

NOV. LEARNING COMMUNITY

The Saint John's Bible A Learning Community Gathering, Wednesday November 7, 6:30 pm

The *Smithsonian Magazine* has called The Saint John's Bible "One of the extraordinary undertakings of our time." This stunningly beautiful Bible is indeed a creation of profound beauty and wonder. At our second Learning Community Gathering Tim Ternes, Director of *The Saint John's Bible* Project will be with us to share the story of this monumental work of art—the first handwritten Bible in over 500 years commissioned by a Benedictine Abbey.

Completed in 2011 following 13 years of work under the auspices of one of the world's foremost calligraphers and the Senior Scribe to Queen Elizabeth, the Bible is on permanent display at Saint John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota. Tim will bring full-size art reproductions of the original with him to River Falls, and through video and other media will share the power of what has become a world-renowned project capturing the power of the printed word. To appreciate what is coming that evening, visit <http://www.saintjohnsbible.org/> and watch for the beautiful announcements soon to be posted around the church.

Tim travels across the country and internationally to share the wonder of The Saint John's Bible, and we are most fortunate to have him with us for an evening of beautiful learning. We hope you'll join us! Everyone is welcome, 6:30–8:00 pm November 7. Please join us for Wednesday meal prior to the Community Gathering, by signing up at the gathering area table.

FINANCIAL

Treasurer's Report

	Week of	Year to Date
	Sept 30, 2018	
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,276	\$ 349,693
General Fund		
Operational Needs	\$ 8,920	\$ 347,880

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) with questions. If you give electronically, please use the e-giving bookmark in the pew as the offering plate goes by.

WELLNESS

Yoga Class—Come & join a delightful group of people that enjoy the flexibility & exercise that yoga offers. The yoga group (men & women) meets **Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:00-10:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Jan Hansen is the certified instructor. A donation is requested & is shared with local charities during the holiday season. We look forward to seeing new faces.

Working Men's Group—Ever wonder what God wants from you as a father, husband or partner? Want to grow in your understanding of who Jesus is? What to better connect with others in the church? Join the Working Men's Group! Building on the success of our existing Men's Group who meet every second Tuesday from 8-9 am, this second Men's Group will be aimed toward those who are working during the day. Gathering times will be every second week, either early morning or after dinner. Our time together will focus on the 12 Discipleship Traits which are featured by the church entrance. Please use the sign up sheets and indicate preferred meeting times. See Pastor Chris for details.

OCTOBER 7, 2018

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: Nov 4, 11, 18, 25

Welcomers for: Oct 14, 28; Nov 4, 11, 18, 25

Coffee Fellowship for: Nov 18, 25; Dec 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

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

Worship Service on Channel 16—The Sunday worship service is on River Falls public access channel 16 on **Wed at 9 pm & Thurs at 12 pm**. Jeff Hoffman records the weekly worship service. He needs a few more volunteers. Contact him jeffhoffman312@gmail.com or 715-425-5633.

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

WELCOME OPENLY

Birthday Celebration—Come and celebrate the 90th birthday of Chuck White on **Sun, Oct 14** at the American Legion in River Falls from **2:00-5:00 pm**. All are invited!

Book Group—The group will meet on **Tues, Oct. 23 at 3:00 pm at the church** to discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Schaffer and Annie Barrows (fiction). In 1946, through a series of letters, a writer learns about the isle of Guernsey, its people, and the impact the recent German occupation has had on their lives. Books (all in large print format) are available for check out in the church office.

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

Family Meals—Join us each Wednesday night for a healthy, home cooked family meal in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$7 per person with a max of \$30 per family. **Please sign up by Tuesday at noon** so we have enough food. Please also sign up to help set, serve or clean up. Whether you are single, a couple or have a minivan full, join us as a church family each **Wednesday from 5:15 to 6:15 pm**.

Oct 10: BBQ ribs, mac 'n cheese, potatoes, veggies, rolls
Oct 17: Parmesan crusted chicken, rice, spinach salad, croissants
Oct 24: Pasta bar with red and white sauce, chicken, mushrooms

Protecting Children and Teens Online: An Event For Parents—Today's children are growing up in a world surrounded by technology. While technology can bring immense opportunity, there are also dangers connected to the online world. An interesting and alarming body of research documents the exposure, often unintended, to online pornography may children and teens experience. This exposure can have far reaching negative consequences in terms of children's and teens' social and emotional development and well-being.

Dr. Cordelia Anderson, a national expert on the impact of online pornography on children and teens will give a presentation on **Wed, Oct 24**. The presentation will focus on increasing awareness and providing resources for parents about this issue. The evening will begin with a family meal starting at 5:15. The presentation will be held **6:00–7:30 PM**. Child care and activities for kids will be provided. Please mark your calendars and sign up on the sign-up sheet in the gathering area or call the church office.

Men's Group—Meets every other Tuesday in the Youth Room for coffee, treats, conversation and fellowship. Our next gatherings are **Tues, Oct 16 & 30 at 8:00 am**. October 16 is our trip to Feed My Starving Children. We will leave the church at 8:30 am, work from 9:30 to 11:30 am, go to lunch and then return. Join us!

SIGN UP

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WELCOME OPENLY

2019 Spring Break Mission Trip—We do this trip every second year (when spring break does not coincide with Holy Week ☺). The trip is geared for youth age 14 to college with a limited number of adult spots available. We spend the week working on houses (painting, light construction, demolition, landscaping, etc) in Biloxi through our UCC partner agency Back Bay Mission www.thebackbaymission.org. The cost is about \$450 per person for the week including all transportation, meals and housing. Dates are **March 23-30** (RFSB spring break). We have 2 spots remaining—Join us!

Cribbage Night—The group meets on the second Monday at the church. Players are asked to donate \$2 & the group decides which charity. Playing time starts at **7:00 pm**. All players & abilities welcome. The winner of the Sept game was Gloria Gardner. The next game will be **Oct 8**.

Mother Bear Project—Annette Petersen has moved away and we miss her dearly. However, the Mother Bear Project she introduced to this church is still going strong. If you knit or crochet, please consider crafting a bear for this important mission. For more information, contact Rene Bylander at 715-425-7437 or renebylander@gmail.com

Bibles for 6th Graders—The tradition is to give Bibles to 6th graders. We will present them during the 10:30 worship service on **Sun, Oct 21**. Parents of 6th graders: please return the form indicating how your child's Bible should be engraved. If you have questions, contact Stacy Myers.

Picture the Bible Cards for 3rd Graders—When children are in 3rd grade, we give them a set of *Picture the Bible* cards that they can use to help develop biblical literacy and interpretation skills. The cards will be presented during the 10:30 worship service on **Sun, Oct 21**.

Passion Play 2020—If you were not able to attend the organizational meeting to see the Passion Play in Germany in July of 2020 & wish more information, please see Pastor Chris soon. There are only 20 spots available and a \$100 refundable deposit is needed.

OCT. LEARNING COMMUNITY

Jesus sat among the teachers in the temple, listening and learning, and they were “amazed at his understandings and answers”

A Learning Community Gathering, Wednesday October 17, 6:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall

Luke tells us that even as a youth, Jesus amazed his teachers in the synagogue, and continued to do so throughout his ministry. John's gospel cites the term “Rabbi” eight times in reference to Jesus.

Join us Wed, October 17, at 6:30 pm for an evening of conversation about **Jesus the Rabbi**, with Professor Earl Schwartz of Hamline University. Earl is a renowned teacher and scholar of Judaism and Christianity, and will be with us for the first of our new Learning Community Gatherings that evening, following our Wednesday meal together. It promises to be a stimulating evening of learning for all of us! *Everyone is welcome for the evening, 6:30–8:00 pm; if you would like to join us for the Wednesday meal, please sign up in the gathering area.*

GROW SPIRITUALLY

Adult Forum—The forum meets Sundays 9:00–10:00 am.

Oct 7: Sustainability and Alternative Energy, Luther Miller—Luther Miller, a participant in a study abroad program with the University of St. Thomas, will give a presentation focused on sustainability and alternative energy in the United States and Europe. Luther will consider the human family's impact on the environment and our call to be stewards of the planet.

Oct 14: An Uppity Woman? Rebecca Ferguson Judith, who has her own book in the apocrypha, inspired music by Mozart and Vivaldi, a theatrical production by D.W. Griffith, art by Donatello, Caravaggio, Botticelli, Goya, Klimt, & Chicago--and faithful Jews & Christians for thousands of years. Is hers a story that might inspire you?

Tuesday Bible Study meets on **Tuesdays from 1:00–2:30 pm**. The focus is *Why Christian?* by Douglas John Hall. Copies are available for \$22. Participants do not need to commit to every week. Come when you can.

SERVE GENEROUSLY

Neighbors in Need Offering Today

Every fall we join thousands of other United Church of Christ congregations in generously supporting our Neighbors in Need Offering (NIN) that funds ministries of justice & compassion throughout the United States, as well as our Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today the UCC helps support 20 of these congregations on reservations & All Nations Indian UCC in Minneapolis. We invite & encourage everyone to gift this important work of the larger church!

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: Towels—gently used or new; Travel size shampoo, conditioner, lotion, and soap; Razors; New boxers—sizes S, M, L, and XL; New bras—all sizes; Coffee. There is a box in the gathering area.

Upcoming Youth Events

Sun, Oct 7—Corn Maze Afton Apple Orchard (6th–9th) \$5

Sun, Oct 21—Bibles to 6th Graders during late service

Oct 26–27—6th Gr Pre-Confirmation Water Park Retreat

Sun, Nov 4—Cossettas \$10 ALL YOUTH (6th–12th)

Sun, Nov 11—Thanksgiving Meal, Dessert Auction and Aprons to 7th graders

Wed, Nov 14—UWRF Climb Wall, Interns, 7:00–8:15 pm
Pick up at Falcon Center



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 715-821-4008.

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.

Among Friends, located here at church, provides a social respite for individuals with dementia & their caregivers. We are open 9 am–3 pm every Tuesday. Please contact Norma Revels 715-293-2561 or Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn 715-307-1182 if you are interested in knowing more.

Enjoy Playing Euchre?—Among Friends has a need for volunteers who know how to play Euchre. It would be on an as-needed basis on Tuesdays typically between 9:30–11:30 am. Please contact Norma Revels (715) 293-2561 or Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn (715) 307-1182.

Among Friends Volunteer Driver Needed—Among Friends continues to grow & expand service to surrounding areas within Pierce County. We have 2 individuals from Prescott who would like to participate but can no longer drive. The volunteer driver would receive Pierce County Aging & Disability reimbursement of \$.54 per mile. We hope to recruit 2–3 drivers so it is a shared position. If you are interested, contact Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn 715-307-1182 or Norma Revels 715-293-2561.