Friendship News, April 2022

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Brainerd

An Open and Affirming Congregation

The Church Office Winter Hours: Wednesdays – Fridays from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Pastor Leslie’s Drop-in Hours: Wed. 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Friday 11:00am – 1:00pm

Office phone 218-829-2528 Office E-mail [uccbrainerd@gmail.com](mailto:uccbrainerd@gmail.com) Pastor’s E-mail: [pastorleslieucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorleslieucc@gmail.com) Website: [www.uccbrainerdmn.org](http://www.uccbrainerdmn.org)

**Schedule a 1 to 1 (in-person or by Zoom or Phone) with Pastor Leslie:**

[www.calendly.com/pastorleslieucc/1to1](http://www.calendly.com/pastorleslieucc/1to1)

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.*

**Resurrection and Hope**

“He is risen!” “He is risen indeed!” These words ring out in many churches around the world on Easter Sunday, rejoicing in the resurrection of Jesus. The concept of the resurrection can be a difficult one to get our heads around. Dead people coming back to life after two days (rising on the third day) is not something any of us have witnessed or heard of in modern times. It defies our post-enlightenment logic. I think I say this every Easter: “I wasn’t there, I don’t know if it happened or not, but I know that it’s true,” meaning, if the disciples had access to video cameras, I don’t know if the resurrection is something they could have captured on video, but I know that the message of the resurrection is true. It’s the message what we perceive to be dead may yet being new life, that the story isn’t always over when we think it is, that sometimes, God inspires and creates things that we couldn’t have imagined before it happened.

The idea of resurrection has taken on new depth for me this year as we seem to be emerging from the tomb of the Covid pandemic and into a new normal. I doubt that I am alone in wondering what it will mean to live life after Covid. So much has changed. Millions of people have died including people we love and care about. Millions more are living with long-term effects of acquiring the virus. Businesses have closed, church attendance has suffered, and mental health issues are at an all-time high.

I have said before that I don’t believe God causes suffering, but I do believe God can help us use suffering to bring about something good. In a sense, that is the very definition of resurrection. Sometimes resurrection comes when deeper connections are formed between people because the preciousness of life is made abundantly clear. For many of us, including the church, I think our resurrection story is in process. The stone in front of our tomb is about to be rolled away and we are unsure of what life outside the tomb will be. Just like Jesus after his resurrection, life after the tomb will be different. But with God’s help, it holds the possibility of new life, new hope, new joy, and abiding love. Alleluia!

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**First Congregational UCC News & Updates**

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**>> Pastor Leslie will be out of the office for NGLI Continuing Ed from 4/28 - 5/3/22 <<**

**How to watch Sunday worship**  
The worship service is **broadcasted on the church Facebook page every Sunday at 10:00 am.**  
To watch worship on Facebook, go to <https://www.facebook.com/uccbrainerd/live>  
We are working with a new system for streaming are still working out the kinks for streaming to YouTube.

**Worship Bulletins are available for download each week at** <http://tinyurl.com/UCCBrainerdBulletins>**.**The bulletins will be ready for download first thing Sunday morning. They are available in both Word and PDF formats and are labeled by date. You can download the document and print it at home or follow along on your screen.

**Financial Help Available**  
Your Church Council voted last year to allow the **Pastor's Discretionary Fund** to be used to assist church members and others in the Brainerd area who are experiencing financial distress during this time. We received many generous donations! If you need assistance, please email, call, or text Pastor Leslie. Let her know what your situation is and how the church might be of help.

**You can now donate to the church online!**We are now accepting your offerings and donations using **PayPal.** You do not need to have a PayPal account to make an online donation with a credit card. To use PayPal, go to: <https://www.paypal.me/uccbrainerd>

**April Birthdays**

Izzy Armstrong April 1

Alice Widmark April 9

Hans Stadem April 13

Bonnie Crum April 14

Dan Hegstad April 14

Joey Halverson April 15

Emma Ferrie April 23

Colleen Carder April 24

JoAnne Nelson April 24

Donald Utzman April 24

Mitch Crum April 26

Cheri Maxwell April 28

**Church Office Hours – Winter Hours - March Update!**

**Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

Please call Terri at the office for further assistance at 218-829-2528

**Pastor Leslie’s drop-in hours\* Update New Hours!**

**Wednesdays 2:00pm – 4:00pm Fridays 11:00am – 1:00pm**

*\*These are hours that, barring an emergency, Pastor Leslie will be in the office and available for drop-in conversations or meetings. Appointments are preferred to best manage her schedule, but don’t hesitate to drop in during the above times. Pastor Leslie will be in the office at other times but may not always be available due to other obligations.*

***To make an appointment, go to*** [**calendly.com/pastorleslieucc/1to1**](https://calendly.com/pastorleslieucc/1to1)

***or call or email Pastor Leslie directly.***

**Get Involved in Church Leadership!**

***Get Involved, Give Back, Grow Connections – Volunteer at Church!***

There are many opportunities for you to share your talents:

--**Treasurer,** serves a 1-year term (may renew for 6 terms). The primary role is oversight of bookkeeping, church finances and Executive Committee discussions. For a full description of this role, contact Joe Stattine.

This candidate should have a strong background or interest in finance or banking.

--**Assistant Moderator,** serves a 1-year term (may renew for 3 terms. The primary role is to serve as Moderator in case of absence or incapacity of the Moderator, participate in the service for reception of new members as the representative of the Church, serve as liaison between the Council and the various small group ministries functioning within the Church.

**Committees needing fresh faces**

-Christian Education -Trustees -Memorial -Christian Ministry

-Music -Arts -The Foundation Board

Call or text Joe Stattine - Moderator, with your nominations: 218-838-1311

*“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” ~Elizabeth Andrew*

**Highlights from the Council Meeting, March 17th, 2022 - 7:00 pm (via Zoom)**

~ These are highlights. If you would like a copy of the full minutes, please contact the church office ~

**Present:** Joe Stattine, Colleen LeBlanc, Barb Stokke, Deb Griffith, Judy Whiteman, Lowell Johnson, Alvin Velva, and Pastor Leslie.

**Report Highlights:**

**Clerk:** Rev. Leslie Moughty officiated at the baptisms of **Waylon Hank Lanners**, son of Spencer and Morgan Lanners, and **Quintin Ellis Lanners**, son of Clayton and Samantha Lanners at First Congregational on February 26, 2022. Samantha Lanners is the daughter of members Pat and Maria Bertram.

**Pastor:** \*Six prospective new members have been invited to be affirmed as voting members of First Congregational on Easter Sunday, April 17. \*Pastor Leslie will be attending a Next Generation Leadership Initiative event as part of her continuing education April 28-May 4.

**Financial:** There are no financial concerns at this time, but we still need a treasurer.

**Trustees:**  \*Following their walk-through, Trustees reported that the upper level of the church looks really good. \*Trustees recommend that the counting room be cleaned and that guidelines for the consolidation and storage of church records be developed. \*It was also noted that heating costs have increased.

**Stewardship:**  \*A time to celebrate those who volunteer in our church and in the community is being planned for April 24 following the service. \*Although Stewardship has lost members, they and Trustees feel they can handle the necessary counting on Sunday mornings.

**Christian Ministry:** No report

**Christian Education and WISE: \***Upcoming adult forums: March 20 – 100 Conversations, and April 3 –UnderstandingAlzheimer’s Disease and Dementia. **\***First Congregational is invited to join a celebration with Brainerd Northside Neighborhood Association on August 2. \***WISE** will be writing a history of First Congregational becoming a WISE congregation for the 150th Anniversary celebration. WISE is also working on an adult forum on families in recovery and Up-Front Alano, and has applied for a grant to bring people in our church together with people in recovery.

**Old Business:**

1. The Foundation has approved a $2,000-$2,500 request to purchase the T-Coil Hearing Assistance.
2. The church will continue to be cleaned by church volunteers. Trustees recommend that orientation and organizational meetings for the volunteers be scheduled.
3. Council heard enthusiastic updates on activities for the 150th Anniversary celebration, including an all-church reunion, a concert, t-shirts, historical tours, a silent auction, and food and more music, of course, and a culminating service Sunday, August 14! Deb Griffith will check on which rooms may be used if secure storage of celebration items is needed.
4. The Exec committee continues to seek candidates to fill the assistant moderator and treasurer positions on the leadership roster. The clerk position has been filled.

**New Business:**

1. **The Annual Election Meeting will take place after the service on Sunday, May 22, 2022. All annual reports should be submitted to Terri by April 22, 2022.**
2. Council approved submitting an application for a $500 UCC Pastoral Care Grant offered by the Conference.
3. A team is forming to work with the congregation and Pastor Leslie to complete a lengthy Eli Lilly Foundation Grant application that could provide monies of up to $50,000 for a pastoral sabbatical and the congregation in 2024. Pastor Leslie’s contract with First Congregational includes a sabbatical in the first five years. At this time, her sabbatical is two years overdue. Deb Griffith offered to help with the Lilly Grant application.
4. Christian Ed and Stewardship have completed the initial reviews of their department’s guidelines in the church’s bylaws. Next to complete the bylaw reviews are the Trustees and Christian Ministry, and the Memorial committee.

**Next Council Meeting: Thursday, April 21st, 2021, 3:00 pm in-person & via Zoom**

**Welcoming New Members to First Congregational UCC – April 17th**

Prospective new members will join First Congregational on Easter Sunday, April 17. Please join us in celebration during our Worship Service to welcome our new members.

**Volunteer Recognition Luncheon – April 24th 11:30 am**

The Stewardship Committee will be serving a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall to recognize all volunteers for their unwavering commitment to our church.

**Carla Benjamin Art Exhibit in Fellowship Hall**

Carla Benjamin is exhibiting regionally inspired photo encaustic works April 2022 through June 2022 at the Brainerd UCC, 5th & Juniper Street, Brainerd, MN. Original photos combined with paint containing beeswax, resin and pigment fill the exhibit space with enchanting and intimate views from our region. Many artworks will be available for purchase with a portion of the sales benefitting the Brainerd UCC. A life-long artist, Benjamin has studied photo encaustic technique with MN artist Jodi Reeb and continues a biweekly mentoring engagement with Reeb. Carla Benjamin is a fiscal year 2021 recipient of a Creative Support for Individuals grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. The artist can be reached through her website: carlabenjamin.com and at carlabenjaminartist@gmail.com

**A picture containing person, person, glasses, wearing

Description automatically generatedRev. Dr. David Crum Memorial Service Details**

The memorial for David Crum will be held at 3pm on Saturday May 14th, 2022. The officiants will be Leslie Moughty and Linda Crowe. The service will be at First Congregational Church in Brainerd.  
  
After the service, everyone is invited to gather for a Celebration of Life at the Northland Arboretum from 4:30 to 7:30. Food and beverages will be served. Dave often expressed his desire for a party with laughter and love after his passing. Please wear cheerful colors and bring stories to share. We will be in the lower level. If stairs are a limiting factor, you can arrange to be dropped off at the lower level handicapped access.  
The Arboretum is located at 14250 Conservation Drive in Baxter.  
  
Hotel options close to the Arboretum:  
Americlnn 218-833-2062, Arrowwood Lodge 218-822-5634, Country Inn & Suites 218-297-4816  
  
Other options for Resort style lodging:  
Grand View Lodge [www.grandviewlodge.com](https://uccbrainerd.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7358d6fe5c26410d29dfb93f0&id=a225650fc2&e=5e2c6f93e6)  
Ruttgers Lodge  [www.ruttgers.com/lodging](https://uccbrainerd.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7358d6fe5c26410d29dfb93f0&id=fa440f43d9&e=5e2c6f93e6) (Closest to Steve & Eileen's)  
  
Questions: Contact Steve Crum at 218-851-2291 or Bonnie Crum at 218-330-3167

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Church Annual Meeting - Sunday May 22nd**

**After Sunday Worship**

All voting members are encouraged to attend as we elect new committee members and review the last 12 months. Reports will be emailed the second week of May.. Please contact the church office you need a printed copy mailed to you.

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**First Congregational UCC**

**June 15th through August 15th Celebration**

**150th Anniversary Celebration**

**Event Dates Set**

Twenty people attended our most recent all-church Zoom meeting and learned about the exciting events we are planning. If you could not make it, here is the capsule view of what will be happening. You will want to be involved!

First, **a special logo** is being designed just for this 150th anniversary. We will use this logo extensively on all our promotional materials, as well as on the front of a special-edition **T-shirt** that we hope everyone will purchase and wear in public.

Second, **a silent auction**, with three categories of donations, will be ongoing starting June 19 and ending August 14. That’s 8 weeks, plenty of time to get in your bids. The three categories are Time and Talent, gift baskets, and items donated by individuals or businesses. Donations will be accepted soon! If you have an interest in procuring donations from businesses or individuals, please sign up to help. Contact: Linda Tossy or Judy Whiteman.

Third, the **history** of where we have been since 1972 to the present is being collected for our events, signage, and a written history. In order that our neighborhood, at least, is aware of some of the community-oriented involvement of our church members, we will post indoor-outdoor **lawn signs depicting various local volunteer activities**. (Don’t worry, they will come in when no one is going to be around.) These will go up in at the beginning of celebration period, in June, until it ends, in August. This information is already being used in the weekly emailer’s section called: DO YOU KNOW accompanied by the WE WANT TO KNOW, hoping that you will interact by providing corrections and/or your stories to add to our research.  Contacts:  Jan Kurtz and Sharon Carlson.

Besides the above ongoing things, we will have several well-spaced events. You will want to save these dates!

**Sunday, June 19 (Fathers Day): Organ Concert/Sanctuary Event, 3 PM:** With the objective to increase community and church folks’ familiarity with and appreciation for our precious church sanctuary and its contents, we are calling this “The Amazing Heart of Our Church Home.” We will learn about the sanctuary building, the stained-glass windows and some of the people who are memorialized in them, and the organ’s story. Then we will be treated to a concert by current organist, Laura Radaeke, as well as our former organist and longtime church member, Grace Forbord, who will be coming up from the Cities to play for us. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Bring Dad along! Contact: Cynthia Janes.

**Saturday, June 25: All-church Reunion, 5 PM:** While munching on goodies prepared by church members, we will greet old friends, share memories, and view a video as well as old “family photos” going back to about 1972, which was our 100th anniversary. There will be a short program and ample opportunities to bid on Silent Auction items. Contact: Coordinating Committee.

**Sunday, June 26: A special outdoor (we hope) music-filled service at which we showcase our many musicians**: Contact: Pastor Leslie

**Tuesday, July 19: A big anniversary Celebration Party in Gregory Park, 5-7 PM**

We are inviting the neighborhood, the Shop, and surrounding churches to join us in a fun evening of free food, lawn games, music, and possibly dancing and people milling about in period costumes from the late 1800’s. This will be a fun party! Contact: Lowell Johnson.

**Sunday, August 14: Culminating church service 10 AM**

This event is scheduled for the closest Sunday to our church getting its charter, August 13, 1872. It will be a special worship service at which we will close the book on our first 150 years as a church and consider where we go from here. An anniversary cake at Fellowship will top it off.

As you can see, much has been accomplished in the first month of planning, and much hard work still remains. Your help is needed! We may not know right now which of many jobs you might be able to help with, but we are taking names. Call, text or email Cynthia and we’ll put you on the list. Or, choose a segment of the Celebration you think would be fun to work on and directly contact the person or people heading it. Contact the church office for an updated directory.

Stay tuned for our next update on the big UCC Brainerd 150th Anniversary Celebration and we hope you will want to GET INVOLVED!

Sincerely,

*The 150th Celebration Coordinating Committee*: *Linda Tossey*, *Lowell Johnson*, *Jan Kurtz,*

*Sharon Carlson, Cynthia Janes*

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**Collecting Memories!**

As part of the 150th Anniversary celebration, we are collecting “memories” by decade. The last booklet was published in 1972, so that is our beginning date. You may not realize that some of our current faces here have been active members for fifty (yes, 50) years or more. That is quite an oral history! Now, to make a record for the “future” historians!

In the coming weeks, we will be asking questions and putting out trivia from the 1970s to present, hoping to jog your memories in an effort to tell our stories and get re-acquainted. New visitors and members can share their interests and hopes for future activities, while others will have photos and anecdotes about the past this church represents. Please send all responses to Jan Kurtz at: [rmjkurtz@brainerd.net](mailto:rmjkurtz@brainerd.net)

**Week** **#1: Did you know?** *Habitat for Humanity* and *Kinship Partners* were both rooted in our church when arriving in this community?

**We would like to know…** If you have worked on a house or had a Kinship Partner. Responses will be shared in future bulletins!

**Week #2: Did you know?** As per our 1872 – 1972 historical record: “In 1950, Dr. Howard Vernon obtained the use of the outdoor theater…services held every Sunday from June to Labor Day. The first year:  7,071 people attended.”  
> Memories from Jan Morton: “First time we went to a service our kids were 4 and 5.  As we were leaving, a voice in the back seat said, “but we didn't see the movie."  
The church did not have to pay to use the movie space, but we did have to clean the grounds before the service. We found some interesting items!  
Men were at the entrance to the theater and gave out bulletins. They also counted adults, children, sometimes dogs, and out-of-state license plates. These were announced at the end of the service.”  
**We’d Like to Know...** If you have a short anecdote or a clear photo from these outdoor services.

**Week #3: Did You Know?** *Women’s Fellowship* was founded in 1879, starting with four women. According to our **1872-1972** history booklet: “Each member paid yearly dues to the ‘Society’ plus 5¢ per meeting unless she was absent, then she was charged 10¢.” Their activities helped pay off church debts and minister’s salaries.

**We’d Like to Know…**When did the Ladies’ Aid combine (at one time it was four circles) to become the Women’s Fellowship? When did the group disband? What are some memorable events you attended?

**Week #4: Did You Know?:** *The University of Minnesota's Fulbright Cultural Exchange Program* provided teachers of English from around the work an opportunity to travel to the United States and study at the University of Minnesota.  While there for six weeks, they spent one weekend staying with host families in the Brainerd area.  Many of our church members provided an opportunity to enhance intercultural relations by hosting the teachers in their homes.

**We’d Like To Know**: Do you have any stories to share relating to your hosting experiences of these students?  What did you learn about their country and what did they learn through their time with your family?

**Week #5: Did You Know?**: *March is Central American Month.* In the 1980s, our church held a Central American Bazaar, gave presentations raising awareness, and hosted visits by El Salvadoran refugees, Rene (sought Sanctuary in Minnesota and still lives here), and Yadira, who continued on the Central American Overground Railroad to Canada.

**We’d Like to know:** Have you been involved in any refugee programs, Sanctuary movements, resettlement (Hmong, Afghani, Central American. . . ).

Are you involved with the Brainerd Peacemakers or other groups that work for political changes outside of church?  Your story?

**Week 6: Did You Know?**: **1980s:** **Soup Kitchen** - "No-one among us needs to go to bed hungry."  This mission statement drew our members in as a volunteer partners in menu planning, preparing and serving food once a month to Brainerd area residents, treating them with respect and dignity.  **We’d Like to know:** Stories about working with our youth at the soup kitchen and the year we began?

**April Adult Forum- 11:30am after Fellowship**

**April 3rd - UNDERSTANDING ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA**: Alzheimer’s disease is not a normal part of aging. Join us to learn about the impact of Alzheimer's; the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia; stages and risk factors; current research and treatments available for some symptoms; and Alzheimer's Association resources.

**April 10th - "What the heck is an Alano Society and why do we care":** Alvin Velsvaag and Lowell Johnson will lead an Adult Forum discussion of the role of Alano Societies across the world and their role in helping people in substance abuse recovery. The link to the mission of our Church and WISE Ministry Team will also be addressed, as well as the relationship with the Lakes Area Guys Network (LAGN) and people not in recovery and 12 step programs.

***Every Wednesday at Noon***

**A picture containing text, tableware, dishware, plate

Description automatically generatedYou are invited to a casual fellowship at various locations in the Brainerd Lakes area. Please contact Jack Kraywinkle for location each week.**

**Jack’s cell” 612-396-3480 or email:** [kraywinklej@gmail.com](mailto:kraywinklej@gmail.com)

**Cooking For Everyone**

This group is OPEN FOR EVERYONE!

Email Lowell [johnsonlowells@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonlowells@gmail.com) and he will add you to the member list so that you will know when and where we will next meet.

**TheShop Meal – *Wednesday April 20th - 3:45 pm church kitchen****.*  
We meet once a month on the third Wednesday.

We are working with the young people from TheShop (Brainerd/Baxter's Youth Empowerment Center) and are preparing a meal and serving it at TheShop for the participants in the program.

Thanks to all who have expressed an interest in helping out. If you are interested in helping,

please call Sharon Carlson at 828-1581.

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Description automatically generated**New ShopCart Program**

ShopCart is a completely free resource that anyone in the community can use. We deliver hot meals, as well as frozen meals, toiletries, and other household essentials to a household within a 23 mile radius of TheShop.

Anyone who would like to take part in this program can text our ShopCart  phone (218-513-4751) before 4pm to receive their delivery. ShopCart will be happening every Friday.

Thank you, Erica Stepanek, Executive Director of TheShop (Brainerd Baxter Youth Center).

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**Choir Practice First Three Sundays**

**Meet in the Sanctuary.**

**Choir will be singing Palm Sunday and Easter Worship.**

Please contact Diane Hauan for more information:  
218-839-0669 or [diane.hauan5@gmail.com](https://uccbrainerd.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7358d6fe5c26410d29dfb93f0&id=7bae397a8f&e=5e2c6f93e6)

**Calling all singers and musicians!**

**We want to include your voice and instruments during the worship services.**

Please contact Diane Hauan for more information: 218-839-0669 or [diane.hauan5@gmail.com](https://uccbrainerd.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7358d6fe5c26410d29dfb93f0&id=7bae397a8f&e=5e2c6f93e6)

Easter Flowers - 2022

You have the opportunity to give a gift in the name of your loved one(s).

We will use the money to purchase flower arrangements for the altar.

All memorials will be listed in the Easter bulletin.

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

**Please fill out the following completely.**

# **Amount of Memorial Gift: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Your Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Write your check to: “First Congregational Church” Memo: “Easter Flowers”

Leave this form with your check in the offering plate, the church office, or mail it to:

First Congregational Church

415 Juniper Street, Brainerd, MN 56401

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**Special Offering Sunday** **April 24th - Habitat for Humanity Faith Build**

Habitat for Humanity is a global nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states in the US and in more than 70 countries around the world. Habitat works toward our vision by building strength, stability and self-reliance in partnership with people and families in need of a decent and affordable home.

Please send your donation to First Congregational UCC, 415 Juniper St. Brainerd, MN 56401. Make sure to note on your offering: ***Faith Build Special Offering***. Thank you!

Or for your convenience use our Paypal account at: [paypal.me/uccbrainerd](https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/uccbrainerd)

Be sure to note on your offering ***Faith Build Special Offering*** in comments. Thank you!

**The Columbarium at First Congregational UCC, Brainerd**

The Columbarium is located in the historic space that once was our church’s front entry way.

How appropriate it is that our Columbarium now marks another entry way into a new life — where the Spirits of Love and Truth are always present!

Should you wish to learn more about the purchase of a niche for your own cremains or for the ashes of a loved one, please call the church office at (218) 829-2528. Terri Chidester, Administrative Assistant, can send you a prepared information packet via email or regular mail. The packet contains all the details you will need as you consider inurnment here at First Congregational UCC.

Have any other questions? Contact Dawn Stattine at [dawnstattine@gmail.com](mailto:dawnstattine@gmail.com)

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**UCC Minnesota Outdoor Ministry 2022-2023 Gatherings & Retreats**

***Spring Youth Gathering (6th-12th Grade) – April 29th – May 1st***

Camp Onomia, Onamia MN

For more information and registration: [uccmn.org/event/spring-youth-gathering](https://www.uccmn.org/event/spring-youth-gathering/)

**For Adults: *Spiritual Immersion “Through the Seasons”***

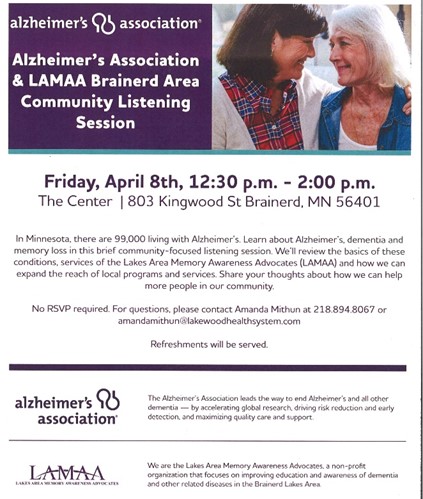
\*June 24th – 26th Summer - Camp Onomia, Onamia MN

\*November 6th – 8th Fall – Luther Crest, Alexandria MN

\*January 20th – 22nd 2023 Winter – Clearwater Forest, Deerwood MN

For more information and registration: [www.uccmn.org/event/spiritual-immersion-through-the-seasons](https://www.uccmn.org/event/spiritual-immersion-through-the-seasons/)

**Brainerd Lakes Area Information**

**~ Opportunities to Know and Share God’s Love ~**

**First Congregational has a donation**

**box in the back door entryway**

**First Congregational Collects Items for the Salvation Army Food Shelf**  
Our donation box is located in the entrance of the back door parking lot. Please consider bringing your donations during our office hours:

Wed. Thurs. Fri. 10am - 1pm.

**Help Make a Difference:** You can also conveniently donate online.

https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/northern/BrainerdLakes/cure-hunger/

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| April 2022 Calendar |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  | Office Closed  Open by Appt. | Office Closed  Open by Appt. | Office Hours  10am – 1pm  Pastor Drop-in  2-4pm | Office Hours  10am – 1pm | Office Hours  10am – 1pm  Pastor Drop-in  11am-1pm |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | **1**  10:30am Book Grp-**Z** | **2** |
| 8:30am Choir Prac- **Y**  **3**  8:30am Bnrd Frnds-**Y**  10am Wrship & Communion-**Y**&**V**  11am Fellowship-**Y**  11:30am Adult Forum-**Y** | **4**  12pm Vets Book Grp- **Our Zoom**  4pm Grl Scts #373-**Y**  7pm BACP-**Z**or**Y**? | **5**  2pm Emotions  Anon- **Y**  5:30pm Overeaters Anon- **Y** | **6**  10am Pray Crcle**-Z**  12pm Mens Grp-**Y**  5:30pmDevotions-**Y**&**Z**  7pm AA Common-**Y** | **7** | **8**  10:30am Book Grp-**Z** | **9**  10am – Noon Pick up Palms at church parking lot entrance |
| 8:30am Choir- **Y** **10**  8:30am Bnrd Frnds-**Y**  10am Wrship-**Y**&**V**  11am Fellowship-**Y**  11:30am Adult Forum: “Alano Societies in the World-**Y** | **11**  12pm Vets Book Grp- **Our Zoom** | **12**  2pm Emotions  Anon-**Y**  5:30pm Overeaters Anon-**Y** | 9:30am Stewdshp- **Z** 10am Pray Crcle- **Z 13**  12pm Mens Grp- **Y**  12pm Memorial-**Y**&**Z** 5:30pm Devotions-**Y**&**Z**  7pm AA Common-**Y**  7pm Trustees **Y**&**Z** | **14**  **Maundy Thursday**  3pm Council Mtg-**Y&V**  5:30pm Worship Service **Y**&**V**  6:30 BLUE – **Y**or**V?** | **Good Friday 15**  Worship w/  area churches  10:30am Book Grp- **Z** | **16** |
| 8:30am Choir- **Y**  **17** 8:30am Bnrd Frnds-**Y**    10am Wrship-**Y**&**V**  11am Fellowship-**Y** | **18**  12pm Vets Book Grp- **Our Zoom**  4pm Grl Scts #373-**Y** | **19**  2pm EmotionsAnon-**Y**  5:30pm Overeaters Anon-**Y** | 10am Pray Crcle-**Z**  **20**  12pm Mens Grp-**Y**  3:30pm TheShop Cooking-**Y**  7pm AA Common-**Y** | **21**  3pm Council Mtg.-**Y**&**Z**  7pm AA Dist-. **Y** | **22**  10:30am Book Grp- **Z** | **23** |
| 8:30am Bnrd Frnds-**Y** **24**  10am Wrship-**Y&V**  \*\*New Member Welcomed  11am Fellowship-**Y**  11:30am Volunteer Recognition Luncheon-**Y**  ***Special Offering:***  *Faith Build*  ***\*Newsletter Deadline\*\**** | **25**  12pm Vets Book Grp- **Our Zoom**  5:30-9:30 AAUW-**Y**  In Fellowship Hall | **26**  2pm Emotions  Anon-**Y**  5pm LeMesa-**V**  5:30pm Overeaters Anon-**Y** | **27**  10am Pray Crcle-**Z**  12pm Mens Grp-**Y**  7pm AA Common-**Y** | **28** | **29**  10:30am Book Grp- **Z**  **Pastor Leslie Drop-in Hours Cancelled** | **30**  **V** or **Z** –**Virtual** Online or **Zoom**  **C**- Cancelled  **Y**- Mtg. in person  N-None |

**\*\*\*\*Pastor Leslie will be at NGLI for Continuing Ed 4/28 through 5/3/22**