

# November 2025

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

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**Fairmont, MN 56031**



First Congregational UCC  
319 Downtown Plaza  
Fairmont, MN 56031



WHEELCHAIR  
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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](mailto:uccsecretary319@gmail.com)

**Web Site Address**

[www.fairmontucc.org](http://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.**



# November

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 4:00-7:00 Larry's Bonfire
2 Daylight Savings ends 10:00 All Saints Worship Sunday school	3	4 	5 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Mission Bd 6:00 Worship Bd 7:00 Choir	6 11:30 MRCI (FS/ HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	7	8
9 Stewardship Ingathering 10:00 Worship Communion Sunday school 11:15 Potluck	10 5:30 Hospital Foundation	11  10:00 Lakeview Communion 6:00 Facilities	12 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Diaconate Bd 5:45 CE Bd 7:00 Choir	13 11:30 MRCI (FS/ HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch) 5:30 Hospitality Board	14 9:00 Budget Proposals due to Catherine or Dara 11:00 REM Exercise (HH)	15
16 10:00 Worship Sunday school 11:15 Adult Sunday school	17 9:00 Council agenda items and Dec/Jan newsletter items DUE	18 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	19 4:00 Confirmation 5:30 Free Community Meal 5:45 Church Council 7:00 Choir	20 K reserved 9:30 Bible study 11:30 MRCI (FS/ HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	21 K reserved 4:45 Glows Soup Supper 6:00 Glows Parade	22
23 10:00 Worship with Blake Potthoff Sunday school 11:15 Decorate church for Christmas	24  Office CLOSED	25 11:00 Newsletter assembly	26 4:00 NO Confirmation 7:00 NO Choir	27 Thanksgiving  Office CLOSED	28	29
30 10:00 Contemporary Worship Sunday school Noisy Sunday Blessing Box collection						

## *The Reverend's Ruminations - November 2025*

As you glance at the calendar, many of you are likely breathing a sigh (of either relief or trepidation) that there are still nine more weeks left in the year. Oddly, it feels like the trees are a little later than normal in showing their peak colors, but I love autumn and will gladly marvel at the beautiful yellows, oranges, and reds a little longer — as long as I can still get my lawn and gutters cleaned up before the white stuff appears!?!

As usual by November, I must lean forward to begin planning for the inevitable change of the church's liturgical worship calendar. Our three-year journey of sermons exploring the Old Testament ancestors of our faith will conclude this month, including selections from the lesser-known prophets Habakkuk and Haggai as well as their more famous counterparts, Isaiah and Jeremiah. Already by the last Sunday of November, whether we're ready or not, the anticipatory season of Advent will begin — leading us with ever-increasing speed toward a mid-week Christmas Eve worship service this year.

There will, of course, be a mix of days yet to experience this month, from crystal blue skies and vivid colors to the dreary, chilly, "gales of November" with which we're also familiar. One also never knows what could fall from the sky as the days march onward!?! And though many advertisers would like us to think otherwise, the over-hyped celebration of Halloween does not immediately give way to Christmas. November instead begins solemnly with All Saints' Day, which will be observed during worship on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. There are also civic events like elections (including big bond referendum decisions in several of our area school districts) as well as the important national holidays of Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. I will once again be speaking on Veteran's Day, this year in Trimont. Ellen and I will also be making our first trip to her mother & stepfather's home in South Carolina after several family Thanksgiving trips to their former location in Oshkosh, WI. The scenery will likely be a bit different that far south, but more importantly we'll all get to see our young grandsons at about six months of age!

In this month of thanks-giving, I challenge you to take a moment and think back on the examples of faith that you saw modelled in your household by parents, grandparents, or other family members. Though some in the congregation may have come to faith later, or by other means, it is likely that most of us grew up in a household that instilled the importance of prayer, church attendance, and faithfulness you have today. Please pause — on Thanksgiving or sometime this month, whether in person or in prayer — to thank those most influential in your Christian development!

By now you should have received a mailing from the Stewardship Committee, and we hope that you have been carefully considering the financial pledge you and your family will make toward the ongoing mission of our church. This is never an easy decision, and we are all well aware of the financial challenges present in our current national economy. Please help your church family as best you are able — knowing that faithful giving returns blessings of not just finances, but continued faith growth for the future.

I also ask that you prayerfully consider how you might serve a more active role at First Congregational United Church of Christ. We are actively seeking board and council members for a new term, and I encourage each of you to take your turn in these valuable ministries of the local church. None of the board positions takes more than a few hours a month, and are a great way to get acquainted with other members of our congregation. Of course, there are also great opportunities for short-term help in the form of kitchen workers, singers, Christmas decorators, ushers, greeters, or scripture readers as well. Volunteers, no matter the duration of the task, help make the many ministries of First Congregational UCC possible.

As the temperatures fall and *snow* inevitably makes its way into our vocabulary, I hope you and yours remain warm, healthy, and safe!

Thankful for each of you,

*Rev. Cory Germain*

# rightnow MEDIA

Worship services from First Congregational UCC are available & searchable by date alongside the other great content on the [free rightnow MEDIA website](#) & app!



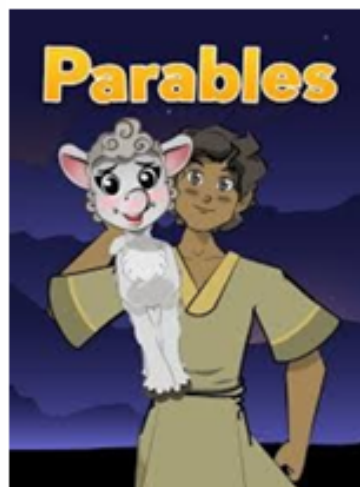
Back in August, I recommended the first series in **rightnow MEDIA's** *Essentials of Faith* collection: *What Is a Christian?* with Francis Chan. I hope that it helped you ponder what sets us apart among the world's major religions, and that you're hungry for some additional exploration of your faith. This month I'm recommending the second series in the collection: ***Why Does Jesus Matter?*** Here's a brief synopsis of this important study:

*What makes Jesus such an important person? In this six-session series, pastor and author J.D. Greear will answer the question, "Why does Jesus matter?" He'll explore who Jesus is, why he came, and what he said and did, to help us understand the life-changing effect Jesus had — and continues to have — on the world. Join J.D. and see the difference that Jesus can make in your life.*

\*As before, there is a free downloadable study guide that can help you follow along and explore this subject more fully.

Our kids are inundated these days by shows and advertisements that pull them in so many directions — many of which can actually lead them away from the church. As parents, grandparents, or influential adults in their lives, why not encourage positive learning when it comes to the Christian faith? As you know, Jesus used easily-approachable stories known as parables to teach about complex subjects; they are still just as relevant as when he told them. Watch three short videos simply titled ***Parables*** with the kids in your life, then spend some time letting them explain them back to you. You might be surprised how well they'll understand! Here's what you can expect:

*Join an exciting animated series where kids experience the powerful parables of Jesus! Watch as the wise builder's house stands firm in the storm, the lost sheep is joyfully found, and the Good Samaritan shows kindness to a stranger. Through engaging stories, colorful animation, and valuable life lessons, children will discover faith, love, and the power of doing what is right!*



\*Do you still need your own **FREE rightnow MEDIA** account, OR would you like to share this great resource with a friend?

There are 3 convenient ways: Go to <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/FCONG>

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 10-15-2025**

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

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on 9-17-2025, was M/S/C. (Catherine Johnson/Amanda Forstrom)

**Treasurer's Report** Catherine Johnson reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> account was opened at Edward Jones. The plan is to add \$100/month for 20 months. We are at 62% of budget received at the end of September. A motion to receive the treasurer's report was M/S/C. (Amanda Forstrom/Cynthia Celander)

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Cory summarized his many activities for the month.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

**Christian Education:** No representative. They did not meet in October. Sunday school and confirmation classes have begun.

**Hospitality:** Rebecca Lunz reported they are planning the Stewardship Potluck and will request \$1200 for their proposed budget for next year.

**Facilities:** No representative. They feel a 10% increase in all budget items is necessary.

**Diaconate:** No representative. They did not meet in October.

**Mission:** Amanda Forstrom said that the September Blessing Box raised \$560 for Neighbors in Need. Rob Stauter is speaking for CREST on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will contribute to a couple of families for the Toys for Tots Christmas Tree. The ditch cleanup was very successful.

**Worship:** Cindy Huset stated they are planning the Christmas decorating after church on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. They are asking to increase the amount in the proposed budget for 2026's pulpit supply. Nametags are working well.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Stewardship:** The Stewardship Ingathering & Potluck will be on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Budget:** All budget proposals are due to Church Treasurer on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The budget meeting will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup> with meal at 5:30 PM and meeting at 6:00 PM.

**Nominating:** Cynthia is working on it.

**Personnel:** Meeting in October.

**Creation Justice:** Council recommends that the Welcome Doors go against the church under stained glass window between the bushes.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Council goals for the year were discussed. REM has started to use the basement for an exercise class for a small number of people.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was a motion (M/S/C) to approve member transfers for Izzy & Pauline Cruz, Art & Julie Elliot, and Amanda Cain. (Cynthia Celander/Catherine Johnson)  
Kay Campe adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Church Clerk



## *Stewardship 2025*

Stewardship Sunday is on November 9th. A potluck will follow worship that day!



## LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS.....

### **Christmas is coming!!**

Believe it or not, it is time to order poinsettias!! The last day to order is **November 16th**. The cost this year will be \$15 for a 6" pot or \$25 for a 7" pot with 2 plants in pot. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex or you can call the church office, 507-235-5382.



Please stay after church **Sunday, November 23rd** to decorate the church for Christmas!

# MEMORIALS

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
15-Sep	Memory of Ginny Riedesel	Capital Camp	Carolyn & Larry Thompson
15-Sep	Memory of Melva Lou Tonne	Capital Camp	Carolyn & Larry Thompson
22-Sep	Memory of Ginny Riedesel		Nancy & Dave Bishop
22-Sep	Memory of Ginny Riedesel		Donna Holstine
5-Oct	Honor of Dean & Donna Grotte	Capital/Building	Les Heinrich
5-Oct	Memory of Jerome Maday	Starfish	Les Heinrich
5-Oct	Honor of Cheryl Rippke	Starfish	Les Heinrich



Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:  
the family of Charles "Woody" Woodward

**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 19 October 2025

During the last 4 weeks, \$11,014.39 (5.51%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 45 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$182,521.29 (91.26%) toward the 18<sup>th</sup> goal which is \$200,000 and maybe reached around the end of November 2025.

During the same time, \$4,294.69 (2.86%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 132 weeks, Fareway is at \$141,971.23 (94.65%) toward our 5<sup>th</sup> \$150,000 goal. It could take 11 weeks to reach the 5<sup>th</sup> \$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. During this time, one slip from Fast & Fresh was only \$0.18 = enough points to get 20 gallons of free gas. Yes, even that helps to reach the goal. Thanks to all who are turning in their slips.

Reported by;  
Jim Bock





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

### Question #8: What was your favorite subject in school, and why?

Everett Hanning	Science - I liked it!!
Zach Ashland	math was fun
Jim Bock	Math. I used it on the farm: with the dairy, calculating how much grain each should get based on the amount of milk and butter fat they gave as well with the chickens, hogs and farm crops.
Sandi Smith	Science & Math - that's what the universe is made of
Tim Campe	Shop, woodworking
BonnieSue Bennett	Physics. Learning how matter, energy, force, & motion interact in our world & in space.
Cheryl Ashland	Art because there was never homework
Cynthia Celander	I don't think I necessarily had a favorite because I enjoyed so many - math, science, home ec
Kay Campe	Math
Ellen Germain	Social studies and literature. I loved seeing how the world's events showed up in literature.
Carol Barrick	English - I just clicked with it. Office Ed - loved administrative work.
Lela Hanning	English - interesting
Margo Weaver	Math & anatomy - solving problems; bank - playing flute
Randy Musser	History - impressed with forefathers
Pastor Cory	Music (Band & Choir)

**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.**



fairmontucc.org





# **WARNING**

## **DUE DATES ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR**

### DUE DATES:

- Budget Proposals are due to Catherine Johnson or Dara Bliesmer **by Friday, November 14th!**
- Items for the **December 2025/January 2026 newsletter** are **due by November 17th!**
- Reports for the 2025 Annual Report are due **by Friday, December 19th** (unless it is a **financial report**)!



## **The Cookie Walk, Bake & Craft Sale** **is coming!!!**

**Friday, December 5th, 4-7 PM**

**Cookies are \$15/lb**

**Baking Dates & other details  
will be coming!**



The NE entry will be  
closed starting  
December 7th  
or earlier if it snows.



### **November Partners in Ministry:**

**Diaconate:** Eric B. Johnson

**Usher:** Eric B. Johnson

**Readers:**

**2nd:** Margo Weaver

**9th:** Marilyn Forstrom

**16th:** Dolores Gronewald

**23rd:** Carolyn Thompson

**30th:** Confirmation student



### **December Partners in Ministry:**

**Diaconate:** Sue Kruse

**Usher:** Germain

**Readers:**

**7th:** Confirmation student

**14th:** Confirmation student

**21st:** Confirmation student

**24th:** OPEN

**28th:** Ellen Germain

## MISSION MINUTE:

### Blessing Box: Church World Service-Blanket Sunday

The organization started in 1946 in the aftermath of WWII to help feed the hungry and help those in need. The CWS blankets are each \$10. We'll have more information on this mission in the back of the church.

### Salvation Army Bell Ringing

If you would like to sign up this year, please use the following website:  
[www.registertoring.com](http://www.registertoring.com)

### Thank you

to all who helped with ditch cleanup at the end of September. We were able to clean up our entire section, since we had 10 people participate. This was our best turnout in a couple of years. Thank you!



**Turn your clocks back 1 hour before  
bed on Saturday, November 1st!!**



### November Treats:

- 2nd: OPEN (as of printing newsletter)
- 9th: OPEN (as of printing newsletter)
- 16th: OPEN (as of printing newsletter)
- 23rd: Donna Grotte (Hospitality Bd)
- 30th: OPEN (as of printing newsletter)



### Annual Halloween/All Saints Day Bonfire & Potluck

will be on Saturday, November 1st, 4:00 –7:00 PM,  
at the Vogel Farm, 717 200th Ave, South of Fairmont.  
Hotdogs, marshmallows, & hot apple cider are provided.  
Bring a dish to share & your own chair.  
Costumes welcome but not required!

**The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is meeting on November 9th.** If you have any joys or concerns for the committee to address, please contact Jon Neitzel (507-236-3317), Ruth Ann Jones (507-236-4854), or Marilyn Forstrom (612-308-0500) prior to the meeting on the 9th. Thank you!



**Thank you, Lorie Zoeller, Kathy Jorgensen,  
Sherry Voyles, Catherine Johnson, Margo  
Weaver and Dolores Gronewald, for assembling  
the October newsletter! Thanks, Kathy  
Jorgensen, for watching the office for me too!  
-Christina**





# Spectacula Virtuoso Christmas Concert

On Dueling Pianos  
Featuring the talents of

Glenn Henriksen,  
Member of Galaxy 500 Band  
& keyboard entertainer

Jayson Matasovsky,  
Martin Luther Senior

Amazing debut performance of Christmas melodies

**Sunday, December 7 2:00 p.m.**

Enjoy Christmas Treats ~ Apple Cider ~ Coffee

**Fesitval of Trees**

Tickets:  
Online Advance \$15.00 at [www.martinlutherhs.com](http://www.martinlutherhs.com)  
After November 30-\$20.00 in person at MLHS

A benefit for the student tuition fund at:  
**Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School,**  
315 Martin Luther Drive  
Phone: 507-436-5249  
Northrop, MN  
[www.martinlutherhs.com](http://www.martinlutherhs.com)

Honoring Christ...Welcoming All




## GOOD NEWS

**Nola Thedens was recently a candidate for FHS's Homecoming Court!**

**Congratulations, Nola!**



Martin County Humane Society is having a  
**Bake Sale** at Fleet and Farm on  
Saturday, November 22nd, from 9:00 AM to  
1:00 PM. Grab some treats & help the animals  
at the humane society too!



Setting up online giving to  
First Congregational UCC,  
Fairmont

See the links on our church  
website, [fairmontucc.org](http://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

**HELP  
WANTED**

## 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 Celander, Catherine Johnson, or Kay Campe.





# Glow's Parade Soup Supper Fundraiser

**Friday, November 21**

**4:45 - 6:30 PM**

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

## Menu:

Your choice of soup:

Cheesy Turkey Vegetable

Chicken Noodle

Ham & Wild Rice

Creamy Dill Pickle

Fresh-baked Rolls

Apple Dessert

Milk, Coffee & Water



**\$9/serving, \$5/children 10 & under**

Payment by cash only.

**FREE cider and popcorn!**

[fairmontucc.org](http://fairmontucc.org)





## Shopper's Luncheon Ham Loaves

*with Agnes Metcalf's Shopper's Luncheon Mustard Sauce*

MAKES: 20-25 LOAVES

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### Ingredients

#### Loaves:

- 4 lb. ham
- 2 lb. pork
- 4 eggs
- 2 C. bread crumbs
- 1 C. tomato puree
- 1 C. tomato juice

#### Mustard Sauce:

- 2 eggs
- 1 C. brown sugar
- ½ C. cider vinegar
- ½ C. water
- 2 Tbsp. dry mustard
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 rounded tsp. flour

### Directions

#### For the loaves:

1. Grind ham and pork together.
2. Add beaten eggs and the rest of the ingredients for the loaves.
3. Form into desired size individual loaves.
4. Bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees Fahrenheit) for about 35 - 45 minutes.

#### For the mustard sauce:

1. Beat eggs, add the rest of the ingredients for the mustard sauce.
2. Cook in a double boiler until thickened.
3. It's a good idea to strain the sauce through a strainer after cooking.

*The Shopper's Luncheon Ham Loaves with Agnes Metcalf's Mustard Sauce were served many years at First Congregational's Harvest Festival each fall. This year they were served at the Progressive Dinner. These two recipes from the Women's Association can be found in the Feeding Our Flock cookbook*



# November

## Birthdays:

Nov 5	Jessie Bicknase	Nov 23	Lee Hanning
	Rose Barnes		Reid Rosen
Nov 8	Tom Jorgensen	Nov 25	Erica Jorgensen
Nov 9	Joy Pollock	Nov 26	Kate Hawkins
	Chelsea Celander	Nov 27	Jodie Whitmore
Nov 10	Conrad Zoeller	Nov 28	Douglas Fuller
Nov 11	Travis Goerndt	Nov 29	Jeff Skog
Nov 13	Dalton Massey	Nov 30	Jenny Willard
Nov 14	Hillary Forstrom Harrison		Savannah Goerndt
Nov 15	Andi Wegner		Scottie Celander
Nov 16	Steve Draper		
Nov 17	Tyler Grefe		
Nov 20	Vince Vaughn		
	Reid Cain		

## Anniversaries:

Nov 3	David & Lisa Meschke	18 years
Nov 18	Gene & Barb Pitcher	47 years
Nov 19	Jamis & Emma Hueper	3 years
Nov 21	Pastor Cory & Ellen Germain	27 years
Nov 23	Bill & Pat Cowing	69 years
Nov 29	Bill & Barb Bittman	50 years



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