

August 2025

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

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.



August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00 Worship with Blake Potthoff	4 9:30 Pastor's Office Closed	5	6 5:30 CE Board, 5:30 Mission Board 6:00 Worship Board	7 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	8	9
10 <u>11:00</u> Worship By the Water (Ward Park)	11 5:30 Hospital Foundation	12 6:00 Facilities Board	13	14 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	15	16
17 10:00 Worship 11:15 Adult Sunday school	18 9:00 Council agenda items DUE	19 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	20 5:45 Church Council	21 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	22 9:00 September newsletter items DUE 11:00 REM Exercise (HH)	23
24 Creation Justice Sunday 10:00 Worship 11:00 Outside work & Potluck following	25	26	27 5:30 Free Community Meal	28 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Sept newsletter assembly 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	29	30
31 10:00 Worship-Contemporary <i>Noisy Sunday</i> Blessing Box collection						

The Reverend's Ruminations - August 2025

As August approaches and our schedules continue to feel over-committed, it can be hard to believe that 2/3 of Minnesota's "unofficial days of summer" have already come and gone. If you're like me, perhaps you were hoping to spend a little more of your July relaxing — whether near a campfire or tooling casually around our area lakes on a pontoon or in a kayak!?! Of course there's still time for some of those activities, but if you're like me, once the calendar turns over to August it can seem as though summer is all but slipping through our fingers. I hope that instead of panicking, you and your family have already been enjoying your favorite outdoor activities, whether those include the ball diamonds, boating, swimming, hiking, camping, gardening, playing outside, or just lounging in the shade with a cool drink. Ellen and I still have a short camping getaway planned in August, so I pray that the weather cooperates for all of us to safely enjoy whatever brings us fleeting summertime enjoyment.

If the remaining steamy summer days provide you with some extra moments available for reading, I challenge you to look ahead at our Bible passages for Sundays in August and beyond. Our epistle readings this month will include a final passage from the third chapter of **Colossians**, then examine the 11th – 13th chapters of **Hebrews**. Our gospel readings in August will be from **Luke's** 12th – 14th chapters, but we will continue (as we have since mid-June) in Luke's gospel all the way until Advent begins on November 30th. [If you'd like to learn more about this important gospel, see my righnow MEDIA review on the next page.] My Sunday sermons will also continue for a few more months from the Old Testament lectionary selections, including the 1st and 5th chapters of **Isaiah**, followed then by several weeks examining **Jeremiah** in August, September, and part of October.

As you enjoy all the sunshine, warmth, community festivals, county and state fairs that August has to offer here in southern Minnesota, I pray that you look for God at work in the world around you. The breezes, lapping waves, singing birds, and even the rain remind us that God is still creating and blessing our world. Listen closely to the natural world around you, pause to be still as you take it all in, and open your mind to experience the peace that Christ offers in your life today, tomorrow, and always.

Our adult Sunday School participants ended up travelling or sick in July, so there is still opportunity for you to join in the two remaining sessions of our video discussion, ***Navigating with the Lord's Prayer***. We will be meeting after worship on August 17 and September 21 in the chapel, and would love to have additional participants.

Sunday School and confirmation classes for our youth will also be resuming before you know it, so now is the time to check with relatives, friends, or neighbors who you think might enjoy being part of our faith formation opportunities at First Congregational UCC. Let the church office or a member of the Christian Education Board know if you have a new student who'd like to participate, and be watching both the church Facebook page and our church website for scheduling information.

See you soon as we join together to worship God 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!

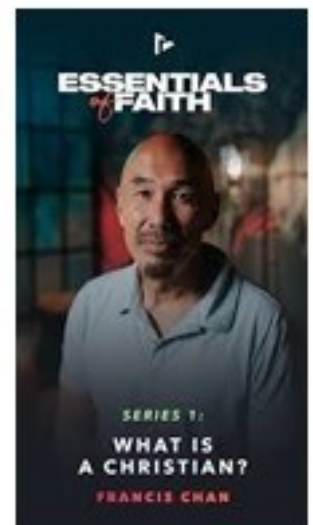


Last month, I encouraged you to explore Paul's short letter to the Colossians, but as summer rolls into fall, we will continue to hear gospel readings from Luke all the way through November. Luke is a great historian, and as a well-educated man of his time, he offers very detailed recollections of his time with Christ and the teachings our Savior shared. Whether you've read it in its entirety before or not, I encourage you to dig into **The Gospel of Luke: Part 1**:

Who is Jesus of Nazareth, and what does he ask of us? For help answering these questions, we can turn to Luke's orderly account of Jesus's life and ministry — the Gospel of Luke. In this eleven-session series, pastor and author J.D. Greear will walk through the first half of Luke's Gospel, highlighting who Jesus is, what he did, and how the people around him responded. Luke shows us that Jesus is the savior who came to seek and save people in need, including us — and we must decide how to respond when lovingly moves toward us.

There are at least sixteen churches that I can think of off the top of my head within the city limits of Fairmont, with several rural churches nearby in the county and more in every small town around us. Each of these congregations is a little bit different in their worship style or the intricacies of their theological practices, but deep down we are all different "flavors" of Christianity. Rather than focus on our differences, have you ever paused to look at what makes us brothers and sisters in Christ? Take some time this month to explore the roots of your faith with **What Is a Christian?**

Ask any group what it means to be a Christian, and we will hear different answers. But what unifies us? What are the basic characteristics of our faith that every Christian affirms? In this six-session series, Francis Chan will lead us in an exploration of key concepts common to all Christians through the centuries. No matter what divides us, we are united by these truths about the God we worship and our relationship with him.



*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 7-16-25**

Members Present: Dave Adams, Carol Barrick, Kay Campe, Cynthia Celander, Christina Hainy, Cindy Huset, Catherine Johnson, Sue Kruse, Larry Lasch, and Rebecca Lunz. **Members Absent:** Abby Shoen. **Ex-officio Members Present:** Pastor Cory. **Ex-officio Members Absent:** 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 6/18/25, was M/S/C. (Larry Lasch/Catherine Johnson)

Treasurer's Report Catherine Johnson reported that 49% of the budget has been received by the end of June. Online giving year-to-date 2025 receipts are \$13,275 with total fees at \$37.47. The first meeting of the Investment Advisory Committee, with Dave Meschke and Cynthia Celander serving on it, will be at the end of July. A motion to receive the treasurer's report was M/S/C. (Carol Barrick/Larry Lasch)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory reported on his many activities for the month, including baptism of his grandsons and Legion Honor Guard for Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War ceremony.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: No summer meetings, but Sunday school will begin on Sunday, September 14th right after the children's sermon during worship.

Hospitality: No meeting this month.

Facilities: Larry Lasch said that they are looking at the church's utility bills and are possibly purchasing three toilets (around \$200 each) for the basement restrooms.

Diaconate: No summer meetings.

Mission: Dave Adams reported that the June Blessing Box received \$510.34 for Shepherd's In. The July Blessing Box is for Heaven's Table Backpack Program. Pastor Cory talked to someone who regularly gets take-out meals from the Free Community Meals for shut-ins and elderly neighbors.

Worship: Cindy Huset told us that we have a baptism on July 20th, and they have been looking for pulpit supply for a few dates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Amanda Forstrom is working on this.

Nominating: Cynthia Celander is working on this.

Personnel: Nothing yet.

Creation Justice: Ace Adams is the contact. Nothing new.

OLD BUSINESS: Council goals for the year were discussed. (Including: working with St. John's UCC on a few events, Cookie Walk signup, a possible biscuit board fundraiser, Catherine Johnson leading Glows soup supper, Carol Barrick working on a new church directory, name tags, cribbage tournament, progressive dinner, Moon Dogs game.) One Counsellor and REM will be using the church on Fridays. We will be part of Worship by the Water, Sunday, August 10th, at 11 AM, in Ward Park. (No service at the church that day.)

NEW BUSINESS: We expect a check from Hy-Vee at some point. They had gotten behind on issuing checks for turning in receipts. Thank you, Jim Bock, for continuing this mission. We will have a Creation Justice Sunday on Sunday, August 24th. Casual clothing is encouraged as we will be working outside the church to weed, etc. after worship. A potluck will be held afterwards. A church display using written-on doors was discussed for installing outside the church.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Church Clerk



**Let's Get to Know Our Church Family...
Question #5: What goals do you have for your future?**

Zach Ashland	Learn to play guitar
Pastor Cory	Continued military & church service, & eventually retirement!
Sandi Smith	I want to live to 100. I want to see my grandchildren graduate & get married.
Tim Campe	Travel, Fishing
Marcia Musser	Good health the rest of our lives
Cheryl Ashland	Become a licensed assisted living directory; homestead our little property
Cynthia Celander	I want to continue to travel to countries and places I've never been.
Kay Campe	Retire! Travel, be a grandma as much as possible
Ellen Germain	Continue teaching and someday retiring
Carol Barrick	Retired, travel - be active, be involved in my church, always be part of a Bible study
Lela Hanning	Remain Mentally and physically able
Christina Hainy	To leave the world a better place and to stay healthy & active
Randy Musser	Good health the rest of our lives

**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.**

Hy-Vee & Fareway Report as of Report as of 20 July 2025

Summer is a slow time for the slips coming in. As I look at the past two year, the amount of slips and the value was about the same as is listed below.

During the last 4 weeks, \$6,334.40 (3.17%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 32 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$133,727.86 (66.86%) toward the 18th goal which is \$200,000 and maybe reached around the end of October 2025.

During the same time, \$1,095.11 (0.73%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 119 weeks, Fareway is at \$129,070.08 (86.05%) toward our 5th \$150,000 goal. It could take 21 weeks to reach the 5th \$150,000 goal and maybe reached around the end of November 2025.

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 or deliver pages can be used. Slips from Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh (Gas), Coffee Shop, Food Service, and Pharmacy help us toward the goal. Thanks to all who bring/mail the slips to the Church, or mailing them or dropping them off at my house. Even the very small amounts help.

Reported by; Jim Bock



40th ANNUAL
Blue Earth
Quilt Expo

August 16 & 17, 2025

Blue Earth Area
High School
Blue Earth, MN 56013

Saturday: 9 am – 5 pm
Sunday: noon – 4 pm

Admission: \$6.00
Concessions Available

Boutique, Vendors
Quilt challenge
Bed turning
and other special exhibits

Saturday at 2pm
Tom Maidl
of Lafayette, MN
will speak and
present a trunk show

FEATURED QUILTER
Karen Hamilton
of Titonka, IA

Jan Shaffer is the chair of this amazing quilt expo, and PEO Chapter Y (Fairmont) is providing concessions! You don't want to miss it!!

Thank you, BonnieSue Bennett, for providing the beautiful container for the Hy-Vee and Fareway receipts! Thanks to everyone who drops off or mails the receipts to the church! Thanks, Jim Bock, for adding them up and submitting them each month! It is a great fundraiser! Keep those receipts coming in!



WORSHIP BY THE Water

SUNDAY
August 10 - 11AM
Ward Park

Public welcome by land or sea!

Hosted by:  Grace Lutheran Church ELCA
Fairmont, MN

 First Congregational United Church of Christ
www.fairmontucc.org

On
Sunday, August 10th
we will be at:
Worship By the Water
at Ward Park
starting at 11 AM!!

****Bring a lawn chair & extra for others!**

(No Worship service at church.)

MISSION MINUTE: Blessing Box for August:

Habitat for Humanity of Martin-Faribault Counties

Working in partnership with volunteers to build or rehab simple, decent, affordable housing for low income families.

Our Impact

41

Helped Families

13

Critical Home Repairs

17

Brush with Kindness Projects

COMMUNITY Critical Home Repair is a partner to Habitat's core building program. It focuses on both exterior and interior home repair services such as roofs, all repairs, floor systems, and handicap accessibility issues.

KINDNESS A Brush with Kindness is a nationwide effort to serve low-income homeowners who struggle to maintain the exterior of their homes.

BUILDING HOMES TOGETHER Houses are built or renovated using as much volunteer labor and donated materials as possible. They are sold to a family in need at no profit and no interest.

[Habitat for Humanity | Martin & Faribault Counties](https://fhfmartinfaribault.org/) <https://fhfmartinfaribault.org/>

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://firstcongucc.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.

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.



Signed up for August Treats:

3rd: OPEN (as of printing newsletter)

10th: OPEN (as of printing newsletter)

17th: Terri Luetgers (Hospitality Bd)

24th: OPEN (as of printing newsletter)

31st: OPEN (as of printing newsletter)

NOISY SUNDAY is
Sunday, August 31st!
Bring your coins!!



August Partners in Ministry:

Diaconate: Kris Fuller

Usher: Ace Adams

Readers:

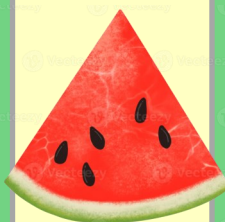
3rd: Sandra Smith

10th: Amanda Forstrom

17th: Margo Weaver

24th: Marilyn Forstrom

31st: Dolores Gronewald



September Partners in Ministry:

Diaconate: Tom Barrick

Usher: Eric B. Johnson

Readers:

7th: Carolyn Thompson

14th: Ace/Deb Adams

21st: Cynthia Celander

28th: Abigail Anderson



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!



July was a busy month for baptisms!

- Congratulations to Emerson Cory and Jamison Rory Hueper and their family!
- Congratulations to Maverick Alan Grefe and his family!

Join us to celebrate
Retirement party
 In honor of
MIKE TRUE
Saturday, September 13, 2025 1 –3 PM
First Congregational Church
 RSVP to Erin by Sept 1st
mikenerin2015@gmail.com
 Or text 507-399-6187

Creation Justice Sunday
 is
Sunday, August 24
 **Wear your casual/work clothes!
 We will be doing some outdoor work after worship.
 **Potluck will follow work!



Wednesday Community Worship at the Park
 is every Wednesday at 6:30 PM, rain or shine, at the Sylvania Park Bandshell until September 3rd. There will be a live worship band with meaningful messages from area pastors.



CE NEWS:
****Save the Date**:** Sunday school begins on **Sunday, September 14th**, right after the children's sermon during worship.

Thank you,
 Cindy Anderson, Catherine Johnson, Dolores Gronewald, Kathy Jorgensen, Lorie Zoeller, Margo Weaver & Sherry Voyles, for assembling the July newsletter! I appreciate your help!!
 -Christina

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!

FREE

Community Meal

Wednesday, August 27th
First Congregational UCC
319 Downtown Plaza

5:30 PM until food is gone
5:50 PM take-outs begin

Sponsored by Fairmont Uptown Kiwanis

ALL are Welcome!

fairmontucc.org



MENU:

Chicken Tacos
Homemade Applesauce
Doritos
Bars/Cookies
Lemonade

STAY COOL

Keep cool this month with frosty recipes from
Recipes by the Ladies' Aid of the First Congregational Church

Lemon Ice

from Mrs. H. J. Waite

Juice of 2 lemons
1 tsp lemon extract (scant)
1 ½ cup water
1 ⅓ cup sugar
1 ½ cup rich cream
Whites of 2 eggs, beaten stiff

Mix lemon juice, extract, sugar & water. Put in freezer. When it starts to chill, add the beaten egg whites & cream. The cream can be whipped. This makes seven large dishes.



Maple Mousse

from Mrs. Herman Wehler
(she became a member in 1917)

1 cup maple syrup
1 pt. cream whipped
4 eggs

Separate eggs, beat yolks well. Add to syrup. Cook over water like custard. Boil until thick. Cool. Whip cream. Beat egg whites stiff. Stir cream into custard. Add whites. Pack & freeze 4 hours Frigidaire.

Apricot Ice Cream

1 pt. sugar
1 pt. cream
1 pt. milk
1 qt. canned apricots
Juice of 1 lemon
2 egg whites

Put apricots through a sieve. Beat egg whites, mix & freeze.



Three and Three

from Mrs. J. W. LeFor

3 oranges
3 lemons
3 bananas
3 cups sugar
3 cups water

Take the juice of oranges & lemons. Mash bananas & add sugar & water. Freeze.

STAY COOL



August

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

Aug 1	Tabb & Molly Meyer	46 yrs
Aug 3	Art & Julie Elliott	51 yrs
Aug 3	Dave & Cindy Huset	40 yrs
Aug 12	Eric & Rowena Johnson	25 yrs
Aug 13	Billy & Jenna McAlister	14 yrs
Aug 26	David & Deb Adams	36 yrs
Aug 28	Mike & Lori Thate	43 yrs
Aug 31	Doug & Darla Guritz	56 yrs

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