

# The SPIRE



First Congregational Church of Ripon • 220 Ransom Street • Ripon, Wisconsin 54971  
920-748-5898 • Email: [firstucc@dotnet.com](mailto:firstucc@dotnet.com) • Website: [www.riponcongregationalucc.org](http://www.riponcongregationalucc.org)

April 2009

## MEMO

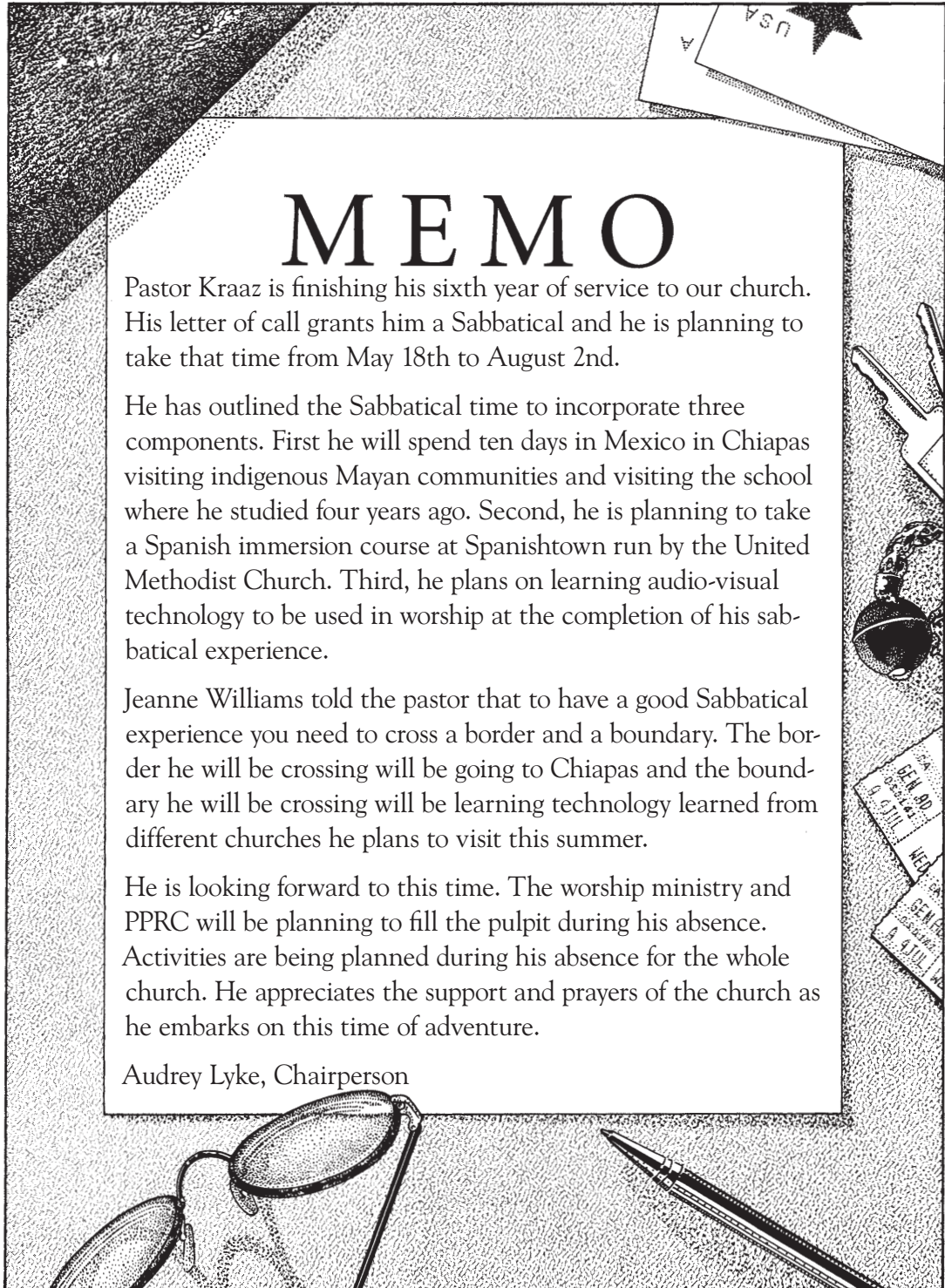
Pastor Kraaz is finishing his sixth year of service to our church. His letter of call grants him a Sabbatical and he is planning to take that time from May 18th to August 2nd.

He has outlined the Sabbatical time to incorporate three components. First he will spend ten days in Mexico in Chiapas visiting indigenous Mayan communities and visiting the school where he studied four years ago. Second, he is planning to take a Spanish immersion course at Spanishtown run by the United Methodist Church. Third, he plans on learning audio-visual technology to be used in worship at the completion of his sabbatical experience.

Jeanne Williams told the pastor that to have a good Sabbatical experience you need to cross a border and a boundary. The border he will be crossing will be going to Chiapas and the boundary he will be crossing will be learning technology learned from different churches he plans to visit this summer.

He is looking forward to this time. The worship ministry and PPRC will be planning to fill the pulpit during his absence. Activities are being planned during his absence for the whole church. He appreciates the support and prayers of the church as he embarks on this time of adventure.

Audrey Lyke, Chairperson



# Welcome!

We've been anticipating your arrival! It's true, because we believe that every person who comes to join us for fellowship was sent by God. Here at First Congregational Church of Ripon, we want you to experience Christ and be greatly blessed. We look forward to getting to know you and to share with you the marvelous ways God is working in our church. It won't take you long to discover that we are truly a "church family," rich in the relationships that matter most. We grow, worship, serve, laugh, cry, learn and reach out to the world together. We reach out to you, as well. Our doors and hearts are always open.

If you've been thinking, praying, searching, or hoping for a place to belong, we would like, again, to say Welcome! We're glad you found us.



## Worship Volunteers

Please sign up to volunteer for lector, greeter/ushers, coffee fellowship hosts, flowers and nursery duty. The new permanent location for the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the entrance to the Fellowship Hall. We still have slots to fill for the current month and beyond. Thanks in advance for all your help!



Our next newsletter will be for May, 2009. The deadline will be Tuesday, April 21 at noon. Please submit materials to the church office or email to Maria Dietrich at dietrichm@ripon.edu. Assembly and preparation for mailing will take place on Thursday, April 30 at 1:15 p.m. Please mark your calendars.



- Helen Christ
- Jan Kohl
- Elizabeth Kraebber
- Nancy Livingston
- Dru Mansmith
- Len Ringstad
- David Williams

## First Sunday is Food Pantry Sunday

You are asked to bring canned goods and non-perishable items on the first Sunday of each month and place them in the box marked Food Pantry in the church narthex. You are encouraged to also bring your loose change that day and place it in the offering plate or in a basket by the food pantry box. Donations will go to the food pantry.



- Pastor . . . . . Jack Kraaz
- Moderator . . . . . Jennifer Aither
- Vice-Moderator . . . . . Janet Vossekuil
- Clerk . . . . . Maria Dietrich
- Treasurer . . . . . Tim Aither
- Administrative Ass't . . . . . Diane Falk
- Children's Choir . . . . . Stephanie Cutler
- Choir . . . . . Kurt Dietrich/Sarah Kraaz
- Christian Ed Dir . . . . . Stephanie Cutler
- Youth Group . . . . . Amanda Bolan
- Church Maintenance Officer: Mark Alling
- Fellowship Ministry . . . . . Sue Loomer
- Finance . . . . . Rick Coles
- Historian . . . . . Nedra Martz
- Librarian . . . . . Lois Ellis
- Men's Group . . . . . Len Ringstad
- Organists . . . . . Maria Dietrich & Sarah Kraaz
- Outreach . . . . . Ruth Jones
- PPRC . . . . . Audrey Lyke
- Women's Fellowship . . . . . Liz Ringstad & Audrey Conant
- Worship . . . . . Nancy Coles

Pastor Jack Kraaz  
 Office: 920-748-5898  
 Fax: 920-748-5182  
 Cell: 920-229-5243  
 Email: jkraaz@dotnet.com

## *Community Dinner Update*

I promised in last month's Spire to give an update regarding our first community dinner, held February 24th.

Even though the number of attendees from outside of our church community was few, those who attended left feeling the warmth and generosity of the love and energy for which our congregation is known.

I took particular notice of a few gentlemen who arrived feeling shy and reserved, yet left smiling, joking, and quite talkative. The dramatic change was noted by everyone, not just myself.

It is worth asking how beneficial such an event could be if only six people (outside of our own church family) attend. The answer to that is that I simply do not have an answer ... yet.

My hope is that for the next several months we focus on the benefit we have witnessed to those in need, no matter how few participate.

Time will tell, once those in need (1) learn of our mission and (2) feel comfortable enough to attend, if this ministry should continue.

I, for one, am not throwing in the towel just yet. But I can't do it all alone. I hope you will continue to support this mission and help me see it through, however long it takes to answer the question of whether or not it is benefiting others and is it meant to be.

With God's grace, I'm sure we'll find out.

Respectfully,

Dale Both

## *All Are Invited to the Community Dinner!*

Please join us for a free ecumenical dinner to be held monthly here at First Congregational Church.

Tuesday, April 28 from 5-7 pm and every 4th Tuesday of each month thereafter.

No matter what your circumstances, all are welcome!

In addition to a nutritious meal, each household will receive a donated non-food item.

## *Help Pilgrim Center*

Would you please start saving your Campbell labels? Along with Scott Street Church we are collecting labels to help Pilgrim Center obtain some needed equipment. Campbells no longer wants the front of the labels, but rather the picture of the child and the bar code from each label. If you turn in the entire label the needed part will be cut out. Remember, labels include not only soup, but things like V-8 products, dinners, chili, beans, Swanson dinners, and Pepperidge Farm cookies. (A complete list of products can be found on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Room.) The collection container will be next to the water cooler on the Fellowship Hall landing. Thank you!

—Women's Fellowship

## *Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week*

National Tornado and Severe Awareness Week has been designated for April 20-24, 2009. The Statewide Tornado Drill will be conducted on Thursday, April 23. A mock tornado watch will be issued statewide at 1 p.m.

The mock tornado warnings will be staggered throughout the state at designated times by specific NWS offices. The mock tornado warning for Fond du Lac County will be issued by Sullivan Weather at 1:20 p.m. (to conclude at 1:25 p.m.). The EOC Communications Room will activate. There will be NO "All Clear" message. If severe weather is present in the state on this date, the drill will be held at the same time on Friday, April 24, 2009. If severe weather persists through Friday, the drill will be cancelled. Although participation in this statewide drill is voluntary, it is highly encouraged.



Dear Church Friends,

We have put together an ad hoc marketing committee for the church. We are looking at ways to market ourselves within the community. In our first meeting it dawned on us we should also be marketing within our own church.

We have many new members and friends of the church. We thought it would be a good idea if we could all get to know each other better. I have composed a survey which is enclosed.

We are asking that each of you, if you want to, fill it out and return it to the church office. We will be featuring a different member of the church each month in the Spire. Everyone will be spot lighted at one point or another. We will draw the filled out sheets out of a hat and feature people until everyone has had a turn.

If you are so inclined to fill out the survey, we would greatly appreciate it. If you don't want to, there is no need to. Our intent is not to pressure or make anyone feel uncomfortable. We simply thought it would be fun to get to know each other on another level.

Thank you for your consideration.

—Jennifer Aither

## Member of the Month...spotlight on...

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite color \_\_\_\_\_

What is your biggest accomplishment? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you could live anywhere and do anything, where would it be and what would you do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite part of this church and why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is something about you not many people know? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you could ask God one question, what would it be? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What ministries do you currently serve on? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Anything else you would like people to know about you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your church offering envelopes if you haven't already done so. They are located on the bench by the side of the church altar in alphabetical order by last name. Thank you.

## Summer Guest Pulpit Leaders Welcome

We are looking for some guest pulpit leaders from May 18th through August, while Jack is on sabbatical. Please call Nancy Coles, Worship Committee chair, at 748-6025 to volunteer or to offer suggestions of people who you might think would like to be pulpit leaders. (The church services will start at 9:30 a.m. throughout this time period.)



Once again our sanctuary will be filled with Easter Lilies. If you would like to donate a lily in memory or honor of someone please provide that information along with your check in the amount of \$16 made payable to the First Congregational Church.

—Sally Gallun, Flower Committee


Easter lily given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor or memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one)

Place this slip along with your cash or check in the collection plate or deliver it to the church office no later than Sunday, April 5, 2009.



# APRIL 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 9 am Choir Rehearsals 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 4:45–7:30 pm Weight Watchers 7 pm Youth Group 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9 am Choir Rehearsals 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship (Palm Sunday) with Food Pantry & loose change collection 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:30–8:30 pm Meditation in Chapel	<b>8</b> 4:45–7:30 pm Weight Watchers 7 pm Youth Group	<b>9</b> 7 pm Maundy Thursday service	<b>10</b> Good Friday	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9 am Choir Rehearsals 9:15 am Easter Breakfast 10:30 am Easter Worship 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:30–8:30 pm Meditation in Chapel	<b>15</b> 4:45–7:30 pm Weight Watchers 7 pm Youth Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9–11 am Girl Scouts
<b>19</b> 9 am Choir Rehearsals 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 1 pm Newsletter Deadline 6:30 pm Cabinet 7:30–8:30 pm Meditation in Chapel	<b>22</b> 4:45–7:30 pm Weight Watchers 7 pm Youth Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9 am Choir Rehearsals 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship 12:30 pm Patzlaff bridal shower, Fellowship hall, kitchen	<b>27</b> 7–9 pm Ries Driving School	<b>28</b> 5–7 pm Community Dinner, Fellowship Hall 7–9 pm Ries Driving School 7:30–8:30 pm Meditation in Chapel	<b>29</b> 4:45–7:30 pm Weight Watchers 7 pm Youth Group 7–9 pm Ries Driving School	<b>30</b> 1:15 pm Newsletter prep for mailing 7–9 pm Ries Driving School	<b>1</b> 7–9 pm Ries Driving School	<b>2</b> David & LaVonne Butler 50th Anniversary Open House

Future Events:  
May 8 Reception for Jack & Sarah  
May 17 Children's Sunday

*The Crossroads Charter School is in our building weekdays 8–4 p.m*



# Schedule of Morning Worship Volunteers

*Thanks*  
for your  
participation

Please try to meet this schedule. If you cannot help on the Sunday assigned...

- Try to switch Sundays with someone else
- Notify the appropriate Worship Committee member
- Notify the church office (748-5898)
- We all appreciate your participation!

## LECTORS:

4/5 Jack Kraaz  
4/12 TBA  
4/19 Rick Coles  
4/26 Tim Lyke  
  
5/3 Jack Kraaz  
5/10 Rick Coles  
5/17 Tim Lyke  
5/24 TBA  
5/31 TBA

## GREETERS/USHERS:

TBA  
T & J Aither/J & G Rohde  
Rae Miller/Janet Vossekul  
Elvera Perr/Jean Kutz  
  
TBA  
TBA  
TBA  
TBA  
TBA

## COFFEE HOSTS:

Jim & Dorothy Sargent  
Easter Breakfast  
Tim & Jenn Aither  
Jeanne Williams  
  
David & LaVonne Butler  
TBA  
TBA  
Audrey Conant/Ruth Birge  
TBA

## FLOWERS:

TBA  
TBA  
TBA  
Aithers  
  
Butlers  
TBA  
TBA  
TBA  
TBA

Are you interested in being a Worship Volunteer? Sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall entrance.

## First Congregational Church of Ripon

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
220 Ransom Street • Ripon, Wisconsin 54971

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**Enter to Worship—Go Forth to Serve**