

# 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*



## A Prayer for the New Year

Christ, Immanuel, God with us,

Teach us hope:

Hope for the good in life.

Hope which we take responsibility for.

Hope which we strive to bring into being.

Hope, not only for ourselves, but for all who need it.

Teach us peace:

Peace in our hearts, minds, and souls.

Peace between each other.

Peace which is worked for and striven to achieve.

Peace, not only for ourselves, but for all who need it.

Teach us joy:

Joy which floods the soul and awakens life.

Joy which is contagious and ongoing.

Joy which lifts us out of the mundane.

Joy which supports us in our struggles.

Joy, not only for ourselves, but for all who need it.

Teach us love:

Love which goes deeper than affection or emotion.

Love which is lived in action and example.

Love which works to give of our best.

Love which struggles to bring the common good to all.

Love which you came to show, to live, to be.

For in your love we know God,

And are led into hope, peace, and joy,

Not only for ourselves, but for all who need it.

So with the reason for the season behind us,

We prayerfully can carry the spirit of Christmas,

And what you might teach us, in every season.

Amen.

(adapted from Rev. Jon Humphries, a chaplain  
in the Uniting Church of Australia)

## **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.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com).

## **Volunteer Schedule**

### **Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup>**

Greeter: Jeff and Sue LaPan  
Reader: Sandra Meglic  
Sound Technician: Roman Mercier

### **Sunday January 12<sup>th</sup>**

Greeter: Chuck and Carol Emery  
Reader: Carol Emery  
Sound Technician: Jim Hvistendahl

### **Sunday January 19<sup>th</sup>**

Greeter: Steve and Jackie Sullivan  
Reader: Jackie Sullivan  
Sound Technician: Steve Sullivan

### **Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**

Greeter: Fred and Rhonda Foster  
Reader: Rhonda Foster  
Sound Technician: Byron Nowariak

## **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.

## **January Serving Committee**

The Serving Committee for January is Sue and Jeff LaPan, Jon and Julie Woodman.

## **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.

**We will not meet again until January 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Sunday Morning Study** meets every Sunday (except the last Sunday of each month) beginning 15 minutes after worship ends. **We will begin again on January 12<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting will be on **January 26<sup>th</sup>** after worship. All who are contributors, please have your contributions in by January 5<sup>th</sup>. Printed copies will be available on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **From the Mission Committee**

A big thank you for the gifts given for the two families we supported. It is so nice to know that we helped in making Christmas special for them. A thank you was received from one of the moms saying how much her daughters loved the clothes they received. The Christmas Fund donations will be finalized on December 29<sup>th</sup>.

In February we will support the Liddle family's mission work in East Timor with our donations.

## **Choir Schedule**

January - May 2020

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

Practice Dates & \*Performance Dates

January: 1/12 & \*1/19

February: 2/9 & \*2/16 &

\*Ash Wednesday 2/26 (6:00pm rehearsal)

March: 3/15 & \*3/22

April: 4/5 & \*Maundy Thursday 4/9 (6:00pm rehearsal) & \*Easter 4/12

May: 5/10 & \*5/17

Director: Dawn Husmann

Phone: 507-298-0267

email: [dmhusmann@gmail.com](mailto:dmhusmann@gmail.com)

## **Yoga at Congo**

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

## **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. January's supper will be hosted by Christ United Methodist Church on **January 26<sup>th</sup>** at 5:00 pm.



## ***Safety and Dignity***

### **'Church needs to stand up for safety and dignity'**

U.S. policies have created the magnitude of the situation, said national UCC staff member Amanda Sheldon. Refugee and asylum ministries are part of her work as program associate with Humanitarian and Development Ministries.

"There are two separate things going on," Sheldon said. "One is meeting humanitarian needs – food, housing, clothes, medical needs, transportation, friendship and accompaniment. Churches are raising this money themselves and other community and faith groups are doing the same and bringing their funds together.

"All of this is ad hoc, as asylum seekers are eligible for almost zero public assistance except for public schooling for their children. Depending on what state they are in they may be eligible for some other support, but that is rare.

"The other dynamic is the legal process. The administration has taken a number of steps through the Attorney General to make winning an asylum case more difficult. This means more lawyers – even pro bono attorneys – are turning away cases they don't think the individuals can win. Additionally, fewer people who have attorneys are winning their cases.

"This does not mean they do not need asylum; it means their case might not be taken or they may lose their case under the way the parameters for being awarded asylum are being currently understood and applied. Additionally, under the way asylum law has been interpreted, many of the individuals entering would lose their cases.

"The church needs to be prepared to stand up for the safety and dignity of these individuals even if or when they lose their case. And people still need all of that humanitarian support while their cases are pending."

Written by Hans Holznagel

## ***A Prayer***

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all. It looks like a park bench on a drafty winter afternoon, whose only occupant is curled up asleep under a pile of paper and blankets. It is You resting there, trying to find a few hours of rest before You are pushed or told to move on. *Your reign is a home, where all gather in warmth.*

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all. It looks like an uncomfortable plastic chair, pulled close to a hospital bed. The room is quiet except for the hushed sounds of breathing and the steady pulse of machinery. Your hand is the one holding the hand of the sleeping patient. *Your reign is a temple of healing where all find comfort.*

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all. It looks like a scratched and graffitied desk in an impoverished schoolhouse. The class is packed with too many students and too few resources. And yet there You are, crowded into the back row, raising Your hand to ask yet another question no one can answer. *Your reign is a classroom for justice, where all learn that the last will be first.*

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all. It looks like a worn and polished pew on a Sunday morning. It seems like there is plenty of room, but the unspoken rules that govern who-sits-there are as strict as any commandment. And there you are, plunking yourself down right in the middle, as if there are no rules at all. *Your reign is a sanctuary of hospitality where all experience extravagant welcome.*

We want to put you on a different kind of throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all, we want your throne to feel plush, to look shiny, to express might and strength.

Instead,

You! Ruler of the Earth and the Heavens rest on a park bench.

You! The King of Majesty recline in a hospital room.

You! Messiah squirm in our country's underserved classrooms.

You! The Savior sit right here, right now, right beside me.

Where else will I see you, if only look?

Amen

# January 2020

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

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 Kileen email: [cannonfallsucc@gmail.com](mailto:cannonfallsucc@gmail.com)*