

## YOUTH EVENTS

### Upcoming Youth Events

Sun, Nov 11—Thanksgiving Meal, Dessert Auction and Aprons to 7<sup>th</sup> graders

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

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Taco Dinner in Support of Heidi and Family, and the Ecumenical Asylum Committee

—It's time for incredible tacos!! **Wed, Nov 14 at 5:30 pm** we'll gather at our neighboring **River Falls United Methodist Church** for a benefit dinner in support of Heidi and her family and the amazing work of the Ecumenical Asylum Committee. In her third year in River Falls Heidi has moved dramatically toward independence—working hard, raising four children, and securing green cards toward citizenship. We're blessed to have so many leaders from our churches who have helped make this happen. The "Taco Feed" will enable us to help just a little bit more in her journey, and we hope you'll join us to do so. If you can't be there, please see Bobbie Kuhn, Dianne Barnes, or Pastor Dave to make a contribution.

**Hope for the Holidays**—O'Connell-Benedict Family Funeral Home invites you to a special evening offering comfort & support for the holiday season on **Tues, Nov 13 at 6:30 pm at the funeral home**. Inspirational speaker & author, Donna Mathiowetz, will share insight & strategies on managing grief in times of celebration around us. Her message is always heartfelt with a sincere desire to help the audience feel empowered by her words. A memorial candle lighting, honoring your loved one, will be included. Those in attendance will receive a keepsake ornament. Refreshments will be served. No fee to attend, please bring a donation of a non-perishable food item for the local food pantry. Please RSVP by calling 715-425-5644.

## FINANCIAL

### Treasurer's Report

	Week of	Year to Date
	Nov 4, 2018	
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,401	\$ 378,463
General Fund		
Operational Needs	\$ 8,920	\$ 392,480

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**—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.

**Quilters Update**—Because the quilting group has ceased meeting, there is no longer any use for contributions of cloth and sewing supplies to First Congregational. And, while the Mama Bear project does continue, it will probably be years before all the yarn we still have could possibly be used up. So thank you for your generosity, but please do not leave any fabric or yarn here at church. (If, however, you are interested in starting a quilting or sewing group, there are still supplies downstairs for you to use!)

## NOVEMBER 11, 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: Dec 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Welcomers for: Nov 18; Dec 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Coffee Fellowship for: Dec 9, 16, 23

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](mailto: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

**Giving Thanks Meal**—Come one, come all to the all church Giving Thanks Meal to be served in the Fellowship Hall today after the 10:30 am worship service. Come join with church members & friends as we give thanks to God for the blessings we have received. The Youth Dessert Silent auction will also take place during the meal. Please join us!

**November Book Group Meeting**—The book group's next meeting will be **Tuesday, November 27 at 3:00 pm at the church** to discuss **A Spool of Blue Thread** by Anne Tyler (fiction). This is the story of a Baltimore family over four generations, spanning the 1920's to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Books are available for check out in the church office.

## 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**.

Nov 14—Roasted pork loin, sweet & sour cabbage, potatoes, mac and cheese

Nov 21—No meal, Thanksgiving eve

Nov 28—Breakfast for dinner—eggs benedict, breakfast burrito, stuffed French toast

**65th Wedding Anniversary**—The congregation is cordially invited to the 65th Wedding Anniversary Celebration of Don and Ginny Larson on **Sat, Nov 17 from 2:00-5:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. A brief renewal of vows ceremony will take place at 3:30 pm that day. Come join them in celebrating this milestone! The couple respectfully ask for no gifts, simply your presence.

**Advent Workshop**—The Advent Workshop for families will be held following the 10:30 service on **Dec 2**. The event will begin with a family-friendly meal followed by a chance to make a variety of Christmas ornaments. This is a great family event. Please come & invite friends to join you!

**Annual Christmas Luncheon**—You are invited to attend a Christmas Luncheon on **Tues, Dec 4, at 11:30am-1:00pm**. The Fellowship Hall will be decorated, the food will be delicious, the company hard to beat, and the River Falls High School Costumed Carolers provide the entertainment. Please come! We have drivers willing to pick up anyone who needs a ride. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Please make a reservation by signing the list or calling the church office. Please let the office know if you need a ride.

**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!

**SIGN UP**

**SIGN UP**

**TODAY**

## WELCOME OPENLY

### Advent Musical: Important Information for Families

Children in pre-school through Grade 6 will begin work on the 2018 Advent Musical on **Nov 18**. Rehearsals will take place during Sunday School on all Sundays from November 18 through December 9. The musical will be presented on **Sun, Dec 16 during the 10:30 worship service**. There will be a dress rehearsal on **Sat, Dec 15, 10:00 am–12:00 pm**. The dress rehearsal is for all children in Grades 1–6. Pre-School and Kindergarten children do not attend the dress rehearsal but are part of the musical.

**Senior Recital**—Please join Karah Dadez (granddaughter of Elaine Dizen) for a her Senior Recital on **Sun, Nov 18 at 2:00 pm in the church sanctuary**. The program will include trumpet music with Vibraphone, Organ, Tenor Sax, Brass Quintet with selections from the Haydn Trumpet Concerto, Prayer of Saint Gregory, Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen, You've Got a Friend in Me by Randy Newman, and many others. A reception will follow. The concert should be about 45 minutes in length.

**Men's Group**—Meets every other Tuesday in the Youth Room for coffee, treats, conversation and fellowship. Our next gatherings are **Tues, November 13 & 27 at 8:00 am**. 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 Oct game was Peter Rayne. The next game will be **Nov 12**.

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**Ask A Pastor**—On the sign-up table is a new feature in our church life: the 'Ask a Pastor' box. Each month I hope one of the pastors on staff here at First Congregational will take turns answering your questions about faith, life and how we try to live them out today. What are the questions about the Bible, the Christian faith or practice you want to know? Or perhaps you want to know something more about our church life, ministry and practice? Ask away! Write your question on the form provided and drop it in the box. Or you can also email your question to [office@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:office@firstchurchrf.org).

## GROW SPIRITUALLY

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

**Nov 11: *Planning a Funeral Service, Rebecca Ferguson***—Have you been postponing planning yours or another's funeral? It could be a little easier (maybe even fun?) doing it with others, using Pastor Chris' form. Come, and get this off your "to-do" list!

**Nov 18: *Our 21st Century Library, Tanya Misselt***

Do you know all that our River Falls library already does? How would you like it to grow in the coming decades? Come meet and learn from River Falls' new library director, Tanya Misselt.

**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.

**New Worship Series**—You have a story. And if you are like most people, there are parts of your story that are happy & sad, surprising & joyful. This worship series helps us link our personal stories to the larger story of God acting in our world. Using our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith as a guide, this seven part worship series will help us to connect our story to the Great Story of God who is with us today. Join us!

We Believe: Where Your Story and God's Story Come Together

November 4: God Judges

November 11: God Gives—Thanksgiving Meal/  
Dedication Sunday

November 18: God Comes

November 25: God Calls

December 2: God Promises

**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.

## SERVE GENEROUSLY

### Undie Sunday is Upon Us...

Uh-oh. The tubs are sparse. Game Day is three Sundays away. And Simpson folk are daily in need of Undie Sunday gifts!! It's a great week for shopping, so we hope you'll get to the stores and make a warm and welcome purchase for our neighbors at Simpson Shelter. Purple or green, it's time to fill the tubs!!!

**Christmas Shoebox Project**—For the last few years (6?) the yoga group, along with many other people at First Congregational Church have supported a "Christmas Shoe Box" for the men at the Kinnic Drug and Alcohol Rehab Center in River Falls, WI. The shoe box has contained socks, playing cards, puzzles and toothpaste just to name a few things. October and November are the months that we are highlighting this project. The wrapping and filling of shoeboxes will be done in early December and they will then be given to the men at Kinnic Drug and Alcohol Rehab Center. Please see the list of items we aim to collect on the sign-up table or in the newsletter. Your donations (items or cash) will be most welcome. Cash donations will be used to purchase needed items. Thank you for reaching out to these fellows.

**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.

**Mother Bear Project**—The Mother Bear Project 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](mailto:renebylander@gmail.com)



## 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.

## Let Us Give Thanks!



The table is set and ready for you.  
Please join us for our annual  
Thanksgiving Meal.