

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

[eagleriverucc.org](http://eagleriverucc.org) March 2024



## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

As you read these words, we are now well into the Lenton season! We continue to meet on Wednesday evenings for our annual "Soup and Service" gatherings in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. Come and join us if you can for a different kind of worship experience than what we have in our traditional liturgy on Sundays. Some reminders: Maundy Thursday service will be on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. beginning in Fellowship Hall with the Agape Meal followed by Holy Communion, Foot Washing, and the Service of Tenebrae in the Sanctuary. Once again, on Palm/Passion Sunday, we will read the dramatic narrative of the Passion under the direction of Cathy Palmer. This year the Gospel of Mark will lead our service. Make plans now and put these opportunities on your calendars. By the way, I am looking for volunteers to read on Maundy Thursday and Palm/Passion Sunday. First come, first served!

The nine-member Open and Affirming Task Force held their first meeting on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> in the Conference Room and it was a lively and excellent meeting, with many great ideas coming from the group. A few reminders as we begin to engage in this process. As you are keenly aware this congregation has been open and affirming for many years but has never gone through the official process put forth by the Open and Affirming Coalition, an auxiliary of the United Church of Christ at the mothership, our version of "Mother Church", the national setting of the UCC. If approved at the end of the process, by a vote of the congregation, we will apply for official status in the United Church of Christ that tells the world, when people visit the denominational website, that we have gone on record as Open and Affirming, complete with a statement of our crafting and choosing, joining with other UCC churches in proudly proclaiming that we hospitably welcome and include, that our doors are open, that we invite unconditionally, every human being "no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey." Let me remind you, that while the LGBTQQIA+ community deservedly gets much of the attention in this initiative, the Open and Affirming is intended to proclaim acceptance and affirmation for all people, especially those of various people groups who have been sidelined, relegated in life to the fringes, those who are dispossessed in any way whatsoever, those who have been disenfranchised and marginalized, yes, elevating the people whom Jesus sought out to be in relationship and empowered with the Spirit of the still speaking God, lifting up the lowly as Mary sang in her wondrous Magnificat.

Finally, on a very personal note, I wish to say thank you for all the support that I have received since I have been your pastor regarding my research and writing as a PhD candidate. I have finally reached the finish line, with the help of a host of many, including some wonderful editors from within our congregation. I now hold the PhD in Practical Theology from the University of Pretoria (go Tukkies), Pretoria, South Africa, with an emphasis in biblical exegesis and hospitality, with a further focus on the LGBTQQIA+ community. I am soooooo glad to bring this chapter of my life to a close. Fishing season is coming!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

As always life continues to be busy at First Congregational United Church of Christ, especially when we consider all the mission opportunities that we embrace, all our activity a sure sign reflecting who we are as a vibrant and vital, a relational and relevant local missional church. Let me say it again this month, what a fellowship, what a joy divine!

By the way, mark your calendars now! Annual Congregational Meeting will follow worship on Sunday, September 8, 2024!

I look to see you on Sundays!  
Timothy W. Shirley

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### **FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Hello Congregation,

It sure doesn't feel like I've spent winter in the Northwoods this season. I recently looked back at a Facebook memory. It was a weather graphic that I had shared. One February there was 57 inches of snow! The 2018-2019 snow totals were over 91 inches. This year if you strung it all together, I am not sure we have accumulated as much as a foot. However, the "budgetarian" in me is very grateful for the snowplow savings.

This year March finds us smack-dab in the middle of Lenten reflection. The Soup and Service will continue at 6:00 p.m. every Wednesday through March 20<sup>th</sup>. I was looking for some information and found that the earliest that Easter Day can arrive is March 22<sup>nd</sup> and the latest is April 25<sup>th</sup>. Easter Day falls on the early side this year, occurring on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

In faith, Easter is the Resurrection, the promise of new life. During medieval times, eggs represented a symbol of rebirth and were not to be eaten during the forty days of lent. It became a treat to finally have an egg again at Easter. Through time they have been gold foiled, colored and in Orthodox tradition, and were dyed red to symbolize the blood of Christ. Easter Eggs symbolize the empty tomb of Jesus and today the tradition of coloring eggs in the spirit of rebirth and resurrection continues.

As we prepare to celebrate the greatest miracle of all, may Easter bring you joy, peace and hope.

Keep the faith,  
Donna Adam

### **CHURCH COUNCIL RECAP**

Church Council met February 12<sup>th</sup> including a discussion of the budget with a focus on increasing revenue along with fundraising opportunities. We are considering holding the Brat/Bake Sale again this summer.

Approval was granted to four Maggie Ball ministry fund awards of \$1,000 each to a mix of local, national, and global charities. These include the Weekend Backpack Project, Tri-County Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Puppies Behind Bars, and Bridges of Hope of West Africa. It was noted that the donation to the Backpack Project will be made in May when a dollar-for-dollar matching fundraiser through FORK (Feed Our Rural Kids) will apply.

The Vine Family Fund will again award \$11,300 to the Northland Pines and Phelps School Districts with \$10,000 available for various approved Teacher Grant Projects and \$1,300 for the fourth-grade book donation.

It is also that time of year when students will complete applications for various scholarships administered through our church with the following scholarships and amounts approved: the Roger Rieckman Scholarship, \$1500; the Jinny Paterson Scholarship, \$2000; two General Education Scholarships, \$1000; and three Birds Nest Scholarships, \$8000.

Work on the furnaces is nearing completion subject to the receipt of final parts and installation (this work was completed on February 26<sup>th</sup>). We will be exploring possible grant funding or seeking a reduced cost to replace non-sanctuary lights on the main floor with newer and more efficient LED technology. On the tech front, we are looking at getting linked between our Facebook page and the website page.

The Open and Affirming (ONA) task force has been announced. Future Town Hall meetings will be held, concluding by late summer. Assuming a positive outcome, a vote will be held at the Annual Congregational Meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

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**The Church Council meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.  
in the Conference Room. Church members are welcome to attend.  
The next meeting is March 11<sup>th</sup>.**

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## **Maggie Ball funds to benefit four non-profits.**

The Church Council recently authorized \$4,000 in Maggie Ball Mission Fund money be spent to benefit four non-profit organizations, following recommendations by an informal group of church members.

Susan Krivichi, Mary Lou Congdon, Paula Hendrickson, Deb Stolze, Carol Marshall, and Barbara Helmick met Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss suggestions for disbursements from the Maggie Ball Mission Fund. Pastor Tim also attended. Recommendations were solicited via church announcements and the church newsletter. The group recommended that the Church Council approve the following distributions:

- **Puppies Behind Bars**, nominated by Nancy Diepenbrock, \$1,000.
- **Weekend Backpack Project** (Vilas County), nominated by Barbara Helmick, \$1,000
- **Bridges of Hope, West Africa**, nominated by Linda Sanborn, \$1,000
- **Tri-County Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**, nominated as a result of the recent Sunday presentation, \$1,000

Information on each of the recipients follows:

**Puppies Behind Bars:** This is a program that trains incarcerated individuals to raise service dogs for wounded war veterans and first responders, facility dogs for police departments, and explosive-detection canines for law enforcement. Puppies enter the prison at eight weeks and lie with their puppy-raisers for 24 months. As the puppies mature into well-loved, well-behaved dogs, their raisers learn what it means to contribute to society rather than take from it.

**Weekend Backpack Program:** This program provides food to students in Vilas County who otherwise might go without over the weekend. Needs \$32,000 annually for food purchases. FORK does not provide funding for the backpack program; however, it does assist with a fundraiser for FORK in May and offers a dollar-for-dollar match. This donation will be made during that fundraiser, thereby increasing the value of our contribution.

**Bridges of Hope, West Africa:** This program provides education and health care to people in Liberia, West Africa. This organization was started by a Christian man who is from Liberia and now lives in North Dakota. He was able to come to the United States for education and earned his Physician Assistant degree. Linda Sanborn had the opportunity to meet Martin and Stephanie Digler, founders of this organization. They are her niece's sister-in-law and brother-in-law.

**Tri-County Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault:** Based in Rhinelander, this program offers resources and direct services to victims and their families in Forest, Oneida, and Vilas counties. The program also operates Lily's House, a shelter in Rhinelander.

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**IDEAS FOR FUTURE COLLECTIONS:** Do you have an idea for a future monthly collection? If so, we would love to hear about it. Please reach out to Mary Lou Congdon or Barbara Helmick. Thank you!

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## **MARCH COLLECTION: Weekend Backpack Program**

Let's help the Weekend Backpack Program finish the school year strong!

Our community, in partnership with Eagle River Elementary School, Land O'Lakes Elementary School, St. Germain Elementary School, and Phelps Elementary School, provides meals to children who otherwise might not receive them. Volunteers (including some from First Congregational UCC) pack bags of food to send home with children every Friday to help get them through the weekend. The bags are filled with child-friendly, easy-to-prepare food items, that provide the necessary calories to help eliminate their hunger. Many parents are struggling to keep their children fed and the goal of the program is to provide food support on weekends.

The Backpack Program started in March 2015 with one hungry 3<sup>rd</sup> grader and the heart of a school volunteer. Since then, it has grown to more than 135 elementary school students, 4K-6<sup>th</sup> grade.

If you choose to contribute, please bring items to the church, and add them to the table in the Narthex.

**Needed Items include:**

Oatmeal (individual packets)  
Cereal (individual cups or boxes)  
Pop Tarts  
Applesauce (individual cups)  
Fruit Cups (individual size, no Jell-O)  
Juice Boxes (individual size)  
Pudding (individual cups – vanilla or chocolate)  
Macaroni 'N' Cheese (individual cups or Easy Mac – no boxes)  
Ramen Noodles Cups (Beef or Chicken)  
Soups Cups (microwavable)  
Microwavable meal cups (Chef Boyardee, Hormel Chili, Dinty Moore Beef Stew, etc.)  
Microwavable Popcorn  
Granola Bars  
Breakfast Bars  
Individual pre-packaged mini-muffins  
Tuna or chicken (packets only, no cans)

**Snack items (must be individual size):**

Goldfish  
Popcorn  
Pretzels  
Cheez-Its  
Trail Mix  
Fruit Snacks  
Cheese or peanut butter crackers (individual)  
Other similar items

***No chips please***

When donating food, please select items that are appropriate for the taste preferences of a young child. Expired food or food past the sell-by date cannot be used. Thank you.

**ACTS of KINDNESS**

We asked you to contribute in January "acts of kindness" – those you received, observed, or did – and wow, did you deliver! We were a little shy of 100 at the end of the month, but after the children challenged us to reach that number, you all delivered! Listed below are all 110 acts of kindness we received as of February 21<sup>st</sup>. I hope you will take the time to read them. I hope they make you smile. I hope they make your heart happy. I hope they help you remember how much goodness there is in this world! (We will display the "kindness" board in the Narthex for a while, so feel free to add more!)

- I received a snail mail note from someone thanking me for something I did for her 28 years ago!
- I thanked my husband for all the good stuff he does.
- I plow out my neighbor's driveway.
- Had a friend offer to drive me to a doctor appointment – without me even asking!
- Back when it used to snow in the winter our neighbor would plow our driveway whenever he plowed his own.
- My grandson came over and shoveled my driveway.
- My friend stood up for me! – Seren
- Thanks to our amazing ushers. You are most kind!



- Received a phone call from a friend I haven't talked with in years!! What a wonderful surprise. She was just "thinking of me" and decided to call.
- I am nice to my Dad – Arvid
- Thank you for filling the candles with the necessary oil.
- I helped put this display up.
- I make pictures for my family. – Seren
- Christmas caroling to shut-ins.
- Jean helped me save my sweet treat disaster for our coffee hour! Thanks Jean
- My friend gave me a toy! – Seren
- I love my family! – Seren
- Filling backpacks
- Helped Sarah learn more. Did good for her.
- Smiles light up our world. Give one & receive one. Receive one & give one.
- I'm grateful to be able to carpool to church and grateful for the books.
- A friend allowed me to share a wonderful trip/vacation with her!
- Lori and the Choir!
- The people at the grocery store who help me reach items.
- That was wonderful kindness to prepare & provide such an enlightened and educational children's lesson.
- A friend mailed me a small gift for no reason. A warm, cozy shawl that she saw and knew I would like it.
- Here's to our Coffee Hour refreshment suppliers. Thanks for your kind service.
- Employee at Pick N Save made special trip to stockroom to find a product for me.
- Our neighbor at Pinewood Apt., Sherry, baked us welcome cookies within a few days of moving in AND made us a complete dinner to take when we moved into our new home!
- I comfort my Mom, Dad, Vid & family. – Seren
- I was running late for an appointment, and my mom met me on the road to give me items I was supposed to pick up.
- My friends were thinking about me and sent me some unsolicited info about a product that would be helpful to have in the care during winter.
- My 16-year-old grandson was on his way to our house, and he noticed our old neighbor was starting to shovel. He and his dad stopped and shoveled his driveway.
- Joy Turpin is the perfect example of KINDNESS.
- A customer service person was really understanding and kind on the phone and really DID help me with my problem!
- A stranger paid for my groceries this week because my credit card did not work.
- I always share a smile for those who need one.
- I made an ice pack for Dad. – Seren
- From Facebook: Woman on plane crochets a hat for toddler sitting next to her with Mom, while on a flight. Mom, who was worried about the toddler disturbing other passengers, was surprised and overjoyed.
- A friend gave me a wonderful book about blessings.
- Spent time with a group of people I didn't know. One really stood out to me for all the right reasons. I decided to tell her that I thought she was awesome. She was surprised, but happy!
- A dear friend helped me get my car out of a snowy, non-moving mess!
- I helped a man on crutches get out of his care at the clinic. He repaid the kindness by saying "Thank you, young lady." I'm not (young)! 😊
- A friend recently gifted me with a book of blessings.
- My retired teacher friend Rhonda got a call from the Superintendent's office last week. The secretary told Rhonda a past student had left a letter for her. When the secretary told her the woman's name was Krystal it immediately brought back memories of a skinny little girl. Krystal arrived for school on a Monday morning with 2 black eyes and bruised legs. Rhonda immediately took her down to the principal's office. DCFS was called but they were unable to locate someone to care for her. When school was over the principal gave Rhonda

permission to take Krystal home. DCFS did arrive later to take Krystal. Rhonda never saw Krystal again. The letter was from a grown-up Krystal. She told Rhonda that she had been adopted by a foster family. She was now married and had three children. She wanted Rhonda to know that she had "Saved her Life."

- My son thanked me for working at his business on a pile-high snow day!
- One special couple went out of their way to help a young woman who was feeling out of place and needed helping hands.
- When I was at the hospital for an appointment, overheard a woman with mobility issues and her support person talking about needing a wheelchair. I looked around, quickly found one and took it to them.
- A man returned my cart at Aldi's when the wind chill was -20 degrees. I don't think it was for the quarter!
- Tobi J. is always kind! ... and supportive of our homebound ministry. Thank you!
- I helped a person in the grocery store reach something that they could not reach.
- All the people at church (and elsewhere) who pray for others.
- People in our church provided chili, pie, bread and other items for NATH.
- Driving a neighbor to a lake gathering.
- I lock up the dogs. – Seren
- Seren gave me candy pops, my favorite flavor.
- Jordan Love helped a neighbor stuck in the snow.
- I wrote a message of love and support on Jim's Caring Bridge page. We keep him and Linda in our continual prayers.
- The family that gave me a huge platter of homemade cookies and candy.
- All people who have helped me walk or have offered to help.
- I am so grateful for the furnace from a program and that I had friends visit.
- A friend invited me to join her in Bible study.
- I shared a "blessing" from a special book with a couple who recently inherited a house. The blessing was for new homeowners and wished them love, friendship and sanctuary in their new home.
- Someone gave me a hug when I was feeling blue.
- A clerk was so patient with me in trying to get me a refund after an incorrect charge.
- Received an invitation to join friends for dinner.
- So thankful to those that will prepare food for Frederick Place.
- Thanks to all who greeted me this morning.
- During winter I open up my teammate's classroom and turn on the heat so her room is ward and reading when she arrives.
- Say prayers for transplant young man!
- Thank you to Carol and Pat for working so hard at getting our children's program established. Yea!
- Fed Mabel (89) supper.
- I plow out the end of my neighbor's driveway so it is easier for them to get out.
- Bring cookies to neighbors.
- A special young girl in our church being willing to save up her own money to buy Girl Scout cookies to give to our homebound people.
- Water for my relaxing shower.
- The members who graciously give of their time to make up and deliver the gifts for the Sunshine Visitors.
- Thank you to the anonymous donor who contributes to the Vine Family Grant Book Grant Fund.
- Cleaning up the dishes after dinner.
- My church and friends were so helpful when my nephew passed away.
- Someone from our church willing to take another person to the grocery store 1-2 times every week, because they can't go themselves.
- Thanks for large-print bulletin for William.
- Kind neighbors changed their dinner plans (made them one day later) so we could join them.
- A young man helped right some wind-blown yard signs for me at my place of business. He was a stranger, now he is not.

- Listen to those around us ...
- We helped our daughter who needed financial assistance.
- Kindness for the love of friends when in need of just that!
- Our Sunshine Visitors who deliver treats to, and visit with, members and friends who are no longer able to attend church regularly.
- John G. (on his first visit to our church) volunteered to deliver Valentine's gift baskets to our homebound folks.
- To those many people who have written me notes or stopped to comfort me regarding recent deaths in my family.
- All the generous donations everyone makes to our monthly collections.
- I love our church family! – Seren
- Forest Service volunteer Tom gives his weekends to host visitors at Anvil Trails shelter.
- Offering to pick up someone arriving at the airport for a funeral.
- Thank you, Nancy, for your important safety Sunday lessons today!
- A male cousin has started regular visits to a NICU to cuddle babies.
- Nancy D's offering medical guidance for our community. Thank you, Nancy!
- Our community pulling together during this catastrophic winter to support one another.
- A friend gave 2 new jackets to a neighbor.
- Flowers to a friend on the anniversary of her husband's death.
- An act – spontaneous or planned, known or anonymous, that benefits another, not ourselves.
- Thanking and acknowledging an efficient busy waitress for her calmness, efficiency and smiles to all ...
- When I had a migraine, my classes took over and let me just sit and take it easy. I truly needed that.
- Visiting Helena with my dog Geli. It is so much fun to see how Geli brightens Helena's day.
- Husband makes my coffee every morning.
- Several news articles about a medical condition were sent to an aunt who suffered from that condition when a young woman.
- A neighbor made cookies and shared them with our household.
- Offering our church space and resources is kindness to others.
- How kind are all those who offer to help me!

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## **MELODY OF COMPASSION**

During the Offertory we invite you to give your coins for the Melody of Compassion.

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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## **Backpack Program**



We pack bags for the Backpack Program on the third Thursday of every month at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. This month we will meet on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to help and any donations to this mission are appreciated. Thank you.





Dawn Parker-Korinek, Elizabeth Hanson, Gerald Davis, Gwen Scharf, Jerry Stadler, Joan Temme,  
Jon Hanson, Alex Fluegel, and Robert Mather.

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## **Notes from 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](mailto:joyfaithchapinturpin@gmail.com) or 715-479-6560.

Did you know the worship bulletin and sermon are put on our webpage every week? The webpage address is [www.eagleriverucc.org](http://www.eagleriverucc.org); then go to "About Us" then "Worship Services".

In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control (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 always available through our website [www.eagleriverucc.org](http://www.eagleriverucc.org). Click on Ministries then online giving and set up your account. 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.

## **COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS**

Planning for the community garden is continuing. We have purchased the following seeds:

- Sweet Basil
- Dark red basil
- Roma tomatoes
- Beefsteak tomatoes
- Squash yellow early prolific straight neck
- Zucchini green black beauty
- Cucumber
- Lettuce green ice
- Lettuce little gem
- Yellow garden bean
- Scarlet runner bean
- Lettuce butter crunch
- Parsley-dark green Italian

Cherry tomato cilantro  
Onion  
Sweetie tomato  
Early girl tomato  
Radish French breakfast  
Bell peppers a variety  
Sugar snap peas  
Summer peas

Barb Flaherty will be starting tomatoes and other things that will need a little more time to mature in her greenhouse during March. Some of the things that we will eventually need help with include:

Building some type of small booth that we can set up and use to distribute the vegetables;  
Bed preparation and planting probably in May (for cool weather crops) and June;  
Ideas for publicizing our vegetable giveaways;  
People to tend the garden (we hope to develop a schedule);  
People to help harvest and distribute the vegetables;  
Ideas for additional activities that might be included on 'vegetable days'.

We welcome any and all ideas and helpers. The garden group now includes, Susan Krivichi, Mary Lou Congdon, Barb Flaherty, Deb Stolze, Jean Haack, Bill Marshall

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**A NOTE ABOUT THE FRONT DOOR BELL:** If the light on the right side of the door is green the door should be unlocked and open. There are several schedules in the system that dictate when the door is open or locked. When you ring the doorbell button on the left side of the door, the only place that rings is on Debbie Brown's phone. She can operate the door and view and talk to you on her phone or on the church computer at the front desk.

**PLEASE NOTE: There is no doorbell in the Church Office suite.**

## **FLOCK**

Hello to Everybody

In March, we will have a Soup and Salad Supper, including dessert! This meeting will be at my house at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. We discussed this at our last meeting in February.

The following is a list of what everyone has volunteered to make:

### **SOUPS**

Linda - Upstate Minestrone Soup  
Mary Lou - Chicken & Vegetable Soup  
Pat Fox - Potato Soup  
Bev W. - Turkey Barley Soup

### **SALADS**


Deb - Sauerkraut Potato Salad  
Gloria - Frogeye Fruit Salad  
Bobbie - ?

### **DESSERTS**

Lynn - Something Chocolate

If anyone wants to add to the salads or desserts, please let me know what you plan to bring. Don't forget to bring your projects to work on and projects you want to show.

Hope to see everyone there!

Linda Brainard 





This month I want to talk a bit about hymn titles and hymn tunes. What is the difference and why are they important?

A **hymn tune** is the melody of a musical composition to which a hymn text is sung while a **hymn title or name** is usually, not always, the first line of a hymn text.

From the late sixteenth century in England and Scotland, when most people were not musically literate and learned melodies by rote, it was a common practice to sing a new text to a hymn tune that the singers already knew. The tune, which had a meter, or timing, matched the words. Early hymnals were published using only texts with a hymn tune listed with it so that worshippers would know to which melody to sing the words. Paper and printing were expenses that most churches could not afford.

There are many hymn tunes which might fit a particular hymn text. For example, the hymn titled "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" uses the hymn tune BEECHER in the Chalice Hymnal, whereas I learned it, and prefer, the hymn tune HYFRYDOL. Hymn tunes can be used with many different hymn titles. For example, the hymn tune DIX is used for "As with Gladness Men of Old" and "For the Beauty of the Earth".

So, when you look at the bulletin and the hymn title is listed in the center in italics, look for the hymn tune to the right. This will help you identify the melody to which it will be sung. This is especially helpful when we sing an adaptation of the Psalm as a Response. There is an index of hymn tunes in the back of the hymnal just before the index of hymn titles and names.

This Lenten season, our Wednesday evening worship experience is a change from what we have typically done in the past. It contains much more quiet and meditative time filled with thought provoking readings, silent reflection, time for prayer, a meditation on scripture, and the singing of contemplative hymns, many taken from the Taizé Community. We have had one service thus far and it was well received as being very meaningful. Many of our congregants had never experienced these types of musical chants before and truly felt the deep sense of holiness in hearing and singing them. If you have the chance, I encourage you to come join us for fellowship and reflection on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for Soup and Service.

As always, if you have any questions on music or would like to share a musical talent, let me know!

May your Lenten journey be filled with wonder.

Lori

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## **REMINDER OF RECYCLING MISSION**



### ***Soft plastics recycling update No. 4.***

I am so excited to report that our fourth collection of soft plastics has been our best yet. We collected a total of nine bags weighing 71 pounds which gave us an overall total of 232 pounds. WAY TO GO!!!! Let's keep it up and continue bringing these plastics to church.

\*Check out the church's Facebook page to see pictures of this and the previous months' collections.

Kamie Kolb





## **FLOWER CALENDER:**

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 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!***

***Flower sponsor for March is Barb Flaherty***

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## **The Exchange: Kaukauna and King, Fifty Years Later**

**PBS link:** <https://pbswisconsin.org/watch/the-exchange-kaukauna-king-50-years-later/the-exchange-kaukauna-king-50-years-later-xgxq1i/>

The article below is Bernie Hupperts' reflection on the PBS documentary that was shown in February, called "**The Exchange: Kaukauna-King 50 Years Later.**" I have been asked if I would provide some background on this documentary, as I am one of the featured speakers and it was part of the development of the original student exchange and dramatic production. Below are Bernie's reflections.

Bernie's article is the nuts and bolts of the exchange related to the documentary. Here are some of Bernie's personal thoughts.

*I taught most of these Kaukauna and King students. I knew most of the Kaukauna parents. To take part in this student exchange required bravery from both students and parents. Black kids coming into an all-White town? White kids going from a White school to a mixed-race school and knowing only the Black students? One of the white King students was Jewish. There were only two Jewish families in Kaukauna at that time. He felt uncomfortable at times, but not as much as the Black students who could not disappear into the mix. Put yourself in their place. The kids were committed to the task: experiencing and then performing the play. They were committed to being students, carrying on their goal of completing high school classes that were required for college admission. These students also had to adapt to new situations each and every day of the five weeks in each school.*

*My classroom door was open. I know Tom's was, and so was the door to the councilor, Jerry Kroll. I went to most rehearsals to be available for just sitting and talking. I wrote articles for the school and city newspaper about the exchange and its purpose, which was larger than producing a play. I included our kids who came to know each other as equals. There were some hallway language incidents. The King kids handled themselves with dignity. They reinforced our faith in a student exchange as being a valuable way to prepare for going out into a larger world. In the*



*classroom the exchange students were the same as anyone else, with discussion being about class assignments. Kaukauna kids heard mutterings from their friends and then in King hallways. Their parents were met with questions at bridge parties or the grocery store. And when the exchange ended after ten weeks, there was reflection. If the exchange were to happen again, would it be as exciting and a positive experience overall? America is so different now! Lines are drawn so indelibly!*

1966 was a year before many cities were embroiled in the Civil Rights movement, including all the various activities. 1966 was before the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and before the passage of the national Civil Rights Act.

I was a young teacher, four years into my career in the Kaukauna High School English Department, teaching a curriculum structured around literature which helps readers understand today's world. A colleague in the Social Studies Department, Tom Schaffer was directing drama at the time and wanted to find a way to produce Martin Duberman's play *IN WHITE AMERICA*, about the historical Black experience in a "White American" world. The play required Black actors as well as White. Kaukauna had no Black students. To help him with this dream of showing a White society what it is like to be Black within that society, he needed Black actors.

At university, I met and became friends with Ruth Thomas. After gaining her teaching license, she became a dynamic teacher at Rufus King High School in Milwaukee. I contacted Ruth to see if she might be interested in an exchange project using actors from both schools. Tom and Ruth eventually built an exchange plan where a group of white and Black students from King would come to Kaukauna and become part of the Kaukauna cast for Duberman's play. They would spend five weeks in Kaukauna, living with students' families there. Later that school year, five students from Kaukauna would travel to Milwaukee's Rufus King High School, be part of the King cast for *IN WHITE AMERICA* and live with the students they had hosted back in Kaukauna.

Duberman's play, in productions at both high schools, was filled with powerful statements covering slavery, emancipation, Jim Crow bigotry, and Civil Rights. The struggles for equity, couched in real people's words and music, were acted out by both Blacks and Whites. Naturally, the students took their acting and exchange experiences into their personal lives and as you will see in the documentary, never forgot the lessons of the play.

Fifty years later, Joanne Williams, who had been a senior at King in 1966, dug out her school newspaper's story about the Exchange. Knowing that the experience had been experimental at the time, she decided to find out what happened to some of the students fifty years later with the hope of convincing a drama group at King to produce the play again.

So, in 2016 Joann began making a documentary exploring the unique exchange between these two Wisconsin high schools. She asked some of the participants who were part of the exchange, including me, whether this potent play—aimed at healing racial divides—could become a 21<sup>st</sup> century story as well.

If you wish to see honest reactions to 1966 experiences and the 2016 lives these students now inhabit, watch the documentary on Wisconsin PBS. At the top of the page is the internet address for the film. Or, if you have access to Wisconsin PBS Passport, you can access the film there.

My thanks to Pastor Tim for asking me to introduce the film to you. Greetings to you all from Marlyn and me.

Bernie Hupperts

## **BOOK CLUB**

Here is the list of dates and books for the rest of the spring 2024 book club reading season. We will take a break for summer and resume in September 2024. Please join us whether you have read the book or not. The discussions are fun, and it is a great way to get to know other members of our church and the book lovers who join us.

March 14<sup>th</sup>, *Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder, hosted by Carol Marshall.

April 11<sup>th</sup>, *Ladder to the Light*, by Steven Charleston, host: Patti Roberts

May 9<sup>th</sup>, *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus, host: Marion Arndt

June 13<sup>th</sup>, there are two possible selections for June, which is later than we usually go.

*Going Home* by Jon Katz, host: Deb Stolze,

and/or *The Sweetness of Water*, by Nathan Harris, host: Marti von Kluck.

And who knows, we might decide to discuss both books at the same gathering. Several of these books are available on Overdrive, Libby, or as audiobooks. We are happy to have new folks join us. Sometimes we come to a gathering even if we have not finished reading the book. Remember that if the book intrigues you but you have not read it you are still welcome to join the group.

Hope you can join us March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Donna De Pape

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**Thanks to everyone who helped with the Frederick Place February Meal. Please check the bulletin board in the Narthex to see if you could provide something for our March 25<sup>th</sup> meal.**

**Contact Mary Lou Congdon or Susan Krivichi for more information  
or sign up on the volunteer sheet attached to the poster in the Narthex.**

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**Congratulations to Joe Panci on his 40<sup>th</sup> Birkie! And he does not even look tired!**





## Coffee Hour 'Refreshment Schedule' through April 2024! Thank you!

March 3	Mary Lou Congdon	Pat Fox
March 10	Tom Helmick	Sharon Breit
March 17	Barb Flaherty	Cathy Palmer
March 24 Palm/Passion Sunday	Phoebe Spier	Trista Langley-Tyler
March 31 Easter Day	Linda Sanborn	Louise Krus
April 7	Nancy Diepenbrock	Joy Turpin
April 14	Pat Fox	Patti Roberts
April 21	Mary Lou Congdon	Pat Adamovich
April 28	Tom Helmick	Sharon Breit

Hello Friends! Above you will see the schedule for providing treats for Coffee Hour. We are happy that so many of you have volunteered to provide this nice addition to our fellowship that enhances our worship together. Here are 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 assigned two people for each Sunday to make it less of a burden because we have had as many as 60 people at the 9:00 a.m. 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 and placed on a plate if needed, provide a serving utensil, etc.) There are gluten free treats in the cabinet above the sink. 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 those who volunteered is listed at the top of the schedule. If that fails, please contact Susan Krivichi or Joy Turpin 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 and put away. If you can help clean up, that is great, and there is a very nice vacuum stored in the Church Office on the wall that can be used to vacuum the carpet. Coffee grounds can be placed in the garbage can in the Parlor and the pot should be emptied and rinsed.

Please do not hesitate to contact either Susan or Joy with comments, concerns, or suggestions. We look forward to working with you regarding this wonderful service to our church.

Susan Krivichi and Joy Turpin

**Please note: mailed copies of the Church Mouse do not contain the flyers that are included in the online version.**

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

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715-802-8501

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

