

September 2024

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



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

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

Sunday school 11:00

Communion the second

Sunday of every month.

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 Worship	2	3 10:00 Lakeview Communion	4 5:30 Mission Board 6:00 Worship Board 7:00 Choir	5 11:30 MRCI (FS/ HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	6	7
8 10:00 Worship 11:00 First Day of Sunday school	9	10 7:00 Facilities Board	11 5:30 Diaconate Board 5:45 CE Board 7:00 Choir	12 11:30 MRCI (FS/ HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch) 5:30 Hospitality Board	13	14
15 10:00 Worship 11:00 Sunday school	16 9:00 Council agenda items due	17 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	18 5:45 Church Council 7:00 Choir	19 11:30 MRCI (FS/ HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	20 9:00 October Newsletter items due	21
22 First day of Fall 10:00 Worship 11:00 Sunday school	23	24	25 5:30 Free Community Meal 7:00 Choir	26 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Newsletter assembly 11:30 MRCI (FS/ HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	27	28 12:30 Highway Cleanup
29 10:00 <i>Contemporary</i> Worship <i>Blessing box</i> <i>Noisy Sunday</i> 11:00 Sunday school	30					

The Reverend's Ruminations - September 2024

As I sit down a little later than usual to reflect with you, the Minnesota State Fair has ended another heavily-attended run, and we again had several successful young 4-H competitors from our church representing the Fairmont area. Way to go! Labor Day weekend throughout most of Minnesota turned out to be absolutely stellar, with better weather than I can recall in many, many years. Of course that beautiful weekend marked (at least unofficially) the passing of another summer. Where do they go so quickly? As always at this time of year, I hope that you and your family can look back on some memorable sights, sounds, tastes, and activities of a fun Minnesota summer!

Now that all our area children (and teachers) are back in school, let us lift them in prayer for a safe and enjoyable year filled with learning and new experiences that will shape their continued growth and the future of our community and nation for the next generation. We have several church youth who are very involved in extra-curricular activities at our area schools, so keep your eyes peeled for familiar names on the rosters of various music and sports groups and cheer them on when you're able!

Here at First Congregational UCC, our worship schedule is no longer changing with the seasons (remaining at 10:00 am all year), but Sunday School will resume at a new time on September 8th — immediately following the worship service at *approximately* 11:00. Our hope is that this schedule will allow our families and children to enjoy and learn together from the worship experience, while also making it possible for “God’s children of all ages” to also take part in Christian education opportunities that will foster continued growth and understanding of our faith. Yes, that means Adult Sunday School will also be available following worship, and I hope that you’ll join us for fellowship, learning, and maybe a little coffee! We’ll still be wrapped up by noon — although the children’s classes are planning to enjoy some monthly extended “fun days” including a meal and other special activities that will run a little longer.

As many of us seek to (re)establish an autumn or back-to-school routine, I encourage you to make the Bible part of your personal growth. I know that it can sometimes seem like a daunting task, but to help you bite off manageable chunks, I will be adding the upcoming week’s lectionary scripture readings to our bulletins starting this week, so that you can read ahead and contemplate what you’ll be hearing the following Sunday. As an overview, September’s epistle readings will all be drawn from the five short chapters of James, while the gospel readings from now until nearly the end of November will all be drawn from Mark. During the rest of our September worship services, sermons will examine selections from Proverbs — specifically chapters 1, 22, and 31 — as well as portions of Esther’s 7th and 9th chapters.

I hope to 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 8-21-2024**

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

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; paved parking lot and alley and all coming together for our back to back funerals.

Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 17, 2024, was M/S/C. (Abigail Anderson/Marcia Musser)

Treasurer's Report Catherine Johnson submitted a report \$500 has been submitted for camp reimbursement. The furnace has been ordered, just not installed yet. \$1321.87 has been received towards that project. Building insurance proposal for next year has been received and the Facilities is reviewing it. At the end of July, we received 49% of pledged giving, which is slightly down. A motion to receive the treasurer's report was M/S/C. (Abigail Anderson/Larry Lasch)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory has officiated 2 funerals, has made several pastoral care calls and visits along with several anniversary/birthday texts.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: We had 8-9 kids that went to camp this year. VBS is out at the Shoen Farm, Sunday Aug 4th was a success, 25 kids (4 new). Glow with Christ dance on 8/28. Sunday school will be at 11 am right after service. Going to have a fun day once a month.

Hospitality: No meeting.

Facilities: Larry Lasch reported the furnace is not in yet. They are renumbering the AC/furnace thermostats to coincide with the correct furnace. Reviewed Insurance premiums.

Diaconate: No summer meetings. Cards being sent out.

Mission: Ditch clean up is going to be late Sept. makeup is in Oct., working on getting Nov and Dec community meals covered.

Worship: Working on getting pulpit supply filled.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominations committee: Kay and Abigail are taking over the Vice Moderator role together.

Personnel committee: Pastor reviews are out to the boards, and the council reviewed the Pastor working agreement and the personnel committee will be making revisions to military leave.

Stewardship: *Our Church is a Family & we are Stronger Together is the theme. Looking for a few members to be on the team this year and start working on an "in-gathering" date.*

OLD BUSINESS: Council served 70-80 cheesy turkey sandwich meals at the July community meal. Hog Wild Days July 19th raised \$650. Half of the proceeds will go to the Heifer International Project \$325, where they are purchasing 3 pigs and the other \$325 to the general fund. Council discussed ways to become a more welcoming church. Signage will be placed at the front and ally entrances directing people where to go for different areas of the church. Motion was made for Abigail to purchase 2 signs, 12x18 for up to \$250. (Jane Kotewa, Terri Luetgers M/S/C)

NEW BUSINESS: Adam Garbers w/ Fairmont National Insurance and Dean Grotte joined us to review the Insurance premiums. Motion was made to increase the deductible to \$10,000, and the valuation of the church to 90% to keep our premium in a budget range, \$9,438, we could afford as a church. (Larry Lasch/Jane Kotewa M/S/C). Brainstormed an idea of a "Family" Reunion "In-gathering" for the fall worship service. For the Glows Parade, we will have a soup supper again this year along with free popcorn & apple cider. Need to create a committee for a cookie walk & crafts sale Dec 4th.

Moderator Kay Campe adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Abigail Anderson, Past Moderator

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
- Vacation Bible School Luau



- Congo Cookie Club???
- Altar Flowers
- Prayer Chain
- HyVee & Fareway Receipts
- Free Little Pantry
- Serving our Church Family
- Noisy Sunday – Heifer Project this month
- Martin County Fair



Another reason to celebrate: a SMOOTH parking lot and alley!!!

- Uptown Kiwanis Free Community Meal
- Lakeview Communion
- Goldfinch Communion
- Newsletter & helpers
- Glow with Christ Dance Party
- Readers, Ushers, Greeters
- Worship
- Fill in Pianists
- Beautiful Special Music
- Rightnow Media
- Website & Facebook Pages
- Ditch Cleanup
- Wednesday Community Worship at Park
- Church Service Broadcasts
- Sunday School Kickoff
- Sunday School!!! – kids and adults
- Military Service Members



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!...

Hy-Vee & Fareway Report as of 25 August 2024

During the last 5 weeks, \$21,096.68 (10.55%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 38 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$146,109.47 (73.03%) toward the 17th goal which is now \$200,000.

During the same time, \$6,623.91 (4.35%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 73 weeks, Fareway is at \$84,007.07 (56.00%) 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.

Reported by;
Jim Bock

Hello!

I'm excited to announce the launch of our new website! You can view it at www.hfhmartinfaribault.org.

Much of our funding for 2024 and 2025 was cut without warning, so we are having a big raffle to celebrate our 25th Anniversary! We have 25 prizes and tickets are \$25 each. We have a she-shed, a child's playhouse, a hand made table that converts to a bench, \$50 in McDonald's cards, an outdoor table made by Two Old Pallets, a hand made quilt, a big cooler, \$250 cash, plus much more. You can view our big prizes on the website, and there is also a link to purchase tickets.

We will deliver anywhere in the Continental USA!

Your support is very important right now. Please take a look at our website and consider purchasing some tickets. We have two homes underway at the moment, one in Blue Earth and one in Wells, and two are planned for Truman next year.

Thank you for your support, and our "excitement is building".

Staci Thompson

Executive Director
PO Box 3
Blue Earth, MN 56013
507-526-2500
Fax: 507-526-2506
habitat@bevcomm.net





Thank you for helping me come to camp. I learned that god truly cares about me. My favorite thing to do was worship.

Love, Koda Massey

Thank You for helping me to come to camp. Without you I wouldnt have been able to. One of my highlights is chapel. getting to know god is one of the best experiences i have had in a while
Love, kira



Thank you, Lorie Zoeller, Sandra Smith, and Bible study ladies, for assembling the August newsletter! Thank you, Kathy Jorgenson and Joanne Eisenbarger, for filling in for the office! I appreciate your help!
-Christina

Dear Church family for Lee & June Trunkenbolz,

I can't help but smile & be grateful for all the wonderful people at church that my parents knew as family & friends. You are all amazing at sharing Jesus with each other and others.

Thank you!

Love, Tracy

Send a letter to Jonissa Neitzel to give her some support from home! Her address (on her ship):

RS3 Jonissa Neitzel
USS Theodore Roosevelt
CVN 71
Unit 100250 Box 5700
FPO AP 96632



Thank you for your prayers and donation to my sister, LeeAnn Byers, in her time of need caused by the flood in Iowa where she lost everything. It was much appreciated.

God Bless,

Jill Houge & LeeAnn Byers

MEMORIALS

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
21-Jul	Memory of Becky Phillips		Cynthia Celander
30-Jun	Honor of Everett & Lela Hanning's Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
4-Aug	Honor of Lincoln Garbers		Douglas & Kristine Fuller
4-Aug	Honor of Julie & Art Elliott's 50th Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
8-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz		Ace & Deb Adams
4-Aug	Memory of Joyce Hillmer	Starfish	Cindy & Jon Anderson
7-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz	Starfish	Cindy & Jon Anderson
8-7	Memory of Bob Cone	Starfish	Cindy & Jon Anderson
8-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz		Marilyn Belseth
3-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz		Cynthia Celander
8-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz		James & Ronda Cone
5-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz	Music Dept	Bill & Pat Cowing
8-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz		Joanne Eisenbarger
8-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz		Marilyn Forstrom
6-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz		Eric B & Catherine Johnson
9-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz	Music	Joyce Jorgenson
9-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz		Robert & Constance Katzenberger
8-11	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz		Jane Kotewa
11-Aug	Memory of Bob Cone		Jane Kotewa
8-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz		Sherman & Muriel Kumba
8-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz		Sherry & John Larson
7-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz	Music	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
7-Aug	Memory of Bob Cone	Capital Fund	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
20-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz	Music	Virginia Riedesel
8-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz		Margaret Weaver
8-18	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz		Denise & Dale Baruth
25-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz		Cheryl & Jon Rippke
25-Aug	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz & Bob Cone		Pat & Randy Rowan
25-Aug	Honor of Ace & Deb Adams Anniversary		Margaret Weaver
1-Sep	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz & Bob Cone		Dolores Gronewald
1-Sep	Memory of Shirley Luetgers		Pat & Randy Rowan
1-Sep	Honor of Jeff & Renae Vetter Anniversary		Margo Weaver
1-Sep	Memory of Lee Trunkenbolz		Marilyn Forstrom
1-Sep	Memory of Bob Cone		Cynthia Celander
1-Sep	Memory of Bob Cone		Sandy & Reed Gethmann
1-Sep	Memory of Bob Cone		Eric B & Catherine Johnson
1-Sep	Memory of Bob Cone	Music	Joyce Jorgenson
1-Sep	Memory of Bob Cone		Sherman & Muriel Kumba
1-Sep	Memory of Bob Cone		John & Sherry Larson
1-Sep	Memory of Bob Cone		Julie Ann & Leland Leichtnam
1-Sep	Memory of Bob Cone		Randy & Marcia Musser
1-Sep	Memory of Bob Cone		Vernon Olson
1-Sep	Memory of Bob Cone		Conrad & Lorie Zoeller




SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday School
 will begin on
Sunday, September 8th!

Sept. Diaconate: Kathy Jorgensen
Usher: Cory Hainy
Readers for:
 1st: Margo Weaver
 8th: Marilyn Forstrom
 15th: Margo Weaver
 22nd: Amanda Forstrom
 29th: Eric Johnson

Oct. Diaconate: Dave Huset
Usher: Eric Johnson
Readers for:
 6th: Sandra Smith
 13th: Marilyn Forstrom
 20th: Dolores Gronewald
 27th: Carolyn Thompson

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:

- The family of Robert “Bob” Cone
- The family of Lee Trunkenbolz
- The family of Rev Penny Ritter



Recipe for: **Congo Cookie Club!!!**

Have a favorite Christmas Cookie Recipe?
 Like to Bake? Like to Decorate?
 Curious?
 Join the Congo Cookie Club!!!
 Organizational meeting:
 After Church, Sunday, Sept 15



Cookie treats provided!!

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!

MISSION MOMENT

FALL HIGHWAY PICK-UP: We’ll be doing our bi-annual highway pick-up on Saturday, September 28th. We’ll meet at the church at 12:30 (*new time*) and then carpool out to our section of Hwy 15 by Northrop. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. You can also contact Amanda Forstrom at 507-279-1607 or ajforstrom1@gmail.com to sign up. We’d love to have you join us – the more people the easier and quicker the job!

SEPTEMBER BLESSING BOX:

“Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.”

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA, FAIRMONT, MN

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 25, 2024

Serving from 5:30 PM until the food is gone



ALL are Welcome!

Served by the Worship Board

September's Recipes are from the August Free Community Meal. Enjoy!

Slow-Cooked Turkey Sandwiches

126 sandwiches

Ingredients:

- 42 cups cubed cooked turkey
- 14 cups cubed Velveeta
- 14 cans (10-3/7 ounces) condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 14 cans (10-3/7 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 3-1/2 cups finely chopped onion
- 3-1/2 cups chopped celery
- 126 sandwich buns



Directions:

- Combine the first 6 ingredients in a slow cooker and cook until vegetables are tender, and cheese is melted. Serve on buns.

Italian Pasta Salad

Ingredients:

- 6 pounds small pasta, cooked
- 3 heads broccoli, chopped and cut into bite size pieces
- 2 red and green bell peppers, seeded and cut into bite size pieces
- 2 large red onions, chopped
- 3 zucchini or yellow squash, scrubbed and chopped
- 1 pound carrots, scraped and chopped or cut into thin rounds
- 3 cups pitted black olives, sliced
- 3 pounds mozzarella cheese, cubed into bite size pieces
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Olive oil
- 1 gallon Italian salad dressing
- Salt & pepper



Directions:

- Combine ingredients.

September Birthdays:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Daniel Moller | 19 Joanie Maday |
| Urijah Heidelberg | 21 Sarah Gerhardt |
| 6 Khamari Heidelberg | 22 Dave Huset |
| 7 Abby Miller | 25 Virginia Riedesel |
| 8 Eric Zoeller | Jan Cone |
| 10 Marian Buchan | Amanda Jaskulke |
| 12 Don Marks | Zach Ashland |
| 13 Mike True | 26 Cameron Germain |
| 15 Oliver Thedens | Chad Thate |
| 16 Evie Wenz | Tyler Goerndt |
| 17 Polly Mosloski | 28 Jon Neitzel |
| Jeff Vetter | Patti Norman |
| 18 Dean Grotte | Dustin Bicknase |
| Marie Stoeckman | |



September Anniversaries:

- | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|----------|
| Sept 8 | Andrew & Erica Jorgensen | 6 years |
| Sept 11 | Travis & Melissa Goerndt | 20 years |
| Sept 13 | Mike & Erin True | 9 years |
| Sept 14 | Jayden & Mariah Garlick | 5 years |
| Sept 19 | Dylan & Chelsea Celander | 4 years |
| Sept 22 | Dan & Anne (Saxton) Wenz | 12 years |

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