



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

FROM THE PASTOR

I just want to say how delightful it has been to be back with you after a time of retreat and vacation. I missed you all and it was great to get back home to the Northwoods. I am very pleased with the attendance in worship. Sundays are exciting! Word seems to be getting out about what a wonderful congregation this church is. Keep up the good work! And don't forget to invite someone to join you!

As we continue our journey through the Open and Affirming process concerns on occasion are voiced to members of the O & A Task Force. I realize that everyone is not comfortable speaking in public about issues that come to mind. One of the concerns that has been privately raised is that if the church chooses to become an Open and Affirming congregation that certain requirements, I am assuming required by the United Church of Christ, will be imposed on the church, that there will be some "have tos" that go along with embracing this designation. Let me clearly state that this is not the case. As a covenantal partner within the UCC, as opposed to being a connectional church as with other denominational structures, we are an autonomous body, our polity allowing us to make our own decisions, every time, all the time. Since this church has been a hospitably welcoming and inclusive congregation for many years, choosing to become Open and Affirming frankly will not be noticeable in the day-to-day life of the community. Yes, we would acknowledge this designation in our written materials, but our routines would continue to be routine! In no way would we be coerced or manipulated, forced, into any activity that stretch our comfort zones beyond their capacity. I hope this clears up any misunderstanding about this concern.

As we move further into summer many opportunities avail themselves to the church. July begins with the Fellowship Gathering on Sunday, July 7th in Fellowship Hall hosted by the men who will prepare breakfast. This will be our second annual holiday weekend breakfast. On Sunday, July 14th we will welcome new members into the congregation during worship and then will gather at the Marshalls for a cookout and picnic. There is much more happening this summer, and you can read the details elsewhere in the Church Mouse. I hope you are all having a fabulous summer!

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

FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hello Congregation,

The Church Council met June 10th and among items that were approved included mission funds awarded to three organizations. Funds are being distributed to Bosnia Missionaries who will receive \$1,000; Re-Member Pine Ridge Reservation, \$1,000; and Antoinette Brown Society, \$500.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on September 8th. On July 11th we will begin the budget process for 2025 to meet deadlines ahead of the meeting.

Eligible church members who are interested in serving on the Church Council are encouraged to reach out to any current Council member, Pastor Tim, or Debbie Brown in the Church Office. The Council is also seeking a secretary who will begin their duties at the September Church Council meeting, the first meeting following the Annual Congregational Meeting.

A Building Use Policy has been approved and copies are available in the Church Office. In other building news, carpet cleaning was approved for the main floor office suite, including the parlor and chairs, and the elevator.

Estimates to replace the air conditioning were reviewed, however because of the expense and because the units are still functioning, we will continue to monitor as necessary. Debbie Brown, Church Administrator, advised that we are already getting savings from the LED bulbs that had been installed on the main floor and it was agreed to complete the lower level at a cost of \$1,500 for the bulbs. Eric Olson volunteered to install them.

The Sanctuary will soon see a new tri-fold Welcome Brochure along with welcome cards for the pew racks designed to welcome our guests and provide information about the church.

Donna Adams
Church Council President

The Church Council will meet on Thursday, July 11th at 5:00 p.m.
in the Conference Room. Church members are welcome to attend.

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BACKPACK PROGRAM 

The backpack program will not be packing in July. As always, everyone is welcome to help. 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!

JULY COLLECTION: Sunshine for Humanity

Sunshine for Humanity is a local organization that provides a helping hand to people who are homeless and/or in need of assistance. This organization provides their clients with shelter and helps them find housing once they have found a job. This month, we will be helping them by collecting items for toiletry bags, including a bar of soap, toilet paper, razors, deodorant, toothpaste, and a toothbrush.

We encourage you to put together one or more Ziploc bags of these items. Or, if you prefer, simply donate any of the items listed below. All will be greatly appreciated and will help Sunshine for Humanity fulfill its mission.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Comb | Lotion (trial size) |
| Bar of Soap (trial size if available) | Kleenex |
| Deodorant (trial size) | Toilet paper |
| Razor | Paper towels |
| Floss | Kitchen large black bags |
| Toothpaste (trial size) | Dawn dish soap |
| Toothbrush | Fabulosa multipurpose cleaner |



Dale Bishop, Carmen Domek, Bruce Kaitchuck, Sndy Kaitchuck, Brenda Mc Nutt, Kate Remme, Mark Shepherdson, Bob Trojanowski, Patricia Tucker, Janet Yahr.

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 ringing for others. **Through June 25th we have a balance of \$657.97.**



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.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Frederick Place June meal. Please check the bulletin board in the Narthex to see if you can provide something for our July 29th 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.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our garden plot has been tilled, plotted on a grid, and planted by a great crew including Deb Stolze, Joy Turpin, Patti Roberts, Tobi Johansson, and Susan Davis. Jean Haack and Barb Flaherty provided seeds and Barb also planted and tended the beautiful tomato and pepper plants we planted. Mother Nature has provided some good rain, and we hope some warm days and nights are right around the corner. In the coming weeks we will need people interested in mulching, weeding, and watering our plot as well as providing some volunteer time for the "Hoop House" and general garden maintenance. We will provide the training! Contact Susan Krivichi or Deb Stolze if you would like to assist.



Well, it has been raining seemingly nonstop. When I thought about writing these music notes, I thought about all the songs that reference rain. B. J. Thomas', "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head" was the first one that came to mind and then Ariana Grande and Lady Gaga's, "Rain on Me". – Not very 'churchy'!

So, for inspiration, I went to the Bible. What a concept! The first scripture that came to mind was Matthew's account of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus stated that the rain falls on the just and the unjust alike. So, don't take it personally! Rain in the Hebrew Bible usually refers to the blessings of God or the teachings of God raining down upon us. I am not sure how the people that were not in Noah's ark felt about that.

So, all in all rain happens and it is matter of how we perceive it in our lives. Rain does nourish the earth, but it can also wreak havoc. It's kind of like us humans. We can rain down blessings on others and the earth or we can bring a storm and ruin someone's day or take something away from creation. I hope we choose the former!

I leave you with lyrics from the refrain of the contemporary Christian song, "Rain Down on Me".

I need you to rain down on me, please pour down your light
For this is my lifeline
I need you to rain down on me
The weather is fine when you rain on me

As always, you are invited to share your musical talent, just let me know. The choir will meet July 14th at 8:00 a.m. Join us if you can!

Lori



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 July – Barb Flaharty and Marilyn Preisler

BOOK CLUB

Book Club is taking a break for the summer month!

The Book Club had a delightful gathering on May 16th in the choir room. The book, *Lessons in Chemistry*, was clearly a favorite. The group enjoyed digging into the characters in the book as well as the many issues related to women's roles in society.

Those in attendance 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 goodbye to beloved pets. Reportedly this is a good read but a tender topic. The timing of this kind of reading might vary for each person, depending on their own pet experiences and as summer activities kick into high gear.

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

Watch for updates on when and where we will gather.

Donna De Pape

TRIGS BRAT HUT and BAKE SALE

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

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

We need many bakers who will drop off their goodies the morning of the sale. The baked goods are not priced. Donation offerings only are accepted. 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 August 2024

Thank you!

July 14	Nancy Diepenbrock	Susan Krivichi
July 21	Pat Fox	Patti Roberts
July 28	Mary Lou Congdon	Pat Adamovich
August 4	Tom Helmick	Sharon Breit
August 11	Barb Flaherty	Cathy Palmer
August 18	Joy Turpin	Trista Langley-Tyler
August 25	Barb and Carlton Schroeder	Louise Krus

Hello Friends

Above is the schedule for providing treats for Coffee Hour after worship. We are happy that so many of you have volunteered to provide this nice addition to the Coffee Hour social time. This 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

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.

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



April 28, 2024

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

Dear Friends,

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your recent \$200.00 donation. Your donation has been designated for art supplies at Moon Beach.

Because of your generous support, we can continue to welcome more guests to these sacred places, provide scholarships, improve UCCI facilities, and grow our community. Friends like the First Congregational UCC help keep our programs strong and are vital to fulfilling our mission: *We will love God, all others, and the earth by providing sanctuary, practicing hospitality, and performing ministry.*

Moon Beach, Daycholah Center, and Cedar Valley each have a long history of providing meaningful camps, retreats, and events that foster community, and provide much-needed time to unplug and deepen connections with nature and the Creator. A parent recently reflected the success of our mission back to us by sharing, "I felt like my family was loved unconditionally. Kudos to such a wonderful community, it's clear that this organization is built on love."

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity. UCCI is deeply grateful for your prayers, participation, and financial support. We look forward to keeping you updated on the many ways outdoor ministry is here to serve you.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim".

Rev. James Schleif
Executive Director
executivedirector@ucci.org

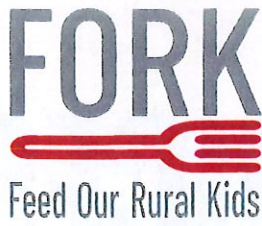
Thank you, Northwoods friends, for your generous donation to our arts and crafts capacity!

Please note that IRS regulations require that this letter state that United Church Camps, Incorporated is a tax-exempt organization that did not provide any specific goods or services in return for this contribution. Please save this letter for your tax files.

Moon Beach

Daycholah Center

Cedar Valley



May 29, 2024
P.O. Box 1385
Eagle River, WI 54521

To First Congregational UCC,

Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK), a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (EIN#84-218844) has gratefully received your donation in the amount of \$1,000.00.

As a contributor, you are an important part of our organization's effort to provide nutritional support to children from food insecure homes. Due to the generosity of our donors, FORK's coordinated nutrition programs are able to make a lasting impact on area children's physical, academic, and emotional growth. In other words, the children are lifted up by your commitment to their cause.

On behalf of the Board of Directors at FORK, we extend a heartfelt thank you. Together we will ensure the opportunity for our local children to grow up in a world in which food insecurity will not stand in the way of their success.

With our deep appreciation,

Daniel B. Beihoff, Treasurer
Feed Our Rural Kids Inc.

No goods or services were provided by FORK in exchange for this contribution.

HCPA PRESENTS

VACATIONLAND VOICES

MUSIC

MOVES

US

NO ADMISSION FEE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024

7:00 PM

NORTHLAND PINES AUDITORIUM

1800 PLEASURE ISLAND ROAD, EAGLE RIVER

DONATIONS

TO

CHICK-A-DEE FARMS

VILAS COUNTY FOSTER CLOSET

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, NORTHWOODS

Recycling Extravaganza

Eagle River Elementary School, 1700 Pleasure Island Rd

Saturday, August 24, 2024

This is a free event, but please consider bringing an unexpired, nonperishable food item for the *Vilas County Food Pantry*
Items accepted:

American Flags

- Eye glasses

- hearing aids

Computer/copier ink and toner cartridges

- bowling balls

- old gift and key cards

Drug Take Back:

Prescription (controlled and non-controlled) and over-the-counter medications, ointments, inhalers, patches, non-aerosol sprays, creams, vape cartridges and devices (with batteries removed), vials and pet medications.

Plastic bags and films:



FREE Electronics Recycling

- Electric cords/wires (appliance, computer, extension cords)
- Holiday lights (no garland, frames or packaging)
- Microwave ovens
- CRT TVs & computer monitors (old tube TV)
- LCD TVs & monitors
- Projection & Wood Console TVs
- Desktop Computer Towers
- Routers & modems
- DVD, VHS & Blu-Ray Players, stereo/audio
- Keyboards, mice & computer speakers
- Desktop printers, scanner @ fax machines
- Desktop printers, scanner @ fax machines
- Cell phones & battery-operated accessories
- Laptop & Chromebook computers, tablets
- Gaming Systems & battery powered accessories
- Small scale servers
- Radios/clock radios (no batteries)
- Hard drives & flash drive

NO batteries, fluorescent or LED bulbs, or gas or freon containing items

See us at northwoodsrecycles.com or on Facebook at Northwoods Recycles





Did you know that over half of women age 50 and older experience issues with bladder or bowel control at some time in their lives?

Mind Over Matter: Healthy Bowels, Healthy Bladder is a workshop designed to give women the tools they need to take control of their bladder and bowel symptoms.

The workshop consists of three 2-hour sessions that meet every other week. It provides information and group activities along with simple exercises and dietary changes to practice at home. Even if you don't have leakage symptoms now, it's never too early or too late to think about your bladder and bowel health!

What will I learn in the workshop?

- ◆ Information about bladder and bowel control
- ◆ At-home techniques and exercises to help prevent or improve symptoms
- ◆ Tools to help you set goals and mark your progress

Researched and proven to reduce bladder and bowel leakage!

Workshop Information

Dates: Thursdays August 15th and 29th, and September 12th, 2024,

1:00pm-3:00 pm

Location: Walter E. Olson Memorial Library Eagle River

Eagle Room



Connecting You to Farm Fresh Food

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)



SFMNP serves Wisconsin seniors

- Living in Wisconsin
- Within monthly income requirements
- Age 60 and above, or age 55 and above if Native American

SFMNP gets you farm fresh food

- \$45 to buy fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs
- A list of farmers markets and farmstands to shop at June–October
- Seasonal tips for using fresh produce
- Over 1,000 local farmers to buy from

SFMNP makes eating local easy

- If you qualify for SNAP, ask about SFMNP! You likely qualify.
- You can still receive FoodShare, CSFP, and TEFAP food assistance.

Learn
more!



Find a
market
near you!



Vouchers Available at the:

ADRC of Vilas County
330 Court Street
Eagle River, WI 54521
(715) 479-3625

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Division of Public Health
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

STRONG People™

STRONG BODIES



Join us for the StrongBodies Program!

StrongBodies has been shown to increase strength, muscle mass, and bone density. Classes are held twice weekly and include progressive resistance training, balance training, and flexibility exercises.

For more information, contact Pam Snyder at (715) 479-3625

Virtual StrongBodies - Summer 2024 Session

Dates: July 9, 2024 – Sept 26, 2024

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 – 10:15 am

Deadline to register: Friday, August 2

Offered virtually via Zoom

How to Sign Up: Call the ADRC of Vilas County at (715) 479-3625

