
“At First”

First Congregational UCC
1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336

Church phone: 864-3855

Church Email: Office@firstcongochurch.org

Church Website: firstcongochurch.org

Adam Thompson, Pastor

April 2025

Joint UCC Lenten Services - All Services Begin At 7:00 pm

April 2nd – St. Paul’s, Plato

April 9th – St. John’s/Bongards, NYA



Come & Celebrate Easter Week With Us!

9:15 am April 13th (Palm Sunday) Service

April 17th: 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service
w/5:30 pm Soup Supper @ First Congregational

April 18th - Good Friday Service @ St. John’s, Plato – 7:00pm



Easter Breakfast, sponsored by the Deacons, will be served before our **Easter Morning Service on April 20th starting at 7:30 am**. They will be serving waffles, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage and coffee. This will be a free will offering.

April 20th: 9:15 am Easter Sunday Worship Service
Easter Egg Hunt Following Worship

Deacon of the Month:

Troy Lehmann

Atar: Ann Wangerin**Happy Birthday!!**

4. Brenda Schultz,
Lillian Krueges
9. Bryanna Paul
10. Pat Trocke,
Roger Landon
12. Emily Jungclaus
13. Janice Winn
14. Bruce Magnuson
18. Kelly Rach,
Troy Lehmann
19. David Stark
22. Jamie Yurek
23. Kara Salmela
25. Ozzie Chapman
27. Bridget Kienenberger
28. James Cox
29. Nicholas Schultz

Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies: If you would like to purchase a lily in memory of or in honor of a loved one for our Easter Service on Sunday, April 20th, please call the church office @ 864-3855 or sign a sheet at the back of the church. Please note who you want the Lily to be in honor or in memory of. **Price is \$15.00 each. Deadline to order is April 9th.**

Live on-line Worship

In an effort to provide a more consistent on-line worship experience we have moved our livestream to YouTube...

Live on-line worship will now be available on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/@firstcongregationalglencoe which can be accessed directly by entering the above URL into your favorite internet browser. A link will also be posted on our Facebook page at facebook.com/FirstCongoGlencoe and can also be found on our website at firstcongochurch.org

Recordings of services will be available immediately on our YouTube channel and by noon on our Facebook page

A Special Thank – You!

On behalf of the staff and Directors of Common Cup Ministry, we thank you for your continued and generous support of this organization.

You bless many lives through your care and compassion for those in need. Your donations on February 6, 2025 for \$119.00 and on March 10, 2025 for \$100.00 will be used where most needed.

Sincerely, Bev Bonte, Director of CCM

Pastor's Page:

The Joy Together

April is here, and with it comes the most powerful and hope-filled season of our faith—Easter. As we step into these sacred weeks, I want to encourage you to slow down and take it in. It's so easy to get caught up in the routines of life—work, school, schedules—but let's not miss the beauty of what we're about to celebrate: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the very heart of our hope.

Easter isn't just a story we revisit once a year—it's the story that defines who we are. On Good Friday, we remember the depth of God's love poured out on the cross. It's a day that reminds us of the cost of grace, the weight of sin, and the incredible mercy we've been shown. And then comes Easter Sunday—the day that changed everything. The empty tomb declares once and for all that death does not win. Because He lives, we have hope—not just for eternity, but for today.

I know that for some, this season may be filled with joy and gratitude, while for others, it may be marked by grief, uncertainty, or simply exhaustion. Wherever you find yourself, know this: the resurrection is for you. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is alive and at work in your life, offering strength, healing, and hope.

As we approach Easter, I want to encourage you to be present. Be present in worship, in prayer, and in community. This is also a great time to reach out to others. You never know how much a simple invitation to church could mean to a neighbor, coworker, or friend. Many people are more open to coming during this season, and you could be the one who helps them encounter the life-changing love of Jesus.

I'm grateful to be walking this journey with you and sharing in the joy of celebrating the Risen Savior together. Let's come with hearts open, ready to receive and respond to the incredible gift of grace. May you experience the peace, hope, and joy of the resurrection in a fresh and personal way this Easter.

With love and gratitude,

Pastor Adam

April Mission of the Month

4th Annual



We are coming up on our **4th Annual Spring Fling-Free Outdoor Community Music Event to be held Sunday, May 18th from 12-4pm.**

Spring Fling is an outreach event that First Congregational has offered that is intended to gather the community of Glencoe for a day of music and fun, and to support a mission through awareness and raising funds. This year we will be supporting the **McLeod County Food Shelf.**

What draws you to the event - The Music? The Family Games? The Fabulous Food and Drink? Or just a good time to gather with friends? Whatever the reason, here's your opportunity to support your "FAV"! The stronger our budget – the more we can provide.

Spring Fling, with all the activities, music, food, etc. is resource intensive and we are asking for congregational support. Support can come as a financial contribution or as one of the many volunteer opportunities.

Your April donations will allow the Church to reach out in a "family-friendly" way to our larger community.

Contributions can be made by using one the designated envelopes during worship, calling the church office or online at <https://www.firstcongochurch.org/serve/online-giving/> If writing a check, be sure to make it out to **First Congregational Church.**

Lots of hands are needed to support this activity. BE THE FIRST to sign up for your favorite functions including Set-up - prep of tables/chairs, selling concessions, supervising the Kid's Zone and, of course, Clean-Up! Watch for sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall and in Church during April!

Thank you for your generosity in making Spring Fling happen for the 4th year!



March Mission of the Month Results – Thanks for your contributions to Common Cup's "Weekend Meal Program for Kids". Donations totaling \$137 were received throughout the month. This amount, added to the Mission Fund donation of \$200, will provide over 56 take-home weekend meals.

Looking Ahead In May

Confirmation Sunday

will take place on May 4th during our Worship Service. Please join us as we celebrate **Jaxon Mueller and Ethan Lehmann** and they choice to follow Jesus.

Sunday School Celebration

There will be a recognition of the Sunday School students on **May 18th** as we close out the Sunday School year.

Service Opportunity—Feed My Starving Children **April 12th 9:15am-11:15am**

Join us for a meaningful morning of service at FMSC in Chanhassen where our hands turn hunger into hope!

On **April 12th from 9:15 am-11:15 am** we will be packing meals with the good folks at St. John's/Bongards at FMSC - **18732 Lake Dr E in Chanhassen.**

Sign-up sheets are in the back of the church and in the Fellowship Hall.

For more information, please see Pastor Adam.

Common Cup Community Meal

Common Cup will be serving a free community meal the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the dining hall at New Journey Church, Hutchinson. This meal will be sponsored by Common Cup Ministry volunteers from churches and our community doing the prep and serving. A free will donation will be taken.

Common Cup's Office has moved into the New Journey Education Building at 31 4th Ave. SW in Hutchinson.

The Thrift Shop of Common Cup needs volunteers. The store is open for business and collection of donations Tues-Fri 11 am– 3 pm. Monday is a workday at the store and volunteers are needed then also. Please call 320-510-2043 for more information.

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7:00pm Joint Lenten Service @ St. Paul's, Plato	3 8:00pm A.A.	4	5
6 9:15am Communion Worship Service Discipleship Meeting Confirmation	7 11:00pm Bible Study	8	9 7:00pm Joint Lenten Service @ St. John's/Bongards Easter Lily Order Deadline	10 8:00pm A.A.	11	12 9:15am-11:15 am Feed My Starving Children @ FMSC, Chanhassen
13 9:15am Palm Sunday Service Sunday School Confirmation	14 11:00pm Bible Study	15	16 Common Cup Community Meal @ New Journey Education Building, Hutchinson, MN	17 5:30pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Jount Maundy Thursday Service @ First Congregational 8:00pm A.A.	18 7:00pm Good Friday Service @St. John's, Plato	19
20 7:30pm Easter Breakfast 9:15 am Easter Worship Service Sunday School No Confirmation	21 No Bible Study	22	23	24 8:00pm A.A.	25	26
27 9:15am Worship Service Confirmation Welcome/Worship/ Deacon's Meeting	28 11:00pm Bible Study	29	30			

4th Annual

Spring Fling

Free Outdoor Community

Music Festival

Sunday, May 18th

12-4pm

Live Bluegrass featuring

The Eclectics & THE DOUBLE DOWN DAREDEVILS

FOOD



BEER

Bounce House

Yard Games

Family Fun

Freewill Offering

Benefitting:



First United Church of Christ
Congregational



1400 Elliott Ave N, Glencoe

Seeking Preschool or Daycare

First Congregational Church

1400 Elliott Ave N - Glencoe, MN



Are you or anyone you know looking for a welcoming space to start or expand your preschool or daycare? First Congregational Church in Glencoe, MN, is excited to offer our well-maintained facility to a non-profit organization dedicated to nurturing young minds.

Key Features:

- **Large Space:** Ample room with natural light, perfect for a classroom and play area. (805sq ft.)
- **Convenient Location:** Centrally located in Glencoe with easy access for families.
- **Kid-Friendly Amenities:** Includes restrooms, a kitchen, and access to a safe outdoor play area. (30x30 pea gravel pad plus a large yard, ready for your imagination & we'll help build)
- **Flexible Terms:** Competitive and negotiable options.

Our church community values families, education and child development, making this a supportive environment for your childcare program.

📞 **Contact Us Today:** For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Rev. Adam Thompson at 952-239-5893 or email pastor@firstcongochurch.org. Also, please feel free to check out our church online at www.firstcongochurch.org or <https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongoGlencoe>

Let's build brighter futures together!

Do you Know Anyone?

As discussed at the Annual Meeting, we are looking for an energetic individual to lead and build up our children and youth program. Below is a job description and if you have anyone in mind that would be a good fit, please pass it along to them or have them contact Pastor Adam.

Job Title: Children and Youth Leader (1/4 Time)

Employer: First Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC) of Glencoe, MN

Job Type: Part-Time (1/4 time, approximately 10 hours per week)

Job Summary:

First Congregational-UCC of Glencoe, MN, is seeking an enthusiastic and dedicated Children and Youth Leader to inspire and guide the next generation in their faith journey. This individual will work collaboratively with the pastor, church leadership, volunteers, and families to further programs for children and youth that reflect the values and mission of our church.

Responsibilities:

- Plan and lead faith-based activities for children and youth, primarily Sunday School and assisting the pastor with youth group gatherings.
- Develop and/or adapt creative, age-appropriate lessons and encourage volunteer support.
- Foster relationships with children, youth, and families, encouraging faith development and participation.
- Communicate with parents, youth, and church members through various channels as necessary.
- Ensure all activities align with church policies and safety guidelines.

Qualifications:

- A passion for working with children and youth in a Christian setting.
- A background in Christian education, youth ministry, or related experience is preferred.
- Ability to work independently while collaborating effectively with church staff and volunteers.
- Creativity and enthusiasm for developing engaging and meaningful faith-based activities.
- Familiarity with UCC values and theology is a plus.
- Must pass a background check and adhere to child safety policies.

Compensation: Compensation will be based on experience and qualifications, up \$25/hr.

To Apply:

Interested candidates should submit a resume and a brief cover letter outlining their experience and interest in the position to **pastor@firstcongochurch.org**. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

We welcome applicants of all backgrounds and identities to apply. First Congregational-UCC of Glencoe is a welcoming congregation that values diversity and the unique gifts of every individual.

Website: www.firstcongochurch.org - Facebook: FirstCongoGlencoe

A Bazaar Meeting: March 23, 2025 – 10:30AM

Attending were Pastor Adam, Joanne Biederwolf, Paula Bulau, Lora Muer, Mike Muer, Barb Magnuson, Bruce Magnuson, Carrie Wangerin, Ann Wangerin, Evon Draeger, Todd Bulau, Bridget Kienenberger

Knowns – The Date: Saturday, December 7th Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Discussion:

- We plan to accept local checks and cash. (Kari will investigate whether we can use the church's "donation tool" on our website for credit cards.)
- The Bazaar Committee will begin soliciting contributions monthly to help offset operational costs. Maybe a "Noisy Pail" collection?
- Past Bazaar participants will be contacted to determine their interest in this year's event.

Goal of Bazaar – To promote and raise awareness of First Congo church in Glencoe.

Charitable Organization to support – TBD

Lead Organizer's Job: To build and promote your activity, organize & gather helpers

Primary Functions

- Publicity
- Set-up/Clean-up
- Financial Support

Lead Organizer/s

Pastor Adam: Karen Benson? Ann W., Barb M
Kari W: Dan B & Deacons
Women's Fellowship will be asked to provide money for supplies and seed \$'s: Joanne B

Activities under consideration

An easy lunch
Holiday Cookies
Rosette's Making (in church)
Crafts
Lefsa Making (in church)
Pizzelles Makers
Santa's Attic
Greeter
Boxes/Bags
Other – Labels and Price Tags

Kari W: Todd B., Mike M.
Paula B.
Bridget K.
Ann W.
Bridget K – looking for help
Carrie W
Ann W,
Bruce M., Joann B.
Joanne B., Todd B.
Joanne will contact Chris M

Next meeting – June 8th, 10:30am, Fellowship Hall

Notes by Bridget

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Leadership Team Minutes January 15, 2025

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 12th, 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 \$100.00 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. 1st 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

2. Christian Education – Classes have suffered a bit with Amy being sick. Barb has stepped up to work with Vickie.
3. 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.

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 8:05 pm.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 19th at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Bridget Kienenberger

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Leadership Team Minutes for March 19, 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 5:00 p.m.
2. **Opening Prayer** – Pastor Adam opened our meeting with prayer.
3. **Approval of Minutes** –The Minutes of the January meeting were approved as written. (A February meeting was not held.)
4. **Pastor Adam’s Report/Update**
 - Pastor Adam shared memories of his recent vacation and plans to share a short slide show of his trip in the upcoming weeks, during Fellowship.
 - He noted the upcoming Lenten services and added that a Maundy Thursday service will be held at First Congo on April 17th.
 - The Nuvera system is in and working well with the exception of difficulties with the Sunday Service. Till this is rectified viewers are being directed to You Tube for the service.
 - Spring Fling plans are underway for May 18 from 12noon – 4pm. A budget of \$3,400 is in place which is a reduction in cost from last year. Our new insurance program covers several costs that we were paying out of pocket previously. Lazy Loon will provide food and McLeod Food Shelf will be the non-profit org. that we will support that day donations received.
 - The Confirmands are on track for a Spring graduation on May 4th. Pastor Adam has been connecting with the boys thru their phones and having them journal in their books. Troy’s illness has limited Ethan’s attendance recently.
 - Pastor Adam is pursuing mission trip opportunities in Duluth with a service based program or in South Dakota with a hands-on building focus. Finding dates that meet with all schedules is quite challenging during the summer.
 - The church is signed up for the Glencoe Days parade on June 28th. All supplies not used last year due to the wash out, are ready for this year!

5. TEAM LEADER REPORTS

A. Resource Team

	<u>2025 Current Pledge</u>	<u>Total for One Year Ago</u>	<u>Total for 2025</u>
January	\$16,847	\$ 8,644	
February	\$ 3,553	\$14,742	\$20,400

February Bills Paid:	Neubarth – Snow Removal	\$ 500
	McLeod County – 2025 lot tax	\$ 400
	Traveler’s Insurance – Worker’s Comp	\$ 485

1. The Resource team approved the rooftop furnace repair to be handled by Foster Mechanical, for an estimated cost of \$1,000.
2. A portable vacuum cleaner was approved at a cost of \$200. This is a replacement item.

B. Discipleship Team

MISSIONS OF THE MONTH

- February – This mission supported the Common Cup program serving school age children with Weekend Meals. Church contributions totaled \$137 and when added to the monthly mission donation of \$200 will provide 52 weekend meals to kids.
- March - The McLeod Food shelf in the recipient for March donations. All donations received by April 2 (?) will be doubled by a metro non-profit.
- April – April's mission is to support our church's Community Outreach by fundraising for the Spring Fling. Additional funds will allow for more publicity and programming of the event.
- May – Each week in May we will highlight one of the UCC's Five 4 Five programs we currently support.

C. Deacons

- The Deacons are in the process of reviewing the church membership using a variety of sources including lists from Wendy, Randy, Pastor Adam and updated records from the Annual meeting.
- An Easter Breakfast, for church members, will be served prior to the church service at 7:30a.m. by the Deacons.

D. Worship and Welcome Team

- Duane Matthews handled the last communion in Jan's absence.

6. Old Business

1. Wording of the amendments to the constitution passed at the Annual Meeting

Stan asked about the process and progress to updating the amendment changes made at our Annual Meeting. Bridget will contact Joanne Biederwolf and Wendy to see that the process is begun and updated constitution booklets are printed and made available to members.

7. New Business

1. How are amendments attached to the constitution and do we need to delete old language in the original draft? The process of removing and replacing old/outdated language was discussed. This is Wendy's responsibility to complete when presented to her.

2. Daycare Building Use Update- Pastor Adam noted that limited inquiries were received about the Day Care building use concept but nothing has materialized.

3. Youth Leader Update – Our job description has been posted on the UCC website and in their newsletter. Additional suggestions for outreach included Luther and Bethel and Ridgewater colleges. Additional suggestions were using FaceBook Marketing and reaching out to youth pastors in Hutchinson and military chaplains.

8. Motion to Adjourn – Carmen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jan seconded the motion and we were adjourned at 6:00pm.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bridget Kienenberger

GLENCOE COMMUNITY GARDENS

Growing Together

Sign up for a spot today!



SCAN ME

We are now taking reservations for garden plots at the Glencoe Community Gardens located at 525 Baxter Ave North in Glencoe!

- ✓ \$20 per plot
- ✓ Size: 10' x 20'
- ✓ Must be reserved by May

Contact Us!

Emily Queen at 320-864-1768 or emily.queen@mcleodcountymn.gov



For More Information visit us at our Facebook page Together we are Glencoe!

TOGETHER
GLENCOE