

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

[eagleriverucc.org](http://eagleriverucc.org) November 2023

## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

As I write these words on a brisk Monday morning following a wonderful day of worship yesterday, Confirmation stealing the Reformation show, I am truly proud of the Confirmands, Ayla, Iland, and Wyatt, and this congregation that has nurtured them and given them a solid foundation for their spiritual growth. One item that was not mentioned in Sunday's service because it was so packed with all kinds of good things, was that staff will be working with the kids and their parents to find an appropriate mission opportunity in one of our major cities. Seed money is in the process of being approved but it will take more cash to make this dream come true! We will give you more information as we have it but will certainly be inviting you to participate in this well-earned, well-deserved, trip.

I guess we say this every year, but it is hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us with all the worship opportunities that are in store. We will certainly keep you informed about the schedule and the content of these services. The one service I would like to call your attention to is Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> which is both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve, all on the same day. We will have our usual 9:00 am service that morning and will return at 5:00 pm for the annual Lessons and Carols. Take note of the earlier time for this service. Each service during the fall season provides an excellent opportunity to invite guests to join you for worship and I hope you will take advantage of this wonderful window. Personal invitations are still the best way of introducing a church and we truly have so much to offer. Once again, yesterday provided a quintessential example of who and what this church is.

As you are aware by now, we are in the midst of the 2023 Stewardship Campaign. I would like to say a special thank you to Trisha Shepherdson, who is our Chairperson this year. I would also like to say thank you to those who have stepped up to the pulpit and have inspired us with their words, reminding us of the many blessings that are ours to enjoy here at First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eagle River, Wisconsin. Thus far we have heard from Dale Bishop, Donna DePape, and Barbara Helmick with others coming to a service near you! May we never take for granted all the gifts, including our people, that make this church so special. May we continue to expand on our mission and ministry as we strive to make this church all that we want it to be and all that God, and we, desire it to be. Each one of you is the best gift of all as we count our stewardship blessings! I do not believe I have ever seen another congregation that better embodies beloved faith community as does this body of faithful followers of Jesus. Yes, continue to be you, doing what you do!

I look to see you on Sundays!

Timothy W. Shirley

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Hello Congregation!

The Church Council welcomed three new members at its October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Discussion included review of the Annual Congregational Meeting that was held in the Fellowship Hall on October 1<sup>st</sup>. A quorum was declared and approximately 48 members were in attendance. The vote was unanimous in approval of the new members, Kristen Anchor, Carol Marshall, and Eric Olsen. Eighty-seven percent approved moving forward with the process toward becoming an Open and Affirming (ONA) church. Pastor Tim will lead this process.

Building and Grounds advised they are continuing to assemble and review bids for the heating/cooling systems. They are also looking into maintenance contracts for heating and cooling and for the roof. Discussion also centered on updating our Building Use Policy and that process is well under way.

Upcoming events included a new time, 5:00 p.m. for the Christmas Eve Service. The regular service, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, will be at 9:00 a.m.

It was noted that the Stewardship Campaign begins October 22<sup>nd</sup> and pledges will be blessed on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Currently there are twenty households that pledge. Online giving has been increasing and more are giving non-pledged identifiable gifts. Traditionally, the budget has reflected pledged amounts. That is no longer the case as the budget now reveals that non-pledged identifiable gifts make up the majority of offerings.

With the addition of new Church Council members, the meeting time was reviewed. It will continue to be held on the second Monday of the month but will begin at 5:45 pm.

Many Blessings,

Donna Adams  
Church Council President

## **FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Thanksgiving, bounty, harvest, preparing for the longer quiet months of winter. November brings these realizations front and center into our daily lives. It is also the time in our church life when we recognize our stated intention to share our financial gifts to the church culminating in Stewardship Sunday on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

As I attended the beautiful service honoring Reformation and Confirmation Sunday, I reflected on the joy I have simply being in our Sanctuary, listening to our beautiful choir, hearing the wisdom of Pastor Tim, and the friendship and camaraderie of worshipping together with this church family as we raise our voices together in prayer and song.

Our Mission, further reflected in our building use that is not just rental income, but purpose driven as the community support groups we sponsor as our own, such as the Boy Scouts which are chartered under our church; AA, Al-Anon, and NA. The civic groups, card players, crafters, and exercisers. I cannot help but happily see our demonstrated action in the reflection of our Mission Statement "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." I find these to be very powerful words and encourage everyone to say them out loud.

As we enter this bountiful season I hope you too will consider sharing your intended commitment pledging support for the continued missions of Spirit, Place, and Fellowship here at First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eagle River.

Blessings, Donna Adams



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**The Church Council meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 5:45 pm in the Conference Room. The meeting this month will be on November 13<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to attend.**

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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 Debbie in the church office know.**

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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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I was reading a short devotional sometime this past month and it reminded me of how choirs work. The situation the author addressed was about a conflict in a congregation that was contemplating a remodeling project of their sanctuary. Tensions were running a bit high with varied opinions of what and how things should be done! (Imagine that! 😊) Then an elderly woman of 90 plus years spoke words that brought things back into perspective. She announced, "Both

sides may be right, but we are not called to be right, we are called to be reconciled!" Sometimes instead of always needing to be right, we may want to approach subjects with the idea that we may be wrong. This can allow us to learn from each other or at least try to understand a different view.

You may ask, "What does this have to do with choirs?" Well, when we come together to learn a piece of music we must listen to all parts (sides) and we cannot assume we are right and the other parts are wrong because we would never be in harmony. We are called to be reconciled with each other and the music. I think this approach to learning music, that we are open to the fact that we are wrong, may be a lesson we can take into other areas of life. I know it is something I will be striving to do a bit more of, outside of music!

We will be working on Advent and Christmas planning this next week and hope to bring some meaningful music to celebrate the seasons in December.

If you would like to join us, we will be rehearsing on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. Let me know if you have an interest not only in choir but any other musical offering. We would love to add more opportunities for others to share.

Come, be reconciled! – Lori

## **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 those special holidays 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.

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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.)

We are so grateful for your financial support and your "labor of love" in preparing the monthly meals.

Thank you!

**We are once again asking for help to prepare our chili dinner.  
This one will be for November 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Thanks, Susan and Mary Lou!**



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**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.

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## **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!***

**November flower sponsors are:** Linda and Leta Cole and Bruce and Sandy Kaitchuck

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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.***

## **MAGGIE BALL MISSION FUND: Ideas Welcome**

First Congregational United Church of Christ is blessed with an investment fund created specifically for “missions.” It was established in 2010 when the church received a generous bequest from the estate of Maggie Ball. Mrs. Ball was an Illinois resident who spent her summers in Eagle River and attended this church.

The investment fund generates approximately \$7,000 annually. That money is available “for special mission involvements (over and above those in the General Budget) of the congregation, both local and global.”

The Church Council approves disbursements from the fund, but ideas for how the monies should be spent may be suggested by any member of our congregation. With the approval of the Council, I am working to get the word out and encourage members to suggest mission efforts that could benefit from the support of the Maggie Ball Mission Fund.

So, if you have thoughts or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me (Barbara Helmick) or go directly to Council. I will compile a list of any ideas I receive and either forward it or present it to Council.

**Please note:** Money is limited, and I have already received suggestions from several people. **If you would like to help with vetting the requests and perhaps prioritizing them,** please let me know. I will be passing all suggestions/requests on to Council members. But since the fund provides a finite amount of money each year, it may be helpful to recommend dollar amounts for each and/or suggest priorities. That’s a task that one person should NOT do alone.

Here are the ideas that have been suggested so far (in no particular order):

- Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing
- Caritas
- Supporting Daniel Brunstad’s efforts to add ADA-accessible playground equipment behind City Hall
- Maui relief
- Supporting a First UCC youth mission effort/trip
- Ensuring local school students continue to receive lunch at school, by paying their cafeteria debts when their families are unable to do so.
- Supporting the Micah Project in Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**Please note:** Church Council has committed \$1,700 annually from the Maggie Ball Mission Fund annual disbursement for each of the next five years to support the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ’s Leadership Forward program. More details will be forthcoming about this mission initiative.

## **NOVEMBER COLLECTION:** Hats, gloves, mittens, socks, and more!

Feeling the chill in the air? It won’t be long until we’re all bundled up in our winter coats and hats, bracing for the winter cold. In November, we are using the monthly collection to support the efforts of Women’s Fellowship to ensure others in our area will also be able to stay warm.

During November we will be collecting new winter hats, gloves, mittens, socks, and scarves for our traditional “Mitten Tree.” Both purchased and handmade items are welcome. Items for men, women, and children of all ages are needed.

Please place your donations on the table in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**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!





## REMINDER OF RECYCLING MISSION

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone for bringing in their soft plastics in September to jump start the church's new mission of recycling soft plastic to help keep these out of the landfill and helping Mother Earth and her sustainability for future generations! A reminder that this is an **ONGOING MISSION** so please continue to bring these to church and drop them into the Trex box now located as you come into church before going up the stairs. If uncertain the plastic is acceptable just apply pressure using a finger and if it stretches it is good, if it does not stretch and breaks it is not good. Also, if you see a #4 recycling symbol it is good. These plastics are used to make composite materials used in making ecofriendly products, one being benches which over time we can earn to be placed on church property.

Plans to do our first weighing of September's collection will be Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup>. after church for whoever would like to join to see how the bags are weighed and see what our total is for the first month. Kamie will then report the amount at Church the 15<sup>th</sup>, as well as in the November mouse.

Below is a sheet showing what soft plastics are acceptable.

Any questions please let Kamie Kolb know or email her at the address below putting "Church recycling" in the subject line.

Mother Earth and I thank you, Kamie [kamiekolb1@gmail.com](mailto:kamiekolb1@gmail.com)



**ALSO ACCEPTED** are clean, soft water salt pellet bags, and miracle grow bags.

My dear church family,

I don't even know where to begin. My Humpty Dumpty fall from a ladder earlier this month was devastating, and I have to admit, while hospitalized I had a good cry wondering how I would ever be able to cope by myself. But then the ball started to roll, and my church family, friends and neighbors swung into action and rallied to my cause.

As most of you know, I've always been an independent and confident woman. Asking for help is something NOT in my wheelhouse. But I didn't even have to ask. People came forward and did for me and wouldn't take no for an answer. Suddenly being an island and without biological family wasn't an issue at all. I can't tell you how many times I've had tears in my eyes over the generosity, love, care and support I've been given.

Food is arriving on a regular basis, household chores are being completed, dogs are being given lots of walks and exercise, and any transportation I need to doctor appointments or anywhere has been provided. You are all amazing and I am blessed beyond belief.

This will, no doubt, be a long and slow recovery for me. I likely face more surgery, but in spite of it all, I remind myself that it could have been a lot worse. Eventually I will heal. My attitude is upbeat and optimistic, and I will survive.

Each and every one of you holds a special place in my heart and my gratitude knows no bounds. Truly, you ARE my family, and I don't know what I would do without you. Thank you for being there for me. Everyone keeps telling me what they do is just a little thing but honestly, you have no idea. Just unscrewing the lid off a jar is major. Or slicing some cheese. Or bringing in my mail. It's all the little things you do that make my life so much easier. And then there's the big things . . . like transporting me all the way to Wausau for follow-up doctor appointments, heavy duty yard work or dropping whatever you are doing at a moment's notice to come and fix something in my home. There is no way I will ever, ever, ever be able to repay all the kindness and love that's been given me and for one of the few times in my life, I am speechless.

Right now, I've come to look at my day-to-day existence as a patchwork quilt. Slowly but surely squares are getting completed, added to the quilt, and I am becoming whole. I have all of you to thank for that. I love you beyond words.

Nancy Diepenbrock

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# CHURCH COMMUNITY GARDEN

While studying the book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, the study group felt Robin Wall Kimmerer had challenged us with a 'call to action'. One of the suggestions that emerged was to start a garden plot and grow vegetables to give away to the community. This would provide a welcome service to people in the community and be a face forward activity to show what First Congregational United Church of Christ is all about—All Are Welcome! To that end a group has formed to plan a garden for next summer. Deb Stolze and Mary Lou Congdon have secured a plot at the community garden behind the high school in Eagle River. Barb Flaherty has agreed to start some vegetable plants in her green house, and Women's Fellowship has voted to pay for the garden plot rental. The community garden supplies compost, soil, water, and tools to those who have plots in exchange for assistance with the garden and the hoop house where vegetables are grown for the Food Pantry.

We have lots of ideas but would like to include you if you are interested in helping with any of the following tasks:

- Planning (what to grow, how much etc.)
- Cultivating
- Sowing
- Tending (probably a group effort with a rotating schedule)
- Cultivating
- Deciding how and when to distribute the food.
- Other tasks to be determined.

If you have an interest in working on this garden, please contact any of the following people and we will hold a few organizational get togethers during the winter.

Deb Stolze dayk57@gmail.com  
Mary Lou Congdon mlcongdon@charter.net  
Barb Flaherty barbaraflaherty58@gmail.com  
Susan Krivichi skrivichi@gmail.com



### **To Our Friends and Partners in the Community,**

It is that time again, time to help our community by filling Thanksgiving Dinner bags, this is our nineteenth year. The 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 having others fill the bags. The pantry will then purchase all the food to fill the bags to help make it more efficient for everyone. The total items for each bag costs about \$22, 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. Thanks for caring.

Checks can be made out to the **Vilas Food Pantry. We will be collecting monetary donations until November 17, 2023. Please indicate Thanksgiving bags on your check.**

You can mail checks to -  
Vilas Food Pantry  
PO Box 761  
Eagle River, WI 54521

Or

Call Jackie at 715-891-5721 or email me and I can swing by to pick up any donations you have collected.

Jacqueline Coghlan  
Vilas Food Pantry Board President  
[cogjackie@gmail.com](mailto:cogjackie@gmail.com)

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## **FLOCK**

Flock will be meeting at church on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We had a very good turnout this past month. Hoping for the same in November. Remember to bring something to work on and a beverage for yourself.

Let me know if you plan on bringing something to share so we don't wind up with too many treats. See you on November 15th!

Your Shepherdess,



Linda



## Coffee Hour 'Refreshment Schedule' through October

November 5	Barb Flaherty	Cathy Palmer
November 12	Phoebe Spier	Joy Turpin
November 19	Susan Krivichi	Sharon Breit
November 26	Pat Fox	Patti Roberts

Hello Friends!

Here is the schedule for providing treats for Coffee Hour after church through November. We're happy that so many of you have volunteered to provide this nice addition to the coffee hour social time that enhances our worship time together.

### A few notes regarding your duties etc.:

1. You are only responsible for providing a treat on the assigned Sunday. If you want to set up the coffee maker prior to the service either Joy or Susan can show you how that is done. We have assigned two people each Sunday to make it less of a burden, there have been as many as 63 people at the new combined service.
2. You may bring pastries, cookies, bars, fruit, cheese and crackers or any other items you think would be nice for the social time. Please make sure that your item is ready to serve (I.e. bars cut up, placed on a plate if needed, provide a serving utensil etc.) There are plates and napkins and coffee cups in the Parlor to be used for coffee hour.
3. If you cannot provide treats on your assigned Sunday, please first contact another person on the list to see if you can switch your Sunday assignments. The contact information for all of those who volunteered was sent to each of you in a previous email. If that fails, please contact Susan or Joy to let them know that you will not be available on a given Sunday.
4. You are not required to clean up afterwards, so please do not worry if you can only drop off your treats and leave. We will make sure everything is cleaned up afterwards. If you can help clean up, that is great, and there is a very nice vacuum stored in the church office on the wall charger that can be used to vacuum the carpet after. Coffee grounds can be placed in the garbage can in the parlor and the pot should be emptied and rinsed.
5. Please do not hesitate to contact either Susan or Joy with comments, concerns, or suggestions. We look forward to working with you on this service to our church.

*If you're not on the list and would like to help out with providing coffee hour refreshments, send an email our way. We'd LOVE to include you!*

Thank you, Susan Krivichi~ [skrivichi@gmail.com](mailto:skrivichi@gmail.com) and Joy Turpin~ [joyfaithchapinturpin@gmail.com](mailto:joyfaithchapinturpin@gmail.com)

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**Helena Roerdink would like to thank the church for the wonderful birthday lunch hosted by Legacy of the Northwoods. She especially would like to say thank you to all the members of the church who came to celebrate this special day with her.**

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## **Weekend Backpack Ministry**

Just a reminder that we will again be helping to pack the bags of food for the Weekend Backpack Ministry. We began in October and will continue to meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month until the end of the school year.

This program supplies necessary food over the weekends for the children who get subsidized meals during the school week. Without it, many of these children would not have much to eat during the weekends. If you are interested in helping with packing the bags or willing to give a donation to this program, please contact the church office or Tobi Johannsen at (920) 731-1486. Thank you very much.

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## **Book Club**

The next Book Club meeting is November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Parlor. Our book is *The Curiosity* by Stephen Kiernan. Norma Yaeger will be sparking our discussion. Hope to see you there.

Here is the book review from Goodreads.

Michael Crichton meets *The Time Traveler's Wife* in this powerful debut novel in which a man, frozen in the Arctic ice for more than a century, awakens in the present day.

Dr. Kate Philo and her scientific exploration team make a breathtaking discovery in the Arctic: the body of a man buried deep in the ice. As a scientist in a groundbreaking project run by the egocentric and paranoid Erastus Carthage, Kate has brought small creatures-plankton, krill, shrimp-"back to life." Never have the team's methods been attempted on a large life form.

Heedless of the consequences, Carthage orders that the frozen man be brought back to the lab in Boston, and reanimated. As the man begins to regain his memories, the team learns that he was-is-a judge, Jeremiah Rice, and the last thing he remembers is falling overboard into the Arctic Ocean in 1906. When news of the Lazarus Project and Jeremiah Rice breaks, it ignites a media firestorm and massive protests by religious fundamentalists.

Thrown together by circumstances beyond their control, Kate and Jeremiah grow closer. But the clock is ticking and Jeremiah's new life is slipping away. With Carthage planning to exploit Jeremiah while he can, Kate must decide how far she is willing to go to protect the man she has come to love.

A gripping, poignant, and thoroughly original thriller, Stephen Kiernan's provocative debut novel raises disturbing questions about the very nature of life and humanity-man as a scientific subject, as a tabloid plaything, as a living being: A curiosity.

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## **Happy November Birthday:**

Arvid Spier-Olsen, Beverly Rice, Deb Stolze, Donna Adams, Linda Cole,  
Patti Roberts, Seren Livingston, and Terry Posto.



# First Congregational United Church of Christ

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715-802-8501

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

## **Church Office Hours**

Monday – Thursday - 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

President, Donna Adams

Kristen Anchor

Steve Burrill

Carol Marshall

Trisha Moore

Eric Olsen

Deb Stolze

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

Service Support Team, Joy Turpin

## **CHURCH STAFF**

Timothy W. Shirley, Pastor

Debbie Brown, Church Administrator

Sharon Breit, Director of Christian Education

Lori Lee Hunter, Director of Music

Norma Yaeger, Pianist

Christine Clough, Cleaning Services

## **Worship Service**

**SUNDAYS AT 9:00 A.M.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
8am - Choir Practice 9am - Worship 3:45pm - Cub & Boy Scouts	8:30am - Yoga 9:45am - Qui Gong 4pm - Chime Choir 6pm - AA Meeting @ First	6pm - AA Meeting @ First 6pm - Soul Sisters	9:45am - Qui Gong 11am - Many Ways of Peace	6pm - Eagles AFG	7pm - AA Meeting @ First	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8am - Choir Practice 9am - Worship 3:45pm - Cub & Boy Scouts	8:30am - Yoga 9:45am - Qui Gong 4pm - Chime Choir 5:45pm - Church Council 6pm - AA Meeting @ First	6pm - AA Meeting @ First 6pm - Soul Sisters	9:45am - Qui Gong 11am - Many Ways of Peace	6pm - Eagles AFG 6pm - Narcotics Anonymous	6pm - AA Meeting @ First	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9am - Worship 3:45pm - Cub & Boy Scouts	8:30am - Yoga 9:45am - Qui Gong 4pm - Chime Choir 5:45pm - Church Council 6pm - AA Meeting @ First	6pm - AA Meeting @ First 6pm - Soul Sisters	9:45am - Qui Gong 11am - Many Ways of Peace	9:15am - Backpack Packing 6pm - Eagles AFG 6pm - Narcotics Anonymous	6pm - AA Meeting @ First	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8am - Choir Practice 9am - Worship 3:45pm - Cub & Boy Scouts	8:30am - Yoga 9:45am - Qui Gong 4pm - Chime Choir 6pm - AA Meeting @ First	6pm - AA Meeting @ First 6pm - Soul Sisters	9:45am - Qui Gong 11am - Many Ways of Peace	6pm - Eagles AFG 6pm - Narcotics Anonymous	6pm - AA Meeting @ First	
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
9am - Worship 3:45pm - Cub & Boy Scouts	8:30am - Yoga 9:45am - Qui Gong 4pm - Chime Choir 6pm - AA Meeting @ First	6pm - AA Meeting @ First 6pm - Soul Sisters	9:45am - Qui Gong 11am - Many Ways of Peace	6pm - Eagles AFG 6pm - Narcotics Anonymous		





## Stewardship message: Barbara Helmick

Oct. 29, 2023

I've been a member of this church since 2013 when Tom and I first moved here. The hardest part about leaving Green Bay to come to Eagle River was leaving our church family. So, becoming part of the church family here was a godsend.

There's so much that I could say about the past 10 years here, but I'd rather look toward the future, because I see a very bright one for us.

I see people stepping up and getting involved in so many ways, both big and small. They're doing the things they enjoy doing and it's making our church family so much stronger. Consider the following:

- Our church now has a presence on Facebook – an important means of reaching out to the community.
- We added a chime choir to our musical repertoire.
- You contribute generously each month to collections that help an untold number of people in our community.
- We provide a monthly meal for NATH, the homeless shelter in Rhinelander that also serves people from Vilas County.
- We have members who visit folks who are no longer able to attend church.
- We have a strong Women's Fellowship group that is constantly finding new ways to reach out and help others.
- We have plans for a plot at the community garden at the high school, which will provide fresh produce for people in our community.
- We've started a children's program that has tremendous potential to grow.
- We provide a book to every fifth grader in the Northland Pines School District each year.
- Several of our members gather monthly to help pack food for local children as part of the Weekend Backpack Program.
- Many of you stepped up and said "Yes, I want to be part of a group that prays for members and others in need." So, we now have an active prayer team.
- We had beautiful flowers adorning our church entrances all summer and early fall.
- We have quarterly gatherings downstairs with food, fellowship, and an informal message from Pastor Tim.

Whew! And this is just part of the rich life of this church. And all, yes all, are because one of you said, "Why can't we (fill in the blank)?" Or "I want to (fill in the blank)!"

I know there is much more to come! This is a church that is alive and growing in God's love. So, yes, I'm excited, and I hope you are too. Our future is bright. We are moving forward in so many ways and I can't wait to see where God is leading us. I want to be part of this journey. I hope you do too and are willing to share your time, your talents, and yes, your financial gifts, to help us continue growing as a loving Christ-centered congregation.

Thank you!



## *Stewardship Moment, October 15, 2023*

Dale Bishop

Perhaps when you saw in our worship folder that we were going to have a stewardship moment this morning, you groaned inwardly, or even outwardly. Nobody likes to ask people for money; and a lot of people don't like to be asked for money.

I'm not going to ask you to give money. I know that you probably won't believe this, but I mean it. Pledging isn't about money. The pledge sermon, if there is one, isn't the sermon on the amount. It's about faith. Jesus talked a lot about money; a lot more than he talked about sex, by the way, which was not at all. He talked about money as something that we can sometimes worship as a replacement for God. But when it came to giving money, he praised the poor widow who clinked her paltry copper coins into the offering jar in the temple. She gave all she had. By contrast he didn't praise the wealthy people who made quite the show of plunking their silver coins into the jar. There was, after all, a lot more where that came from. No, Jesus would never deliver a sermon on the amount.

Jesus cared about how much people cared. Faith shouldn't be what is left over after we've devoted your energy and our resources to what is really important to us. Faith should be what's really important to you. This church has been a home to me; a refuge. It's important to me. I've gotten to know wonderful people in this church, people who have enriched my life in ways that money never could. What this church has provided to me is what I want to help it provide to others.



So, as my pastor in the Riverside Church in New York City used tell us on Pledge Sunday, “Don’t give until it hurts. Give until it feels good.” Give until it feels good. Whether it clinks or plunks, give until it feels good. That’s why we call it an “offering” not a “contribution” and certainly not “dues.” As the poet James Russell Lowell put it, “not what we give, but what we share; for the gift without the giver is bare.”

Stewardship, quite simply, is recognizing that everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God and being grateful and generous with those gifts. God reveals His perfect and infinite love for us most visibly in His Son, Jesus Christ. A steward makes God's love visible by imitating Jesus. (From Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church website: [stcatherine.org](http://stcatherine.org))

A few years ago I took a risk and agreed to serve on a committee in this church. It was something I had NEVER done before in my life AND I was amazed to discover, I really enjoyed the experience. I got to know some people I didn't know, I discovered I had some skills that fit the situation. I wouldn't have taken what felt like a huge step if someone hadn't nudged me and if someone else hadn't asked me. ( in fact, the previous year I had turned down a request to serve on a board because I was totally intimidated. ) The other thing I discovered is that people in this church are very helpful and encouraging. There were other things our committee needed to do....one was coordinating one of our monthly church dinners. I didn't have a clue how to organize our small group but others willingly shepherded me through the process.

That experience got me thinking about church and community and stewardship. It seems to me that we are stewards of all that we are and all that we have been given in our lives. As a steward we find ways to help/encourage/support/care/guide.

For me , a barebones expression of my faith has two aspects. I experience both a deep yearning and deep gratitude. I yearn to experience and understand God in my life and at the same time I feel so grateful for my life and all the people and experiences that I are part of my days. I want to explore ways to share this grace with others. That's me at my best. Then there are other days or weeks when I lose sight of my path, feel ungrateful and grumpy or sad, sometimes angry. Don't we all?

So I am a steward of my life as well as this earth and all that goes into our coexistence here. It is through my relationships with people and all that surrounds me that I experience God and am renewed again and again.

I'm an ecumenical gal. My parents had what was called a mixed marriage: Dad was Catholic and Mom was a member of the United Church of Canada (our





UCC). My early experience of church was as a place for individual communion with God, a place for worship and prayer but not really communal or social. I have been part of a variety of church and faith communities since then. Here, in this place, we have a need and a place for each of us, in whatever ways we find suit us, to help this community of fellow sojourners grow and deepen in our faith.

I really like the church service and the feeling of community that develops by sharing this regular ritual together. Some of us need this Sunday space in our lives for quiet and reverence and silent support. Some of us do well to simply get here some of the time. Some weeks I can't even do that. Then there are others of us who are great at being present almost every Sunday. Some folks are good at organizing, or welcoming or baking or singing and playing instruments, maintaining physical structure or reaching out to others, making others laugh or a host of other things that make us the varied and interesting group of seekers that we are. This church community is amazing in its support of new or varied activities to encourage our faith journey....whether that is Flock, reading group, adult study groups, women's fellowship, helping fix and maintain things, monitoring finances, providing financial support or reaching outward into the community through meals for NATH, monthly mission activities, the new community garden project beginning in 2024.. Through shared activities here and in the broader community we get to know each other, to learn and laugh and feel part of this group of seekers not to mention deepening our faith.

We grow in this community through our financial support for the ongoing work of the church, the building and the people. In these current times as we face structural challenges this is a crucial component of our participation in community building.

Thank you to so many of you for helping me to find my next steps when I feel lost or giving me the hug I needed without asking questions; for letting me get to know you and learn from each of you. Thank you also for the times of silence and quiet. I NEED YOU, EVERYONE ONE OF YOU. This is the amazing thing I learned and am learning here. Whether I know you already or not I need your shared participation in my life.

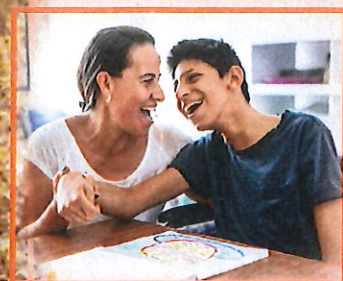
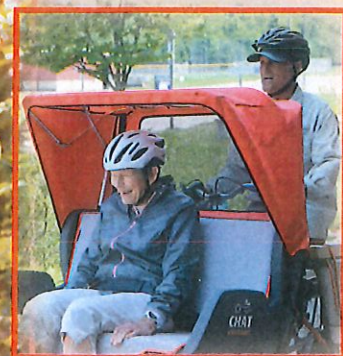
I think of us as sewing together a blanket, a patchwork of patterns shaped and colored by all our past experiences, and together creating something new and luminous. We are a community of faith, walking with each other as we each figure out how best to live the gift of our lives and how best to share it with others



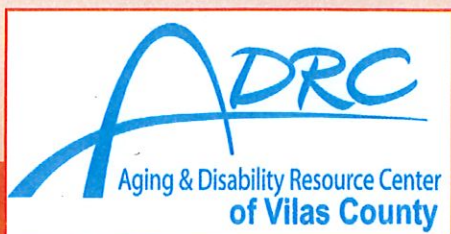


Available in the Church Office

**FREE**



# 2023-2024 Vilas County **AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY**



A publication of the Northwoods Star Journal and  
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Vilas County.  
**(715) 479-3625**

**[adrc@vilascountywi.gov](mailto:adrc@vilascountywi.gov)**









TimeSlips™

CONNECTING THROUGH CREATIVITY

# You're invited to an Engagement Party!

A joyful gathering where you can learn how to engage with a friend, family member or loved one who might be lonely, frail, or experiencing memory loss.

Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>  
10:00am to 11:30am  
Walter E Olson Memorial Library  
Eagle River, WI 54521

Please RSVP to the ADRC of Vilas County at  
715-479-3625







# DICE Approach to Caregiving

*Are you a Caregiver assisting someone with a form of Dementia or Memory Loss?*

*If so, the DICE Approach might work for you!*



The DICE Approach represents a simple but systematic method for understanding, assessing and managing behaviors.

**WHEN:**

**Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>  
10:00am to 11:30am**

**WHERE:**

**Walter E. Olson Memorial Library  
203 N Main Street  
Eagle River, WI 54521**

**RSVP: Call the ADRC 715-479-3625**

**Presented By**

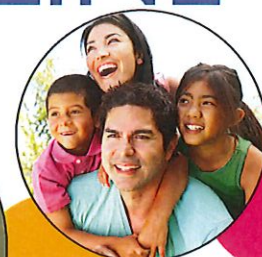






ADRC of VILAS COUNTY IS OFFERING A NEW WELLNESS  
INITIATIVE

# GET HEALTHY WITH EAT SMART, MOVE MORE, WEIGH LESS ONLINE



## NEW SERIES BEGINS SOON



For registration code, please  
contact Sue Richmond:  
[surich@vilascountywi.gov](mailto:surich@vilascountywi.gov)  
or  
715-479-3625

Check it out—a 15-week weight management program that works because it is not a diet—it's a lifestyle!

All weekly classes are conducted online by a live instructor, fostering interaction between the instructor and all participants.

Participants can conveniently attend classes from home or the office using a computer or mobile device.

*The full cost of the program is \$235. While the ADRC of Vilas County is covering the cost of the program, the suggested donation by the participant is \$25.00.*

Go to [www.esmmweighless.com](http://www.esmmweighless.com) to view class times for the upcoming series beginning soon.

All participants must be over 60+ years of age and residents of Vilas County, WI.

[www.esmmweighless.com](http://www.esmmweighless.com)





# Join Us

## Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body



***"Is there anything I can do to reduce my risk of developing dementia? How much do lifestyle choices matter?"***

For centuries, we've known that the health of the brain and the body are connected. Join us to:

- Identify how certain behaviors affect our brains and bodies
- List strategies for healthy decision-making regarding:
  - Sleep
  - Smoking
  - Mental health
  - Cognitive activity
  - Physical health and exercise
  - Diet and nutrition
  - Social engagement

***Join us for this free program in partnership with:***



Designed for a general audience (those living with dementia, caregivers, community members, neighbors or friends) or groups interested in healthy aging.



**Monday, October 23, 2023  
10:30AM-12:00PM**

**Olson Memorial Library  
203 N. Main Street, Eagle River**

**For more information, or to register,  
contact Julie at 715.352.4091,  
jstpierre@alz.org, or call the 24/7  
Helpline at 800.272.3900.**

**www.alz.org/wi  
24/7 Helpline 800.272.3900  
Hablamos Español 414.431.8811**

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ASSOCIATION**

