



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

November 2016

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

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## November Birthdays

|       |                  |       |              |
|-------|------------------|-------|--------------|
| 11/1  | Chris Kelly      | 11/13 | Becky Stadem |
| 11/4  | Ellie Burkett    | 11/17 | Nicole Spear |
| 11/9  | Dale Hadland     | 11/20 | Jan Kurtz    |
| 11/10 | Jackie Froemming | 11/21 | Itty Newgord |

## Pastor's Pen

*Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?*

*On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: "To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live." -- Proverbs 8:1-4*

After a long, long season of presidential campaigns, contentious debates, and brutal attack ads, I can't help but wonder, where do we hear the voice of wisdom in our world today? It often seems missing from the mouths of those seeking to win the highest office in the land. Yet according to our text from Proverbs, wisdom is calling out in the public square, crying out to all who will listen with instruction that is better than silver or gold. So how do we parse out the voice of God's holy wisdom from all the other voices clamoring for our attention?

Taking time to quiet one's soul is the first step. I'll admit this is something I would like to be better at! During my undergraduate years, I took a meditation class to help with the stress of school. I find myself returning to the skills I learned in that class when life is especially stressful. The first few minutes are always hard—clearing my mind of all the day's business and stress—but eventually I am able to focus on my breath and all the other voices begin to melt away. What I am left with is the still small voice of God—the voice of Wisdom telling me that I and every other person I encounter is a beloved child of God.

In the midst of such a contentious political climate, it is perhaps more important than ever that we find time to quiet our souls and listen for the voice of true Wisdom in our world. And here's how we can recognize it—the voice of true Wisdom is free of all arrogance and rudeness. It is compassionate and kind. It is gentle and places no heavy burdens upon us. It speaks of the belovedness of all creation. Last but not least,, it is not exclusive, and it speaks freely to all who will listen.

In the coming days, we will all be called to make important decisions about who we will choose to lead our country and our local community into the future. May our discernment process be guided not by the wisdom of this world, but by the wisdom of God's Holy Spirit. May our hearts be open to the still small voice of God. And may the choices we make reflect our most heartfelt beliefs about the belovedness of all creation.

With Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Jestic". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "With Peace,".

## Moderator's Notes

### Every Good Idea

By Dan Hegstad, Council Moderator

In 2010, the Initiative Foundation hosted a visioning session for the city of Brainerd. "What do you want to see in the City of Brainerd in the future?" they asked. Dozens of people came to the High School cafeteria on a nice June evening to answer the question. The facilitators were very skilled at sparking thought and imagination. Giant Post-It Note pages were inked with many ideas.

First, we were asked to note the assets of Brainerd and The Lakes Area. Next, we listed the things – activities, amenities etc. – we would like to see in the future. Lastly, and most important, we were asked to go through the list (which included many dozens of ideas) and write our name below those ideas we would be willing to work on.

I wrote 'dog park.' A fine idea, certainly. Everybody wants a dog park. I'm only one person, but now I had the names of 6 other people who would be the core of a committee. We met. We planned. We studied. We waited. We succeeded! '*Buster Park – A Playground for Dogs*' was dedicated in June of 2013.

Have you ever been to Yellowstone National Park? Yosemite? the Grand Canyon? if not, you certainly have seen some grand photographs. Mighty impressive!

Watching Ken Burns' PBS documentary *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, I was quite shocked to learn that designating Yellowstone our first national park was quite a fight. As was Yosemite. And the Grand Canyon and on and on and on. I naively assumed that someone suggested Yellowstone be a park and everyone would else said, 'Well, of course!' No.

John Muir and many others had to fight long and hard to keep Yosemite from becoming a huge reservoir. Long and hard.

How about women voting? "You know, I think it's a good idea for women to vote." 'You're right. We should have changed the constitution long ago. What were we thinking?' No. Many fought long and hard. Now we take it for granted.

How about Jim Crow Laws? How about gay marriage? How about . . . ?

Just being a good idea isn't enough. Every good idea has to be fought for. Every idea, every cause, even the most noble and obvious has to have a champion.

That's where you come in.

Our visioning retreat on October 15<sup>th</sup> was quite a success. We had some 30 people and a fountain of grand ideas. And we ate well, too! There was no lime Jell-O with half a peach and cottage cheese served on a bed of lettuce, however. You can decide if that's a good idea or a radical break from Minnesota tradition. After we listed ideas, we asked participants to indicate which ideas they thought would be best and then first runner-up. Each person had 11 green stars and 11 gold stars. They were asked to place a green star (or stars) by the ideas they thought were not only the 'best,' but they would also be willing to work for – meaning time, money and advocacy. Gold stars indicated an idea they thought would be great but other people would make it happen. The stars came out!

Shortly, Pastor Leslie and I will go through the ideas and stars. We will write a summary which we will share with you.

Then what happens? Well, we're just starting.

You know, it's easy to 'like' something on Facebook. It's easy to sign an online petition. It's easy to stick a green star on a piece of paper. Yet, as easy as it is, it is still quite significant.

The people have spoken. Soon, it will be time for the people to take action.

As much as we'd like, we can't do everything, but we can still do a lot. We have a lot of ideas. A lot of 'green star' ideas.

Every good idea needs to be fought for. Every good idea needs a champion.

Is that you?

GO!

## Food Shelf Offering – November

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 October we received \$370 and 27 pounds of food. Our next offering will be Sunday, November 27. **Thank you for helping to feed our hungry neighbors!**

## HUGS

### November 6

**Hosts:** Mark & Becky Stadem

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

**Greeter:** ?

**Counters:** Jeff Behr & Jerry Kuehn

### November 13

**Hosts:** Mary Harder & Lois McBroom

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

**Counters:** Deb Griffith & Marcia Mans

### November 20

**Hosts:** Marcia Mans & Claire Steen

**Ushers:** Austin & Preston Newgord

**Greeters:** Marina Grabowski & Deb Griffith

**Counters:** Coleen Carder & Vi Heiser

### November 27

**Hosts:** Joey Halvorson & Karen Ogdahl

**Ushers/Greeters:** Jolene Hojem, Erik, Kai & Kyd Lukanen

**Counters:** Nancy Gould & Lowell Johnson

## Walk to End Alzheimers

On September 24, over 20 hearty souls braved the misty cold rain and attended the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Thank you so much to each person who walked and made a monetary donation as well. You are a positive force in the fight to find a cure or prevention for the dementia diseases of the brain.

Also, a huge thank you to all of those who did not walk but made a donation to the team or to a specific team member. Your support is much appreciated.

The numbers as of October 10th are: \$355.00 to the Team and \$1,781 to the individual team members.

Donations will be accepted until December 31, either by check made payable to the Alzheimer's Association or online at [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk).

Remember: The end of Alzheimer's begins with you!

## New Pathways

This will be our last New Pathways date for our church until May 2017. Please consider volunteering! The rewards are many, both as a volunteer and for the guests we serve!!

**Sunday, December 3, 2016 – Sunday, December 10, 2016**

*Please consider volunteering for:*

Staying overnight: Sue Hadland - 829-2381 (dghrose@charter.net) & Kathi Hefti 839-1578

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 – 821-6667

If you wish to volunteer, there will be a white board located in the narthex each Sunday starting on November 6th for sign up or go to [www.supergenious.com](http://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!!!

## LAKES AREA MUSIC FESTIVAL

After a record breaking eighth annual season, the Lakes Area Music Festival is returning to the stage to kick off the 2016/17 Winter Series. The first concert of the season will be performed **Sunday, November 6 at 7 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church** (1420 South Sixth Street, Brainerd). Titled "Musica Barocca", the concert will feature LAMF violinists Chloe Fedor and Jeremy Rhizor with colleagues from New York, all international baroque specialists and graduates of historical performance program of the Juilliard School. The program will include Italian baroque works by Vivaldi, Corelli, Handel, and more. This concert is free of charge and open to the public.

## October 19, 2016 Church Council Minutes

Moderator – Dan Hegstad      Assistant Moderator – Claire Steen      Clerk – Barb Stokke  
 Treasurer – Mike Schrader      Christian Ministry – Ann Turnbull      Trustees – Coleen Carder  
 Stewardship – Judy Whiteman      Christian Education – Marina Grabowski  
 Council at Large – Mike North and Bonnie Crum

Present: Dan Hegstad, Barb Stokke, Mike Schrader, Ann Turnbull, Coleen Carder, Marina Grabowski, Bonnie Crum, and Rev. Leslie Moughty

Dan Hegstad called the meeting to order. Barb Stokke shared Food for Thought. Mike Schrader will provide November's Food for Thought.

September Council Minutes were approved.

CLERK'S REPORT – Nothing to report

TREASURER'S REPORT – The Columbarium monies have been transferred into the Columbarium fund. Ann Turnbull and Marina Grabowski volunteered to be signers for the equity offset savings account along with treasurer Mike Schrader. •Pledges for 2017 are due Sunday, October 23.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Highlights: Helped plan and led the visioning retreat; wrote a Clergy View article for the Brainerd Dispatch to be published October 21; held Blessing of the Animals service and a Children's

Sabbath service; attended CROP Walk; worked to locate a bed for a homeless man; met with Northeast Clergy Cluster; completed a self-assessment and received evaluation results; made four office pastoral care consultations, one hospital visit, one uncategorized visit, and two phone consultations. •Accessibility and hospitality issues, including lack of clear signage, need to be addressed. •New member class is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, at 6:15 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP – No report

TRUSTEES' REPORT – A reminder: Please **do not** turn off the coach lights in front of the church. They are set to turn on and off automatically. •Items reviewed: Cost of foundation and gable work will stretch the budget, but savings in other areas will offset it. •Clean Up is Wednesday, October 26, 4:00 – 6:00. •Carpet cleaning will be done in about two weeks after the lift comes in to check lighting in the sanctuary. •Council discussed a recommendation that no dogs be allowed in the church. •Marcia Mans has generously given \$5,000 for kitchen repairs and maintenances. The kitchen was one of Paul's cherished focuses. *Thank you, Marcia, for your generosity.*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Monday, October 31, CE will be hosting a Halloween night for kids and parents. Activities, treats and beverages will be provided. •Sunday, December 4: Make-N-Take. •Sunday, December 11: The Sunday School Christmas program written by Lori Howe and based on the song "The Birthday Gift." And with potluck

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY – *Decorate the Church for Christmas Party* is Friday, November 25, from 12:00 to 4:00.

**Please note: Christmas Eve Service time will be 4:00 this year to accommodate the organist's schedule.**

AT-LARGE MEMBERS' REPORT – Bonnie Crum reviewed the pastoral evaluation process and the results compiled by Bonnie and Cynthia Janes. She noted the pastor's strengths were in area deemed most important by the evaluators.

OLD BUSINESS – •Council completed their review of the 2017 budget and made corrections and adjustments. •Claire, Dan and Leslie will compile a list of ideas discussed at the Visioning Retreat held October 15. It was suggested that these ideas be discussed at an adult forum. •It was determined that the Exec Committee - or a combination of members from the Exec committee and PPRC - along with Leslie, will write a pastoral job description, which delineates the expectations expressed in the broad covenant now in place. •Leslie recounted the evaluation process that is a part of her participation in the Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI). The evaluation is to be completed every three years. Leslie suggested the upcoming evaluation could include areas not covered as thoroughly in the evaluation just completed. •Dan clarified the broad financial responsibilities of the treasurer and the administrative assistant. Work continues on the treasurer job description. Bobbie located an administrative assistant job description and updated it to include work she does. It was mentioned that a job evaluation completed by the administrative assistant could help Council determine how they can best support that position. •Council agreed to postpone work on a bylaws task force, a justice committee and the gift policy until 2017. •Leslie and Ann Turnbull will work on the safe church policy.

NEW BUSINESS – – Rev. Shari Prestemon will be preaching Sunday, October 23, 2016.

The annual budget meeting will take place December 4 after the service.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be November 16, 2016 at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Stokke, Clerk of Council

## Church Financials

| Financial Results – General Fund<br>Year to Date Results as of<br>9/30/16 | 2016<br>Annual Budget | Actuals Through<br>9/30/16 | % of Budget   |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Income:</b>  |                       |                            |               |
| From Giving Units   | \$ 150,481            | \$ 118,380                 | 78.67%        |
| Other Giving  | \$ 5,500              | \$ 13,620                  | 247.63%       |
| <b>Total Income</b>   | <b>\$ 155,981</b>     | <b>\$ 132,000</b>          | <b>84.63%</b> |
| <b>Expenses:</b>  |                       |                            |               |
| Council   | \$ 97,324             | \$ 82,134                  | 84.39%        |
| Christian Ministry  | \$ 13,150             | \$ 8,780                   | 66.77%        |
| Christian Education   | \$ 2,950              | \$ 644                     | 21.82%        |
| Stewardship   | \$ 570                | \$ 476                     | 83.52%        |
| Trustees  | \$ 60,170             | \$ 37,694                  | 62.65%        |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>   | <b>\$ 174,164</b>     | <b>\$ 129,728</b>          | <b>74.49%</b> |
| <b>Net Income (Loss) Year to Date:</b>                                    | <b>\$ (18,183)</b>    | <b>\$ 2,272</b>            |               |

## American Boychoir



### AMERICAN BOYCHOIR

November 6, 2016 • 2 p.m.

Tornstrom Auditorium



\$12 Adult | \$8 Under 18

[www.clcmn.edu/arts](http://www.clcmn.edu/arts) 218-855-8199

Sponsored by:

Mel & Sonja Nefstead  
and



## Church Calendar – November 2016

| Sunday   | Monday | Tuesday                        | Wednesday   | Thursday                            | Friday   | Saturday   |
|--|--------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|
|  |        | 1                              | 2<br>9:30 Prayer Circle<br>11:30 Men's Group<br>@ Sawmill Inn                                   | 3                                   | 4<br>10:30 Book Group  | 5<br>Don't forget to set your clocks back before you go to bed tonight – or you will be early for church!! |
| 6<br>8:30 Choir<br>10:00 Worship/Communion<br>11:00 Fellowship<br>11:15 Sunday School<br>11:30 Painting the Stars  | 7      | 8<br>Election Day              | 9<br>9:30 Prayer Circle<br>11:30 Men's Group<br>@ Sawmill Inn<br>11:30 Clergy Cluster           | 10<br>5:30 Committee Meetings       | 11<br>10:30 Book Group<br>Veteran's Day  | 12   |
| 13<br>8:30 Choir<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Fellowship<br>11:15 Sunday School<br>11:30 Adult Forum                  | 14     | 15                             | 16<br>9:30 Prayer Circle<br>11:30 Men's Group<br>@ Sawmill Inn<br>7:00 Council Meeting          | 17                                  | 18<br>10:30 Book Group   | 19   |
| 20<br>8:30 Choir<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Fellowship<br>11:15 Sunday School<br>11:30 Painting the Stars           | 21     | 22<br>9:00 Greening the Church | 23<br>9:30 Prayer Circle<br>11:30 Men's Group<br>@ Sawmill Inn<br>7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Service | 24<br>Thanksgiving<br>Office Closed | 25<br>10:30 Book Group<br>12:00 Decorate Church for Christmas Party<br>Office Closed | 26   |
| 27<br>10:00 Worship & Food Shelf Offering<br>11:00 Fellowship<br>11:15 Sunday School<br><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> | 28     | 29<br>12:00 Lunch Bunch        | 30<br>9:30 Prayer Circle<br>11:30 Men's Group<br>@ Sawmill Inn                                  |                                     |  |  |