
First Congregational UCC "AT FIRST"

1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336

E-Mail – congoucc@gmail.com

Church phone: 864-3855

Pastor Michael Fritz, Interim Minister

Cell #612-481-2891; Pastor's E-mail:MFritz@iliff.edu

September 2018

Sunday School Kick-Off

September 9th

Please join us to start the beginning of a new Sunday School year - we will gather together and get to know each other and learn what the new Sunday School year has in store! A calendar will be given to each student to bring home, as well as what is expected from them. Get your kids excited to learn about Jesus!

Sunday School starts at 10:30 am and is over at 11:30 am.

Confirmation Families

This is a reminder that Confirmation will resume on **Wednesday, September 12th**. Pastor Michael will be teaching this year, with Pam available to substitute. (In past years it has been the reverse). **The plan is to meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. See you on the 12th!**

2nd year Confirmands (preparing for confirmation in May) are: Sofia Mattson, Grace Patnaude, Annika Richardson, and Caleb Richardson. Joining them for their first year are Jesse Dahlke and McKenzie Patnaude.

Peace Circle

All women of the church are welcome to attend **Peace Circle** at Norma McNeil's home (1900 Ford Avenue, #210) on **Wednesday, September 20th at 9:30 am.**

Pet Blessing Service

Once again we will be having some fun over **Labor Day weekend with our 3rd Pet Blessing Service**. On **Sunday, September 2nd**, you are invited to bring your beloved animals to the service to be blessed as part of our families and one of the ways we experience God's love.

The second half of the service will be held outdoors, so if you aren't comfortable bringing your pet inside the church but want them included, feel free to arrive at 9:45 am.

Pledge Sunday

is set for

September 9th

Pledge letters are being mailed, pledge cards should be returned by (Pledge Sunday).

If you cannot attend on the 9th, you can mail it to the church or put in offering plate on another Sunday. It is hard for the Trustee's to put together a budget for the 2018-2019 financial year with out pledges. Extra pledge cards are available at the back of the church or by calling the church office.

Coffee hour will resume on
Sunday, September 9th.

Happy Birthday!!

- 1. Kyle Giesler
- 5. Jesse Dahlke
- 6. Erwin Picha
- 8. Katherine Jones
- 9. Lon Roach
River Rowan
- 10. Wm. B. Gould
- 11. Chris Marsh
- 15. Samantha Schilling
Samantha Graupmann
- 16. Victoria Schultz
- 22. Shirley Steele
- 23. Merlin Mackenthun
- 26. Daniel Rach
- 28. John Robson



On The Job In September

Deacon of the Month

Scott Salmela

Deaconesses in

Charge of Communion:

@ Church on Sept 2nd – **Karen Benson**

@ GRHS Long Term Care on Sept 5th –

Jan Mackenthun

In Charge of Altar: Ann Wangerin

Student Loans

The Student Loan Committee of First Congregational Church would like to remind members that there are currently funds available for student loans. Students must be a member of the church. They can borrow up to \$2000.00 per year with a maximum amount of \$4000.00 per person. Loans must be repaid after the student graduates. **Contact Student Loan Committee** (Sue Bacon, Joanne Biederwolf)

E-Mail & Address Change

To all members: If you have any change in your e-mail or address, **please make sure to contact the church office or we can sent our church correspondence.**

Also, to all our young people who are going off to college this fall, and people going south, please let us know your address so that we can keep in touch with you.

Call the church office at 864-3855 or e-mail us at congoucc@gmail.com

Minnesota Conference UCC Women's Retreat

"Living Water"

September 21-23, 2018

Lodging at Luther Crest

Programming at Pilgrim Point

Cultivate a connection to an inner wellspring of life by exploring the many dimensions of living waters. Re-encounter water, story, and sacrament in a way that celebrates the aliveness of water and grounds us in the watershed as locus for a life of faith. This retreat will enliven all of the senses through contemplation, experiential learning, getting wet, movement, liturgical ritual, and live music.

For more information and registration go on: [uccmn.org/women's retreat](http://uccmn.org/women's%20retreat)

Trustee's Minutes

The following business was addressed at the July 18th meeting of the Board of Trustees:

- * Offering for June 2018 \$4,595 of which \$4,361 went to the Operation Fund
- * Other Business:
 - + Voted to approve the June financial report and June minutes; approved two reimbursement request for \$16.65 for Pastor's Mileage and one outstanding invoice for \$135.63 for Window repair.

Respectfully Submitted, Randy Warner, Secretary

Trustees Newsletter Report for August 2018

The following business was addressed at the August 15 th meeting of the Board of Trustees:

- * Offering for July 2018 \$4,514 of which \$4,247 went to the Operation Fund
- * Other Business:
 - + Voted to approve the July financial report and minutes; approved two reimbursement request for \$19.80 for Pastor's Mileage and one outstanding invoice for \$85.00 for furnace inspection by the Glencoe Co-Op o New Handicap parking will soon be available for the front of the Church.

Respectfully Submitted, Randy Warner, Secretary

Neighbors In Need

Neighbors In Need provides us a way to respond to God's call. Our gifts to this all-church offering reach poor people in the neighborhoods and communities where they live. Your generous support of **Neighbors In Need** supports the UCC's domestic ministries of justice and compassion.

Offerings goes towards the work of the Council for American Indian Ministry and supports justice advocacy and direct service projects, including the UCC's Hunger Action Ministry, poverty reduction efforts, just-peace programs, and community grants.

We will receive the Neighbors in Need offering on Sunday, October 7, 2018.

Greeting From Your Search And Call Committee!

We would like to give you an update on what our search has been like thus far. Recently in our search, we have not had many applicants – they have been far and few between. But we are looking diligently at each and every profile that is sent our way. Rick has confirmed there are not many pastors looking to become a full-time minister. Most new graduates are not applying for full time ministry at one church, they are more interested in pursuing other areas of ministry instead. Please read the following article to get more insight on this: http://www.startribune.com/fewer-men-and-women-are-entering-the-seminary/490381681/?ref=nl&om_rid=1583261129&om_mid=105865673

In our last newsletter we stated we were speaking with one candidate but were unsure at that point in our search if he was going to be the right fit. It turns out this candidate was taken out of circulation, but before this was brought to our attention, our team decided against moving further in the process with him.

We conducted an in-person interview with one candidate early on in our search, but she was not willing to relocate. We had one candidate we were very interested in, but he did not feel our church was his calling. We do give each and every profile that is sent to us thorough consideration and is discussed among the committee. From there, we decide if we should pursue a phone interview or not. We are eager to find a pastor but want to ensure we hire a pastor who shares our churches passion! We will keep you updated as progress is made.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue forward in our search.

Change In Pastor's Office Hours For Fall

With my new class schedule beginning, I'm making a small change to my office hours. I will no longer have office hours on Saturdays. I will be in on Mondays from 12:00-4:00 pm instead.

So my new office hours are: Monday 12-4:00 pm, Tuesday 12-4:00pm & Wednesday 2-6:00pm.

Pastor Michael



From Your Pastor

Dear Friends,

September is the time of year when we feel a return of energy to church life after the recharging period of the summer. We come back together to refocus and recommit to the church's mission. I hope that you had opportunities to take advantage of the slower pace of the summer months. But now is the time when programming will step back up. I hope you're excited. We can do this. We've done it before. And as always, taking on God's call, in familiar ways and in surprising ones, will make us stronger.

Before we officially begin a new program year, we'll do one last 'summery' service on September 2nd, the day before Labor Day. This will be our 3rd year doing a Pet-Blessing Service, taking some inspiration from an old-fashioned festival called 'The Feast of St Francis.' For this service, you may bring your pets to church to be blessed. Please be thoughtful about things like leashes and carriers. And if you aren't able to bring your pet, or would like to have the memory of a beloved departed pet blessed, bring a photo or memento and we will bless that. This service is about recognizing the blessing of pets to our families, and remembering that they are one of the ways in which we see God's love on earth.

September 9th is Kickoff Sunday, and the ceremonial beginning of a new program year. Fellowship hour will become a regular occurrence again, many boards will resume meeting, and attendance will bump up for the fall season. If you've been away for much of the summer, welcome back. We're excited to hear what you've been up to. Christian education will also pick up speed, with Sunday School, Confirmation, and other programs starting a new season. Thank you to the parents, volunteers, and young people who make these activities possible. I look forward to another year of learning and growing with you. We are also working on planning a Youth Lock-In for September 15th, to get the youth regathered and re-energized. More details to follow on that.

In addition to Kickoff Sunday, September 9th, it is stewardship season as well. We know that many of you are still getting used to the new fiscal year, which was moved to match the program year. And we know that many pledges will not come in until after the 9th. But please do not forget about us. The church leadership strives to use the church resources well, and having the best possible information about what those resources will be helps them immensely. I also learned some interesting data about our church giving recently. In the US, families that are members of a church on average offer 1.8% of their income to the church. Based on Glencoe's demographic and census data, it can be figured that FCUCC families give on average 1.77%. If some of our families raised their pledges by even a tiny amount, we would become an above-average church in terms of stewardship generosity. How neat it would be to be able to say that.

Finally, I will remind you that Women's retreat at Pilgrim Point is coming up again. This year's event will be held from September 21st-23rd. Last year we sent a group of 6 ladies from our church and if you are interested in participating this year, let me know. Due to the fire in the dining hall, meals will be served at Luther-Crest, the nearby Lutheran camp, but programming will still be held at PPC. This year's women's retreat campers will have the privilege of being the first to use the sacred space after the July fire.

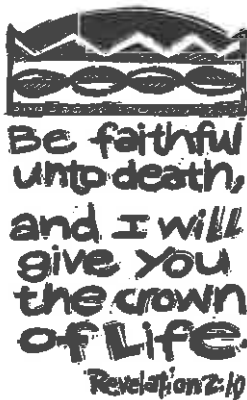
As we begin another journey together, I wish you the courage to answer new calls, the faith to walk with Jesus everyday, the grace to come together in the name of something greater. May you have healing where it is needed and may God's peace and love enrich our church and our lives.

With you on the Journey, Pastor Michael

At First

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

Our Website: firstcongochurch.org
Facebook Page: First Congregational Church, Glencoe
Newsletter Deadline – Third Monday of the Month



Abundant Table Community Meal

The Abundant Table Community Meal is **FREE** and open to everyone-families and children, elderly and all seeking fellowship or in need of a helping hand.

When: September 5th (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 at 864-4549

Remember there is a place for YOU at our Abundant Table

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:15 am Communion Worship Service w/ a Pet Blessing	3 Office Closed	4 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 Christian Ed Board Meeting	5 10:15 am Communion @ GRHS Long Term Care Wee Friends Start School 6:30 pm Women's Fellowship Executive Board Meeting	6 8:00 pm A.A.	7	8 1
9 9:15 am Worship Service Kick-Off Sunday Pledge Sunday	10	11 10:00 am Bible Study	12 6:30pm Confirmation	13 8:00 pm A.A.	14	15 Youth Lock-In
16 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School	17	18 10:00 am Bible Study	19 9:30 am Peace Circle meets @ Norma McNeill's Home Noon-Trustee's Meeting @ Gert & Erma's 6:30pm Confirmation	20 8:00 pm A.A.	21	22
23 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School	24	25 10:00 am Bible Study	26 6:30pm Confirmation	27 8:00 pm A.A.	28 Mn Conference Women's Fall Retreat	29 Mn Conference Women's Fall Retreat
30 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School Deacon's Meeting Mn Conference Women's Fall Retreat		Deacon of the Month: Scott Salmela Altar: Ann Wangerin	Deaconesses In Charge of Communion @ Church on Sept 2nd: Karen Benson @ Long Term Care on Sept 5th: Jan Mackenthun	Coffee Hosts: Sept 9th: Open Sept 16th: Open Sept 23rd: Open Sept 30th: Open		

**It's never too early!
less than**

3 months before



CHRISTMAS@

First Congregational

**Bake Sale, Craft Sale,
& Luncheon**

December 1, 2018



**Mark Your
Calendar**

December 1, 2018

for the church bazaar!

For more info, contact:

Barb Alsleben

320.221.3747

Barbara.Alsleben@lssmn.org

OR

Sarah Doering

320.221.4513

Sarah.Doering@lssmn.org

Give Back & Receive!



Become a Volunteer!

***LSS is enrolling AmeriCorps volunteers
for its Caregiver Support Program!***

AmeriCorps volunteers:

- ◆ assist families who care for someone at home
- ◆ provide re-assurance and companionship to care receivers so family caregivers can take a break
- ◆ do not provide any medical or personal cares.

The AmeriCorps year runs from Oct. 1 - Sept. 30



www.facebook.com/LSSCaregiverSupport

www.lssmn.org/respite

BENEFITS

- ◆ Receive a monthly stipend of \$200
- ◆ Can qualify for a \$1,600 education grant for college expenses
- ◆ Transfer education grant to a child, grandchild or foster child (for those 55 years +)
- ◆ Keep a flexible schedule with plenty of time for work and/or school and vacation.
- ◆ Training provided
- ◆ Earn valuable resume experience with a national program

Requirements:

1. Must be 17 years or older.
2. Complete a background check.
3. Have reliable transportation and be willing to travel a minimum 15 mile radius from where you live.
4. Have basic computer skills and access to a computer.
5. Participate in a 20 hour orientation session and attend monthly training.
6. Provide an average of 8-10 hours a week in service and have some day-time availability.

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that engage Americans in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health and the environment. The AmeriCorps Legacy Corps for Veterans and Military Families, through LSS of MN, provides opportunities for individuals to be respite volunteers, assisting family members who are responsible for the care of persons 60 and older with chronic health issues. The Legacy Corps for Veterans and Military Families is funded through the CNCS as an AmeriCorps project and is administered through the University of Maryland's Department of Health Services Administration in the school of Public Health.



**Lutheran
Social Service
of Minnesota**



Grief Recovery Friend's Newsletter

We Care ... We Understand ... We Are Here To Listen

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE A NEW PROGRAM!!

Hello Grief Recovery Friends ,

As you are all aware from our last newsletter that we sent out, our facilitator, Rosine has left our area to fulfill her ministry with her husband in the St. James area. The Hantge Funeral Chapels along with our new facilitator Father Paul Wolf, who has facilitated this program for three years prior to moving to Hutchinson, are proud to be offering a new ecumenical grief program called ***GriefShare***.



THIS PROGRAM WILL BE REPLACING THE GRIEF RECOVERY FRIENDS PROGRAM.

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. You'll gain access to valuable GriefShare resources to help you cope from your loss.

This program is a 13 week program for anyone that has lost a loved one and will include the following:

Video: Each week your ***GriefShare*** group will watch a video seminar featuring top experts on grief and recovery subjects. These videos are produced in an interesting television magazine format featuring expert interviews, real-life case studies, dramatic reenactments, workbooks, and a facilitator to help you move through the grief process.

Group Discussion: After viewing the video, you and the other group members will spend time as a support group, discussing what was presented in that week's video seminar and what is going on in your lives.

Personal Study and Reflection: During the week you will have the opportunity to use your workbook for further personal study of the grieving process and to help sort out your emotions through journaling. Your group will spend time discussing questions and comments from the workbook study.

Some of the questions you might be asking yourself:

How is this different from Grief Recovery Friends? It is different in the fact that it is a 13 week program to help you start the process of moving through your grief. Once you complete the program, our hope is that you feel better about where you are in your grief process and that you have made some lasting friendships along the way so that you can continue to gather outside the program and share your stories.

Where is this going to be held? Our Grief Recovery Friends program was always held the 2nd Thursday of the month at Ecumen Oaks. ***GriefShare*** will be begin on Monday, September 10th, 2018, at St. Anastasia Catholic Church and will continue for 13 weeks. Please remember, this is an ecumenical program geared for anyone to attend that has lost a loved one.

When will the new GriefShare program start? The new 13 week program will be starting on Monday, September 10th, 2018. The group will meet once a week for 13 weeks. After the 13 weeks, ***GriefShare*** will start over for another group.

****You do NOT need to be able to attend all the meetings and you can attend another session if needed.**

What time will the meetings run? The meetings will meet weekly from 6:30-8:00 P.M., for 13 weeks in the St. Anastasia Hospitality Area until the program is completed.

Is there a cost to the program? No. There is no cost to you as a participant.

If you would like to learn more about ***GriefShare*** you can visit their website at www.griefshare.org.

Please contact the Dobratz-Hantge Funeral Chapel at 320-587-2128 to sign up for the first program which will be held:

Monday, September 10th, 2018, at 6:30 PM at St. Anastasia Catholic Church.

THE KINGERY FAMILY

live in concert



Date: Saturday, September 8, 2018

Time: 6:30 p.m.

**Venue: St. Paul's ER Church
15470 Co. Rd. 31 Hamburg**

Bring a lawn chair if you can; campfires and hayrides to follow.

www.thekingeryfamily.com



Grace Lutheran Church Fall Festival

(8638 Plum Ave. N., Brownton, MN 55312)

Sunday, September 9th, 2018
10:30-12:30

MENU:

Smoked or Fresh Pork Chops	Hotdogs
Scalloped Potatoes	Dinner Rolls
Corn	Assortment of Desserts/Pies
Glazed Carrots	Milk & Coffee

Adults: \$12.00 (extra pork chop: \$5.00)
Children (12 & under) – Pork Chop: \$8.00 Hotdog: \$4.00
Preschool – Free

Drive up meals available – Call (320) 328-5533 after 9:30am to order
Pick up at East end of church

Worship service @ 8:45 *Basket Raffle *Country Store (crafts and baked goods)

