

The Church Mouse - June 2021

First Congregational United Church of Christ 715-479-8501

Interim Pastor: Rev. Gail Irwin pastorgail@eagleriverucc.org
Email for Nan (Office Manager) & the Church Office: office@eagleriverucc.org

Email for Sharon Breit: youthministry@eagleriverucc.org
Home Page: www.eagleriverucc.org



Dear Members and Friends,

The past few weeks have been like beginning a new ministry: meeting in person with Council, preaching to a room full of faces and visiting people in their homes. I'm getting to know you in a new way.

As we emerge from quarantine, I wonder: are you in a hurry to return to church? Have you found other ways to nourish your spirit? What do you miss most? Live piano music or a live sermon? Group singing? The face of a friend? The feeling of being in a safe place where you belong? The taste of coffee hour cookies?

Why do you come to worship after all?

At Pentecost, God gave us the freedom to create a new, Spirit-driven community that was responsive to people's need to hear Christ's message of love and hope. The Spirit, in its chaotic way, led people to use their spiritual gifts reaching out to others with new languages and spiritual gifts.

It's always a bit chaotic to begin again, not knowing exactly what new shape the ministry will take. It takes experimentation and risk. But the first disciples followed the Spirit's lead and became the conduits of miracles. We can too.

Amid all the immediate questions we face these days (to mask or unmask, to hug or stay distant), there are deeper questions in this transition about who we are to be **now** as God's Spirit-led people. These questions are summarized well in the UCC Profile, which asks churches to reflect on:

Who are we?

Who is our neighbor?

Who is God calling us to become?

Pentecost is a good season to meditate on these questions with each other, your Search Committee and Council. The Spirit speaks through all of us!

To get a feel for how the Search Committee addressed these questions in your church's most recent profile, you can view it on our church website at www.eagleriverucc.org.

Peace be with you!

Pastor Gail

President's Message

We certainly live in a whirlwind of change, don't we? But the one constant in relation to church is that **you are always welcome**. And when you're not at a Sunday service, whether inside or outside, 7:30 or 9:30, you are missed.

The Council will be meeting on May 25th at 6 p.m. to discuss what directions and steps will be taken next, as the CDC has changed its benchmarks. Steps towards a more full in-person worship will require some digesting and planning. The Council will discuss options that fit with the CDC and UCC. You can be assured that we have your health, safety and comfort front and center in the discussion.

The awkwardness is that THE COUNCIL is meeting after the June MOUSE is completed. So new guidelines from the Council may be developing weekly. Please stay in close contact with someone from church or with the weekly ONLINE WORSHIP DETAILS on your computer's email. That way you will learn where and how services are being held. Beyond a doubt we will continue online worship on our FaceBook page for some time yet.

Since we have taken steps toward in-person worship, we need to re-start other parts of worship also. Ushers, scripture readers, camcorder operators and communion helpers are needed. Our thanks to Joy Turpin who has picked up the challenge of recruiting for some of these needs, and to all who have stepped up so far. An usher sign up sheet is available in the back of the sanctuary. Please offer to help, or say yes when asked.

COUNCIL REPORT, MAY 3, 2021

Since Phase One of the protocol was approved by the Council, there have been two services in the sanctuary each Sunday. The 7:30 service will continue to be held in the sanctuary so that a recording can be made available by later on Sunday for those who wish to continue online worship. The 9:30 service for Memorial Day weekend will be held outdoors in our empty lot. Council will be meeting in June to decide how to continue worship.

Pastor Gail has been here seven months already. Unbelievable. As part of her interim contract with us, she asked for a review each six months. Trisha Moore is chairing this first review. The Council encourages members to thank Pastor Gail for her leadership and the ease with which she has adapted to pastoring the congregation.

We hear monthly from the Search Committee, headed by Trista Langley-Tyler.

A special thank you this month to Mark Holperin, who made broadcasting the audio from the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall possible. This prepared us for the possibility of an overflow of worshippers while we are restricting the maximum allowed in the sanctuary, according to CDC and WCC standards. The broadcast possibilities will also prepare us for larger numbers of worshippers as the church continues to open.

Others you might like to thank when you see them are Keenan Roberts for mowing, Mike Mettler for repairs in the building, and Bruce Kaitchuck for work on a leak in the upper room.

Another important "thank you" this month goes to Molly Jaeger. Molly has decided it is necessary to resign from Council because of health reasons. Molly has served this Council for two-plus years and other Councils and Boards throughout her 30 years of membership here at First Church. She has also been instrumental with the Sanctuary Arts Group.

COUNCIL REPORT, MAY 15, 2021

At a special Council meeting, the Personnel Committee, charged with finding a new Information and Electronic Technology Director, reported to Council with enthusiasm for the person they recommend: Alex Fleugel. Alex will help us with the communication and media areas of the ministry. He will be averaging 15-20 hours a week, with one day in the office coinciding with Pastor Gail's schedule. His start date for training is May 20th.

The Council also set a third May meeting for discussion of guidelines and protocols in response to the CDC advisories and what changes seem possible in both short term and long term.



The Personnel Committee has concluded its search for a new Information and Electronic Technology Director! He is Alex Fleugel and he began work with us on May 20th.

Alex grew up in the suburbs of the twin cities of Minnesota. He moved to Eagle River while in high school and graduated from Northland Pines 2016. His undergraduate degree features studies in Physics, Math, and Religious Studies from Knox College '19. He had completed his first year of graduate study in Engineering Management and Electrical and Systems Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis when the Covid-19 pandemic began. He has since returned to Eagle River and has been consulting with churches regarding their utilization of technology in their ministry. When not working on one of his many projects, or learning about new technology, you might find him playing the oboe, watching movies, or out in the woods.

You will see Alex on some Sundays and weekdays, and on line as he assists with our communication and media ministry. Thanks to the Personnel Committee for their work! They are Carlton Schroeder, Mark Johannsen, Terry Posto, Paula Hendrickson, and especially Kathy Holperin for her interim service and training.

"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)

Camcorder operators are needed to film our 7:30 a.m. service! If you attend the early service and are willing to be trained, this mission will help those who are unable to attend to experience worship remotely. The more volunteers, the better! Please see Alex, our new IT staff member, or Pastor Gail for more information.

Pastor Search Committee Update - June

Greetings, Church Family,

Things are moving right along. We have received a few pastoral applications and have conducted two initial interviews. We are fond of both candidates and are in the process of setting up second interviews. It feels like a good problem to possibly have to choose between two people we really like! Thank you for your patience with us during this process. We are all committed to finding a Servant Leader who is the best fit for our church. We will continue to update as this part of the search continues. As always, please do not hesitate to contact any committee member listed below with questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

The Pastor Search Committee

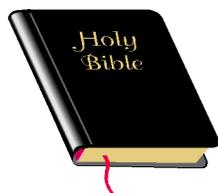
Trista Langley Tyler (Committee Chair) jewelry@metalurges-upnorth.com 715-617-1162
Kelli Burrill - kelli.burrill@gmail.com Kamie Kolb - kamiekolb1@gmail.com
Nancy Diepenbrock - petsx5@gmail.com Doug Malinsky - doug.malinsky@gmail.com
Pat Fox - wpine2fox@yahoo.com Patti Roberts - robertsupnorth@hotmail.com
Sandy Kaitchuck - skait85@gmail.com Krista Wittkopf - copper4811@gmail.com

Several Memorial services will be held at our church in the coming month. please keep these families in prayer:

A service will be held in memory of **Bette Vande Hey**, mother of Louise Krus, on Tuesday, June 1st with visitation held at the church at 10 a.m., followed by a service at 11 a.m. A graveside service will follow at Eagle River Cemetery. We are limiting the visitation and funeral to family and church members. Masks and social distancing will be employed to protect the unvaccinated.

A service in memory of **Chris Thomson**, husband of Char Thomson, will be held outdoors on **Saturday, June 19th at 11 a.m.** at Eagle River Cemetery, weather permitting. The service is open to the public. Please bring your own chair if you are able. Family and friends will gather at the Washington Town Hall (2301 Town Hall Rd.) following the service or in case of rain.

A memorial service will be held for **Linda Jorgensen** on Friday, June 25th and will be open to the public. Details are pending.



JUNE SCRIPTURE READINGS

June 6 Second Sunday after Pentecost	1 Sam 8:4-11, 16-20	Ps 138
Gen 3:8-15 Ps 130 2 Cor 4:13-5:1 Mk 3:20-35		<i>God's Will</i>
June 13 Third Sunday after Pentecost	1 Sam 15:34-16:13	Ps 20
Ezek 17:22-24 Ps 92:1-4, 12-15 Mk 4:26-34		<i>Flourishing</i>
June 20 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	1 Sam 17:32-39	Ps 9:9-20
Job 38:1-11 Ps 107:1-3,23-32 Mk 4:35-41		<i>Pushing the Boat Out</i>
June 27 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	2 Sam 1:1, 17-27	Ps 130
Wisdom of Sol 1:13-15, 2:23-23 2 Cor. 8:7-15 Mk 5:21-43		<i>Healing Powers</i>

An **Adult Study** will be held in June using *The Wired Word*, a resource that partners current events in the news with biblical stories and reflective questions for conversations. This study will be a great way to share beliefs and opinions in an atmosphere of faithful listening and discernment — a much needed skill in these times! Students receive the news articles in advance and Pastor Gail will facilitate the conversation. We will meet on **Monday evenings, June 7th and June 21st at 7:00 p.m.** The format (Zoom and/or in person) will be decided by the group. **Please contact Pastor Gail** if you want to participate and let me know what formats for meeting work for you. I hope to see you there!



CONGRATULATIONS to the 2021 UCC Scholarship Recipients!

The UCC Scholarship Committee (Ursula Charaf, Mark Johannsen and Norma Yaeger) bases their selection on individual and combined evaluations of the applicant's grade point average, personal essay, letters of recommendation from teachers, community people, and a counselor, as well as their overall high school experience including work and volunteer activities. This year's honorees are:

Kranz \$20,000	McKenzie Mayo, NPHS
Kranz \$3,000	Evan Janet, NPHS
Kranz \$3,000	Piper Snedden, NPHS 2020 Graduate, Carroll University
Kranz \$3,000	Patrick Stemper, NPHS
Birds Nest \$8,000	Jacob Klopp, NPHS
Birds Nest \$8,000	Carson Powell, NPHS
Birds Nest \$8,000	Kayla Whitehead, NPHS
General Scholarship \$1,000	Grace Florence, Three Lakes HS
General Scholarship \$1,000	Allison Zwettler, Three Lakes HS
J. Paterson, \$2,000	Madeline Indermuehle, NPHS
R. Rieckman, \$1,500	Madeline Indermuehle, NPHS
Zipperer Scholarship, \$3,125	Amy Deditz, UCC Member
Zipperer Scholarship, \$3,125	Grace Florence, UCC Member
Zipperer Scholarship. \$3,125	Tess Holperin, UCC Member
Zipperer Scholarship, \$3,125	Jacob Klopp, UCC Member

Thank you



“Dear First Congregational UCC Bird’s Nest Scholarship Committee, Thank you so much for selecting me to receive your scholarship. I am very honored to have been chosen as the recipient.

I have always dreamed of going into the medical field, and this will help me to achieve this goal.

I first plan on earning my Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing degree at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. I then plan on furthering my education to eventually receive my Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. The schooling that my desired career requires will take a great deal of dedication, both academically and financially. I plan on returning to the Northwoods after receiving my education, so your decision is a great investment in our community. I greatly appreciate your dedication to education as well as the youth in our community. Your generosity and investment in me will not go to waste. Thank you so much for awarding me this scholarship which will allow me to wholeheartedly focus on my education. Thank you again, Kayla Whitehead”

“Dear Scholarship Committee, To start off I am honored to be selected for First Congregation UCC Kranz Scholarship! It is nice to see and be rewarded for my hard work in and out of the classroom throughout high school and I can’t wait to bring that same work mentality to the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh. This scholarship will alleviate expenses and help me to achieve my academic goals. One of which is becoming a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, but I as a person can foresee becoming an asset to the University and my future peers through leadership and having a strong work ethic. Again, I am honored to receive this scholarship and can not wait to begin college in the Fall! Thank you, Patrick Stemper”

“Dear UCC Scholarship Committee, I accept the Bird Nest Scholarship that you gifted to me out of utmost kindness with nothing but great thanks and appreciation. Thanks to the selection made by your foundation I can rest easier knowing that the heavy burden of college tuition and the cost of my future education as a whole is now tempered. With this scholarship I intend on pushing into my studies of becoming a civil engineer through NTC in Wausau with confidence. And thanks to the generous contribution that you have made to my future, I can do so. Once again I thank you for the opportunities that have now been afforded to me even more thanks to charitable contributors like you. The UCC Scholarship Committee has truly given to me something to advance my education, my life, and my aspirations for the future. Now I hope your foundation would rest assured as well knowing that I intend to return the favor for things like this in my future endeavors. So, one last time, thank you.
Sincerely, Carson Powell”



A MESSAGE FROM MISS SHARON FOR THE FAITH FORMATION KIDS

A RULER IS USED TO MEASURE

The Word: Jesus said, "Do unto others just what you want them to do for you." Luke 6:31

A yardstick can be used for many things. I could use it as a stake to hold up a houseplant that wants to tip over. I could use it to hold up a window. Or I could burn it to make a fire to roast hot dogs.

But that's not what a yardstick is made for. The purpose of the yardstick is to measure things. It's to show how tall you are, or how long a piece of fabric is, or measure the fish you caught.

The verse from Luke is like a yardstick. We call it The Golden Rule. Jesus said, "Do unto others just what you want them to do for you." We can use this rule in many ways. Some people make signs and posters with these words. We can use the words as a memory verse or we can also use it to show other people they are wrong because they do not treat us the way we want to be treated.

But Jesus did not give us this rule to be used this way. His purpose was to help us know how to treat other people. By thinking how we feel, we can know how others feel. It is a way to measure someone else's life by comparing it to our own.

When I know how I feel I can understand how others feel. When I am lonely, I want someone to talk to me. When I do something wrong, I want others to forgive me. If I were hurt, I would want someone to help me.

Jesus did not just tell us to follow The Golden Rule. He also used it for Himself. He knows what it is like for us to be afraid; so He promises to be with us always. He knows what it is like to be tempted; so He gives us His power to fight against it.

The Golden Rule is not just a clever statement or a nice motto for life. It is a way for us to live that will make our lives better and the lives of others better. It is a way we can live because we have Jesus as our Savior.

Living The Golden Rule means you will stand up for others, look for the good in everyone and bring happiness to someone.

Two community groups are returning to our building:

"Many Ways of Peace" Yoga will be held Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

A bridge group will meet Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Please accommodate these groups if and when you enter the building. Thank you!

VACATION

Pastor Gail will be on vacation June 26th through July 2nd. Please contact the church office if you have any pastoral needs during that time. Our guest preacher on June 27th will be Rev. Grant Van Lishout, spiritual director at Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June 5	Pamme Williams
June 8	Emily Klopp
June 9	Nan Andrews
June 11	Dewey Anderson
June 13	Brett Nesbitt
	Madison Stebbeds
June 15	Frank Surpluss
June 16	Don Hendrickson
June 17	Sue Kent
June 25	Jacob Klopp
June 26	Dick Hansen
June 28	Tess Holperin
June 29	Gary Spolarich
July 1	Sandy Kaitchuck
July 2	Jamie Remme
July 5	Dale Bishop
	Carlton Schroeder
July 6	Helena Radloff
July 7	Kate Remme
	Georgianna Starz
July 8	Marlyn Hupperts
	Tom Marion
July 10	Bob Trojanowski
	Jan Yahr

Thank You

"Thank you for all the cards, donations in Bette's name, kind words, thoughts and prayers sent to me after Bette Vande Hey's passing. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness."

Louise Krus



"Thank you to Pastor Gail for her recent visit and the lovely lap robe that she gave me. Thanks too, to everyone for phone calls and cards."

Helena Roerdink

Our sympathy to the family of
Linda Jorgensen
who died
May 15, 2021 at Phelps Care Center.



THANK YOU!

From 2021 Year of Giving recipient

"Dear Friends at First Congregational Church, Thank you for your generous contribution to the Jane Goodall Institute of \$100 on March 4, 2021. Only because of donors like you, are we able to maintain the highest quality of programming in chimpanzee care and protection, community centered conservation, and environmental and humanitarian education. Gratefully, Carmen Mullins"

Do you or someone in your family have a birthday in June/early July 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!*

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!



BOOK LOVERS READING GROUP is taking a summer break and will meet in August to plan for books September 2021 - May of 2022.

Contact Donna De Pape with questions at spindle257@gmail.com



Wishlist

NATH - Frederick Place - Most Needed Items

1. Notebooks
2. Benadryl (Generic)
3. Coffee
4. Casserole dishes
5. Food sharing containers (5 - 7 cups)
6. Food strainers
7. Triple antibiotic ointment
8. Band aids
9. Hydrocortisone cream

If you would like to donate items from the "Wishlist" bring them to the church, rap on the door and we'll take them from you. They can also be taken to Frederick Place in Rhinelander at 204 W. Frederick St.

Monetary donations are always welcomed!

nathnorthwoods@gmail.com

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Only God can make a Dad. He does it each and every time. He puts into the heart of a father a special warmth and gentleness. Only God can make a Dad who shares his children's laughter, dries their tears, and always

—Author unknown

keeps on loving.

The Dad I'd buy

If I went shopping for a Dad, here is what I'd buy:

One who would always stop to answer a little boy's "Why?"

One who would always speak kindly to a little girl or boy,

One who would give to others a bit of sunshine and joy.

I'd pick a Dad who followed The Bible's Golden Rule,

And one who went regularly to church and Sunday school.

I'd buy the very finest Dad to place on our family tree,

And then I'd try to live like him so he would be proud of me.

How Fathers Mature

Age 4 - My daddy can do anything.

Age 7 - My dad knows a whole lot.

Age 9 - Dad doesn't know quite everything.

Age 12 - Dad just doesn't understand.

Age 14 - Dad is old-fashioned.

Age 21 - Dad is out-of-touch.

Age 25 - Dad is okay.

Age 30 - I wonder what Dad thinks about this.

Age 35 - I must get Dad's input first.

Age 50 - What would Dad have thought about that?

Age 60 - I wish I could talk it over with Dad once more.

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 and they will be ordered from Horant's with the cost of \$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 will be listed.

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. Again, 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.

June openings — 13th, 20th, 27th

May Floral Arrangement ...

May 23rd: sponsored by Marlyn and Bernie Hupperts, honoring their mothers Amy Hall and Louise Hupperts

First Congregational UCC Contact People - 2020 -2021

Pastor Gail Irwin Cell: 920-883-7887

Email: pastorgail@eagleriverucc.org

First Congregational UCC, PO Box 1385, Eagle River, WI 54521

Church emails: Nan - office@eagleriverucc.org 715-479-8501

HOME PAGE - www.eagleriverucc.org

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

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

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Bernie Hupperts 715-617-9468

Vice President: Mark Johannsen 920-475-7576

Trisha Moore: 715-617-1102 Shirley Thompson: 715-479-8753

Cathy Palmer: 715-617-6373 Luke Aschbrenner: 715-358-6579

Clerk - Norma Yaeger 715-477-1984

Pastor Parish Relations Committee - Tobi Johannsen 920-450-1402

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

Sanctuary Arts Group (SAG) - Patti Roberts, 715-479-6191

Performing Arts Music - Bernie Hupperts, 715-617-9468

Music Director - Lori Hunter, 715-493-8078

Organists/pianists - Linda Brainard, 715-479-5043; Lori Hunter

Norma Yaeger, 715-477-1984