
The Good News - October, 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



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



In the Old Testament, we read in the book of Genesis, “God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.” Many of these wild animals now live comfortably in our homes as

house pets. Others remain wild all over the Earth. On Sunday, Oct. 3rd at 3:00p.m., on our church lawn, we will hold an outdoor service called “Blessing of the Animals” in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. I will officiate and we welcome all God’s critters in what is often a moving experience.

This celebration is offered on or around October 4th each year in honor of the Feast of St. Francis, who is the patron saint of animals and the environment. He lived in the 13th century in Italy and he is well known for his special relationship with the animals all around him.



Several years ago, I was shown a video of the Blessing of the Animals service at St. John the Divine in New York City. At this Episcopal cathedral, large enough to hold up to 3500 humans, animals processed down the center aisle of this large sanctuary. And the animals were not your typical house pets like dogs or cats or canaries. The animals in this procession included elephants and camels among the many that participated. The procession was moving as I watched these animals, God’s creation, recognized and blessed in just the same way as my pet cat or pet dog would be.

Join us for this special service even if you are pet-free! Help us bless those animals who hold a special place in our hearts and our homes.

In this ecumenical observance of the Feast, the United Methodist Church, in their Book of Worship includes this blessing (adapted): *“The animals of God’s creation inhabit the skies, the earth and the sea. They share in the fortunes of human existence and have a part in human life. God, who confers gifts on all living things, has given us the gift of animals to love and protect. We, therefore, invoke God’s blessing on these animals. As we do so, let us praise the Creator and thank God for setting us as stewards over all the creatures of the earth. Amen.”*

Pastor Grace

Pastoral Care Needs

Contact Pastor Grace in the event of a pastoral emergency. Cell: 651-367-9328. Email: pastor.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com,

COVID Policy Updates

Face masks - Everyone entering the church building is asked to wear a face mask - both vaccinated and unvaccinated. Face masks are available at the front entrance. People who have difficulty wearing a facemask should consider viewing the service from home.

Social Distancing - We are to social distancing both in the sanctuary and for in person meetings in the church.

Sign in - We continue to sign in when entering the building.

Fan and air conditioning - The air conditioning and fans will be turned off during our worship services.

Singing - We have returned to recorded music for our Worship services for October.

Fellowship - We encourage everyone to visit outside after our Worship services on Sundays.

The First Congregational Church Reunion Team continues to monitor the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health for changes in risks for COVID 19. When our current "High Risk" for community transmission changes, we will make adjustments to our protocols. Thank you to everyone for being understanding in a time that feels frustrating!

Prayer Chain

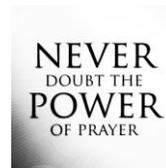
Morning - Bonnie Hvistendahl 263-4120

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 month we pray for:

Week One: Kileen Swedenborg, Roman and Jean Mercier, and Becky Jokela.

Week Two: Viola Fritz, Jon, Julie, Noah and Maddy Woodman, and RJ Boersma.

Week Three: Lila Engstrom, Trevor Sullivan, Wayne and Diane Nelson.

Week Four: Kathy Gerbracht, Bill and Emily Peterson, Karen Kronberg, and Dawn Husmann.

Bible Study

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

Bible Study Texts:

10/5/21 Mark 10:17-31

10/12/21 Mark 10:35-45

10/19/21 Mark 10:46-52

10/26/21 Ruth 1:1-18

Adult Education

Our Zoom Adult Education starts on **Wednesday, Oct. 6th @ 6:30 pm.** We are discussing the book "Gift of Years" by Joan Chittister.

Please join us as often as you like for what promises to be some lively discussions. Each week, an email will be sent out with the next reading and an invitation to join via Zoom. Participants can join with video and audio or just via phone. Snowbirds are welcome!

Our book discussion will run from Oct. 6th until Nov. 17th. Books can be purchased on Amazon.com or through BenetVision @ joanchittister.org.

From the Mission Committee

On **October 3rd** we will be collecting the offering for **Neighbors in Need**. We hope you will consider donating to this mission. Please make checks out to First Congregational Church and on the memo line write NIN. Thank you!



Ways to help the Afghan Refugees

Here are two more opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ.

As you know there are Afghan evacuees living at Fort McCoy in Tomah, Wisconsin, while they wait to be relocated. Riverwood Church is holding a collection for the following items that are needed:

- * Loaves of bread
- * 8 large electric tea kettles
- * Tea (black, green, chai)
- * Big bags of sugar
- * New or VERY gently used children's toys
- * New or VERY gently used shoes any size (not women's high heels)
- * New or VERY gently used fall or warmish clothes

Riverwood has already taken one large load of supplies to Fort McCoy and plan to take another load around the 4th of October. If interested in donating items call their church office at 263-2304 to be sure someone is there to accept the items.

Another way you can help out the Afghan evacuees is by donating money to CHURCH WORLD SERVICE. This a charity that has a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. They have dispatched staff to the various military bases in Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin to assist in the process of resettling Afghan evacuees. They have also issued an emergency appeal to help raise funds for food, transportation, and housing.

ANNOUNCING! *A new Ongoing Ministry*



The Mission committee would like our church to become involved in the Matthew 25 Ministry (Pill box ministry). In this ministry we bring to church our empty pill bottles to church and place them in the container provided. Sandra Meglic's niece, Stacy, will remove the labels and take them to her church to be sent to third world countries where there is a great need for clean containers to send medicine home with patients.

Stacy is a disabled adult who has been doing this as her mission for a couple of years. She is always looking for more used containers. As there is a cost to send these bottles overseas if you are willing to put in a dollar or two with your bag of containers that would help defray the cost. Matthew 25 ministry also has a four star rating with Charity Navigator. We hope you will consider being a part of this ministry.

Sincerely,
The Mission Committee

Thought for the month: "Life is about what you put back into the world, not what you take out of it."

Calling all Members!



Yes, literally. I am going to be calling as many of you as I can just to check-in, say "Hi!" and make sure we have an accurate representation of our membership data.

So if you see a strange number (612-325-3667) pop up on your phone, not to worry, I won't ask for money or try to sell you (fill in the blank), just a short conversation.

I look forward to connecting with you.

Bill Peterson, Moderator

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 343rd St., Stanton, MN 55018.

Thank you!

Jon Sagers, Treasurer

Wellness Ministry

One constant in life is change and another is our ongoing need to be connected. In light of these changes and needs, Pastor Grace is working with various church members to create a *Wellness Ministry*.

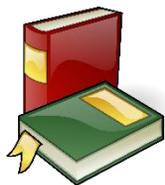
So many of our members already offer care to those in need. The goal is simple – to continue to reach out to each other in times of change like to one’s health or in times of need for connectivity.

What will this ministry look like, you ask? Well, our initial work is to train a few church members to be lay pastoral caregivers through a program called “Called to Care.” Our lay pastoral caregivers will assist Pastor Grace with visits, phone calls, notes and through other means to care for one another.

Future ideas for this ministry include welcoming back community grief support groups and yoga classes. We may explore offering a caregiver support group or a retiree support group or address other needs of support in our community.

Book Club

Do you love to read? Do you seek out suggestions for books to hold or listen to? Each month, a few book titles will be recommended. The recommendations can be from members, friends or staff of the church. Send your recommendations to either Ki, in the church office or to Pastor Grace.



This month’s recommendations come from our own church library. Feel free to sign them out next time you are at church.

- “Peace Like a River” by Leif Enger.
- “A Long Way from Home” by Tom Brokaw (Growing up in the American Heartland).
- “Traveling Light” by Max Lucado.

Maybe a book could be read and discussed in a small group book club of church members (in person or via Zoom).

Women’s Coffee



Join us for Women’s Coffee on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the church. Our next meeting is October 21st at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers Needed

Meals on Wheels Cannon Falls is looking for volunteers! Meals on Wheels Volunteers deliver much more than a hot nutritious meal. For our elderly population, our visits mean contact with the outside world and the chance to remain at home. For more information, contact Lora Bremer at Cannon Valley Senior Center by calling 507-263-2136 or lora@cannonvalleyseniorcenter.org

From the Chamber

Save the date! The Chamber is gearing up for Deck the Falls activities on **Saturday, November 27th**. The parade will start at 5 pm, with the Lighting the Tree Ceremony taking place right afterwards by the Gazebo in the city parking lot. Once the prizes have been given out and the tree lit, there will be fireworks going off from John Burch Park over the Little Cannon River. Contact Kyle at 507-263-2289 or tourism@cannonfalls.org for more information.



October, 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 World Communion Sunday 9:30 am Worship w/Communion 3:00 pm Blessing of the Animals	4	5 Funeral Service for Virginia (Ginny) Johnson	6 6:30 - 7:30 pm Adult Study via Zoom	7	8	9
10 9:30 am Worship	11	12 10:00 am Bible Study	13 6:30 - 7:30 pm Adult Study via Zoom	14	15	16
17 9:30 am Worship	18 <i>Newsletter submission deadline</i>	19 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Zoom Committees Mtg. 7:00 pm Zoom Council meeting	20 6:30 - 7:30 pm Adult Study via Zoom	21 9:30 am Women's Coffee in Fellowship Hall	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Pastor Grace on Vacation through October 30th.						
9:30 am Worship Pastor: Rev. Jeanne Bringgold-Pro		10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Zoom Worship Meeting				
31 9:30 am All Saints Service				Coming in November Deck the Falls, November 27 th . Ecumenical thanksgiving service November 28 th .		

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United Church of Christ
 507-263-2901

Pastor Grace's email: pastor.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com
Church Secretary Kileen's email: cannonfallsucc@gmail.com

**First Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ**

220 Main Street West
Cannon Falls, MN 55009
Phone: 507-263-2901

Website: www.cannonfallsucc.org

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Holy Communion: 1st Sunday of the Month

Moderator: Bill Peterson

Minister: Rev. Grace Anderson
Email: pastor.cannonfallsucc@gmail.com

Church Organist/Choir Director: Dawn Husmann

Praise Band: Karen Nowariak

Church Secretary: Kileen Swedenborg
Email: cannonfallsucc@gmail.com

Custodian: Dick Welch

Social Media:

Website: www.cannonfallsucc.org

YouTube: [YouTube/cannon falls ucc](https://www.youtube.com/cannonfallsucc)

Facebook: [First Congregational Church of Cannon Falls](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofCannonFalls)

Printed Media:

If you would like us to mail you "The Good News" newsletter, please contact the office at 507-263-2901.