

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



Fearing this might be considered too political or confrontational, I edited this out of a recent sermon. But as the rhetoric of the local and national campaigns heats up, I fear not speaking up is avoiding my responsibility as your pastor. This is not about who I think anyone should vote for, but about what I see as rendering unto Caesar what is Caesar's, and unto God what is God's.

Pastor Glen

The poor, the hungry and the homeless are not the problem;
refugees seeking safety and asylum are not the problem.

globally, there's enough resources to care for everyone.

The problem is those who are in control,

those whom we've entrusted with the power

to decide who gets the care and who shares the resources...

Those in power can't be satisfied

because they think more for others means less for them.

And this has nothing to do with political parties or economic systems,

the right religion, or your race, your gender, or your orientation.

It even has less to do with who's made choices

we think are the better ones or make more sense.

This is a problem, the same problem, God has been dealing with

since we first walked upright and someone found a cave to live in.

But that doesn't let us off the hook for trying to do a better job

of loving our neighbor as much as God loves us,

or forgiving each other like we hope to be forgiven.

The covenant still stands, the very first one God made with Abraham and Sara:

I am your God, and you are my people.

And you are blessed in order to be a blessing.

And it's echoed in the words of Jesus:

Love one another as I have loved you.

In other words, God's generosity toward you will spark such generosity

that you will want to be as generous toward others -

generous in love, in justice, in grace, yes,

but generous with all you possess as well,

so that everyone will be treated like family,

all the time, everywhere.

LOVE GOD
LOVE
Each Other

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.

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 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 **Margaret Jensen, Bill and Emily Peterson, and Jan Unger.**

Joys and Concerns

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

Following surgery for the fracture of a femur, **Lila Engstrom** is in the rehab unit at Regina Senior Living in Hastings for recovery and physical therapy. In-person visits are not possible at this time, due to COVID-19 restrictions, but cards are welcome, addressed to Lila Engstrom, c/o Regina Senior Living, 1175 Nininger Road, Hastings MN 55033.

Please share your Joys and Concerns with Ki (cannonfallsucc@gmail.com, 263-2901) or Pr. Glen (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.

Offerings for the NEIGHBORS IN NEED mission are due on Sunday, Oct. 4. You may send your checks to Jon Sagers or drop off at the church. Be sure to write NIN on the memo line. Thank you for your support.

There is no special mission in October. Continued contributions to the food shelf would be appreciated.

Thought for the month:

“Live each day with grace, love, and laughter.”



Fiddle Fest

Mary Pat Kleven received a Southeast Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC) grant to host the Upper Midwest Folk Fiddle Fest at the church last May, but COVID has sent the program online instead. However, we do have an opportunity for church members to enjoy some of the live music. Bill and Emily have graciously allowed us to use their barn to do some of the recording needed for the online program.

We'll be doing this on **Saturday, October 10th**. Here's the program:

Upper Midwest Folk Fiddlers - 1:45-2:45 pm
- Scandinavian tunes from Minnesota and Western Wisc.

Hoof on the Roof (Mary Pat's Band) 3- 4 pm
- "Pa's" fiddle music from "The Little House on the Prairie."

The bands will be recording their segments for the online concert to be posted November 7th, as well as some of the tunes for the online workshops. It will be an informal setting, so feel free to come and go. The event is free, we are asking that people bring a nonperishable food or cash donation to the Cannon Falls Food Shelf. We are also managing our audience size, so we are asking that people RSVP to mpkleven55@gmail.com or call/text Mary Pat at 402-490-6710 to save a spot. Masks will be mandatory.

Directions to the Barn (owned by Emily and Bill Peterson), 32487 County 24 Blvd, Cannon Falls. It is about 1 mile west of the roundabout on County 24/Highway 52 just south of town. Look for 2 black mailboxes (we'll have a sign as well), turn into the drive, and take an immediate sharp left down a gravel drive. Park at the bottom of the drive near the barn.

If you can't attend but are still interested, the full concert will be available on November 7th on YouTube. Mary Pat will send out more information once it is posted.

Request for Pictures

We are using pictures during the prelude in our weekly recorded services, and we'd love

to feature our church members. If you have scenic pictures from a trip, or even just around the area, or pictures of projects you've been working on during COVID-19, email them to outreach.cannonfalls@gmail.com

Outreach Ministry Team

The Outreach Ministry Team will be meeting on Zoom on Sunday, October 4th at 9:30 a.m. to discuss ideas for Christmas, equipment and software needs to record in the church, pursuing options for activities on Zoom, and tracking our statistics. Anyone who would like to join in may request a Zoom link by emailing Mary Pat at outreach.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com.

Pictures from Sunday September 27



Karen and
Cindy Mae
setting up

Emily sets out
communion



Emery and Cindy
Mae check the
sound



Karen provided music

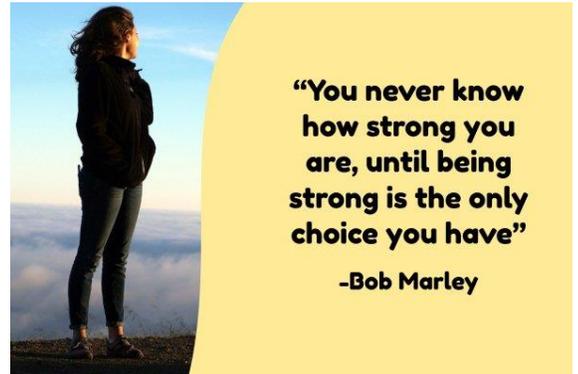
Members participate in Joys and Concerns



Worth the Read

Me: Hello God.
 God: Hello...
 Me: I'm falling apart. Can you put me back together?
 God: I'd rather not.
 Me: Why?
 God: Because you're not a puzzle.
 Me: What about all the pieces of my life that fall to the ground?
 God: Leave them there for a while. They fell for a reason. Let them be there for a while and then decide if you need to take any of those pieces back.
 Me: You don't understand! I'm breaking!
 God: No, you don't understand. You're transcending, evolving.
 What you feel are growing pains. You're getting rid of the things and people in your life that are holding you back. The pieces are not falling down. The pieces are being put in place. Relax. Take a deep breath and let those things you no longer need fall down. Stop clinging to pieces that are no longer for you. Let them fall. Let them go.
 Me: Once I start doing that, what will I have left?
 God: Only the best pieces of yourself.
 Me: I'm afraid to change.

God: I keep telling you: YOU'RE NOT CHANGING! YOU'RE BECOMING!
 Me: Becoming, Who?
 God: Becoming who I created you to be! A person of light, love, charity, hope, courage, joy, mercy, grace and compassion. I made you for so much more than those shallow pieces you decided to adorn yourself with and that you cling to with so much greed and fear. Let those things fall off you. I love you! Don't change! Become! Don't change! Become! Become who I want you to be, who I created. I'm going to keep telling you this until you remember.
 Me: There goes another piece.
 God: Yes. Let it be like this.
 Me: So... I'm not broken?
 God: No, but you're breaking the darkness, like dawn. It's a new day. Become!! Become who you really are!!"
 -John Roedel



"You never know how strong you are, until being strong is the only choice you have"
 -Bob Marley

And Finally

God: Gabriel, have you finished setting up future events for the 2020's?
Gabriel: Yes, god, I hav- wait, did you say 2020's plural? As in the decade?
God: Of course, what else?
Gabriel: I thought you meant 2020 the year.
 God: You put a decade worth of history in one year?
Gabriel: ...yes.
God: Well, s

censored

October, 2020

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
On-line Message 9:30 am Outreach Ministry Team Zoom Meeting		10:00 am Bible Study				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
On-line Message		10:00 am Bible Study				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
On-line Message		10:00 am Bible Study				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30 am Outdoor Service with communion		10:00 am Bible Study				

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
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507-263-2901**

*Pastor email: pastor.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com
Kileen email: cannonfallsucc@gmail.com*