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**“At First”**  
**First Congregational UCC**  
**1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336**  
**Adam Thompson, Minister**  
**Church phone: 864-3855**

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**June/July-2022**



## **Congratulations To High School Graduates!**

- \*Caleb Richardson** graduated from Sibley East High School
- \*Annika Richardson** graduated from Sibley East High School
- \*Grace Patnaude** graduated from GSL High School
- \*Sofia Mattson** graduated from GSL High School

**Senior Recognition Sunday will be Sunday, June 5th during our 9:15 am Worship Service.** We wish our graduates God's Blessings as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

## **Thank You!**

all for helping to make **Spring Fling** a success! A special thank you to the family of Janet Winn, Bob Hoppe, the Ondrachek family, and First Congregational Special Music Fund for their generosity and financial support to make this event happen.

## **Pastor Adam**

will be attending the Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting the week-end of June 10th & 11th. The Meeting will be held at the College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN.

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## We Extend our Sympathy and Prayers to:

to the family of **Todd Hoese**. Todd passed away on April 29, 2022. His Memorial Service was held on May 4th at First Congregational Church.

## Strengthen The Church

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.** We will receive the Strengthen The Church Offering on June 12, 2022

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### June

3. Sean Kottke
7. Traci Schwarzrock  
Tricia Schilling  
Elsie Kottke
12. Crystal Marvan
16. Duane Mathews
17. Tim Hoese  
Kristin Berscheit
22. Dawn Hinojosa  
Carmen Hoese  
Amayah Cruz
23. Ramona Nagel
25. Carrie Bargmann
30. Maxwell Lehmann

### July

1. - Cameron Marvan
6. - Ella Kottke
12. - Norma McNeil
16. - Karen Stenzel
18. - Donna Lemke
19. - Carey Alsleben
20. - Lavender Kottke
21. - Sarah Maguire
22. - Ann Wangerin
23. - Nathan Richardson
24. - Avenna Kottke

What a year!

June marks one year since you welcomed me and my family into the First Congregational family and I couldn't have asked for a better community to come into! This past year was full of ministry firsts for me, preaching, leading worship, and communion. Funerals, confirmation, and Quinceaneras. Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter to name a few. The love and support my family and I have felt among this community is truly a blessing and the faith you have had that the Holy Spirit is at work within the church is inspiring.

The past year has been a time of exponential spiritual growth both personally and communally. This past year has been a time of great challenge as well, learning the new position of pastor in a new community all the while in school, serving as an intern and being a husband and father. Through it all, however, I have felt fully supported and deeply blessed in both the human and divine sense. I'm looking forward to what the future brings to us all.

Speaking of the future, let us all move into the summer months in prayerful discernment of where the Holy Spirit is leading us as individuals and as a collective. With Pentecost just around the corner, we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit that Jesus has bestowed upon His ancient disciples as well as us today. It is a gift to remind us of Jesus mission and ministry, a gift that empowers us to continue His mission and ministry, a gift to show us the way through our highest mountains and darkest valleys. In this world we live in, it is a gift we desperately need every day.

The chorus from the song "Holy Spirit" by Jesus Culture speaks, or rather sings of how we are all so very blessed by our great God and how the Holy Spirit is truly what our hearts long for.

*Holy Spirit You are welcome here  
Come flood this place  
And fill the atmosphere  
Your glory God  
Is what our hearts long for  
To be overcome  
By Your presence, Lord*

Peace,

Pastor Adam

**HELP!!**

***"Oh God, in this brutal moment we utter just one whispered word ... Help."***

**A prayer written after the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24, 2022**

***Help us, God.***

When 19 precious children and two of their teachers are murdered just days before the school year's end, when families are devastated beyond description, when yet another community is traumatized, when tears course down our cheeks at the sheer and unimaginable horror of it...

***Help us, God.***

When one tragedy follows closely after another, when 10 innocent lives are lost to gun violence while buying groceries on a Spring Saturday in Buffalo, when one is killed and five injured in a Taiwanese American church at worship on a Sunday morning, when racial hatred is weaponized by a hater with a gun..

***Help us, God.***

When gun violence erupts in churches and synagogues and mosques, in schools and concerts and night clubs, when week after week and year after year the same death-dealing pattern of mass killings and mass grief plague our nation and break our hearts....

***Help us, God.***

When these tragedies fail to change us, when 'thoughts and prayers' don't convert to meaningful action, when our inaction results in the inevitability of yet more violence and unfathomable loss....

***Help us, God.***

When our grief overwhelms us, when our despair leaves us hopeless, when the sheer awfulness of things renders us speechless...

Oh God, in this brutal moment we utter just one whispered word....

**Help.**

***Written by Reverend Shari Prestemon, Conference Minister of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ.***

# June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deaconesses of the Month: Jan Mackertun Deacon:			1	2	3	4
5 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Graduation Recognition Strengthen the Church Offering	6	7	8	9	10 Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting	11 Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting
12 9:15 am Worship Service Strengthen the Church Offering	13	14	15 Noon-Trustee's Meeting	16	17	18 Patnaude Using Church
19 9:15 am Worship Service	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 8:15 am Worship Service Deacon's Meeting	27	28	29	30		

# July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deaconesses: Miriam Jungdaus Deacon: Mike Dahlke					1	2
3 8:15 am Communion Worship Service	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 8:15 am Worship Service	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 8:15 am Worship Service	18	19	20 Noon-Trustee's Meeting	21	22	23
24 8:15 am Worship Service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 8:15 am Worship Service Deacon's Meeting						