

# August 2024

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

**Nonprofit**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**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](mailto:uccsecretary319@gmail.com)

**Web Site Address**

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

# August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
				<b>4</b> 10:00 Worship <b>10:00 VBS</b> <b>Luau on the Farm (at Shoen Farm)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 Lakeview Communion
<b>11</b> 10:00 Worship <i>Communion</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:00 Facilities Board	<b>14</b> 5:45 CE Board	<b>15</b> 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10:00 Worship	<b>19</b> 9:00 Council agenda items due	<b>20</b> 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	<b>21</b> 5:45 Church Council	<b>22</b> 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	<b>23</b> 9:00 September Newsletter items due	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10:00 Worship <i>Blessing box</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:30 Free Community Meal <b>6:30 Tours</b> <b>7:00 Glow with Christ dance party (HH)</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Newsletter assembly 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

## *The Reverend's Ruminations - August 2024 (June-July Recap)*

Greetings, family & friends of First Congregational UCC!

Here we are at the edge of August, and the first 2/3 of summer seems to have flown by — so much so that I didn't get a "ruminations" article into the July newsletter amid my activities and travels. I've made a bit of a photo collage on the next page, but to recap some of the big events of my summer thus far:

In June I officiated three graveside services for Veterans in our area (different from my usual participation in the Legion/VFW honor guard, where I often present the flag to family members) as well as organizing and leading the annual memorial service at the American Legion 2nd District meeting — which was hosted here in Fairmont this year. Unfortunately, I also officiated Becky Phillips' funeral here at First Congo, as we celebrated the many church and community friendships that gave her life such joy.

The last week of June brought five days of Annual Training with the 133rd Airlift Wing, during which we were evaluated on our readiness to complete various tasks that could potentially be involved in a deployment to areas such as Guam, the Philippines, or other islands in the Pacific. My Religious Support Team and I travelled to both Camp Ripley in north-central MN and Volk Field in west-central WI aboard the unit's C-130 cargo planes to visit and offer spiritual support to our Airmen setting up operations at these "islands." Several times during the week we found ourselves donning chemical protective gear (gas masks, coveralls, gloves, & overboots) to simulate continuing to work in areas where biological or chemical attacks were imminent or had occurred — not a fun way to operate in any temperature!?!

Annual Training week led directly into a "normal" drill on the last weekend of June, and on the 29th I received my promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in a small ceremony at the base chapel, attended by my entire family and a close friend since middle school. I was especially happy to have my parents there, since all my previous Army promotions have been in other states (or even other countries). With this promotion I will now serve as the Wing Chaplain for the 133rd Airlift Wing, managing 2-3 other Chaplains and corresponding (enlisted) Religious Affairs Airmen as we provide for the religious and spiritual needs of about 1,200 Wing members. I am honored to continue this valuable work to military members from across the state as an extension of our ministry together here at First Congregational UCC!

During the middle week of July, three members of my chapel team and I attended a week of training at Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma, WA. We received instruction in two different marriage enrichment / relationship enhancement curriculums that we plan to implement among the squadrons of our wing in the months ahead. It was a valuable time of instruction as well as an opportunity to fellowship and network with Religious Support Teams from across the Reserve and National Guard components of both the Army and Air Force.

I pray that after a VERY rainy start, your fields and basements are dry and these summer months have provided opportunity for rest, relaxation, family time, and maybe some much-needed outdoor projects!

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Cory Germain*



With Emma after marching with the Legion color guard in the IHD parade



Aboard a C-130 bound for Camp Ripley



Conducting morning devotional with a group of Airmen as they prepare to start their duty day



Ready to board a C-130 from Camp Ripley back to MSP & on to Volk Field, WI



A short simulated Blackhawk helicopter evacuation from an encampment on Camp Ripley



Simulating a hasty evacuation from Volk Field, WI onto our C-130 with additional chemical protective clothing



Folding the flag after simulating the dignified transfer of a fallen military member as we arrived back at Minneapolis-St. Paul airport. Morbid as such a practice session might seem, it is an important function that chaplains train to perform in the event of a wartime casualty. (Photo courtesy of the 133rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office)



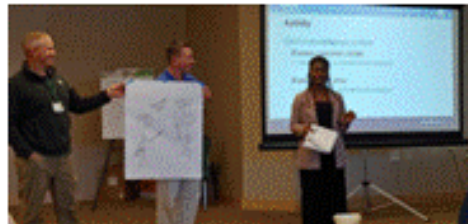
Cameron & Emma removing my old (Major) rank



Ellen pinning on my new Lieutenant Colonel rank



View of Mt. Rainier from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA



Sgt Belle Anjanaha of the 133rd AW practicing teaching



Hard to concentrate with this view from the conference room?!

An afternoon off from training allowed us a little time to hike among the natural beauty of Olympic National Park Forest. What a difference in vegetation from southern MN!



A beautiful stream in Olympic National Park, WA

I bet you didn't know that I was a saint—and had my own Episcopal congregation in Hoodspout, WA! What a beautiful location on the Hood Canal leading out to the Puget Sound & the Pacific Ocean!



A celebratory meal with my friend and fellow 133 AW Chaplain, Maj Keith Beckwith at a restaurant specializing in seafood boils. YUM!



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC  
FAIRMONT, MN  
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR 7-17-2024**

**Members Present:** Abigail Anderson, Kay Campe, Catherine Johnson, Jane Kotewa, Sue Kruse, Larry Lasch, Marcia Musser, and Jon Neitzel. **Members Absent:** Amber Brummond, Marilyn Forstrom, Christina Hainy, Abby Shoen and Tara Thedens. **Ex-officio members:** 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 Jane Kotewa 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 June 19, 2024, was M/S/C. (Abigail Anderson/Jane Kotewa)

**Treasurer's Report** Catherine Johnson reported about funds coming in from fundraisers: IHD Breakfast & Pie Social, Noisy Sunday, months missions - Camp fund. At the end of June, we received 45% 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/Marcia Musser)

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Cory has officiated a funeral, participated in the City Band concert, made several home visits along with pastoral care calls. Worship in the Park with St. John's UCC is July 14.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

**Christian Education:** No representative was present. VBS is out at the Shoen Farm, Sunday Aug 4th. Anyone is welcome to participate

**Hospitality:** No meeting.

**Facilities:** No meeting Larry Lasch reported the furnace is not in yet. Good thing we ordered when we did.

**Diaconate:** No summer meetings.

**Mission:** No meeting.

**Worship:** No meeting.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:** Council will be serving cheesy turkey sandwiches, pickles, Italian pasta salad, bars and beverages at the July community meal. We discussed preparations for Tues 7/30 to prep the meal. The Opera House had a good turnout for the second performance in Heritage Hall. Some are participating in the Hog Wild Days Fri. July 19. Half of the proceeds will go to the Heifer International Project and the other to the general fund.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Brainstorm ideas on having Homecoming, Family Reunion, etc for the fall worship service. For the Glows Parade, do we want to have a soup supper again this year along with a cookie walk, crafts to sell and free popcorn & apple cider?

Moderator Kay Campe adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Abigail Anderson, Past Moderator

# Holy Cow - I mean Holy Pig - this Church Family is generous!



## Generous Givers

The June Blessing Box collected funds to help send our wonderful kids to summer church camp. They had a blast praising God!

## Generous Musicians

We are missing our wonderful pianist, Jenny, very much, but we've been very fortunate to have talented musicians fill in for her to tide us over!

## Generous Grounds Keepers

The lawns are beautiful, and the weeds keep getting pulled. If you happen to see a weed crop up . . . feel free to help out and pull it!

## Generous Staff & Helpers

Every week, the staff and all of the helpers give of their time and talent to keep the church moving along and keep us all informed in many different ways. They help us have meaningful worship services every week . . . even beyond our doors!

No matter what the need is for helpers, this church family is always ready to answer the call!

## Generous Cooks

East Chain 4-H club cooked up a storm for the June Free Community Meal; the Council is trying to meet their enthusiasm level cooking up the July meal!

A group of bakers put together goodies to sell at Downtown Fairmont's Going Hog Wild Days - every one of the Heavenly Delights contained BACON! They raised enough to help out the general fund and to buy 3 PIGS through Heifer International!

There is talk of forming a "Congo Cookie Club" to make cookies for a cookie walk this Christmas season . . . if you have favorite recipes, send them to Christina! Watch for more info in the future . . .

## Generous CE Board

The CE Board is busy planning wonderful opportunities for the youth of our Church Family, from VBS at the Farm, to Sunday Fundays and Sunday School, along with helping our youth have the church camp experience.

## Spiritual Generosity

We are blessed to have many opportunities to worship together, to pray together, for our family and for the world we live in. As a Church family, we have a large number of "family" members in our corner when we need them; family that truly cares.



**Thank  
you all  
for  
sharing  
your time,  
talents, and  
treasures! Can't wait to  
see to what's yet to come...**

1st Congregational UCC Presents



**AUGUST 4th**

**ON THE FARM**

**1135 570th Ave. Armstrong IA**

**10-4PM** | Transportation available from church  
*RSVP for transportation needs*

Bring your kids out to Shoen farm for a Luau VBS party! This day will be full of beach party fun and learning about Christ! Wear clothes or swimwear that can get wet.

**Call/ Text Abby to RSVP (507) 230-3234**

# CE UPCOMING EVENTS:



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sunday School**

**will begin on**

**Sunday, September 8th!**

**Sunday School will run**

**from 11 AM to noon.**

A poster for a 'Glow with Christ' event. It features a large, glowing cross in the center, with colorful light sticks (pink, orange, blue, green) radiating from it. The text 'GLOW WITH CHRIST' is written in large, bold, 3D-style letters. Below it, a banner says 'BACK2SCHOOL DANCE PARTY!'. At the bottom, the date and location are listed: 'WEDNESDAY AUG. 28 1ST CONGREGATIONAL UCC CHURCH 319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA | FAIRMONT MN'. Additional details include 'FREE COMMUNITY MEAL 5:30PM | CHURCH TOURS 6:30 | DANCE 7-9PM' and 'ALL YOUTH GRADES K-6 WELCOME BRING YOUR FRIENDS!'.

**GLOW  
WITH CHRIST**

**BACK2SCHOOL  
DANCE PARTY!**

**WEDNESDAY AUG. 28**  
1ST CONGREGATIONAL UCC CHURCH  
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA | FAIRMONT MN  
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL 5:30PM | CHURCH TOURS 6:30 | DANCE 7-9PM  
ALL YOUTH GRADES K-6 WELCOME BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

# MEMORIALS

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
23-Jun	Memory of Matt Mathiason	Capital Fund	Larry & Carolyn Thompson
23-Jun	Honor of Conrad & Lorie Zoeller Anniversary	Starfish	Margaret Weaver
23-Jun	Memory of Becky Phillips	Starfish	Cindy & Jon Anderson
23-Jun	Memory of Becky Phillips		Bill & Barb Bittman
23-Jun	Memory of Becky Phillips		Marilyn Forstrom
23-Jun	Memory of Becky Phillips		Eric B & Catherine Johnson
23-Jun	Memory of Becky Phillips		Wanda Johnson
23-Jun	Memory of Becky Phillips		Joyce Jorgenson
23-Jun	Memory of Becky Phillips	Hospitality	Jane Kotewa
23-Jun	Memory of Becky Phillips		John & Sherry Larson
23-Jun	Memory of Becky Phillips		Kevin & Kelly Moller
23-Jun	Memory of Becky Phillips		Margaret Weaver
30-Jun	Memory of Becky Phillips	General Fund	Cheryl & Jon Rippke
21-Jun	Memory of Becky Phillips		Lyle & Charlene Norris
16-Jun	Memory of Becky Phillips	B.P. Memorial	Virginia Riedesel



Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:  
Curt and Terri Luetgers on the passing of  
Curt's mother in July.



Prayer Request Cards are 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.

## Hy-Vee & Fareway Report as of 21 July 2024

During the last 9 weeks, \$29,697.80 (14.85%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 33 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$125,372.13 (62.69%) toward the 17<sup>th</sup> goal which is now \$200,000.

During the same time, \$11,638.53 (7.76%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 68 weeks, Fareway is at \$77,524.86 (51.68%) toward our 5<sup>th</sup> \$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





# HAPPY AUGUST!

**Thank you to the fabulous Bible Study ladies for assembling the July newsletter!**

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



**August Diaconate:** Sue Kruse  
**Usher:** David "Ace" Adams  
**Readers for:**  
**4th:** Carolyn Thompson  
**11th:** Ace/Deb Adams  
**18th:** Dolores Gronewald  
**25th:** Abigail Anderson

## 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!

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

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



## St. John's UCC Summer Fun for Youth: August 10th:

Please plan to join St. John's UCC at the Fairmont Aquatic Center at 3:00 PM. There will be a couple hours of swimming and a pizza meal following. Admittance & meals will be provided for all participants.

Please call the St. John's office (507-235-3500) or Mary Jo Felion (507-236-1109) no later than August 8th to RSVP.

*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

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



# **TACO TUESDAY WEDNESDAY**

**FREE Community Meal  
August 28th**

**CHICKEN  
TACOS**

**HOMEMADE  
APPLESAUCE  
&  
BARS/COOKIES**

**DORITOS  
&  
LEMONADE**

**5:30 PM UNTIL FOOD IS GONE**

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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC  
319 DOWNTOWN PLAZA**

**Sponsored by Fairmont Uptown Kiwanis**

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



August's Recipe is a savory one submitted by Dolores Gronewald. Enjoy!

## **Burgundy Beef**

### Ingredients:

1/4 C. flour  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
vegetable oil, shortening  
2 lb. beef stew meat  
1 tsp. minced garlic  
1 bay leaf  
1 tsp. dried marjoram, crumbled  
1/2 tsp. dried thyme, crumbled  
1 C. chopped onion  
1 1/4 C. dry red wine  
1 (10.5 oz) can beef broth  
1 1/2 C. small whole frozen onions, thawed  
1/2 lb. fresh mushrooms, sliced  
Cooked noodles  
Cornstarch & water-optional



### Directions:

Combine flour, salt and pepper in a plastic bag. Add the meat and shake to coat. Heat small amount of oil in a Dutch oven; brown beef on all sides in small batches. Stir in the minced garlic, bay leaf, marjoram, thyme, chopped onion, wine and beef broth. Simmer covered for 1 1/2 hours. Add small whole onions and mushrooms and simmer 20 minutes longer. Remove bay leaf. Serve over cooked noodles. The long cooking time ensures tender beef. If a thicker sauce is desired, dissolve 1 Tablespoon cornstarch in 1 Tablespoon water. Stir mixture into the beef and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until thickened.

## Birthdays:

Aug. 1	Tim Campe Paige Hainy	Aug. 11	Donna Holstine
Aug. 4	Lance Willard Byron Phillips	Aug. 13	Deb Adams Amanda Cain
Aug. 5	Darla Guritz Matthew Cone	Aug. 15	Preston Rachuy-Davis
Aug. 6	Bob Neusch Jeff Grefe	Aug. 18	Mark Grotte
Aug. 7	Tyler Harder Tracy Kotewa	Aug. 19	Abigail Anderson
Aug. 8	Kris Ziemer	Aug. 20	Karen Cone
Aug. 9	Britney Goerndt	Aug. 23	Alexa Steele
Aug. 10	John Larson	Aug. 24	Art Elliott
		Aug. 25	Cindy Huset
		Aug. 26	Hannah Goerndt
		Aug. 28	Barb Pitcher
		Aug. 31	Ann Erdmann Beth Massey



## Anniversaries:

Aug. 1	Tabb & Molly Meyer	45 years
Aug. 3	Art & Julie Elliott	50 years
Aug. 3	Dave & Cindy Huset	39 years
Aug. 12	Eric & Rowena Johnson	24 years
Aug. 13	Billy & Jenna McAlister	13 years
Aug. 26	David & Deb Adams	35 years
Aug. 28	Mike & Lori Thate	42 years
Aug. 31	Doug & Darla Guritz	55 years

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