
First Congregational UCC "At First"
1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336

Church Phone: 320-864-3855

Website: firstcongochurch.org

E-Mail: congoucc@gmail.com

Rev. Adam Thompson; Pastor

January 2022

Shut-In Visits

Soon Pastor Adam and the Deaconesses will be visiting shut-ins and bringing Communion to Glenfields and other locations by request.

If you would like a visit, please contact Pastor Adam at church, 320-864-3855, or his cell #952-239-5893 or email: ajthompson2@comcast.net. He will set up a time and make sure that we are following COVID protocol for your location.

Church Envelopes

You may all have received your church offering envelopes from Randy Warner, we suggest that you use the envelopes to keep track of your offering. When your offering comes into the church our Assistant Financial Secretaries deposit the cash or checks into the bank and then hands over the envelopes to Randy Warner to record into his books. By not using the envelopes it makes it more difficult for them to keep track of your offerings. You still have the option of having your pledges taken directly out of your savings or checking account. Call the church office at 864-3855 for more information.

Deaconess Schedule

for Communion Sundays:

Jan Willand - January
Barb Magnuson - February
Jan Mackenthun - March
Miriam Jungclaus - April

Pulpit Supply For January

Pastor Adam will be out of the office for the weeks of January 9th & 16th. For emergencies you can contact Adam by text for the fastest way to reach him @952-239-5893.

Pulpit Supply for January 9th will be Rev. Victor Halberg.

Sunday, January 16th to be determined.

On The Job in January

Deacon of the Month: Bruce Magnuson

Deaconesses In Charge: Jan Willand

In Charge of the Altar: Ann Wangerln



Happy Birthday!

2. Rebecca Forcier
4. Dawn Shemanek
5. Tammy Hanson
Myron Dahlke
Daniel Raiter
Renee Lehmann
6. Evon Draeger
7. Kari Warner
19. Karen Hendricksen
Sam McNeillis
20. Jessica Richardson
23. Colton Robb
27. Allen Trocke
31. Ariana Bolt

A Prayer for the New Year

Dear God, Thank you for making all things new. Thank you for all that you allowed into our lives this past year, the good and the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day. As we enter a new year, we pray for strengthened spirits that we may praise you properly by our thoughts, words and deeds, Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Cell phone, home phone numbers, E-Mail or Address Change

People are dropping their land line phones and going only with their cell phone, please let the church office know your phone number so we can keep our church directory up to date.

Also, if you have any change in your e-mail or address, please make sure to contact the church office.

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 864-3855 OR E-MAIL US AT congoucc@gmail.com

A Memorial Service

for **Mitch Steele** will be held on **Saturday, January 22 at 11:00 am**



Pastor's Page:

Resolutions for a New Year!

Well...It's January...again. All the hubbub of the holiday's are over; parties attended, presents unwrapped, and bank accounts depleted. We've even rung in a new year, 2022, can you believe It!? Have you made your New Year's resolution yet? Maybe you never have or maybe you've made a resolution to stop making resolutions. For me, I usually do make a resolution of some sort, like not drinking soda or getting more exercise, but then, after a few weeks, I start to flounder or just come to a grinding halt.

It's no wonder that January is a challenging month and I think we ask too much of ourselves and of January. Can we really expect success after going from full-tilt to slamming on the brakes all the while making impossible life-altering demands of ourselves? Now, if this really was all there is to the holiday season, we'd probably all be downright depressed. Thankfully, the parties and presents are just a sideshow to the real reason for the season, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The very thought of this is pretty amazing offering tremendous joy and hope for the world.

I would like to offer a few considerations as we move into the frozen world of January in Minnesota that I hope bring you peace and love. The first is, if you do make a resolution, don't do it on your own, instead ask Jesus to join you on the journey. Jesus gives us strength to carry on and grace to forgive ourselves if we don't make it. Next, January can be a dark time but remembering that Jesus is the Light of the World (John 8:12) will warm our souls even on the coldest nights. And finally, each and every new January day brings with it more sunlight as the days are growing longer and nights are getting shorter.

Happy New Year! Pastor Adam



Begin the year
with God

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deacon: Bruce Magnuson Deaconesses: Jan Willard Altar: Ann Wngerin						1 Happy New Years!!
2 9:15 am Communion Worship Service 9:30-11:30 am Sunday School No Confirmation	3 4		5	6 Epiphany Starts 11:00-Noon Bible Study	7	8
9 9:15 am Worship Service Pulpit Supply: Rev Victor Hallberg No Confirmation	10 11		12	13 No Bible Study	14	15
16 9:15 am Worship Service Pulpit Supply: No Confirmation	17 18		19 Noon - Trustees's Meeting	20 No Noon Bible Study	21	22 11:00 am Mitch Steele Memorial Service
23 9:15 am Worship Service Confirmation	24 25		26	27 11:00-Noon Bible Study	28	29
30 9:15 am Worship Service No Confirmation Deacon's Meeting	31					

**First Congregational UCC
Church Council Meeting
Wednesday, October, 20, 2021**

Members Present: Merlin Mackenthun, Jan Mackenthun, Kari Warner, Jim Cox, Stan Hoof, Carmen Kienenberger, Bridget Kienenberger and Pastor Adam Thompson

1. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm Merlin.

2. Opening Prayer - Pastor Adam opened our meeting with prayer.

3. Approval of September Minutes - (Carmen & Jim)

4. Pastor's Report - Pastor's report included:

Pastor Adam thanked the Council and church members again for the Welcome Luncheon served to his family.

- Pastor Adam is in touch with Pastor Brose regarding a communal Thanksgiving Eve service for area UCC churches at the Plato UCC.
- **Bible Study** - Bible Study with Pastor Adam is currently being offered Wednesday evenings & Thursday mornings. Numbers are small and he is considering moving to one class. Both classes have comparable numbers.
- **MN Conference Information** -
 - a) Pastor Adam completed a 3-day conference (Recernment w/UCC)
 - b) Education - Classes currently are on Fridays
 - c) Damascus Project - A class in preparation of Advent (a UCC National presentation)
- **Confirmation** - Confirmation is underway with 2 to 3 students attending weekly. Class materials currently being used are CREDO, the program Pam G. had been using) and "The Bible Project", a fun quiz game titled **KAHOOT** that the class plays on their phones.

5. Committee Reports

Trustees - Carmen -

- **Life and Disability Plan for Pastor Adam** - Carmen asked Pastor Adam where he was with registering for this benefit and encouraged him to get signed up as this is part of his benefit package with First Congo. Wendy will follow up with the payments.
- **New Pledges for 2021** - Currently the Trustees have received 17(18?) pledges totaling \$ 59,960. Pledges received in 2020 were from 18 individuals for a total of \$ 53,000.
Pledges received In Sept. 2021 - \$ 3,863 Pledges receive in Sept. 2020 - \$ 4,146
- **Ondrachek Fund** - At the Trustees Meeting, members discussed how they could make these funds more available in case of emergencies. The Constitution requires public notices in advance and a meeting to authorize the use of funds. The Trustees would like to see the interest portion of the principle set aside for more serious emergencies that require immediate attention. In general, most Ondrachek gifts are \$4,000 or less although there have been large gifts in the range of \$9,000.

The Church Council discussed how the church could raise additional money to increase the smaller amounts. Stan made a motion to not hold a "separate fundraising event". Bridget seconded the motion. At the Annual Meeting, the request to set aside \$7,500 from the principle will be presented. Stan will speak in favor of the motion. The motion passed with 6 yea votes and 1 nay.

- **Buildings and Grounds Report** - A person has been hired to repair the front doors of the church. Work is expected to be completed by the Annual Meeting.
- The **Annual Audit** was handled by Jim and Karen Benson and found to be accurate.
- **Hanging of the Greens**, In preparation of Advent, will take place after church on Sunday, November 21st.

Christian Ed - Kari W and Bridget K

- Bridget reported that the first Sunday School Class was held October 3rd. Two of our four students attended. We are still in the planning stages of our program year and have decided to move the full in-class activity to the 2nd Sunday of the month, freeing up teacher/s to attend Communion and hold their monthly meeting. Kari commented that we are planning to hold short Mini-classes on 3 or 4 of the other Sundays. Topics such as "Missions", "Crafts" and "Games" are being considered. We may be asking for congregational support of these programs

Women's Fellowship - Jan M

- Jan reported that Women's Fellowship members will gather to make Rosettes prior to December 4th when they will be sold using the Pick-up and Pay method. There was discussion if Lefse would be made/sold.

6. Old Business

- **Pastoral Relations Committee**

The reduction in membership will be addressed at the Annual Meeting reducing members from 5 to 3 with Stan H. & Duane Matthews representing the congregation. Pastor Adam will select his representative, also from the church, to participate.

- **Update on Ministerial Association** - Pastor Adam has reached out to the pastor of local churches with little feedback. It was recommended that he contact Dawn Peterson, Christ Lutheran Church for assistance.

- Merlin said that the updated Church's Facility Reservation form will be distributed to all attendees at the Annual Meeting

7. New Business

A. Annual Meeting - Use of Ondrachek Funds - Covered under Trustees Report.

B. Other New Business

C. Proposed Constitutional Changes

1. **Do we need a Technology Committee** - Recommendation to eliminate the committee is recommended by Linda Landon and Chris Marsh. Or, do we need to rework what the Technology Committee does. Pastor Adam noted that he needs more Wi-Fi in the Teens Sunday School Room. Is there a Technology budget for supplies?

2. **Facility Reservation Form** - Merlin said that the updated Church's Facility Reservation form will be distributed to all attendees at the Annual Meeting

D. The Website needs updating. Who is doing this? Who knows the passwords?

E. November Meeting - A November Church Council will not be held unless necessary. Merlin will email the committee if needed.

8. Motion to Adjourn

Jim motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm. Karl seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget Kienenberger

Next Meeting - December 15, 7pm, Fellowship Hall