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

***Rev. Dr. Bob Baggott and Rev. Dr. Casey Baggott; Co-Pastors***

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**August 2020**

**The State of First Congregational Church**

In a couple of weeks, I will be the Moderator of our church for one year. During that year, Jan and I have experienced the highs and lows for our church. I thank God for Jan — she kept my spirits up during the roller coaster ride and helped keep the Church Council tending to business. The Reverends Dr. Bob and Dr. Casey Baggott rode into Glencoe and brought enthusiasm back to our church.

In about a month, we will begin a new church year. The COVID-19 pandemic brought a low in our church life. I was anxious as to how our church budget would survive the lost of church attendance. I am here today to report that our home ministry is in very good shape. I want to personally thank our membership for their contributions to our church. Not easy to do in this time of pandemic.

On the challenging side, our Nominating Committee, working with the Church Council, would like to keep committee membership the same as last year due to COVID-19. If anyone would like to be removed from a committee, either find a replacement or give me a call @ (864-3838). Maybe you could swap places with someone else and be on a different committee and vice versa. We still are short on some committees:

Deacons – 2 openings  
Deaconesses – 1 opening  
Trustee’s – 2 openings  
Board of Christian Ed – 2 openings  
Stewardship – 1 opening  
Memorial Committee – 1 opening  
Personnel Committee – 1 opening

As I look at the membership list in the back of our annual report, I see many members that would be good, contributing members to any of our committees. Please step forward!! Call me at 864-3838. Committees are meeting by phone, zoom, and social distancing in the fellowship hall.

It’s disheartening that we have not been able to have coffee fellowship after Sunday services. Our new Pastors have a positive view of our church even during COVID-19. They have talked about things that our church has that other churches wish they had. Jump on the Band Wagon!! As Pastor Bob says “All shall be well” “All shall be well” “All shall be well”!!

Merlin Mackenthun, Church Moderator



Aug 5-Jeanette Miller  
       Sandy Bargmann  
 Aug 7-Sherri Geise  
       Jan Mackenthun  
 Aug 10-Kelsey Dahlke  
 Aug 12-Mike Dahlke  
 Aug 14-Stevieona  
       Olson'Neely  
 Aug 15-Anthony Hanson  
 Aug 18-Ray Robb  
 Aug 19-Brian Nagel  
 Aug 22-Daniel Maguire  
       Erica McClaskey  
 Aug 24-Sue Bacon  
       Travis Sullivan  
 Aug 25-Annika  
       Richardson  
       Caleb Richardson  
 Aug 30-Ed Patnaude

## On the Job in August

### Deacon:

**Robert Navarro**

### Altar:

**Ann Wangerin**

## Trustee's Newsletter Report from May 2020

The following business was addressed at the May 13, 2020 meeting of the Board of Trustees:

- \*Total deposits for April were \$6,123.  
Payments in April from our Operating fund \$8,036.
- \* Giving is continuing to come in through office mail.
- \* Other Business:
  - + Trustee's approved increased internet speed for facebook live worship.
  - + Working on updating the rental contract form and reviewing insurance rates for 2020.
  - + Following the Minnesota state guidelines on opening up Church for worship.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Randy Warner, Secretary

## Youth Mission Trip

As you probably all guessed, the mission trip is cancelled for 2020. We thought about doing one up north but COVID-19 is not cooperating. Next year we will go some where! We just are not sure where. Please stay tuned and new information will be coming. Stay excited for being the hands and feet of Jesus. We will get there.

Pam Gould

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## **Courage or foolishness?**

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It takes a lot of courage  
 To put things in God's hands,  
 To give ourselves completely –  
 Our lives, our hopes, our plans,  
 To follow where he leads us  
 And make his will our own.  
 But all it takes is foolishness  
 To go the way alone!

–Author Unknown

## **Pastor's Column**

Dear Friends:

We have some news to share and some opportunities for our Church that we think you'll enjoy...

### **First: Online worship only on August 9th**

We have been asked to serve as "Chaplains of the Week" for the Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, New York from August 9<sup>th</sup> through August 14<sup>th</sup>. The Chautauqua gathering will all be conducted online this year, but our commitment to the project means we will be unable to lead worship live in our own sanctuary on August 9<sup>th</sup>. So instead of holding live worship at First Congregational Church on **Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, you'll be able to stay home and watch the taped service at 9:15 a.m. on the Facebook page of First Congregational Church.**

If you wish, you could also watch our taped sermons and devotions for the week on the Chautauqua website – "CHQ Assembly." We will offer a sermon for Chautauqua at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> and daily devotions at 8:15 a.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>. These taped services may be watched anytime that week.

### **Second: Outdoor worship and picnic on August 23rd**

Our lovely Minnesota summer is now half over. We're probably all turning toward fall and making our plans as best we can, given the uncertainties of the COVID 19 disruptions. But before we let go of this wonderful weather and the chance to share time together outdoors, let's restore an old custom of First Congregational Church. Let's meet for outdoor worship, a picnic, and some conversation!

We've reserved **Shelter #2 at Oak Leaf Park on Sunday, August 23 at 9:15 a.m.** for our Church. Instead of holding worship in our sanctuary that day, we'll meet at the park. The shelter is a large enough space for us to achieve appropriate social distancing. We'll gather at 9:15 a.m., share in prayers and worship, and hear inspiring music.

Then after our service, as we eat a meal together, we'll have a chance to join in conversation about the treasured heritage of our Church and how we hope to move together into a faithful and fruitful future. Bring your ideas about what makes our Church so special, how to support our beloved children and youth in their spiritual growth, what new projects you'd love to see us undertake, how you think we could expand our benevolence, our outreach, and our ministries. We know you have a wealth of ideas and inspiration to offer!

Please plan to bring lawn chairs, masks, and your own family's meal. The Church will provide beverages and anything else we may need to enjoy this Church picnic together. If possible, please call or email the Church with your RSVP. We'll tailor our plans around your ability to come!

If you will not be able to attend the Outdoor Worship Service, you can join us for worship by watching us on our Facebook page at 9:15 a.m.

God Bless You! Pastor Casey and Pastor Bob

# August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:15 am Communion Worship Service	3	4 Wendy Off	5 Wendy Back In Office 9:30 am Bible Study	6	7	8
9 9:15 am <u>On Line</u> Worship Service Only Pastor's Out of Town This week	10	11	12 No Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9:15 am Worship Service	17	18	19 9:30 am Bible Study Noon-Trustee's Meeting	20	21	22
23 9:15 am <u>Outdoor</u> Worship Service @ Oak Leaf Park (Shelter #2)	24	25	26 9:30 am Bible Study	27	28	29
30 9:15 am Worship Service Deacon's Meeting	31	Deacon: Robert Navarro Atha: Ann Wangerin				

**First Congregational UCC, Glencoe MN**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes - June 17, 2020**  
**6:45 p.m.**

Members Present: Merlin Mackenthun - Chair, Jan Mackenthun, Jim Cox, Kari Warner, Stan Hoof, Bridget Klennenberger, Carmen Klennenberger, Pastors Casey and Bob Baggott

1. The Church Council meeting was called to order at 6:45p.m.
2. Pastor Bob began our meeting with prayer.
3. Approval of Minutes - Carmen made a motion to accept the May 20th meeting minutes as written. Jan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

4. Committee Reports

Trustees - Carmen reported revenue figures and noted that June figures were up for the month

- Revenue figures - May, 2020 - \$4,063                      Total thru May 2020 - \$80,394  
                                    May, 2019 - \$3,530                                      Total thru May 2019 - \$84,471
- Carmen is working on the paperwork to report how the church used the \$4,400 SBA loan from the Federal Government. This money was used for salaries of part-time employees from May 7 thru July 7. Money remaining after salaries was used to pay utility bills.

5. Pastors' Report

- Pastor Bob reported that the church opened for Sunday services following MN's guidelines for "social distancing". In person attendance has been about 20 people. The service is taped for live streaming, Facebook, Cable TV, and long-term care facilities. Major upgrades (that the Minutes Taker has no understanding of) have been accomplished under the able direction of Nathan Warner, including better taping for the upgrade to "live streaming". Using the better quality program lets us add a component where the audience could make a donation.
- The Board discussed the exciting benefits of continuing the live streaming option as we continue to open to larger group numbers. It was noted that a number of present and past members, who have not visited church recently are signing in to the on-line church service. On-line services could also benefit "cabin and lake" people, "snow birds" and "shut-ins" that are interested in staying connected.
- Pastor Bob characterized how the plans of the contract they made with First Congo have been altered because of Covid 19. Many "firsts" have had to be put on hold. As we come out of this period, they want to establish a clear and equitable understanding of our church to help us move forward. As a congregation, several weeks would be focused on "where our church came from" (history), "who we are" (past and present), "where we are going", and "what do we want in one year", five years, and the future. The Pastors want to begin to work with the congregation on this process with the new budget year in September. More details will follow.

6. Old Business

- Betty Bruckschen Memorial -  
Jim Benson spoke with Merlin about considering a different use of the funds left by Betty Bruckschen's estate. Merlin recommended that Jim confer with Sue Bacon, another member of the Memorial Committee. Carmen updated the Board on the current balance of the Miska Funds. Bridget asked about the development of a Gift Policy that Pastor Bob mentioned in May, with concern that we need to develop an understanding that is in the best interest of our patrons and the church. Pastor Bob spoke of an Investment Policy, where members could be given the opportunity to help the church grow in other ways and commented that this could be a project for the Stewardship Committee. Another funding opportunity for members is the Cornerstone Fund (UCC Program) which helps churches who are struggling.
- Maintenance Window Washing Project -  
Karl reminded the Council of the decision to hire a vendor to clean the large windows (inside/out) at the church and that she has contacted two vendors. Merlin asked Karl to invite Roger L. to participate in this hiring process, as the representative of Buildings and Grounds. Karl agreed to contact Roger. She also mentioned a window cleaning device that appears to have a part missing. Perhaps Roger would have knowledge of how it works.

- **Wee Friends -**  
Kari spoke with the Wee Friends Coordinator/Teacher who said it was too late to try to get the program back up and running this fall. She hoped that at the conclusion of the Covid 19 pandemic there would be a need and interest in running the school again. The Board discussed and agreed to let Wee Friends keep their equipment in the classroom as long as needed. Concerns were raised about the equipment being "abandoned" and what would the church do then. Bridget, Kari and Pastor Casey commented that it could be a real "treasure" to have this equipment/room available in the future. The future of childcare is really up in the air and when the dust settles there may be a new opportunity for our church to be able to provide an important resource to our community. Kari and Bridget, representing Christian Ed. will take on the responsibility of overseeing this equipment and its use until an answer is found. Roger will be advised.

## 7. **New Business**

- **Discussion - Nominating Committee -**

Merlin noted that, in preparation of our 2020-2021 Annual Meeting, committees need to begin preparation including the Nominating Committee. He discussed how the past two years have been handled, which was to ask/tell members that they really needed to stay on their committees for another year. His concern was how to handle nominations this year. With Covid 19, which has caused our two wonderful pastors to lose the first opportunities to begin to heal and rebuild our church family, we're basically in the same position as last year to solicit nominations. Lively discussions ensued about how to gain while not losing volunteers. Pastor Bob recommended that the Nominating Committee ask current members to keep their positions. Beginning in September the church could begin to develop better ways to recruit more participation by members. One strategy would be to redesign large projects/programs into shorter units, where volunteers could commit to a small timeframe. Breaking down commitments to manageable, specific projects can allow members to feel successful more quickly. The Pastors affirmed that they would be visiting with the congregation on this topic.

- **Update Special Use of Church Policy-**

Merlin asked for clarification on the use of the church by a minister of a different denomination. He explained that a member has reserved the church for a fall wedding. Since we did not have a Pastor at the time of the reservation, Dan K., Lead Deacon, gave permission for the groom's Minister from a Lutheran church in Hutchinson, to perform the ceremony at First Congo. After discussion, it was decided that we would allow this service to take place, with the understanding that our Pastors approve of the philosophy of their church and clergy. A letter, from the Pastors will be sent to the Bride advising of these requirements, fees and special Wedding Policies for First Congo. This bridal party will be required to follow the State of MN Covid 19 guidelines for social distancing, observing the number of people congregating in a single space and any other requirements that may be in force on the wedding date.

Church policy requires a UCC Pastor officiating services unless an unforeseen development occurs.

Moving forward, the process to follow for **ANY PERSONAL rental or space use request** will be:

- Complete the Special Use Application available from Wendy or the Church Office. The date can be tentatively penciled into the Master Church Calendar. The application should include a deposit payment for the various services desired.
- The application will be reviewed in a timely manner by the Pastor, Church Moderator and/or Head Deacon, and a decision made to approve or deny.

### **Commercial/Private Use of Church Facility**

The Pastors informed us that the rental of church facilities (by members or the public) is not normally allowed for the benefit of commercial sales. However, on a one-time basis a commercial business could rent the Fellowship Hall for a meeting. Church members, hosting events for the benefit of the church may use the facilities. Church members may rent the Fellowship Hall and pay a fee for the cost of a custodian to prep and clean-up the space. An application must be completed and the custodian must agree to be available for this service. More discussion may take place in July.

**Outdoor Church Service -**

Bridget was approached by a church member, asking if a Sunday service could be held outdoors this summer, while observing the Covid 19 spacing requirements. The suggestion was nixed by those operating the system who said the church system is not "tecky" enough to be taken outdoors. The Board discussed services held in the past at the park and how we could do something similar now. It was decided to set August 9th aside as a special church program outdoors. This would be a simplified service with a "bring your own chair and picnic lunch". People would space appropriately. If the weather turns bad, we would go inside and the congregation could decide if they wanted to come in or go home. More details to follow.

8. **Adjourn** - Our meeting was adjourned by Karl and Jim at 8:25 p.m.

**Next Meeting - July 15, 2020**

**Respectfully submitted, Bridget Klennenberger**

**(Church Council Min June 17, 2020)**