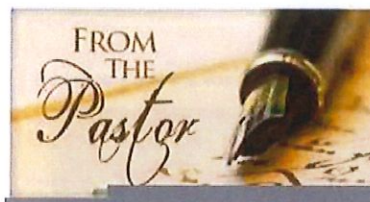


First Congregational United Church of Christ
September 2024 Church Mouse
eagleriverucc.org



As you are aware by now, our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 8th following our quarterly Fellowship Gathering. We picked this day because the service will be shorter, allowing for the needed time to conduct our business and keep the day from becoming too long! I hope you can be in attendance as we conduct the business of the church for the year. There will be several important votes on the docket and so you will not want to miss the opportunity to give your voice and vote as we continue to build this beloved faith community, this local missional church, known as the First Congregational United Church of Christ.

As of Wednesday evening, August 21st, we completed the *Open and Affirming* process as a congregation. While I could always hope for better attendance at these gatherings there was significant participation which I believe has paved the way forward for a congregational decision. While there is probably some unspoken concern about this monumental decision we are about to make, the consensus seems to be, as it has been from the beginning of the process, that when it comes to our acceptance and welcome, our hospitable invitation and inclusion, that the church has already determined who and what it is as an open and affirming congregation and has long been ready to formalize this affiliation with the Coalition of the United Church of Christ as an *Open and Affirming* church. Kudos to the congregation!

I will be leaving for my fall clergy retreat, the annual gathering of the Dead Preacher's Society, in a few weeks, including some time of vacation in anticipation of the fall, winter, and spring schedule, all of which is always the busiest time of year on the liturgical calendar. Speaking of said liturgical calendar, I am closing my article with the upcoming fall schedule of High and Holy Days to allow you to plan accordingly!

High and Holy Days – Fall 2024

Sunday, September 8th – Fellowship Gathering in Fellowship Hall followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, September 15th – Sanctuary Celebration: One Hundred Years of Faithful Worship . . . and Counting
Sunday, October 6th – World Communion
Sunday, October 27th – A Celebration of Reformation Heritage
Sunday, November 3rd – A Celebration of All Saints
Sunday, November 10th – A Celebration of Stewardship
Sunday, November 24th – Reign of Christ/A Festival of Thanksgiving
Sunday, December 1st – First Sunday of Advent; Hope
Tuesday and Wednesday, December 3rd and 4th – Sanctuary Decoration (refreshments on the 4th)
Sunday, December 8th – Second Sunday of Advent; Peace
Sunday, December 15th – Third Sunday of Advent; Joy (Gaudete)
Sunday, December 22nd – Fourth Sunday of Advent; Love
Tuesday, December 24th – Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols/A Celebration of Carols, Candles, and Communion; TBD
Sunday, December 29th – Fellowship Gathering in Fellowship Hall

I look forward to seeing you on Sundays!

Tim



FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hello Congregation,

At the August 12th meeting, Barb Helmick presented to the Church Council a proposal from the mission group members to distribute most of the remaining Maggie Ball Mission Fund money. Caritas and Melody of Compassion will each receive \$500. Additional discussion was held regarding guidelines for the way that Melody of Compassion funds are distributed and the ways that various community charities coordinate efforts.

The Church Council confirmed there is no requirement regarding alternating gender when electing a president.

Extensive review of the Church Constitution was completed and includes the new Statement of Faith from the national setting of the United Church of Christ.

Additional discussion centered on finalizing the 2025 budget for the Annual Congregational Meeting. The Council also wanted the budget to reflect and represent a hopefulness designed to grow the church with new members and new initiatives. There was also discussion about identifying in-kind contributions from volunteers who donate their time and labor to complete tasks that would otherwise require staffing.

The Church Council is seeking to fill four vacancies on the Council. Completing their three-year terms are Deb Stolze and Steve Burrill. However, Steve will continue to serve, fulfilling a new 3-year term. Trisha Moore and Donna Adams will be rotating off of the Council with 1-year remaining on their terms. Thus, one candidate will be sought to fill a 3-year term, and two candidates will be sought to complete a 1-year term. A Church Council Clerk/Recording Secretary is also being sought.

Among other items in the works are updating and reinstating pew cards, the possible development of UCC branded apparel or other merchandise, formation of a Men’s Fellowship group, a New Member Committee, creating a new church directory, and revival of the Cranberry Luncheon for 2025.

Donna Adams
Church Council President



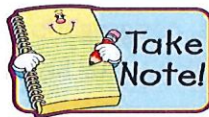
**The Church Council will
meet on Monday,
September 9th at 5:00 p.m.
in the Conference Room.
Church members are always
welcome to attend.**

BACKPACK PROGRAM



The backpack program will not be packing in September. We will fill backpacks in October. For those who have helped in the past, please watch your email in September for updates. As always, everyone is welcome to help with donations toward this mission as they are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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 715-891-2658.

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.



I came across an article titled *The Purpose of Church Worship and The Role of Music*, written by Rob Still. I wanted to share part of the article that speaks to the role of music in the church: “The role of music is to serve the larger purposes of worship. In the context of church, music is a means to an end. Music is a valuable tool, a flexible vehicle, and a precious resource to enable people to worship God.” One aspect he highlights, “Music helps unite, encourage and inspire the body of Christ.”

“Great music is inspirational. But bear in mind, ‘excellence’ in worship music is a wonderful servant but a terrible master. Pursuing the goal that *everything has to be amazing so we can impress as many people as possible* is a distorted motive.”

“Authentic excellence is simply doing your very best. We honor God when we offer God our very best musical preparation, heart condition and positive spirit, keeping our eyes on Jesus as we serve, as best as we can, with our musical abilities.”

“The purpose of music in church worship is not to attract or draw a crowd. It is not to make us or our house of worship ‘famous’. These things may happen for the glory of God, but they are not to be our primary aspiration.”

“Music in church should help us ‘be’ with God, hear from God, bless the Lord, and be a blessing to one another.”

My hope is that all of us who bring music to this congregation keep our eyes on these ideals because ultimately, we do sing to worship God and all we can give is our best!

I will be absent for the second half of September as I am traveling to attend a conference and training for work, but you will be in capable hands with Linda Ingebritson, Tobi Johannsen, Norma Yaeger, and Connie Pellmann. I am disappointed that I will miss the 100th Anniversary of the Sanctuary church building but my prayers are that this is a wonderful reminder, not only of how far we have come, but of how we can ‘run the race that is set before us’.

Godspeed
Lori



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!



Steve Burrill, Nancy Diepenbrock, Joyce Nelson, Tom Newkirk,
Marilyn Preisler, Malia Remme, and Norma Yaeger.



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 and
those who are in need for many years.

Please bring your coins to keep the
Melody ringing for others.

At the present time, we do not have enough money to provide cards.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Frederick Place August meal.
Please check the bulletin board in the Narthex to see if you can provide
something for our September 30th 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.


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 SEPTEMBER

Kathy Craffey, Linda and Leta Cole, Susan Krivichi, and Marilyn Preisler.



Exciting news from the recycling mission. The report for mid-July through August includes two submissions: the first submission for 88 pounds; the second submission 129 pounds. This gave a total weight of 217 pounds, bringing our total to 864 pounds. By adding a couple of places to collect bulk soft plastics, I am happy to say that I am confident we will reach our goal of 1000 pounds by the end of our one-year challenge to earn a bench. ***REMINDER: this is an ongoing mission; our challenge for this next year will begin in October so please continue bringing in the soft plastics. If you have any questions or are interested in helping with this mission, the team welcomes your help! Participation requires little time commitment, is easy to learn, and is a great way to help Mother Earth, a win, win, win situation. 

Let Kamie Kolb know after worship, or you may email her at kamiekolb1@gmail.com.



**The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on
Sunday, September 8th
in Fellowship Hall following our quarterly Fellowship Gathering.**



Coffee Hour

'Refreshment Schedule'

through October.

Thank you!

September 1	Nancy Diepenbrock	Phoebe Spier
September 8	Pat Fox	Patti Roberts
September 15	May Lou Congdon	Pat Adamovich
September 22	Tom Helmick	Sharon Breit
September 29	Barb Flaherty	Cathy Palmer
October 6	Phoebe Spier	Trista Langley-Tyler
October 13	Barb/Carlton Schroeder	Louise Krus
October 20	Nancy Diepenbrock	Susan Krivichi
October 27	Pat Fox	Patti Roberts

Hello Friends!

Above, you will find 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 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, 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

**Happy
100th
Birthday
Sanctuary!**



In lieu of a collection in September, we will celebrate the 100th birthday of the building that houses the Sanctuary. All of us who are members and friends of this congregation are invited to give a birthday gift toward all the things needed to keep our church facility going strong for many years ahead: heating, cooling, lights, snow removal, upkeep, roof, and furnace. Watch for special cards made by our kids which will be available to allow you to share a favorite memory about our church home and to make your donation. Please give as generously as you are able. Thank you!

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BOOK LOVERS GROUP

The first meeting of the season is Thursday, September 19th at 6:30 p.m. At this first gathering we will select the books we want to read over the next few months. Please bring your recommendations. In the past, the plan was to bring a couple of books we have read and want to share with the rest of the group. It has been helpful to check ahead of time to know how many copies are available at the library. We usually discuss one book per month through May except for December. Because of the busy holiday season, we have chosen to gather to watch a movie together instead of reading a book for discussion.

We are always happy to have new folks join our group. Please consider joining us. If you have questions, email Donna DePape at spindle257@gmail.com.



COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

In August we donated an average of ten pounds of produce to the food pantry each week. During the second week of August, the produce total for the entire community garden plots amounted to 55.8 pounds of produce. The harvests from our plot included beans, carrots, tomatoes, yellow, green, and purple peppers, chard, lettuce, basil, green onions, summer squash, and zucchini.

There will be an upcoming workday to provide general garden maintenance and help would be appreciated. We will notify the congregation once we have a date for that project.



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

Timothy W. Shirley: timwshirley@gmail.com

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
<p>1</p> <p>8am - Choir Practice</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>3:45pm - Cub & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4pm - Chime Choir</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @ First</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @ First</p> <p>6pm - Soul Sisters</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11am - Many Ways of Peace</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6pm - Eagles AFG</p> <p>6pm - Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @ First</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>3:45pm - Cub & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9</p> <p>4pm - Chime Choir</p> <p>5:45pm - Church Council</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @ First</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @ First</p> <p>6pm - Soul Sisters</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11am - Many Ways of Peace</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6pm - Eagles AFG</p> <p>6pm - Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @ First</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8am - Choir Practice</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>3:45pm - Cub & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4pm - Chime Choir</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @ First</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @ First</p> <p>6pm - Soul Sisters</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11am - Many Ways of Peace</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6pm - Eagles AFG</p> <p>6pm - Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @ First</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>3:45pm - Cub & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4pm - Chime Choir</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @ First</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @ First</p> <p>6pm - Soul Sisters</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11am - Many Ways of Peace</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6pm - Eagles AFG</p> <p>6pm - Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @ First</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>3:45pm - Cub & Boy Scouts</p>	<p>30</p> <p>4pm - Chime Choir</p> <p>6pm - AA Meeting @ First</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>

Join us October 11, 2024 - For a Poverty Simulation

Hosted by Caritas-Minocqua, LDF Economic Support, and Ascension Lutheran



Poverty is a reality for many members of our communities. You put yourself in the shoes of those living in poverty by taking on the identity of a family or individual to create a better understanding of what it is like to live a day in their life.

Attending this event will help you:

- Promote poverty awareness.
- Increase understanding of what it is like to live in poverty.
- Inspire local change to help battle poverty.
- Transform perspectives of people in and out of poverty.

DATE: October 11, 2024

TIME: Check-In at 12:30pm

Simulation starts at 1:00pm

Round table discussion

Planning for the future

WHERE: Ascension Lutheran Church - 7937 US – 51, Minocqua, WI

All attending must register online at

<https://www.stmatthiasminocqua.com/caritas.html>

If you have questions please contact:

Caritas – Dick Bruesehoff - d.bruesehoff@gmail.com

LDF Economic Support - es@ldftribe.com