



# First Congregational United Church of Christ

[eagleriverucc.org](http://eagleriverucc.org) November 2022

## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

As I write these words to you on what is Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, I am recovering from my elbow surgery and what is called “COVID Pneumonia!” As many of you good folks have learned, I never go halfway with anything!!! I must admit this past month has been quite the challenge from me, but I am anticipating much better and healthier days ahead. I want to say “thank you” to everyone. You have all been so kind, gracious, and patient during my illness. These days have been a reminder of one of the reasons I came to this church as your pastor!

One of my regrets is during this time has been the necessity of postponing the Wednesday evening “Coffeeology Bible Study.” I assure you we will resume our study together as soon as I feel that I am able to teach and converse without exhausting myself, a byproduct of COVID with which I am learning to be in relationship! I also regret not being able to join you for the discussions about the Visioning Statement. I would have loved to have been a fly on the wall. I look forward to getting some feedback from your conversations with one another as we begin to formalize the document and put these ideas into practice.

Finally, I hope to see you on the first Sunday of November (6<sup>th</sup>) as we celebrate All Saints Day. All Saints is an immovable feast day, always occurring on November 1<sup>st</sup>. We will honor the legacy and the memory of your family and friends with a special emphasis on members of our congregation who have died in the last year. Also, during November we will focus on stewardship, a reminder of the need for your time, talents, and financial contributions. It takes all of us to be and do as the First Congregational United Church of Christ. Please help us become the best church we can be, indeed a shining light on a hill here in Eagle River, Wisconsin.

As we move ahead into the fall season as a church, there will be many opportunities for worship and fellowship. We will announce these special events and services as they appear on the radar. I hope you can avail yourself to as many of our gatherings as you are able. In the meantime, I want to assure you that I am going to continue to do everything I need to do in terms of rehabilitation and rest to allow me to function to the best of my ability. Again, I thank you all for your wonderful grace!

I look to see you on Sundays!

Timothy W. Shirley

## **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Hello Congregation,

November is upon us, and Thanksgiving is around the corner. This is also the time of year when we focus on the Stewardship Campaign by pledging our annual support to continue our mission here at First Congregational United Church of Christ. This season Joy Turpin shares her faith story with us.

I'd also like to share this passage from our United Church of Christ Faith Statement Doxology. This statement can be found in its entirety on our website, *"You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory."*

A reminder that we will be celebrating All Saints Day in worship on November 6. I hope you will be able to attend services on this special day of remembrance. This Sunday is also the day we turn back the clocks and gain that blessed hour. Watch for the Mitten Tree to take shape this month too.

There is another happy occasion that I must mention. We are celebrating an Anniversary! This month marks our first year with Pastor Tim Shirley, who preached his first sermon here on November 7, 2021. Happy Anniversary to all of us!

Many Blessings,  
Donna Adams, Council President

## **COUNCIL REPORT**

October has proved to be a bit of an unusual month. The Council did not meet as we had several members out of town.

It was decided not to meet as we had just completed the Budget and the Annual Meeting and would be holding several October meetings regarding the Strategic Planning document. Besides, we had no new immediate business to address.

We will be reviewing comments received on the Strategic Plan from the listening sessions at our November meeting.

The painting project on the exterior windows has gotten underway following some good weather. This began at the end of October and has already been completed.

Donna Adams, Council President

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## **FLOCK**

The FLOCK will meet on WEDNESDAY, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. If you want to bring something to share that would be great. Please also bring something to drink for yourself. At that meeting we will discuss our pending December Christmas Dinner party.



See you there!  
Your Shepherdess,  
Linda



The music ministry has undergone some changes these past months especially with the loss of choir members, so as stated in the annual report we are looking at new ways to bring worshipful music to our time together.

I would like to invite anyone interested in sharing their musical talent, during worship, to contact me to help coordinate musical choices and schedule times that you would be available. I know there are some young people who have extraordinary gifts and we welcome them to share with their church family as they are able. I am also sure there may be a few folks that are a bit shy to share as well. We are a welcoming congregation and a welcoming 'choir'!

A big change in Advent – Christmas musical offerings for this year is that in lieu of a cantata we will be holding a community holiday Carol sing. We are envisioning a choir along with small group offerings of special vocal selections, piano, and other instrumental pieces, along with readings and, of course, the community joining together to sing some of the beloved Advent and Christmas Carols.

To make sure we do not interfere with other musical events happening in the Northwoods we will hold this event on Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 pm. *It's also a Packers BYE week!* 😊

Please contact me **no later than November 11<sup>th</sup>** to express your interest in participating.

Email: [lori.lee.hunter@gmail.com](mailto:lori.lee.hunter@gmail.com) Call or Text: 715-493-8078

Thanks for helping to offer worship through music. – Lori

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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.



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 requests with us on the church website located 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](mailto:joyfaithchapinturpin@gmail.com) or the Church office.

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**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 the offering plates among us as they used to. The time for our offerings 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 to keep the Melody singing for others. These gifts are collected during the Offertory.

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**Just a reminder: Assembling back packs will take place on November 17<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup>. This event is held in the basement of the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.**

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**COFFEE HOUR**

**November Bakers**

**7:30 a.m.**

**10:00 a.m.**

November 6

C. Schroeder Family

T. Helmick Family  
P. Adamovich Family

November 13

C. Kemp Family

D. Adams Family  
C. Palmer Family

November 20

D. Hendrickson Family

W. Charaf Family  
B. Marshall Family

November 27

**UNITY SUNDAY @ 9:00**

D. Breit Family  
T. Posto Family

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

Pick a 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 is a special person or event involved. What better way to honor anyone or anything than to share flowers with your church family on Sunday!

### **November flowers sponsors are:**

6<sup>th</sup> Leta Cole

13<sup>th</sup> George Langley

27<sup>th</sup> The Kaitchuck Family

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### **VILAS FOOD PANTRY**

It is that time again time to help our community by filling Thanksgiving Dinner bags. This is our eighteenth year of participation. This worthy tradition continues as we help the Vilas Food Pantry provide the fixings for a tasty Thanksgiving dinner for the families that come to the pantry. This year we are again asking for monetary donations instead of giving items to fill the bags. The pantry will then purchase the food to fill the bags, making it more efficient for everyone. The total items for each bag costs about \$20 give or take whether items are on sale or where you shop. Please consider helping us out so we can provide for the growing number of families and individuals we are serving through the Vilas Food Pantry.

Thank you in advance for helping to make this project a success and thanks for caring. Checks can be made out to the Vilas Food Pantry. **We will be collecting monetary donations until November 15, 2022.** Please indicate Thanksgiving bags on your check and either mail checks to Vilas Food Pantry, P.O. Box 761, Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521 or leave them with Debbie Brown at the church office and she will mail them.

Thank you, Jacqueline Coghlan

Vilas Food Pantry Board President cogjackie@gmail.com

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**F.Y.I. The ushers have access to an emergency button should a crisis develop. Please let them know if there is an emergency and they will activate it.**

## **PHONE DONATIONS**

With the limited access to our church parlor during the COVID pandemic our used phone initiative has suffered! But now it is back!!! A brand-new collection box is positioned in the entry foyer and is waiting for your old phones (and hearing aids; see below). Every year millions of phones are thrown away which crowds landfills, creating hazardous wastes that hurt our environment. Give your old phones a new sustainable life by dropping them at the church! Used phones of any age, whether they work or not will be sent to Medic Mobile. 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 complicated set of numbers and letters (which are too complex for ME to explain). The bottom line is that your phone donation is safe! We started this ministry in 2013 and to date we have contributed 276 phones! It is time to get going again! If Medic Mobile can recycle just 1% of disposed phones each year, they can outfit one million health care workers and improve the lives of 50 million people! Do not let your old phone go to the trash! It can have another life somewhere and help someone in need! And do not forget HEARING AID DONATIONS. We started this ministry in 2017, collecting used hearing aids and donating them to organizations that refurbish them free of charge. The gift of hearing is then distributed to needy people in over 100 countries all around 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](mailto:petsX5@gmail.com).

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## **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. 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 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 sign up on the volunteer sheet attached to the poster in the church lobby on the church level.**

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

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715-802-8501

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## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

President, Donna Adams  
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, Sharon Breit  
Sanctuary Arts Group, Patti Roberts  
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

## **Worship Services**

Sundays 7:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.

On the last Sunday of the month a Unity Service is held at 9 a.m.