
First Congregational UCC "AT FIRST"

1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336

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

October 2020

Our Annual Meeting

is set for Sunday, October 27th. Annual Reports are Due no later than October 6th.

Each Committee should make sure that someone from their Committee turns in a report.

Annual Meeting

As I exit our home each morning, the chill in the air tells me autumn is here. The corn field around our farm home is more golden than green. A sign that the crop year is coming to an end. Our church year also recently came to an end. Our Constitution requires an Annual Meeting after the end of the Church year. **After discussion, the Church Council decided to hold the Annual Meeting after services, in the Sanctuary, on October 25th.** Masks are required. If you do not have one, there are surgical masks available at the back of Church. By using the Sanctuary, we can use the Choir Loft, Balcony, the pews next to the organ, as well as the main church pews, to social distance. No coffee will be served---only Church business. Come and join us as we discuss the challenges that we overcame this past year, as well as looking forward to the next year. **On a side note, the Search and Call Committee is still looking to add at least one more member. Please leave a message on the Church phone, or call me at 864-3838 if you are interested. We need to know by October 25th.**

Merlin Mackenthun; Moderator

Announcing Auditions

For Readers!

Did we get your attention?? We hope so! This year's Christian Ed. Sunday School will be like none we've done before - and you're invited to participate. Due to COVID-19, we have chosen to use distance learning for Sunday School this year Readers, who love a good story, are invited to join us in recording from the book "Treasury of Bible Stories, Rhythmical Rhymes of Bible Times". Stories include "Tricked by a Snake" (Adam & Eve), "Food for Fish" (The Whopping Story of Jonah and the Whale), "The Good Dunking (The Refreshing Story of John the Baptist) with exciting and creative illustrations. Contact Bridget at 320-864-5651 to sign up and select from the list of Bible stories. We'll set up dates with our "KMNR" crew (Warner's) that work with your schedule! Beginning October 4th, we will post the pre-recorded Sunday School program on our website at 10:30 am each Sunday. We'll incorporate your story with a Greeting from our Pastors, songs, psalms and prayers into this weekly class. Planning to be a Snow Bird this winter? We can begin taping this fall before you leave! Do this for our kids - Have Fun - Be a Star!

Church Constitution

Any member wishing to see additions or changes to our church constitution must have the addition or change to the church office by October 6th for inclusion in the Annual Report.

We Extend Our Sympathy And Prayers

... to the family of **Mary Ann Forcier**. Mary Ann's Memorial Service was held at the Glencoe City Cemetery on September 11, 2020. Rev. Penny Entringer, officiated.

...to the family of **Michael Bendel-Stenzel, MD**, age 55, of Edina, formerly of Glencoe. Michael passed away on Friday, September 25, 2020 as a result of a car accident. Michael was confirmed at First Congregational Church, graduated from Glencoe High School in 1983 and from Gustavus Adolphus college in 1988. Michael went on to and graduated from the U.ofM. Medical School. Michael was currently a Hospitalist at Minneapolis Children's. He is survived by his wife Ellen, daughter Lily, son Linus, his brother John (Jody) of Oakland, Tennessee, and parents, Ken and Karen Stenzel. Arrangements are pending.



Happy Birthday!

1. Kayla Salmela
5. Todd Forcier
6. Randy Schilling
7. Duane Maguire
9. Fredric Kottke
10. Jacob Popelka
12. Todd Hoese
13. Sharon Bruckschen
15. Joanne Biederwolf
18. Scott Salmela
Rod Wangerin
22. Don Popelka
25. John Jennings
30. Travis Wangerin
31. Olivia Hinojosa



On The Job In October

Deacon: Jim Benson

In Charge of Altar: Ann Wangerin

Our Stewardship Moment Speakers

were Kari/Maren Warner on September 27th, and Jan Mackenthun on October 4th and Nathan Warner on October 11th.

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 Karl Warner at 224-554-9492 and Dawn Hinojosa at 612-735-5884 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!

**Don't Forget to return your
Pledge Cards!**

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. A few individuals will be packing 24 bags per grade level. They will be given to school personnel to distribute to those in need between Glencoe and Hutchinson Schools. 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, Cheryl at 320 510-1593.**

Collecting New And Gently Used

Common Cup COAT Drive: Common Cup Ministries is collecting coats (clean, gently used or new) for the annual coat distribution on October 27th. Covid-19 has required us to limit our collection sites. You can drop off womens', mens'/ childrens' coats in the box provided behind CC office in Hutchinson, or in Glencoe at the collection box outside the City Center north door, diagonally across the street from the bus garages. Only coats to be collected and distributed this year because of covid- 19. You may consider making a monetary donation for the purchasing of snowpants and boots to meet those needs. Your generosity is appreciated. Let's keep everyone warm and dry this winter!

Neighbors In Need

The **Neighbor's In Need** offering, which we will receive on **Sunday, October 4th**, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used for the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties and environmental justice. One-Third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries.

Stay In Touch

In our fast-paced society, good communication is a necessity. In order to make our communication with you more effective and cost-efficient, we need to update our church directory from time to time. Here's where you can be of assistance!

- * **If your E-mail changes, please let us know. To save money, we are e-mailing our church newsletter and other correspondence to as many members as we can.**
- * **If your home or cell phone number changes.**
- * **If you or your family member has moved recently?**
- * **If you have changed churches, please let us know.**

Please take a few minutes to call us at 864-3855 or e-mail us at congoucc@gmail.com with the above information.

Pastor's Message

An Honest Conversation with God

We had a delightfully honest parishioner some years ago that confessed to us her reluctance about praying aloud in public. She had been brought up reading the time-honored King James translation of the bible, she said, and always felt that God and everyone else would be disappointed if she left out the beautiful and exalted vocabulary she associated with God – words like “thee,” “thou,” “behold,” “beseech,” and “betwixt.”

She's not alone. Whether we wonder about using outdated vocabulary or not, don't many of us feel unsure of ourselves when communicating with God? Is there a proper way to go about it? Some things we ought to say and some things we best avoid?

Interestingly, God's people from millennia ago arrived at patterns for prayer that guided their communication with God. The simple patters have withstood the tests of time and are evident in our Book of Psalms. The two patterns most frequently used are seen in psalms of lament and psalms of praise.

Here are their simple structures:

Psalms of Lament

- greet God
- describe problem
- ask for help
- acknowledge God's ability to assist
- describe your role – what you have done, what you will do
- state your confidence in God

Psalms of Praise

- greet God
- summarize what God has done for you or others
- thank God for what was received: help, strength, hope, comfort, etc.
- praise God who blesses so richly

The writers of our biblical psalms brought many concerns and joys to their prayers. Though there are consistencies in the patterns of the psalms, the content of each psalm is nevertheless unique. The authors of the psalms don't seem to have felt reluctant to share with God whatever situation was on their hearts.

Maybe their confidence can inspire our own. What's on your heart? Could you offer a lament for loss, hardship, injustice, illness, grief, or pain? Could you offer praise for health, a home, friends, family, hope? Try expressing it to God. It doesn't have to be elegant. It just needs to come from the heart.

You're in our prayers.

Pastor Casey and Pastor Bob, October 2020

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
GLENCOE, MINNESOTA
October 25, 2020**

PROPOSED AGENDA

10:30 a.m.

Call to Order – Merlin Mackenthun

Adoption of Agenda

Acceptance of the 2019 Minutes

Review of 2019 - 2020 Reports

Building and Grounds Report

Trustee's Report

Presentation and Proposed Action adopting the 2020-2021 Budget

Family Memorials to the Church

Prayer of Dedication for the Search and Call Committee

Search and Call Committee Update

Other Old Business

New Business

Motion to Adjourn

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 wailing 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

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Schilling Wedding Rehearsal	3 Schilling Wedding
4 9:15 am Communion Worship Service 10:30 am S.S. post on Website for Readers Stewardship Moment: Jan Mackenthun	5	6	7 9:30 am Bible Study	8	9	10
11 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am S.S. post on Website for Readers Stewardship Moment: Nathan Warner	12	13	14 9:30 am Bible Study 1:00 pm Trustee's Meeting	15	16	17
18 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am S.S. post on Website for Readers Deacon's Meeting PLEDGE SUNDAY	19	20	21 9:30 am Bible Study	22	23	24
25 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am S.S. post on Website for Readers ANNUAL MEETING	26	27	28 9:30 am Bible Study	29	30	31
		Deacon: Jim Benson Altar: Ann Wangrin				