

Peace

Paz

Bekaadesiwin

Lape

Congo Comments

OCTOBER 2024

The Congregational United Church of Christ,
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

Dear Congo UCC community,

The first Sunday in October is always World Communion Sunday. This is when Christian traditions and denominations from all over the globe have agreed to partake in communion on the same day as a gesture of world unity. We find ourselves in a time when many of the headlines that we read are about people who live thousands of miles from us. Perhaps this year, World Communion Sunday is a day to consider that we are joining at Christ's table with many of the people whose struggles or suffering we hear about, though we will never meet in person.

Closer to home, we will also observe World Communion Sunday with an ecumenical pet blessing service. It will be on Oct 6th at 3:30 in the afternoon at St Luke's Episcopal. You may bring your pet to be blessed or a picture or a memory as we lift up one of the ways in which we experience love in this world, our relationship with companion animals.

Heifer Sunday is scheduled for Oct 13 this year. This Congo UCC tradition is one that we should take pride in. It displays our strong fellowship and our readiness to put our faith values into action. We will try to add yet another Ark to our collection.

Thank you to Rev Tim Cook who will be returning to Congo UCC on Oct 27 to lead worship while I am attending a friend's wedding. Many of you have expressed enjoying Pastor Cook's services in the past and we are excited that he agreed to be with us. In addition to myself, many of our staff members and volunteers will be taking well-deserved opportunities for rest, renewal, and recuperation this month. I ask you to join me in wishing them well and to be prepared to show a little extra grace as we navigate their time away.

As the first of our snowbirds head south, I wish you blessings on your travels, a wonderful winter, and we already look forward to seeing you again in spring. Finally, blessings upon your All-Hallow's Eve traditions and gatherings. May they be Spirit-filled, joyful, and bring you closer to those you celebrate with.

Blessings,

Pastor Michael

Farewell to Nick Larson, our choir director

A farewell party was held after services September 1st for choir director, Nick Larson. The Concordia College graduate came to Congo three years ago and quickly won over the hearts and vocal chords of church members.

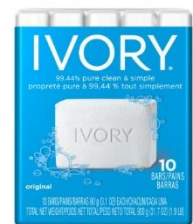


Their testimonials told how fun he made choir practices as well as giving them the confidence to shine. Nick has moved to Fergus Falls where he will direct middle school choirs and teach elementary school music.

Thanks Nick for making a positive impact!

Becker County Food Pantry

Throughout OCTOBER we encourage everyone to give **BAR SOAP** to the *Becker County Food Pantry*. You can drop them off at the church.



In September we gave 1 dental kit, 4 packages of razors and 25 egg cartons to the Food Pantry!

Thank you for your generosity!



OCTOBER GREETERS and USHERS

- 6 – Patti Kay VonWillard & Lynn Anderson
- 13 – Patti Kay VonWillard & Lynn Anderson
- 20 – Lori and Andy Nustad
- 27 – Pete Johnson & Julia Held

OCTOBER ALTAR ARRANGEMENT

- 6 –
- 13 –
- 20 –
- 27 – Anne Anderson

**FRIENDSHIP TIME for October
Courtesy Group 4 –
Group leaders: Sharon and Jim
Sinclair & Gini and Gary
Kleingartner**

- 6 – Gary and Gini Kleingartner
- 13 – Cindy Blaha
- 20 – David Moen
- 27 – Davis family

SUNDAY MORNINGS

- 10:00 a.m. – Worship in Sanctuary
- 10:20 a.m. – Christian Education
- 11:00 a.m. – Friendship Time in Fellowship Hall

ECUMENICAL PET BLESSING

Sunday, October 6 at 3:30 p.m.
at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

DIACONATE

Tuesday, October 11 at 10 a.m.

HEIFER SUNDAY

Sunday, October 13

CHURCH COUNCIL

Wednesday, October 18 at 4:30 p.m.

GREEN TEAM MEETING

Thursday, October 19 at 10:30 a.m.

ALL SAINTS’ SUNDAY


Sunday, November 3

CHURCH COOKBOOK POTLUCK

Sunday, November 10th after church
*in October sign up on the sign-up sheet at church and tell which recipe you plan to make.

FOR NOVEMBER CONGO COMMENTS:

If you have something to share in the next *Congo Comments*, please mail it to the church, drop it off in the church office, or email it to **dlcongo@msn.com** by **Mon, October 28.**

Office Hours: Tue & Thurs: 9 - 11 a.m.;
Wed 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Phone: 218-847-4609
Church office: dlcongo@msn.com
Pastor Michael Fritz: pastordlcongo@outlook.com
900 Lake Avenue, P.O. Box 642
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
www.detroitlakesucc.org  @UCCDL

David Moen, Moderator
Andy Nustad, Vice Moderator
Jonathan Rogstad, Clerk
Gini Kleingartner, Financial Administrator
Gary Kleingartner, Custodian
Bonnie Guyer Graham, Office Administrator
Pastor Michael Fritz

Greetings from your Board for Christian Education, Green Team, and Trustees

A new Sunday school year has begun and the Green Team and Sunday School are working on a joint project that will culminate on Sunday, **October 13, Heifer Sunday. Our focus is Peace.** The Sunday school will look at Peace for Our World, Peace for our Community, Peace for Ourselves and Peace for the Earth. Be on the lookout for the art projects that will be created and be prepared to “Pass the Peace”.

On Heifer Sunday you will once again be invited to support Heifer Projects around the world. There will be a table in the Fellowship Hall on **October 13 and October 20.** Work projects are currently underway in India, Kenya and Mexico. These are only a few of the countries impacted by your gifts through Heifer. For more information see heifer.org. **On October 13 please wear signs of peace** – a t-shirt, a necklace, and so on. Be prepared to sing about peace, pass the peace and give to peace!

On the local level, our Green Team and the Board of Trustees teamed up to analyze ways to make our church more Accessible to All. It was determined that our beautiful front doors are a barrier to our accessibility. In the near future, the front doors will be upgraded to include an accessible door button. The best part is we can keep our beautiful doors that have welcomed so many people over the years and now they – and we- will be able to welcome more people with greater ease.

Carol Nustad

October Birthdays

10/2 Teddy Davis
10/7 Baehlee Ruchti
10/7 Bentlee Branstad
10/12 Barbara Fox
10/13 Roma Jacoby



10/19 Nancy Swedberg
10/20 Kathy Coyle
10/20 Susan Gjersvig
10/26 Paula Jones Johnson

Ron and Anita Row

Ron and Anita Row are traveling to Arizona one last time to sell their winter get-away home. Ron told members of UCC that they look forward to staying in Detroit Lakes and at the Congregational Church. He thanked Matt Casey for recommending they join Congo years ago. They love it and its people. Safe travels Rows! August 31st they celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary with family.



A number of Congo members turned out...

A number of Congo members turned out September 5th for the opening of the “She Shattered — Women’s Equity” exhibit at the Becker County Museum.

Vicki Reidinger and Mary Amundson congratulated Kathy Coyle for being featured as one of the glass ceiling breakers for her pioneering status in the local television industry. The exhibit will be open to the public through most of September near the first floor gift shop.



The special evening began when Congo member: Sharon Sinclair and Sharon Josephson led a parade of women and men from the courthouse to the museum to commemorate women’s right to vote in America in 1920.

Kathy Coyle

All Saints’ Sunday – November 3

On Sunday, November 3rd, we will remember the saints who have moved on to their eternal reward since All Saints’ Sunday 2022.

*If someone important to you has died in the past twelve months, please get that person’s name, date of birth, and date of death to the church office. We will be honored to include them on November 3.



As we celebrate All Saints’ Sunday on November 3, we give thanks for all the “living saints” among us who have been members of the Congregational Church for 50 years or more and who have contributed so much to the life of the church during that time.

Congo Life

We are excited to announce a new church activity that will involve the whole congregation.

Since we have added additional recipes to our church cookbook, we thought it would be fun to have a church cookbook potluck. This would take place after church on November 10, 2024. We are sending this out in the October Congo Comments so that people will have time to choose the recipe they would like to make.

Starting October 6th, there will be sign-up sheets for each of the eight categories in the cookbook. The sign-up sheets will be placed on the tables in the Memorial Room/Friendship Hall. There will also be copies of the “Sharing Our Best” cookbooks for you to pursue to find the perfect recipe to make.

After you have chosen a recipe, fill out the sign-up sheet. Please make sure you list your name, the name of the person who sent in the recipe and the page number. This is important as this information will be printed and placed by the dish.

Why? So that those that love it, will know which recipe it is and they can make it for their holiday meals. Also, you will have the opportunity to vote on your favorites in each category and prizes will be awarded to the chef who made it.

On November 10th, bring your culinary delights to the kitchen before church. There will be people there to assist you. If it needs to be kept warm and you have it in a crock pot we will plug it in. If it is in an oven proof pan it can be placed in a warm oven. We may also have some warming trays to use.

Dishes that need to be served cold will be placed in the refrigerator or freezer. If your recipe is served at room temperature, such as cookies, they will be placed immediately on a serving table. Any serving plates that are brought in will be cleaned for you to pick up later.

If you have any questions please send us a text:

Sue Geihl 218-234-1998 Nancy Hayle 218-950-4318 Vicki Johnson 701-412-7384

Just think, you will only be making one recipe, but you will be able to taste many. How amazing is that?

Search and Call committee

Since the church profile has become active as of January 2024, the Search and Call committee has received ten applications. We have offered first-interviews to five candidates that met our basic criteria. We continue to invite your prayers as we proceed in our search.

Church Council meeting notes

- Reverend Michael met with the pastors of the Episcopal and Methodist churches to discuss our shared services. It was proposed the churches host the same services as last year. Our council voted to accept the proposal.
- We have been invited, as a congregation to participate in the Episcopal churches August pontoon parade next year.
- Bonnie will be taking time off October 1 through October 17.
- Rev. Fritz is almost finished updating the membership list, only 8 members he & Bonnie have been unable to contact. Still trying.
- Christian Education will be using the theme of “PEACE” for Sunday School during Sept. & October. Sunday school teachers are needed and welcome.
- Heifer Sunday is October 13.
- On November 10, Congregational Life would like to schedule a pot-luck utilizing recipes from the Congo Cookbook! Perhaps do some votes on favorites?
- Rev. Fritz will be gone October 27 and Rev. Tim Cook will be officiating the Sunday service.
- November 10 is Stewardship Sunday.
- Pete Johnson did some needed painting of the storms over the stained glass windows. We are also getting the broken storm over the big stained glass repaired.
- Pete is also investigating repairs to the bottom of the big church sign in front.
- We will again be donating to the Backpack Program at \$1,000.
- The church council voted to fund making one of the front doors powered for handicap accessibility. Fargo Paint and Glass will do the work & provide the parts, (less electric) for just over \$5,000.

What’s the Financial Temperature?

We slipped during the month!
 And, September will be quarter ending with added obligations. We need to recognize our needs and not overlook them. We can do it!! It’s harvest time...recognize and share our abundance!

“Because of YOU, Our Church Saves Lives!”

STEWARDSHIP 2024

Marv Enslin, Board for Stewardship

	August 2024	Year to Date
General Offering	\$ 5,470.00	\$94,458.07
Loose Offering	303.00	1,789.22
We Care	0.00	215.33
MnKota Recycling	13.64	38.37
Salad Luncheon	.00	.11
Interest Income	1.44	17.50
Total Revenue	\$5,788.00	\$96,518.60
Total Expenses	\$10,701.17	\$101,027.83

Address updates – add these to your church directory

Cyndie Blaha – Correct phone number: (218) 234-0015 –

Karen Rosby – Karen has a new address in the Cities:
6640 Lyndale Ave. S. Apt. #204
Richfield, MN 55423

Bruce and Ryn Pitts are new members of our congregation!

Summer address:

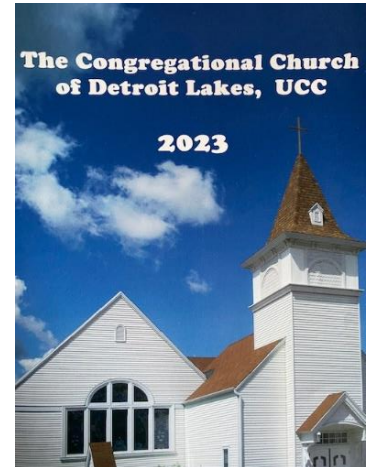
23011 Pelican Circle
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Home address:

1406 Sherman Ct.
Bel Air, MD 21015

Bruce: 701.793.5905 fargopitts@gmail.com

Ryn: 701.793.1058 tyntyn50@gmail.com



Speaking of Altar Arrangements

Everyone is invited to share something to be placed on the altar on any given Sunday morning.

It may be something inexpensive. It may be a personally owned plant or artificial creation enjoyed in your home. It may be in honor of someone or something. It may be in memory of someone. It may be simply something to share.

An altar arrangement may be a single bloom you cut from your garden or discover along a roadside. It may be a lovely bouquet of natural grasses or cattails. Do you like crafts? Perhaps you have a young person in your life who can help design something. Our own Congregational youth most definitely have talents to share.

You may add your name to the sign-up sheet in Fellowship hall, or you may call or email the church and share that you would like to bring in a special something.

Something Different with Christmas Decorations

Church members are invited to decorate 12 tables and the window sills with Xmas decorations. Pick a table and bring something you might have at home or make a centerpiece for the table and/or window sill. Let me know if you're interested.

This should be done after Thanksgiving. The weekend of Nov.30th. I think it would be fun and challenging. **Any questions???** Please call Lynn A. at 218-850-3197. Every year Niki Strom and myself decorate and would really like your help.

Lynn Anderson