

The Church Mouse - August 2021

First Congregational United Church of Christ 715-479-8501

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Pastor's Letter

Since we started back to worshipping in person, I've learned your church includes 7:30 People and 10:00 People. You all know each other, but you know your own worship group a little better and have developed some deep and lasting friendships. While both groups prefer your own worship times, the two groups also like seeing each other.

To remedy this, a few years ago you decided to start having a "Unity Sunday" once a month, meeting at a compromise time of 9:00 a.m. This allowed everyone to see each other as one big group on occasion.

Well, Covid interrupted all our traditions, but as we slowly find our way back together, opportunities to see each other in person are more important than ever.

So, the Council is helping to host a **"Unity Sunday" service for everyone on Sunday, August 15th at 9:00 a.m.** It will be held outdoors, weather permitting, and will feature hymn singing with guitars and an ice cream social afterward, so everyone has a chance to mingle with friends from both worship times.

This summer, we are hearing excerpts from Paul's letter to the Ephesians in the lectionary readings, and Paul has a lot to say about unity! In his day, as in ours, there was divisions and mistrust between cultural groups that had to be broken through in order to build a unified Church. As we at First UCC find ways to come back together face to face, I pray that we can practice and display that unity Christ called us to, honoring our differences, but building a common mission.

I hope you will make a special effort to join us on August 15th at 9:00 a.m. Bring a chair and a friend!

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Gail

From the Council President

During the July 25th services I had an opportunity to sing the hymn "This is My Father's World." Preparing that hymn meant thinking about its words, that part of the world around us, and summer thankfulness.

"All nature signs and round me rings the music of the spheres."

"God trust us with this world to keep it clean and fair:

all earth and trees, the skies and seas..."

God trusts us, and as Pastor Gail reminded us in her sermon of that day, we play a part in cleansing the climate-changing world. As we reflect on summer in the Northwoods with its loon songs, bee buzzing, baby eagle cries, and warmly wrapped evenings or mornings, the impact of that word "trust" expands. Strolling the shores of a lake, or the hills of a forest, or the paving stones of a garden or labyrinth, let's spend more than a moment thinking about what we can do because God has placed his trust in us.

Council Business

Council met on July 12 in the sanctuary. We are a busy building in the evenings, so meeting space is at a minimum. Visitors to the meeting were Alex Fluegel, IETF, and Trista Langley-Tyler, Search Committee.

You will notice a new sign in our entrance indicating that WiFi can be reached throughout our building now. That addition to speed and effectiveness is due to Alex's recognition that the WiFi access, transmission, uploading and printing times needed improvement, and his installation of wiring that would cover the building.

The Search Committee has interviewed one candidate who visited Eagle River for several days. See the Committee report elsewhere in the Mouse for details.

Attendance at regular service times (7:30 and 10:00) has been increasing each week with masks being optional. Also, each week a bit more music is being added. We hope that Covid numbers continue to allow for this normal return to worship. Certainly members have remained faithful in giving so initiatives noted in budget expenses can be continued.

An outdoor service on August 15th at 9 a.m. will be followed by a Council-sponsored ice cream social. Come to worship and stay cool.

Council also approved holding the annual ecumenical Advent/Christmas Cantata this upcoming December 5th. Rehearsals will begin October 6th in the evening. Choir members must be vaccinated, especially because singing, even distanced, expels more air than normal speaking. Council is also supportive of planning for the Cranberry Fest Luncheon. Women's Fellowship has been asked to fill in some of the details about safety, distancing, seating capacity, and other concerns.

Hope to see you in Church,

Bernie Hupperts

Covid Precautions Update

Masks are now optional while in the building. 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.

New strains of the coronavirus 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 do so for your own health and safety and that of others around you. You can read about the new Delta variant here:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/061621.htm>

“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 we train, the better! Please see Alex or Pastor Gail for more information.

Pastor Search Committee Update

Greetings, Church Family,

This will be a short update as we don't have much to report. We are still awaiting news from the individual who we had come to our area and visit our church for an in-person interview. This is the same candidate we mentioned in our last update. After they had left and we were able to take a day to consider our individual feelings, we came together to discuss it and ultimately, we were excited to offer an invitation to a candidacy weekend. However, due to some significant and very unexpected health issues, along with some uncooperative weather, they have been unable to fully explore all the options that have been presented to them, thus have been unable to answer our invitation one way or another. We knew when we called them that there would be a delay in getting a firm answer and we were willing to accept that; however that delay has been extended by these issues which are out of anyone's control. We have been staying in contact with this candidate in a continued effort to show our support for their process, and are confident that this is all in God's hands. We are keeping our fingers crossed; we remain hopeful and we pray we will know one way or the other soon. Meanwhile, we are still accepting profiles but no new ones have been sent to us at this time.

Please continue to be patient and pray that all will be answered shortly.

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

Kamie Kolb - kamiekolb1@gmail.com

Nancy Diepenbrock - petsx5@gmail.com

Doug Malinsky - doug.malinsky@gmail.com

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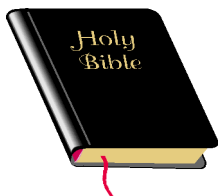
Patti Roberts - robertsupnorth@hotmail.com

Sandy Kaitchuck - skait85@gmail.com

Krista Wittkopf - copper4811@gmail.com

AUGUST SCRIPTURE READINGS

Aug. 1 - 10th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Sam 11-26 - 13a & Ps 51:1-12 Ex 16:2-3, 9-15 & Ps 51:1-12	Eph 4:1-16 Jn 6:24-35	<i>Bread of Life</i>
Aug. 8 - 11th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Sam 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 & Ps 130 1 Kings 19:4-8 & Ps 34:1-8	Eph 4:25-5-2 Jn 6:35, 41-51	<i>Shaping Community</i>
Aug. 15 - 12th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 & Ps 111 Prov. 9:1-6 & Ps 34:9-14	Eph 5:15-20 Jn 6:51-58	<i>Wisdom Quest</i>
Aug. 22 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 8: (1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43 & Ps 84 Josh 24:1-2a, 14-18 & Ps 34:15-22	Eph 6:10-20, John 6:56-69	<i>At Home With God</i>
Aug. 29 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost	Song of Sol 2:8-13 & Ps 45:1-2, 6-9 Deut 4:1-2, 6-9 & Ps 15	James 1:17-27, Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	<i>Be Love</i>



August 2021

I am happy to announce that the new network installation is complete, and that staff training has begun. Guests can connect to the Church WiFi for meetings, events, to check emails, or for video calls at any time by connecting to the guest network. The login information is as follows:
SSID:FCUCC-Guest, PW: FCUCC54521. If you have any questions or need assistance connecting feel free to reach out to me.

We are continuing to revise content on the church website. If you have any suggestions or notice any incorrect or missing content feel free to send me an email with the revised information. As part of the website updates, we now have the capability for scripture readers, ushers, and camera operators to sign up online. You can find the signup form at eagleriverucc.org/signups. To sign up, click Sign up next to the date and time that you would like to serve. You will be prompted for a name and email. The website will send you two reminder emails during the week preceding the Sunday you have signed up for.

We are continuing to record the 7:30 worship each Sunday and post it to YouTube each week. We currently have two excellent volunteers that are operating the camera each week to make this possible. We could use at least two more volunteers to share in these responsibilities, so each volunteer is only responsible for only one week a month. If you are interested in serving in this capacity talk to one of our current camera operators or myself and we would be happy to teach you.

In addition to posting a recording of the service on YouTube, we also send out a weekly email on Friday afternoons with a print version of the service as well as a variety of announcements. Are you not getting these emails and want to? Are they not going to your preferred email address? Are they going to spam or your promotions tab? If so feel free to reach out and I would be more than happy to assist you in ensuring that you are receiving the weekly emails. In addition to the weekly emails, we also send out the Church Mouse electronically. If you no longer need a print version, or if you would prefer a print copy and are not receiving one let me know so we can ensure that you stay connected.

Feel free to contact me at any time by email or phone. I continue to be in the office on Sunday mornings and other various times during the week based on the week's technology needs.

Alex Fluegel
alex@eagleriverucc.org
715 -303-7312

The **Adult Study "Wired Word"** will continue in August on **Monday nights, August 2nd and August 16th 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 a few days in advance by email. Our current meeting place is the home of Kelli and Steve Burrill, 3934 Brenner Lane, Eagle River.

Please email Pastor Gail if you want to participate and receive the lessons.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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
Aug. 11	Jo Langley
Aug. 16	Julie Carlson
Aug. 17	Pam Marion
Aug. 18	Woody Chenault Tucker Wittkopf
Aug. 21	Royce Remme
Aug. 24	Ken Fox Pat Mayo
Aug. 25	Diane Gagliano
Aug. 29	Ken Lynch
Aug. 30	Deb Lauritzen
Sept. 2	Carol Burgy Marilyn Preisler
Sept. 3	Gregg Nesbitt
Sept. 4	Molly Korinek
Sept. 7	Jane Eaton-Nyman
Sept. 8	Grace Wittkopf
Sept. 9	Colyn Carter Joe Turpin

Do you or someone in your family have a birthday in August/early September 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.



Wishlist

NATH - Frederick Place— Most Needed!

1. Aloe Vera/after sun care
2. 30 gallon trash bags
3. 13 gallon kitchen garbage cans
4. Shoebox size storage bins
5. Shower curtains/liners
6. Shower curtain rings
7. Bath mats

Thank you!

Pastor Gail will be volunteering at Moon Beach during the week of August 8th - 14th, so her hours will be irregular during that week. You can email her at pastorgail@eagleriverucc.org or try calling her afternoons and evenings at 920-883-7887.

She will be on vacation Saturday, August 28th - Friday, September 3rd. If you have any pastoral emergencies during that period, please contact Nan in the church office.

Our guest preacher on August 29th will be the Rev. Bob Rice. Rev. Rice is a Presbyterian pastor who spends his summers in Conover and has worshiped with us in the past. Please come and welcome him.

The best things in life are still free. Every thing is too high, you may say or hear on all sides. Yes, maybe the frills are, but not always the essentials.

The rain still falls, and the sun still shines — for free. The roots still go down into the soil to bring up nourishment, and the birds render their evening serenades for you — all for free.

And the laughter of children costs no more than ever. There is no tax on love or companionship or friendship. The best things of life are free, and always have been free, and the more you use them, the more you enjoy them, it seems.

That makes sense!



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 Rhineland at 204 W. Frederick St.
Monetary donations are always welcomed!
nathnorthwoods@gmail.com

Sunday, August 15th

9:00 a.m.

Unity Service

**in our vacant lot across the street from the church,
weather permitting.**

**Hymn singing with guitars followed by an
ICE CREAM SOCIAL**



**sponsored by the Council.
*(Please bring your own chairs.)***

See YOU on August 15th!

Looking ahead: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH: ANNUAL MEETING

This means ANNUAL REPORTS are needed by SEPTEMBER 1ST from the Pastor, the Council, Director of Music, Christian Education, Scholarship Committee, Gifts and Endowments, Pastor Parish Relations, any group that met from October 2020 - the present time.

The 2022 Budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Tick bites first aid

Remove the tick promptly and carefully using fine-tipped forceps or tweezers to grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible. Gently pull out the tick using a slow and steady upward motion.

If possible, seal the tick in a container. Your doctor may want to see the tick if you develop symptoms: severe headache, difficult breathing, paralysis, heart palpitations.

Wash your hands and the bite site. Use warm water and soap, rubbing alcohol or an iodine scrub.

When to see a doctor: if you're not able to completely remove the tick. Or, a rash develops, you develop flu-like symptoms with fever, chills, fatigue, muscle and joint pain, and a headache may accompany the rash; if you think the bite site might be infected; if you think you were bitten by a deer tick you may need antibiotics.



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.

August openings: 15th and 22nd

July flower sponsors:

July 4th: Marilyn Preisler, in memory of Duane

July 18th: Trisha Moore, Iland and Ayla in honor of Craig Moore's birthday

July 25th: Donna Adams, in memory of Mary Burgy (July 23 birth date)

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

Information & Electronic Technology Director: Alex Fluegel - 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