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

January 2020

Christmas Bazaar

The 2019 Women's Fellowship Christmas Bazaar was a great success again this year thanks to a group of very dedicated members and friends. The day was a shortened sale taking just 2 hours but many hours to prepare for. Lovely new and used items were made and sold. Sweet treats and Christmas specialty items (lefse, krumkake, rosettes, cookies, kolaches, breads, caramels, toffee, fudge, etc.) went out the door quickly. We served fresh baked cinnamon and caramel rolls along with homemade pie made by our members and enjoyed by all. After expenses WF took in approximately \$5300.00. Many thanks to all who made this possible. Thanks be to God!

Thank You!

Thanks to all who were the "hands and feet of Christ" by donating food, money or time First Congregational. We are very grateful to Jan Mackenthun for her Thrivent Financial grant to purchase the meat. A special thank you to Ann Wangerin for assisting in organizing the event. 132 were served and \$1240.00 was donated to the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf from the Free Will offering.

Thanks to those that attended the dinner!
God Bless you all!

Barb Magnuson

Church Envelopes

You will or may have received your church offering envelopes from Randy Warner. We suggest that you use the envelopes to keep track of your offering. When your offering comes into the church our Assistant Financial Secretaries deposit the cash or checks into the bank and then hands over the envelopes to Randy Warner to record into his books. By not using the envelopes it makes it more difficult for them to keep track of your offerings.

You still have the option of having your pledges taken directly out of your savings or checking account. Call the church office at 864-3855 for more information.

Deaconesses Update

On December 5th, Deaconesses visited and brought Communion to four members of the congregation; Bible Study was also held at Millie Beneke Manor. The next Bible Study date is Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 8:45 a.m. at Millie Beneke Manor with Communion visits following from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

If you would like to be added to our visitation list, please call Jan Mackenthun at 320-864-3838.

Happy New Year!!

On The Job in January

Deacon of the Month: Bruce Magnuson

In Charge of the Altar: Ann Wangerin

Communion @ the Church Jan 6th: Pam Gould

We Extend Our Sympathy and Prayers

... to the family of **Craig Miller**. Craig passed away on Dec 22nd. His Memorial Service is pending.

Christian Ed Outreach

This year we have reached out to three struggling families in our community with baskets filled with sweet treats and gifts for gasoline and food from Coborn's Grocery. I t's hoped this small gesture will bring them a ray of sunshine from our church.

Common Cup Activity

Have you picked up a Laundry Love pill bottle yet? Here's an easy way to help people maintain pride in them by helping with their laundry. All you need to do is to fill your Laundry Love pill bottles with quarters. The container will hold \$10, just the amount an individual is provided at the Laundromat to wash/dry their clothes. Collect your quarters as you receive change while shopping or when you empty your pockets before you wash clothes! This small gesture can make a visible impact in how a person perceives them self. Pill bottles are in a basket at the back of the church. Pick one up on your way out of church this week. During November-December we collected \$30.50. Thank You

Happy Birthday!

- 2. Rebecca Forcier
- 4. Dawn Shemanek
- 5. Tammy Hanson
Myron Dahlke
Daniel Ralter
Renee Lehmann
- 6. Evon Draeger
- 7. Kari Warner
- 13. Robert Berwald
Craig Miller
- 19. Karen Hendricksen
Sam McNellis
- 20. Jessica Richardson
- 27. Allen Trocke
- 30. Betty Bruckschen
- 31. Ariana Bolt

Cell phone, home phone numbers, E-Mail or Address Change

People are dropping their land line phones and going only with their cell phone, please let the church office know your phone number so we can keep our church directory up to date.

Also, if you have any change in your e-mail or address, please make sure to contact the church office.

Call the church office at 864-3855 or e-mail us at congoucc@gmail.com

**From: First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
1400 Elliott Avenue North
Glencoe, MN 55336**

**Our Website: firstcongochurch.org
Church E-Mail: congoucc@gmail.com
Newsletter Deadline: Third Tuesday of the Month**



**Begin the year
with God**

A Prayer for the New Year

We know, O Lord, that our times are in your hands. While we live on Earth, enable us to please you in all things. Especially now, as we enter a new year, we pray for strengthened spirits that we may praise you properly by our thoughts, words and deeds, Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Trustees Newsletter Report for November 2019

The following business was addressed at the November 20th meeting of the Board of Trustees:

- * Total deposits for October were \$5,493
Payments in October from our Operating fund \$5,323**
- * Other Business:
 - + Voted to approve the October financial report;
Renewed several CD's that had come due.**
 - + Trustee's reorganized for 2019 – 2020 fiscal year.****

Respectfully Submitted, Randy Warner, Secretary

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed Happy New Year!	2 8:00 pm A.A.	3	4
5 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Christian Ed Meeting	6 Epiphany	7	8 3:30 pm Confirmation	9 8:00 pm A.A.	10	11
12 9:15 am Worship Service 9:40 am Sunday School Women's Fellowship Board Meeting Patnaude Bingo Tupperware	13	14	15 3:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	16 8:00 pm A.A.	17	18
19 9:15 am Worship Service	20	21	22 Noon-Trustee's Meeting 3:30 pm Confirmation	23 8:00 pm A.A.	24	25
26 9:15 am Worship Service Deacon's Meeting	27	28	29 3:30 pm Confirmation	30	31	

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. Kari 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
- **Buildings 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 on 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 Rock, 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

Attachments
Attendance Roster

(First Congregational 2018-19 Annual Report)