



# 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](mailto:firstcong@brainerd.net).

[uccbrainerd.org](http://uccbrainerd.org)

September 2014

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

<i>Announcements</i> .....	2
<b>A Thank You Note from Millie</b> .....	2
<b>New Pathways Volunteers Needed</b> .....	2
<b>TIE-DYE T-SHIRT WORKSHOP</b> .....	2
<b>God is still speaking,</b> .....	2
<b>Painters Needed</b> .....	2
<b>HOT DOGS &amp; HAMBURGERS</b> .....	3
<b>WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S</b> .....	3
<b>Christian Education Needs Teachers</b> .....	4
<b>September Lunch Bunch</b> .....	4
<b>Planning Ahead</b> .....	4
<i>THE PASTOR'S PEN</i> .....	4
<i>Moderator's Musings</i> .....	4
<i>Christian Ministry Department</i> .....	6
<b>H.U.G.S.</b> .....	6
<b>Soup Kitchen – September 26</b> .....	6
<b>Food Shelf Offering – September 28</b> .....	7
<i>All in the Church Family</i> .....	7
<b>Note from Brian &amp; Becky Twamley</b> .....	7
<b>In Our Prayers</b> .....	8
<b>September Birthdays</b> .....	9
<i>Trustee Adult Forum Presentation</i> .....	9
<i>Church Council Minutes</i> .....	9
<i>Church Financials</i> .....	11
<i>CHURCH CALENDAR — September 2014</i> .....	12

## Announcements

### **A Thank You Note from Millie**

*I would like to express my profound gratitude to all those who helped me move from my patio home in the Southview Court to an apartment on the Woodland campus. The love and caring of my church family was immeasurable.*

*Thank you, thank you!*

*Millie Gjertson*

### **New Pathways Volunteers Needed**

We are in need of sleepover volunteers for New Pathways, which is when we house homeless families in our church. **Our week is Aug. 31 - Sept. 7.** Sue Hadland says it's very easy: the volunteers arrive in the mid-evening and sleep in one of the empty rooms. Our guests leave early in the morning.

If you could help or would like more information, please call or email Sue at 218-829-4391 or [dghrose@charter.net](mailto:dghrose@charter.net).

### **TIE-DYE T-SHIRT WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, September 6 at 1 p.m.**

All ages are welcome to join the fun!

Church T-shirts will be available to dye for just \$10. If you provide your own shirt, a donation to cover the cost of the dye will be appreciated!

### **God is still speaking,**

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Brainerd, Minnesota

Church T-Shirts will be available for sale for just \$10 on September 6.

These will be great to tie-dye and to identify our church teams for the Alzheimer's Walk, Crop Walk, and the Pride Picnic!

### **Painters Needed**

Announcement: We need painting help in September. Thursday, September 18th 9am to 3 pm and Saturday September 20th. 9am to 3 pm. We need 6' and 8' foot step ladders, wire brushes, scrapers, drop cloths or tarps and paint brushes. Primer, Paint, Pizza and Pop will be provided - I promise!

## **HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS**

### **Church-wide Read**

During September and October, United Church of Christ congregations across the country will be reading and discussing **HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS**, an inspirational book by Rob Shindler about adult illiteracy and one family's success story of helping illiterate adults learn to read. Books are now available in the church office (cost: \$10). We'll discuss this book during the **OCTOBER 12 ADULT FORUM**.

This book is a great read and is guaranteed to broaden your knowledge about the problems and solutions we have around literacy in our community and the nation. Lowell Johnson will lead the book discussion on October 12. Lowell may be reached at 218-828-6233.



### **SAVE THE DATE:**

## **WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S**

### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

First Congregational United Church of Christ has created a team to walk in the 2014 Walk to End Alzheimer's at the Northland Arboretum, September 27, beginning at 9:00am. We will be wearing T-shirts with our church's name on it and we will be carrying a banner during the walk (0-3 miles – your choice) to identify our team.

How do I join a team? Go to the Alzheimer's Association website. Here is the link: <http://act.alz.org/goto/firstcongregationalunitedchurchofchrist>. Join the team and make a donation of any amount. If you wish, you can arrive early on the day of the Walk and register at that time. If you donate or raise \$100 you will receive an official 2014 Walk T-shirt.

How do I make a donation if I cannot attend the Walk? You are encouraged to make a donation via the website link above or by cash or check (made payable to the Alzheimer's Association) and given to any team member. Your donation will count toward the team member's goal.

How do I get the official FCUCC T-shirt? Pastor Linda has ordered white T-shirts with our church's name on it. There will be a tie-dye party at 1:00pm at the church on Saturday, September 6. Each shirt will cost \$10.00. There will be plain white T-shirts available if you do not want to tie-dye. This event will be intergenerational and will be a fun time!

Why are we participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer's? This dementia disease is having and will continue to have a significant impact on our community. The statistics are staggering. A cure or prevention needs to be found so that families and persons living with one of the dementia diseases are not devastated financially and emotionally. Our church stands up for social issues and this endeavor fits that mission; therefore, we walk!

**If you have any questions, contact Karen Ford at [kaford10551@charter.net](mailto:kaford10551@charter.net) or 651-492-3600.**

## **Christian Education Needs Teachers**

The Christian Education Committee is looking for people to help teach Sunday school for the 2014 – 2015 Season. Anyone interested can get a hold of Itty Newgord, Marina Grabowski or Maria Bertram. Any amount of time you would be able to volunteer would be appreciated. Thank you!

## **September Lunch Bunch**

Another Lunch Bunch is on the schedule for the fifth Tuesday in September. If you are interested in planning/hosting this fun lunch, please call Bonnie Crum at 330-3167. Thank you!

## **Planning Ahead**

**Greek Dinner on October 2 and Crop Walk on October 12**

## **THE PASTOR'S PEN**

**Rev. Linda K. Crowe, Interim Pastor**

Almost every day, someone asks me how the pastor search process is going or how much longer I will be here to serve as your interim pastor. My response is often something such as, "Well, we don't know whether or not we'll be putting Christmas lights up on the parsonage porch this year..." There is really no way to determine just how long this interim season will last.

With faithfulness and dedication, the Pastor Search Committee has been meeting during the past few months. They have prepared the church profile as well as a job description for a called pastor. When the new church website is up and running, the church profile will be sent out.

There is much that we don't know about the length of this search process. We don't know exactly when the website will be done, so we don't know when the church profile can be published electronically on the UCC network. We have no idea how many pastors will apply to serve as your next pastor. We don't know how many weeks or months it will be until the Pastor Search Committee selects one candidate to bring to this congregation for a vote. We have no idea when that person will be available to begin serving as the next pastor of this church. There is so much that we don't know, regarding the search process!

But there is also much that we do know. We know there is plenty of work remaining for us to do together, a multitude of mission and ministry opportunities. We know that God will continue to guide our time together, through the remainder of this interim season. We can surmise that this season will probably hold a challenge or two—and we can be certain that this season will hold untold blessings.

As this interim season continues, may we celebrate God's presence with us through this entire process—even if we have no idea exactly how long this will take!  
Peace and blessings, Pastor Linda

**Pastor Linda Crowe will be away from the church September 15-22 for vacation time. While she is away, David Crum will be on call for emergency pastoral responsibilities (after the 17th). Please contact David regarding any pastoral care needs or responsibilities. David may be reached at 218-330-3168.**

## **Moderator's Musings**

**By Ann Turnbull**

Our faith community been busy in August! Here's what I am aware of...

**Millie Gjertsen moved** from her patio home in Southview to a comfortable and sunny apartment at Woodland Good Samaritan August 6th. She attended Prayer Circle and returned home to her new address! Many thanks to Coleen Carder, Gary and Judy Whiteman, Roger Best, Randy Crowe, Itty, Jim and Preston Newgord, Nancy Gould and Sharon Carlson for making it an efficient and seamless operation! It was remarkably pain free, as moves go!

**Colleen Todd took a vacation**, not just a day here or there but a week and a half trip home to Montana with her boys! I kept tabs on the church office phone and learned a lot. I also had to apologize to her for messing some things up! (I managed to get the church email disconnected and we had to call CTC!) She reports that she has recovered from all the driving but we can pray that she can resolve some bothersome back pain.

### **Rain Garden Grant**

The greatest excitement at church this month has been work on the rain garden project. I hope you saw the email updates on component 1. As I write this, the work crew is laying sod for component 2 beside the church building. (Oops, I just learned the sod wasn't delivered today!) The only remaining task is planting on September 5th. Watch for another rain garden update!

**Honor the Earth** ([www.honorearth.org](http://www.honorearth.org)) **had an event in Brainerd** on August 19th that was a HUGE success. Thanks to the folks from our church who attended and helped. First Congregational Church was responsible for set up at Northland Arboretum and hosting the potluck supper which was followed by information from Winona LaDuke about environmental concerns of the Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline and action that can be taken. A concert by native musicians rounded out the evening.

**I am thankful to Pat Scott** (representing the Unitarians) for event publicity, coordinating with Honor the Earth staff and other organizers and helping during the event. Sharon Carlson was the Queen of presentation and potluck hosting, for which I will be forever grateful. You never know what people are going to bring to a potluck...so thanks to Lowell Johnson for hedging our bets with that beautiful and large salad! The food turned out to be plentiful and delicious and there were other community members who helped set up and take down so everything worked out well.

**The Pastor Search Committee is moving forward.** I understand from Karen Ogdahl the church profile has been submitted to Rick Wagner for his review. Rick is the Conference Minister who is helping our search committee. We should also have the Job Description ready to be attached when the profile is made public and we are officially accepting applications.

A Search Committee subgroup including Sue Hadland and members of the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee (David Crum, Phil Kuehn, Mark Erickson and myself) has been meeting to create a **Job Description for our next pastor**. It is taking the form of a covenant and will be a litany in which pastor and congregation promise to work together to ensure the work of our church is accomplished. (From my reading, the congregation needs to step up and help more with Christian Education. We currently have three out of 6 positions open in the Department of Christian Education!)

I have been working on the **church website** rather frantically. After some misunderstandings and miscommunication I hope we are able to move forward more quickly. A basic site will be published ASAP

as potential pastors need a place to check us out! Please pray that we can just get it done without me having to be a perfectionist about it!

I returned early in August from time with my mother. She lives with my sister Janet in Monmouth, OR and requires full time care. Even with helpers, it is a major commitment and I try to go about every two months to give Janet a break. It's always great to spend time with mom but care-giving, as many of you already know, is hard work both physically and emotionally. I know there are others in our church family besides Coleen and I in this stage of life. My prayer for you is that in the midst of the stress and time commitments you can find time to care for yourself. God bless you for showing love to those you care for in this important way.

**Christ's peace be with each of you,  
Ann Turnbull**

## **Christian Ministry Department H.U.G.S.**

### **September 7**

**Host:** Dorothy Blau & Jan Morton

**Greeters/Ushers:** Roger Best, Greg Johnson, Gary Whiteman

**Counters:** Jeff Behr & Lowell Johnson

### **September 14**

**Hosts:** Karen Ford & Tom Nelson

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

**Counters:** Sharon Carlson & Claire Steen

### **September 21**

**Hosts:** Barb Stokke & Paul Mans

**Greeters/Ushers:** Marcia Mans, Claire Steen, Deb Griffith & Pat Scott

**Counters:** Coleen Carder & Judy Whitman

### **September 28**

**Hosts:** Karen Ogdahl and Sharon Carlson

**Greeters/Ushers:** Ellie Burkett, Sharon Carlson Mike & Beth Schrader

**Counters:** Nancy Gould & Marcia Mans

## **Soup Kitchen – September 26**

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve an evening meal at the Soup Kitchen on September 26. 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.

### **July Statistics**

**Meals – 1,944**

**Days of service – 29**

**Average Meals served per day – 67**

### **Manager's Report**

Another summer is almost in the books and we continue to serve the hungry of our area. This is due to your faithful support and hard work. We have the best team of volunteers and supporters in the known universe!

Thanks to the Crow Wing Power Roundup fund we were able to upgrade our air conditioning system in the kitchen. We added an NSF approved microwave!!! A new paper towel dispenser will be installed soon above the hand-washing sink.

In order for us to continue our Sunday service we will need two new serving groups (at least) to fill the calendar for 2015. We need coverage for the 1st and 3d Sundays through the year. If you can take one of those spots please let me know soon.

Thanks for your continued support!! As always, please leave a note or give me a shout out at [pastorbob@sharingbread.com](mailto:pastorbob@sharingbread.com) with any concerns or questions that may arise while serving at the Soup Kitchen.

Sincerely,

Pastor Bob Evans

*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. Pastor Bob Evans*

## **Food Shelf Offering – September 28**

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. Our next offering will be on Sunday, September 28.

The following commodities are always needed and appreciated: canned beans (kidney, pinto, garbanzo, baked); chili, canned pasta meals, stews, soups; tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter; ramen noodles, pastas, macaroni and cheese; paper towels, toilet paper, disposable diapers, soap and shampoo. **Again, thank you for helping to feed our hungry neighbors!**

## **All in the Church Family**

### **Note from Brian & Becky Twamley**

We are adjusting to new schedules and a new climate! All the locals tell us that this is a cool summer but we are not thinking of it that way! It has been close to 100 every day since our arrival and quite humid which I think makes the difference. Being from MN, I think it is inbred in us that we spend as much time outside before "you know what" arrives! We try to eat out on our porch every evening but seem to be the only ones out! I guess we haven't figured out that it's not worth suffering outside and we should just stay in the air conditioned kitchen! Brian has checked out the golf courses but is waiting for cooler weather to get into full swing.

I am in school with 46 others---most of whom are young (a lot younger but they have been very kind in helping me with techy issues and other things that come up like the best place

to get a haircut! We have 5 women and 1 man from various countries in Africa and a lone woman from Beijing, China. It is so amazing to hear their stories and whenever I am questioning my abilities, I think of them! They live here without a car and without their families, not to mention the language issues and yet are always gracious and smiling. We are planning our first African cooking experience at our place soon!

I am almost through my first week of classes. My practicum project is with the University Medical School and my team of 4 will be working on increasing the diversity of students that apply to health care fields at the university. We'll be looking at both racial diversity and geographic. I have a man from Kenya, a woman from D.C. and a man from Jamaica on my team. (Diverse!!)

Arkansas, like MN has a lot of political races coming up and it has been interesting to delve into their political seen. We are living a block from the governor's mansion in the top level of an old house and across the street from the Episcopalian Church. It doesn't sound like the UCC is very prevalent here so will probably see what the E's are about.

Becky and Brian Twamley                      brtamley@gmail.com  
1702 Spring Street  
Little Rock AR 72206

## **Chuck and Barbara Watson Have Moved**

Chuck and Barbara Watson also have a new address: Edgewood Vista, 14890 Beaver Dam Road - #212, Brainerd MN 56401. (Same Phone #218-828-3068)

## **In Our Prayers**

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

Pray for healing for: Baby James, Paul, Barbara, Dana, Chuck, Deanne, Debbie, Ellie, Tim, Roger, Kay, Maria, Cherie, Ilona, Kathy, Lyn, Mark, Peggy, Dean, those struggling with depression, those working to overcome addictions. Pray for strength, comfort, and courage for: Kathy, Laura, those who struggle, those who are hungry, those without living wage jobs or the skills to be good parents, those in times of great change or transition, those who grieve, those seeking asylum at our border, and displaced people. Praise and thanksgiving for all God's beautiful gifts. May we remember to be watchful for God's presence around us every day. Pray for: peace in a world at war, a change of heart for the creators of violence, help for all who are suffering, healing and peace for this precious world. May violence, hatred, racism, and abuse come to an end. Give thanks for: the blessing of time shared with family and friends, kindness, mysteries that keep us on our path of faith, the beauty of life, this life journey, opportunities to change, meeting new friends at camp, blessings seen and unseen. O God, help us to live honestly and fully.

## **Daniel Alan Vanderploeg 1937 - 2014**

Daniel Vanderploeg died peacefully at home in Oakdale, Minnesota on August 16, 2014. He was 76 years old. He was born in Arpin, Wisconsin on October 22, 1937 to Simon and Marie VanderPloeg. Dan lived with Parkinson's Disease for 21 years, complicated by Lewy Body Dementia towards end of life. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Anita VanderPloeg, children Karen VanderPloeg, Julie (David) Kadrie, and David

(Jessica) VanderPloeg , and by several grandchildren. Dan was a graduate of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He was a summer attendee at the First Congregational UCC in Brainerd. He was a pioneer in his active support for the LGBT community in the church. Memorials to: Lyndale United Church of Christ in Minneapolis, Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ in Minneapolis, Lakeland College in Sheboygan WI, or United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in New Brighton. To read the full obituary, go to <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/twincities/obituary.aspx?pid=172161903>.



## September Birthdays

09/03	Todd Froemming	09/14	Lois McBroom
09/09	Thomas Nelson	09/19	Allison Crum
09/11	Hanna Stadem	09/19	Edie Chamberlain
09/12	Joyce Libra	09/20	Jennifer Celley
09/12	Robert Ogdahl	09/25	Kaylo Brooks
09/13	Wayne Mayer	09/26	Isaac Foster
09/14	Sonya Chamberlain	09/29	Judy Whiteman
09/14	Rod Carlson	09/30	Mark Stadem
09/14	Robert Spear		

## Trustee Adult Forum Presentation

**SAVE THE DATE: Sept. 28th, 11:15am.** The Trustees will present what has been happening to the First Congregational UCC property and buildings over the last 2 years, the results of the EnerChange energy audit from last spring, and the upcoming maintenance, energy-savings, and hospitality projects that may be possible in the near future. Please join us for a chance to see what the Trustees have done lately and plan to do in the future.

## Church Council Minutes

August 20, 2014

**Moderator** – Ann Turnbull

**Clerk** – Karen Ogdahl

**Christian Ministry** – Joey Halvorson

**Christian Education** – Itty Newgord

**Council at Large** – Gary Whiteman, Dan Hegstad, Paul Mans

**Assistant Moderator** – Phil Kuehn

**Treasurer** – Lisa Wigand

**Trustees** – Coleen Carder

**Stewardship** – Lowell Johnson

**Present:** Marcia Ferris, Dan Hegstad, Karen Ogdahl, Ann Turnbull, Sharon Carlson, Rev. Linda Crowe, Lisa Wigand, Phil Kuehn, Itty Newgord

Moderator Ann Turnbull called the meeting to order with a prayer from Pastor Linda Crowe.

The July minutes were approved as corrected.

#### **CLERK'S REPORT:**

Deaths – Paul Grussing, July 13; Dorothy Janes, July 19; Katherine Freeman, August 5  
Received a letter from World Day of Prayer USA thanking the church for its involvement.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT** – See attached report.

The General Fund is reporting just above break-even results through July 31. The church did receive the rain garden grant in July in the amount of \$9,043. A separate fund has been established to track the revenue and expenses associated with that project.

#### **PASTOR'S REPORT** – See attached report.

Rev. Linda and Randy Crowe accompanied seven youth to Pilgrim Point Camp and described it as “an important and transforming event.”

Members of the congregation and friends took part in “Operation Sandwich” which prepares and distributes lunches to children in our community during the summer.

Summer services have revolved around the theme of patchwork quilts.

#### **STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Stewardship will begin meeting in September. They will be planning for the annual pledge drive. They are currently working to get names under the pictures in the fellowship hall.

#### **TRUSTEES' REPORT**

Trustees and other church volunteers have been at work on the rain garden north of the church parking lot. It will help with water run-off and will add beauty to our church grounds.

They discussed a community youth cooking project, which would be done jointly with the Elks' organization. This would involve the use of our kitchen and church volunteers in helping young people from The Shop learn to cook. The Shop is a youth drop-in center. A grant to pay for food is in process.

A new vacuum has been purchased. The trustees are continually looking for ways to cut costs and are contacting the mat service to see if we could switch to winter service rather than year-round service.

#### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

CE is looking for Sunday School teachers. Family Fun events are being planned. An all-church Tie Dye workshop will be held September 6 at 1:00 p.m.

#### **CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**

CM has been researching its by-laws to define its many functions, which mainly fall under the categories of worship and mission and whether the system needs to be reorganized.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Karen gave an update on the pastor search committee. The church profile is done and will be sent to the conference and national employment website.

Ann reported that the church website will be on line soon. She also has updated the church leadership roster.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

In an effort to speed up the announcements after church, the Council suggested that people should keep their announcements to 20 seconds. A humorous demonstration will precede the announcements on a Sunday soon.

The Leadership Retreat was held on August 16 around the theme of The Faith Forming Five: Involving Children and Youth; Supporting Home Faith Practices; Intergenerational Faith Experiences; Theological Reflection on Mission Experiences; and Developing Lay and Clergy Leaders. Those at the retreat generated ideas for how we could promote these practices in our church.

Several members of our church attended the Honor the Earth: Sandpiper Pipeline event. A question was asked about the pipeline signs on the church lawn. In the future, the Council will make decisions about signs. There will be no political signs on church property.

The Council discussed several other issues:

- Should the annual meeting be held in May?
- Could we combine the annual meeting and the budget meeting?
- Should the retreat be held earlier in the summer, and should the name, Leadership Retreat, change so that it's more inclusive?
- Does our committee structure need to change to better reflect the church's needs?

Council meeting time will change in September to the second Thursday at 5:30.

All committee chairs should make sure their meetings are on the church calendar.

Forum and Sunday School times will change to 11:30 – 12:30 to allow time for fellowship after church.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be September 11 at 5:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ogdahl, Clerk of Council

## Church Financials

**First Congregational UCC of Brainerd  
Financial Results - General Fund  
As of July 31, 2014**

	Annual Budget	Results Through July 31, 2014	% of Budget
<b>Income:</b>			
From Giving Units	\$ 131,090	\$ 91,296	69.64%
Other Giving	\$ 26,820	\$ 15,431	57.54%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 157,910</b>	<b>\$ 106,727</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Council	\$ 106,261	\$ 61,416	57.80%
Christian Ministry	\$ 10,800	\$ 7,814	72.35%
Christian Education	\$ 1,300	\$ 2,610	200.77%
Stewardship	\$ 440	\$ 223	50.68%
Trustees	\$ 47,900	\$ 34,561	72.15%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 166,701</b>	<b>\$ 106,624</b>	
<b>Net Income (Loss) Year to Date:</b>	<b>\$ (8,791)</b>	<b>\$ 103</b>	

## CHURCH CALENDAR — September 2014

	<b>1</b> Labor Day Office Closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:30 Book Group	<b>6</b> 1:00 Tie Dye Workshop
<b>7</b> 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship - Communion 11:00 Fellowship 11:30 Sunday School Adult Forum - LTQ	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 3:00 Chr. Ministry 5:30 Trustees	<b>10</b> 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	<b>11</b> 5:30 Church Council	<b>12</b> 10:30 Book Group	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:30 Sunday School Adult Forum Colors	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	<b>18</b> 5:30 Stewardship	<b>19</b> 10:30 Book Group 6:00 Process & Film  Women's Retreat @ Pilgrim Point	<b>20</b>  Women's Retreat @ Pilgrim Point
<b>21</b> 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:30 Sunday School Adult Forum Colors	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	<b>25</b> 5:30 Pastor Parish Relations Comm.	<b>26</b> 10:30 Book Group 4:00 Soup Kitchen	<b>27</b> 9:00 Alzheimer's Walk
<b>28** FOOD SHELF OFFERING**</b> 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Adult Forum – Trustees Presentation – F.H.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

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

Friendship News  
is a publication of  
[First Congregational  
United Church of Christ](#)  
**415 Juniper Street  
Brainerd, MN 56401**

[firstcong@brainerd.net](mailto:firstcong@brainerd.net)  
**218-829-2528**  
**uccbrainerd.org**

**Interim Pastor  
Linda Crowe**

**Admin. Assist.  
Colleen Todd**