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

Church phone: 320-864-3855

Church Email- [office@firstcongochurch.org](mailto:office@firstcongochurch.org)

Church Website: [firstcongochurch.org](http://firstcongochurch.org)

*Adam Thompson, Minister*

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March 2023



**All Services begin at 7:00 p.m.**

**March 1st - St. Paul's Plato**  
Al Fiene preaching

**March 8th - Frieden's County Line**  
Pastor Scott Siefert preaching

**March 15th - First Congregational**  
Pastor Brian Brosz preaching

**March 22nd - St. John's Bongards**  
12984 Co Rd 51, Norwood/YA  
Pastor Adam Thompson  
preaching

**March 29th - St. Paul's, Plato**  
Pastor Brian Brosz preaching

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### **Easter Lilies**

If you would like to purchase a lily in memory of or in honor of a loved for our Easter Service on April 9th, please call the church office @ 864-3855. Price is too be determined!! Deadline to order is April 4th.



There will be a **Soup Supper** before the Joint Lenten Service on **Wednesday, March 15th from 5:30-6:45pm**

A Free Will Offering will be taken for Missions.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

The United Church of Christ uses the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** to reach more than 80 countries! Your gift serves people in the United States and around the world through these compassionate ministries like Disaster preparedness and response – international and domestic; International sustainable development, and Refugee assistance and advocacy. Most of your offering supports long-term development work in education, health care, agricultural development, and other means to improve community conditions.

**First Congregational will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering along with other Congregations on Sunday, March 19th during the our Worship Service.**

### Happy Birthday To:

- 3. Abbie Raiter  
Emelia Kottke
- 7. Janet Willand  
Devin Forcier
- 8. Joan Chapman  
Patti Olson  
Joe Adrian
- 9. Cindy Patnaude  
Brantley Forcier
- 10. Patricia Schilling  
Christina Bargmann
- 11. Gale Hoese
- 13. Roxanne Mathews  
Bailey Mathews
- 19. Valerie Dahlke
- 24. Brooke Rowan
- 26. Grace Patnaude
- 28. Carmen Kienenberger

### On The Job In March

Deacon of Month: Randy Warner

Charge of Altar: Ann Wangerin



2023

MN Food Share

MARCH CAMPAIGN

[www.mcleodemergencyfoodshelf.org/donate](http://www.mcleodemergencyfoodshelf.org/donate)

Donate

by mail, onsite or online

FEB 27 - APRIL 10

Your gift is multiplied

by the

FOOD FUND!

Donations accepted throughout the campaign period & must be received by 1:00 PM 4/10/23 to multiply!

DONATION LOCATIONS & HOURS

719 13th St E Glencoe 55336  
498 Hwy 7 E Hutchinson 55350

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Friday 8:00 AM-1:00 PM  
& Thursday 3:00 PM-8:00 PM

McLeod Emergency Food Shelf is a tax-exempt organization as described by IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). EIN #41-1470226. Donations are tax deductible as the goods or services are provided or exchanged for contribution. Donor information is not sold, shared, or traded without written consent. Donor info: 11-12, 2022 Expenses: Programming 50%; Administrative 30%; Fundraising 11%. \*Multiplied funds based on the number of people served throughout the previous calendar year and the amount raised during the campaign period.

## **From Pastor Adam**

Can we be honest? The Season of Lent, which we have just entered and occupies all of March, is not an easy Season for us as modern followers of Jesus. The reason for this hasn't changed and is found in the very nature and purpose of Lent. Originally, Lent was the time when converts to Christianity were instructed in the faith and prepared to make their commitment to become followers of Jesus through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Part of their preparation was instruction, so they understood the repentance that was required to embark on this new way of life. To follow Jesus in the first century, and in every century since, including now, calls for a turning away from the dominant ways of society and culture to embrace a way of life that is clearly countercultural. The way of Jesus is not the way of ensuring America's superiority. The way of Jesus does not lead to higher profits, a rising stock market, greater military and border security, especially if that must take place at the expense of any human beings and their life and welfare.

Over the centuries Lent became a season of spiritual practices for all Christians in order to prepare our hearts for Easter. Those practices acknowledged that we have a continual need to examine our lives, our practices, our walk with God and to repent and return to a more faithful walk. Just as a marriage or a friendship needs constant attention and development to be healthy and beneficial for both partners, the same is true for our relationship with God.

One of those spiritual practices is fasting. But too often we have trivialized fasting by making it only about food. Typically, we "give up" or "fast" from treats or sweets, things we might miss but do not truly inconvenience us or lead us to reflect on deep changes that we maybe need to consider making in our lives. The prophet Isaiah, in the words below, call us to consider the fact that God truly desires as a sign of sincere repentance and renewal for our lives.

Yes, Lent is tough! And one more reason it is tough is that it reminds us that we need help to walk the way of Jesus. It is not a stroll in the park. It is a hard path that calls for sacrifice, and service for others, and involves picking up and carrying a cross. Jesus knew he could not do it alone, which is why he called others to join Him, It's why He created a community. Let's be that community!

Peace, Pastor Adam

**This is the kind of fast I'm after: to break the chains of  
injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace,  
free the oppressed, cancel debts. – Isaiah**



# Friday, March 24th 7pm-9am

**Who:** Middle and High School Youth and their friends.

**What:** Fun, Food, Faith, and Friends (maybe sleep)

**Where:** 1st Congregational

**When:** Friday, March 24th

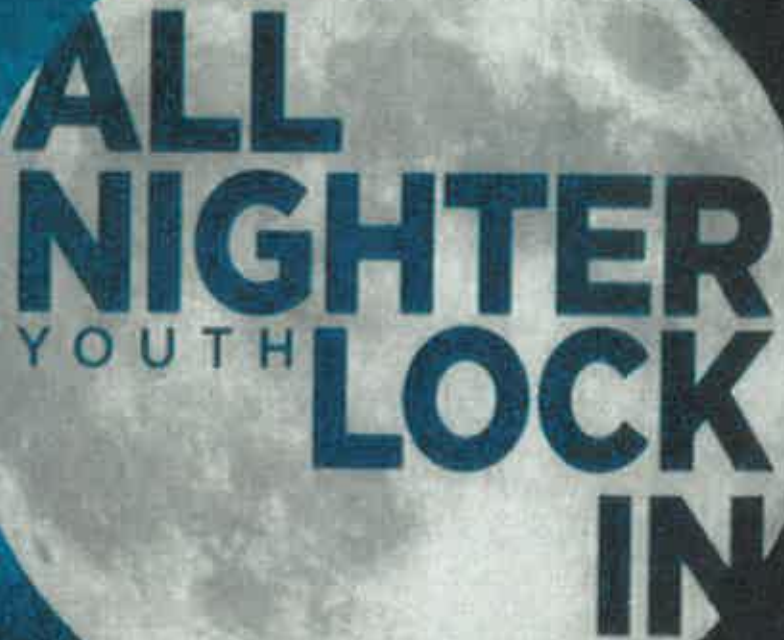
Drop-off @ 7pm

Pick-up @ 9am

**Why:** Why Not

RSVP by March 12th to Pastor Adam

[pastor@firstcongochurch.org](mailto:pastor@firstcongochurch.org)



**ALL  
NIGHTER  
YOUTH  
LOCK  
IN**

# March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Deacon of the Month: Randy Warner</p> <p><u>Altar</u>: Ann Wangerin</p>			<p>1 7:00 pm Joint Lenten Service @ St Paul's UCC Plato</p>	2	3	4
<p>5 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Confirmation CE Group Leaders Meeting</p>	6	7	<p>8 7:00 pm Joint Lenten Service @ Frieder's UCC Norwood/YA</p>	9	10	11
<p>12 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School Confirmation</p>	13	14	<p>15 7:00 pm Joint Lenten Service @ First Congregational 5:30-6:45 pm Soup Supper</p>	16	17	18
<p>19 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School Confirmation One Great Hour of Sharing Offering</p>	20	21	<p>22 7:00 pm Joint Lenten Service @ St. John's UCC Bongards</p>	23	24 YOUTH All Nighter Lock-In Drop Off @ 7:00pm Pick-Up @ 9:00 am	25
<p>26 9:15 am Worship Service Confirmation Deacon's Meeting</p>	27	28	<p>29 Noon-Trustee's Meeting 7:00 pm Joint Lenten Service @ St. Paul's UCC Plato 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting</p>	30	31	