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# **“At First”**

## **First Congregational UCC**

**1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336**

**Church Phone: 320-864-3855**

***Adam Thompson; Pastor***

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

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

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**September 2024**

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### **Confirmation**

starts on **September 15th** with our second year Confirmands, **Ethan Lehmann** and **Jaxen Mueller**.

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

#### **WARM COATS**

Twice a year Common Cup collects warm new or gently used coats, boots, snowpants and mittens to be distributed to residents of all ages throughout McLeod County and our Fall Drive begins now! 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

Bring your donations to church and we will get them to the Common Cup office in Hutch. The distribution date has not been posted. **First Congo will collect coats from Sept. 9th – Oct 6th.**

### **For Your Information!!**

Since our fiscal year for the church has been changed now to January 1st – December 31st. **Our Annual Meeting will be the end of January.**

### **Sunday School Kick-Off**

will be **September 8th** this year. **Classes in September will be the 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month.** Beginning in **October, the regular schedule will be the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month** (barring special holiday events).

Pastor Adam has found a curriculum that he believes will work well in our situation that follows the church lectionary. The Program SPARK HOUSE curriculum provides an easy program transfer between teachers. Each child received a workbook that they keep at church. It has pages to complete and take home weekly. Leader books are also provided. Interested teachers have been asked to review the program and make recommendations to him.

### **Great News!**

#### **(but not unexpected!)**

Pastor Adam was unanimously approved by the Committee on Ministry and by members of the **Ecclesiastical Council** with a vote of 16 Yea votes to move forward with Ordination!

Present included: Dan Kottke, Barb and Bruce, and Carmen and me. Eleven UCC churches and/or church representatives attended. It was a wonderful experience!

**We Extend Our Sympathy and Prayers to the family of Joe Adrian**

Joe passed away on August 13th. His Memorial Service was held at First Congregational Church on Monday, August 19th at 11:00 am with a vlsitation at 10:00 am.

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**On the Job in September**

**Deacon: Scott Salmela**

**Altar: Ann Wangerin**



**Happy Birthday!!**

- 1. Kyle Giesler
- 8. Katherine Jones
- 9. Lon Roach  
River Rowan
- 11. Chris Marsh
- 15. Samantha Schilling  
Samantha Graupmann
- 16. Victoria Schultz
- 22. Shirley Steele
- 26. Daniel Rach



is this year's **Stewardship** theme. Generosity arises from imagining all that God calls us to so as a community. Our donations to our congregation make it possible to turn what we imagine into a reality. Through your annual pledges to our congregation, we imagine together all that our church can do. **Pledge Sunday will be October 13th.**

**A Special Thank You!**

On behalf of the Staff and Board of Directors of Common Cup Ministry we thank you for your generous donation of \$387.00 made to this organization.

Your offering will bless many lives through your care and compassion for those in need. Your donation will be used where most needed.

Be Bonte, RN, Director of CCM

**Student Loans**

The Student Loan Committee of First Congregational Church would like to remind members that there are currently funds available for student loans. Students must be a member of the church. They can borrow up to \$2000.00 per year with a maximum amount of \$4000.00 per person. Loans must be repaid after the student graduates. **Contact the Church office @ 864-3855.**

**Pastor's Page:****Imagine Together**

Dear Church Family,

As we step into this new season together, I find myself deeply moved by the power of imagination. The ability to dream, to envision something greater than what we see before us, is a gift from God that has fueled our faith and propelled us forward throughout the ages. It's this very gift that I want us to embrace as a church community.

Throughout Scripture, we see that God delights in working through the imaginations and dreams of His people. From Abraham, who imagined a future filled with descendants as numerous as the stars, to Nehemiah, who envisioned the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls, to the early church, which dreamed of a world where the Gospel reached the ends of the earth - each step of faith began with a vision inspired by God.

I invite each of us to take time in prayer, asking God to stir our imaginations. Let's seek His guidance in how we can grow, serve, and love more fully as a church. And let's share these visions with one another, encouraging each other as we pursue the dreams God plants in our hearts.

This season, let us not only imagine together but also act on those imaginations, trusting that God will use our faith-filled dreams to do more than we could ever ask or think. Remember, the journey of faith is not one we walk alone. When we dream together, pray together, and work together, we align ourselves with God's purposes, and that's when the miraculous happens.

May the Holy Spirit ignite our imaginations and empower us to be the church God has called us to be. I'm excited to see where these dreams will take us and how God will work through each of us in the days to come.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Adam



**Pastor Adam's Office Hours At Church** are Mondays 9am-5pm, Wednesdays 12pm-5pm, and Sundays after worship till 4pm. Thursdays at home from 9am-3pm. Contact Pastor Adam by phone 320-864-3855 during office hours or by cell 952-239-5893 and by email at [pastor@firstcongochurch.org](mailto:pastor@firstcongochurch.org)

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Leadership Team Minutes – August 21, 2024

**DRAFT**

**Attending:** Stan Hoof, Carmen Kienenberger, Jan Willand, Bridget Kienenberger, Pastor Adam  
**Absent:** Troy Lehmann, Jim Cox

1. **Call To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Stan at 7:05 p.m.
2. **Opening Prayer** – The opening prayer was given by Pastor Adam.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the July 17th meeting were approved as written upon a motion by Jan and a second by Carmen.
4. **Pastor Adam's Report/Update**
  - Pastor Adam questioned who took the Minutes from our last Annual meeting as they have been unable to locate them. Members will investigate
  - Joe Adrian's funeral took place August 19th. A lunch was provided by the family with church members providing bars, etc. There was positive feedback received.
  - Work on revising our church's mission statement has been stalled by other events. A new date to gather people together for this project will be sent out.
  - The Ecclesiastic Council, including pastors from seven churches, meets with Pastor Adam on Sunday, August 25th, 3pm at the Meeting House church. First Congo members are invited to attend.
  - Sunday, September 1st will be an on-line service from Pastor Adam's cabin in Hillman, MN. Members are invited to attend, if in the area. Communion will be moved to September 8th.
  - After serving communion to Julian Huitt on August 4th, Pastor Adam said he received feedback from a number of members about their concern for this action. He said he was unaware of First Congo's tradition to not provide communion to the youth until they are confirmed. The policy to include communion a part of the Confirmation service hasn't been practiced recently. He apologized for not discussing his plan with the Deacons in advance and to other members concerned with this decision.
  - He will begin serving as a Common Cup Board member at the September meeting.
  - Pastor Adam is proposing the purchase of a hardware program for our organ. The new program uses flash drives to download music from their system at a cost of \$3 per hymn. The program costs \$175 and the hardware is \$25. The floppy disc process would be eliminated. The Resource team was introduced to this concept at their recent meeting.

## 5. **TEAM LEADER REPORTS**

### A. **Resource Team**

<b><u>2024 Pledges</u></b>		<b><u>Total for Year</u></b>
July	\$2,295	\$44,245

1. **Foster Mechanical:** Mike Sanken – Work will not start on the heating system replacement until schools start up. It appears the elevator can have the sump pump be reinstalled as per the plumber.
2. **SLS** put all Missions and Special Pledge dollars into the Offerings category. This has now been corrected. Electronic pledges were identified as \$320 – they are \$380.

**B. Discipleship Team**

1. **Mission Dollars** – Jim has received the figures for the various Mission programs. Donations to the Common Cup School Supply program were \$750 at last count. All requested supplies were purchased and distributed at Glencoe Jr. High on August 15th to over 200 youth.
2. **Christian Education** –
  - **Sunday School Kick-Off** will be September 8th this year. Classes in September will be the 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. Beginning in October, the regular schedule will be the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month (barring special holiday events). Pastor Adam has found a curriculum that he believes will work well in our situation that follows the church lectionary. The Program SPARK HOUSE curriculum provides an easy program transfer between teachers. Each child received a workbook that they keep at church. It has pages to complete and take home weekly. Leader books are also provided. Interested teachers have been asked to review the program and make recommendations to him.
  - **The Confirmation program** begins September 15th.
  - **Stewardship Program** - Stewardship planning has begun with:
    - September 15th – Speaker
    - September 22nd – video during the church service
    - September 29th – Speaker
    - October 6th – Skit
    - October 13th - Pledge Sunday
3. **Birthday Greeting Cards** – Cards were sent to 14 members in August.
4. **Next Discipleship meeting is October 8th.**

**C. Deacons**

A representative was not in attendance.

**D. Worship and Welcome Team**

1. Jan thanked those that help with communion arrangements each month.

**6. Old Business**

- A. Licensure of Pastor Adam – the SAM Committee authorized Pastor Adam to be re-licensed. The date of his Ordination Sunday is TBD.

**7. New Business**

No New Business

8. **Motion to Adjourn** – Carmen motioned and Jan seconded the motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm.

**Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 18th at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Bridget Kienenberger

## Women's Retreat: You Are a Story

**September 13 - September 15**

### **REGISTER**

Cost: \$240

"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 inter-being, 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

## **Details**

**Start:**  
September 13  
**End:**  
September 15  
**Event Category:**  
**Camps & Retreats**

## **Venue**

Camp Onomia  
14202 Shakopee  
Lake Rd  
Onamia, MN  
**Phone (320) 532-3767**

**For more details - go on the Minnesota Conference UCC website.**

## You've been invited!



### Fall Conference Youth Event (CYE)

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.



Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center  
54165 Audubon Drive, Sandstone, MN 55072

[View on map](#)



Oct 11, 2024 06:30pm - Oct 13, 2024 11:00am

Add to [Google](#) · [Outlook Web](#) · [Outlook Mobile](#) · [Yahoo](#) · [iCal](#)

**For more details - go on the Minnesota Conference UCC website.**

# Your Year to Volunteer



Everyone has a different reason for why they volunteer. Some are motivated to give back to the community or make an impact on those around them. Others want to learn valuable skills or knowledge to help build a future career. Whatever your reason, make this YOUR year and considering joining us as a volunteer!

## What are the Benefits?

Studies show that volunteering can:



Improve mental and physical health



Provide a sense of purpose and teach valuable skills



Nurture new and existing relationships



## Join Us

At Glencoe Regional Health, there is a job for every age and every interest.

While we have a list of roles you can fill, we can also work with you and/or a small group to craft a custom experience. All volunteers receive training and support to equip you for success. *Flip this page to learn more!*

**Thank you for your interest in volunteering!**

Scan this QR code to the right, or find our registration form at [surveymonkey.com/r/GRHVolunteer](https://surveymonkey.com/r/GRHVolunteer).





## Group Activities

Come for a visit and share your interest, talents, and heart with our GlenFields residents. These roles are ideal for small groups and teams:

- Games & Crafts
- Baking
- Special Event support
- Music
- Chalk Artist
- Adventure Guest (share a travel or adventure experience with photos, a tasty treat, and souvenirs)



## Individual Projects

Work on a specific project individually, such as:

**Holiday Hero** - help take down and pack holiday decor

**Gratitude Hero** - thank our incredible employees and generous donors with handwritten notes and other small acts of kindness

**Office Support Hero** - work on clerical projects

**Sewing Hero** - create caps and burp cloths for newborns, icepack covers, wheelchair bags, and more!

**Helping Hands Garden Hero** - tend to weeds, water, and care for the vegetable gardens on Prairie Trail

## Personal Interactions

Enjoy a personal interaction and make a GlenFields resident's day with:

- Trishaw Bike
- Walking Buddy
- Patient & Resident Escort
- One on One Visitor Companion
- Gift Shop
- Manicures



### Questions? Contact:

**Denise Lemke**

Volunteer & Marketing Events Coordinator  
**320-864-7703**

[denise.lemke@grhsonline.org](mailto:denise.lemke@grhsonline.org)

[grhsonline.org/volunteer](http://grhsonline.org/volunteer)



1805 Hennepin Ave. N. Glencoe, MN 55336

# September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:15 am On-Line Outdoor Service : Livestream on Facebook page @ <a href="http://www.facebook.com/FirstCo ngoGlencoe">www.facebook.com/FirstCo ngoGlencoe</a>.</p>	2	3	4	5 8:00 pm A.A.	6	7
<p>8 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Sunday School Kick-Off Discipleship Meeting</p>	9	10	11	12 8:00 pm A.A.	13 UCC Women's Retreat	14 UCC Women's Retreat
<p>15 9:15 am Worship Service Stewardship Speaker Sunday School Confirmation</p>	16	17	18 Noon-Resource/Trustee's Meeting 7:00pm Leadership/Church Council Meeting	19 8:00 pm A.A.	20	21
<p>22 9:15 am Worship Service Stewardship Video Sunday School Confirmation 1:00pm Glenfield's Worship</p>	23	24	25	26 8:00 pm A.A.	27	28
<p>29 9:15 am Worship Service Stewardship Speaker Confirmation Welcome/Worship/ Deacon's Meeting</p>	30					