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# “At First”

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

**Church phone: 864-3855**

**Church Email: [Office@firstcongochurch.org](mailto:Office@firstcongochurch.org)**

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

**Adam Thompson, Pastor**

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April 2024

## **One Great Hour of Sharing**

**On Sunday, April 14, 2024, we will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during worship.**

***Come and join us for a  
morning of service  
and fellowship!***



## **FOOD CHANGES EVERYTHING**

### **FEEDING KIDS. FEEDING SPIRITS. EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES.**

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) believes hope starts with food. As a Christian nonprofit, FMSC is dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. FMSC meals are hand packed by volunteers and sent to an incredible network of partner organizations that stay with communities for the long haul, empowering them to move from relief to development.

We will be meeting our friends from St. John's/Bongards UCC at the FMSC facility in Chanhassen on **April 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am**. Registration is required, and sign-up sheets are available at the connecting room "Missions Table" and in the Fellowship Hall.

FMSC is located at 18732 Lake Drive East Chanhassen, MN 55317 and more information can be found on their website @ [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org)

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## We Extend Our Sympathy and Prayers

to the family of **Shirley Cutlar**. Shirley passed away on April 24th. Her Memorial Service will be held at the church on **Saturday, April 6th @ 11:00 am. Visitation before Service from 9:00-11:00am.**

## A Special Thank You!

My sincere gratitude to all who remembered me with cards and kind words after the death of my husband, Bob Aufenthie. I extend my love and appreciation to you all! Ramona Nagel



## Happy Birthday!!

1. Alexandra Hoese
2. Tricia Boesche
4. Brenda Schultz,  
Lillian Krueges
9. Bryanna Paul
10. Pat Trocke,  
Roger Landon
12. Emily Jungclaus
13. Janice Winn
14. Bruce Magnuson
18. Kelly Rach,  
Troy Lehmann
19. David Stark
22. Jamie Yurek
23. Kara Salmela
25. Ozzie Chapman
27. Bridget Kienenberger
28. James Cox
29. Nicholas Schultz

## Deacon of the Month

Troy Lehmann

Atar: Ann Wangerin

## Common Cup Happenings

### Outgrown Winter Coats Wanted!

It should be safe to say that Spring IS around the corner and that you'll be setting aside your winter coats aside for another year. Gently used outgrown coats, boots, snow-pants and waterproof gloves/mittens are being collected by Common Cup during April. Bring your donations to church and store them in the choir room next to the kitchen. They will be sent to the main CC office for use next winter. Thanks!

### KIDS Weekend Food Program

The meal bags, packed for kids each week, continues. Current count identifies 277 Hutch kids, 124 Glencoe kids and 13 Lester Prairie kids depend on these meals each week. Please consider adding a food item or two to your grocery cart each week to help support this program. Applesauce, granola bars, instant serve spaghetti, and fruit juice boxes are just a few of the items packed each week. It costs about \$4.00 to fill a weekend bag. Cash donations to Common Cup are also appreciated.

### Thrivent Grants

Those with a \$1,000 policy (or larger) have the opportunity to receive two \$250.00 grants annually as a gift from Thrivent. If you are not currently using yours, please consider gifting Common Cup with your donation to one of its many programs, serving the McLeod community.

## **Pastor's Page:**

### **Embracing Renewal and Growth this April!**

As April unfolds its blossoms and ushers in the spirit of renewal, we find ourselves immersed in the beauty of new beginnings. Spring whispers promises of growth and transformation, inviting us to embrace the opportunities for spiritual renewal within our own lives and within our faith community.

This April, let us take a moment to pause and reflect on the journey of our faith. As we have just celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are reminded of the power of redemption and the promise of new life. Let this season rejuvenate our spirits and inspire us to embrace the abundant blessings that surround us each day.

Our church family is a place of nurturing and support, where each member plays a vital role in fostering spiritual growth and deepening our connection with God. As we continue to navigate the challenges of these uncertain times, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to one another, offering love, encouragement, and understanding to all who seek refuge within our walls.

As we embrace the spirit of renewal and growth this April, may we be reminded of the infinite grace and mercy of our Loving God and approach each day with hearts full of gratitude and minds open to the possibilities that lie ahead. Together, let us journey forward in faith, trusting in God's unfailing love to guide us every step of the way.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous April filled with hope, peace, and the abundant blessings of our risen Lord.

In Christ's Love,  
**Pastor Adam**



# April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 8:00 pm AA	5	6 9:00-11:00 am Visitation 11:00 am Shirley Cutler's Memorial Service
7 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Discipleship Meeting Confirmation	8	9	10	11 8:00 pm AA	12	13
14 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School Confirmation ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING	15	16	17 Noon - Resource (Trustee's) Meeting 7:00 pm Leadership/Church Council Meeting	18 8:00 pm AA	19	20 Feed My Starving Children 9:30 am @ the FMSC Center in Chanhassen
21 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School Confirmation	22	23	24	25 8:00 pm AA	26	27
28 9:15 am Worship Service Confirmation Worship Welcome/ Deacon's Meeting	29	30				



April

## ***Mission of the Month***

One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Love of Neighbor.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

SHARE THE **LIGHT**



***Offering envelopes are available at the Offering Plate and on the "Missions Table" in the connecting room. Online contributions can be made on our website @ [www.firstcongochurch.org/serve/online-giving/](http://www.firstcongochurch.org/serve/online-giving/)***

**3rd Annual**

# **Spring Fling**

**Free Outdoor Community**

**Music Festival**

**Sunday, May 19th**

**12-4pm**

**Live Bluegrass featuring**

**The Eclectics & THE DOUBLE DOWN DAREDEVILS**



**Bounce House  
Yard Games  
Family Fun**

**Freewill Offering Benefitting:**



**First** United Church of Christ  
**Congregational**

**COMMON CUP  
MINISTRY**

**1400 Elliott Ave N, Glencoe**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**Leadership Team Minutes – February 21, 2024**

**Attending**

Members Present: Stan Hoof, Jan Willand, Carmen Kienenberger, Jim Cox, Bridget Kienenberger  
Members Absent: Troy Lehmann, Pastor Adam attending

1. **Call To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Stan at 5:00pm.
2. **Opening Prayer** - Our opening prayer was given by Pastor Adam.
3. **Approval of Minutes** —The Minutes from Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> were corrected to note the change in the Lenten Service on 3/6. The service will be held in Glencoe, hosted by Bongards due to a water issue at their church. The corrected minutes were approved.

4. **Pastor's Report**

Thank You's were received by Common Cup for our special; mission, Diaper Drive, in January. The church will have a candlelit service December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Lon Roach, Jack Noening and Vickie Schultz will provide special music. Offerings will be donated to the UCC Christmas fund.

**UCC Co-Op Meeting** – The next meeting will be held Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> at New Journey. This meeting, available on Zoom, will be to discuss the future of the churches in our area and what we can do. Expected participants include Pastors Penny, Scott, Brian, Al, Pastor Adam +/- others.

5. **TEAM REPORTS**

**Resource Team (Trustees)**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
October Pledges	\$16,305	\$ 8,060
Total Pledges	\$20,721	\$12,205

- **Tuckpointing Job** - Trustees accepted the bid by Karr Tuckpointing for \$39,573.00 at their November meeting. Work will begin in the spring of 2024.
- **Church Heating/Air Systems** - A bid for the church's heating system was received by Foster Mechanical in the amount of \$108,000. A meeting has been scheduled for December 20<sup>th</sup> to review the bid details.

**Miscellaneous**

- **Winter Snow Removal** - Neubarth Landscape Co. has not provided a bid for snow removal services after repeated calls by Carmen to their office. Carmen will pursue other vendors if they do not provide a bid in the next week.
- **Sunday School Room Plumbing** – Brian Nagel has declined to provide a bid for the plumbing repairs citing the difficulty and magnitude of the project.
- **Bat Update** - Our contract with the Bat Company has expired and they have said we should look for another company in the future as they were not pleased working with members of our Buildings and Grounds Committee.
- **Winter Heat Update** - Roger Landon visited the church and turned on the furnace before checking with our current Buildings and Ground staff, causing confusion and concern for making these changes without any notification.
- **Boulevard Handrail** - Ann Wangerin has volunteered her husband, Rod, to build and install a handrail next to the boulevard on the west side of the church to assist in the slippery sidewalk issue there. Gopher One will be called along with Century Link for wires and the City of Glencoe to determine if a permit is necessary.
- **Internet Problems** - Pastor Adam noted the internet service has been horrible causing him to leave work early on Monday. He put a service call in to Century Link.

- **RTZ Value Inspection** – Wendy and Mike D. were notified of an inspection necessary. Mike has contacted Foster Mechanical who will handle this.
- Mike Dahlke has announced that he is stepping down from the Buildings and Grounds Committee April 1st.

**Discipleship Team** - (Christen Education, Missions & Benevolence, Stewardship, Memorial)

- Bridget reported that plans are underway for The Christmas Story presentation by Sunday School students and other church members on December 17th. Several folks have already signed up. Sunday School is proceeding as planned.

**Deacons** – No new business

**Worship Team and Welcome Team** (Worship Prep and Presentation, Alter and Sanctuary, Music and Technology, Communications, Fellowship and Welcoming) (Deaconesses)

Communion for December will be held on the 3rd of the month.

- A candlelit Christmas Service will be held December 24th.
- A Sunday Christmas Eve morning service will not be held this year.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

- Review of motions passed at the Annual Meeting** – It was approved to move the fiscal church year to January – December.
- Constitution Final Draft** – See Pastor’s Report, Page One, “New Church Constitution”
- SLS Discussion** – Members discussed the timeline for the cancellation of our business with SLS. On December 29TH, SLS will be notified of our cancellation of business, effective January 31, 2024.
- Auditing the church books** – The congregation will be asked for two volunteers to audit the books in January, 2024 as per our Constitution.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

- Results of Office Manager Meeting with Wendy Graf** – Stan and Jim met with Wendy and laid out the parameters of the revised job description titled Office Manager/ Treasurer and the duties and hours now required of the position. Wendy said she was somewhat interested and wanted to think about it. She was asked to make a decision by mid-December, prior to our next Church Council Meeting.
- Review of Heating System Bid** – A meeting has been scheduled, (See Resource Report, 2nd bullet.)

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Jim motioned to adjourn the meeting and Carmen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes provided by Bridget Kienenberger



THE MCLEOD FOOD SHELF  
IS HOSTING



A Community  
**Meet  
& Greet**

**Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

***McLeod Food Shelf***

719 13th St E ~ Glencoe, MN 55336

**Meet the new Executive Director,  
Carrie Lewis, Board Members,  
and dedicated Volunteers**

Light refreshments will be served

***Reminder*** – The March Campaign will still be  
going, please consider donating.





# BIZ CONNECT 2024

Join us for a series of quarterly sessions designed to equip entrepreneurs and business owners with valuable knowledge and tools.

Our first topic will explore the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on businesses. Learn what it means and how to thrive in the age of AI.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024**  
**2:00 - 4:00 PM**  
**GLENCOE CITY CENTER**  
**1107 11TH STREET E. GLENCOE**

- Inaugural event FREE for GACC members and the general public
- Registration encouraged
- Light refreshments will be served

REGISTER



**Zach Hatch**  
AI & Automation  
Manager



**Tim Bornholdt**  
Technology Leader





## Spring 2024 Conference Youth Event: You Belong

**April 19–21, 2024**

**Camp Onomia, Onamia, MN**

**Rev. Claire Klein, Facilitator**

**Register [<https://app.campdoc.com//dn/login?r=mcucc>]**



Join your MN Conference youth peers for a weekend exploring “belonging.” Together we’ll reflect on how we as people and we as the church can extend our welcome to others and to ourselves through discussion, worship, play, time in nature, music, and art.

Our facilitator, Rev. Claire M Klein, is a life-long church camp enthusiast. She has led birding retreats, women’s weekends, and family camp experiences through the Minnesota Conference and at Moon Beach Camp in Wisconsin. She is a board-certified music therapist working in hospice and a graduate of United Theological Seminary. She loves going for walks, doing puzzles, reading Harry Potter, and playing board games with her husband Jacob.

## Great Lakes & West Central Regional Youth Event

**July 17–20, 2024**

**Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois**

**Register [<https://app.campdoc.com//dn/login?r=mcucc>]**



Join hundreds youth from United Church of Christ congregations in Minnesota and across the Great Lakes and West Central regions for three days of connection, fun, worship, service, and learning. We are excited to be working with The Many [<https://www.themanyarehere.com/>] to provide music, worship, and program leadership throughout our time together. The Many is an uncommon, intentionally diverse collective making music for people to sing together about peace and justice and a world where all belong.

The Minnesota Conference UCC will help arrange transportation for any congregations interested in participating and traveling together. Download the flyer here [<https://www.uccmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/GLWCRYE2024-Registration-Flyer.pdf>].

Contact Kevin Brown [<mailto:kevinb@uccmn.org?subject=2024%20RYE>] for more information or with any questions.

## Clergy Family Retreat: What Do You Mean We Don't Have to Plan Anything?

**August 11-13, 2024**

**Camp Onomia, Onamia, MN**



**Minnesota Conference**  
United Church of Christ

So, this year we are excited to offer this Clergy Family Retreat at Camp Onomia, where you can rest and relax. Meals are included with no dishes to wash. No worship planning, no sermon prep, no meetings. Just you and the family swimming, canoeing, playing games, and so much s'more. And, if you like to hike, Kathio State Park is just two miles down the road.

This retreat is for all MN Conference clergy (ordained, licensed, and lay) and their families. Grandchildren are welcome too! Vespers and a short worship will be offered by Rev. Kevin Brown and Rev. Sheri Nelson.

### **Women's Retreat: You Are a Story**

**September 13–15, 2024**

**Camp Onomia, Onamia, MN**

**Martha Brunell, Facilitator**

**Register [<https://app.campdoc.com/!dn/login?r=mcucc>]**

"Who am I" is a frequent question in our hearts, in our wondering, and in the words we speak. The unfolding story of who we are develops and is reshaped every day. On this weekend retreat we will consider our stories as they are part of the larger story of the earth and the cosmos we belong to. We will playfully explore our connections, our interbeing, and our mutuality. This hands-on and feet-on event will feature practices of SoulCollage® and Forest Therapy walks. Inside and outside we will explore, be surprised, and make new discoveries. Our earth-related time together will be expressive, and embodied. You are invited to bring your whole self to this storied time.

#### **About our Facilitator, Martha Brunell**



I dwell at an intersection of transformative possibilities I call Oak Leaf Oasis. There, earth wisdom, contemplative and creative practices, and grief crisscross one another. In that space of intersection, I invite a widening circle of others to slow down, step into a more spacious way of being, and dare to harbor hope. I offer presence, programs, and practices with individuals and groups as a spiritual director, a retreat and workshop leader, and a writer and writing group convener with additional training as a SoulCollage® Facilitator, an Advanced Accredited Labyrinth Facilitator, a Forest Therapy Guide, a Grief Educator, and a Story Sharer.

### **Fall 2024 Conference Youth Event**

**October 11–13, 2024**

**Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center**

**Register [<https://app.campdoc.com/!dn/login?r=mcucc>]**

Details for this fall event will be coming soon, but please be sure to put the dates on your calendar now, as you won't want to miss it!

### **A New Registration System**