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**First Congregational UCC “At First”**  
1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336

**Church phone: 320-864-3855**

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

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

*Adam Thompson, Minister*

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**February 2025**

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**Pastor On Vacation**

Pastor Adam will on Vacation from February 13-25th. **Rev. Penny Entringer will be covering pastoral care while he is gone, she can be reached at 320-779-0214.**

**On Sunday, February 16th** – Rev. Sue Goebel will be our Worship Leader and on **Sunday, February 23rd** – Rev. Dr. Daniel Harrell, Senior Pastor Emeritus at Meetinghouse Church will be our Worship Leader.

**Let's Have a Bazaar!**

Four easy words that take a “village” to produce! One thing is decided – December 6th, the first Saturday of the month. EVERYTHING else is up for discussion! If you're interested in helping organize and participate in a church fundraising effort, join Ann Wangerin and Bridget Kienenberger after church in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 9th for this co-ed meeting. We'll share coffee and ideas about the shape and scope of this event.

**Got questions? Contact Ann @ 864-6379 or Bridget @ 864-5651.**

**February Mission of the Month**  
**Common Cup Weekend**  
**Meals Program**

The Weekend Meals program, which began in 2011, is now serving almost 400 children in McLeod County. About 140 of these children (grades K-12) come from Glencoe and Lester Prairie Schools. Weekend meals are provided for students who qualify for Education Benefits (previously Free Lunch Program). Brown paper bags are sent home on Fridays filled with nutritious, easy to prepare meals that children can make on their own, if needed.

There are two ways you can help support this valuable program: Financial Support - It costs about \$6.00/week to fill each bag. Your cash donation allows the volunteers to buy products, in bulk, ensuring the best price possible. We will be collecting contributions through February.

Use the specially marked envelopes at the back of the church to make your contribution. **If writing a check, be sure to make it out to First Congregational Church.**

**Volunteer to pack Bag Meals at the Glencoe City Center – Only 2 volunteers are still needed to pack bags on Tuesday, February 4th from 4:15–5:45pm. Let Paula Bulau know right away if you can fill them! You can reach her at 864-6510.**

**On The Job In February**

**Deacon of Month: Jim Cox**

**In Charge of Altar: Ann Wangerin**



**Birthday's!**

- 1. Mark Forcier
- 4. Lola Huitt,  
Dawson Mengkoch
- 9. Ethan Lehmann
- 10. Paula Bulau
- 13. Cassie Shemanek
- 18. Jaxon Mueller
- 20. Blair Collins
- 23. Minnie Schwarzrock
- 24. Alvin Huff
- 25. Jessica Baldwin  
Desiree Richardson

**A Special Thank You!**

Thanks so much for your wonderful gifts that you provided to our patients at the St. Peter Treatment Center. Around 400 patients received a gift and for most of them – this is all they receive.

We appreciate your generosity and the hope that you give to our patients.

A special thank you from the St. Peter Treatment Center Christmas Staff

**Reminder!!**

**Thrivent Members!!**

You may have a designated portion of Thrivent's Choice Dollars available for you to direct to your favorite charity (such as our church). Choice Dollars can be designated for during the calendar year and can be directed until March 28th of 2025.

Directing Choice Dollars is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available. Just log at [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com) or call 1-800-847-4836.

**Thank You!**

To everyone who donated DOLLARS FOR DIAPERS for the Common Cup Diaper Drive. Very Successful!!

## **Pastor's Page:**

### A Season of Love and Renewal

As we step into the month of February, we are reminded of love in all its forms. While Valentine's Day often takes center stage, it is also a beautiful time to reflect on the deeper, divine love that surrounds us daily—the love of God, the love within our families, and the love we share as a church community.

In 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, we are given a powerful reminder of what love truly is: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." As we navigate our daily lives, may we strive to embody this selfless and enduring love in our words and actions.

February also brings us closer to the Lenten season, a time of spiritual renewal, reflection, and preparation for Easter. It is an opportunity to draw nearer to God, whether through prayer, fasting, or acts of kindness. Let us use this time to examine our hearts, seek forgiveness, and extend grace to those around us.

This month (and every month) let us be intentional about love—not just in words but in action. Reach out to someone who may need encouragement, forgive freely, and remind those around you that they are deeply loved by God. As we move forward, may our church family continue to be a beacon of light, sharing Christ's love with all we encounter.

With love,

*Pastor Adam*

### **New Welcome Materials**

We have created a new Welcome pamphlet to give to guests that are new to our church. The materials are based on our recently updated Mission/Core Values/and Vision Statements and include a brief look at our church past and present as well as who the UCC is.

All of our contact information and a visitor information card are also included. The materials are available at the back of the church and on our Missions table in the connecting room. Please feel free to take one or request one and if you see someone new or know of someone interested in our church, please pass one on.

### **2025 - Hutchinson Empty Bowls**

Please join us as we celebrate community with food and handmade bowls in Hutchinson MN.

The event will take place on **Saturday, March 8th from 11am-1pm @ the Hutchinson High School.**

Empty Bowls will feature handmade bowls made by professionals, hobbyists, and students.

The cost of a bowl is a suggested donation of \$20.00, but no one will be turned away if they cannot pay. Proceeds will be shared by Common Cup Ministry, Inc. and McLeod Emergency Food Shelf.

The bowl becomes a keepsake and a reminder of those whose bowls are empty.

We are partnering with the Harvest of the Month program, through the school, to offer a soup made with seasonally, locally available ingredients. A few soups will be available for everyone's enjoyment.

Everyone is welcome to this event.

There will be a small Silent Auction and a table of items for sale.

### **Little Free Library**

A year ago, the Confirmation class installed a Little Free Library! Have you haven't checked it out yet – you should! If you have books that you would like to donate, please feel free to bring them to church. We will be collecting them on the pew in the connecting area. Thank you for your support!

## **A Common Cup Message for February – *Did you Know Common Cup...***

.. provides **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS** to Brownton, Glencoe low income housing, Hutchinson low income housing, senior dining in Hutchinson and all schools within McLeod County, per request.

### **ASSISTS WITH INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS**

Common Cup never pays an entire bill and collaborates with County Assistance/UCAP. C/Cup keeps files on all those we serve and have a limit of \$200-\$300 every 3-4 years (case by case).

#### **Areas of Assistance include**

- Assist with **utility bills/propane/fuel oil**
- Assist with **Gas Voucher for:**
  1. Proven Medical Appointment that they had either that day or proof they were there in the past two days.
  2. Proven Job Interview that they are returning from that can be verified.
  3. First 2 weeks of work and have not received a paycheck.
- Assist with **Application Fee to an Apartment** (unless felonies or evictions that would prohibit acceptance)
- Assist with **deposit on an apartment** and/or first month's rent.
- Assist with **co-pays of medications** if clients are on MN Care or that have applied.
- Assist with **car insurance** only if under \$200 and client has a verified job.

You can learn more about Common Cup at [www.common-cup.org](http://www.common-cup.org). Or phone 320 587-2213

# February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deacon: Jim Cox Altar: Ann Wangerin						1
2 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Confirmation Discipleship Meeting	3 11:00 am Bible Study	4	5	6 8:00 pm A.A.	7	8
9 9:15 am Sunday Worship Confirmation Sunday School Bazaar Meeting - Everyone Invited!	10 11:00 am Bible Study	11	12	13 8:00 pm A.A. Pastor on Vacation	14	15
16 9:15 am Sunday Worship Sunday School No Confirmation Rev Sue Goebel, Worship Leader	17 No Bible Study	18	19 Noon-Trustee's Meeting 7:00pm Leadership Meeting	20 8:00 pm A.A.	21	22
23 9:15 am Sunday Worship No Worship/Welcomes Meeting Rev. Dr. Daniel Harrell, Worship Leader	24 No Bible Study	25 Pastor on Vacation	26	27 8:00 pm A.A.	28	

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**Leadership Team Minutes January 15, 2025**  
**DRAFT**

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

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** – A motion to approve the December minutes, as written, was made by Jim and seconded by Jan. Motion approved.
4. **Pastor Adam's Report/Update**
  - An advertisement was placed on the Glencoe Chamber of Commerce website and Life in Glencoe page, seeking interested people to operate a preschool or daycare at our church. A few inquiries were received but nothing firm has come from this yet.
  - Cameras and Wi-Fi materials were purchased and Pastor Adam has begun installation.
  - Nuvera has prewired our new system for the elevator and phones but is not yet completed.
  - A New Member Class began Wednesday with 5 individuals and one member interested in learning more about congregationalism. Dan Kottke provided the group a history of the church and a walking tour of the building. The next class will focus on the UCC fundamentals. Stan asked what the "UCC" designation brings to "us". Pastor Adam described the UCC as more progressive than standard churches, providing an "identity" and the opportunity for local giving and serving others.
  - No one, other than Pastor Adam, attended the Glencoe-Silver Lake ministerial lunch meeting.
  - The mid-week Lenten Service schedule is being drawn up with the other churches.
  - Pastor Adam's vacation is scheduled from February 13 -24. He is looking for some options to our typical pulpit supply individuals. Various names were discussed. He will also be setting up someone as an emergency contact while he is away, possibly Brian Brosz.

**5. TEAM LEADER REPORTS**

**A. Resource Team**

	<u>2024 Pledges</u>	<u>Total for Year</u>
December	\$24,827.25	\$ 90,056.81

1. A heating problem detected January 12<sup>th</sup>, with a relay switch, not installed by Foster Mechanical, required their service and a bill will follow.
2. Foster Mechanical completed the RSV heating system test required by the State.
3. A local resident, with a valid Boiler License began working for the church this week. Kelly Rach was instrumental in securing his services. He will be paid \$100 monthly for this service and will use the checklist hanging in the boiler room. John Lemke, who provided this service in the past is reducing his workload and wasn't interested in continuing his employment with the church.
4. The church's insurance policy comes due the first of April. The new rate reflects an increase of 8 percent, for a total of \$17,606.

**B. Discipleship Team**

1. **Missions** – The list of Missions of the Month program for 2025 was finalized at the Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Team leaders were chosen for each event and are responsible for the publicity and

follow-through. January's Mission is Dollars for Diapers and proceeds will go to Common Cup. February is also a Common Cup program serving school age children with the Weekend Meals program. In March we're supporting the McLeod Food Shelf. Stan asked about the procedure to write checks and how the donations get to the recipient. Pastor Adam will remind donors of the procedure and Bridget will add it to the church Announcements and make envelopes for those who want to use one.

2. Christian Education – Classes have suffered a bit with Amy being sick. Barb has stepped up to work with Vickie.

### **C. Deacons**

1. The bulk of December was spent organizing activities related to the Christmas service.
2. The Deacons will be reviewing the church Membership List with the names provided by Wendy, Randy Warner and with previous records to bring our count up-to-date. It was recommended that cards be made where those at the Annual Meeting can provide their current personal information.

### **D. Worship and Welcome Team**

1. Jan thanked those who have helped in the preparation of the Communion service monthly.

## **6. Old Business**

- A. Review of Budget Pages – Stan commented on a variety of pages in the Annual Report about their meanings. Carmen gave a brief recap of what each page represents. Carmen reported that Kelly Rach will be in attendance at the meeting and will lead the discussion about the various accounts. She is putting an investment spreadsheet together to make the budget contents more easily understandable. It was suggested that this page be shown on the screen so people can more easily follow along.

In response to a question by Stan about Wendy's understanding of the current Quickbooks program, Pastor Adam said she has a much better handle of the funds than previously. It was noted that bringing the system back in-house will provide better control of the records-keeping.

## **7. New Business**

- A. Discussion of Painting in the Church Basement - Jan and Bridget briefly described the conversation held at the Women's Fellowship Meeting in December. Several women expressed the need to freshen up the Fellowship Hall. The consensus was that this was a good idea and "we" should look into the cost of the project. It was suggested that this type of project could be covered by Buildings and Grounds so Carmen was contacted. He obtained three bids and took these to the Resource Team for review. The Resource Team approved the project and selected the best bid. Since that time church members have expressed their disapproval of the project. To resolve the issue, the project has been put on hold and will be added to the Agenda for the Annual Meeting.

8. Motion to Adjourn – Jim motioned, which Jan seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm.

**Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bridget Kienenberger



# February

IN PERSON DONATION HOURS: MONDAYS 10:00am-2:00pm  
THURSDAYS 1:00-3:00pm

ALL OTHER DONATIONS MAY BE PLACED IN LARGE GRAY BIN  
UNDER THE STAIRS, WHICH IS CHECKED SEVERAL TIMES DAILY

COMMON CUP & COMMUNITY OFFERINGS CALENDAR

Office: 320-587-2213 / Website: common-cup.org

# 2025

\*HUTCHINSON\* Diaper Distributions: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue 4-6pm & Last Tue 11a-12:30p  
CCM office: 105 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW Suite 2, back door facing parking lot

\*GLENCOE\* Diaper Distributions: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue 4-6pm Glencoe Laundry Ctr 707 13th St W &  
Last Tue 11a-12:30p Glencoe City Center 1022 12th St E, north side of building

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday Welcome Table Lunch New Journey UCC 31 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave. SW 11:30am *FREE*	6	7	8
9 FAITH LUTHERAN'S 2 <sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY SUPPER MOVED TO 2/16 DUE TO SUPER BOWL	10	11 Diaper Distributions Hutch 4-6 *FREE*	12	13 All For All 10-5:00 1398 Southgrade Rd. Hutchinson *EBT, cash, CC*	14	15 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday Breakfast Christ the King 1040 S. Grade Rd 8:30-10a *FREE*
16 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Supper Faith Lutheran 335 Main St 4-5:30p *FREE* NOTE DATE CHANGE!	17	18 Diaper Distributions Hutch 4-6 *FREE* Diaper Distributions Glencoe 4-6p *FREE*	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Diaper Distributions Glencoe & Hutch 11:00am-12:30pm *FREE*	26	27	28	