
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

March 2018



Joint Lenten Services

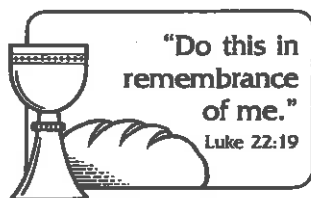
All Services begin at 7:00 pm

Churches joining in the 2018 Lenten Services are First Congregational UCC of Glencoe, Church of Peace UCC of Glencoe, St. Paul's UCC of Plato, and Frieden's UCC (County Line) of Norwood-Young America & Prairie Community UCC of Lester Prairie

March 7th - Church of Peace with Michael Fritz preaching

March 14th - St. Paul's Plato with Al Fiene preaching

March 21st - Prairie Community with Pastor Brosz preaching



Maundy Thursday Communion Service

March 29th @ 7:00 pm

Please join us!

Good Friday Walk

March 30th, 2018

11:30 am gathering @ Oscar Olson Park, 1400 Union Ave North

Walk to Grand Meadows 1420 Prairie Ave w/service @ 12:00 pm

and then transport the Cross to GRHS Long Term Care Service @ 12:40 pm

Easter Sunday

April 1st

Everyone is invited to our Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast. Our Sunrise Communion Service will begin @ 7:00 am, followed by an Easter Breakfast (hosted by the Deacons and Ann Wangerin) until 9:00 am.

Then join us for our 9:15 am Communion Easter Service.

Easter Lilies

Lilies will be available again this year through the church office for \$9.00. If you would like to purchase a lily in memory of or in honor of a loved one for our Easter Services on April 1st.

Please call the church office at 864-3855 by Wed, Mar 21st by 9:00 am



Happy Birthday To:

3. Abbie Raiter
6. Janet Willand, Devin Forcier
7. Joan Chapman, Patti Olson,
Joe Adrian
8. Cindy Patnaude
10. Patricia Schilling,
Christina Bargmann
11. Gale Hoese, Richard Sullivan
12. Roxanne Mathews
15. Granville Drew
19. Valerie Dahlke
22. Colleen Drew, Wm. N. Gould,
Daniel Gould
23. Tom Wangerin,
Claudia Thunstrom
24. Brooke Rowan
26. Grace Patnaude
28. Carmen Kienenberger

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Thank-You!

Minnesota Nice would like to send a very heartfelt Thank You to all the members and groups of First Congregational Church for your support over the last years. Words alone cannot convey how much we and the soldiers who receive the packages appreciate everything you have done. We have wrapped up our packing for our 16th and final year with an amazing 400 packages! Your support has been amazing! Minnesota Nice, Linda Krueger, LaDonna Stuber, Colleen Benjamin

One Great Hour of Sharing

The United Church of Christ uses the *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* 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 *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* along with other Congregations on Sunday, March 11th during the our Worship Service.

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On The Job In March

Deacon of Month: Randy Warner

Acolytes:

Mar 4th - No Acolytes

Mar 11th - Nathan Warner/Devin Forcier

Mar 18th - Jesse & Kelsey Dahlke

Mar 25th – Dawn Shemanek/Bailey Mueller

In Charge of Altar: Ann Wangerin

Deaconesses in Charge of Communion
on Mar 4th @ Church: Claudia Thunstrom;
at LTC on Mar 7th: Jan Willand

The Trustee's Report for February 2018

The following business was addressed at the **February 14th meeting of the Board of Trustees:**

* Total deposits for January were \$5322.02. Of that, \$5014.60 was for operating expenses; the remainder was for repairs, maintenance, missions and special offerings.

* Other Business:

A. Voted to approve the January financial report and minutes; mileage reimbursement to Pastor Michael for January and two outstanding invoices for recent lighting improvements and supplies.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Warner, Secretary

2018 Pilgrim Point Camps

Spring Middle School Youth Camp (grades 6-8th and leaders) – Friday, May 4-Sunday, May 6th @ Pilgrim Point Camp

Spend a week-end at Pilgrim Point Camp – a time to pay attention to and celebrate the simple and profound gifts that surround us in each moment of our lives. As we mark the change of seasons, you are invited to add your presence, your voice, and your story.

July Family Camp -Sunday, July 15th-Friday, July 20th @ Pilgrim Point Camp

This Conference Camp invites families from across Minnesota to join together for a week digging into our theme “Sowing Beauty, Sowing Life”. This camp is designed for inter-generational campers, nurturing faith formation for all ages.

Youth Camp (6th-12th grade) – Sunday, July 29th-Friday August 3rd @ Pilgrim Point Camp

A perennial favorite for campers 6th-12th grade to gather to explore faith, make new friends, and have fun! Our “Sowing Beauty, Sowing Life” theme will invite us to dig more deeply into the meaning of gratitude and how it shapes our lives. Youth (or church) leaders make this camp possible, look for leader training in the spring!

August Family Camp – Sunday, August 5th-August 10th

This camp, sponsored by St. Anthony Park UCC invites families to join together for a week digging into our theme “Sowing Beauty, Sowing Life.” Richard Bruxvoort Colligan will be providing his musical ministry and our Summer Communities of Service interns will be leading activities and art. This camp is designed for inter-generational campers, nurturing faith formation for all ages.

Pastor's Report

Dear Friends,

Our Lenten Journey together will continue this month, leading up to the most Holy week of the Christian calendar. Lent is an old-fashioned word that pretty much means Spring. After some of the weather we've been seeing on Sundays lately it may not feel much like Spring yet. But by the end of the month I bet it will. Winter doesn't last forever. Spring always comes back. Lent doesn't last forever. Easter always finds its way around again. The empty tomb will once again work its way back into our lives to inspire and challenge us.

For us, Lent means a period of preparation for Holy Week by getting our spiritual lives in order. For those of you who are taking the opportunity to take on a spiritual practice or fast from something, I hope that you are finding the experience liberating. I hope you've been strengthened by your efforts and perhaps been surprised by something along the way. Our season of humility and piety will leave us more ready to celebrate God's great act of love revealed to us on Easter morning.

Lent offers many opportunities for special worship services, where we can come together to mark the season and walk the road to Jerusalem together. The Wednesday night services give us the chance to share some fellowship with our brothers and sisters from the other UCC churches in the area. And Holy week will see many of our traditions return, like the Good Friday cross walk, hosted by the ministerial, and of course a busy Easter Sunday morning with two services and breakfast at church. I want to make a special invitation to all of you, however, to the Maundy Thursday service on March 29th. This is my favorite service of the year. The word 'Maundy' most likely means 'mandate' or 'commandment'. And Maundy Thursday is the day on which we remember Jesus gathering for the last supper with his disciples, washing their feet as an example of servant leadership, and handing down the great commandment, that his followers should be known by their love. We'll observe it with communion by intinction recalling the disciples experience at Jesus' table, and with a hand-washing ceremony reminding us of our call to imitate Christ in his loving and serving ways. Please come out and join us for a sacred experience.

Finally, I was raised in a house that was very proud of its Irish roots. So every March I like to share this blessing from John O'Donohue. O'Donohue was a leading voice in Celtic Christianity, practicing the faith as the Irish did in the time of St Patrick, before Roman influence took over. This work is called *Beannacht*, the Gaelic word for 'Blessing.'

On the day when the weight deadens on your shoulders
and you stumble,
May the clay dance to balance you.

And when your eyes freeze behind the grey window
and the ghost of loss gets in to you,
May a flock of colours,
Indigo, red, green, And azure blue,
Come to awaken in you a meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays in the currach (sailboat) of thought
And a stain of ocean blackens beneath you,
May there come across the waters
A path of yellow moonlight
To bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
May the clarity of light be yours,
May the fluency of the ocean be yours,
May the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow wind work these words
Of love around you,
An invisible cloak to mind your life.

With you on the Journey,
Pastor Michael

Confirmation News!

During March, the Confirmands will be collecting diapers, for "**Diapers for Common Cup**". Their goal is to give 500 diapers to Common Cup by April. They need sizes 2,3,4,& 5. Please bring your packs of diapers and place in the large box marked "**Diapers**" in the connecting room. **Look on line for coupons as they will take any brand. Final Sunday to bring diapers will be on Palm Sunday, March 25th.**

On March 12th the Confirmands will be bussing tables at Unhinged Pizza to help sponsor their mission trip to Michigan. Put it on your calendars now to come out to Unhinged Pizza and again support our youth. **They will be there from 4:00-8:00 pm.**

On March 28th our Confirmation Youth have asked to once again go to Chanhassen to "Feed My Starving Children". They were offered to have the night off but preferred to make a difference in hungry children's lives. Let's give them our praise and support.

CPR – To Be Offered

BE PREPARED! A CPR class will be held March 18, 2018, following the church service. Class includes Adult, child, infant CPR & choking @ \$25/person (compare at \$60-100). Class is open to all church members, first come, first serve (maximum 20). **Call the church office 864-3588 to sign up by March 13th.** Dan Kottke would like all Deacons to attend.

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act."
Proverbs 3:27

Due To Privacy

It limits release of medical information that the church can obtain about your presence at the hospital or your condition.

So if you wish a visit from Pastor Michael Fritz, you need to either indicate to the hospital that you want them to call the church or Pastor Fritz or have someone call the church office at 320-864-3855 and let us know when you have been hospitalized. Thanks

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

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Office Fax# 864-3660
Our Church Website: firstcongochurch.org
Newsletter Deadline – Third Monday of the Month

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



March Is Food Shelf Month

Food Drive Challenge: Donations collected during the month of March are matched by Minnesota Food Share Network making it a critical time to restock the shelves at the Food Shelf.




Hunger exists in communities even in the best economies, and nearly half of hungry Minnesotans are children twelve years old and younger, and the fastest growing groups of hungry Minnesotans are senior citizens, and the impact of this on lives and communities can be devastating.

Food shelves in Minnesota distribute millions of pounds of food annually to ease the effects of hunger, and Food Shelf visits remain at record highs, increasing each year, and the Food Shelf in Glencoe, MN has also seen significant numbers of those in need.

The Minnesota Food-Share March Campaign is responsible for acquiring more than half the food distributed annually through food shelves.

Please donate food items and/or funding to our local Food Shelf during March to ensure that all of our neighbors will have food enough to share fully in the life of our community.

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					2	3
4 9:15am Communion Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School No Acolytes	5	6 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Christian Ed Brd Meeting	7 10:15 am GRHS LTC Communion 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Joint Lenten Service @ Church of Peace	8 8:00 pm A.A.	9	10
11 9:15am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School Acolytes: Nathan Warner/Devin Forcier DayLight Savings Time OGHS Offering	12 Confirmation Youth Bussing Tables at Unhinged Pizza	13 10:00 am Bible Study	14 1:00 pm -Trustee's Mtg @ Unhinged Pizza 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm WF Exe Brd Mtg 7:00 pm Joint Lenten Service @ St. Paul's, Plato	15 8:00 pm A.A.	16	17
18 9:15am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School Acolytes: Jesse & Kelsey Dahike CPR Class following Worship Service	19	20 10:00 am Bible Study	21 Peace Circle Meets Lily Order Deadline 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Joint Lenten Service @ Prairie Community Church, Lester	22 8:00 pm A.A.	23	24
25 9:15am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School Acolytes: Dawn Shamanek/Bailey Mueller Deacon's Meeting Deaconesses Meeting	26	27 10:00 am Bible Study	28 Confirmands Going to Chanhassen to "Feed My Starving Children"	29 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service	30 Good Friday Walk starting @11:30 at Oscar Olson Park, Walk to Grand Meadows for Service @ Noon, then carry Cross to LTC Service @ 12:40pm	31
		Deacon of the Month: Randy Warner Altar: Ann Wangerin	Coffee Hosts: Mar 4th: Ken & Karen Stenzel Mar 11th: Dan & Joanne Biederwolf Mar 18th: Randell Warner Mar 25th: Open	Deaconesses in Charge: of Communion at Church on Mar 4th: Claudia Thunstrom; LTC on March 7th: Jan Willand; Maundy Thursday, March 29th: Open		