
First Congregational UCC "At First"
1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336
Church phone: 864-3855

December 2019

**Please Join
Us
for Our
7:00 pm
Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Worship Service
on
December 24th**

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday school Christmas program is set for **Sunday, December 22nd** and we are so excited to bring you "Manger Tales"! To prepare for the program there will be Sunday school on **December 1st, 8th & 15th** after the children's message and will run until **11:00 am**. Come and support our Youth.

Holiday Remembrance Service

McBride Funeral Chapel will be hosting a Service of Remembrance for all the families and friends of those who have passed away in the last year on **Sunday, December 8th** at **1:00 pm** at **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glencoe**.

Remember your loved ones by sharing an invocation, music, readings, candle lighting, and time with others over Holiday treats and beverages.

RSVP to McBride's Funeral Chapel by December 2nd and talk to Gail at 864-3737

Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one or friend, **please call the church office at 864-3855 by Tuesday, Dec 11th. Cost is \$9.50.** You may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve Service.

"Veterans of the Cross"

They work throughout the year to help Pastors and their families. Dollars given to the fund go directly to those who serve or have served the church in their moments of need. Gifts have been provided to seminarians who have had a life crisis creating a financial hardship; to active clergy and lay employees whose financial situations have been compromised by tragedy or illness. **We will be receiving "Veteran of the Cross" offering on Sunday, December 22nd.**

Baptism

Lola Marie Huitt, daughter of Brittany Huitt and David Huitt was baptized on **November 3, 2019** during a private baptism at church.

Grandparents are Steve and Victoria Schultz and Karrie and Loren Baysinger.

God Parents: Marilee Norton, Jeremy Norton, Jessie Huitt and Schwa Bolton

On The Job In December

Deacon of the Month: Dan Kottke

Altar: Ann Wangerin

Deaconess In charge of Communion at on December 1st: Barb Magnuson

* * * * *



Happy Birthday!!

- 4. Jill Alsleben,
Miriam Jungclaus
- 7. Lily Ann Kottke
- 10. Margabelle Beltz
- 11. Janet Popelka
- 13. Howard Bulau
Lisa Ralter
- 15. Desiree Richardson
- 16. Erin McNellis
- 18. Mara Gould
- 19. Peyton Gould
Wyatt Sullivan
Teal Johnson
- 20. Tom Winn
- 28. Kyle Robb
- 30. McKenzie Patnaude
Sharia Defoe
- 31. Brenda Benson
Dylan Dahlke

* * * * *

**Please remember our
Shut-In's
this holiday season.**

Are you over 70-1/2?

And taking a distribution from your IRA each year? Did you know that your IRA distribution given directly to First Congregational Church will not be included as income when you file your tax return? Taking advantage of the IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution option allows taxpayers who are over 70-1/2 and do not itemize to avoid paying tax on amounts given directly to church. Just bring your IRA distribution check, made payable to First Congo to the church office. Consult your tax accountant or the IRA custodian for complete information.

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A Special Thank You

Thank you so much for the gifts and gift cards that were delivered to St. Peter Treatment Center. The patients appreciate your thoughtfulness and it make a real different for them at Christmas. So many don't have family to receive gifts from. Thanks for helping us make Xmas so special!
SPRTC Xmas Staff

The Deaconesses have decided to make visits and Communion available to those who are unable to attend church while we are without a settled pastor. **The next opportunity to participate in offsite Communion will be Thursday, December 5, 2019 at Long Term Care and in homes that have requested a visit. To request a visit, please contact Jan Mackenthun at 320-864-3838 or jan_mackenthun@hotmail.com.**

Bible Study at Millie Beneke Manor will meet Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 8:45 am. Everyone is welcome. Our study draws an analogy between the love of chocolate and the overwhelming sense of love and satisfaction that we get from the love and saving grace we receive from Christ through faith. We also enjoy chocolate and coffee at our study!

The Search Committee has received two new profiles and is waiting for profiles from some retiring clergy that are relocating to MN.

Stewardship Reminder: Pledge Sunday was held in September; if you have not yet returned your pledge card, please prayerfully consider what this church and your faith mean to you and return your pledge to the church as soon as possible. We need your presence and your presents to keep our church moving forward!

Volunteers Needed! To help with lunch at the build site in Glencoe (1519 Baldwin Avenue North). It can just be a simple lunch like soup, Chili, hot dish, sandwiches any thing that can be easy to prepare. We have plates, cups, eating utensils, water, and napkins at the job site. We are also in need of volunteers to help with the build. We thank all the volunteers that have helped so far. It is simply amazing to see all that they have done. I have attached a link to our sign up genius to sign up or you can call 320-587-8868 or email deb@crhfh.org <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4eafae2ba1f85-2019> Thank you! **Crow River Habitat for Humanity, 1020 Highway 7 W, Suite A, Hutchinson**

Just a Reminder! If you use a key to open a cabinet or a door, please make sure that you return the key to where you found it ASAP. Thanks!

What is Advent?

It is the first gleam of Christmas;
it is the promise of his coming. "Get Ready. He is coming!"

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Glencoe, MN 55336

Our Website: <http://firstcongochurch.org/>

E-Mail: congoucc@gmail.com

Newsletter Deadline – Third Monday of the Month

Merry
Christmas!!



Abundant Table Community Meal

The Abundant Table Community Meal is **FREE** and open to everyone -families and children, elderly and all seeking fellowship or in need of a helping hand.

When: December 4th (the first Wednesday of every Month)

Where: Christ Lutheran Church Basement Fellowship Hall, 1820 Knight Avenue

Time: Doors open at 4:30 pm for Fellowship; Meal served at 5:00 pm

Notification: By calling Christ Lutheran Church at 864-4549.

****changes in times & format****

First Congregational Church
BAZE & CANDY Sale



December 7, 2019
9-11 a.m.

Mark your calendar!
It's time for the annual
Christmas Bazaar!

This activity is our church's largest fundraiser. The bazaar opens at 9 am with sales of rosettes, krumkake, Christmas cookies, candy, baked goods and crafts made by our members. Pie, rolls and beverages will be available to purchase.

Have you thought about what you can do? We need volunteers to help on Friday and Saturday. Can you help? If you would like to enjoy fellowship, laughs and fun together with your church family, please volunteer! If you get a call to help, please say "YES!" Your help is much appreciated!

- **Cookies:** Bring your bulk Christmas cookies to the church by 9 a.m. Friday, December 6, for special packaging. In addition, Paula Bulau (864-6510) will need people to help with **packaging the cookies**. Consider making one extra batch or double your favorite recipe – we always sell out!
- **Baked goods** need to be delivered to the church by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 6 so that they can be packaged and displayed. **Please mark the price and identify your items.**
- **Candy:** Bring homemade candy to the church on Friday, December 6. **Please label the type of candy and any pricing guidelines you have.**
- **Santa's Attic:** This is an area for gently used items. Do you have items you don't need any longer but are still in great condition? Please take the time to look about and see what you might find. Bring items to the music room for marking. Ann Wangerin (864-6379)
- **Rosettes:** Made at the church as a group project. Come join us for fun! The scheduled dates and times are: Sunday, **December 1** from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, **December 2** and Tuesday, **December 3** at 8:30 a.m. Questions? Call Linda Landon (864-5384) or Chris Marsh (864-3577).
- **Serving:** Will be serving homemade pies, fresh rolls and beverages for the shoppers this year. **We will need donations of pies** and folks to help serve and clean up. If you have made and donated pies in the past, please consider to do so again. Please come to shop and then stay to have some coffee and treats! Take-outs will be available.
- Cash donations are always welcome!

Questions? Ask Chris Marsh (864-3577) or Linda Landon (864-5384).

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GLENCOE PRESENTS

CELEBRATE THE SEASON

WITH THE
COMMUNITY STRINGS

Sunday, December 1, 2019
1:00 PM and 5:00 PM

FREE WILL OFFERING GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED
PROCEEDS BENEFIT AREA FOOD SHELVES





Abundant Table Community Meal

Hello,

My name is Barb Jenneke. I am coordinator for Abundant Table, Glencoe's Community Meal.

Our Mission for Abundant Table is to "Prepare a nourishing and hearty meal every month for men, women and children in the Glencoe area at no cost to them. We also want to provide an atmosphere of hospitality and openness around the dinner table."

We are seeking your Church's help in four different possible ways:

- *Informing your members about the availability of the meal each month
- *Prayers for our Ministry
- *Organizing groups to help serve our meals (i.e. Confirmation, Men's or Ladies groups, Council, Choir groups)
- *Financial Support, it takes approximately \$300.00 each month to buy food

Especially now in November and December, for our Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, we are hoping your Church will consider doing a special collection or donation for our Ministry meals. Typically, these months we serve more community members and larger meals. Also, consider getting a group together to serve in 2020.

The meal is free to all who come. We are starting our 7th year this November, building a sense of community through a nourishing homemade meal. With our goal of fellowship and a warm welcoming atmosphere, we bring the area community together every month.

Please consider our requests so that this can truly continue to be a Community Meal. You can reach me by mail at 1811 Ives Avenue, Glencoe, MN or by phone at 612-418-5688.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and please keep us in your prayers.

Barb Jenneke, and our Abundant Table Ministry Team-Connie Heitz, Chris Davis, Dianne VonBerge, Deb Heuer, Eileen Popelka, Jane Larter, Mary Jo Schimelpfennig.

*Thank You,
Barbara Jenneke*

YOU'RE
INVITED



***“DRAWN TO THE WORD”* Artistic Experience** **Community Fundraiser Event**

Join Artist and Pastor, Paul Oman, as he paints a larger-than-life sized mural of generosity before your eyes. This story will unfold artistically, musically, and narratively during the event, while we enjoy delectable desserts and learn the community impact of our non-profit partners:

**Common Cup Ministry
McLeod Emergency Food Shelf
United Way of McLeod County**

**Thursday, November 21st
6:30 p.m.**

**Glencoe City Center – Grand Ballroom
1107 11th St E – Glencoe, MN**

**This is a no-fee event evening of fun and refreshment
You will have an opportunity to direct a donation to one of our featured non-profit partners**

For Reserved Seating, please pre-register by contacting Katie Rotz at 320-864-2022 or katie.rotz@thrivent.com. You can also register at First Ev. Lutheran Church In Glencoe or visit any of our Non-Profit Partners shown above. Reservations are encouraged to help us properly plan!

Questions? Contact your local Thrivent
Community at 320-864-2022

See video clip at paulomanfineart.com/drawn-to-the-word

No products will be sold at this event.
For additional important information, visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.



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First Congregational Church, U.C.C.
Annual Meeting Minutes, October 27, 2019

The 2018-2019 Annual Meeting was called to order by Moderator, Merlin Mackenthun at 10:20 a.m. Fifty members were in attendance; a quorum was met. The list of attendees is attached to this report.

Adoption of Agenda - A motion was made by Ozzie Chapman and seconded by Bill Curtis, to accept the agenda. Motion passed.

Acceptance of the 2018-2019 Annual Meeting Minutes - A motion was made by Ken Stenzel and seconded by Paula Bulau, to approve the Minutes of October 28, 2018 as written. Motion passed.

Review of 2019 Committee Reports - Moderator Mackenthun asked for additions/corrections from committees.

Buildings and Grounds Report - Roger Landon, rep., Dave Stark

Roger reported on the ongoing lower level bathroom partition project. Karl Warner asked that Roger receive a round of applause for the upgrades that have taken place in the bathrooms (plumbing, soap dispensers, better brand of TP). The Heating system has had a new electrical control module installed for a more constant heating system. Mr. Lemke was instrumental in the approval of this year's Boiler Inspection. Crow River Glass has been hired to replace the outdoor wooden storm windows with metal on the lower portion of the stained glass windows. A new (State?) Regulation has required the church to have an Emergency Shut-off Switch installed outside the Boiler Room. Buildings and Grounds will see that this is taken care of. The mowing crew continues to be the Schrupp family, next door. Neubarth Bros. continues as our snow removal vendor. They have made a change to their contract that allows them to clear the front steps of the church only on Sunday mornings as they have not received a price increase in some time. A suggestion was made that an increase may be appropriate.

Trustees Report - Carmen Kienenberger reported that a bat removal company was hired and has completed its work. Over the last two months no bats activity has been identified. The Pre-School room has reported no problems. This Budget Year has ended with a positive balance. However, the full-time Minister's salary has not been used. Church donations are down.

Benevolence Report - Jim Benson explained why Benevolence funding (page 8) has not been completed for Special Donations this year. Generally, gifts are received in this account near the end of the calendar year. Currently the fund is very low.

Deacons Report - Dan Kottke thanked Ozzie for the new church flag. He suggested members go to Facebook to get quicker results for church Snow Closing Notices this winter. The Deacons made \$386 at the Coborn's Food Stand this year. Many other fundraising dates were available and Dan encouraged groups to consider these for their fundraising efforts.

Presentation and Proposed Action to Adopt the 2019-2020 Budget

The proposed budget containing the salary for a 3/4 time minister was presented. Suzanne Bacon asked if we need to revisit the minister's position to discuss the need for a one-half, three quarter or full-time person. Merlin M. said this was not the proper group and the new Search and Call Committee would be addressing this subject. A motion was made by Stan Hoff and seconded by Jim Benson to accept the proposed budget. Motion approved by members.

Nominating Committee Report & Election of Officers, Boards and Committees

The Nominating Committee was comprised of Dan Biederwolf, Merlin M. and Kari W. Kari noted that the Nominating Committee Report is a duplicate of last year with the hope that all members will continue on the committees they currently serve. Members are asked to tell a Church Council person or your Committee Chair if you do not want to continue serving. Recent past practice is for a person leaving a committee to find their own replacement. Merlin encouraged all members to step forward to fill vacant positions on our various boards and committees.

Elaine Reynolds encouraged both men and women to volunteer to help on the Funeral Committee within the Women's Fellowship group. While currently providing a very good service, less and less people are volunteering to help serve, provide set-up and clean-up and/or supply desserts. Gathering helpers is difficult, especially if people don't return phone calls with a yes or no response. Elaine will continue as Chairman. However, if adequate help is not received, Women's Fellowship will not be able to continue this service to members.

Nominating Report corrections were made to:

- **Church Council - Deacons:** remove Dan Kottke and replace with Jim Cox, **Deaconesses:** Remove Pam Gould and replace with Jan Mackenthun, add **Member at-Large** - Bridget Kienenberger
- **Trustees** - Remove Scott Telthoester , 2 positions remain open
- **Board of Deacons** - Remove Nick Schultz and replace with Nathan Warner Add missing names: Robbie Navarro, Scott Samela, Scott Teltoester
- **Board of Deaconesses** - Remove Roxanne Mathews, remove Pam Gould, correct spelling of Maren Warner and record her as a continuing member
- **Board of Christian Ed** - Remove Robbie Navarro from nominees
- **Buldings and Grounds** - Remove Ozzie Chapman and replace with Duane Mathews
- **Audit Committee** - Remove Gale Roth

The Nominating Committee Report was accepted as corrected. No vote was held.

Search & Call Committee Update

The candidate selected by the Committee was Christopher Simmons. After several meetings, a contract for a 20 hour position which included 2 half-days in the office, the Sunday service and Confirmation was agreed to and the contract presented. During this time, Pastor Simmons notified the Church Council that his availability had changed and he would not be able to be in the church on the same days as Wendy and could not do confirmation on its scheduled night. At this point, the Church Council withdrew the contract. Since Pastor Simmons is still able to preach of Sundays, the Church has currently retained him

as our on-going Pulpit Supply until further notice. Moderator Mackenthun reported that the Search and Call Committee was officially disbanded by the UCC Conference in August, 2019. The Committee was thanked for all their efforts and discharged. The New Search and Call Committee, selected by the UCC Conference, is the membership of the Church Council consisting of:

<u>Individual</u>	<u>Church Representation</u>
Merlin Mackenthun	Church Moderator
Stan Hoff	Asst. " "
Carmen Kienenberger	Trustees
Kari Warner	Christian Education
Jim Cox	Deacons
Jan Mackenthun	Deaconesses
Bridget Kienenberger	Member at Large

Numerous questions were raised regarding the pros and cons of searching for a permanent Minister or Interim Minister and to what extent we could offer part-time to fulltime employment. Other considerations included looking beyond the UCC Conference or yoking with other churches. Merlin asked members if they were happy with the UCC's treatment of our church theology, explaining there is a wide spectrum of thought with the UCC on the more liberal end and the evangelicals on the conservative end.

Our Church Council spoke with a representative from a 4C's group and didn't find them to be a fit with our theology. Kelly Rach commented that ours is the most progressive church in the area and we should work to keep that label. Comments were made that many members grew up in many other faiths but work well together here. Linda Landon provided information about the Iowa Congregational Conference and will get information to Merlin. It was suggested that we review our church membership list again to determine the number of people we are "paying" for through the Conference and if this is an accurate profile of our church. Consensus of the members was for the new Search and Call Committee to begin looking into an Interim Pastor.

Shirley Cutlar complimented Kari Warner and Pam Gould for their commitment to our Youth programs. Karen Benson expressed the need for a minister that will connect with our youth as they are the future of the church. The decision not to accept Bill Baldwin as a candidate was explained.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Constitutional Changes

#1. Article

Under General Duties and Responsibilities, change the wording of "members comprising any single Board or Committee shall be restricted to one representative of a married couple or household". Change the wording to: "it is recommended but not required "...

Rationale: There are not enough active members willing to accept positions on our governing boards and committees to make this useful for the church at this time.

Motion made by Jim Benson, Seconded by Norma McNeil to accept the change to Article 1. No discussion. Motion Passed.

#2 Article VI, Section 18

"A Memorial Committee... Scratch "students' scholarships" and replace with "student loans; and awarding and collecting student loan payments".

Rationale: We have never had scholarships; we provide low interest loans from the Florence Allen Fund. We expect funds to be repaid, so they are loans not scholarships. Motion made to change above Article by Kelly Rack, seconded by Bill Curtis.

Discussion: It is written in all our material that we give loans, not scholarships. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Confirmation Leader Stipend

Based on recommendations of the Personnel Committee, the Christian Education Fund has included in its Annual Budget a stipend of \$50/week to our Confirmation Leader, Pam Gould, and effective September, 2019.

Staying Connected: Jim Benson noted that being connected to the activities of the church is very important for all members. While they are away they receive weekly updates from the church office and find it very beneficial. Many "Snow Bird" church members and others who find it difficult to attend church could also receive weekly updates through a group e-mail mailing. Wendy already has a Master E-mail file and can accomplish this with one tap of a key! (Members were recently asked to check their e-mail address with the church roster and send changes to her last month.) A motion to adjourn was made by Jan M. and seconded by Kelly R. at 11:20a.m. Meeting adjourned.

Jan M. gave the blessing for the Spaghetti Fundraiser Luncheon provided by the Mission Trip kids and their families.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget Kienenberger