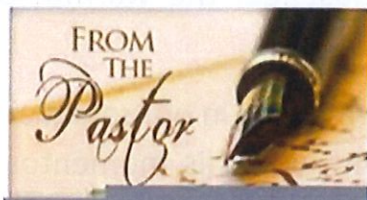


First Congregational United Church of Christ January 2025 Church Mouse

eagleriverucc.org



Happy New Year! And what a year we just had! Before leaving a host of wonderful experiences in 2024 in the rearview mirror, I think we can all look back with everything we accomplished as a congregation with much pride and satisfaction. 2024 was a year of growth for First Congregational United Church of Christ, not only numerically, with the addition of 16 new members to the church, but also in terms of our evolving identity as we continued to develop an even better sense of who and what we are as a local missional church.

Perhaps the accomplishment of which I personally and professionally am most proud is our becoming an officially designated Open and Affirming congregation within the United Church of Christ. I am especially thankful to a wonderful task force who are to be commended for going beyond the minimum in their leadership. This group truly came together of one mind and of one accord. They took their responsibilities seriously and led us through a very committed and engaging, a very intentional, process. Our acceptance by the UCC Coalition as church number 1902 in the denomination, duly recognized as an O and A congregation, is a testimony to the commitment of this beloved faith community to practice social justice while becoming ever more a hospitably welcoming and inclusive sanctuary for all people. Indeed, we have made our denomination, along with the Northwest Association and the Wisconsin Conference, UCC proud! There are so many other events that I could describe but article space simply will not allow me to name them. The good works of this special fellowship continue to amaze and make a huge difference in Eagle River, Vilas County, and beyond.

And now a new year beckons with all the possibility that 365 days can hold!

I would be remiss if I did not say a glowing word of thank you to everyone who, once again, made the holy seasons of Advent and Christmas so special. From all of you who helped decorate, to Lori Hunter and all the musicians who offered your amazing talent, every event was

enjoyable, meaningful, and spirit filled. Parent's Night Out welcomed 9 children and was a lot of fun for all of us. Jesus' birthday, on Christmas Eve was a great celebration. I am grateful to all of you. Smaller churches are dependent on the commitment of volunteers and this church has no lack of people willing to step up and do what is needed and the joy on each face is always obvious as we work together. You are all to be commended! Job well done!

The days ahead because the liturgical calendar dictated by the seasons of the Church Year is always on the march. Note that Ash Wednesday will begin our Lenten journey on March 5th with the Imposition of Ashes on that day at noon. The Sundays in Lent begin on March 9th and we will continue our tradition of Lenten Soup and Suppers on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. beginning on March 12th and ending on Wednesday, April 9th, the week prior to Holy Week beginning with Palm and Passion Sunday on April 13th. Can't you just feel the warmth of springtime already? Maybe not!

Finally, I would like to congratulate Kayla and Rich La Crosse who were married in our sanctuary on Thursday, December 12th. How delighted we are to celebrate with you this momentous occasion!

I look forward to seeing you on Sundays!

Tim



FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

Wishing you faith and hope as strong as the sea monsters, fire and hail, snow and frost and a new trust in God in 2025. We walk together this year in new connections. I share a part of this devotional, adopted from Rachel Hackenberg UCC <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional>

Praise the Lord! Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars! Praise God from the earth, you sea monsters and creatures of the depths, you fire and hail, snow and frost! - Psalm 148:1-2, 7-8 (NRSV adapted)

I learn this each Sunday with our children's lesson: Faith needs imagination. Wild and wondering and expansive imagination. Faith needs the unimaginable and the improbable. Faith needs awe. It needs questions that cannot be answered; it needs stories that reach beyond the limits of knowledge.

While faith might long to claim certainty, it does its best work when it claims surrender. When it gives in to hope. When it opts for unearned trust. When it lives in dreams and aspirations beyond what can be proven. When it tells stories.

Somewhere in the chasms of the oceans, there are sea monsters praising God. (*our First Congregational UCC Children tell us this each Sunday!*). Creation's praise for God is beyond imagining. In fact, creation's praise of God is so vast and wild that it can only be told in faith, surrender, trust and hope. Praise God for the praises too large, too wild, too mystical and magical for us to perceive!

Happy hopeful 2025. Join us in a new place, be part of a new ministry, meet a new friend, find praise in a new way.

Carol Marshall

First Congregational UCC Council President 2024-2025

**CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY
2024 Budget YTD 11/30/2024**

	2024	2024	2024
	Actual YTD 11/30/2024	Annual Budget 11/30/2024	Annual Budget YE
Income	\$159,471	\$151,015	\$163,244
Expense	\$199,092	\$195,786	\$210,085
Net Income (Loss)*	-\$30,246	-\$33,313	-\$46,841

*Income does not include investment fund transfers available if needed

	includes 11458	
includes 9375 Zipperer/0 CMF	Zipperer/0 CMF	includes 12500 Zipperer/0 CMF



ALMOST THERE!!!

As of December 31st we have received 41 pledges totaling \$108,844.00 towards our 2025 budget goal of \$135,000. It is not too late to submit your pledge card and if you have misplaced yours, there are extras in the back of the sanctuary.

The Church Council will meet on Wednesday, January 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

This month we will have the chance to visit on zoom with Ursula Charaf, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, and discuss plans for 2025. Church members are always welcome to attend.

You Are Invited To

DANIEL BRUNSTAD'S COURT OF HONOR

EAGLE SCOUT CEREMONY

Join us at Eagle River's UCC Church
Saturday, January 4th at 10:00 AM
Food will be served following the event.

Please contact Jill Brunstad with any questions.

Backpack Program



We will not be packing in January but will start back up in February.
Watch for an email from me the week before.

If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Tobi Johannsen, 920-450-1402.

THANKS!!!

I wish to thank all of you who prayed for me and those who wished me well during my health issues in the last few weeks. It certainly feels good to be part of such a caring congregation.

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!

Helena Roerdink



David Adler, Sharon Breit,
Gary Gilbert,
Carl Gromoll, Kathy Holperin,
Michael Mettler, Joseph Panci,
and Seren Spier-Olsen.



FLOWER CALENDAR:

What better way to honor anyone or anything than to share flowers with your church family on Sunday! If you would like to give flowers for Sunday worship, please pick a Sunday and add your name to the Flower Calendar 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. Please return to Vintage Gardens as we then get more flowers for the money.

FLOWER SPONSORS FOR JANUARY: Barb Flaherty, January 5th



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

NATH Frederick Place Dinners

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Frederick Place December meal. Please check the bulletin board in the Narthex to see if you can provide something for our January 27th 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.

FLOCK

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to you all – and . . . HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our January FLOCK meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 16th at the home of Bobbie Fleishman. Time yet to be determined. As soon as Bobbie gives me the information, I will email the particulars to you.

Hope you have a Blessed Holiday Season!

Your Shepherdess,

Linda 

BOOK CLUB

Happy New Year from the Book Club

We had a wonderful movie night at Tobi and Mark Johannsen's home on December 12th. We enjoyed substantial Snacks and watched the movie *The Man Who Knew Infinity* based on the true story of an Indian mathematics genius with little formal training. He made his way to Trinity College in Cambridge, England where he worked for five years, forging a friendship with his professor, while producing some innovative theses that had a huge impact on the field of mathematics. We all found the movie thought provoking and enjoyed the evening together.

In January we start off with the book *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman. We meet January 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Hope you can join us.

Donna De Pape

January Monthly Collection

We got a late start with our December collection, so we're going to continue with that collection through January. As a reminder, we are collecting new winter gloves, hats, mittens and scarves for men, women and children of all ages. These items will be distributed to area schools and to a variety of area organizations that provide shelter and/or other assistance for those in need. Please give as you are able and as you feel called.

If you have an idea for a future mission-oriented monthly collection, please let either Mary Lou Congdon or Barbara Helmick know. We welcome your input.

Monthly dinner set for January 15th

Please join us at church for a time of food and fellowship at **6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 15th**.

We are looking for folks to help provide the meal. If you are interested, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary. There are slots for a main course or two, salad, bread, dessert, and other appropriate dishes as needed.

Also, if you plan to attend, please add your name to second signup sheet. This will help us determine how much food we need to prepare!

We had 28 attend our December meal and it was a wonderful time to take a break from the hubbub of the holiday and enjoy food and fellowship as a church family. January will be a great time to share each other's company and our friendships during what is often a dreary time of the year. Another meal is planned for February. (March brings Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent and our weekly soup suppers.)

Mary Lou Congdon and Barbara Helmick are coordinating this effort. Please reach out to one of them if you have any questions or want to help with the planning.

Your ideas are needed . . .

Our church is blessed to have a special endowment fund that generates around \$7,000 annually for mission efforts outside of the church budget. A small group of church members will be meeting soon to make recommendations to council regarding possible recipients of some of that money. If you know of a not-for-profit organization or mission effort that you would like to suggest for Maggie Ball Mission Fund dollars, please contact Mary Lou Congdon, Susan Krivichi, Paula Hendrickson, or Barbara Helmick. Similarly, if you would like to participate in the recommendation process, please reach out to any of these folks. Thanks!

**Women's Fellowship will meet
Tuesday, January 14th.
All women are always welcome to attend.**



All Church Bible Study is beginning:

Please come to an organizational meeting Tuesday January 7th at 3:00 p.m. at the church. We will be discussing topics of interest. Your input is needed.

Contact Marty Rosenthal for more information.
There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the Sanctuary.

We are packing up the Chrismon Tree and all the Advent decorations. Please stay after church on January 5th to haul boxes from the basement. On January 7th at 9:30 a.m. we would like your assistance removing and packing decorations. Light breakfast snacks will be provided.

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Sharon Breit is retired!
Sharon has touched all of our lives with her love and commitment to this church community.
Stay tuned as we plan a celebration in her honor early this year.



Coffee Hour 'Refreshment Schedule' through February 2025

January 5		Barb Flaherty
January 12	Phoebe Spier	Trista Langley-Tyler
January 19	Joy Turpin	Louise Krus
January 26	Nancy Diepenbrock	Susan Krivichi
February 2	Pat Fox	Tobi Johannsen
February 9	Mary Lou Congdon	Pat Adamovich
February 16	Tom Helmick	Sharon Breit
February 23	Barb Flaherty	Cathy Palmer

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. If that fails, please contact Susan or Joy to let them know that you will not be available on a given Sunday. Please update them on any switches you have made.
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

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

Carol Marshall, President

Eric Olsen, Vice President

Kristen Anchor

Steve Burrill

Tom Helmick

Mark Holperin

Bill Marshall

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
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
8am - Choir Practice 9am - Worship 4pm - Cub Scouts	4pm - Chime Choir 6pm - AA Meeting @ First	9:30am - Un-decorating the 3pm - Bible Study 6pm - AA Meeting @ First 6pm - Soul Sisters	11am - Many Ways of Peace	6pm - Eagles AFG 6pm - Narcotics Anonymous	6pm - AA Meeting @ First	10am - Daniel Brunstad
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8am - Choir Practice 9am - Worship 4pm - Cub Scouts	4pm - Chime Choir 6pm - AA Meeting @ First	9:30am - Un-decorating the 3pm - Bible Study 6pm - AA Meeting @ First 6pm - Soul Sisters	11am - Many Ways of Peace	6pm - Eagles AFG 6pm - Narcotics Anonymous 6:30pm - Book Club	6pm - AA Meeting @ First	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9am - Worship 4pm - Cub Scouts	4pm - Chime Choir 6pm - AA Meeting @ First	9am - Women's Fellowship 6pm - AA Meeting @ First 6pm - Soul Sisters	11am - Many Ways of Peace 6pm - Monthly Dinner 7pm - Church Council	6pm - Eagles AFG 6pm - Narcotics Anonymous	6pm - AA Meeting @ First	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8am - Choir Practice 9am - Worship 4pm - Cub Scouts	4pm - Chime Choir 6pm - AA Meeting @ First	6pm - AA Meeting @ First 6pm - Soul Sisters	11am - Many Ways of Peace	6pm - Eagles AFG 6pm - Narcotics Anonymous	6pm - AA Meeting @ First	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9am - Worship 4pm - Cub Scouts	4pm - Chime Choir 6pm - AA Meeting @ First	6pm - AA Meeting @ First 6pm - Soul Sisters	11am - Many Ways of Peace	6pm - Eagles AFG 6pm - Narcotics Anonymous	6pm - AA Meeting @ First	

Don't let a fall cramp your style!

One in four people age 65 or older has a fall each year. You don't have to be one of them.

Take a Stepping On workshop!

Stepping On can help you avoid a dangerous and costly fall so you can keep doing the things you love to do. In just seven weeks, you'll learn:

- ▶ To identify and remove or avoid fall hazards in your home and outside
- ▶ How vision, hearing, medication, and footwear affect your risk of falling
- ▶ Strength and balance exercises you can adapt to your individual level
- ▶ To get back on your feet the right way if you do fall

**Stepping On has been
researched and proven
to reduce falls
by 31%!**

Workshop Information

Tuesdays January 21 – March 4, 2025 | 1-3PM

**There will be a short introductory session on January 14th*

Virtual on Zoom

Workshop Fee: \$25

To register call Suzanne at (608) 852-0813 or email
falls@wihealthyaging.org

**Stepping
On**

wiha
Wisconsin Institute
for Healthy Aging
wihealthyaging.org



**MIND
OVER
MATTER**

wiha
Wisconsin Institute
for Healthy Aging

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 set goals and mark your progress

Researched and proven to reduce bladder and bowel leakage!

WHEN: Every other Wednesday, January 15th, 2025, January 29th, 2025 and February 12th, 2025 from 1pm-3pm

WHERE: Bev Bauman Conference Room, PCHC

TO REGISTER: Call Pam Snyder at the ADRC of Vilas County 715-479-3625 or email pasnyd@vilascountywi.gov

Space is limited, pre-registration required.



A place for family, friends and fun!

The Memory Café is an opportunity for fellowship for people living with memory loss, Alzheimer's & other related dementias and their care partners to enjoy regular, social-interaction with others to laugh, to learn and create community.

What You Can Expect:

- Social connection with others having similar experiences
- Informal, Relaxed Environment
- Fun, Engagement & Laughter

Refreshments to be served!



WHEN:

1st Monday of the Month
10:00 am -11:30 am

WHERE:

Northlife Church
6065 State Hwy 70 E
Saint Germain, WI 54554

WHEN:

2nd Monday of the Month
10:00 am -11:30 am

WHERE:

Walter E. Olson
Memorial Library
203 N Main Street
Eagle River, WI 54521

RSVP:

Call the ADRC
715-479-3625

*If you would like to offer your time, talents or sponsor a monthly café, please contact lebaug@vilascountywi.gov

ADRC of Vilas

Memory Cafés

Memory Café * Fun, social connection with others having similar experiences.

Every 1st Monday – 10:00am to 11:30am

Northlife Church - 6065 State Hwy 70 E - Saint Germain, WI 54554

Every 2nd Monday – 10:00am to 11:30am

Walter E. Olson Memorial Library - 203 N Main Street - Eagle River, WI 54521

January

(6th) St. Germain – New Years Resolutions & Games

(12th) Eagle River - New Years Resolutions &

February

(3rd) St. Germain – Cookie Decorating

(10th) Eagle River- Cookie Decorating

March

(3rd) St. Germain – St. Patrick's Day Trivia & Fun!!

(10th) Eagle River- St. Patrick's Day Trivia &

April

(7th) St. Germain – Chair Yoga

(14th) Eagle River- Chair Yoga

May

(5th) St. Germain – Gardening Activity

(12th) Eagle River- Gardening Activity



Please Note: If school is cancelled in the Northland Pines District or there are unsafe driving conditions Memory Café will be cancelled. If you have any questions, please call

715-470-0005

