

---

## **“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***

***Livestream: [youtube.com/@firstcongregationalglencoe](https://youtube.com/@firstcongregationalglencoe)***

---

**April 2026**

---

## **Holy Week and Easter Services**



***Come Worship With Us!***

**April 2nd - 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service**

**April 3rd – 7:00 pm Good Friday Service @ St. John’s UCC, Plato**

**April 5th - 7:30 am Easter Breakfast, sponsored by the Deacons,**

**April 5th: 9:30 am Easter Sunday Worship Service**

**Easter Egg Hunt Following Worship**

### **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 5th**, please call the church office @ 864-3855 or there Lily order slips and envelopes 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 March 31st.** Please pick up your Lily after the Easter Service.

---

**We Extend our Sympathy  
and Prayers**

... to the family of **Elaine Reynolds**. Elaine passed away on February 27, 2026 and her Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2026 @ 2:00 pm with Pastor Adam Thompson officiating. There will be visitation prior to the service from 12:00-2:00pm.

... to **Amy Forcier and her family**. Amy's grandma, **Sue Smith**, passed away this past week.



**Happy Birthday!!**



**Deacon of the Month:**

Troy Lehmann

**Atar:** Ann Wangerin

**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](https://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](https://facebook.com/FirstCongoGlencoe) and can also be found on our website at [firstcongochurch.org](https://firstcongochurch.org)

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

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



## **Pastor's Page:**

I love April because it carries a quiet kind of hope.

You can feel it in the longer days, the softening ground, the way people linger just a little more when they talk. After months of cold and gray, something begins to open again. Not all at once. Not perfectly. But steadily.

That's often how renewal works in our lives, too.

This month also brings us to Easter, a story at the heart of the Christian faith, our faith. It begins in grief and uncertainty and moves, unexpectedly, toward new life. It reminds us that hope is not always loud or obvious. Sometimes it shows up in small, surprising ways. Sometimes it meets us when we least expect it, even in the places we thought were finished.

This April, especially as we experience Easter, I invite you to take part in that spirit in whatever way feels right to you. Maybe that looks like joining us for worship, coming to an Easter service, or reaching out to someone you haven't spoken to in a while. Maybe it's as simple as sitting outside for a few minutes and letting yourself breathe.

Pay attention to what brings you back to life, even in small ways.

May this month meet you gently. May Easter's hope find you, in whatever way you need it. And may we continue to build a community where hope is not something we pretend, but something we practice together.

With peace and love,

*Pastor Adam*



## **April Youth Group!!**

**April 8th, 15th, & 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.

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

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).

---

## **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!

# WEDNESDAY

*Community Dinner Night & Seminar*  
**April 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall**

## 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.

## 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

# McBride's Pre-Need Seminar

*Plan Today. Protect Tomorrow*  
**After dinner beginning @ 7:00pm**

Making arrangements in advance is one of the most thoughtful decisions you can make for your family. Join us for a free, no-obligation seminar to learn how pre-planning can bring peace of mind and financial clarity.

## What You'll Learn

- What pre-need funeral planning is and how it works
- The emotional and financial benefits of planning ahead
- Options for burial, cremation, and memorial services
- How to lock in today's costs and reduce future burden
- Steps to ensure your wishes are clearly documented

## Why It Matters

Pre-planning removes uncertainty during a difficult time. It allows your loved ones to focus on healing instead of making rushed decisions. Many families find comfort in knowing everything is already taken care of.

## What to Expect

This is an educational session. There is no pressure and no obligation to make decisions. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions and speak privately with their experienced staff if you choose.

**Even if you are not interested in the seminar, still come for dinner!**

# April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service 8:00 pm AA	3 7:00 pm Good Friday Service @ St. Paul's UCC, Plato	4 Elaine Reynold's Memorial Service @ 2:00 pm Visitation Noon-2:00pm
5 7:30 am Easter Breakfast 9:30 am Easter Communion Worship Service Easter Egg Hunt	6 11:00 am Bible Study	7	8 7:00 pm Youth Group	9 8:00 pm AA	10	11
12 9:30 am Worship Service Sunday School Safe Avenue Representative Speaking	13 11:00 am Bible Study	14	15 Noon- Resource Meeting 2:00pm Leadership Meeting 7:00 pm Youth Group	16 8:00 pm AA	17	18 9:15-11:30 am Feed My Starving Children @ Chanhassen
19 9:30 am Worship Service Alyson Winn Lagergren playing Piano Sunday School Discipleship Meeting	20 11:00 am Bible Study	21	22 6:00 pm Community Dinner Night followed by a 7:00 pm McBride's Pre- Need Seminar 7:00 pm Youth Group	23 8:00 pm AA	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship Service Sunday School Worship/Welcomer/ Deacon's Meeting	27 11:00 am Bible Study	28	29	30 8:00 pm AA		



## **Service Opportunity @ Feed My Starving Children**

***Saturday, April 18th 9:15-11:15am!***

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

On April 18th from 9:15-11:15 we will be packing meals with the good folks at St. John's/Bongards!

Positions available for everyone to serve!

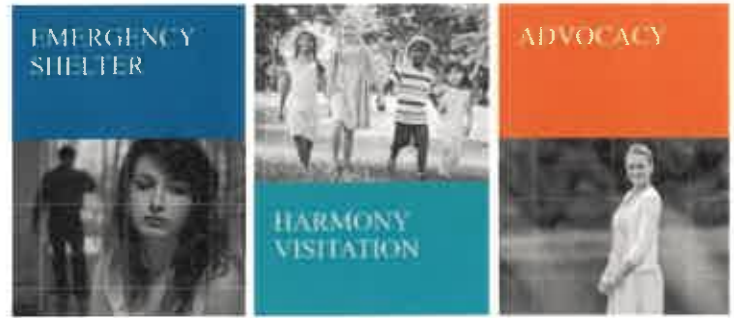
FMSC is located at  
**18732 Lake Dr E in Chanhasen.**

Program information can be found on their website

**[www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org)**

Sign-up sheets are in the back of the church and in the Fellowship Hall.  
For more information, please see Pastor Adam.

# April Mission of the Month



Mission Statement - *Providing advocacy, parenting time services, and emergency shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence.*

Vision Statement - *Eliminate the oppression that exists in the community by providing education, victim advocacy, parenting time services, systems intervention and agency collaboration.*

## About Safe Avenues

**Safe Avenues**, located in Willmar, Minnesota, is the only emergency shelter serving women and children impacted by domestic and sexual violence across 18 southwest Minnesota counties.

Because of **Safe Avenues**, individuals and families facing some of their darkest moments find a path to safety, healing, and empowerment.

## How Safe Avenues Serves the Community

*Emergency Shelter* - Offers confidential, safe housing for women and children in immediate danger, available 24/7 to those fleeing abusive situations.

*Advocacy Services (Outreach)* - Provides guidance and emotional support to survivors in eight counties (Kandiyohi, Meeker, Renville, McLeod, Swift, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Yellow Medicine) through trained advocates.

*Harmony Visitation Center* - Offers supervised parenting time and exchanges in a safe, neutral space—especially crucial in cases of custody disputes or when safety is a concern.

*Criminal Justice Intervention* - Supports survivors through the legal process when perpetrators are involved in the criminal justice system, helping ensure rights are respected and processes are understood.

*Youth Advocacy* - Provides specialized support for children exposed to domestic violence, either in shelter or in outreach settings, helping address trauma and assist parents in healing efforts.

*Community Education & Training* - Hosts awareness campaigns and professional training sessions to educate the community on domestic violence, sexual assault, and safe parenting practices.

## How You Can Help

*Throughout August, we will be raising funds and awareness on behalf of **Safe Avenues** (McLeod Alliance has joined with them). Please consider a donation to this vitally important organization by placing check or cash in a **Safe Avenues** envelope at the offering plate or give online at [www.firstcongochurch.org/serve/online-giving/](http://www.firstcongochurch.org/serve/online-giving/)*

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

- More than 65,000 adults in Minnesota receive domestic violence services from programs each year. *Statistic from Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women*
- 47% of girls from homes where others have been physically abused, hurt themselves on purpose and 56% contemplated suicide. *Statistic from Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women*
- Less than 50% of people who experience domestic violence ever reach out for services  
*Statistic from Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women*
- In 2015, there were 29 domestic violence homicides. Victims ranged from 14-76 years old. The homicides took place in 17 different cities. And 50% were in Greater Minnesota.  
*Statistic from Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women*
- Domestic violence is a leading cause of housing instability. Housing is the #1 unmet need for domestic violence survivors. Due to unmet housing requests, domestic violence programs report that 58% return to their abusers, 16% become homeless, 6% end up living in their cars  
*Statistic from Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women*
- Only 7% of all survivors define success as leaving the abusive relationship  
Success means having a system (of services) available to survivors when they need it  
*Statistic from Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women*

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE STATISTICS

- Approximately 1 in 4 Minnesota girls in 9th grade reported being touched, grabbed, or pinched in a sexual way. *From ongoing collaborative research by Women's Foundation of Minnesota and the University of MN Humphrey School's Center on Women and Public Policy*
- By the time they graduate, a significant number of Minnesota girls have been sexually assaulted by a date. *From Minnesota Student Survey 2010 Trend Database analyzed by the Center on Women and Public Policy*
- By age 23, nearly 1 in 4 Minnesota female college students have been sexually assaulted.  
*From Boynton Health Service, 2010 College Student Health Survey Report*
- The FBI has identified the Twin Cities as 1 of 13 U.S. cities with a high incidence rate of child prostitution *From the FBI's Efforts to Combat Crimes Against Children*
- By mid-life, 33% of Minnesota women have experienced a rape crime  
*From Minnesota Crime Survey, data collected and obtained from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and the Greater Twin Cities United Way*
- An estimated 60% of teen first pregnancies are preceded by experiences of molestation, rape, or attempted rape *From Saewyc, E.M., et. al. (2004). Teenage pregnancy and associated risk behavior among sexually abused adolescents. Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, 36(3),98-105.*

# April

COMMON CUP & COMMUNITY OFFERINGS CALENDAR  
 Office: 320-587-2213 / Website: [common-cup.org](http://common-cup.org)

**IN PERSON DONATION HOURS:**  
**MONDAYS 10:00am-2:00pm**  
**THURSDAYS 1:00-3:00pm**  
**405 CALIFORNIA ST NW**

# 2026

\*HUTCHINSON\* Diaper Distributions: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue 4-6pm & Last Tue 11a-12:30p  
 CCM office: 405 California St NW door marked Diaper Distributions

\*GLENCOE\* Diaper Distributions: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue 4-6pm Glencoe Laundry Ctr 707 43th St W &  
 Last Tue 11a-12:30p Glencoe City Center 1022 12th St E, north side of building

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Welcome Table Lunch New Journey UCC 31 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW 11:30am *FREE*	2 Oak Heights 1398 Southgrade Rd *cash, card, EBT*	3 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	4
5 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Supper Faith Lutheran 335 Main St 4-5:30p *FREE*	13	14 9-10am NAPS pick-up Dinner Distribution Hutch 4-6	15 CCM Community Meal by Meeker/McLeod Indivisible New Journey UCC 11:30am *FREE*	16	17	18 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday Breakfast Christ the King 1040 S. Grade Rd 8:30-10a *FREE*
19	20 <b>CCM ANNUAL MEETING</b> Hunters Ridge 850 School Rd SW <b>12:00pm</b>	21 9a-6p/Glencoe 9a-12p & 4:30p - 7p 4-6p	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 11:00am-12:30pm	29	30		