



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 656-0096, E-mail
firstcong@brainerd.net.

uccbrainerd.org

September 2015

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

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Pastor's Pen

Where in the world is Pastor Leslie?

When I was a kid we used to play a computer game called "Where in the World is Carmen San Diego." Carmen San Diego is a thief and the goal of this game is track Carmen's villains around the world and arrest them and ultimately arrest Carmen herself. The engaging detective-style game was designed to stimulate players' interest in geography, world cultures, astronomy, and history.

You may have noticed that I was away for a week in July, two weeks in August and I will be away again for a week in September. I won't make you follow clues or answer trivia questions to find out where I've been and where I'm going!

In July I had the great pleasure of accompanying our youth to Pilgrim Point camp. We deepened friendships and our faith. We played in the lake and met God in the sunsets. I would encourage any of you who are interested in serving as a chaperone for our upcoming fall youth retreats to let me know. Spending time with our youth and being part of their faith formation is truly a gift.

August took me to Boston for the National Church Leadership Institute. I was honored to be selected as a representative of the Minnesota Conference and they paid all the related expenses. I was asked by Associate Conference Minister Steve Boorsma to accompany him to the conference and then work with him to bring back what we learned to the 132 churches of the conference. One way that I am working to share what I learned is through a 5-part sermon series about the "trendlines" presented at the conference. The past two weeks we have explored Cloud Computing and Crowdsourcing. Still to come are the do-it-yourself (DIY) movement, the local movement, and the sharing economy.

After the conference I took a week of vacation and took the train from Boston to Maine to visit a friend of mine from seminary. The time was restorative and energizing. We picked tomatoes from her garden, and swam and kayaked in the nearby lake. Her wife is 6 months pregnant and the cold water of the lake seemed to make the baby more active. I placed my hand on her belly and felt the precious movement of the daughter they are eagerly waiting to meet.

Early in the morning on Sunday, September 13, I will be flying to Chicago to attend a Worship Design conference with Dr. Marcia McFee. We will be learning about creative worship planning and I am expecting to leave the conference with worship themes for the next 6-9 months. This will allow me to be more creative and more collaborative in our worship! On Sunday September 13, Dan Hegstad will be delivering the message in church.

Part of my responsibility as a pastor is to continue to develop my skills and further my education as well as to take time to rest and renew. I am grateful that this church understands the importance of both of these needs and included in my call agreement 2 weeks away for continuing education and 4 weeks of vacation each year. This is in addition to any time I spend with youth at camp! These times are important and critical to my ability to be as effective as possible in my role as your pastor. If you are ever wondering "Where in the world is Pastor Leslie?" you don't have follow clues or piece bits of information together. Just ask! I would love to share with you all that I am learning and experiencing.

With peace,
Pastor Leslie

Moderator's Musings

Calling All Leaders!

Mark Your Calendars! It's the Annual Leadership Retreat - Saturday, September 19th, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. We'll meet at Northland Arboretum (upper conference room). It's a beautiful setting, and offers a wonderful opportunity to come together, put our heads and hearts together, and get ready for the upcoming year. And in the process, we'll enjoy some good food and good fellowship!

The Annual Leadership Retreat is a time set aside for members of each of the committees, along with members of the church council, to have the opportunity to plan, dream, pray, vision, grow and prepare for the coming year.

There will be a time of worshipful fellowship, along with the opportunity for team building, reflection and visioning. Where are we, as a church, and where do we want to be? Further, what steps are we going to take to move in that direction?

We will also take time for the planning phase related to each of those questions. We'll get out the calendars, but we'll also do some prep work and get the ball rolling on the budget process.

That's a full agenda, so we will need as many of you leaders as possible. Please look at your calendars: Saturday, September 19th, from 9 - 1, at Northland Arboretum. Please make every effort to attend and participate. Come with ideas and a sense of openness. And come with a dish to pass! There will be a potluck sign up at church each Sunday between now and then. Come. Enjoy. Share. Learn. Dream. Plan. Grow.

See all of you leaders there!

Peace!

Phil Kuehn, Moderator

Blessing of the Animals

**Blessing
of the Animals**

Sunday Sept. 27 at 10am

**On the lawn of
First Congregational UCC**



Furry, feathery, scaly – all God's critters are welcome! Bring your pets (stuffed animals are also welcome) to be blessed by Pastor Leslie during our annual Blessing of the Animals. Is your pet a little shy or doesn't play well with others? Bring a collar or a photo or some other representation of your beloved companion. The fun and casual service will be held during our normal Sunday worship time and weather permitting, will take place on the lawn next to the church parking lot. Tell your friends and neighbors! The more the merrier!

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes to begin September 27

Pastor Leslie and our high school youth will resume confirmation classes as early as September 27. Parents of high school youth should have received an email requesting feedback. Please respond at your earliest convenience. If you did not receive an email, please contact Pastor Leslie.

Our classes will explore different aspects of the Christian faith, elements of other religions, our United Church of Christ history and identity and empower our youth to think deeply about their own faith and relationship with the Divine. Stay tuned for more updates as our classes progress!

Youth Activities

September:

Sunday School resumes September 13th! Your teachers will be Sharon Carlson and Marcia Mans.

Family Fun Day will be on September 20th. We will have a light lunch at noon followed by a tie-dye party. We have t-shirt sizes M-XL and the cost is \$10 per person. There will be a sign-up sheet at church on Sunday.

The **Walk to End Alzheimer's** is Saturday, September 26th at the Arboretum. Registration is at 8:30 am and the walk begins at 10:00 am. Be sure to wear your tie-dyed shirt for the walk!

Sunday, September 27 will be the **Blessing of the Animals service**. Be sure to bring your pets!

October:

Pilgrim Point Camp - Conference Middle School Youth Event is October 2-4.

Pilgrim Point Camp - Conference High School Youth Event is October 16-18.

The **Crop Walk** will be held on Sunday, October 4th. More details to follow.

Children's Sabbath is October 18 – the children and youth will help in leading worship. More details to follow.

Family Fun Day will be Friday, October 23 – the youth group will be helping at the Soup Kitchen.

Pilgrim Point Camp Events for All Ages

Women's Retreat of the Minnesota Conference UCC – “Finding Our Voices” with Maren Tirabassi – September 25-27.

Fall Middle School Youth Event – “Dreaming God's Dream” with Bryan Sirchio – October 2-4.

Quilting Service Retreat – For quilters or anyone who has ever wanted to quilt – October 8-11.

Fall High School Youth Event – “Sexuality & Our Faith” with national OWL Coordinator, Amy Johnson – October 16-18.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, September 29th at noon. We do not have a host yet – if you are interested in hosting please contact Bonnie Crum (218-330-3167).

Christian Ministry Department

September 6

Hosts: Dorothy Blau & Jan Morton

Ushers: Roger Best, Greg Johnson, Ken Nelson & Gary Whiteman

Greeters: Judy Whiteman

Counters: Jeff Behr & Jerry Kuehn

September 13

Hosts: Mary Harder & Lois McBroom

Ushers/Greeters: Maria Bertram, Nicole Grabowski, Itty Newgord & Preston Newgord

Counters: Deb Griffith & Marcia Mans

September 20

Hosts: Shirley Barten & Deb Lundberg

Ushers: Marcia Mans & Austin Newgord

Greeters: Preston Newgord & Claire Steen

Counters: Coleen Carder & Vi Heiser

September 27

Hosts: Tracy Lyons & Karen Ogdahl

Ushers/Greeters: Caroline & Rebekah Bender, Jean Gustafson & Ann Turnbull

Counters: Nancy Gould & Lowell Johnson

Food Shelf Offering – July 26

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. On July 26, we received \$525 and 58 pounds of food. Our next offering will be Sunday, August 23. **Thank you for helping to feed our hungry neighbors!**

September Birthdays

9/3	Todd Froemming	9/14	Bob Spear
9/9	Thomas Macomber	9/14	Lois McBroom
9/9	Tom Nelson	9/15	Corey Borg
9/10	Emma Crust	9/19	Allison Crust
9/11	Hanna Moscho	9/19	Edie Chamberlain
9/12	Joyce Libra	9/25	Kaylo Brooks
9/12	Bob Ogdahl	9/26	Isaac Foster
9/13	Wayne Mayer	9/28	Judy Whiteman
9/14	Sonya Chamberlain	9/29	Leslie Moughty
9/14	Rod Carlson	9/30	Mark Stadem

Soup Kitchen

July Statistics: Meals – 1,690, Days of service – 29, Average Meals served per day – 58.

We do have **2 volunteer openings** currently. They are for the 5th Saturday and the 5th Friday of the month. Both begin in October. Please let me know if you are interested in helping with either of these.

Thanks for your continued support!!

As always, please leave a note or give me a shout out at pastorbob@sharingbread.com with any concerns or questions that may arise while serving at the Soup Kitchen.

Sincerely,
Pastor Bob Evans

New Pathways

We will be hosting New Pathways Sunday, Sept. 13 – 20, 2015

Please consider volunteering for:

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

Kathi Hefti – 839-1578 – hefti3@gmail.com

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

Set up and take down: Deb Griffith - 828-4841 - debrange@brainerd.net

Transportation: Scott Gutierrez - 838-7066 - sljtgutierrez@gmail.com

Activities: Lance James – 330-6329 - lancejames@gmail.com

You may also go to www.supergenious.com and register to sign up for any of the above.

Walk to End Alzheimer's

Are you ready to walk? Together we can make a difference and advocate for the End of Alzheimer's and related dementias. The Brainerd Walk to End Alzheimer's is on Saturday morning, September 26 at the Arboretum. Please consider joining us for the walk.

Here is how you register:

- Go to www.alz.org/walk
- Click on Brainerd
- Click on Register
- Click on Join a Team
- Under "Chose an existing company", scroll down to "Local Companies" and click on "First Congregational UCC"
- Click on "Join" and follow the rest of the instructions to register.

Be sure to dig out your tie dyed shirt created last year for this event. If you do not have a tie dyed shirt of any kind, purple would be the next choice.....however, any shirt will work!

This is a fun morning and we can make a difference in our community and in the lives of others. Isn't that what we are FCUCC are all about?

Please call or email me if you have any questions: Karen Ford 651-492-3600 or kaford10551@charter.net.

CROP Hunger Walk

Participate in the 24th Brainerd Lakes Area CROP Hunger Walk!

Where: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 418 8th Ave NE, Brainerd

When: October 4th, 2015 Registration: 1:30 Start: 2:00

Walk Length: 2 miles

Why Participate?

Our church has a team. (First Congregational United Church of Christ) It is good for a community to come together in support of a common cause! Join us...

How Can I Participate?

One or several ways!

- **Sponsor** our team with your donation at <http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/uccbrainerd>
- **Walker** Join our team and raise funds online and in person. Team members' contributions count toward the team's total. <http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/goto/uccbrainerd>
- **Online Walker** Set up your own CROP walk web page, send emails to friends and family online, either from your web page or personal email to raise money to fight hunger and walk.
- **Spirit Walker** You can join the team and/or raise funds if unable to walk.
- **Volunteer** to help during the walk

Have Questions? Email Ann Turnbull at brainerdlakescrop@outlook.com or stop at the signup table following our church service.

What is a CROP Hunger Walk?

CROP Hunger Walks are interfaith education and fundraising events held in communities across this country. They are organized locally and sponsored by Church World Service (CWS). Established in 1946, CWS responds to disasters, supports long-term community development and seeks durable solutions for refugees and the displaced. While CWS is inspired by the Gospel and has 37 member denominations and churches, it isn't just for Christians. Partners and supporters of many faith traditions - and no faith at all are involved. CWS helps people in need regardless of what they believe or what they look like. The call to compassion is universal.

What does CROP stand for?

CROP is the acronym for Christian Rural Overseas Program, the name of the original program under the wing of CWS, established with the primary mission of helping midwest farm families share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. The acronym retains the historic name of the program, although it has been outgrown.

Who Benefits?

75% of the total raised is designated for Church World Service (CWS)

25% is divided equally between these local hunger programs:

- Salvation Army Food Shelf
- Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen
- Operation Sandwich

Minnesota FoodShare Harvest Campaign



August 1 – September 30

- 1 in 10 Minnesota families experiences food insecurity.
- Studies show that food insecure families often lack access to fresh produce.
- Diets high in processed foods can lead to food-related illnesses such as diabetes and high blood pressure.

What can we do?

We are collecting fresh, locally grown produce at worship service from August 1 – September 30. This produce will be donated to our neighborhood food shelf. Contributions might include:

- Produce from your home garden
- Produce from a community garden
- Produce from a farmers market

“You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be.” -Deuteronomy 15:8

Be the hero. Fight hunger.

Contribute your excess garden produce to the Salvation Army Food Shelf at 208 S 5th St, Brainerd, weekdays from 8:30-12:00 and 1:00-3:30.

The volunteers will weigh your produce. Please report the weight to Bobbie in the church office (829-2528 or firstcong@brainerd.net) to keep a running total.

You can also bring produce or other healthy food designated for the Food Shelf to church on Sunday and it will be delivered to the food shelf for you.

The totals will be reported to Minnesota FoodShare in the beginning of October.

Fellowship Hall Renovation Update

Fellowship Hall Renovation Update. Sept. 21 - Nov. 8, 2015

Sept. 21st is the start date. Here are some things to know:

1. Before Sept 20th, move all needed supplies from the basement to a space upstairs... Sunday School, Coffee Hour, committees, etc. Check with Bobbie if you need more info.
2. Sunday, Sept. 20th - after church - Clean-Out & Prep for Asbestos Abatement; move tables & chairs to Rainbow Room, move other furniture, remove all items on the walls, remove light fixtures, bulbs, covers, remove stage. HELP WILL BE NEEDED. If you can help, call/email Coleen- cjcarder@gmail.com / 651-216-9821.
3. Thank you for your continued financial and moral support of this project. We are overwhelmed by the support and are so grateful for your encouragement.
4. This project is made possible because of the following donations: Betty Turnquist-Lee Memorial gift, Millie Gjertson gift, Paul Grussing Memorial gift, Dorothy Janes Memorial Gift, Bonnie & David Crum gift, and gift from the UCC Foundation.
5. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. The Trustees and Fellowship Hall Work Group are so blessed to have you being so flexible and adaptable during this project.

Council Room Table

What do you know about the Council Room table?

Is it near and dear to someone or a memorial? I have access to a table that is a little longer and might accommodate the Council meetings a bit better. I need to measure to be sure before I do anything else. I don't want to step on anyone's toes or feelings so that why I'm asking. If there is info that I need to know, please call/email Coleen Carder. 651-216-9821 cjcarder@gmail.com Thank you.

Church Council Minutes

August 19, 2015

Moderator – Phil Kuehn

Assistant Moderator – Dan Hegstad

Clerk – Karen Ogdahl

Treasurer – Lisa Wigand

Christian Ministry – Joey Halvorson

Trustees – Coleen Carder

Christian Education – Marina Grabowski

Stewardship – Marcia Mans

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

Present: Phil Kuehn, Karen Ogdahl, Dan Hegstad, Joey Halvorson, Marina Grabowski, Nicole Grabowski, Rev. Leslie Moughty, Bonnie Crum, Coleen Carder, Lisa Wigand, Marcia Mans, Ann Turnbull (speaker phone)

The meeting came to order with a prayer by Rev. Leslie and a devotional on gratitude by Ann. Joey will offer a devotional in September. The July minutes were approved.

CLERK'S REPORT – Two weddings: Dan Hegstad and Marcia Ferris, July 12, 2015; Hanna Stadem and Brandon Moscho, August 1, 2015

TREASURER'S REPORT

The general fund is at break even. Some of the pastor's expenses were divided into separate line items. One contribution has been transferred to the building fund.

Council discussed the hunt for a new treasurer. Since no other candidate has been found, Bonnie agreed to sign checks and oversee the accounts, and Lisa will continue to help with payroll four times a year. The Council is most grateful to these generous volunteers. Many thanks to Lisa for her long tenure as treasurer. Council also appreciates the work of our able office manager, Bobbie Borg.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Leslie reported that the National Church Leadership Institute conference she attended was more reflective than practical, but connecting with other clergy and finding out what they are doing was very beneficial.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Stewardship has been working on the fall pledge drive and mission giving.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The lawn sign is being updated, and the chapel door will be repainted. Reduced insurance rates have resulted in more available money in the budget. Council gave approval for the trustees to proceed with the asbestos abatement and remodeling of the fellowship hall. Work may begin in late September. The chapel also needs asbestos abatement, and doing that work while the abatement team is here makes sense. Since that was not in the budget, trustees will check with the memorial committee to see if there is money for the chapel work.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School will begin on September 13 with Sharon Carlson and Marcia Mans teaching. Rev. Leslie will continue with the confirmation group.

September 20 – Intergenerational Tie Dye Party. Tie dyed T-shirts can be worn at the Alzheimer's Walk on September 26.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

CM organized pulpit supply in Leslie's absence. Dan Hegstad volunteered to preach on September 13. CM has recruited ushers, greeters and a liturgist for Leslie's installation service on August 23. Ann submitted to CM instructions for Sundays when we have visiting pastors. Council suggested having easily accessible instructions for the HUGS (hosts, ushers, greeters and communion servers).

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

OLD BUSINESS

Karen shared the revised wedding handbook and copies of the reception handbook. The wedding handbook was approved. Council will read the reception handbook and suggest any changes at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Council revised the procedure for approving minutes. Currently, the minutes may sometimes be printed in the newsletter before formal approval. In the future Karen will email minutes to Council members, and they will reply with corrections and approval. Karen will then send the corrected minutes to Bobbie for the newsletter.

Trustees will be contacting all groups who use the church about the church basement not being accessible during remodeling. In most cases there are other spaces in the church that can be used. Coleen will organize a small task force to work on relocating groups.

On the afternoon of September 20 all items will be removed from the fellowship hall. All able-bodied members and friends will be needed to complete this job.

Donations for the remodeling are still coming in, and further donations are still welcome.

The Council thanked the trustees for their thorough planning and tireless work on this remodeling project and for all they do to keep our buildings and grounds functional and beautiful.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be September 16 at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ogdahl, Clerk of Council

Church Financials

First Congregational UCC of Brainerd Financial Results - General Fund Year to Date Results as of 7/31/2015

	2015 Annual Budget	Actuals Through 7/31/15	% of Budget
Income:			
From Giving Units	\$ 143,220	\$ 94,485	65.97%
Other Giving	\$ 11,510	\$ 18,253	158.58%
Total Income	<u>\$ 154,730</u>	<u>\$ 112,737</u>	72.86%
Expenses:			
Council	\$ 103,318	\$ 76,260	73.81%
Christian Ministry	\$ 10,400	\$ 6,865	66.01%
Christian Education	\$ 1,450	\$ 2,423	167.08%
Stewardship	\$ 300	\$ 427	142.19%
Trustees	\$ 60,816	\$ 26,296	43.24%
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 176,284</u>	<u>\$ 112,271</u>	63.69%
Net Income (Loss) Year to Date:	<u>\$ (21,554)</u>	<u>\$ 467</u>	

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Walk and Wheel Event

When: Saturday, September 12th, 11am—2pm.

Where: Laurel Street, between 5th and 6th Streets.

The city of Brainerd and the Walkable, Bikeable City Committee is proud to announce the **3rd annual Walk and Wheel event**.

Please join us to celebrate the City of Brainerd's accomplishments in making our city a more pedestrian, bicycle and wheeling friendly city to live in and visit. We will have guided walking and biking tours including a historical walking tour along the Mississippi River. There will be BMX demonstrations, exhibits by area merchants and event sponsors, healthy snacks, face painting and prizes. Learn about helmet fitting, bike safety, maintenance, safety gear, road safety and more at free "minute clinics."

Enjoy music by Hans Blix!

Church Calendar — September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	3	4 10:30 Book Group	5
6 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	7 7:00 BACP Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day	8	9 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	10 11:30 Clergy Cluster 5:30 Committee Meetings	11 10:30 Book Group	12
13 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:00 Sunday School New Pathways	14 New Pathways	15 New Pathways	16 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 7:00 Council Meeting New Pathways	17 New Pathways	18 10:30 Book Group 6:00 Process & Film New Pathways	19 9:00 Leadership Retreat
20 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:00 Sunday School 12:00 Lunch & Tie-Dye Party Fellowship Hall Prep Day	21 Fellowship Hall work begins	22	23 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	24 5:30 PPRC	25 10:30 Book Group 4:00 Soup Kitchen	26 10:00 Walk to End Alzheimers
27 10:00 Worship/Blessing of Animals Service/Food Shelf Offering 11:00 Fellowship 11:00 Sunday School Newsletter Deadline	28	29 12:00 Lunch Bunch	30 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn			

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**Pastor
Rev. Leslie Moughty**

**Administrative Assist.
Bobbie Borg**