

CHURCH SOFTBALL

Monday was a gorgeous day with blue skies & comfortable temperatures; however the results of our two games came up with losses. Oh well, we had fun overall. The fact we were all out enjoying the evening doing something fun made up for the results. Beside we can't win all the time. Our record is 5:4 with three rain out games.

We have one more game, **Monday, August 26th at 6:30 pm at Hoffman Park.** We will follow the game with an end of the season ice cream party at the park. Sundaes, root beer floats and cookies for ice cream sandwiches will be available. Fans and players are all welcome. Please come join us one more time this season for a softball game, some fun & then after the game ice cream treats.

If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Thurston at (715)781-3626 or Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945.

ASYLUM FAMILY UPDATE

Heidy and her four children will be moving to Stamford, Connecticut, to join her beau, Adolfo, at the end of August. She and the children have visited Adolfo, and his mother, Olga, and they have been here to visit Heidy as well. Olga is a friend of Heidy's from her time in the Nogales, Sonora, shelter. They were both applying for asylum at the time and worked together in the shelter. We wish Heidy and her family the best, and we thank all of you who have supported her as we worked toward permanent residency for the family. They received their green cards on January 4, 2019. Victory!

Barb de Souza, the Ecumenical Asylum Committee, and I invite you to a gathering in the Fellowship Hall on **Friday, August 30 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm** to send them with love onto the next chapter of their lives. ~Bobbie Kuhn

FINANCIAL

Treasurer's Report

	Week of Aug 11, 2019	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,899	\$ 291,678
General Fund		
Operational Needs	\$ 9,284	\$ 297,088

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.

Sustainable Living: Tip of the Month—August brings gentle summer breezes, warm temperatures, and fresh air... sounds like now is a great time to consider installing and using a clothesline to dry our laundry! Using a clothesline can save a lot of energy, which ultimately reduces our environmental impact and saves us money. And there are many modern styles to choose from (fixed, retractable, drying racks, etc.). Making this small change to our laundry routine (even just part of the time) is a win-win on many levels, and can help us to live more sustainable lives. ~Brought to you by the Mission Education Committee

AUGUST 25, 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: Sept 22-10:30; Sept 29-9:00

Welcomers for: Sept 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Coffee Fellowship for: Sept 1, 15, 22

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

SIGN UP

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

Summer Hours—The summer worship schedule with **one worship service at 9:30 am** has begun. Pastor Dave will be in the office on Tuesdays 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

Book Group Meeting—The next meeting will be **Tues, Sept 24 at 3:00 pm at the church** to discuss **Paris by the Book** by Liam Callanan (fiction). A wife and two daughters seek their husband/father in Paris after he simply disappears. They follow potential clues from the Madeline books to find him. Books are available in the church office.

Yoga—The Yoga group (men & women) meets **Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:00-10:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your yoga mat and a smile. A donation is requested & is shared with local charities during the holiday season. Jan Hansen is the Certified Instructor.

WELCOME OPENLY

Sabbatical Update—The sabbatical time for Pastor Chris is soon coming to an end. He will be back in the office starting Monday, August 26 and preaching starting Sunday, September 1 (the last Sunday of our summer worship schedule with one service at 9:30 am). He is looking forward to sharing insights with you gleaned from his reading, planning and traveling. A big thanks to Pastor Dave, church staff and lay leaders who have filled in and stepped up during Pastor Chris's summer sabbatical.

Bell Choir Information/ Introduction Night—Have you ever wondered how to play a bell or what bell choir is like? Are you interested in joining the handbell choir, but you need more information? Here's your chance to find the answers to all your questions! We will be having a **bell choir information/introduction night on Wednesday, September 4, from 6:00-6:30 pm in the music room.** This is an opportunity for anyone ages 15 and up to learn the basics of playing handbells and to ask any questions they may have about the group. For more information contact Jamie Mills at degolierjamie@gmail.com

Sunday School Teachers Needed—Sunday School is right around the corner! Sunday School is one of the congregation's most important ministries. *Please* consider volunteering to teach. All classes are taught by a team of teachers so no one teacher teaches every week. For information, please contact Stacy Myers. Please indicate your willingness by signing the volunteer list.

Wednesday School Workers Needed—It is time to prepare for school-year programming. Wednesday School begins on **October 2.** We need adult volunteers, drivers to transport children from school to church, and people to provide snacks. Please consider volunteering. A sign-up list is available for volunteers.

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!

RALLY DAY

Rally Day is Sunday September 8—Rally Day marks the beginning of the program year. Sunday School and the Adult Forum resume as well as our two Sunday morning worship services. In addition, after the late worship service there is brief but very important parent meeting in the Fellowship Hall for all parents of children in pre-school through 9th grade. During this time we will provide an overview of Sunday School and information about the Confirmation program including the Third Year Trip.

Our schedule that day will be:

8:00 am	Choir Practice
9:00 am	Early Worship and Adult Forum
10:00 am	Coffee Fellowship
10:30 am	Late Worship and Sunday School
11:30 am	Parent and Confirmation Meeting

We look forward to an exciting program year!

CHURCH INTERNS

Church Intern Draft: Wednesday, September 4 from 6:30 to 7:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Church Interns are those post confirmation youth (grades 10-12) who wish to continue growing in their Christian faith by serving others and meeting together as a small group. The program year begins with the annual Church Intern Draft on Wednesday, September 4 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All church committees, small groups and those seeking to work with an intern should have a representative at the draft. All interns and their parents should be at the draft and will be able to talk to various church representatives to learn about possible areas to serve. Free pizza dinner during the event. Join us!

GROW SPIRITUALLY

Tuesday Bible Study Resumes in the Fall

Weekly Adult Bible Study will resume on **Tues, Sept 17, 1:00–2:30 pm**. The focus will be *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* by Marcus Borg. Copies of the book are available for \$13.00 in the church office. Participants do not need to commit to attending every week. Come when you can. Please sign the list indicating your interest.

Wednesday School Registrations—All children who will be in kindergarten through Grade 5 starting this fall are invited to participate in Wednesday School at First Congregational. Registration and permission forms for Wednesday School are available on the church website and on the sign up table. It is important to have advance registration in order to be adequately prepared for students. **Wednesday School begins October 2.** Please contact Stacy Myers with questions.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Program for Grades 7-9 begins!

The confirmation program begins on **Wednesday, September 11** with two different bonfires. Our 6th Grade Pre-Confirmation kids will gather at their leader's house, Diana Villeneuve's, for their bonfire so they can get to know one another (204 S. Cudd Ave RF, 763-443-7035). Please bring an item for the food pantry and a snack to share. The other classes (Grades 7-9/Years 1-3) will gather at the Anderson house (W10382 880th Ave—just west of town off Division Street) for their bonfire. This group should bring a snack to share and an item for the college packs to be sent to our church freshman off at college (please bring 10 identical items that you think a college student might like—silly putty, snacks, Halloween stuff all make great gifts—be creative!). Both bonfires take place from **6:30 to 7:30 pm on Wed, Sept 11**. Thereafter classes meet approximately every other Wednesday at church – see the schedule on the church website. Questions to Pastors Chris and Stacy.

SERVE GENEROUSLY

Blankets for Simpson Shelter—Thanks to arrangements made by Cori Fosmo, Simpson Shelter will receive 200 blankets no longer needed by UWRP. We have a mountain of blankets at the church. Please volunteer to take some blankets home, wash and dry them and return them to church so we can transport them to the Simpson Shelter.

Simpson Shelter Needs: Current supply needs are:

- Bar soap and body wash
- Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Razors
- Shaving cream
- Personal tissue packets
- Towels
- Men's t-shirts - all sizes
- Men's boxers - all sizes
- Men's crew socks
- Women's crew socks
- Women's bras - all sizes
- Women's underwear - sizes 5 and 6
- Coffee

There is a box in the gathering area for donations. Thank you!

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.

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.

Cookies Needed for Among Friends—If you are interested in helping to provide cookies for the Among Friends participants, please just bring them to the church office and label them for “Among Friends.” They are always very much enjoyed. Thank you!
