

## CARE PASSIONATELY

Families that include school age children can barely keep track of things this time of year. So many permission slips to sign, choir and band concerts to go to, field trips to chaperone, and summer activities to choose and register for. It's busy, to say the least.

In the Santos household, the end of the school year is even more difficult. Heidi is not used to signing a permission slip for every outing or paying attention to the days that the kids need cold lunches, water bottles, and money for the trips... we are not in Guatemala anymore.

She is also not used to deciding which activities will be done during the summer...another totally foreign concept. So Bobbie is keeping on top of things after hearing from teachers about schedules and permission slips. Ara is in charge of translating the Park and Rec catalog so some decisions can be made. Barb got the kids signed up for vacation bible school and drove Heidi to Josue's concert.

Bobbie will be taking her to watch Paola's play even though Paola informed us not to bother... she only got one line! On top of all of this, all of Josue's pants are too small. It really does take a village.

## A MISSION FOR MINISTRY

Our 2017-2020 Capital Campaign has begun. Church families received a brochure in the mail with the details of the three year capital campaign called A Mission for Ministry in which we will pay off our remaining \$800,000 bank debt. Imagine the mission and ministry that can be done when we are done paying \$8,000 for principal and interest monthly! Please prayerfully consider your financial response to this campaign & return your pledge forms. Already we have raised nearly \$300,000 toward our goal!

## FINANCIAL

### Treasurer's Report

|                      | Week of       | Year to Date |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
|                      | June 11, 2017 |              |
| General Fund Income* | \$ 5,521      | \$ 201,531   |
| General Fund         |               |              |
| Operational Needs    | \$ 8,519      | \$ 204,456   |

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

**E-Giving**—It is quick, easy & safe. It is designed to help both you with your home budgeting & financing of church ministries which continue even when you are away. Contact Missy ([missy@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:missy@firstchurchrf.org)) with questions. If you give electronically, please use the e-giving bookmark in the pew as the offering plate goes by.

## WELLNESS

### Yoga Class & Meditation-Mindfulness

If you have never experienced Yoga, please come and join a wonderful, friendly group of people. Bring a Yoga mat and a desire to learn about a new exercise that will bring you flexibility to your body & mind. A donation is requested. Join us from **9:00-10:00 am Tuesdays and Thursdays** in the youth room.

**Yoga in the Yard**—Tuesday, June 27th, yoga will be in Jan Hansen's yard at **10:00 am**. A brunch will follow. If you would like to join us, bring a yoga mat and share the time!

## JUNE 18, 2017

*No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!*

**As Jesus' courageous disciples, living God's grace, we strive to...**

## WORSHIP FAITHFULLY

### Sunday Volunteers Needed

Liturgists for: July 9, 30

Welcomers for: June 25; July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Coffee Fellowship for: July 2, 9, 23, 30

The sign-up sheets are on the back table. Thank you!

SIGN UP

**Worship Service on Channel 16**—The Sunday worship service can be viewed on River Falls public access channel 16 on **Wed at 9 pm & Thurs at 12 pm**. Thanks to Jeff Hoffman who is leading the team to record the weekly worship service. He is in need of a few more volunteers. Contact him [jeffhoffman312@gmail.com](mailto:jeffhoffman312@gmail.com) or 715-425-5633.

**Church Office Hours**—The church office hours between Memorial Day and Labor Day are: Mon-Thurs: 8:30 am-4:00 pm; Friday: Closed

## WELCOME OPENLY

**Barb Wall's Birthday!**-Family and friends invite you to celebrate Barb's 80th birthday on **Saturday, June 24 at 2:00 pm** at the church in the Fellowship Hall. RSVP to Janet Wall 704.975.5713 or [barbsbirthdaybash@gmail.com](mailto:barbsbirthdaybash@gmail.com)

**Program & Picnic on the Lawn**—The Music at First Church Series is excited to announce the Czech Area Concertina Club on **Wed, July 12 from 5:00-7:00 pm**. Our very own Lou Greub & his players will perform on the church lawn with a picnic lunch of pulled pork, chips, dessert & lemonade available for purchase. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets & sunglasses. Be prepared for toe-tapping fun & maybe a polka too! (In case of inclement weather, we will move indoors.) Hope to see you there!

## WELCOME OPENLY

**VBS Volunteers**—We need the help of many adult & older youth volunteers. We need two adult volunteers for the musical (June 19-22) & a minimum of 40 volunteers (adults & teens) for VBS (July 31–Aug 3). Please consider volunteering. To volunteer, please sign the list on the sign-up table. For more information, contact Stacy Myers.

**VBS: Spread the Word**—First Congregational has excellent summer opportunities for young people. Please spread the word & invite neighbors & friends to participate in the musical & VBS. There is no charge for the programs and they are open to all members of the community. The summer kids' musical & VBS is a great way for people to become acquainted with our congregation & its ministry. Registration forms are on the church's website.

**Summer Singing Opportunity**—We will be putting together a choir once a month to lead worship & sing an anthem. Everyone is invited! Not only will this be a fun experience, but it will also be an opportunity to have some new people join our choir. You do not have to have music reading skills or any previous experience. We will sing on: **June 18, July 16 & August 6th**. If you would like to sing, please meet at **8:30 am** on any of the Sundays that we will be singing. If you have any questions, please contact our choir director, Scott Perau.

Cell - 715-461-0318; Email - [sperau@gmail.com](mailto:sperau@gmail.com)

**Dinner & A Show**—A group of kids will present the musical, *Are We There Yet?* a delightfully funny rendition of the exodus story, on **Thurs, June 22**. The evening begins at **6:00 pm** followed by the musical. Please plan to come. It means a lot to the children to have people come & watch their hard work. Please make a dinner reservation.

**Garden Geeks Needs You**—Would you like to help us keep the flowers around the church looking beautiful? Please sign up for a week of watering & weeding. We have 5 thirsty flower pots & 4 flower beds that need care. If you have questions, please see Lu Lueck or Wendy Hill. Any help is appreciated!

**New to Church?**—Are you a first time visitor? Please stop at the welcome table in the gathering area to receive a special welcome gift from us!

## WELCOME OPENLY

**Softball News**—Our softball season has begun. Thanks to our wonderful fans who cheered us on. Here is our schedule for the month.

June 19—7:45 pm at Hoffman Park

June 26—6:30 pm at Hoffman Park

The church family league is a co-ed division allowing men, women & kids (age 14 & up) to play. It's a great opportunity for families to play. Come join in the fun, laughs & I confess some tense moments whether you are playing or cheering the team. If you have questions contact Matthew Thurston at (715)781-3626 or Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945.

**AED and First Aid Class**—It is time for another AED training class. Please indicate on the sign-up sheet all of the days of the week and times that usually work for you. The choices are: Monday through Saturday morning; Monday through Saturday afternoon; and Monday through Thursday evening—thank you!

**WANTED: Coffee Fellowship Hosts**—We are in need of people to sign up for Coffee Fellowship. We all know what an enjoyable & important part of our Sunday worship this is. If you have questions, contact Lu Lueck at 715-781-0138

**WANTED: Welcomers**—We are looking for people to welcome worshipers as they enter the church. It's a fun job & requires nothing but a handshake, a smile & a warm welcome. Please consider signing up.

**Summer Boundary Waters Trip**—A group from church is headed up to Boundary Waters Canoe Area for a trip **Aug 6-10**. If you are interested, please see Brad Williams.

**3rd Tuesday Soup**—A free soup supper is served every 3rd Tuesday of the month at **5:00 pm at St. Bridget's Catholic Church**. This is a non-denominational gathering and everyone is welcome to attend. Gluten-free options are generally available. The next free soup supper will be served on **Tuesday, June 20**. It's a great opportunity to socialize with others, and to meet new people.

## GROW SPIRITUALLY

### **VBS and Summer Musical Dates for Summer, 2017**

Registration forms are available on the church website. Please register to help with planning.

**VBS** (Ages 3 through completion of grade 5)

July 31-August 3, 2017 from 9:00 am–11:30 am

**Musical** (Completed grades 1–8)

June 19-22, 2017 from 9:00 am–Noon

**Camps**—Our Wisconsin Conference has an amazing camping program. It offers camps for kids, families, singles, grandparents, and everything in between. Moon Beach is located on a beautiful northern Wisconsin lake near St. Germain and Pilgrim Center is on the shores of Green Lake in southern Wisconsin. Scholarships are available through the church scholarship fund ([www.firstchurchrf.org/resources/forms/](http://www.firstchurchrf.org/resources/forms/)). Check it out and register through their website [www.ucci.org](http://www.ucci.org).

**Worship Bags**—The children's worship bags for young children to use during worship have been reinvigorated. They have simple activities designed to keep hands busy during worship, which in turn can help children listen in worship. The bags are most appropriate for the sermon time. It is important for children, even young children, to learn to follow along in the bulletin, participating in the congregation's worship. After all, children learn to worship by worshipping. Thanks to Jen Elsesser and Jennie Price for all their efforts with the worship bags.

## SERVE GENEROUSLY

**Relay for Life 2017**—Our team donated \$2,571 to the American Cancer Society which makes them Bronze Level Fundraisers. Thank you team. They have a goal of \$145,000 and are close to reaching that. Donations are being accepted until August. Thank you for your generous support and donations.

## SERVE GENEROUSLY

**Among Friends**—The new social respite program for older adults with memory loss or physical frailties—welcomes you to an introduction & information gathering to learn more about the program and volunteer opportunities to serve. Among Friends will start up in September at First Congregational offering a weekday with older adults so their family caretakers might have personal time for errands & enjoyment.

Among Friends leaders will meet informally with everyone interested, to explain the program and what volunteers might be doing. Many have already expressed interest in volunteering—this is your opportunity to learn more about participating in this exciting initiative serving all of Pierce County! We'll meet in the fellowship hall at the church on **Monday, June 19, from 6:30-8:00 pm and Tuesday, June 20, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm**. Hope to see you there!

**Save Your Family Fresh Receipts!**—ARC gets \$1,000 for every \$150,000 in receipts, so every dollar counts. ARC is the agency funded by local churches to help address the immediate needs of people in our community (rent, utility, gas, repair help). A box for receipts is on the back table.

**Simpson Shelter Needs**—Bath towels, new or gently used; Blankets; Shampoo (travel size preferred); Coffee; Men's underwear/boxers, new sizes M-XL; Men's t-shirts, new sizes M-XXL; Women's underwear, new sizes 6-9; Bras, new sizes A-DD; Disposable razors. There is a box for donations. Thank you!

### **Donations Needed for Our Neighbors' Place:**

Laundry detergent and dryer sheets

NEW men's and women's socks and underwear

Pull-ups (especially sizes 4 / 5 / 6) and baby wipes

Toilet paper, paper towels, kleenex

Monetary donations of any amount are always VERY appreciated. Donations may be dropped off between 10am-4pm Mon-Thu and by appointment on Fridays.

**The Lamplight Project** is a solo vocal & piano concert that was created by Kate Jennings as a benefit for churches to raise money for their local homeless shelters. Check out the website [www.lamplightproject.org](http://www.lamplightproject.org).

## CARE PASSIONATELY

**Prayer List**—If you have people you wish to add to the church prayer list, please use the blue "I Wish" pew cards & put in the church office or the offering plate. If you wish to receive the weekly prayer list via email, contact the office.

**Care Givers Program**—An opportunity to serve members through an outreach program that pairs members providing visitors to those unable to be with us regularly in worship or activities. If you are interested in volunteering, have questions or are aware of anyone that would benefit from this, contact Jan Hansen at 715-425-5211

**Meal Ministry**—Ever had a death in the family? How about something joyous & life changing like the birth of a baby? As a congregation we are called to 'care passionately' for one another & one of the ways we would like to do that is through a "Meal Ministry." A small stipend to help pay for food may be available. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

**Thinking of You Cards**—Please use them to send a note to someone who is ill, grieving or you just haven't seen in a while. Place them in the offering plate & we will deliver them. This is one of the ways we care for one another.

**New Book by Barb de Souza**—Barb, our Brazilian healthcare missionary who in retirement moved back to River Falls, has recently published a book detailing her life & ministry called "*When Sleeping Women Awake, Mountains Will Move*." The books are available in the office for \$16. Money from sales of the books will go to the Association of Community Health Educators in Brazil.