

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 after Christmas

Epiphany of the Lord

The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles

*The Lord's Day
Second Sunday after Christmas
A Celebration of Epiphany
The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles
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 Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Music for Piano

The Collect

The Concerns of the Church

*The Opening Hymn, No. 173

As with Gladness

DIX

*The Gathering

Sing aloud with gladness, raising your joyous shouts, giving praise to the God of all people.

We will sing to the Holy in this sacred time and space, radiant with the goodness of our God!

Rejoice in the dance with the Divine, making merry before the One who turns our mourning into joy!

The Holy one seeks to fill us with the bounty that only comes from God, satisfying our every need.

The Witness from the Epistles

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for

adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. This is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Witness from the Gospels

JOHN 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enables everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "this was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God, the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Sermon
The Music for Meditation

Primordial Praise

Timothy W. Shirley

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 Sharing of the Eucharist

The Post-Communion Prayer

*The Closing Hymn, No. 172

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

*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

*You are invited to stand as you are able.

Concerns of the Church

Women's Fellowship will be meeting on Tuesday, January 11th at 9 AM downstairs in the fellowship hall.

We would like to recognize the twenty-three plus years that Nan has worked in the church office. She has retired as of December 31st and is looking forward to the new adventures that retirement will bring. Join us for a reception between services on January 9th to celebrate this significant milestone and share some of the many memories from all those years. Light refreshments will be served.

The personnel team is actively seeking a non-member to fill the vacancy of Church Administrator. If you know of an individual that would be a potentially good fit, feel free to share their information with a member of the personnel team. A job description is available upon request.

Our January book selection is “Clark and Division” by Naomi Hirahara, facilitated by Susan Krivichi on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. A short description from Goodreads: “Set in 1944 Chicago, Edgar Award-winner Naomi Hirahara’s eye-opening and poignant new mystery, the story of a young woman searching for the truth about her revered older sister’s death, brings to focus the struggles of one Japanese American family released from mass incarceration at Manzanar during World War II.” Questions? Contact Donna De Pape: [715-617-1710](tel:715-617-1710) Email: spindle257@gmail.com

Online Giving will be available on the church website later this week. With online giving, you can set up recurring or one-time gifts to be made automatically from your checking account or by debit or credit card. Online giving allows you to make gifts more conveniently and easier, especially when not physically attending worship. If you have questions on how to get started with online giving feel free to reach out to Alex at alex@eagleriverucc.org or give him a call at 715-802-8501, Option 8.

Prayer requests can be sent to the prayer group through Tobi Johannsen (920-450-1402).

Frederick Place is a sixteen-bed temporary emergency housing shelter for families directed by the Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing (NATH). Admission is on a first come, first-serve basis and applicants must meet the federal and state guidelines defining homelessness including income limits. Residents receive services to help them draft and execute a plan for obtaining permanent housing. There is a zero-tolerance policy for violence, drug, or alcohol use in the home. Residents must be able to care for themselves without assistance. While the initial admission is for 30 days, stays may be extended for up to 90 days. There are guidelines for reapplying after 90 days to prevent additional bouts of homelessness.

Some of the ways that First Congregational UCC can assist the residence are:

- * Help prepare or shop for ingredients for the monthly meals we are currently providing.
- * Donate sides, such as bread, butter, dessert, and milk or juice.
- * Drive the meals to Rhinelander on the meal day.
- * Donate cash to help offset the cost of the meals.
- * Donate needed items for the Wish List published monthly on the Frederick Place website; items can be purchased on Amazon and shipped directly to Frederick Place. (These items are given to the residents when they obtain housing to help them set up housekeeping.)

Contact Mary Lou Congdon or Susan Krivichi for more information or you may sign up on the volunteer sheet attached to the poster in the narthex.

The new number is 715-802-8501. Only the 3 middle digits have changed. Please update your contact list with the new phone number.

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/sign...> Or, you may contact Joy Turpin at: joyfaithchapinturpin@gmail.com or (715) 479-6560.

Offering envelopes for 2022 are now available. You can pick them up from the counter in the back of the sanctuary. There are several boxes without names if you prefer. Designated offering envelopes are not necessary to make a gift and to receive a yearly contribution statement. With our new accounting software, we will be recording contributions based on name and not by envelope number. Any cash offering that is placed in any envelope with a name on it, or a personal check will be recorded. Any loose offering that is unmarked will be placed into our *Melody of Compassion* fund. If you would like to donate to a specific ministry, please indicate on the envelope or on the check memo line.

Because of “Substantial” Covid infection rates in Vilas County, combined with new variants, along with the arrival of Flu season, masks are highly recommended in worship, whether you are vaccinated or not.

If you are unable to wear a mask, you are still welcome in worship, but the more who do wear them, the safer we will be.

First Congregational United Church of Christ

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