

First Congregational United Church of Christ

*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.*



First Sunday of Advent

*A Season of **Hope**, Peace, Joy, and Love*

The Lord's Day
First Sunday of Advent
*A Season of **Hope**, Peace, Joy, and Love*
Seven-thirty and Ten O'clock in the Morning

The Worship of God

Gathering Music

The Greeting

The Spirit of the still-speaking God be with you.

And also with you.

The Call to Worship and Welcome

The Music for Piano

The Collect (Opening Prayer)

The Concerns of the Church

The Opening Hymn, No. 119 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

The Gathering

Look up all people, for the realm of the Holy One is near! Gather with the saints to praise our Creator God!

Rejoicing in the promise of salvation, we give thanks for God's steadfast love!

The gifts of God are for all generations and for people in every walk of life!

In humble obedience, let us embrace the call of the Holy to spiritual responsibility, accountable to God and to one another!

Surely the Holy One is faithful to the covenant, eager to instruct us in the ways of *Hope!*

Watching and praying, we are ready to act! Let us hear what God has in store for us today!

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Hymn, No. 128 *One Candle Is Lit* (verse one)

CRADLE SONG

The Litany of ***Hope!***

We light the candle of ***Hope!***

It's bright flame glowing like the face of the Holy.

Like a branch that becomes tender and puts forth leaves, may it grow into a raging fire.

Our hope is in our Shepherd God, Emmanuel, the Holy One who is faithful to give us life whenever we call on the name of the Holy One.

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.”

The Witness From the Gospels

LUKE 21:25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

The Sermon

Surely Not!

Timothy W. Shirley

The Anthem

We Await You

Ruth Elaine Schram

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Hymn, No. 125

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

The Carrying Out the Light

The Invitation to the Offering of Gifts

The Benediction

The Closing Song

Let There Be Peace on Earth

WORLD PEACE

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

With every step I take, let this be my joyous creed.

To take each moment and

live each moment in peace, eternally!

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

The Music for Piano

Welcome to Worship at First Congregational UCC

Please continue to mask and practice social distancing in pews, and before and after worship, especially for those who are wearing masks. *Thank you for continuing to respect each other's comfort!*

Offering plates are located near the rear entrance to the sanctuary. Loose change placed in the offering plates is donated to the Melody of Compassion fund.

Communion will resume on Sunday, December 5th.

Can you help prepare a dinner for Frederick Place December 17th? Sign up on the board outside the sanctuary. Thanks!

Christmas cards to homebound members/ friends and "Snowbirds" are available to sign in the parlor. Take a few minutes and send a greeting before December 15th.

Our church phone system has been updated to a new system that will provide us with greater flexibility and reliability. As a part of the update, the church has moved to a new phone number. **The new number is 715-802-8501.** Only the 3 middle digits have changed. If you dial the previous church phone number you will hear a message that will indicate the new number until December 1st. **Please update your contact list with the new phone number.** Updating your contact list will help you know when the church is calling as you might not instinctively recognize the number. With the new system, you have the opportunity to connect with staff even when they are not in the office by selecting the appropriate prompt. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience and understanding during this time of transition. If you have questions feel free to call Alex at [715-802-8501](tel:715-802-8501) Opt 8 or send him an email at alex@eagleriverucc.org.

The Christmas Tree will be assembled and put up on December 6. At 9:30, Tuesday, December 7, we are planning to decorate the tree. We're looking for volunteers who would enjoy being part of the decorating of the sanctuary. Please contact Marlyn Hupperts [715-479-9468](tel:715-479-9468) or at marlynber@gmail.com Or call the church office and leave your name.

Christmas Eve candlelight worship will be held at 7 PM on Friday, December 24th. There will be no Christmas Day Worship on the 25th. A new tradition will be started on the 26th, the first Sunday following Christmas. A single Stollen service will be held in the fellowship hall at 9 AM. More information to follow.

A 4 week advent study & prayer group will meet at church starting **Monday, November 29th, from 6:00 to 7:30** at the church and via Zoom. For more information contact Bill Marshall at bmarsh68@gmail.com.

Women's fellowship will host an Open House from 9-11 AM. on Saturday, December 4th in the Fellowship Hall. For our planning purposes, please RSVP to Nan in the church office (715-802-8501) by Monday, November 29th. If you would like to help us with either setup, supplying a treat, or clean up please call Tobi Johannsen ([920-450-1402](tel:920-450-1402)) or Linda Sanborn ([715-479-8091](tel:715-479-8091)) to let us know.

Both the Cantata and Children's Christmas Program will be held online this year. They will both be released on the church website and social media in mid-December. The exact dates and times will be released in the next few weeks.

We are currently working on updating our membership database and will be transitioning to a new system for sending out the weekly email. In order to continue to receive the weekly emails, **you will need to complete a membership survey** to update your contact information, confirm your membership status, and indicate your communication preferences. Thank you to the over 85 families who have returned the survey so far. This form is not only for members but for anyone who wants to maintain communication with the congregation. Please fill out the membership form for every member of your family. You can return it to the church in the envelope provided, by **December 1st**—or you can fill out the form attached [HERE](#), save it and send it to the church office as an attachment to members@eagleriverucc.org. Paper copies will also be available in the back of the sanctuary.

If you are unable to attend worship, remember you can experience the service after about noon on Sunday [HERE](#). A pdf of the sermon will also be available on Monday.

Print copies of the service will be sent out to members who request them early next week. Please note that for the next few weeks, as we transition to a new pastor coming, print copies of weekly services will be sent out on the Monday after the service instead of the Thursday before. If you would like to receive a print copy of the service by mail each week, and have not been getting one, please contact Nan Pophal at [715-802-8501](tel:715-802-8501).

Scripture readers, ushers, and camcorder operators are always needed, as well as announcement readers. You can sign up by visiting our website! <https://eagleriverucc.org/signups/> Or contact Joy Turpin at: joyfaithchapinturpin@gmail.com or [\(715\) 479-6560](tel:7154796560).

Building access to the church has been changed as part of our Security Team's upgrades. If you have an old church key, it doesn't work anymore! New key cards are available to be issued, to those needed access. For events please let Alex know so that he can schedule the doors to be automatically unlocked for you. Please contact Alex to learn more at alex@eagleriverucc.org.

Because of "Substantial" Covid infection rates in Vilas County, masks are now strongly recommended in worship, whether you are vaccinated or unvaccinated. The Delta variant is found to be more highly contagious than earlier variants of the coronavirus.

- Please sit in pews with at least 3 feet between family groups.
 - Please wear a mask when singing
 - We will gather for fellowship outside the building after worship
 - If you are unable to wear a mask, you are still welcome in worship, but the more who wear them, the safer we will be.
 - 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.
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Prayer requests can be sent to the prayer group through Tobi Johannsen ([920-450-1402](tel:9204501402)).

First Congregational United Church of Christ

105 North First Street ~ PO Box 1385

Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521

Church Office: 715-802-8501, office@eagleriverucc.org,

Timothy W. Shirley: pastortim@eagleriverucc.org

Website: www.eagleriverucc.org



First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

Musicians: Norma Yaeger, 7:30; Lori Hunter, 10:00

Scripture Readers: Paula Hendrickson, 7:30;

Deb Stolze, 10:00