

Keeping In Touch

April 2016

Regular Weekly Schedule

Sunday:

9:30 AM Confirmation & Children's Bible Study

10 AM Morning Fellowship

10:30 AM Sunday Worship

Wednesday:

6:00 PM Bible Study

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From Your Pastor

There are many reasons to love Minnesota. One of the big ones is each season gives us something exciting.

I enjoy Winter, though I'm not a big winter sports fan. I didn't grow up with hockey, ice fishing, snow mobiles or cross-country skiing. I do, however, enjoy the beauty and the unique qualities -10 brings out in people.

The color explosion that is Fall is a beautiful invitation to get out of the house and just walk.

Summer, because it is fleeting, brings an urgency to our outdoor tasks. The need to enjoy baseball, camping and a summer evening stroll is something many can not put aside.

But here comes Spring;

blustery, windy, stormy Spring.

For Minnesotans, we never really know when Spring starts. Flowers push their way up through the snow. Is it Spring yet? Fruit trees bud and blossom. Is it Spring yet? The grass is green and we are a week or two from mowing? Is it Spring? No one can really tell.

Several years ago I put the snow blower up and brought out the mower for a tune up. The next day I got stuck in snow—in my driveway!! IN MAY!!

There is no telling about Spring in Minnesota. It really is a mystery season. Being raised in a climate with barely a winter I can honestly say I love it.



I love the daily, and sometimes hourly, variety. I enjoy not being bored, being always on my toes, always knowing that you can never tell.

It is the Spring of the year here in Minnesota. We will make plans as best we can. Plans will change, be adjusted, even cancelled. But we will plan just the same.

We will because we are Minnesotans and that is what we do best. Yeah, you betcha.

Pastor Charles

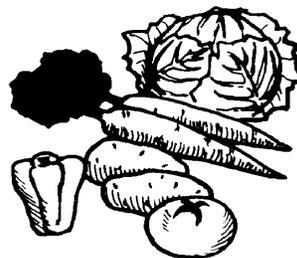
Church Garden: Yes, it is that time again.

We spent the last few weeks of last year talking about the year's bounty and the first few weeks discussing our hopes and dreams.

Now it is time for us to do some planning. While some early sets are ordered, there still are several items to include in our plans.

Our garden planning committee is calling for any interested people to join at

Luke and Lynette Nash's on Friday evening, April 8 at 7 pm.



Rick Welsh assures us if we plan for a larger garden

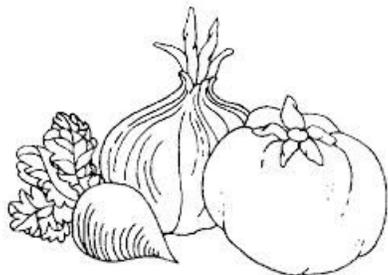
than last year, he will just make the garden plot bigger.

We will be bringing in "natural" fertilizer for this year. Vicki Holst is providing manure from Turn Crest Stables. She assures us it has "cured" and is straw free so we can expect a bumper crop.

Thanks to everyone who works so hard to make this a blessing on tables throughout the area. It will be fun.

March Food Share Month Report

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,..." "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry



and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ... "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of

the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matt 25:35-40

The church family continues to remember the needs of others. During the "SEMCAC March Food Share Month," we donated 20 lbs. of food and \$345 in cash.

Thank you for fulfilling our Lord's love for others by blessing and ministering in His name.

*"He Is
Risen."
"He Is
Risen,
Indeed."*

Resurrection Week Worship Services

Thank you for your prayerful support as our church remembered Christ's resurrection between Palm Sunday and Easter.

Our church was blessed to welcome guests to all services. They included Pastor Brian Eggeston and members of First Congregational Church, Mantorville for Maundy Thursday.



A special thanks to our church family members who prepared and served Communion twice as well as arranged for the beautiful display of flowers on Easter Sunday morning.

It was truly a day filled with the glory of the Lord.

Sunday Morning Church Fellowship Time

Are you aware that each Sunday morning there is a gathering in the church fellowship hall for a time of fellowship and sharing.

A special thanks to Noah and Sonja Wagenknecht for taking this responsibility and making it a "sweet time of fellowship."



... BUT, WE ARE JUST A SMALL CHURCH.

Have you every thought or heard it said “We are too small” when someone suggested a ministry vision for our church family? Maybe some questioned whether the church could pull off the major renovation of our building several years ago.

That was exactly what Ezra and Nehemiah had to deal with when they heard God tell them it was time for the Children of Israel to go back to Jerusalem. The people knew that returning meant they would rebuild the walls and fight some of their old enemies. The issue was that what the people saw as a hindrance to returning was exactly why God was bringing them home.

The Children of Judah was a small, insignificant nation with a history of disappointments and failures. The greatness of their Kings, mightiness in battle and prosperity in the mar-

ketplace was lost. Captivity was disgraceableness and it was the enemy that robbed them and their children of promise.

Greatness, as seen through eyes of faith, is not measured in size. It is measured in love, hope and forgiveness.

So much had to be done before the Children of Judah could come home, but in fact some never came home. Some leaders that the nation had learned to trust stayed in Babylon. Daniel, among others leaders, stayed in Babylon. The nation had to go on and grow without them.

We may be a small church, but we are not defined by anything other than what our faith allows us to do.

Join us in prayer as we continue to build the walls, fight against the enemies and reestablish the ministry the Lord is showing us to build.



*"In you, O Lord, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in your righteousness."
Psalms 31:1*

Did You Know?

- 88% of all Americans would consider attending a church of less than 100 people? (*Source: Lifeway Research*)
- The median attendance for churches in the United States is less than 80 per week. (*Source: American Congregations 2015*)

Forecasts from “Megatrends” by John Naisbitt

- As our world becomes more “high tech,” our society will hunger for “high touch.”
- As our economy becomes globalized economy, a decentralization of decision making and life choices will develop.

Question: If these are true, how do we reach Dodge Center and what are the dangers we must guard against?

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We're on the Web
and Facebook.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



The First Congregational Church, established in 1858, continues to minister to Dodge Center and the surrounding communities through Bible-Centered teaching, a blended Worship Service style and varied ministries which include weekly children's Bible Study, Confirmation class, small group Bible Study and Mission Action for all ages.

It is our desire that each person establish, maintain and develop a vital, enriching relationship with the Lord.

*Being The Body Of Christ In A
Disembodied World.*

Special Church Events

Each Sunday:

- ◆ 9:30 AM Children's Bible Study
- ◆ 10:00 AM Church Fellowship Time
- ◆ 10:30 AM Church Worship
- ◆ 6:00 PM Each Wednesday Bible Study
- ◆ April 8: 7 PM Planning for the church-garden
- ◆ April 10: 6:00 PM Cowboy Church
- ◆ April 18: 6:30 PM Diaconate and Trustees; 7:00 PM Church Council