
The Good News

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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

fccucc@citlink.net www.cannonfallsucc.org

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



Dear Church,

As the first bits of fiery red and orange appear on the leaves of trees and the length of each day shortens, many of your schedules will return to the usual busy-ness of a congregation's program year. Worship attendance will increase, committees will resume their work, faith formation programs will commence with new energy, and the calendars of your church life will fill with new initiatives, fresh commitment, and all the things you treasure about your faith community. It seems like a wonderful time for me to say ***thank you***. ***Thank you*** for all the ways you embody, day to day, what it means to be the Church at its best...

- For creating space to explore the mysteries and wonders of our faith;
- For carving out time in busy lives to dive into Holy Scripture and discover there the marvelous relevance those ancient texts still have to our modern circumstance;
- For caring for one another within your congregation, extending love and understanding in times of loss, transition, and uncertainty and celebrating with one another in times of joy;
- For extending that same love to others outside your church walls, as you engage in mission, seek justice, and build peace ;
- For sending up prayers, for each other and for our world, inviting God's transforming power and presence to enter in;
- For being a living witness to Christ-like mercy, grace, and compassion in a world that craves hope and goodness.

I truly believe that the world needs what we have to offer, dear Church. And so I follow my thanks with this bit of commissioning:

- Be bold and be of good courage. There's a lot about our church lives and our world that are challenging in these days, but let the same boldness and courage that was in Christ Jesus be in you. Try something new. Take a courageous stand. And remember the steady counsel of our scriptures to "fear not".
- Love fiercely and often. Love seems such a rare commodity these days in our social and political spheres. But we know that loving our neighbor is an inescapable requirement of our faith. Be that church in your community that everyone knows because of your unceasing ways of love. Find a million ways to share it. And never give in to the ugly hatred and cynicism that surrounds us.
- Make a difference. Find some way for your congregation to make a real difference in an individual's life, in your community, and in this hurting world. Pay attention to the needs around you. Be prayerful and purposeful about how you respond. Be the Church at work in the world.
- Persevere in faith. Whatever challenges may confront you, whatever despair you may feel about our world, trust that God is with you. Lean on God's wisdom and guidance when things get messy. Pray without ceasing. And trust God to travel with you as you navigate difficult decisions and set out into uncharted territory.

I am so grateful for all of you! I am constantly inspired by the love and faith I see at work in you. Know that you are always in my prayers. May God continue to strengthen and uphold you in the good and blessed work in front of you. And may the peace and grace of Christ surround you, each and every day.

With you on the journey,

Reverend Shari Prestemon,

Conference Minister, Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ

Pastoral Care Needs

Call Pastor Glen in the event of a pastoral care need. Either call his home 651-641-1832 or cell 651-757-0314. Email pastor@citlink.net.

Volunteer Schedule

Sunday October 6th

Greeter: Bruce and Laura Hemmah
Reader: Laura Hemmah
Sound Technician: Jim Hvistendahl

Sunday October 13th

Greeter: Gloria Strain
Reader: Cassidy Maneval
Sound Technician: Cindy Mae Nelson

Sunday October 20th

Greeter: Jim and Pat Green
Reader: Pat Green
Sound Technician: Steve Sullivan

Sunday October 27th

Greeter: Joe and Stacy Coyle
Reader: Jackie Sullivan
Sound Technician: Jim Hvistendahl

Prayer Chain

Morning - Bonnie Hvistendahl 263-4120

Evening - Mavis Johnson 263-2857

When you are in need of prayer for yourself or others, your request will be passed along to the above prayer chains.



October Serving Committee

October's Serving Committee is Carol and Cindy Nelson, and Mike and Tracy Johnson.

Education/Fellowship

Anyone is welcome to join us at any time!

Tuesday Bible Study meets weekly at 10 a.m. We 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 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: October 6th Mourning well, October 20th Doorposts.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet beginning at 11 a.m. on Sunday, October 13. This will be an extended meeting, to have some conversation about possible long and short term goals and planning for the congregation. Lunch will be provided.

Elected officers and ministry team leaders are expected to attend, but any member is welcome to participate in these discussions.

Love of Children

Our Faith, Our Voice, Our Vote

"Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant.

Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality." - Romans 12:12
MSG



Please join us in supporting the 2019 Neighbors In Need Special Mission Offering. THANK YOU! Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy programming and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM. www.ucc.org/nin. Our Neighbors in Need offering will be **October 13th**. Thank you for supporting Neighbors in Need!!

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Choir Schedule

October – December 2019

Practice Time: Sundays 8:30-9:30am
Practice Dates & *Performance Dates

October: 10/13 & *10/20

November: 11/10 & *11/17

December: 12/8 & *12/15 & *12/24

Director: Dawn Husmann

Phone: 507-298-0267

email: dmhusmann@gmail.com



Women's Coffee



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

The Gardens

Visit the Gardens with us once a month from 1:30 - 3:00 pm. Everyone is welcome and appreciated.

Pancake Breakfast

On **October 5th**, from 8-11 am, the Cannon Falls Fire Department will be hosting a pancake breakfast as part of the Flavors of the Falls celebration.

There is no cost for the breakfast, however the CFFD will be taking donations benefitting Andy Stein who was injured in a motor vehicle crash this summer.

Lunches for Habitat Crew

We will be providing lunches for the dozen AmeriCorps Volunteers working locally on Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity sites. On **October 7-11**, we will prepare and deliver lunch for them while they are

here in Cannon Falls. Menu suggestions are forthcoming from Jodi Beach, Volunteer Coordinator for the local Habitat chapter.

Pastor Glen's list of volunteers for assisting with lunch used to be on his desk, but is now only in his head. On that list are: Bonnie Hvistendahl, Emily Peterson, Pat Green, and Sandy Meglic. If you are missing from that list, or want to be added, let him know!

Vang Lutheran Meal

Vang Lutheran Church in Dennison is having its annual Norwegian meal on Wednesday, **October 9th**. Meal will be Lutefisk with melted butter, Norwegian Meatballs with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Cranberries, Cole Slaw, Beverage, Fruit Soup, Lefse and Norwegian Baking. Adults - \$17.00, 10 & under - \$6.00, Preschool age free.

Mid-Day Serving at 11:00 am 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm by reservation. Call or email for availability vanglutefisk@gmail.com. 507-789-5186 Evening Serving 5-7 pm

Chili Cook Off



Start collecting your recipes for chili and cornbread - the First Congo Chili Feed is back! Scheduled for Sunday, **October 27th** after church, this event will raise money for Feed My Starving Children. More details to come on website and bulletins!

CCIC Monthly Supper

The Community Churches Interaction Council (CCIC) holds monthly suppers on the last Sunday of each month at FCC. October's supper will be hosted by St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church on **October 27th** at 5:00 pm.

Create

By Kaylie Lindsay

C R E A T E

The biggest waste of our energy is positioning ourselves in the midst of unhelpful anxieties. We are perpetually trapped in the fantasy that we need public approval to validate our personal desires. We withhold what is in our hearts for fear of losing our audience. We shrink what's in our souls out of angst for offending someone. We diminish what's on our mind as if to say it's not important enough. We mute what's on our lips so that we dare not contribute something useless.

Why is it that we remain silent when we have so much to say? Why do we spend so much of our time muting ourselves in order to appease those closest to us?

You must learn to be you. Unapologetically you. For what you contribute can only be made in your hands; a creation so unique it cannot be replicated.


Despite your audience, despite your followers, despite past failures or future promises. Despite loosened expectations and wavered experience, despite the fear of being misunderstood,

C R E A T E



Seventytimes Seven in Art

By Pobyngand Andaann



I was commissioned to paint a painting after our visit to Mother Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston in January 2017. Here are my thoughts on the painting:

The first thing that came to mind for me was the color red...the color of pain, but also of passion. Human passion and spirit, created by God's own Passion and Spirit. Then, Trees. They say so many things to us. So many metaphors...but the main one for me was connection. The branches intertwine and the roots intertwine. These nine are forever connected through this tragedy. But they are also connected through their roots, both in the Good News and to the people who came before them. Their roots lead down into the bottom half of the painting, which are the layers and layers of people who came before them.

The deacon, said, "That's what we do" when I thanked them for their witness of forgiveness in the face of this horrific carnage. This voice was not passive, but carried the weight of forgiving when it feels impossible to do so. In these 400 years of slavery and struggle, their quest for civil and human rights in the face of pervasive, deep hatred and prejudice, perseveres. I wanted to portray 400 years of suffering, pain, and yet the joy and connectedness that comes from God.

The bottom half for me also comes from our visit to the Slave Market Museum in Charleston, where I saw a display of bodies stacked inside slave ships...not only horizontally, but vertically on shelves with about 12" of space between shelves. So the bottom half is about the saints who came before them. Generation upon generation of their ancestors. It was important for me to show light coming down on the trees from above, but also the movement of God's Spirit, blowing in, around and over all, sustained by Living Water and the Waters of Baptism. Lastly, I put a green leaf on each tree which for me shows the hope and promise we share in Christ, in spite of the brokenness of humanity.

A Possibility Poem

By Mary Kay DuChene

For nothing is impossible with God.

All creation knows

A pine tree grows out of a barren cliff
A cacophony of green emerges after a
long white winter

A delicate flower bursts through
a sidewalk

A surprising cool breeze relieves
on a sweltering summer day

I can do all things through God who
strengthens me.

All creation knows

A scientist discovers insulin

A community offers shelter

A neighbor offers food

A Christian blesses a Muslim

All things are possible for the one who
believes.

The women knew The Virgin Mary can
mother God

A Syrophenician's faith can deliver
healing

The women at the tomb can bring
Good News

All creation knows

Faith, hope, love

You are a God of Possibility

From September Stewardship

*With God, there is not time - God is eternal,
without beginning and without ending. A
thousand years in God's sight is but a
moment past. We however, live in time, the
time given to us by God, the Creator of time.
Time is given to us to live in, for and through
God. Time is made holy (or unholy) by how
we use it, either to the glory of God, or to the
Glory of ourselves, as we are known to God.*



October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 am Bible Study	2 6:00 pm Praise Band 6:30 pm Confirmation	3	4	5
6 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 Adult Study	7 4:00 & 6:15 pm - Yoga	8 10:00 am Bible Study	9 6:00 pm Praise Band	10	11	12
13 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Council Meeting	14 10:30 am Grief Support 4:00 & 6:15 pm - Yoga	15 10:00 am Bible Study	16 6:00 pm Praise Band	17 10:00 am Women's Coffee	18	19
20 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Adult Study	21 4:00 & 6:15 pm - Yoga	22 10:00 am Bible Study	23 6:00 pm Praise Band	24	25	26
27 9:30 am Worship w/All For You 11:00 am Chili Feed 5:00 pm CCIC Dinner	28 10:30 am Grief Support 4:00 & 6:15 pm - Yoga	29 10:00 am Bible Study	30 6:00 pm Praise Band 6:30 pm Confirmation	31 		

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
507-263-2901

*Pastor email: pastor@citlink.net
 Kileen email: fccucc@citlink.net*