
"At First"
First Congregational UCC
1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336
Church phone: 864-3855
Adam Thompson; Pastor
Church Website: firstcongochurch.org
Facebook Page: First Congregational Church, Glencoe

August 2024

Join Us!! For Our Third Back-Yard BBQ
On August 14th at 6:00pm

All are welcome! Enjoy good food, friendly fellowship, and backyard fun at this potluck BBQ. **Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall – See insert for more details.**

Organist "Wanna Be's" Needed!

With fall approaching, we'll be in need of more "*organist extraordinaires*" to fill our roster. It's almost as easy as 1 – 2 – 3 and Karl will be here to train you through the month of August. So take this opportunity to help the church with Sunday music and learn a very important skill for our weekly services!

Sunday School Leaders Wanted

Let's take advantage of our multiple skills to share in the education of our young children this Sunday school year. An informational meeting is planned for August (TBD) to review new class materials and the year's schedule. **Contact Pastor Adam, Amy or Barb to express your interest.**

Discipleship Meeting Moves to September 8th

Due to Labor Day, the next Discipleship Team meeting will be **September 8th in the old choir practice room, immediately after church.**



Aug 5-Jeanette Miller
 Sandy Bargmann
 Aug 7-Sherri Geise
 Aug 14-Judy Bipes
 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 - On The Job

Deacon: Robert Navarro
 Altar: Ann Wangerin



Common Cup School Supply Drive Continues

We're still collecting your monetary donations for the school supplies which will be distributed next week to McLeod County children. We're close to our goal and appreciate all the support received to date.

Glencoe's School Supply Distribution takes place on August 15th from 3-6pm at Lincoln School. You need to be registered through Common Cup's website (www.common-cup.org) or use the paper registration form (on the Missions Table in the Connecting Room) and bring it to the Common Cup Office in Hutchinson immediately. Their address is 105 2nd Avenue SW, Unit #2.

Volunteers are needed for the distribution. **If you can you help, please contact Cheryl McDougall at 320-510-1593.**

What's Around the Corner in September

CC Fall Coat Drive is **September's Mission of the Month**. Let's all check out all the Clearance and Final Sales racks as you do your shopping this month to see what bargains we can find in advance of this event!

Need Coffee Host for August

If you would be able to make coffee and furnish some goodies for Sundays in August, you can sign up up at the back of the church or call Wendy at 864-3855.

From Pastor Adam: Embracing New Beginnings

A Message for August

As we step into August, I am filled with gratitude and an excitement for what this new month brings. I see August as a time of preparation, reflection, and renewal and it is often seen as a transitional time, a bridge between the lazy days of summer and the busier rhythms of fall.

August presents us with a unique opportunity to refresh our spirits and realign our goals. Just as students prepare to return to school, we too can prepare our hearts and minds for the new spiritual journey that lies ahead. I'd like to invite you to take some time to reflect on the personal and collective growth over the past few months. Are there areas in our lives where we seek deeper understanding or greater connection with God?

In this season of renewal, I encourage you to consider how you can put your faith into action. Whether it's through volunteering, participating in church activities, or simply being a source of support for someone in need, every act of kindness makes a difference. Remember, our faith is not just a private matter but a public witness to the world of God's love and grace.

As we move through August, let us do so with hearts full of hope and anticipation. I feel that God has great plans for us, and together, we can achieve amazing things. Let us continue to support and uplift one another, knowing that with God's guidance, there is nothing we cannot overcome.

Thank you for being a vital part of our church community. Your presence, prayers, and participation are what make our community so special. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the coming months.

With blessings and gratitude,

Pastor Adam

Interested In Studying the Bible?

Studying of the Bible, especially with others, helps us grow in our faith and our understanding of how God is working in and through our lives.

Name & Preferred Contact Info

What Day & Time work?

- Monday's @ 10am
- Monday's @ Noon
- Monday's @ 2pm
- Wednesday's @ 2pm
- Wednesday's @ 5pm
- Other _____

Where's a Good Spot?

- Church
- Coffee Shop
- Someone's Home
- Other _____

What Topic is Interesting to You?

- Lectionary/Sermon based
- Series on pastor's choice
- Other _____

Comments/Suggestions _____

Questionnaires are available in the back of the church, just place completed form in the offering plate or call the church office with your preferences

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deacon: Robbie Navarro Altar: Ann Wangerin				1 8:00pm A.A.	2	3
4 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Discipleship Meeting	5	6	7 8:00pm A.A.	8 8:00pm A.A.	9	10
11 9:15 am Worship Service	12	13	14 6:00pm Backyard BBQ	15 3-6pm Glencoe School Supply Distribution @ Lincoln School 8:00pm A.A.	16	17
18 9:15 am Worship Service	19	20	21 Noon- Resource/Trustee's Meeting 7:00pm Leadership/ Church Council Mtg	22 8:00pm A.A.	23	24
25 9:15 am Worship Service Welcome/Worship Meeting	26	27	28	29 8:00pm A.A.	30	31



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BACKYARD

BARBECUE

First Congregational In Our Backyard

Who: You, your family, & friends!

What: A potluck style backyard BBQ filled with Fellowship, Fun, Food & Yard Games!

When: 6pm on Wednesday 6/12, 7/10, & 8/14

How: The host will bring the meat and do the cookin', the rest will bring the rest. Bring your own beverage!

Why: Well, why not?

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall

★ FOOD, FUN

& FRIENDS ★





Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ

COMMAntary

Equipping a courageous Church alive with Christ's transforming love

A Collective Community Worship with Five Congregations



On a beautiful Sunday in July, five churches – **St. John's UCC (Norwood-Young America), St. Paul's UCC (Plato), First Congregational UCC (Glencoe), Frieden's County Line (Norwood-Young America), and Zoar UCC (Chaska)** – gathered to celebrate and worship. This was the second year the congregations came together and the churches note that attendance increased significantly this year. Clergy from all five churches led worship and Brian Brosz provided music. A freewill offering benefited 2B, which advocates Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Outreach. Members of each church brought delicious food to share after worship.

"Gathering together reminds us that we are not alone as the body of Christ, and that we don't all have to agree on everything to be in covenant together," said Associate Conference Minister Rev. Kelly Gallagher, who joined the gathering. "Sharing music, worship and the love of God helps bring us together across our differences, offering community and hope."

The churches plan to continue this wonderful tradition in the coming years!



First Congregational's August Mission of the Month

What does Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) support?

In the national setting of the United Church of Christ there are four Covenanted Ministry partners who are supported by gifts Our Church's Wider Mission.

The Office of General Ministries houses the President and General Minister who serves in many ways. One strategic role of the President is convening leaders in conversations on what it means to be a faithful, vital, and healthy church. These conversations take place in many and various settings of conference boards, local churches, seminary trustees and Mission Planning Council. The aim is to collaboratively develop new forms of cross setting resourcing, engagement and sharing.

The Office of General Ministries manages biennial convening of General Synod. In 2013 for [General Synod 29](#) delegates representing conferences and local churches from across the UCC will gather in Long Beach, California to vote on proposed resolutions presented before the body of the church.

Office of General Ministries also houses the Publishing, Identity and Communications office. One responsibility they have is establishing and maintaining a web and social media presence. [UCC.org](#) has over 4,500,000 visitors to the UCC website each year and these visitors view over 7,500,000 UCC web pages. The largest number of visitors comes for any of three reasons: to [find a church](#), [worship resources](#), or [preaching resources](#).

Outgoing communication keeps us connected. Every week over 60,000 subscribers open [Keeping You Posted](#) E-zine (KYeP). Our social media presence is growing. Those new to the UCC and those responding to postings by UCC members increase our fan base on Facebook which is over 61,000. And each day we email over 35,000 [Daily Devotional](#) messages to inspire and offer messages for reflection.

Local Church Ministries supports the local church in many ways. The [Ministerial Excellence Support and Authorization Ministry Team](#) (MESA) team is designed to support Authorized Ministers (Ordained, Licensed and Commissioned) in our denomination from the first inklings of their calling through a healthy retirement. MESA's ministry is a collaborative effort intertwined with Conferences, Associations, and Committees on Ministry.

When a person is moved from silence into exploration of a potential call to ministry they become a Member in Discernment and the MESA ministry team provides the guidelines and procedures for their formation. Conference Committees on Ministry mentor Members in Discernment. When that individual is authorized and called into service as a pastor of a local church, MESA is again there to provide support for continuing education and oversight.

If God's voice lingers yet again in the silence and that pastor feels drawn to explore a new ministry setting, MESA is there to support the search and call process of the denomination. As well as to offer support to those ministers serving in specialized settings such as hospital and college chaplaincy.

This holy work is never completed in isolation. It is dependent on God's presence moving through the church and calling forth leaders. Together we work across the church to form, equip and support faithful and effective authorized ministers for God's mission in the world.

The [Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Team](#) support on-the-ground church operations and growth for pastors and lay leaders. We helped launch the [Center for Progressive Renewal](#) (CPR), a training center for UCC pastors and lay leaders and a growing number of ecumenical participants. CPR educates leaders toward implementing a "compelling vision, effective communication strategy, data management, community development, external mission and transformational worship." Recently partnered with two UCC Seminaries, the Center offers accredited courses and is "providing a complementary offering, allowing seminaries to offer the theological grounding, while CPR offers the technical training". There are two tracks: one for new church pastors and one for pastors looking to renew congregations (large and small). These course offerings are in response to the complex and ever-changing landscape of what it means to be church today.

Congregations large and small are nurtured by Local Church Ministries resources like scholarly reflections for pastors found in [Sermon Seeds](#) and [Weekly Seeds](#) bible studies for church members, as well as worship materials of [Worship Ways](#). Last year online readers of *Sermon Seeds* and *Worship Ways* exceeded 88,000. Churches are enriched by music found in books produced like [Sing, Prayer and Praise](#) and the UCC's [New Century Hymnal](#). Local Church Ministries nurtures vital worship and theological reflection.

Wider Church Ministries is most widely known for the mission outreach work of the UCC because of our [disaster ministries](#). This arm of the church also serves congregations and other settings of the church who strive to be inclusive whether it is multicultural/multiracial, open and affirming, global or accessible to all.

In partnership with the Disciples of Christ, Common [Global Ministries](#) is the ecumenical global sharing of resources and prophetic vision of a just and peaceful world order, joining with God's concern for the poor and oppressed.

All of this work – being long-term mission – is accomplished through over 70 trusting partnerships, 90 full-time deployed [volunteer](#) staff, 88 educational mission trip host sites, and shared resources for supporting those in need. We also gather mission reports from 164 UCC groups with over 5,500 members. We provide programmatic presence in disaster recovery, immersion training centers and service and learning sites to offer leverage and systemic support for wider ecumenical host sites, grassroots initiatives and mission trip participants.

The vision of **Justice and Witness Ministries** is of a more just, peaceful and compassionate world that honors all of God's creation but leaders are needed throughout our churches and communities to help share, pursue and achieve this vision.

[Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing](#) (Justice LED) training program for church members, teaches leadership skills to support justice work in local churches and UCC Conferences. Very exciting work!

[Justice and Peace Action Network](#) is a UCC grassroots advocacy effort to educate and engage church members and friends to shape public policy. Last year we've emailed over 600,000 "Action Alerts"! And over 35,000 letters, emails and faxes went to Congress and the President. [Public Policy Briefing Books](#) are also made available at UCC.org to download.

Immersion centers like [Centro Romero](#), [Franklinton Center at Bricks](#), [UCC Environmental Justice Center](#) facilitate educational, transformational issue based seminars on issue of globalization, environmental justice, economic policies, immigration and community empowerment.

The work of Justice and Witness Ministries is guided by the pronouncements and resolutions approved by the UCC at General Synod.

Changing Lives....that's

