
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@iliff.edu

January 2019

Christmas Bazaar

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the Christmas Bazaar such a success again this year! It takes a fellowship to make this event come together year after year and we have a host of dedicated folks who spend many hours preparing for this fundraiser. After another busy sales day and the Sunday after during coffee hour, we did take in a total of more than \$7500!

We thank members, whose donations of crafts, food, pies, time, Santa's Attic items, and money including, those from Thrivent, helped us to this goal. Our youth were especially helpful this year and will be rewarded with money towards their upcoming mission trip. Women's Fellowship expresses our deep thanks for your commitment.

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: **128 were served and \$1257.00 was donated to the Local Food Shelf.**

God bless you ALL!!

In Christ's service, Barb Magnuson

Church Envelopes

You will 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.

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 conougce@gmail.com

On The Job in January

Deacon of the Month: Bruce Magnuson

In Charge of the Altar: Ann Wangerin

**In Charge of Communion @ Long Term Care,
Jan 2nd: Cancelled Due To Flu
@ the Church Jan 6th: Jan Willand**



Happy Birthday!

- 2. Rebecca Forcier
- 4. Dawn Shemanek
- 5. Tammy Hanson
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
- 31. Ariana Bolt

**Trustees Newsletter Report
for December 2018**

The following business was addressed at the December 19th meeting of the Board of Trustees:

- * Offering income for November 2018 was \$11,891.00
- * General expenses for the month of November 2018 were \$6,572.00
- * The Trustees approved invoices for new parking signage totaling \$92.00 and maintenance invoices of \$103.00

Respectfully Submitted: Randy Warner, Secretary

A Huge Thank You

to Pam Gould, Randy Warner, Carmen and Bridget Kienenberger, post confirmands and current confirmands for their help with the Christmas program on the 16th.

We are blessed to have such great and willing people to help when called upon!

Kari Warner

THANK YOU

... to everyone who attended my 100th Birthday Party celebration and for all the wonderful cards and gifts. Over 200 people attended my party. Special thank you all the people who helped with food preparation, helped in the kitchen and with the clean up. Your help was greatly appreciated. Mickey Beltz

Pastor's Article

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas to each of you. On the liturgical calendar, the season of Christmas lasts for 12 days. So we will be doing our best this month to keep the spirit of the season lingering by hearing and exploring some of the Biblical stories of the child Jesus, particularly those from the Gospel of Luke. By not passing over these stories too quickly, we will continue to celebrate the importance of Jesus being born into our world as a child.

This was the 4th time that I have had the honor and the privilege of walking the road to Bethlehem with you and celebrating Christmas Eve with candles and carols. Once again, it was a holy night in which the presence of the Spirit was especially felt. I hope that everyone who experienced it with us walked away feeling inspired and ready to celebrate the Christmas gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

It has been a great joy to journey with this church for the last 3+ years. But it is with mixed emotions that I announce that the time is nearing for me to move on. I have accepted a job offer from another church. I pushed my start date at that church back to Feb 11th so that I can stay with First Congo, Glencoe through Feb 10th.

This was not an easy decision for me to make, but I feel good about where the church stands today as compared to 3+ years ago. And I think that the progress we have made as a church is reflected in the improving quality of applications that the Search Committee is receiving. They may be ready to make an important announcement before my departure.

By planning my next step now, I ensure that the next Pastor will not enter too close on my heels and that I will have a good job when the next Pastor is called to FCUCC, Glencoe. The time is also right for a fresh start in my personal life.

The last 3+ years have been rewarding for me on a professional level and blessed me with memories that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Thank you for the part that each of you have played in that. I look forward to 7 more weeks together and to finishing our interim period well.

With you on the Journey,

Pastor Michael

Thank You

I want to offer a special thank you to the congregation for all of the support that I've received since the loss of my mother. Thank you for coming to the service, for sending cards, for the gifts, and for the words of comfort. But most of all, thank you for the grace and understanding I've received during the times in which I just haven't been able to be myself lately. I've felt blessed with the space to grieve. And that has made a difference for me.

Blessings,

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 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2 Communion at GRHS Long Term Care Cancelled - due to the Flu No Confirmation 6:30 pm Christian Ed Board Meeting	3 8:00 pm A.A.	4	5
6 9:15 am Communion Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School	7 Pastor Out of the Office	8 10:00 am Bible Study	9 6:00 pm Women's Fellowship Board Meeting 6:30 pm Confirmation	10 8:00 pm A.A.	11	12
13 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School	14 Pastor Out of the Office	15 10:00 am Bible Study	16 Peace Circle Meets Noon-Trustee's Meeting @ China Wok 6:30 pm Confirmation	17 8:00 pm A.A.	18	19
20 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School	21	22 10:00 am Bible Study	23 6:30 pm Confirmation	24 8:00 pm A.A.	25	26
27 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School Deacon's Meeting	28	29 10:00 am Bible Study	30 6:30 pm Confirmation	31 8:00 pm A.A.		
		Deacon of the Month: Bruce Magnuson Altar: Ann Wangerin	In Charge of Communion: Jan 2nd @ Long Term Care: Cancelled @ church, Jan 6th: Jan Willand	Coffee Hosts: January 6 - Open January 13 - Open January 20 - Open January 27 - open		