

The Good News

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

220 West Main Street, Cannon Falls, MN 55009 (507) 263-2901

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A loving congregational family that celebrates God's presence among us



Good Samaritan

Christianity is a lifestyle - a way of being in the world
that is simple, non-violent, shared, and loving.

However, we made it into an established 'religion' and all that goes with that
and avoided the lifestyle change itself.

One could be warlike, greedy, racist, selfish and vain in most of Christian history,
and still believe that Jesus is one's 'personal Lord and Savior.'

The world has no time for such silliness anymore. The suffering on Earth is too great.

-Richard Rohr, author and Franciscan friar,

founder and dean of the Living School for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque NM

Christ himself proclaimed a faith in God that ran counter to the established religion of the time, the religion he was born into. He did not seek to abandon or undermine the faith he was taught, but the practice of that faith, the religion, and the way the faith had been compromised to appease and support the political climate in which his people lived.

Our faith is the result of Jesus' reformation, but time and again it has undergone its own reformation. A principle of Protestantism is that we are always reforming the faith. "Every generation must make the faith its own," we say from our own stream of Protestant Christianity. We don't abandon the past, or recreate from thin air our own version of the faith. The autonomy we so value does not include making things up as we go along. Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason along with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit inform us at every step.

Which is why being part of a congregation is so important; this is too important and too big a task to accomplish on our own. And why we want, as a congregation, to be in covenant with a wider communion (the United Church of Christ), and in partnership with other Christian traditions and other faiths - our God is much 'bigger' than any one of us or any one tradition can grasp or know within the confines of their culture, language, history or experience.

And none of this is about our personal salvation. It is about who we are as the human race, about our life on this planet, about the life of the planet itself. We each matter because we all matter.

As your teacher and preacher, my role is to help you see how much you do matter. Not just in the life of the First Congregational UCC, but in your family, your neighborhood, in the world. And that how you live, how we live, makes a difference. We don't earn a place in heaven either by what we do or what we believe. What matters is living as if our lives make a difference here and now, and that happens when, as Rohr says, our lives reflect the life of Christ - non-violent, shared, and loving.

We can't do that on our own, not without each other. Certainly not without Jesus leading the way.

Pr. Glen

Pastoral Care Needs

Pastor Glen will be on vacation after worship on September 1st through September 17th. For pastoral care emergencies contact Pr. Randy Fett at 507-263-3645.

Volunteer Schedule

Sunday September 1st

Greeter: TBD

Reader: Barb Herrington-Hall

Sound Technician: Roman Mercier

Sunday September 8th

Greeter: Glenda Cooper

Reader: Emily Peterson

Sound Technician: Jim Hvistendahl

Sunday September 15th

Greeter: Jeff and Sue LaPan

Reader: Sue LaPan

Sound Technician: Cindy Mae Nelson

Sunday September 22nd

Greeter: Jim and Bonnie Hvistendahl

Reader: Bonnie Hvistendahl

Sound Technician: Steve Sullivan

Sunday September 29th

Greeter: Kathy Gerbracht

Reader: Angie Hokanson

Sound Technician: Roman Mercier

Serving Committee for September

The Serving Committee for September is Gary and Linda Sheridan, Nancy Berhow, and Glenda Cooper.

Prayer Chain

Morning - Bonnie Hvistendahl 263-4120

Evening - Mavis Johnson 263-2857

When you are in need of prayer for yourself or others, please call the church office at 263-2901. Your request will be passed along to the above prayer chains.



Education/Fellowship

Anyone is welcome to join us at any time!

Tuesday Bible Study meets weekly at 10 a.m. at church. We usually meet for just over an hour, as long as we manage to stay on task! Pastor Glen leads the study, focusing on the text(s) planned for the coming Sunday's sermon.

Sunday Morning Study begins about 15 minutes after worship ends, and meets most Sundays. We continue September 22nd with the video series, Mudhouse Sabbath, by Lauren Winner, based on her book of the same title, which suggests ways Jewish spiritual practices can enhance Christian faith. Topic: September 22nd Hospitality, October 6th Mourning well, October 20th Doorposts.

Choir is Back!

September – December 2019

Practice Time: Sundays 8:30-9:30am

Practice Dates & *Performance Dates

September: 9/15 & *9/22

October: 10/13 & *10/20

November: 11/10 & *11/17

December: 12/8 & *12/15 & *12/24 (Time TBD)

Director: Dawn Husmann

Phone: 507-298-0267

email: dmhusmann@gmail.com



National Night Out Fun

Our congregation hosted our neighbors for National Night Out on Tuesday, August 7th. We served Root Beer Floats on our front lawn, and a variety of yard games were available.



National Night Out is a national effort being promoted locally by the CF Police Department as a community-building campaign encouraging police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. The police, fire department staff and EMTs stopped by. Truly a wonderful time and great floats!

Bake Sale

Instead of a yard sale, we are planning a bake sale on **September 21st**.

Please drop off your baked goods at the home of Cindy Mae Nelson.

Please call her at 507-951-3117 to make sure she is home before

dropping items off. Proceeds benefit next summer's youth mission trip.



St. John's UCC Germanfest

St. John's UCC in Faribault, MN will be serving a German Buffet on September 29th from 11am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm. Music will be "Tim Chlan and friends" 11am-1pm, "Ray Sands Band" 1-3pm and "The Stuttgart Three" 3-6pm. Polka Praise Service at 3:00pm.

Women's Coffee



Join us every 3rd Thursday at 10:00 am for coffee at Hi-Quality Bakery.

CCIC Monthly Supper

The Community Churches Interaction Council (CCIC) holds monthly suppers on the last Sunday of each month at FCC. September's supper will be hosted by Cannon Valley Senior Center on September 29th at 5:00 pm.

Grief

By Kaylie Lindsay

"No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear". C.S. Lewis

We grieve people. We grieve places. We grieve seasons of life, lost jobs, and attitudes once mastered. For me it is the latter.

The continuity of gentle grace that flows to my soul- the kind that envelopes and chokes out pride in order that I may be completely real - this level of grace does not always equal the amount in which I hand out. I often lack patience; I lack trust; I lack faith. And instead I to cling to doubt, grieving over the loss of a learned mindset that once held my head high.

But despite a loss of discipline, coarse emotion and wild vexation; despite whatever once was, what could have been and what is. It takes grace - a special kind of grace - to realize that you're doing the best that you can. Your rhythm might be a little lost, and your steps might fall off beat. Your language might not be eloquent, and your desires may feel depleted by a seemingly empty soul. You may be living in the fear of unanswered questions - the kind that paralyzes and cripples you beneath yourself. But all of this is temporary.

Learn to be grateful -grateful though commotion and consistent obscurity. Because what was once learned can be learned again, and can only become even more mastered in time.

Border Wall

By Rev. Bill Lyons

UCC clergy in the Southwest Conference frequently minister at the U.S./Mexico border and occasionally lead immersion experiences or participate in prayer vigils and liturgies with partners from both sides of the border. After a visit to the area a few weeks ago to meet Deacon Roger Babnew, who leads Cruzando Fronteras, a new border ministry partner with the Southwest Conference, Conference Minister the Rev. Bill Lyons shared this reflection, noting the irony of a welcome sign wrapped in razor wire.

The differences at the border from my last visit were striking. In the United States rows upon rows of razor wire climbed the border wall. In 2016, we passed communion through the columns that form the wall when a group of us from the United Church of Christ met for worship during the SOAWatch convergence in Nogales in 2016. Last August, during an immersion experience hosted by the Southwest Conference, that wasn't possible because U.S. Customs and Border Patrol had installed steel mesh to prevent even fingers from sliding between the tall wall columns. This visit I couldn't even get close to the sites of our liturgies because iron barricades had been installed to protect neighbors and passers-by from being sliced by the blades on the coils of wire welded over the mesh welded to the steel columns that is the border wall.



By contrast, in Mexico at the sites of our prayers and liturgies from 2016 and 2018, the crosses we leaned against the wall are still standing, weathered and faded, but a witness and testament to our presence, our solidarity with residents living in what is most certainly a militarized zone. Nogales, Arizona was eerily quiet and void of people while activity in the neighborhoods along the

actual border was monitored by cameras on towers, sensors, powerful search lights, and armed agents wherever I looked. Nogales, Mexico was vibrant, bustling, and full of economic activity.



Numbers of asylum applicants have dropped as is common in the scorching summer heat. Still, in the last two weeks two more bodies have been

discovered in the desert within sight of residential neighborhoods. I pray for the healing of the trauma that residents and migrants and officers alike suffer from these harsh and dehumanizing realities. How long, O Lord, how long, before we find a way forward that acknowledges your image in every human being? That stops perpetuating fear and hatred of people not exactly like us? That understands walling people out or walling ourselves in is only a matter of perspective.

In November the Southwest Conference UCC will co-sponsor Cruzando Fronteras's Border Ministries Summit in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona and the Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Summit plans to bring together hundreds of border ministry leaders from Texas to California.

The Rev. Bill Lyons is the Conference Minister of the United Church of Christ Southwest Conference.

The Lord Is My Shepherd

I was going through some things and found this. I had cut it out of a daily devotional written by Daniel Schantz – I do not remember which one, however I wanted to share it. Kileen

The Lord is my shepherd....

Lord, I am so confused. My life seems like a series of accidents. I'm getting nowhere.

I am the shepherd. You are a lamb. It's not your job to know the way, but to follow Me. Through all the twists and turns, I am leading you in paths of righteousness. You'll see when you arrive.

But, Lord, I'm falling behind financially. Who's going to pay all these bills?

You shall not want. Your daily cup is running over. Remember when I fed you in

the presence of your enemies? And the time I anointed your head with healing oil, when you were very ill? Trust Me, one day at a time.'

But I get so weary, Lord, So aery tired.

I know, and I want you to lie down in green pastures. I can restore your soul, if you will give Me a chance. But you continue to worry and work as if I were not here, and as if everything depended on you alone.

Doesn't it?

Not at all. I am leading you for My name's sake, not because you are so wonderful. My name is "The Good Shepherd" and I intend to keep My good name by caring for you. It's what I do.

But I'm getting older, God. Sometimes I utake in the night, thinking about dying.

Even when you walk through that dark valley I will be there with you. I've already been through death, and I know the way. When you come out on the other side, it will be to dwell with Me in My house forever.

But I have so many regrets. Things I said qnd dtd that fill me with shame.

Just settle down. My goodness and mercy have been following you everywhere. I am healing those old wounds and cleaning up the messes you made. Leave the past – and the future – to Me. Pay attention to this day – it's the only one you have for sure.

Lord, help me to go forward in faith, knowing that you, the Lord of all times, are leading me on.



*Lord, enfold me in the depths of your heart;
in the depths of Jesus Christ
And there hold me, refine me, purge and set
me on fire,*

*Raise me aloft, moving to do Your healing
will each and every day. Amen.*

- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ

September, 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Worship w/communion	2 	3	4 6:00 pm Praise Band	5	6	7
Pr. Glen on vacation through the 18 th						
8 9:30 am Worship	9 10:30 am Grief Support 4:00 & 6:15 pm - Yoga	10	11 6:00 pm Praise Band	12	13	14 1:30 - 3:00 pm Visit at The Gardens
Pr. Glen on vacation- contact Pr. Randy Fett at 507-263-3645 for pastoral care emergencies						
15 9:30 am Worship	16 4:00 & 6:15 pm - Yoga	17	18 6:00 pm Praise Band	19 10:00 am Women's Coffee	20	21 
Pr. Glen on vacation						
22 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Adult Study	23 10:30 am Grief Support 4:00 & 6:15 pm - Yoga	24 10:00 am Bible Study	25 6:00 pm Praise Band	26	27	28
29 9:30 am Worship w/All For You 5:00 pm CCIC Dinner	30 10:30 am Grief Support 4:00 & 6:15 pm - Yoga					

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