



# Friendship News

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

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

Our Pastor, Leslie Moughty is also available at other times by appointment.

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

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

September 2016

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

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## Pastor's Pen

I love questions! I have always loved answering questions. As a child I used to think my fantasy job would be to have people come and ask me questions all day. (I believe we all know by now that I was a strange child!) I used to worry that I felt that way because I was arrogant or a know-it-all, but I've come to realize that I love what happens in my brain when I work through a question. Questions give me the opportunity to reflect and contemplate. They allow (and sometimes force) me to make connections and develop new ways of understanding things. I also love that answering a question has the potential to build and deepen relationships. In the asking we share something we desire to know and in the answering we share not only knowledge but also a little something about what makes us who we are and how we see the world.

I think this is why I love our "Ask the Pastor" Sundays. By asking your questions, I get a glimpse of what you desire to know. You invite me into your curiosities, doubts, and even fears. By answering your questions, I get to connect with you in a new way. You get to see a piece of me that maybe you haven't seen before. I get to think about a topic that I maybe wouldn't have considered otherwise. We all share a bit of vulnerability and in that vulnerability, we build trust and deepen relationships.

It is this love of questions that is one of the reasons I feel so at home in the United Church of Christ and in this church. The UCC doesn't expect everyone to have one "correct" answer to faith questions, and in fact, doesn't expect that an answer always exists. Some of our biggest questions about life and faith cannot be answered sufficiently by our human experience and understanding, but in wrestling with the questions, we connect with each other and hopefully get a glimpse of the divine in the process.

You will find a one question from our Ask the Pastor Sunday in August in the body of this newsletter. I will attempt to address at least one question each month.

I'll leave with this quote to ponder: "Remember, an easy question can have an easy answer. But a hard question must have a hard answer. And for the hardest questions of all, there may be no answer - except faith." — Charles Sheffield, Brother to Dragons

With Peace,



## Ask the Pastor

### Ask the Pastor

The following question was submitted during "Ask the Pastor" on August 7: "What ever made you want to be a Pastor?"

First of all, I love the wording of this question. The call of becoming a pastor is an unusual one and one that I did not follow lightly. I heard from many mentors "If you can imagine doing anything else, do that."

I have two versions of this answer and based on the space in the newsletter I will give the shortest one. My decision to become a pastor developed over a relatively short time. After a long period of being "un-churched" I began attending a UCC church in Washington while I was working for Eddie Bauer. Something in me clicked. I was excited to go to worship every week and was sad when I had a conflict. I found myself

coming alive in a way I hadn't experienced before. At the same time, I had become extremely disenchanted with my career in inventory management. I no longer enjoyed what I was doing but I couldn't afford to quit and go back to school.

A few months later, at the height of the great recession, I was laid off along with 30% of my department. I felt like a prayer had been answered! I resisted going into ministry for a few months as I contemplated becoming a therapist, a social worker, or even working in public health. But I felt called to ministry. I felt a pull that was beyond myself and beyond logic. At first I didn't mention this call to anyone. But only a few days after the layoff, Ken asked me if I had ever considered becoming a minister. What??? How did he know that? I truly believe that sometimes God speaks to us through the people in our lives and Ken has frequently been that voice when I needed it. Hearing someone else, especially my spouse, name my call to ministry contributed greatly to me taking the first steps toward becoming a pastor.

Why a pastor? I loved that as a pastor I would accompany people on their journey through life – through celebrations and times of heartbreak. I experienced (and continue to experience) what I believe is God's deep love and abiding grace as a result of my experiences in the church, and I loved that as a pastor, I might be able foster that kind of connection for others. I loved the way Jesus elevates the voices and experiences of the marginalized and calls us to do the same. I loved that being a Christian meant that my life isn't just about me - that I am here on this earth in connection to everyone else and that the Divine is at work in and between all of us. I loved that being a pastor means that doing, thinking, writing, and talking about all of these things would be part of my job. I am so grateful that I said yes to this call – as a pastor in general and as your pastor in particular, even on the most difficult days. I can't imagine doing anything else. And yes, that was the short version. 😊 - Pastor Leslie

## Blessing of the Animals



Blessing of the Animals September 25, 2016 at 10am

Furry, feathery, scaly – all God's critters are welcome! Bring your pets (stuffed animals are also welcome) to be blessed during our annual Blessing of the Animals. While dogs and cats are the most common pets, no pet is too small to be blessed (I once blessed a snail) or too big. (I would love to bless a horse!) Scales are also awesome – I love snakes! 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 in the church parking lot. Tell your friends and neighbors! The more the merrier!

## Moderator's Notes

### Do The Right Thing

We want to do the right thing. It sounds simple enough, but of course, it is anything but. We look to The Bible. But there are all those strange laws in Leviticus. Not much help for us there. How about the Ten Commandments? Fine, but incomplete, I say.

We've all been there - looking for a 'north star' to guide our thoughts and actions.

Herbert Taylor found himself there in 1932. He was a successful business man and a man of deep faith and high principles.

1932 was not a good time to be in business. Mr. Taylor was a successful executive at Jewel Tea Company. If you've spent any time in Chicago, you know of Jewel-Osco. He had the opportunity to take over Club Aluminum, a manufacturer of cookware. It was near bankruptcy. I guess he was a guy who likes a challenge so he took the job and even invested his own money to keep the company afloat.

Common wisdom says the first thing you do is cut costs. I like that the first thing Mr. Taylor did was an attitude adjustment.

He recalled that the entire staff was demoralized and defeated. He decided to start there. But do what? A pep talk? That would make things worse. He searched for the right answer but found none. He later wrote, "I searched through many books for the answer to our need, but the right phrases eluded me."

He wanted a simple code that everyone could memorize and follow . . . A list of ethical and moral guidelines that would steer the people and the company. He said, "If the people of Club Aluminum were to think right, I knew they would do right."

A man of faith, he prayed and inspiration came. His first draft was seven principles and was over 100 words. It was too much. He had to make it easier to remember. It had to be clear and simple for it to work.

Realizing that some of the principles followed one from the other, truth and justice, for example, you could call for truth and justice would follow. What he ended up with is what we now call The Four Way Test.

Of the things we think, say and do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?
4. Will it build good will and better friendships?

But he was a Christian. Would it work for people of different faiths and other flavors of Christianity? He ran it by department heads at Club Aluminum, a Roman Catholic, Orthodox Jew, Christian Scientist and a Presbyterian. They all agreed The Four Way Test fit with their religious beliefs and would be an excellent guide for business and personal life.

Implementing the Four Way Test was an integral part of reversing the fortunes of Club Aluminum. Just 5 years later Club Aluminum paid dividends of one million dollars to its shareholders.

But it wasn't easy. Mr. Taylor told of a massive order of tens of thousands of utensils. But they learned that the buyer was going to sell the product at such a low price undercutting their current customers. They turned down the order because it failed The Four Way Test.

That takes courage and conviction. But doing the right thing is always the right thing, once you know what it is.

Mr. Taylor was a Rotarian and The Four Way Test caught on among Rotarians. In the 1940's he gave usage rights to The Four Way Test to the Rotary organization and it has become a benchmark for ethical behavior promoted by Rotary throughout the world. Rotary International was founded in 1905 and now has over 1.2 million members in 32,000 clubs in nearly every country and every continent, including Antarctica.

Is it the TRUTH? There is timelessness in truth that is unchangeable. Truth cannot exist without justice. Is it FAIR to all concerned? The substitution of fairness for the harsh principles of doing business at arm's length has improved rather than hurt business relationships.

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Man is by nature a cooperative creature and it is his natural instinct to express love.

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned? This question eliminates the dog-eat-dog principle of ruthlessness.

Is this simplistic? I say no. Simple is good. Naive? Maybe, but I don't care. Does it work in today's world? Absolutely!

One way to find out is to try it. I challenge all of us to use the Four Way Test in all our dealings, even when it's difficult. See what happens. I think you'll find life is much easier.

Dan Hegstad, Moderator

## September Birthdays

9/3	Todd Froemming	9/13	Wayne Mayer	9/25	Kaylo Brooks
9/9	Tom Macomber	9/14	Rod Carlson	9/26	Isaac Foster
9/9	Tom Nelson	9/14	Bob Spear	9/27	Kyd Lukanen
9/10	Emma Crust	9/14	Lois McBroom	9/28	Judy Whiteman
9/12	Joyce Libra	9/15	Kay Kraywinkle	9/29	Leslie Moughty
9/12	Robert Ogdahl	9/19	Allison Crum	9/30	Mark Stadem

## HUGS

### September 4

**Host:** Erik Steen

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

**Greeter:** Jan Morton

**Counters:** Jeff Behr & Jerry Kuehn

### September 11

**Hosts:** Christian Ed Committee

**Ushers/Greeters:** Jack Kraywinkle, Mary Harder, Itty & Preston Newgord

**Counters:** Deb Griffith & Judy Whiteman

### September 18

**Hosts:** Marcia Mans & Barb Stokke

**Ushers:** Deb Griffith & Dan Hegstad

**Greeter:** Claire Steen

**Counters:** Coleen Carder & Vi Heiser

### September 25

**Hosts:** Sharon Carlson & Mike Schrader

**Ushers/Greeters:** Ellie Burkett, Tracy Lyons, Karen Ogdahl & Ann Turnbull

**Counters:** Nancy Gould & Lowell Johnson

## Food Shelf Offering – July & August

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 July and August we received \$305 and 38 pounds of food. Our next offering will be Sunday, September 25. **Thank you for helping to feed our hungry neighbors!**

## CROP Walk

October 9 is the big day to raise money for those who are in need of help. One third of the money raised goes to support our local organizations serving the hungry in the Brainerd area. The rest goes to the wider world to help others who are going hungry every day. Our church has always taken a big part in making this a successful event thanks to the great leadership of Ann Turnbull. She has graciously decided that she has done her part, rightly so, and is retiring as a team member. I have taken up the mantle for this year and hope that we can continue to support this worthy cause. If you like walking in the beautiful fall weather with or without your favorite pet, then join us. If walking is not your style, then please support your UCC walkers. I will put up a sign up sheet in the narthex for those who want to join the team the first Sunday in September, so others can support your efforts. Let's make this a banner year for those who need our help.

## Recipe from Cooking Group

### Orange Pecan French Toast Casserole

- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons light corn syrup
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans
- 12 slices French bread, 1-inch thick (brioche or Challah also good)
- 2 teaspoons grated orange zest
- 1 cup orange juice
- 2 tablespoons orange liqueur (optional)
- 1/2 cup 2% milk
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 5 eggs
- Powdered sugar for dusting

Grease a 9x13 baking dish with butter or cooking spray.

In a small bowl, stir together the brown sugar, melted butter and corn syrup until combined. Pour into a greased baking dish and spread until evenly covered. Sprinkle the pecans on the sugar mixture, then add the bread slices, snugly packing into a single layer.

In a medium bowl, use a whisk to mix the orange zest, juice, liqueur (if using), milk, cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla and eggs. Whisk vigorously until well combined. Pour mixture over the bread and use the back of a spoon or your hands to gently press the bread slices to help absorb the liquid. Cover dish and refrigerate for at least 1 hour, or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Remove dish and let stand at room temperature, uncovered, for 20 minutes. Bake in oven for 35 to 45 minutes until golden brown. Let stand for 5 minutes before serving. Dust with powdered sugar and serve.

## New Pathways

**Sunday, September 18, 2016 – Sunday, September 25, 2016**

*Please consider volunteering for:*

Staying overnight: Sue Hadland - 829-2381 ([dghrose@charter.net](mailto:dghrose@charter.net))

Kathi Hefti - 839-1578 ([hefti3@gmail.com](mailto:hefti3@gmail.com))

Dinners: Sharon Carlson - 828-1581 ([sharoncarlson62@charter.net](mailto:sharoncarlson62@charter.net))

Set up and take down (2 Sundays) - Deb Griffith - 828-4841 ([debrange@brainerd.net](mailto:debrange@brainerd.net))

Transportation: Scott Gutierrez - 838-7066 ([sljtgutierrez@gmail.com](mailto:sljtgutierrez@gmail.com))

Activities: Lance James - 330-6329 ([lancejames@gmail.com](mailto:lancejames@gmail.com))

If you wish to volunteer, there will be a white board located in the narthex each Sunday starting on August 28<sup>th</sup> for sign up or go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a48a5a92da1fb6-newpathways4> online, set up an account and pick your dates for any of the above five activity opportunities. We hope you will consider joining us!!!

Thank you from The New Pathways Team!!!

### August 17, 2016 Church Council Minutes

Moderator – Dan Hegstad

Assistant Moderator – Claire Steen

Clerk – Barb Stokke

Treasurer – Mike Schrader

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, Barb Stokke, Ann Turnbull, Itty Newgord, Coleen Carder, Judy Whiteman, Mike North, Bonnie Crum and Rev. Leslie Moughty

Dan Hegstad called the meeting to order. Judy Whiteman shared Food for Thought. Mike North will provide September's Food for Thought.

July Council Minutes were approved.

CLERK'S REPORT – Nothing to report

TREASURER'S REPORT – July's financial reports were sent to the council. Dan reported that Lisa Wigand will set up a financial recording and reporting system.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Highlights: Leslie attended a UCC 2030 Clergy event in Philadelphia, participated in Brainerd's History Week worship service, performed a wedding and baptism, helped the youth sell brats, participated in Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, attended the first gathering of Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI) class of 2017 in Cleveland, and made pastoral visits and calls. *Leslie expressed her gratefulness to the council, the PPRC, Christian Ministry, to NYE chaperones Ann and Lowell, and the entire congregation for all the support she received while tending to her father and supporting her mother during the last weeks of her father's life. She is also thankful for our patience and grace as she "gets back in the swing of things."*

STEWARDSHIP – Plans are under way for the Fall Stewardship Drive in October. Stewardship is also working on Planned Giving presentations for early next year.

TRUSTEES' REPORT – The permit for the fellowship hall is complete. Bids will be sought for the removal of a dead Norway pine. Other upcoming projects include evaluating gables, repairing chapel studs, cleaning carpets, replacing the dishwasher, re-shingling the garage, and repairing the parsonage deck. In the spring, God's Garden will be dismantled and grass will be planted in its place. *We wish to thank Coleen and Ann for all the work and effort that has gone into the garden. Part of the church's mission is to provide service to the local community. Through their dedication and planning, God's Garden has provided healthy produce for people in our community. We are thankful for your service.*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – The youth earned \$500 selling brats at Cub Foods in Baxter. On September 1, they will be bagging groceries at the Cub Foods in northeast Brainerd. A suggestion was made to take a look at the characteristics of this new generation of post 9-11 youth labeled Homelanders.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY – The Songs of Hope concert went well and is worth doing again. A question was raised, asking if the Music Committee could become a separate committee, making it more autonomous and eliminating the need to coordinate with Christian Ministry.

The Council discussed 'Visitors Welcome' Sunday, October 23, and a possible Reunion Sunday for people we miss.

OLD BUSINESS – No action taken on old business items.

NEW BUSINESS – Council held a lengthy discussion on the annual pastor evaluation, its objectives, the steps involved, and recommendations from the MN Conference UCC. Evaluation is also a part of Leslie's participation in UCC's Next Generation Leadership Initiative. Bonnie and Leslie will review the evaluations and recommendations.

A request by a third Girl Scout Troop to meet in the church was approved. Council agreed that the building use agreement form signed by each group using the building should be revised to include the name of each group's insurance company and a statement that each group provides its own supplies, i.e. paper, markers, pens. Council also agreed that building use agreements be renewed annually, perhaps in September.

Our building is accessible, but council recommends modifications be made in the sanctuary to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be September 21 at **7:00** (Note time change).

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Stokke, Clerk of Council

## Church Financials

Financial Results – General Fund Year to Date Results as of 7/31/16	2016 Annual Budget	Actuals Through 7/31/16	% of Budget
<b>Income:</b>			
From Giving Units	\$ 150,481	\$ 93,517	62.15%
Other Giving	\$ 5,500	\$ 11,932	216.94%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 155,981</b>	<b>\$ 105,449</b>	<b>67.60%</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Council	\$ 97,324	\$ 61,357	63.04%
Christian Ministry	\$ 13,150	\$ 6,808	51.77%
Christian Education	\$ 2,950	\$ 284	9.64%
Stewardship	\$ 570	\$ 447	78.38%
Trustees	\$ 60,170	\$ 27,424	45.58%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 174,164</b>	<b>\$ 96,320</b>	<b>55.30%</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss) Year to Date:</b>	<b>\$ (18,183)</b>	<b>\$ 9,129</b>	

## The End of Alzheimer's Starts with You



### SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE BRainerd AREA WALK FORESTVIEW SCHOOL, BAXTER SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

You can make a difference by joining our church team by registering to walk, by volunteering or by donating to the team or a specific team member.

Go to [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk) and find our Brainerd/Baxter Walk. On the "Join a Team" page, type "First Congregational United Church of Christ" and click on "Join". Follow the directions from there to join the team. If you need help, contact Karen Ford at 651-

492-3600 or use the "Need Help" box on the right side of the screen.

If you want to make a donation only without walking, you may give a check made out to the Alzheimer's Association and give it to Karen Ford or leave it in the church office with Bobbie. The donation will be credited to the church team.

If you would like to make a tie-dyed shirt, there will be an opportunity on September 18<sup>th</sup> after worship. It would be fun to have all the walkers in the official First Congregational UCC tee-shirts. Let Karen Ford or Bobbie know if you would like to make a shirt.

We all know how widespread the dementia diseases are and probably know someone with Alzheimer's or one of the other dementias. This is your chance to make a difference in the hope of stopping dementia.

## Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Point Camp



PILGRIM POINT  
camps & retreats,

### Women's Retreat

September 23-25, 2016 at Pilgrim Point

Join with women of the Minnesota Conference UCC for a God-filled weekend while you experience the beauty of Pilgrim Point Camp on the shores of Lake Ida. [Download and share the brochure](#) for a paper registration form and more information.

[Register Online Here!](#)

Cost: \$90/person



Kaila Russell, who has been weaving baskets and stories for the past 21 years, will help guide us through our weekend together.

Weaving a basket is a perfect way to connect an ordinary vessel with a powerful story... your story! The act of weaving creates a space to share our stories and realize that we are connected - woven together in lots of different ways. You will also have a beautiful basket, woven by you, to remind you of this step on your faith journey. No weaving experience needed!

**When:** Friday, September 23 at 4pm until Sunday, Sept 25 at Noon

**Where:** Pilgrim Point Camp, Alexandria, MN ([directions](#))

**Who:** Women of all ages from across the MN Conference UCC. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

**Cost:** \$90/person | Partial scholarships available. Contact [Zac](#) if you are in need of a scholarship.

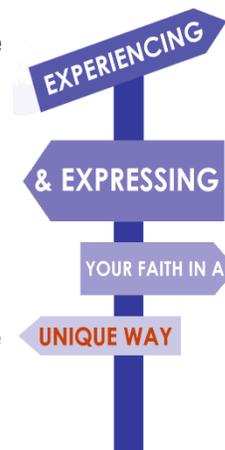
**Deadline to Register:** September 16 (or Sept 14 if by paper form)

#### Questions about registration?

Email Zac at [zacn@uccmn.org](mailto:zacn@uccmn.org) or call [\(612\) 871-0359](tel:(612)871-0359).

#### Questions about program or accommodations?

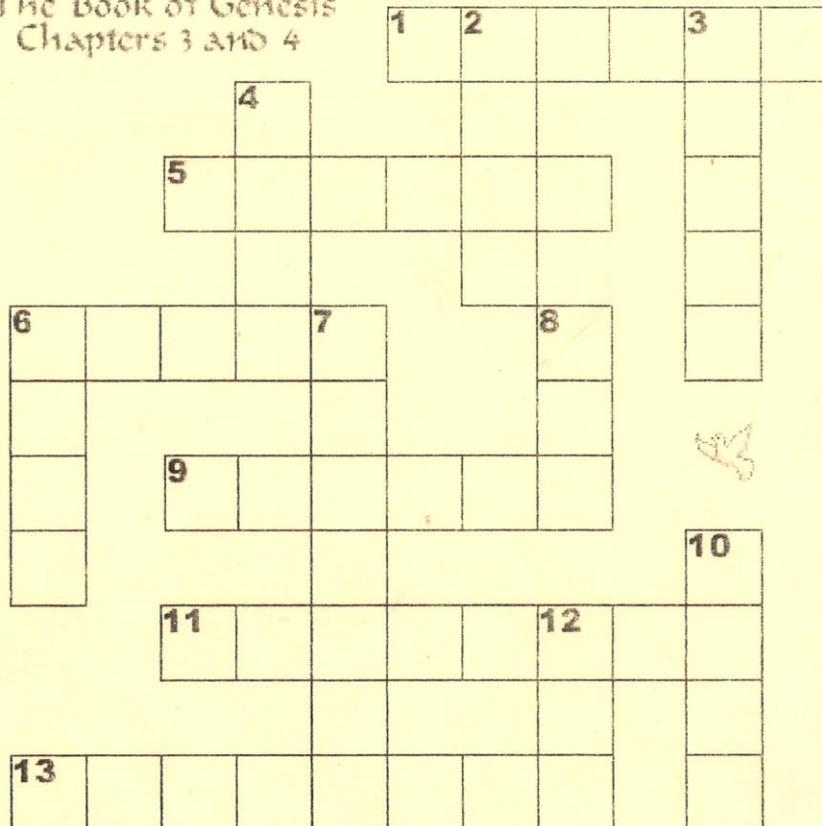
Email Gigi at [gigin@uccmn.org](mailto:gigin@uccmn.org) or call [\(651\) 226-1186](tel:(651)226-1186).



## Fun Page

## Crossword No.2

The Book of Genesis  
 Chapters 3 and 4



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more puzzles at <http://biblewordgames.com>

## Down

- (2) Adam's second son  
 (3) Cain's first son (Gen.4:17)  
 (4) Adam's first son  
 (6) Adam's third son  
 (7) What creature tempted Eve  
 (8) Cain lived in this land  
 (10) First man  
 (12) First woman

## Across

- (1) Cain's occupation (Gen.4:2)  
 (5) The \_\_\_\_\_ of Eden  
 (6) Adam and Eve's first clothes(Gen.3:21)  
 (9) Because of sin the ground was \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen.3:17)  
 (11) Abel's occupation (Gen.4:2)  
 (13) Cain became a \_\_\_\_\_ and a vagabond (Gen.4:12)

## Church Calendar – September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Youth bagging groceries @ Brainerd Cub	2 10:30 Book Group	3
4 10:00 Worship & Communion 11:00 Fellowship	5 Office Closed in observance of Labor Day	6	7 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 11:30 Clergy Cluster	8 5:30 Committee Meetings	9 10:30 Book Group	10
11 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Rally Sunday & Ice Cream Social 11:30 Living the Question	12	13	14 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	15	16 10:30 Book Group	17
18 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:00 Sunday School 11:30 Living the Question 11:30 Tie-dye t-shirts New Pathways	19 New Pathways	20 New Pathways	21 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 7:00 Council Meeting New Pathways	22 5:30 PPRC New Pathways	23 10:30 Book Group 4:00 Soup Kitchen New Pathways	24 8:00 Walk to End Alzheimer's @ Forestview New Pathways
25 10:00 Worship/Blessing of the Animals & Food Shelf Offering 11:00 Fellowship 11:00 Sunday School <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> New Pathways	26	27	28 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	29	30 10:30 Book Group	

