

# CONGO COMMENTS

The Congregational Church of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, United Church of Christ

January, 2019

## JANUARY HAPPENINGS!

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, at  
8:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn.

### WOMEN'S COFFEE GROUP

will meet, greet and eat on  
Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, at  
9:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn.  
Do come and join the group!

**More happenings on page 5**



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## REMARKS

As I write this I'm simultaneously preparing to preach the December 23 sermon – "A Tale of Two Women." Part of my preparation involves reading about other women in the Bible. The Old Testament Prophet and Judge named Deborah is one of them.

It's a huge understatement to say Deborah was extraordinary. Although I suspect women ran more of the world in that day than they got credit for (some things never change), imagine what it took for her to go down in history as a woman judge and prophet in a radically patriarchal, even misogynistic, time.

Barak, the general of the Hebrew army, came to her for counsel, and she told him what God wanted him to do. He refused to lead the people, however, unless she went with him. She agreed, but warned him that if she went a woman would get credit for the victory.

I have to say I admire Barak. He didn't care who got credit but understood who the real leader was. Many men would have died before letting someone else take a role he thought was his, let alone get credit he thought he deserved. And many women would have been so trapped in the role defined for her by society and culture and tradition that she wouldn't have exercised her gift of leadership.

Deborah and Barak were a great team. Both managed to defy the expectations of others and their own internalized self-images. Deborah rose up to be a fierce, wise leader and prophet. Barak had enough wisdom and humility to follow her lead.

As we move into 2019, I can't help but wonder where women and men like them have gone. Where, in our society today, are people who are able to get beyond the stereotypes and expectations of others and support one another for the good of all? I don't know where they have gone, but it certainly isn't Washington, D.C. or a lot of other centers of power and influence in our culture.

As we begin a new year, may we, individually and collectively, strive to be wise and humble (and fierce when we need to be), always working to support one another for the good of all.

Grace and Peace,

*Rev. Mark*

## JANUARY GREETERS

06 – Nancy & Duane Palubicki  
13 – Nancy & Duane Palubicki  
20 – Miriam & Dave Moen  
27 – Miriam & Dave Moen

## JANUARY USHERS

06 – Lori & Andy Nustad  
13 – Lori & Andy Nustad  
20 – Pete Johnson & Dave Erickson  
27 – Pete Johnson & Dave Erickson

## JANUARY FRIENDSHIP TIME

06 – Lynn Anderson  
13 – Brook Christensen and Sherlene Williams  
20 – Annual Potluck Group 3  
27 – Anne Anderson

## JANUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

06 – Mary & Walt Kulberg  
13 – Open  
20 – Open  
27 – Martha Nustad

## JANUARY COMMUNION

13 – Open

## COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED:

If you're interested in serving the Sacrament of Holy Communion for us in 2019, a sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the hallway across from Carlene's office. If you have questions about what's involved with being a server, please talk with Rev. Mark.

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 to 12:00 noon on Mon., Tues., Wed. Call ahead if you need to enter the church at another time.

### CHURCH OFFICE: 218-847-4609

David Moen, Moderator  
Lynn Anderson, Vice Moderator  
Carol Moore, Clerk  
Gini Kleingartner, Financial Administrator

## COURTESY GROUPS

Leaders for January, February, and March:

**Lynn Anderson**

## Guidelines for Courtesy Group members

1. Every local church member and family is assigned to a Courtesy Group.
2. Your Group serves Friendship Time three consecutive months of the year and you will be asked to take a turn serving Sunday Friendship Time. Assignments will be sent to you prior to the month you serve.
3. Your Group Leaders may contact you to provide food or service in case of a funeral or special event, if your Group comes up in rotation.



## LIGHTS, PLEASE

From time to time someone enters the church building and finds the lights on and nobody here. It's often the downstairs hallway lights and/or the front stairwell lights. If you are in the building and are the last one out the door, you are warmly encouraged to take an extra moment to make sure all lights are off before you leave. Thank you!

Renee Holm, Music Director  
Joy Herbst, Custodian  
Carlene Hisgun, Administrative Assistant  
Rev. Mark Kuether, Minister

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship  
11:00 a.m. Friendship Time

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

02	Johanna Pederson
04	Martha Nustad
06	Madison Strom
10	Phil Johnson
14	Opal Sall
14	Jim Strom
16	Jack Pollock
17	Cyndie Blaha
18	Judy Dey
21	Sherlene Williams
23	Mary Ault
23	Richard Hennings
27	Mitsy Casey
27	Duane Palubicki
31	Niki Strom

## BECKER COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

In January, we are collecting **toothbrushes and toothpaste**. Please keep this in mind as you are shopping this month.

~ Sue and Mark Geihl

## UPDATING MASTER KEY LIST

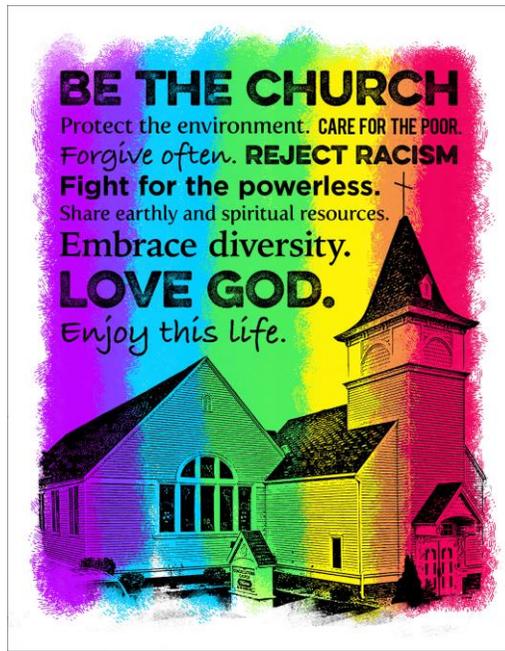
We are in the process of updating our list of key holders for the building. In comparing an old list to those who have responded, there are quite a few people who may or may not have keys yet. Carlene will be contacting some of you to verify either way.

If you have a key and have not contacted the office, please do so and let us know what doors the key(s) you have opens.

Also, if you do not use the key(s) you have or are willing to turn them in we would appreciate it.

If you have any questions please contact the office.

## PRINTS AVAILABLE



A few "Be the Church" prints are still available for purchase. Don't miss out! Many thanks to Brian Geihl for the gift of these beautiful prints.

## JANUARY 20<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING



Mark your calendars now -- the Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place following worship January 20. Among other things we'll vote on revising our bylaws. The revisions are updates, actually, and include removing the Financial Secretary and Treasurer roles and inserting the Financial Administrator role. This change in practice was made a number of years back and these updates make the bylaws consistent with our current reality. This is the case as well with removing the "Western Association" language. The Minnesota Conference dissolved the Associations a decade or more ago. In addition, it was recently discovered that there's no place in our current bylaws that covers supervision of the person in our Administrative Assistant position. This, too, will be updated. If you'd like to review a copy of the proposed revisions to our bylaws prior to January 20, please call or stop by the church office. Please plan to be present for our Annual Meeting on January 20.



We will continue with our Bible study in the Book of Luke. We meet every Tuesday at Noon in the Priscilla Room. All are welcome to join!

If you have something you would like to share in the Congo Comments, you can drop it off in the office or email it to [dlcongo@msn.com](mailto:dlcongo@msn.com).

Information for January's Issue must be received by Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

### THANK YOU

We would like to thank you for your donation of \$1,000.00.

Your commitment to The Marshmallow Foundation is so important to the success of our organization. The shelter is home to many cats and dogs that have no place to go. We make sure they have a safe living environment and are kept healthy during their stay. We work very hard to ensure all our animals find the perfect forever home.

Because of your gift we are able to improve the lives of many cats and dogs. Donations allow us to fulfill the needs of our animals while they wait for their forever homes to be found. It also allows us to save more animals that have no place to go. Monetary donations help with vet bills, food, litter, cleaning supplies, repairs, etc. that are daily needs at the shelter.

We are absolutely thrilled to have your support!

Thank You!



### JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

**January 2 –**

Choir 6:30

**January 8 –**

Bible Study Noon

**January 9 –**

Boards 4:30 & 5:30

Choir 6:30

**January 15 –**

Bible Study Noon

**January 16 –**

Council 5:30

Choir 6:30

**January 22 –**

Bible Study Noon

**January 23 –**

Choir 6:30

**January 29 –**

Bible Study Noon

**January 30 –**

Choir 6:30

### CALENDAR, ANYONE?

As you likely know, we have wall calendars in different places here at church. Most years we find ourselves with extra calendars. This year, however, we have only one. We could make good use of a few more. If you have an extra calendar at your house, and are willing to let us use it, please drop it off in the church office. Thank you!