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## **“At First”**

### **First Congregational UCC**

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

**Church phone: 864-3855; email: [office@firstcongochurch.org](mailto:office@firstcongochurch.org)**

***Rev. Adam Thompson; Pastor***

***Cole Marshall; Youth Leader***

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

***Facebook Page: First Congregational Church, Glencoe***

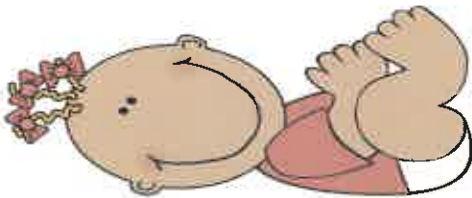
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**January 2026**

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### **Sunday School News!**

Sunday School will resume with regular classes on January 11th & 18th and 25th.



### **Common Cup Diaper Drive**

Dollars for Diapers! YES, for January's Mission project we're making the challenge of donating easy! When you provide the dollars, we'll shop and deliver our church's gift to the Common Cup program. Throughout January we'll have a diaper bag prominently displayed in the sanctuary where you can deposit your donation. The Discipleship team will do the rest. We'll be collecting throughout the month and will announce our "diaper totals" in February. **Please make checks out to First Congregational Church. Contact Ann Wangerin at 320-510-5751 with any questions.** We are also collecting Target cards for purchasing diapers.

### **Christmas Market Update**

Thanking everyone, by name, who had a part in this year's Christmas Market is not possible... because there were so many "behind the scenes" folks who did their part to make it the success it was. WOW! We worried that after all everyone's efforts shoppers wouldn't come through the doors at 10am. Guess we should have placed more faith in the Lord as they came in droves! We brought in over \$4,000 which will be used to support our church's community outreach in 2026, thanks to everyone!

### **Church Envelopes**

Please use your offering envelopes from the church, when possible, by not using the envelopes it makes it more difficult for them to keep track of your offerings. You still have the option of having your pledges taken directly out of your savings or checking account. Call the church office at 864-3855 for more information or go to First Congregational – Online Giving. This is a quick and easy way to give, go our website at: [www.firstcongochurch.org/serve/online-giving/](http://www.firstcongochurch.org/serve/online-giving/).

## On The Job in January

**Deacon of the Month: Bruce Magnuson**

**In Charge of the Altar: Ann Wangerin**



- 2. Rebecca Forcier
- 4. Dawn Shemanek
- 5. Tammy Hanson  
Renee Lehmann
- 6. Evon Draeger
- 7. Kari Warner
- 19. Sam McNellis
- 20. Jessica Richardson
- 23. Colton Robb
- 27. Allen Trocke
- 31. Ariana Bolt

## A Prayer for the New Year

Dear God, Thank you for making all things new. Thank you for all that you allowed into our lives this past year, the good and the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day. As we enter a new year, we pray for strengthened spirits that we may praise you properly by our thoughts, words and deeds, Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## A Huge Thank You

The Community Thanksgiving Dinner was funded by Glencoe church members from First Congregational, Christ Lutheran and Good Shepherd. It was also funded, in part by a grant from Thrivent Financial and donations from Priority One, Michaels Foods and Seneca. Many good souls from the three churches, plus two young people from First Congregational two from GSL, assisted in the preparation and serving of 155 meals which raised over \$1,800 for the McLeod Food Shelf through a free will offering. Many attendees expressed their appreciation for being welcomed at this event, giving them a delicious meal and fellowship on Thanksgiving Day. We are grateful and humbled by Christ's spirit in those supporting this event for the community. God bless you all! Barb Magnuson

## Shut-In Visits

If you would like a visit, please contact Pastor Adam at church, 320-864-3855, or his cell #952-239-5893 or email: [ajthompson2@comcast.net](mailto:ajthompson2@comcast.net).



# January Youth Group!!

**January 7th & 21st @ 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.

**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](mailto:pastor@firstcongochurch.org) or the Youth Leader Cole Marshall at [cole@firstcomngochurch.org](mailto:cole@firstcomngochurch.org).

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## 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)**

**Monday's @ 11am**

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

# 2ND WEDNESDAY'S DINNER & GAME NIGHT

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

***Let's gather together 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

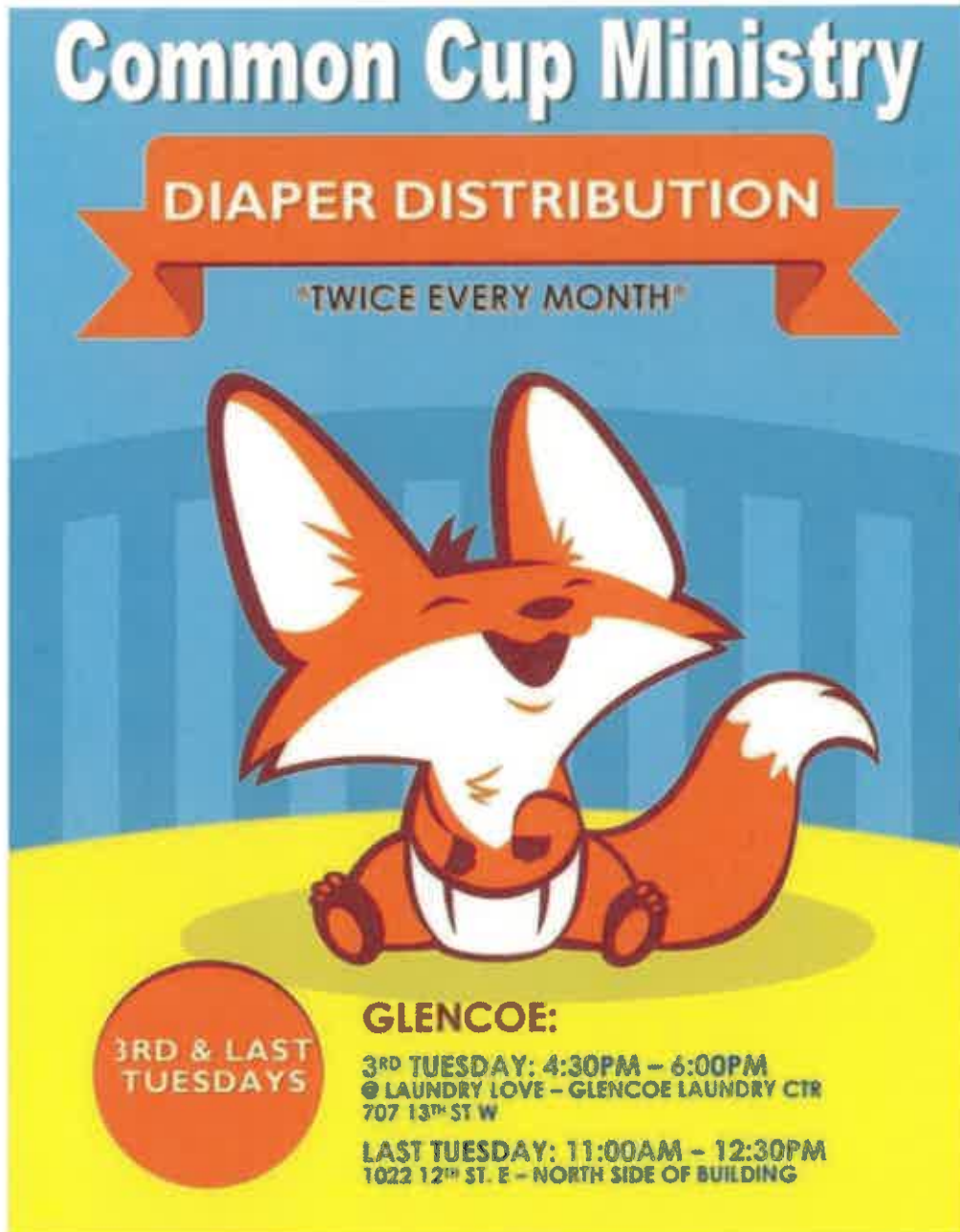
***Who*** – Everyone - friends, family, neighbors!

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

**OUR NEXT DINNER & GAME NIGHT IS**

**JANUARY 14TH @ 6PM!**

# January Mission of the Month



**Common Cup Ministry**

**DIAPER DISTRIBUTION**

**\*TWICE EVERY MONTH\***

**3RD & LAST TUESDAYS**

**GLENCOE:**

**3RD TUESDAY: 4:30PM – 6:00PM**  
© LAUNDRY LOVE – GLENCOE LAUNDRY CTR  
707 13<sup>TH</sup> ST W

**LAST TUESDAY: 11:00AM – 12:30PM**  
1022 12<sup>TH</sup> ST. E – NORTH SIDE OF BUILDING

Providing for children is a financial commitment, and diapers can be a bulk of the cost when a new baby arrives. Through our Diaper Distribution Program, we provide free diapers to families in need.

3rd Tuesday of the Month  
**Glencoe Laundry Center**  
707 13th St W  
Glencoe, MN 55336



Last Tuesday of the Month  
**Glencoe City Center**  
1022 12 St. E  
Glencoe, MN 55336  
*North Side of the Building*

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**Leadership Team Minutes for November 25, 2025**

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

1. **Call To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Stan at 2:05 p.m.
2. **Opening Prayer** – Pastor Adam began our meeting with prayer.
3. **Approval of Minutes** –Jan motioned to approve the minutes of the October 14<sup>th</sup>. Carmen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
4. **Pastor Adam’s Report/Update**
  - **Youth Group** – Attendance at the Youth Group has increased to 4 or 5 participating in games, education and most recently a service project for the Christmas Market.
  - Sunday School numbers have increased with 3 Pagel family children attending. Compliments and thanks to Amanda for stepping in to fill the leadership gaps.
  - **Monthly Wednesday dinners** continue to draw crowds of 20 plus folks. The next event is scheduled for Dec 10<sup>th</sup> with dinner and a game element – perhaps a “white elephant” exchange. The older participants comment that it provides them with an opportunity to see one another as winter approaches.
  - **Sunday School** – the Kids program “Christmas Lights Show” will take place Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. Cole will be one of the adult narrators. Other adults, with non speaking parts, will be drawn from the audience.
  - Building Rental - Alyson Winn-Langeren is still interested in using the church for piano lessons but currently has no students. She would use the piano in the choir practice room. The piano has been tuned somewhat recently and Alyson has some general experience in tuning pianos if needed.
  - **Christmas Eve Service** – Music has not been finalized for this service. Lon will be contacted to discuss if he will have an accompanying group that evening. Ramona has told Pastor Adam she no longer wants to perform.
  - **Cole** – Pastor Adam is working with Cole to become more interactive with families during the Fellowship coffee hour. His outreach to the kids is good.
  - **Pastor’s Hours** – Pastor Adam plans to work from home from December 29 – January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - **Stewardship** – To date, 12 pledges have been received for 2026. This number is the same as last year.

**5. TEAM LEADER REPORTS**

**Resource Team**

Pledges for	October, 2025	\$9,338	Year to Date	2025	\$60,592
Pledges for	October, 2024	\$3,455	Year to Date	2024	\$59,276

1. Carmen noted that the Bruckschen Account is at \$168,000. (Sixty-eight thousand dollars have been earned in interest over the last three years.)

**Discipleship Team**

**Budget Request for 2026** – The year ending budget balance is expected to be \$3,955. Through \$200 donations and a \$500 donation to the UCC, we will be spending \$2,300 in 2026 leaving us with a balance of \$1,655 at the end of 2026, barring any unexpected requests.

Three programs (Spring Fling, Glencoe Parade, Trunk or Treat) have been removed from the mission calendar for 2026. Revenue received by the Christmas Market will be used toward paying for these programs.

The Team will request \$2,000 in our 2026 budget from the Bruckschen account for use in case unforeseen needs arise. It will not be requested unless necessary.

## **Deacons**

- No new business.

## **Worship and Welcome Team**

- Everything is working well.

## **6. Old Business**

1. Audit of the Church Books – The books have not been audited for several years. An estimated cost to do this would be between \$2,000 and \$3,000. In the past we had people in banking and business who were qualified to provide this service. It was suggested that this work should be done every five years. Jim Benson, Kelly Rach and Randy Warner were suggested as potential candidates to take on this project. The topic was tabled till Spring when Jim returns to MN.

2. Annual Performance Reviews – Stan, Jim and Bridget met with Ann Wangerin today for her Annual performance review. Wendy's review is scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup>. After meeting with Pastor Adam and reviewing church member comments, the team made its recommendations for salary increases to the Resource Team today. The recommendations were approved.

## **7. New Business**

1. Agenda Items for the Annual Report – A request has been made by church members to consider a later start time for church. It was suggested that an insert be placed in upcoming church bulletins asking for congregational input on other topics to be considered. This tear-off comment form could be placed in the weekly offering plate or phoned in to the office. Pastor Adam will follow up on this project.

2. Buildings and Grounds - Several issues have come to light that need to be addressed, including:

- Plaster work in the back hallway, ceiling and connoting room. Contact someone to give us a bid on the job,
- Women's handicapped toilet doesn't flush properly – find a plumber.
- Major repair to bathrooms in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Christian end classrooms – will require specially qualified person.

8. **Motion to Adjourn** – Carmen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jan seconded the motion and we were adjourned at 2:46pm.

**Next Meeting Date:**

Monday, December 8, 2pm

Respectfully submitted, Bridget Kienenberger

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
Leadership Team Minutes for December 8, 2025

**DRAFT**

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

1. **Call To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Stan at 2:06 p.m.
2. **Opening Prayer** – Pastor Adam began our meeting with prayer.
3. **Approval of Minutes** –Carmen motioned to approve the minutes of the November 25<sup>th</sup>. Jan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
4. **Pastor Adam’s Report/Update**
  - **Thanksgiving Assistance by Youth** – There were fewer youth helping than expected.
  - **Cole Marshall**– Cole is moving forward with the leadership of the youth group, although Pastor Adam feels he still needs to attend.
  - **Youth Group** – Two weeks are remaining in this year’s activities before Christmas.
  - **Christmas Market** – The Thompson Family enjoyed their trip to Glencoe and their first experience with “The Christmas Market”! (It was observed that lots of goodies were found by all family members.)
  - **Children’s Christmas Program, December 17<sup>th</sup>** - A “Christmas Light Show” will be presented during the Sunday service. Lots of kids are anticipated to attend. Cole will be one of the moderators. Some folks from the congregation may be asked to take on some non-speaking parts.
  - **Christmas Eve Service** – The Candle Light service will begin at 7:00pm. Lon Roach will be playing the organ . It’s unknown if there will be any other musicians this year.
  - **Monthly Wednesday dinners** resume December 10<sup>th</sup> with a Bingo Theme game following our dining.
  - **(Pastor’s Hours** – Pastor Adam plans to work from home December 29 – January 1<sup>st</sup>. )

## **5. TEAM LEADER REPORTS**

### **Resource Team**

Pledges for November, 2025	\$14,286	Year to Date	2025	\$74,878
Pledges for November, 2024	\$ 5,953	Year to Date	2024	\$65,299

1. Plumbing – A plumber repaired both toilets in the women’s downstairs bathroom prior to the Christmas Market.
2. The same plumbing co. investigated the toilet in the CE wing and provided an estimate of \$5,000 for the repairs.
3. A painter has been contacted to do the stucco painting/repairs around the church building. Negotiations continue.

### **Discipleship Team**

- **November’s Mission** -. Figures for donations received for the Thanksgiving Meal have not yet been released. The Team put \$200 toward this event.
- **December’s Mission** – A representative from 2 B Continued will speak in church on December 14. Envelopes will be available for Sunday’s service.

## **Deacons**

- Deacons are working on Christmas Eve program plans. The pew candle holders will be set up in church on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Worship and Welcome Team**

- Everything is working well.

## **6. Old Business**

1. Annual Performance Reviews – Stan, Jim and Bridget met with Ann Wangerin on November 26<sup>th</sup> and Wendy on December 9<sup>th</sup> for their Annual Performance reviews. The team made its recommendation for 3% salary increases to the Resource Team for their approval.

## **7. New Business**

1. Agenda Items for the Annual Report – Stan asked where we were with the request form being inserted in the church bulletin, asking for congregational input on topics to be considered. This tear-off comment form could be placed in the weekly offering plate or phoned in to the office. Pastor Adam will follow up on this project.


8. Motion to Adjourn – Carmen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jan seconded the motion and we were adjourned at 2:28 pm.

### **Next Meeting Date:**

Wednesday, January 14, 2026  
2:00pm

Respectfully submitted, Bridget Kienenberger

# January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deacon: Bruce Magnuson Altar: Ann Wangerin				1 8:00pm AA	2	3
4 9:15 am Communion Worship Service	5 11:00 am Bible Study	6	7 7:00pm Youth Group	8 8:00pm AA	9	10
11 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School	12 11:00 am Bible Study	13	14 Noon-Resource Team Meeting 2:00pm Leadership Meeting 6:00pm Dinner and Game Night	15 8:00pm AA	16	17
18 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School Worship/Welcomes/ Deacon's Meeting Discipleship Meeting	19 11:00 am Bible Study	20	21 7:00pm Youth Group	22 8:00pm AA	23	24
25 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School Annual Meeting	26 11:00 am Bible Study	27	28 	29 8:00pm AA	30	31