



Friendship News

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

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

The Pastor is also available at other times by appointment.

Office phone 829-2528, Pastor’s residence 454-0453, E-mail
firstcong@brainerd.net.

uccbrainerd.org

July 2014

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

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Announcements

BRAINERD COMMUNITY ACTION TRAINING

Tuesday July 8 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Fellowship Hall of First Congregational United Church of Christ

Sponsored by **OUTFRONT MINNESOTA**

As people of faith, we are called to care for our community and to love our neighbors. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn to work together effectively on justice issues!

Contact: Jeremy Keller, Northern Minnesota Community Organizer

Jeremy@outfront.org 218-382-8221 “Invest in the Vision” Strengthen the Church Offering

Pastoral Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee has been meeting since early June. We are currently working on the church profile, a very thorough 20-page document containing information about our church and our community. It's a big job, but we are making good progress.

Thank you to all of you who participated in the congregational conversations and surveys a few months ago. Your input has been our guide as we develop a description of our church and determine what skills our congregation values in a new pastor. When a draft of the church profile is finished, it will be available for your reading and feedback.

Once the final draft of the profile is complete, our vacancy will be posted on the United Church Employment Opportunities website. Then we hope pastors looking for a church just like ours will begin applying!

We'll be updating you regularly on our progress, but if you have specific questions, feel free to ask committee members. Please keep us in your prayers.

The Pastoral Search Committee

Doris Anderson, David Crum, Emma Ferrie, Karen Ford, Sue Hadland, Phil Kuehn, Lois McBroom, Preston Newgord, Karen Ogdahl, Erik Steen and Ann Turnbull

LAKES AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME TO BE BUILT IN CROSBY

Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity will begin building a home in Crosby starting July 7th. Shifts for the first week of framing are 8:30am-12:30 and 1:00-4:30pm. 15-25 volunteers are needed for each shift.

Volunteers can sign up individually as a group. The build will take approximately six weeks. For more information or to sign up for a shift, contact Kevin Pelkey at 218-828-8517 or email kevin.pelkey@lakesareahabitat.org

Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry that serves Cass, Crow Wing and Hubbard Counties. Since 1991, LAHFH has served 96 families to provide a hands-up opportunity for decent and affordable homeownership.

The Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity partnership that started in 2005 has resulted in the construction of twelve homes in our lakes area and more than 4,300 homes throughout the United States.

Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity

PO Box 234

Brainerd, MN 56401

Contact: Kevin Pelkey

Kevin.pelkey@lakesareahabitat.org

218-828-8517

ATTENTION....

Nancy, Coleen, Ann and all the rest of you that get on your hands and knees around here – and not to pray – there are knee pads available in the main floor utility closet!!

Anonymous

THE PASTOR'S PEN

Rev. Linda K. Crowe, Interim Pastor

On Tuesday my father, Dave Hamm, received devastating news: cancer has been found in several places in his body. Dad has lived with significant pain during the past few months. When we were home at Easter, it was shocking to see how much Dad's health had deteriorated since Christmas.

On Monday Randy and I will fly home to Spokane for a visit with Dad and the rest of our family. We don't know how much time Dad has left. We do know that it is important to go to see Dad now.

During the visit with Dad, I will be very deliberate about thanking Dad for the blessings he and Mom bestowed upon our family. Dad will be thanked for the gifts of security and a stable home environment. He will be thanked for passing on the values of education and hard work. He'll be thanked for teaching all of us to be dependable, honest, trustworthy, and respectful. He'll also be thanked for the blessings of music and family trips. He will be thanked for taking our family to church, and for modeling faithfulness. Words of gratitude will fill my father's room at the VA hospital in Spokane.

We never know how much time we will have with the people we love. We have no way of knowing how long our time together will be, but we can be certain of one thing: we are called to tell each other of our love and gratitude. We are called to acknowledge, with heartfelt gratitude, those who have loved us and blessed our lives.

In this time of deep grief, profound gratitude fills my heart. Thank you, Dad. And thank you, thank you, thank you, God.

Peace and blessings to all of you. Pastor Linda.

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk the way with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and the God of peace and compassion will go with you.

(Henri Frederic Amiel, Swiss philosopher and poet 1821-1881)

Moderator's Musings

By Ann Turnbull

I am looking forward to the year ahead with great humility and appreciate your confidence in me to serve as moderator of our church council. Our community of faith has a busy and exciting year ahead and I am thankful for the generosity, leadership qualities and skills of our congregation. I appreciate those of you who have already shared ideas and concerns with me!

My first official act was attendance at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference, United Church of Christ, June 13-15, as a lay delegate.

Things I learned at Annual Conference:

- Pilgrim Point Camp has a newer emphasis on congregations going to camp together... multi-generational. We may want to talk about doing this.
- There are opportunities to go on work camps with others in the Conference. There's one January 25-31, 2015 at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. The weather might be more pleasant than January in MN and it can change your life!
- Shiftthechurch.org is an on-line ministry of the United Church of Christ. Take a look and find a new way of being church in the 21st century.

- There are some great learning and training opportunities available through the Conference because of work with the Center for Progressive Renewal. These trainings explore cultural changes and how our churches can be vital and relevant today. progressiverenewal.org

The Annual Meeting of the MN Conference passed two resolutions

- [2014 Resolution in support of an end to the DHS/ICE daily detention level mandate](#)
- [2014 Resolution to support dismantling racism and creating diversity in the MN Conference](#)

What is COMMAntary?

Each person on our church mailing list is receiving COMMAntary, the weekly newsletter of the Minnesota Conference. This is to inform us about what is happening across the conference and to inform us about educational opportunities and activities we are welcome to attend at other UCC churches.

Pastoral Search

Part of my job is to attend pastoral search committee meetings with voice but no vote. We have some exciting work to do as we seek a new pastor. The search committee is getting started on the “forming, storming and norming” process which is so important in bringing us together as a group. We have shared some of our faith journeys with one another and are working on the church profile document that describes our church and the skills we are looking for in a pastor. Please pray for us.

Leadership Retreat

Saturday, August 16th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM is the Leadership Retreat. This is a time when people interested in church ministries and events in the life of the church spend time brainstorming ideas and setting up the church calendar for the year ahead. People serving on Church departments and committees are encouraged to attend but you don't have to be on a committee, everyone is welcome! Hope you can join us.

Reminder to Departments

Trustees, Stewardship, Christian Ministry, Christian Education should have had a meeting to welcome new members and to select a representative to council before our first meeting scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month, July 16th. I know one group has decided to rotate, my main concern is that all are represented.

Christ's peace be with each of you,

Ann

Christian Ministry Department

H.U.G.S.

****Notice**** Needed by August – 2 to 4 people for HUGS 4th Sunday rotation. Please e-mail Becky Twamley if interested at brtwamley@gmail.com.

July 6**Host:** Jan Morton & Doris Anderson**Greeters/Ushers:** Roger Best, Greg Johnson, Gary Whiteman**Counters:** Jeff Behr & Marcia Mans**July 13****Hosts:** Maria Bertram & Lois Owens**Greeters/Ushers:** Marina Grabowski, Lance James
and Mary Harder**Counters:** Sharon Carlson & Judy Whiteman**July 20****Hosts:** Deb Lundberg & Shirley Barten**Greeters/Ushers:** Pat Scott, Paul Mans,
Deb Griffith & Marcia Mans**Counters:** Coleen Carder & Vi Heiser**July 27****Hosts:****Greeters/Ushers:****Counters:** Nancy Gould & Claire Steen**Soup Kitchen – July 25**

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve an evening meal at the Soup Kitchen on July 25. Sharing food and fellowship is an important ministry to neighbors in our community. If you can help, please sign up on the red notebook placed in the church entry, or call the church office and we'll put your name on the list.

May Statistics

Meals – 1894

Days of service – 30

Average Meals served per day – 63

Manager's Report

Thank you so much for your service and support over the last month! We can't do this unless we keep hanging in there together. Because you are faithful we can say no one needs to go to bed hungry in our area! Later this month we will be launching a fundraiser to help us through the summer slump. We will be contacting coordinators and asking for your help in getting information and materials to our churches and other supportive organizations. Board members will be contacting you with more detailed info.

Thanks for your help!

Sincerely,

Pastor Bob Evans

Contact Us: pastorbobWebsite: Sharingbread.com**Bless you for helping with this ministry!****Food Shelf Offering – July 27**

Each month we bring offerings of groceries, necessities and financial donations to help feed hungry neighbors in our community. The Salvation Army Food Shelf serves 400 families each month.

Thank you for helping to feed our hungry neighbors!

All in the Church Family In Our Prayers

These joys and concerns were shared on prayer cards during recent services.

Pray for those in times of significant transitions. Pray for wisdom, peace, and comfort, strength, compassion, and courage. Pray for all who grieve. Pray for the girls kidnapped in Nigeria. Pray for the healing of relationships. Pray for caregivers. Pray for those suffering because of war, violence, abuse, neglect, disaster, or destruction. Pray for those struggling with family relationships or living with financial insecurity. Pray for those seeking employment or shelter. Pray for traveling mercies. Pray for those who are struggling with addictions, co-dependence, or abusive relationships. Pray for those living with pain and ongoing suffering. Prayers of healing for: Baby James and Baby Julius, Paul, Chuck, Barbara, Dana, Jan, Ellie, Linda, Sandy, Bernice, Lenore, Dave, Laurie, Norma Jean, Teresa, Cheryl, Lois, Ray, Suzanne, Quinn, and all others in need of healing. Pray for the youth and adults going to church camp together. Help us God, to love our neighbors as ourselves. Pray for our Pastor Search Committee. Thank God for this church, supporting in a time of need. Dear Lord, Thank you for your many blessings!



July Birthdays

07/02 Ronald Owens	07/18 Jeff Behr
07/03 Erin Twamley	07/19 David Crum
07/04 Gary Whiteman	07/20 Irene Whiteman
07/06 Krista Grater	07/23 Carol Crust
07/10 Bobbie Borg	07/26 Steve Crum
07/12 Charles Widmark	07/29 Samantha Bertram
07/16 Betty Hopps	07/30 Roger Grussing
07/17 Lawrence Lee	07/30 Seth Borg

Favorite Recipes

We often have requests for some of the delicious recipes from our congregation. If you have a recipe to share, please contact the office.

White Texas Sheet Cake

Boil 1 cup of water and 1 cup of butter. Remove from stove and add:

2 cups flour	2 eggs beaten
2 cups sugar	½ cup sour cream
1 tsp salt	2 tsp almond extract
1 tsp baking soda	

Beat until smooth and put into a 15/10/1 inch pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 20-22 minutes.

Frosting

Boil ½ cup butter and ¼ cup milk then remove from heat.

Add: 3-4 ½ cups powdered sugar

1 TBsp almond extract

1 cup chopped nuts

Pour this over warm cake and chill for best taste and texture!

Ranch Mushrooms

1 Large blue tub of fresh mushrooms (washed)

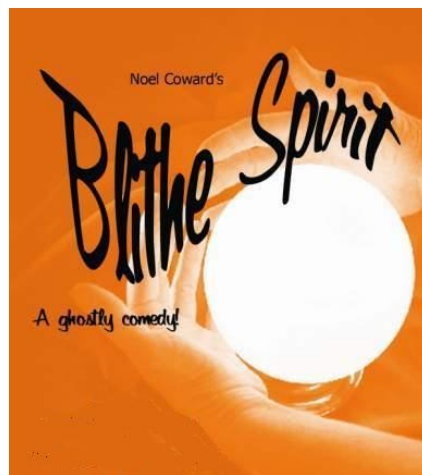
1 stick of butter

1 package Hidden Valley Dry Dressing mix (original)

First you rinse off the mushrooms and put them in a crockpot. Then you melt the butter and add the Ranch dressing packet to the butter. Mix this together and pour over the mushrooms. Turn crockpot on low and cook mushrooms for 3-4 hours or cook on high for an hour.

Note: for every big container of mushrooms you use (I often use 2 big containers because they shrink down so much) you put in one stick of butter and one original Ranch salad dressing packet mix.

Wider Church and Community A Ghostly Comedy!



By Noel Coward

July 10-12 & 17-19 at 7:30 PM

Chalberg Theatre, CLC Brainerd

General Admission Tickets:

\$13 – Adult, \$10 – Youth & under

\$7 – CLC Students

To purchase call the CLC Theatre Box Office 218-855-8199

Pictures from Brainerd History Week - 2014



CHURCH CALENDAR — July 2014

		1	2 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	3	4 Happy 4 th of July!!	5
6 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	7 5:30 Search Committee	8 5:30 Trustees 6:30–9 Community Action Training - FH	9 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	10 12:00 Christian Ministry	11 10:30 Book Group	12
13 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	14	15	16 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 5:30 Christian Ed	17	18 10:30 Book Group	19
20 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	21	22	23 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	24	25 10:30 Book Group 4:00 Soup Kitchen	26
27 ** FOOD SHELF OFFERING** 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	28	29	30	31		

Check the **Calendar** for up-to-date changes

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[First Congregational
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**415 Juniper Street
Brainerd, MN 56401**

firstcong@brainerd.net
**218-829-2528
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**Interim Pastor
Linda Crowe**

**Admin. Assist.
Colleen Todd**