
**First Congregational UCC "AT FIRST"
1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336**

Church phone: 864-3855

**Pastor Michael Fritz, Interim Minister
Cell #612-481-4891**

Pastor' E-mail:MFritz@ants.edu

January 2018

Christmas Bazaar

Many thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Christmas Bazaar a special success! This could not have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of many, many women, men and youth who gave of their time and talents. This year the Women's Fellowship had voted to give the profits to the general fund and as a result, **\$7282.75 was presented to the church on Sunday, December 17th.**

Thanks be to God!

The next Women's Fellowship Executive Board meeting is scheduled for January 10th at 6:30 pm.

Church Envelopes

You will be receiving or may 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.

Thank You!

To all who donated time, food and money for the 24th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner at First Congregational Church.

The Community Thanksgiving Dinner is supported by Area churches: 168 were served and \$1100.00 was donated to the local Food Shelf!

God bless you ALL!!

In Christ's service, Barb Magnuson

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting held after church on **Sunday, January 14th**. We have four items to discuss.

- 1) We will share an update on the discussion started at annual meeting about looking into becoming an 'Open and Affirming' church.
- 2) We will share information about Pastor Michael's upcoming transition to a $\frac{3}{4}$ time schedule.
- 3) We will discuss the Ondrachek Memorial fund and see if we can establish clearer guidelines on how we want it to be used. It's important to be good stewards of a fund that is such a blessing to have.
- 4) We will also vote on a motion to use Ondrachek money.

Please plan to join us so we can take care of some important church business.

On The Job in January

Deacon of the Month: Bruce Magnuson

Acolytes:

January 7th: Devin Forcier/Jacob Paul

January 15th: No Acolytes

January 21st: Jesse Dahlke/Kelsey Dahlke

January 28th: Dawn Shemanek/Bailey Mueller

In Charge of the Altar: Ann Wangerin

**In Charge of Communion @ Long Term Care, Jan 3rd:
Jan Mackenthun**

@ the Church Jan 7th: Pam Gould



2. Rebecca Forcier
4. Dawn Shemanek
5. Myron Dahlke
Daniel Raiter
Renee Lehmann
6. Evon Draeger
7. Kari Warner
13. Robert Berwald
Craig Miller
19. Karen Hendricksen
Sam McNellis
20. Jessica
Richardson
27. Allen Trocke
30. Betty Bruckschen

We Extend Our Sympathy And Prayers to the family of Gale Roth. Gale's Funeral Service was held at the church on Wednesday, December 6th.

The Abundant Community Table

is FREE and open to everyone - families and children, elderly and all seeking fellowship or in need of a helping hand.

When: January 3rd (the first Wednesday of every Month)

Where: Christ Lutheran Church Basement Fellowship Hall, 1820 Knight Avenue

Time: Doors open at 4:30 pm for Fellowship; Meal served at 5:00 pm.

Notification: Let us know to prepare for you by calling Christ Lutheran Church at 320-864-4549.

A Special Thank You!

Thanks so much for your wonderful gifts for the patients at St. Peter Treatment Center. Around 400 patients will be getting a gift and for most of them – this is all they will receive. They appreciate your generosity and we hope you all have a wonderful Christmas. St. Peter Treatment Center Christmas Staff

Important Notice!

To ensure the destructibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2016 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church.

Pastor's Article

Hello Friends,

This month we will be making a point to spend some time with the child Jesus. Instead of forcing him to grow up too fast, we'll be exploring the handful of stories in scripture that describe Jesus the youth. There are two reasons for this.

First, according to the liturgical calendar Christmas is supposed to last at least 12 days. Sometimes this season is called Christmastide. In 2017 United States, we celebrate most of our holidays quite differently from the Christians of previous centuries who wrote our church calendar. Whereas we like to spend the time leading up to a holiday building up to it and then quickly move on when the day has passed, it used to be custom to not even begin the celebrations until the big day arrived, but then allow it to linger for some time afterwards. By remembering the 12 days of Christmas and Christmastide, we'll get to participate in their tradition and get a little more holiday for ourselves.

The second, and more important, reason to spend time with the child Jesus has to do with what we believe. Our faith in the importance of the Christmas holiday is the belief that it matters that Jesus was born. That Jesus was a child just like us. That Jesus had the human experiences of vulnerability, dependence upon others, and maturing. It matters that Jesus didn't simply descend from Heaven or wander out of the wilderness a full-grown adult one day. He started small, grew up, learned, and prepared himself for life's work. He is one of us. Recognizing the child Jesus affirms that, and reminds us of why Christmas is one of our most sacred days.

And so this month we'll hear and explore these precious few stories once again of infant Jesus being blessed in the temple by the prophets Simeon and Anna and 12-year old Jesus asking questions of the rabbis. On January 7th, we'll also ponder the opportunities of beginning a new year and what God what might be calling us to now. "For everything there is a season, and a time for everything under Heaven," says Kohelet (the preacher), who many folks believe was King Solomon. What might it be time for now? It's an important question to ask every now and then, and New Year's is a good time to do it.

On January 14th, we'll also gather for a special congregational meeting. We need to get to the items that we didn't have time for at the January annual meeting, follow up on the conversations we started there, and catch up on new items as well. We know congregational meetings aren't always an exciting prospect, especially extra ones. But on the 14th we'll get to take care of a lot all at once. Congregationalism only works if folks show up, participate, and listen to each other's ideas.

If we believe that Christmas makes a difference, its renewing effects should still be felt after December 25th. Our festival of lights should continue to shine hope, peace joy, and love into our lives. Let these gifts keep shining. So, once again, Merry Christmas.

With you on the journey,

Pastor Michael

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

**Our Website: firstcongochurch.org
Church E-Mail: congoucc@gmail.com
Newsletter Deadline: Third Tuesday of the Month**

Happy New Year!!

A Prayer for the New Year

We know, O Lord, that our times are in your hands. While we live on Earth, enable us to please you in all things. Especially now, 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.

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy New Year!! Office Closed	2 No Bible Study	3 10:15 am Communion @ GRHS Long Term Care 6:00 pm Confirmation	4 8:00 pm A.A.	5	6
7 9:15 am Communion Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School Acolytes:Devlin Forcier/Jacob Paul	8	9 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Christian Ed Board Meeting	10 Noon - Trustee's Meeting @ Gert & Erna's 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Women's Fellowship Executive Board Meeting	11 8:00 pm A.A.	12	13
14 9:15 am Worship Service Congregational Meeting 10:30 am Sunday School No Acolytes	15	16 10:00 am Bible Study	17 Circle Meets 6:00 pm Confirmation	18 8:00 pm A.A.	19	20
21 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School Acolytes:Jesse & Kelsey Dahlke	22	23 10:00 am Bible Study	24 6:00 pm Confirmation	25 8:00 pm A.A.	26	27
28 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School Acolytes: Dawn Shemanek/Bailey Mueller Deacon's Meeting Deaconesses Meeting	29	30 10:00 am Bible Study	31 6:00 pm Confirmation	8:00 pm A.A.		
		Deacon of the Month: Bruce Magnuson Arlar Ann Wangerin	Coffee Hosts: Jan 7th: Jan 14th: Jan 21st Jan 28th:	Deaconesses In charge of Communion @ Long Term Care: Jan Mackenthun @ Church: Pam Gould		