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

Rev. Adam Thompson; Pastor
Church Website: firstcongochurch.org
Facebook Page: [First CongoGlencoe](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongoGlencoe)

November 2024



UCC Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Fellowship

Join us and our UCC neighbors on **Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00 pm.** Our host this year will be **St John's/Bongards UCC with Pastor Adam sharing the message.**

St. John's will be providing their delicious treats and refreshments after worship. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the Food Shelf.

Come and join with others as we tender thanksgiving to God for having our needs met and for watching over us from day to day.

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Attention! All Women!

There will be an **All-Women's Fellowship Meeting following worship on November 3rd.** Please plan to attend!!

“Hanging of the Greens”

We can use your help decorating the church for the Holidays on **Sunday, November 24th following worship.** Please plan to stay and help that morning!

Where's the Birthday Boy or Girl?

The Discipleship Team has been pretty successful in sending *Special Birthday Greetings* to our many members but there are a few addresses we're unable to find. Can YOU help provide a mailing address for: Alyssa Rothfolk – Zachary Hinze – or Sharia Defoe? **Please email Bridget @ cdkandme@aol.com or phone 320 864-5651 and leave the message if I'm not available.** Our Team will see that they aren't missed. Thanks!

Winter Weather Closings

We would like to have the congregation use common sense when the roads are impassable since there is not a BEST way to call off church, not everyone is on face book and not everyone has a phone number. So if not advised by the state patrol – we do not want anyone injured trying to come to church.

Wedding

Congratulations to **Amy Smith and Mark Forcier**. They were married here at First Congo on Saturday, October 26th. Pastor Adam officiated.

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On the Job for November

Deacon: Duane Mathews

Altar: Ann Wangerin

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For Sale

Women's Fellowship has dishcloths and knives for sale. If you or a friend need any, please **contact Chris Marsh or Joanne Biederwolf**.



Happy Birthday!!

1. Jim Benson
2. Randy Warner
3. Shania Olson'Neely
4. Susan Winn
8. Dan Kottke
9. Andrew Jungclaus
11. Cecily Smoldt
12. Tricia Kottke
Andre Chornuk
16. Bill Curtis
19. Ashley Forcier
23. Barb Magnuson
Alyson Lagergren
25. Chad Kottke
26. Linda Landon
28. Clara Cruz
Emily Forcier
29. Jean Marsh,
30. Charmaine Picha
Pam Gould

Interested in Becoming a Member?

Come and Learn About the UCC and Our Church

New Member Classes Begin On

Wednesday, January 8th, 2025

6pm in the Fellowship Hall

Pastors Page

Thank You!

When I first walked through the doors of the church three and a half years ago, I had no idea what to expect. I was relatively early on in my journey through seminary and to say I wasn't sure what God was up to in my life would be an understatement. As I have shared with many, whether in a sermon or conversation, preaching wasn't in the picture let alone leading a congregation in an unfamiliar town. Well, as it's often said, "God works in mysterious ways", and I couldn't be more grateful and humbled.

From the moment I arrived at First Congregational, UCC of Glencoe, I knew something was special about this place and while I will admit I was in awe of the beauty of the church building, it was you, the people of the church, that the true beauty was, and is, found. Struck by the extravagant welcome that I felt, despite having never set foot in a pulpit, it was readily apparent that this was a church that stood firm in Christ's example of compassion, acceptance, and love that comes from being open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

While quite a lot has happened since then, the past three and a half years have seemed to have flown by, I continue to be humbled and grateful for the risk you took by believing in me. You have walked with me through my seminary journey and supported me in ways that gave me strength and hope. You have grown with me and helped me grow, tried new things, and have been open to listening to new possibilities. You have been there for me and my family in times of great loss as well as times of great joy. What's more, however, is that all of this support, compassion, and love that I have experienced from all of you, I have witnessed being extended to each other and that is what makes this church a special place.

It is with the greatest honor that my journey with all of you continues, as a fellow member, and as your newly ordained, installed, and settled pastor. With profound humility and extraordinary gratitude, my family and I extend our thanksgiving and appreciation to all of you.

Peace and blessings, your Pastor,
Reverend Adam Thompson

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November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Confirmation All-Women's Fellowship Meeting following Worship Day Light Savings Time - Fall Back</p>	<p>4 11:00 am Bible Study in Connecting Room</p>		<p>6</p>	<p>7 8:00pm A.A.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 9:15 am Worship Service Confirmation Sunday School</p>	<p>11 11:00 am Bible Study in Connecting Room</p>		<p>13</p>	<p>14 8:00pm A.A.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 9:15 am Worship Service Receiving the White Christmas Gifts Confirmation Sunday School</p>	<p>18 11:00 am Bible Study in Connecting Room</p>		<p>20 Noon-Resource/Trustee's Meeting 7:00pm Leadership/Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>21 8:00pm A.A.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 9:15 am Worship Service "Hanging of the Greens" Confirmation Welcome/Worship/ Deacon's Meeting</p>	<p>25 11:00 am Bible Study in Connecting Room</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 7:00pm UCC Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service @ St. John's/Bongards UCC</p>	<p>28 Noon- Community Thanksgiving Dinner 8:00pm A.A.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>





Community Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner

The Community Thanksgiving Meal is funded in part, by a grant from Thrivent Financial, Priority One, Michael's Foods, Seneca, along with Christ Lutheran, Good Shepherd, & First Congregational Church

Everyone is welcome, whether you're a senior, a single, or a family.

Thursday, November 28, 2024
serving @ noon
First Congregational Church
1400 Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN

NO CHARGE – a freewill offering will be taken to support the local food shelf. RSVP is required by Monday, November 18th by calling 864-3855

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.

Proposed Mission Statement, Core Values, and Vision Statement

Mission Statement

At First Congregational-UCC, Glencoe, we are a faith community dedicated to following Christ by growing in faith, nurturing relationships, and serving God, one another, and the wider community.

Core Values

Open to All: We embrace the belief that everyone is welcome, striving to create an open and loving community where all of God's people can connect, belong, and serve. We are dedicated to coming together in Christ-like compassion and ensuring that all feel valued as we seek to follow Christ's example of love and acceptance.

Encourage Christian Growth: We are committed to fostering an environment where everyone is encouraged to grow in their faith through fellowship, learning, and spiritual nurture. Through worship, study, and compassionate engagement, we help one another deepen our understanding of God's love and purpose, empowering each person to live out their faith in daily life.

Biblical Foundations: We believe that the Bible serves as the foundation for our faith, providing wisdom and direction in our daily lives. Grounded in scripture, we trust that "God is still speaking", inviting us to continually grow in our understanding of Christ's teachings. Our fellowship is rooted in this shared journey of faith, as we come together to study, reflect, and discern God's voice in our community and the world.

Compassionate Service: We are called to serve others with Christ's love, offering support and care to those in need. As a gathered community, we strive to reflect God's grace and compassion through our words and deeds and seek to be a positive presence to all that reflects Christ's message of love and justice.

Vision Statement

We envision ourselves as a welcoming faith community, led by the Holy Spirit and open to our still speaking God. We see a Christian fellowship where life and love are taken seriously, while acknowledging our imperfect humanity. We picture a fellowship that is made up of people from all walks of life, united in our commitment to following Christ, while embracing the freedom to interpret faith and life in ways that are personal and meaningful to each person. We envision a community where all of God's people are celebrated, and where love, grace, and compassionate understanding guide our journey together ever closer to God.

Please submit any questions, concerns, or suggestions to Pastor Adam by Sunday, November 10th

Calling First Congregational Young Adults



Common Ground on the Border

From Border to Belonging: A celebration of commitment, compassion, and community across the US/Mexico borderlands

Who: Young adults between the ages of 19 and 29

When: January 15-19, 2025

Where: [The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ](#) | Sahuarita, Arizona

Size: Group limited to 12 participants

Cost: \$250 (includes flight, ground transportation, shared lodging, and meals)

Each young adult registration is subsidized by \$650 from the Ashley Endowment of the Minnesota Conference UCC.

REGISTER by November 15, 2024

The United States-Mexico borderlands has always been a beautiful mix of culture, language, cuisine, economies, and people. It has also been a place of struggle, high and low temperatures, a fragile environment, and the push and pull of immigration.

The Borderlands is the perfect place to explore the arts, touch the culture, and have deeper conversations about the complicated issues that collide here. We hope you will come and explore with us all the possibilities.

Join other young adults from the Minnesota Conference and an intergenerational community of people from around the U.S. for this annual gathering hosted by the community of the Good Shepherd UCC. Following are some highlights of Common Ground on the Border:

Thursday is a day of engaging field trips to immerse ourselves in the culture, life, and issues along the US/Mexico border.

On Friday we will have keynote addresses in the morning, classes in the afternoon, and a great dinner followed by an amazing concert.

On Saturday we will have keynote addresses and a festival in the morning, classes in the afternoon and another great dinner followed by a Special Evening with civil rights icon Dolores Huerta.

Contact Pastor Adam for more information – pastor@firstcongochurch.org

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Leadership Team Minutes – October 16, 2024
DRAFT

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

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 September 18th meeting were approved upon the correction of two spelling changes for Alyson W. and Joanne B.
4. **Pastor Adam's Report/Update**
 - Ordination plans are underway for the service on Sunday, Oct. 20th. Lon Roach will play the organ. Stan will organize this process and gift Pastor Adam with a stole from the church. Dan K. will handle the new member service of Pastor Adam during the morning service.
 - Our Halloween Trunk/Treat event will take place from 5-7pm on 10/31. Currently there are 5 trunks being decorated. Barricades have been ordered for better street control this year. Stan will distribute Gideon bibles at the event.
 - The Scarecrow Trail is up behind GlenFields with our theme depicting "Jonah and the Whale". Dan K. has been on "scarecrow duty" keeping it put together as the windy conditions have played havoc with the parts!
 - Bible Study has begun with the study of Job. It will have four sessions held on Mondays from 11-12noon in the Connecting Room.
 - P/Adam has been investigating the possibility of restarting a Pre-School at the church and has reached out to our past program teacher, who has declined interest in returning. He has spoken with Common Cup, and will reach out to the Chamber of Commerce for suggestions. It was suggested that an Ad in the paper or on the Web might bring an interest.
 - The front entry has been spruced up with two "new to us" chairs and a tapestry hung recently. He has spoken to Women's Fellowship about the purchase of two new chairs.
 - Confirmation is progressing with the study of a time-line of the Bible and "Who is Jesus?" and "Why He Makes a Difference".
 - A wedding will take place on October 26th between Amy Smith and Mark Forcier.

5. **TEAM LEADER REPORTS**

A. **Resource Team**

	<u>2024 Pledges</u>	<u>Total for Year</u>
September	\$7,496	\$ 55,828 (Randy's total)
		\$ 59,000 (Wendy's total)

There is a discrepancy in the totals between Randy and Wendy due to SLS's errors in bookkeeping. They are being worked out.

1. Foster Mechanical, Mike Sanken – Work is scheduled to be completed by October 31st. Carmen is reaching out to the plumber to determine the repair costs for the toilets in the education wing.
2. Kyle Osmek is working on the hanging lights in the sanctuary to repair the wiring.

B. Discipleship Team

- Missions – Jim B. reported on the status of the missions accounts. Coat collection was well received. The White Christmas mission is moved to November due to a deadline change. Barb has begun donation requests for the Thanksgiving Dinner.
- Christian Education – Sunday school is beginning to plan for the Holiday Kids event in December.
- Stewardship Program wrapped up with Pledge Sunday on Oct.13th
- Memorials – Pastor Adam is still working to reach Julie Wagner.
- Birthday Greeting Cards – Cards were sent to 14 members in September.

Next Discipleship meeting is October 27th to begin plans for the 2025 Mission Calendar

C. Deacons

Dan will be reaching out to the Deacons for more assistance at Pastor Adam's Ordination. Offerings will be accepted at the back of the church to reduce the service time.

D. Worship and Welcome Team

Jan asked for details on the Communion process for October 20th. Women's Fellowship will set tables for the luncheon on Saturday, 10/19 and no refreshments will be served on 10/20 after the 9:15 am service. Carmen is working with Joanne B with regards to supplies needed for the day. The room will be set for approx. 110 people.

6. Old Business

- A. Progress on Mission, Vision and Core Values Statement – Pastor Adam distributed a draft of the Statement for review. Another meeting is scheduled. Currently three people are participating and others are invited to join in.
- B. Employee Evaluations – Bridget will send forms to Ann and Wendy to complete prior to their Annual review.

7. New Business

- A. Eagle Brook Church Concept – Stan distributed an article about a church organization expanding in MN.

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

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 20th at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget Kienenberger



*This Christmas come and visit a “Living Nativity”
presented by Glencoe area churches and community volunteers.
Drive-thru and view a Living Nativity
depicting the Good News of Jesus’ birth on earth.
Hand crafted scenery, live animals, biblical characters, and music
will provide a memorable Christmas experience for the whole family!*

Saturday, December 14th
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glencoe, MN
Enter from 16th Street West – Watch for signage directing traffic
FREE ADMISSION

Boy Scouts will accept Donations for MEFS (McLeod Emergency Food Shelf)

Event support provided by Thrivent Financial Action Team program

(If inclement weather, event will be postponed until Sat, Dec 21)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - SET-UP, TEAR-DOWN, BIBLICAL CHARACTERS, CHOIRS – CONTACT 612-840-6308

COMMON CUP MINISTRY, INC.
REPS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 21, 2024

PRESENT: Jolen Bentz, Barb Wawrzyniak, Bev Bonte, Jen Wicklund, Darlene Birchler, Kim Conrad, Laura Cummings, Linda Dettman, Debbie Donnay, Dale Ewald, Gail Lehn, Sara Pollmann, Carol Runke, Vicki Stuber, Vicki Wood

ABSENT: Merline Duering, Geri Johnson, Bridgette Kienenberger, JoEllen Kimball, LaMae Maiers, Cheryl McDougall, Andrea Moore, Jody Runke, Cheryl/Mark Sanken, Sharon Serfling, Celine Swift, Dawn Vandenberg, Kerry Ward, Kristine Whitcomb

Jolen opened with a devotion & prayer on waiting – a time of stillness with an attitude of awareness – and a reminder to offer our services along with guidance to the Lord. Barb & Jolen provided cider and a pumpkin dessert - **THANK YOU!!**

YTD FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Income=\$172,361 Expenses=\$231,567 Current balance: negative balance of **\$59,206.**

“COMMON CUP CORNER”

Coat Distribution: 525 coats given from Glencoe & Hutchinson. We continue to match people with items they couldn't get at the events and serve new clients' needs. A list of items needed is available, if requested.

Coming Together in Song: Sun Nov 24, time changed from 4pm to 3pm. Posters were handed out. Sign up sheet for ushers and refreshments will be sent out by the first week of November. Austin Willhite & Shannon Campbell are organizing, Austin is directing the Mass Choir.

Current list of groups participating: Faith Singers, Christ the King Youth Choir, Crow River Singers, Maplewood Academy Choir, Bell Choir (Faith & CtK), Peace Lutheran (Piano & Organ)

Weekend Food Program: number at mtg was 293. NDMA just joined w/76, new count is 374. Still some packing openings available.

30 Days of Thankfulness: begins November 1st. Copies of the calendar were passed out and sent by email. Donations can be brought to our office as needed using the SW door. For those of us who aren't Lewis or Clark – this is the door to the packing room marked Hunger Free. 😊

Website/Social Media: Please let us know your advent and Christmas schedules if you would like us to share the info on our website, Facebook and Instagram. If you have any other “happenings” at your church, please let Jen know and she will promote them.

REP ACTIVITY FOR OCTOBER – Please continue to collect food items for the Weekend Food Program.

Needs: Still looking for front desk volunteers at the office. The Thrift Shop would like to have some more volunteers, especially throughout the holiday season. Donations of waterproof, sturdy “playground gloves” for school aged kids & tie blankets to be gifted at Christmas are requested.

Changes: Jan 2025 mtg will be at Maplewood with Laura Cummings. Diaper schedule changes: River of Hope to October and Faith Presbyterian, Silver Lake to March.

DIAPER COLLECTION: October – Oak Heights & Faith Presbyterian, Silver Lake
November – Faith Lutheran & Church of God

**NEXT MEETING – 12:00PM, NOV 18TH CHRIST LUTHERAN, GLENCOE – CHERYL MCDOUGALL
NO DECEMBER MEETING**

Respectfully recorded & submitted,
Jen Wicklund, CCM staff