
First Congregational UCC "At First"
1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336

Church phone: 320-864-3855

Church Website: firstcongochurch.org

Adam Thompson, Minister

February 2022

Cue Seminaries

CUE is the partnership of three seminaries, 16 conferences of the United Church of Christ, 2,525 congregations, and Local Church Ministries of the National United Church of Christ, working together to promote and support theological education. Support of theological education includes: interpreting programs and activities of the CUE as they affect the churches and conferences of the CUE region; affirming the support of the theological education as an essential mission of each church; providing funds to the CUE Seminaries. CUE envelopes are available at the back of the church.

On Sunday, February 27th we will receive the CUE offering.

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

Abundant Table Community Meal

When: February 2, 2022

Meal: Our meal is Italian Spaghetti, Cesar Salad, Applesauce, Garlic Bread and Chocolate Cake with Cherry Sauce

When: We start at 4:30 and serve the meal at 5:00-6:00 PM

Where: Christ Lutheran Church, 1820 Knight Avenue North, Glencoe

For information call Christ Lutheran Church at 320-864-4549

All are welcome to join us for wonderful food and fellowship!



We Extend our Sympathy and Prayers

... to the family of **Vivian Grimm**. Vivian passed way January 22, 2022, at GlenFields Living With Care. Funeral Service will be Saturday, February 5, 2022, 1:00 P.M. at First Congregational United Church of Christ with visitation one hour prior to the service.



On The Job In February

Deacon of Month: Jim Cox

Deaconesses: Barb Magnuson

In Charge of Altar: Ann Wangerin



Happy Birthday!

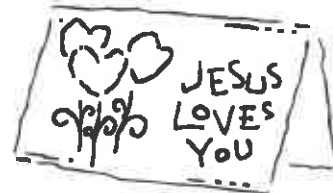
- 1. Mark Forcier
- 9. Ethan Lehmann
- 10. Paula Bulau
- 13. Cassie Shemanek
- 14. Marshall Jones
- 15. Travis Robb
- 20. Blair Collins
- 23. Minnie Schwarzrock
- 24. Alvin Huff
Patty Robb
- 25. Jessica Baldwin
Desiree Richardson



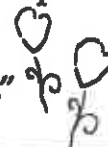
Make tray favors for a local hospital, nursing home, nutrition project or home-delivered meal program.

You will need for each:

- white, unlined index cards (4"x6")
- red & pink construction paper
- markers — green, black
- glue or glue stick



- ♥ Fold card in half
- ♥ Cut 3 hearts from colored paper. Make them about 1 inch high.
- ♥ Glue the hearts on the left side, overlap a little.
- ♥ Use marker to make "stems" from the hearts — they'll look like a bouquet of flowers.
- ♥ On the right side print a message or a verse, such as "Jesus Loves You."



Pastor's Page:

Doldrums of Winter

February in Minnesota can feel a bit like we are stuck in the doldrums. For those who aren't familiar with this term, the Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines it as "a period of inactivity or stagnation." The doldrums, in a nautical sense, is a monotonous windless area sandwiched between the trade winds, which here in the Minnesota winter has no relevance to us frozen landlocked folk. Nevertheless, here we are, caught in the doldrums of winter, sandwiched between the steady breeze of the Christmas season and the mighty winds of Easter. This is a perfect chance for us to regroup, rest, and reflect. But it can be so challenging to dwell peacefully in this time of relative calm. Our natural tendency is to desire rest when we are the busiest and long for activity when there's not much going on. So, what do we do about this?

Well, if your goal is to stay occupied, February is actually chock full of things to do, even if the outdoors are not your cup of tea. The first, and most obvious, is Valentine's Day. That lovey, dovey Hallmark holiday of chocolates, flowers, and romance, maybe. If that doesn't float your boat, how about World Ukulele Day or World Nutella Day. No? Fine then, Groundhog Day? Darwin Day? Pokemon Day? Or how about Random Acts of Kindness Day...wait...do we really need a day for that?!?! Shouldn't we be doing this every day? If these aren't enough to keep you from getting bored, there is always the Chinese New Year and Safer Internet Day. One thing I am actually looking forward to this February is the Winter Olympics. Even though we are in the doldrums of sorts, there is always something to occupy our time. However, merely filling the day just to escape boredom leads to feeling unfulfilled and potentially more restless.

Here is a super simple exercise if you are struggling to rest. This works great when your mind is racing with thoughts, or you're trying to read the Bible but can't concentrate, or if you're trying to write a sermon and there are a million other things to do. When you are feeling antsy and restless but just need peace, try starting with a simple 3-breath spiritual practice....

1. Breathe in through your nose (just a normal breath) and try to focus only on the sensations (the air movement, your chest rising, a smell, etc..) The idea is to not think but rather feel. It helps me to imagine I am inhaling the restorative breath of God.
2. Breathe out through your mouth with the same focus on the sensations. I like to imagine I am exhaling the impurities of my mind and body.
3. Repeat for 2 more breaths, if your mind wanders into thoughts, that's ok, gently remind yourself to focus on the feeling.
4. Take time to rest. The results are subtle but effective in quieting a busy mind.

My prayer for you this February is that the Peace of God wash over you, allowing you to be present with yourselves, your families, and with God. That you find rest, reconciliation, and rejuvenation in these February doldrums which brings you closer to God. Amen,

Peace, Pastor Adam



1/25/22, 10:12 AM

-10 Degrees January 2022 Church:



Dan Kottke captured this picture on a cold winter night of our Church. Pretty Cool!

COMMON CUP AT-A-GLANCE - As representative from our church to the Common Cup program, I'm occasionally asked "how's the money spent?" and "what does Common Cup provide to McLeod County?" Following is Common Cup's 2021 report that may answer your questions or prompt more! Let's get back in the habit of reaching out to help others! Q's? Bridget Kienenberger, 320-864-5651

COMMON CUP 2021 REPORT

The Common Cup Office has remained open throughout this year with masking precautions taken for safety of our volunteers and clients served through the various programs. The "non disconnection" and "non eviction" mandates have been lifted as of Oct 2021 so we have seen more need for rental help and deposits for folks that are now able to secure housing for themselves and their families. CCM works with clients to access the Federal COVID funding that is administered through UCAP applications.

The number of individuals seen and helped at office continues to be approximately 25-30 per week. Many of these individuals were able to be helped by phone by providing them with resources. Approximately 3-4 individuals were seen in the office per day. The following list is the amount of money spent for each program. The below items are through voucher usage for individuals and families.

Lodging \$7590= CCM continues to rent a motel room at the Queen monthly (Oct-April) until the Campground opens or as families need

Car Repair : \$604

Auto Fuel \$1860

Utilities: \$6249

Transportation: \$1967

Rent Assist/Dep \$5897

Health/Medical \$588

Total Income for 2021 - \$262,020 - Contributors are:

Participating area *Congregations and Individuals, Area Businesses, Elks Club, United Way of McLeod Co., Thrivent Financial, I.J. Burich Foundation, Hutchinson Community Foundation, 3M Volunteer Match Program, CARES ACT FUNDS for Backpack Food and McLeod County Funds for food for Backpack Program.

The Thrift Store of Common Cup Ministry Income for 2021: \$47,422

Expenses were \$28,335 which generated \$19,087 of profit to be used toward rent for the store and our various programs. The number of ***volunteers** to work at the store has remained steady but we need more assistance. Training is provided. We ask for the volunteers to work one 4 hour shift a month. *The Thrift Store is soon to be starting its 4th year of operation.*

Total Expenses of Common Cup MN for 2021- \$242,432

Common Cup Ministry is now in its 21st year of outreach and continues to grow and change yet stay consistent with the Mission of serving those in need through gathering community and church resources into one "common cup"! Common Cup continues to listen to the needs of those in our community

*** Areas where our church has or does currently participate**

Community Outreach Programs Include —

Monthly *Diaper Distribution—Approximately 45 packages/month providing one bag per child with at least 30 diapers. We conducted “drive up” distribution to limit face to face contact until March of 2021. We then limited one person in the distribution space at a time.

Cost of program for 2021 \$1672

***Warm Coat Distribution:** Held at Faith Lutheran Church the end of Sept. with 350 participants. We continue to give coats, snow pants, snow boots, hats and mittens per request.

Cost of program for 2021 \$2972

***School Supply Distribution:** Held at Crosspoint Church. Provided supplies for 310 students in attendance. We also packed and delivered bags to the elementary schools for those unable to attend on that particular day.

Cost of the program for 2021 \$6225

PoPP (Provision of Personal Products) Continue to be offered to schools throughout McLeod County. Ralph and Geri Johnson have established a relationship with the various district nurses and counselors and fill requests and deliver as needed. This is greatly appreciated by students/staff and parents.

Cost of the Program for 2021 \$683

There continues to be a ***Common Cup Council Representative** from each participating congregation. There is a monthly meeting held at participating CCM congregations on a rotating basis. (This was modified during 2020 through email correspondence). These meetings provide communication regarding needs and updates from Common Cup to each participating congregation. Please visit with the Representative from your congregation or contact Bev Bonte, Director of CCM at 320- 234-8344 commoncupmn@gmail.com

WEEKEND BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM

The Weekend Backpack program provides weekend breakfasts, lunches, and snacks for 266 Kindergarten-5th Grade Students in Hutchinson and K-6th Grade Students in GSL. (Lakeside Elem goes through Grade 6 which is the reason for offering to 6th Grade Students)

Volunteers continue to pack bags that go to the schools each week. There is also a bin behind the office with bags for parents in need that may not be registered with the program.

Last year CCM spent **\$31,493** on this program. ***Churches** are asked to donate a particular item used in the bags as well. This is a sharp increase financially but serves a population in need.

Parents are encouraged to call the office to inquire about receiving food at 320-587-2213 but ultimately need to register with the school districts.

For volunteer information contact Jen at the Common Cup Office at 587-2213. You can also email Jen at jenwicklund@gmail.com or message through our CCM Facebook account.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Bev Bonte R.N./Director of CCM

*** Areas where our church has or does currently participate**

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Deacon of Month: Jim Cox Deaconesses - Barb Magnuson In Charge of Altar: Ann Wangerin</p>		1	2	3 No Bible Study - will resume when Conference advises	4	5 Noon - Vivian Grimm's Visitation 1:00 pm Vivian Grimm's Funeral Service
<p>6 9:15 am Communion Worship Service 9:30 - 11:30 am Sunday School Confirmation 1:00 pm Pastor preaching @ Glenfield Living W/Care</p>	7	8	9	10	11	12
<p>13 9:15 am Sunday School Confirmation</p>	14	15	16	17	18	19
<p>20 9:15 am Sunday School Confirmation</p>	21	22	23 Noon-Trustee's Meeting	24	25	26
<p>27 9:15 am Sunday School Deacon's Meeting No Confirmation Receive CUE Offering</p>	28					