



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

November 2018

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

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Pastor's Pen

No article.

Moderator's Message

No article.

Special Offering – October

In October we donated \$328.00 to Lutheran Social Services and \$135 to the food shelf! Our next special offering will be on Sunday, November 25 and will go to the Soup Kitchen.

January Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January newsletter is December 16th at 5:00 pm.

November Birthdays

11/1	Chris Kelly	11/10	Jackie Froemming	11/20	Jan Kurtz
11/4	Eleanor Burkett	11/13	Becky Stadem	11/21	Itty Newgord
11/9	Dale Hadland				

Dia de Muertos

Día de Muertos: On Sunday, November 4th, we will be observing "All Saint's Day" following the Mexican traditions from Día de Muertos/Day of the Dead. In the Mexican culture, November 1st and 2nd are days for remembering their 'dearly departed' through arranging family altars, preparing special foods, sprucing up the cemeteries and naming the names of the dead, to keep their memories alive.

To help us remember our church family and our own family members, please participate by bringing in a photo or item that reminds you of the person you wish to commemorate. Examples of items might be a football, for a football fanatic; a Hershey bar for a chocolate lover, a favorite book or an actual possession left to you by the person. Photos and items will be placed on a table/altar during the church service. If you have photos that could be used in our tri-fold photo wall of past church members, please contact Jan Kurtz at 218-829-1192.

HUGS

November 4

Hosts: Mark & Becky Stadem

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

Counters: Jeff Behr & Gale Landem

November 11

Hosts: Karen Ford & Tom Nelson

Ushers/Greeters: Maria Bertram, Austin & Itty Newgord

Counters: Deb Griffith & Georgia Harris

November 18

Hosts: Cheri Maxwell & Kathy Ogden

Ushers: Shirley Barten & Deb Lundberg

Greeters: Brian & Becky Twamley

Counters: Tracy Lyons & Mabel Schultz

November 25

Hosts: Joey Halvorson & Ann Turnbull

Ushers/Greeters: Ellie Burkett, Tracy Lyons, Karen Ogdahl & Jean Schaeffer

Counters: Nancy Gould & Judy Whiteman

Adult Forum

Have you been missing Adult Forums? They're coming back - if there is interest in our congregation in holding them. Here is what to do if you want to hold an Adult Forum November 2018 - May 2019 follow these simple instructions:

1. Go to the [Adult Forum Scheduler](https://goo.gl/Tr5U2j) OR cut and paste this link into your browser: <https://goo.gl/Tr5U2j>. Find a date that works for you (choose a date that isn't filled in). Please fill in the columns with the title, presenter, your name as host and a short description of the presentation. As host you will be responsible to greet the guest presenter (or prepare a presentation yourself if you are presenting), provide refreshment(s), set up and clean up. Remember to tell guests that they run from 11:30AM - 12:30PM on the designated Sunday.
2. If you would rather not fill out the form yourself you may contact Bobbie (uccbrainerd@gmail.com), Pastor Leslie (pastorleslieucc@gmail.com), or Ellie (prairiesmoke757@gmail.com) with all of the information requested above and be sure to include the date you'd like to hold it. We will let you know if the date is available and confirm. You are welcome to find someone else to be the host if you don't want to, be sure to let us know who is going to be the host.
3. The deadline to add Adult Forums programs to the schedule is two weeks prior to the date you would like to hold it, but the earlier the better so they don't fill up.

That's it! Enjoy and have fun!

Task Force Meeting – Mental Health Challenges

We will be having a task force meeting after church on Sunday, November 18. The plan is to identify what people don't know about supporting people with mental health challenges, and how we can help them understand. Ask questions! Let us know what you want to get out of this experience.

Women's March in Washington

Do you remember the Women's March in Washington in 2017? Do you wish you had been there? Well, a second Women's March is coming to Washington on January 19th. The North family plans to be there along with some friends from Up North, and we want to gauge the interest in others attending. If you have an interest in attending, please talk to Sue North about possible logistics.

Church Council Minutes – October 17, 2018

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

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

Mike North called the meeting to order. Gary Whiteman shared “Guard Your Tongue” for October’s *Food for Thought*.

Council Minutes – previously approved

CLERK’S REPORT – No report

PASTOR’S REPORT – Pastor Leslie reviewed ideas and practices she gained at the Leadership Institute.

Highlights: Led 2 confirmation classes; held new member information session and first class with 4 participants; attended MN Conference Clergy Retreat October 4-5; attended Leadership Institute at Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas, with Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI). **Community engagement:** Announced Lifesaving Church event October 23; participated in Focus Group call for MN Conference. **Pastoral Care Contacts:** 1 home visit; accompanied family to court; 2 phone conversations, and multiple ad-hoc conversations. **Concerns and Updates:** Rev. Kevin Brown, Assoc. Conference Minister, met with present and former CE members to discuss faith formation; the CE committee needs 2 to 3 more members; work continues on the Safe Church Policy and the bylaws revisions. **On the radar:** Oct. 20 Becoming a WISE Congregation; Oct. 23 The Lifesaving Church: Faith Communities and Suicide; Nov. 20 at 6:00 p.m. Transgender Day of Remembrance Service; Nov. 21 Thanksgiving Eve Service at Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church. **Upcoming out of the office dates:** November 21-25 (vacation days moved from December to November)

TREASURER’S REPORT – Council reviewed the 2019 budget proposal. Once pledges are received, the final proposal will be drafted and distributed. The annual budget meeting is tentatively set for Sunday, December 2.

TRUSTEES’ REPORT – Trustees reported the Columbarium is almost done. Tuck-pointing and step repairs are complete and the carpet has been installed. Remaining work includes engraving faceplates, selecting furniture, and planning a blessing of the Columbarium.

STEWARDSHIP – Sunday, October 28, is the final day of the Pledge Drive. Pledge cards will be during the service. Reminder: electronic giving must be updated every year and can be done by filling in the backside of the pledge card.

MINISTRY – No report

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – CE members, past and present, met to discuss the new Sunday school structure with Kevin Brown, Assoc. Conference Minister for Faith Formation. This new structure starts with a lesson or story and is followed by 3 weeks of experiences, activities, and service. This format teaches fewer stories but with greater depth, and offers multiple ways (through music, art, projects, games, service) for the learners to connect with the lesson.

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

Old Business: •2019 Budget – see Treasurer’s report •Nursery staffing – Council agreed that a Safe Church Policy should be in place before staffing the nursery. •WISE program – Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe will present “Becoming a W.I.S.E. Congregations for Mental Health” October 20. •Safety During Communion – Inviting members with limited mobility to sit close to the front for communion went well.

New Business: Council passed a motion that the church be available in case of inclement weather to the Move to Amend Rally on Saturday, October 27, from 12:00-3:00.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be **November 14** 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 9/30/2018				
	2018 Annual Budget	Actuals Through 9/30/18	% of Budget	Actuals Through 9/30/17
Income:				
Giving Units	\$ 129,892	\$ 143,563	110.52%	\$ 111,771
Loose Offering (10% to OCWM)	\$ 3,278	\$ 2,609	79.59%	\$ 2,400
Other Giving	\$ 4,938	\$ 6,558	132.80%	\$ 4,636
Revolving Income	\$ 3,933	\$ 13,765		\$ 14,612
Total Income	\$ 142,041	\$ 166,495	117.22%	\$ 133,418
Expenses:				
Council	\$ 101,821	\$ 75,891	84.21%	\$ 74,264
Christian Education	\$ 2,300	\$ 678	42.33%	\$ 260
Christian Ministry	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,494	89.30%	\$ 2,940
Music	\$ 8,990	\$ 6,324	78.51%	\$ 5,758
Stewardship	\$ 695	\$ 473	78.41%	\$ 540
Trustees	\$ 56,810	\$ 72,191	135.24%	\$ 35,835
Revolving Expense	\$ 3,724	\$ 13,501		\$ 14,496
Total Expenses	\$ 176,241	\$ 170,553	105.74%	\$ 134,093
Net Income (Loss) Year to Date:	\$ (34,200)	\$ (4,059)		\$ (675)

First Congregational UCC of Brainerd		
Financial Results - Revolving Accounts		
Year to Date Results as of 9/30/2018		
	2018 Annual Budget	Actuals Through 9/30/18
Income:		
Film License	\$ 225	\$ -
Flower Income	\$ -	\$ 365
OCWM Income	\$ 8,398	\$ 6,818
Other Mission Income	\$ -	\$ 2,724
Special Offering Income	\$ -	\$ 123
Special Worship Services	\$ 500	\$ 1,305
UCC Mission Income	\$ -	\$ 2,430
Total Income	\$ 8,898	\$ 13,765
Expenses:		
Film License	\$ 225	\$ -
Flowers	\$ -	\$ 719
OCWM Payments	\$ 8,398	\$ 6,818
Other Mission Payments	\$ -	\$ 2,614
Special Worship Services	\$ 500	\$ 771
UCC Mission Payments	\$ -	\$ 2,580
Total Expenses	\$ 9,123	\$ 13,501
Net Income (Loss) Year to Date:	\$ (225)	\$ 263

First Congregational UCC of Brainerd		
Financial Results - Designated Funds		
Year to Date Results as of 9/30/2018		
	2018 Annual Budget	Actuals Through 9/30/18
Income:		
Building Fund		\$ 23,760
Columbarium	\$ -	\$ 2,187
Camp/Youth	\$ -	\$ 1,214
Total Income	\$ -	\$ 27,161
Expenses:		
Building Fund		\$ 44,981
Columbarium	\$ -	\$ 4,691
Camp/Youth	\$ -	\$ 878
Total Expenses	\$ -	\$ 50,549
Net Income (Loss) Year to Date:	\$ -	\$ (23,388)

Church Calendar – November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 10:30 Book Group	3
4 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship & Communion 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Sunday School 11:30 Usher Training	5	6	7 9:30 Prayer Circle 12:00 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 6:00 Confirmation	8 5:30 Committee Meetings	9 10:30 Book Group 11:30 Clergy Cluster	10
11 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Sunday School	12	13	14 9:30 Prayer Circle 12:00 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn 6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Council Meeting	15 6:00 Taize Service	16 10:30 Book Group	17
18 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Sunday School	19	20 6:00 Transgender Day of Remembrance Service	21 9:30 Prayer Circle 12:00 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn Thanksgiving Eve Service @ St. Paul's Episcopal	22 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	23 10:30 Book Group 4:00 Soup Kitchen Office Closed	24
25 10:00 Worship & Special Offering 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Sunday School 5:00 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26	27	28 9:30 Prayer Circle 12:00 Men's Group @ Sawmill Inn	29	30 10:30 Book Group	