



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 ~ September 2022

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WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday Worship Outside and on ZOOM at 10:30 AM

September 4, 13th Sunday of Pentecost, on this Labor Day weekend we will explore Paul's short letter to Philemon who had a slave that with Paul for a while and now is being returned to hopefully be freed. Back in Jesus' and Paul's time there was robust slave trading, but not quite like we experienced here in the United States. But there was economic exploitation by one group of another. This still happens today in our world and in our country. What would Paul say about this and what did Jesus say about this?

September 11, 1st Sunday of Creation, we join together with Spirit of the Wilderness Church to lift up God's creation, the beauty, blessings, and fragility of it. We explore the stories of Jeremiah, the early church, and Jesus sharing the parables of the lost sheep and coin to see what it can tell us about our current global climate crisis.

September 18, 2nd Sunday of Creation, on this Sunday, the Spirit of the Wilderness Episcopal church will join us for a Jazz worship lead by Mike Debevec to hear the cry of the world and the poor in this Season of Creation. We will listen to the prophet Jeremiah to the consequences of neglecting those around us and Jesus who tells a parable of a dishonest steward who won the right friends.

September 25, 3rd Sunday of Creation, on the this Sunday, we will go and worship with Spirit of the Wilderness as they host us and Buff Grace, who works with Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, as he shares their story and weaves it all in the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Enno Limvere

My mom would ask us, "If all your friends jumped off a cliff (maybe it was a bridge) would you?" My younger sister has done some cliff jumping and survived, as high as 60 feet she told me. I would probably faint half-way down. All the other churches are back inside and singing, and we wish that we were as well. The good news is that we have been having 40ish in attendance while we have been worshipping outside, our finances are good, and our church is thriving on a number of metrics. The struggle is that we are subject to weather, passing birds and trucks, and the setting up and taking down to put on the production of worship every Sunday. I am very glad for our tech crew who work at giving us a clear sound, welcoming those on Zoom, and making a good video so others can join our worship afterwards. None of the tech crew (including me) have a deep understanding of all of this and doing our best to make it all work. We do have glitches and wish we didn't, but we are amateurs who are learning. (We are looking for others to help us, if you are so inclined.)

Each church and community are different so I don't subscribe to the "well everyone is doing it" argument. The big part of the equation is that there are few certainties in this time when the mutated COVID virus is as contagious as ever. Yes, most of us have been vaccinated and most who have tested positive over the summer have had relatively mild symptoms (not being hospitalized), but there are still those in our church and community who really can't afford to chance it.

I will be sending out a survey in collaboration with the Worship Committee and the Board of Directors about how we should proceed this Fall and Winter in regards how we worship, whether or not we sing, and about wearing masks. There are already lots of ideas floating around this conversation. The decisions we (the Board and Worship Committee) make in September for how we come in this Fall won't make everyone happy. Some will think we are too cautious and some will think we are too risky. However these Board and Worship decisions come out, you have to make your own decision about your health. We continue to ask, that even while the CDC says we don't have to quarantine, that you would not join us in-person for worship if you have symptoms and/or tested positive. We will continue to offer the Zoom option and work to record the services for later viewing.

For September, we will continue outside unless weather forces us inside. We will have communion on the September 18th (not on the 2nd Sunday of September 11th) as Spirit of the Wilderness Church will join us as we have a Jazz service which has a communion liturgy. The next Sunday we are invited to join them up at Maple Hill Church to worship with them.

I am very much looking forward when we can sing and be maskless in the sanctuary and not have to worry about this pandemic. But we aren't there yet. Let us continue to do and be our best in this trying time, fill ourselves with compassion

and strength for this journey we are on. This is a great church and we have amazing people and great things happening. Let us continue to remember this and give God thanks.

Peace

Pastor Enno

PRAYER OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER

Almighty and Generous God, we thank you for this day and your presence in it. We lift up our youth as they go back to school and the teachers who guide them. In the month where we celebrate Labor Day, we also lift up all who contribute to our society, especially those who struggle to make a living wage. Help us to love others as you love us each and every day. We proclaim we are made in your image; the universe and world are yours, and your kingdom is just. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Thoughts from a board member: Little words

Greetings All,

When Tom Yuhasey graciously agreed to chair the board he said he doesn't like to write, or at least that's what I heard. As it turns out, Tom is good at it. Still, it seems fair to take turns with this task so over the coming months you will be seeing a potpourri of thoughts from various board members.

Every so often I think about the meaning of some of the smallest words in our language. One that crops up often is the word 'with'. Often 'with' means comfort. When I was very young I thought one of the promises of God was that I wouldn't have to suffer if I had faith. Of course, that isn't how it works. Life inevitably has difficulties. However, hard times are more bearable when someone else is with us.

One of the most comforting verses in the Bible is Matthew 28:20 where Jesus says, "I am with you always, even to the close of the age." No matter what happens, even when we feel we're on our own, God is near. In fact, even if I act like a jerk sometimes, God doesn't turn away.

A few years ago I read 'Cutting for Stone' by Abraham Verghese. It's a novel about doctors and relationships, among other things. One of the most

memorable parts for me was when a professor asked the students, “During time of crisis what therapy is delivered through the ear?” The answer is “Words of comfort.” I was on the receiving end of this when I had surgery in Rochester. A friend of mine is an anesthesiologist there. He was not assigned to my case and he claims to be unfriendly and antisocial. However, when I arrived in the operating room he came in, sat down beside the gurney, held my hand and chatted with me until I was asleep. It was wonderfully comforting.

It’s good to be with you all.
Carol Winter

Minutes of First Congregational United Church of Christ- Grand Marais Board of Directors Meeting

August 16, 2022, via Zoom 5-7pm

Attending: Tom Yuhasey(moderator), Kevin LeVoir (treasurer), Carol Winter, John Bottger, Enno Limvere, Jenny Delfs (secretary), Bruce Tyler. Absent: Carol Bennett (lucky to be in the BWCA)

Sandy Stover, representing Maple Cemetery Board, met with the BOD. She gave an overview of the cemetery property history and current issues. The congregation previously approved plan to cede ownership of the cemetery to the Cemetery Board has proved legally difficult. Proposal to work instead toward the church giving the Cemetery Board a long-term lease for the two lots church owns. Any action would need congregational approval at the Winter Meeting.

Meeting was called to order at 5:30. Tom read the church mission statement. Joys and concerns were shared. Enno’s question was “The Holy Spirit, what do you think of it?” Tom then read our communication agreement.

July minutes were approved via email and published in the August newsletter.

August agenda was reviewed and approved

Kevin, treasurer, gave a detailed financial report. Income is matching expenses to date. Year to date actual vs budget is looking good. Details available in the church office. **Financial report was approved.** In his 2nd role as financial secretary, Kevin mentioned he has gone to the bank for 162 weeks to make our weekly deposits.

Sept newsletter articles are due Aug 29. Carol Winter will be contributing her thoughts this month

Next meeting set for Tues Sept 20 5-7pm

PASTOR REPORT

Pastor Enno reviewed highlights of his written report. He is visiting families. New people are showing up to church and weekly events. There are ongoing COVID

challenges. We will collaborate with Spirit of the Wilderness Church to do a Season of Creation series in Sept and Oct. Planning for kids and youth programs starting again this Fall.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion choosing 3 BOD mutual ministry goals for 2022-23 Board year - **goals approved**

- GOAL 1: rewriting, recreating, reimagining our wordy Mission Statement.
- GOAL 2: nurturing community
- GOAL 3: support congregation and members outreach efforts to community and wider world

Next steps on these goals:

- Assigning Board members as “shepherds” for each goal
- Carol W., John, Jenny and Steve Aldrich to meet and draft 3-4 mission statements using the congregation’s thoughts collected at last breakout sessions, from National and other mission statements. These would be brought to congregation for discussion in Oct.
- Jenny to flesh out specific measurable goals for the Nurture goal by Sept meeting
- Highlight a specific outreach opportunity in worship 3 times a month

2. Safe church/abuse prevention policy update - Will be ready for vote in September- Kevin will get out to BOD for review before meeting.

3. Cemetery property. **Board approve proceeding with cemetery board on lease proposal**

4. EV charging station may not be feasible and is not 100% supported. Tom will approach congregant who offered to help fund stations to see if there is interest in donating to other potential projects.

NEW BUSINESS

2nd speaker (monitor) and choir mike needed. **Purchase approved** from worship funds.

Church Life brief reports/updates reviewed Care Team – no active members at present. Pastor Enno visiting elders, families, and individuals

- Pastoral Relations – has been meeting monthly
- Finance committee – weekly updates to congregation re actual/ budget
- Stewardship committee – Planning for 2022 campaign begins in early Fall
- Children and Youth life/faith formation - planning for Fall
- Memorial Committee
- Building and Grounds Team – meeting regularly, workdays@ church and parsonage, mowing

- Outreach – WOW, collaborations with Arrowhead Indivisible, Refugee Resettlement, Food Shelf, Climate Team, MN Interfaith Power and Light
- Worship Committee – meeting monthly
- Standing Grievance Committee: Delfs, Mattice, Bennett – have not been needed
- Food Team - Root Beer Floats after worship

Meeting adjourned 7:05pm
 next meeting Sept 20 5-7pm

Respectfully submitted – Jenny Delfs

Treasurer’s Report for September 2022 Newsletter

The July 2022 (latest fully available information) Financial Report shows a total income of \$12,786.70 and expenses of \$10,137.95 (See Detail Below). This means that the Church’s Income was more than its Expenses by \$2,648.75.

Income for July 2022	
Pledged Donations	\$ 10,765.98
Non-Pledged Donations	\$ 470.00
Loose Plate Offering	\$ 260.00
Building Use	\$ 232.00
Income from Outside Sources	\$ 798.66
Pass Through Donation	\$ 259.00
Interest Income	\$ 1.06
	\$12,786.70

Expenses for July 2022	
General Expenses (Pastor, Staff, Building, Loan Interest)	\$ 9,904.08
Loan Principle	\$ 233.87
	\$10,137.95

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

Respectfully submitted,
 Kevin LeVoir, Treasurer

FAITH FORMATION: Sunday School and Pizza and Social Justice

Our Faith Committee agreed that we will start Sunday School for grades K-6th on October 2nd, the first Sunday in October. We are still making decisions about to hold in-person, Zoom, or hybrid classes. Pastor Enno is asking for a co-teacher or to alternate the leading of lessons. We look forward to beginning this group once again.

Our Pizza and Social Justice group may also be waiting for October to begin. They are excited that next Summer, the Minnesota Conference is helping young people from all over the state to go to Washington, DC, to talk with our government leaders about the changes the youth want to see in our nation and world. We have decided that the focus this year will be learning about

social movements such as Civil Rights, Women's Rights, LGBTQA Rights, and those of our First Nations. If you were part of one of these movements (or another) or know someone who was, please contact Pastor Enno to come and talk with our youth.

BIBLE STUDY: Letter of James

This Fall we are going to look at the Letter of James for a short Bible study that will begin on September 22nd, and conclude by the end of October. We will take each of the five chapters to walk through each week. This 'book' of the Bible was the only book that Martin Luther wanted to remove from the Bible and one of the few that doesn't center on Jesus' death and resurrection. We will gather Thursday afternoons at 1:30. We may meet in person or over Zoom, depending on the infection rate and people's comfort. Hope you will join us.

SEASON OF CREATION

We are partnering the Spirit of the Wilderness Church (Episcopal) to celebrate God's creation over a series of Sunday's in September/October. This "Season" will begin for us on September 11th. Spirit of the Wilderness will be joining us on September 18th for the Jazz Service, and they will be hosting us the next Sunday, the 25th. We are following the Episcopal's liturgy this season and they share this:

The Web of Life "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature ... on Earth." (Genesis 9:9-10) We are part of a single, wondrously complex web of life that is woven by God. Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family celebrates the good gift of creation. This global celebration is now embraced by the wide ecumenical community. We share one common home. During the Season of Creation, we unite as one family in Christ, celebrating the bonds we share with each other and with "every living creature on Earth" (Genesis 9:10). The Christian family celebrates the Season by spending time in prayer, considering ways to inhabit our common home more sustainably, and lifting our voices in the public sphere. We must speak up for those who have no voice" (Prov 31:8) The devastation of the web of life is, in itself, a tragic loss. We contemplate this loss and pray that it ends. We also pray for justice, as the most vulnerable among us suffer most deeply as the web of life begins to unravel. Our faith calls us to respond to this crisis with the urgency born of moral clarity. We were called to be stewards of Creation, and we have failed. The younger generation are rising

up now and calling for the Earth to be healed. Let us join them and work together to protect the web of life which sustains us all.

Summer Series at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hovland
September 6th at 6:30 p.m.

"Four (re)directions: how liturgy can orient us to a new ecological era."

The earth — and our understanding of it — is changing rapidly: we are rediscovering traditional and indigenous ways of knowing the earth and heavens; we are faced with fast-moving research on climate change. How do these forms of knowledge impact our worship and prayer life? How does worship help us respond fruitfully to a changing world? In this presentation, we will think, pray, and sing our way into four proposed (re)directions in our liturgical life, toward a truthful, beautiful, and Spirit-empowered encounter with God, maker of heaven and earth.

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Stewart is the Gordon A. Braatz Associate Professor of Worship and Director of the Zygon Center for Religion and Science at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where he has taught since 2008.

Trinity's annual Summer Series draws people from all over Cook County for thoughtful reflection and discussion on important issues in our faith and life. The evening ends with pie and ice cream! Pass the word... Bring a friend!

Peace United Church of Christ
Duluth, Minnesota
1872-2022



This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Peace United Church of Christ. We are marking this important event with a gift to our community. **The Rally for Peace** is an event whose purpose is to promote a peaceful, nonviolent world, encouraging voter registration and engagement in our democracy.

“The Rally for Peace”
Saturday, October 1, 2022
Leif Erickson Park
Noon-3pm

Featuring Keynote Speaker, **David Hogg**

“Engage in the Change: Our Generation Must Own

Democracy” *Author, activist, and survivor of the 2018 Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, and co-founder of the **March For Our Lives Movement**.*

This rally will also feature speakers from our high schools, universities, Mayor Emily Larson and others. The vision is to register voters and inspire youth to become involved. This gift is true *to the mission of Peace Church to be an accessible, open and affirming community growing in Christian faith, committed to **peace** and **justice**, and reaching out in **healing love** to all of creation, including all people, respecting and valuing the **diversity** of people’s sexual orientation, race, culture, gender, age, opinions, and physical and mental abilities.*

The Rally for Peace will bring together people of all ages, but most importantly, young people who have been through so much the past three years and whose futures are uncertain with the rise of gun violence and continued school shootings. The climate crisis, new discriminatory laws facing the LGBTQ+ community, and so many other issues, make it more important than ever to reengage our youth, encourage them to become involved, register to vote and create the world they want to live in.

Our featured speaker, David Hogg, was thrust into the world of activism by the largest school shooting in American history. A total of 17 people were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Parkland survivor David Hogg has become one of the most compelling voices of his generation. His call to “get over politics and get something done” challenges Americans to stand up, speak out and work to elect morally just leaders, regardless of party affiliation. Passionate in his advocacy to end gun violence, David’s mission of increasing voter participation, civic engagement and activism embraces a range of issues.

Hogg is the co-founder of the March For Our Lives, the third largest demonstration in American history, and apart from inspiring a wave of youth-led protests, Hogg and his other co-founders were responsible for **registering over 800,000 new voters** during the movement. He is the co-author of *#NeverAgain: A New Generation Draws the Line* and is a student at Harvard University. For more information contact: Jim Mitulski, Interim Pastor, Peace UCC, 323-578-4454, pastor@peaceucc.org Marsha Hystead, committee chair, 218-343-0118, mhystead@haileysault.com

SEASONS OF OUR LIVES

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

(Ecclesiastes 3)

Time to Celebrate....

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

9/6 Stein Jacobsen

9/10 Steve Deschene

9/17 Tom Hedstrom

9/17 Brian Silence

9/18 Frances Beaster

9/18 Suzanne Weber

9/25 Jim Beaster

9/25 Bev Denyes

9/26 Judy Siegle

9/29 Annette Smith

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

09/06 Stephen and Myrna Aldrich

9/30 Clifford & Julie Berglund



Please help keep us up to date by letting us know if you'd like to be added (or removed) from our Birthday and Anniversary newsletter announcements.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00am TaiChi 12:00pm Women's AA (FS) 3:00pm Building & Ground 5:30-7:00pm Arrowhead Indivisible	2 7:00am – AA (FS) 8:00am – Harbor Watch	3
4 9:30am Choir 10:30am Worship	5 7:00am AA (FS) 3:00pm-5:00pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 7pm ALANON (FS) Pastor Enno's day off	6 7:00pm Zen Meditation (LL)	7 7:00am AA (FS) 4:30-6:30pm Food Shelf open to all (LL) 4:30pm Spiritual Director 6:30pm Sing-a-long	8 10:00am TaiChi 12:00pm Women's AA (FS)	9 7:00am AA (FS) 8:00am Harbor Watch	10
11 9:30am Choir 10:30am Worship	12 7:00am AA (FS) 3:00pm-5:00pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 7pm ALANON Pastor Enno's day off	12 7:00pm MNIPL 7:00pm Zen Meditation (LL)	14 7:00am AA (FS) 3:00pm Rooted & Rising 6:00pm Picnic	15 10:00am TaiChi 12:00pm Women's AA (FS)	16 7:00am AA (FS) 8:00am Harbor Watch	17 10:30am Surely Disciple Group
18 10:30am Worship Jazz service with Spirit of the Wilderness Church joining us. Communion 4:00pm Journey Discipleship	19 7:00am AA (FS) 3:00pm-5:00pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 7pm ALANON Pastor Enno's day off UCC SUMMIT	20 5:00pm BOD UCC SUMMIT	21 7:00am AA (FS) 6:30pm Sing-a-long UCC SUMMIT	22 10:00am TaiChi 12:00pm Women's AA (FS) 1:30pm Bible Study-Letter of James 5:00pm Library Board	23 7:00am AA (FS) 8:00am Harbor Watch	24
25 10:30am Worship at Spirit of the Wilderness church	26 7:00am AA (FS) 3:00pm-5:00pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 7pm ALANON Pastor Enno's day off	27 7:00pm Zen Meditation (LL) Oct Newsletter articles due	28 7:00am AA (FS) 3:00pm Rooted & Rising 6:30pm Sing-a-long	29 10:00am TaiChi 12:00pm Women's AA (FS) 1:30pm Bible Study–Letter of James 4:00pm Pastor's Relation	30 7:00am AA (FS) 8:00am Harbor Watch	

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