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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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**February 2024**

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**Ash Wednesday**  
**Service**

**w/Communion**

**February 14, 2024**

**7:00 pm**



**All Services Begin At**  
**7:00 pm**

**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-Monday's 9am-5pm, Tuesday's-9am-3pm, Wednesday's-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!

**February 21st - First Congregational**

**February 28th - Frieden's County Line**

**March 6th - First Congregational**  
**(St. John's doing refreshments)**

**March 13th - St. Paul's, Plato**

**March 20th - Frieden's County Line**

**March 28th - 7:00 pm Maundy**  
**Thursday Service**

**March 31st - 9:15 am Easter Sunday**  
**Service**

**On The Job In February**

**Deacon of Month: Jim Cox**

**In Charge of Altar: Ann Wangerin**



**Birthday's!**

- 1. Mark Forcier
- 4. Lola Huitt, Dawson Mengkoch
- 9. Ethan Lehmann
- 10. Paula Bulau
- 13. Cassie Shemanek
- 14. Marshall Jones
- 18. Jaxon Mueller
- 20. Blair Collins
- 23. Minnie Schwarzrock
- 24. Alvin Huff
- 25. Jessica Baldwin  
Desiree Richardson

**A Special Thank You!**

Thanks so much for your wonderful gifts that you provided to our patients at the St. Peter Treatment Center. Around 400 patients received a gift and for most of them – this is all they receive.

We appreciate your generosity and the hope that you give to our patients.

A special thank you from the St. Peter Treatment Center Christmas Staff

**Reminder!!**

**Thrivent Members!!**

You may have a designated portion of Thrivent's Choice Dollars available for you to direct to your favorite charity (such as our church). Choice Dollars can be designated for during the calendar year and can be directed until March 28th of 2024.

Directing Choice Dollars is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available. Just log at [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com) or call 1-800-847-4836.

**Thank You!**

To everyone who donated diapers for the Common Cup Diaper Drive. Very Successful!!

## **Pastor's Page:**

### **Ashentine's Day?**

As we approach the convergence of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day on February 14, 2024, I am filled with a sense of awe and wonder at the beautiful intersection of these two significant days in our lives. Each carries its own unique meaning, but together, they offer us a profound opportunity for reflection, renewal, and love.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season—a time of introspection, repentance, and preparation for the resurrection joy of Easter. On this day, we come together as a community to receive ashes on our foreheads, reminding us of our mortality and the need for repentance. It is a solemn occasion, a time to reflect on our lives, acknowledge our shortcomings, and seek God's forgiveness. We are reminded of the biblical truth: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust, you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). This humbling experience sets the tone for the 40 days of Lent, during which we engage in prayer, fasting, and acts of kindness, drawing closer to God and one another.

On the other hand, Valentine's Day is widely recognized as a day to celebrate love, affection, and meaningful connections. Whether it's through romantic gestures, expressions of friendship, or acts of kindness, this day encourages us to embrace and share the love that permeates our lives. While the origins of Valentine's Day are rooted in various historical narratives, the essence remains the same—love. It serves as a reminder that love is a powerful force that binds us together, transcending boundaries and fostering a sense of unity.

This year, as we find ourselves at the intersection of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, we are presented with a unique opportunity to explore the harmonious relationship between love and repentance. The ashes on our foreheads symbolize our mortality and the need for repentance, but they are also marked in the shape of a cross—a symbol of Christ's sacrifice and unconditional love. At this junction, we discover a profound truth—that love and repentance are interconnected. Through repentance, we open our hearts to the transformative power of God's love, and in love, we find the strength to turn away from sin and embrace a life aligned with His teachings.

As we embark on this journey through Lent, let us approach it with a spirit of love and repentance. Let our acts of kindness, compassion, and forgiveness be a testament to the love that God showers upon us. May our repentance be sincere, and our commitment to living a life reflective of His love be unwavering.

Wishing you a blessed Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day filled with the love and the grace of God.

*Pastor Adam*

## February Events/Announcements

**February Volunteer Opportunities** – Our church will be packing food for the backpacks on two separate occasions in February. The events offer an relatively easy (standing for 1-1 1/2hrs) and impactful opportunity to be the “Hands and feet of Christ” and help GSL students experiencing food insecurity.

Join us for one or both service opportunities: **Monday, February 12th @ 4:30pm** and **Monday, February 26th @ 4:30pm**. We will meet and serve at the **Glencoe City Center**. (Please use the west entrance)

Sign-up is easy...use the sign-up sheet available in back of the church or in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour or feel free to call or email the church and let us know or use the QR Code below.

If volunteering isn't for you, please consider donating to this important community mission... just place your donation in the offering plate (be sure to note "Common Cup-Backpack) or donate online at [www. https://www.firstcongochurch.org/serve/online-giving/](https://www.firstcongochurch.org/serve/online-giving/) or scan the "Online Giving" QR Code below.



2 attachments



Online Giving.png  
78K



Backpack Registration.png  
95K

# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deacon of the Month: Jim Cox  Altar: Ann Wangerin				1 8:00pm AA Meeting	2	3
4 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Confirmation	5	6	7	8 8:00pm AA Meeting	9	10 Kayla Salmela Fellowship Hall
11 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School Confirmation	12 4:30pm @ Glencoe City Center/Packing Food for School Backpacks	13	14 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Communion Service	15 8:00pm AA Meeting	16	17
18 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School No Confirmation	19	20	21 Noon-Trustee's Meeting 5:30 pm Church Council 7:00 pm Lenten Service @ First Congregational Pastor Adam Thompson Preaching	22 8:00pm AA Meeting	23	24
25 9:15 am Worship Service Confirmation Worship Welcome /Deacon's Meeting 2:00-5:00pm CPR Training -2B Continued	26 4:30pm @ Glencoe City Center/Packing Food for School Backpacks	27	28 7:00 pm Lenten Service @ Frieder's County Line Pastor Brian Brosz Preaching	29 8:00pm AA Meeting		

# QPR

## GATEKEEPER TRAINING COURSE

**Sunday, February 25, 2024  
2:00-5:00 PM**

**First Congregational Church  
1400 Elliott Ave N | Glencoe, MN 55336**

## ASK A QUESTION, SAVE A LIFE!

QPR stands for Question, Persuade and Refer — the three simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide.

Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade and refer someone to help. It is the most widely taught gatekeeper training in the United States that teaches best practices in suicide prevention.

QPR gatekeeper training is intended for community members 18 years and older and professionals including health care workers, first responders, law enforcement, educators, clergy, bankers, lawyers and more! Certificate of Attendance for professional Continuing Ed.

The FREE 90 minute class includes QPR training, loss survivor's personal story, information of high-risk populations. Learn suicide warning signs, statistics, myths & local resources.

- *Free! (Pre-registration is required)*
- *Class size is limited to 30 participants.*
- *Open to anyone 18 years & older.*
- *Continuing Education Credits available.*  
*POST Board Approved for 1.5 CEUs. MN  
Board of Social Work approved for 1.5 CEUs.*



FUNDED BY:

**2B CONTINUED**

**Class Instructor: Tammy Diehn**

- *Certified QPR Gatekeeper Instructor*
- *Suicide Loss Survivor*
- *2B CONTINUED Founder & Exec. Director*
- *Family Nurse Practitioner*

To register, scan:



Or visit

<https://www.2BCONTINUED.org/events>

## COMMON CUP 2023 REPORT

*Common Cup Ministry is now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year of serving those in need throughout McLeod County. A sincere thank you to all of the participating congregations, individual and business supporters and those that have provided grants this year. Your generosity allows CCM to continue to serve those in need throughout McLeod County. Thank you for your ongoing faith in myself, program director, Jen and members of the Board that seek ways to be wise stewards of the funds you entrust to us. There have been over 330 individuals assisted financially as well as all of those that benefited from our outreach programs.*

*Here are our statistics and financial numbers for 2023.*

**THE COMPLETE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING 4/15/24  
HELD AT HUNTERS RIDGE CHURCH.**

**INDIVIDUALS SEEN AT OUR OFFICE: 5-6 PER DAY  
PHONE CALLS RECEIVED AND RESOURCE INFO GIVEN: APPROX 8-10 PER DAY  
7"ON CALL VOLUNTEERS" TO STAFF OUR OFFICE**

**Lodging \$2,682**  
**Queens Inn \$10,010 (rent of an ongoing room)**  
**Custom Stay \$9,062 (new in 2023/monthly rent)**  
**Car Repair\$1,612**  
**Utilities\$12,483**  
**Auto Fuel \$4,608**  
**Transportation\$1,193**  
**Rent Assist/Dep\$6,470**  
**Health/Medical\$288**  
**Total Incomefor 2023- \$309,934**  
**Total Expensesfor 2023) - \$311,998**  
**Net Income - (\$2,063)**

**Contributors are: Participating area Congregations/Individuals/Area Businesses/ Elks Club/United Way of McLeod Co. /Thrivent Financial/I.J. Burich Foundation/Hutchinson Community Foundation/3M Volunteer Match Program/**

**The Thrift Store of Common Cup Ministryis in its 7<sup>th</sup> year of operation.**

**Income: 2023: \$46,853**

**Expenses:2023:\$27,548**

**Profit: 2023 \$19,305**

**Current number of Thrift Store volunteers: 21.New volunteers are always welcomed.**

**Training provided. Volunteers are asked to work one 4 hour shift a month.**

**Thrift Store of Common Cup Ministry is open Tues-Friday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

#### **Diaper Distribution**

**Diaper Distributions now held twice a month in both Hutch and Glencoe**

**Hutchinson hosts a distribution the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues of the month from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.**

**Glencoe has added a distribution from 4:00-6:00 p.m during the "Laundry Love" at the Glencoe Laundry Center the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. of the month.**

**Both Hutchinson and Glencoe continue with a distribution the last Tues. of the month from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**Cost of program for 2023= \$9,834(up from \$3,648 2022)Distributed 80-100 bags per month between both sites and both times**

**Warm Coat Distribution: Held at the Hutchinson Armory during MEA break. with approx. 380 participants. 30 Plus Volunteers and 14 REACH students that helped to move the coats to the Armory, set up the coats by size and assist the participants in finding appropriate sizes. We continue to give coats, snow pants, snow boots, hats and mittens per request.  
Cost of program for 2023—\$2,506**

**School Supply Distribution: Held at Christ the King Church. Provided supplies for 425 students throughout the county. We also packed and delivered bags to the elementary schools for those unable to attend yet in need of supplies. 40-45 volunteers between set up and “day of” event.  
Cost of the program for 2023= \$4,694**

**PoPP (Provision of Personal Products) Continue to be offered to schools throughout McLeod County. Ralph and Geri Johnson have established a relationship with the various district nurses and counselors. Requests are fulfilled and delivered. This distribution of personal care items has extended to several of our income based and senior housing units. We have also added a PoPP cupboard in Brownston for their convenience.  
Cost of the Program for 2023= \$5,350**

### **WEEKEND BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM**

**COST OF PROGRAM \$59,350/TOTAL OF APPROX 280 VOLUNTEERS**

**The Weekend Backpack Food Program provides weekend breakfasts, lunches, and snacks for Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students in Hutchinson, K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students in GSL and K-8 Grade in Lester Prairie.**

**Food is also delivered to REACH students at Hutchinson Middle School, Hutchinson High School, GSL High School/ Lakeside Elementary, Lester Prairie school, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted school, MAWSECO (Co-op serving some McLeod Schools as well).**

**Volunteers continue to pack bags that go to the schools each week. There is also a bin behind the office with bags for parents in need that may not be registered with the program.**

**TAPS Program provides volunteers to transport bags to the schools and two students that help with packing bags for our outside bin.**

**Churches are asked to donate a particular item used in the bags as well. This is a sharp increase financially but serves a population in need.**

**Parents are encouraged to call the office to inquire about receiving food at 320-587-2213 but ultimately need to register with the school districts.**

**For volunteer information contact Jen at the Common Cup Office at 587-2213. You can also email Jen at [jenwicklund@gmail.com](mailto:jenwicklund@gmail.com) or message through our CCM Facebook account.**

**CCM had a “Day at the McLeod Co Fair” this year which was an opportunity to explain our ministry to those that visited our booth. 11 volunteers assisted with the Fair.**

**There continues to be a Common Cup Council Representative from each participating congregation. There is a monthly meeting held at participating CCM congregations on a rotating basis. These meetings provide communication regarding needs and updates from Common Cup to each participating congregation. Please visit with the Representative from your congregation or contact Bev Bonte/Director of CCM at  
320- 234-8344 [commoncupmn@gmail.com](mailto:commoncupmn@gmail.com) Follow us on Facebook at Common Cup**



# MISSION OF THE MONTH

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## **JANUARY - COMMON CUP**

DIAPERS, POPP, LAUNDRY LOVE

## **FEBRUARY - COMMON CUP**

WEEKEND BACKPACK FOOD

## **MARCH - UCC**

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

## **APRIL - MCLEOD COUNTY**

EMERGENCY FOOD SHELF

## **MAY - UCC**

STRENGTHEN OUR CHURCH

## **JUNE**

2B CONTINUED

## **JULY - COMMON CUP**

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

## **AUGUST - UCC**

OUR CHURCHES WIDER MISSION

## **SEPTEMBER - COMMON CUP**

WARM COATS

## **OCTOBER - UCC**

NEIGHBOR IN NEED

## **NOVEMBER**

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING ~~MEAL~~ & WHITE CHRISTMAS

## **DECEMBER - UCC**

CHRISTMAS FUND

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**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION PARTNERS!!**