

## **The Church Mouse - July 2021**

**First Congregational United Church of Christ 715-479-8501**

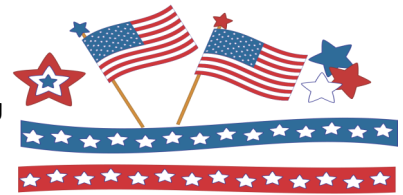
Interim Pastor: Rev. Gail Irwin [pastorgail@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:pastorgail@eagleriverucc.org)

Email for Nan (Office Manager) & the Church Office: [office@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:office@eagleriverucc.org)

Email for Alex Fluegel: [alex@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:alex@eagleriverucc.org)

Email for Sharon Breit: [youthministry@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:youthministry@eagleriverucc.org)

Home Page: [www.eagleriverucc.org](http://www.eagleriverucc.org)



### **President's Comments**

Summer has arrived; we celebrated the solstice and we're moving on to summer holidays. July 4 in Eagle River is always BIG, and this year it falls on a Sunday, featuring the parade, fireworks in whatever village you favor, and church services.

On July 4 we will have 7:30 and 9:30 services. Attend and pray for our country and its people before celebrating our history with all the activities and cookouts the day brings to us.

### **June Council Review**

One of the most significant Council decisions in June was to take another step toward our pre-pandemic customs.

**As of July 11 masks will be optional during a church service and the second service will return to 10 a.m.**

If you feel more comfortable with a mask, please continue to wear the mask. If you have been not attending because you didn't or couldn't wear a mask, please begin to attend again.

**Regarding COVID, Council continues to recommend vaccination for your own safety and the safety of others.**

Council also decided to return Bibles to the pews, for your use. Hymnals will be among the last books to return, because hymnals encourage singing and singing spreads a virus further than speaking. We can still sing "Alleluia" and "Let There Be Peace on Earth." But please do not face anyone while singing, and be respectful of those who do not join a circle while singing.

The 10:00 a.m. service will be held outside one Sunday a month during good weather. This month's outdoor service will be July 11 in the lot across the street. Bring your own lawn chair, please.

If you have a chance, give Lori Hunter a thumbs up for all the work that has gone into providing music for our shortened services. Since one service each week is on line for participants, the law requires that we receive approval for music from the companies which hold the copyright license. Lori spends much time each week obtaining approvals. Also let's thank all the musicians who are adding their talents to the services from groups to soloists to instrumentalists. We are blessed with the sound of music.

Alex Fluegel, our new Tech Director, has taken steps to improve internet reception throughout the building and is working with various task forces on other aspects such as security and sound in the building. Thank you, Alex, for moving us along in the 21st century.

Please read the Search Committee report elsewhere in the MOUSE, as this committee has moved forward in its challenge to find us a candidate interested in becoming our settled pastor. In the meantime, however, Pastor Gail, among other pastoral duties, continues to offer challenging sermons, direction as we move further into our new Constitution, and a study group that has produced much illuminating discussion. Thank you, Pastor Gail for your leadership.

Bernie Hupperts  
Council President

**“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)**

### **Pastor’s Letter**

Ever since we returned to worship in person, I feel like a “new” pastor again! I’ve been learning your special songs, how the candles are lit, and the names attached to three dimensional human beings.

You, too, are remembering what it’s like to be in community together: seeing each other’s whole faces, helping to mow the lawn or wipe down pews or gathering for a class. You seem to be gradually getting comfortable with each other again.

I am touched by those who have stepped up to help in old and new ways with ushering, music-making, church governance, and building maintenance. These shared responsibilities are necessary, and they will help you rebuild your bonds within the Body of Christ.

This also helps your pastor! As your Interim, standing in for a future pastor, I don’t always know who to reach out to for help, or what your traditions have been. Your church’s structure doesn’t include a worship team, a missions task force or a building and grounds committee, so sometimes it’s hard to know where to turn for guidance.

Until this week, I didn’t even know your special lyrics to *“Let There Be Peace on Earth”!*

As you continue to orient me and step up to needed ministry tasks, remember that one of these days, a new pastor will arrive. S/he will need your help, too! You can ask your next pastor:

*“What can we teach you about First UCC?”*

*“How do you think we should do things around here?”* And, most importantly,

*“How can we help you do it?”*

Thank you for all the ways you’re orienting me and serving the church as we gather in person. Keep stepping up!

Peace and Blessings,

*Pastor Gail*

Greetings, Church Family,

We have been making good progress in our search. Of the profiles we have received, we are looking seriously at one candidate and have done our first in-person interview with this individual. Meeting this candidate in person was a fantastic step towards our goal and we are in deep and prayerful thought and conversation. We hope to have news on this front by mid-July. During this time we are still continuing to accept profiles for review as we do not want to stop this process until we are certain of our commitment.

We know that everyone is anxious to have a new and permanent pastor! A decision as huge as this one takes time, thought, prayer and discussion. We are taking this responsibility seriously and are grateful for your understanding, patience and trust. We are working for you and representing what we feel is in the best interest of our church family as a whole!

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 (Chair) jewelry@metalurges-upnorth.com 715-617-1162

Kelli Burrill - kelli.burrill@gmail.com

Nancy Diepenbrock - petsx5@gmail.com

Pat Fox - wpine2fox@yahoo.com

Sandy Kaitchuck - skait85@gmail.com

Kamie Kolb - kamiekolb1@gmail.com

Doug Malinsky - doug.malinsky@gmail.com

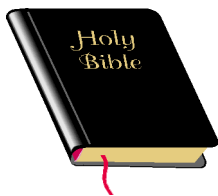
Patti Roberts - robertsupnorth@hotmail.com

Krista Wittkopf - copper4811@gmail.com

I have had the opportunity for a little over a month to serve as your Information & Electronic Technology Director. In that time I have met with some of you and am looking forward to meeting many more. I am in the office on Sunday mornings and at various times during the week based on that week's technology needs. If you would like to meet with me or share any questions or ideas feel free to email me at alex@eagleriverucc.org. I am looking forward to guiding all of you through the process of utilizing technology to the fullest extent to enhance your ministry.

In order to build on your existing infrastructure and develop a plan for moving forward with technology, I have developed a phased plan. The church council approved the first two phases of the plan at their last meeting. They include updating our website and improving the network capacity of the whole building to increase efficiency for the office staff and prepare for future improvements to sound, projection and security.

I hope to complete these first two phases in the next month. Future phases will take place over the next several months with input from a variety of individuals. If you would like to be a part of any of these phases send me an email to let me know so that I can include you. I am looking forward to working with all of you as we transition into a new era of ministry in a digital world. Alex Fluegel



<b>JULY SCRIPTURE READINGS</b>			
<b>July 4 - 6th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10 and Ps 48 Ezek 2:1-5 and Ps 123	2 Cor 12:2-10    Mk 6:1-13	<i>Sent with Power</i>
<b>July 11 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19 and Ps 24 Amos 7:7-15 and Ps 85:8-13	Eph 1:3-14    Mk 6:14-29	<i>God-inspired Joy</i>
<b>July 18 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	2 Sam 7:1-14a and Ps 89:20-37 Jer 23:1-6 and Ps 23	Eph 2:11-22    Mk 6:30-34, 53-56	<i>Wherever You Are</i>
<b>July 25 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	2 Sam 11:1-15 and Ps 14 2 Kings 4:42-44 and Ps 145:10-18	Eph 3:14-21    Jn 6:1-21	<i>God's Abundant Presence</i>

**COVID Precautions Update**

**On Sunday, July 11th we will return to 7:30 and 10 a.m. worship services.** The 10 a.m. service will be held outdoors that day. Please bring a chair or blanket for seating and dress for the weather. (If it's disagreeable, we will move indoors.) We will do some outdoor singing with guitars!

Masks will be optional for worship in the building starting July 11th. However, please continue to practice social distancing of 3-6 feet, especially around those who wish to wear masks and children who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated.

Remember, you can still access worship on line through our church website, Facebook page or YouTube channel. Check your Friday email for details.

New strains of the virus are emerging which are more contagious and virulent. Roughly 50% of Vilas County residents are still unvaccinated. If you or a loved one have not yet been vaccinated and are eligible, the Council strongly encourages you to receive the vaccine soon for your own health and safety. You can read about the new Delta variant here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/061621.htm>

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Adult Study "Wired Word"** will continue in July on Monday nights, July 5th and 19th at 7:00 p.m. This resource partners current events in the news with biblical stories and reflective questions for conversation in an atmosphere of faithful listening. Students receive the lessons in advance. Location for July 5th is the home of Kelli and Steve Burrill, 3934 Brenner Lane, Eagle River. Please contact Pastor Gail if you want to participate and receive the lessons.

Thank  
you



from scholarship recipients:

"Dear First Congregational UCC Scholarship Committee, Thank you for selecting me to be the recipient of the UCC Kranz Scholarship. I want to express how grateful I am for your generosity and support. The UCC Kranz Scholarship will help me pursue a degree in psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. After receiving my bachelor's degree, I plan to apply to medical school and become a psychiatrist. This scholarship will relieve a great financial burden off of me and allow me to allocate more time to studying while at college. I am excited to learn and experience a new environment in the coming years. Once again, thank you for your compassion. It means a lot to know that another person has the confidence in me to succeed. Your support means more to me than words can properly express. Thank you for your kindness! McKenzie Mayo" (*Kranz \$20,000 Scholarship*)

\*\*\*\*\*

"Dear UCC Kranz Scholarship Committee, Thank you so much for selecting me to receive one of the Kranz Scholarships given this year. I am very honored that this committee believes in me and my future enough to help pay for my post-secondary education at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. In college I plan to obtain a major in political science and to also minor in Spanish and legal or international studies. After graduating from UWL, I dream of attending law school so that I may become a lawyer or politician. With the long educational journey ahead of me, this financial assistance is greatly appreciated as it will help to reduce the amount of money I need to get a loan for. The generosity of this organization towards me is incredibly meaningful and I will greatly appreciate the help that is given to me. Once again, thank you so much for the scholarship. Evan Janet" (*Kranz \$3,000*)

\*\*\*\*\*

"Dear Generous Donors, Thank you beyond words for selecting me to be the recipient of a Bird's Nest Scholarship. It means so much that you and your organization have the generosity and confidence in me to continue my education and succeed. My parents and family would never ordinarily be able to help me through college financially, so this money is both great reassurance and also a motivator to push myself as I enter the realm of higher education. The amount of money this saves me now (and throughout my next few decades in interest) is enormous, and I am extraordinarily grateful. I am beyond excited to begin my first semester of university this fall and continue with my passion. Thank you so much for your support of me, Jacob Klopp." (*Bird's Nest \$8,000*)

\*\*\*\*\*

"Dear First Congregational UCC Scholarship Committee, I am honored to be receiving the First Congregational UCC Jinny Paterson Environmental scholarship this year, thank you! I plan on attending Northern Michigan University next fall where I will use this scholarship to further my goals and education! Thank you so much! Madeline Indermuehle" (*\$2,000 J. Paterson Environmental Scholarship*) "Thank you so much for selecting me for the 2021 Roger Rieckman Engineering, Math and Science Scholarship. You have helped me to further my education and future as I go on to the next step in my life at Northern Michigan University next fall! Thank you for your generosity! Madeline Indermuehle" (*\$1,500 Roger Rieckman Scholarship*)

\*\*\*\*\*

"UCC Scholarship Committee and Church Members, Thank you for the Zipperer Trust Scholarship. With this coming school year being my final one (as a student), I can't help but look back and be grateful for the community and support that I have received over the past few years. Thank you for everything! Tess Holperin" (*\$3,125 Zipperer Scholarship, UCC member*)

\*\*\*\*\*

"Dear Generous Donors of UCC, I can not thank you enough for naming me a recipient of a Zipperer Scholarship. I very, very much appreciate the trust you and your organization have placed in me, as a member of your congregation, to follow my passions in the areas of chemistry and mathematics at an institution of higher education. My family and I would have a much more difficult time dealing with the financial burden of college and your scholarship helps me alleviate some of it. Throughout my days in church, hearing sermons, coming up with other children to talk in front of the congregation, performing Christmas pageants, speaking some of my own sermon, doing Souper Bowl Sunday, or studying with the youth group, I never thought that this congregation would be so kind and generous as to bestow me the honor of receiving such a large sum. Thank you all so much, Jacob Klopp" (*\$3,125 Zipperer Scholarship, UCC member*)

\*\*\*\*\*



from scholarship recipients -- continued

"Dear First Congregational UCC, I want to express my deepest gratitude for both the Zipperer Trust and the General Education Scholarships I have been awarded. The UCC has been a wonderful and kind supportive congregation for my family and I since we moved to this community. Although my plans have changed slightly and I will now be attending UW La Crosse, there will be opportunities for Alzheimer's Research in the US as well. I am so excited about continuing my education and very appreciative of your most generous contribution. Sincerely, Grace S. Florence" (\$3,125 Zipperer Scholarship, UCC Member; \$1,000 General Scholarship)

\*\*\*\*\*

"Dear First Congregational UCC Scholarship Committee, Thank you for awarding me a scholarship. I am honored to be a recipient! I am very grateful for this opportunity and I am excited to enhance my education. I will be attending the UW-Stout in the fall, and am hoping to major in graphic design and interactive media. Your generous gift will help me obtain a career of my choice. Thank you for your generosity and for awarding me with a scholarship. Allison Zwettler" (\$1,000 General Scholarship)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- 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
- July 12 Pat Tucker
- July 13 Mark Shepherdson
- July 16 Rose Tyler
- July 25 Brenda McNutt  
Stacey Ray
- July 30 Bruce Kaitchuck
- Aug. 1 Holly Farrell
- Aug. 3 Nancy Smart
- Aug. 4 Lily Tyler
- Aug. 5 Kathy Breitzman  
Jill Brunstad  
Debbie Preuhs
- Aug. 7 Linda Brainard  
Sam Welhoefer
- Aug. 8 Mark Holperin

**HELP!**

**WHO ARE WE NOW?**

Our website congregation photos need updating.

**JULY 11, 2021**

Immediately after the 7:30 or 10:00 service,  
gather at our sign on First and Division Street.  
Alex Fluegel will make us look good and up-to-date  
in new pictures!

**WHAT'S THE FOSTER CLOSET?**

The Vilas County Foster Closet is located in the Courthouse along with Social Services. It is for foster parents, kinship care providers, relative caregivers, and families in need. In the Closet are personal hygiene products, suitcases, toys, books, art supplies, diapers, and wipes. Foster families are able to come and pick out items they need for the child/youth they are caring for free of charge.

**We can help! Right now the closet needs:**

- Shampoo and conditioners sets for all age (No Suave or \$store brands)
- Bars of soap (Irish Spring, Zest, Dove)
- Infant, toddler, children's and adult tubes of toothpaste
- Body wash (Suave, Softsoap, Dove, Irish Spring)
- Loofahs - the pouf kind
- Deodorant (Dove, Axe, Secret, Degree) Band Aids
- Face cleaner (Clean & Clear, Sea Breeze, Olay, St. Ives brands)
- Baby wipes and baby lotion
- Small Lego kits for boys and girls
- Board and card games (only NEW games, please)
- Art kits/craft kits for ages 1 to 18 for boys and girls
- Photo albums, Baby's first year books
- Bath, hand, and wash cloth towel sets.

At this time we have plenty of clothes

These items can be taken to the Courthouse or left with Pastor Gail at church. Thank you for thinking of the Foster Closet!

Do you or someone in your family have a birthday in July/early August that isn't listed? Call the church office and we'll add you to our list.

LESSON PLAN FOR JULY  
FOR  
FAITH FORMATION KIDS  
FROM  
MISS SHARON



## THE LITTLE RED HEN

By Sharon Blumberg

The Little Red Hen found a grain of wheat. "Who will plant this?" she asked. "Not I," said the cat, the goose and the rat. "Then I will," said Little Red Hen.

So she buried the wheat in the ground. After awhile it grew up yellow and ripe. "The wheat is ripe now," said Little Red Hen. "Who will cut and thresh it?" "Not I," said the cat, the goose, and the rat.

"Then I will," said Little Red Hen.

So she cut it with her bill and thrashed it with her wings. Then she asked, "Who will take this wheat to the mill?" "Not I," said the cat, the goose, and the rat.

So she took the wheat to the mill where it was ground. Then she carried the flour home. "Who will make me some bread with this flour?" she asked. "Not I," said the cat, the goose, and the rat. "Then I will," said Little Red Hen.

So she made and baked the bread. Then she said, "Now we shall see who will eat this bread." "We will," said cat, goose and rat.

"I am quite sure you would," said Little Red Hen, "if you could get it."

Then she called her chicks, and they ate up all the bread. There was none left at all for the cat, or the goose, or the rat.

### ***Moral of the story: "Hard work always pays!"***

Bread is mentioned 492 times in the bible. So, when we pray "Give us this day our daily bread," we are reminded that God promised to provide what we need, day in and day out with -out fail. He is always faithful. Jesus told the disciples, "I am the bread of life."

Do you love the smell of baking bread? Well, in July, you are each going to make a loaf of bread. I will be delivering a kit to you and also a lesson plan to complete and return to me. Doesn't that sound like fun?

SEE YOU SOON!

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!





**NATH - Frederick Place—  
Most Needed Items**

1. Phone chargers (all types)
2. 30 gallon trash bags
3. 60 watt light bulbs
4. Laundry detergent
5. Fabric dryer sheets

*Thank you!*

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

**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.

**July openings: 11th and 25th**

**June flower sponsors:**

**June 6th: Lori and Chuck Hunter** in memory of their niece.

**June 13th: Bernie and Marlyn Hupperts** in honor of their 61st anniversary

**June 20th: The Thomson family** in memory of Chris

**First Congregational UCC Contact People - 2020 –2021**

**Pastor Gail Irwin Cell: 920-883-7887**

**Email: [pastorgail@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:pastorgail@eagleriverucc.org)**

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

Church emails: Nan - [office@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:office@eagleriverucc.org) 715-479-8501

HOME PAGE - [www.eagleriverucc.org](http://www.eagleriverucc.org)

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

Director of Christian Education: Sharon Breit, 715-477-2163 [youth\\_ministry@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:youth_ministry@eagleriverucc.org)

Information & Electronic Technology Director: Alex Fluegel - [alex@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:alex@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