

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

E-mail uccbrainerd@gmail.com

Website uccbrainerd.org

uccbrainerd.org

October 2018

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

<i>Special Offering – September.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>October Birthdays.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Pastor's Pen.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Moderator's Message – What is Family?.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>HUGS.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>New Pathways – Sunday, October 14-21.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>2018 Minnesota Open and Affirming Celebration.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Church Council Minutes – September 19, 2018.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Church Financials.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Church Calendar – October 2018.....</i>	<i>8</i>

Special Offering – September

In September we donated \$260.00 to Neighbors in Need! Our next special offering will be on Sunday, October 28 and will go to Lutheran Social Services.

October Birthdays

10/7 Robert Jones	10/15 Andrea Bertram	10/26 Ellimae Kalinoski
10/7 Jolene Hojem	10/16 Megan Kath	10/28 Tracy Lyons
10/11 Jerry Kuehn	10/20 Louis Grabowski	10/30 Elizabeth Paulson
10/11 Eileen Kurpiers	10/22 Faye Echternacht	10/31 Luann Rice
10/14 Robert Morgan	10/25 Cynthia Janes	10/31 Paxie Imsdahl
10/15 James Newgord	10/25 Kamery Hauan Hahn	

Pastor's Pen

On an average Sunday, approximately 70 or so people gather in our sanctuary for worship. We come to connect to God, to learn about and deepen our faith, to explore the big questions, and to be in community with other people. We pray, we sing, we listen, and we welcome one another. According to NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), 1 in 5 adults in America experience mental illness in a given year. The statistics are very similar for youth ages 13-18 as well. Since mental illness is frequently undiagnosed, that number is likely higher. So on an average Sunday, we can assume that at least 14 people in church are experiencing a mental illness. (15 if you count your pastor).

I have been relatively open that I experience depression, anxiety, and attention deficit disorder. All of these diagnoses are managed relatively well with medication, therapy, and practical resources. Because of the stigma that still exists around mental illness, it is very important to me to be open my own mental health to help educate others about mental health as well as to hopefully give other people permission to be authentic in their own struggles with mental illness.

Our church is in the early stages of becoming a W.I.S.E. congregation. W.I.S.E. stands for Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged around issues of mental health. Alvin Veslvaag, Pat Scott, and I led an adult forum in September to introduce some basic facts about mental health. Alvin shared briefly the ways our church has helped him cope with his own mental health struggles. I am truly thrilled about the next step of our journey to become W.I.S.E. We are blessed in the Minnesota Conference to have the Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe as one of our pastors. Rachael is on the board of the UCC Mental Health Network, and an ambassador for the W.I.S.E. program. She will be leading us in an important conversation about mental health and becoming W.I.S.E. on Saturday October 20 from 9:00am - 11:00am. She will share her knowledge about the intersection of mental health and church, as well as guide us in next steps. Rev. Keefe's congregation, Living Table UCC in Minneapolis, was the first church to engage in the W.I.S.E. process and create a covenant statement.

But that's just not all! That following Tuesday, October 23, Rachael will be back in Brainerd for a community-wide forum called "The Lifesaving Church: Faith Communities and Suicide Prevention" from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. This event is open to the public and free of charge. Rachael authored a book of the same title which is available here: <https://www.chalicepress.com/Lifesaving> You can also watch a short video about the book here: <https://youtu.be/Ecly-N9ysek>

You see, what we do as church has the potential to literally save lives. The way we welcome and treat people with mental illnesses when they come through our doors can have a lifesaving impact, especially if we educate ourselves and intentionally focus our attention on living into this call of the Gospel. Jesus brought healing and wholeness into people's lives. And while we may not be able to cure anxiety or schizophrenia, we can absolutely play a part in knocking down some of the barriers that isolates and separates people with mental illness.

So put these dates on your calendar:

10/20/18 - Becoming W.I.S.E. 9:00am - 11:00am

10/23/18 - The Lifesaving Church 6:00pm - 8:00pm

With Peace,
Pastor Leslie

Moderator's Message – What is Family?

I know many of us struggle with this question. Even Jesus struggled with this question. I believe “family” can be made as expansive or as constrained as one wants to make it, and I would like to explore this concept a bit during this upcoming weekend (Sept. 30th).

Our Congregational tradition started with the Puritans in New England (as Helen Reddy would say, “Look how far we’ve come!”), who had their first presence in Massachusetts in 1623. The Puritan influx really began with the “Great Migration” lead by John Winthrop beginning in 1630 and lasting through at least 1635.

John Winthrop had an expansive view of family. After Winthrop’s wife died, her brother’s wife died. He remarried, then died. His widow remarried. Winthrop considered the couple at the end of that chain to be his brother and sister. Would we do that? Or would they be strangers to us, given an analogous situation? My own mom, for example, through her actions and words, does not seem to want to accept even her own in-laws.

Then there is the case of my great great grandmother Elizabeth Thompson-Noffsinger-Eddy-Rich. I descend through her Rich children. One of her Eddy grandsons married into the Yankton Sioux tribe. I ended up finding a new cousin, Phyllis Eddy, through my genealogical research. Phyllis lives in Maryland in the same town as my mother-in-law, and when we go out east to visit, we are more welcome and at ease at Phyllis’ house than at some of our closer relatives’ homes.

Now Phyllis has an interesting and complex family history. Her great great great grandfather on one side (and his brother) are both referenced in John Williamson’s book on the Sioux as champion lacrosse players in Kaposia (St. Paul) in 1849. They got caught up in the 1862 Dakota uprising, but played a role as intermediary peacemakers at the end. Nonetheless, they got exiled to South Dakota with all the other Dakotas. Phyllis’ great great great great grandfather on the other side was born in 1803 on the Missouri River, baptized by Lewis and Clark, became a great chief, and played a role in preventing the war from spreading west (at the time).

Snowflake-white Elizabeth also has Hispanic descendants through her Eddy children, and it was through her Hispanic and Native American descendants that I was able to get a photo of her, not through her white descendants.

Bottom line, family is as expansive as you want to make it, and the more expansive you make it, the more interesting it may become. It may even become a community, as John Winthrop seems to have made it.

Yours in Christ, Mike North, September 2018

HUGS

October 7

Host: Jan Morton

Ushers/Greeters: Reed Campbell, Greg Johnson, Austin Newgord & Gary Whiteman

Counters: Jeff Behr & Georgia Harris

October 14

Hosts: TBD

Ushers/Greeters: TBD

Counters: Deb Griffith & Gale Landem

October 21

Hosts: Shirley Barten & Deb Lundberg

Ushers: Brian & Becky Twamley

Greeters: Austin & Itty Newgord

Counters: Tracy Lyons & Mabel Schultz

October 28

Hosts: Karen Ogdahl & Jean Schaeffer

Ushers/Greeters: Kyd & Kai Lukanen,

Tracy Lyons & Mike Schrader

Counters: Nancy Gould & Judy Whiteman

New Pathways – Sunday, October 14-21

Consider volunteering for dinner, overnights, set up, tear down or transportation. Please contact:

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 (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

The white board used for signing up is in the church sanctuary lobby each Sunday. Once you sign up, please go online by clicking on tinyurl.com/newpathways1018, and pick your dates for any of the above five activity opportunities.

THANK YOU from The New Pathways Team!!!
THE REWARDS ARE MANY, AS A VOLUNTEER, AND AS OUR GUEST

2018 Minnesota Open and Affirming Celebration

OPEN and AFFIRMING

Saturday, October 13, 2018
Workshops 1:00 PM | Worship 2:30 PM

THE MINNESOTA CELEBRATION

framed by Love and Justice

~ WORSHIP ~
Empowering Preaching
Reverend Michelle Webber,
Pastor of First Congregational
United Church of Christ in
Moorhead.
Inspirational Music
Choir of First Congregational
United Church of Christ in
Anoka, under the direction of
Don Shier and accompanied
by Aaron VanDanacker.

~ WORKSHOPS ~
Reclaiming and Reframing the Possibilities of Queer
In this interactive workshop we will share our collective experiences, wisdom, and questions in exploring the language and meanings of the word "Queer"
Reframing Mental Health for ONA Ministry
Although mental health issues affect the whole church, LGBTQ+ folk experience other factors such as bullying and other social factors that need to be considered in making sure our ministries are safe spaces.

hosted at
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
3000 Fifth Street Northwest
New Brighton, Minnesota

an event sponsored by the
Minnesota Conference
United Church of Christ
Open and Affirming
(ONA) Ministry Team

"Open and Affirming" is the United Church of Christ designation for ministries that welcome into their full life and leadership those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender.

Church Council Minutes – September 19, 2018

Moderator – Mike North	Assistant Moderator – vacant
Clerk – Barb Stokke	Treasurer – Deb Lundberg
Christian Ministry – Karen Ford	Stewardship – Judy Whiteman
Christian Education – Lowell Johnson	Trustees – Deb Griffith
Council at Large – Bob Jones, Gary Whiteman, Claire Steen	

Present: Mike North, Barb Stokke, Deb Lundberg, Marina Grabowski, Lowell Johnson, Bob Jones, Gary Whiteman, Judy Whiteman, Deb Griffith, and Rev. Leslie Moughty.

Mike North called the meeting to order and shared Proverbs 8. Gary Whiteman will provide October's *Food for Thought*.

Council Minutes for August were approved.

CLERK'S REPORT – Dorothy Lundberg has requested her membership be transferred to Chapel Hills UCC in Edina, Minnesota.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Pastor Leslie highlighted two presentations to be given by Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe in October: "Becoming a WISE Congregation," Saturday, October 20; and "The Lifesaving Church: Faith Communities and Suicide Prevention" Tuesday, October 23. **Highlights:** held Blessing of the Animals service and Backpack/Sunday School Teacher Blessing, attended UCC Clergy Cluster, planned and facilitated WISE Adult Forum with Alvin Velsvaag and Pat Scott, and helped teach Sunday school for Rally Sunday. **Community engagements:** Attended "ACES: Faith-Filled Response workshop and Saint Cloud Pride with Project Rainbow. **Pastoral Care:** 3 counseling visits, 4 home/care-facility visits, and 1 wedding planning meeting. **Concern and Updates:** openings on CE committee, added help needed for teaching Sunday school, and a vacant Assistant Moderator position; continuing work on bylaws and safe church policy, New Member classes starting in October. Leslie will be attending the Next Generation Leadership Initiative continuing education September 24-30.

TREASURER'S REPORT – See Old Business – 2019 Budget

TRUSTEES' REPORT – Council was given updates on Trustee projects. Trustees hope to have eliminated the leaks in the maintenance room by sealing cracks and trenching. They have also made adjustments to the parking lot spaces and will be re-stripping the lot within a week. Bids have been received for re-shingling the garage roof this fall, the carpet samples for the Columbarium have arrived, and a dead oak tree on the parsonage front lawn will be removed.

STEWARDSHIP – Stewardship announced the special offering for Neighbors in Need will be taken September 30. In October, the annual pledge drive will begin with pledge cards collected Sunday, October 28.

MINISTRY – Taizé services will resume beginning September 20. They are held the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. CM will again distribute the special weekday service questionnaire this Sunday for those who have not had a chance to respond.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – CE introduced the new Sunday school curriculum that focuses on one Biblical-based lesson each month. Throughout the month, students will experience the lesson through a variety of activities, such as games, music, art, crafts, and a related service activity. CE is also compiling a calendar of activities for our youth and members. Council generated a list of possible fund-raising activities, including grocery bagging and brat sales at local grocery stores and Community Impact night at Pizza Ranch, where our youth can earn money for summer camp and youth conferences.

MEMBERS AT LARGE – The search for an assistant moderator continues.

OLD BUSINESS

- Nursery staffing - Council agreed that the Safe Church Policy needs to be finalized and in place before posting the nursery staff opening.
- WISE program - Council heard a summary of last Sunday's adult forum on mental health presented by Alvin Velsvaag and Pat Scott. In October, Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe will speak about the process of becoming a WISE congregation for mental health and about our community's role in suicide prevention.
- 2019 Budget - Council reviewed the proposed committee budgets. The Executive Committee will meet Wednesday, October 3 at 4:45 to complete the Council budget.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Concerns were raised about the safety of less mobile members during communion. Council discussed possible solutions and will look into implementing them.
2. Council discussed additional concerns that were raised and agreed with suggestions to compile a list of tasks to be done by ushers; to include the purchase of an AED in the 2019 budget; and to give members a financial statement listing last year's pledge to help them determine their 2019 pledge.

The next Council meeting will be October 17 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Stokke, Clerk of Council

Church Financials

First Congregational UCC of Brainerd				
Financial Results - General Fund				
Year to Date Results as of 8/31/2018				
	2018 Annual Budget	Actuals Through 8/31/18	% of Budget	Actuals Through 8/31/17
Income:				
Giving Units	\$ 129,892	\$ 130,072	100.14%	\$ 100,894
Loose Offering (10% to OCWM)	\$ 3,278	\$ 2,310	70.47%	\$ 2,197
Other Giving	\$ 4,938	\$ 6,312	127.83%	\$ 4,278
Revolving Income	\$ 3,933	\$ 12,212		\$ 13,054
Total Income	\$ 142,041	\$ 150,907	106.24%	\$ 120,423
Expenses:				
Council	\$ 101,821	\$ 70,303	78.73%	\$ 68,635
Christian Education	\$ 2,300	\$ 678	42.33%	\$ 260
Christian Ministry	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,426	85.74%	\$ 2,668
Music	\$ 8,990	\$ 5,674	71.28%	\$ 5,198
Stewardship	\$ 695	\$ 416	70.10%	\$ 491
Trustees	\$ 56,810	\$ 69,685	130.83%	\$ 33,764
Revolving Expense	\$ 3,724	\$ 9,854		\$ 10,359
Total Expenses	\$ 176,241	\$ 158,035	98.63%	\$ 121,376
Net Income (Loss) Year to Date:	\$ (34,200)	\$ (7,128)		\$ (952)

First Congregational UCC of Brainerd		
Financial Results - Revolving Accounts		
Year to Date Results as of 8/31/2018		
	2018 Annual Budget	Actuals Through 8/31/18
Income:		
Film License	\$ 225	\$ -
Flower Income	\$ -	\$ 365
OCWM Income	\$ 8,398	\$ 6,029
Other Mission Income	\$ -	\$ 2,641
Special Offering Income	\$ -	\$ 123
Special Worship Services	\$ 500	\$ 1,286
UCC Mission Income	\$ -	\$ 1,769
Total Income	\$ 8,898	\$ 12,212
Expenses:		
Film License	\$ 225	\$ -
Flowers	\$ -	\$ 719
OCWM Payments	\$ 8,398	\$ 4,629
Other Mission Payments	\$ -	\$ 1,925
Special Worship Services	\$ 500	\$ 771
UCC Mission Payments	\$ -	\$ 1,809
Total Expenses	\$ 9,123	\$ 9,853
Net Income (Loss) Year to Date:	\$ (225)	\$ 2,360

First Congregational UCC of Brainerd		
Financial Results - Designated Funds		
Year to Date Results as of 8/31/2018		
	2018 Annual Budget	Actuals Through 8/31/18
Income:		
Building Fund		\$ 23,760
Columbarium	\$ -	\$ 1,647
Camp/Youth	\$ -	\$ 1,214
Total Income	\$ -	\$ 26,621
Expenses:		
Building Fund		\$ 44,981
Columbarium	\$ -	\$ 4,425
Camp/Youth	\$ -	\$ 878
Total Expenses	\$ -	\$ 50,284
Net Income (Loss) Year to Date:	\$ -	\$ (23,663)

Church Calendar – October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 9:30 Prayer Circle 12:00 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 6:00 Confirmation	4	5 10:30 Book Group	6
7 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship & Communion 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Sunday School 11:30 New Member Class	8	9	10 9:30 Prayer Circle 12:00 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 6:00 Confirmation	11 5:30 Committee Meetings	12 10:30 Book Group 11:30 Clergy Cluster	13
14 8:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Sunday School New Pathways families arrive	15 New Pathways	16 New Pathways	17 9:30 Prayer Circle 12:00 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 7:00 Council Meeting New Pathways	18 6:00 Taize Service New Pathways	19 10:30 Book Group New Pathways	20 9:00 WISE Presentation New Pathways
21 8:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Sunday School 11:30 Usher Training	22 4:00 Fall Clean-up	23	24 9:30 Prayer Circle 12:00 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 6:00 Confirmation	25	26 10:30 Book Group 4:00 Soup Kitchen	27
28 10:00 Worship & Special Offering 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Sunday School 5:00 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	29	30	31 9:30 Prayer Circle 12:00 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn			