

2019 Annual Meeting



FIRST

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

God is still speaking,

WELCOME

1. Opening Prayer – Pastor Chris
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of February 3, 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes
4. Old Business:
 - a. Welcoming Statement/Open and Affirming – Pastor Dave
5. New Business:
 - a. Committee Presentations (3 minute max!)
 - b. Approval of Reports
 - i) Pastor, Denomination, Staff, and Moderator
 - ii) Boards and Committee Reports
 - iii) Clerk's Report
 - c. Long Range Planning Initiative – Brad Williams
 - d. Building Fund Update -- Joel Larsen
 - e. Acceptance of 2019 Treasurer's Report – Missy Luedtke and Scott Elsesser
 - f. Presentation and Approval of 2020 Budget as recommended by the Church Council – Scott Elsesser
 - g. Election of Officers, Conference Delegates, & Nominating Committee Members
Moderator, Vice Moderator, Treasurer, Clerk, Conference Delegates, Nominating Committee
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

Welcoming Statement

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*
- Welcome openly*
- Grow Spiritually*
- Care passionately*
- Serve generously*

We seek to be a beloved community of the peoples of God, richly blessed with all the diversity and difference God has given the human family. We welcome, embrace, and affirm all God's peoples and strive to become one body that Jesus Christ calls us to be. You—yes, you—are warmly welcome here!

Quick Ministry Updates:

- *Christian Education
- *Deacons
- *Discipleship
- *Endowment Grant
- *Mission
- *Music
- *Picture the Bible
- *Scholarship
- *Trustees
- *Welcoming

Board of Christian Education 2019 Highlights

- **Designed** a resource for writing one's spiritual legacy. Included in the funeral planning document.
- **Hosted** a viewing of "Screenagers" for teens and families.
- **Began** a "Book Nook" set of resources geared for parents of young children. This is nearly finished.
- **Enjoyed** a record number of students in VRS — 74!—and explored the creation.
- **Created** a box and mini storybook to explore Lenten and Easter no





Board of Christian Education 2020 Goals

- **Finish** “Book Nook” bags.
- **Complete** library reorganization project.
- **Create** Advent resources for families.
- **Update** registration forms and make them available online.
- **Update** printed communication regarding dates and expectations for confirmation.
- **Plan** a “Yoga Calm” event for families that teaches families to connect mindfulness and spirituality.

2020 VBS



Deacons

The Board of Deacons is a servant ministry which is called upon to

- * assist in preparing and administering the elements of Communion
- * care for the altar and its fixtures
- * assist in church services by ushering, taking the offering, and assisting the minister in other ways.

We are also tasked with maintaining the membership roll of the church and in service of this goal, we

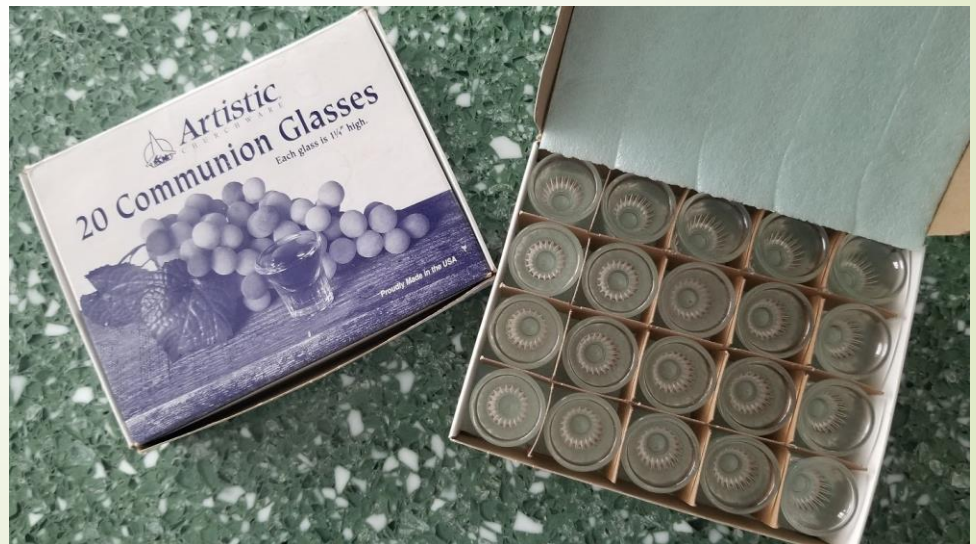
- * assist and support Inquirers Classes for new members of our community
- * plan and host the Confirmation banquet in the spring to welcome our young adults into membership in the church



Deacons

In 2020, we are increasing our inventory of glass communion cups to reduce our use of plastic, and making a few other changes to improve sustainability.

We are a servant team that enjoys working together and takes pride in caring for our church and community! We welcome new members to come and join us!

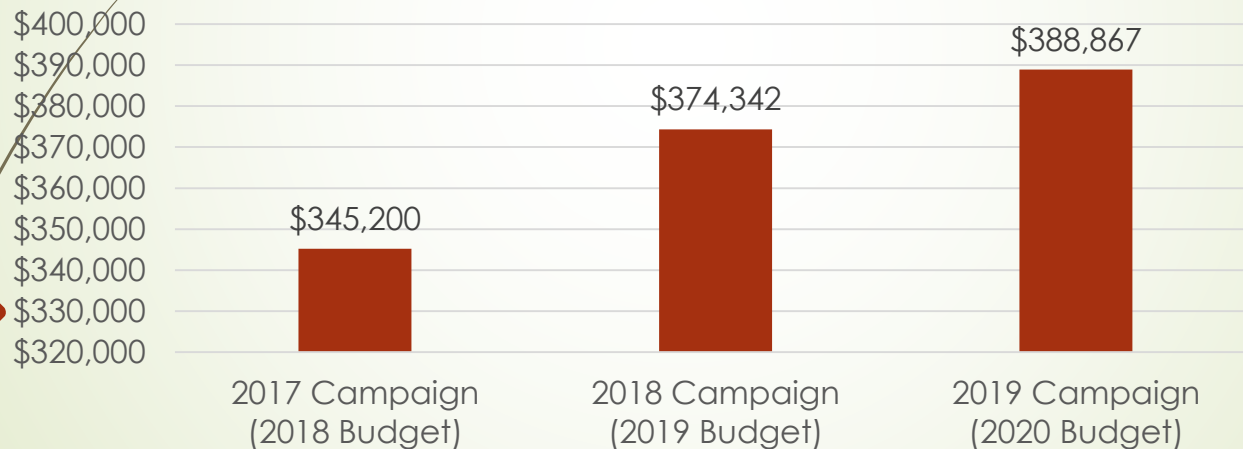


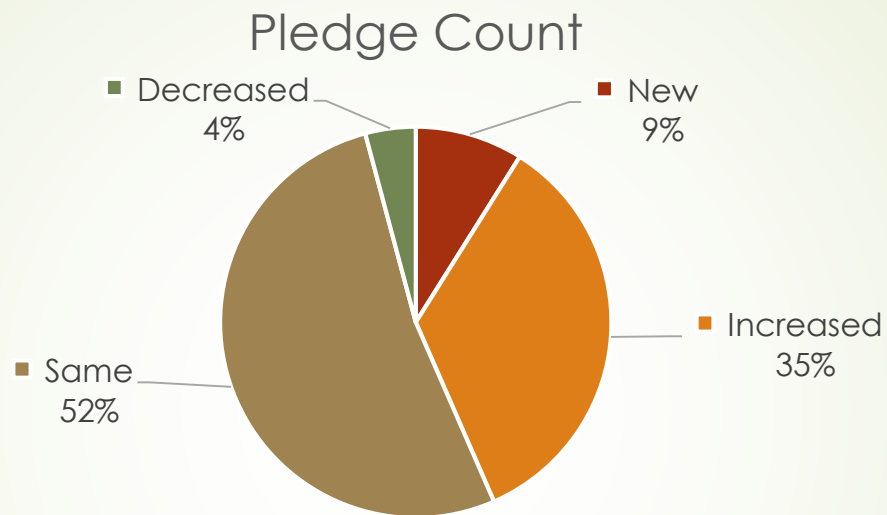
Discipleship Committee

2019

- Led Pledge Campaign for 2020 Giving
 - Produced mailings for pledges and thank you's
 - Sponsored a Coffee Fellowship with presentation led by Pastor Chris
- Lined up Tell Me A Story speakers for each month

Total \$ Pledged





- 44% of pledges for 2020 were either new pledges or increased their pledge amount

Thank You from the Discipleship Committee to everyone who pledged this year!

Endowment Grant Committee

The Endowment Grant Committee meets semi-monthly to award endowment funds to programs requested by the committees of the Church

In 2019, the committee helped to fund:

A New Piano for the Sanctuary

Upgrades to the Church's Wi-Fi and Internet Service

A Hot Water Heater for the Sacristy

Pastoral Sabbatical support

Bible Story Book Bags for Children

Screenagers Part II

The Food Pantry and Building Fund




Endowment Grant Committee

2020 Members include:

*Cheryl Zakrzewski, Del Hirstein,
Barb Peterson, Rene Bylander,
Jeff Pajac, Brian Miller
and Pastor Chris*

*The Committee appreciates the continuing opportunity
to serve the Mission of the Congregation and Our
Community!*



Mission:

2019

Hope for Creation
Monthly Sustainability tips
Green Team

2020

Begin the discussion concerning poverty, race, and welcoming the marginalized in our community.

Music Committee 2019 Accomplishments

- After Hours Big Band concert
- Piano Fund Drive
- Halloween concert

AFTER HOURS BIG BAND



SWING DANCE

Sponsored by
**Music at
FIRST
CHURCH**

Sunday April 28, 2019
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
First Congregational UCC
110 N. 3rd St.
River Falls, WI
Free Admission

HALLOWEEN CONCERT

Free will donation

Sat. Oct. 26th
2:00 pm

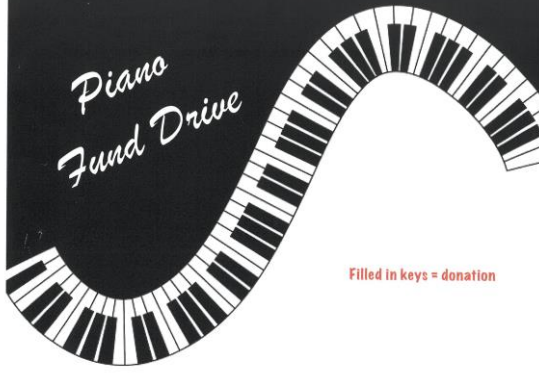
All ages welcome!
Costumes Encouraged!

First Congregational - UCC
110 North 3rd St.
River Falls, WI



FEATURING THE CEDAR VALLEY BRASS QUINTET

Piano Fund Drive



Filled in keys = donation

There are 88 keys on a piano = \$115.00 per key.
Can you purchase one key or half a key?

Let's see our goal completed. Watch the keys for our progress.

Our goal \$10,000.00 = new piano

Upcoming Events:



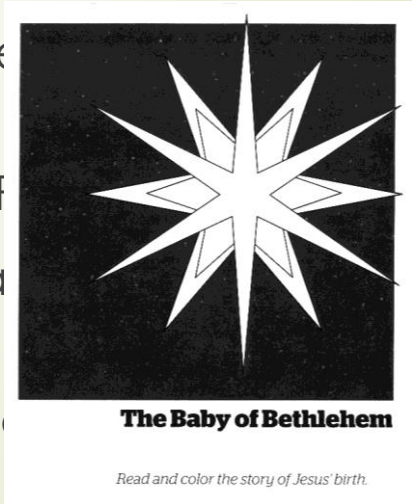
St. Olaf College Bell Choir in Concert
Friday, February 28, 7:00 pm

First Congregational Church
110 North Third Street, River Falls, WI
www.firstchurchrf.org 715-425-2052

Dinner at 6:00 pm
Please sign up

Picture the Bible 2019 Highlights

- **Secured** funding and commissioned nine art images and completed work on all 14 new images commissioned in 2018 and 2019.
- **Digitized** and color-corrected all new images.
- **Entered** into a contract with The Pilgrim Press book, *Picture the Bible*, slated to be out
- **Submitted** all copy and art for The Pilgrim Press
- **Initiated** conversation about packaging a new images.
- **Created** a Christmas story/coloring book for and families distributed on Christmas Eve.

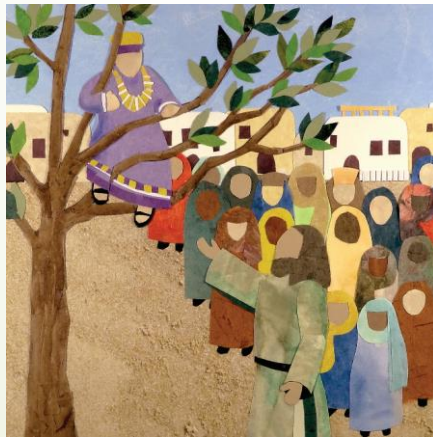
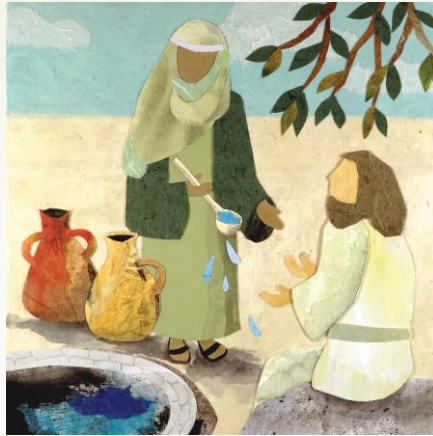





Picture the Bible 2020 Goals

- **Complete** all necessary revisions for The Pilgrim Press book.
- **Create** student pages for all new images (13 total).
- **Make** new images and student pages available for sale to coincide with release of The Pilgrim Press book.
- **Explore** and implement new marketing strategies for PTB resources.
- **Complete** coloring book pages for PTB images.
- **Create** a Holy Week/Easter story/coloring book for children and families.

New Images







Scholarship Committee

We award three different types of scholarships:

- High School Senior Scholarships
- Continuing Education Scholarships
- Spiritual Growth Scholarships

In 2019 our committee awarded \$77,700 in these types of scholarships.

Forms are available online. Deadlines for High School and Continuing Education scholarships are the 2nd Sunday in May. Spiritual Growth scholarships are evaluated and awarded on application.

Thank you for your generosity!

Trustee Committee

- Committee make-up
 - 9 members of the congregation; 2 staff members
- Responsible for Church budget
 - Create balanced annual budget
 - Weekly giving and expense reporting in bulletin
 - Maintain audit procedures – 2019 audit in progress
- Tasked with maintaining the church building and grounds
 - Spring Cleanup
 - Fall Cleanup
 - Inside cleanup day (early March)
 - Assisted with building wi-fi improvements and ISP switch to Comcast
 - Hot water heater replacement (THANK YOU Merle Paulson and Tim Bylander!)
- Open and close church every Sunday
 - Maintain Trustee Guidelines manual
- Manage and track church 'projects' list



Trustee Committee 2020

- Complete audit
- Monitor budget
- Revise and prioritize church 'project' list
 - Publish the list in 2020
- Work closely with newly formed church Green Team
 - Review energy audit and form action plan
 - Assist with providing education to the congregation
 - Review lawn maintenance schedule and chemical use

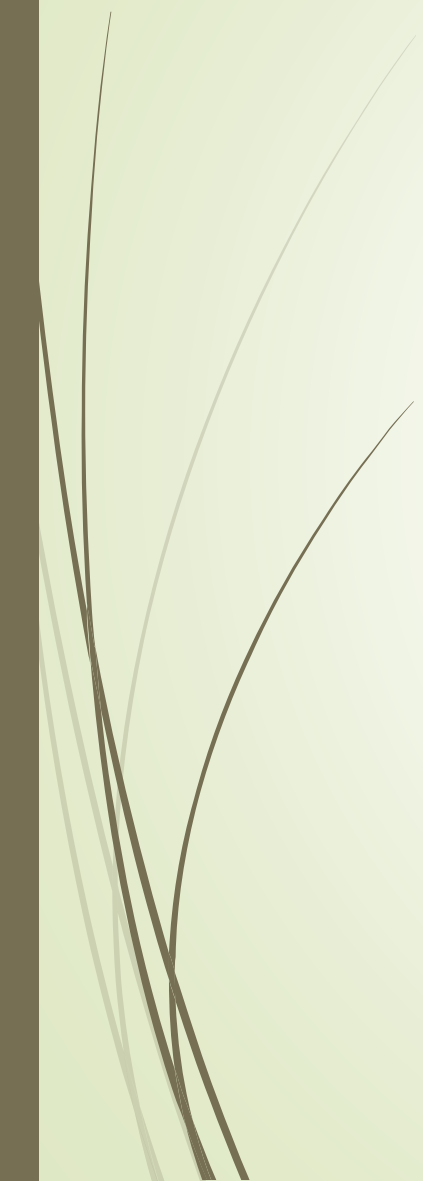


Welcoming Committee





Approval of Reports

- Pastor, Denomination, Staff
 - Board and Committee Reports
 - Clerk's Report
- 

Strategic Planning Team

Strategic Emphasis 3: Grow our church.

- Growing our church numerically
- Growing our church spiritually
- Growing our church financially

Strategic Emphasis 4: Communication of our church's story

- Communicating our church's identity internally
- Communicating our church's identity externally
- Communicating who we through a variety of intentional means.

The strategic planning committee envisions that church standing committees working in conjunction with church council will have the responsibility to implement the Framework for the Future. The Framework for the Future will be a “measuring stick” to keep track of progress and accomplishments as well as ensure that committee directions and work is in keeping with the Framework. Church council has the responsibility to monitor progress at its regular monthly meetings. The council needs to be sure committees are working together and not at odds to move toward a realizing of the vision behind the Framework for the Future.

Strategic Planning Team

Strategic Emphasis 1: Build a beloved community.

Strategic Emphasis 2: Care for our church home.

Strategic Emphasis 3: Grow our church.

Strategic Emphasis 4: Communicate of our church's story.

Strategic Emphasis 1: Build a beloved community.

- Emphasizing inclusiveness. How do we continually do this?
- Building connections among people
- Asking: Who do we want to be as God's people?

Strategic Emphasis 2: Care for our church home.

- Focusing on effective, faithful stewardship
- Paying off our building debt
- Caring for the building

Building Fund Update

Mortgage Summary – As of January 22, 2020

Original cost of Facilities Expansion Project	\$2,386,970
Remaining amount on Bank Loan	\$578,881
Remaining amount of Church Endowment Loan	\$300,00
Cash on hand in the Building Fund	\$33,380
Interest Rate (Locked in through January 2023)	4.25%
Monthly Payment	\$8,320
Monthly interest paid December 2019	\$2,112
Total interest paid in 2019	\$26,222



Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

	2019 Proposed	2019 Actual
Mission	\$41,753	\$40,674
People	\$346,760	\$353,309*
Place	\$48,150	\$46,568
<u>Program</u>	<u>\$46,100</u>	<u>\$44,478</u>
Total Expense	\$482,763	\$485,030
 Total Income	 \$482,763	 \$485,391
 Surplus/Deficit	 0	 +361

*Discrepancy Due to Among Friends Personnel Costs



2020 Budget

	2019 Proposed	2020 Proposed
Mission	\$41,753	\$44,400
People	\$346,760	\$355,506
Place	\$48,150	\$50,800
<u>Program</u>	<u>\$46,100</u>	<u>\$47,600</u>
Total Expense	\$482,763	\$498,306
 Total Income	 \$485,391	 \$498,306
 Surplus/Deficit	 0	 0



Election of Officers



Moderator:	Brad Williams
Moderator Elect:	Joel Larsen
Clerks:	JoAnne Friedell, Kathy Rausch
Treasurer:	Missy Luedtke
Delegate:	Carol Merriman
Nominating:	Lu Lueck, Carole Motaz, Dianne Barnes, Brad Williams, Vicki Sippel



Any other Business?

Who wants who to win the game?

49ers?

Chiefs?

Just watching for the commercials?

What game?





Go Home

