
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



Thanks. Giving. Giving. Thanks.

In November, the Trustees solicit pledges and estimates of giving for the coming year. Based on the response of members and friends, last year's expenses, and estimates of non-pledged giving based on history and the general economic outlook for the coming year, the Trustees have an excellent track record of setting a realistic budget of both income and expenses, which the congregation will vote on in January.

Of course, we give to provide the financial resources the congregation needs for the ministries in which we are engaged: staff, building, program, and missions. But what if we also thought of our giving and the budget as an expression of thanksgiving? Let me suggest what that might look like, including some ideas generated at our council meeting on Oct. 13:

Our giving is how we honor our past.

We maintain an historic building in the community, and a tradition of welcome and hospitality. We represent the only mainline tradition with ministry and office staff within Cannon Falls proper that is not a Lutheran congregation.

Our giving is how we respond to the needs of the present.

We provide space to community groups, including yoga classes, a grief support group, and a variety of Cannon Falls' high school groups as needed. Monthly CCIC community dinners are hosted in our Fellowship Hall. Community Thanksgiving service is held in our sanctuary. Weekly Bible study. Increased use of our sanctuary for musical performances. Supporting denominational and parachurch missions, including annual youth mission trip.

Our giving is how plan for the future (examples of possible ministries)

Partnering with existing agencies or providers to use available classroom space (after-school programs, daily or weekly child-care, etc.) Expanding community youth involvement in summer mission trip. Adult mission trip mid-winter. Education programming for adults, including parents, empty-nesters, older/retired adults in the community.

Our giving is how we care for each other.

As the congregation ages and the need to support members and friends grows, with whom can we partner in the community and county to raise the level of services available and accessible for caregivers, family members, etc.? We are a genuinely friendly church, with a willingness to look out for and look after each other; can we teach care-giving and self-care skills to members and friends?

Our giving is how we give thanks.

Giving is born of gratitude. Our gratitude to God. Our gratitude for each other, for having a place to be and people to belong to. Gratitude for love, for loving and being loved. Gratitude for kindnesses. Gratitude for being able to give. Gratitude for what has been, and for what can be.

Pr. Glen

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 November 3rd

Greeter: Emily Peterson

Reader: Emily Peterson

Sound Technician: Roman Mercier

Sunday November 10th

Greeter: Jerome and Merva Swanson

Reader: Julie Woodman

Sound Technician: Cindy Mae Nelson

Sunday November 17th

Greeter: Glenda Cooper

Reader: Samuel Coyle

Sound Technician: Steve Sullivan

Sunday November 24th

Greeter: Lila Engstrom

Reader: Lila Engstrom

Sound Technician: Roman Mercier

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.

November Serving Committee

The Serving Committee for November is Linda Hindal, Mavis and Bruce Johnson, Bruce and Laura Hemmah, and Mary Ann Maneval.

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.

Cannon Falls Library

The Cannon Falls Library is hosting "Civil conversations about issues that matter". The fall schedule is as follows: November 5, Affordable Healthcare, December 3, Political correctness vs freedom of speech.

On November 2nd, an antiques appraisal show from 1 -4:00 pm,

Also, every Thursday from Nov. 7 - Dec. 19, 1 - 3:30 pm, there will be workshops giving tools and strategies for caregivers to better handle the unique challenges that a caregiver may face.

Yoga at Congo

In addition to the Yoga Classes at 4:00 and 6:15 pm, Yoga Chair Classes have been added at 2:00 pm daily.

Chair Yoga includes a gentle movement practice, relaxation techniques and breathing practices to help improve sleep, increase energy, restore balance and improve your attitude and overall quality of life. The class is personalized to the needs of the participants. Yoga poses are done sitting in a chair and standing using a chair for balance.

Thanksgiving Potluck

Our annual Thanksgiving Potluck will be the Sunday before Thanksgiving after worship. Please join us for community fellowship and great food!

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.

Feed My Starving Children



On Saturday, November 23rd, hundreds of people who work and live in the Cannon Falls area will gather together at the Cannon Falls

High School and pack food for the starving people of the world. There will be two shifts at 8:00 am - 10:00 am and 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.

The event, called the “Feed My Starving Children Mobile Packing Event” is being organized by CCIC. This will be the eleventh year that we will bring individuals from across the community together to bring relief to the poor and hungry.

Sign-up sheets will be posted shortly.
First Congregational needs a minimum of 10 volunteers

Living by the Word

Excerpt by Shai Held in Christian Century

We want to be near to God (58:2), but we don't want to do or be what we'd need in order for that closeness to be real. We want to fast, go through the motions of ritual, perhaps impress ourselves or our neighbors with our piety—but it turns out God has no time for this kind of insincerity and hypocrisy: “No, this is the fast that I desire: to unlock the fetters of wickedness, and untie the cords of the yoke and to let the oppressed go free; to break off every yoke. It is to share your bread with the hungry, and to take the wretched poor into your home; when you see the naked to clothe him, and not to ignore your own kin” (Isaiah 58:6–7).

It's important to understand that the prophet is not opposed to ritual per se. He is opposed to religious fraudulence, to pious words uttered by impious, hardened hearts. (A hardened heart is an impious heart, no matter how hard we pretend otherwise.)

Self-awareness can be hard to come by. We may believe ourselves entirely sincere. Yet the prophet has his doubts, so he offers a kind of test: if our fasting comes coupled with a passion for justice and a heart full of kindness, then our religious lives have integrity. If, on the other hand, our fasting convinces us that God is in our pocket, then our religious lives are a scam, and God wants no part of them.

So much of human religiosity comes down to a hoax we try to perpetrate on God.

We'll give You worship, we say in effect, and You just mind Your own business. Your place is the church, the synagogue, or the mosque; butt out of our workplaces and our voting stations. You're the God of religion, not politics or economics.

And God laughs. *If you want to worship me, God says, you're going to have to learn to care about what I care about—and who.* And as the Bible never tires of telling us, God cares about the widow, the orphan, and the stranger; the poor, the oppressed, and the downtrodden. If those people don't matter to us, then God doesn't really matter to us either. That's Isaiah's message.

Let's look a little more closely at what the prophet tells us God does want from us. God wants us to fight injustice (“unlock the fetters of wickedness”) and to respond to others with kindness (“share your bread”).

Habitat for Humanity

excerpt from Executive Director: John Parkes

Here at Goodhue County Habitat we are looking back at a productive build season, still on going, and celebrating our successes. There is a lot to celebrate, and a large part of it is due to our partnership with NCCC AmeriCorps.

For the last two months we have had a group of twelve young people living and working in Goodhue County. They are mostly responsible for the completion of the exterior of the home in Cannon Falls. We will have the entire exterior done before the weather turns sour. It is truly amazing

to see the community that has developed in Cannon Falls this year with several churches keeping the young folks fed at least on a weekly basis. We are sending them off from here to travel to New Orleans to help Habitat there, and they will arrive being much more capable now that we have broken them in!

We wish them all well, and thank them profusely for all they have contributed to Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity. Godspeed in your journey AmeriCorps, and look out New Orleans.

Growing in God's Love

September 15, 2019

1 Timothy 1:15-17 (New International Version) Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

HolyOne,
We confess.

We confess that we miss the mark as often as we hit it. We confess that we gaze longingly down the road that branches the other way, not Your way. We confess that our thoughts and our actions separate us from You, from Your beautiful creation and from our own true selves.

We confess that we separate from You whenever we are captivated by consumerism, by violence, by political polarization, by all our addictions and resentments. Remind us always that we cannot serve You and those other gods.

We confess that we do all that we can to separate ourselves from the rest of your creation. We ignore the crisis of the changing climate on this beautiful planet which you have placed in our care. We foment division among peoples, making war with neighbors across the street and across the globe.

We confess that we are separate even from our own true selves, the beings of love and light that you created.

We confess that we hate to confess.

Unlike your follower Paul, who proudly proclaimed that he was "the worst" of sinners, we shudder at the word sin. Maybe it's because we believe that if we confess that we sin, we will somehow be confessing that all we are is sinful. Maybe we even believe that's true.

We confess, then, that we have forgotten that we were born of your love, in order to live in your love. We confess that we need reminding that You created us in Your image, holy and pure. Free us to see that confession is the path to freedom from shame, not the piling on of it.

Give us the courage to look at our broken places and name them, bringing them into the light. Unchain us by this act of confession from both our sin and the shame we feel about our sin, so that we can move forward into your transformation. In your Holy Name we pray, Amen.

Baptism

Baptized on Sunday, Oct. 20th, was Russell James Hemmah, born Aug. 27th. Russell's parents, Patrick and Samantha, also held his big sister Evelyn during the service so she could see everything. Laura and Bruce Hemmah are proud and happy grandparents.

(That's Pastor Glen, there in the middle. He didn't drop anything or anyone during the baptism!)



November 2019

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

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