



The SPIRE



First Congregational Church of Ripon • 220 Ransom Street • Ripon, Wisconsin 54971
☎ 920-748-5898 • office@riponcongregationalucc.org • www.riponcongregationalucc.org

August 2018

Dear Church,

“Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, doesn’t have a swelled head, doesn’t force itself on others, isn’t always ‘me first,’ doesn’t fly off the handle, doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, doesn’t revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end.” -1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 (The Message translation)

I have a friend who served as custodian in another church, who once admitted that when all of us started e-mailing and texting and Facebook messaging and then tweeting or using any other electronic communication or social media, she didn’t know what people meant when they used “LOL” in their message.

Many people use these three letters to communicate “Laugh Out Loud.” My friend, however, interpreted “LOL” as “Lots Of Love.” From what she told me, this “mistake” continued for some time and it was a source of laughter in her family and among her friends.

She used “LOL” to convey support, compassion, caring, understanding, and affection to her friends and neighbors. Well, I have to tell you that I have come to believe that she was correct all along. And I believe Scripture supports her.

Here in our congregation there has been “Lots Of Love” with the support for Scott and Tony who have suffered a devastating fire at their home. LOL.

Our church family has reached out to the Manuel family in wonderful, caring and loving ways as we give thanks for the birth of Blaze and for the care he received in Intensive Care following his birth. He has now been discharged and is home with his family. LOL.

As I am writing these words our annual Vacation Bible School is about to begin. I am excited to experience this week with our youth where love will overflow in meaningful and wonderful ways. Lots of smiles and hugs this week with a powerful outpouring of love. LOL.

Jeanne Williams, our Christian Education director, has invested untold energy and countless hours to ensure that our Sunday School is not only a safe place for our children, but also a loving home. That is so obvious every Sunday as we see the excitement and the joy that our children express in worship and as they go to Sunday School. LOL

Thank you to all of you who keep showing us the truth found in Scripture: “So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love.” – 1 Corinthians 13:3

LOL

—Stephen Welch, Interim Pastor

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*



Scott Henke and Tony Reilly
after a devastating house fire

Julie Johnson, Dan Mitchell,
Chuck Prellwitz, Cody Splittgaber,
Father Marcus Cunningham, and
all others battling cancer

Dale Both's sister Barbara, who is
dealing with health issues

Our refugee family from the Congo

Our homebound church members

All those caring for aging parents

All who are living with anxiety,
depression, or suicidal ideation

*Please note: If you wish to see your
prayer request listed in next Sunday's
bulletin or The Spire, please notify
the church office.*



... to Nancy Winn, whose daughter
Ginger passed away on July 24.



Our next newsletter will be for Au-
gust, 2018 The deadline is Wednes-
day, August 22, at noon. Please
submit materials to the church of-
fice, or email to Maria Dietrich at
dietrich.maria@gmail.com. Please
mark your calendars.

The Spire can also be viewed at:
www.riponcongregationalucc.org
(under Media) but for privacy issues
the birthdays are not listed online.

Welcome!

We've been anticipating your ar-
rival! 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 work-
ing in our church. It won't take you
long to discover that we are truly a
"church family," rich in the relation-
ships 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.



Pastor's Office Hours

Pastor Stephen's office hours are
Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
9 a.m. to noon., and Tuesday 12-3
p.m. In addition, appointments can
be made for other daytime hours.
Pastor is not available in the eve-
ning, unless it is an emergency.

Church Office Hours

Pam Nelson-Icenogle is in the office on:

Mondays, 10:30 am-noon

Wednesdays, 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Thursdays & Fridays, 10:30 am-2 pm

Church office: 920-748-5898 or
office@riponcongregationalucc.org



Interim Pastor Stephen Welch

Moderator Jane Cotter

Vice-Moderator Dale Both

Clerk Justus Paul

Treasurer Andy Lyke

Office Manager Pam Nelson-Icenogle

Choir Director Kurt Dietrich

Christian Education Jeanne Williams

Finance Rick Coles

Historian Robin Patzlaff

Librarian TBA

Maintenance Officer . Lyle Mathias

Organists Maria Dietrich,

. Margaret Draeger

Outreach Janis Edwards

PPRC Dale Both

Womens Fellowship Audrey Conant
& Mary Lyke

Worship Nancy Coles

Pastor Stephen Welch
Office: 920-748-5898
Cell: 262-490-5585
swwelch48@gmail.com

Rod Freeman – Church Custodian
Cell: 920-896-2152



A Message from the Moderator

The Cabinet and the committees have been busy during the past month. We have been working on finding Pastor Stephen a place to rest his head so he won't have to spend so many hours commuting. Communication continues to be a focus. Plans for the play area continue and the painting of the exterior of the church and the resurfacing of the parking lot will be taking place.

New projects that we are exploring are a technology arm of the Building and Maintenance Committee to maintain our network and computers, and Lyle Mathias is doing a study to determine the feasibility and cost of adding water and a kitchenette to our lower level in 2019 in response to a need for Sunday School, VBS and Special Services.

Deanna Boone has done a wonderful job updating our directory and membership information. Please contact her to add your picture to your information and contact Pam if you have changes in your information.

In August we will begin the process of finding a settled minister. We will need a Search Committee and will be asking for volunteers so please keep that in mind.

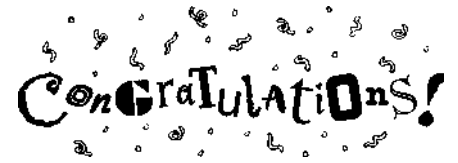
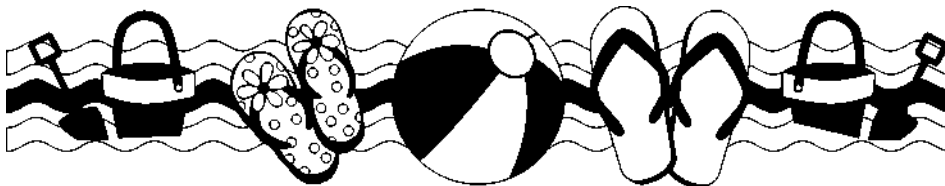
Good News – The work on the organ is continuing this week.

Jane Cotter, Moderator

Let's Stay in Touch

Moved, new phone number or email address? Name change? Don't forget to inform Pam Nelson-Icenogle, Office Manager, at office@riponcongregationalucc.org or by phone at 748-5898. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Dale Both
Vice Moderator



...to Sas and Billie Jean Manuel who were finally able to bring baby boy Blaze home from the hospital. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/MealsforManuels> or contact Debbi Konecny to volunteer to make or donate a meal for their family.

Communion Sunday = Food Pantry

Communion is a special gift we receive the first Sunday of the month. We have designated the First Sunday of the month as a reminder to bring food and put it in the Food Pantry basket in the hall by the Fellowship Hall. If you forget, or would like to bring it more often, the basket is checked regularly and food received is delivered to the Food Pantry. Thank you. — Outreach Committee



Please join us for a free, ecumenical Community Dinner on Tuesday, August 28, from 5–6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Dinners are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month. All are welcome. In addition to a nutritious meal, each household will receive a non-food household item.

Donations of toilet paper would be appreciated to restock the supply that we give to our guests at the monthly Community Dinners. It can be left in the Fellowship Hall.

From the Outreach Committee

Hello to all the good people of First Congregational!

Can you believe summer has passed its zenith, and is winding down already? Yikes!

We will be talking up the Ripon College picnic held Aug. 29 at the Great Hall from 5-7pm. As usual, there will be hoards of students, with huge appetites for home cooked food, and a friendly welcome from Ripon's spiritual community.

Using disposable containers, sans serving spoons, bring your foods to the Great Hall (road side), at 4:15-5 pm. If you cannot make it at that time, leave your pan at church, and we'll figure out transport to the college.

We will need six people to each bring a dessert which serves 18.

We will need 10 people to each bring a salad or side dish which will serve 10, some being vegan or vegetarian dishes.

Don't worry, we will have a sign-up sheet to be passed around during service, and if you don't catch it then, it will be in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour until filled. Or you can call Debbi Konecny at; 748-9320 who will get you on the list.

We also need ...

- Two people to carry food at 4:15, from cars into Great Hall.
- Two people to help serve food, arrive before 5pm.
- Two people to mingle with students, and help clear plates and pans.
- Two brave souls to help with clean up.

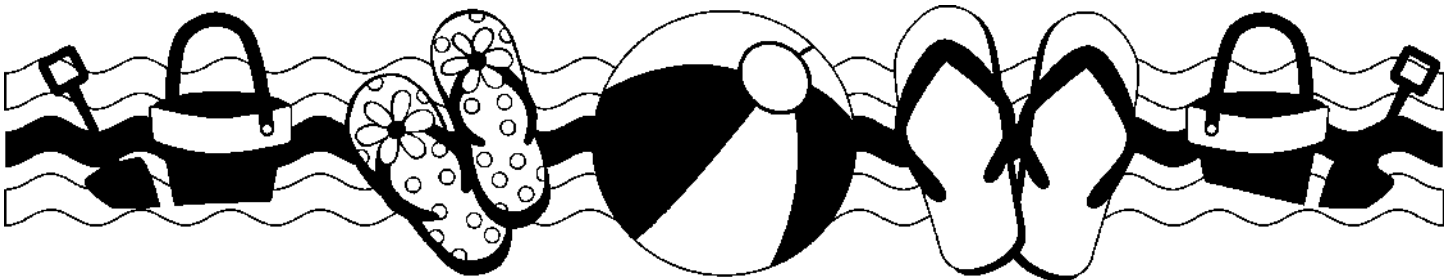
Last month I mentioned a CARE project for the fall. That is to give a hand up to those who have served their time at Fox Lake Corrections. As I mentioned before, these men are given the clothes they arrived wearing, months or years ago.

Rev Jerry Hancock (First Congregational UCC in Madison) who founded the Prison Ministry Project in WI, asked for donations of new underwear, and/or coats for those prison residents being newly released. The prison has a 'release' closet where donated new clothes are stored. The men are all shapes and sizes, so you can't pick a wrong size. The boost these men get, just knowing someone cares for them, is amazing! It also brings the love of God into their lives, hopefully to strengthen them on the hard road they must travel on release. We will start collecting clothing in October. Chaplain Deborah Mejchar has asked for new or used 'Life Application' Bibles for the Chapel area, ASAP. I can bring any 'Life Application' bibles I see in the Fellowship Hall closet, when I go to the monthly Communion Service at Fox Lake. Chaplain feels, as devoted as the men are to Bible Study and scripture, they need the 'Life Application' bibles to help translate scripture into attitude and action in their daily lives (that can apply to many outside prison walls as well).

Our Food Pantry donations are down, probably due to summer vacations. Schools open soon, so let's provide lots of food for thought.

Blessings!

Janis Edwards, for the Outreach Committee



Worship Committee

Summer is here and our church is on a new and exciting adventure! We welcomed our transitional pastor Stephen Welch on his first Sunday with a beautiful choir filling our sanctuary with song followed by a delightful luncheon. Please join us on Sundays to hear his message and to receive all the blessings of our Lord and Savior.

The Worship committee will be assisting Stephen in many ways which also includes the committee acting as the PPRC. If you have a need or concern, please let one of the members of the committees know.

To all of our coffee hosts, first the committee says Thank You! Secondly, just a friendly reminder that there are different health issues, allergies, etc, that some of our members and family members have. Please do not think that you have to go out and provide special treats but fruit and cheese is always a hit with maybe something sweet. Remember this is a time for fellowship and whatever you choose to bring is just the little extra that makes this time even more special.

Mark your calendars: OUTDOOR CHURCH SERVICE will be on Sunday, August 19th at 10:30 right here at the church. Bring your own chair or there will be chairs set up for you to use. If it rains or is too hot, we'll just have the service in the sanctuary. Whatever the weather brings join us. It's always a good time!

Blessings to all!

Nancy Coles, chair and secretary

From the Moderator

The Cabinet and the committees have been busy during the past month. We have been working on finding Pastor Stephen a place to rest his head so he won't have to spend so many hours commuting. Communication continues to be a focus. Plans for the play area continue and the painting of the exterior of the church and the resurfacing of the parking lot will be taking place.

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—Jane Cotter, Moderator



What Spills Out?

Rev. Henry Wingblade once compared the Christian personality to the unseen soup in a bowl carried high over a waiter's head. No one knows what's inside — unless the waiter is bumped or trips. If Jesus is truly living inside us, Wingblade said, what spills out should be the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

When you falter, what do people see? How can your "spillage" better reflect the Holy Spirit, who lives in you?

Faith Formation - July Report

Vacation Bible School

Five days of fun and learning. We have traveled through the Caribbean, learned new songs, done many art projects, and talked about the fruits of the spirit. Many thanks to Miss Lelani for leading the arts and crafts. Miss Kate and Mr. Wyatt for leading music activities and outside play. Miss Aya and Miss Grace for being such great helpers. A special thank you to Miss Julie for providing us with delicious healthy snacks each day.



Playground Project Update • Kids are gonna play!!!

Fundraising has begun for the installation of a playground on the lawn on the south side of the church building. The playground will serve the children of our church, of the surrounding neighborhood, and of college faculty and staff. The college has agreed to provide an easement to allow construction of the playground.

As of July 20th, donations and pledges totaling approximately \$12,000 have been secured. We are currently working with three vendors to get estimates for equipment that can serve children aged 2-12 in the limited space we have. We hope to take a firm proposal to the cabinet in August. Pledge cards are available from Jeanne Williams and fundraising events are being planned. Please give as generously as you can to support the families and children of our church and the larger community.



Rally Sunday

Our Sunday School year will begin on Sunday, September 9th. Look for more information in the next Spire.

Worship Volunteer Schedule

Date	Lector	Ushers/Greeters	PowerPoint	Coffee Hosts
Aug. 5	Rick Coles	Penick-Parks Family	Chloe Capelle	Rachel & David Minch
Aug. 12	Scott Henke	Sasiwo Manuel/Cal Edwards	Aya Volkmann	Lynn & Justus Paul
Aug. 19	Ardis Mitchell	Dan Volkmann/Norm Loomer	Liz Stanfield	Lyke Family
Aug. 26	Justus Paul	Julie & Lyle Mathias	Ben Retzlaff	Tom & Debbi Konecny
Sept. 2	Betsy Heffernan	Tony Reilly/Scott Henke	JP Stanfield	Andy & Stephanie Prellwitz
Sept. 9	Jane Cotter	Barb & Kallin Splittgaber	Xavier Manuel	Jack & Bev Christ
Sept. 16	Ruth Retzlaff	Cal Edwards/Jerry Pfeiffer	Chloe Capelle	Sanchez/Gatzke Family
Sept. 23	Erin Ter Beest	Casey Ter Beest/Nicole Moniz	Ben Retzlaff	Retzlaff Family
Sept. 30	Jonathan Gatzke	Mamie Butters/Mary Lyke	Aya Volkmann	Coles Family

Thanks
for your
participation

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

- Please switch Sundays with someone else and then notify the church office (748-5898 or office@riponcongregationalucc.org) of the change.
- We all appreciate your participation!

AUGUST 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 4:10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship	30	31	1	2 6 pm NA meeting	3	4
5 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship	6	7	8	9 5 pm Worship Committee 6 pm NA meeting	10	11
12 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship	13	14 5 pm Sharing the Table, Grace Lutheran Church	15	16 6 pm NA meeting	17	18
19 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship	20	21 6:30 pm Cabinet meeting	22 12 pm Spire deadline	23 10 am Home-school Co-op Spanish Class meeting 6 pm NA meeting	24	25
26 4:10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship	27	28 5-6 pm Community Dinner	29 5 pm Ripon College Welcome Potluck	30 6 pm NA meeting	31	1

Future Events
Sept. 9 - Rally Sunday - first day of Sunday School



Get Connected on Facebook

Want to learn more about what is going on at the church? Wish you could get updates and see photos about community outreach and other church events? It's easy! "Like" us on facebook at www.facebook.com/RiponCongregationalUCC. And check out our blog at www.riponthinkingchurch.blogspot.com.



Paper and ink and postage - oh my! If you're getting a hard copy of this Spire and would prefer an electronic version, please give the church office your email address. Send it to office@riponcongregationalucc.org. Thanks!

First Congregational Church of Ripon

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

220 Ransom Street • Ripon, Wisconsin 54971

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Enter to Worship—Go Forth to Serve

