

April 2025

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

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

Lenten worship-Wed. 5:30 PM

Sunday school 11:00

**Communion the second
Sunday of every month.**

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 April Fool's Day 10:00 Lakeview Communion 6:00 Worship	2 5:30 Lenten Service 6:10 Mission Board 7:00 Choir	3 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch) 5:30 Hospitality Board	4	5
6 10:00 Worship with Ellen Germain 11:00 Sunday school	7	8 6:00 Facilities Board	9 5:30 Lenten Service 6:00 Diaconate Bd. 7:00 Choir	10 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	11	12
13 Palm/ Passion Sunday 10:00 Worship Communion 11:00 Sunday school: Last Supper	14 9:00 Council agenda items and May newsletter items due 5:30 Hospital Foundation	15 10:00 Goldfinch Communion	16 5:45 Church Council 7:00 Choir	17 Maundy Thursday 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch) 5:30 Maundy Thursday Service	18 Good Friday ---Office Closed--- 12:00 Ecumenical Service (Methodist church) 5:30 Good Friday Service	19
20 Easter 10:00 Easter Worship 11:00 Egg Hunt (No Sunday school)	21	22 Earth Day	23 7:00 Choir	24 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 May newsletter assembly 11:30 MRCI (FS/HH) 1:00 TOPS (Ch)	25	26
27 10:00 Worship Blessing Box 11:00 Sunday school	28	29	30 5:30 Free Community Meal by Rotary 7:00 Choir			

The Reverend's Ruminations - April 2025

As we continue the rollercoaster ride that is late winter/early spring-time weather here in southern Minnesota, my prayer for you is that your Lenten faith life has not had as many highs and lows as our temperatures!?! Now fully two-thirds of the way through this important church season, have you been able to create time for some intentional self-reflection and additional prayer? Have you valiantly avoided the temptation of whatever you may have chosen to give up just a few short weeks ago? I was a couple days late in deciding to give up deep-fried foods, but since the first Sunday of Lent I have kept my fast fairly well — except for one hasty Taco John's burrito that I failed to recall includes their famously-delicious "Potato Oles" wrapped inside with the other tasty ingredients.



Midweek Lenten services didn't start out so well, when Ash Wednesday observances throughout the area succumbed to the blizzard conditions that we'd all been missing(?) the rest of the winter. It looked like we were going to have another Wednesday blizzard just two weeks later, but as so often happens, the actual weather turned out differently than forecast by the meteorologists — at least right in Fairmont. Wednesday evening services will continue April 2nd and 9th at 5:30pm



Holy Week will offer several worship activities in which to take part. Please plan to attend!

- **Palm Sunday** (April 13) the children will lead our joyous entry into worship, waving the traditional palms as we recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The tone of the worship service will later move from celebratory to somber as we begin to unpack our Savior's passion experience that will define the latter part of the week ahead.
- After worship that day, the children will observe a version of the **Last Supper** as we discuss the significance of the Passover meal items and Christ's abiding presence with his disciples both then and now.
- **Maundy Thursday** (April 17) **Tenebrae worship** at 5:30pm — a somber, reflective service that commemorates Christ's betrayal, suffering, and death, marked by the gradual extinguishing of candles and scripture readings, culminating in near darkness.
- **Good Friday** (April 18) **worship service** at 5:30pm — an opportunity for us to contemplate the profound love and sacrifice of Jesus, and to reflect on the hope of redemption and salvation offered through his death.
- **Easter Sunday** (April 20) **worship service** at 10:00am — resounding shouts of "He is risen!" will usher us into a joyous experience in which we proclaim the Good News from John 20:1-18 for all the world to hear. The service will include the celebration of Holy Communion as a family of faith. I invite each of you to read ahead from John's 11th – 20th chapters, then gather as brothers and sisters in Christ to enjoy these familiar foundational stories of our faith "again for the first time" as we worship our great God! There will be also be an **Easter egg hunt** for the children immediately following worship.

Blessings to you and yours
on your continuing Lenten journey,

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!

Book smarts and life experience are not mutually exclusive. To get along in the world — making friends, interacting with coworkers, or building and maintaining a marriage — takes a well-rounded approach to learning and growth. So does your spiritual life! Most of us went through Sunday School, vacation Bible school, and/or confirmation growing up, but have also learned a lot as adults about how God works in the world through the trials and tribulations of our lives. Tying together our lived and learned spiritual experiences is an important next step to a deeper understanding of God's purpose for your life. Level up your spiritual intelligence with **Life IQ**:

Intelligence is not just about knowing the right answers — it's about applying what we know is true to every aspect of our lives. In this four-session series, pastor and author Rev. Matthew Watley explains how we can grow more intelligent in four areas of our lives — our mind, spirit, culture, and emotions. As we better understand what it means to walk in these areas of intelligence, we can see how what we think can impact how we follow Jesus and represent him to others.



Kids are full of questions, aren't they? Wonderings and wanderings are an important part of growing up, and nowhere is that more true than in regards to faith. Our church welcomes faith questions from kids and adults alike, rather than indoctrinating any age group with rigid pronouncements that are hard to understand or follow. When discussion and exploration are encouraged, a deeper, more meaningful faith journey can begin. If your kids or grandkids are at that inquisitive stage, tune in the five short episodes of **JQHQ**:

Where wild challenges meet real kid questions about life and God — Jemma and Quinn are ready to dive in! Can Quinn survive a night in the wilderness alone? Can Jemma bake a TV-show-quality cupcake? Can we really KNOW God? Do relaxation gadgets actually work? Find out by visiting the Jemma and Quinn Headquarters!

*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 3-19-25**

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

The Council met in Heritage Hall at 6:00 PM. Moderator Kay Campe called the meeting to order, and Pastor Cory led in prayer. We celebrated family by sharing about ourselves.

Motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on 2/19/25 was M/S/C. (Larry Lasch/ Amanda Forstrom)

Treasurer's Report Catherine Johnson reported that the Cornerstone Fund (new name for the combined Endowment Fund and Parsonage Fund) was created. Online giving is going well. Linsey Preuss, the church's Edward Jones Advisor, will be presenting next month at Church Council. The congregation is invited. A motion to receive the treasurer's report was M/S/C. (Amanda Forstrom/Larry Lasch)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Cory talked about his many activities in the last month, including singing with Ellen in a choir with the Mankato Symphony Orchestra in St. Peter and Fairmont.

BOARD REPORTS:

Christian Education: Abby Shoen reported on the March Sunday Funday. Twenty birthday cake kits were made for the food shelter and the Little Free Pantry. In April, there will be a Last Supper and an Easter egg hunt. Empty eggs are available for members to fill by April 13th. Sunday, May 18th will be the last day of Sunday school and a bowling party for ALL members. A graduate celebration is being planned for May also.

Hospitality: Sherry Larson noted that they served 125 people at the February Free Community Meal. A calendar is being made for members to sign up for coffee/treats.

Facilities: Larry Lasch said that they have changed the clocks, covered the steam pipe by the ceiling in Heritage Hall and finished replacing the coffee room's flooring.

Diaconate: We read the minutes from their meeting.

Mission: Amanda Forstrom explained that March's Blessing Box benefits Heaven's Table. April's Blessing Box is for one of our five special offerings, Strengthen the Church. They are still looking for three groups to host Free Community Meals. They are considering making a physical Blessing Box.

Worship: Kay Campe reporting that they are looking into a way to dedicate online offerings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominations committee: We continue to have one opening to fill on the Missions board.

OLD BUSINESS: We will be working on a promo video for the church. Send ten second video clips to Abby Shoen to compile. Catherine is working on an online-giving pew note. A little over \$10,000 has been given online already. We would like to have a New Member handout. Boards can submit information they would like to include to the office.

NEW BUSINESS: Kay Campe will contact the city about the hole in the alley. Dan Hamlet is now a financial "Kingdom Advisor" and is interested in coming to talk to us.

Moderator Kay Campe adjourned the meeting, and Pastor Cory closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Christina Hainy, Church Clerk



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

Question #1: Who is in your family?

Everett Hanning	Everett & Lela
Zach Ashland	Me and my mother, Cheryl
Dolores Gronewald	Son Scott - deceased, Daughter Kim Hall, Son-in-law, Dan Hall, Daughter-in-law Ann Gronewald Fordice, 5 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren
Sandi Smith	3 sons, 3 grandchildren, 2 dogs, 2 cats
Tim Campe	Tim, Kay, Jenna & Kristen
Marcia Musser	Marcia & Randy, 2 daughters, 1 son-in-law, 5 grandkids
Cheryl Ashland	Myself and my son, Zachary
Cynthia Celander	Just me
Kay Campe	Husband - Tim, Daughters - Jenna & Kristen, Son-in-laws - Billy & Eric, Grandkids - Aubrey, Archer, Gunner & Ellie
Ellen Germain	Cory - Husband 26 years, Emma - Daughter, Jamis - Son-in-law, two boys coming June 25, Cameron - Son, Bella - Fiancée
Carol Barrick	Spouse - Tom, Daughter - Steph & Kary, 2 granddaughter & 1 great granddaughter, Daughter - Stacy & Greg, 1 granddaughter & 2 grandsons, Son - Steven & Carrie, 4 granddaughters & 1 grandson
Lela Hanning	Lela & Everett
Margo Weaver	Daughter - Jen Weaver Neist - lives in South Jordan, UT, Partner - Larry Vogel, Sister - Betty Dillon in Roseville - has 3 adult sons
Randy Musser	Marcia & Randy, 2 daughters, 1 son-in-law, 5 grandkids
Christina Hainy	husband-Cory, son-Cameron in Alexandria, daughter-Sydney in Fairmont/Minneapolis, daughter-Paige in Brookings
BonnieSue Marie Bennett	Ashley (daughter) & Jared Balthazor & their children Glen & Grace, Dr Audrey Bennett (daughter). My parents were Ted & Opal Kittleson of rural Ceylon.

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 or in the back of the sanctuary.

MEMORIALS

Date	Memory/Honor of	Designation	From
29-Dec	Memory of Craig Germain		Doug & Kris Fuller
9-Feb	Memory of Dave Eisenbacher's Mother	Starfish	Marilyn Forstrom
10-Feb	Honor of Jon & Cindy Anderson Anniversary	Starfish	Margo Weaver
9-Feb	Memory of Melva Lou Tonne	Starfish	Kay Campe
9-Feb	Memory of Melva Lou Tonne	Starfish	Elaine Zoeller
6-Feb	Memory of Melva Lou Tonne		Pat & Randy Rowan
23-Feb	Memory of Craig Germain	Choir Music	Marcia & Randy Musser
2-Mar	Memory of Sean Donnelly		Janine Draper
2-Mar	Memory of Darrell DeWar		Janine Draper
2-Mar	Memory of Melva Lou Tonne		Janine Draper
2-Mar	Honor of Ann Hartmann's birthday	Starfish	Les Heinrich
2-Mar	Honor of Greg Grotte's birthday	Starfish	Les Heinrich
2-Mar	Memory of Peggy Heinrich	Starfish	Les Heinrich
9-Mar	Memory of Gin Mevisson	General Fund	Les Heinrich

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to:
The family of Georgia Malo on Georgia's passing on March 19th.

April Partners in Ministry:

Diaconate: Eric B. Johnson

Usher: Eric B. Johnson

Readers:

6th: Carol Barrick

13th: Eric B. Johnson

20th: Carol Barrick

27th: Kay Campe

May Partners in Ministry:

Diaconate: Sue Eisenbacher

Usher: Michael Rowan

Readers:

4th: Ellen Germain

11th: Amanda Forstrom

18th: Marilyn Forstrom

25th: BonnieSue Bennett

Hy-Vee & Fareway Report as of Report as of 16 March 2025

Since the first of the year, \$37,881.52 (18.94%) worth of Hy-Vee slips were received. After 14 weeks, Hy-Vee is at \$70,297.16 (46.86%) toward the 18th goal which is \$200,000.

During the same time, \$11,570.17 (7.71%) worth of Fareway slips were received. After 103 weeks, Fareway is at \$112,638.89 (75.09%) toward our 5th \$150,000 goal. It could take 34 weeks to reach the 5th \$150,000 goal.

This program started the first of March 2011, so any slips from then until now can be used. Slips from 2019 were received during this period of time. Any Fairmont Fareway and Hy-Vee food store register slip can be used. 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 mail them or drop them off at my house. Even the very small amounts help.

Reported by;
Jim Bock

CE NEWS:

- ♦ Palm Sunday (Sunday, April 13th): Last Supper during Sunday school
- ♦ Easter Sunday (Sunday, April 20th): Egg Hunt (No Sunday school)



WE NEED YOUR HELP:

Empty Easter Eggs will be in the hallway by the office for members to fill if they wish. Thanks!



MISSION MINUTE:

- April's Blessing Box is Strengthen the Church: one of the 5 special offerings the UCC denomination does throughout the year. The conferences and national setting equally share the offering which goes to support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.
- Spring Highway Cleanup will be held on Saturday, May 3rd. Be looking for a sign-up at the back of the sanctuary, or contact a Mission board member.
- Meals-On-Wheels delivery will be from May 1-15. More information coming!!

First Congregational UCC

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

10:00 AM April 13 | Palm Sunday worship

5:30 PM April 17 | Maundy Thursday worship

5:30 PM April 18 | Good Friday worship

10:00 AM April 20 | Easter Sunday worship

fairmontucc.org



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 the Potthoff family on their newest addition, Brock Dean! Brock was born on March 3rd at 10:08 AM. He weighed 6 lb. 7 oz. and was 19 inches in length. Best wishes to Blake, Megan and big sister, Melody!
- Thanks to the hardworking facility board and a donation by Donna Grotte, the coffee room floor looks AMAZING!! Great Job!!



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!



The Worship board is making plans for our church's Easter Celebration. We are once again planning to adorn the sanctuary with flowers for Easter Sunday. If you wish to purchase a flower, we ask that you either sign up on the sheet provided at the back of the sanctuary or call the church office (235-5382) to order.

The plants will be in 6-inch pots with wrap and a bow.

The cost will be:

\$18 for an Easter lily, a Cyclamen, or a Calandiva,
& \$40 for a Hydrangea.

You can either drop payment in the offering plate or mail to the church (319 Downtown Plaza, Fairmont, MN 56031). Be sure to indicate with your payment

your name & type of plant for which you are paying.

THE LAST DAY TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, APRIL 6th.

We look forward to Easter and your gift of flowers.

-The Worship Board



Just wondering if anyone is a Thrivent client with membership? We can receive up to \$250 in seed money and other resources for a church event. We just need to fill out an application for Thrivent Action Team. Please let the church office or Pastor Cory know if you are a client. Thanks!

Pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House:

Truman 2nd graders will be collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House through April 13th so keep bringing them to church. There is a bucket at the back of the narthex. So far our members have donated one pound 14.1 ounces of tabs.

A big thank you to Joanne Eisenbarger, Dolores Gronewald, Kathy Jorgensen, Sherry Voyles, Margo Weaver and Lorie Zoeller for assembling the March newsletter!



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 Finance News

Current Financial Situation through Feb 28, 2025: Currently, we are in a good cash position because a few people have paid their full year pledge.

January-February Total Income:	\$41,001.27
January-February Total Expenses:	\$32,469.14

In the last 4 months, we are grateful to have received \$10,000 in special gifts toward our needs for new HVAC units. This money is set aside in our Capital/Building needs accounts.

Cornerstone Fund: With the vote of the congregation at the Annual Meeting, the Cornerstone Fund has been created. The Cornerstone Fund is the new name for the combined Endowment Fund and Parsonage Fund. Following our Constitution and Bylaws, the principle of the Cornerstone Fund is to be invested with only the earnings to be used. Each year, if there are earnings, the Church Council decides if money will be used to benefit the life and work of our church. Please talk with Pastor Cory, your financial advisor, or Catherine if you are interested in making a contribution to the Cornerstone Fund. This last year, the former Endowment Fund earnings will contribute \$3069 to work of our congregation.

Goosey Ham and Cheese Sliders

Shared by Abigail Anderson

INGREDIENTS:

- 24 Hawaiian rolls or small soft butter rolls
- 24 thin slices of deli ham
- 6 pre-wrapped slices of American or cheddar cheese, break each slice into 4 pieces

For the sauce:

- 1 1/2 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 8 tablespoon butter, melted
- 1 tablespoon onion salt
- 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- Poppy seeds



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Line a large baking sheet with tin foil. Line up the 24 buns in a single layer and open them.
3. Lay one slice of ham and a quarter of cheese inside each bun and close.
4. To make the sauce, combine all the ingredients except the poppy seeds in a small bowl and whisk to combine.
5. Pour the sauce over the top of the buns. You can use a pastry brush to even it out as needed.
6. Sprinkle the tops with the poppy seeds and then cover with a sheet of tin foil.
7. Bake 10 minutes, remove the foil, and bake 2 minutes longer. Serve warm.

From peanutblossom.com

April

Happy Birthday to

April 4 Caleb Rachuy
April 5 Vonnie Cone
Bill Cowing
Dan Wenz
April 6 James Marushin
Jan White
Dave Meschke
April 7 Dan Thate
April 10 Marcia Musser
April 12 Doug Guritz
April 13 Joyce Knudson
Jayden Garlick
Kris Fuller
April 15 Randy Rowan
Chris Draper
April 16 Rev. Lyle Norris
K.T. Magnussen
April 18 Terry Riggs
April 21 Cameron Hainy
Arianna Moller Smith
Jerry Norman
April 22 Donna Grotte
Rachel Tonneson
April 26 Lorin Pollock
Ken Schwieger
April 28 Nola Thedens
Michael Neusch

Happy Anniversary to

April 5 Curt & Vicki Bicknase 28 years
April 10 Douglas & Kris Fuller 43 years
April 12 Amanda & Ryan Cain 17 years
April 16 Kirk & Gina Jorgensen 20 years
April 20 Jacob & Abby Shoen 12 years
April 20 Eugene & Polly Mosloski 21 years
April 23 Curt & Terri Luetgers 49 years
April 27 Tim & Kay Campe 40 years
April 30 Jim & Barb Bock 59 years

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