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## The Good News - August, 2021

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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

cannonfallsucc@gmail.com www.cannonfallsucc.org

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

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*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."*

(Gospel of Matthew)

Really, already, are we inching toward the end of summer?! Unlike last summer, this one seems to be quickly passing. Throughout this summer, many of us are emerging from our homes and COVID restrictions – slowly and carefully. At church, we now worship in person, sing together as a congregation and meet once a week for in person for Bible Study. The Women's Coffee group is also starting back here at church. We are almost back to normal but then, what is normal during a pandemic?

Blessed with the opportunity to discern what and who are important in our lives, how will we continue to emerge here at First Congregational? One answer is with some celebrations! Let's celebrate our renewed opportunities and connections. Our first celebration is a good old church picnic on Sunday, August 29 at Bill and Emily Peterson's farm. We will worship in their barn at 9:30am with our Praise Band providing music. After worship, we will gather for a potluck picnic with the Petersons as our hosts. More details to come about the potluck.

Our second celebration, *Homecoming Sunday* on Sunday, September 12, will be a celebration to formally welcome us "home" and a way to continue (or start) our reconnections with our church family. The day begins with worship at 9:30am and will be followed by our official first celebratory Fellowship time. Our Committees and Teams will highlight their work during the Fellowship Time, too. You may remember that at the 2020 Annual Meeting that a new committee structure was approved. The committees and teams will offer a summary of "who does what and how and when" as they describe the new structure.

Outside our church walls, this fall will be a time as a church community to plan our re-emergence into the life of Cannon Falls. Knowing what you know about our community, what gifts and talents can you share? In an adaption of a quote from Frederick Buechner (educator, writer and theologian) "Your [calling] in life is where your greatest joy meets the world's greatest need." Where is God calling you and calling us as a congregation?

However you plan to re-emerge, know that the doors at First Congregational Church are once again open. Stop by either by appointment or because you are in the neighborhood! If you need a ride to a Sunday service, please call the church office and we will be happy to help coordinate one for you. If you are unable to join us in person, please know that you are in our hearts and prayers. A member of our church and the pastor are always available to bring church to you!

God bless you in whatever way you re-emerge into this crazy world!

Pastor Grace

## ***Pastoral Care Needs***

Contact Pastor Grace in the event of a pastoral emergency. Her email is [pastor.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com), cell phone is 651-367-9328.

## ***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.

## ***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.*

This week we pray for Jeff and Sue LaPan, Steve and Jackie Sullivan, Tom Morgan, and Douglas Stegeman.

## ***Adult Education:***

In August, planning begins for our Sunday Adult Education time. Please contact Pastor Grace with any suggestions for content or willingness to lead a session or few! Our first Adult Education session will begin on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> after Worship. More details to follow!

## ***Women's Coffee***



Join us for Women's Coffee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Until the Bakery reopens, we will meet at the.

## ***Worship Update***

The first Sunday of each month, we celebrate Communion as we remember the gifts of God in Jesus.

Please know that we continue to consider the health of our members we ask that the congregation come forward then receive the Communion elements and then return to your pew. Upon instruction *from the Pastor*, we will partake the bread and juice together.

Additionally, our worship bulletins are now created in-house. If you have enjoyed the UCC bulletin reflections, we have them available each week through the end of the year. Please ask Ki, in the church office, if you would like one included in your worship service mailing each week.

## ***Bible Study***

Join Us for Bible Study, Tuesdays 10:00 am!

Bible Study Texts:

August 3<sup>rd</sup>: John 6:35, 41-51

August 10<sup>th</sup>: John 6:51-58

August 17<sup>th</sup>: John 6:56-69

August 24<sup>th</sup>: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

## ***From the Mission Committee***

Food items to the food shelf continue to be welcomed as are Family Fare receipts.

Our next designated mission is Neighbors in Need. Information will be shared about this mission during the month of September. The offering will take place on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you,  
Missions Committee

Thought for the month, "**The meaning of life is to give life meaning.**"

## ***Stuff the Bus***

*From the Cannon Chamber*

It's that time of year to *Stuff the Bus* for United Way's 2021 School Supply Drive. When students have their own school supplies, they also become more excited about school and learning. YOU can help ensure ALL kids have the best possible start to their school year! Drop-off locations include Community Resource Bank and Merchants Bank. You can also shop the online registry at [www.amazon.com/registries/custom/380U8YB1MH2FY/guest-view](http://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/380U8YB1MH2FY/guest-view).



For more information, please visit [www.uw-gwp.org](http://www.uw-gwp.org). Together, we can give our local students the tools they need to learn and grow!

## **Outreach Ministry Team**



Tuesday August 3<sup>rd</sup> is **National Night Out**. Outreach is planning a community get-together from 5:30 - 7:00 pm on the church lawn. Refreshments will be served and lawn games available. Help would be greatly appreciated - contact Cindy Mae or the office.

**Praise Band** is back in action!! We will be singing on the last Sunday of each month.

We are looking for people who are willing to learn how to record the services (or even just to turn on the camera). Contact Cindy Mae or the office for more information.

### **Our Social media outlets are:**

**Website:** [www.cannonfallsucc.org](http://www.cannonfallsucc.org)

**YouTube:** YouTube /cannon falls ucc

**Facebook:** First Congregational Church of Cannon Falls

## **Treasurers Note**

We are now in person on Sundays. You can donate in person on Sunday or send your donations written to First Congregational Church- UCC, by mail to: Jon Sagers, 4006 343<sup>rd</sup> St., Stanton, MN 55018.

Thank you!

Jon Sagers, Treasurer

## **Habitat for Humanity**

We will be starting a new Habitat for Humanity home in Cannon Falls this month. I am looking to connect with groups within Cannon Falls who might be interested in helping with Volunteering some time on the project starting in August

We need folks who would be willing to be a regular volunteer (typically we get retirees who step up in that capacity), and also larger groups who may come for a day or two over the course of the project.

Carrie Wittenberg Volunteer and Family  
[carriewittenberg@gchabitat.org](mailto:carriewittenberg@gchabitat.org)

Direct: (651) 280-9930

Office: (651) 327-2195

Web: [www.gchabitat.org](http://www.gchabitat.org)



## **From Stewardship Magazine**

Our offering may not be very impressive in the world's scale of values. Not many of us have large means or the resources with which to make an impressive offering. But this is of little consequence to God; God is quite able to strike a balance sheet and understand us against the background of what we are and what we had to begin with.

The important thing is the whole-heartedness with which we make our offering to him. This is the final secret so touchingly illustrated in Christ's gentle and loving observation of the widow and her mite. It may be healthy common sense to remind ourselves that most of us have considerably more than a mite! But the principle involved is unchallenged and the principle should be embedded in our practice.



## **Living Eucharistically**

“The simple gifts we take into our bodies at Christ's table are sustenance for living eucharistically in the world: for practicing the kind of hospitality Jesus practiced when he fed hungry followers and ate with all the wrong people. Our own bodies are meant to nourish other bodies - not to judge them or try to fix them but to love them, and to see that their flourishing (and our own) depends on exposing and redressing systemic inequalities of all kinds. The Eucharist is always justice in the midst of injustice, reconciliation in the midst of estrangement, communal conviviality in the midst of private pain and loneliness.”

*Debra Dean Murphy*

*Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
West Virginia Wesleyan College*



# August, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
<b>1</b> 9:30 am Worship w/Communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 5:30 - 7:00 pm Nat'l Night Out	<b>4</b> 5:45 pm Praise Band	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30 am Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Committees 7:00 pm Council meeting	<b>11</b> 5:45 pm Praise Band	<b>12</b> 10:00 am Worship at Cannon Rivers	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30 am Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 am Bible Study	<b>18</b> 5:45 pm Praise Band	<b>19</b> 9:30 am Women's Coffee	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:30 am Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00 am Bible Study	<b>25</b> 5:45 pm Praise Band <i>Newsletter submission deadline</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30 am Worship at Peterson's w/Praise Band and potluck picnic	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 am Bible Study	<b>Coming in September:</b> 12th: Homecoming Sunday 19th Adult Education restarting			

**First Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**Celebrating 165 years!**  
**507-263-2901**

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*Kileen email: cannonfallsucc@gmail.com*