
“At First”

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

**Church phone: 864-3855
Adam Thompson, Minister**

April 2022



Come & Celebrate Easter Week With Us!

April 14th: 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service



Good Friday Service

April 15, 2022

10:00 am @ Glenfield Living With Care in the Chapel



sponsored by the Deacons, will be served before our **Easter Morning Service on April 17th**. They will be serving eggs, bacon, sausage, toast and other treats with egg coffee. This will be a free will offering. **Deacons will be hosting Coffee Hour after church on Easter Sunday too.**

April 17th: 9:15 am Easter Sunday Communion Worship Service



Happy Birthday!!

In April

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

Please Join Us!

Come celebrate with Shirley Cutlar on Sunday, April 24th during Coffee Hour, in honor of her 90th Birthday, sponsored by the Deaconesses.

Let's all remember Shirley with a card!!

Sunday Offerings

We want thank you for sending in your generous weekly offering, and we ask that you continue to do so if you cannot attend indoor services.

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

Why Should We Support Church's Wider Missions?

A. To keep the church strong through sharing it's total resources and skills. OCWM ensures that smaller churches and churches lacking sufficient resources can continue to thrive. It also brings UCC Congregations to witness to parts of the U.S. and the world that have no similar expression of Christian witness.

B. To make the most efficient and practical use of money given for mission by utilizing partnership already in place and drawing on a wider range of expertise, experience, and opportunity for mission than is available at the local level.

C. To be a part of something larger than itself. As the congregation at its best is a place for individuals to gather, make connections with others, and develop into a nurturing community, so each congregation needs to gather and make connections with other congregations.

Our Mission of the Month for April – will be the McLeod County Emergency Food Shelf

From Our Pastor:

Easter....Eggs?

Easter for us Christians is the holiest of holidays, it marks the day our Savior Jesus Christ defeated death and through His resurrection, proving once and for all that He was indeed the Son of God. His resurrection affirms the prophecies and fulfills His promise of everlasting life to all who believed. What an incredible gift God has given in Christ! Easter carries extraordinary importance for believers in Jesus, more than any of us could imagine really. So how do we get from death and resurrection to bunnies and eggs? I mean, bunnies don't even lay eggs.

Have you ever wondered which came first the chicken or the egg, or in this case, the bunny or the egg? Well, believe it or not, I just might have some answers, and they're not all dreamt up by hallmark to sell more holiday cards. As it turns out, the egg pre-dates the bunny, at least as it applies to Easter, by some 500-years. There is evidence that eggs were given at spring festivals way back in ancient times, well before Jesus' time, to celebrate the new season. It didn't take long for early Christians to tie this tradition to Easter as representing new life and rebirth. In 1290 CE, King Edward I is said to have purchased 450 eggs which were colored and decorated and hidden around the property for his subjects to find, and the first Easter egg hunt was born. Later in the 18th century, the "pace egg" became popular. These elaborately decorated eggs were given as gifts, though they were also used to provide entertainment. Children would roll them down a hill, the egg that made it the furthest without out-breaking won the "egg roll." It is thought that this game started as a symbol of rolling away the stone from Jesus' tomb. Eventually, someone in England got the eggcellent idea to turn eggs into a chocolaty treat, and the rest is history.

So what about the bunny? The bunny is much less tied to anything representative of Easter except rabbits are well-known as prolific pro-creators and were an ancient symbol of fertility. From here, things get a little strange as some sources claim that the first "Easter Bunny" arrived on our shores sometime in the 1700s as German immigrants on the east coast. They brought with stories and traditions of the "Oschter Haws", an egg-laying rabbit. Children would make nets for this bunny to lay colored eggs. Eventually, chocolate and candy eggs replaced the real ones which gets us to the big question, which came first the bunny or the egg?

What I like about these traditions is they engage children in the story of Easter, even if they are a little strange. This Easter, while we're coloring or hiding eggs with our children, grandchildren, or the child within...remind them of the ancient symbolism behind easter eggs, that they represent new life and rebirth, reminding us of our new life and rebirth in Christ.

Happy Easter, Pastor Adam



Two of the most beautiful words in the English language are "I'm in."

I love hearing those words. Whether it's an invite to coffee or a last-minute road trip or a Bible Study or a celebration. **"I'm in" means, "Yes, let's do this. Together."**

Dr. Thom Rainer, in his book [*I Will*](#), talks about the attitude with which we approach church. We often think of it as, "I want ..." or "I am ...", but **Dr. Rainer challenges us to approach church as a place where we will say, "I will." I will worship. I will grow. I will serve. I will give. I will go. I will make a difference.**

It is becoming increasingly popular to go to church and to say, "I will" to many of these things, but not become a church member. And, admittedly, formal church membership is not in the Bible. The first century Christians didn't have to walk an aisle, fill out a communication card, or move their letter when they decided to be a part of the local body of believers.

But in order to truly have an attitude of "I will," we must also have an attitude of "I'm in." Church membership says, "I'm in. Yes, let's do this. Together."

Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near." **When we say, "I will" to church membership, we are committing to be concerned about one another and to encourage one another. We are committing to coming together to worship.**

Ephesians 3:10 speaks of our mission as the church, "This is so God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens." **When we say, "I will" to church membership, we are saying we will make known who God is.**

Saying "I will" to church membership is essentially saying, "I'm in." I will worship, go, give, serve, grow, make a difference because I'm in this. It is a commitment to God and to one another.

"I'm in. Yes, let's do this. Together!"

When we become members of the church, we are making a commitment to take an active role in worship and the work of the church. Last week during the special meeting there was a question about what is a quorum. And I think the answer is we don't know right now. Our membership list is long, but our attendance is small. In our UCC Statement of Faith, it says, **"He (Jesus) calls us into his Church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of people, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil....."** There is a cost to being Jesus' disciples, and it requires personal commitment to Him, to our church family, and to our world.

Showing up and saying "I'm in!" is essential to having a healthy church. If we want to be a healthy church, it's time to step up and say "I'm in!"

Virtually every Committee and Board in our church is short members-- **say I'm in!**", the list to read Scripture is virtually empty, **say I'm in!**", the list to host fellowship coffee is not full, **say "I'm in!"**. The need for different individuals to come forward and relieve the burdens of those who repeatedly say, **"I'M in!"** is urgent! Many active people in the church are feeling intense commitment fatigue with what they are doing at this time, please step up and say, **"I'M IN!"**

Our Website: firstcongochurch.org

Our E-Mail: Congoucc@gmail.com

Newsletter Deadline – Third Monday of the Month



Women's Fellowship Spring Board Meeting & Pot-Luck

Wednesday, April 27th

Please bring a dish to share. All women invited. Topics to review include funerals, by-laws update and Women's Fellowship Board elections for 2022-2023. Women's Fellowship Board meeting will proceed the meeting beginning at 4:30pm.

TIM ORTH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The 24th Annual Tim Orth Memorial Foundation Basketball Jamboree will be held at Glencoe/Silver Lake High School Gymnasium on Saturday, April 2nd. The doors open at 4:00 p.m. with the games beginning at 5:30 p.m. Admission for adults is \$10.00 and all students \$6.00.


Male and female area high school senior athletes will play two basketball games. Entertainment will be provided by Glencoe/Silver High School Danceline, Kelly's Dance Academy, Touch of Grace Dance, Hutch Key Club, Hutch Tigers Special Olympics, silent auction, plus much more.

The proceeds from this event will help defray medical expenses of Amelia Eiden (Hutchinson), Aspen Kern (Hutchinson), Miko Monroe (Hutchinson), Leland Wojcik (Silver Lake), Eeve Buss (Litchfield) and Austin Hobert (Cokato).

For more information call Ralph Johnson at 320-587-6733. Donations to the Tim Orth Foundation may be mailed to Ralph Johnson, 558 Juergens Rd, Hutchinson, Mn 55350.

We encourage you to attend this event. Thank You

April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Deacon of the Month: Troy Lehmann</p> <p>Deaconesses of the Month: Miriam Jungclauss</p> <p>Altar: Ann Wangerlin</p>					1	2
<p>3 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Confirmation</p>	4	5	6 Joint Lenten Service @ St. Paul's, Plato	7 11:00 am Bible Study @ Rhema's Shop	8	9
<p>10 Palm Sunday 9:15 Worship Service 9:30 -11:30 am Sunday School Confirmation</p>	11	12	13	14 No Bible Study 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service	15 10:00 am Good Friday Service @ Glenfield Living With Care in the Chapel	16
<p>17 Easter Breakfast 9:15 Easter Worship Service Deacon's Coffee Hour No Confirmation</p>	18	19	20 Noon-Trustee's Meeting 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting @ Church	21 11:00 am Bible Study @ Rhema's Shop	22	23
<p>24 9:15 Worship Service No Confirmation Coffee Hour - In Honor of Shirley Cutler's 90th Birthday Deacon's Meeting</p>	25	26	27 5:30pm Women's Fellowship Spring Meeting w/Pot-Luck	28 11:00 am Bible Study @ Rhema's Shop	29	30

First Congregational-UCC, Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 20, 2022 (following worship)

Pastor Adam Thompson led in prayer before the meeting. There were 30 members in attendance.

Ondrachek Fund Request

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Merlin Mackenthun. The first order of business was the Miriam Jungclaus request for \$2500 for medical expenses for her mother in Mexico. Her mother was hospitalized, required oxygen, and dialysis. A motion was made by Stan Hoof and seconded by Troy Lehmann to retroactively fund her request. There was discussion about the purpose of the request, the circumstances of the request, the need for congregational approval to spend the money, transparency in the decisions and use of church funds. It was pointed out that the money had already been spent and it came from the Christian Education checkbook. The checkbook was used due to the immediacy of the need and the expectation that it could be done with reimbursement from the Ondrachek Fund. Carmen Kienenberger stated that the Trustees voted to use the interest from the Ondrachek account to fund the request, and there wasn't a need for this meeting. Merlin Mackenthun disagreed and pointed out the specifics from the 2018 minutes of a congregational meeting. Ozzie Chapman stated that everyone knows what/how the Ondrachek funds can be used, and we shouldn't have to be explaining that again. Bridget Kienenberger asked how many members constituted a quorum. She requested that it be noted in the minutes. With the decline in attendance in church and the aging membership, the actual church membership is fluid. There are 30 members present at the meeting. The moderator called the question. The motion passed on a voice vote to reimburse the Christian Education checkbook from the Ondrachek funds with the understanding that we will not be doing "after the fact" disbursements of funds in the future.

Number of Church Checkbooks in Use

The second item on the agenda was the number of checkbooks in use in the church. Discussion included the following: Sue Bacon stated we need transparency and checkbooks should be left at church. Renee Lehmann suggested using payment online options especially for electric and common bills. Kelly Rach talked about designated funds. Chris Marsh suggested that all bills go to an accounting firm like SLS and that Roger Landon had looked into it a number of years ago. Kari Warner agreed with Chris's comment and Kelly Rach suggested SLS here in Glencoe. Ozzie Chapman noted in the past there was one checkbook. Troy Lehmann asked if there would be more input. Renee Lehmann asked where the funds to pay for an accounting/reporting service would come from. The Moderator replied the General Fund.

Bruckschen Will

There was a handout with language from the Bruckschen will determining how assets can be used. Betty Bruckschen's desire was for the church to use her funds for real estate with any interest to be used for charitable purposes.

Mission Giving

There was discussion about mission giving. Ken Stenzel reported that what goes to missions, local and non-local, is determined by what members put on their pledge cards. If you do not designate to missions or use special envelopes for it, there is nothing for the Benevolence Committee to give. Jim Benson had reported at the annual meeting that the only money given last year was a check that he and Karen put in the plate for one of the national UCC missions. Ken stated that typically whatever they receive goes to the UCC's Our Church's Wider Mission. Not enough is going out to missions through this committee and Christian Education has been giving to missions making it confusing for everyone.

Who Should Decide Where to Use Charitable Giving Funds from the Ondrachek and Bruckschen Memorials?

Moderator Merlin Mackenthun listed several possibilities: Memorial Committee, Trustees, Benevolence Committee, or the Church Council. He also stated that it would take a change in the constitution to make the council "the powers that be" because the council can only make decisions on

funds up to \$1000. Chris Marsh noted that a lot has happened since the constitution was updated in 2017. It may be time for revisions. Additional comments were made about inviting people to church; previously having two church families involved in banking and giving both business, but the change to Ameriprise removed the majority of funds from the local bank. There was also a question about memorials/operating funds being operated the way they are. Kelly Rach answered the question by saying basically because "that's the way it's always been done." Ozzie Chapman stated that no one has a claim on this church including the MN UCC Conference. A motion was made by Kelly Rach and seconded by Ken Stenzel to have the Benevolence Committee handle the Bruckschen Fund Interest. The motion carried.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Paula Bulau and seconded by Renee Lehmann to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote.

**** Note: Bridget Kienenberger has asked to be relieved as Church Clerk and Church Council Secretary. We will ask for volunteers in our upcoming bulletins and in April's newsletter. Anyone interested should contact Wendy in the church office, 320-864-3855 or Merlin Mackenthun at 320-864-3838**

Jan Mackenthun
Acting Church Clerk



Youth Gatherings and Retreats



Spring Youth Gathering

April 29—May 1
Camp Onomia, Onamia
6th-12th Grade



Rural Immersion for Middle School Youth July 11-13

Shalom Hill Farm, Windom
6th-8th Grade



Rural Immersion for High School Youth July 22-24

Shalom Hill Farm, Windom
9th-12th Grade



Fall Youth Gathering

October 7-9
Osprey Wilds, Sandstone
6th-12th Grade

Adult Retreats



Spiritual Immersion Through the Seasons

March 17-19 | Spring
Good Earth Village, Spring Valley

June 24-26 | Summer
Camp Onomia, Onamia



Women's Retreat September 9-11 Camp Onomia, Onamia



Men's Wilderness Retreat September 9-11 Camp Amnicon, South Range, WI

Women's Wilderness Retreat September 23-25 Camp Amnicon, South Range, WI

November 6-8 | Fall
Luther Crest, Alexandria

January 20-22, 2023 | Winter
Clearwater Forest, Deerwood

**Information and Registration
available now!**

**Please note that many of our
events have limited capacity
and registration deadlines.**

So, register early!

www.uccmn.org

Family & Intergenerational 1-Day Events

**Twin Cities Adventure Day
hosted by Camp Amnicon
Choose Your Day
July 6 or July 7**



*A day of canoeing, hiking, and other
outdoor fun for all ages in the Twin Cities area!*



**Green Island Spiritual and Sustainability
Farm Initiative
Wadena, MN
July 9
hosted by Kent Scheer at Green Island**