

The Church Mouse - November 2018

First Congregational United Church of Christ

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Message from the Interim Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of First Congregational UCC

It seems a little odd, as we are still in October as I write this, to be talking with you about Thanksgiving. But maybe not so odd, really. After all, in our wider culture, people are already gearing up for Christmas. (Yes, those ads are sneaking into our television programming, gradually replacing — thank heaven — the political ads that have plagued us for some time now.) But November is a month of Thanksgiving, and I'm not just referring to the official holiday, this year on November 22. Thanksgiving Day, after all, is in its origins, a secular holiday, having been instituted by an American president, Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation had to do with the conclusion of the American Civil War. Since then our celebration has broadened to include all sorts of things for which we are grateful.

There are two temptations lying in wait in our official Thanksgiving observance, and sometimes we even hear them in Thanksgiving prayers said around the family table. The first has to do with what it is that we are thankful for. It is tempting to be thankful that we have so much while others have so little. In fact that reality of the unevenness of the gifts given to all of us can be a kind of judgment on how we use and share those gifts. We should be thankful that we have been given much from the bounty of the earth, that we have been given enough; but we should be confessional about how often we have failed to share that bounty.

The second temptation has to do with to Whom we should be thankful. Often, covertly, we are grateful to ourselves, somehow thinking that God's generosity has something to do with our virtue rather than with God's grace. It has the feel of the Pharisee thanking God that he is not like other people, while at the other end of the pew, the tax collector is throwing himself on God's mercy recognizing that God's grace isn't something that we earn, but is freely given.

Actually, our observance of All Saints' Sunday, this year on November 4, is one of the most powerful ways that we can appropriately give thanks to God, because our gratitude has to do with human gifts we have experienced in our lives, gifts that we cannot claim to have earned, gifts that have come from and embody God's gracious love. I hope that you will make a special effort to worship with us on All Saints' Sunday. It will be an opportunity for us to mourn those who are no longer with us in person but are with us in spirit. And it will be our opportunity to thank God that they have been a part of our lives.

May ours be more than a Happy Thanksgiving. May it be a joyful one.

Faithfully,

Dale

“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)

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Greetings everyone!

Time to bring you up to date on a few church-related items and to offer some much-deserved THANK YOUs.

- * **“Paint room” water leak** - Thanks to the diligent efforts of **Bruce Kaitchuck, Mike Mettler** and **Carlton Schroeder**, the water leak in the floor of this first-floor has been fixed and the floor repaired. The damaged carpeting will soon be replaced. Unfortunately, our insurance company placed the value of the damage at less than our deductible, so we will not be getting any assistance with the costs.
- * **Handicapped parking and drop-off zone** - **Carlton Schroeder** developed a plan to repaint the handicapped parking spaces outside the church on Division Street to allow more space for cars to pull in and drop off passengers. The City of Eagle River approved the plan. Painting will not take place until next spring.
- * **Annual/Budget Meeting** - We had a wonderful combined Annual/Budget Meeting on September 30. Thanks to all who attended and participated. The congregation approved two changes to our church constitution to clarify wording in two areas, and unanimously elected **Molly Jaeger** to serve a three-year term on Council. My thanks to Molly for her willingness to serve.
- * **Cranberry Fest Luncheon** - A big thank you to everyone involved in our Cranberry Fest luncheon, which once again, was a big success. This is a wonderful outreach to our community, locals and visitors alike. Special thanks to **Sharon Breit** and **Linda Sanborn** for heading up the effort. I know there are so many others who were involved, but if I begin to try to list them, I know I'll leave someone out!
- * **Sanctuary Arts** - Special thanks, too, to the Sanctuary Arts Group and to everyone who shared their talents — photography, painting, cross-stitch, woodwork, stained glass, ceramics, quilting, crocheting, and much, much more — to turn our sanctuary into a very special work of art in September/October. God has blessed our congregation with many talents, and our congregation blessed us by sharing them. And our Sanctuary Arts Group— **Mickey Jensen, Molly Jaeger, Patti Roberts, Ken Lynch, and Donna DePape** —did a wonderful job of displaying them.
- * **Weekend Backpack collection** - You donated enough food for the Weekend Backpack for children to fill a Subaru Outback! (Sorry, I didn't count the items this time.) When we dropped them off at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, several of the shelves in the room where they store the food items were almost bare! So, know that your generosity was both very timely and made a difference in the lives of many young children in our area.
- * **Advent** - Advent begins on December 2nd, and **Pastor Dale** has been making plans for this special season of preparation. I hope all of you will be there to participate as we take a break from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season to both remind and center ourselves on the true meaning of Christmas.

That's it for now!

Barbara Helmick, Church Council President



November 25
“UNITY SUNDAY”



NOVEMBER CHOIR SCHEDULE

Rehearse at 8:30 a.m.

November 4th & 18th

to sing at the 10:00 service.

The 2018 Ecumenical Advent-Christmas Cantata



Saturday, December 8th 2:30 p.m.

All rehearsals are at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings thro' November 28th with the EXCEPTION of Thanksgiving week with an optional rehearsal on Tuesday, Nov. 20th.

Run-through rehearsals are Tuesday, Dec. 4th & Thursday, Dec. 6th.

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS, NOVEMBER 2018

As promised in last month's report to you in The Mouse, the following are some of the specific characteristics that we are looking for in each of the profiles that we review. The majority of these characteristics were developed from the surveys that you, the congregation, filled out.

1. Empathetic/Compassionate
2. Wise
3. Forward Thinking
4. Teach/Mentor
5. Open/Available to People
6. Provide Church Programming
7. Active in Community
8. Encourage Youth Participation
9. Pastoral Visits/Counselor
10. Nurture our Church Family
11. Organizational/Management Skills
12. Promotes Music
13. Social Justice Emphasis
14. Creative, Dynamic Preaching
15. Empower us to Find our Gifts

These characteristics may be revealed in the candidate's writing style, description of past/present experience, or personal reference letters. They also give us some insight as to how their writing style may translate into their Sunday sermons. The greater the presence of these qualities, the closer we come to finding our ideal pastor!

We met this month to review four more candidates. This brings us to a total of 9 profiles to date. As we have stated before, thank you so much for your patience, support, ideas, and prayers.

Sincerely,

Donna DePape, Jamie Remme, Larry Thompson, Linda Sanborn, Paula Hendrickson, Tobi Johannsen, Trisha Moore, Trista Langley-Tyler, Joy Turpin

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC: Love, family, belonging, worship, growing closer to God

We were extremely fortunate in October to have seven First Congregational UCC members share heartfelt messages with the congregation during services.

They spoke about our church, the role it has had in their lives and what it has meant to them. No, they didn't talk about the building ... they talked about the people who worship here; they talked about spiritual growth, they talked about love, support, family and a place they belong. In short, they talked about you, for you are the church!

In so doing, they shared why they give their time, talents and money to First Congregational UCC. Their messages spurred me to spend some time thinking about First Congregational UCC, how it has shaped my life, how it continues to do so, and how important it is for me to support this church, so it can remain a strong, vibrant part of so many of our lives.

I hope their messages have done the same for you. In case you missed any of them, we are sharing them here. Please take the time to read them. Pray for guidance. Pledge your support to First Congregational UCC in 2019, and join us for Stewardship Sunday on Nov. 11, when we will celebrate our offerings.

On behalf of the entire Church Council, I extend sincere thanks to **Sandy Kaitchuck, Tobi Johannsen, Gwen Scharf, Linda Cole, Carlton Schroeder, Phil Jensen, and Sandra Mettler** for sharing their stewardship messages.

Barbara Helmick, Church Council President

Sandy Kaitchuck

Good morning! What brought Bruce and I to this church? First, I must share our back story. Bruce and I got married in 1985 at the Chicago-area congregational church that I had grown up in, but had been away from for several years. We met with the minister who had confirmed me. He told us that he would marry us, but he would not baptize our children. We would need to find our own church home.

Fast forward to 1989 and we have moved to Eagle River. Bruce wasn't up here full time yet and I visited a few churches on my own, including this church. In 1990 I started working at the library and met Doris Check who invited me to join her and Ken at the 7:30 service. Bruce and I started attending and became members late that summer. We loved the sense of community that we felt here and wanted to be part of that. This was the church that we wanted our children to be baptized and grow up in.

28 years later and there have been many changes here at our church. The two constants have been Nan and the sense of community, which is very strong.

Now for a sidebar that was not part of my original statement but cements our reason for being members here. When our kids were little, we were part of a play group here at church. Two of those kids were from a family that didn't belong to any church in this area. Those two kids were baptized here — because kids need to be baptized.

The church has been very supportive of our family in numerous ways and we have tried to support the church financially, as best as we can.

Hi, my name is Tobi Johannsen. My husband Mark and I have been members of this church for about 4 years. Barb Helmick asked if I'd be willing to share with you what our church means to me. Because this is stewardship time, I wanted to say a little something about what being a good steward also means to me.

I ran across what I thought was a wonderful explanation of what a good steward is. It is someone who exercises responsible care over the possessions and gifts that have been entrusted to her or him. The key words are "responsible care" and "entrusted". When I was younger and dwelling on the church and stewardship, I thought of my gifts only being money, time and possessions. As I've grown in my faith and understanding of what the Bible says God is asking of us, it isn't just those things, but we're also to share the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given to us. Each one of us has our own unique calling and gifts to help us in that calling. As good stewards, it's our responsibility to recognize these gift and use them to help others in doing God's work here on earth. I've come to realize that the things I have aren't really "given" to me, but more just loaned or "entrusted" to me to use and share wisely. In preparing for this talk, I've found myself severely lacking in being a good steward. I've hidden away some of the gifts the Holy Spirit has given me, but worse than that, I've let my wants overcome others needs! With God's help, I want to and can become a much better steward!

Well, enough of confession time; here's what ERUCC means to me. Can I find God at home in prayer? Of course I can. I can also find God while walking through the woods on a gorgeous crisp fall day! I can find God everywhere! But, something happens when I walk through that back door ... into this sanctuary ... and look up at the beautiful stained-glass cross! I get a sense of peace, a calm that rushes over me. I know I'm in a safe place. A Holy place.

I've walked through that door with so many different feelings rolling around inside me. I've felt excited at being able to see friends and spend time with them. I've been hopeful when my spiritual gas tank's almost empty, knowing that here, I can get it filled up. I've been nervous, like now, when I've had to stand up in front of you to talk, sing or play the piano. I've come grief stricken when a loved one has died, felt heavy hearted when someone I know is hurting or dealing with their own demons. The hardest time for me, though, is when I've come through that door feeling ashamed, when I've come to grips with my sinful nature and the fact that I haven't been the child of God that I'm supposed to be and that I don't deserve God's grace. But, it doesn't matter what I'm feeling. God forgives me and loves me no matter what! It doesn't matter if I'm sitting in that pew, walking up to communion or ... even lying on these steps in front of the altar ... crying. God forgives and loves me no matter what!

That is why I give to this church. That is why I NEED this church! Thank you. God bless and have a fantastic day!

Gwen Scharf

Why I like and support our church. If anyone had known me before I joined this church about 9 years ago, I was kind of a mess! I had lost the love of my life, had several surgeries, drank a bit too much and had settled into a state of depression. I didn't quite know what to do. My sister, Pamme, asked if I would like to come to church with her one Sunday, and saying there were people there whom I knew and others I would like. She was right! Pastor Pat Tucker was so wonderful and I enjoyed her services so much. After several weeks, I decided to join. Wasn't long after that, Paula Hendrickson asked if I would like to join the Mission & Stewardship committee. I had met a lot of very nice people and more on the committee. I stayed 4 years instead of the usual 3. I went to the council meetings and learned so much about our church. I had no idea how hard these people worked to keep this church going. I learned where the money comes from and where it goes. The wonderful way in which we help others in need, the sharing of responsibility and all the small things that make this church like a home for all. Some of those people give so much; I am amazed at all the talent.

I am so grateful for each and everyone of you that has befriended me and helped me get meaning back into my life again. I appreciate all the hard work you have done to make our church so enjoyable and caring. I am very blessed to be a member.

I support this church because of everything you all do. You give meaning to the word LOVE. The funds you and I give, no matter what, will help some one else find meaning in their lives, too. Thanks to all.

Linda Cole

I knew it would come down to this. I knew it would be after supper, Saturday night, before I would sit down to write this. Barb called me at least 2 weeks ago and asked me if I would share what Eagle River UCC means to me, and why our church family is so important to me. It isn't that I haven't been thinking about Barb's questions and my answers. I've done a lot of thinking. I drive a lot for my job, so I think. At night before I go to sleep, I pray and I think. Waiting in line at the store, or at a traffic light, I think.

I keep a copy of Leta's confirmation speech on my night stand. I don't read it every day, but I read it pretty often. I found a lot of inspiration for my answers in her speech. I'm hoping that means that what I've received from our church family has also been received by her. I'm hoping that I've successfully taught her about what's important in a church family. I'm hoping it means what I know to be important about God and our church family has hit home in Leta's heart and is now being reflected back to me to inspire me.

In Leta's words, we are all here for each other and we support each other in good times and in bad times. The loving support I feel from our church family is phenomenal. When I hear people say they don't go to church, I feel really badly for them. They are missing out on so much love and support.

Leta was right about the lowest and darkest time in my life, and how you, our church family lifted me up and carried me through. And since I got pregnant with Leta until now, when she's 13, we've both received so much love and support. You've also taken my dad under your wings since he's been attending with Leta and me these past 2-1/2 years. This church family is loving, supportive, caring and kind. That's why the Eagle River UCC is important to me, and why I prayerfully ask God to guide me to pledge our financial and time support to our church.

Carlton Schroeder

Good Morning. The purpose of our stewardship message is to tell a little about our background and how we became connected to this church and also to tell what this church means to us and how that helps us with our personal stewardship of this church.

In 1980 my family and I moved from Ohio to Rhinelander to join a team studying a potential mining project near Crandon. We found that most of our new friends and workmates were attending the UCC Church in Rhinelander so we started to attend there and then joined that church. We liked everything about the church, and the pastor, and the congregation, and also we (Barb, our two daughters, and me) really enjoyed living in the Northwoods. Prior to joining the Rhinelander UCC Church Barb and I had always been connected to the Lutheran Church.

I was disappointed when that Crandon project ended seven years later and we had to move on to another project. We then joined a project in central Illinois, and with no UCC Church in the vicinity we became Presbyterians and that was a good experience, too. Then, we set our retirement plans in motion and built a house in Sugar Camp and after resettling in the Northwoods, we joined this church in about 2003.

We've been very happy about our membership in this church. Our pastors have been extraordinary and I always look forward to the good message we receive each Sunday. And I think we are truly blessed to now have Pastor Dale as our Interim Pastor.

I especially like how welcoming this church is to everyone, starting from our open door policy to our open communion policy. And I like all the help we give for worthwhile causes and needs in the community and beyond.

I'm also really impressed with all of our talented and hard working members and our dedicated staff who make up our congregation. We have wonderful music and singing and art displays and so many great cooks. There is always someone stepping up to meet a need or request or to find a great project to take on and manage. I think most of us recognize how much so many of our members contribute in way of time and talent and hard work to help make this such a good church. So, if you agree with most of that about our church, please keep that in mind as you think about our church budget and as you determine what your financial stewardship pledge will be this year. Thank you and God bless.

I've been asked to say a few words about what this church, the 1st Congregational United Church of Christ in Eagle River, Wisconsin, means to me. When I say "Means to Me", I really mean "Means to Us", for Mickey and I have shared everything for over fifty years, including our Faith.

We joined the church in 2003. Phil Garrison was the pastor. However, our relationship with this church began many years before. Mickey was raised a Lutheran in Minnesota, and I was raised a Methodist in Illinois. We were both baptized, and then confirmed through our catechism classes. I've learned the challenge of Lutheran catechism leaves us Methodists in the dust. Mickey's catechism took three times as long as mine, which explains, I guess, why she's so much more organized than I am.

In the mid 1970's Mickey and I purchased a cottage on Deerskin lake, and for the next twenty-two years raised our kids on its sunny shores during the summer. Over those summers we began joining my parents, Ernie and Helen Jensen on Sunday mornings, who were loyal members of this church for many years. We loved the warmth and inviting nature here, as well as its rich ministry. Jack Morrison was the pastor then. I remember him finishing every service with the benediction: "Now let us go out and truly be about our Father's business."

In 1993, Pastor Jeff Wartgow performed the wedding ceremony in this church for our daughter, Kirsten, and the little kid that grew up down the Deerskin lakeshore, Bill Goetz. It rained buckets that day, but it was absolutely wonderful. In 2002, I retired, we moved north, and have made Eagle River our home for the last sixteen years. One of the best decisions we've ever made.

All in all, it would seem a nice tidy journey of Faith. Just wrap it up, put a bow on it, and we're done. Right?? Not quite. As you have heard said so eloquently from others, life happens. We are, each of us, sometimes adrift on a storm tossed sea. While there are tremendous joys, there are also incredible sorrows. There are times when we ache for others, and times when we ache for ourselves. I don't think there's anyone here who hasn't read a headline or heard words from a doctor that scared the absolute dickens out of them at those times it is understandable to ask the question: "God, are you really there!?"

But God is there; through thick and thin, through our joys, our sorrows. He's been there even when I've had my own doubts. I was blessed to spend thirty-seven years on the other side of that cockpit door you see every time you climb onboard an airplane. Before there was an Imax Theater or before there was the International Space Station, I was glued to God's marvelous panorama out the cockpit windows. I've had a long time to ponder things from that vantage point. It's a big universe. Did God make it all? What is space? What is time? What is forever? All that thinking can rattle your Faith, and it did for a while, until I was able to reconcile the universe I perceived with the God I knew was watching over me.

So, in some aspects, I come from a different place spiritually than you might. But therein lies the beauty of this church. While we might be different from each other, whether it's the subtleties of what we might believe, or how we identify as individuals, when we come through the doors of this church to Worship our God, we come as one. There is no judgement, there is no exclusion.

We need our church and its ministry, and our church needs us. If you reflect on this, you might conclude as I have, that this church, the United Church of Christ in Eagle River, Wisconsin, is truly about "Our Father's business."

Good Morning! I'm Sandra Mettler.

Mike Mettler and I joined this church about seven years ago, though we had been summer visitors for over thirty years. We finally retired from the School District in Elgin, IL and moved to Eagle River for good. We knew we'd be joining this Congregational Church. Mike was raised Presbyterian, and I was raised Methodist. Together, we were members of Wesley United Methodist Church in Elgin, IL for thirty-five years, where we sat next to Phil and Mickey Jensen in the choir for most of those years. There are apparently no Presbyterians OR Methodists in Eagle River, so we're all here!

(Sandra Mettler — continued)

When Mike and I first began attending church as a married couple, we didn't know anything at all about how much we were "expected" to put in the offering. There's no way of knowing what everyone else contributes, so we had to wing it. As a young woman, I didn't really know or think about what the offering was for. I didn't think about mortgages, insurance, salaries, parsonage, electricity, or the cost of maintaining the building, heating the building, upgrading the kitchen, new choir robes, new hymnals, or any of the expenses that every church has. Mike and I didn't know about missions and outreach. We didn't know about local missions, let alone global missions. Back in the day ... it all seemed so carefree.

As "grown-ups", we now recognize all that our offerings are meant for, and try to do our bit to contribute through our giving, not only of money, but of time and talent ... mostly Mike's time and his talent! Just about any day of the week, you'll see Mike's car parked outside. There's always something to be done that he can help out with, and he enjoys being an unofficial fix-it and maintenance Dude.

When I'm here for Sunday worship, I sometimes zone out ... sorry, Dale. And I have a peaceful feeling. I stare at our *best-cross-ever!*, and revel in the comfort of my surroundings. And I think of one of my all-time favorite hymns, which is in our hymnal. I was going to sing it, but I decided not to. But, it's these words

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this place, And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord.

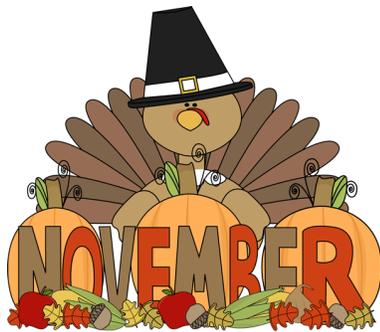
There's a warm expression on each face, And I know I feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove, Stay right here with us, filling us with your love.

And for these blessings, we lift our hearts in praise, Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived, When we shall leave this place.

I like that we try always to be welcoming and inclusive. And I like our church "motto" or "slogan"? which I see in every month's Church Mouse:

No matter where you are on Life's Journey, you are welcome here!



Sharon Breit
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Faith Formation classes are going well with four students present on a regular basis. They would like to have more fruit such as mandarin oranges, applesauce, individual juices and peanut butter crackers.



Remember to order your
Christmas wreath before November 15th.
Payment is due at time of pick up.

"Acts of the Apostles" bible study meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and will continue through November 14th.

Thanksgiving isn't just a day ... it's a way we can live our lives every day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Nov. 3 Linda Cole
- Nov. 3 Mary Ann Hansen
- Nov. 6 Marty Pietila
- Nov. 8 Connie Eaton
- Nov. 10 Sandra Slagle
- Nov. 11 Dick Frisque
- Nov. 12 Amy Deditz
- Nov. 13 Mickey Jensen
- Nov. 15 Tom Wittkopf
- Nov. 16 Patsy Ward
- Nov. 19 Donna Welhoefer
- Nov. 21 Amanda Kent
- Nov. 21 Deb Stolze
- Nov. 22 John Schroeder
- Nov. 23 Bryan Yakel
- Nov. 24 Diane Lausar
- Nov. 25 Margaret Surplless
- Nov. 26 Terry Posto
- Nov. 28 Patti Roberts
- Nov. 29 Donna Adams
- Nov. 29 Arlene Lynch
- Dec. 1 Louise Krus
- Dec. 3 Lori Collins
- Dec. 3 Barb Helmick
- Dec. 4 Stephanie Nesbitt
- Dec. 7 Libby Collins
- Dec. 7 Carol Trojanowski
- Dec. 8 Pam Dunphy
- Dec. 8 Molly Jaeger
- Dec. 9 Grace Florence
- Dec. 10 Carol Smart

Do you or someone in your family have a birthday in November/early December 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!*



Thank you! Thank you!

Thanks to everyone for all the lovely cards I received from my church family, the beautiful cake after the service from Women's Fellowship and Mary Lou Congdon for serving it, and the beautiful altar flowers.
Sincerely,
Helena Roerdink

To Our Church Family,

"Love must be learned, and learned again; there is no end to it."



If you know of someone who would benefit from a call, visit, or a card, please let the Pastor 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!

- Wheelchair accessibility Handicap parking area*
- Ramp accessibility to altar*
- Handicap restrooms for both men and women*
- A unisex handicap restroom in the lower level of the building*



Women's Fellowship met Tuesday, October 9th with eight present. Coordinator Myrna Wright opened the meeting with the UCC Mission statement, followed by a reading. The Cranberry Fest Luncheon was discussed. 163 tickets were sold and many good comments were received on the traditional luncheon. Everyone, including new people, indicated they would do the same jobs again next year. Thanks to Sharon Breit and Linda Sanborn for coordinating the 2018 event. Sanctuary decorating will be done the last week in November, followed by the tree and decorations the following week. The mitten and scarf tree will be set up in the entry the same week. Christmas cards to "snowbirds" and homebound members and friends will be ready to sign at the next meeting.

Join us **Tuesday, November 13th at 9 a.m. for our next meeting.**

NIGHTS AT THE READING ROUND TABLE

Thursday, Nov. 15th, 7 p.m.

“The Sun Does Shine” by Anthony Hinton

Anthony Ray Hinton spent 30 years on Alabama’s death row for two murders he did not commit. And it wasn’t new forensic technology that ultimately exonerated him. It was the perseverance of a handful of men and women willing to turn a mirror on the system itself.

If there are books and there are novels, this is a story. It’s a powerful story full of loss, love, pain, honesty, hope, and, ultimately, survival. There is, however, no redemption here. There was no reason to ever believe that Anthony Ray Hinton was guilty of these crimes. None. But that’s not what the legal system is all about. And ultimately it is only system that can be redeemed. The rest is just human tragedy.

This is Anthony Ray Hinton’s story, beautifully and simply told by Anthony Ray and Lara Love Hardin. It is, however, a story about us. We are the context. Anthony Ray and the people around him simply shine a light inside the institution that we live within. But it’s up to us to open our eyes and see “the sun does shine.”

Up-coming

December 13: THE GREATEST SHOWMAN (a film starring Hugh Jackman about P. T. Barnum)

This is a second Thursday because of Christmas being near.

2019 Pine Ridge Reservation Trip

The Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota — home to the Oglala — consistently ranks as one of the most impoverished areas in the country.

Life expectancy is significantly lower than the national average, youth suicide rates are high, disease rates top the national average, and much of the population live in what can only be described as ramshackle trailers. And those trailers often house two or three generations, with everyone from toddlers to the elderly sleeping on floors, couches, whatever they can make work.

The land is beautiful, but barren and rugged in many places. Lack of water limits the development of crops. There are few wells, no irrigation systems, and except for very limited areas, no water pumped from town to houses.

But all is not hopeless. Many of the Lakota maintain their rich cultural tradition and are sharing it with new generations. A private secondary school has produced some of the brightest minds in the country, and a tribal college is providing educational opportunities to many.

And, there is Re-Member, a non-profit organization that works to build relationships and partnerships with the Lakota, and to help in small but meaningful ways. Re-Member relies on volunteers from throughout the country to do so.

First Congregational UCC hopes to send a group of six people to Re-Member from **June 8 to 14, 2019** to help in their efforts. Four of our members participated in a similar service/learning trip in July this year. They helped to build bunk beds, add skirting to trailers, construct ramps and decks to improve access to homes, and — most promising — worked to create a community garden that will provide nourishing food for the Lakota.

The four — Kathy Holperin, Kamie Kolb, John Schroeder, and Barbara Helmick — also learned about the history of the Lakota, their culture, and their hopes for the future — while touring the reservation and during evening educational sessions.

If you are interested in participating in the 2019 trip to Pine Ridge, please let Barbara Helmick know. If you have questions about what to expect, please feel free to ask any of the people who participated in this year’s trip. All found it to be extremely rewarding.



HONEY: an effective cough remedy?

Drinking tea or warm lemon water mixed with honey is a time-honored way to soothe a sore throat. But honey alone may be an effective cough suppressant, too.

In one study, children age 2 and older with upper respiratory tract infections were given up to 2 tea-spoons (10 milliliters) of honey at bedtime. The honey seemed to reduce nighttime coughing and improve sleep. In the study, honey appeared to be as effective as a common cough suppressant ingredient, dextromethorphan, in typical over-the-counter doses. Since honey is low-cost and widely available, it might be worth a try. However, due to the risk of infant botulism, a rare but serious form of food poisoning, never give honey to a child younger than age 1.

Remember too, that coughing isn't all bad. It helps clear mucus from your airway.

Mayo Clinic Updates

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.

November openings: 11th & 18th

October sponsors:

- October 7: Barb Helmick, in honor of Tom's birthday
- October 14: Anonymous donor in honor of Helena Roerdink's 100th birthday
Mike and Sandra Mettler in honor of their 48th anniversary
"Sparky" and Norma Holdefer in honor of their 64th anniversary
- October 21: Tom and Pam Marion in honor of their anniversary
- October 28: Tom and Barb Helmick in honor of their anniversary

First Congregational UCC Contact People - 2018

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dale Bishop Church: 715-479-8501

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 youth ministry@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

Molly Jaeger: 715-479-4505

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



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

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!*



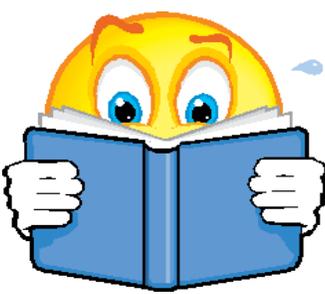

YOGA IN FELLOWSHIP HALL! EVERY WEDNESDAY:



11:30 - 1 P.M.

Nicolet Fitness Classes Fellowship Hall
Easy Pace Aerobics (Mondays & Wednesdays) 9 - 10 a.m.
Qigong (chee gung) Mondays & Wednesdays 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

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



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!

Happy Thanksgiving November 22nd



Our website:

www.eagleriverucc.org

Check it out!

Pastor's office hours:

Monday: 9-12
Thursday: 9-12

Cell phone: 715-891-5052

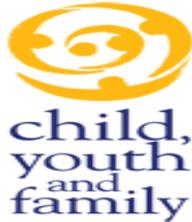
Church: 715-479-8501

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



for Sunday morning announcements and ushers! We've done quite well so far, but now have 7:30 and 10:00 vacancies for **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALL TO WORSHIP and HEAD USHERS!**

The sign up sheets are in the church office; stop in at any time during the week or Sunday morning and fill in the empty spaces.

Thank you!

Sharing this.....

October 8, 2018

Dear First Congregational United Church of Christ:



I am writing a letter to tell you about an experience my family had at your church this past weekend.

I am the mother of a 5 year old boy who has a little blue teddy bear that has been his constant companion since he was a baby. We attended the Eagle River Cranberry Festival and were devastated when we got back to our cabin in Phelps and realized that Blue Teddy was missing. We spent the rest of the night searching the cabin, car, and resort grounds. The next day a family member went back to Eagle River and retraced our path back to where we had parked with no luck. That night my son told me he was heartbroken and cried in his bed for a long time.

The next morning we all went back to Eagle River as a family to try one last time to find him before we returned home from our trip. We found him right away sitting on the steps of your church. It was a very emotional and joyous moment for us all. We know God answered our prayers. I am so glad my son was able to witness such a pure example of the power of prayer and of God's loving kindness. We wanted to give a thank offering to God and decided that donating to your church was fitting.

God's blessings,

The Ferch Family, Cedarburg, WI

Gathering of the FLOCK



Thursday, November 8th, 6:30 p.m.

**At the home of Linda Brainard
RSVP: 715-891-3548
Email: lsbpiano@msn.com**

Work hard and be patient; the rest will follow.



NATH --- most needed items:

Laundry baskets

pillows

cold medications

Ziplock quart and gallon size bags

Kleenex

Kitchen garbage bags

dishwasher

Aluminum foil

stamps

Paper towels

toilet paper

