

## SCHOOL SUPPLY EVENT

It is so difficult to express in words my gratitude to the members of this congregation for their overwhelming support of the Free School Supply Program. Each year you seem to outdo yourselves by your contributions in terms of items donated, cash assistance, as well as your help. This year we served 275 students during the event and others will be helped as Our Neighbor's Place (ONP) has been given supplies for distribution and use throughout the school year.

A special thank you to those that assisted in sorting and/or distribution. A special thanks to Diane and Randy Welsh who were there all three shifts and also provided shopping and delivery services. Joyce Kampstra and Ruth Reilly were willing workers for all three shifts as well. Julie Larson organized and prepared the bag lunches. Her husband Keith was also there to help prepare the 300 sandwiches. The following members were instrumental in sorting and distribution: Kaye Anderson, Suzanne Hagen, Jan Hansen, Rhonda Klink, Roman Klink, Jenna Lawrence, Linnea Lawrence, Nathan Lawrence, Mike Noreen, Evelyn Purdy, Peg Thompson, and Polly Wymer. I apologize if I missed anyone.

Also, a big thank you to Jeff Johnson, president of the First National Bank. The employees at the bank sponsored a 5K race in May. Profits from that event went for purchasing new tennis shoes. Any extra shoes have been donated to ONP and the schools. In total, 400 students will benefit from this program. The employees converted our music room into a "shoe store" and the wonderful workers made each student feel very special.

If you are so inclined, please think about purchasing items such as backpacks when they are considerably reduced in price for next year's program.

Again, your continued support is so appreciated by the families that were served by this project. Your assistance makes my job so much easier in coordinating this much needed program.

Bob Gustafson, Coordinator  
School Supply Program

## FINANCIAL

### Treasurer's Report

	Week of Aug 6, 2017	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	\$ 10,200	\$ 263,556
General Fund		
Operational Needs	\$ 8,519	\$ 272,608

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.

## 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!

## AUGUST 13, 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: Sept 3, 10, 17, 24

Welcomers for: Aug 27; Sept 3, 10, 17, 24

Coffee Fellowship for: Sept 10, 17, 24

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

**Peach Fundraiser**—It's time to place your order for the delicious Washington State Peaches! Single layer box \$18 or 2 boxes for \$32. This is an annual fundraiser for our youth. The peaches should arrive the week after Labor Day at the church. We will call or email you when the pick-up begins. **TO ORDER CONTACT: Caren Prochnow at 715-425-6346 or [ciprochnow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ciprochnow@sbcglobal.net).** **ORDER DEADLINE IS AUGUST 20th.** When placing an order, please provide contact information & the number of boxes you would like to order. Thank you for your support!

**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

**Fendrick & Peck**—Folk Music duo Fendrick & Peck will be our special music guests on **Sunday, August 27**. They will share their music during worship and will move to the Fellowship Hall following the service to keep the music going. They have been featured artists in many venues sharing music from their albums, and have been hailed as the "future of folk music" through their annual tours throughout the Midwest, New England and Mid Atlantic areas. Please join us for a morning of great music, delicious treats, and great fellowship!

**Rally Day & Parent Meeting**—Rally Day will be **Sept 10**. Following Sunday School & the 10:30 service, all parents of children pre-school through Grade 9, are asked to attend an orientation. All parents will meet together for 20 minutes. After the initial orientation, parents of confirmands (grades 6-9) will remain for the confirmation orientation & parents of younger children will be done. This is a very important meeting & required for all families of confirmands. Please be sure to attend. First Congregational takes its responsibility to educate children very seriously. There needs to be a strong connection between church education & family life.

**Sunday School Teachers Needed**—Sunday School is one of the congregation's most important ministries. *Please* consider volunteering to teach. All classes are taught by a team of teachers so no one teacher teaches every week. For information, please contact Stacy Myers. Please indicate your willingness by signing the list.

**Wednesday School Workers Needed**—It is time to prepare for school-year programming. Wednesday School begins on October 4. We need adult volunteers, drivers to transport children from school to church, and people to provide snacks. Please consider volunteering. A sign-up list is available for volunteers.

**Building Announcement**—Because of another burglary of our building, we have had to adjust the hours the church doors are open. Please be advised that the doors will be open Mon-Thurs 7:30 am-4:00 pm, Sundays 7:30-11:00am for the rest of the summer. If you need to get into the church outside of these hours, please contact the church office. Thank you for your patience & understanding.

## WELCOME OPENLY

**Softball News**—Thanks to our fabulous fans who support us each week & share our emotions throughout the game. We have two games left in the season:

August 14—6:30 pm at Hoffman Park field #1

August 21—6:30 pm at Hoffman Park field #1

Come join in the fun, laughs, and 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.

**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!

**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.

**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.

**Wednesday School Registrations**—All children who will be in Kindergarten through Grade 5 starting in the fall of 2017 are invited to participate in Wednesday School at First Congregational. Registration & permission forms for Wednesday School are available on the church website and on the sign-up table. It is important to have advance registration in order to be adequately prepared for students. Wednesday School begins October 4. Please contact Stacy Myers with questions.

## GROW SPIRITUALLY

**Adult Forum Planning, Topics, and Leaders**—The Adult Forum program is attended by a large variety of congregation members through the course of the academic year. Planning for the upcoming year is now underway. If you are willing to help with planning, lead a forum session, or have a suggestion regarding topics or resource people, please contact Stacy Myers.

**Picture the Bible**—We now have student discussion pages to accompany the 36 images on the Biblical pictorial timeline. Check out the website: [www.picturethebible.org](http://www.picturethebible.org). Also, *Picture the Bible* now has a Facebook page. Please like & share the page with your friends. This is a good way to get the word out about the *Picture the Bible* ministry.

**Tuesday Bible Study: Resumes in the Fall**—Weekly Adult Bible Study will resume **Tues, Sept. 12, 1:00–2:30 pm**. The focus will be the Old Testament. Participants do not need to commit to attending every week. Come when you can. Please sign the list indicating your interest.

### Book Group Fall Schedule\*:

**Tues, Sept. 26: Everyone Brave Is Forgiven, Chris Cleave**—A wartime love story set on Malta 1939-42; describes little known historical aspects of that time & place  
**Tues, Oct. 24: Plague of Doves, Louise Erdrich**—Consequences of a long-solved crime in small North Dakota town continue to affect that community and a nearby Native American reservation. (Possibly plan a trip to Erdrich's Minneapolis bookstore and lunch next door at the Kenwood café.)

**Tues, Nov. 28: Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, Matthew Desmond**—Nonfiction about Milwaukee and the devastating consequences for families when evicted from their homes. The author, Madison PhD student, lived with the tenants and learned their stories.

**Tues, Jan. 23: The Underground Railroad, Colson Whitehead**—Chronicles a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South. Winner of Pulitzer Prize & National Book Award.

**\*Meetings are at the church at 6:30 pm. Sept–Oct.**  
Winter meeting time may shift earlier.

## SERVE GENEROUSLY

**Simpson Shelter Needs**—Twin-sized new or gently used fitted and flat sheets; new or gently used bath towels and face cloths; men's t-shirts, boxers (new, all sizes); disposable razors; travel size shampoo; blankets (new or gently used). 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.

**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.

### Among Friends Volunteer Training

**When:** Aug 29 2-4:00 pm  
5-7:00 pm  
Sept 13 2-4:00 pm  
5-7:00 pm

**Where:** First Congregational Church

**What:** Background information about dementia, tips for working with persons who have memory loss, and ideas for what volunteers can do at Among Friends, an adult day social respite center that will be housed in our church

**RSVP:** [Amongfriendsrf@gmail.com](mailto:Amongfriendsrf@gmail.com) or Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn at 715-307-1182 or just show up  
Thanks for your willingness to be a volunteer for Among Friends. ~Bonnie JW

## 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.

**Meal Train**—Kathy & Beth Rausch have invited us to join them in providing meals for a friend of theirs with 3 young children (and twins due this fall) whose husband died tragically a few weeks back. The family lives on Coulee Trail between Hudson and River Falls. If you're able to join this effort, please visit Kathy or Beth, or go directly to this website at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/211ynm> where you'll find complete information about dates and needs.