



# 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 ~ May 2022

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HOPE SPRINGS ETERAL



## WORSHIP IN MAY

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

### Worship Planner

**May 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>** Sunday of Easter, Pastor Enno will be on vacation and Ben Steckelberg will be filling the pulpit this Sunday.

**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>** Sunday of Easter, we are going to dive into the Book of Revelation starting a heavenly scene of all the nations coming together. Let's imagine what that would look like, who is there and think if there would be anyone missing. We will talk about how Revelation has been viewed and interpreted and does this book have anything to say to us today in our world-shaken times of plagues and wars.

**May 15<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>** Sunday of Easter, on this Sunday will continue our dive in Revelation in looking at one of it's more known scriptures, "I will make a new heaven and a new earth..." What does this mean for us who are trying to save this planet and the life of all plants, bugs, birds, animals, and all the breathes? Is this a futuristic prediction, a literal fact, or is there a message that transcends the wildness of the visions and prophecies for our planet and us?

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>** Sunday of Easter, on this Sunday, we will take time to have some conversations about who we are as a church, where do we think we are going, and how are we going to get there. Our leadership is looking at creating a new mission statement, looking at who we are becoming, and what are the needs and priorities of our building and grounds that help us live out our faith and mission.

**May 29<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>** Sunday of Easter, on this fifth Sunday of May, Pastor Enno will pause in his preaching so that he may listen and hear your questions about faith, God, church, and the world. There is often a good conversation and the fodder of knowing what is on your minds.

## DESIGNATED PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Enno Limvere

Woe, that things would be good or evil and there would always be the right way to do things. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is definitely as close to the evil as we can get in this world. How we respond to this act of war and maybe even genocide is much more complicated and not as easy to discern. Do we send more than just weapons and food? Do we send troops or commit to drone strikes against the mile's long columns of the invading Russian forces? Do we attack the Russian army on their land through missiles, bombers, and other means to keep them away from the Ukrainian people?

When our country invaded Iraq, there was much criticism that some troops didn't have body armor and many Humvees were not armored either. The Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld stated you go to war with the army you have, not the army you want. The Russian army is finding out that they aren't as powerful and as nimble as they once thought. But they are much more numerous and have more bombs than the country of Ukraine.

Ukraine's defense budget was around \$6 billion dollars in 2019, Russia's was around \$60 billion, and the United States was about \$800 billion. That along with NATO, we could easily enter the war and defend Ukraine and drive Russia out. Then we would have to decide if we just go with Desert Storm in 1991 where we pushed back Saddam Hussein or go full bore and go after him until he is dead. Do we just push Putin out of Ukraine or bring him to trial for war crimes, terrorism, and genocide?

While we debate and discuss this in our safe communities, in a nation that hasn't had a bomb dropped on it in 80 years, there are innocent people dying from bombs, from executions, and from starvation and the elements. We are not powerless, but we are not in control. We are helping as a nation in giving weapons, supplies, and rallying the nations around the world in non-violence of sanctions. We are helping, as communities, faiths, and organizations, to help the refugees find food, shelter, and maybe a new home.

I wish there was a clear path to stop the invasion, the suffering, the genocide. I pray for that path to come, for wisdom for all nations leaders on how to put an end to this and all wars. We are not powerless, but we are not in control. We need wisdom, O LORD, give us wisdom and compassion for those who are suffering and those who have lost all.

Peace

Pastor Enno

## **PRAYER OF THE MONTH FOR MAY**

Amazing and Merciful God, we give you thanks and praise for abundant life and daily miracles. As our youth grow in completing another year of education, help us grow in our faith. As the trees and flowers grow and mature; help us to grow and mature in our love. Watch over our neighbors across the lake and across the globe. May the peace that passes all understanding enter into our hearts and may we share it. In Jesus' name we pray, who with you and the Holy Spirit, reign eternally.

Amen.

# First Congregational United Church of Christ, Grand Marais

## Board of Directors Meeting Via Zoom

April 19, 2022 @ 5:00 pm

**Board Attendees:** Carol Bennett, John Bottger, Jenny Delfs, Kevin LeVoir, Carol Winter, Tom Yuhasey

**Church Staff:** Pastor Enno

**Absent:** Lesaann Foris

### We Begin Together:

- I. Jenny called the meeting to order.
- I. John is assigned to take the minutes of the meeting.
- II. Kevin read the mission statement.
- III. Joys and Concerns were shared.
- IV. Pastor Enno asked the question: "What do you believe about God?"  
Responses were shared
- VI. Jenny read the communication agreement.

### Immediate and Urgent Business/Housekeeping

- VII. March minutes approved via email for April Newsletter.
- VIII. Agenda approved with addition of discussion on building use.  
Motion Jenny, second Kevin
- IX. Financial Report: Kevin reported the church continues to be in a good place. Liquid cash was up \$4,000 as we continue to be positive to the budget. Pastor Search fund was closed out with the purchase of a computer and the rest of the funds transferred to the general fund. No other funds were closed out. \$600 has been received from the food shelf and will be reflected next month. Income will start from the piano lessons next month. The endowment fund has been following the ups and downs with the market. Motion to approve by John with a second by Jenny.  
  
Report approved.
- X. Newsletter articles for May are due April 26th.
- XI. May meeting set for May 18th at 5pm on zoom

## Old and New Business

XII. Pastor Enno gave his report. Things are going well. Wednesday progressing well. Enno will do a radio interview on Friday. Breakout sessions are planned for May 22nd to start the discussion of developing a mission statement. Ben Steckelberg will preach while Enno is on vacation. Last Sunday of May will be pester the pastor. Enno will talk to a Pride Day speaker for a connection with our church.

### XIII. Old Business

A. Jenny will follow up on the pass through funds from Thanksgiving and Chiapas.

B. Mutual ministry goals will be reviewed at the next meeting. John will send an email with a rough draft.

C. The safe church policy will be reviewed by Kevin.

D. No progress on the cemetery property. Jenny will continue to follow up.

E. Vehicle charging station project is awaiting for information from the city.

F. The Explorer Club has requested use of space for their program. Enno will follow up with an agreement.

G. The membership project will be addressed by Steve Aldrich and Carol B.

### XIV. New Business

A. June board elections: Lesaann will be retiring. Jenny, Carol B., and Kevin have one year remaining. John, Tom and Carol W. will be on the ballot for a two year term. Also on the ballot will be a replacement for Lesaann. The nominating committee will be John, Jenny, Carol B. and Nancy Starr. The meeting to elect the board members will be held the last Sunday in June. This is the tentative date for the next congregational meeting.

B. Janitor position: Enno will write an ad for the newspaper and the Mail Chimp. Enno will also check with other churches in town for janitor availability. Enno, John and Tom will finalize the job description and interview candidates. Jenny will check with the clinic in regards to mowing and plowing services.

C. Building/Worship COVID Policies: The board voted to rescind the policy on vaccinations for church attendees. All other COVID policies will remain in place. Kevin will continue listing attendees for contact tracing. Enno will adjust all correspondence to reflect this vote.

D. Temporary Use of lower level Media Room: Enno will explore the potential use of this space by a local practitioner.

XV. Church life Reports/Updates

A. Building and Grounds has scheduled a parsonage work day in May.

XVI. End Together

Decisions and tasks assigned were reviewed.

XVII. Adjourn

### **Treasurer's Report for May 2022 Newsletter**

The March 2022 (latest fully available information) Financial Report shows a total income of \$18,208.24 and expenses of \$13,508.68 (See Detail Below). This means that the Church's expenses were less than Income by \$4,669.56.

<b>Income for March 2022</b>	
Pledged Donations	\$ 8,388.33
Pass Through Donations	\$ 240.00
Loose Plate Offering	\$ 20.00
Building Use	\$ 89.00
Income from Outside Sources	\$ 9,469.23
Interest Income	\$ 1.68
	\$18,208.24

<b>Expenses for March 2022</b>	
General Expenses (Pastor, Staff, Building, Loan Interest)	\$13,264.71
Loan Principle	\$ 243.97
	\$13,508.68

The full report for February is available in the Church office.

## **DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS**

Our new Discipleship Group will gather on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am on Zoom. We will be discussing “Who is Jesus?”

Our Journey Discipleship Group will meet on May 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

## **CARE OF THE EARTH**

### **Support the Fond du Lac Band’s Objection to the Polymet Permit: Protect the St. Louis River and Lake Superior Watersheds**

The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has exercised its rights under the Clean Water Act Section 401(a)(2) to object to the U.S. Army Corps PolyMet federal wetlands destruction permit on the grounds that the PolyMet mine would contaminate its reservation waters on the St. Louis River with toxic mercury, contaminating fish and killing aquatic life.

Neither federal nor state permits protect downstream Fond du Lac Reservation waters from PolyMet mine pollution.

The U.S. Army Corps will hold a hearing on the Band’s objection from May 3-5, and the U.S. EPA will make its recommendation.

To send a letter in support of the Band, please visit <https://waterlegacy.org>. Scroll down a bit to find the sign-up link.

And while you’re at it, take a tour of the WaterLegacy website. Find information about PolyMet, the proposed Tamarack mine, mining deregulation, the protection of wild rice, and more.

Sign up to receive alerts about how you can influence government decisions, get the latest news updates about PolyMet and WaterLegacy’s advocacy work, and learn about upcoming volunteer opportunities and events.



## ONLINE EVENT

### **ROBIN WALL KIMMERER to speak at U of M** *Event available online*

Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*, will speak at the University of Minnesota on Tuesday, May 17. She will be in conversation with the Dakota author of *The Seed Keeper*, Diane Wilson.

**This event will be available VIRTUALLY, ON DEMAND, May 18-31.**

For more information, visit <https://www.northrop.umn.edu/events/robin-wall-kimmerer> .



# 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.

## Registration Deadlines

Registration deadline for workshops: April 29

Registration deadline for exhibits: May 1

Registration deadline for Annual Meeting: June 2



## United Church of Christ

In his Easter message, Dorhauer calls for resurrection of peace, hope, love by [UCC Leadership](#) | published on Apr 14, 2022

In his Easter message, United Church of Christ General Minister and President John C. Dorhauer is calling for a season of resurrection — a resurrection of peace, a resurrection of hope and a resurrection of love. All, he said, are needed in the world and readily available to us.

He spoke of “peace in the world, in our hearts and our communities”; hope for the health of the earth, its people and “what tomorrow can look like”; and love to bridge “deep chasms between political and religious beliefs” and “restore broken relationships.”

UCC General Minister and President John Dorhauer delivers his 2022 Easter message.

*“Hello, dear friends in the United Church of Christ. I bring you Easter greetings. I want to begin my brief reflection with words that have sustained me through this season of pandemic. And I want to close this brief reflection with a different set of words that have sustained me through this time of pandemic.*

*“The first set of words come to us from a deacon of the Coventry Church of the Reformed Church of Great Britain, spoken in 1949 when they were trying to call a new pastor after the church in the town of Coventry had been carpet bombed into oblivion during the second World War. And the deacon said to the pastor they were trying to call, ‘there is nothing in this church that cannot be changed so long as the Gospel is preached in the Kin-dom of God proclaimed.’*

*“I’ve held fast to those words throughout the season of pandemic, reminding myself that there is nothing in our church that cannot change so long as the Gospel is proclaimed and the Kin-dom of God is preached. So let’s keep doing that as we have been, regardless of the circumstances. And in this time of Easter season, I am calling for a season of resurrection, a resurrection of peace in the world in our hearts, in our communities.*

*“As the globe is torn apart by wars in Syria, Myanmar, the South Sudan,*

*other hot spots, and of late Ukraine, we call for a resurrection of and a commitment to peace. We call for a resurrection of hope. It's two years now, plus, of quarantining ourselves and isolating ourselves to protect us and our loved ones from the pandemic. It's wearing us down and eroding our commitment to hope about what tomorrow can look like.*

*"The globe, threatened by warming, and in the call for climate justice, has us all concerned about our future health as individuals, as the human community, and as the planet that we love and occupy. And so I'm calling for a resurrection of hope in and through this time, and a resurrection of love. We all are on our social media platforms, are fed by algorithms that read our political minds and inclinations and continue to feed us political materials that reinforce our biases and identify friends that think the same thing – the way we do.*

*"All of that and so many other things are creating deep chasms between political and religious beliefs and we need to resurrect love and restore broken relationships. I do pray that this season of Easter sees the resurrection of peace, a resurrection of hope, a resurrection of love, all of which we are in need of, and all of which, through the resurrected Christ and the movement of Christ's Holy Spirit, are readily available to us.*

*"I want to close with these words that also, through this time of pandemic, have grounded me. And they come from the great mystic Julian of Norwich, who said through a hard time of pandemic, 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.' Indeed Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, and all shall be well."*

Faithfully,  
The Rev. John C. Dorhauer  
General Minister and President

## **Peace and Justice – Earth Day Fair**

Our next meeting for Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light will take place on May 10<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 7:00 pm on Zoom.

# Cook County Earth Day Fair

## April 22, 2022



# Cook County Earth Fair

April 22, 2022



## SEASONS OF OUR LIVES

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

(Ecclesiastes 3)



### MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/4 Frithjof Wannebo

5/8 Bruce Leonard

5/8 Amy Russ

5/8 Emma Smith

5/12 Stefanie Mitchell

5/17 Rhonda Silence

5/20 EvaLyn Carlson

5/20 Stephen Quaife

5/21 James Ford

5/22 Kirra Lynn White

5/22 Peggy Staples

5/22 David Larsen

5/25 Mindy Silence

5/30 Dan Strayer

5/30 Rhodelle Bockovich

5/31 Jonathan Hedstrom

### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/7 Mark & Carol Morgen

5/8 Ralph Larsen & Sandy Stover

5/14 Bob & Helen Carter

5/18 Jenny Delfs & Jeff Kern

5/21 Nancy Starr & Steve Nielsen

5/25 Ivy Church & Don Davison

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> <b>10:00am</b> Hymn Sing <b>10:30am</b> Worship Fellowship Following	<b>2</b> <b>7:00am</b> AA (FS) <b>3:00pm-5:00pm</b> Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) <b>7pm</b> ALANON (FS)	<b>3</b> <b>3:00pm</b> Ministerial Lectionary Study <b>7:00pm</b> Zen Meditation (LL)	<b>4</b> <b>7:00am</b> AA (FS)	<b>5</b> <b>10:00am</b> TaiChi (LL) <b>12:00pm</b> Women's AA (FS) <b>1:30pm</b> Isiah Bible Study <b>3:00pm</b> Building & Grounds Mtg	<b>6</b> <b>7:00am-8:00am</b> AA (FS) Harbor Watch	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>9:00am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Hymn Sing <b>10:30am</b> Worship Fellowship Following	<b>9</b> <b>7:00am</b> AA (FS) <b>3:00pm-5:00pm</b> Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) <b>7pm</b> ALANON (FS) Pastor Enno's day off	<b>10</b> <b>3:00pm</b> Ministerial Lectionary Study <b>7:00pm</b> Zen Meditation (LL) <b>7:00pm</b> MNIPL	<b>11</b> <b>7:00am</b> AA (FS) <b>5:15pm</b> PASJ	<b>12</b> <b>9:15</b> Chaplin Meeting <b>10:00</b> Tai Chi (LL) <b>12:00pm</b> Women's AA (FS) <b>1:30pm</b> Isiah Bible Study	<b>13</b> <b>7:00am</b> AA (FS) <b>8:00am</b> Harbor Watch	<b>14</b> <b>10:00am</b> Discipleship group <b>1:30pm</b> Parsonage Work Day
<b>15</b> <b>9:00am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Hymn Sing <b>10:30am</b> Worship Hour (Communion) Fellowship following	<b>16</b> <b>7:00am</b> AA (FS) <b>3:00pm-5:00pm</b> Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) <b>7pm</b> ALANON Pastor Enno's day off	<b>17</b> <b>12:00pm</b> Clergy Cluster <b>3:00pm</b> Ministerial Lectionary Study <b>7:00pm</b> Zen Meditation (LL)	<b>18</b> <b>7:00am</b> AA (FS) <b>11:00am</b> Book Study <b>5:00pm</b> BOD meeting	<b>19</b> <b>10:00am</b> TaiChi <b>11:30am</b> Eco Preacher workshop <b>12:00pm</b> Women's AA (FS) <b>1:30pm</b> Isiah Bible Study	<b>20</b> <b>7:00am</b> AA (FS) <b>8:00am</b> Harbor Watch	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>9:00am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Hymn Sing <b>10:30am</b> Worship, Fellowship following <b>2:00pm</b> FUN Day	<b>23</b> <b>7:00am</b> AA (FS) <b>3:00pm-5:00pm</b> Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) <b>7pm</b> ALANON Pastor Enno's day off	<b>24</b> <b>12:00pm</b> Clergy Cluster <b>2:00pm</b> Eleanor Sjoberg Memorial <b>3:00pm</b> Ministerial Lectionary Study <b>7:00pm</b> Zen	<b>25</b> <b>7:00am</b> AA (FS)	<b>26</b> <b>10:00am</b> TaiChi <b>12:00pm</b> Women's AA (FS) <b>1:30pm</b> Isiah Bible Study <b>4:00pm</b> Pastoral Ref <b>5:00pm</b> Library Bd	<b>27</b> <b>7:00am</b> AA (FS) <b>8:00am</b> Harbor Watch	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>NO Sunday School</b> <b>10:00am</b> Hymn Sing <b>10:30am</b> Worship	<b>30</b> <b>7:00am</b> AA (FS) <b>3:00pm-5:00pm</b> Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) <b>7pm</b> ALANON Pastor Enno's Day off	<b>31</b> <b>3:00pm</b> Ministerial Lectionary Study <b>7:00pm</b> Zen Meditation (LL)				

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



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### **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.



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Brooke Shannon, Bookkeeper