

June 2025

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

Nonprofit
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Fairmont, MN 56031



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:

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

Sunday school starts in Sept.

Communion the second
Sunday of every month.



June 2025

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	5 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	6	7
8 Pentecost 10:00 Worship with Blake Potthoff	9 5:30 Hospital Foundation	10 6:00 Facilities Board	11	12 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch) 5:30 Hospitality Board working meeting	13 8:30 Kitchen reserved-hospitality 1:00 Kitchen reserved-breakfast prep	14 Flag Day 8-10 Breakfast on the Lawn 11-2 Pie & Ice Cream (& BBQs!) Social 6:00 Parade
15 Father's Day  10:00 Military-style Field Chapel Service (front lawn) Communion	16 9:00 Council agenda items DUE	17 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	18 5:45 Church Council	19 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	20 9:00 July newsletter items DUE	21
22 9:30 Worship in the Park with St. John's UCC (Lincoln Park)	23	24	25 5:30 Free Community Meal	26 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 July newsletter assembly 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	27	28
29 10:00 Contemporary Worship Noisy Sunday Blessing Box	30					

The Reverend's Ruminations - June 2025

Well, as of a couple weeks ago, Ellen and I have new titles: Grandma & Grandpa to two identically-handsome little boys! It's hard for us to believe that we're old enough to hold such status, but as many of you have probably said before: "ready or not, here we go!" As of this writing, Emerson & Jamison are making very good progress for having arrived at about 33 weeks, but will still be in the hospital a little while longer to ensure that they are strong enough to go home without any assistance. Jamis was able to return from his deployment in Iraq just ahead of the big event, and will be able to resume work at Ft. Campbell after several weeks of paternity leave instead of returning overseas. Emma is recovering well from the extended birthing process and looking forward to bringing their little bundles of joy home to begin the parenthood adventure very soon.



Just two weeks prior, we were excited to join Cameron and his fiancé, Bella, as they graduated from college together, so we're also now more officially "empty nesters." Both events symbolize big changes in the lives of our family, but whether it is the birth of a new child, a downsizing of homes, a funeral, a graduation, or (like many others this time of year) the end of another school year, **CHANGE** is a constant in life. Many are exciting, while others are also a little anxiety-inducing. Will the babies be healthy? Are there employment opportunities available? Which camp will the kiddos go to this summer, and how will they balance swimming lessons as well as a family getaway and maybe some unstructured summer fun as well? Which family members will come back to visit in Fairmont? Will I finally have time to work on those house projects or get away to the cabin?

No matter how your summer calendar events begin to come together, please keep First Congregational UCC in your plans. This may sound like a familiar annual plea, but summer church attendance can get kind of light with so many other things vying for the few weeks Minnesota offers us! Worship remains at 10:00am year-round, although our youth Sunday School is now on break until after Labor Day. We will, however, keep a monthly adult Sunday School option on the calendar, so be watching the weekly announcements to continue with our study of the Lord's Prayer through August. The choir is also on a break during the summer months, so if you, a friend, or a community group would like to provide special music in June, July, or August, please let Joyce Jorgenson or me know so that we add to our upcoming worship services.

On behalf of the Church Council, I also encourage you to continue your regular financial giving to support the life of the church year-round. We have recently added a QR code to our weekly bulletins as an additional option to keep up with tithes and offerings if you're not present to pass the offering plate on Sunday morning. As always, our worship services are also available live or later through the **BoxCast** button on our church website (fairmontucc.org), on our **Facebook** page (facebook.com/firstcongofairmontmn), or through your own **free rightnow** MEDIA account. We're also on **Fairmont cable access channel 12** on Thursday afternoons at 2:00 if you're back in town during the week.

Moving through June and into the church season "after Pentecost" (also known as "Ordinary Time"), our Sunday lectionary scripture readings will be from the **Gospel of John** (chapters 17, 14, & 16) for the first three weeks before changing to the **Gospel of Luke** for an extended journey that will take us all the way to the end of November. The epistle readings will examine brief sections of Paul's **Letters to the Romans, Galatians, and Colossians**, while my sermons will return to the Old Testament — specifically **Proverbs and First and Second Kings** during the month of June.

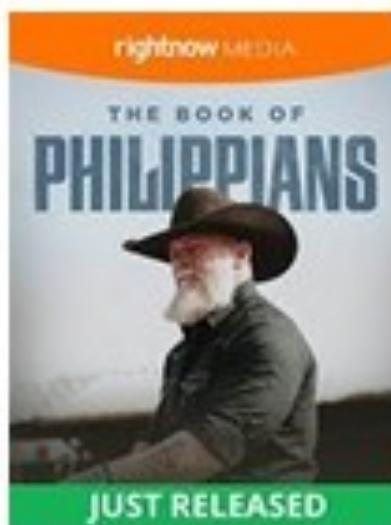
As we enter "unofficially" into Minnesota's all-too-fleeting summer months, I pray that they will nonetheless provide opportunity for rest, relaxation, family time, and perhaps a new commitment to worship God together at First Congregational United Church of Christ!

Yours in Christ,

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!



Summer is here! It's a time that many of us associate with a joyous release from schoolwork, a chance to take some vacation, or just slow down and enjoy a picnic or bonfire. And while those activities are often joyful, the reality is that, while enjoyable, they are but a fleeting moment in time--and "life" inevitably returns with its work and challenges. If you find yourself longing for something that will carry you beyond a summer getaway, then carve out a little time to explore the Apostle Paul's understanding of the true joy found in Christ through a new video study just released on rightnow MEDIA titled ***The Book of Philippians***:

*What Does Lasting Joy Look Like? Throughout our lives, we are sure to experience highs and lows. So, how do we remain content with whatever life throws our way? In **The Book of Philippians**, pastor and author Joby Martin will demonstrate that being with Jesus and belonging to his church fuels our joy and contentment in any situation. Join Joby in this eight-session series and learn the secret to lasting joy.*

If your summer is anything like ours was when the children were younger, there are LOTS of activities to keep them going throughout the summer. And yet, there will occasionally be some rainy days and the inevitable refrain a few weeks from now: "I'm bored." Well, rather than letting them get absorbed in endless online scrolling or secular shows with questionable moral values, why not start them on a wholesome series that could be spread out over the summer? Season 3 has just been released, so all three are accessible through the main title link in "Pastor Cory's Picks" for your convenience. Here's a quick description of ***The Creators***:

The Creators tells the story of a group of friends who join forces to create films that are "meaningful, virtuous, and good." Both clever and creative, *The Creators* weaves biblical truths into engaging stories with humor and the right dose of seriousness. Enjoy this light-hearted children's series that will make your kids laugh and leave them with important truths to consider.



*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 discovered 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 5-21-25**

Members Present: Kay Campe, Amanda Forstrom, Catherine Johnson, Sue Kruse, Larry Lasch, Jon Neitzel, Carol Barrick. **Members Absent:** Cynthia Celandier, Christina Hainy, Cindy Huset, Abby Shoen. **Ex-officio Members Absent** Pastor Cory, Dara Bliesmer, Asst Treasurer. Also in attendance: Dean Grotte, Ace Adams.

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on 4/16/25 was M/S/C. (Amanda Forstrom/ Larry Lasch)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory provided a printed report of his work this past month. He is away meeting his new grandsons who were born unexpectedly prematurely.

Treasurer's Report: We received a pledge of a mutual fund stock. The Bylaws state that it should be sold and reinvested. Since this is a fund we already use in our invested reserves, Catherine Johnson moved that we hold this fund, rather than sell it only to repurchase it. M/S/C (Catherine Johnson/ Amanda Forstrom). Catherine gave notice that she will complete her role as Treasurer at the end of January 2026.

A motion to receive the treasurer's report was M/S/C. (Larry Lasch/Sue Kruse)

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: No report. The end of Sunday School bowling party was a success.

Missions: Hosting Community Meal in May. The June blessing box will be for Shepherd's Inn. Meals on Wheels went well. Thanks to all who helped.

Diaconate: Sending cards out.

Hospitality: On track for Interlaken Heritage Days Pie Social Fundraiser.

Facilities: Will begin to do utility bill tracking.

Worship: A Military-style Field service worship service will be June 15. Our joint service with St. Johns will be on June 22, at Lincoln Park.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Motion to approve Pastor Cory being gone Sunday, May 25 was M/S/C. (Larry Lasch/ Amanda Forstrom)

- Ace Adams presented ideas about increasing our churches mission involvement. There are opportunities and resources available within the UCC. After discussion, it was decided to move forward with an exploratory committee around the topic of Creation Justice.

- Investment Advisory Task Force – There was extensive discussion about the goals and logistics of our invested reserves. A motion that we form a task force to further discuss and develop guidelines was M/S/C. (Catherine Johnson/ Larry Lasch) Volunteers will be recruited.

- The accessible entrance on the lower level has been repaired and improved. With the cooperation of the City, the divot in the alley has been improved. Many thanks to Dean Grotte and Grotte Construction for the quick work! A motion was M/S/C to ratify the electronic vote taken on the project. (Kay Campe/ Catherine Johnson)

- Phillips Family donations: The Phillips family has proposed donating the contents of the house as a donation to the church. Discussion was held about how to manage the logistics of this. Dean Grotte will explore and coordinate these efforts with Jim Phillips.

- Participating in organizations involved with Downtown Plaza. A motion was M/S/C to join the Greater Downtown Plaza Association (\$250) and to participate in the Project 1590 planter beautification (\$250). (Larry Lasch / Sue Kruse)

- Building use: Two organizations have asked to use the building. The request by Adult Mental Health Counseling was referred to Pastor Cory for more information.

REM requests to hold a Silver Sneakers style exercise class for clients with disabilities 2 times a month. A motion was M/S/C to allow this for a 6-month trial. (Amanda Forstrom/ Carol Barrick)

Moderator Kay Campe adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Catherine Johnson



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

Question #2: What different jobs have you held?

Everett Hanning	Farming, Welder, Welding Supervisor-Trainer
Zach Ashland	Paper Boy
Dolores Gronewald	Clerk in store parttime during high school, Dental assistant
Sandi Smith	Plumbing, heating, AC repair, installation, Bartender, Farm Worker - field & livestock, lawn care & maintenance, broke & trained horses.
Tim Campe	Welcome Locker, Madsen's, County Market, Agco
Marcia Musser	Nurse & EMT
Cheryl Ashland	CE Coordinator, Nominating, Budget, CE, Council
Cynthia Celandier	School counselor, school admin
Kay Campe	Bean Walker, bank, teacher, business analyst, admin
Ellen Germain	Social worker, mental health worker at residential treatment facility, dental assistant, teacher K, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8
Carol Barrick	3M Hutchinson - printing press operator, Online production/reporting - document & train, Inventory accounting, human resources - 35 years
Lela Hanning	Baby Sitting, Waitress, Granada Church Musician, Choir Director, Office Secretary, Office Bookkeeper, Yuma Choir Directory
Margo Weaver	Public Health Nurse in KY, PA, MN - Martin & Faribault counties
Randy Musser	Accts Manager - R Motors, Fire marshal- City of Fairmont, EMT, Firefighter
BonnieSue Bennett	nursing

**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 off the table by the office.**

MEMORIALS

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
20-Apr	Memory of Georgia Malo		Cynthia Celander
20-Apr	Memory of Georgia Malo		Guy & Kris Jaqua Head
20-Apr	Memory of Georgia Malo	Starfish	Georgia Malo's Family
20-Apr	Memory of Georgia Malo	Starfish	Jane Kotewa
20-Apr	Memory of Georgia Malo		Pat & Randy Rowan
4-May	Memory of Georgia Malo		Elaine Bauman
28-Apr	Tim & Kay Campe's Anniversary		Margo Weaver
28-Apr	Jim & Barb Bock's Anniversary		Margo Weaver
5-May	Kathy & Tom Jorgensen's Anniversary		Margo Weaver
18-May	Larry & Carolyn Thompson's Anniversary		Margo Weaver
18-May	Alice Maday's birthday	Capital/Building	Les Heinrich
18-May	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Les Heinrich
18-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Dolores Gronewald
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Deb & Ace Adams
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Pat & Randy Rowan
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Jeanne & Mark Atkinson
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Carol & Daryl Bartz
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Barb & Bill Bittman
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Cynthia Celander
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Marsha Donnelly
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Marilyn Forstrom
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Donna & Dean Grotte
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Donna & John Holstine
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips	Starfish	Jane Kotewa
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Sherry & John Larson
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Carla Reynolds
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Stephen Urban
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Margo Weaver
25-May	Memory of Byron Phillips		Anonymous

*Thank you all for your time
and contribution on this day of
remembering Byron Phillips. We
appreciate your friendship to
Becky & Byron over the years.*

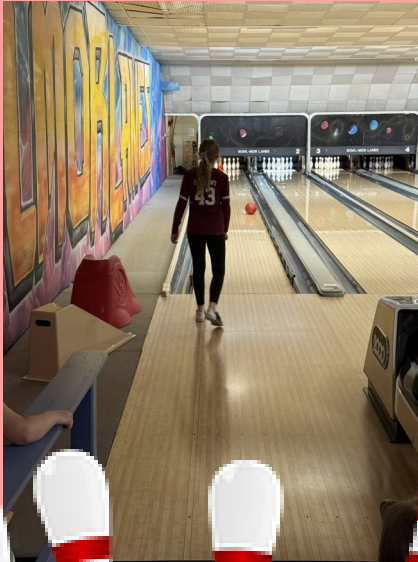
*With appreciation,
The Phillips family*

**Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:
The family of Byron Phillips.**

CE NEWS:

Sunday school ended on May 18th with a fun bowling and pizza party. There is no VBS this summer, since the children are all going to camps.

Thank you to our Sunday school teachers, families and children for another great year of learning!





Highway Cleanup Crew from May 3rd

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.

MISSION MINUTE:

Our Blessing Box special offering for June is The Shepherd's In Soup Kitchen. It was founded by Curt Moeckel and several volunteers a few years ago. It's located at 105 E. 4th Street, which is across the intersection of Downtown Plaza and 4th Street from our church. Their mission is "to be the hands and feet of Jesus by providing nourishment for the body, food for the soul, words for eternal life, and hope for the future. We accomplish this by identifying real needs so that lives can be changed for the good! We want to be bridgers of the gap between people with needs and people with solutions." More information can be found on their website, shepherdsin.com.





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 our high school graduates, Oliver Thedens and Faith Kotewa, who are graduating from Fairmont High School on Sunday, June 1st! Best wishes for all of your future plans!



You may have noticed this beautiful stained glass church in the back of the Narthex. Thank you, Jon & Terri Riggs, for donating it!



Congratulations to Emma & Jamis Hueper on the birth of their twin boys, who were born on May 18th! Emerson Cory was 4 pounds, 14 ounces and 18.75 inches long. Jamison Rory was 4 pounds, 13 ounces and 17.5 inches long. They were a bit early (a little before 34 weeks), so they will be in the NICU in Nashville while they continue to grow and gain strength.



Thank you to the Bible study ladies for assembling the May newsletter!
-Christina



June Partners in Ministry:

Diaconate: Sue Eisenbacher

Usher: Jon Neitzel

Readers:

1st: Dolores Gronewald

8th: Carol Barrick

15th: Carolyn Thompson

22nd: Ace/Deb Adams

29th: Eric B. Johnson



July Partners in Ministry:

Diaconate: Kris Fuller

Usher: Ellen Germain

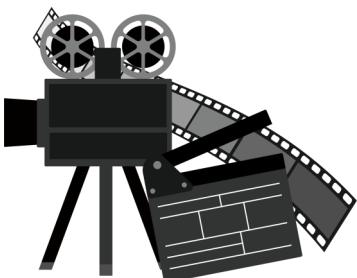
Readers:

6th: Cynthia Celander

13th: Abigail Anderson

20th: Ellen Germain

27th: BonnieSue Bennett



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



Breakfast on the Lawn Fundraiser

First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza

8:00-10:00 AM on Saturday, June 14th

Serving:

Biscuits & Gravy \$3.00

Cinnamon Rolls \$3.00

Egg \$1.00

Coffee \$2.00

Orange and Apple Juice \$2.00

Water \$1.00

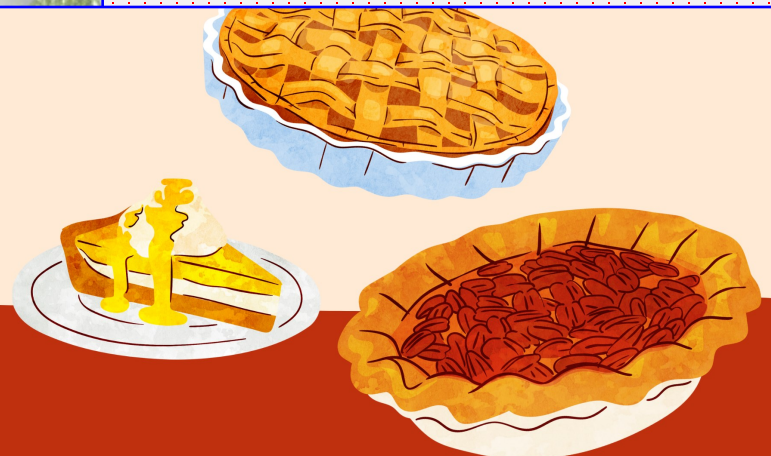
fairmontucc.org



Interlaken Heritage Days

Saturday, June 14th

Activities at the church



PIE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL & BBQS!!

First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, MN

Serving an assortment of homemade pies.
\$5/slice with ice cream.
\$5/BBQ and chips

SAT. JUNE 14, 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

www.fairmontucc.org



IHD Parade starts at 6:00 PM and goes past the church. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy!

Military-style Field Chapel Service - 10:00 am on Sunday, June 15, 2025 at First Congregational United Church of Christ (319 Downtown Plaza). In honor of Flag Day (June 14) and Pastor Cory's military service, there will be an outdoor "military chapel service" on the lawn next to First Congregational UCC. Any Veterans/former military members or their family are invited to wear a uniform or something denoting their or a family member's service, and others are encouraged to wear red, white, & blue. Holy Communion will be offered, and is open to all believers. Bring your own lawn chair. (In case of rain, service will be held inside the church.)



In honor of Flag Day & Pastor Cory's military service:



Military-style Field Chapel Service

with Holy Communion



Wear red,
white
& blue!

Bring a
lawn chair!



**Sunday, June 15th
10:00 AM
First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Front Lawn (inside if it rains)**



Veterans/former military members & their family are invited to wear a uniform or something denoting their branch of service.





Worship in the Park on Sunday, June 22nd at **9:30 AM** at Lincoln Park, 1301 N. North Ave. We will be worshipping outdoors with St. John's UCC at beautiful Lincoln Park.

****In case of inclement weather, First Congregational UCC is the backup location.**

**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.

Church Treasurer Notes:

Current Financial Situation: Through April 30, 2025

YTD Total Income: \$61,575.31

YTD Total Expenses: \$61,012.76

Alley Entrance Improvements: Thanks to Dean Grotte and Grotte Construction, our church alley entrance is smoother and more easily accessible!! Plus, the divot in the alley has been fixed! Contributions to the \$5000 cost are welcome. Please label them so we get in the correct account. Thank you!

Volunteer Opportunity: An Investment Advisory Task Force is forming to consider strategies for managing our Cornerstone and invested reserve accounts. If you would like to be part of a short-term group with 2-3 meetings in the next few months, please contact Catherine Johnson at (507)236-1457.

***The newsletter is available (in color) on
the church website. Upcoming events,
birthdays & anniversaries and the
church calendar are updated there as
well. Check it out!
fairmontucc.org***



We are looking to upgrade our **box for collecting Hy-Vee and Fareway receipts**. If someone has a nice box with a lid, please bring it in to the church office! Hobby Lobby & other craft stores have some boxes with lids available too. Thanks!!



Mission Emphasis: A group is forming to explore ways that our congregation can be more active in caring for our earth, perhaps participating in the UCC Creation Justice program. If you are interested in being part of the group, please contact Ace Adams, (507) 236-7040.

ALL are WELCOME!!

Served by East Chain 4-H Club



FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

Wednesday, June 25th
First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza
Meal at 5:30 PM
Take-Outs at 5:50 PM

✓ Walking Tacos

✓ Watermelon

✓ Bars

✓ Coffee, Milk, Water

fairmontucc.org

Cynthia Celander (the Spring Game Night Winner!) has brought this dip several times for church activities and has had many requests for the recipe! Enjoy!

Corn Dip

Ingredients:

- 1-10 oz. package frozen corn
- 1-4 oz. can green chilis
- 1 onion, minced
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1-8 oz. package pepper jack cheese

Mix ingredients together, and heat in a small crockpot.



Birthdays:

June 1 Rowena Nepomuceno
June 2 Charlene Norris
June 4 Karin Rosen
June 5 Everett Hanning
Ryan Guritz
Donna Christensen
June 6 Tara Thedens
Hailie Stenzel
June 7 Pat Cowing
June 8 Jon Riggs
June 10 Kara Rowan

June 11 Sue Eisenbacher
June 12 Joanne Eisenbarger
June 14 Randy Musser
June 18 Roger Buchan
June 19 Rita Craven
June 24 Ruth Ann Jones
Easton Jorgensen
June 26 Tom Rosen
June 27 Isaac Holtz
June 28 Lori Thate
June 29 Elaine Zoeller
Eric D. Johnson

June

Anniversaries:

June 1	Kim & Jan Shaffer	51 years
June 1	Tom & Carol Barrick	57 years
June 3	Dar & Jodi Kuhlers	48 years
June 5	Larry & Donna Christensen	54 years
June 5	Matt and Brandi Guritz	15 years
June 5	Tim & Abby Miller	4 years
June 14	Eric & Catherine Johnson	44 years
June 14	Robbin & Cathy Celander	34 years
June 16	Conrad & Lorie Zoeller	46 years
June 17	Cory & Christina Hainy	30 years
June 20	Dan & Deb Thate	33 years
June 25	Chris & Abigail Anderson	3 years
June 30	Everett & Lee Hanning	69 years
June 30	Justin & Tara Thedens	24 years

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