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# **“At First”**

**First Congregational UCC**

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

**Church phone: 864-3855**

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

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

**Adam Thompson, Pastor**

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May 2025

## **Confirmation Sunday**

Come and show your support for our Confirmands this Sunday, **May 4th during our Worship Service. Our Confirmands are Ethan Lehmann and Jaxen Mueller.** See Insert for their Statements of Faith and their favorite Bible Verses!

## **Celebration Sunday**

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

Celebrate with our Sunday school families, after church, in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and view displays of their accomplishments.

## **A Bazaar Update**

Folks are adding their names to the list of people interested and excited to participate in this year's Christmas Bazaar on December 6th. Our "Church Famous" Pizzelles and Rosettes are guaranteed to be in good supply, as well as hand crafted items, jams and "like new"\* Santa's Attic gifts. What's your "Claim to Fame" you'd like to provide this year? **Join us at our next meeting on June 8th, after church, with your faves.**

**\*Remember: Before you open your doors for the Glencoe Days garage sale, be sure to set aside a half dozen of your "best" items for Santa's Attic! Space will be available at the church throughout the summer to store them.**

## **Online Only - Worship** **Memorial Sunday, May 25th**

Join Pastor Adam from the shores of Long Lake as we worship together online. The livestream starts at 9:15am and can be found at

[youtube.com/@FirstCongregationalGlencoe](https://youtube.com/@FirstCongregationalGlencoe)

## **April Mission of the** **Month Results**

Thanks for your contributions received throughout April to support our Church's outreach efforts for the 4th Annual Spring Fling! Thank you to the congregation, Women's Fellowship, Deacons, and the Discipleship Team for your generosity in supporting Spring Fling!

## **May Mission of the Month**

This month we are supporting our own church's outreach efforts to the community by collecting funds to sponsor our float in the Glencoe Day's Parade on June 28<sup>th</sup>! Mark your calendars now to support the church as walkers/candy distributors and riders on the float! Or, bring a blanket or chair and join us outside the church to support our float as it passes by. Your May donations will allow the Church to reach out in a "family-friendly" way to promote our church to our larger community. Use the specially marked envelopes at the back of the church to make your contribution. When writing a check, be sure to make it out to First Congregational Church.

## Minnesota Conference

### Annual Meeting

The Minnesota Conference 60th Annual Meeting will be held **June 13th-14th, 2024** to be held at the College of Benedict, St Joseph, Mn with an online option.

We are excited to welcome you to this year's Annual Meeting! *Together*, we will explore what it means "to equip the saints for the work of Ministry, for building up the body of Christ." We will remind ourselves that we are not alone. Even as the world seems to separate us, we are continually called together as people of faith to live into the Gospel. All the hearings for the budget, compensation guidelines, and resolutions will be available via Zoom Monday-Wednesday, June 9-11, in the evenings of Annual Meeting week.

Watch for more information. Our keynote speaker is The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, minister and president of the United Church of Christ. Questions? Email: [info@uccmn.org](mailto:info@uccmn.org).

If you would like to go as our church representative to any of the events, **please talk to Pastor Adam or call the church office for times and dates of different workshops @ 864-3855.**

### Our Prayer Team

As servants of Christ our Prayer Team Members are willing pray for you whenever you have a concern or are in need of a prayer. Our members are: Kari Warner, Bridget Kienenberger, Stan Hoof, Shirley Westall, Dr Casey Baggott, Jan Mackenthun, Pastor Adam, & Barb Magnuson. **To communicate a prayer request you may text or call Barb at 320-510-1102.** May God be with you.



### *Birthdays*

1. Robert Hoppie
3. Audrey Forcier  
Nathan Warner
6. Ethan Kottke
8. Karen Benson
11. Elaine Reynolds
12. Justin Forcier
16. Dan Biederwolf  
Amanda Thompson
22. Jacob Paul
23. Vernon Forcier  
Maren Warner  
Eliza Pulley
25. Cassandra Forcier
26. Larry Olson  
LaDonna Brinkmann
27. Ken Stenzel
30. Stan Hoof

### **NEW: 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 month's meal will be served by the Common Cup Board, including Pastor Adam.

Lunch begins at 11:30am and is served till food runs out.

**A free will donation will be taken. New Journey church is located at 31 4th Ave. SW, Hutchinson.**

## **From Your Pastor:**

Dear Church Family,

I hope this message finds you well and holding fast to the peace that only Christ can give. As I sit down to write this, I'm reminded just how quickly life seems to be moving. Our schedules fill up, the headlines shift daily, and many of us are carrying quiet burdens—things no one else sees. In the middle of it all, it's easy to feel overwhelmed, distracted, or just plain tired.

But here's the truth I keep coming back to: God hasn't changed. God is not surprised by anything we're facing. God is not distant or disengaged. God is with us—right now, right where we are.

Isaiah 41:10 has been a steady reminder for me lately: *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."* That promise is not just poetic—it's practical. It means when our strength runs out, God's doesn't. When we're uncertain, God is still sure. When we don't know what's next, God does.

I want to encourage you in the weeks ahead to create small moments for stillness with God. Life won't slow down on its own, so we have to be intentional. Five quiet minutes in the morning, turning off the noise and just listening. A walk without your phone, just breathing and praying. A coffee with someone who will pray with you and for you. These little decisions add up, and they give God space to remind us of who He is—and who we are in Him.

We also have some important opportunities coming up in the life of our church. There are events to connect with others, spaces to serve our community, and moments to grow in faith. If you've been feeling disconnected or unsure of how to re-engage, now is a great time to take a step. You don't have to do it all, but don't miss the chance to belong, to be encouraged, and to be part of what God is doing here.

I'm praying for each of you—not just that you'd be busy, but that you'd be rooted. That your faith would hold firm even when things around you feel uncertain. And that you'd know, in a real and personal way, that God's love for you is steady, strong, and never fading.

With gratitude and hope,

***Pastor Adam***

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.firstcongochurch.org) - Facebook: FirstCongoGlencoe

# May 2025

| Sun   | Mon                                  | Tue | Wed   | Thu                                 | Fri | Sat |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----|---|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| <b>Mission Of The Month:</b><br><b>Spring Fling Fundraiser</b><br><b>Deacon Of The Month:</b><br><b>Nathan Warner</b><br><b>Altar: Ann Wangerin</b> |                                      |     |   | 1<br>8:00 pm A.A.                   | 2   | 3   |
| 4<br>9:15 am<br>Confirmation/Communion<br>Worship Service<br>Discipleship Meeting   | 5<br>11:00 am Bible Study            | 6   | 7   | 8<br>8:00 pm A.A.                   | 9   | 10  |
| 11<br>9:15 m Worship Service<br>Sunday School<br>Welcome/Worship/<br>Deacon's Meeting   | 12<br>11:00 am Bible Study           | 13  | 14  | 15<br>8:00 pm A.A.                  | 16  | 17  |
| 18<br>9:15 am Worship w/Sunday<br>School Celebration<br>Noon-4:00pm Spring Fling  | 19<br>11:00 am Bible Study           | 20  | 21<br>Noon - Resource/Trustee's<br>Meeting<br>2:00 pm Leadership<br>Meeting | 22<br>8:00 pm A.A.                  | 23  | 24  |
| 25<br>9:15 am On Line Worship<br>Service  | 26<br>No Bible Study<br>Memorial Day | 27  | 28  | 29<br>Ascension Day<br>8:00 pm A.A. | 30  | 31  |

# Our Confirmation Graduates - 2025

Ethan Lehmann and Jaxen Mueller

## Statements of Faith and Favorite Verses

### **Ethan**

I believe God is the Lord, my holy savior in Jesus and is always there for me.

In the church, I find a place to grow in faith in Jesus.

God's words in the Bible strengthen my faith and help me live a better life.

Luke 1:37 – For with God nothing shall be impossible.

### **Jaxen**

I believe that God is there along my journey and strengthens me to live each day and live through faith.

In the church, I find a place to worship God and strengthen my faith.

The way God comes into my life is by being there when I am down and lifting me up to make me better in that moment pushing me forward to do good.

Romans 5:8 – But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. (I love you at your darkest)





**4th Annual Spring Fling**

**Free Outdoor  
Community Music Festival**

**Sunday, May 18th  
12-4p**

**1400 Elliott Ave North, Glencoe**



United Church of Christ

**BENEFITING**



**McLEOD  
FOOD  
SHELF**

**FOOD & DRINKS**



**LIVE BLUEGRASS MUSIC**

**Featuring**

***The Eclectics - Double Down Dare Devils***

**LAZY LOON - Food, Beer, Seltzers**

**Kids Activities**

**Bounce House-Yard Games-Face Painting**

**Pop & Snacks**

# 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](mailto:pastor@firstcongochurch.org) .

Also, please feel free to check out our church online at [www.firstcongochurch.org](http://www.firstcongochurch.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongoGlencoe>

Let's build brighter futures together!



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Leadership Team Minutes for April 23, 2025

**DRAFT**

**Attending:** Stan Hoof, Carmen Kienenberger, Bridget Kienenberger, Pastor Adam

**Absent:** Jan Willand, Jim Cox

1. **Call To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Stan at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Opening Prayer** – Pastor Adam opened our meeting with prayer.
3. **Approval of Minutes** –The Minutes of the March meeting were approved as written.
4. **Pastor Adam's Report/Update**
  - Confirmation Sunday will take place May 4<sup>th</sup> with Jaxon Mueller and Ethan Lehmann.
  - 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. Advertising posters and postcards are available for posting around town. The Chamber sign, at Hennepin and 13<sup>th</sup> Street, has event information posted. The vendors are contributing a bit less than last year. Lazy Loon will provide food and McLeod Food Shelf will be the non-profit org. that we will support that day with donations received. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be out in the church and Fellowship Hall beginning in April.
  - A Memorial Weekend Off-site church service will be held as approval of the Leadership Team.
  - Pastor Adam will participate in the program FARM, Forging Anti-Racism in Rural Ministry, over a six month program, beginning in June

## 5. **Team Leader Reports**

### A. **Resource Team**

|             |                    |         |                           |          |
|-------------|--------------------|---------|---------------------------|----------|
| Pledges for | <u>March, 2025</u> | \$3,347 | <u>Year to Date, 2025</u> | \$27,748 |
| Pledges for | <u>March, 2024</u> | \$5,493 | <u>Year to Date, 2024</u> | \$35,055 |

1. Vos Construction, our previous roofer, has been called about roof leaks and review of the roof condition overall.

### B. **Discipleship Team**

#### **Missions of the Month**

- March - The McLeod Food shelf received \$558 from the congregation and Mission Team. All donations received were 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 – May's Mission is "flipping" with June to provide Community Outreach funding for the Glencoe Parade. The "Five for Five" UCC event will take place in June.

**Community Generosity** – Bruce brought food gathered at the church to the Food Shelf.

**Memorials** – Jim and Ken – At the April 6<sup>th</sup> Discipleship meeting it was discussed if undesignated memorial funds could be used by the Team. Pastor Adam will address this with the Resource Team.

**Christian Education** – Pastor Adam is handling the events pertaining to Confirmation and Barb and Vickie are putting together the Sunday School Celebration Sunday events for May 18<sup>th</sup>. An outdoors Easter egg hunt followed the service on Easter Sunday.

**Birthday Greetings** – Cards to those on our Birthday List were sent to 10 people in April. Four names were dropped for lack of contact information.

C. **Deacons** – No Report

D. **Worship and Welcome Team** - No Report

6. **Old Business**

1. Wording of the amendments to the constitution passed at the Annual Meeting - This project is still in progress.

**New Business**

1. Progress of the New Constitutional Draft – The project is still in progress.
2. Bazaar Updates – Individuals are coming forward to fill the various projects desired.
8. Motion to Adjourn – Carmen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bridget seconded the motion and we were adjourned at 7:30pm.

**Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 21st @ 2:00pm**

Respectfully submitted, Bridget Kienenberger