
“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

July 2025

We Extend Our Sympathy and Prayers to the Family of Howard Bulau

Howard passed on June 16th and his Memorial Service was held on **Friday, June 20th at 11:00 am at First Congo.** A Gathering of Family & Friends was held on **Thursday, June 19, 2025, from 4:00 – 7:00 pm at the Johnson-McBride Funeral Chapel.**

* * * * *

July Birthdays

1. Cameron Marvan
6. Ella Kottke
12. Norma McNeil
16. Karen Stenzel
19. Carey Alsleben
Todd Bulau
20. Lavender Kottke
21. Sarah Maguire
22. Ann Wangerin
23. Nathan Richardson
24. Avenna Kottke
28. Angela Bolt
Sofie Thompson
Grace Thompson



BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION 2025-2026

Common Cup Ministry will sponsor a “Back to School” supply distribution again this year!
ONE DAY ONLY – August 14 at Lincoln Elementary. REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1!

To Register: Parents must request supplies for their children by using the official request form.

Fill out the form on our website by scanning the QR code, scroll down to School Supply Assistance and click the “Request School Supplies” button. Paper forms are also available at area schools, churches, our office, & McLeod Co Social Services. Only 400 children will be able to receive supplies so submit your request as soon as possible. Deadline is Aug 1, 2025.



common-cup.org/get-help

Supply Distribution: August 14th 3:00-6:00 p.m. at Lincoln Elementary (1621 16th Street E. Glencoe).

Postcards with directions will be mailed the week of Aug 4th. **YOU MUST BRING THE POSTCARD TO THE DISTRIBUTION.**
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE WEEKEND BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM, YOU CAN SIGN UP AT THE SCHOOL SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION TO RECEIVE THE WEEKEND FOOD FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR!

From Your Pastor:

Dear Church Family,

Summer has a way of slowing us down—longer days, warmer evenings, and time to step outside the usual routine. It's a season that invites us to breathe, rest, and pay attention. And if we're paying attention, we begin to notice: God is all around us.

In the rustle of leaves, the growth in gardens and fields, the laughter at a cookout, and the quiet of a morning walk—God meets us in these simple, sacred moments. Summer reminds us that worship isn't confined to four walls. The earth becomes our sanctuary, the sky our stained glass, and every encounter a chance to witness grace.

This month, we'll have several ways to experience God's presence together:

July 6th – Online Worship

On Sunday, July 6th, worship will be **ONLINE ONLY** as my family and I travel to Muskegon, Michigan. You are invited to join us from wherever you are. Whether you're in your backyard, at the cabin, or relaxing at home, we'll be united in spirit.

Livestream begins at 9:15 AM @ www.youtube.com/@FirstCongregationalGlencoe

July 9th – Backyard BBQ

God delights in community, and few things build connection like sharing a meal. Come out on Tuesday, July 9th at 6pm for our Backyard BBQ—a time to gather, laugh, eat, and enjoy one another. These moments matter. They nourish our souls just as much as our stomachs.

July 20th – Worship at the Park

We'll close the month with something truly special: Worship at the Park on Sunday, July 20th with our local UCC friends. It's a chance to celebrate unity, creation, and faith under the open sky, followed by a picnic.

Worship begins at 10:00 am

See the enclosed two-page flyer for full details.

As you move through the weeks ahead—vacations, quiet mornings, long drives, or family reunions—I encourage you to carry this simple truth: God is already there. You don't have to go far to find Him. Gods in every breath, every sunset, and every gathering.

May this summer be a season of renewal for you. May you find rest, joy, and deeper connection with God and each other.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Adam



Pastor Adam will be out of town July 2nd through July 7th. Rev. Penny Entringer will be available for any pastoral emergencies that may arise. **She can be reached at 320-779-0214.**

MN Conference of the UCC Annual Meeting Summary – “Together”

June 15, 2025

Beloved of the Minnesota Conference UCC,

As we close the door on another Annual Meeting, our hearts are heavy with the weight of the news. Before our opening plenary yesterday, we learned of the shootings of State Representatives Hortman and Hoffman and their spouses; before the end of that plenary, we learned that Representative Hortman and her husband were dead.

We sat in shock and sadness, overwhelmed by the horror of this act – together feeling fear, grief, anger, disbelief. We had blessed little business to attend to and were able to turn to a time of music and prayer together, with The Many leading us in song followed by time with the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the UCC. Rev. Thompson shared a poem she had written about grief after her parents died and reminded us that there was blessing in the fact that we were together.

“healing is coming, they say
from the heart break
from the pain of loss
I will remember you
beyond the unshed tears.”

Together—the theme of our Annual Meeting—suddenly had an urgent and tangible truth. Though being together did not change the reality of the day, it did remind us that no matter how hard things get, we are not alone. We need each other. We need community. We need the power of the Pentecost spirit stirring us and moving us together into the deep. We are not alone. We are not alone.

Please know that as you read this – you are not alone. These acts of violence and hatred are meant to amplify division, fear, and isolation. As the body of Christ, it is more important than ever to believe and proclaim that we are not alone – that we must fight to keep our connections to one another, that we need each other to survive. And now more than ever, we must acknowledge that loving your neighbor is a spiritual practice that needs to be strengthened, even in a time such as this.

A part of being together is knowing that we don’t all respond the same. Even at Annual Meeting yesterday, there were those who headed out to protest surrounded by the prayers of those who stayed behind to attend workshops, pray, rest, talk. We need to bless ourselves and one another wherever we are – and tend to the needs of our hearts in this devastating time.

Wherever your heart is in this moment, please be gentle with it. May your soul find space for all the things that are flowing through. May you know that you are surrounded by beloved others in the Minnesota Conference. Reach out to one another and to the Conference, pray for one another, step out together. This is how we become courageous – by risking connection, by tending to our hearts.

Our God walks with us in this time – holding us, supporting us, encouraging us to be people of love and mercy. Let us walk together on this road that we may know the joy in the sorrow, remembering we do not carry this all alone.

Blessings to each of you,

Rev. Kelly Gallagher, Associate Conference Minister
Rev. Sara Morse, Moderator, Minnesota Conference UCC

Worship at the Park

SUNDAY, JULY 20TH
1030am - LEGION PARK
320 REFORM ST S - NYA

**Join us for a a joint worship
service and picnic at the park.**

**Bring your family and friends, a
dish to share, and enjoy a morning
of fellowship with our local UCC
Community.**

**Free will offering
collected will benefit**



www.2bcontinued.org



 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Picnic Details

TO ASSIST WITH MEAL PLANNING, THE PLANNING TEAM IS ASKING EACH PARTICIPATING CHURCH TO BRING THE FOLLOWING DISHES

Frieden's - main dish

To be determined by their congregation.

St. Paul's - cold side dishes

Some examples, but not limited to: potato salad, pasta salad, vegetable/green salad, coleslaw, etc. Refrigerator space may be limited. If able, bring a cooler for storage of dish until meal time.

First Congregational - hot side dishes

Some examples, but not limited to: baked beans, German potato salad, mac & cheese, rice pilaf, creamed vegetables, etc. Electricity and power strips will be available to plug in crockpots.

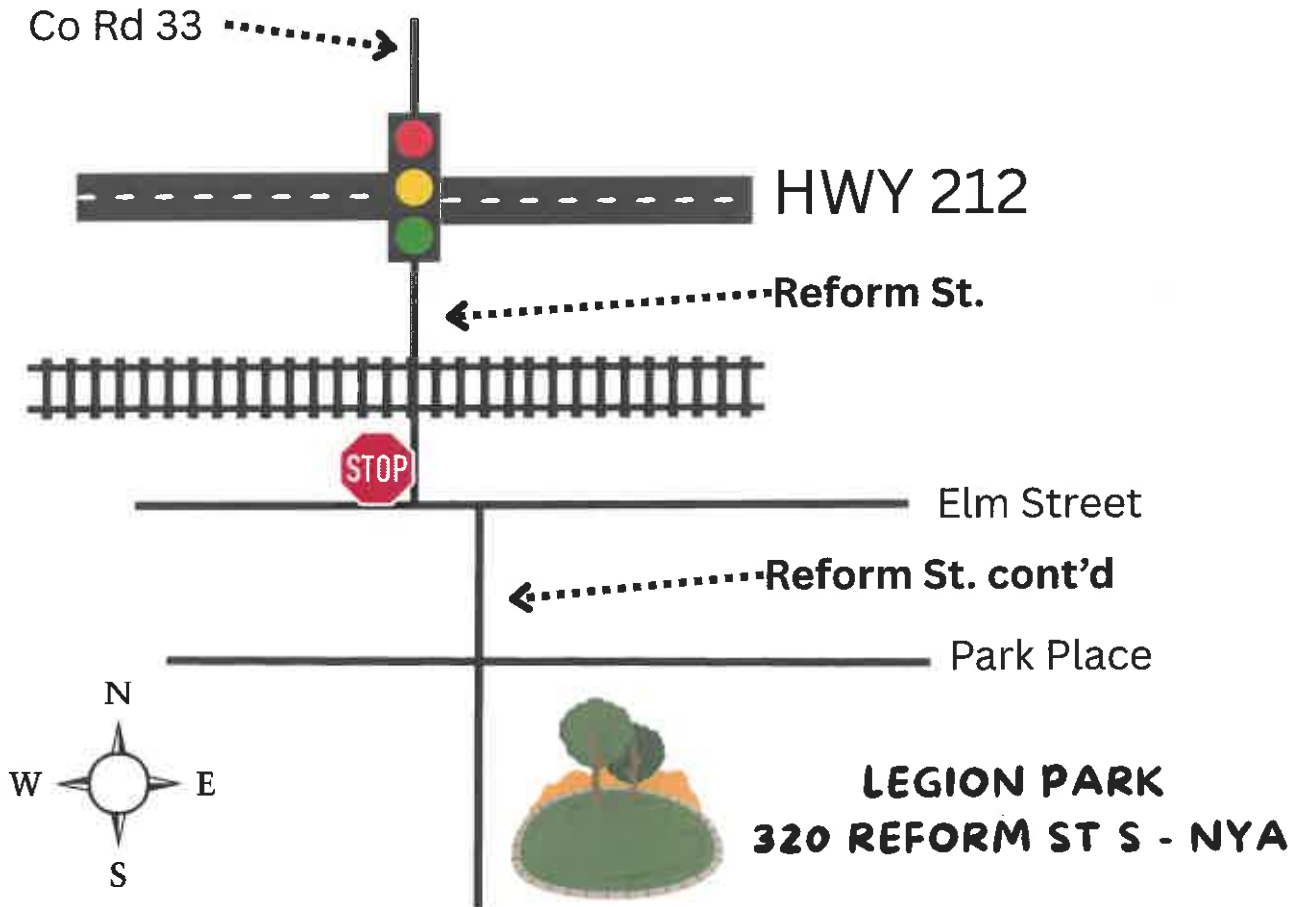
St. John's - desserts

Some examples, but not limited to: cake, cookies, bars, fresh fruit.

Zoar - cold side dish or dessert

**WATER AND LEMONADE PROVIDED
SEATING IS LIMITED TO A FRAME PICNIC TABLES.
BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR FOR COMFORT, IF DESIRED.**

Directions





PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BACKYARD

BARBECUE

First Congregational In Our Backyard

Who: You, your family, & friends!

What: A potluck style backyard BBQ filled with Fellowship, Fun, Food & Yard Games!

When: 6pm on Wednesday 6/11, 7/9, & 8/13

How: The host will bring the meat and do the cookin', the rest will bring the rest. Bring your own beverage!

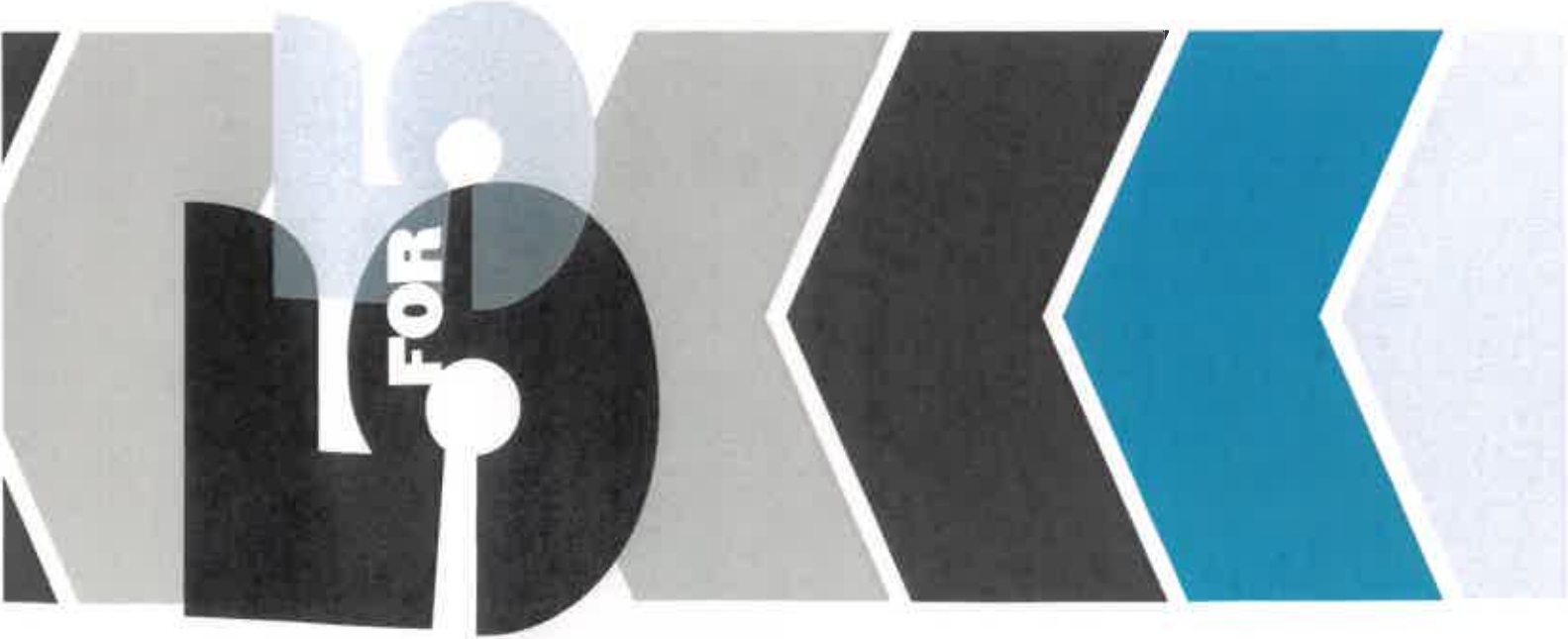
Why: Well, why not?

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall

FOOD, FUN

& FRIENDS





Thank You!

To the members of

First Congregational U.C.C.

for being a 5 for 5 Congregation of the United Church of Christ in 2024 .

5 for 5 Congregations support Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and the Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, The Christmas Fund, and Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ.

Karen Thompson

Karen Georgia A. Thompson
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ

Associate Conference Minister

Associate Conference Minister





Sunday Rides

2009 7 27

COME RIDE WITH US THIS SUMMER

Sunday, July 27th

1pm till 4(ish)pm

Begins and ends at First Congregational
1400 Elliott Ave N, Glencoe

Got Questions? Ask Pastor Adam

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Pastor On Vacation	3 8:00pm A.A.	4	5
6 9:15 am On-Line Worship Only	7	8	9 6:00pm Backyard BBQ	10 8:00pm A.A.	11	12
13 9:15am Worship Service Discipleship Meeting	14	15	16 Noon- Resource/Trustee's Meeting 2:00pm Leadership Meeting	17 8:00pm A.A.	18	19
20 10:30am Worship at Legion Park NYA	21	22	23	24 8:00pm A.A.	25	26
27 9:15am Worship Service Worship/Welcomel Deacon's Meeting 1:00pm Sunday Ride	28	29	30	31 8:00pm A.A.		