2020 Annual Meting



Welcome to the 2020 Annual Meeting!



Wow! As a church did we pivot this past year!

Ways to access Annual Meeting information:

Website:

- *This PowerPoint is on the bottom of the church home page
- *The Annual Report is available for download on homepage

Church Office:

Hard copies are available

<u>Little Church Pick Up (outside Third Street Doors):</u>

Hard copies are available

Zoom Etiquette for the Annual Meeting

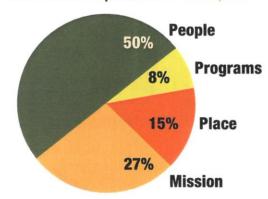
- Congratulations! You made it in!
- You are automatically muted
- Zoom features (on the bottom of your screen)
 Unmute feature
- Voting: yes and no keep hand up for 10 seconds so we can count
- To make a motion—please use the chat feature
- If you unmute to ask a question, please state your name so we can record it
- Please, please, please have patience with us.

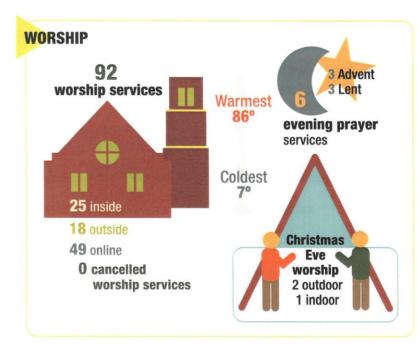
ANNUAL REPORT 2020

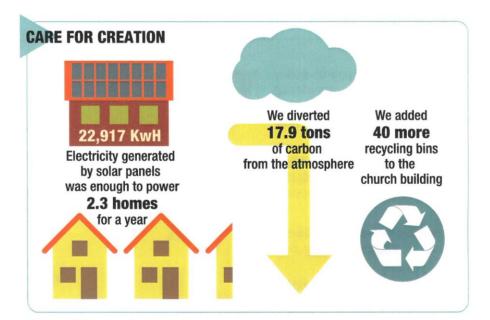
First Congregational Church, River Falls, Wisconsin

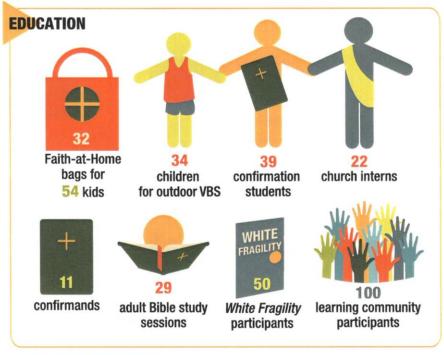
FINANCIAL GIFTS

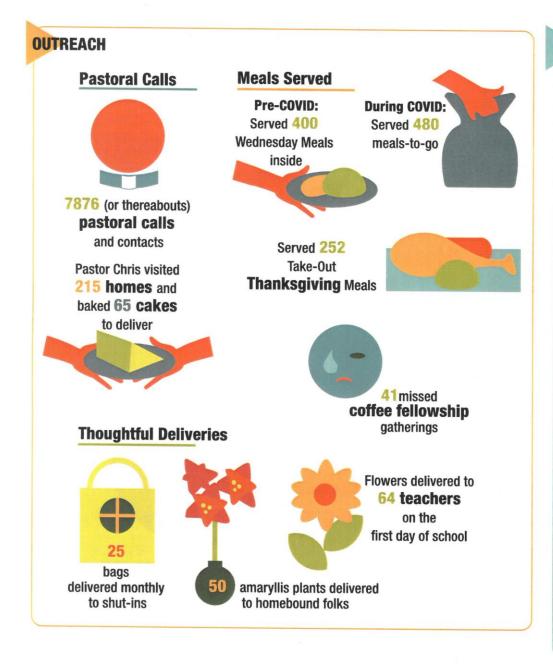
Total Church Expenditures: \$650,275



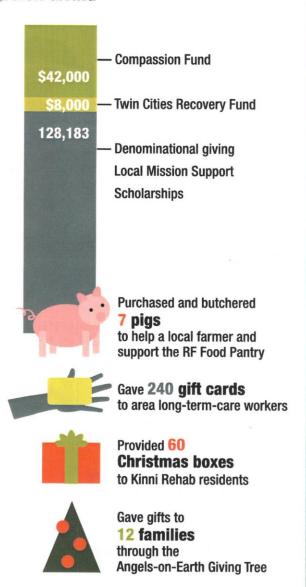


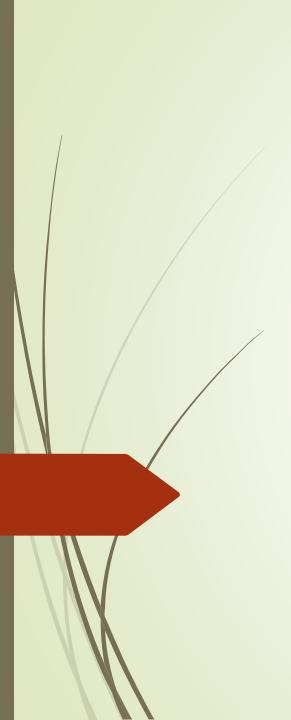




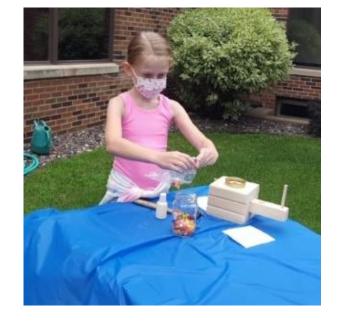


MISSION GIVING





- 1. Opening Prayer Pastor Chris
- 2. Approval of Agenda
- 3. Approval of February 2, 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes
- I. Old Business:
- 5. New Business:
 - a. Brief Committee Presentations: *How did COVID affect your ministry this year?*CE (Stacy Myers), Deacons (Kathy Rausch), Discipleship (Marie Roe), Endowment Grant (Brian Miller), Mission Ed (Rose Rude), Music (Kathy Wochomurka), Picture the Bible (Stacy Myers), Trustees (Bob Ferguson), Welcoming (Susan Walden)
 - b. Approval of Reports
 - i) Pastor, Denomination, Staff, and Moderator
 - ii) Boards and Committee Reports
 - iii) Clerk's Report
 - c. Memorial Garden Concept Pastor Chris
 - d. New Website Update Brad Williams
 - e. Building Fund Update -- Joel Larsen and Brad Williams
 - f. Acceptance of 2020 Treasurer's Report Missy Luedtke, Brad Williams, Bob Ferguson
 - i) Church PPP Loan **Joel Larsen**, Brad Larsen
 - g. Presentation and Approval of 2021 Budget as recommended by the Church Council **Missy Luedtke**, Brad Williams, Bob Ferguson
 - h. Election of Officers, Conference Delegates, & Nominating Committee Members Moderator, Vice Moderator, Treasurer, Clerk
- 6. Other Business
- 7. Adjournment









Christian Education





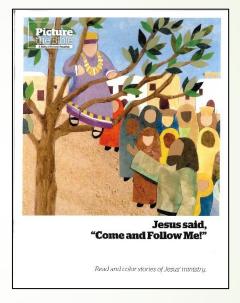
CE Planning

2020= Nearly everything with a twist!

- How do we equip families to help their children grow in faith?
- How do we support at-home worship and faith practices?

2021= What is next?

- What new ideas from 2020 do we want to keep?
- How can we emphasize in-person learning and community?









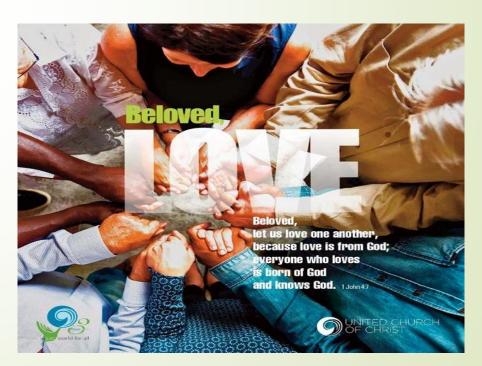


Deacons - 2020

- Pivoted to welcoming the congregation to the lawn, instead of to the sanctuary
- Began offering "drive-through communion" in person prior to online services
- Offer "at home communion" (doorstep or contactless) to those who would like to take communion but can't come to the "drive-through"
- Reassess month by month (and sometimes week by week or day by day) to see how we can best serve

Discipleship

- → 2020 Campaign: Let Us Love!
- Thank you for your pledge and support—you are the engine that empowers our ministry
- Tell Me A Story
- People in the Pews



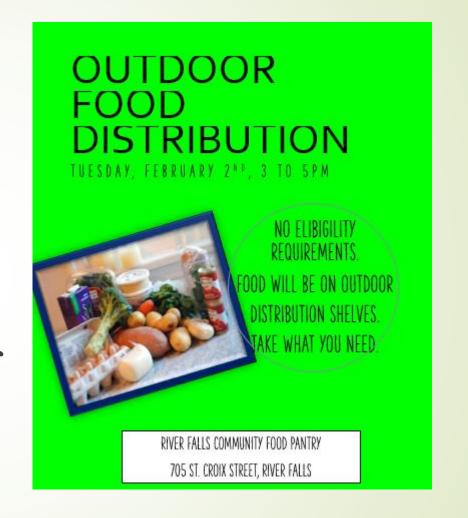
Endowment Grant
Committee
2020 Highlights

Unprecedented needs

\$2,755.00 Grant

To the Congregation's

Compassion Fund



Unprecedented needs



\$ 2,500.00 Grant

To the UCC Conference

Emergency Fund

Unprecedented needs

\$ 2,500.00 Grant
To the Twin Cities
Recovery Fund



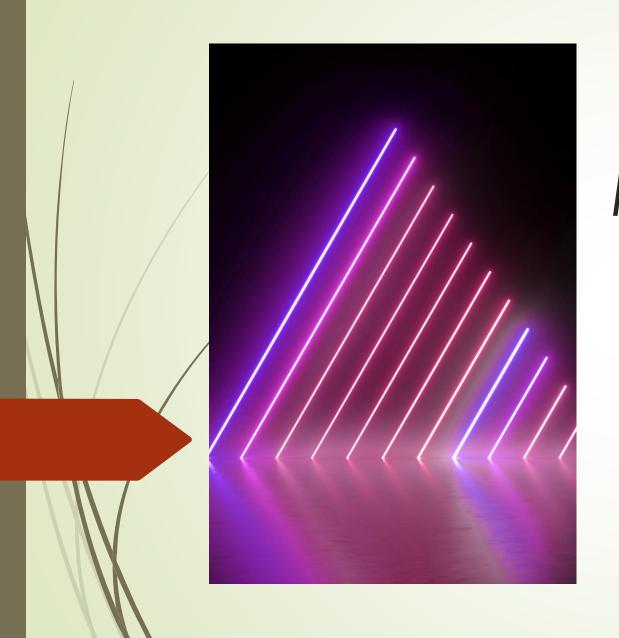
Unprecedented Opportunities

Our Gifts Helped To

Change Lives Impacted By

The Pandemic and Social Unrest!





Mission Education

Mission Education Highlights:

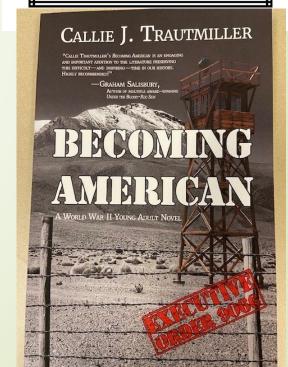
- COVID19 changed our focus to virtual meetings and putting some missions on hold:
 - Among Friends and the Veterans groups have not met in person since March.
- Learning Community Events
 - Callie Trautmiller
 - Family of Jim Laue (virtual)
- Donated \$500 to process pork for the food shelf
- Veteran's group met to learn more about benefits and to support each other.
- Asylum Committee—Heidy is now self-sufficient
- Ongoing discussions about how to let internal and external people know our church is Open and Affirming



James Laue grew up in our congregation and went on to an international career committed to racial justice and reconciliation. He was with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr when he died. His sons Ron and Andrew join us for an online gathering to share the powerful story of Laue's life and ministry on Thursday, November 19, at 7:00 pm.

Sign up here for the Zoom link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2 learning



























Music

- Music Committee Goals and Objectives for 2020-2021:
- We will strive:
- To provide opportunities to perform music that will enrich the lives and worship experiences of our musicians, congregation and community.
- To serve as a recognized center for music in the community through the Music at First Church concert series and other musical events.
- As stewards of the Kitzerow Fund, to support exceptional musical offerings to our church and community.
- o Support these musical endeavors with expenditures and equipment, equipment upkeep and supplies.



Music



- Events in 2020:
- The First Congregational Choir participated in the It Takes a Village Concert on February 16, 2020, held at Ezekiel Lutheran Church.
- We hosted the St Olaf Bell Choir on Feb 28th, with a dinner and performance. We also housed the entire Bell Choir in our church members homes.
- We planned the Concert on the Lawn with Tayven Jonathan, guitarist & singer, and was part of the official River Falls Days celebration. Unfortunately, this performance was cancelled as River Falls Day itself was canceled due to COVID-19.

Music: The Bells are back in...practice!

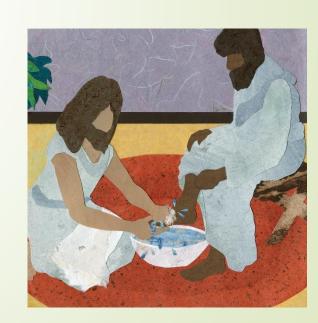


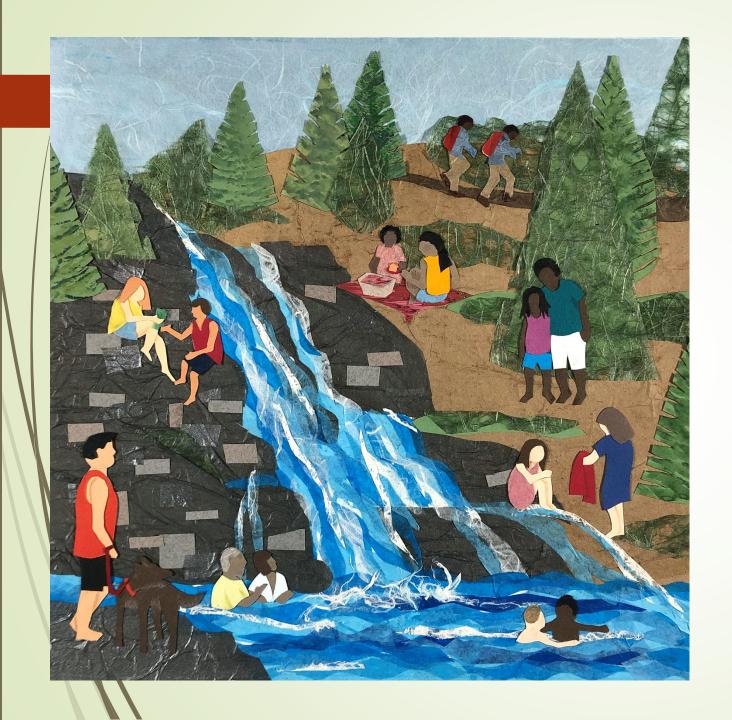
Picture the Bible

Key Accomplishments/Updates:

- Supported the 2020 educational ministry.
- Received \$5,000 from The Pilgrim Press. This funded: 30 coloring pages, 51 family resource pages, and a coloring book.
- Completed color adjustments.
- Reframed original art images.
- Added an additional image: Let Justice Roll

Book project update—hopefully soon!







Picture the Bible: Video!



Trustees

How Trustees did things differently

- No Sunday building unlocking and locking and checking the heat.
- No need for coffee hour preparation
- Experienced greatly decreased possibility of spontaneous collaboration
- We all did our best to learn how to Zoom

Things we did the same

Rely heavily on Tim Bylander for project accomplishment

Trustee Accomplishments





- Organize with extensive intern support Spring and Fall cleanups
- Replace a water heater
- Nursery cleanup and renovation following flooding
- Replace rooftop HVAC unit following a fire
- Follow-up city removal of Birch tree with stump removal and lawn reseeding
- Install 3 needlepoint bipolar ionization auto cleaning units for fellowship hall and offices

Welcoming

- How Has COVID Affected Our Ministry:
- 1. We can't shake hands with anyone anymore.
- 2. We can't smile at anyone because of the masks!
- → 3. We can't do fellowship anymore. We miss coffee time....
- ■4. We can't greet new members or others at the door Sunday mornings.

Welcoming

- How We Handled That In 2020:
- ► 1. We call our parishioners every 2-3 months to check in.
- 2. We send out a monthly greeting postcard each month.
- → 3. We sent out Valentine cards/gifts to our 39 college students.
- ■4. We have been delivering meals to Bernice Larson.

Welcoming

Greetings from your Welcoming Committee

Pastor Dave Ostendorf, Diane Crist, Lu Lueck, Callie Trautmiller, Susan Walden, Kathy Wochomurka



Church Fun Fact:

In Oct 2000, the Memorial Garden was established along with the statue of Jesus.

Trivia Question:

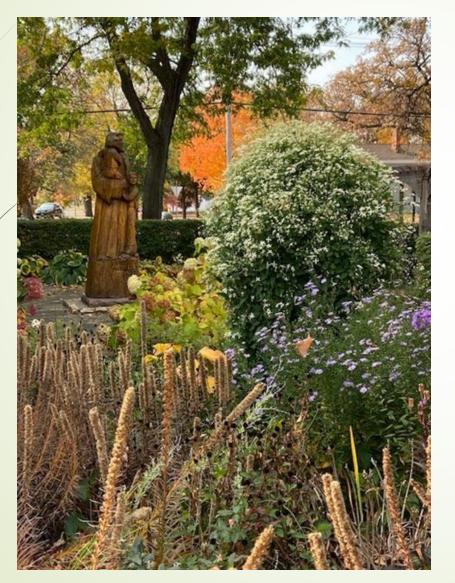
What does Jesus say is the second greatest commandment?

Last month's answer: Peter & Andrew

A Bible verse to ponder: Lamentations 3:22-23 I've learned...that when you're in love, it shows.

Approval of Reports

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









- A modest fee would be charged for each cremation that would go to help maintain the garden and pay for a plaque.
- We would pre-dig the holes in the fall and cover them with a board/mulch so that we can inter even in the winter.
- We will not inter/bury with metal or plastic to keep the area environmentally friendly (ashes to ashes, dust to dust).
- The church will purchase a pouring urn so that families can go from the Memorial Service in the sanctuary to the church Memorial Garden to intern the ashes
- We have checked with the city and cremation is a final disposition, so we
 do not need approval from them to do this (Methodist Church does
 something similar already)

- Lu Lueck (Garden Guru) and Church Council have approved this plan
- A church member, who is the prime motivator of this plan, will contribute up to \$5,000 for this project. We have one member who died this year who is waiting for the plan to be approved.
- We will look into the purchase of a cemetery plot at Greenwood in case the church moves/closes so that the plaque and remains could be transferred (worst case scenario and not required, but a wise plan B that may give comfort to the family). Cost for one gravesite is \$1200.
- A plaque with the full name and dates of each person will be displayed in the garden and Memorial Book will be kept inside the church with the obituary.
- We estimate we can inter/bury about 20-25 people in each of the two spots and then could move to the area between the Jesus statue and church.
- A Memorial Garden Committee would be appointed to oversee the project and set policies.

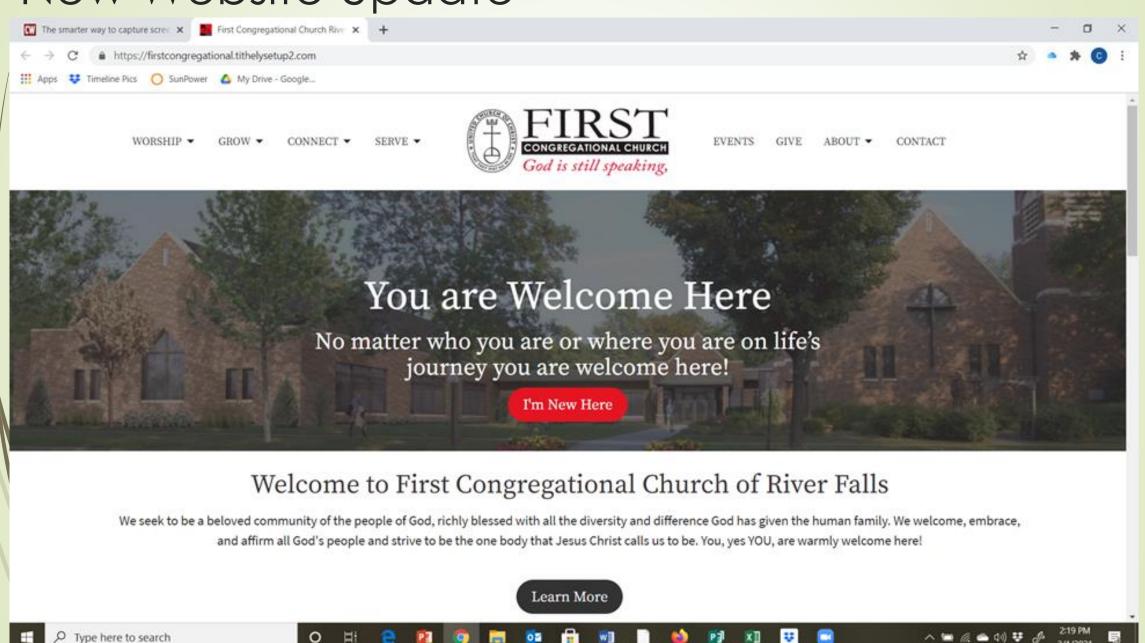


Questions?

Discussion?

Motion to approve or modify?

New Website Update



New Website will enable us to:

- Communicate our ministry more effectively with those outside our church community
- Quickly access needed information
- Give electronically online*
- Will soon also come with a phone app

*There will be a fee to pay via credit card of 2.5%

A HUGE thank you to Brad Richter who took on this project and ran with it!

Building Fund Update

Mortgage Summary – As of January 10, 2021

Original cost of Facilities Expansion Project	\$2,386,970
Remaining amount on Bank Loan	\$555,821
Cash on hand in the Building Fund	\$88,813
Interest Rate (Locked in through January 2023)	4.25%
Monthly Payment	\$3,300
Total interest paid in 2020	\$26,222

2021 Budget

	2020 Proposed	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed
Mission	\$44,400	\$44,398	\$44,400
People	\$355,506	\$325,510	\$334,682
Place /	\$50,800	\$59,488	\$56,815
Program	\$47,600	\$47,494	\$45,72 <u>0</u>
Total Expense	\$498,306	\$476,890	\$481,617
Total Income	\$498,306	\$477,451	\$481,617
Surplus/Deficit	O	+561	0

Election of Officers

Moderator: Joel Larsen

Moderator Elect: Kathy Rausch

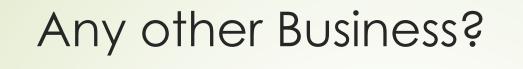
Clerks: JoAnne Friedell

Treasurer: Missy Luedtke

Delegate: Carol Merriman

Nominating: Dianne Barnes, Bobbie Kuhn, Karen Lloyd,

Lu Lueck, Marsha Pearson, Joel Larsen (Moderator)



THANK YOU Mr. Moderator (BRAD)!

