

YOUTH EVENTS

Sunday School Picnic—On the last day of Sunday School **May 19th**, there will again be a picnic and lawn games complete with root beer floats, egg toss and three legged races! I am looking for youth to help me run the lawn games. Please let JaNae know if you are able to help!

SIGN UP

SABBATICAL UPDATE

Every 5th year our church grants a 3 month sabbatical leave to the Senior Pastor. This summer Pastor Chris will be taking his sabbatical with 4 goals in mind. They are:

Read—There is little time to read during the program year. I have a stack of books to read including books by Adam Hamilton, Frederick Buechner, as well as an in depth look at the Apostle Paul and his writings in the New Testament.

Renew—The confirmation curriculum has not been seriously changed since I started. I hope to develop a new syllabus for our 3 year confirmation program.

Refresh—I am hoping to spend some time with family. I have trips planned with my mom, dad, sister and family, plus time at the cabin.

Relax—For me an important gift of the sabbatical is having some time off with no meetings and weekly commitments so I can just rest.

Pastor Chris will be back in the church office & pulpit for Graduation Week (June 2) & for VBS (July 29-August 1). Pastor Dave Ostendorf will be leading worship and coordinating pastoral care during the sabbatical. Pastor Chris will be providing updates on his sabbatical on the church facebook page if you wish to follow them.

FINANCIAL

Treasurer's Report

	Week of	Year to Date
	Apr 28, 2019	
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,707	\$ 192,105
General Fund		
Operational Needs	\$ 9,284	\$ 157,828

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.

Building Mortgage Summary as of Feb 2019

Original cost of Facilities Expansion	\$2,386,970.00
Remaining amount on Bank Loan	\$640,400.11
Cash on hand in the Building Fund	\$70,259.99
Interest Rate (Locked in through Jan 2023)	4.25%
Monthly Payment	\$8,320.41

The Finance Committee again wants to thank you for your generous support of this campaign. If you have not yet pledged, please start now.

MAY 12, 2019

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: May 19-10:30; July 7, 21, 28
Welcomers for: May 19, 26; June 9, 16, 23, 30
Coffee Fellowship for: June 23, 30; July 7, 14, 21, 28
The sign-up sheets are on the back table. Thank you!

SIGN UP

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

Please Note: Summer Hours Begin May 26

The summer worship schedule with **one worship service at 9:30 am begins Sun, May 26**, Memorial Day weekend. The summer office hours will also begin with the **office being closed on Fridays**. Pastor Dave plans to be in the office on Tuesday and Thursdays throughout the summer. We encourage you to call the office (715-425-2052) to let staff know of family pastoral needs.

WELCOME OPENLY

Join Us for Root Beer Floats & Yard Games—Sunday, May 19 is the last day of the church program year. In addition to being Music Sunday, we will end the Sunday School year with Root Beer Floats served by the Christian Education Team & Yard Games (think three-legged race, wheelbarrow, egg toss, etc.) led by our Church Interns. No need to sign up, just show up after the 10:30 am worship service. Starting Memorial Day Weekend & going through Labor Day Weekend we move to our one summer worship service at 9:30 am with Coffee Fellowship following.

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

Music Sunday is next week, **May 19!** Bells will ring out! Chancel Choir will sing three anthems! Organ and piano will celebrate the day! This will be the last Sunday before fall to hear the joyous sounds of our incredible, amazing music program. You don't want to miss it!!

Holy Land Pilgrimage Dinner & Program

Our Holy Land Pilgrims are back & ready to share their insights with you. Join us **Wed, May 29** for a Middle Eastern Dinner & Program. **Dinner will begin at 6:00 pm &** will include many of the recipes we enjoyed while in Israel, Palestine & Jordan. You can look forward to chicken, rice, vegetables, pita bread and lots of other surprises. Nothing too weird or spicy, but authentic (we brought back spices!). **The cost is \$10 per person and reservations are required by Sunday, May 26. The program will run from 7:00-8:00 pm, is free and no reservation is necessary.**

SIGN UP

Men's Group—Meets every other Tuesday for coffee, treats, conversation and fellowship. Our next gatherings are **Tues, May 14 and 28 at 8:00 am.** Join us!

Vacation Bible School—The 2019 VBS theme is "God's Creation!" Participants will use the tools of scientific inquiry to explore the wonder and interconnectedness of God's marvelous creation. We need many kids and volunteers. Please volunteer to help. Please also register your children and spread invitations to other children. All are welcome! The dates are **Monday through Thursday, July 29–August 1, from 9:00–11:30 am.** Registration forms are available on the sign up table and on the website.

Please Save For VBS—Please save men's neck ties, china tea cups and saucers, license plates, and small wooden pieces of furniture. We plan to turn these old things into new creations.

Nursery Help Needed—Our faithful nursery worker, Sheila Peterson, staffs the nursery every week during the program year. We will need volunteers to fill in for the summer. If you are a regular user of the nursery, please consider being a nursery volunteer. A sign-up sheet is on the table. Thank you!

SIGN UP

WELCOME OPENLY

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 April game was Bob Gustafson. The next game will be **May 13**.

Yoga—The Yoga group meets **Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00-10:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. We now have space for new members—men and women welcome! This is a warm & caring group & your presence will be a gift to all of us. Bring your yoga mat & a smile. Jan Hansen is the Certified Instructor.

Softball News—The church's co-ed softball games are played on Monday nights beginning in June. Games are played at Hoffman Park. Guidelines for playing on the team are: you must 14 years old & have Monday nights available for games. We will begin practices in May. Please use the sign-up sheet on the table. The managers will notify the team via text & email with the practices & the full schedule soon. If you have questions, contact Matthew Thurston at 715-781-3626 or Deb Hoffman 612-308-4945.

Book Group Meeting—A film viewing of The Green Book, winner of multiple 2019 best picture awards. Story line: A working-class Italian-American bouncer becomes the driver of an African-American classical pianist on a tour of venues through the 1960s American South. The group will meet **Tuesday, May 28 at Suzanne Hagen's home** - 2464 Golf View Drive, RF starting at **2:30 pm** (a slightly earlier time than usual given the 2 hour and 10 minute film)

Garden Helpers Needed—We are in need of helpers on our garden crew. You do not have to be an expert gardener to be part of this group. Please use the sign-up sheet to let us know you are interested and see Lu Lueck with any questions.

SIGN UP

Church Pew Clean Up—We are looking for a small team to help straighten up the church pews each week. Please sign up if you are interested.

Graduation Sunday—**June 2 at the 9:30 am** summer service. Join us as we celebrate this milestone in their life journey, award scholarships, recognize church interns and present blankets to all our graduating seniors.

GROW SPIRITUALLY

Adult Forum—The forum meets Sundays 9:00–10:00 am. **May 12: Peter and Paul, Barbara Peterson** Drawing upon a documentary entitled “Peter and Paul and the Christian Revolution,” the adult forum will explore how Peter and Paul navigated politics and the challenges of missionary work as they established the Christian Church within a Jewish/Roman culture. Come to learn and discuss this critical historical period in the Church's life.

May 19: What's in a Name? Why do we call the Him Jesus? Evelyn Purdy—The adult forum will consider the historical and linguistic path that led from the Hebrew name Yeshua to the English name Jesus. The group will also consider some of the New Testament titles and labels for Jesus.

UCC Synod is coming to Milwaukee June 21-25!

Surely, you want to be a part of this biennial gathering, since it's practically in our neighborhood, & our Conference is hosting. You can go for a day, or two, or the whole shebang. Plus, if you volunteer for just 6 hours (or more!), you get a great discount on the registration fees. Talk to Bob or Rebecca Ferguson, or check out the Wisconsin Conference UCC website at <http://www.wcucc.org/about-wcucc/the-general-synod/synod-volunteering/>.

New Piano Fund Drive—To add an element of fun to our new piano purchase, let's break down the amount needed (\$10,000) into piano keys. With 88 keys on a piano, each key would cost about \$115. Our challenge to each church family: Please consider donating one key (or half a key) to our new piano purchase! A generous donor will even match the first \$4000 given! Simply write your check in the desired amount, indicating on the memo line that the funds are to be directed to the Piano Fund and place in the offering plate. Thank you!

*“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step”
~Chinese proverb*

SERVE GENEROUSLY

Relay for Life Fundraiser—Plant Sale—May 12—Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the Relay for Life event. The team has raised \$642 so far. **Our next fundraiser will be Mother's Day, May 12, with our plant sale.** There will be hanging baskets & many annuals to create your flower pots or to beautify your gardens. The plants come from Barnyard Botanical. There will also be gift certificates available the two Sunday's prior to the sale & on Mother's Day. The certificates allow you to go out to Barnyard Botanical & choose their own basket or plants.

All funds raised go toward the River Falls Relay for Life event & are then donated to American Cancer Society. Funds are collected until August 1. Any questions, contact Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945. Thank you for support!

Shoe Away Hunger Drive—We're invited & encouraged to join the Honors Program, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Pi Sigma, and the Collegiate Honors Society at the University in their Shoe Away Hunger drive this spring. Unwanted footwear in any condition can be dropped in a box in the Gathering Area or in bins across campus. Shoes in good shape are resold with funds going to food banks in the Cities, and those in poor condition are turned into raw materials and sold in support of the food banks. Please donate your unwanted footwear, keep the landfills shoe-free, and help stock the food shelves!

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: Travel size soap, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, & lotion; Disposable shaving razors & shaving cream; Deodorant; Bath towels—gently used or new; New thermals for men & women—all sizes; New heavy duty hats & gloves for men & women; New bras—all sizes; New women's underwear—sizes 5 & 6; New boxer shorts—all sizes; New white t-shirts—all sizes; New white socks for men & women; Coffee (ground preferred), hot cocoa. ~There is a box in the gathering area. Thank you!

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.