

The Church Mouse – April 2018

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Rev. Mary Anne Biggs, Pastor Editor: Nan Pophal

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Beloved,

My understanding of what it means to be a pastor has largely been forged through my relationship with you, and for that I am profoundly thankful. I have a great love and admiration for this remarkable faith community, and so much for which to be grateful.

I am grateful to you for your acceptance and trust ... for all the special memories that have been created within this fellowship ... for sharing your children with me ... for the privilege of officiating at your weddings and the funerals of your loved ones ... for allowing me to be grown and developed "on the job" ... for the second chances after countless mistakes along the way ... for disclosing your trials ... for sharing your intimate moments of worship.

As I told you in my letter, I am convinced that my call to a new congregation is also a call for First Congregational UCC — Eagle River. How can I be so sure? Because "the Bible tells me so!" "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). God has someone in mind who possesses different gifts and strengths, one better suited to help lead this congregation into the future. And so along with sadness, I also feel great confidence that God has wonderful plans for you.

There are many leaders of deep faith in this congregation who will work hard and listen carefully for the Spirit's guidance during this time of transition. The Rev. Rob MacDougall, our Associate Conference Minister, will aptly lead you throughout the process. A Search Committee will be formed to seek an Interim Minister, after which they will begin the process of compiling a Church Profile, and then searching for and calling that new pastor whom God has in mind. I know that whomever comprises that Search Committee will covet your input.

You will be in my prayers throughout. First Congregational UCC — Eagle River will always have a special place in my heart. Thank you again for the privilege of serving you. As I tell you each week in my benediction, you are enfolded in the grace of God, embraced in the love of Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, each and every day.

Grace, peace, and love,

Pastor Mary Anne

"Empowered by the Holy Spirit and with the help of God, we open our doors and hearts to all in

service and love, as modeled by Jesus Christ."

(Mission Statement of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eagle River, WI)

PASTORS, ORGANS AND ABSENTEE VOTING, OH MY!

The church organ, absentee voting, and the Cranberry Fest Luncheon and other fundraisers topped the discussion list at the Church Council's March 13th meeting. But all those topics were overshadowed when at the end of the meeting, Pastor Mary Anne announced that she will be leaving us to serve as pastoral leader for a UCC church in Suffolk, VA. So, let's tackle that topic first, or more specifically, let's look at what happens next here at First UCC in the wake of her departure.

The Church Council will be meeting with the Rev. Rob MacDougall on April 11th to discuss next steps. Rev. MacDougall is our Associate Conference Minister for the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC. He will talk with us about several things, including finding an interim pastor, forming a search committee and developing a church profile — a document used to inform prospective pastoral candidates about First UCC. The process will be very similar to that which this church followed when it hired Pastor Mary Anne several years ago.

I expect to have more to share with you after the April 11th meeting, and I'll do so via email, this monthly column, and announcements in church, as appropriate. I also urge you to feel free to contact me with any questions you might have. I may not always have an answer for you, but I'll do my best.

In the meantime, it's business as usual at First UCC! Pastor Mary Anne is with us until May 13th and she'll continue to be the strong, passionate, and knowledgeable leader for us that she's always been.

Now, about that organ. The Council voted to expend up to \$2,500 to bring a professional organ repair person in to examine the organ and make minor repairs if minor repairs are all that's needed. The first step, is determining exactly what's wrong. Stay tuned for more information.

Absentee voting: We continue to look at absentee voting as a policy for the church so members who cannot attend our annual meeting in January can have a voice in the decision making. The meeting is at a time of year when many of our members travel to warmer areas of the country for the winter. Absentee voting presents numerous challenges, however. Still, the Council is working on the policy and considering other options, so we can make it easier for our members to engage in church business. More info to come.

Cranberry Fest Luncheon: As you know Women's Fellowship will no longer be hosting the luncheon. Council is debating whether the church should take on hosting this popular event that has become a tradition. We're also trying to develop ideas for other church fundraisers to help supplement our general fund. Let us know if you have any thoughts along this line.

As a reminder, other members of your Church Council are: **Kathy Holperin, Carlton Schroeder, Sally Kemp, Mark Johannsen, Nancy Diepenbrock and Joy Turpin.** If you're more comfortable talking to one of them about any of these topics — or other matters that might be on your mind — please do so. We welcome your input!

Barbara Helmick
President, First UCC Church Council

APRIL CHOIR SCHEDULE

Rehearse at 8:00 a.m.

to sing at the 9:00 service Easter Sunday, April 1st

***Rehearse at 8:30 a.m. April 15th to sing at the
10:00 service***



EASTER is Sunday, April 1st with a single service at 9:00 a.m.

EASTER is ...God's moment — his moment of resurrection, of life, of triumph!

EASTER is ... our moment — our moment of hope, of newness, of victory!

EASTER is ... and answer to Good Friday, to unbelief, to hopelessness!

EASTER is ... an affirmation — an affirmation of God's promises, of God's power, of God's purpose!



News from Relay for Life of the Northwoods

Great thanks to all who supported Team UCC's Daffodil Sale! We sold 68 bundles for a net profit to Relay of \$550.80. That will go a long way in supporting the American Cancer Society's patient support programs, prevention, information and education programs, detection and treatment programs, outreach interventions, AND its funding of millions of dollars of cancer research grants!



Now we're in the throes of our Spring WI Dairy State Cheese Co. fund-raiser. The cheese is fresh, made in Wi, comes in a large variety of flavors, and very economical. Usinger sausage is also for sale. Joe and I will pick it up on May 10th in Rudolph, the Team and friends will sort it here in Fellowship Hall, and some will be ready for pick-up late that afternoon. The rest will be available on Friday, May 11th by noon! Spread the news! (Delicious spreads available, too.)



The Northland Pines High School Fab Lab has made a big contribution to Relay for Life this year. They've taken our logo, 'Fishing for a Cure' and made it into good sized vinyl stickers, some with a white background, some with a clear. They would look great on car windows, or on any window, on luggage, note books, computer tops, boats, kayaks, you name it; they're sweet to look at! They're on sale for \$5 each. Our hope is that the Fab Lab will make this a tradition, and create our logo on stickers for years to come. This is the inaugural sticker! Surely it will become a collector's item! You don't want to NOT have one (or two)!

Always and forever~ Thanks for your enduring support of those who face the challenges of cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 2	Tom Ksionsk
April 3	Marilyn Dunphy
April 5	David Holperin
	Gene Yahr
April 7	Jeff Collins
	Kathryn Reed
April 8	Connie Hill
April 9	Matthew Kaitchuck
April 10	Abby Thompson
April 14	Peg Rieckman
April 16	Davany Fox
April 19	Vickie Brown
April 21	Roger Lauritzen
	Helen Welch
April 22	Kathryn Drew
April 23	Larry George
April 24	Kay Scharpf
	Landon Fox
	Noah Wittkopf
April 25	Chris Hewitt
	Chuck Kemp
April 29	Michael Farrell
May 1	Allison Liddle
May 2	Helen Albert
May 3	Pat Fox
	Sally Kemp
May 7	Barb Pevytoe
May 8	Dan Holperin
May 10	Ayla Shepherdson

Do you or someone in your family have an April/early May that isn't listed? Call the church office and we'll add you to our list. You don't have to reveal your birth year!

Ed Jaeger Memorial Service

Saturday, April 14th



**Visitation: 10 a.m.
Service: 11 a.m.
Luncheon in Fellowship Hall**

To Our Church Family,

**"If you don't like something,
change it; if you can't change it,
change the way you think about it."**



*If you know of someone who would benefit
from a call, visit, or a card, please let Pastor Mary Anne
or a Befriender know.*

**Nursery care is not available
during the worship
services.**

*Activity/quiet bags for children are
available in the entry/coat area.
Enjoy the worship service with your
family!*



Our church IS accessible to ALL!

Handicap parking area



Wheelchair accessibility

Handicap restrooms for both men and women

A unisex handicap restroom in the lower level of the building

Ramp accessibility to altar



Eagle River Mindfulness Group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, at 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the parlor.
For more information, contact Chris Meier, 715-891-2075
chrismeier050@gmamil.com

Women's Fellowship met on March 13, 2018, with eight women present. Linda Sanborn, the month's meeting coordinator, opened the meeting with everyone reading the Mission Statement. She continued by reading the Franciscan Benediction by Philip Yancy as a devotion. The minutes of the Feb. 13th meeting were accepted as presented as well as the treasurer's report.



The Spring Luncheon was discussed with more details to follow. It will be held
TUESDAY, MAY 8TH —— MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Bags for Lily's House/Tri-County Domestic Abuse Center will be filled at the April 10th meeting. Items needed are:

Nail clippers, nail files	combs	purse size Kleenex packages
Small note pads/cards	pens & pencils	lip gloss
Razors & blades	socks	feminine hygiene products
Deodorant	toothbrushes	

NOT NEEDED: shampoo, conditioner, lotions, soap

Donations can be dropped off in the church office at any time. *Thank you!*

You're Invited!

*to the Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon
Tuesday, May 8th*

More information and sign up sheets will be available
in the very near future!

UCC Reading Group – Thursday, April 19th, 7 p.m.

"A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles

When in 1922 Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the Count is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him a doorway into a much larger world of emotional discovery.



Fill out the cheese order form —
the insert of the Mouse —
and turn it into the church office
(with your check)
by Wednesday,
April 19th



Cheese delivery is May 11th. Thank you!

Are you currently a caregiver to a family member or other special person? Are you looking for a place where he/she would be able to attend for socialization, a safe and caring environment, and nutritious meal?

**We are the answer!
Call or stop by for more information!**

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
Lower Level
105 N. First Street (Enter on Division Street)**

Tuesdays 10 - 3 p.m.

Cell number: 715-617-0584

Sharon R. Breit, Program Coordinator

**APRIL 29th: “UNITY SUNDAY” and CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
SINGLE SERVICE AT 9 A.M. followed by a POTLUCK brunch in Fellowship Hall for greeting and enjoying fellowship with our new members, the Confirmands!**

Please sign up!



Thank you from Caritas:

"Dear Supporters:



"Thank you so very much for your generosity to Caritas of Eagle River. Your donations of clothing, food and finances is appreciated so much. We've been open for nearly three years, and have built up a wonderful army of volunteers and even have supporters who keep us stocked with hand-made scarves and baby clothing! One lovely lady frequently brings us home baked cookies, which we place on our snack table to share with our clients and volunteers. It's so heart warming to see the lovely ways people contribute!"

Recently, a craftsman from one of our sponsoring churches donated a beautiful blue sweater, hat and bootie set for a newborn. One of our clients gave it as a gift at a baby shower, and all the guests admired the beauty of the needlework. When that baby boy was born, he wore the sweater, hat and bootie set when he came home from the hospital!

Volunteering at Caritas is such a privilege. And this loving ministry is made possible only by your thoughtfulness and generosity. Thank you!"

**Caritas Outreach Pantry Phone: 715-480-5683
120 N. Silver Lake Road, Eagle River
Open every Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Immediate Needs

Laundry detergent	Diapers and wipes (all sizes)	Household cleaners/disinfectants	
Dishwashing liquid	Sponges, cleaning brushes	Tissues	Hand Sanitizer



In Need at ALL Times

Crackers, all kinds	Peanut butter, creamy/chunky	Jams and jellies
Canned vegetables, stews, meats, fish, baked beans		Spam, tuna, etc.
Pasta and sauces	Breakfast cereals	Soups Ramen noodles
Condiments (salt, pepper, catsup, mustard, etc.)		Cookies or candies

Dove of Peace

Human beings are amazing, learning from other animals the way we do. We study the hawk and the vulture and so we fly through the air with the greatest of ease. We learn from the crab with its shell and the skunk with its tear gas.

We consider the ways of the squirrel and become hoarders; the ways of the snake in the grass and go in for espionage. We observe the caterpillar and the hippopotamus, the shark and the crocodile, the mole and the hedgehog, and we become terrible on land and sea and underneath both.

About the only creature left in nature for us to learn something useful from is the dove.



The Jelly Bean Meditation

Green is for the grass you made.
White is for the grace you gave.
Yellow is for the sun so bright.
Orange is for the edge of night.
Red is for the blood you shed.
Black is for the sins which fled.
Purple for your hours of sorrow
Pink is for our new tomorrow. Amen.

An egg full of jelly beans,
colorful and sweet,
Is a prayer, a promise,
a small child's treat.





SUNDAY BAKERS		
Date	7:30 Service	10:00 Service
April 1	EASTER SUNDAY Single service at 9 a.m. NO COFFEE TIME	
April 8	Char Thomson	Barb Mather Deb Stolze
April 15	Joy Turpin	Sandra Mettler Pamme Williams
April 22	Nan Pophal	Linda Cole Kate Remme
April 29th	“UNITY SUNDAY” — CONFIRMATION SUNDAY single service at 9 a.m. followed by POTLUCK in Fellowship Hall	

All coins received in the offering plates are put into the Local Missions/Melody of Compassion Fund and are greatly appreciated. Keep the “melody” ringing!



JOIN US FOR COFFEE IN THE CHURCH PARLOR EVERY SUNDAY!
We use biodegradable paper cups!



Equal Exchange ORGANIC COFFEE and TEAS are available in the church office.
Decaf coffee: \$8.50
Regular: \$7.50
2 lb. bags of coffee beans: \$18.60
Green tea: \$4
Hot chocolate: \$7



April Scripture Readers

7:30	10:00
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April 1	EASTER 9 a.m. single service Nancy Diepenbrock	
April 8	Marilyn Preisler	John Biggs
April 15	Chuck Kemp	Marlyn Hupperts
April 22	Ken Lynch	Doug Malinsky
April 29	“UNITY SUNDAY” single service 9 a.m. Iland Shepherdson	

Acolytes (10:00 service)

April 1	EASTER 9 a.m. service Ayla Shepherdson
April 8	Malia Remme
April 15	Grace Florence
April 22	Leta Cole
April 29	“Unity Sunday” 9 a.m. service Iland Shepherdson

Thank you for wearing your name tag and for signing the pew pad during Sunday worship.

APRIL

"Easter is a time to Rejoice, to be Thankful, and to be Assured that all is forgiven so life extends beyond the soil of the earth."

We have much to be thankful for! Several of our youth will be confirmed on April 29 at the Unity Sunday service, followed by a potluck brunch in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend and congratulate them as they continue their faith journey in life.

HIGHWAY CLEAN UP will be scheduled sometime in May. I hope the confirmation youth will help as well as some adults from the congregation. Hopefully, the snow will be melted by then.



Have a blessed Easter.

Sharon R. Breit, Christian Education Director



The week before Easter is known as Holy Week because of its special significance to Christians. During a past Holy Week, a first grade teacher took great pains to explain all the events in Jesus' life that led up to the first Easter. She told them about Palm Sunday, and Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday, and finally Easter. When she thought she had explained everything there was to know about the special week, the teacher asked if the students had any questions. One curious little boy raised his hand and asked, "What happens if you don't want to be holy all week?"

A Sunday school teacher asked her class about the meaning of Easter. A little boy raised his hand and said: "That's when we shoot off firecrackers and celebrate our freedoms."

A little girl said, "No, that's when we eat the turkey and give thanks."

"I know!" a third youngster exclaimed. "That's when Jesus comes out of the tomb — but if he sees his shadow, he goes back in."

Have a blessed and happy Easter.



IT'S TIME! Let the shoe drive begin!

Our Soles4Souls collection will begin Sunday, April 8th and continue through the month, ending on May 6th. Collection containers are in the hallway for you to deposit your used shoes, new shoes, boots, sandals, tennies or whatever. All SOLES are welcome! Any size ... adult or child, giant or teenie weenie! There is also a stash of rubber bands there for you to use to help keep those shoe "partners" together before they go into the box.

For those unfamiliar with this effort, Soles4Souls is a not-for-profit organization that is committed to fighting the devastating impact of poverty. The organization advances its mission by collecting new and used shoes from individuals, schools, churches, civic organizations and corporate partners. They then distribute these shoes either by direct donation to people in need, or by provisioning qualified micro enterprise programs, designed to create jobs in poor and disadvantaged communities. The organization is based in Old Hickory, TN and boasts a 3.5 out of 4 star rating with Charity Navigator. The website www.Souls4Soles has a wealth of additional information.

Almost anyone with a closet has shoes they don't wear. Please, do some spring cleaning in YOUR closet, and help make this mission a success. Last year we collected 567 pairs of shoes, and my guess is that this year we can do even better!

Questions? Suggestions? Let me hear from you!

Nancy Diepenbrock



RING RING RING

A Hope Phone Update. The Hope Phone box in the parlor was recently emptied of 14 used cell phones, which have now gone to a new home with Tri County Council on Domestic Violence. This brings our total phones collected since the inception of the collection to (drum roll) 240 phones!!! Do you believe it? Isn't that amazing??? We might be little, but we CAN make a difference! Phone donations are divided between Tri County who uses them for 911 use only, and the Hope Phone organization, where the phones are refurbished and sent to under-privileged countries for communication between healthcare workers. So keep them coming! Both organizations remain grateful for our contributions.

AND Let's not forget the Starkey Hearing Foundation collection!



HELLO HELLO

The Hearing Aid Box (located in the parlor right next to the Hope Phone Box) was also emptied.

One, LIKE NEW hearing aid and charger! That brings the total to 7 hearing aids in the one year we've been collecting. The hearing aids are refurbished (free of charge) by Starkey and volunteer teams distribute them to children and adults in over 100 countries. Unused hearing aid batteries are also welcome.

So, UCC, keep up the good work! Don't let your old phones or hearing aids go to the trash!!! They can have another life somewhere, for someone in need!

At day of worry is more exhausting than a week of work.

NATH -- most needed!

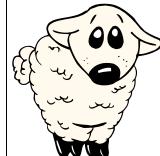
Men's & women's razors
Men's & women's deodorant
Ice melt
Aluminum foil
Plastic wrap
Stamps
Kitchen towels
Washcloths
Dishcloths
Q Tips
Lysol toilet bowl cleaner
Pot holders
Coffee creamer
Hamburger



Gathering of the FLOCK

**THURSDAY,
APRIL 19TH
6:30 p.m.**

UCC "paint room"



Bring a treat to share if
you'd like, altho' not
necessary.

See U there!

Flower Calendar (to reserve a Sunday)

Pick your Sunday and put your name on the Flower Calendar that is in the hall next to the elevator. If you want Nan to order flowers, put "order" after your name. She will order them from Horant's and the cost is \$30; you are welcome to take them home after the service. Your name will be in the bulletin and the name of the person or event your are celebrating if you let her know.

You may also bring flowers from another source and place them on the flower stand next to the piano, put your name on the calendar and let Nan know if you want additional information in the bulletin. Weather permitting, you are also welcome to bring garden flowers, or even an arrangement of wild flowers. Put your name on the flower calendar and let Nan know if there's a special person or event involved. What better way to honor anyone or anything than to share flowers with your church family on Sunday.

ALL April dates are open

March sponsors:

March 11: Pamme Williams in honor of Gwen Scharf's birthday

First Congregational UCC Contact People - 2018

Rev. Mary Anne Biggs, 715-891-2124 (home) Church: 715-479-8501

email: pastor@eagleriverucc.org

Church emails: Nan - office@eagleriverucc.org

HOME PAGE - www.eagleriverucc.org

Office Mgr. - Nan Pophal, 715-479-9882

Clerk - Marilyn Preisler, 715-479-4331

Director of Christian Education: Sharon Breit, 715-477-2163 youthministry@eagleriverucc.org

IT Director: Lake Edwards, 715-891-7028 infotech@eagleriverucc.org

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Barbara Helmick 920-412-4782

Vice President: Kathy Holperin 715-617-2424

Carlton Schroeder: 715-272-1837

Mark Johannsen: 920-475-7576

Sally Kemp: 715-479-3116

Nancy Diepenbrock: 715-479-2498

Joy Turpin: 715-479-6560

Pastor Parish Relations Committee - Donna DePape, 715-617-1710

Women's Fellowship - Linda Sanborn, 715-479-8091

Sanctuary Arts Group (SAG) - Mickey Jensen, 715-479-7504

Performing Arts Music - Bernie Hupperts, 715-479-9468

Director of Music - Lori Hunter, 715-493-8078

Organists/pianists - Linda Brainard, 715-479-5043; Lori Hunter, 715-493-8078, Norma Yaeger, 715-477-1984

Can chocolate be good for my health?

Healthy chocolate sounds like a dream come true, but chocolate hasn't gained the status of health food quite yet. Still, chocolate's reputation is on the rise, as a growing number of studies suggest that it can be a heart-healthy choice.



Chocolate and its main ingredient, cocoa, appear to reduce risk factors for heart disease. Flavanols in cocoa beans have antioxidant effects that reduce cell damage implicated in heart disease. Flavanols — which are more prevalent in dark chocolate than in milk chocolate — also help lower blood pressure and improve vascular function.

In addition, some research has linked chocolate consumption to reduced risks of diabetes, stroke and heart attack. But more research is needed to confirm these results.

In the meantime, if you want to add chocolate to your diet, do so in moderation. Why? Most commercial chocolate has ingredients that add fat, sugar and calories. And too much can contribute to weight gain, a risk factor for high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes. On the other hand, cocoa itself, unlike chocolate, is low in sugar and fat while offering potential health benefits. If you enjoy chocolate flavor, add plain cocoa to your low-fat milk or morning oats.

Should I be worried that my favorite soda contains brominated vegetable oil?

Brominated vegetable oil — or BVO for short — is a food additive sometimes used to keep citrus flavoring from separating out in some sodas and sports drinks. Controversy has long surrounded the use of BVO. It's banned as a food additive in Europe and Japan but not in the United States.



Although the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) originally categorized BVO as "generally recognized as safe," the agency later reversed that decision. Currently, under certain conditions and on an interim basis pending more research, the FDA allows BVO to be used as a food additive.

Health concerns about BVO stem from the fact that it contains bromine, the element found in brominated flame retardants. Only a few studies have looked at possible safety issues, but it appears that bromine builds up in the body. There also have been a few reports of people experiencing memory loss and skin and nerve problems after drinking excessive amounts (more than 2 liters a day) of soda containing BVO. Some beverage manufacturers have taken BVO out of their products.

So what should you do? Check ingredient labels and don't drink large amounts of BVO-containing beverages. Better yet, take it one step further and cut back on all sugary drinks. Opt instead for healthier choices, such as water, low-fat milk and an occasional glass of 100 percent fruit juice.

Chapped lips: what's the best remedy?

Most people get chapped lips from time to time. There's much you can do to treat — and prevent — chapped lips. Consider these tips:

- ♦ **Protect your lips.** Before going out in cold, dry weather, apply a lubricating lip cream or balm that contains sunscreen — and then cover your lips with a scarf. Reapply often while outdoors.
- ♦ **Avoid licking your lips.** Saliva evaporates quickly, leaving lips drier than before you licked them. If you tend to lick your lips, avoid flavored lip balm — which may tempt you to lick your lips even more.
- ♦ **Stay hydrated.** Drink plenty of fluids, and moisten the air in your home with a humidifier.
- ♦ **Avoid allergens.** Avoid contact with irritants or allergens, such as fragrances or dyes in cosmetics or skin care products.
- ♦ **Breathe through your nose.** Breathing through your mouth can cause your lips to dry out.



If chapping is severe and doesn't respond to treatment at home, consult your doctor. Rarely, persistent chapped lips may indicate an underlying problem.



BOOKS For EVERYONE!

Take a walk down to Fellowship Hall and you'll see three full book shelves on the left as you enter. These books were once in the parlor and were pulled as non-sellers after a time, taken downstairs to spend forever in what was once the "rummage sale room."

With so many groups using Fellowship Hall, sharing the books seems like a good idea., leading to this: "You are encouraged to take a book -- or many -- and leave a donation ----"
(Donations help support our Local Missions Fund)



"Rock-a-bye Retreat"

is located in the hallway across from the conference room and designated to give parents with infants and very young children a quiet "retreat" to tend to their needs. There are diapers and wipes available; changing tables are in the nearby rest rooms.

**YOGA IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL!
EVERY WEDNESDAY:**

11:30 - 1 P.M.



Greeting card collections are on-going —
ONLY the fronts of the cards ...
birthday, anniversary, Christmas cards, thinking
of you, Halloween,
whatever you have. Bring them to the church
office — we check them over, box them up and
send them to St. Jude's where the cards are
recycled to become NEW cards that help support
their missions. *Thank you!*



Nicolet Fitness Classes Fellowship Hall

Easy Pace Aerobics (Mondays & Wednesdays) 9 - 10 a.m.

New class begins Monday, March 5th

Qigong (chee gung) Mondays & Wednesdays 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

New class begins Monday, March 5th

To register: 715-365-4493 or 1-800-544-3039 ext. 4493

nicoletcollege.edu

Updated Witticisms:

- * Lightning never strikes twice ... but isn't once enough?
- * A bird in the hand ... will poop in the palm.
- * Silence is not just golden. It's darn hard to come by when you have kids.



PARLOR BOOKS

Hard cover - \$2 Paperback - \$1

We have children's books! Hard cover: \$1 Paperback: 50 cents

Clean out your book shelves and bring them in to fill our shelves!

Thank you!



Our website:

www.eagleriverucc.org

Check it out!

Pastor Mary Anne's office hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9 - 4 p.m.

Friday - day off

Phone: 715-479-8501

Email: pastor@eagleriverucc.org

(715)891-8722 cell phone

(715)891-2124 home phone

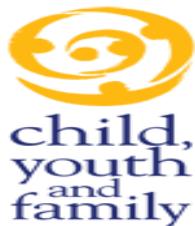
Nan's office hours:

Monday - Thursday, 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday: 7 a.m. - noon

The church offices are CLOSED Friday afternoons.

Email: office@eagleriverucc.org



Sharon Breit's office hours:

Wednesday: 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: 10 - 2 p.m.

Email: youthministry@eagleriverucc.org

CANCELLATION POLICY Ever so often the weather alters our plans for a church event. Please use one of the listed methods to verify cancellation. This ONLY pertains to church programs, NOT other groups using the building.

Radio: WERL-950 AM

WRJO-94.5 FM, Eagle River

WXPR 91.7, Rhinelander

Television: WJFW, Rhinelander, Channel 12

Phone: during church office hours, our secretary will have the information. When the church is closed a message will be on the answering machine.

Church website: www.eagleriverucc.org

First Congregational United Church of Christ has been serving Eagle River and surrounding communities since 1887. This church is made up of people committed to sharing the love of God. We are diverse in our religious backgrounds and spiritual development. We are a growing congregation that is excited about involving new people.

If you would like more information about First Church, please call us at 715-479-8501 or visit our home page.....www.eagleriverucc.org



PLEASE! Keep the church office informed with your address changes.... email addresses phone numbers. We can't reach you if we don't have the correct information.

Thank you!

UNITY SUNDAY, FAREWELL BRUNCH SET FOR MAY 13TH

Saying goodbye is never easy, but it's always better with food! With that in mind, the Church Council is hosting a farewell brunch for Pastor Mary Anne and her husband John on Sunday, May 13th, following a special unity service that day. Please join us! Details of the day:

- **One service at 9 a.m.** so we have a chance to worship together one last time with Pastor Mary Anne. This will be her last Sunday with us.
- **Potluck brunch** in Fellowship Hall after the service. A signup sheet will be available in mid-to-late April.
- **Cake and ice cream** will be provided.
- Bring your **favorite memories** of this wonderful couple.

Questions? Contact Barbara Helmick or Kathy Holperin!



GROW YOUR FAITH — REGISTER FOR LAY ACADEMY!

Are you interested in learning more about Christianity and deepening your faith in the process? If your answer is YES, please consider enrolling in the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC Lay Academy.

Lay Academy engages lay people in spiritual growth and development through theological education. Anyone who longs to grow in faith, discover new ways to serve God and their community, and deepen their knowledge of Christian tradition, ministry, and mission is welcome.

The Lay Academy two-year Faith Foundations course begins this fall. Participants spend part of 5 weekends between September and May each year at the UCC's Trost Center in De Forest exploring a variety of topics. They include: reflecting theologically, traditional and contemporary theology, Hebrew (Old) testament, world religions, Christian history, Christian (New) testament and ethics.

Sharon Breit and Barbara Helmick are currently finishing the second year of this program and would be happy to share information about their experiences. A few brochures also are available in the church office. You can also find more information at www.wcucc.org/layacademy. Pastor Mary Anne also is a good source of information about this program. Scholarship assistance is available to pay associated fees.

Check it out — Lay Academy may be the perfect next step in your spiritual growth!



Faith
is seeing
light with your
heart when
all your eyes see is
darkness