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**“At First”**  
**First Congregational UCC**  
**1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336**  
**Church phone: 864-3855**

***Adam Thompson; Pastor***

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

***Facebook Page: First Congregational Church, Glencoe***

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

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**October 2024**

### **Please Join Us!!**

**On Sunday, October 20, 2024**  
**at 3:00pm**

at First Congregational UCC in Glencoe  
Representatives from the Minnesota  
UCC Conference will be officiating at the

**Ordination Ceremony of Adam  
Thompson, followed by his  
Installation  
as our settled Pastor.**

All family and friends, members, fellow  
UCC Pastors, and other area clergy are  
invited to celebrate this joyous and  
important event.

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### **Pledge Cards!**

**Pledge Sunday** is set for **Sunday, October 13th**. Pledge letters and cards have been sent out. If you did not receive a pledge card, call the church office at 864-3855. Please return your pledge ASAP by putting in the offering plate at church or mailing back to the church office.

Trustee's would like your pledge returned ASAP to help with setting a budget for 2024-2025. Extra pledge cards are at the back of the church.

### **Join us for Bible Study**

starting on **Monday, October 7th at 11:00 am** and continuing each Monday! We will meet in the **connecting room of the church.**

This is a great opportunity to grow in faith, dive deeper into Scripture, and enjoy fellowship with others. All are welcome — whether you're new to Bible study or have been attending for years. Bring your Bible and an open heart! We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Community**

#### **Thanksgiving Meal**

The Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be served at First Congregational on **November 28, 2024 at 12 noon**. **Meal reservations are required & will be accepted through Monday November 18, at 6pm. To make reservations call 320-864-3855.** There is no charge for the meal, however, there will be an opportunity for a free will offering for the local Food Shelf.

The Community Thanksgiving meal is funded in part, by Christ Lutheran, Good Shepard, First Congregational churches, & Priority One.

## **Baptism**

**We welcome Braxton Lee Forcier** into our church family. Braxton was baptized on Sunday, September 15th. Braxton was born August 19, 2024. Parents are Justin and Katelyn Forcier. Godparents were Rebecca Forcier and Andrew Robinson.



## **Happy Birthday!**

1. Kayla Salmela
5. Todd Forcier
6. Randy Schilling
7. Duane Maguire
9. Fredric Kottke
13. Sharon Bruckschen
15. Joanne Biederwolf
16. Alex Forcier
18. Scott Salmela  
Rod Wangerin
30. Travis Wangerin
31. Olivia Hinojosa



## **Everyone Is Invited!**

To the 50th Anniversary Celebration of **Rodney and Ann Wangerin** on **October 12th from 1pm-6pm at 12696 125th Street, Glencoe.** Please RSVP at 320-296-1906.

## **Let Us Know!!**

- \* If your E-mail has changed
- \* If your home or cell phone number has changed.
- \* If you or your family members has moved recently.
- \* If you have changed churches

Please take a few minutes to call the office Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 864-3855 or e-mail: [office@firstcongochurch.org](mailto:office@firstcongochurch.org) with the above information. Thanks!



## **Common Cup - Warm Coats**

Twice a year Common Cup collects warm new or gently used coats, boots, snow pants and mittens to be distributed to residents of all ages throughout McLeod County.

We are in need of:

- Coats (sizes newborn – 16/18 youth, men/women especially XL & up—no wool coats please)
- Snow pants
- Waterproof mittens/gloves
- Boots

**You still have time to bring your donations to First Congo until Oct 6th.**

**Volunteers are needed to help set up the City Center – October 15th**

**Volunteers are needed to help with the distribution at City Center - October 16th**

**To volunteer – sign up on our Website: [www.firstcongochurch.org](http://www.firstcongochurch.org)**

## **Pastor's Report**

### **A new season is upon us...**

As the golden hues of autumn begin to paint the landscape and we enter a season of change, I find myself reflecting on the beauty of transition and the faithfulness of God in every season of life. The leaves turning, the cooler air brushing our cheeks—all are reminders of the ever-present transformation in both nature and our spiritual journeys. I am deeply grateful for each of you and the sacred stories we share as a community of faith. Whether it is in our moments of worship, our times of fellowship, or even in the quiet conversations where we bear witness to one another's joys and struggles, I see the Holy Spirit at work among us. It is this Spirit that draws us closer to God and to one another, and it fills me with hope for what is to come.

Together, in this new season, I see it as a time for us to grow in faith by reflecting on how God is constantly working to renew our spirits, our congregation, and the world around us. I invite you into this season with open hearts and minds, ready to receive the fresh word that God has for each of us. I also want to remind you that this is season of change, it is important to take time for your own spiritual nourishment. Whether through prayer, Scripture, or simply moments of silence in the presence of God, I urge you to make space for the Spirit to renew and strengthen you.

As we journey forward together, I continue to hold each of you in my prayers. My heart is filled with gratitude for this community and for the ways you support one another, not just on Sundays, but in the day-to-day moments where love and faith shine brightest. May the peace of Christ be with you in this season and always.

*Pastor Adam*

### **What is our mission, core values, and vision for our church?**

If someone asked, how would you answer? I would imagine we might all have a different answer. It is important as a faith community not only to be clear about our mission, values, and vision but also to be continually thinking about how and where the Holy Spirit is leading us. Join us as we gathering to discern and articulate in hopes that we can share one mission, a communal set of core values, and a clear vision for who we are and want to be as a church, not just for us but for anyone who walks in our doors.

**The Next meeting is on Wednesday, October 2nd at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

# October Mission of the Month

## UCC – NEIGHBORS IN NEED

OFFERING RECEIVED ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup>

In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme is **“Mental Health Justice For All!”** This year’s focus is on Mental Health Justice. In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life’s mental health journey.

Please join us in promoting this year’s NIN **“Mental Health is a Universal Human Right”** campaign at your church.

As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

M E N T A L   H E A L T H   J U S T I C E   F O R   A L L

Mental health is  
a universal  
human  
right

*“God will not falter or lose heart until justice prevails throughout the earth.”* /Isaiah 42:4

 UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2024  
ucc.org/nin



## Imagine Stewardship Together

Our stewardship campaign is underway and in the coming weeks we will hear from church members and of course, witness the annual Stewardship Skit. Pledge Sunday is rapidly approaching, taking place October 13<sup>th</sup> and given this year's theme, **Imagine Together**, we'd like to invite you to do just that, **Imagine** our church, not in terms of what you may receive, but the impact on our lives as we come **Together** and the difference we can make within our faith community and the community at large. Your pledges, whether big or small, make what we do as a church possible and we are so grateful for your generosity year after year. Just **Imagine** what we can do **Together**.

## A Stewardship Reflection

### Imagine Together: A Sense of Wonder

Matthew 6:26-30

By Rev. Dr. Moses Shanthi Kumar Bollam John

#### Introduction

What do you see when you look at the world around you? Do you experience awe and gratitude or take things for granted? These are essential questions to ask ourselves because they reveal our attitude toward God and God's creation. They also affect our sense of stewardship, which is our responsibility to care for the earth and everything in it as God's gift.

In Matthew 6:26-30, Jesus teaches us a valuable lesson about stewardship, using examples from the natural world. He invites us to look at the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, and to learn from them how to trust God and appreciate God's care. He also challenges us to examine our worries and priorities, and to seek God's kingdom and righteousness first. Let us examine the passage with an open heart and a sense of wonder.

Have we paid attention to looking at the birds, the lilies of the field, and the grass of the field? Imagine the pure wonder of a three-year-old blowing dandelion wisps for the first time. Children are made of awe and they have so much to teach us. In *This Here Flesh*, Cole Arthur Riley points out the societal shift that diminishes the value of childlike awe. Riley encourages us to reclaim that sense of wonder, allowing ourselves to be captivated by beauty and granting goodness the space it deserves in our inner worlds.

#### Rediscovering Wonder

A sense of wonder, a rich blend of surprise, curiosity, contemplation, and joy tends to wane as we age. In the pursuit of seriousness, often equated with wisdom, we overlook the simple and mundane, fixating on the profound and grave. Riley aptly describes the path to wonder as a backward-wound clock, embracing the foolish and excessive. True beauty lies not only in the majestic but also in appreciating the mundane, encountering the holy in the everyday spaces we may unconsciously neglect.

### **Embracing Profound Awe**

Jesus teaches us to look at the birds of the air and to learn from them how to trust God and God's provision. Wonder can be seen as a sense of profound awe and respect for the mysteries and beauty of creation. Observing and listening to the birds, returning to the land, and absorbing the wisdom of nature unveils the inherent value in all of creation. This sense of wonder leads us to appreciate not just the birds and the flowers but every aspect of God's creation, from the smallest insect to the largest mammal, and from the humble grass underfoot to the mighty forests. How often do we consider the lilies of the field, and admire their beauty and fragrance? How often do we smell the roses, and enjoy the gifts of God's creation?

### **Overcoming Worries**

Jesus, in verses 28-30, addresses worry about clothing, directing our attention to the lilies of the field. He does not advocate dismissing concerns or tragedies or masking our emotions. Instead, wonder requires a person not to forget themselves but to feel themselves so acutely that their connectedness to every created thing comes into focus. In sacred awe, we are a part of the story. Practicing wonder becomes a power tool against despair, like exercising the muscles of hope, fortifying our spirits, and enabling us to navigate through the darkest times with resilience and a steadfast belief in the inherent goodness and beauty present despite the prevailing challenges.

To evoke a sense of wonder, we need to approach nature not as an object to be exploited but as a subject to be engaged with. When we habitually overlook the profound beauty inherent in creation, relegate it to a mere resource for our consumption, and neglect the intricate marvels housed within our bodies, we unwittingly pave the path toward a dangerous transformation. Gradually, we begin to morph into creatures marred by a deep sense of detachment and disregard.

### **The Liberating Power of Wonder**

Living in a culture that glorifies busyness and rewards workaholicism, we risk becoming creatures of hatred, detached from the liberating force of wonder. To reclaim wonder, we must resist the relentless pace imposed by societal expectations. Wonder frees us from numbness, and as Alice Walker wisely notes, it doesn't dismiss pain; it brings us out of it. In a society that devalues awe as frivolous, wonder becomes our remedy, guiding us on the path to liberation.

### **Conclusion**

In cultivating a sense of wonder, we find ourselves connected to God, creation, and the stories unfolding around us. Let us embark on a journey of rediscovery, embracing childlike awe, and allowing wonder to guide us toward a deeper appreciation of God's creation and our role as stewards of God's gifts.

**Imagine**  
**Together**

# Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 18th

Stan Hoof called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Pastor Thompson offered the opening prayer.

## **Pastors Report**

Pastor Thompson and Barb Magnuson participated in the first Vision Statement meeting. The purpose of these meetings is to develop a new Vision Statement, First Congo's core values, and the Churches mission moving forward. The dates and times of future meetings will be found in the Church bulletin and newsletter.

Pastor Thompson fessed up for being the one who bugged up attendance at the first meeting.

Pastor Thompson is considering resurrecting our Bible study. Currently Monday around 11:00 or noon seems to be the most probable time. It looks like the meetings will be held at First Congo

Confirmation is under way. Pastor Thompson described this years class as squirrely (Jackson and Ethan). They are operating under a new curriculum. Pastor Thompson described the September 1st meeting as a melt down. He supposedly could not get service at his location. We were afraid to ask where his location was. Stan inquired if there could be a plan B in the future.

Troy has asked to have his name removed from the leadership team.

Pastor Thompson will not be present at the Sept 29th service, Tony Jasper will lead our service.

Pastor Thompson is considering a "New Members class" to welcome and give an orientation to new members. Hopefully we will have completed our new mission statement etc., before starting this class.

Pastor Thompson informed us Alyson Lagergren is interested in playing the piano for us several times a month. Her recent performance was very well accepted. We will need to wrestle about \$150.00 a month out of the Deacons or some other unsuspecting group to make this happen. The appropriate First Congo group should also be contacted.

The Scare Crow trail is also looking for new participants, Pastor Thompson thinks the Confirmand's may fit the bill. They will have to move fast, September 23rd is the deadline for entry.

Pastor Thompson also talked about Installation and ordination dates. We were looking at Oct 13th and Oct 20th, Sunday afternoon about 2:00 PM. These dates may change.

Pastor Thompson will be on vacation Feb 15th to the 22nd.

### **Resource Team**

Carmen gave us these numbers which seemed to be a little squishy.

Pledges for August - 3,600

Last August - 10,628

Total Pledge 2024: 47,845

Last year: 85,275

The replacement of our heating system has started.

### **Discipleship**

New curriculum for Sunday school. Julian Huitt was given a new 3rd grade bible. Stewardship has started, Pledge Sunday Oct 13th.

Mission of the month: Common Cup's Warm coats. Volunteer's are needed to help move and distribute coats. Help is needed on Oct 15th. Distribution will be Oct 16th (9-1) City center.

### **Deacons**

The Deacons will pay for an Organ upgrade so we can download new songs.

### **Old Business**

We reviewed the call agreement

### **New Business**

We will vote on the call this Sunday Sept 22nd. Ballots needed! Jan Biederwolf will take the minutes of our special meeting. If the vote is positive we will extend the call to Pastor Thompson

**Our next meeting will be Oct 16th at 7:00 pm.**

Jim Cox



# SCARECROW TRAIL

Build your own!



Thanks to our creative youth (and a few crafty adults)  
First Congregational is on the **3rd Annual Scarecrow Trail!**  
Come check us out at **Post #28** anytime, October 1st-31st  
@ Glenfields Living With Care.

## SCARECROW COMMUNITY EVENT

Don't miss the **FREE** community event on **Thursday, October 3rd from 2:00–6:30 pm at Glenfields Living With Care.** Everyone is invited to take a stroll along our scarecrow trail, vote for their favorite, and stay for fun and treats. They'll have a variety of family-friendly activities, including pumpkin-decorating, bean bag toss, fall photo props, plinko, and more! They'll also have food trucks with delicious coffee, hot apple cider, mini donuts, and other fun treats available for purchase.



Calling All ghosts, goblins, superheros, princesses and more!

Join Us For Our 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat event

this Halloween

Thursday, October 31st from 5-7pm and **we need your trunk!** Decorate your own or let us decorate it for you, spooky or sweet, together we can create a fun, family friendly environment for kids on Halloween.

# Help us Spread Holiday Cheer!




You are invited to help the Forensic Services **Holiday Cheer** program by providing a gift or a cash donation. Gifts of **NEW** hygiene products, activity books, sweatshirts (M-5XL) sweatpants (M-5XL), or blankets are greatly appreciated to spread cheer through our halls and brighten our patients' days. Thank you for your partnership!

**Please make your donation by MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024.**

**Sharing a gift, even something as small as a new "Word Search" book reminds people they are not forgotten.**

**Holiday Cheer** is offered to all patients of the Forensic Mental Health Program & the Forensic Nursing Home on the Saint Peter Regional Treatment Center. It is totally supported by gifts and cash donated by members the community. Veterans are part of the patient group served in our programs.



**Warm Coat  
Distribution for  
McLeod County Residents**

**Wednesday, October 16**



**9am-1pm**

*one day only!*



**Bethlehem United Methodist  
665 Miller Ave SW in Hutchinson**

**Glencoe City Center Ballroom  
1107 11th St in Glencoe**



Infant-Adult sizes  
Some boots, snowpants, & mittens



**\*Recipient must be present\***

Common  
Cup



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Crow River Habitat for Humanity is building a home at 1417 Prairie Avenue in Glencoe. The Bahrke-Lavendar family of 6 needs your help!

Volunteers are needed to assist with the build process and to donate meals to the volunteers.

Sign up is easy on our website [www.crhfh.org](http://www.crhfh.org). Select volunteer, then select the day(s) you want to volunteer.

If you have any questions or if you want additional information, call 320-587-8868 or email [kelly@crhfh.org](mailto:kelly@crhfh.org).



Crow River  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

Seeking to put God's love into action,  
Crow River Habitat for Humanity brings people  
together to build homes, communities, and hope  
in McLeod County, Minnesota.

# October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deacon: Jim Benson Altar: Ann Wangerin	1	2	3 8:00pm A.A. 2:00-6:30pm Scarecrow Community Event @ Glenfield's Care	4	5	
6 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Confirmation	7 11:00 am Bible Study	8	9	10 8:00pm A.A.	11	12
13 9:15 am Worship Service Pledge Sunday Discipleship Meeting Sunday School	14 11:00 am Bible Study	15	16 Noon-Resource/Trustee's Meeting 7:00pm Leadership/Church Council Meeting 9:00-1:00pm Common Cup Coat Distribution@ City Center	17 8:00pm A.A.	18	19
20 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School No Confirmation 3:00pm Pastor Adam's Installation/Ordination	21 11:00 am Bible Study	22	23	24 8:00pm A.A.	25	26
27 9:15 am Worship Service Receiving Neighbor In Need Offering Confirmation Welcome/Worship/ Deacon's Meeting	28 11:00 am Bible Study	29	30	31 8:00pm A.A.		