



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.

Office phone 218-829-2528

E-mail firstcong@brainerd.net

Website uccbrainerd.org

uccbrainerd.org

June 2018

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

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Pastor's Pen

What are your plans this summer? For many of us, summer means time to take a break – a break from school, a break from work, or simply a break from the routine. Whether it is a weekend at the lake, a week at church camp, or a month in Europe, summer seems to call on us to put down our worries, at least for a while, and be playful.

One of our family vacation spots is a cabin in Ontario about 2 hours east of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. My great grandfather and my grandfather built the cabin starting in the 1920's as part of a summer destination for Ohio Wesleyan professors. My mom's side of the family lived in Ohio until she was a toddler and would spend entire summers there. Because my family lived in Phoenix, Arizona (a little farther from the cabin than Ohio) and my parents were not professors who could take most of the summer off, we would spend 2 or 3 weeks at the cabin every other year or so. Although my mom's parents also lived in Phoenix, they spent their summers (which, in Phoenix lasts from April to September) either at the cabin in Canada or at their house in Northern California, so it felt like we didn't get to spend a lot of time with them. These couple of weeks at the cabin were our opportunity to hang out with grandma and grandpa.

Unfortunately, my grandpa found it difficult to relax. Do you know someone like that? He was always working, even on vacation. When I think back to my summers at the cabin and my grandpa, I think of him chopping wood, doing repairs, and running errands. As a kid and then a teen, I didn't always know exactly what he was up to, but I remember him wiping the sweat off his brow, I remember his work boots, and I remember it seemed like he always had an axe or a hammer or some other tool in his hand. My mom was able to persuade him to put the work down on occasion and just play with us. He was a sweet and gentle soul and I loved seeing him smile. He taught me to not be afraid of daddy long-legs spiders (although I am still afraid of all other spiders!) and we enjoyed watching the sunsets together. I wish I had more of those kinds of memories of him.

This summer, I encourage all of us to be intentional about taking time to relax. Be fully present in the moment. Put the work away, put the phone down, listen to the birds, watch a sunset from start to finish, breathe. Feel your feet in the grass, or the sand between your toes, or the summer breeze on your face. God created a beautiful world and seemed to pay special attention to the lakes area of Minnesota. It is a gift to be enjoyed as much as you can, in whatever way you can. Even if that means simply taking a few minutes to look out the window, take a deep breath, and watching the wind rustle through the trees. In the words of the movie character Ferris Bueller: "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

With Summer blessings,

Pastor Leslie

Pastor Leslie's upcoming out of office dates:

June 7-10: Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting and Pre-Meeting event.

June 19-22: Regional Youth Event in Grinnell, Iowa

Blessing of the Bikes

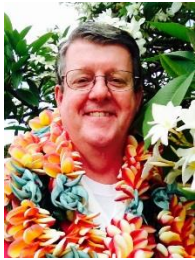
You've got a great bike. You've got a good helmet. Now how about a little help from above?

Join us on Sunday June 4 at 11:30am for a Blessing of the Bikes! All types of wheeled conveyances are welcome - motorcycles, motor-scooters, kick scooters, mountain bikes, road bikes, BMX bikes, skateboards, roller skates... if it has wheels, we'll bless it!

We will gather in front of the church along 5th Street across from Gregory Park. Pastor Leslie will offer a community blessing and will be available for individual blessings and prayers.

All are welcome. Even if you have never stepped foot inside a church or never felt welcome in a church, consider this your personal invitation. Refreshments will be available in our Fellowship Hall following the blessing.

Rev. Jeff Crews



Born and raised in New Mexico, Jeff was an architect, navy FA-18 carrier pilot, small business owner and stockbroker before discerning his call to ministry and going to Pacific School of Religion at the tender age of 55. Ordained and having served churches in California, Connecticut and Hawai'i, Jeff and his husband Bill are now retired and living on Tamarack Lake just outside St. Croix State Park. They have four adult children and five grandkids. Jeff currently serves on the Committee on Ministry for the Minnesota Conference, where he helps candidates discern their vocation as ministers in the UCC. Jeff and Bill were present when First Congregational Church in Brainerd was considering becoming Open and Affirming in 2000, and are delighted to return!

Special Offering – May

In May we donated \$155 to the Women's Shelter and 25 pounds of food to the Food Shelf! Our next offering on Sunday, June 24 will go towards Camp Scholarships.

HUGS

June 3

Hosts: Eileen Kurpiers & Jan Morton

Ushers/Greeters: Reed Campbell, Greg Johnson, Austin Newgord & Gary Whiteman

Counters: Jeff Behr & Jerry Kuehn

June 10

Hosts: Maria Bertram & Itty Newgord,

Ushers/Greeters: Mary Harder, Lois McBroom & Itty Newgord

Counters: Deb Griffith & Judy Whiteman

June 17

Hosts: Claire Steen & Barb Stokke

Ushers: Charlotte Goedsche & Cynthia Janes

Greeters: Marina Grabowski & Barb Stokke

Counters: Tracy Lyons & Mabel Schultz

June 24

Hosts: Karen Ogdahl & Mike Schrader

Ushers/Greeters: Ellie Burkett, Sharon Carlson, Joey Halvorson & Ann Turnbull

Counters: Nancy Gould & Lowell Johnson

June Birthdays

6/2	Ken Nelson	6/10	Becky Twamley	6/23	Pat Bertram
6/2	Patrick Kalinoski	6/11	Mona Gorham	6/24	Anna Boman
6/2	Eric Lukanen	6/14	Ed Pishko	6/25	Claire Steen
6/5	Sarah Jo Armstrong	6/15	Ashley Boman	6/25	Steve Waller
6/8	Ryan Kelley	6/16	Chuck Watson	6/27	Nancy Gould
6/8	Shelly Trimble	6/20	Lowell Johnson	6/29	Phil Kuehn
6/10	Barb Stokke	6/22	Dawn Stattine		

New Pathways

Coming to First Congregational Sunday, June 24 – July 1, 2018

New Pathways has experienced an unusual event in that it has not received any new guests into the program, over the last month. We still need to anticipate we will have guests, so, if you are available please sign up and we will keep you posted.

Consider volunteering for dinner, overnights, set up, tear down or transportation Please contact:

Staying overnight: Sue Hadland – 829-2381 – dghrose@charter.net

Kathi Hefti – 839-1578 – hefti2@gmail.com

Dinners: Sharon Carlson – 828-1581 – sharoncarlson62@charter.net

Set up and take down (2 Sundays) Deb Griffith – 828-4841 – debrange@brainerd.net

Transportation: Scott Gutierrez – 838-066 – sljtgutierrez@gmail.com

Activities: Lance James – 821-6667 – lancejames32@gmail.com

Basic food buying, (other than dinners) Jan Morton – 829-5092 – jan56401@gmail.com

The white board used for signing up, is in the church sanctuary lobby each Sunday starting June 3rd. Once you sign up, please go online by clicking on [Sign up Here](#), and pick your dates for any of the above five activity opportunities. THANK YOU from The New Pathways Team!!!

Habitat for Humanity Dinner and Silent Auction

Some of us remember when Habitat for Humanity was being formed years ago by our own church members - Paul Mans and Rev. Paul LeDuc. Habitat is still going strong, thanks to faithful volunteers and generous donors.

You can be a part of this generosity (and have a fun evening) by attending the annual Habitat for Humanity dinner and silent auction held this year on June 13, 6:00 at Madden's. Karen Ogdahl is reserving a couple tables for church members and friends. The cost is \$75 per person. If you would like to be at a First Congregational table, please let Karen know. See her at church or email her at ogdahl@brainerd.net.

Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunities

Our salvage and pick up team needs you! If you love to tear things apart, but don't want to put them back together we have the opportunity of you!

Our Habitat ReStore sells new and used donated building materials, furniture and appliances. We need volunteers to help remove these items from homes before they are scheduled for demolition.

With the growing demand, we need more help! We offer flexible hours from once a week to once a month.

To volunteer call Karen at 218-828-8517 or email: volcoord@lakesareahabitat.org.

Come to Camp!

No matter who you are, there is a camp or retreat at Pilgrim Point for you! For more information about the following events, go to <http://uccmn.org/calendar/category/camps/> or call Curtis Griesel in the UCC Minnesota Conference Office at 612-871-0359.

Deaf Family and Friends Camp	June 17 – June 22
Sexuality Education for Middle Schoolers & Parents	June 28 – July 1
July Family Camp	July 15 – July 20
Youth Mission Week (Grades 6-12)	July 22 – July 27
Retreat for Families with Trans and Gender Nonconforming Children	July 27 – July 29
Youth Camp (Grades 6-12)	July 29 – August 3

Church Council Minutes – May 16, 2018

Moderator – Claire Steen	Trustees – Deb Griffith	Clerk – Barb Stokke
Assistant Moderator – Mike North	Treasurer – Deb Lundberg	Stewardship – Judy Whiteman
Christian Education – Barb McColgan	Christian Ministry – Karen Ford	

Members-at-Large – Bonnie Crum, Gary Whiteman, Bob Jones

Present: Claire Steen, Mike North, Barb Stokke, Deb Griffith, Barb McColgan, Judy Whiteman, Bonnie Crum, Gary Whiteman, Bob Jones, Rev. Leslie Moughty, and Karen Ogdahl representing Christian Ministry.

Claire Steen called the meeting to order. Bob Jones shared May's *Food for Thought*. Barb Stokke will provide June's.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

CLERK – No changes

PASTOR – •Highlights: attended Monthly UCC Clergy Cluster, completed new member sessions, led Confirmation classes, met with Member-in-Discernment advisee, and planned Annual meeting and staffing with Exec Committee. •Pastoral Care Contacts: 2 office visits (including extended visit for a person in crisis), a home visit, a hospital visit (as escort and advocate for walk-in). •On the radar: June 8-10 UCC MN Conference Annual Meeting; June 19-22 Regional Youth Event in Grinnell, IA.

TREASURER – No report

TRUSTEES – Spring Clean up is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22. Because of the damage done to the lawn, Trustees are considering closing off the "road" between the rain garden and Ivy Street and eliminating parking on the grass. To have space in the parking lot for those who need to be close to the Ivy Street entrance or ramp, Trustees recommend others park on the street.

STEWARDSHIP – Sue North will introduce the Strengthen the Church offering during this Sunday's announcements.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY – CM announced Taizé services will not be held in June, July, or August but will resume in September. CM are making preparations for the second out-door Jazz Service on July 1, 2018, and two other services. CM also plans to survey the congregation about special mid-week services held throughout the year.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Council had a lengthy discussion about meeting the educational needs of our youth who range in age from pre-school through middle school. Topics included determining what is important to the youth, their parents and the congregation; providing the congregation with an overview of Sunday School, Confirmation, and Youth Activities; locating/creating interesting educational material and activities that appeal to varied age; and utilizing members of the congregation.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE – The At-Large committee has filled all but 4 positions. Still needed are two Christian Ed members, an Assistant Moderator, and one Stewardship member.

OLD BUSINESS – *Council received positive feedback on the meeting changes committees tried last week. Committees will continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month, a light dinner will no longer be served, and committees will establish their own starting time between 4:30 and 6:00. *Last month Council decided to contribute the Fourth Sunday Special Offering to other local groups as well as the Food Shelf. Council approved a calendar created by Mike North listing 10 local groups and the month(s) each will receive the offering. The May's special offer will go to the Women's Center. Food Donations will continue to be given to the Shelf. *Debra Griffith updated Council on the search for Safe Policies. She will email a packet of policies to Council members to review before the June Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – *The summer Council meetings will start at 5:30 p.m. *The Exec committee plans to post a nursery staff position in June and hopes to have the position filled by August or September. Once the job description is finalized, postings will be made in multiple places and a resume, cover letter, and references will be required. *Council discussed ways to recognize special gifts given to the church by members and friends of the church.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Council Meeting: June 20, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. Committee Meetings: June 14, 2018

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Stokke, Clerk of Council

Church Financials

First Congregational UCC of Brainerd				
Financial Results - General Fund				
Year to Date Results as of 4/30/2018				
	2018 Annual Budget	Actuals Through 4/30/18	% of Budget	Actuals Through 4/30/17
Income:				
Giving Units	\$ 129,892	\$ 75,661	58.25%	\$ 47,894
Loose Offering (10% to OCWM)	\$ 3,278	\$ 1,161	35.42%	\$ 1,170
Other Giving	\$ 4,938	\$ 4,309	87.27%	\$ 2,245
Total Income	\$ 138,108	\$ 81,132	58.74%	\$ 51,309
Expenses:				
Council	\$ 101,821	\$ 32,828	41.92%	\$ 33,332
Christian Education	\$ 2,300	\$ 231	22.89%	\$ -
Christian Ministry	\$ 1,900	\$ 482	36.02%	\$ 1,173
Music	\$ 8,990	\$ 3,849	50.98%	\$ 2,874
Stewardship	\$ 695	\$ 194	38.24%	\$ 196
Trustees	\$ 56,810	\$ 60,667	114.95%	\$ 17,606
Total Expenses	\$ 172,516	\$ 98,251	66.11%	\$ 55,180
Net Income (Loss) Year to Date	\$ (34,408)	\$ (17,120)		\$ (3,871)

First Congregational UCC of Brainerd			First Congregational UCC of Brainerd		
Financial Results - Revolving Accounts			Financial Results - Designated Funds		
Year to Date Results as of 4/30/2018			Year to Date Results as of 4/30/2018		
	2018 Annual Budget	Actuals Through 4/30/18		2018 Annual Budget	Actuals Through 4/30/18
Income:			Income:		
Film License	\$ 225	\$ -	Building Fund		\$ 23,740
Flower Income	\$ -	\$ 365	Columbarium	\$ -	\$ 153
OCWM Income	\$ 8,398	\$ 2,829	Camp/Youth	\$ -	\$ -
Other Mission Income	\$ -	\$ 1,310	Total Income	\$ -	\$ 23,893
Special Offering Income	\$ -	\$ 45	Expenses:		
Special Worship Services	\$ 500	\$ 337	Building Fund		\$ 1,181
UCC Mission Income	\$ -	\$ 837	Columbarium	\$ -	\$ 54
Total Income	\$ 8,898	\$ 5,723	Camp/Youth	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses:			Total Expenses	\$ -	\$ 1,235
Film License	\$ 225	\$ -	Net Income (Loss) Year to Date:	\$ -	\$ 22,658
Flowers	\$ -	\$ 517			
OCWM Payments	\$ 8,398	\$ 2,103			
Other Mission Payments	\$ -	\$ 920			
Special Worship Services	\$ 500	\$ 371			
UCC Mission Payments	\$ -	\$ 877			
Total Expenses	\$ 9,123	\$ 4,788			
Net Income (Loss) Year to Date:	\$ (225)	\$ 935			

Church Calendar – June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:30 Book Group	2
3 10:00 Worship & Communion 11:00 Fellowship 11:30 Blessing of the Bikes	4	5	6 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	7	8 10:30 Book Group 11:30 Clergy Cluster	9
10 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	11	12	13 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	14 5:30 Committee Meetings	15 10:30 Book Group	16
17 Father's Day 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:30 PPRC	18	19	20 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 5:30 Council Meeting	21	22 10:30 Book Group 4:00 Soup Kitchen	23
24 10:00 Worship/Camp Sunday & Special Offering 11:00 Fellowship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE New Pathways Host Week	25 New Pathways Host Week	26 New Pathways Host Week	27 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn New Pathways Host Week	28 New Pathways Host Week	29 10:30 Book Group New Pathways Host Week	30 New Pathways Host Week