



# Friendship News

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Brainerd  
An Open and Affirming Church

The church office hours are 8am-12pm, Monday – Friday.

Our Pastor, Leslie Moughty is also available at other times by appointment.

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May 2016

**No matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.**

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## Pastor's Pen

For the last seven months, I have had the honor of spending an hour a few times each month with our incredible Confirmation youth. On May 22 we will be celebrating the journey they have taken together. They have learned about the Christian faith, the United Church of Christ and have explored their own beliefs.

At our first meeting, I told the confirmands that the purpose of our time together was not for me to indoctrinate them with what they *should* believe, but instead to support them in their own faith journey and affirm their ability express and grow in their faith.

One of the resources we used for our learning was the book *Words for the Journey: Letters to Our Teenagers about Life and Faith* by Martin Copenhaver and Anthony Robinson. The book is written in the format of letters from the authors to their teenage children on topics like doubt, suffering, grace, Jesus and more. In the chapter about Confirmation, Anthony Robinson writes that confirmation is not a graduation or an ending. He says, "It is more an entry and initiation and a beginning." The completion of confirmation does not mean that these youth have their faith all figured out. But rather that they are embarking on a life-long journey with their faith that will evolve and change. Our job as their church is to support them in their faith journey, encourage them to use their gifts in the church and the wider community, and to be open to learning from them just as readily as we are willing to teach them.

On May 22, the confirmation youth will celebrate the completion of their confirmation journey by leading us in worship. They are choosing the hymns, the scripture, leading prayers, and more. The theme they chose for this service is "New Beginnings." I hope you will all join us that Sunday as we celebrate and both the completion of a journey and the beginning of a new phase in the confirmands lives.

With Peace,  
Pastor Leslie

## Moderator's Notes

### An announcement regarding announcements

At our Church Council meeting this month we discussed the part of our Sunday service where we share news of our events and celebrations. To quote the meeting minutes: "Council held a lengthy discussion regarding the way we currently handle announcements. Issues ranged from the number of announcements, the time it takes and the types of announcements that are delivered. A motion passed to try a new method of delivering announcements. Only church-related announcements should be given during the church service. Non-church-related announcements should be emailed to the church office no later than Wednesday evening for inclusion in Sunday's bulletin."

We are a congregation of people who are very involved in our community. We want to, and should, share the information and passion with our friends here at church, but we've found that it takes quite a bit of time during the Sunday service. And some of us have found it challenging to make notes while folks announce their events. So we think limiting announcements to church-related items is a good option. But we still need to be aware of what's happening.

A list of events in the bulletin will include details of your event (a short blurb please). Folks can take the information home and not have to rely on memory. This should help your event be more successful. If you

have a flyer for your event, you can email or drop it off at the office and Bobbie will add it to the bulletin board by the North entrance.

We all want to know about our community events so please remember to email all your announcements, church and non-church, to Bobbie by Wednesday to be included in the bulletin.

The vote by the council was a strong majority but not unanimous. There are other options, but we're going to see how this works. Nothing we do is undoable so we will revisit this as necessary.

Dan Hegstad – Church Council Moderator

## **Christian Education**

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported our youth in their fundraising for the National Youth Event! We are almost at our goal and can't wait for this exciting trip!

## **Arts Committee**

The First Congregational UCC Arts Committee has been re-activated, a perfect way to celebrate the completion of the remodeling of Fellowship Hall and the installation of a recycled art hanging system by Walker.

The committee volunteers currently are Joey Halvorson, Dee Crust, Carol Crust, Carla Benjamin, Jeff Behr, Nancy Gould, Coleen Carder, Jean Schaeffer and Karen Ford.

The mission statement of the original committee will continue. It reads as follows:

**“Purpose:**

To know and share God's love within us through programs and exhibits that help envision the sacred, and

To develop and maintain a warm and welcoming look for our church and refurbished Fellowship Hall that reflects our core values and current activities.

**Role of Committee:**

To work in concert with and support of the work and activities of all church committees, the Council and Trustees, and

To serve as a clearinghouse for the acquisition, placement and rotation of works of art.

Currently an inventory is being conducted of the art objects in the church which will be catalogued for record keeping purposes.

A display of Lakes Area Music Festival photos by Dave Boran, MD is on display in Fellowship Hall which utilizes our new Walker hanging system.

The Committee will endeavor to change the Fellowship Hall exhibits quarterly and is currently researching possible exhibits. Suggestions from the congregation or ideas of artists who are willing to exhibit are welcomed.

If you are interested in art and the mission of the Arts Committee, please consider joining us at our next meeting, Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

## Adult Forum

- Sunday, May 1:** Living the Question – David Crum  
**Sunday, May 8:** Fellowship – Mother’s Day  
**Sunday, May 15:** Annual Meeting & Volunteer Luncheon  
**Sunday, May 22:** Confirmation Sunday  
**Sunday, May 29:** Fellowship

## HUGS

### May 1

- Hosts:** Dorothy Blau & Jan Morton  
**Ushers:** Roger Best, Greg Johnson, Ken Nelson & Gary Whiteman  
**Greeters:** Bobbie Borg & Karlee Micek  
**Counters:** Jeff Behr & Jerry Kuehn

### May 8

- Hosts:** Mary Harder & Lois McBroom  
**Ushers/Greeters:** Maria Bertram, Jack & Kay Kraywinkle & Preston Newgord  
**Counters:** Deb Griffith & Judy Whiteman

### May 15

- Hosts:** Deb Griffith & Claire Steen  
**Ushers:** Dan Hegstad & Marcia Mans  
**Greeter:** Shirley Barten & Shirley Lundberg  
**Counters:** Coleen Carder & Vi Heiser

### May 22

- Host:** Karen Ogdahl  
**Ushers/Greeters:** Sharon Carlson, Joey Halvorson, Kyd Lukanen & Ann Turnbull  
**Counters:** Nancy Gould & Lowell Johnson

### May 29

- Hosts:** Sue Hadland & Lisa Wigand  
**Ushers:** Roger Best, Greg Johnson, Ken Nelson & Gary Whiteman  
**Greeter:** Jan Morton  
**Counters:** Sharon Carlson & Judy Whiteman

## May Birthdays

5/2	Joe Freeman	5/16	Morgan Twamley	5/24	Jean Widmark
5/5	Lance James	5/19	Ron Hunt	5/25	Carol Spear
5/9	Sue Hadland	5/20	Linda Schmid	5/25	Nancy Waller
5/10	Emily Jones	5/22	Jan Morton	5/26	Preston Newgord
5/14	Kai Lukanen	5/22	Shon Boman	5/29	Tony Newgord
5/15	Scott Ferrie	5/23	Max Ferrie	5/31	Grace Forbord
5/16	Laura Raedeke				

## Wayne & Elizabeth's New Address

Wayne Mayer and Elizabeth Paulson have moved. Their new address is: 14240 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave N, Unit A, Plymouth, MN 55446. Their new home phone number is (763)568-7824.

## Caroline Bender's Grad Party

Caroline's grad party from the Crosby-Ironton high school is Saturday, June 4 at the Ironton American Legion, Hwy 210 232 4th Street, Ironton from 2 – 5. All are welcome. Please come and celebrate with us. You may RSVP [218-820-6554](tel:218-820-6554).

Thanks, Jean

## Food Shelf Offering – April 24

Each month we bring groceries, necessities and financial donations to help feed hungry neighbors in our community. The Salvation Army Food Shelf serves 400 families each month. On April 24 we received \$155 and 53 pounds of food. Our next offering will be Sunday, May 22. **Thank you for helping to feed our hungry neighbors!**

## Church Financials

Financial Results – General Fund Year to Date Results as of 3/31/16	2016 Annual Budget	Actuals Through 3/31/16	% of Budget
<b>Income:</b>			
From Giving Units	\$ 150,481	\$ 36,554	24.29%
Other Giving	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,884	125.17%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 155,981</b>	<b>\$ 43,438</b>	<b>27.85%</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Council	\$ 97,324	\$ 33,643	34.57%
Christian Ministry	\$ 13,150	\$ 3,299	25.09%
Christian Education	\$ 2,950	\$ 35	1.19%
Stewardship	\$ 570	\$ 59	10.35%
Trustees	\$ 60,170	\$ 13,489	22.42%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 174,164</b>	<b>\$ 50,525</b>	<b>29.01%</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss) Year to Date:</b>	<b>\$ (18,183)</b>	<b>\$ (7,087)</b>	

## April 21, 2016 Church Council Minutes

Moderator – Dan Hegstad

Assistant Moderator – Claire Steen

Clerk – Karen Ogdahl

Treasurer – Mike Schrader

Christian Ministry – Beth Schrader

Trustees – Coleen Carder

Christian Education – Marina Grabowski Stewardship – Marcia Mans

Council at Large – Ann Turnbull, Nicole Grabowski, Bonnie Crum

Present: Ann Turnbull, Coleen Carder, Mike Schrader, Bonnie Crum, Dan Hegstad, Claire Steen, Marina Grabowski, Nicole Grabowski, Beth Schrader, Marcia Mans.

Food for Thought: Marina read a quote from Mary Oliver. Karen will provide the inspirational reading at the May meeting.

Dan welcomed Claire as assistant moderator.

CLERK'S REPORT – Eleven new members and one baptism.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Council spent more than was budgeted for the first three months of the year. Mike will ask bookkeeper Bobbie for an itemized printout. It was suggested that all committees get information every few months about how much they are spending. Mike will discuss this possibility with Bobbie.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Highlights: welcomed 11 new members; performed one baptism; led Good Friday service, Maundy Thursday service, Holy Humor Sunday and weekly gatherings of Gifts of the Dark Wood; held confirmation/mentor luncheon; completed premarital counseling training; attended UCC Clergywomen Leadership Event; presided over a Celebration of Life Service and bedside memorial service; had several care consultations; submitted an application for Next Generation Leadership Initiative. Leslie will meet with the Executive Committee for an evaluation discussion in May.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT -- Volunteer appreciation brunch on May 15.

TRUSTEES' REPORT – Fellowship hall door handles have been installed; parsonage roof has been replaced and inside water damage will be repaired; trustees are getting bids on repairing the crumbling sidewalks; dishwasher will be repaired; trustees asked the columbarium committee to meet and decide on the next step in establishing a columbarium.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – CE is continuing to raise funds for the youth to attend the national UCC youth event this summer. The luncheon and auction made about \$1,500. The youth will continue raising money by doing yard work for church members and selling brats. Confirmation is May 22.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY – There have been several concerns about the number of announcements during the service and the amount of time they take. CM discussed some alternatives. This issue was moved to new business.

NEW BUSINESS – Council held a lengthy discussion regarding the way we currently handle announcements. Issues ranged from the number of announcements, the time it takes and the types of announcements that are delivered. A motion passed to try a new method of delivering announcements. Only church-related announcements should be given during the church service. Non-church-related announcements should be emailed to the church office no later than Wednesday evening for inclusion in Sunday's bulletin. Please keep them brief. After a time, we will assess this process to see how it is working.

In other business, Ann Turnbull presented the leadership slate. Some positions have been filled, but others need volunteers. Could you help the church by volunteering for a committee or leadership role? Contact Ann.

**Notice to Committees:** Annual Reports are due in the church office by May 1. The annual meeting is Sunday, May 15, after the worship service.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be May 18 at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Ogdahl, Clerk of Council



## 2016 Annual Meeting June 10-12, 2016

*Diving Deeper,  
Race, Economics and Faith*

You are invited! Every year the MN Conference holds an annual gathering of clergy and laity at the College Saint Benedict in Saint Cloud. The Conference's Annual Meeting is scheduled for is rich with vital worship experiences, opportunities to meet new people and reconnect with old friends, chances to share your passion for social justice – all towards the re-invigoration of faith in our daily lives. Clergy and laity come from all corners of the state for inspiration, education, and to do the business of the wider church. Come for a day or for the whole weekend! For more information and to register, [visit http://uccmn.org/events/am2016/](http://uccmn.org/events/am2016/)

### Community Events

**Habitat for Humanity Dinner – June 9<sup>th</sup>  
Breezy Point Convention Center**

Our congregation has always been very supportive of the Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity and the annual fund raising dinner. This year they will be trying to raise enough money to build an entire home one board at a time. There will be both a silent and live auction with many interesting items. Social hour is at 6PM and dinner will be served at 7:00. The cost is \$60.00 per person.

There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex every Sunday in May. I will be collecting checks every Sunday but I am in Minneapolis for Mother's Day today. If you prefer, you can send your checks directly to Habitat or leave them in the church office and I will pick them up.

Thanks for your support, Marcia Mans

### Camp Odayin Volunteer Opportunities

Dear Friends at First Congregational,

My cousin Sara Meslow runs an amazing camp in the Brainerd area for kids with heart disease. She is looking for volunteers to help this summer, bringing campers from the airport to camp. My late parents (Paul and Ann Grussing) helped with this for many years, and would talk about meeting nervous children heading to camp for the first time (and often away from home for the first time given their heart conditions) and then picking them up at the end of the week full of smiles and stories, eager to return the next year. This really is a joyful and transformative place for kids who've faced a lot -- thanks for considering this request for outreach in the Brainerd community!

Best, Jane Lonquist

**Camp Odayin** serves children with heart disease from all over the country. [www.campodayin.org](http://www.campodayin.org). Their flagship camp program is held at Camp Knutson in Crosslake. They are seeking a few volunteers to pick up their amazing campers from the Brainerd Airport and safely transport them to Camp Knutson. If you're interested, please contact Sara Meslow at [sara@campodayin.org](mailto:sara@campodayin.org) or 651.351.9185

Dates that volunteers might be needed in the afternoons: Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup> and July 25<sup>th</sup>

Dates that volunteers might be needed in mornings or afternoons: Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, July 22<sup>nd</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>

## Church Calendar – May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:00 Sunday School 11:30 Living the Question	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	<b>5</b> 11:30 Clergy Cluster	<b>6</b> 10:30 Book Group	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:00 Sunday School <b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	<b>12</b> 5:30 Committee Meetings	<b>13</b> 10:30 Book Group	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:00 Annual Meeting & Volunteer Brunch	<b>16</b> 6:30 Arts Committee Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 7:00 Council Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:30 Book Group	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>Confirmation Sunday</b> 10:00 Worship & Food Shelf Offering 11:00 Fellowship 11:00 Sunday School <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	<b>26</b> 5:30 PPRC	<b>27</b> 10:30 Book Group 4:00 Soup Kitchen	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:00 Sunday School	<b>30</b> Memorial Day Office Closed	<b>31</b> 12:00 Lunch Bunch				