

# The Church Mouse



**First Congregational United Church of Christ**

**[eagleriverucc.org](http://eagleriverucc.org)**

**June 2023**

## PASTOR'S REPORT

By the time you read this article, we will be concluding a ballot vote to determine our worship time(s). Tradition has long been held that we maintain two worship services to accommodate those who must be at work early on Sundays. As you are aware there has been a movement to have one service at 9:00 am and various factors have spurred that desire. The only way to reach consensus as a church that follows the "congregational way" is to put the matter to a vote. Unfortunately, with votes there are always winners and losers. It is not humanly possible to please everyone. My hope and prayer is that, now that this decision has been determined by the body politic, that everyone will get on board as we continue to move the church forward into a bright future.

As we move into the summer months, I believe that I slept through spring, several creative opportunities for worship will be coming your way. On the last Sunday of June, July, and August, we will hold worship at 9:00 am outside in what hopefully will be sunshine! Yes, we need volunteers for setup and take down after these services. Let Debbie Brown know in the church office if you would like to help. Also, we will have an outdoor service at 9:00 am on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. At this point I cannot give you details because we are still figuring out those plans. It has been suggested to me that we have a cookout with hot dogs and hamburgers. I think that is a great idea, but we need some people to bring grills and plan to do some grilling if this is going to be the way we go. I would love your input!

Coming your way very shortly, unless it has been sent to you by the time you read this, is the Strategic Plan for First Congregational United Church of Christ, a document that has been in the making for months. Thank you to Steve Burrill for leading this effort on behalf of the Church Council. Part of the document includes the goal for the church to become officially Open and Affirming, a designation in the United Church of Christ that demands an intentional process by the "Coalition", an auxiliary to the UCC advocating for welcome and inclusion in our churches. This process requires a vote to proceed as well as a vote to so designate once the process has been completed. The church would also craft a hospitality statement of welcome and inclusion for all people. While our church is very welcoming and inclusive, the congregation has never engaged in an official process with its denominational affiliate. There will be much more news coming later about this exciting initiative.

Another exciting venture being launched, spearheaded by Carol Marshall and Pat Tucker, is the formation of a children's ministry. Already the downstairs has been cleaned of clutter and prepared for what we hope will be a rewarding aspect of our church. Kudos to everyone who will make this come to life, bringing it to fruition. These are exciting days at First Congregational United Church of Christ.

Just one more note. I will be away on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> for my spring clergy retreat and one week of vacation. I hope that this summer brings all the joy to you that the Northwoods has to offer.

I look to see you on Sundays!

Timothy W. Shirley

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello Congregation!

Well, here we are about to launch into summer. Did anyone actually find spring? I hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day. I would like to send a thank you to all who have served and a special prayer of remembrance for those who gave all. It is never too late to remember.

After a busy Council in May, I'm hoping we get to catch our breath for a minute in June. But I know we'll blink, and it will be the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and when we blink again, we'll be looking at Labor Day.

Ballots regarding Worship Times have gone out. Please get them back to the Church by noon on June 7<sup>th</sup>. If you are eligible to vote and did not receive your ballot, please contact Deb in the office or reach out to a council member.

Our outdoor services held on the last Sunday of the month will resume at 9 am from June through August, weather permitting. Stay tuned as there may be other special services too.

One of the fundraising items I mentioned during my presentation on Church finances was holding a quarterly dinner in the Fellowship Hall featuring a speaker or entertainment – think God's Country Kitchen. Let me know if this is something you'd be interested in attending.

As always, if you have ideas for fundraising opportunities, please share! We will have a couple dates for brat and bake sales at Trigs coming up. If you'd like to volunteer your time and talent, brains, or brawn, we'll find you a spot!

My prayer for you all this June is that you find time to enjoy all the beauty of our spring blooms and the new life that this time of year brings. It's a perfect time to reflect and renew our own faith. No-mow May is behind us, and hopefully very soon the mosquitos will be too.

Blessings!

Donna Adams



## **Church Council Highlights from May 2023**

Budget and fund activity was reviewed. There is a Stewardship Committee forming to help identify and create revenue options.

A significant portion of the Council's May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting was related to discussion of regular Worship times. Various comments from member letters were presented along with a review of various dates and attendance numbers from single service and two services. It was determined that no recommendation would be made. Rather a listening session would be added to the Informational Budget Meeting scheduled for May 21 that would determine if a congregational vote would be needed.



Scholarship Sunday was held May 14<sup>th</sup> and it was noted that UCC administered \$65,000 in Scholarship awards that were presented to students on May 1st.

Outdoor services will be planned for 9am on the last Sunday of each month in June, July and August.

Bill Marshall presented a letter from Carol Marshall and Pat Tucker requesting approval of a proposed Children's Program titled "A Ministry to Children at First Congregational United Church of Christ." Resources for the program are developed from Progressive Christianity.org. Council approved the request.

The Strategic Plan was approved and will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Listening session dates to be determined, will be held in advance of the meeting.

The special informational meeting held on May 21<sup>st</sup> began with remarks from Pastor Tim regarding establishing regular service hours. The meeting was attended by 39 people, and all were invited to express their thoughts. In conclusion it was determined that although Council could establish worship times under the Constitution, because we are congregationally governed, a confidential ballot vote by eligible voting members was needed.

Council President Donna Adams then presented an informational checkpoint on Church finances.

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**Just a reminder that the Church Council meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room. The meeting this month will be June 12<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to attend.**

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## **HIGHWAY CLEANUP**

We as members of First Congregational United Church of Christ, have adopted a section of highway 70 through the Wisconsin Adopt a Highway program. It's hard not to notice the trash along the highways that seemed to magically appear after the snow melted.

It's time to gather and pick up trash. So, with no authoritative sanction, I declare June 18<sup>th</sup> as wear your highway cleanup clothes to church day. Clean up will start after the 10:00 am service and Coffee Hour.

The section of highway we are responsible for is highway 70 from the bridge east for about 2 miles. We will meet at the Nutty Squirrel parking lot, 3385 highway 70.

The state would like participants to watch the safety video. I have the link below for the electronic newsletter. For paper copies or link failure search Adopt a highway Wisconsin, safety video.

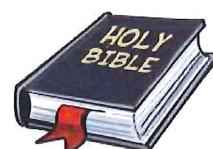
<https://www.google.com/search?>



Rain Date: Same time, same place, Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Questions? Contact: Jean Haack [hjean1924@gmail.com](mailto:hjean1924@gmail.com)

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## TWELVE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

The twelve sessions include a video  
by each contributor.

Led by Sharon R. Breit, Director of Christian Education

### CONTENTS

- Session 1: Eve: Finding Lasting Contentment in the Truth
- Session 2: Rebekah: Breaking Free of Feminine Stereotypes
- Session 3: Leah: Overcoming Rejection and Insecurity
- Session 4: Hannah: Surrendering in Waiting
- Session 5: Abigail: Dealing with Confrontation in Relationships
- Session 6: Gomer: Learning to Accept Unconditional Love
- Session 7: Mary, Mother of Jesus: Moving from Comfort to Courage
- Session 8: Mary Magdalene: Transforming from Outcast to Follower
- Session 9: Mary of Bethany: Putting Our Faith into Action
- Session 10: Martha: Finding Our Identity in Jesus
- Session 11: The Woman at the Well: Turning Our Messes into Messages
- Session 12: The Syrophenician Woman: Approaching God

*Sharon has eight books but can order more. She would like to limit the class to a maximum of ten. Call or leave a message for Sharon Breit on her home phone (715-477-2163) or email her at ([sharonrbreit@gmail.com](mailto:sharonrbreit@gmail.com)), if you are interested in attending. We will meet and determine a date and time to begin. Sharon is looking forward to great conversations.*





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Last month I reported that Mark Holperin was able to find a capacitor for the organ and we were hoping that this would restore the organ to full functioning, I am happy to report that so far so good!! Everything seems to be working the way it is supposed to. A huge thank you to Mark and 'his people'!

Since the congregation will be making a decision concerning service times this month, the choir will meet as usual on the first and third Sundays at 8:30 and will sing at the 10:00 service on June 4 and June 18. Again, I will encourage anyone who would

like to join us, please do! If you would like to share a musical talent other than your voice, please give me a call or send me an email to coordinate a time. You can reach me at 715-493-8078 or [lori.lee.hunter@gmail.com](mailto:lori.lee.hunter@gmail.com) Make a joyful noise for all the earth!! -- Lori

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## **FLOCK**

The next Flock meeting will be on Tuesday, June 20th at church at 6:00pm in the conference room. If you wish to bring a snack, that would be great. As always, bring your own beverage.

Hope to see you then!

Your Shepherdess,  
Linda

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## **Do you know anyone in need?**

Many times during the year we reach out to members of our church (and a few others) with visits and small gifts to remind them that they are appreciated and loved. Sometimes it might be someone who is going through an extremely hard time and needs a lift in their spirits. Examples of times we make these visits would be our caroling in December, Valentine's Day flowers, Easter baskets, Fourth of July and so on. We try to make the deliveries sometime before that particular holiday, so that they can enjoy them longer.

The church staff does not always hear about someone who would benefit from this type of visit. We need YOUR help in this. If you know of anyone who you think would appreciate a visit, please contact Debbie Brown in the church office or Tobi Johannsen, so that we can add their name to the list. If you might be interested in helping with this rewarding ministry or have any questions, please let me know and we will be happy to involve you in whatever way you would like. Thanks for your help!

If you can help with preparing these items or donate a little towards this project, we would greatly appreciate it.

God Bless and have a fantastic day!

Tobi Johannsen - Email: [tjharleygal56@gmail.com](mailto:tjharleygal56@gmail.com) or call 920.450.1402.

## June Collection: Be the Church!



We have a very special “collection” this month. Instead of asking the congregation to contribute items to help a local non-profit organization with its work, we’re asking our church family to consider donating their time and talents to First Congregational United Church of Christ of Eagle River! In short, we’re asking everyone to BE THE CHURCH!

Together, we are a wonderful, loving, caring and strong church family. But as with every family or household, there’s much that needs to be done to keep up with daily and weekly tasks, going strong and moving forward. Fortunately, our members have many talents, interests and abilities that help make that happen. So, this month, we’re asking everyone to share their talents as you are able. Will you share yours?

Do you like to bake? Consider offering to bake bread for a communion Sunday or treats for fellowship time on Sunday. Is cleaning your gift? Maybe you’re willing to tidy up the Parlor after fellowship? Do you like to read? Perhaps reading scripture during a Sunday service is your gift to the church. Are you willing to spend a little time to brighten the day of one of our homebound members? Our homebound ministry needs you!

Are you blessed with a good singing voice? The choir might be for you. Do you wish you were musically inclined, but not quite sure? Give the chime choir a try! Can you distribute bulletins during a Sunday service and help with the collection? We always need ushers. Is there something else you’re interested in doing for our church? We want to hear about it!

On the table in the Narthex, you’ll find a variety of sign-up sheets – one each for a specific area where your help is needed. Add your name to one or more and someone will reach out to you about your interest. And if there’s something you’re interested in doing that’s NOT listed on one of the signups, add your name to the sheet with the “I’D LIKE TO ...” heading and someone will be in touch with you to learn more about how you’d like to help our church.

Don’t worry about getting in over your head – others are available to help you learn the ropes, no matter what you choose to do. Think instead, about how you will be blessing our church and how you will be blessed in return. “The church takes on greater depth when you’re involved in its workings,” said Joy Turpin, one of our members. “The worship experience becomes more meaningful.”

They say it takes a village to raise a child. The same can be said for churches: It takes everyone working together to help our congregation remain strong and vibrant. Please give your time and talents as you are able!

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## IDEAS FOR FUTURE COLLECTIONS

Do you have an idea for a future monthly collection? If so, we’d love to hear about it. Please reach out to Mary Lou Congdon or Barbara Helmick. Thank you!

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## **Introducing the *Service Support Team*, aka the SST**

First Congregational United Church of Christ now has a Service Support Team. The primary focus of our ministry is to provide for, address and monitor, a well-organized, smooth flowing, robust worship service experience for churchgoers. It's the structural nuts & bolts, soup to nuts planning team of a church service encompassing, but not limited to, the duties and responsibilities of the former Board of Deacons. We are NOT a 'worship' team, which helps plan the biblical/liturgical and/or musical components of a Sunday or any other worship service. Those aspects will be strictly handled by Pastor Tim and our musical leaders.

The SST (Service Support Team) does not require regularly scheduled meetings, but does require accountability and will ultimately be included as one of the support ministries listed in the amended constitution in response to the SHIFT initiative of the Wisconsin Conference, a new form of governance. We will do our conferencing via phone, email, zoom, and/or in person.

We have conferred with former Board of Deacons members Deb Stolze, Marlyn Hupperts, and with Donna Adams our current Church Council President, to compile a list of the specific needs our team must initially address. This list is not set in stone and may be modified as we see fit in the future.

We will manage, maintain, monitor and/or support the following sign-ups and duties:

- Ushers
- Liturgists
- Announcement makers~Concerns of the Church
- The newly formed Communion Crew responsible for communion set-up
- Coffee hour refreshments & clean up
- Monthly NATH meal
- Lenten Soup Suppers
- Altar candle maintenance
- Pew pamphlets/informational brochures
- Pew envelopes for gifts & offerings

As you can see, our team is critically important to the health of our church! At any time, please contribute your thoughts, ideas, comments, and suggestions to the group. We can further define ourselves going forward with your input.

\*Also, we are looking for one more person to join our team! If you are interested, please contact one of us.

Sincerely, The SST  
Joy Turpin~Team Leader  
Susan Krivichi  
Sharon Breit

**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.)

**PLEASE HELP US PREPARE A DINNER MEAL FOR FREDERICK'S PLACE ON JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup>.**

**Thanks to everyone that helped with the Frederick's Place April Meal. Please check the bulletin board outside the sanctuary to see if you could provide something for our May meal. 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.**

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**MELODY OF COMPASSION**



Ushers are now once again passing the offering plates in worship.

The place in the order of service for the Offertory, the receiving of our gifts, is listed in the Worship Folder.

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.

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*If you have ideas for articles or other information you would like to see in the Church Mouse or the Sunday Concerns of the Church, please let someone in the church office know.*

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**If you have not received a ballot regarding worship service times, please let Debbie Brown know in the office.**

The ballot box is on the table in the office and there are extra ballots there if you forget to bring yours in.  
**Ballots are due by 12 noon on June 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Worship services at 7:30 am and 10:00 am have resumed. A Unity Service takes place the last Sunday in the month at 9:00 am.

Offering Envelopes are still available in the church office.

*Scripture readers (Lectors) and ushers* 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.

In accordance with CDC guidelines, wearing masks is now optional. 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, 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 are 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 that designation on the envelope or on the check memo line.

**MANY THANKS FOR MAKING COFFEE HOUR A SOCIAL SUCCESS BY PROVIDING TREATS AND HELPING WITH CLEAN-UP!**



## **Flower Calendar**

If you would like to give flowers for Sunday worship, please pick a Sunday and add your name to the Flower Calendar that is in the narthex across from the elevator. Flowers are ordered from Vintage Garden at a cost of \$35. Please write a separate check made out to the church. ***Please let Debbie Brown in the church office know the information you would like to have on the card.*** If you choose to get your own flowers, please let Debbie in the church office know that you are doing so. You are welcome to take the flowers home after the service. It is also helpful if you bring the vase back to return to Vintage Gardens as we then get more flowers for the money. ***What better way to honor anyone or anything than to share flowers with your church family on Sunday!***

**June flower sponsors are:** Doug and Sharon Breit



**Happy June Birthday:**

Dewey Anderson, Nancy Andrews, Marion Arndt, Mary Lou Congdon ,  
Donna DePape, Don Hendrickson, and Cathy Palmer

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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.**

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**Please check the lost and found closet in the office.  
We have accumulated several items.**

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# First Congregational United Church of Christ

105 North First Street PO Box 1385

Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521

[office@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:office@eagleriverucc.org)

715-802-8501

[www.eagleriverucc.org](http://www.eagleriverucc.org)

## **Church Office Hours**

Monday – Thursday - 8:00 am to 1:00 pm – CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

President, Donna Adams

Vice President, Mark Johannsen

Trisha Moore

Cathy Palmer

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 Service**

**SUNDAY AT 7:30 AM AND 10:00 AM**

**A UNITY SERVICE, LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 9:00 AM**

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



# Senior Farmers Market Vouchers

Eligible Vilas County residents age 60 and older (55 and older for Native Americans) are encouraged to receive vouchers worth \$35 for use at local certified farmers' markets to purchase fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs.

The ADRC of Vilas County is distributing the vouchers to qualifying older residents. Eligible residents will receive \$35 worth of vouchers, per participant, to use at any certified farmers' market.

To qualify you must be a Vilas County resident age 60 or older with a monthly household income of \$2,248 or less for one person or \$ 3,041 for two people.

Starting June 5, 2023, vouchers for Vilas County residents will be available at the ADRC office. Quantities of vouchers are limited and available on a first-come-first-served basis.

For more information, call the ADRC of Vilas County at 715-479-3625.





**HELP**



**CARE**

**SUPPORT**



# Northwoods Health Resource Expos

**Find out about all the  
Resources available to  
you in Vilas and  
Oneida County!**

***Care Facilities,  
In-Home Care Agencies,  
Program Information, Food  
Programs, Transportation,  
Dementia Care Support,  
Financial Assistance...  
Learn about all these things  
and get your questions  
answered!***

**Win a Gift Basket!**

Sponsored by CAN  
Caregiver Alliance of the Northwoods

**Tuesday, June 6th  
12:00pm to 4:00pm  
Eagle River VFW**

418 W Pine Street, Eagle River WI

**Tuesday, June 13th  
12:00pm to 4:00pm  
Hodag Dome**

863 Hodag Drive, Rhinelander WI

**For more information, please call 715-479-3625**



# Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol Fraud Alert



*Senior Medicare Patrols (SMPs) empower and assist Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse through outreach, counseling, and education.*

Please feel free to share this publication with others who may benefit from its contents.

## TO CONTACT WI SMP

Call: (888) 818-2611

E-mail: [smp-wi@gwaar.org](mailto:smp-wi@gwaar.org)

Website: <https://gwaar.org/senior-medicare-patrol>

Facebook:

@WisconsinSeniorMedicarePatrol



Preventing Medicare Fraud

## There Are No New Medicare Cards!

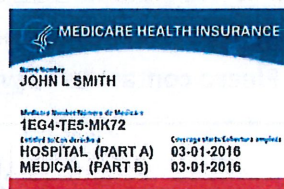
The scams related to Medicare cards persist! Beneficiaries from around the state continue to receive calls asking them about their Medicare card. The caller often identifies themselves as being from Medicare, and that they are “just following up on the status of your Medicare card”. The scam has a few variations, such as:

- Asking the Medicare beneficiary if they have received the new Medicare card.
- Questioning if they knew that their red, white, and blue Medicare card is going to expire. (There is no expiration date on the Medicare card.)
- Inquiring if their doctor’s name is on their Medicare card. If not, the card needs to be updated to avoid interruption of services. (Health care provider information is NOT included on a Medicare card for any reason.)

When the beneficiary says that they have not received a new card, the caller is more than happy to help them get the “new or updated card”. The person on the phone then just asks them to “verify” their Medicare number.

If you receive this type of call, simply hang up, as the caller is trying to get your information to scam you and Medicare.

There is NOT a new Medicare card. Not a plastic card, a card with a chip, a different colored card, a laminated option, or a different card because of COVID-19. There are NO NEW Medicare cards, for any reason. Your paper red, white, and blue card is the only card issued by Medicare.



Over please.

Funded by: This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0041-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.





# Fraud Alert

## Protect Yourself with These Tips

- Be aware that no one from Medicare, Social Security, or the IRS will call you
- No one from Medicare, Social Security, or the IRS will visit you at home or at a community event
- Be cautioned that scammers' technology can make the phone number on your screen appear that the call is from Medicare, Social Security, or the IRS
- Medicare, Social Security, or the IRS will not threaten that your coverage or payments will be cut off if you do not comply

## Keep in Mind

- Do not give out your Medicare number except to your doctor or other Medicare provider
- Treat your Medicare card like your credit card
- Do not share any personal information or bank information
- If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is
- Be cautious of offers for "free" medical services
- Watch out for identity theft

## Learn More on How to Protect Yourself

- The Senior Medicare Patrol website: [www.smpwi.org](http://www.smpwi.org)
- Contact your local Aging and Disability Resource Center, ADRC. To find the office in your area, visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc>
- Federal Trade Commission | Protecting America's Consumers ([ftc.gov](http://ftc.gov))
- National Do Not Call Registry [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov)

Wisconsin SMP is available for outreach events, educational sessions for beneficiaries, caregivers and professionals, workshops and exhibits at events.

Please contact us at [www.smpwi.org](http://www.smpwi.org) for more information



@WisconsinSeniorMedicarePatrol