
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

March 2021

Search Committee Update!!

The Search Committee has been diligently searching for our next settled Pastor. We have been receiving less than an optimal amount of applications. One looked like a very good candidate, only to withdraw when contacted about an interview. He had already decided to go with another church. Another very good candidate from the Twin Cities, interviewed with the Committee. When invited out to see the beautiful church building we have, she responded later asking to have her name removed from consideration.

This has caused the Committee to go back to square one. We will be contacting the Conference to decide our next move.

Merlin Mackenthun;

Moderator
Search Committee Co-Chairman



Trustee's Needed!

Are you looking for a way to be involved with the church? Well, the Trustee's have three spots open, if you are interested please contact Carmen Kienenberger, Chairman.

In-Person Worship Back!!

After a long year of safety restrictions and online-only services, we are excited to announce that **in-person worship will resume on March 7th, 2021!** Social distancing guidelines will remain in place, as well as the mask requirement. Please notice and abide by taped off areas for everyone's safety as this will ensure we will be able to remain in person. We will see you safely on 3/7/21! If you feel safer staying at home, you can still watch the service on Facebook at 9:15 am, Sunday mornings. **Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Glencoe).** For our Shut-In's at Long Term Care, it can be seen on **Monday's at 9:30 am and Tuesday's at 6:00 pm in the Chapel.**

Local UCC Lenten Services

You are welcome to join St. Paul's, Prairie Community and Frieden's Churches for their Lenten Services on **Wednesday night's at 7:00 pm.** On Wednesday, February 24th worship will be at St. Paul's, but Pastor Mitch from Frieden's will also do a virtual service. It can be watched on Zoom, you would have to download the Zoom App. Then punch in the **Meeting ID: 505964287** it will then ask for a password that is 55336.

March 3rd—Worship at Prairie Community Church

March 10th—Worship at Frieden's

March 17th—Worship at St. Paul's

March 24th—Worship at Prairie Community Church

Happy Birthday To:

3. Abbie Raiter,
Emelia Kottke
7. Devin Forcier
Jan Willand
8. Joan Chapman
Patti Olson
Joe Adrian
9. Cindy Patnaude
Brantley Forcier
10. Patricia Schilling,
Christina Bargmann
11. Gale Hoese
12. Roxanne Mathews
Bailey Mathews
19. Valerie Dahlke
22. Colleen Drew
24. Brooke Rowan
26. Grace Patnaude
28. Carmen Kienenberger
Tyler Plihal

Trustee's Newsletter Report for January 2021

The following business was addressed at the January 20, 2021 meeting of the Board of Trustees:

- Total deposits for December were \$16,828.
- Approved invoice payment for window repair on the West side of the Church.
- Sunday Facebook viewing is holding steady for the month of January. The average views are 240 per week.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Warner, Secretary

One Great Hour of Sharing

Greetings,

Thank you for your commitment and gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) which provides assistance to communities both near and far.

Although the 2020 OGHS offering was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic the United Church of Christ, like you and your congregation stay engaged in our mission.

The United Church of Christ uses the **OGHS** to reach more than 80 countries! Your gift serves people in the United States and around the world through these compassionate ministries like Disaster preparedness and response – international and domestic; International sustainable development, and Refugee assistance and advocacy. Most of your offering supports long-term development work in education, health care, agricultural development, and other means to improve community conditions.

First Congregational will be receiving the **OGHS** along with other Congregations on Sunday, March 14th.

Together, we allow God's love to flow through us into the wider world. Thank you for promoting the OGHS offering and for your generosity.

Blessings, Phyllis Richards; Minister for Offering, Development and Grants

Wider Church Ministries, UCC

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On The Job In March

Deacon of Month: Randy Warner
In Charge of Altar: Pam Gould

Pastors' Column for March Newsletter:

Do-Over

Here we are in the midst of Lent. While various Christian groups differ in their calculations of exactly how long the season lasts and just which customs should be employed for honoring the season, there is general agreement on what character the observance of Lent should take. And the character prescribed for Lent is decidedly solemn and reflective. Lent is customarily observed by repentance, atonement, and self-denial.

But why would anyone want to promote such a season? Why not encourage more upbeat components of a life of faith? Wouldn't that be more appealing?

Well, the Church from very early days instituted its pattern of worship across the year, including the solemnity of Lent, not because it was a guaranteed crowd-pleaser, but because it answered a deep human need – the need to face our failings, wash them from our reservoir of guilt, and move on to new beginnings at Easter. Lent offers us a much-needed opportunity to wipe the slate clean and start again.

And isn't a fresh start, in one area of our lives or another, virtually universally desired? Second chances and do-overs are essential because day in and day out we vulnerable human beings face irresistible temptations. What are your temptations? Can you identify them? Maybe they reveal themselves in what you dream about, or long for, or use to comfort yourself, or block out pain. As Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor once put it, 99 percent of us are probably addicted to something whose tempting qualities we can't resist, whether it's eating, shopping, achieving, hoarding, blaming, resenting, care-taking, or even pleasing.

But if temptations are inevitable in every life, succumbing to them is not. Reflective times, such as Lent, grant us an opportunity to recognize that if we have been filling ourselves with our temptations' transient and partial satisfactions, then we are just filling and refilling an empty place within us that could be far better filled. We have an opportunity to be filled instead with the goodness of God's gracious forgiveness and compassionate love. We have the chance in Lent to face our failings, ask for pardon for our complicity in life's pitfalls and snares, and move on to something better. Fresh start. Second chance. Do-over. Let's make the most of it.

You're in our prayers!

Pastor Casey and Pastor Bob



Confirmation Is Set For Sunday, March 28th.

Confirmands will be reading their "Statement of Faith" on March 21st.

Meet our 2021 Confirmands:



My name is Noah Ochs. I am in the 8th grade and have been working with Pam in Confirmation for the past 2 years. My Mother is Christina Ochs. During confirmation the words that I like to think of in my future are strength, happiness, peace, determination, and a dreamer. I am looking forward to participating in the future Mission Trips at First Congregational Church.



Hi! My name is Kelsey Dahlke. I am in the 8th grade and excited about getting confirmed. My parents are Michael and Valarie Dahlke. During confirmation I particularly liked the words successful, faithful, happy, loved and family when talking about my future life as a Christian. I hope that we can resume the Mission Trips in the near future.

Because of Covid-19, these pictures were taken at our last Mission Trip Fund Raiser in November of 2019.



United Way Worldwide

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www.unitedway.org

Are you on pandemic overload? Do you feel worn out from the pandemic do's and don'ts? Are you stuck on your real losses of people, events (wedding, deaths, anticipated events...) or the loss of dreams (the much awaited arrival of a baby who comes with physical or mental disabilities, the forever marriage that doesn't last, the perfect life that crumbles due to addiction)? Ambiguity is the vagueness and uncertainty that has overwhelmed us in this year of COVID 19 pandemic. Not knowing who is carrying the virus or when it will end, our sense of "normal" is constantly being challenged. We know the vaccine is coming, but when will I be able to return to normal? Both our physical and mental health have been affected by the need to social distance and keep ourselves and others safe from the deadly virus.

The United Way of McLeod County and the McLeod County Corn and Soybean Growers Association invite you to **"Loss of Dreams, Ambiguity, a Pandemic and Resiliency,"** a presentation by Ted Bowman, MDiv, Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 6:30-8:00pm via Zoom. Ted is a grief and loss counselor who has worked with school social workers, loss/survivor groups, ECFE and family educators, mental health and medical staff, and faith groups. He has been on the faculties of both the Universities of MN and St. Thomas, and authored several books.

This **FREE** virtual event is open to everyone; a certificate of participation will be available to those registered for the presentation. For those without a computer or internet access, we are working to arrange two locations in different parts of McLeod County to accommodate your needs. To register for this free Zoom event go to: www.unitedway.org; if you do not have access to a computer, please call Jan at 320-864-3838 to register. A Zoom link will be sent to you two days before the event.

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

Our Church Website: firstcongochurch.org

Newsletter Deadline – Third Monday of the Month



First Congregational-UCC Church Council Minutes

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Zoom Members Present: Merlin Mackenthun- Chair, Jan Mackenthun, Kari Warner, Jim Cox, Stan Hoof, Randy Warner, and Bridget Kienerberger

Pastors Bob and Casey Baggott present

- 1- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM
- 2- Pastor Bob began our meeting with prayer
- 3- Minutes - October 14, 2020 - Jan motioned to accept the October meeting minutes as written. Kari seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- 4- Trustees Report
 - a. **Trustees-** Randy provided the Trustees Report in Carmen's absence.
Revenue for November, 2020 \$10,900, Revenue for December, 2020 \$16,828
Total Revenue received in 2019 \$ 41,410
Total Revenue received in 2020 \$ 37,606 (\$3804 less than 2019)
Total Pledges - 21 for \$58,400

Three CD's are maturing. Trustees have discussed how the principles are rarely touched and have decided to invest in some longer CD's to get better rates. Randy was asked if people were making donations through the Facebook Live option. It was noted that most donations are being sent thru the mail to the church office. The church has seen the number and amount of pledges increase. Pastor Bob asked if last year's pledge people are phoned prior to Pledge Sunday. The process we currently use, to send a letter, was explained. Pastor Bob noted that the "phone call" can provide an explanation as to the "whys" to not giving.

5. Other Committee Reports

a. Christian Education - Kari described the Christmas Pageant program held December 20th as part of the church service. She described how our 7 children were cast into the parts for the program "The Three Trees" and how taping took place amid COVID regulations. The kids were excited to perform and all did a great job. Pam Gould and Kari designed the set, Bridget made the costumes and Carmen K. made the boat and cross props. The kids were brought in family by family to tape their parts. Nathan Warner put all the tapings together for a smooth program.

Pam, Kari, Miriam and Emily Jungclaus and Bridget put together Christmas Eve Care bags for church members to pick up prior to the service. In addition to Communion packets and church program, the bags held a candle to light, words of caring and encouragement, coloring books and crayons, and chocolate treats to share.

6. Pastor's Report

- a) Pastor Bob commented on feeling there was a semblance of normalcy in our Facebook Live services. Christmas was very successful with the addition of live music and singers (Bob's son, Taylor and his sister, Autumn, who both have a substantial music background.

Pastor Bob commented on how beautiful the church looked in the candle light and how proud our congregation should be of the traditions we've kept alive over the years. Pastor Casey spoke of How to be the Church, the high number of Facebook attendees. Pastor Bob commented that the COVID numbers are coming down and it might not be too long before we can be together, in church, again.

7. Old Business

a. Acknowledgment and Summation of Community Thanksgiving Meal and Thrivent Grants - Speaking for the Board, Merlin thanked the Warner Family for everything they did to see that our Community Thanksgiving Dinner was held, amid COVID. Their contributions of time and talent made this important event even more special. Kari noted that the food drive for the McLeod County Food Shelf was a tremendous success due to the donations from our dinner guests - \$1,400. Merlin noted that between him and Jan they had been able to donate their 4 Thrivent Grants to church programs this year and hope to do the same in 2021.

8. New Business

a) State Business Grants - Merlin stated that the church may be able to receive grant dollars from the State legislature. He said that we were not made aware of an earlier grant. Groups who did not receive the earlier grant are expected to be eligible this time. He will investigate further.

b) Absences - Merlin and Jan will be gone during our next meeting
Pastors Bob and Casey will be away February 18 - 28.

9. Motion to Adjourn - Kari motioned and Jim Cox seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm. Motion passed.

10. Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday, February 16, 6:30pm - Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget Kienenberger

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Whole Grains

Whole Grain Cereal,
Crackers, Pasta, Rice,
Assorted Flours

Proteins

Nuts & Nut Butters
Canned Meats, Fish

Cooking & Baking Items

Seasonings & Spices
Condiments & Sauces
Baking Items

Personal Care Items

Shampoo, Soap, Body Wash,
Deodorant, Toothpaste,
Toilet Paper, Feminine Hygiene

Household Items

Laundry Soap, Dish Soap,
Kitchen & Bathroom Cleaners,
Paper Towels

Cash

*Let us increase your dollar
with our pur chasing power!*



808 12th St E
Glencoe MN 55336

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 3:30 pm Zoom Confirmation 7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study	4	5	6
7 9:15 am Communion In Person Worship Service Christian Ed Brd Mtg Facebook S.S.	8	9	10 3:30 pm Zoom Confirmation 7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study	11	12	13
14 9:15 am In Person Worship Service Facebook S.S. OGHS Offering	15	16 Noon - Zoom Trustees' Meeting	17 3:30 pm Zoom Confirmation 7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study	18	19	20
21 9:15 am In Person Worship Service Facebook S.S. Confirmands "Statement of Faith"	22	23	24 3:30 pm Zoom Confirmation 7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study	25	26	27
28 9:15 am In Person Worship Service Facebook S.S. Confirmation Sunday Deacon's Meeting	29	30	31 3:30 pm Zoom Confirmation 7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study			
	Deacon of the Month: Randy Warner Altar: Pam Gould					