



Friendship News

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

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

Our Pastor, Leslie Moughty's drop-in hours are Wednesday's 2-4pm and Thursday's 10am-12:00pm. Other times available by appointment.

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uccbrainerd.org

June 2017

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

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June Birthdays

6/2	Eric Lukanen	6/14	Ed Pishko	6/24	Anna Boman
6/2	Ken Nelson	6/15	Anna Boman	6/25	Claire Steen
6/8	Shelly Trimble	6/16	Chuck Watson	6/25	Steve Waller
6/10	Barb Stokke	6/20	Lowell Johnson	6/27	Nancy Gould
6/10	Becky Twamley	6/22	Dawn Stattine	6/29	Phil Kuehn
6/11	Ramona Gorham	6/23	Pat Bertram		

Pastor's Pen

My friend Carey and her daughter (who turns four in July) are visiting me from Seattle this week. No matter where I live, I love having out of town guests for a few reasons. I of course enjoy seeing friends whom I haven't seen in a long time. But I also love hosting guests because it makes me see my surroundings with fresh eyes. Since Ken and I moved here just over two years ago, I have already gotten used to the fact that there are so many lakes nearby – that driving north on 371 means you can see North Long Lake on one side and Gull Lake on the other at the same time. I had forgotten that this sort of environment is rare and special. Seeing the lakes through my friend's eyes reminded me of how unusual and beautiful this area truly is.

This got me thinking about Christianity and church. I wonder if there are things about our faith that have become so familiar that we have lost our sense of awe and wonder. If we were to look at the stories and teachings of our faith with the eyes of someone who has never heard them before, might we gain a fresh perspective or a renewed curiosity about them?

We have an opportunity to hear a familiar story with new ears on June 4: the story of Pentecost. This story takes place in the book of Acts chapter 2 verses 1-21. Although it is not as familiar as Easter or Christmas, Pentecost is a big holy-day in the Christian church. If the story of Pentecost is *not* familiar to you, I hope you will hear the story, listen to the sermon and share your perspective with those of us who have heard the story many, many times. If you know the story so well, you can practically quote it from the Bible, I invite you to listen and look for things you maybe haven't noticed before. For example, when the disciples come outside and are proclaiming God in a way that all who are gathered hear them in their native language, why do some people assume the disciples are drunk? I don't know about you, but my ability to speak a second language does not get better when I have had too much to drink. Maybe there have always been people who do not want to be challenged by what others have to say, who jump at the chance to discredit them, or explain away the unexplainable. As you hear or read the story this year, may you have the perspective of a visitor who is encountering the story for the first time. May your sense of awe and wonder be renewed. And may our still-speaking God speak to us in a language we can understand.

With Peace,

Pastor Jessie

Moderator's Notes

This past Mother's Day, I was in the Twin Cities working as a volunteer for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. I was touched by many of the racers that I visited. One was a survivor of 49 years. Another two were sisters age 36 and 39 who had been through radiation and chemotherapy. Twenty-one years ago on Mother's Day weekend, I was hospitalized with surgery for breast cancer. My mother was by my side for three full days and was not willing to leave me alone. In retrospect, I have often thought about the impact that having a daughter with breast cancer must have been for my mother.

Every year Mother's Day weekend is a time for me to reflect on the amazing gift of love that my mother gave to me. However, this weekend seems to be increasingly commercial. Companies seize on the holiday with messages of honoring mothers by buying them flowers, candy or cards. Let's be honest. Who dares ignore a holiday that has come to reflect our love and appreciation for our mothers? I like to think of Mother's Day as just one day out of the year that we tell our mother or a parent figure that we love them. We can demonstrate our love by showing respect and gratitude. My mother told me that she loved me every day. Today I try to do the same with my children every time I talk with them.

While I was teaching, I observed cooks, bus drivers, and secretaries caring about our students and providing a positive role model for our children. In effect, everyone had their share in “mothering” or parenting our students. At First Congregational, I see the same level of caring. Often I see parishoners reaching out to others; whether it is a younger person to the elderly or an “older but wiser” person taking the time to share stories or to guide a teenager. This is one of the things that I love about First Congregational Church. We are one big family trying our best to help each other or to set a positive example. It is in this spirit that I encourage all of us to consider who we will parent or “mother” without any strings attached. Let’s all do our best!

Claire Steen
Council Moderator

Church Security

There have been some issues with security in the church office. We have received a bid for a security camera, which will be installed in the office and have also made a police report. Due to these issues, the office has been locked on Sunday’s during worship. If you do need to get into the office, Pastor Leslie can assist you prior to or following worship. If you notice anything out of the ordinary or have any questions or concerns, please let Bobbie or Leslie know. We will give an update as things progress.

HUGS

June 4

Hosts: Marcia Ferris & Dan Hegstad
Ushers/Greeters: Roger Best, Greg Johnson
Ken Nelson & Gary Whiteman
Counters: Jeff Behr & Jerry Kuehn

June 11

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

June 18

Hosts: Claire Steen & Barb Stokke
Ushers/Greeters: Deb Griffith, Dan Hegstad,
Cheri Maxell & Kathy Ogden
Counters: Coleen Carder & Tracy Lyons

June 25

Hosts: Erik Lukanen & Tracy Lyons
Ushers/Greeters: Ellie Burkett, Sharon Carlson,
Joey Halvorson & Ann Turnbull
Counters: Nancy Gould & Lowell Johnson

Food Shelf Offering – May

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. In May we received \$335 and 41 pounds of food! Our next offering will be Sunday, June 25. **Thank you for helping to feed our hungry neighbors!**

Get Ready for Camp!

Youth camp is open to all youth who will have completed sixth grade through seniors in high school. Family Camp – July 16-21, Youth Camp Week 2 – July 23-28. **If you are interested in serving as an adult leader (minimum age 23), please contact Pastor Leslie.** Additional youth and adult camps: Deaf First Family Camp: June 18-23, Youth Mission Week: August 6-11. Register on the Conference website <http://uccmn.org/pilgrimpoint>

May 17, 2017 Church Council Minutes

Moderator – Dan Hegstad

Assistant Moderator – Claire Steen

Clerk – Barb Stokke

Treasurer – Cheri Maxwell

Christian Ministry – Ann Turnbull

Trustees – Coleen Carder

Christian Education – Marina Grabowski

Stewardship – Judy Whiteman

Council at Large –Mike North and Bonnie Crum

Present: Dan Hegstad, Claire Steen, Barb Stokke, Cheri Maxwell, Ann Turnbull, Coleen Carder, Marina Grabowski, Mike North, Bonnie Crum, and Rev. Leslie Moughty

Dan Hegstad called the meeting to order. Bonnie Crum shared Food for Thought. Mike North will provide June's Food for Thought.

CLERK'S REPORT – No Report

TREASURER'S REPORT – Cheri reported that the church received a gift of \$1,000 for the Columbarium and that an increase in giving units, offset somewhat by an insurance rate increase and salary increases that went into effect January 1, has resulted in a lower deficit.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Highlights: worked with Preston in preparation for delivering his sermon on April 30 and participated in "Family Fun Day," attended two sessions of Alzheimer's "FACTS" class, worked with Executive Committee to complete Pastor Job Description, and swap pulpits with Rev. John Fiscus of Peace UCC in St. Cloud.

Community engagements included attending Brainerd Area Ministerial Association meeting and meeting the new Director of Mission and spiritual Care at Saint Joseph's Hospital, participating in the Brainerd March for Science, attending the CROP WALK meeting, co-preaching at the MN Conference ONA Celebration, and writing a "Clergy View" article for the Brainerd Dispatch to be published Friday, May 19.

Pastoral Care Contacts include one pre-marital counseling session, one hospital visit, two home visits, and two office visits.

Upcoming events include Blessing of the Bikes after worship on June 4, attending UCC Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting June 9-11, and attending the UCC General Synod in Baltimore June 29-July 5 as part of participation in the next Generation Leadership Initiative.

STEWARDSHIP – Judy Whiteman will present a Strengthen the Church offering to be held on June 4.

Work continues on the annual October pledge drive and the Planned Giving series to be held this fall.

On May 21 at the annual meeting, Vi Heiser will complete her term on the Stewardship committee. Her fellow committee members extend many thanks to Vi for her years of service with them.

TRUSTEES' REPORT – Coleen Carder reported the dishwasher should arrive later next week, and Mark Stadem will reclaim parts of the old dishwasher to be used as replacement parts; unauthorized entries into the church continue to be made and will be reported to the police; the parsonage walk through well although the garage roof needs to be replaced; two-thirds of the FH chairs have been ordered; and the Trustees will confer with the Columbarium committee about using some of the Columbarium niches fees to repay the Building Fund and to maintain the Memorial Garden.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Sunday school will wrap up this spring with a small celebration, and a new confirmation class led by Leslie will start this fall.

UCC Lynnhurst will not be able to work with our youth on service projects in this area this summer, but they extended an invitation to work with them on service projects west of Minneapolis.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY – Holy Week went well, and CM recommends continuing the Ashes in the Street program and the Maundy Thursday foot-washing service.

Plans are in progress for six upcoming services, including a Taizé Service Sunday, May 28, 2017, and a Blessing of Bikes after service on Sunday, June 4.

COUNCIL AT LARGE – Bonnie Crum reviewed the Nominating Committee’s progress in filling upcoming vacancies in the Leadership Roster.

OLD BUSINESS – The new Pastor Job Description, written and revised by the Exec Committee, Pastor Leslie, and members of the Pastor Search Committee, was presented to the Council. After much discussion about job descriptions and job evaluations, Ann Turnbull made a motion to adopt the Pastor Job Description. Cheri Maxwell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Possible solutions for the budget shortfall continue to be discussed.

Council reviewed the agenda for the annual meeting after worship Sunday, May 21.

NEW BUSINESS – Dan suggested ‘swapping’ two upstairs rooms: the youth room and the Open Forum room. This would provide a quieter place with fewer interruptions for Open Forum discussions and Quaker meetings. Council members will check the feasibility of this Tuesday, May 23.

Claude, a high school exchange student and organist at some of our Sunday services, will be graduating this spring from Brainerd High School. Mike North made a motion to give Claude a graduation gift, a Walmart gift card of \$180.00. Ann seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Claire Steen and Mike North will be delegates to the MN Conference Annual Meeting June 9-11 at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer. The next meeting will be June 21 at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Stokke, Clerk of Council

Minutes of the 145th Annual Congregational Meeting

May 21, 2017

Moderator Dan Hegstad called the meeting to order and Rev. Leslie Moughty led the congregation in an opening prayer.

Greg Johnson moved and Lowell Johnson seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting. The motion was approved.

The slate of proposed officers and committee members for the coming year was introduced. Lois McBroom offered clarifications of some terms of service, followed by a correct listing of committee members and their terms given by Ann Turnbull. A corrected listing of committee members and their terms will be posted in the June newsletter. Gary Whiteman moved and Lowell Johnson seconded a motion that the church members accept the corrected slate of officers and committee members. The motion was approved.

Before passing the gavel, Dan Hegstad expressed his appreciation for members of this church, their energy, and their ability to get things done. He also reminded church members of the budget concern and issued a challenge to look for ways to increase contributions and raise ‘small’ dollars. He then introduced the new Moderator, Claire Steen.

Rev. Leslie led the congregation in the Commissioning and Blessing of Committee Members and Officers, and the meeting ended with a thank you for all who had served in the ministries of the church.

Ann Turnbull moved to adjourn the meeting. Lowell Johnson seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Stokke, Clerk of Council

Church Leadership 2017-2018, Elected

As Elected by the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, May 2017

MODERATOR: Claire Steen
CLERK: Barb Stokke

ASSISTANT MODERATOR: Mike North
TREASURER: Cheri Maxwell

Term Expires 05/2018	Term Expires 05/2019	Term Expires 05/2020
COUNCIL AT LARGE		
Bonnie Crum	Gary Whiteman	Bob Jones
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION		
Kay Kraywinkle Barb McColgan	Lori Howe Jolene Hojem	Kathy Ogden (vacant)
CHRISTIAN MINISTRY		
Jan Kurtz Ann Turnbull	Karen Ford Sue Hadland	Karen Ogdahl Jack Kraywinkle
TRUSEES		
Jeff Behr Sharon Carlson	Nancy Gould Tracy Lyons	*Deb Griffith Cynthia Janes
STEWARDSHIP		
Jerry Kuehn Carla Benjamin	Lowell Johnson Judy Whiteman	Mabel Schultz Sue North
PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS		
Joe Stattine Gary Whiteman	Mary Reardon Lois McBroom	
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE		
Bonnie Crum Maggie Anderson	Ann Turnbull Dawn Stattine	Jan Morton Charlotte Goedsche

Assistant Moderator and At-Large Council Members make up the NOMINATING COMMITTEE
MN Conference Delegates for 2017: Rev. Leslie Moughty, Claire Steen, (youth-vacant)
 *Council Representative

Church Leadership 2017-2018, Not Elected

The Following are Not Elected by the Annual Meeting

FOUNDATION BOARD

***Bonnie Crum, David Crum, Sue Hadland, Dale Hadland, David TenEyck, Lisa Wigand**

The Foundation is a non-profit corporation affiliated with First Congregational United Church of Christ of Brainerd, Minnesota.

Purpose: To accept, manage or use funds or property received from any donor desiring to make a charitable contribution for the advancement of the religious purpose and activity of the local congregation.

ARTS COMMITTEE

Karen Ford, Jean Schaeffer, Nancy Gould, Jeff Behr, Dee Crust, Carol Crust and Joey Halvorson

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Diane Huan, Nancy Gould, Betty Alderman, Lori Howe, Lance James and Mary Reardon

COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE

Sue Hadland and Jeff Behr

ECHTERNACHT COMMITTEE

David Crum, Gary Whiteman and Ann Turnbull

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE

Todd Froemming, Dan Hegstad, Lisa Wigand, Ann Turnbull and Joe Stattine

Church Financials

First Congregational UCC of Brainerd			
Financial Results - General Fund			
Year to Date Results as of 4/30/2017			
	2017 Annual Budget	Actuals Through 4/30/17	% of Budget
Income:			
From Giving Units	\$ 117,365	\$ 52,836	45.02%
Other Giving	\$ 32,146	\$ 5,940	18.48%
Total Income	\$ 149,511	\$ 58,776	39.31%
Expenses:			
Council	\$ 102,901	\$ 39,152	38.05%
Christian Ministry	\$ 3,120	\$ 1,476	47.30%
Music Committee	\$ 12,220	\$ 2,874	23.52%
Christian Education	\$ 650	\$ -	0.00%
Stewardship	\$ 600	\$ 196	32.67%
Trustees	\$ 55,110	\$ 17,621	31.97%
Total Expenses	\$ 174,601	\$ 61,319	35.12%
Net Income (Loss) Year to Date:	\$ (25,090)	\$ (2,543)	

F.Y.I.

Jean Gustafson was recently awarded the 2017 Greater MM Fellowship Award by the MNa Lavender Bar Association. The MLBA is an affinity bar association of the State Bar Association and promotes fairness and equality in the LGBT community within the legal industry and the State of Minnesota. Jean is the 2nd recipient of this award. She will attend a ceremony introducing her in January.

Church Calendar – June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 10:30 Book Group	3
4 10:00 Worship & Communion 11:00 Fellowship 11:00 Blessing of the Bikes	5	6	7 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 11:30 Clergy Cluster	8 Habitat for Humanity Dinner	9 10:30 Book Group MN Conference Annual Meeting	10 MN Conference Annual Meeting
11 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship MN Conference Annual Meeting	12	13	14 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	15 5:30 Committee Meetings	16 10:30 Book Group	17 Pride Picnic
18 Father's Day 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	19	20	21 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 5:00 Council Meeting	22 5:30 PPRC	23 10:30 Book Group 4:00 Soup Kitchen	24
25 10:00 Worship & Food Shelf Offering 11:00 Fellowship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26	27	28 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	29	30 10:30 Book Group	