

---

# First Congregational UCC "At First"

1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336

Church phone: 320-864-3855

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

---

November 2020

## There Will Be NO Thanksgiving Eve Service This Year

\*\*\*\*

### The 2020 Annual Community Thanksgiving Meal

will be take-out only this year as your health and safety are our priority.

The Community Thanksgiving meal will be funded by a grant from Thrivent Financial, along with monetary donations from Area Churches. *If you would like to be a part of making this meal happen, please send your check (made out to: Christian Board of Education) to 1400 Elliott Avenue N, Glencoe, MN 55336.* We appreciate you and your willingness to help provide a meal to others!

Sign-up is required. You can do so via text to 224-554-9492, or call 320-864-5651 by Monday, November 16th, 2020.

Meal Pickup will be Thursday, November 26th, 11:30-1:30 pm at First Congregational Church (1400 Elliott Avenue N Glencoe)

There is no charge for the dinner. There will be an opportunity for a free will offering at the time of pick up, which will benefit the Local Food Shelf.

Happy Thanksgiving!

### White Christmas Gifts

We will be receiving "White Christmas" gifts on Sunday, November 22nd. Gifts, cash and checks will go only to the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center this year. *If you cannot be in church on Nov 22nd, you can drop off your gifts, cash or check at the church office on Wednesday, Nov 18th.* This program, is for the Forensic Mental Health Program and Forensic Nursing Home in St. Peter Treatment Center. Your gifts are given to approximately 400 individuals and that means a great deal to these clients. Donations of hygiene, socks and underwear (male & female, L-5X), shoes (esp. men, 9-14), and gift cards. Take a moment to review a video, the MSH Elves at <https://youtu.be/acMELKP1ASQ>. They are totally supported by churches and community for donated items and funds. *All gifts must be new, please, do not gift wrap items, so they can determine who to give items*

### The 2020 Christmas Bazaar

will be postponed until 2021 but **Women's Fellowship will be making and selling rosettes with curbside pick-up for safety.**

Pre-ordering will be preferred.

Details will be coming soon!

## We Extend Our Sympathy And Prayers

... to the family of **John & Toni Robson**.  
John passed away on Oct 4th and Toni on  
Oct 15th. Their Memorial Service was  
held at the church on Oct 24th.



## Happy Birthday!!

1. Jim Benson
2. Randy Warner
3. Shania Olson'Neely
4. Susan Winn
6. Kenneth Jones
8. Dan Kottke
9. Andrew Jungclaus
11. Cecily Smoldt
12. Tricia Schimmelpfening  
Andre Chornuk
15. Rev. Robert Baggott
16. Bill Curtis
19. Ashley Forcier
23. Barb Magnuson  
Alyson Winn
25. Chad Kottke
26. Linda Landon
28. Clara Cruz  
Emily Forcier
29. Jean Marsh,
30. Charmaine Picha  
Pam Gould

\*\*\*\*\*

## On the Job for November

Deacon: Duane Mathews

In Charge of Altar -- Ann Wangerin

## Trustees Newsletter Report for September 2020

The following business was addressed at  
the September 30, 2020 meeting of the  
Board of Trustees:

- \* Total deposits for August were \$4,281.  
Payments in August from our Operating  
Fund totaled \$9,554.
- \* Approved two invoices for \$162 total for  
a wireless mic and HD camera.
- \* Other Business:
  - a. Trustee's approved a budget for the  
upcoming Annual Meeting.
  - b. Reviewed two new policies drafts for  
Weddings & Memorial services.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Randy Warner, Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

**Don't forget to  
Turn your Clocks Back  
Daylight Savings Time Ends  
November 1, 2020**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Winter Weather Closings

We would like to have the congregation  
use common sense when the roads are  
impassable since there is not a BEST  
way to call off church, not everyone is  
on face book and we found out last year  
not everyone has a phone number. So  
if not advised by the state patrol – we  
do not want anyone injured trying to  
come to church.

## **Pastors' Column:**

So many of us are feeling stunned and perplexed just now. We can readily acknowledge the many serious problems in our midst. Just consider all those issues our world faces, our nation faces, and we must personally face. We could probably try counting them on our fingers, but we'd run out of fingers.

And yes, we're aware that we ought to help address these matters and make a difference, aren't we? But where are we to begin in healing all that divides us? In addressing the needs of the most vulnerable? In promoting the recovery that will help the many now unemployed and stabilize the economy once more? In containing the virus that has dramatically altered all our lives? None of us has the means, the wherewithal, or the opportunity to fix all these troubles. But our own insufficiency doesn't have to leave us utterly discouraged or depressed.

Author and pastor, William Willimon, described the reality that we must inevitably face hardships. But as Christ's people, we can become effective agents of healing change when we allow God to first work on us. Says Willimon:

*The needs of the world are too great, the suffering and pain too extensive, the lures of the world too seductive for us to begin to change the world unless we are changed, unless conversion of life and morals becomes our pattern. From: Bread and Wine.*

What a helpful observation! Of course, we cannot instantly change or repair all that is broken in our world. But we can certainly allow some changes to be made in ourselves. The God who promises to make all things new is ready to begin with us. As the Apostle Paul noted: "Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new." (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17) What a hopeful promise that is! What an empowering vision it offers to us!

Imagine what we might accomplish together if we first allow Christ's spirit to do some repairing, restoring, and remaking of us. Maybe that kind of spiritual renewal would enable us to take on our challenges with a fresh infusion of grace, strength, and hope. And that might just change everything!

You're in our prayers!

Pastor Casey and Pastor Bob

*Thanksgiving Is first "Thanks"  
and then "Giving"*

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

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

Facebook: [CongoUCC@gmail.com](mailto:CongoUCC@gmail.com)

E-Mail: [congoucc@gmail.com](mailto:congoucc@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Deadline – Third Monday of the Month**

Happy  
Thanksgiving!!

---

### What is Advent?

It is the first gleam of Christmas;  
it is the promise of his coming.

**"Get Ready. He is coming!"**

# November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Christian Ed Brd Meeting Daylight Saving Time - Turn Clocks Back!	2	3	4 9:30 am Bible Study	5 8:00 pm A.A.	6	7
8 9:15 am Worship Service Women's Fellowship Meeting	9	10	11 9:30 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	12 8:00 pm A.A.	13	14
15 9:15 am Worship Service	16 Deadline to Sign Up for Community Thanksgiving Dinner	17	18 9:30 am Bible Study Can bring White Christmas Gift to Church 1:00 pm Trustee's Meeting	19 8:00 pm A.A.	20	21
22 9:15 am Worship Service Deacon's Meeting White Christmas Gifts Received	23 Deliver White Christmas Gifts to St. Peter Treatment Center - Ken & Karen Stenzel	24 Thanksgiving Dinner Preparation	25 No Bible Study Thanksgiving Dinner Preparation No Thanksgiving Eve Service	26 Community Thanksgiving Meal (Take Out Only) Reservations: text to 224- 554-9492, or call 320-884- 5851 Pick - up from 11:30 am- 1:30 pm	27	28
29 9:15 am Worship Service First Sunday of Advent	30					
		Deacon of the month: Duane Mathews Altar: Ann Wangerin				



***Drive-Thru*** Trunk or Treat happening at First Ev.  
Lutheran Church

**Saturday October 31st**

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**If you would like to decorate a trunk/or donate candy email:  
[tkidd@firstglencoe.org](mailto:tkidd@firstglencoe.org)**

---

**Drive Thru German Meal Options:**

**\$10.00 full Meal:** brat OR hotdog, homemade German Potato Salad, homemade sauerkraut, braised red cabbage, drink and dessert.

**\$2.00 Meal:** Brat OR hotdog with water

---



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Ministry,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our congregation will once again be serving as an official drop off site for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes in the western suburbs. **National Collection Week is scheduled for Nov. 16-23, 2020.**

Hopefully all of you have heard of Franklin Graham's organization, Samaritan's Purse. Every year this Christian organization sponsors a program called *Operation Christmas Child*. It is a program where some basic necessities of life are collected and sent as a gift in a shoebox overseas to needy children around the world. With each gift, every child receives the Biblical story of Christ's birth in his or her native language, and also The Greatest Journey booklet with 12 lessons of God's gift of forgiveness and salvation in Jesus Christ. Children who complete all 12 lessons will take part in a graduation ceremony and receive a personalized graduation certificate and a New Testament Bible in the child's language.

It is our hope that with a drop off site being so readily available, more churches will not only participate but more children will receive the greatest gift of Christmas, i.e. the Message of the birth of Jesus!

**PLEASE NOTE: With the COVID-19 pandemic still active, you will find that we will be processing the shoeboxes a little differently this year. When you arrive at our church for drop off, please follow the signs for Curbside Drop Off. A volunteer wearing a mask will greet you and direct you to an outside area where they will retrieve your shoeboxes. If you choose, volunteers will also present you with a touchless way to leave your contact information and the number of shoeboxes that you are dropping off.**

**\*\*We would greatly appreciate if you would share this information with the volunteers and coordinators in your congregation\*\***

**PLEASE NOTE:**

1. Samaritans Purse advises that all participating churches/organizations go online to order their advertising posters, the Pack a Box Guides, as well as church bulletin inserts, video presentations, etc. The website can be found at [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org). Once you are in the site, you may click on Order Materials. Our advice is to do this soon, so your products will be received on time. Also on line are instructions to "follow your box online". By paying on-line, individuals can now track the gift sent! Our church also downloads 2 of the several different video's on the website to show during our church services.
2. **Each of the shoeboxes that are dropped off at our location needs to be packed in cartons that Samaritans Purse supply to us. Our location has been blessed to see an increase in the number of shoeboxes dropped off over the past couple of years. With this in mind, we ask that if you have collected over 75 shoeboxes by Friday, Nov. 20, 2020, it would be very helpful if you could bring your collected boxes to our church by close at 6:30 p.m. that day.**

OVER

We can schedule several volunteers to help us pack them in cartons that evening, so it would be nice to have the majority of the shoeboxes at our church when we have the help boxing them. Of course, you can then bring any other shoeboxes that you receive by noon on Monday.

3. Also we have been advised by Samaritans Purse to please keep the size of the shoe boxes to a "normal shoe box size", and not boot size boxes. They realize that people want to be generous in their giving, but a normal size shoe box allows the boxes to fit in their shipping cartons easier. Please suggest to your church members that want to give more gifts, to please divide their gifts into two separate shoe boxes, instead of using bigger boxes.

***For your information, in 2019, our area collected 1,211 shoeboxes, with a total of 8,950,144 shoeboxes collected in the United States!***

**Our Location of Drop Off:**

St. John's Lutheran Church  
101 SE 2. Avenue  
Norwood/Young America, MN 55397

**Drop Off Times:**

Mon. Nov. 16 – Fri. Nov. 20: 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 21: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 22: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 23: 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

***Please note that after this date we will no longer be able to accept shoeboxes.***

***"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" Matt. 28:19***

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you for your help and assistance.

Serving Him with you,

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Norwood Young America, MN  
952-467-2740

Kathy Heckmann 952-467-7061  
Deb Dreier 612-702-4057