
"At First"

First Congregational UCC

1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336

Church phone: 864-3855

***Adam Thompson; Pastor
Cole Marshall; Youth Leader***

Church Website: firstcongochurch

Facebook Page: [First Congregational Church, Glencoe](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchGlencoe)

Church Email: office@firstcongochurch.org

October 2025

October Mission of the Month -

White Christmas Gifts

Let's help the Forensic Services from The St. Peter Treatment Center's "**HOLIDAY CHEER**" program by providing a gift or a cash donation. Gifts of NEW hygiene products, activity books, sweatshirt (M-XL), sweatpants (M-XL), blankets and cash are greatly appreciated to spread cheer through our halls and brighten our patient's days. "Sharing a gift, even something as small as a new "Word Search" book reminds people they are not forgotten. We will be collecting White Christmas earlier this year, so we will be collecting through October and will be blessing the gifts on **Sunday, October 26th**.

Checks are also welcomed and should be made out to First Congo Church. Label your check as White Christmas Mission and use the special envelopes by the offering plate.

A special thank you to Ken and Karen Stenzel who will deliver the gifts on Monday, October 27th.

Our Stewardship Campaign- "Dreaming God's Dream"

is underway. You should have received a letter in the mail with a pledge card, please let Wendy know if you have not. **Pledge Sunday is October 12th**. We thank you for your generous hearts and we look forward to another faithful year being church together here at First Congregational as we Dream God's Dream together! Please return your pledge ASAP by putting in the offering plate at church or mailing back to the church office.

Community

Thanksgiving Meal

The Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be served at First Congregational on **November 27, 2025 at 12 noon**. **Meal reservations are required & will be accepted through Monday November 17th at 6pm. To make reservations call 320-864-3855.** There is no charge for the meal, however, there will be an opportunity for a free will offering for the local Food Shelf. The Community Thanksgiving meal is funded in part, by a grant from Thrivent Financial, Michael's Food, Seneca, along with Christ Lutheran, Good Shepherd Lutheran, and First Congregational Church.



Happy Birthday!

1. Kayla Salmela
5. Todd Forcier
6. Randy Schilling
9. Fredric Kottke
13. Sharon Bruckschen
15. Joanne Biederwolf
16. Alex Forcier
18. Scott Salmela
Rod Wangerin
31. Olivia Hinojosa

Stay In Touch

In our fast-paced society, good communication is a necessity. In order to make our communication with you more effective and cost-efficient, we need to update our church directory from time to time. Here's where you can be of assistance!

- * If your E-mail changes, please let us know. To save money, we are e-mailing our church newsletter and other correspondence to as many members as we can.**
- * If your home or cell phone number changes.**
- * If you or your family member has moved recently?**
- * If you have changed churches, please let us know.**

Please take a few minutes to call us at 864-3855 or e-mail us at office@firstcongochurch.org with the above information. Thanks!

Church Bazaar Update!

Team leaders have begun reaching out to you to encourage your participation in this year's Church Bazaar. Whether you've participated for years or are new to the idea, we're sure there is a slot you can fill to make this year's event a success. Can you help with the luncheon? What have your "crafty" hands been doing all year - sewing, woodwork, painting, or making breads, jellies or jams? O you have a "special holiday cookie" you can share? Or are you a Rosette's maker? Dads and daughters, Grandparents and kids or best buds are encouraged to add something to the Bazaar event this year. What's your special talent? Don't keep it hidden! Reach out to our Team Leaders to take part in this great event:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Team Leader</u>	<u>Home or Cell</u>	<u>Email</u>
Luncheon & Lefsa & Set-up & Take-down	Kari Warner	224 554-9492	kariwarner1772@gmail.com
Sweets & Baked Goods Rosettes	Paula Bulau Bridget Kienenberger	320 864-6510 320 864-5651	p.bulau@yahoo.com cdkandme@aol.com
Crafts & Santa's Attic Greeters plus!	Ann Wangerin Joanne Biederwolf	320 510-5751 612 819-7026	ann123wangerin@gmail.com jbjbieder@gmail.com
Labels, Signs, etc. Supplies - boxes, bags	Chris Marsh Todd Bulau	320 316-1370 320 310-1278	chris.marsh@embarqmail.com
Cashiers & Money Mgmt	Could this be you???		

October 31st
5-7pm



14th & Elliott Ave N



Crafts, Cider, and of course, lot's of CANDY!

Got a trunk?

**We looking for more trunks to share more
treats. Decorate your own or let us help.**

Contact Pastor Adam for info

Pastor's Report

Dear Church Family,

October is one of those months that gently pulls us into a new rhythm. The pace slows, the air cools, and creation itself seems to exhale. Leaves change, colors deepen, and the world around us reminds us that there is beauty in transition. Change is not something to fear, it's something to embrace, especially when we trust the One who never changes.

In many ways, October mirrors spiritual life. There are seasons of growth and seasons of letting go. Times of harvest and times of pruning. And through it all, God is at work. Whether you're walking through a season of abundance or a season of waiting, know this: God sees you, God is with you, and God is not finished with your story.

Here in our church community, there's a lot to be grateful for. I've been encouraged by your faithfulness—by the way you show up, serve, pray, and love one another. Whether you're volunteering behind the scenes, teaching our children, showing hospitality to new faces, or simply offering a kind word—you are part of what makes this church a living, breathing expression of God's love.

October also gives us a chance to look ahead. As we approach Thanksgiving and Advent, we're entering a season of preparation. Not just for holidays, but for hearts. My prayer is that we wouldn't just go through the motions, but that we'd allow God to do a deeper work in us—growing our trust, stretching our faith, and renewing our purpose.

Here are a few things I'd encourage you to lean into this month:

- **Stay present.** Don't rush ahead. God is in *this* moment. The changing season is an invitation to slow down and listen.
- **Stay connected.** If you've drifted a bit, this is a great time to re-engage. Join a Bible study. Come to worship regularly. Reach out to someone you haven't seen in a while.
- **Stay prayerful.** Whatever is weighing on your heart, bring it to God. You don't need perfect words, just a willing heart.
- **Stay hopeful.** Our hope isn't in circumstances, but in Christ. And He is faithful.

I'm grateful to be walking this journey with you. Let's keep our hearts open to what God is doing in and through us. Let's encourage each other daily, pray boldly, love generously, and keep Jesus at the center of it all.

With love and gratitude,

Pastor Adam

October Youth Group!!

October 1st, 8th, & 22nd @ 7-8:30pm

All youth 6th grade - 12th grade are invited to attend!

Friends of families who are not actively involved with our church or the UCC are also invited as long as they agree to the guidelines and rules of the Youth Group, as well as the church itself as a means of respecting the space in which we use during our meetings.

Depending on the size of the group that attends regularly, we may be in need of adult volunteers! If you're interested in helping out at any point down the road, please don't hesitate to reach out!

The Youth Group will be a safe space for all and one in which everyone can be their true authentic self without judgement.

If you have any questions you can contact Pastor Adam at pastor@firstcongochurch.org or the Youth Leader Cole Marshall at cole@firstcomngochurch.org.

Monday Morning Bible Study

Let's get together and explore God's Word!

**Join Pastor Adam and others in the connecting room
(just outside of the sanctuary)**

11am on Monday's

Everyone is welcome to this low stress, conversational gathering
where we are interested in learning how God is speaking to us today!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

2nd Wednesday of each month · 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Let's gather for good food, warm community, and a little fun!

Come As You Are

Everyone is invited and welcome to join us for an evening of food and fellowship! Each month we will be seeking volunteers to help with set-up, food, clean-up and games. There is **no need to sign up or bring anything to come**, but you are more than welcome to bring a dish to share even if you're not signed up.

Volunteer Sign Up

A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be available each month, you can find it in the:
Sanctuary – before worship
Fellowship Hall – during coffee hour

Each Month We're Looking For

Hospitality & Set-Up - 2–3 people to arrive early, set up, and welcome folks

Menu Contributors - 2 people to bring main dishes

- 2 people to bring salads

- 2 people to bring desserts

Clean-Up Crew - 2–3 people to wash, wipe, and tidy up

Game Host - 1 person to lead an after-dinner game of their choice

Never hosted or brought a dish before? No problem—pair up with a friend.

Quick Details

When - 2nd Wednesday of each month

Time - 6:00 PM (Dinner) · Game to follow

Where - Church Fellowship Hall

Who - Everyone—friends, family, neighbors!

"They broke bread and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." — Acts 2:46

Our next

Wednesday Night Dinner is

October 8th @ 6pm!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Leadership Team Minutes for September 17, 2025

DRAFT

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

1. **Call To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Stan at 2:15 p.m.
2. **Opening Prayer** – Pastor Adam opened our meeting with prayer.
3. **Approval of Minutes** –Carmen motioned to approve the minutes of the August 20th. Jan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
4. **Pastor Adam's Report/Update**
 - August 24th Sunday Bike Ride –The Sunday ride didn't happen as two members had double booked an activity and Jim had taken a long ride the day before. Pastor had a nice ride home.
 - Our monthly Wednesday night meals will begin again on October 8th and continue through May of next year. Sign-up sheets will be available for groups to pick a date to host or act as "set-up" crew for the events. Two different main meals, salads and desserts will be provided. Other than the Hosts, no one is expected to bring other food. No free will offering will be collected. The purpose of these changes is to encourage to attend with no other expectations. The evening will move from dinner to a "Game Night" where you'll get to participate! On October 8th the game will be Jeopardy.
 - The Young Adult-Youth group begins tonight. Cole Marshall will be here beginning at 3:30pm. Pastor has put out a funding request from Christian Ed./Discipleship team to provide funding for several items for the Youth room.
 - Sunday School began September 14th with both Julian and Lola participating along with Cole. A Google calendar has been developed for this year's teachers to schedule the dates they are available.
 - Alyson (Winn) Lagergren will be paid to provide music for the Sunday service on September 21st rather than the organist. This will happen several times throughout the year.

5. TEAM LEADER REPORTS

Resource Team

Pledges for August, <u>2025</u>	\$2,275	<u>Year to Date 2025</u>	\$47,165
Pledges for August, <u>2024</u>	\$3,600	<u>Year to Date 2024</u>	\$47,845

1. Nathan Warner will begin providing landscape clean-up around the church.
2. Pastor notices a faint gas smell in the Youth Game Room & questioned whether the boilers have been turned on. Carmen will contact last year's boiler person to check into it.

Discipleship Team

Missions of the Month

- Accounting Updates - Our monthly meeting is generally held the first Sunday of each month. Donation figures are often unavailable so that we can't move forward with the donations being sent in a timely manner.
- October and November Missions Changing Places. After visiting with the lead people on these two missions, the team decided to "flip" the schedule. They will now be:

October Mission – White Christmas at St Peter – Ken Stenzen Lead. This move provides 31 days for collections versus 17 in November due to St. Peter's time limitations.

November Mission – Community Thanksgiving Dinner – Barb Magnuson, Lead: With three churches participating and a November 20th event date, donors are quicker to turn their cash donations. Food items are no longer requested for this dinner.

- Memorials – We have a donation pending the improvement of the church grounds.
- Christian Ed - We met Cole Marshall at Kick-off Sunday. Barb M., Amy S. and Amanda T. will be teaching this season. Barb asked if Cole would be taking classes, too. Supplies from previous years have been moved to a central location to view and use if appropriate.
- Stewardship - Letters were readied for mail by the Stewardship Team today. This year's theme is "Dreaming God's Dream Together". Events begin in church beginning Sunday.

C. Deacons

- No report

D. Worship and Welcome Team

- This group is supported by the many helpers moving supplies to and from the kitchen to the altar.

6. Old Business

- 1 On- Line Church Service Technical Problems – Pastor Adam described how Friday and Saturday the internet system was great. On Sunday, however, the internet service failed to connect. This is the 3rd time he's had trouble at the cabin. Unless the internet service is upgraded before Memorial Day in '26, the service will be in church.

7. New Business

1. Pledge Sunday - Our annual Pledge Sunday Drive begins September 21st. Future dates will include a speakers and a theatrical production, leading up to October 12th drive.
 2. Leadership Official Meeting Time - This group will officially meet at 2:00pm monthly, unless a change is identified in the weekly bulletin.
8. Motion to Adjourn – Carmen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bridget seconded the motion and we were adjourned at 3:30pm.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2:00pm

Respectfully submitted, Bridget Kienenberger

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deacon: Jim Benson Altar: Ann Wangerin			1 7:00pm Youth Group	2 8:00pm A.A.	3	4
5 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Sunday School Discipleship Meeting	6 11:00 am Bible Study	7	8 6:00pm Potluck Dinner 7:00pm Youth Group	9 8:00pm A.A.	10	11
12 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School Pledge Sunday	13 11:00 am Bible Study	14	15 Noon -Trustee's Meeting 2:00pm - Leadership Meeting	16 8:00pm A.A.	17	18
19 9:15 am Worship Service	20 11:00 am Bible Study	21	22 7:00pm Youth Group	23 8:00pm A.A.	24	25
26 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School Collecting White Christmas Gifts	27 11:00 am Bible Study Stenzel's Delivering White Christmas Gifts	28	29	30	31	
Wecome/Worship/ Deacon's Meeting						