



First Congregational United Church of Christ

PO Box 95
300 West Second Street
Grand Marais, MN 55604
Rev. Enno Limvere, Designated Term Pastor

The Shining Light ~ April 2022

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE.....	2
DESIGNATED PASTOR'S MESSAGE/PRAYER OF MONTH.....	3
MODERATOR'S MESSAGE.....	5
MARCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES.....	7
TREASURER'S REPORT	10
EVENTS.....	11
MINNESOTA CONFERENCE & NAT'L CHURCH NEWS	13
SEASONS OF OUR LIVES	15
APRIL CALENDAR	16

CELEBRATING HOPE AT EASTER!



WORSHIP IN APRIL

Sunday Worship in Person or on ZOOM at 10:30 AM

Worship Planner

April 3rd, 5th Sunday in Lent, in this story of John's Gospel we have an extravagant gift given to Jesus to anoint him for his trial and death. How do we deal with death in this time of COVID, and what now when we are hopefully coming out of it?

April 10th, Palm Sunday, in this story told by the author of Luke's gospel, Jesus enters triumphantly into Jerusalem with an impromptu parade and shouts of acclamation. This is very much a protest march in that they are proclaiming Jesus blessed, anointed, and even king which is over and against the Roman empire and its governor. When Jesus is told to keep the crowd quiet and under control, he responds that in this moment, if the crowd were silent, earth would rise up to shout its praise and resistance.

April 17th, Easter Sunday, in our day and age with science and medicine and gene therapy, is a story of someone coming back from the dead an idle tale? In a day and age of fake news and verifiable facts (if you choose to pay attention) can we find the myth, the metaphor, or the wonder of such a story about resurrection? In our day and age where life on earth is dying, where is there hope?

April 24th, 2nd Sunday of Easter, after Jesus' death and resurrection, the disciples and followers hid in fear and kept their heads and voices down. That didn't last too long and they found their voice to proclaim the gospel of Jesus, the love of God, and the kingdom that has no end. When brought before the authorities and told to be quiet, they persisted and proclaimed they must obey God's laws over human ones.

DESIGNATED PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Enno Limvere

Last night the power went out in the parsonage and all over the county. The winds in Grand Marais were clocked at 66 mph. I am not sure how many times this winter that winds gusted over 50 mph, but I am sure it is over five. I would guess that this is unusual for this area and to quote an old adage, "And things are just starting to warm up."

I hope that our area governments are starting to see the reality in that Grand Marais and Cook County have declared Global Climate Emergency Resolutions. I am very much impressed and buoyed that there are many people and organizations that are jumping onto our Earth Day Fair on April 22nd. I believe it will be bigger than I dreamed possible for trying something new in this area.

However, the fight is far, far from over and the struggle to save our planet, to save endangered species, and to save humanity (and our soul) is also "...just starting to warm up." The forces arrayed against us are huge and powerful.

The first is the power of denial which all humans react to when faced with bad or dire news. The second is a society and way of life that is based upon carbon (oil) that is killing us and our planet and it is not easy to turn this ship around. The third is that we have people who are making billions, tens of billions, hundreds of billions of dollars in this system and are using their resources to protect their corporations and investments while denying the facts, creating a disinformation campaign, and distracting the population with made-up conflicts to ferment culture wars.

All is not lost and there are reasons for hope. Every year, more and more people are moving from denial and taking action, or, at least, not fighting the facts of the climate crisis anymore. Our country is making the move from an oil-based system into a renewable energy. 90% of all new energy projects in our country in 2020 were renewable energy based. There are people all around the world rising up to protect, protest, and take action to protect mother earth and life in their communities and nations.

Technology will help, but we really need to quit our addictions to oil, to putting money as our top value (idol), and to use the world around us for the benefits of humans and the economy. "Consider the lilies of the field..." Jesus tells us. God created and blessed all life, and even the world itself.

The world is the LORD's and all that is in it. We are just the caretakers, the gardeners, and maybe even siblings to all that creeps, swims, flies, and walks upon the planet.

Peace

Pastor Enno

PRAYER OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL

By St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE FOR APRIL

By Jenny Delfs

Just a few updates, thoughts, and a lovely blessing I discovered and wanted to share.

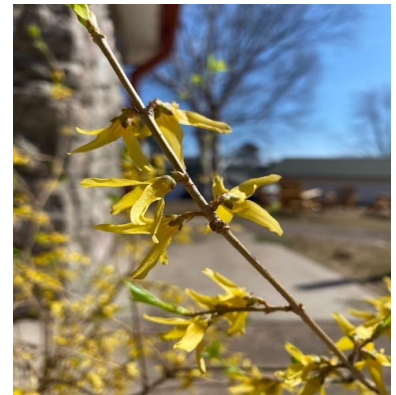
I'm anxiously anticipating our return to the sanctuary. Anxious to see people in person. Anxiously hoping that the county case counts stay low even after Spring Break travel, new variants. We are going to have to watch and pivot again if necessary. We are getting good at adapting when we need too.

Reminder, we will be masking and social distancing inside the church, limiting our time together and not singing inside. There will be joyful outdoor singing at 10 AM before the service – Thanks Ann Russ for leading this. Covid vaccination is required if you plan to attend worship in person. We will continue to have the service live on Zoom and taped on the website for later review. Lots of options. We are getting good at options.

Thanks to everyone for participation and patience. It's been great to catch up with so many folks on Zoom worship on Sunday AM, Lenten Wednesdays, meetings, discussions. Thanks to the brave audio-visual team for all their work in making live Zoom services work. Thanks to all the volunteer readers adding their voices to worship. Thanks to our team of musicians for adding their talents. We are getting good at sharing our talents and gifts.

Zoom worship is not for everyone. Please touch base with anyone you have not seen in awhile and let them know we will be in person starting in April. Ask a friend to join us. We are getting good at welcoming.

I will be bringing in cuttings from my forsythia bush to share on Palm Sunday. Grab a stick or two, put them in water, and you should have bright yellow flowers by Easter. It is my favorite Spring miracle. We'll need it a little early color to get us through the long mud season. We are getting good at celebrating together.



Happy Early Spring! To new beginnings! Happy Easter!

There have been a lot of difficult things to ponder this Lenten season. As we come into the promises of Easter, I leave you with this blessing from Sister Ruth Marlene Fox, OSB.

A Non-traditional Blessing

May God bless you with **discontent** with easy answers, half-truths, superficial relationships, so that you will from deep within your heart.

May God bless you **anger** at injustice, oppression, abuse, and exploitations of people, so that you will work for justice, equality, and peace.

May God bless you with **tears** to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and to change their pain to joy.

May God bless you with the **foolishness** to think you can make a difference in this world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.

If you have the courage to accept these blessings, then God will also bless you with: **Happiness** – because you will know that you have made life better for others.

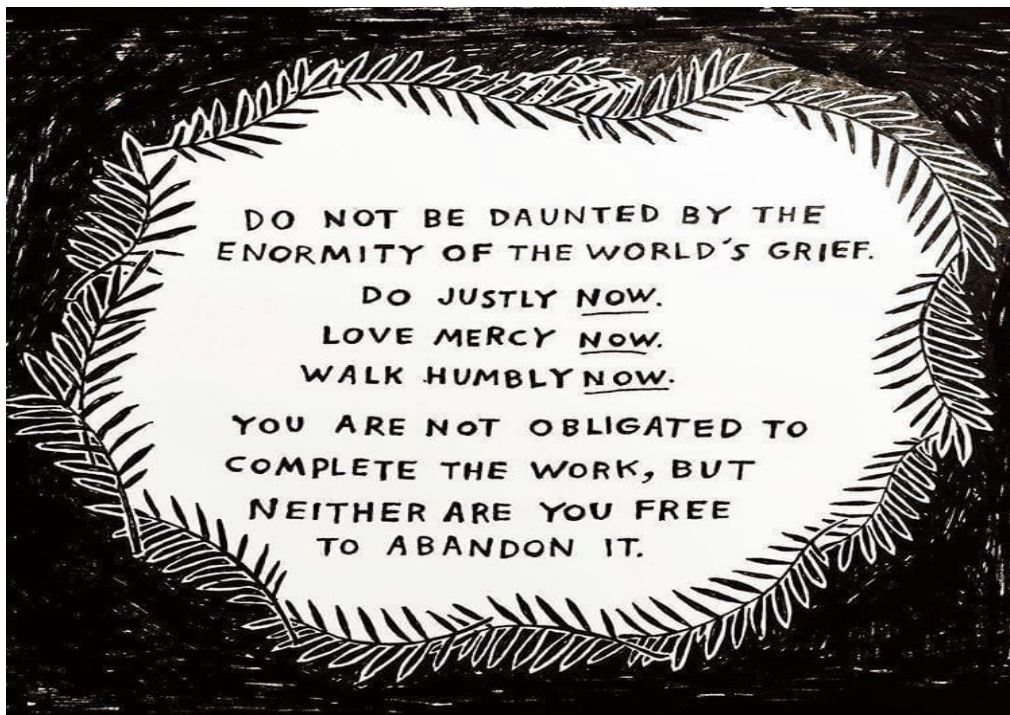
Inner peace – because you will have worked to secure an outer peace for others.

Laughter – because your heart will be light.

Faithful friends – because they will recognize your worth as a person.

These blessings are yours – not for the asking, but **for the giving** – from One who wants to be your companion, our God, who lives and reigns, forever and ever. **Amen.**

We will need at least one new person to join the Board of Directors in June. Lesaann Foris's term is coming to an end, and she's indicated she wants to go off the Board at this time. There may be other empty seats. If this is something you'd like to consider, please let a current Board member know. The Nomination Committee will be starting their work soon. I will be stepping down as Moderator in June but plan to continue serving on the Board.



First Congregational United Church of Christ, Grand Marais

Board of Directors Meeting Via Zoom

March 8, 2022 @ 5:00 pm

Board Attendees: Carol Bennett, John Bottger, Jenny Delfs, Lesaann Foris, Kevin LeVair, Tom Yuhasey, Pastor Enno

Absent: Carol Winter

We Begin together:

Jenny called the meeting to order, Kevin read the mission statement, Joys and Concerns were shared

Tom is nominated to take the minutes of the meeting

Pastor Enno asked the question: "What is your favorite scripture reading or Bible story." Responses were shared

Enno says prayer "walk humbly"

Immediate and Urgent Business/Housekeeping

Taker of the minutes advised to have report submitted to church office in a timely manner.

Kevin gave **Financial Report**: Stated if you compare where we are at this month to earlier in the year, our liquid cash has decreased about \$3,400 from a high of \$15,000. **The good news** is, we have received in the range of \$12,000 in donations from profit-sharing in the last two weeks so we are "building back up again." He **expressed gratitude to the individuals involved** in this generous giving. Kevin said there had been one monthly payment to Enno that had been missed but the mistake was corrected. We have also gotten some "restricted use" donations for children's bibles and money for the book study that would be starting soon.

Kevin mentioned the market value of our endowment has lost over \$21,000 because of world events but several thousand in interest from the endowment fund along with the donations from the profit sharing has left us, for the time being, in a favorable financial situation. A notice of "thanks" has been put in the Mail Chimp regarding the receipt of the profit-sharing money. He said we have four congregants who work at the First and Second Shop and one at Odds & Ends.

Kevin stated weekly meetings with the new bookkeeper, who has never handled a church before, has improved communication between them. Financial report was approved and seconded. Kevin was thanked for his service.

Jenny encouraged anyone who might want to write **a newsletter article** to have it ready in a timely manner. Enno mentioned he had spoken to someone who was writing a health-related article about Covid.

Next **Board Meeting** scheduled for April 19th.

We Attend to Old and New Business

Pastor Enno gave **Pastor Report** next. He said the Worship Committee and Building and Grounds Committee have talked about acquiring a laptop computer to be used for the zoom meetings/taping of Sunday services in the sanctuary. Cook County Higher Ed might have a good used unit they would sell us. **He mentioned the possibility of going back to the sanctuary for services in April.** Ann Russ has volunteered to sing outside for the first two of those services. Ash Wednesday service went well, we had 15-20 people attend. Jeff and some helpers did a great job clearing a space out by the firepit to gather around. Enno said our “tech boys” have been doing a little better and there have been improvements in the sound quality during the Sunday services. He said we are going to “let everything go as is for a while” and not add any additional burdens to these wonderful “tech” volunteers.

Also, as part of the **Pastor Report** Enno talked of the discipleship group having met, and the Bible Study continuing to meet, as well as the Book Study Group. A total of 24 people are involved in these groups. He happily reported we are having about 30 people for Sunday Services. **Enno stated his goal was to have 50% of the congregants involved in some church activity** during the course of the year, and that his expectations have been exceeded. He is currently taking a lead role in working with Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light to create an **Earth Day Fair event on April 22nd** which encompasses a plethora of agencies in the county. Our pastor taking a lead role in this endeavor should reflect favorably on our church.

Entertainment is to be provided. A thousand trees (seedlings) are to be given out during the event also.

Enno has plans to go on vacation beginning on May 1st, Ben Steckleberg has agreed to fill in.

Old Business

Pastor Enno’s contract has been signed and sent to the Conference with some slight modifications.

How to deal with three **Pass Through Funds** were discussed next. The **Thanksgiving Fund** was discussed first. Jenny explained, while a certain amount of “seed money” is necessary (slightly less than \$500) to support the activity, we have an additional \$1000 in the fund that could be used for other reasons rather than

keeping the money “inactive.” Purchasing gift cards was discussed. Also, Carol brought up “gas cards” which was well received. How the cards are to be distributed was also deliberated. Gift cards for food purchases however was the most popular idea, with the possibility of handing out some to church or community elders in need as was suggested by Lesaann. **Motion to purchase food gift cards was approved**

Funds in the **Pastoral Search Fund** was taken up next. A good portion of the fund was used for the current pastor search and moving him to Cook County. About \$2900 remains unused in that fund. Proposals for the use of this money was heard. Money for the laptop computer we are planning to buy was suggested. It could go to the general fund also. Money for parsonage repairs was brought up as well as paying \$1000 towards the roof repair loan. **Decision was made to use some to buy the laptop and the rest put into the general fund.**

Last fund was the **Chiapas Fund**. Just less than \$4000 has been sitting in this fund for years and with no ongoing connections with an entity in Chiapas, it doesn't sound like we are being good stewards of this money. Numerous possibilities brought up for use of the money. **Decision made to discuss this with the people who donated to this fund and went to Chiapas on trips to see what their thoughts are.** It is noted that Pastor Enno asked that perhaps some of the money be used as “seed money” for the youth group to plan a mission trip, possibly to the Southern states.

The Mutual Ministry Goals workplan was discussed next, Carol B. has done a lot of work on this. She and John decided to review the work plan she developed and present it to the full board at a future meeting. The purpose of this plan was questioned, whereupon Jenny clarified this **would be used as more of a “shared ministry” plan between the board, pastor and congregation.** It was generally agreed that some measurable goals were necessary to determine if we are moving towards agreed upon objectives.

The Safe Church Policy, Cemetery Property, Vehicle Charging Stations, and Explorer Club agenda topics has nothing new to report

The request to purchase property from the church (the playground area and beyond) by a business concern was looked into by John and Kevin. The feasibility of considering such a request was still being determined. John and Kevin stated that **most of the land in question was land the church is currently using and probably not willing to consider giving up.**

The **Membership List Formulation** item was taken up next. While there has been some discussion in this regard, since being called a “member” was a concern for some congregants, no firm plan to go forward has yet been finalized.

It was decided a **Mission Statement Rewrite** would be best accomplished at a time

when we are able “to meet in person and look each other in the eye.” Enno wanted to do a “group breakout” during a Sunday service to engage ideas about this. Building and Grounds Committee wants input in this process as we determine who we are and where we are going so as to formulate what will need to be done with the church grounds to assist in accomplishing our goals.

Jenny also confirmed **in June a new Moderator** will have to be chosen and board members would have to decide who will continue their current roles. A nominating committee will have to be formed to handle replacements.

Newer Business

Lisaann suggested something be done through the church for **St. Patrick’s Day**. Details to be forthcoming. She also wants to institute a “pester the pastor” segment in the newsletter and such, where congregants can challenge Pastor Enno with “spiritual wonderings” and learn something in the process. Sounds like fun!

After the Fact decision to **approve the meeting agenda** was accomplished. New pledges have been received, Stewardship hopeful a few more will find their way to us.

Summary of meeting done by Jenny.

Meeting Adjourned

Treasurer’s Report for April 2022 Newsletter

The February 2022 (latest fully available information) Financial Report shows a total income of \$9,204.68 and expenses of \$13,449.10 (See Detail Below).

Income for February 2022	
Pledged Donations	\$ 6,913.44
Non-Pledged Donations	\$ 301.33
Restricted use Donation	\$ 50.00
Building Use	\$ 180.00
Income from Outside Sources	\$ 1,758.56
Interest Income	\$ 1.35
	\$ 9,204.68
Expenses for February 2022	
General Expenses (Pastor, Staff, Building, Loan Interest)	\$ 13,274.02
Loan Principle	\$ 175.08
	\$ 13,449.10
Difference	\$ (4,244.42)

This means that the Church’s expenses were more than Income by \$4,244.42. The full report for February is available in the Church office.

Submitted by Kevin LeVoi, Treasurer

Ukraine Emergency Appeal

Situation Report

On February 24, the Russian military attacked Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of persons have already sought refuge outside of Ukraine. Others have remained in the country but are displaced from their homes. The humanitarian crisis is accelerating in Ukraine and in neighboring countries as the violence escalates and the number of people on the move multiplies.



Relief supplies. Photo copyright Hungarian Church Aid, used with permission.

UCC Response

The United Church of Christ is appealing for support for refugees and for elderly and other vulnerable people who are displaced within Ukraine and unable to leave. As a member of the ACT Alliance, UCC support is being targeted to people most in need through humanitarian relief partners with a history of working in the region. Aid also is being extended through Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, the relief agency of the Reformed Church in Hungary. The UCC's long-term relationship with the Reformed Church in Hungary is held through the Europe and the Middle East Office of Global Ministries.

Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as other citizens of more than 125 countries living in Ukraine.

Uniting in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion with the people of Ukraine and all who are affected, and with our global partners who are welcoming those driven from their homes.

[DONATE NOW](#)

All donations will be deposited into the International Disasters fund designated for “Ukraine Relief.” Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need. One can also mail a check made payable to the **United Church of Christ PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194**. Please be sure to note “Ukraine Relief Fund” on your check in the memo section.

[UCC officers share prayer for Ukraine – United Church of Christ](#)

Banner photo: Arrival of Ukrainian refugees at the Polish-Ukrainian border crossing Medyka. Here the refugees are provided with warm food and clothing. From here, they are transferred by bus to major cities and collective shelters. Photo copyright Christoph Püschner/Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, used with permission.





Minnesota Conference
United Church of Christ

Minnesota Conference 60th Annual Meeting

June 10-11, 2022

College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN, with an online option

We have been apart for far too long. We have adjusted, and adjusted again, to ensure the health and well-being of all those we are called to care for. We have stayed home. We have worshipped in front of computer screens. We have wondered, “What next?”

And yet...we have learned how strong we are. We have engaged in new ways to experience community and connect with God. We have drawn from a deep well of spiritual strength and resilience. We have held fast to our faith.

Holding all of that is a lot. Too much, sometimes. Therefore, for this upcoming gathering of the Minnesota Conference, the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group invites you to participate in a meeting focused on Renewal and Restoration. While we will ensure the work of the Conference is done, we will also engage in thoughtful and restorative conversation. We will leave lots of space to catch-up with friends new and old. We will worship. We will laugh. We will pray. And we will rejoice in being together again.

We are excited to hear from our keynoter Diana Butler Bass, theologian and writer who has engaged deeply in the work of finding rest for the weary soul. In addition, we will once again have table-top conversations, worship, have a celebratory banquet, and gather for social time. Workshops led by members of the Minnesota Conference will be offered on Zoom in the days leading up to the meeting.

The intention is this Annual Meeting will be hybrid. While the primary focus will be on gathering in-person, all plenaries and worship will also be streamed on Zoom for delegates to participate from home. While we hope people will choose to join us in-person, we also understand that an online option is of great value to many people. We will be following Conference COVID guidelines.

UCC

Justice and Peace Invitation

Join the executive director of the UCC’s historic Back Bay Mission for a celebration of 100 years of service “making good trouble” in Biloxi, Mississippi. Back Bay is known for hosting up to 800 volunteers a year to repair homes, serve the unsheltered, and create positive systemic change in a highly diverse coastal city. Back Bay is the only UCC imprint in the state of Mississippi, and holds a distinction as the #1 destination for UCC “Partners in Service” volunteers.

Come to learn, celebrate, and participate as Rev. Elena Larssen, UCC Minister for Volunteer Engagement, interviews Ms. Sara Smith, ‘Home at Last’ Case Manager to unsheltered people, and Rev. James Pennington, Executive Director, about the history and future of this beloved humanitarian and activist institution as it enters its second decade of ministry.

What follows is the personal perspective of the author, Nurse Practitioner Kristin DeArruda Wharton.

Protecting patient privacy is paramount, as is the sacred trust between a care provider and a patient. As such, the names, locations, and specific details of actual events have been changed and multiple stories intertwined in order to protect privacy. Any likeness to actual persons or events in the stories shared here are chance and should not be interpreted as representing specific individuals or communities. The thoughts expressed are the author's alone and in no way represent an employer or any other affiliate of the author. Should a reader have a concern or feedback on the way persons, events, or communities are portrayed, you are welcome to contact the writer.

Light in Darkness (Part 1 of 3)
Kristin DeArruda Wharton

January 2022

I was late leaving my apartment in Duluth's East Hillside neighborhood heading to work. Most mornings when I depart, the city is dark and the hem of the harbor sparkles with little lights as I whiz past on the freeway heading out of town. On this January morning, I was leaving late and the usual dark blanket over the harbor was lifting with the beginning of a sunrise.

I drive more than an hour from Duluth to a rural hospital, where I work as a Nurse Practitioner-Hospitalist. The morning and evening commutes on dark, winter roads can blur together. Turning onto the freeway from 21st Avenue East, the sunrise over the lake and the Bayfield peninsula caught my eyes and took my breath away. An incredible beacon of light extended from behind the blue silhouette of the peninsula shooting upwards a mile toward the heavens. It was stunning. Orange pink, lighting up the sky. Its mirror image reflected in the still lake. That column of light was radiant. So brilliant and warm. It took up space- it was wide and tall and intense. I was overcome by an urge to go to that light. I wanted so badly to drive, run, fly, swim, or float to be within that light. To let it shine into all of the dark places within me, the tired places, the heartbroken places, the threadbare places. Even a glimpse of it fleeting out the window, then in the rearview mirror, was enough to warm me through.

"A beacon. A beacon." All I could think of was the phrase, "a beacon of light." Why did this radiant light feel so healing? Why did the phrase, "a beacon" continue to swell in my heart and body as I drove out of the city? A few moments later, I placed the phrase. I remembered: a remarkable woman I met in the hospital in October, a patient. She had been a beacon, a beacon for me, a warm light in an otherwise dark time.

In the fall of 2021, during a particularly challenging stretch of work at the hospital in Duluth, I met a patient who touched my soul. We'll call her Martha, though that is a made-up name, and these are hazy and braided together

images in order to protect the privacy of the patients I serve. She was an elderly woman with quite a few serious health problems who I met while working on the COVID service. She blew me away. We had lost many patients with COVID (and in January 2022, the loss of life to COVID-19 continues.) Martha was alone in her room, in COVID isolation because she was contagious. She was only visited by a few of us staff who were covered from stem to stern in plastic face shields, masks, gowns and gloves. Martha had been through the gauntlet with COVID- intubated, on a ventilator, then on heated high flow oxygen for an extended time. And against all odds, here she was- recovering.

SEASONS OF OUR LIVES

For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.

(Ecclesiastes 3)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/1 Anne Swallow Gillis

4/6 Fran Smith

4/9 Jean Ljungkull

4/12 Ben Steckelberg

4/12 Donald Davison

4/13 Cayden Zimmer

4/15 Alan Clothier

4/15 Sherry Thompson

4/17 Kaitlyn Bohlin

4/20 Dean Jacobsen

4/23 Amelia Hedstrom

4/24 Nona Smith

4/26 Nicole Bockovich

ANNIVERSARIES

4/12 James & Wendy Ford



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:00am– AA (FS) 8:00am– Harbor Watch	2 10:00am– Discipleship group (Zoom)
3 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Hymn Sing 10:30am Worship Fellowship Following	4 7:00am AA (FS) 3:00pm-5:00pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 7pm ALANON (FS) Pastor Enno's day off	5 3:00pm Ministerial Lectionary Study 7:00pm Zen Meditation (LL)	6 7:00am AA (FS) 11:00 Book Study 4:30-6:30pm Food Shelf open to all (LL) 7:00 Lent Service	7 9:15 Chaplin Meeting 10:00 TaiChi(LL) 12:00pm Women's AA (FS) 1:30pm Isiah Bible Study 3:00pm Building and Grounds Mtg	8 7:00am AA (FS) 8:00am Harbor Watch	9
10 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Hymn Sing 10:30am Worship Hour (Communion) Fellowship following	11 7:00am AA (FS) 3:00pm-5:00pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 7pm ALANON Pastor Enno's day off	12 3:00pm Ministerial Lectionary Study 7:00pm MNIPL 7:00pm Zen Meditation (LL)	13 7:00am AA (FS) 11:00am Book Study 5:15pm PASJ 7:00pm Lent Service	14 10:00am TaiChi 12:00pm Women's AA (FS) 1:30pm Isiah Bible Study	15 7:00am AA (FS) 8:00am Harbor Watch GOOD FRIDAY	16
17 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00am Hymn Sing 10:30am EASTER-Worship 2:00pm FUN Day	18 7:00am AA (FS) 3:00pm-5:00pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 7pm ALANON Pastor Enno's day off	19 12:00pm Clergy Cluster 3:00pm Ministerial Lectionary Study 5:00pm BOD 7:00pm Zen Meditation (LL)	20 7:00am AA (FS) 7:00pm Lent Service	21 10:00am TaiChi 12:00pm Women's AA (FS) 1:30pm Isiah Bible Study	22 7:00am AA (FS) 8:00am Harbor Watch 4:30pm EARTH DAY Fair	23
24 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Hymn Sing 10:30am Worship	25 7:00am AA (FS) 3:00pm-5:00pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 7pm ALANON Pastor Enno's vacation	26 7:00pm Zen Meditation (LL) May Newsletter Articles DUE!!! Pastor Enno's vacation	Pastor Enno's vacation	28 12:00pm Women's AA (FS) 1:30pm Isiah Bible Study Pastor Enno's vacation	29 Pastor Enno's vacation	30 Pastor Enno's vacation

FS—Fireside Room SH—Social Hall MR—Media Room SA—Sanctuary N—Narthex/Lobby SR—South Room LL—Lower Level

BOD—our Church Board of Directors AA—Alcoholics Anonymous ALANON—Families and Friends of Alcoholics
CODA—Co-dependents Anonymous

First Congregational United Church of Christ
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Purpose and Mission

First Congregational United Church of Christ is an open, inclusive church that exists to worship God and practice the gospel of Jesus Christ. We welcome all people of goodwill who seek to share the love of God and honor the diversity of creation in a spirit of tolerance and flexibility. As a Just Peace Church, we invite all who seek the reign of God to join us in reaching out in healing ministry, working for justice, witnessing for peace and striving to overcome all forms of oppression. We recognize two sacraments: Baptism and Communion

Our Open and Affirming Covenant

We covenant to be an accessible, open and affirming community of faith, committed to peace and justice, reaching out in healing love to all of creation. We exist to worship God and practice the gospel. We welcome all persons, including those of all races, ethnicities, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family structures, faith backgrounds, abilities and economic circumstances to fully share and participate in leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church family.



Phone: (218)387-2113
Website: grandmaraisucc.org
Office email: office@grandmaraisucc.org
Pastor's email: pastorgmucc@boreal.org
For pastoral emergencies: Call Pastor Enno (605) 460-0330
Church Staff: The Rev. Enno Limvere, Designated Term Pastor
Nancy Backlund, Office Manager • Marie Fenstad, Custodian
Brooke Shannon, Bookkeeper