

The Church Mouse - September 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 Alex Fluegel: alex@eagleriverucc.org

Email for Sharon Breit: youthministry@eagleriverucc.org

Home Page: www.eagleriverucc.org



WE'VE FOUND A NEW PASTOR/LEADER!

CALL WEEKEND: September 18 and 19, 2021

We'd like you to plan to meet our Candidate. There will be a meet and greet opportunity Saturday the 18th from 3 to 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This will be a time to ask questions and learn about our Candidate (Tim Shirley).

The Call Sermon will take place at a SINGLE SERVICE — Sunday, September 19th, at 9 a.m. — after which there will be a question and answer time. Once all questions have been answered, Tim will be excused for a Congregational Meeting to vote yay or nay. Every opinion and vote is important, so please be sure to attend if you are able.

If you cannot be present, there are options for participating. The service will be live-streamed and voting immediately after will be possible. Please contact Alex Fluegel at alex@eagleriverucc.org or 715-303-7312, if you'd like further information.

This Sunday is labeled "Call Sunday" for a reason. Your Search Committee is literally calling you to come and meet this new leader ... to talk, question, and listen to him and then to vote on how you feel about him being your spiritual guide here at our church. Alternately, Tim is being called to preach to you and become your Servant Leader.

We are honored and privileged to be your Search Committee. Thank you for your trust in us and your participation in this decision! Feel free to contact any of the members of your Search Committee if you have questions or concerns.

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

All are welcome to "Meet and Greet" Dr. Tim Shirley

Saturday, September 18th from 3 to 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

**This is an opportunity to ask questions that you may have of him before the
Call Sunday Service on September 19th.**

Light snacks and refreshments will be available.

The Council will call a

Special Meeting of the Congregation

for the purpose of calling Rev. Dr. Tim Shirley

as Pastor of First Congregational UCC, Eagle River

Sunday, September 19th following a 9:00 a.m. Unity Worship Service.

All Members and Associate Members are encouraged to attend.

A 2/3 majority vote of those present is required to call a pastor.

To participate by phone or video, please contact Alex Fluegel in advance at 715-303-7312.

“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)

President and Council

Let us now praise the Search Committee, to paraphrase a famous comment. The Committee has been working for a year developing the profile, studying candidate profiles, and narrowing the choice. They have met weekly and more during this year and, as a committee of 9, becoming a tight unit of open and honest discussion. We, as a Council, and everyone else as congregation, have placed our faith in them. That means a lot. We have placed our belief and trust in this Committee and in God who leads the committee down all the byways they have traveled. Thank the members (named on the front page), when you see them.

Pastor Tim Shirley, The Committee's choice, is someone I look forward to meeting in several weekends from now. I hope you have time to meet him on September 18 during the 3-5 p.m. social hour. Then please return on Sunday, September 19 for the Unity service at 9 a.m. Pastor Tim Shirley will lead the service and entertain questions following the service in our specially called Congregational Meeting.

If you are unable to attend any of these functions, but take the time to watch the livestream of the worship service on September 19, you are eligible to vote by phone on the motion to call Pastor Tim Shirley. Timeliness is important, however, so please read the information on livestreaming from Alex Fluegel found in this MOUSE.

Council News

The news which impacts all of us the most is the step COUNCIL has had to take in regarding COVID. We are once again strongly recommending the use of masks for all. Children cannot be vaccinated. Most others can, but until Wisconsin rises out of the Substantial Risk category — the 4th ranking out of 5 — we need to observe safety for all.

Protecting others is a Christian action. Please leave your mask on during a worship service. Please, also, listen carefully to the guidelines Pastor Gail mentions every week, and let us do our best to stop this infection before others in our congregation are affected.

The most consequential motion Council passed this month was to enthusiastically authorize the Search Committee to continue its negotiations with Pastor Tim Shirley, UCC pastor in Sun City, FL, hoping the negotiations will lead to a Call Sunday service and eventual installation, if approved by the Congregation, as the Call Sunday. If you are a voter, please attend either in person or by livestream. See instructions from Alex elsewhere in the Mouse for how to vote, if you livestream the service.

In other August Council business, we moved to bring several items to the congregation at the September 26 Annual Meeting. Deb Stolze and Steve Burrill are our nominees to the three-year positions the congregation needs to fill.

MANY thanks to Molly Jaeger and Shirley Thompson who have worked actively on Council during their terms. As one looks back into those years, Shirley and Molly were present during the leadership of Dale Bishop, Jane Courtright and Gail Irwin. Much change in a quick three-year period. They have been part of the Councils that have provided the steady movement forward despite a resignation, COVID and this “new normal” in which we are living.

(continued)

(Council continued)

The ice cream social was a definite success both in ice cream and in the social aspects. Members spent much time wandering the lot, talking with others. But we still have enough ice cream for another social. Perhaps there is a group willing to sponsor another social during the warmer weather?

Some months ago the Council accepted program suggestions for use of the Vine Family Fund. The congregation will be asked to approve a motion that the annual income from this fund can be used in a local mission manner in the spirit of the donors, two former school teachers: Betsy Simms and Pat Vine. The motion states that the Vine Family Fund will be used for the benefit of the NPSD and PSD school districts for teacher recommended projects and for books selected for student enrichment appropriate for distribution at the grade school level. No more than 4-5% of the fund would be used each year, and the use will be reviewed by the Church Council annually.

Bernie Hupperts, Council President

Pastor's Letter

Sometimes, being an Interim Pastor feels like being a midwife. I may help a congregation prepare for something new that is coming, but the real "labor" belongs to the congregation. You must do the soul searching as you prepare a church profile, discern which candidate best fits your setting, negotiate the "terms of call" (a pastor's salary package), and vote at a special meeting. Assuming the call is affirmed by all parties, you each must make room for a new leader, commit to working alongside him, support his salary package with your gifts, and trust God to seal the covenant you have made.

While your Search Committee has done the lion's share of this work, and your Conference staff have guided them, now is the time for *all* members of the church to pay attention and engage in the call process with prayerful hope and commitment to the Covenant being made between your congregation, a pastor, and God. I am praying with you and cheering you on! Behold, God is doing a new thing!

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Gail

**The Council will call an
Annual Meeting and Budget Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday, September 26th**

following a 9:00 a.m. Unity Worship Service.

All Members and Associate Members are encouraged to attend.

To participate by phone or video, please contact Alex Fluegel in advance at 715-303-7312.

See your annual report for instructions regarding a paper or email ballot.



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.

***Nothing's better than
the wind at your back,
the sun in front of you,
and your friends beside
you.***

Covid Precautions Update

The Delta variance of the coronavirus is proving to be more contagious and virulent than earlier strains. As a result, Vilas County is now at a "Substantial" level of infection (level 4 of 5). In accordance with County recommendations, the **Council is now strongly recommending mask wearing during worship and other group events in the church building, whether you are vaccinated or not.**

- * Please continue to practice social distancing of at least 3 feet between families while seated in pews.
- * Please wear a mask while singing and refrain from holding hands.
- * Please gather outdoors for fellowship following the service.
- * Because masks are not required, those who are unable to wear one are still welcome in worship. However, the more who wear them, the safer we can keep each other and our unvaccinated children.

In addition, we have marked rooms in the building with appropriate capacity for use with seating spaced 6 feet apart. If you use the church for a group meeting, please observe these room capacities for everyone's safety. You have all been gracious and patient through the ups and downs of Covid! Thank you! We will get through this **together!**

You can read more about the Delta variant: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/061621.htm>

An Update from Alex — September 2021

In the coming months, staff will continue to transition to working with new software and digital workflows in this era of ever-changing technology. During this transition period please be patient as staff and volunteers continue to learn. Mistakes are inevitable when learning anything new; kindly reach out if you notice a mistake so we can learn from it to better carry out our ministry.

During the month of September, we will be having two Unity Sundays where a single service will be held at 9:00 a.m. CDT followed by a congregational meeting. Both worship services will be live-streamed to the church YouTube channel for non-voters to watch in real-time. For voting member who would like to participate remotely in real-time, they can do so through Google Meet or by phone. Please email or call me in advance if you would like to participate by either of these options.

Feel free to contact me 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

GUEST WIFI
SSID: FCUCC-Guest
PW: FCUCC54521

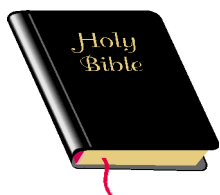
SEPTEMBER SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sept. 5 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost Prov 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and Ps 125
Isa 35:4-7a Ps 146 James 2:1-10, 14-17 Mk 7:24-37 **Be Opened**

Sept. 12 - 16th Sunday after Pentecost Prov 1:20-33 and Ps 19
Isa 50:4-9a Ps 116:1-9 James 3:1-12 Mk 8:27-38 **Who Are You, Jesus**

Sept. 19 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost Prov 31:10-31 and Ps 1
Wisdom of Sol 1:16-2:1, 12-22 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a, Mk 9:30-37 **First in Caring**

Sept. 26 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 and Ps 124
Num 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and Ps 19:7-14 James 5:13-20 Mk 9:38-50
Courage for Community



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 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
Hayden Fox
Joe Turpin
- Sept. 11 Norma Yaeger
- Sept. 16 Daniel Brunstad
- Sept. 17 Carl Nelson
- Sept. 21 Skyler Fox
Mike Gagliano
Joyce Nelson
- Sept. 25 Dawn Guzman
Lyn Pietila
- Sept. 26 Nancy Diepenbrock
Ben Fox
Lois Steiner
- Sept. 27 Malia Remme
- Sept. 29 Tom Smart
- Sept. 30 Matt Meyer
- Oct. 1 Sybil Saltenberger
- Oct. 2 Norda Gromoll
Ruth Hibbard
Iland Shepherdson
- Oct. 3 Tom Dunphy
- Oct. 4 Doreen Boxrud
- Oct. 5 Dick Deaver
Marian Griebenow
- Oct. 8 Diana Deaver
Tom Helmick
- Oct. 10 Doug Malinsky

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



Our sympathy to the Family of Kay Scharpf with the passing of her husband Otto on July 15th.

The Chime Choir will begin rehearsals after Labor Day and new members are invited to join and learn this fun way to make beautiful music for church services! Rehearsal times will be weekly and TBD once a core group is identified and will lead to playing in church once per month.



Qualifications for the Chime Choir include:

1. Interest in making music with a group!
2. Know your right hand from your left hand.
3. Ability to count to 4 (sometimes you only have to count to 3)
4. Commitment to attending each rehearsal (it's very hard to rehearse chimes if notes are missing! Every note is critical to the music.)
5. Willing to learn something new and grow with the group.
6. Ability to read music is NOT required — you will learn as we go.

There are currently 5 people interested in playing and there is wonderful music available for groups of 7, so we would like to increase the number to at least 7. We have three octaves of chimes so could eventually grow to 11 to play all of them. Those interested in learning to play and becoming a member of the Chime Choir should contact Susan Krivichi skrivichi@gmail.com Susan will be happy to provide some basic lessons in ringing chimes and reading musical notation if needed prior to the start of rehearsals.

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!



**Welcome back to
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Tuesday, September 7th, 9 a.m.

*ALL women of the church are welcome!
Bring a friend, bring your neighbor!*



The Armor of God

A MESSAGE FROM MISS SHARON

Back to School: Armor of God

Ephesians 6: 12-20 "*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.*"

Well, kids — it's here, the start of school. One thing many people do to get ready is to go school shopping to get all those supplies like glue, crayons, etc.

Well, I've been thinking — there's something you need that you probably haven't thought about. Everyone needs it! What is it? It's the Armor of God. We did a skit about this several years ago and it's based on some bible verses from Ephesians chapter 6. It talks about protection we need as Christians. There are six pieces to the Armor of God.

The Belt of Truth: Where can we find the truth? That's right; in the bible. That's why you come to Faith Formation and you and your parents attend church to hear the word of God.

Breastplate of Righteousness: As followers of Jesus, we do our best to do what is right. That's why we may have to wear a mask again to protect ourselves and others.

Shoes of Peace: Verse fifteen says to have feet shod (put some shoes on). This means we must be willing to share the gospel, showing peace to others, and being careful about our speech and actions.

Helmet of Salvation: Our heads are very important; that's why we wear a helmet for so many things. We wear them for protection. Our faith in Jesus is our salvation.

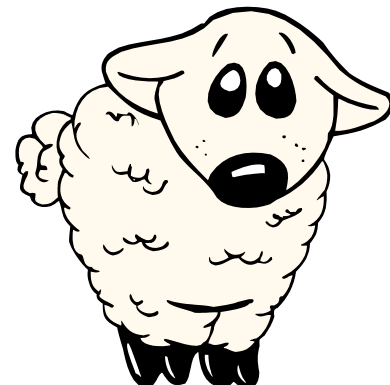
Sword of the Spirit: The sword is the Word of God found in the bible.

Putting it all together: A soldier needs a helmet, shield and a sword. A football player needs his pads, mouth guard and cleats. A follower of Christ needs protective pieces, too, not just ones that are physically put on. **Instead, these gifts are put on spiritually when we are Christians. Truth, righteousness, the Gospel, faith, salvation, and God's word are all must-haves for your day. So, each day after you put on your t-shirt and pants, or dress, don't forget to dress with God's Armor!**

**Gathering of the FLOCK:
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 6 p.m.**

**Potluck at Linda Brainard's home!
RSVP to Linda at lsbpiano@msn.com or
715-891-3548**

All are welcome: knitters, crocheters, ??





Mary Lou Congdon and Susan Krivichi are interested in coordinating a mission to provide a meal once a month for Frederick Place. The tentative plan is to choose one Monday a month to provide the meal. Two Mondays have been chosen, September 13 and October 18 to begin the effort. The plan is to provide the same or similar meal each month so that the effort is not overly complicated and to allow others in the congregation to provide ingredients or monetary donations for ingredients or the supplemental bread, juice, milk or dessert that is needed. If you are interested in cooking, donating, shopping, or driving for this effort, please contact Mary Lou: mlcongdon@charter.net or Susan: skrivichi@gmail.com by September 6. We could have a short (zoom?) meeting of those interested to describe our ideas, flesh out the plans and get your inputs. If enough people are interested, it might be possible to schedule a monthly “crew” so that more people can be involved.



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!

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

A Conference-Wide Big Read: Almost everybody knows somebody who has read and loved Robin Wall Kimmerer’s essay collection, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*. A favorite among people interested in nature and spirituality since its 2013 publication, the book finally made it onto *the New York Times’* paperback bestseller list in early 2020 and is currently No. 15 on the *Times’* list of print and e-book bestsellers.

The Conference Creation Care Team is encouraging congregations to read *Braiding Sweetgrass* in the months ahead — a Big Read — in order to spur a statewide conversation as a response to the Kairos Call to Action on behalf of God’s good, but threatened, Creation. Resources include:

- * **Virtual Conference-wide discussions of *Braiding Sweetgrass*** on the Thursday evenings of Sept. 9, Sept. 30, and Oct. 21. Each session will start at 7 p.m. and run for 30 minutes.
- * **Robin Wall Kimmerer’s talk to the Wisconsin Conference.** Kimmerer will speak to the entire Wisconsin Conference by Zoom on Oct. 9th.
- * **Study guide and other resources** for use by congregational reading groups, Green Teams, and faith formation teams, as well as individual congregants.

Watch for materials to be posted on the Conference website or ask Pastor Gail for details.

The **Adult Study “Wired Word”** will continue to meet in September. This class 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.

Watch for dates in your Friday email. If you would like to participate, send an email to Pastor Gail and she will send you details and lessons for study — pastorgail@eagleriverucc.org



BOOK LOVERS CLUB

Hear ye! Hear ye! We plan to gather around the round table in the parlor, or a substitute downstairs, or outside to select books for the upcoming year. Due to challenges, I neglected to arrange an early meeting in August.

We are hopeful that we can meet in person for this 2021-2022 round of books. Returning to our traditional schedule of the 3rd Thursday each month at 7 p.m., we would gather on the 16th of September, Yom Kippur. Bring suggestions of books and we can share ideas and select our list for the year. In the past we have suggested that books be available in the library system, but recently there were thoughts that that limits our options and did impact the list of books this past year.

We are always hoping more people will join our group. If you have a hankering for good reads and a chance to talk about our reading experiences with a small group from the church and community, come along. Contact Donna De Pape with questions or comments: spindle257@gmail.com or 715-617-1710

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.

September opening: 19th

August Flower sponsors:

August 1: Don and Paula Hendrickson in honor of their anniversary and granddaughter Piper's birthday

August 8: Marlys Lee in loving memory of Orville on his birth date

August 29: Don and Paula Hendrickson in honor of granddaughter Hannah's 3rd birthday

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