

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.*

Baptism of Our Lord



First Sunday after Epiphany

Baptism of the Lord

*The Lord's Day
First Sunday after Epiphany
Baptism of the Lord
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. 177 *What Was Your Vow and Vision* LANCASHIRE

*What was your vow and vision, revealed and recognized,
Christ, when you came to Jordan and ask to be baptized?
Was there a sudden splendor, some prophets, priests, and kings,
A wind that stirred the waters, a blur of mighty wings?*

*Was this God's call, the crowning of all you had become:
"Go, show and tell my coming, my own, my chosen one?"
Did scripture join with scripture, revealing in surprise
the triumph of a servant rejected and despised?*

*We meet you at the water and ponder why and how,
In hope that we may follow where God is leading now,
Anointed by your Spirit, reborn, and energized,
Through deed and word proclaiming: "In Christ we are baptized!"*

*The Gathering

Gather from East and West, from North and South! Come and worship the Source of our baptism! God is calling one and all! Listen for the voice of the Holy! **God has named each one of us at our baptism, the voice of the Holy thundering through our midst, a powerful voice full of majesty and glory!**

Bow in awe before your Creator, the One who knows you and accepts you just as you are! Like a raging fire, the voice of God commands our attention!

On the winds of God's baptizing Spirit, we will ascribe to God all glory and strength, worshipping the Holy One in joyous wonder and mystery!

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

ISAIAH 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The Witness from the Gospels

LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Sermon

Name Calling

Timothy W. Shirley

The Music for Meditation

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. 75 *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*

WATERLIFE

*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 nine o'clock in the morning 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 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 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.

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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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI