

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.*



Second Sunday of Advent

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

The Lord's Day
Second 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. 135 *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

MERLE'S TUNE

The Gathering

With worship that is rich and joyful,

prepare for the coming of God's anointed One!

**Always welcoming everyone as beloved faith community,
we are prepared for God's cherished One.**

Prepare for the Christ Child in our midst,

the harbinger of *Peace* who brings forgiveness and reconciliation to all people!

With compassion and sharing, we are prepared for God's chosen One!

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

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

CRADLE SONG

The Litany of *Peace*

We light the candle of *Peace*!

It's flame shining God's forgiveness and salvation upon us all!

Prepare the way of *Peace*, the way of God! Make straight the paths of the Holy!

**The crooked shall be made straight and the rough places smooth, and all
flesh see the salvation of God, and *Peace*!**

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

MALACHI 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight --- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Witness from the Gospels

LUKE 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism or repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Sermon *Refined and Purified: A Peace Tableau*

Timothy W. Shirley

The Choral Introit *A Tiny Child Will Come*

Don Besig and Nancy Price

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 Service of Holy Communion

The Invitation

The Words of Institution

The Hymn, No. 153

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

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.

The lovely chancel flowers are sponsored by Carol and Bill Marshall in celebration of the Advent Season and Rev. Tim Shirley.

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

We have received 58 pledges totaling \$138,404 for our 2022 goal of \$155,000. Pledge cards are available on the pledge box if you have misplaced yours.

Our December giving, beyond the pledge, has always been dedicated to the Christmas Fund Offering. In earlier years the offering was known as Veterans of the Cross. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Eagle River UCC has a long history of contributions to this fund. A reminder: the fund is not included in the 2021 budget and depends upon separate donations. Thank you.

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 **from 6:00 to 7:30** at the church and via Zoom. For more information contact Bill Marshall at bmarsh68@gmail.com.

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: Chuck Kemp, 7:30

Carol Marshall, 10:00