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## **“At First”**

**First Congregational UCC**

**1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336**

**Church phone: 864-3855**

***Adam Thompson; Pastor***

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

***Facebook Page: First Congregational Church, Glencoe***

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**July/August 2023**

### **July 2nd – Online Service Only**

Enjoy church from your couch, lake, campsite, as worship will be **ONLINE ONLY**, streaming live from "Up North". We'll be back in church with **communion on July 9th!**

### **Join Us!! For Fellowship @ First**

to be held on **Wednesday, July 12th & August 9th at 6:00 pm**. We are a community interested in experiencing God's activity...together for a meal, music, and worship. Meals **begins at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall followed by a time of music and worship. Everyone is Welcome!! No Charge – Freewill offering accepted.**

### **UCC Community “Worship in the ‘Son’shine and Picnic**

Mark your calendars for a special joint UCC Outdoor Worship Service and potluck picnic on **Sunday, July 30th – 10:30am @ Baylor Park Beach Shelter**. Sign-up sheet to bring a dish in the back of the church. There will be **no in-church worship that day**.

### **Christian Education Planning Meeting**

Those with family members involved in the **Sunday School and Confirmation program for 2023-2024 will meet after church on August 13th**, to develop plans for the upcoming year. Volunteers are needed for the programs to succeed. We'll discuss curriculum and schedules. Q's? Contact Pastor Adam or Bridget K.

### **Save the Date!**

Sunday School and Confirmation resume **September 17th** with Kick-Off Sunday. Details to follow!

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## Birthday's

### July

- 1. - Cameron Marvan
- 6. - Ella Kottke
- 12. - Norma McNeil
- 16. - Karen Stenzel
- 19. - Carey Alsleben
- 20. - Lavender Kottke
- 21. - Sarah Maguire
- 22. - Ann Wangerin
- 23. - Nathan Richardson
- 24. - Avenna Kottke
- 28. - Angela Bolt  
Sofie Thompson  
Grace Thompson

### July

Deacon: Mike Dahlke  
Altar: Ann Wangerin

### August

- Aug 5-Jeanette Miller  
Sandy Bargmann
- Aug 7-Sherri Geise
- Aug 10-Kelsey Dahlke
- Aug 12-Mike Dahlke
- Aug 14-Stevieona  
Olson'Neely
- Aug 15-Anthony Hanson
- Aug 19-Brian Nagel
- Aug 22-Daniel Maguire  
Erica McClaskey
- Aug 24-Sue Bacon
- Aug 25-Annika  
Richardson  
Caleb Richardson
- Aug 29-Joel Thompson
- Aug 30-Ed Patnaude

### August

Deacon: Robert Navarro  
Altar: Ann Wangerin

## Annual Reports Are Needed!

It is time to start thinking about getting your Committee's Annual Report to me. My hours are limited at church so I am going have to have everyone get their reports to me early. Annual Meeting will be **Sunday, October 29th**. Thanks! Wendy

### For Annual Meeting

In preparation for our upcoming Annual Meeting, please review your personal information in the 2021/2022 Annual Report and let me know if you've had any changes (i.e. address, phone, email, etc.). If any changes are needed, please call **Wendy on Tuesdays or Wednesdays between 9am and 2pm with your changes!!**

Please let us know if you or a family member chooses to be removed from our membership list. Also, let us know if your birthday dates are being listed incorrectly. Your help is greatly appreciated!

### Please Note!

Email addresses

Wendy/church office - [office@firstcongochurch.org](mailto:office@firstcongochurch.org)

Pastor Adam - [pastor@firstcongochurch.org](mailto:pastor@firstcongochurch.org)



**From Pastor Adam:**

**Small but mighty**

A few weeks ago, I had the honor of attending the Annual Meeting of the MN Conference of the United Church of Christ. Pastors, lay leaders, and members of local churches gathered from every corner of Minnesota. Despite the geographic variety, a common theme was shared...what one was, is no longer. Story after story of once full pews, boards, committees are now a memory and little hope was voiced of returning to that former "glory". Conference Minister, Rev. Shari Prestermon clued us into, what was at first, disturbing statistic; that 71% of MN UCC churches are worshipping with 50 people or less.

It's kind of a good news, bad news situation. On one hand, we are not the only ones who have a small congregation, on the other hand, it raises the question of what is going to happen to us, to the UCC, or the broader Church?

So, what's a church to do, what do we as First Congregation do? I feel we have a few options, keep on keeping on till we can keep on no more, or embrace this point in history as something new God is doing in us. The first option is about hope, but it is a hope built from expectation and anticipation. It is based on doing the same old thing and expecting, anticipating, hoping things will return to what they once were. It is not a hope founded in Christ but rather desiring for familiarity. The second option is also about hope; however, this hope is putting expectation aside, losing ourselves to what once was and opening to what the Holy Spirit may bring our way. It is about accepting where we as a church are at this moment in time and knowing, not wishing, not expecting, not anticipating some great change, but knowing God is right here with us feeling our concern, worry, but also our joy, which brings us hope.

So let us rejoice in our small church because in hope we are mighty.

Peace,

Pastor Adam

**Pastor Adam is going on vacation July 13th-19th**

**Sue Goebel will be leading worship on July 16th**

## **COMMON CUP MINISTRIES**

**Back to School Supplies Drive** - With summer underway, it's never too soon to begin gathering school supplies for the August Supply distribution! Nineteen McLeod County churches are participating in this project. All churches have been asked to provide 20 backpacks, plus other school supplies. Our July goal is to reach \$700. How to donate: use the envelopes at church, mail your donation to the church or donate on-line!

**School Supply Distribution** is **August 17th in Glencoe** at Lincoln School, from 3:00-6:00pm. Pre-register by calling the Common Cup Office at 320-587-2213.

**Swim Free** at the Hutch Aquatic Center this summer. **The dates are Sunday, July 9th and July 23rd from 5:00 – 8:00 pm.**

**Fare For All** continues to go well with about 100 families are being served. Volunteers are always welcome. Contact the Common Cup Office for details.

### **Other Needs**

- 1-2 person tents, tent mats or pads.
- Road ready adult bikes; these can be dropped off at Christ the King Church



# July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deacon: Mike Dathke Alter: Ann Wangerin						1
2 9:15 am ONLINE Worship Service	3	4 Happy 4th of July! Office Closed	5 Wendy Vacation	6	7	8
9 8:15 am Communion Worship Service	10	11	12 6:00pm Fellowship @ First	13 Pastor On Vacation	14 Pastor On Vacation	15 Pastor On Vacation
16 9:15 am Worship Service Sue Goebel - Guest Minister Pastor On Vacation	17 Pastor On Vacation	18 Pastor On Vacation	19 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting Pastor On Vacation	20 Noon-Trustee's Meeting	21	22
23 9:15 am Worship Service Deacon's Meeting	24	25	26 4:30pm Stewardship/Benevolence Meeting	27	28	29
30 10:30 am UCC Outdoor Worship Service and Potluck Picnic @ Baylor Park, Norwood	31					

# August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deacon: Robbie Navarro Altar: Ann Wangerin		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:15 am Communion Worship Service	7	8	9 6:00 pm Fellowship @ First	10	11 Alyson Winn Wedding Rehearsal	12 4:00 pm Winn/Lagergren Wedding
13 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School Meeting 11:00 am - 3:00pm Winn Gathering	14	15	16 Noon- Trustee's Meeting 7:00 pm Church council	17	18	19
20 9:15am Worship Service	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:15 am Worship Service Deacon's Meeting	28	29	30	31		

## McLeod Food Shelf

Hello, Can You Help Out!

**McLeod Food Shelf's Summer Ca\$h Campaign runs the month of July.** All cash donations will be applied toward a proportionate matching grant, which means MORE MEALS for food shelf shoppers!

Traditionally, summer is a busy time at McLeod Food Shelf and this summer is making ranks as the busiest in our history. We're consistently serving 30% more than last year and the trend is projected to continue as the high cost of living consumes grocery budgets.

Eat Well - Live Well,  
Lennie Albers, Executive Director  
McLeod Food Shelf

**Glencoe Business Office & Distribution Site**  
**719 13th St E - Glencoe**  
**320-864-2088**  
**[glencoe@mcleodemergencyfoodshelf.org](mailto:glencoe@mcleodemergencyfoodshelf.org)**

**Hutchinson Distribution Site**  
**498 Hwy 7 E - Hutchinson**  
**320-587-4796**

**Mobile Outreach - Driving Away Hunger**  
**Serving Hutchinson, Brownton, Stewart, Winsted, Plato, Lester Prairie, & Silver Lake**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**Church Council Minutes**  
**April 12, 2023**

(The March Meeting was not held due to limited Council member availability.)

**Members Present:** Troy Lehmann, Jan Willand, Carmen Kienenberger, Kari Warner, Stan Hoof, Jim Cox, Bridget Kienenberger

1. **Call To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Stan at 7:00pm.
2. **Opening Prayer** - Our opening prayer was given by Pastor Adam.
3. **February Minutes** - Motion to approve the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting was called. Stan noted that in the Trustees Report that the report from Mike Dahlke was not attached. Carmen will follow up to submit Mike's report. The remaining minutes were approved as written.
4. **Pastor's Report/Update** –
  - Jan and Merlin Mackenthun have requested to be removed from our church membership, moving to a church in Hutchinson. This request was referred to the Deacons for approval.
  - An Easter Egg Hunt was held after church, Easter Sunday. A plethora of eggs were distributed for all ages to seek and find.
  - Confirmation is scheduled for May 7 with three students currently in class. They are Maxwell Lehmann, Teagan Mueller and Emily Jungclaus.
  - Pastor Adam concludes his Chaplaincy Training at HCMC this week, which apply to class hours. Spring registration is beginning and he's considering one or two classes.
  - Plans for our church's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Spring Fling" event are underway. Permitting has been submitted to State, County and City departments. Food vendors and bands have been contracted with, advertising is being prepared and fundraising comes hand-in-hand. It was recommended that we advertise through various sources this year in paper & on a variety of websites, etc. Pastor Adam will reach out to Women's Fellowship for partial funding.
  - A group from church, including confirmands, will be filling ManaPack meals this Saturday along with St. John's Bongard's UCC and other churches. All are welcome to help at this event.
  - Pastor Adam commented that he would like the church to review our Mission/Vision and Core Value Statement over the summer.
  - Fellowship at First Program – Pastor Adam feels it's time to consider the future of this new program to determine if we should continue, alter or end the program. People who organized the group will meet next Wednesday April 19<sup>th</sup>) to discuss its future.

**5. Committee Reports**

- **Trustee's Report** – Carmen reported that the plan to move funds from the Miska account to a Lord Abbot account with 4.5% interest did not happen. We found out that the account was only open to business accounts. Rather, the money was put into CE's with a 4.3 % rate.

<u>February Pledges for</u>		<u>Total Pledges</u>		<u>Total Pledges for the Year</u>	
2023	\$4,545	2023	\$50,727	2023	\$52,000
2022	\$6,876	2022	\$71,754	2033	\$74,000



- Brian Nagel was contacted to determine the problem with water leaking into the ceiling light below the Pre-School bathroom. Brian reports the toilet is cracked as well as the plumbing lines below it. He will take a camera image to determine the extent of damage. The floor is cement with steel rods. Bridget and Kari noted that this is an important as the pre-school toilet is used frequently. Sending them further down the hall or downstairs without supervision would not be appropriate. Bridget motioned and Troy seconded the motion to urge the Trustees to repair and replace this unit. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Christian Education** – There are 3 remaining weeks of Sunday School before Celebration Sunday on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Amy Smith has stepped up as a steady class leader and is interested in organizing the program for 2023-2024. Until other young people join the church SS classes there will be three moving forward this fall. Vickie Schultz's two grandchildren and Amy's son make up the unit moving forward. The CE Committee will talk with them to determine who will chair and report to the Church Council.

Christian Ed will host the Confirmand's Party after church May 7<sup>th</sup> and arrange for the robes, bibles, flowers, and photos.

Bridget will speak with Women's Fellowship to entertain and serve for Celebration Sunday, has been our custom.

- **Deacons** –

- Several Deacons have stepped up to help Mike Dahlke with minor repairs in the building. An electrical repair was made to a light in the sanctuary.
- The Easter Breakfast was well received. Honors go to Jim Cox for the Waffle Station!
- A question was raised as to where the funds received will go (i.e. a Deacon's account similar to Christian Ed., and Benevolence. Carmen will talk with the Trustees at their meeting next week (May 19). Comments were raised about our work with SLS including how committees can track their accounts, late fees on bills incurred by the church, etc.
- Troy asked how much longer we will be assessing the relationship between our two groups. Kelly is working with SLS to organize a meeting with the Trustees and Wendy. This topic will be tabled till our May Church Council Meeting.
- **Deaconesses** – Jan reported that others have been stepping in to help with prepping for Communion. Thank You to Troy and Randy for setting up last week, unannounced, and to Miriam who is scheduled for our next service.

## 6. **Old Business**

- **Janitor's Closet Security** – Insurance requires this door to be locked. Issues have arisen about the lack of keys, keys/lock not working, etc. Carmen volunteered to look at the lock/key situation and take action.

## **7. New Business**

### **• Need to Fill Vacant Positions**

- a. **Assistant Moderator** - Stan expressed concern that this committee didn't have an assistant moderator. While some thought we did and some thought we didn't, Troy made a motion, seconded by Kari, to nominate Jim Cox to this position. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.
  - b. **Pastoral Relations Chair** – When Stan took over the leadership of the Church Council, he no longer qualified to hold the position on the Pastoral Relations Committee. Currently Mike Dahlke and Duane Matthews serve on this board. Bridget suggested that a woman could add a different perspective. Ramona Nagel and Alison Winn were among several people suggested. Stan will reach out to them to assess their interest.
- **Moving Forward on the Church's Heating System** – Troy asked when Mike would get the approval to solicit bids for the replacement of the heating system. Carmen stated that Brian Nagel had been asked to look into vendors. He would see that Mike and Brian work together to obtain bids.
  - **Managing Church Files/Documents** –Bridget noted that the Church Council was in search of a copy of the Constitution which brought up questions about where vital information is stored. She suggested that a file cabinet in the Pastor's Office be designated for important documents including Church Council records as well as those Boards and Committees. A question was raised about whether we have a safe deposit box at a bank and what it might hold.
  - Bridget also noted that numerous comments have been made about errors in the weekly church bulletin with varying degrees of importance. Jim noted that Pastor Adam needs to approve all work before printing. It was suggested that Stan and Bridget, as members of the Personnel Committee, meet with Wendy to express concerns and work toward a resolution. Stan will schedule a time with Wendy.

8. **Motion to Adjourn** – Carmen motioned and Troy seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00PM: Motion carried unanimously.

### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, May 17, 7pm, Fellowship Hall

Minutes provided by Bridget Kienenberger

(Church Council Minutes April 12 23)

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**Church Council Minutes**  
**May 17, 2023**

**Attending:**

Members Present - Troy Lehmann, Jan Willand, Carmen Kienenberger, Stan Hoof, Bridget Kienenberger      Pastor Adam Thompson      Members Absent: Kari Warner, Jim Cox  
Guests: Mike Dahlke and Brian Nagel

1. **Call To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Stan at 7:05pm.
2. **Opening Prayer** - Our opening prayer was given by Pastor Adam.
3. **Motion to Approve April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes** - Approved as written (Carmen – Troy)
4. **Report on the Church's Climate System – Boilers and Air Conditioning**

Brian and Mike brought the Council up-to-date on the procedures being taken weekly to maintain the boiler system. The current boiler system that heats the sanctuary, fellowship hall and kitchen is about 40 years old and wearing out. There are concerns that this may be the last winter it operates. Water conditioning has not been kept up leading to the inner pipes becoming corroded and weak. Replacement parts are not available for all components of the system. (The Education Wing has its own boiler system.) The State requires this system to be inspected daily (water lines, elevation) due to its BTU size. (We do not have an individual in the building every day of the week to meet this requirement. Church Council has considered having Deacons and others who live in town volunteer to commit to taking a day of the week to spread out the duty.) The air conditioning units, on top of the church were installed 15-17 years ago and require special maintenance that Brian could provide.

Brian and Mike believe it would take 3 forced air furnaces (which would have their own A/C) to take the place of the old boiler. The newer boiler would remain to continue serving the Education wing. Energy savings from this replacement would be considerable. Removal of the old system could require knocking out walls. It is possible to put the furnaces in different areas but venting could be an issue. WI FI would still be required in the boiler room. Also to be considered would be geo-thermal on the north side of the building (space issue?).

Brian contacted vendors this past winter to get bids for this work but all had taken on jobs for summer, 2023 and weren't interested. A rough estimate for the removal/replacement of the heating system is a minimum of \$80,000. Center Point Energy and Energy Star have good rebate programs.

Mike was asked to reach out to vendors now for a 2024 project. Chapel Central Inc (Willmar), Schultz Co (?) and Foster Mechanical, who services GRHS were suggested as a start.

**Other Building Maintenance Issues:**

- The purchase of a sump pump (and supplies) for the elevator room and permits to run the sump pump into the sanitary sewer.
- Bring in black dirt on the east side of the Christian Ed building to correct drainage issues against the building.
- Air vents on the heating systems in the classrooms: These are very dangerous and if knocked off, could cause harm to the individual. It was recommended that the pipes be drained when the system is replaced and the air vents be removed. (Brian).

**5. Pastor's Report**

- Spring Fling has been fully funded through the Pastor's Fund, Christian Education, Women's Fellowship and Bruckschen interest. Great weather is predicted. To Be

Continued, the group we're partnered with, will participate and have a table with literature. A donation box will be set on their table. Stan requested a table to distribute children's Gideon Bibles. Lazy loon will be providing food service and is setting up Sunday morning. City picnic tables and street barricades will be in place. All volunteer slots have been filled!

- Church Sign at 12<sup>th</sup> and Elliott – Pastor Adam presented a new sign design suggestion to replace the one currently on the corner. Suggestions were given for alterations (arrow & wording). Troy volunteered to get an estimate for the new sign and will send it to the Trustees for approval.
- Pastor Adam is working with Scott Siefert (Bongards church) to gather four UCC churches and Pastor Penny for a joint Church Service at Baylor Park on July 30<sup>th</sup> (10:30AM) with a pot-luck meal to follow. The Beach Shelter is reserved for this event. A committee of two members per church is being formed to work out the details. Carmen volunteered to be a representative from our church. It was noted that the park usually has an admission charge per car and people need to be advised of this in the publicity. Maybe the fee could be waived or reduced for this event?
- Minnesota's Annual UCC Conference will be held June 9 & 10 at St Benedictine College. Pastor Adam has a program schedule listing class offerings, which he will make available to the congregation.
- Mission of the Month – Jim Benson has informed Pastor Adam that there is no money available for missions. Pastor Adam plans to hold a meeting of the Missions and Benevolence Committees to join forces in presenting a "mission of the month" where special donations are set aside for these purposes.
- Annual Licensure Renewal - Pastor Adam's license comes up for renewal in July. The UCC has provided a form required to be completed by Pastor Adam and the church related to a number of requirements and guarantees. Stan volunteered to collect the information related to the church.
- Summer School – Pastor Adam will be attending a 4 day class June 20 – 24, which will require him to miss the Trustees and Church Council meetings on June 21. He has also requested that the Deacons provide a guest pastor for Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> as he will be unable to prepare a sermon that week.
- Fellowship At First started up again with a revised program after the Easter season. They will meet monthly on the first Wednesday after Communion Sunday.
- Jill Warner, New Journey in Hutchison, is putting together a group to discuss and share ideas to build community within churches.
- Revised Common Lectionary Study – Christ Lutheran Church is organizing a pastor's group meeting on Wednesdays at 1PM, to discuss the weekly Lectionary text and bring together churches from Hutchinson, Glencoe, Lester Prairie and Silver Lake.
- Our Play Structure needs a fence. Pastor Adam is looking for inexpensive ways to fence it in the structure (w/gate) and volunteers to do the job. Mike Dahlke will look into it!

## 6. Committee Reports

- Trustees - The Trustees met with the SLS representative and Wendy to discuss ways to improve service. SLS will keep all First Congo recordkeeping in Glencoe to speed up the process. The fees were discussed and it was learned that the monthly fee will be \$300/month – not the \$150/month we originally understood it would be. This will increase our annual expense for the service to \$3,600. Discussion followed about reconciling statements, gathering input from Kelly and conversations with Wendy before any decision to withdraw from our relationship with SLS.

Pledges Year to date: April 2023 \$ 62,256      April, 2022 \$ 88,300

- Christian Education - Celebration Sunday takes place May 21<sup>st</sup> with a short program during the church service. Women's Fellowship will pay for the refreshments served by the Deacons. Seven hundred Fifty dollars will be given to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Fling. Expenses will cover the Bouncy House and generator, face painting and a portion of the music and advertising.
- Deacons – The Deacons approved the request of membership removal from Jan and Merlin Mackenthun.
- Deaconesses – Miriam J. and Ann W. have been helping with the alter upkeep.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

- Office Supply Room and Church Records Stan and Bridget - Stan reported on a clean-up morning held with Bridget and Wendy to reorganize supplies and dispose of out of date records and materials. Committees were notified of materials that belonged to them and a request for them to review and dispose of out-of-date materials, too. Bridget reported that one committee requested space to keep materials that can be distributed to new members.. Further, she suggested that there could be space set aside for other Committee's to keep important files or to assign them a file cabinet drawer for this use.

Certain files, currently kept off-site, should be placed in the file cabinet in Pastor Adam's office which can be locked. They would include Personnel Files, Background Checks, Search and Call Records, the Church Constitution, Annual Church Minutes and Annual Reports. A list of who can have access to this material should be developed. We learned that there is a safety deposit box at Security Bank where legal documents are kept. Currently, keys to Pastor Adam's file cabinet and the Security Bank safety box are held by Wendy. It was also recommended that the church keys, kept in Pastor Adam's cabinet be cleaned up.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### 9. MOTION TO ADJOURN

- Carmen motioned and Troy seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm. Motion carried unanimously.

**Next Meeting**  
Wednesday, June 21, 7pm, Fellowship Hall