Friendship News, March 2021

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Brainerd

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Church Office is currently closed due to Covid.

Office phone 218-829-2528 Office E-mail [uccbrainerd@gmail.com](mailto:uccbrainerd@gmail.com) Pastor’s E-mail: [pastorleslieucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorleslieucc@gmail.com) Website: [www.uccbrainerdmn.org](http://www.uccbrainerdmn.org)

**Schedule an ONLINE 1 to 1 (or phone if preferred) with Pastor Leslie:**

[www.calendly.com/pastorleslieucc/1to1](http://www.calendly.com/pastorleslieucc/1to1)

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

**Pastor’s Pen: *Are We There Yet?***

If you’ve ever been on a road trip with children, you are certainly familiar with these words: “Are we there yet?” And while we get frustrated with kids when they ask this question over and over again seemingly with the singular goal of annoying us to death, the truth is, waiting is hard! Especially when one’s concept of time is still developing, and “three more hours” might as well be three months. What’s even more difficult is when the answer to “how much longer?” is one of uncertainty. Many of us are asking this question as we approach the one-year mark since our lives were drastically changed by a novel Coronavirus. How much longer until we can feel safe in public spaces? How much longer until we don’t have to make sure we have a mask when we leave the house? How much longer will our healthcare workers be overworked and exhausted? How much longer until we can gather together? How much longer…

And now, it’s March again.

Grief anniversaries can sneak up on us. Collectively, we are approaching the first anniversary of a major period of grief and loss; one that is still unfolding. Hundreds of thousands of people - including people in our congregation - have lost a loved one to COVID. Many more have lost jobs, have been separated from loved ones, are struggling with mental health and addiction. The list goes on and on. Even those who have been extremely fortunate have found that isolation, loss of routines, and anxiety can often feel harder to bear the longer the pandemic goes on.

A colleague of mine, Rev. Caela Simmons Wood recently wrote, “We humans are so wonderfully adaptable that we sometimes forget what we’re living through right now. We might be less productive at work or more irritable with our loved ones and chastise ourselves, “What’s wrong with me?” What’s wrong with all of us right now is that we’re living through a global catastrophe.” The United States currently has a 7-day average of 2000 people dying from COVID every day. That’s the equivalent of the entire city of Brainerd every week. Kyrie eleison - Christ, have mercy.”

We are in a time that I like to call a “Both And” time. We both sit with the pain of the compounding losses as we approach the one-year mark AND we rejoice as we watch the numbers of new deaths and hospitalizations decline. We both worry about new, more contagious variants of the virus AND we celebrate that healthcare workers, teachers, friends and family are beginning to receive their vaccines. SUCH JOY! So far 16% of Crow Wing Country residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine. AND, for those who will be waiting a long time for their vaccines there is also a need to dig deep to find patience.

I pray for all of us to be gentle with ourselves and with others. Although we are all navigating this time, we experience it in different ways. We need to remember that our experience is not my neighbor’s experience. We need to allow ourselves to experience our emotions each day, remembering that emotions are like the weather. They sometimes arrive unexpectedly and may stay a little longer than we’d like, but they aren’t forever. If you’re having persistent feelings of sadness, anger, and overwhelm, please reach out and let me know so I can connect you with the support you need.

It is my prayer for you that you find ways of connecting with the Divine that give you the strength and hope you need each day. If you are struggling to find spiritual practices that work for you, let’s talk. Joining a small Zoom group with the church like the Wednesday morning prayer circle, the Lenten Thursday night series, the film group, the poetry group, or one of the book groups are good ways to stay connected. As the weather improves and Covid numbers continue to decline (fingers crossed) we are beginning to plan ways to gather safely in person.

Recently, my colleague Pastor Caela reminded me of this simple breath prayer as a way to recenter during difficult times. Using the words of the 46th Psalm, find stillness and say to yourself on an inhale, “God is my refuge and strength,” and then on the exhale, “A very present help in times of trouble.” After breathing that way for a few minutes, you might want to read the entire Psalm and then close with another breath prayer, using the words at the end of Psalm 46: (inhale) “Be still and know” (exhale) “That you are God.”

Blessings on you and gratitude for you and your ministry as we keep breathing together. One day at a time. In and out. God’s love is enough to sustain us now and always. May it be so.

With you on the journey,



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**Make the most of your Lenten journey. Put these dates on your calendar and read the This Week email for more information.**

* **Thursdays through April 8 at 6:00 pm - *“The Ridiculous Journey: Following a Nobody from Nowhere”* Join Pastor Leslie for an engaging study and discussion about why we might say yes to Jesus’ invitation to “Come, follow me.” The series includes videos featuring Brene Brown, Rachel Held Evans, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Richard Rohr, and more.**
* **Sundays at 10:00 am – Worship live on Facebook and YouTube**
* **Saturday March 27 10:00 am – 2:00 pm – Pick up Palm Branches for Palm Sunday**
* **Thursday April 1 at 5:00pm - Maundy Thursday Prayer Service on Facebook & YouTube**
* **Friday April 2 starting at Noon – Good Friday Virtual Stations of the Cross on Facebook & YouTube (This will be pre-recorded, not live)**
* **Sunday April 4 at 10:00 am – Easter Worship Live on Facebook and YouTube**

**What’s Going on with Covid and the Church?**

**As some of our church members have begun to receive doses of the vaccine and Covid case numbers are much improved from where they were just one month ago, curiosity about when we might begin to gather in person again is surely piquing. Some churches in the area have resumed with in-person worship (some never stopped) and some, like us, are staying online. Our Covid Task Force will be meeting soon to discern what parameters we will use determine when gathering in-person makes sense for our congregation. We will utilize guidance from the UCC Minnesota Conference, the Wisconsin Council of Churches (they have done excellent work around this topic) as well as the Minnesota Department of Health and others.**

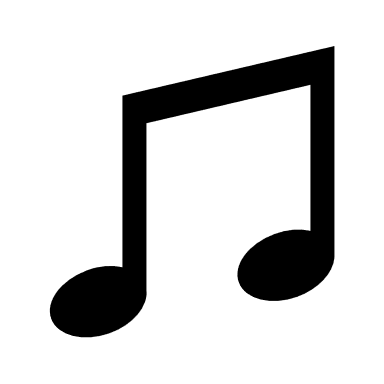
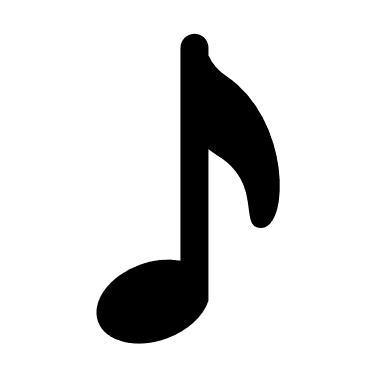
**At this point, we are not setting a date. There is still too much uncertainty and risk, especially with the new variants entering the mix. We do know that Easter services will be online only. We know it’s frustrating to keep waiting, especially when other churches are doing something different. We will be looking at ways to get some small groups together in person. There is light at the end of the tunnel. But the tunnel is a bit longer than we would all prefer. In the meantime, take out your directory and send a few cards to other church folks at random, pick up the phone and let people know you are thinking about them, even if you just leave a voicemail. You never know how much a small gesture will improve someone’s day.**

**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>  
To watch on YouTube, go to <https://www.youtube.com/firstcongregationaluccbrainerd>  
Live stream videos are saved and can be viewed at any time.

**Worship Bulletins are available for download each week at** <http://tinyurl.com/UCCBrainerdBulletins>**.**The bulletins will be ready for download first thing Sunday morning. They are available in both Word and PDF formats and are labeled by date. You can download the document and print it at home or follow along on your screen.   
We can also send a copy of the bulletin in the mail each week as we have been doing for some of our home-bound members. Just contact Terri in the office.

**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.

**You can now 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>

**Calling all singers and musicians!**

**We want to include your voice and instruments during the worship services. If you are able to record yourself using a smartphone or other device, you don’t even have to leave the comfort of your home to add your talents to the services!**

**Please contact Diane Hauan if interested.**

**March Birthdays**

Sharon Carlson March 4

Mary Johnson March 4

Michael Imsdahl March 6

Jan Nelson March 8

Doris Anderson March 13

Kim Graf March 15

Marina Grabowski March 16

Tim Anderson March 21

Deb Griffith March 21

Brian Gustafson March 24

Shirley Utzman March 25

Melinda Ellis March 27

Dorothy Lundberg March 27

Karen Ogdahl March 28

Patricia Scott March 2

**Highlights from the Council Meeting, February 17th, 2021 - 7:00 pm (via Zoom)**

~ These are highlights. If you would like a copy of the full minutes, please contact the church office ~

**Present:** Tracy Lyons, Joe Stattine, Barb Stokke, Deb Griffith, Gale Landem, Sue Hadland, Lowell Johnson, Mabel Schultz, Admin Terri Chidester, and Rev. Leslie Moughty.

**Report Highlights**

**Pastor:** Council congratulated Pastor Leslie upon receiving approval and funding for her Next Generation Leadership Program proposal. This will allow Pastor Leslie to work with a clergy coach who specializes in working with clergy with ADHD. Another portion of the funding paid for a preaching class she just completed. Pastor Leslie reported about 15 attendees at the Ash Wednesday service held via Zoom today at 6:00 pm and reminded Council the 7-week Lent series “The Ridiculous Journey: Following a Nobody from Nowhere” will be held via Zoom from 6-7pm Thursdays, February 18-April 1.

**Financials:** An overview of the January finances shows that the income exceeded the expenses.

**Trustees:** Trustees are waiting on additional bids for the repair of the back parsonage steps and for the replacement of the church alley steps.

**Stewardship:** Stewardship will be seeking new members to replace those rotating off the department roster. Stewardship is discussing hosting a time and talent auction fundraiser to be held later in 2021, depending on the COVID situation.

**Christian Ministry:** CM initiated a conversation about the return to in-person services. Pastor Leslie together with the COVID Task Force, will determine the parameters for returning to in-person services. CM has received bids from Waggoner’s to replace the pew cushions. It was noted that some of the old cushions are so old they are filled with horsehair. The pews will be inspected and repairs made. Trustees will make plans for any necessary repairs.

**Christian Education**: CE is hosting a multi-generation walk in the Arboretum at 2:00 Saturday, February 20. CE has held three Story Circles via Zoom on the faith journeys of members of our church, and CE would like to have more members participate. Through the stories, CE is looking for themes that will help determine the future direction of the CE.

**Other Updates:**

* The First Congregational financial review with Yvonne Leiser has begun.
* A reminder: The Foundation Board Funding Requests Applications are due March 15.
* Council continues the search for a church Treasurer.

**Next Regular Council Meeting:** March 17, 2021 7:00 pm via Zoom

**Congratulations to Carla Benjamin!**

Carla is a recipient of the Minnesota State Arts Board Creative Support for Individuals Grant – an initiative supporting especially artists and performers in the Greater Minnesota regions.  Carla will use the funding to continue being mentored by artist Jodi Reeb. Her goal is to create 12 new works and then partner with Dan Hegstad to create videos of each piece, giving the back story inspiration and process.  The videos will then be distributed locally, as well as being featured on her facebook page and website. Carla’s artwork will be displayed in the Brainerd UCC Fellowship Hall. Exhibit dts to be announced.  [carlabenjamin.com](http://carlabenjamin.com/)

**The Corey Borg-Massanari Foundation**

In 2019, Corey Borg-Massanari son of Bobbie (Borg) Gorron, tragically passed away in an avalanche in Taos, New Mexico. He was raised in Brainerd, Minnesota where he graduated from Brainerd High School in 2015. The foundation was created in his name and memory, to give back to the outdoor community he so passionately loved. The Corey Borg-Massanari Foundation is raising funds to purchase equipment and training for outdoor safety, and to place avalanche dogs at ski resorts around the country. An amazing anonymous donor has committed $30,000 in matching donations.

The foundation will be funding one avalanche dog for Taos Ski Valley in 2021. They are also working with instructors of the Outdoor Adventure Class at Brainerd High School to provide newly updated equipment, and with Central Lakes Search and Rescue to provide supplies and equipment.

Give online: givemn.org/Borg-Massanari

Donate by check with memo of “Corey Borg-Massanari” to:

Initiative Foundation, 405 1st St. SE.

Little Falls, MN 56345

**Journey through Lent with The Open and Affirming Coalition!**

Many of us are wondering how we can observe Lent this year: many of feel that Lent 2020 never ended, and after a year of restrictions and sacrifice we've had enough of "giving up." But Lent is also about giving to: works of love are an ancient spiritual practice during Lent. And so is prayer. Every weekday morning during Lent and Easter the ONA family will continue to offer a contemplative service of Taizé Morning Prayer at 9 and 11 am (EST) in the Coalition's Zoom Chapel—Monday through Friday. We'll also gather at 10 pm (EST)  Sunday for Compline—an ancient experience of prayer, silence and song at the close of day. Each service is about 20 minutes and draws from ancient Christian practices of daily prayer, although in inclusive, non-binary language. Morning Prayer and Compline are sometimes  posted on Facebook, but you can always join us on Zoom at [zoom.us/j/5556624822](http://em.networkforgood.com/ls/click?upn=VAGGw4zHikj3d-2F5242H3ZtM7oTF28DeuCYPUxnHHaqgV3zqexMibV2mvN9QQQTwygsOg_DRXQ1B1Yw1Xb9tbeyyMwFp6oUjNC5wycmupznE9IARiwoiOGVyT8tSJlWxKTkzazxKgfl0Vcm02AGgOHwvrhSBppAgO5gHhXPyx4pu9-2F6qNIV0vwT2ZES57R-2FRETxdySiZ-2Bpjewpm0PmuZpX2SWEgkhCKL-2BOprUR1kVCgRHImYMBwHUclP5Q1gpEwo8Nu8KC5FN86j6ugwMHpFk5p-2BQ9q2hVbq2ImU3cxjMr5R4DubF7F64l7UqVvL7-2FSCwvvpi37MY8FtS0EJT8joMUv2sE7AZ83LFCX01oxtzdwtBy2giYMYskphGfpWdobIe39e5-2BUpeQIq1-2FCazbstLLWGF-2BGgHcyPt24DsUztGAiFoOQZ8oHIQyJLYxaNNHK9Q1fjWV).

**Lent Family Toolkit Continues through March**

During the season of Lent, the Minnesota Conference has been offering a new Family Connection Toolkit to nurture faith formation and connection at home. The toolkit is available electronically in weekly installments. Each one includes a thoughtfully focused and curated collection of video reflections, spiritual practices, readings, creative/art activities, games, community service projects, justice, and advocacy opportunities, and more. Each Wednesday afternoon the toolkit is uploaded to our website on the page [Youth & Faith Formation Events – United Church of Christ Minnesota Conference (uccmn.org)](https://www.uccmn.org/uccmn-events/youth-faith-formation-events/). If you would like to receive a direct email each week, please email Sandy Kellen at [info@uccmn.org](mailto:info@uccmn.org).

**March 3** - Practicing Belovedness

**March 10 -** Practicing Community

**March 17-** Practicing Repentance

**March 24 -** Holy Week- Practicing Revolution and Self-giving Love

**March 31-** Easter- Practicing Resurrection

*This curriculum and interactive content are being developed in collaboration with Danger Boat Productions (*[*https://dangerboat.net/*](https://dangerboat.net/)*), Doing Good Together (*[*https://www.doinggoodtogether.org/*](https://www.doinggoodtogether.org/)*), the Ministry Lab (*[*https://theministrylab.org/*](https://theministrylab.org/)*) and pastors in the MN Conference: Leslie Moughty (Brainerd), Tony Romaine (Little Falls), Sara Morse (Hazel Park), Vanessa Bradby (Savage), Eli’jah Carroll (Mayflower), Amy Wick-Moore (New Brighton), Robin Raudabaugh (Elk River), and Rick King (Falcon Heights.)*

**The Columbarium at First Congregational UCC, Brainerd**

The Columbarium is located 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!

Our Columbarium is now complete. 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. Terri Chidester, Administrative Assistant, can send you a packet of materials 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. Have any other questions? Contact Dawn Stattine at [dawnstattine@gmail.com](mailto:dawnstattine@gmail.com)

**Special Offering UCC Missions - One Great Hour of Sharing – Sunday, March 28th**

This year’s theme for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is “Let Love Flow”. The gifts you give to OGHS are leveraged with those of others across the United Church of Christ bringing a greater impact to the work being done with local and global partners. Your support enables us to respond to a variety of global and local concerns by addressing advocacy, sustainable development, refugee and asylum issues, migration, and disaster, and assisting those most in need and vulnerable among us.

The COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes and flooding have ravaged communities in the United States and worldwide, leaving families and communities in desperate need of assistance. Some of these disasters have occurred in your hometown, or in nearby communities or to friends and neighbors in countries thousands of miles away, across the globe.

When you share your gifts, you “Let Love Flow” and your generosity ensures that, even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of God’s love continues to change lives here and around the world, as together we build a just world for all.

Please send your donation to First Congregational UCC, 415 Juniper St. Brainerd, MN 56401. Make sure to note on your offering: ***OGHS Special Offering***. Thank you!

**Weaving Community Needs Your Help**

The Lakes Area Guys Network (LAGN), under its Weaving Community grant, will be back to work this spring building looms to donate to various sites in the community.

***Here is how you can help***. We need donations of fabric to go out with the looms for kids and adults to use in their weaving projects. Examples are old neckties, strips of colorful cloth, yarn, ribbon, or any interesting material that is flexible enough to be woven into the vertical strands of the loom. We also need you to spread the word to community organizations that the looms are available for use at their gatherings. If you have materials to donate, or know of community groups who may be interested in hosting a loom, contact Lowell Johnson at [johnsonlowells@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonlowells@gmail.com) or 218-820-5290.

**Information for Groups who meet at First Congregational**

**Please** [**click here**](https://mcusercontent.com/7358d6fe5c26410d29dfb93f0/files/5169e6ed-6815-4cf1-9bf1-0a337c193cbf/2021_Update_Bldg_Use_to_groups_Letter.docx) **to read our expectations for groups meeting in our building at this time. (No changes have been made since last month.**

**Online Gathering Opportunities!**

***\*All church Zoom Gatherings use this link:***  
[**tinyurl.com/UCCBrainerdZoom**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6452350419?pwd=YkxGc3NhYjlraUJ6RHJod0J2LzZRdz09)**or**[**us02web.zoom.us/j/6452350419**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6452350419?pwd=YkxGc3NhYjlraUJ6RHJod0J2LzZRdz09)

By phone:  +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID: 645 235 0419, password: 56401

**Process Film Group – 3rd Friday of each month from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.** **via Zoom.** **March 19th**. Watch the movie **“Blackbird”** on your own in advance; YouTube trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9kb6ZJre78> and available on Amazon Prime, purchase at [iTunes](https://itunes.apple.com/us/movie/blackbird-2020/id1529248265), [Vdu](https://www.vudu.com/content/movies/details/Blackbird/1524104), or [FandangoNow](https://www.fandangonow.com/details/movie/blackbird-2019/MMV7D8644972E86B190E248F24FAEA13D5A2?ele=searchresult&elc=blackb&eli=1&eci=movies) and then join the discussion at 7:00 PM. Email Ellie Burkett if you want to be added to the email list at [prairiesmoke757@gmail.com](mailto:prairiesmoke757@gmail.com)

**Poetry Happy Hour – 4th Friday of each month at 4:30 pm via Zoom. March 26th.** We are taking turns reading aloud (it is completely fine and wonderful if you simply wish to listen and enjoy) the collection:*Stone Gathering: A reader. Volume II, Issue I Sumer 2020*. Published locally in Brainerd. Copies are available at Crow Wing Co-op or The Crossing Arts Alliance or at [**https://danielledufy.com**/](https://danielledufy.com/) (subscriptions only on the website). Stone Gathering: A Reader is a collection of poems, small fictions, and short essays–5 times each year: there are four quarterly issues and an annual special issue.

**The Friday Book Group** – **Each Friday morning at 10:30 am via Zoom.** We continue to read the book ***Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind****,* by Yuval Noah Harari.

**Sunday Morning Book Study Group – Each Sunday morning at 8:30 am via Zoom**. We are reading, ***“Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time”***by Marco J. Borg.

**"Wednesday Word" with Pastor Leslie on Facebook Live**: Tune in at **Noon on Wednesdays** for a short time of prayer, pause, and reflection via Live stream on Pastor Leslie's Facebook page. Click here to participate live or to view recorded videos at any time: <https://www.facebook.com/revleslieucc>

**Fellowship Hour via Zoom:** Our Fellowship Hour starts immediately after worship, hop on to Zoom and say hello! Stay as long or as briefly as you like.

**Wednesday Devotional at 9:30am:** Join us for a short devotional time from **9:30-9:55 am each Wednesday morning** as we reflect on the scripture for the upcoming Sunday.

**Prayer Circle via Zoom**: Join our prayer circle for a time of fellowship, conversation, and prayer from **10:00 am - 11:30 am every Wednesday**.

****Join in **The Outdoor Ministry Creation Justice** series of four events held via Zoom. Together we will consider our sacred connections to the lands, waters, and air, and how we might respond to the global environmental crisis. The events are free and open to all.

**What is Permaculture?**  
***March 11, 7:00-8:30 pm***

Heidi Morlock and Hans Peterson will relate stories of experimenting for 20 years with permaculture principles and sustainable agriculture at both the garden and farm scale. Get ideas to support a transition to a more just food and farming system. The workshop will cover theory related to sustainable farming/gardening as well as practical examples to consider in your own garden design or advocacy work.

[**REGISTER**](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ehgshw18c3815a0a&oseq=&c=&ch=)

[**READ FULL DETAILS ABOUT THE SERIES**](https://www.uccmn.org/ministries/outdoor/)**: https://www.uccmn.org/ministries/outdoor/**

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**UCC General Synod Online This Year**

The UCC General Synod (the big meeting of the entire denomination) will be online-only this year. A Special Virtual General Synod 33 July 11-18, 2021. Registration opens on February 1st, 2021. One of the blessings of an online Synod is that more people will be able to attend! No travel or hotel costs, no need to be away from home for multiple days. Consider participating this year. Updates will continue to be made on the General Synod Website here: <http://www.generalsynod.org>

**Brainerd Lakes Area Information**

**~ Opportunities to Know and Share God’s Love ~**

**Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen**

We have teamed up with **Operation Sandwich** to put together bags of food for the guests at the Soup Kitchen. Each Saturday, anyone in need of meals can come to the soup kitchen from noon-12:30 and receive two to-go meals. We are doing this in addition to the Wednesday night food distribution.  
**Wednesdays: 5:30-6:00 pm** Come get a warm meal and bags of food.  
**Saturdays: Noon-12:30 pm** Come and get two to-go meals to help you through the weekend.  
Please check out our website for more information: <https://www.sharingbread.com/mealtimes>

If you can't make it during that time, contact Operation Sandwich 218-829-2619 or Bridges of Hope at 218-297-4223 to make other arrangements. 

**Want to help?** We would love for you to partner with us in helping get food out to the people in our community. We are welcoming any non-perishable (non-expired) food items. These items can be dropped off at the soup kitchen (218-829-4203), Operation Sandwich (Bethlehem Lutheran) or Bridges of Hope. If you would like to make a monetary donation, to help cover the cost for these bags of food, you can go to these places to make a donation:  
[www.sharingbread.com](https://uccbrainerd.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7358d6fe5c26410d29dfb93f0&id=63df5b7723&e=5e2c6f93e6) or [www.bridgesofhopemn.org/donate](https://uccbrainerd.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7358d6fe5c26410d29dfb93f0&id=008c32cb3f&e=5e2c6f93e6)

(Please indicate that you would like your donation to go to Operation Sandwich)

**Text

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Dear Friends,

Just an update on our 2021 Thrivent Faith Build. We are making progress on Travis and Mary Svoboda's home! We have materials ready to submit for the building permit. I was excited to take some time to look at the house plans during this cold February week as I thought of warmer weather, sunshine and working outside!

**Thank you**to the four churches who already returned their Partnership Agreement.  By submitting the names of those church partners to Thrivent, we were able to complete Milestone One.  That means Thrivent will soon be sending us $31,250 (the first half of our Faith Build award).

Please continue to **pray** for Habitat, for Thrivent, and for the Svoboda family.  You can mail or email your Faith Builds Partnership Agreement to me, and please prayerfully consider how your congregation can contribute to the Thrivent Faith Build through **volunteering** and **financial support**. I hope to update you soon on our fundraising progress. We look forward to partnering with you and with Travis and Mary to build their home and to give them the strength, stability and hope they need to change their lives.

God bless,

**Cathy Wells**

Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity

Building houses, building hope in Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard and Wadena Counties and the city of Staples

[www.lakesareahabitat.org](http://www.lakesareahabitat.org/)  
Main: 218.828.8517

**Crisis Services** - All are available 24-hours (unless noted), FREE and confidential

**Crisis Line & Referral Service:** 218-828-4357, 218-828-HELP or 1-800-462-5525

**CRISIS:** from cell phone call CRISIS (274747)

**Crisis Nursery-Crow Wing County:** 218-692-2859

**Crisis Text Line:** Text “MN” or HopeLine” to 741741

**Bridges of Hope:** 218-825-4357 or 1-800-462-7682

**Minnesota 1st Call for Help:** 211

**Minnesota Farm & Rural Helpline:** 833-600-2670

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 1-800-273-8255

**Poison Control Center:** 1-800-222-1222

**Suicide & Mental Illness:** 1-800-462-5525

**Teen Crisis Line***:* 310-855-4673

**The Trevor Project (LGBTQ Crisis & Suicide Hotline – Youth under 25):** 866-488-7386

**Trans Lifeline:** 877-565-8860

**Veteran’s Crisis Line:** 1-800-273-8255 – press 1

**WARMLINE:** Speak with peers who are there to listen and support adults experiencing emotional distress. 1-844-739-6369 from 5:00pm -7:00am.

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| Church Calendar March 2021 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  | Office Closed | Office Closed | Office Closed | Office Closed | Office Closed |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1  4pm Girl Scouts-#373- **Y**  6pm Tai Chi - **Y**  7pm BACP Mtg - **V** | 2  2pm Emotions Anon- **Y**  5:30pm Overeaters Anon-**Y** | 3  9:30am Devotions &  10am Prayer Circle**-V**  Noon Wed. Word - **V**  7pm AA Common- **Y** | 4  1 pm Executive Committee Mtg – **V**  6pm Lent Study– **V** | 5  10:30am Book Grp - **V** | 6 |
| 8:30 Book Study-**V**  7  9am Brainerd Friends- **Y**  10am Worship & Communion-**V Online**  11am Fellowship Hour-**V** | 8 | 9  2pm Emotions Anon- **Y**  5:30pm Overeaters Anon- **Y** | 10  9:30am Devotions & 10am Prayer Circle -**V**  Noon Wed. Word - **V**  12pm Memorial Mtg- **V**  7pm AA Common- **Y** | 11  3pm Trustees Mtg- **V**  5:30pm Stewardship Mtg- **V**  6:30 BLUE (Brnd Lakers  United for Envrnt.)- **V** | 12  10:30am Book Grp - **V** | 13 |
| 8:30 Book Study-**V**  14  9am Brainerd Friends- **Y**  10am Worship-**V Online**  11am Fellowship Hour-**V** | 15  4pm Girl Scouts-#373- **Y** | 16  2pm Emotions Anon- **Y**  5:30pm Overeaters Anon- **Y** | 17  9:30am Devotions &  10am Prayer Circle- **V**  Noon Wed. Word - **V**  7pm AA Common- **Y**  7pm Council Mtg – **V** | 18  6pm Lent Study– **V**  7pm AA Dist. - **V** | 19  10:30am Book Grp - **V**  7pm Process Film Group-**V** | 20 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8:30 Book Study**-V** 21  9am Brainerd Friends- **Y**  10am Worship -**V Online**  11am Fellowship Hour-**V**  ***Newsletter Deadline*** | 22  5:30 AAUW - **V** | 23  2pm Emotions Anon- **Y**  5pm Le Mesa – **V?**  5:30pm Overeaters Anon- **Y** | 24  9:30am Devotions &  10am Prayer Circle- **V**  Noon Wed. Word - **V**  7pm AA Common- **Y** | 25  6pm Lent Study – **V** | 26  10:30am Book Grp - **V**  4:30pm Poetry Happy Hour- **V** | 27  10-2 Come get Palms at church! |
| 8:30 Book Study**-V** 28  9am Brainerd Friends- **Y**  10am Palm Sunday Worship -**V Online**  ***Special Offering*** *– OGHS*  11am Fellowship Hour-**V** |  |  |  |  |  | **V** – Zoom or Specified Online  **C** – Cancelled  **Y** – Meeting held  ? – Unknown/no updates |