
First Congregational UCC "At First"

1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336

Church Phone: 320-864-3855

Website: firstcongochurch.org

E-Mail: congoucc@gmail.com

Rev. Adam Thompson; Pastor

January 2024

Baptism

Isla Michelle Aagaard was baptized on December 10, 2023 during our Worship Service. Her parents are Kayla Marie Salmela and Jacob Lucas Aagaard. Isla was born February 10, 2023 at GRHC. Godparents are Logan Aagaard, Kara Salmela, Lexis Werner and Tanner Novack.

Pastor Adam officiated.

Little Free Library

The Confirmation class is almost ready to install the Little Free Library! If you have books that you would like to donate, please feel free to bring them to church.

You can drop them off in the office during Pastor Adam's or Wendy's office hours-Mon 9am-5pm, Tues-9am-3pm, Wed-9am-8pm. Or just bring them on Sunday.

We will be collecting them on the pew in the connecting area. If you would like them to be picked up from your home, please let Pastor Adam know.

Thank you for your support!

Church Envelopes

Please use your offering envelopes from the church, when possible, by not using the envelopes it makes it more difficult for them to keep track of your offerings. You still have the option of having your pledges taken directly out of your savings or checking account.

Call the church office at 864-3855 for more information OR go to First Congregational - Online Giving. This is a quick and easy way to give, go our website at:

www.firstcongochurch.org/serve/online-giving/.

Member Information

People are dropping their land line phones and going only with their cell phone, please let the church office know your phone number so we can keep our church directory up to date.

Also, if you have any changes in your e-mail address, home address, birthdays, please make sure to contact the church office at **864-3855** OR **EMAIL: office@firstcongochurch.org**

On The Job In January

Deacon of the Month: Bruce Magnuson
In Charge of the Altar: Ann Wangerin



2. Rebecca Forcier
4. Dawn Shemanek
5. Tammy Hanson
Renee Lehmann
6. Evon Draeger
7. Karl Warner
19. Karen Hendricksen
Sam McNellis
20. Jessica Richardson
23. Colton Robb
27. Allen Trocke
31. Ariana Bolt

Shut-In Visits

If you would like a visit, please contact Pastor Adam at church, 320-864-3855, or his cell #952-239-5893 or email: ajthompson2@comcast.net.

A Prayer for the New Year

Dear God, Thank you for making all things new. Thank you for all that you allowed into our lives this past year, the good and the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day. As we enter a new year, we pray for strengthened spirits that we may praise you properly by our thoughts, words and deeds, Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Pastor's Page:

Embracing New Beginnings: A January Journey of Reflection and Renewal

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, the month of January beckons us into a season of reflection, renewal, and anticipation. In the tapestry of time, each year is a unique thread woven with the colors of joy, challenges, and shared experiences. As we bid farewell to the old and welcome the new, let us embark on this journey together with hearts full of gratitude, spirits ready for renewal, and a deep sense of commitment to our faith and community.

In the quiet moments of reflection, let us consider the chapters that unfolded in the past year. We've celebrated weddings, welcomed new members into our church family, and supported each other through trials. The tapestry of our shared experiences is rich with threads of resilience, compassion, and unwavering faith. Let us carry forward the lessons learned and the love shared, using them as stepping stones into the uncharted territory of the coming months.

January, with its crisp air and the promise of new beginnings, is a canvas awaiting the brushstrokes of our collective journey. It is a season of renewal, akin to the earth beneath the winter frost that holds the promise of spring blooms. In this season of renewal, let us seek opportunities for personal and spiritual growth, individually and as a community. May we be inspired to shed old habits that no longer serve us, making room for the blossoming of new possibilities and deeper connections.

Our church is not just a gathering place; it is a living, breathing community bound together by faith, love, and shared values. As we navigate the unknowns of the year ahead, let us renew our commitment to being a source of support, compassion, and love for one another. Whether it's reaching out to those who may feel isolated or lending a helping hand to those in need, let us embody the essence of community in every action and interaction.

As we stand at the intersection of the old and the new, let us embark on this journey with hearts open to the possibilities that lie ahead. Together, let us script a narrative of faith, love, and community that transcends the boundaries of time. May our collective light shine brightly, guiding us through any challenges and illuminating a path toward a future filled with hope, joy, and fulfillment.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous January!

Peace,

Pastor Adam

*****Initial Team Meetings will begin in January*****

Team Operating Principles

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Before we begin this shift from a committee structure to a Team model, it is important to consider, or maybe remind yourself of, your gifts, abilities and talents. The most effective team is one made up of a wide variety of people sharing their unique gifts and talents for the benefit of the Team and thus the church, community, and ultimately, God.

The very first thing for us to do is get familiar with the Team or Team's descriptions and duties that, because you served on the former committee, are part of. Before you panic, keep in mind that just because you served on a former committee doesn't necessarily mean you are automatically on that Team now. For this reason, it is important that **every person** from the former committees that make up the Team shows up to the first meeting. This, in most cases, will be more people than are needed to serve on the Team, and that's a good thing. Team members will be decided at the first Team meeting as each Team functions as an independent group that manages their own schedule, tasks, and members.

Time for the first meeting! Take some time to talk before getting down to business. Ask questions, complain, share pictures of your dog, pray. Once you're ready, here are some suggestions to get things off and running: (See Team Form)

1. Determine a **Team Manager** – Team Manager will be responsible for the overall management, organization and reporting of team activities. The Team Manager will be the team's liaison to the Leadership Team and attend Leadership Team meetings.
2. Determine **Leaders** for each of the Team's components found within the Team's "circle" on diagram on page 9.
 - a. For example, under the Discipleship Team, the category of Christian Education will have one "Leader" representing that aspect of the team's duties. The CE Leader is responsible for the tasks corresponding to CE but will also be supported by the remaining Discipleship Team members.
 - b. Teams, managers, and Leaders are encouraged to gather others from the Team and congregation to assist, manage and/or perform the short and long-term goals and needs of CE.
3. Discuss goals, tasks, and schedules.

No doubt, this is a big change, but there have been even bigger changes in the world around us. Innovation, adaptation, and imagination are a necessary part of being able to continue the long heritage of loving ministry First Congregation has and continues to experience.

Thank you,

Leadership Team and Pastor Adam

Worship and Welcome Team

(Currently on Deacon, Deaconess, and Tech Committees - Dan K, Jim B, Jim C, Robbie, Duane, Scott, Mike, Nathan, Troy, Bruce, Randy, Barb, Miriam, Jan, Ann)

Team Manager –

Worship Prep and Presentation –

Altar and Sanctuary – Ann

Music and Technology – Randy

Communications –

Fellowship and Welcoming –

Deacons

Team Manager -

(Current Deacons - Dan K, Jim B, Jim C, Robbie, Duane, Scott, Mike, Nathan, Troy, Bruce, Randy)

Discipleship Team

(Currently on CE, Missions, Stewardship, Memorial Committees - Amy, Bridget, Barb, Miriam, Vicki, Jim B, Paula, Ann, Ken, Bruce, Sue B)

Team Manager –

CE – Amy

Service and Mission –

Stewardship –

Cong Generosity –

Resource Team

(Currently on Trustees, B&G, Financial Sec, Treasurer Committees -

Carmen, Kelly, Joanne, Bruce, Randy, Mike, Rick, Dan

Team Manager – Carmen

Weekly Finances –

Budgeting –

Investments – Kelly

Church Use –

Buildings and Grounds –

Secretary –

Treasurer –

Leadership Team

Moderator - Stan

Vice-Moderator – Jim C.

Member-at-Large -

Worship & Welcome –

Discipleship –

Resource-

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Beneke - Fellowship Hall
7 9:15 am Communion Worship Service No Confirmation	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School No Confirmation	15	16	17 Noon - Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	18	19	20
21 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School Confirmation	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:15 am Worship Service Confirmation Deacon's Meeting	29	30	31			