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## 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

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### ***Worship on Sunday, August 30 - live and in person!***

We will be **worshipping in person**, on Sunday, August 30, at the home of Bill and Emily Peterson. It will be a Communion service. We **plan on the sun to shine**, and there is a small grove of trees that will provide all the shade we need to sit with the physical distance we need. **Even if it rains**, we will meet at Peterson's; their barn is free of hay, large enough for safe physical distancing, and well-ventilated, allowing for natural breezes. Rain or shine, there are benches and chairs, but feel free to bring your own chairs. Masks will be available.

**Directions to Bill and Emily's:** They live less than 1 mile west of the roundabouts over Highway 52 on County 24. On the north side of 24 (that's on your right, coming from 52; on your left, coming from the west), look for 2 black mailboxes together. Turn into that drive and take an immediate sharp left down a gravel drive. Park at the bottom of the drive near the barn. Their driveway will be marked; it is divided, stay to the left.

*If you get lost, call 612-325-3667.*

*Their address is 32487 County 24 Blvd.*

We are **grateful for their hospitality** and the work they put into preparing to welcome us. We plan to worship outdoors at their home **again on the last Sunday of both September and October.**

### ***Prayer for Returning to the Church Building (Maybe)***

*(Matt Laney, Emerge, The United Church Press)*

God, I miss that place, the praise, the people,  
candles, bread and cup, the doors, the steeple.

But honestly God, I'm uncertain about going back.  
Must we pass the peace? Will others wear a mask?

Will we sing ourselves sick? Always in long sleeves and pants?  
Can I be spiritual while thinking about disinfectants?

God, you said in every shadowy valley, there you would be  
so I'm trusting in your rod and staff to protect me.

May my (individual and sanitized) cup overflow;  
may goodness and mercy follow wherever I go.

Even into your house.

## ***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.

Pr. Glen will be taking vacation September 7 and 8. If any emergencies arise, contact Kris Engstrom at 507-263-2296.

## ***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.

## ***Daily Readings and Meditations***

If you are interested in adding daily readings and meditations to your schedule during this time a part from community worship as a way to feed your spirit and deepen your faith, here are two resources:

1. The United Church of Christ has a team of gifted writers who offer **Daily Devotional**, brief scripture-based meditations available online. They appear in your inbox at about 3 a.m. every day. You can subscribe by searching for daily devotional ucc”
2. [dailylectio.net](http://dailylectio.net) provides a prayer, a Psalm, and 2-3 other readings each day of the week. They are thematically connected to the lectionary texts assigned for each Sunday, from which Pastor Glen draws for preaching. The intent of the daily readings is to highlight the connection between Sunday worship and the rest of your daily life.

Using **dailyLectio.net** puts you in touch with the cycles of stories and celebrations that carry us through the church's year as well as enhance your personal faith development through scripture and prayer.

For those who do not access online resources, Pastor Glen will publish the references for the daily readings for the week ahead in the weekly mailing that Ki sends to you, that includes the text of any of his messages posted online.

## ***Prayer Partners***

*Each week, we pick staff and members or families at random for us to lift in prayer that week, for no reason other than praying for one another is a good thing to do.*

Our *Prayer Partners* this week are Jeff & Sue LaPan, Wayne & Diane Nelson, and Gloria Strain.

## ***Joys and Concerns***

*These are shared with members and friends only, and not with the public without permission.*

**Marianne Bremer's granddaughter**

**Samantha** had knee surgery on Aug. 18.

**Carol Anne, Cindy Mae Nelson's aunt**, is home recovering from recent surgery.

Now for some great news! **Dave Nelson** is going for a record - 10 weeks without a stay in the hospital! His multiple myeloma is in remission, and for now is looking at just regular monitoring. Also, **Jerome and Merva Swanson** celebrated their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary on August 24<sup>th</sup>!

*Please share your Joys and Concerns with Ki ([cannonfallsucc@gmail.com](mailto:cannonfallsucc@gmail.com), 263-2901) or Pr. Glen ([pastor.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com), 651-641-1832) by Monday of each week.*

## ***Selfies***

*It's not always easy to be separated from family and friends, to work from home, or to not be able to work. So what have you been up to? Share with us your stories or your photos.*

## ***From the Mission's Committee.***

The Mission committee would like you to know that our next mission offering will be Neighbors in Need. The official Sunday to receive this offering will be Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, but members can send their donations to this fund anytime from Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> through Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> to Jon Sagers.



The NIN theme this year is “All children have the right to simply be children.” This special mission supports ministries of justice throughout the United States. One-third of the funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need support UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work is service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year special consideration will be focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

**PLEASE READ THIS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the elected officers of the United Church of Christ determined that the highest priority for our churches was to offer relief where possible. Thus, they gathered monies from a variety of sources, which included NIN, and formed a Covid-19 relief fund. The prolonged impact of COVID-19 has increased economic challenges for many of our churches and conferences. This relief fund seeks to provide financial assistance to local churches adversely affected by the COVID-19 virus by repurposing and redirecting established grant funding for one year. Churches may choose to use these funds towards operational costs such as staffing or to use funds as they prioritize their own needs. One example would be to purchase a camera so they could do remote services. The maximum grant shall not exceed \$3,000. The final decision of the awarded count will be based on funding availability. Thought for the month: **“You must be the change you want to see in the world.”**



**Trustee’s Report and Finance Information - August 21, 2020**

- 1) Once again, our church is well protected from the rain and weather. Our church’s sanctuary roof was replaced in early August, at a total cost of \$27,450, by Ryan Endres, Atlast Roofing, Inc. We are truly thankful to 9 member households who have contributed a total of \$15,075 towards this roofing project; your generosity is amazing! However, this leaves a gap of \$12,375 to close, so Trustees ask that all members and friends prayerfully consider providing additional gifts to First Congregational – UCC to help close the gap. If you can provide a supplemental gift, please write your check to FCC - UCC, with “Roof” entered on the memo line, and address it to Jon Sagers, 4006 343<sup>rd</sup> Street, Stanton, MN 55018.
- 2) Regular giving towards the General Fund has been good, allowing us to stay just ahead of operating expenses. As of August 21, giving exceeds general expenses by \$95. Please continue to send your offering written to FCC - UCC, addressed to Jon Sagers, 4006 343<sup>rd</sup> Street, Stanton, MN 55018.

Description	Aug. 21, 2020
Regular Income (Giving)	\$ 57,259
Total Expenses	\$ 57,164
Surplus	\$ 95

**Outreach Team Equipment Needs**

The Outreach Ministry Team has been discussing equipment that we might need more long term to continue recording online services, and recording/livestreaming services in the church building.

Before putting a proposal together for the Trustees, the group wanted to reach out to church members to see if anyone had (or knew of anyone who had) good, used equipment that would serve our purposes.

Our initial need is for a video camera with a USB port and a mount to put on a stand.

We currently plug it into a mixer board and run microphones that we already own into the board. This would be used in our new “studio,” as well as for outdoor services or other church events. It would replace the personal equipment currently being used.

Long term, we’d like to be able to record, and ideally livestream, services and events (such as weddings, funerals and community services). We’d need an entire kit, which would be one wall mounted video camera that would attach to a laptop that is hooked into the sound board.

If you’d like more detailed specifications, or have any thoughts on suppliers or anyone that could help with a donation, or at least a good price, please email the team at [outreach.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com](mailto:outreach.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com).

### ***Live from Studio 2!***

The Outreach Team has repurposed Room 2 into a studio for recording our online services. Some furniture was moved out and moved around, lighting was added, and microphones from the church sanctuary were brought in and hooked up to a mixer board that plugs into the recording device.

We’ve brought down some of our banners as a backdrop. The result is improved audio quality and great lighting.

We are also decorating the shelving that is visible in the recording – if you have any appropriate decorative items that you are willing to loan, especially seasonal and holiday items, send an email to [outreach.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com](mailto:outreach.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com) to let us know.



### ***Face to Face***

*(from August 2 bulletin)*

“(Jesus) took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them and broke the loaves apart and gave them to his disciples. Then the disciples gave them to the crowds.”

*Matthew 14:19, Common English Bible Translation*

Jesus blessed the bread before he shared it and the result was abundance for himself, his disciples, and the strangers who flocked around them. How might we expand our vision if we gave thanks every time we ate? Try one of these simple meal blessings or another one of your choosing before your next meal.

#### **Prayer for breakfast:**

Thank you for this breakfast food.  
Strengthen me/us to do your good.  
All this day and all the next.  
Remind me/us that Your love is best.  
Hallelujah!

#### **Prayer over lunch:**

God, bless this food.  
Bless this pause in the busy business of the day.  
Strengthen me/us to work for your justice for those who don’t have enough to eat or who eat alone today. Amen.

#### **Prayer over dinner:**

Jesus, you met your friends around a table. Meet me/us here and help me/us to hear your promises:  
I am/We are forgiven and you are with me/us always. Amen

#### **Prayer over a snack:**

Creator God, you made everything, large and small.  
You made it all and called it good - every rock and person, plant and animal, and this little snack. Thank you. Amen.



# September, 2020

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						
		1 10:00 am Bible Study	2	3	4	5
6 On-line Message	7	8 Pr. Glen vacation	9	10	11	12
13 On-line Message	14	15 10:00 am Bible Study	16	17	18	19
20 On-line Message	21	22 10:00 am Bible Study	23	24	25	26
27 9:30 am Outdoor Service with communion	28	29	30			

**Our building is closed but the Church is always open when we are the Body of Christ in the World. Stay safe and healthy until we see you again**

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

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