



## First Congregational United Church of Christ

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

### PASTOR'S REPORT

At the time of this writing, we have just held our annual observance of Sunday of the Palms/Sunday of the Passion. The service was very moving, absolutely fabulous. I would like to go ahead and thank everyone for all the contributions to making Lent and Holy Week, and I am sure Easter Day, the wonderful worship experiences that they always are. It really does take a village to make everything happen, from people to set up the worship space, to people making soup, to the musicians and readers, kudos to everyone. I am always humbled at the level of commitment and participation in this congregation. And we have been blessed with quite a bit of talent as well.

On Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, we will meet in Fellowship Hall for our quarterly Fellowship Gathering at 9:00 o'clock in the morning. On this day we will kick off our series of Town Hall meetings as we engage in the Open and Affirming (O & A) process. Our Task Force will talk about the reasons that they wanted to serve in this sacred capacity. I will bring some words reminding us about the reasons for engaging the Open and Affirming process. We are also inviting anyone to share their story about hospitable welcome and inclusion, whatever that special story might be. My continued hope is that we will have significant participation as the opportunities are provided.

As a special Eastertide treat Dale Bishop will be our preacher on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. You will not want to miss it!

As we move toward spring and the summer months, stay tuned to the Church Mouse and The Concerns of the Church for details about our unfolding church schedule. The Church Council is diligently working toward providing opportunities for fellowship and worship that take us away from our routines, our usual logistics and plans. There is always a lot happening here at First Congregational United Church of Christ, and frankly, that is the way that it should be. Please contact me if you have any interest in attending either or both the annual associational meeting, April 20<sup>th</sup> in Eau Claire, and the annual Conference meeting of the Wisconsin Conference at Green Lake on June 7-9. Everyone is always welcome and encouraged to attend these denominational events. They are both informative and offer time to interact with fellow UCC folks, a good way for us to get to know our neighbors!

I look to see you on Sundays!

Timothy W. Shirley

.....

## **FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Hello Congregation,

April! New Beginnings! It seems like March came in like a lamb and is leaving like a lion. It has sure been a topsy-turvy winter. But our budget is grateful for the saved snowplowing costs!

Church activities have continued in full swing throughout Lent. The Soup and Service suppers and worship were well attended. I added influenza A to my resume. Glad to see the end of that!

Soon, we will have the dates for the Brat and Bake Sales held at Trigs. We hope we can snag two dates again this year. It has been the most successful fundraiser yet, and that is due to all of you who volunteer to staff the booth and bake absolutely wonderful treats.

Town Hall meetings on the Open and Affirming (O & A) process begin on April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Fellowship Gathering in Fellowship Hall. Other dates will be announced.

We are seeking a volunteer to help with Finance as Paula Hendrickson is stepping back from her role but will still serve as an advisor. These duties require about five hours per month. Feel free to contact Paula or Debbie Brown in the Church Office if you are interested and would like more details.

Wishing you a fresh, new spring to rejuvenate and blossom!

Donna Adams  
Church Council President

## **CHURCH COUNCIL RECAP**



The Church Council met on March 11<sup>th</sup> and included a discussion about preparing finances for the 2024 Annual Congregational meeting which will be held on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Paula Hendrickson announced she would be leaving her role in reviewing the financials at the monthly Council meetings. She will continue to assist with some financial administrative duties. We are looking for a volunteer with an accounting/bookkeeping background to take over some of these tasks. Mark Holperin and Louise Krus are now assisting with the monthly financial audit process called reconciliation.

Work on the furnace has been completed and several downstairs faucets have been replaced. Debbie Brown will be getting bids for cleaning the office and parlor carpets. The lower carpets were cleaned last year.

The policy for using the building was reviewed for final edits and will be presented at the April Church Council meeting.

The Church Council approved spending up to \$1,000 from the Memorial Fund for the purchase of a TV that will allow for video presentations in Fellowship Hall. Eric Olsen is overseeing this project.

Pastor Tim will be attending the annual meeting of the Western Association and the Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ. Tim will be on retreat and on vacation from May 19<sup>th</sup> to June 8<sup>th</sup>, including the Conference meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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 April 8<sup>th</sup>.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**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!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **APRIL COLLECTION: Ideas, input and more!**

Thanks to all who donated to the March collection, providing much-needed food items for the Weekend Backpack Program. Your generosity never ceases to amaze!

For the month of April, the missions group is asking for your input on possible future monthly collections to support local non-profit organizations. But please do not feel limited to that topic. We would like to hear any ideas that you would share regarding how to better serve our community.

Ministries could include a traditional “monthly collection,” but it also could involve more. Is there further outreach we can do? Are there ways to volunteer our time to help others? Eagle River has year-round residents, snowbirds, and seasonal tourists. How can we reach out to them and share Christ’s love? We have people of all ages – from preschoolers to senior citizens and beyond. What can we offer them?

All of this may sound somewhat vague, I know, but it is meant to be. We (Mary Lou Congdon and Barbara Helmick) have enjoyed coordinating the monthly collections, and, no doubt, there will likely be more in the future. But we also feel there may be more that this church can do. And we need your help in figuring out what that might be.

So, please, share your thoughts with either Mary Lou or Barbara, or put them in the Ideas Box on the collections table in the Narthex, right outside the sanctuary doors.

Thank you for all you do and for all the blessings that you share!

## 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 April 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to help and any donations to this mission are appreciated. Thank you.



Abigail Susor, Charles Hunter, Charles Kemp, Constance Hill, David Holperin, Gene Yahr, James Moon, Jean Haack, Jean Sanders, Katherine Kolb, Kay Scharpf, Roger Lauritzen, Roger Shadick, Vickie Brown



## 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **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.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **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

\*\*\*\*\*

**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. If the light is red the door is locked. 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. There is no door bell ringer in the Church Office. She can operate the door and view and talk to you on her phone or on the church computer at the front desk.

.....



As I write this, we just had a very worshipful Palm/Passion Sunday and we are on the way to the Last Supper, the Cross, and the surprise of the Resurrection.

It is amazing to me to see the effort of so many people coming together to bring meaningful worship to our congregation and our community. The behind-the-scenes activity is astounding. I am grateful to be part of a faith community that is so willing to share their gifts with one another.

The choir will be taking the month of April off, not only because of their great effort and dedication in March but because I will be gone for three weeks, traveling both for business and for pleasure! Norma Yaeger and Tobi Johanssen have agreed to fill in for me until I return for the service on April 28.

I hope that you have experienced the holiness of the Passion and the wonderment of the Resurrection and are able to hold on to this mysterious gift throughout the year.

May we live as Resurrection People!

Shalom,  
Lori

\*\*\*\*\*

## REMINDER OF RECYCLING MISSION



Soft Plastic Recycling:

I am very happy to report that our 5<sup>th</sup> recycling collection has come to a whopping 89 pounds.

Giving us a total of 321 pounds. Way to go!!!



\*Check out the church Facebook page to see pictures of this and the previous collections from each month.

Thank you,  
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 sponsors for April 14<sup>th</sup> are Tom and Barbara Helmick.***

\*\*\*\*\*

## **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.

**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.**

***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 April 11<sup>th</sup>!

Donna De Pape

\*\*\*\*\*

**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 April 29<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.**

\*\*\*\*\*



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

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
May 5	Barb Flaherty	Cathy Palmer
May 12	Phoebe Spier	Trista Langley-Tyler
May 19	Joy Turpin	Louise Krus
May 26	Nancy Diepenbrock	Susan Krivichi

Hello Friends

Above is the schedule for providing treats for Coffee Hour after church. 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 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 have assigned two people each Sunday to make it less of a burden, there have been as many as 60 people at the 9:00 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 some 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 of those who volunteered is listed at the top of the schedule. 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.

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.

Susan Krivichi and Joy Turpin

Save the Date!

*Celebratory Reception Brunch*

Honoring

**Pastor Tim Shirley**

having earned his

***'Doctor of Philosophy  
in Practical Theology'***

Sunday, April 28th

Fellowship Hall

Following the 9:00 Service

{More Information to Follow}



shirleyt

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

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

