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## **“At First”**

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

**Church phone: 864-3855**

***Rev. Dr. Bob Baggott and Rev. Dr. Casey Baggott; Co-Pastors***

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**April 2020**

**Due to the COVID-19 there will be no Worship Services or Activities in the church until further notice.**

**You Can Watch Our  
Sunday Morning Worship Services  
@ 9:15 am with**

***Rev. Dr. Bob Baggott and Rev. Dr. Casey Baggott doing a live Facebook message at (Our Facebook Page: First Congregational Church, Glencoe)***

**You will also be able to watch it on our local Cable Channel 10 on Tuesdays at 4:30 pm and Fridays at 7:00 pm. For our Shut-In's at Long Term Care, it can be seen on Mondays at 9:30 am and Tuesdays at 6:00 pm in the Chapel.**

### **Sunday Offerings**

**Since we are not having Sunday Worship Services, we ask that you remember the church by mailing your offering to the church office.**

**Lord, my Rock and Redeemer you have said that whatever we give is acceptable if we give it eagerly. You have said that we should give according to what we have. Help us to bring our offerings with an eager heart, not as a comparison with others but as an act of worship to you. May we find the comfort we desire in you and the strength we need in your name. May your presence be with us every hour of the day. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

### **Easter Sunday Communion**

**We'll only be having communion, taken together, but at our own homes, on Easter morning, during the worship service, which can be viewed on the church's Facebook page. Participants may pick up their pre-packaged wafer and cup packages at church or they can use bread and wine/juice from their own homes, as the service is streamed. We won't have communion on Palm Sunday or on Maundy Thursday because of the difficulty of all the logistics. With luck and a "flattened curve", we may be able to share communion as usual by June!**

**You can pick up the pre-packaged communion elements next week, during office hours Tuesday and Wednesday, then 12pm-7pm on Thursday and Friday.**

**There will be a small table and a sign-up sheet just outside the west entrance door (Elliott Avenue) by office, you will not have to come into the office.**

### **In Case of An Emergency**

**please call Pastor Bob and Casey at 772-559-3287 - just leave a message and one of them will respond as soon as possible.**

We invite people with prayer requests, which they would like **SHARED ALOUD** during worship, to email or phone those requests to the church office

### And you can use our Prayer Chain

The idea of a prayer chain is to share prayer concerns and requests with others who will join you in prayer for your request. A person may call one of the members on the chain and your request will be shared, and prayers lifted up for the person/subject for which you need prayer. If you are unable to reach the first person you try, choose another member. Once you have contacted a member of the prayer chain, by phone, your need will be shared and each prayer member will pray for your concern. If you don't want your concern shared beyond the prayer chain members, please be sure you communicate this! Our God hears and answers prayers and loves unconditionally!

#### Prayer Chain Members:

Pam Gould  
612-387-7044; pamelakg@embarqmail.com  
Bridget Kienenberger  
320-864-5651; cd kandme@aol.com  
Jan Mackenthun  
320-864-3838;  
jan\_mackenthun@hotmail.com  
Barb Magnuson  
320-864-5864  
barbnbrucemagnuson@gmail.com  
Kari Warner  
224-554-9492; rkminn06@aol.com



## Happy Birthday!!

### In April

1. Alexandra Hoese
2. Tricia Boesche
4. Brenda Schultz,
9. Bryanna Paul
10. Pat Trocke,  
Roger Landon
12. Emily Jungclaus
13. Janice Winn
14. Bruce Magnuson
16. Toni Robson
18. Kelly Rach,  
Troy Lehmann
19. David Stark
22. Shirley Cutlar,  
Jamie Yurek
23. Kara Salmela
24. Laura Popelka
25. Ozzie Chapman
27. Bridget Kienenberger
28. James Cox
29. Nicholas Schultz

### Trustees Report for February 2020

The following business was addressed at the February 25nd meeting of the Board of Trustees:

- 1) Total deposits for January were \$20,649.  
Payments in January from our Operating fund \$8,478
- 2) Other Business:
  - + Trustee's approved several invoices for January. Church pew upholstery cleaning and boiler motor repair.
  - + Working on updating the rental contract for and reviewing insurance rates for 2020.

Respectfully Submitted, Randy Warner, Secretary

## **From Our Pastors:**

### **An Easter Reflection:**

A paraphrased version of Mark's Gospel tells the Easter story as follows: "When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought aromatic oils intending to go and anoint him; and very early on the Sunday morning, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. They were wondering among themselves who would have rolled the stone back already. They went in to the tomb where they saw youth who said, 'He has been raised, go and tell the disciples that he is going ahead of them to Galilee, there you will see him as he told you.' So the women went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them."

Why would Jesus go back to Galilee and ask them to follow? Galilee was where they had first met Jesus, where they had first come to feel the power of God in their lives, where they had first glimpsed the dawning of the kingdom of God among them. But they had left Galilee to follow Jesus – to follow him, they thought, to a place where justice would flow like a river. And now, to go back to Galilee, was to face disappointment, heartbreak and emptiness, with all their hopes and dreams buried in a tomb.

Galilee was the place where they had lived their ordinary lives. And what was now waiting for the disciples back in Galilee? They would see and experience something they could scarcely have hoped for. They would discover the truth that Jesus was not gone, but still present with them; that the kingdom of God he brought near to them was not a dream, but the underlying and undefeatable reality of their lives, every day and everywhere.

As Debra Bowman has said, "We, of course, all have our own Galilees – not cities on a map but landscapes in our souls. Places where hope turned to heartbreak. Where joy turned to grief. Love to resentment. Life to death. These are the places and experiences in our lives that we flee from and that we have no desire to return to. But this is where the risen Christ is, and is waiting for us to meet him. This is where new life is waiting to be discovered. This is where resurrection is waiting to be revealed. 'He is going ahead of you,' as always, and calling us to follow. But he's not just going anywhere. He is going ahead to Galilee." Yes, the gift of Easter is to say that we can go back to those places of darkness, of grief, of death, with hope and with faith. We can go back to the place where our heart has been broken, and trust that God is there. And we can move forward into situations that unnerve us and even terrify us; knowing that Christ is there also. We can bet our lives that the Spirit of God is at work, behind us and before us, to create possibilities of new life and a glimpse once again of the kingdom of God in our midst. Perhaps that's why Mark doesn't write an ending to his gospel, to the good news. Because it has not ended, and never will. The empty tomb isn't the end of the story. It's only the beginning.

Faithfully,

Pastors Casey and Bob Baggott