



Friendship News

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

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

Our Pastor, Leslie Moughty's drop-in hours are Wednesday's 2-4pm and Thursday's 10am-12:00pm. Other times available by appointment.

Office phone 218-829-2528

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Website uccbrainerd.org

uccbrainerd.org

October 2017

**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 think we can officially say that autumn has arrived. The month of October bring many things to mind for me – changing leaves, a crisp coolness to the air, Halloween, and of course pumpkin-flavored *everything!* As a pastor and a “church nerd” October for me is also synonymous with Stewardship season. For those of you who are new to being involved in church, you may have no idea what I am talking about. If you are a long-time church goer, this word is likely very familiar and may in fact make you want to stop reading. But please stay with me.

In church lingo, the word stewardship has come to mean giving money to the church. But it is so much more than that. The definition of stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. In church life, each of us is entrusted with the care of many things – the building and grounds of the church, the financial resources of the congregation, but also the faith development of our children, youth, and adults, the spiritual care of those in need, doing what we can to comfort and advocate for the most vulnerable in our community, and more.

The truth is, the church relies on the financial support as well as time and energy of people who are part of the church community, to be good stewards of all of the different ways we minister. Without the generosity of each of you reading this, our church would not be able to house homeless families 4 weeks each year, or help send our youth to camp, or employ a pastor to journey with you and be a voice in the community, or pay talented musicians to touch our souls with music.

I get excited about the possibilities of the future and what we have the potential to do. For example, we are seeing more little ones in the church and we have an opportunity to make the church a more welcoming place for them and their families – a paid nursery worker on Sunday mornings would help visitors and current parishioners with infants and toddlers be able to be more present in worship. Our building continues to be a welcoming place for outside groups and events. All of us, including our New Pathways families rely on the boiler to keep them warm, and the solid walls and roof to keep out the bats and the elements. All of these things need maintenance from time to time and replacement and repair as they age. These needs aren't glamorous, but if we are to be good stewards of our resource, it is important to responsibly plan for the future.

I hope you join me in a time of prayer and discernment over the next few weeks as you consider your support the mission and life of our congregation. I encourage all of us to resist writing “same as last year” on our commitment cards, but to take some time and look at our budgets, pray, reflect, and make an intentional commitment. Your contribution may end up being the same as last year, it may be less, or it may be more. Maybe you decide to make a commitment for the first time! Whatever you come up with, all of our gifts are made greater by bringing them together in community. I am so grateful for the generosity and ministry of each and every one of you and excited about what the future holds!

With many blessings,

Pastor Jessie

Moderator's Notes

Last week I had the privilege of staying with my book club at an interesting home on the shores of Lake Superior near Lutsen. The house on two acres is up for sale after being in the family for over forty years. Three generations have spent ski weekends there and enjoyed many bonfires along the shoreline together. The owner is eighty-four years old and his wife is presently in a home with Alzheimer's.

The first night I slept with the windows open so I could hear the waves crashing against the rocks. During the day, the waves were gentle and easy as we skipped rocks. However, that night I was not able to sleep with the constant rhythm of the waves. I was disappointed in myself as I was looking forward to the sound of the waves.

My friend Karen who has recently moved to Seattle has told me many times that Lake Superior is her very favorite place. She moved to Seattle to be near her son but has spent her entire lifetime in the Twin Cities except for being in the convent for a few years. This summer when Karen returned to Minnesota she spent several days there to rejuvenate her soul. So I told myself, "Come on Claire". Get a grip and enjoy this experience!"

The second night, we had a storm with heavy rain and lightning. I braced myself for another night of no sleep. However, amazingly, I was able to sleep through the night. Did I adjust to a new norm?

This brings me to think about October and Stewardship Month. My friend Karen made a major move across country to support her son and family. Are we willing individually or as a group to try a new adventure to serve others? Karen is experiencing great adjustments to be there for her grandchildren. Although it is difficult now, she knows it will be worth it once she adjusts to her new norm. Are we willing as a congregation to "put ourselves out there" to be a presence in our community or in our church family? Even if it difficult at first, I am confident our church will adjust to a new norm.

When Karen stayed with me in July, she told me "The energy I feel when I am at Lake Superior gives life and feeds my soul. Lake Superior refreshes and heals like no other. My spirit feels at home there. I am energized and yet at peace". I thought about her passion for Lake Superior when I was staying there. For me, First Congregational United Church of Christ is also a place where I feel at home. When I am in this church, I feel energized and yet at peace.

Claire Steen
Church Moderator

HUGS

October 1

Hosts: Eileen Kurpiers & Jan Morton
Ushers/Greeters: Roger Best, Greg Johnson,
Ken Nelson & Gary Whiteman
Counters: Jeff Behr & Jerry Kuehn

October 8

Hosts: Mary Harder & Lois McBroom
Ushers/Greeters: Marina Grabowski,
Jack & Kay Kraywinkle & Itty Newgord
Counters: Deb Griffith & Judy Whiteman

October 15

Hosts: Shirley Barten & Deb Lundberg
Ushers: Cheri Maxwell & Kathy Ogden
Greeters: Deb Griffith & Dan Hegstad
Counters: Tracy Lyons & Mabel Schultz

October 22

Hosts: Sharon Carlson & Joey Halvorson
Ushers/ Greeters: Ellie Burkett, Jolene Hojem,
Tracy Lyons & Ann Turnbull
Counters: Nancy Gould & Lowell Johnson

October 29

Hosts: Sue Hadland & Lisa Wigand
Ushers/Greeters: Roger Best, Greg Johnson,
Ken Nelson & Gary Whiteman
Counters: Sharon Carlson & Judy Whiteman

Food Shelf Offering – September

In August, we donated **31 lbs** of food and **\$240!** Our next offering will be Sunday, October 22. **Thank you!**

October Birthdays

10/7	Bob Jones	10/15	Andrea Bertram	10/28	Elissa Hartwig
10/7	Jolene Hojem	10/16	Melissa Bible	10/28	Tracy Lyons
10/11	Fred Fisher	10/16	Megan Kath	10/30	Elizabeth Paulson
10/11	Jerry Kuehn	10/20	Louis Grabowski	10/31	Luann Rice
10/11	Eileen Kurpiers	10/22	Faye Echternacht	10/31	Paxie Imsdahl
10/15	Jim Newgord	10/25	Kamery Hauan Hahn		

New Pathways Week at First Congregational

Sunday, October 8 – Sunday, October 15, 2017

There are openings for dinner, overnights, set up and tear down

If you wish to volunteer, you may contact:

Stay 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 (2 Sundays) - Deb Griffith - 828-4841 - debrange@brainerd.net

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

Activities: Lance James - 821-6667 - lancejames23@gmail.com

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

There is a white board located in the narthex for sign up or you may go to www.supergenious.com 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!!!

New Church Directory and Photos



We're making a new directory with photos and you have options! Dan Hegstad will have a backdrop set up at church and will be shooting after services for four Sundays: **September 24th, October 1st, 8th and 15th.** We'll have everything set up in the adult forum room (formerly known as the youth room, the room next to the library). Just show up. Joey Halvorson has offered to come to your home or other location and photograph your family. To schedule a time with Joey, call or email her directly (218-851-5755 or joey43@charter.net).

If you want prints of your photos you are welcome to the files at no charge. Joey will cook 'em up with Photoshop and then you can print them as you like. You'll have a fine set of photos just in time for Christmas. Joey and Dan are offering their services at no charge and are suggesting a donation to the church.

This is open to all church members and friends of the church.

Crop Walk

Wednesday, October 4 @ Bethlehem Church 418 8th Ave NE, Register 5:15, Dinner 5:30, Walk 6:00

Coats for Kids

We will be collecting Coats for Kids thru October 23rd. Distribution will be Saturday, October 28th from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Westgate Mall. Coats, hats, mittens, scarves boots and snowpants must be clean and in good condition. Please make sure zippers are in working condition. For more information call Kinship Partners at 218-454-8011 or email fun@kinshippartners.org.

Volunteer Search

My former Kinship Partner, Micah Hudson, is 18, has graduated from high school, and is living on his own. He would like to get his drivers license, but needs to get a number of hours behind the wheel with a licensed driver over 21 before he can move from permit to license. I wonder if anyone from the church would be willing to help him out - he even has a car to drive. Micah's number is 218-203-7413. I will be in Europe until 10/17, but can be reached at 218-820-5290 after that date.

Thank you for your considering helping out this young man.

Lowell Johnson

Church Council Minutes

September 20, 2017

Moderator – Claire Steen	Assistant Moderator – Mike North
Clerk – Barb Stokke	Treasurer – Debra Lundberg *
Christian Ministry – Karen Ford	Trustees – Deb Griffith
Christian Education – Barb McColgan	Stewardship – Judy Whiteman
Council at Large – Bonnie Crum, Robert Jones, Gary Whiteman	

Present: All Council members and Rev. Leslie Moughty

Claire Steen called the meeting to order. Leslie shared Food for Thought; Mike will provide it at our October meeting.

CLERK'S REPORT – On August 26, 2017, Troy Bandel and Holly Seguin were married at First Congregational UCC. Rev. Dawn Hauser of Aitkin United Methodist Church officiated. Troy and Holly are not members of First Congregational UCC.

PASTOR'S REPORT – **Highlights:** Blessed backpacks and school supplies August 27 and Blessed pets September 17; gave Bibles to 4th grader Kai Lukanen and to Rhiannon Rodriguez; attended ecumenical St. Cloud Pride worship service and Trans Justice workshop; attended the Cooking Group Dinner and discussed the Fall Fundraiser *From Russia with Love*; and attended UCC clergy Cluster. **Community Engagement:** Co-led and spoke at "Stand Against Hate" August 18; was officially approved as a member of the WeARE Board and will focus on developing education around LGBTQ concerns; and attended Brainerd Area Ministerial Association monthly meeting. **Pastoral Care:** Made one home visit, one hospital visit, two phone calls, two off-site meetings with new parishioners, and two drop-in visits during office hours. **Updates:** Members of the Congregational Care Team have begun visiting and providing communion to our members and friends. **On the Radar:** Sept. 25–29 Leslie will be out of the office. Rev. Joyce Rush will be

available for Pastoral Care emergencies. Oct. 4 Crop Walk at Bethlehem Lutheran with Registration at 5:15, Dinner at 5:30, and the Walk at 6:00; Oct. 5-6 Leslie will attend the MN Conference Fall Clergy Retreat. Lilja Behr will be available for Pastoral Care emergencies.

TREASURER'S REPORT – See New Business

TRUSTEES' REPORT - Trustees reviewed work completed during the summer, including planting and maintaining flower beds, washing and sealing the sidewalks, weekly cleaning of the church, recycling of old chairs, and installing the new dishwasher and faucet. Up-coming projects in the Columbarium include painting trim, installing carpet, and collecting bids for cabinetry. Replacing damaged shingles, repairing the leaking southwest foundation, making the church bat proof, and repairing a buckling stained glass window are some of the items on the church's maintenance list. Again this fall CLC students will clean the church, Trustees will continue their search for a new snow removal service, and Deb and Claire will review and sign off on the mortgage balloon payment due in January 2018. Fall Cleanup is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, from 4-6; a light dinner will be served.

STEWARDSHIP'S REPORT - Stewardship has planned 'unconventional presentations' for services during the October Pledge Drive. Look for the annual pledge letter early October, and enjoy Appreciation Coffee Time the end of October.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE – Bonnie and Bobbie will make and distribute copies of the Pastor Job Description.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Pastor Evaluation – Exec Council has met and outlined a plan to align the Pastor Evaluation questions with the Pastor Job Description. An evaluation for the Administrative Assistant will also be developed. The goal is to have both evaluations done by the end of November.
2. Bylaws Task Force – The task force, Dan, Phil, Michael, and Charlotte, are working on the bylaws, which need to be approved by the congregation. One suggestion was to revise the bylaws in increments. This would allow the congregation to review and vote on smaller segments in a more timely way.
3. Safe Church Policy – see New Business.
4. Committees – Three of the four committees will continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month. The fourth committee may meet via teleconference. The meal preceding the meetings will continue to be served by one of the committees, and Leslie will again compile a meal schedule. If a committee is not meeting, please inform the group providing the meal.
5. Food Train Planning – The Council was asked if someone is in charge of coordinating meals for people who are ill or injured. It was suggested that the Care Team might be a good team to make sure someone coordinates meals when they are needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Justice Committee – Some members have expressed a need for a Justice and Outreach or a Peace and Justice group who would inform the congregation of upcoming events (Line 3 hearings, the Crop Walk, Creation Care) and could assist with current activities (soup kitchen, New Pathways).
2. Fundraising/Cooking Group – The Cooking Group's Fall Fundraiser "From Russia with Love" is scheduled for October 26.
3. Donations for Specific Projects – Council started a conversation about donations for items or specific projects. Some questions raised included Do we make a list? Who decides which projects make the list? Would big and small items/projects be included? Can contributions be made toward specific items? Council will continue the discussion.

4. FOCUS

- a. -Safe Church Policy: Council discussion will continue next month when sample policies are available.

*pending Council approval

- b. -Intentional Update of the Church's Identity and Purpose: In January, Council will look at an assessment that will help us answer these questions: Who are we? What are we called to do?

5. Echnernacht Christian Career Scholarship Endowment Fund – Gary Whiteman introduced the Fund, which began in 1993, and explained that it was to “be used for the purpose of providing scholarship funds to deserving parties... who are pursuing a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college and/or a career in Christian service.” Council recommended that application information for a scholarship should be in the February and March newsletter. Council also recommended investing the fund where it would earn a greater return.
6. Budget Timing – Before the October 12 Committees Meetings, committees should determine their budget needs for 2018. Deb L. and Bobbie will work on a basic budget.

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS:

- Council proposed the following schedule for December: Dec. 7 Committee meetings
Dec. 13 Council Meeting 7:00 Dec. 17 Annual Church Budget Meeting
- A request was made to tighten two parts of the wedding policy: the amount of time allotted for the rehearsal and pre-ceremony preparation and the payment deadline.

Next Committee Meetings: October 12 Host: Christian Ed

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next Council meeting will be October 18 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Stokke, Clerk of Council

Church Financials

Financial Results - General Fund				
Year to Date Results as of 8/31/2017				
	2017 Annual Budget	Actuals Through 8/31/17	% of Budget	Actuals Through 8/31/16
Income:				
From Giving Units	\$ 117,365	\$ 110,253	93.94%	\$ 106,859
Other Giving	\$ 32,146	\$ 10,170	31.64%	\$ 11,988
Total Income	\$ 149,511	\$ 120,422	80.54%	\$ 118,847
Expenses:				
Council	\$ 102,901	\$ 81,142	78.85%	\$ 69,662
Christian Ministry	\$ 3,120	\$ 3,167	101.51%	\$ 2,815
Music Committee	\$ 12,220	\$ 5,198	42.54%	\$ 4,769
Christian Education	\$ 650	\$ 260	40.02%	\$ 598
Stewardship	\$ 600	\$ 442	73.68%	\$ 377
Trustees	\$ 55,110	\$ 33,780	61.30%	\$ 34,416
Total Expenses	\$ 174,601	\$ 123,990	71.01%	\$ 112,638
Net Income (Loss) Year to Date:	\$ (25,090)	\$ (3,567)		\$ 6,209

Church Calendar – October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Communion 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Sunday School 11:30 Adult Forum	2	3	4 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 6:00 Crop Walk	5 *Conference Fall Clergy Retreat	6 10:30 Book Group *Conference Fall Clergy Retreat **Conference Youth Event	7 *Conference Fall Clergy Retreat **Conference Youth Event
8 8:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Sunday School 11:30 Adult Forum New Pathways	9 New Pathways	10 New Pathways	11 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn New Pathways	12 5:30 Committee Meetings New Pathways	13 10:30 Book Group 11:30 Clergy Cluster New Pathways	14 New Pathways
15 8:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Sunday School 11:30 Adult Forum	16	17	18 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 7:00 Council Meeting	19	20 10:30 Book Group	21
22 10:00 Worship & Food Shelf Offering 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Sunday School 11:30 Adult Forum Newsletter Deadline	23	24	25 9:30 Prayer Circle 11:30 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	26 Cooking Group Autumn Dinner Fundraiser "From Russia with Love"	27 10:30 Book Group 4:00 Soup Kitchen	28
29 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Sunday School 11:30 Adult Forum	30	31 12:00 Lunch Bunch Have a safe and happy Halloween!				