

July 3	Catherine Johnson	July 19	Joy Rachuy
July 4	Judie Orr		Abby Shoen
July 9	Pauline Cruz		Sandra Smith
July 10	Julie Elliott	July 20	Kelly Moller
July 11	Sydney Hainy	July 21	Alex Neitzel
July 12	Pat Rowan	July 23	Akina Heidelberg
July 14	Margo Weaver	July 24	Nicholas Thate
July 15	Marilyn Forstrom	July 25	Robbin Celander
	Kevin Moller	July 26	Cheryl Ashland
	Emily Cain		Dolores Gronewald
July 17	Haley Harder	July 27	Renae Vetter
July 18	Shelby Marks	July 28	Whytnie Goerndt
		July 30	Melissa Neitzel
		July 31	Courtney Grefe

July Anniversaries:

July 6	Lyle & Charlene Norris	61 years
July 9	Jason & Amber Brummond	13 years
July 13	Roger & Marian Buchan	67 years
July 14	Jon & Terry Riggs	34 years
July 20	Tracy & Jessi Kotewa	22 years
July 21	Brad & Vonnie Cone	23 years
July 22	Lorin & Joy Pollock	29 years
July 24	Jeff & Renae Vetter	37 years
July 25	Tony & Jenna Smith	9 years
July 26	Matt & Brittany Goerndt	10 years
July 27	Mark & Rita Craven	50 years

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