

## YOUTH EVENTS

**Afton Apple Orchard & Corn Maze—Sunday, October 6th, 11:30 am-2:30 pm**—Come test out your aMaze-ing skills in this famed 3 skill level maze. Eat caramel apples, drink hot cocoa and bring friends! Pizza will be provided following the second service. Cost is \$5.

## TIME OUT MINISTRY

Time Out Ministry is a new ministry of First Congo that seeks to connect, support and serve our families with young children. If this speaks to your season of life, we would love to see you at one of our upcoming events!

**White Pine Berry Farm—Saturday, October 19th, 10:00-11:30 am**—Come and enjoy a morning in the country at this local & well known apple orchard and pumpkin patch, complete with U-pick options, corn maze and wagon rides. The address is: 1482 Oak Drive, River Falls, 54022; phone 715-222-2946

**Make and Take Meals—Sunday, November 3rd, 11:30 am-2:30 pm—Childcare provided**—Come and enjoy church and a quick lunch followed by an afternoon of making freezer meals to help get us through the upcoming busy holiday season!

Sign up using the sign-up sheets. Questions? Talk to JaNae Westrich at [jmwestrich@gmail.com](mailto:jmwestrich@gmail.com)

## FINANCIAL

### Treasurer's Report

	Week of Sept 1, 2019	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,520	\$ 298,171
General Fund		
Operational Needs	\$ 9,284	\$ 324,940

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.

**Sustainable Living: Tip of the Month**—Do you have old household chemicals or prescriptions that you're not sure what to do with? Many of these items could be harmful to our health and to the environment if not properly recycled or disposed of.

There is a free hazardous waste and pharmaceuticals collection even for residents of Pierce and Pepin County on **Sat, Sept. 21, from 8:00 am to noon** at the Pierce County Recycling Center in Ellsworth. If you live outside of this area, check with your local recycling authority for information on recycling these hazardous items.

~Brought to you by the Mission Education Committee

## SEPTEMBER 8, 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; Oct 6-10:30,

Oct 13-10:30, Oct 20-10:30, Oct 27-10:30

Welcomers for: Sept 15, 22, 29; Oct 6, 13, 20, 27

Coffee Fellowship for: Sept 15, 22; Oct 6, 13, 20, 27

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

**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

**SIGN UP**

## WELCOME OPENLY

**Peach Helpers Needed**—The peaches are coming! The peaches are coming! We anticipate them arriving later this week (Sept. 12 or 13 -Thurs or Fri) and will need lots of help to get them off the truck. We also will need carts & dollies. We will have only a short notice of the exact arrival of the truck & once here will only have an hour to unload them. With our youth likely in school, we will need many hands to help unload. If you can help, please use the sign up sheet & give us your cell number. We will text you with updates. Bless you for helping. ~The Peach Team

**VBS Stained Glass Fish Ready**—The stained glass fish VBS participants made in August are fused and are ready to be picked up today. They are lovely!

**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.

**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

**Two Sunday School Teachers Needed**—Sunday School is starting and we still need two more teachers. Please help! All classes are taught by a team so no one teaches every week. For more information or to volunteer, contact Stacy Myers.

**Wednesday School Workers Needed**—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.

**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.

**Visible Signs of God's Love**—In worship on Sun, Sept 1, we dedicated over 200 blankets that will be headed to the Simpson Shelter in Minneapolis. People were asked to take the blankets home, wash them and return them. In one week you did this over 200 times. They will leave to the shelter this week. Thank you. May these blankets be the vehicles of God's grace, mercy and love.



## WELCOME OPENLY

### Confirmation Program for Grades 7-9 begins!

The confirmation program begins on **Wed, Sept 11** with two different bonfires. Our 6<sup>th</sup> 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 880<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

**Cribbage Night**—The group meets on the second Monday at the church. Players are asked to donate \$2 & the group decides which charity to donate it to. Playing time starts at **7:00 pm**. All players & abilities welcome. The next game will be **Mon, Sept. 9**.

**Men's Group Gathering**—After our summer holiday, the men's group will be meeting again starting **Tues, Sept. 17 from 8:00-9:00 am in the Youth Room**. All men are welcome to join us for coffee & conversation. The group meets every other Tuesday. Join us!

**Book Group**—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.

## GROW SPIRITUALLY

**Adult Forum**—One of our church values is life-long learning. The Adult Forum is a welcoming, engaging opportunity for adults to explore faith and the biblical tradition. Come for the forum at 9:00, enjoy coffee fellowship at 10:00, and then worship at 10:30. The Adult Forum meets from **9:00–10:00** in the Youth Room.

**September 8, *The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard*, Stacy Myers**—Is this parable an allegory about salvation? A social commentary? Does it have flavors of each? Come and discuss this provocative parable.

**September 15–October 6: *The Well-Worn Word***  
Forum participants will read, explore and discuss ideas in each Sunday's worship text. Bible study is necessarily a communal task, so come and consider, listen, and hopefully deepen your connection to important biblical passages.

September 15: Isaiah 43:1-7, on fear  
September 22: Luke 11:1-13, on prayer  
September 29: Luke 6:27-36, on love  
October 6: Ephesians 2:1-10, on grace

**Tuesday Bible Study Resumes in the Fall**—Weekly Adult Bible Study will resume on **Tuesday, September 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.

## SERVE GENEROUSLY

**Neighbors in Need Special Offering**—Neighbors in Need is the annual offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering supports a wide array of rural, urban, and national programs serving a wide range of communities in need, in association with Justice and Witness Ministries. A third of the offering supports the UCC Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) that serves 20 indigenous churches associated with the UCC, particularly in the Midwest and Plains states, including Wisconsin. Envelopes for the offering are in the pews; we will receive Neighbors in Need gifts throughout the month of September. Many thanks for your support of this vital national ministry of our congregation and the United Church of Christ!

**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.

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**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!

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