

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.*



*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

The Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Love Is As Love Does
Nine O'Clock in the Morning

The Worship of God

The Prologue

In today's Witness from the Epistles in I Corinthians, we read some of the apostle Paul's most familiar and famous words. They are recognizable to all of us, even if we have not attended a traditional wedding!!! Albeit a bit early for Valentine's Day, these poetic words, describing the love expressed in beloved faith community, remind us of the way God longs for all humanity to relate. In a world so lacking in love, we gather around the sacred table once more, a symbolic reminder that we are united in God's love. May we be inspired to become more loving in our living as we continue to engage, inform, and inspire the world around us. **Love is as love does!**

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 Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Collect

*The Opening Hymn, No. 277 *Christians, We Have Met to Worship* HOLY MANNA

*The Gathering

Come and worship the One in whom we place our trust! Praise the One who delivers and rescues us, our rock and our refuge, a strong fortress always going before us.

Gathered here, we place our hope in the One who created us, open to the One who knows us at the depths of our being!

The Holy One accepts us just as we are, affirming us no matter what, giving us tasks to perform and the strength to do them!

God's word of love is ours to proclaim, even as we embrace the mysteries of faith!

We are here to worship the One who empowers us!

The Witness from the Epistles

JEREMIAH 1:4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord." Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Listen to what the Spirit of the still speaking God is saying!

Thanks be to God!

The Witness from the Gospels

LUKE 4:21-30

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Listen to what the Spirit of the still speaking God is saying!

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

Lovingly Wasteful! Wastefully Loving! Timothy W. Shirley

The Music for Meditation

The Concerns of the Church

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 Closing Hymn, No. 517 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

BEECHER

*The Benediction

The Music for Piano

*You are invited to stand as you are able.

Concerns of the Church

In light of the spike in the omicron variation of COVID, the First Congregational United Church of Christ is now requiring parishioners to wear a mask during worship no matter their vaccination status. For those who are uncomfortable attending worship in person we continue to offer an online version of the 7:30 service, made available as quickly as it can be edited and produced. In addition, we remind you that if you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or you are feeling ill, please stay home! We are all in this together!

Online Giving is now available on the church website. 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). We ask that any prayer requests mentioned from the pulpit have the permission of the one desiring prayer. Thank you for your understanding.

A polite reminder, as of now we have pledged a total of \$140,174.00 toward our goal of \$155,000.00. It is not too late to make a pledge if you are so inclined.

In the interest of protecting members of the congregation from potential identity theft, we are removing the birthday list from the *Church Mouse* as a precautionary move. Unfortunately, there are people who are looking for just this kind of information to steal an individual's identity and First Congregational certainly does not want to be responsible for this unlikely but real possibility. For those who wish to continue the practice of publishing your birthday, we need written permission in order to do so.

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 United Church of Christ 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 phone 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 readers for the Concerns of the Church. You may sign up by visiting our website; or you may also contact Joy Turpin at: joyfaithchapinturpin@gmail.com or (715) 479-6560.

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. If you would like to donate to a specific ministry, please indicate on the envelope or on the check memo line.

The personnel team has found a new church administrator. Debbie Brown started February 24th. Please stop into the office or make a phone call (715-802-8501 option #3) to introduce yourself. The office email is office@eagleriverucc.org. She is looking forward to meeting you all!

Women's Fellowship will meet Tuesday, February 8, 2002. All women of the church are invited. February meeting will include cutting, sewing, completing lap robes. A simple quilting pattern will be used with a step-by-step demonstration.

First Congregational United Church of Christ

105 North First Street ~ PO Box 1385

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January 30, 2022



First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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Flowers are in honor of
Morgan Hendrickson's fifth birthday
Given by Don and Paula Hendrickson