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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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May/June 2024

## Celebration Sunday

There will be a recognition of the Sunday School students held on Sunday, May 19th as we close out the Sunday school year.

Celebrate with our Sunday school families, after church, in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and view displays of their accomplishments.

## Our Prayer Team

As servants of Christ our Prayer Team Members are willing pray for you whenever you have a concern or are in need of a prayer. Our members are: Kari Warner, Bridget Kienenberger, Stan Hoof, Shirley Westall, Dr Casey Baggott, Jan Mackenthun, Pastor Adam, & Barb Magnuson. To communicate a prayer request you may text or call Barb at 320-510-1102. May God be with you.



## Congratulations! To Our Graduates

**Bryanna Paul** - Graduated in 2022 with her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. She will continue her education at Houston University in the Fall of 2024 working towards a Masters in social work with plans to work as a therapist.

**Maren Warner** - Graduating May 2024 with a Bachelor's Degree in Arts and Health Sciences, and will be continuing her education at St. Thomas for a Masters of Nursing in the Fall

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## Pastor Adam is graduating from Luther Seminary!

2023-2024 Commencement Ceremony  
Sunday, May 26, 2024 @ 3 p.m.  
Central time, Central Lutheran Church,  
Minneapolis  
333 South 12th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

All are welcome to come, commencement  
also available on Livestream  
@ <https://www.centralmpls.org/>

## We Extend Our Sympathy and Prayers to the family

... of **Shirley Cutlar**. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, April 6th at 11:00 am. Shirley passed away on April 24th. Pastor Penny Entringer officiated.

... of **Pastor Adam's Mother (Patti)**. Her Memorial Service was held on Monday, April 22nd at 11:00 am at the Meetinghouse Church.

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## Strengthen the Church Offering

On **Sunday, May 19th** we will be receiving the **Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offering**.

"The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" - Ephesians 4:11-12.

Through our gifts to Strengthen the Church, we further our commitment to being a multiracial, multicultural church, open and affirming and accessible to all. We strengthen and renew existing congregations. We provide exciting programs for youth and young adults. We fund leadership development for the whole church. Our generous gifts are used, half by our conference and half by local Church Ministries.



## Birthdays

### May

1. Robert Hoppie
3. Atreyu Wangerin  
Audrey Forcier  
Nathan Warner
6. Ethan Kottke
8. Karen Benson
11. Elaine Reynolds
12. Amanda Tesch  
Justin Forcier
16. Dan Biederwolf  
Amanda Thompson
20. Joan Walford
22. Jacob Paul
23. Vernon Forcier  
Maren Warner
25. Cassandra Forcier
26. Larry Olson  
LaDonna Brinkmann
27. Ken Stenzel
30. Stan Hoof

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### June

3. Sean Kottke
7. Traci Schwarzrock  
Tricia Schilling  
Elsie Kottke
12. Crystal Marvan
16. Duane Mathews
17. Tim Hoese  
Kristin Berscheit
22. Dawn Hinojosa  
Carmen Hoese  
Amayyah Cruz
23. Ramona Nagel
25. Carrie Bargmann
30. Maxwell Lehmann

## **From Your Pastor:**

### **Spring Renewal - Growth in Faith and Community**

As the world around us bursts into the splendid colors of May, we are reminded of the powerful renewal that spring brings. This vibrant season serves as a profound metaphor for our spiritual journey—emphasizing that no matter the hardships of yesterday, God faithfully provides new opportunities for growth and restoration.

Spring's renewal invites us to reflect deeply on our personal faith journeys. This reflection is not just about reviewing our past experiences but actively engaging with them through the lens of scripture and prayer. As Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." This season, let us find our purpose in rekindling our spiritual commitments. I encourage each of you, myself included, to engage with the scriptures in a manner that might be different from your usual practice. Perhaps revisit passages that have previously touched your heart or explore new ones that challenge your understanding. Consider the story of renewal found in Isaiah 43:19, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." This passage invites us to perceive and participate in the new things God is orchestrating in our lives and communities.

Growth comes in many forms, and nurturing our spiritual selves is a vital part of our overall well being. My hope for this season of renewal is that it inspires not only personal growth in faith but also a communal spirit of reaching out. Let us use the fresh energy of spring to recommit both to our faith and to each other, fostering a community that actively seeks to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

May this spring renew your spirit as vividly as it rejuvenates the world around us. May it bring clarity to your purpose and joy to your service. And as we grow individually and together, may God bless each of you and your loved ones with joy, peace, and continual growth.

Together in faith and fellowship,

**Pastor Adam**

### **A Special Thank-You!**

On behalf of me and my family, I hope this message finds you surrounded by peace and comfort. I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your presence and support during the loss of my mother. During this profoundly difficult time, your kindness and compassion have been a beacon of light for me and my family.

Your thoughtful words, whether spoken or written, and your presence at her memorial service have brought us immense comfort and strength.

It's in these moments that we truly realize the value of friendship and support.

Please know how much your support has meant to us.

It has been a soothing balm to our weary hearts and a reminder of the beauty of human kindness.

In gratitude,

**Pastor Adam and Family**

## Pledges

Just a reminder that the needs of our church do not go on vacation for the summer when you do – bills continue to accumulate.

Please remember to send in your offerings and pledges by mail if you are unable to attend worship during the summer months. **Our church fiscal year ends December 31, 2024.**

## Celebrating Common Cup Volunteers

At Common Cup's Annual meeting in April, the staff shared a special number with the 31 member churches in attendance that day – volunteer numbers! Just get a glimpse of these volunteer numbers in 2023:

Warm Coat Distribution – 1 day event	70
School Supply Distribution – 1 day in Hutch, 1 day in Glencoe	60
Weekend Meals Program – Fill food bags every week thru the school year	402
PoPP (Provision of Personal Items – by Counselors	15
Diaper Distribution – 4 dates per month	7
The Thrift Store estimates about 80 hrs/wk, and over 4,000 hours a year!	

What Does Common Cup Do? Through a voucher system, Common Cup funds are administered by volunteers to help those in need who qualify. Common Cup Ministry volunteers provide spiritual ministry as well as financial and emotional resources and support. Contact us at 320-587-2213, at [www.commo-cup.org](http://www.commo-cup.org) or [commoncup@gmail.com](mailto:commoncup@gmail.com).

## Minnesota Conference

### Annual Meeting

The Minnesota Conference 60th Annual Meeting will held **June 7th & 8th, 2024 to be held at the College of Benedict, St Joseph, Mn** with an online option.

If you would like to go as our church representative to any of the events, **please talk to Pastor Adam or call the church office for times and dates of different workshops @ 864-3855.**

## Memorial Day Prayer

**We remember, O Lord, all those men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country.** Do not let us breathe the air of freedom or claim the right of justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without remembering with great gratitude those who gave the last full measure of devotion – their very lives – for our benefit. May they now know the peace of eternity and joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**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:**



United Church of Christ

**COMMON CUP**  
**MINISTRY**

**1400 Elliott Ave N, Glencoe**



## **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

### **Leadership Team Minutes – March 20, 2024**

#### **Attending**

Stan Hoof, Carmen Kienenberger, Jan Willand, Jim Cox, and Pastor Adam

**Call To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Stan at 5:07 p.m.

**Opening Prayer** – The opening prayer was offered by Pastor Adam.

**Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the February 21, 2024, meeting were approved as printed upon a motion by Jan and a second by Carmen.

#### **Pastor Adams Report**

- A. Moderator Stan Hoof signed the life insurance form that Adam will submit to the conference.
- B. Spring Fling Plans
  - 1. Adam has composed a budget for the event and will seek funding sources.
  - 2. Two bands have agreed to appear at the same cost as last year.
  - 3. Lazy Loon will sell food and will add \$1 per sale to donate to Common Cup.
  - 4. Common Cup will provide someone to speak and explain their mission to the gathering.
  - 5. Adam will next work on obtaining the city permits for the street closing and liquor sales.
- C. On April 20, members from our church and Bongards Church will participate in a Save My Starving Children's event.
- D. The Mission Table has been moved to a more visible location in the church entry room.
- E. The church has reserved a spot in Glencoe Days parade scheduled for June 22. Bruce and Paula are working on a float idea.
- F. The confirmation class will begin studying events in the Book of Genesis.
- G. Holy week services – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Breakfast followed by worship. No Good Friday service.
- H. One Great Hour of Sharing offering is scheduled for April 14.

#### **Resource Team**

\$ 14,742 pledges for February

\$ 23,923 pledges for the year (up from last year)

Building insurance quotes, thus far, are nearly \$ 16,000 higher than last year. Still looking for better options.

#### **Discipleship Team**

Contributions for the Food Shelf through the Lenten season have been going well.

April 14 will be the One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday.

Deacons have not yet selected a chairman.

#### **Worship and Welcome Team**

Working on Glencoe Days parade ideas

#### **Old Business**

Pastor Adam will arrange a time for Randy and Wendy to get together to explore the Church Trek software features in preparation for dropping SLS.

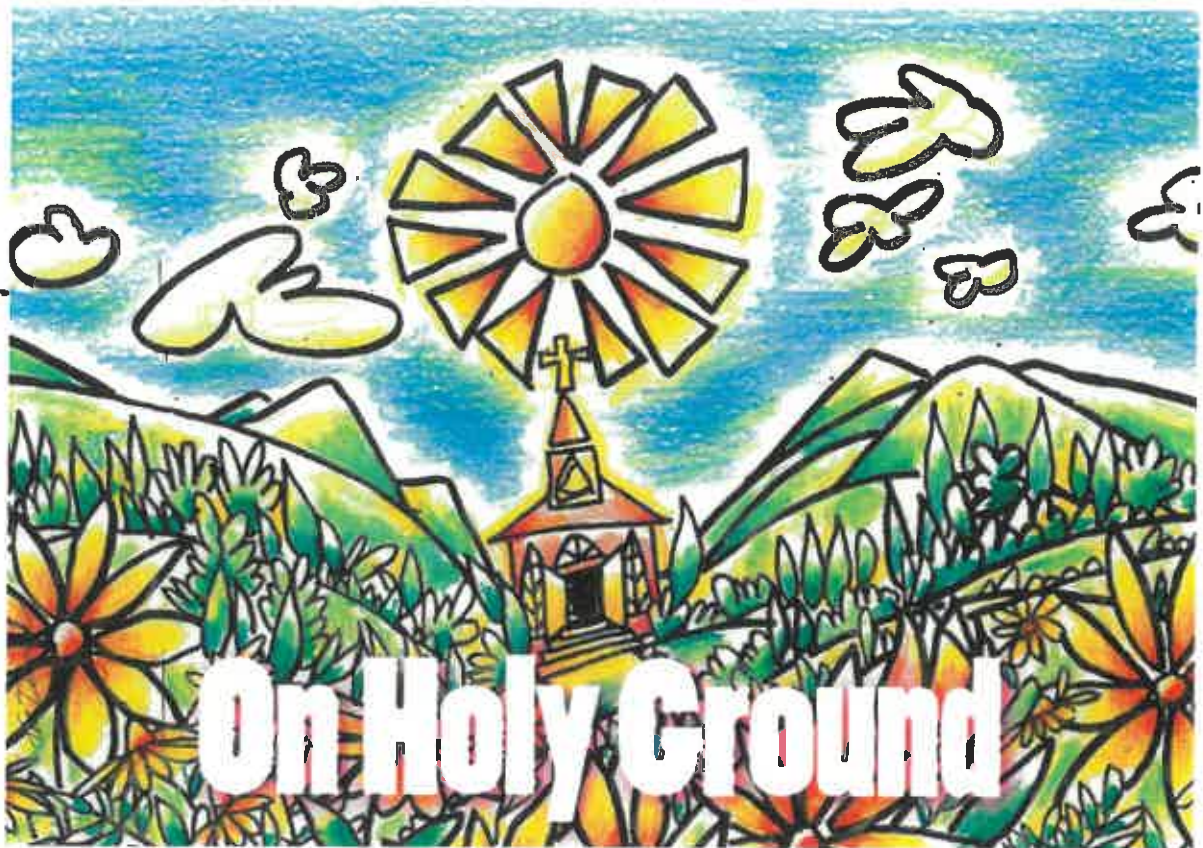
#### **New Business**

None

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm

**Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**

Minutes Submitted by Stan Hoof



**T**he Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the commitment of all settings of the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations as we work to become a multi-cultural/multi-racial, accessible to all Christian movement.

### **From Holy Ground - A Prayer to Strengthen the Church**

*By Rev. Dave Long-Higgins, Conference Minister, Heartland Conference*

Loving God,  
Ground us anew  
In Your deep desire  
For a fullness of flourishing  
Yearning to rise throughout  
Your whole creation.

Plant us deep  
In the soil of Your love

Bursting open seeds  
Often long-forgotten  
Except by You  
Bearing a strength  
For blessing and healing  
In a world of hurt.

Form Your self-giving  
In our deepest selves

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Giving grace and space  
For Your strength of soul  
To rise anew in acts  
Of joy-filled giving  
Bearing unexpected hope  
In a world weary with worry.

Grow us in Your Holy Ground  
Supplying every needed nutrient  
Of body, mind, and soul  
In just the right amount  
At just the right time  
Giving rise to a beauty  
And delight not of our making  
Yet requiring our consent.

By this, O Love,  
Strengthen the covenant

Of Your Christ-formed community  
Gifting a renewed energy  
To bear Your deep desire  
Into a world that hungers  
For resurrection risings.

Now, strengthen Your church  
With Your self-giving Spirit  
That we may strengthen others  
For Your holy work of unfolding  
Abundant, blessed, beloved, joy!

Yes, O Love, raise us up  
From your Holy Ground  
For nothing less than this  
And let it be more than enough.

Amen.

**Through the Strengthen the Church Offering,  
we help support the work of conferences and the  
national setting as we become a multi-racial/  
multi-cultural church.**





# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 8:00 pm AA	3	4
5 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Discipleship Meeting	6	7	8	9 8:00 pm AA	10	11
12 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School	13	14	15 Noon- Resource/Trustee's Meeting 7:00 pm Leadership/Church Council Meeting	16 8:00 pm AA	17	18
19 9:15 am Worship Service Celebration Sunday 12-4 pm SPRING FLING Receiving One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	20	21	22	23 8:00 pm AA	24	25
26 9:15 am Worship Service Worship Welcome/ Deacon's Meeting	27	28	29	30 8:00 pm AA	31	

# June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Discipleship Meeting	3	4	5	6 8:00pm AA Meeting	7 Conference Annual Meeting	8 Conference Annual Meeting
9 9:15 am Worship Service	10	11	12	13 8:00pm AA Meeting	14	15
16 9:15 am Worship Service	17	18	19 Noon-Resource/Trustee's Meeting 7:00pm - Leadership/Church Council Meeting	20 8:00pm AA Meeting	21	22
23 9:15 am Worship Service Worship Welcome/Deacon's Meeting	24	25	26	27 8:00pm AA Meeting	28	29
30						