



Friendship News, November 2024

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Brainerd
An Open and Affirming Congregation

The Church Office Hours: Wednesdays – Fridays from 10:00am – 2:00pm
Office phone 218-829-2528 Office E-mail uccbrainerd@gmail.com
Pastor Leslie's E-mail: pastorleslieucc@gmail.com Website: www.uccbrainerdmn.org

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

Purpose Statement of First Congregational United Church of Christ

“First Congregational UCC is a welcoming, inclusive, and progressive community committed to promoting social justice, spiritual growth, and love for all people. We reject discrimination and advocate for equality and dignity for marginalized communities. Through worship, education, and service, we work to make a positive impact on the world and invite all individuals to join us in this journey of faith and service.”

Stay Connected

How to watch Sunday worship: The worship service is **broadcasted on the church Facebook page and the church's YouTube channel every Sunday at 10:00 am.**

To watch worship on Facebook, go to <https://www.facebook.com/uccbrainerd/live>

****Live stream videos are saved and can be viewed at any time. All memorials, weddings and 12th Night Concert are on our church Facebook page.**

How to stay connected with First Congregational friends and members: Join the private group for our Facebook Connections Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/uccbrainerd>.

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.

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>

Pastor Leslie's Workday Schedule

>> Sunday through Thursday (Days off are Friday and Saturday) <<
Drop-in Hours*

Wednesdays 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Thursdays 2:00 – 4:00 pm

**Drop-in hours are times set aside for "drop-in" conversations, much like a professor's office hours. Pastor Leslie is typically working at the church the rest of the week, but it is possible that she may be in meetings, at a community event, or working off-site.*

Everyone is encouraged to make an appointment if the above times are not convenient. You can go to www.calendly.com/pastorleslieucc and select a day and time that works for you, or you can email Pastor Leslie at pastorleslieucc@gmail.com or call/text at 218-656-0096.



Church Office Hours

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Please call Admin. Asst. Terri at the office 218-829-2528 or for further assistance 218-537-1636.

Terri Admin. Asst. is taking vacation days
Thursday, November 7th & Wednesday, November 13th.

The Office will be closed for Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 28th & Friday, November 29th.

Please call the office and leave a voice mail for assistance.

First Congregational UCC News & Updates

Church Leadership

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

There are many other opportunities for you to share your talents!

Council & Committees needing fresh faces and leadership:

***Council Member-At-Large:** Attend council meetings, act as a liaison for church members and council, help with nominations, spokesperson for historically underrepresented groups (HUGS).

***Christian Education *Music *Arts *Trustees**

Contact Mary Reardon - Moderator with your nominations

~If you would like a copy of October Council Minutes, please contact the church office ~

Next Regular Council Meeting:

Thursday, November 21st 2024 @, 4:30 pm

in-person and via Zoom tinyurl.com/uccbrainerdzoom

November Birthdays

Floyd Schultz	Nov. 2	Larry Anderson	Nov. 16
Eleanor Burkett	Nov. 4	Jan Kurtz	Nov. 20
Dale Hadland	Nov. 9	Itty Newgord	Nov. 21
Becky Stadem	Nov. 13	Mike North	Nov. 25



Stewardship Commitment Season

Dear Church Family,
Our theme this year is **IMAGINE TOGETHER**.
The Stewardship Pledge Drive for our **2025** budget is nearly over. During worship on October 27th many pledges were returned. Thank you for your thoughtful and prayerful consideration.

If you have not handed in a pledge, please mail them, hand them in at Sunday worship or drop them off at the office (slide under the door if after office hours).

Extra Pledge Forms are on the table in the Narthex.

Because of you, this church can **IMAGINE TOGETHER.**

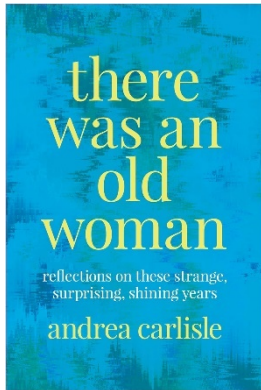
Your UCC Stewardship Committee; Marcia Ferris, Judy Whiteman, Sarah Jo Armstrong, Maggie Anderson



Friday Book Group

We meet each Friday morning at 10:30 am via zoom.

Church Zoom link: <https://tinyurl.com/uccbrainerdzoom>



On Friday, November 1st we'll be starting our next book: **“There Was an Old Woman: Reflections on These Strange, Surprising, Shining Years”** by **Andrea Carlisle**. In these personal essays, Carlisle looks for new ways to bring herself more fully to this time of life, such as daily walks with other women and connecting to the natural world that surrounds her houseboat on an Oregon river at the foot of a forest.

Those curious about, approaching, or living in old age will find wisdom and insight in her unique perspective. In a voice that rings with clarity, humor, and humility, Carlisle shows us that old age is not another country where we can expect to find the Old Woman grimly waiting but is instead an expansion of the borders in the country we're most familiar with: ourselves. Contact Pat Scott for more information.



Bridge on 7th-Warming Shelter Volunteer Opportunity

Again, this year, First Congregational UCC Brainerd has been asked to volunteer time at our local Bridge on 7th warming shelter. **Our week is scheduled from Monday, October 28th to November 3rd.** Volunteers during this shift in the morning 6:30 am - 8:00 AM help make beds for the next night, vacuuming, possibly making lunches and helping to get all guests out the door and on their way.

To sign up for a specific day of that week, you may access the week dates by clicking on the following link.

<https://whocanbetherere.com/SignUp/week-of-october-27thuucc/1mXJeWtx5PV>. Please fill out the top portion with your name, email and phone number. Then click on the date and leave a check mark in the box. After submitting it you may at any time access the schedule to ensure you are on schedule.

There are also available the weeks of: 11/24; 12/8; 12/22 and 12/28. The shelter is only filling the rest of 2024 and will send out a new schedule after the first of the year.

If you have any questions at all, please talk with Deb Griffith when in church or by phone (218-851-2949). Thank you always for considering volunteering for this worthy cause.

The Bridge on 7th Overnight Shelter is open to adults 18+ who are experiencing homelessness, are welcome to check in from 7 PM - 11 PM each night for a safe, warm place to sleep. Our staff will be happy to offer guests a hot cup of coffee and some snacks, as well as toiletries and a change of clothes if needed. Check out time is 8 AM each day with no limit to how many nights you can stay.

This shelter is funded by individuals, churches, grant funders, and businesses in the community that see a need to help our neighbors who are unsheltered. We appreciate your support!



Looking to make a difference?

The Bridge on 7th accepts donations every Wednesday from 11 AM-1 PM. Donations can be brought directly to the shelter at 1926 S 7th Street in Brainerd.

Movie Night!

THE BUCKET LIST



FREE!

Friday, November 1st
Film rolls @ 6:30 pm.
Fellowship Hall
First Congregational Church
5th & Juniper

Bring snacks to share and
beverage of your choice.

There will be a discussion
following the movie.
Free and open to all.

Invite your friends!

Two terminally ill men - Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson - escape from a cancer ward and head off on a road trip with a wish list of to-dos before they die.

Directed by Rob Reiner.

Voted one of the 10 Best Films of 2007.

UCC Women's Coffee

November 9th 9:30 am

Fellowship Hall



UCC Women's Lunch



Thursday, November 21st 11:30 am

@ Baia Della in Baxter

Hostess: Kay Cox

Everyone is welcome

no reservations are required for either gathering.

Men's Lunch

Not Organized - No Agenda - Join us!

Each Wednesday 11:45 am

Wings Airport Cafe



November Adult Forums - 11:30 after worship

November 17th: Kay Cox will lead a WISE discussion focused on raising suicide awareness on November 17th. Did you know that most folks who consider suicide issue an invitation, often subtle, to someone asking for help? The safeTALK process will help you recognize actions, hear talk, sense feelings, and learn about life situations that might lead to thoughts of death by suicide. You can become a "suicide alert" helper by using the acronym TALK - Tell, Ask, Listen, and Keep Safe.



November 24th: Justice Sunday - Justice Action Teams: We will meet again during Adult Forum time. Each team will provide an update on their work with time for Q&A and a discussion time. This is your opportunity to hear what the teams are planning and add your perspective.

***WISE - Mental Health:** Alvin, Kay C., Chris, Tracy, Deb, Lowell, Mike & Sue, Pat, Sarah Jo, Shon
***Creation Care:** Mark, Kay K, Mabel, Barb C., Claire, Joy
***Community Building/DEI/LGBTQ :** Kim, Chris, Dan, Jack, Jan, Tracy
***Children & Families in Poverty:** Georgia, Kim, Deb, Mabel, Colleen L., Cynthia, Marcia, Sharon & Rod

If you want to join a Justice Team, email Steve Newcom, Justice Ministries at snewcom17@gmail.com and plan to join us this November. It is an open, welcoming process.

LAKES AREA JUSTICE TABLE

Nurturing a just and inclusive community where all can thrive.

The Justice Table is a vital hub of community organizations committed to promoting equity, justice, and social cohesion in the Brainerd lakes area. This collaborative table allows grassroots groups to communicate, collaborate, and support each other in advancing our shared mission.

Priorities:	Partners:
<p>Supporting Public Education, a cornerstone of democracy and a fundamental pathway to opportunity, equality, and community well-being.</p> <p>Advancing Inclusion and Equality, ensuring that all members of the community, regardless of ethnicity, gender, or identity, are valued and respected.</p> <p>Enhancing Mental and Social Well-Being by educating, fostering human connection, reducing isolation, and promoting community health.</p> <p>Deepening Faith for the Common Good by cultivating spiritual values that inspire action toward inclusion, compassion, and social well-being; fostering a more unified and inclusive community.</p>	<p>Brainerd Friends Meeting (Quaker)</p> <p>Crossing Arts Alliance</p> <p>Crow Wing Energized</p> <p>First Congregational Brainerd UCC</p> <p>Micah group, Lord of Life Lutheran Church</p> <p>Northwoods UU Fellowship</p> <p>People for Racial Justice</p> <p>Pequot Parents for Kindness</p> <p>The Sowing Room</p> <p>Trinity Lutheran Church</p>

November Special Offering - Sunday November 24th

Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen

This month we have an opportunity as we give, our Fourth Sunday Special Offering to the **Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen**. A lifeline for hungry souls in the Brainerd Lakes Area since 1987. The Soup Kitchen's mission is to demonstrate the love of Christ by providing meals to the hungry of our community.

Please send your donation to First Congregational UCC, 415 Juniper St. Brainerd, MN 56401. Make sure to note on your offering: "Soup Kitchen". Thank you! Or for your convenience use our Paypal account at: [paypal.me/uccbrainerd](https://www.paypal.me/uccbrainerd) Be sure to note on your offering "Soup Kitchen" in comments.

UCC & TheShop Meal!



Meal cooking is **Wednesday, November 27th at 3:30 – 5:30 pm**. First Congregational has provided a space in the Fellowship Hall and kitchen where youths prepare a meal for the youth at TheShop - Brainerd Baxter Youth Drop-in Center. A number of youth and staff from TheShop come over to our kitchen and help prepare a delicious meal that is then brought back to TheShop for the hungry and appreciative teens there. If you are interested in joining and enjoy cooking with youth, please contact Breton Monroe Executive Director, #218.316.2070 or TheShop #218.454.0009. <https://theshopbrainerd.org/>

Greening the Church

Saturday, November 30th @ 9:00 am

Volunteers are welcome to join the Christian Ministry Committee for a festive greening of the church event! Come and help us prepare the way for the Advent and Christmas season.

We will have refreshments and fellowship so come one and all!



Welcome to our Facility

It is the policy and privilege of the First Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC) Brainerd, to share its beautiful church facilities for purposes that match the values of the church and its mission which is "to know and share God's love within us." We are an open church valuing the diversity of age, culture, gender identity, opinions, physical and mental abilities, and sexual orientation.

To reserve a space for general use, ask for a "Request for Church Building Use" form and policy packet from the church office, administrative assistant Terri at 218-829-2528 or email uccbrainerd@gmail.com. Submit the request form to the administrative assistant.

For wedding or funeral use, contact the Pastor Leslie: pastorleslieucc@gmail.com

UCC Care Team

For anyone who wishes to join in making calls or visits, the Care Team meets every month on the first **Thursday at 10:00 am**. If you know of anyone who would enjoy a call from the care team, please contact one of our Care Team; *Barb Hoeft, Jack and Kay Kraywinkle, Pat Scott, Chris Yager, Deb Griffith, Joey Halvorson (text or email) and Pastor Leslie.*



H.U.G.S.

Hosts, Ushers, Greeters, Scripture-readers

Sunday morning greeters/ushers and coffee hosts play an important part in making our church a warm and welcoming place for all. Signup below for your first Sunday as the face of the church!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48A9A823A5FFC07-hugs/16034811>

Serving One Another

*Radical
Hospitality*



First Congregational Food Shelf Collection



Our church continues to collect non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Shelf. Please consider bringing items and donating. There are two collection boxes: one in the parking lot entry hallway, the other in the Narthex. **Thank you**, Brian Twamley and Stephanie Lee, for picking up and delivering the food to the Salvation Army.

You may also send a money donation to the church; First Congregational UCC 415 Juniper St. Brainerd, MN 56401. Or for your convenience use our Paypal account at: [paypal.me/uccbrainerd](https://www.paypal.me/uccbrainerd) Make sure to write in memo "Food Shelf".

The Columbarium & Memorial Garden First Congregational UCC, Brainerd

The Columbarium is 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!

The Memorial Garden is located on the south lawn of the church. The Garden provides a place for cremains of your loved one to be buried in the ground among natural plantings. The Garden fee includes the inscription of your loved one's name on a granite plaque that is mounted on the outside wall of the church.

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 and a packet of materials will be sent you via email or regular mail. The Memorial Committee has prepared the information packet, and it contains all the details you will need as you consider inurnment here at First Congregational UCC.



Prayer Box in Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden is located on the south lawn of the church. There is a prayer box where you may leave a request for the Pastor.

Thank you, Jack Kraywinkle, for your craftsmanship!



Save the Dates!



Annual Budget Meeting

**Sunday, December 15th, at 11:15 am
after worship in-person and via Zoom**

Please attend the congregational budget meeting to review and vote on the 2025 church budget. Meeting packets will be distributed in person on the previous Sunday December 8th and emailed to voting members on December 11th.

Please notify Terri in the office if you need a packet sent to you by snail mail.



January 2025! **Event at UCC Brainerd**

19th Annual Twelfth Night Concert **Sunday, January 5th, 2025 7:00 pm**

First Congregational UCC of Brainerd extends a warm welcome to please join us for our 19th Annual Concert in Celebration of the Twelfth Night of Christmas!

Volunteers are needed as we prepare and organize the event. Call or text Cynthia - 218-513-3956.

Brainerd Lakes Area Information
 ~ Opportunities to Know and Share God's Love ~

CULTURAL THURSDAY
 PRESENTS

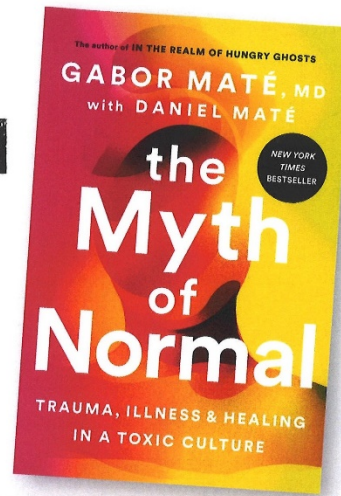
CULTURAL THURSDAY **CLC** CENTRAL LAKES COLLEGE
 FREE ADMISSION & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



KUNIKO YAMAMOTO
 November 7, 2024 | Noon | Chalberg Theatre

Myth Busting:
Toward a Better World

In his book, *The Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness & Healing in a Toxic Culture*, Gabor Maté demonstrates how “Our culture’s skewed idea of normality is the single biggest impediment to fostering a healthier world.” This course, based on his book, is a series of participatory experiences designed to discover myths that debilitate us and truths that can free us to be better.



Session 3 – Trauma: Conception to Birth

This session will ponder how the world in which children are conceived and born impacts well being when what is assumed to be “normal” is actually harmful.

Tuesday,
November 19
 7-8:30pm



Cost is \$10 for all 3 sessions!
 Pre-registration is required
 Scan the QR code to register
 All sessions are held at
 Forestview Middle School



Crow Wing
energized



November 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Y- Yes Meeting in person FB -Facebook Stream Online Z-our church Zoom	C- Cancelled N - No Meeting ? - No update TBD - To be determined		Office Hours 10am – 2pm Pastor Drop-in Hours 11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Office Hour 10am – 2pm Pastor Drop-in Hours 2:00 – 4:00 pm w/Daisy	Office Hours 10am – 2pm All Saints Day 1 10:30 Book Grp-Y <i>*Start new book</i> 6:30pm Movie Night	2 1:00 pm BACP Vigil for Palestine
8:30am Bnrd Frnds-Y 3 10am Wrship & Communion-Y&FB Dia de Muertos-All Saints Day 11am Fellowship-Y	4 4:30-9pm AAUW Mtg.-Y 7pm BACP/BLUE-Z	5 2pm EA-Y 5:30pm OA -Y	6 11:45pm Men's Grp @Wings Café-Y 1:30pm PRC Mtg-Y 4pm CM Mtg-Y 7pm AA Common-Y	7 Terri Admin Asst Day Off 10am Care Team Mtg.-Y	8 10:30am Bk Grp-Z 6:30pm Movie Night-Y	9 9:30am Women's Fellowship-Y
8:30am Bnrd Frnds-Y 10 10am Wrship- Y&FB 11am Fellowship-Y	11	12 10am Foundation Mtg-Z 2pm EA-Y 5:30pm OA -Y	13 Terri Admin Asst Day Off 11:45pm Men's Grp @Wings Café-Y 7pm AA Common-Y	14 4:30pm Exec. Team Mtg.-Y&Z 6pm NAMI Mtg.-Y	15 10:30am Bk Grp- Z	16
8:30am Bnrd Frnds-Y 17 10am Wrship -Y&FB 11:45am Fellowship-Y 11:30am Adult Forum: Kay Cox Safe TALK- Y 1pm Girl Scout Mtg.-Y	18	19 2pm EA-Y 5:30pm OA -Y	20 11:45pm Men's Grp @Wings Café-Y 7pm AA Common-Y	21 11:30am Women's Luncheon @ Baia Della in Baxter-Y 4:30pm Council Mtg-Y&Z 6:30pm Dist.7AA-Y	22 10:30am Bk Grp- Z	23
8:30am Bnrd Frnds-Y 24 10am Wrship -Y&FB Justice Sunday 11am Fellowship-Y 11:30 Adult Forum-Justic Tables-Y	25	26 2pm EA-Y 5:30pm OA -Y	27 11:45pm Men's Grp @Wings Café-Y 3:30-5:30pm TheShop Cooking-Y 7pm AA Common-Y	28 Thanksgiving Day The Office is Closed 6pm NAMI Mtg.-C	29 10:30am Bk Grp- Z The Office is Closed	30 9am Greening of the Church with CM-Y