

The Church Mouse - March 2019

First Congregational United Church of Christ

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Dear Friends,

Nan reminded me that the deadline for the March Church Mouse was February 22nd and if I had anything to add to my time here it would be due that day. She'll be quick to tell you that I was never very good at making Mouse deadlines during the years I served here. So, I thought it was about time I get my ecclesiastical newsletter act together. This small article was in on time! God is good!

It has been a tremendous honor for me to be able to spend a few weeks with you in Dale's absence. Many thanks to him for sharing the office space and graciously welcoming me back to the church. I would also like to thank Barb Helmick, your fearless council president, for arranging the necessary details that allowed for this to happen and to Kristin Jordan, Molly Jaeger's daughter, for sharing her Eagle River home.

Nan and I both had big smiles on our faces when we first saw one another on Sunday morning, Feb. 10th. I don't think I've stopped smiling since. It has been truly wonderful to get reacquainted with so many friends from the period of time I served here. Please notice that I didn't refer to anyone as an "old" friend. Although let's face it, some of us have gotten old! And what a gift it has been to meet and make new friends. Everyone has been beyond gracious and welcoming. Thank you.

Now I'd like to share a meaty thought, maybe at the risk of overstepping my welcome. If First Congregational UCC isn't a blessing to you, it's not the church's fault nor does this church own that responsibility. I don't think there has been another time in the history of this great congregation when it has been clearer than it is now in its purpose and place in the community. If you haven't been here for awhile, but receive this newsletter and actually take the time to read it, you need to come back! You're missing something special and the church misses you! The great traditions of our forebearers are being honored by your church today. A hallmark of our congregational roots — of our forefathers and mothers — has been one of welcome and openness and to be on the vanguard of advances in human understanding. God bless your church for its faithfulness to God and this heritage.

During my ministry here in Eagle River, I witnessed the congregation grow stronger as it navigated its way through two major transitions that challenged its conventional sense of what it meant to be "church." To go into detail about that here would make this Mouse article too long to endure, so suffice it to say that because your church has now entered another time of transition can only mean, based upon its history, that it will emerge stronger and more faithful than ever. WHY? Because God is still speaking and the church hasn't gone silent.

During even the first two weeks I was here this month I began to sense a revival around the corner for your church. You're about to begin the season of Lent which is not the happiest time of the church year! But remember that on the other side of it is Easter. I'd like to put out a challenge to those who aren't attending church and to those who have a history here but might be attending elsewhere. Show up in this beautiful place on Easter morning! Mark your calendar right now for April 21st and write this in: EASTER SUNDAY - I'M GOING—FIRST CONGREGATIONAL!

I used to have arguments with other ministers about the fact that I never liked Lent and wished it wasn't even on the church calendar. If it were up to me I would've cancelled Lent. Nobody observed it except a very small number of the "righteous." Such a waste of the church's time, not to mention that of the ministers. Then, on a cold, snowy

day a lay person put Lent in this perspective when he said to me, "You can't live only half your life, you know." Ministers, active or retired, are usually pretty good at stating the obvious, so here it is: life is filled with ups and downs. Here's the other part: none of us live only the half we choose. The same is true for church. If you're not invested during the "downs," you likely won't reap the benefits of the "ups." It took me awhile to realize that the "Good Fridays" of life are what give real meaning of the Easters."

"EASTER SUNDAY - I'M GOING - FIRST CONGREGATIONAL!" And if you really feel bold ante up your Easter this year and think about giving Lent and Good Friday a try. It would mean a lot.

Yours in Love and Faith,
Pastor Jeff Wartgow

**"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)**

NEWS from your Church Council

Thanks to everyone who submitted a nomination for the 2019 New Year of Giving effort. This is the third year that we've asked the congregation to nominate an individual, group, or organization in need of financial support. The Church Council set aside up to \$1,000 in Maggie Ball Mission Funds to provide a minimum of \$100 to up to 10 recipients.

The New Year of Giving program is designed to encourage people to nominate causes near and dear to them, and ultimately to "respond with compassion to the needs of our brothers and sisters locally, nationally, and internationally."

Nine Individuals submitted nominations and the Council approved \$100 for each nominee. The recipients and the people who nominated them are:

1. Vacationland Voices (Bernie Hupperts): To assist with the purchase of music.
2. Eagle River Recreation Association "Save the Dome" campaign (Tom Helmick)
3. Peyton Towne (Nan Pophal): Peyton's family has ties to our church and he was baptized here. They now live in Boulder Junction. The money will be used to help pay significant and ongoing medical bills.
4. Sunshine for Humanity, Homeless Shelter in Eagle River (Joy Turpin)
5. Youthworks of North Dakota (Ursula Charaf): This group helps homeless, runaway, trafficked and struggling youth.
6. The Warehouse: Four Seasons Center for the Arts (Trista Langley-Tyler): for scholarships
7. Northwoods United Way (Norma Yaeger)
8. Don Gillum Memorial Bike/Hike (Joy Turpin): The event is a fundraiser for the Northwoods Relay for Life and the Great Headwaters Trail Foundation
9. Guide Dog Foundation (Nancy Diepenbrock): Provides service dogs free of charge to the blind, hearing impaired, those with physical disabilities and/or PTSD and dogs to assist in physical rehabilitation.

Council Member Nancy Diepenbrock has also been working with members of our Sanctuary Arts Group to select and purchase a blind with horizontal slats to cover the window at the front of the sanctuary (behind the choir seats and next to the screen). They are looking for something that looks attractive and blocks out light, so the screen is easy to read. Stay tuned!

Finally, I'd like to extend a big thank you to Pastor Jeff Wartgow who has been serving us while Pastor Dale is away. I know he has enjoyed "coming home" to the church and community he once served. I also know that many of you have enjoyed reconnecting with him. It's been a win-win situation all around!

Barbara Helmick
Church Council President

MARCH CHOIR SCHEDULE

Rehearse at 8:30 a.m. March 3rd and 17th
to sing at the 10:00 service.



Dear Members and Friends of First Congregational United Church of Christ,

We are about to embark on the church's season of Lent. The original meaning of the word "Lent" has to do with the lengthening of the days, a welcome development after a long, dark and cold winter. For the early church, Lent was a time of preparation — preparation for the climactic events of Holy Week, but also for people who were joining the community of the church through baptism. Baptism, which happened on Easter Sunday, was restricted to adults who had completed their period of study, repentance and self-examination. The fasting and self-denial that are associated with Lent are a reminder of Jesus' forty-day ordeal in the desert, which we will recall in our Gospel reading from Luke on March 10, the first Sunday of Lent.

For the early church, and I hope for us, Lent wasn't meant to be so much a time to "give up" something as it was a time to take up something. Yes, during Lent we should give up those things that distract us and are often unhealthy for us; but more importantly, Lent should also be a time when we pick up something, or some things, that are healthy for us, physically and spiritually. The purpose of fasting is to focus on what is important; the purpose of Lent is to remind ourselves of what is truly important in our lives, in our relationship with God.

There is a wonderful progression in both Matthew and Mark's accounts of Jesus' time in the wilderness. Jesus is at first alone, hungry, and tempted. Mark's very brief account says that "he was with the wild beasts." But after his confrontation with those wild beasts and Satan's temptations, we are told that Jesus was attended to by the angels. Jesus goes from frightening solitude to the comfort of community.

I hope that we, individually and together, can confront our own fears and temptations during this season of Lent: individually through our own reflections and prayers; together in our worship both on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. The first of those Wednesday evening gatherings will be on Ash Wednesday, followed by our Ash Wednesday service of worship. On the succeeding Wednesday evenings we'll have a simple soup supper together and then a brief worship service which will consist of singing a hymn, reading of one of the Psalms of Lent and guided prayer. I hope that you will come. After all, when we are together, when we express our love for one another, we can become angels to each other.

I look forward to our Lenten journey together.

Faithfully,
Dale



March 6th
Soup supper: 5 p.m.
Please sign up!
Worship: 6 p.m.

***Soup suppers will continue each Wednesday at
5:00 p.m. during the Lenten season through
April 10th***

Join us for Women's Fellowship
Tuesday, March 12th, 9 a.m.



Due to the abundant snow fall on Tuesday, February 12th, Women's Fellowship was cancelled.



Daylight Savings Time starts
**Sunday,
March 10th.**

Set your clocks AHEAD one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

(And you'll be on time for church Sunday morning.)

Women's Fellowship is asking for donations to fill 24 TOILETRY BAGS for Lily's House/ Tri-County Domestic Abuse Center in Rhinelander. *Suggested items are:*

Nail clippers, nail files	Combs
Purse size Kleenex packages	
Small note pads/cards	Pens & pencils
Razors and blades	Lip gloss
Feminine hygiene products	
Deodorant	Socks

Donations can be dropped off in the church office at any time prior to April 9th when the bags will be filled.

Moon Beach is looking to fill year-round positions in hospitality, including a Head of Housekeeping and other part-time hourly support in the kitchen, housekeeping and facilities maintenance. These positions will help live out our mission: *"To love God, one another and the Earth by providing sanctuary, practicing hospitality and performing ministry."* We are also currently seeking applicants for on-site summer staff. Please encourage all capable candidates to apply by emailing phoebe@ucci.org or calling 715-479-8255

Looking for a fun and life-changing volunteer opportunity? Moon Beach is seeking volunteers for Camp AweSum and Memory Camp! Enjoy all that Moon Beach has to offer while making a difference in people's lives:

- **Camp AweSum Youth** and **Camp AweSum Family** are opportunities to work with youth and families affected by Autism Spectrum Conditions.
- Memory Camp is a camp for participants with dementia, their care partners and families.

2019 DATES:

June 12-15 Memory Camp I

June 24-29 Camp AweSum Youth

June 16-22 Camp AweSum Family Camp I

July 14-20 Camp AweSum Family Camp II

August 11-17 Camp AweSum Family Camp III

August 19-22 Memory Camp II



Sit in the dark. It will teach you to see and hear, taste and smell.



Our sympathy to the Stoutz family. Cal and Laurie have been summer residents and full time residents for many years and well-known by our congregation.

Cal died February 9th at their home in Canandaigua, NY. A celebration of his life will be held at our church during this coming summer.

Condolences may be sent to Laurie at 5086 Cheshire Glen Road Canandaigua, NY 14424



Sympathy to the family of Susan Jensen who died February 13th at the age of 81.

A memorial service was held at First Congregational on Saturday, February 23rd, officiated by Pastor Jeff Wartgow.

Sue was employed by the First National Bank (mbank) for 30 years.

Survivors include Dawn Guzman, a member of our church.

NIGHTS AT THE READING ROUND TABLE

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.

JANESVILLE: AN AMERICAN STORY by Amy Goldstein



This book, of course, about our own Wisconsin city of Janesville and what happened to it when "the plant" pulled out.

"Goldstein is a gifted storyteller, and Janesville is a raw, beautiful story, one that sheds needed light on a country searching for some pathway to the future." —J.D. Vance, author of *Hillbilly Elegy*

"The most illuminating business book of the year ... If you really want to understand what's going on in today's real economy — beyond the headlines about new stock-market highs, tax policy or the latest list of billionaires — spend some time with this true tale." —Andres Ross Sorkin, *The New York Times*

"Janesville is haunting in part because it's a success story ... One is awed by the dignity and levelheadedness of its protagonists, who seem to represent the best of America ... Goldstein is a talented storyteller, and we root for her characters as, moment by moment, they try their hardest." —*The New Yorker*

"A superb feat of reportage, Janesville combines a heart-rending account of the implications of the closing on GM workers and their families with a sobering analysis of the response of the public and private sectors. The book is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the economy of the Rust Belt — and its implications for America's once-proud middle class." —*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

Our Church Safety and Security



We now have a team in place to review safety and security recommendations from Church Mutual, our insurer, and from Eagle River Police Chief Mark Vander Bloomen, resulting from his detailed inspection and review of our church last fall.

Our team includes Mark Holperin, Larry George, Phil Jensen, Nan Pophal, Dennis Burgy (for legal input), and myself. Our goal is to review all the information and select the recommendations we believe are appropriate for our church and then provide that information to Council for their final decision making. We expect to complete this effort in the next 1-2 months.

These recommendations range from simple measures (strengthen some door hardware), to possibly more controversial recommendations, such as having only one door open during our services. Our team would value any thoughts you have about our church security. Your input would likely help us to decide what to do about many of the recommendations we have to consider. Please contact any of our team members with your input. —Carlton Schroeder

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 7 Ned Loar
March 9 Dawn Parker
March 10 Jerry Stadler
March 14 Patti Ksionsk
Phyllis Zoppetti
March 15 Gwen Scharf
March 17 Meg George
March 20 Becky Deditz
Linda Jorgensen
Bob Mather
March 21 Noah Miller
March 22 Cindy Schattner
March 24 Larry Wright
March 25 Arlene Turk
March 28 Marcia Rondello
March 29 William Brown
March 31 Elaine Storzer
April 2 Tom Ksionsk
April 3 Marilyn Dunphy
April 5 David Holperin
Gene Yahr
April 7 Jeff Collins
April 8 Connie Hill
April 9 Matt Kaitchuck
April 10 Abby Thompson

Do you or someone in your family have a birthday in March/early April 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!

An Irish blessing for St. Patrick's Day:



“May you never forget what is worth remembering, or remember what is best forgotten.”

To Our Church Family,

The smallest good deed is better than the greatest good intention.



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*



“What Shall We Bring?” We have received 64 pledges totaling \$141,458.00 toward our 2019 goal of \$165,000.

It's never too late to pledge!



**March 31
“UNITY SUNDAY” SINGLE SERVICE AT 9
A.M.**

Search Committee News - March

We've had a whirlwind of candidate profile activity since February's update in the Mouse. In the last few weeks, nine interested parties have sent their profiles our way and more seem to be coming in every other day.

That being said, the Committee did host an interview at Moon Beach Camp on February 9th. We were excited because among other things, this candidate came with a young family, the very first of all applicants. The interview went well, but upon much discernment, he and his wife decided this was not the right move for them now, at this time in their lives. We were thanked for our hospitality.

Of the nine new profiles, three have sparked our interest. We are currently checking references and scheduling phone interviews for next week.

Certainly, our emotions have run high and low in this search process. We are reminded to stay grounded in God's guidance and appreciate the new energy welling with us as we explore possibilities with these most recent candidates.

Thank you for your prayers and patience.

With great sincerity,

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



NATH --- most needed items:

Twin blankets	Air freshener		
20 gallon bins with lids		Postage stamps	Paper clips
Quart Ziploc bags	Whiteout tape		

Santa was very good to us so our list is smaller right now.

**March 14th - FLOCK at the home of
Liz Sutter, 6 p.m. with light supper
RSVP: 715-479-7634**



Thanks from TEAM UCC to all of you who purchased daffodils in support of Relay for Life's recent fundraiser.

Your "blooms of sunshine" will be ready for you to pick up on Wednesday night, March 13th, before the Lenten service, or Thursday, March 14th from 7-4 during Nan's office hours.

Enjoy their message of SPRINGTIME!



Christian Education Director's Corner

FAITH FORMATION: This month's lessons will be about the Lenten season. The kids are making placemats for the soup suppers and will be assisting with setting up the tables on Wednesdays.

SOUP SUPPERS begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6, and continue through April 10th. The meal will be served at 5:00 p.m. followed by a brief service at 6:00 p.m. Please be sure to sign up so we know how much soup to prepare.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: Thank you to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause. We collected 233 food items and donated \$263.00 to the Vilas Food Pantry, Inc.

We are THE CHURCH.

"Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass but learning to dance in the rain."

Sharon Breit, Christian Education Director

Some rules to live by

- If you open it — close it.
- If you turn it on — turn it off.
- If you unlock it — lock it.
- If you move it — put it back.
- If it belongs to someone else and you want it — get permission.
- If you borrow it — return it.
- If you don't know how to operate it — leave it alone.
- If you use it — take care of it.
- If you break it — repair it.
- If you can't fix it — call someone who can.
- If you mess it up — clean it up.
- If it will brighten someone's day — say it.

A blessing for St. Patrick's Day:

*Bright stars above you, Sunshine on your way,
Many friends to love you, Joy in work and play.
Laughter to outweigh each care, In your heart a song,
And gladness waiting everywhere,
All your whole life long!*



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE NOW ON OUR
WEB SITE www.eagleriverucc.org

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP: open to graduating seniors of the Class of 2019 in the Phelps, Three Lakes and Northland Pines School Districts.

JINNY PATERSON ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP: open to graduating seniors of the Class of 2019 in the Phelps, Three Lakes and Northland Pines School Districts who are planning a career related to environment.

ROGER RIECKMAN SCHOLARSHIP: open to graduating seniors from the Class of 2019 from the Northland Pines School District who are planning a career in engineering, mathematics or science.

BIRD'S NEST SCHOLARSHIP: open to all students from the Northland Pines, Phelps and Three Lakes School Districts who will be enrolled in a college, vocational school, or another institution of higher education in the fall of 2019. Home schooled students also qualify.

KRANZ SCHOLARSHIP: Applicants must be either graduating seniors from a VILAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL, residents of VILAS COUNTY, or demonstrate a compelling connection to VILAS COUNTY.

ZIPPERER SCHOLARSHIP: open to **MEMBERS** of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eagle River, who will be enrolled in a college/vocational school or any other institution of higher education in the fall of 2019. Students may re-apply each school year.

DEADLINE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS: Friday, March 29, 2019

Mail applications to: First Congregational UCC
PO Box 1385
Eagle River, WI 54521

Email: office@eagleriverucc.org



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS ARE HERE!

Suppers will begin on **Ash Wednesday, March 6th** at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and continue on March 13, 10, 27 & April 3 & 10th.

Sign-ups are IMPORTANT!!!

We will have a delicious home-made soup with bread, crackers, and beverages. Free will offerings appreciated. A short service of reflection will be held in the sanctuary at 6 p.m. following the soup suppers.

Call Sharon Breit for more information: 715-479-8501 or 714-477-2163.

SUNDAY BAKERS

Date	7:30 Service	10:00 Service
March 3	SPECIAL GATHERING FROM 8:30 TO 10 A.M. IN FELLOWSHIP HALL	
March 10	Shirley Thompson	Jane Shadick Brenda McNutt
March 17	Dawn Guzman	Pamme Williams Meg George
March 24	Marilyn Preisler	Ursula Charaf Nancy Diepenbrock
March 31	"UNITY SUNDAY" 9 a.m. service	



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!**

March Scripture Readers

	7:30	10:00
March 3	Chuck Kemp	Mark Johannsen
March 10	Ken Lynch	Donna DePape
March 17	Marilyn Preisler	Malia Remme
March 24	Joy Turpin	Diane Lausar
March 31	"UNITY SUNDAY" 9 a.m. service Donna DePape	

March Announcements

	7:30	10:00
March 3	_____	Molly Jaeger
March 10	Sandy Kaitchuck	_____
March 17	Ken Lynch	_____
March 24	Joe Turpin	_____
March 31	"UNITY SUNDAY" 9 a.m. service _____	

Acolytes are needed for the 10:00 service!
Please sign up in the church office for your Sunday. Thank you!

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

STRESS MANAGEMENT

When it comes to relieving stress, more giggles and guffaws are just what the doctor ordered. Here's why.



Whether you're guffawing at a sitcom on TV or quietly giggling at a newspaper cartoon, laughing does you good. Laughter is a great form of stress relief, and that's no joke. A good sense of humor can't cure all ailments, but data is mounting about the positive things laughter can do. A good laugh has great short-term effects. When you start to laugh, it doesn't just lighten your load mentally; it actually induces physical changes in your body. Laughter can:

- **Stimulate many organs.** Laughter enhances your intake of oxygen-rich air, stimulates your heart, lungs and muscles, and increases the endorphins that are released by your brain.
- **Activate and relieve your stress response.** A rollicking laugh fires up and then cools down your stress response, and it can increase your heart rate and blood pressure. The result? A good, relaxed feeling.
- **Soothe tension.** Laughter can also stimulate circulation and aid muscle relaxation, both of which can help reduce some of the physical symptoms of stress.

Laughter isn't just a quick pick-me-up, though. It's also good for you over the long term. Laughter may:

- **Improve your immune system.** Negative thoughts manifest into chemical reactions that can affect your body by bringing more stress into your system and decreasing your immunity. In contrast, positive thoughts can actually release neuropeptides that help fight stress and potentially more-serious illnesses.
- **Relieve pain.** Laughter may ease pain by causing the body to produce its own natural painkillers.
- **Increase personal satisfaction.** Laughter can also make it easier to cope with difficult situations. It also helps you connect with other people.
- **Improve your mood.** Many people experience depression, sometimes due to chronic illnesses. Laughter can help lessen your depression and anxiety and may make you feel happier.

Are you afraid you have an underdeveloped — or nonexistent — sense of humor? No problem. Humor can be learned. In fact, developing or refining your sense of humor may be easier than you think.

- **Put humor on your horizon.** Find a few simple items, such as photos, greeting cards or comic strips that make you chuckle. Hang them up at home or in your office.
- **Laugh and the world laughs with you.** Find a way to laugh about your own situations and watch your stress begin to fade away. Even if it feels forced, practice laughing. It does your body good.
- **Share a laugh.** Make a habit to spend time with friends who make you laugh.
- **Know what isn't funny.** Don't laugh at the expense of others. Some forms of humor aren't appropriate. Use your best judgment to discern a good joke from a bad, or hurtful one.

Go ahead and give it a try. Turn the corners of your mouth up into a smile and then give a laugh, even if it feels forced. Once you've had your chuckle, take stock of how you're feeling. Are your muscles a little less tense? Do you feel more relaxed or buoyant? That's the natural wonder of laughing at work. —Mayo Clinic Healthy Lifestyle

CARITAS PANTRY NEEDS (BOLD indicates immediate need)

- | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Anti-bacterial cleaner (spray or liquid) | Toilet bowl cleaner | | | |
| Dish detergent | Laundry detergent | | | |
| Paper towels | Baby wipes | | Diapers (any size) | |
| Toilet tissue | Hand sanitizer | Toothbrushes | Toothpaste | |
| Pasta (any kind) | Pasta sauces | Tuna | Canned meats | Soups |
| Breakfast cereals (hot or cold) | | Spam | Peanut butter | Meals-in-a-can |

CARITAS IS LOCATED AT THE ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
120 Silver Lake Road Phone 715-480-LOVE (5683)
Open every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Keep cell phones coming in as well as hearing aids!

The boxes are located on the small table in the parlor.

Thank you!!!



**OK, Show of hands...
Who's tired of snow?**



*Order a yellow mum plant to beautify the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 21st.
Orders must be received by April 5th.*

NAME _____ Phone _____

I would like to order ___ mum plant(s) at \$15 each. Total due _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Orders (with payment) are due Friday, April 5th.



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 - 1:00 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.

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

Due to a lack of sign-ups, Qigong will not be held during the January/February Nicolet sessions.

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

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!

*For God so loved the world that he didn't
send a committee.*



Our website:

www.eagleriverucc.org

Check it out!

Pastor's office hours:

Monday: 9-12

Thursday: 9-12

Cell phone: 715-891-5052

Nan's office hours:

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

Friday: 7 a.m. - noon

Email: office@eagleriverucc.org

The church offices are CLOSED Friday afternoons.



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 WXPB 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



Church-wide Email Notifications

Emails to the congregation are being sent out on a regular basis by Kathy Holperin. If you are NOT receiving them and would like to be on the email list, please email her at kathyholperin@gmail.com

Very important! Please ...
Keep the church office informed with
your address changes as you leave for the
winter months.

This also applies to email addresses and phone
numbers as they are changed at any time.



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 you 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.

March dates open: 10th & 17th

February sponsors:

Feb. 3rd - Don & Paula Hendrickson in honor of granddaughter's birthdays: Morgan, 2; Jade, 5

Feb. 10th - Ursula Charaf in honor of William's birthday

Feb. 17th - Marilyn Preisler

Feb. 24th - In loving memory of Sue Jensen from her family (memorial service on the 23rd)

First Congregational UCC Contact People - 2019

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