
“At First”
First Congregational UCC
1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336
Church phone: 320-864-3855

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

September 2020

Church Rummage Sale planned!

As we all clean our closets, cupboards, garages, nooks and crannies, if there are items that have some life left in them, please consider donating them to the church. There will be a rummage sale set for spring, 2021, (date to be determined) and we would love to take the items off your hands and sell them in order to benefit the annual mission trip. More details will follow.

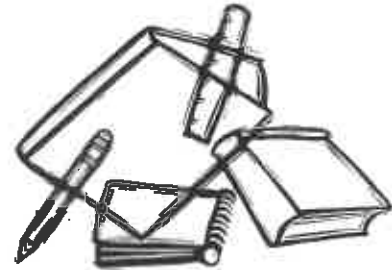
Contact Kari Warner at 224-554-9492 to schedule a drop off anytime between now and spring.

Thanks for helping our youth in their efforts to be the hands and feet of Jesus!

Sunday School for Fall,
2020

Parents of Sunday school students, please watch your mailbox for information about the upcoming year.

Thank you,
Board of Christian education



School Supplies

School Supplies During Covid: School supplies will be distributed by Common Cup Ministries to GSL schools this year, but it will look different. CC is asking for dollar donations only to streamline our process. If you already have purchased supplies we will be happy to take them, but future donations of dollars is preferred.

Volunteers are not needed for packing or distributing. A few individuals will be packing 24 bags per grade level. They will be given to school personnel to distribute to those in need.

Thank you for your past generosity. Thank you for any donations you are able to make this year.

Checks made out to Common Cup can be mailed to Common Cup Ministries, 105 2nd Ave SW, # 3, Hutchinson, MN 55350.

Do not drop off at school. Any questions, call Cheryl at 320 510-1593.

Baptism

We welcomed **Brantley Allen Forcier** into our church family during a private Baptism at church on August 9, 2020. Parents are Katelyn Zwart and Justin Forcier.



Happy Birthday!!

1. Kyle Giesler
5. Jesse Dahlke
6. Erwin Picha
8. Katherine Jones
9. Lon Roach
River Rowan
10. Wm. B. Gould
11. Chris Marsh
15. Samantha Schilling
Samantha Graupmann
16. Victoria Schultz
22. Shirley Steele
23. Merlin Mackenthun
26. Daniel Rach
28. John Robson

Gift of Love

When you share Christ through your gifts of love, not only do you enter the process through which God blesses your life, but you also become the means of grace through which God blesses someone else.

In other words, you allow God to use you to meet someone's need or answers someone's prayer. You become a blessing, are blessed in return, and can, therefore, be a blessing again. It's a cycle that God wants to continue in your life.

On The Job In September

Deacon of the Month

Scott Salmela

In Charge of Altar: Ann Wangerin

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E-Mail & Address Change

To all members: If you have any change in your e-mail or address, phone number, **please make sure to contact the church office so we can sent out our church correspondence correctly.**

Also, to all our young people who are going off to college this fall, and people going south, please let us know your address so that we can **keep in touch with you.**

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

Student Loans

The Student Loan Committee of First Congregational Church would like to remind members that there are currently funds available for student loans. Students must be a member of the church. They can borrow up to \$2000.00 per year with a maximum amount of \$4000.00 per person. Loans must be repaid after the student graduates. **Contact Student Loan Committee (Sue Bacon, Joanne Biederwolf)**

Dear Friends In Christ:

On August 19th, the Church Council met for its monthly meeting. At the meeting, preliminary discussions were held for the purpose of starting the search process for a settled pastor. As much as we love the Baggotts, it is their intent to end their interim Ministry on Easter Sunday of 2021. They do, however, wish to remain members of our congregation and worship with us.

The Church Council has decided to be the Search Committee for a new pastor to hopefully be on Board after Easter. With the Baggotts as consultants, as well as communicators with the MN Conference, we hope to accomplish this.

The MN Conference has recently started to realize the dilemma that rural churches are having in Greater Minnesota. They, along with the Wisconsin Conference, have initiated "The Damascus Project". The Project will offer fresh ways to develop spiritual leaders. It will allow everyday people of faith to step into pastoral roles—one foot in ministry and another foot in another field in life. This would be known as a "Commissioned Pastor". Of course, we will be looking at all types of ministry available, including an ordained pastor.

The Council would like to add 2 people to the Search Committee. If anyone has an interest in this Committee, please contact one of the Council members, or the church office. Also, the Council believes there are members of our Congregation that would make very good "Commissioned Pastors".

Feel free to contact me or any Council member with questions you may have. The road ahead will be bumpy and steep. Please pray for all of us that are trying to do God's work during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Merlin Mackenthun; Moderator



ALL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MAKE-UP SPRING MEETING

July 1, 2020, 5:00 pm

**Chairperson: Linda Landon
Recording Secretary: Evon Draeger
Corresponding Secretary: Jan Mackenthun**

**Vice Chairperson: Chris Marsh
Treasurer: Chris Marsh
Member at Large: Sue Bacon**

Pastor Casey gave the prayer. There were 14 people present.

Election of Officers:

Karen Benson and Norma McNell have decided to retire. Women's Fellowship thanks them for their years of service.

All listed members have agreed to continue to serve for 2020-2021.

The calendar year is from fall to fall.

Funerals:

Elaine is moving to Apple Valley and will no longer be leading. We thank her for her years of service. In this time of COVID we discussed what is legal and safe. Joann Biederwolf made a motion to not offer any reception for funeral and Evon seconded it. There can still be a church service though.

Tammy Tesch reported on her mother, Mary Ann Forcier's health. A sheet was passed around for anyone to sign up for making a meal for them.

December 5th would be the usual date (first Saturday in December) for the Christmas Bazaar which is the major fundraiser in the church. Linda and Chris are retiring from leading this so someone new would have to take over to do this safely in the time of COVID. Bridget moved to table the Bazaar for this year and Karl seconded the motion. We will place notices for people to look for us to be back in 2021

Board meetings will begin again in September.

Karen Stenzel moved to adjourn the meeting.

**Our Website: firstcongochurch.org
Facebook Page: First Congregational Church, Glencoe
Newsletter Deadline – Third Monday of the Month**

Trustee’s Minutes

The following business was addressed at the July 24th meeting of the Board of Trustees:

- * Total deposits for June were \$9,523. Of that, \$9,248.10 was for operating expenses; the remainder was for repairs, maintenance, missions and special offerings. There were five Sundays in June 2019. Approximate income for the 2018-19 fiscal year thru June was \$93,994.00.
- * Other Business:
 - 1) Voted to approve the June financial report and minutes; One outstanding invoice to for Bud’s Wildlife Removal will be held until final work is complete.
 - 2) Working on a preliminary budget for 2019-20, will finalize in October meeting after confirming some expense categories.

Respectfully Submitted, Randy Warner, Secretary

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Neighbors In Need

Neighbors In Need provides us a way to respond to God’s call. Our gifts to this all-church offering reach poor people in the neighborhoods and communities where they live. Your generous support of **Neighbors In Need** supports the UCC’s domestic ministries of justice and compassion.

Offerings goes towards the work of the Council for American Indian Ministry and supports justice advocacy and direct service projects, including the UCC’s Hunger Action Ministry, poverty reduction efforts, just-peace programs, and community grants.

**We will receive the Neighbors in Need offering
on Sunday, October 4, 2020**

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:30 am Bible Study	3	4	5
6 9:15 am Communion Worship Service		8	9 9:30 am Bible Study	10	11	12
13 9:15 am Worship Service Women's Fellowship Board Meeting		15	16 9:30 am Bible Study	17	18	19
20 9:30 am Bible Study		22	23 9:30 am Bible Study 1:00 pm Trustee's Meeting @ Church	24	25	26
27 9:30 am Bible Study Deacon's Meeting		28	30 9:30 am Bible Study			
		29 Deacon of the Month: Scott Salmala Altar: Ann Wangerin				

A Stewardship Moment

...NOW MORE THAN EVER...

Dear Friends and Members of First Congregational-UCC of Glencoe,

In the last few months, Covid 19, racial injustice, an unstable economy, loss of jobs, and general discontentment have reached out from every corner of the US and the world in much the same way that our Biblical ancestors were afflicted with plagues, drought, oppression, and warring nations. In the book of Esther, King Ahasuerus selected a young girl named Esther to be his wife without knowing her heritage as a Jew. Esther's uncle, Mordecai who is also a displaced Jew from Jerusalem wisely instructed her not to share that information. Haman, a recently promoted prince, hated Jews and especially Mordecai because he refused to bow down and pay homage to him as ordered by the king. So Haman hatched a plan to have the king destroy the Jews, and he'd even give the king a kickback for taking care of it! When Mordecai learned what had been planned, he put on sackcloth and ashes and went about walling with a bitter cry as did Jews in other provinces. They fasted and mourned the destiny that was about to befall them. However, Mordecai was able to get a message to Esther to let her know about Haman's plan to destroy the Jews. Mordecai knew that Esther's beauty and selflessness pleased the king. In his wisdom, Mordecai says..."And who knows whether you have not come to this kingdom **for such a time as this?**" **Esther 4:14.** Queen Esther and Mordecai created a plan including asking all Jews to fast. After three days, the king saw Esther in her royal purple robes and held out his golden scepter allowing her to approach, and asked Esther "what is your request?" She tells him that she wants to prepare a meal for him and Haman. Knowing that Haman has planned to destroy all Jews, Queen Esther asks that if she has pleased the king, that he would save her people. The story concluded with Haman being hanged on the gallows he prepared for Mordecai, and Queen Esther being used "**for such a time as this**" to save God's and her people.

How about us? How are you enduring the pandemic, cries for social justice, knowing about hunger in our community, and isolation overload?

NOW MORE THAN EVER, we need the church, and **WE** need to **BE** the **CHURCH** right here, right now in Glencoe. God promises that He will not leave or forsake us. We are here at First Congregational-UCC Glencoe to love and serve God, and others in his name. What have we done to that end since March 2020?

As COVID 19 changed the look and concept of worship from "up close and personal" to "distant and technical," members of the church worked with cell phones, duct tape, Internet upgrades, and prayer to create professional

facebook worship services which are now bringing our services to 400+ people each week! Despite social distancing and other disruptions of the pandemic, the congregation has faithfully and creatively found ways to celebrate the sacraments of communion and baptism which sustain and hold us together as Christ's people. Weekday Bible study has become an avenue for learning and growing faith.

When Michael Foods gave away food, one of our youth saw it as an opportunity to serve the community with healthy meals on behalf of First Congregational Church. Reaching out to a family in need after fire destroyed their home was another demonstration of love and service extended by the church.

Some of our church members have been blessed with the gift of hospitality, and many have shared their gifts with our dear Maryann as she continues her fierce and determined fight with cancer. By creating a schedule, members have provided meals to ease the burdens of family members who need to work and provide for the ordinary, everyday needs of one battling cancer.

And finally, to our beloved members and friends who have been able to maintain their tithes, talents, and offerings, we have been managing our expenses and keeping our promises to our staff, creditors, recipients of benevolences, and God. We are grateful!

So,...**now more than ever...**when there is so much to be done for health, social and economic justice, and needs in our church and community here on the kingdom of earth, McLeod County, Glencoe, and First Congregational Church, the Stewardship Committee asks you to commit to give the **same gift or pledge** as last year. However, if you have been abundantly blessed and are able to give more, please do. As a member or potential member of this church you are needed to be a prayer partner, a meal server, a creative thinker, a technology master, a listener, a board or committee member, a visitor for the lonely, an encourager, a peacemaker, and a giver of all good and pleasing gifts to God. For every way that you give of yourself: your time, talents, and treasure, **NOW MORE THAN EVER...**

WE GIVE THANKS!

The Stewardship Committee of First Congregational-UCC; Bruce Magnuson, Jan Mackenthun, Jeanette Miller, Paula Bulau, and Ken Stenzel. Pastors Bob and Casey Baggott, ex officio

Watch for a separate mailing with your pledge card coming in September.

Pledge Sunday will be October 18, 2020