



First Congregational United Church of Christ

eagleriverucc.org

August 2022

PASTOR'S REPORT

As I write these words it is hard to believe that we are more than halfway through summer, or at least what you locals call summer! I must admit the Northwoods are incredibly beautiful this time of year and I am enjoying every minute of it. Even so, fall beckons with all the activities that go into that very special time of year.

One of the things that I have thoroughly enjoyed this summer is getting to know many of you in a much more personal way. This has been very helpful as I continue to "settle" into my role as pastor of this outstanding beloved faith community. There are still a few of you, however, that I still do not know well. Let me remind you to please wear your name badge if you have one and remind me of your name if I do not call you by name. I have always been a slow learner, horrible in fact, when it comes to remembering names and matching them with faces. Your help is much appreciated and will help cement and grow our pastor/parishioner relationship.

As fall approaches, I would like to call attention to a couple of worship notes. At some point in the near future, I will be introducing or perhaps reintroducing a time of corporate confession into our worship. This addition is a part of our ongoing plan to return worship to "normal" following all the minimalist things we were forced to do during COVID. I will also begin to use a more formal liturgy when we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Up to now, I have basically been winging it from behind the Altar/Table. My hope is that despite a new variant of COVID spiking once again, that it will not negatively affect our in-person gatherings. I will remind us all, however, that out of necessity we will continue to take each day and each week as they come regarding this ongoing pandemic. Our goal is to be responsive rather than reactive and thus far we have done well, with only isolated cases of Coronavirus in our midst.

Finally, as you may have heard through the proverbial grapevine, your Church Council has resumed conversations regarding a visioning process for our congregation. Soon, you will be asked to give input on the gleanings of their hard work on your behalf. The document that our local missional church will eventually adapt and adopt will become the focal point of our mission and ministry organizational plan, giving us a roadmap to position the church for what we hope and pray will be a very bright future. My goal for every church I pastor is that this local body of believers live into becoming and being vibrant and vital, relational, and relevant, in every aspect of congregational life, always aiming for perfection while settling for excellence. It is a worthy if oft unreachable goal, but it is the hope and prayer of both our church and our faith individually and corporately as a local missional church. Thank you for the pleasure and privilege of allowing me to serve as your called minister! With every passing day I am more and more convinced, made joyfully aware, that I made the right decision in choosing to come to First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eagle River, Wisconsin. My hope and prayer is that you feel the same with my being here!

I look to see you on Sundays!

Timothy W. Shirley

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

August already. For Marlyn and me that means our time in Eagle River is shortening. For all of us it means we have summer days to still enjoy, sun to soak up, warm lake water to play in out outside tables to dine at, and one more outside worship service to attend. Thank God for such glorious summer seasons in the green Northwoods.

Shortly after Debbie gets this MOUSE ready; she will also be preparing a mailing for all of you that details the Council's vision of a Strategic Plan for the next several years of growth at First Church. Take the time to read it closely, please. Take the time to talk about the vision you find on the pages of the Plan. Council anticipates conversation with you at least one Discussion Session between now and October or November. You will also have a chance to vote on the Strategic Plan as Council has detailed it—WHAT DO WE WANT TO DO AS A COUNCIL AND AS A CHURCH CONGREGATION DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS?

As of my writing, Council has not named discussion dates for the Strategic Plan. You will be notified soon. Please clear your calendar, if possible, for joining the rest of us in colloquy (a Tim-type word).

Bernie Hupperts

COUNCIL REPORT

Highlights of the Council meeting included the Financial Report from Paula Hendrickson. She and Cindy Shattner noted that our income is down during the first half of the year: -\$11,000. This number is important for all of us to know because we have had unexpected expenses for the exterior of the building. Bruce Kaitechuck arranged for an update on the tuck pointing and also roof repair. These repairs, coming to an estimated \$20,900 are on top of expected expenses. Those of you who can, please take note of the reduction in income. The condition of the building is center to the continuation of our mission as a UCC.

Pastor Tim, in his report, noted that initial planning is underway for several adult studies: one dealing with theology and another focusing upon Biblical study. He has been making home visits and commented that those who would like a home visit should call the office to inform him.

Based upon questions asked at this time, the Council decided to have its Personnel Committee meet with both the Children's Education Director Sharon Breit and Pastor Tim for Confirmation planning before the fall semester begins.

The rest of the meeting was held in Executive Session as voting Council members considered the need to replace two members whose terms are expiring at the time of the September Annual Meeting. Those members are Trisha Moore and Bernie Hupperts. According to the Constitution Trisha is eligible for another term, if she indicates she is willing.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for August 8, a Monday. All are welcome.

Submitted by Bernie Hupperts, President.

Hi All –

The August FLOCK meeting will be on Thursday, August 25th at 6:00pm at my house (1653 McKinley Blvd). I am planning a barbecue. I'm cooking those BIG hotdogs, like last year. If you wish to bring a side or dessert, that would be greatly appreciated. I already know Claire is making German potato salad. Be sure to bring your projects, finished or not!
Hope to see you then!

Your Shepherdess,
Linda





To clap or not to clap? That is the question.

By Lori Hunter, Director of Music

Over the years this topic has come up for discussion in a variety of settings, most times with a small group or in an individual conversation. During the pandemic it was a moot point since we had no in-person choirs or special music offerings. I found this question online and thought it was worth sharing.

A small group sings a music number at your church before the pastor preaches. Do you:

- A) clap because they did well
- B) clap because they *didn't* do well but you don't want them to feel bad
- C) smile and say "Amen" or thank God silently for His gift of music?

If you chose A or B, *for whom are you clapping?*

I believe the key to understanding church musical offerings is just that, it is an **offering**, not a performance. The choir or the musician that prepares special music is using their gift to enhance the worship service for the congregation and give thanks to God for what has been given them. Worship music is led by the Holy Spirit and is not centered on the individual but centered on, and in, God. Contrast that to a performance, where perfection of a piece is stressed so that an audience receives the best the musician can offer. This music is human-centered, it is not God-centered. Worship is not the point of that music, individual achievement and audience enjoyment is.

As Lawrence Wregley writes in Reformed Worship: "Congregations are not audiences, and leaders of worship are not performers. The role of the liturgist (and of the choir, organist, and ushers) is to enable the congregation to participate, not to win people's approval..... Applause can also lead to a sense of competition. If we applaud the choir's anthem today, why didn't we applaud last Sunday? Do we applaud every Sunday, every event, every person? Do we withhold applause for a particularly good anthem so the choir will work harder?"

When music is rehearsed and then offered during a worship service, it is chosen to reflect the theme of the texts and most often comes together only through the grace of the Holy Spirit! It is chosen to evoke thought, not just emotion. I think it is fitting to remember the 'SDG' that J. S. Bach scribed on many, if not most, of his compositions. It stood for the phrase "Soli Deo Gloria" which means "Glory to God Alone".

It is not that worship leaders do not appreciate knowing they offered the gifts, but we want folks to understand what and why we are offering it. So, offer your thanks to God for all those who serve in worship and maybe express your thanks with words of encouragement and gratitude for the sharing of gifts outside of the worship service.

In gratitude and thanks to ALL who serve this congregation,

Lori

We are looking for a volunteer or volunteers to paint the front office.

The paint will be donated.

Please contact Debbie if you can help with this project.

**A big thank you to Patti Fox for planting the flowerpots out front and
to Patti and Deb Stolze for keeping them watered!**

F.Y.I. The ushers have access to an emergency button should an emergency happen. Let them know if there is some sort of emergency and they will activate it.

In accordance with CDC guidelines, wearing of masks is now optional. We will continue to sign in for worship. If we have cases of COVID within our congregation brought to our attention, we will notify everyone as soon as possible.

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.

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.

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Just a reminder that we continue to receive and accept pledges throughout the year.

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As a church family, we are ready, willing, and able to share with you in your prayers of sadness and celebration. Please feel free to share your prayer with us on the church website, under the Ministries heading, or by calling the church office at 715-802-8501. To protect the privacy of all individuals please only share prayers for those, you have received direct permission to share on their behalf. We ask that any prayer requests mentioned from the pulpit have the permission of the one desiring prayer. Thank you for your understanding. Prayer Concerns: Our thoughts are with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters.

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 the Church office.

MELODY OF COMPASSION

Many of us have missed the sound of coins dropping onto the metal rings of the offering plates during these past several years of COVID. Ushers will be passing among us with the offering plates among us as they used to. A time for offering will be printed in the bulletin and the Doxology will be sung as we sang it in the past. The Melody of Compassion has been our way of helping the Eagle River area needy for many years. Please bring your coins and keep the Melody singing for others during offering time

COFFEE HOUR

The August Sunday Social Hour providers are listed below. If you are not able to provide goodies for your designated Sunday, please try to change with someone else on the schedule.

August Bakers	7:30 a.m.	10 a.m.
August 7	J. Sanborn Family	D. DePape Family D. Guzman Family
August 14	R. Pevytoe Family	J. Brunstad Family M. Johannsen Family
August 21	C. Schroeder Family	D. Adams Family L. Cole Family
August 28	<u>UNITY SUNDAY @ 9:00</u> M. Shepherdson Family B. Marshall Family	

PHONE DONATIONS

With the limited access to our church parlor during the Covid pandemic, our used phone initiative has suffered but it's back!!!! A brand new collection box is positioned in the entry foyer and is waiting for your old phone (and hearing aid see below). Every year, millions of phones are thrown away crowding landfills, creating hazardous waste, and hurting our environment. Give your old phones a new sustainable life by dropping them here! The used phones (any age, working or not) will be sent to Medic Mobile and through their recycling partner, The Wireless Alliance, they will be safely recycled to fund open-source software and support health care workers across Asia and Africa. A reminder: Medic Mobile takes data security and privacy seriously. Your phone will be erased of all data through a secure process that has a bunch of numbers and letters (which are too complicated for ME to explain) but the bottom line is that your phone donation is safe. We started this program in 2013 and to date, we have contributed 276 phones. It's time to get going again! If Medic Mobile can recycle just 1 % of disposed phones each year, they can outfit 1 million health care workers and improve the lives of 50 million people! Don't let your old phone go to the trash. It can have another life somewhere and help someone in need! And let's not forget HEARING AID DONATIONS. We started this program in 2017, collecting used hearing aids and donating them to organizations who refurbish them free of charge. The gift of hearing is then distributed to needy people in over 100 countries all over the world. Any make or model of used hearing aid, working or not working, is accepted. To date, we have sent 13 hearing aids on to a new life. Please drop your used hearing aids into the same box as the phones and empower a needy person to build a better life. Questions? Ask me! Nancy Diepenbrock: petsX5@gmail.com.

Can you help the residents of Frederick Place? Please help us make this a church-wide mission.

Frederick Place is a 16-bed temporary emergency housing shelter for families run 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 definitions of 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 use 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 sign up on the volunteer sheet attached to the poster in the church lobby on the church level.

Flower Calendar *(to reserve a Sunday please add your name to the calendar on the bulletin board)*

Pick your Sunday and put your name on the Flower Calendar that is in the hall next to the elevator. If you want the office to order flowers, put "order" after your name and they will be ordered from Vintage Garden with the cost of around \$30. You are welcome to take them home after the service. You may also bring flowers from another source and place them on the flower stand next to the piano, put your name on the calendar and let the office know if you want additional information in the bulletin. Weather permitting, you are also welcome to bring garden flowers, or even an arrangement of wildflowers. Again, put your name on the flower calendar and let the office know if there's a special person or event involved. What better way to honor anyone or anything than to share flowers with your church family on Sunday!

August sponsors: 7th Don & Paula Hendrickson, 14th Marlys Lee, 21st Sally & Chuck Kemp, 28th Don & Paula Hendrickson

Women's Fellowship

Dear Member, Associate and Friend,

With much thought and prayers, Linda and I have decided that we do not want to chair the Cranberry Fest Luncheon. We had talked earlier in May that we could have possibly have it this year; however, we feel that perhaps we should reconsider. Some of the reasons being: COVID is increasing in Vilas County, we have fewer members (it takes 40-50 people to serve just on Saturday) and prices of food have increased a great deal. Women's Fellowship have done this for twenty some years and I think perhaps it has run its course.

We have many talented members in our midst, so if someone would like to take over as chair, please email either Sharon or Linda ASAP: (sharonrbreit@gmail.com) (jsanborn123@gmail.com).

There are things that need to be done soon, such as the article in the Country Crier and the Weavers need to be contacted also.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this wonderful event over the years.

With many regrets,

Linda Sanborn and Sharon Breit

First Congregational United Church of Christ

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CHURCH COUNCIL

President, Bernie Hupperts

Vice President, Mark Johannsen

Trisha Moore

Cathy Palmer

Luke Aschbrenner

Deb Stolze

Steve Burrill

Clerk, Norma Yaeger

Pastor Parish Relations, Tobi Johannsen

Women's Fellowship, Linda Sanborn

Sanctuary Arts Group, Patti Roberts

Performing Arts Music, Bernie Hupperts

Facilities, Donna Adams

Finance, Paula Hendrickson

Gifts and Endowments, Bill Marshall

Safety and Security, Carlton Schroeder

Scholarship, Ursula Charaf

CHURCH STAFF

Timothy W. Shirley, Pastor

Debbie Brown, Church Administrator

Sharon Breit, Director of Christian Education

Lori Lee Hunter, Director of Music

Linda Brainard, Pianist

Norma Yaeger, Pianist

Christine Clough, Cleaning Services

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 4:30pm - Chime choir @ First 7pm - AA Meeting @ First	2 6:30pm - Northwoods 7pm - AA Meeting @ First	3 11am - Many Ways of Peace	4 11:30am - Bridge Group	5 7pm - AA Meeting @ First	6
7 7:30am - Worship @ First 10am - Worship @ First	8 4:30pm - Chime choir @ First 7pm - AA Meeting @ First	9 6:30pm - Northwoods 7pm - AA Meeting @ First	10 11am - Many Ways of Peace	11 11:30am - Bridge Group	12 7pm - AA Meeting @ First	13
14 7:30am - Worship with 10am - Worship with	15 4:30pm - Chime choir @ First 7pm - AA Meeting @ First	16 6:30pm - Northwoods 7pm - AA Meeting @ First	17 11am - Many Ways of Peace	18 9:15am - Backpack Packing 11:30am - Bridge Group	19 7pm - AA Meeting @ First	20
21 7:30am - Worship @ First 10am - Worship @ First	22 4:30pm - Chime choir @ First 7pm - AA Meeting @ First	23 6:30pm - Northwoods 7pm - AA Meeting @ First	24 11am - Many Ways of Peace	25 11:30am - Bridge Group	26 7pm - AA Meeting @ First	27
28 7:30am - Worship with 10am - Worship with	29 4:30pm - Chime choir @ First 7pm - AA Meeting @ First	30 6:30pm - Northwoods 7pm - AA Meeting @ First	31 11am - Many Ways of Peace	1	2	3