

First Congregational United Church of Christ June 2024 Church Mouse eagleriverucc.org

FROM THE PASTOR

As you read these words from my *Church Mouse* article I am way down south, attending my spring clergy retreat and enjoying some much-anticipated vacation time. My hunch is that summer has arrived in the Northwoods and you all are enjoying all the outdoor opportunities that Eagle River offers. I look forward to being back with you, fully refreshed and ready to resume my duties.

As we continue to navigate the Open and Affirming process under the excellent leadership of our Open and Affirming Task Force, the question continues to arise as to why we must engage the process at the serious level we are doing. The assumption is that because we already consider ourselves to be an open and affirming church that these steps are not necessary, and we should go ahead and have a vote. I want to remind you that this is a formal process vetted through the United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Coalition and they set the standards, they set the rules. At my suggestion and urging, the church requested that I lead this process because of my experience leading other churches in their discernment regarding these issues. We made this decision as opposed to bringing in one of the experts from the Coalition. I am required to ensure that this process is legitimate, and I intend to do so. I encourage and invite you to join with me and the Task Force as we take these steps together, knowing we will be completely satisfied with the results because we took the time and energy to make sure that we covered all the bases and assuring that every voice was heard in the process. As a church we will be the better for doing this the right way.

Be sure and watch for announcements regarding the many opportunities for summer activities coming your way. There will be a lot going on over the course of the next couple of months. Some highlights include our quarterly Fellowship Gathering, taking place on Sunday, July 7th, with the men once again preparing breakfast, and our outdoor services which will be held on the last Sunday of the months of June, July, and August. Other forthcoming events will be announced!

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

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hello Congregation,

The Church Council did not meet in May, so stay tuned for next month's Mouse.

Meanwhile, keep an ear to the ground for happenings on our Facebook page. A big shout out to volunteer and council member Kristen Anchor as she's doing a fine job with keeping the site updated.

I am not doing a formal message for June either – just got too busy with other things and taking a little time off. But, as we head into the busy summer season, I want to say welcome back to our snowbirds!

Please watch for upcoming activity announcements, Bake Sale, Open and Affirming information and gatherings, groups, and mission opportunities. Also, check out the Concerns of the Church in the weekly bulletin for other timely items.

Donna Adams Council President

The **Church Council** meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Church members are welcome to attend.

The next meeting is June 10th.



BACKPACK PROGRAM

The backpack program will not be packing in June. As always, all are welcome to help and any donations to this mission are appreciated. Thank you.

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!

JUNE COLLECTION: Moon Beach Camp

Moon Beach is a United Church of Christ family camp that was established in 1957. Many Moon Beach guests began coming as children with their extended families and continue the tradition with their children and grandchildren. Today, families of all sizes and definitions make up this unique experience and community.

The camp is located in St. Germain along the shore of Little St. Germain Lake. The grounds contain nature trails, a labyrinth with a sound garden, and places for activities like sand volleyball, tennis, and softball.

Activities, adventures, and quiet time abound, including kayaking, swimming, and stand-up paddleboards. Campers can explore area bike and ski trails, hike the bog walk trail, be creative with arts and crafts, and enjoy music around the campfire.

In addition to family camps, church retreats and clergy respite, Moon Beach sponsors Camp AweSum, a camp specifically geared toward autistic children and adults and their families. Camp AweSum Family Camp at Moon Beach is an opportunity to vacation with other families who 'understand your story.' Camp AweSum Family Camp will fill your heart and provide you with much-needed rest, relaxation, and play. Experience the hospitality and acceptance of our staff with other families. Share a week in a community like no other for this exceptional opportunity in the beauty of the Northwoods of Wisconsin.

During the month of June, we will collect items needed by Moon Beach. The camp's wish list includes multiple items for use in arts and crafts activities, including the following:

Watercolor paint pallets (8 color)

Watercolor paper

White cardstock or mixed media paper

Ultra fine tip Sharpie markers (assorted colors) or felt tip markers

Earring Hooks

Alphabet Letter Beads

Flat clay "heishi" beads

Seed beads (3mm and larger)

Elastic cord (1mm thickness)

Fun Stickers

Many of these items can be found at local and regional craft stores or at big box stores in Rhinelander. If you're reading an electronic version of this list, you should be able to click on any of the items in the list below, and be directed to Amazon.com, if you prefer to make your purchase online.

watercolorpaints

artpaper

watercolorpaper

markers24ct

brushmarkers

earringhooks

alphabetbeads

alphabetbeadscolor

heishibeads seedbeads elasticstringcolor elasticstringclear stickerprisms stickerassortment

OUR GIFTS AND ENDOWMENTS

We wanted to share who we are and what we do as stewards of the church's investments. Our committee consists of: Carlton Schroeder, Bob Mather, Mark Johannsen, Donna De Pape, Linda Sanborn and Bill Marshall.

We oversee the investment management of nine separately designated funds and the Zipperer Trust which is managed under a trust agreement. These funds are the fruits of generous donations of FCUCC members who have gone before us and allow us to support a myriad of activities through the following:

Continuing Ministries Fund
General Investment Fund
The Vine Gift Account
Maggie Ball Mission Fund
Sabbatical Fund
General Scholarship Fund
Bird's Nest Scholarship Fund
Jinny Paterson Environmental Scholarship Fund
Roger Rieckman Scholarship Fund

The first two, with some restrictions, are available to financially support the church and its ministries. The next two support our area schools and the outreach missions of our church. The sabbatical fund allows the church's pastor to enjoy a sabbatical based on certain parameters. Finally, the final four funds make it possible to grant scholarships to our area students through the efforts and hard work of our Scholarship Committee.

This is meant to be an overview to show how the investment returns of the Gifts & Endowments Funds continue to support both FCUCC and our community. We hope it prompts further questions about how this all works to our collective benefit. Please reach out to any of us for more information.



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



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 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; 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. 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.

Year to date through May 28th, we have collected a total of \$2874.98 We have donated \$2325.00, leaving a balance of \$549.98.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Frederick Place May Meal. Please check the bulletin board in the Narthex to see if you could provide something for our June 28th meal.

For more information, contact Mary Lou Congdon or Susan Krivichi, or sign up on the volunteer sheet attached to the poster in the Narthex.



As I was struggling to come up with an idea for this month's music notes, I looked to my music and worship resource books for some inspiration. While perusing the titles on my bookshelf I noticed a picture of my minister, who was the pastor who shepherded me from grade school to the baptism of my first child, his wife, who was an excellent organist and pianist, and myself. It was taken many years ago, after they had retired, and when we ran into each other at a music and theology conference at St. Olaf College. I remembered how they both truly inspired me, especially in church music and service.

It made me think about how we look to others for guidance and inspiration, no matter long term or fleeting. It made me realize the number of people who have crossed my path or journeyed with me who truly made a difference in my life. Church music has always been my passion and while revisiting those memories, I found, what I think is, a great way to see the importance of all people in the life of the church. It is attributed to *Thomas H. Troeger*.

We need each other's voice to sing, each other's strength to love, each other's views to help us bring our hearts to God above.

Our lives like coals placed side by side to feed each other's flame, shall with the Spirit's breath provide a blaze of faith to claim.

We give our alleluias
to the church's common chord:
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Praise, O praise, O praise the Lord!

As always you are invited to share your musical talent, just let me know. The choir meets at 8:00 am the first and third Sundays of the month!

- Lori

****ATTENTION CHURCH FAMILY- looking for a couple more people to join the recycling team. Would not require a lot of time, just help collecting and learning how to sort bags collected at church. I am very excited to teach anyone interested and believe me it is not hard, and such a simple but GREAT WAY to help Mother Earth and future generations!! We now have three on the team but looking for a couple more. Please see Kamie after church if interested or shoot her an email at kamiekolb1@gmail.com

Collection for April and May came to 11 bags totaling a weight of 159lbs. Averaging around 80lbs for each month. This brings our overall total to 480lbs. We continue to help Mother Earth in keeping these plastics out of the landfill and keeping her happy, healthier, and

beautiful so keep bringing in your collections. ***Check out the picture of this collection on our Facebook page- you will be amazed!!!!

**Remember that the plastics need to be SOFT and able to stretch when you push a finger against it. You can also check the back to see if it has the recycling symbol #4 or #2. **NO PET FOOD/BIRD FEED BAGS, CELLOPHANE WRAP, MESH FRUIT BAGS, OR HARD PLASTIC CONTAINERS as these do not stretch.

BOOK CLUB CANCELLED FOR JUNE

We had a delightful gathering May 16th in the music/choir room. The book "Lessons in Chemistry" was clearly a favorite and we enjoyed digging into the characters in the book and many issues related to women's roles in society.

We agreed that there would be no book club meeting in June. The book for June: "Coming Home" by Jon Katz presents a number of stories about saying good bye to beloved pets. Reportedly a good read but timing for each person might vary especially as summer activities kick into high gear.

We will plan a potluck in early September at which time we are each encouraged to bring two books to recommend to the group...books you have read and enjoyed. Then we will vote for the eight books we will read during the year.

Watch for the update on when and where we will gather.

Donna De Pape

Thank you: We would like to extend a huge thank you to *Mark Holperin* for taking time out of his busy life to change all the fluorescent bulbs on the upper floor of the church to L.E.D. energy efficient bulbs. They are a much nicer light and will save a lot on energy costs. If you see Mark, please extend a thank you to him for doing this!



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	June	is	Barb	Flaherty.
--------	---------	-----	------	----	------	-----------

TRIGS BRAT HUT / BAKE SALE

We had such a fun time last year doing the Brat Hut / Bake Sale fundraiser for the church.

This year we have two dates: Wednesday July 3rd and Friday August 30th. We will have 4 hour split shifts. 8-12 or 12-4 each day. We will need: Two people at the grill. Two at bake sale table. Three people in the brat hut. Two co-chairs who split the day to be coordinator, supply runners and money handlers for the day.

We need many bakers to drop off their goodies the morning of the sale. The baked goods are not priced. Donation offering only. Please label items such as: recipe name, gluten free or nut content.

Please look for the sign-up sheets at the back counter in the sanctuary.

Thank You all for joining together for a fun summer afternoon. Deb Stolze.
920-585-0241
dayk57@gmail.com



Coffee Hour 'Refreshment Schedule'

through July 2024 Thank you!

June 2	Pat Fox	Patti Roberts
June 9	Mary Lou Congdon	Pat Adamovich
June 16	Tom Helmick ·	Sharon Breit
June 23	Barb Flaherty	Cathy Palmer
June 30	Phoebe Spier	Trista Langley-Tyler
July 7	Joy Turpin	Louise Krus
July 14	Nancy Diepenbrock	Susan Krivichi
July 21	Pat Fox	Patti Roberts
July 28	Mary Lou Congdon	Pat Adamovich

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



The Women's Fellowship Luncheon was held on May 21st and the entertainment was provided by the Northland Pines High School A Cappella Choir.

First Congregational United Church of Christ

105 North First Street PO Box 1385

Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521

office@eagleriverucc.org

715-802-8501

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

MINISTRY CHAIRPERSONS

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
Corresponding Secretary, Kelli Burrill

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.

To First Congregational United Church of Christ Scholarship Committee,

I am writing this letter with gratitude for making the Kranz scholarship possible and selecting me as the 2023-2024 recipient. This fall, I am attending Northcentral Technical College in the Liberal Arts program, and then plan to transfer been given through this to a 4-year college to obtain my bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Besides my Dad who influenced me to be a teacher would be my first-grade teacher, Mrs. Brewer. When I graduate, I want to find an

Elementary teaching position where I have the chance to provide a safe place and impact my students positively By receiving this scholarship, you have allowed me to spence more time working toward m career and taking the Steps to pursue it. I am thankful for the opportunity I have scholarship, as it would not be possible without you.

> With Gratitude, Eliana Waltz

Dear First Congregational ULC Scholarship committee,

Thank you so much for choosing me to receive Your Scholarship. Your generous gift will heil me Pursue my degree at The university of Notre Dume in the field of engineering next year. This scholarship will allow me to focus more on school Cather than the cost Holefully with this degree I will be able. to give back to our community in the Same way you have, and You helfed me with that dream. Thank You again, - Kevin Schaars.

Dear First Congregational UCC Kronz Scholorship Committee,
I am honored to have received this scholarship
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to pursue my
dream of becoming a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer,
majoring in General Vascular and minoring in Adult
Echocardiogram. This money will help pay for my
follege trution and books. This will lift a weight off of
about how I will be paying for college.
Thank you once again for investing in my future to
Further mil education at Bellin College.

Sincerely,
Mckurie
Weight

Dear First Congregational IXCC Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for selecting me to recieve your Scholarship. School can lose a big financial burden but you have holped lighten some of that burden. I am ecstatic about continuing my education this coming semester at St. Norbert's College. Thank you again for the opportunity you have given myself and the Eagle River Community by offering this scholarship.

Sincerely,

Somontha Houger

Dear First Congregational United Church of Christ I connot express now thankful I am to you for fiching me to reine one of Your few ScholarsHPS that are all very severous. As I water before I'M be Using the Many to forther / cartine my education at UW Oshkosh to persue my Choosen Major OF Environmental Engineering. The reason I choose Enuverymental Ensineering was due to the fact that It is a combination of some of my Most favorite thinss, the environment as nell as ensincering. So that an at you also have helped in the decistan to Pich me as are of the few to reciae are of your awards. I thank all of you for your time and I promise you will not be disappointed.

Sincerely Charles Coldo-honsow

P.S. I decided not to Chanse how I write for this because I felt that I Should be as howest and truthful that I can be in a letter. So that I could partney who I am to those who have new Met Me. Also some for not being able to attend the Mass on 5/19 I will be helping a community member with I comins their yord.

Dear First Congregational UCC Kranz Scholarship Committee,

I apologize for missing your Sunday Scholarship Service, I had a required clinical that morning for my CNA class. I appreciate your gesture and wish I could have attended.

Thank you so much for selecting me to recieve your scholarship. I feel honored that sometime outside of my family and friends has confidence in me to succeed. School is a hose financial burden, this scholarship will help relieve some of that burden for my family.

hears for me arr my betor plans. at UW-La Crosse, majoring in Biology, with now excited that you chose me and will help accomplish my goal. I am beyond trantal I am so excited to continue my education

Sorah Nagel Trank you so much to reversing you've done!

Could home

Dear UCC Scholarship Committee,

cloading, as well as for believing in a MONT CLOUNTING MININGS CUTTERICATION TESS Callege is very expensive, and recieving CIFFERENCE IN MEIDING ME CIFFERCI FUITIO Further as I go on to open my own Clothing, bowlingue. I'm very excited to Service I had been volunteering throw INFIMICIATING. Though you argue to you and this scholarship makes a hunde not able to attend the scholarship your scholarship! I am very blessed t be embouraged on this new doventure Crosse for business management, and the WELL YOUR CLANCING WILL MAID WE CHECKED Cleaning that clay I hape the service we be given your clandition. I apolagize, I wi the Northanal Haver Society claims a highw Thounk you for stiecting me to recieve Cincers y

I will send out my prest of registration in June ofter my orientations. My School ID #:836-937-809	Albhress Of the Business Office. Coshier's Office 6015 Compus Delivery Fort Collins, ICO 80523-6015	Laissa Page		
04/08/24 Deor Eist Longregotional United Church of Christ Scholarship Committees	Thank you so much for choosing me to recione this scholarship will help to remove some of the burden on my family financially since we are a big family and I am choosing to go out of stake for schooling.	I am heavily thrilled to continue may education at Calorada State University this semester and I am estatic that your committee thought I was worth spensoring.	with these next 8 to 12 years being idedicated their my pursual of a Dodocate of Verecinary Medicine, I our force of the year consists and kind spirits in easing the alobt that is yet to come.	Not only am I thankful for your generasity, I am also thankful that you aftended the award ceremony as to see me in serson so I could place the kindness with a face. Thank you so much for everything you do!

Dear First Congregation Church of Company	Scholarship has gill	Ond have a fresh s One so excited to be Deiv chapter of my More than words of	3 3 3 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
Dear First Congregational United Church of Christ Scholarship Committee, Thank you so much for	I am so grateful for your denerosity. This scholarship will help ease the burden of thition. I am excited to begin my program this fall. I cannot nait to be a full time		

Start of this this

Part Cholognal this gift On express

volenteus make our program grenous donation of food and Mank you, macagain, of The Back pack program. Your gras certinued support UCC Members -

awareness for our victims. A special "Thankyou donation table and what you have already for helping spread our mission and raise to wary too Br Organizing my time there. Thank you for giving me time to talk collected wormed my heart! Thank you about T.C.C & Wing House. Seeing the

Tri-county council Forwer Grateful, Timberd



First Congregational UCC,

appreciate the support and want to share the impact your de You made a monetary donation to Tri-County Council on Do Violence and Sexual Assault, INC / Lily's House recently. We made during the first quarter of 2024;

- 415 Shelter nights were provided to 9 adults and 8 childre
 - 143 individuals received FREE & CONFIDENTIAL services.
 - 85 anonymous crisis calls were answered.

October 2024. While we are hopeful about securing new funding s You may already know that we are currently experiencing a fundi that is beyond our control. The primary grant we relied on is set we humbly ask for your support in our mission, if possible. If you would like to donate, we accept cash, check, and online dc through Stripe payment processing. The link can be found on our (tricountycouncil.org) or by scanning the QR code above.



PUPPIES BEHIND BARS 263 WEST 38TH STREET 4TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018 212.680.9562 PUPPIESBEHINDBARS.COM

April 11, 2024

First Congregational Church UCC PO Box 1385 Eagle River, WI 54521

Dear Friends:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erin Briggs, Treasurer Managing Director, Goldman Sachs

Lori S. Gevalt In Memoriam

Jim Hodges Artist

Max Jaffe Managing Director, Blackstone

Eric R. Johnson Partner, Stout Thomas & Johnson

Dr. Peter Kross Medical Director, Rivergate Veterinary Clinic

Joan LaCaille In Memoriam

Alan Lawrence, Chair Partner, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP

Amy R. Pasquariello, Secretary

Gordon VeneKlasen

Gloria Gilbert Stoga President & Founder, Puppies Behind Bars Thank you for your gift of \$1,000.00 to Puppies Behind Bars (PBB), dated March 21, 2024, as your "Maggie Ball" donation. We deeply appreciate your support and generosity.

Puppies Behind Bars is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service. Our federal tax ID number is 13-3969389. No goods or services were exchanged for this gift.

Since PBB was founded in 1997, our programs have gone through significant development—and will continue to do so—as this resilience has been key to our continued ability to adjust to the changing needs of those we serve. The steadfast support of our donors continues to help us sustain and expand our services. In the coming year, we are looking ahead to new developments, including expanding into additional correctional facilities and increasing the number of puppies we raise. Our newest program in Sing Sing Correctional Facility is expected to be ready to receive their first puppies for training in the next few months!

Thank you for believing in our mission and supporting our work.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Hamilton

Director of Development