



The SPIRE



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

September 2018

Dear Church,

Greetings to the friends and families of First Congregational UCC, Ripon. I hope and pray that your summer season has been a wonderful opportunity for renewal, recreation, relaxation and just plain fun. But I have news for us: September has arrived! The church program year is opening up before us. Music ministry, Sunday School, Confirmation, Book Reading group, and our informal, laid back weekly “Discussion” group are all ready to go.

These groups and activities all offer a rich legacy and history in our church, but I hope our participation in the congregational life at First Congregational is more than just tradition. The Rev. Karen Minnich-Sadler has written: “We seem to like traditions. They give us a sense of continuity, of participating in something meaningful to the larger community. The problem arises when we confuse tradition with truth. Tradition can be a powerful symbol of a deeper truth, but it is not the truth itself. When we confuse tradition with truth, we believe any change to the tradition is wrong. Thus, what was once meaningful and good for the community becomes a source of conflict or stagnation.”

I invite you to join me in prayer that in this season – and in every season – our church family can be open to the new insights, the new opportunities, the new adventures and the new meanings that God is bringing to this community every day. If we are to grow spiritually, we must stay open to God’s presence that can surprise us in special ways. Let us not be content with mindlessly following old calendars simply because “we have always done it that way.”

This prayerful awareness will be important as the Cabinet forms the Pastoral Search Committee who will seek out and discover the person who will be the next pastor. In that process the committee will guide all of us in completing a church profile that will be shared with prospective pastoral candidates. This profile will share some history, but it is also vital to share new hopes, new expectations, new directions, and new awareness of what it means to say we are First Congregational UCC of Ripon, Wisconsin.

When we focus on being disciples of Jesus and when we have Christ at the heart of our lives, then everything else falls into place. I am excited to walk this journey with you. God has so much more to show us and to engage us and to support us and to celebrate life with us. May it be so!

—Stephen Welch, Interim Pastor

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.

Soon 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



The Adult Choir is conducted by Kurt Dietrich and rehearses in the choir room (in the basement) on the second and fourth Sundays of the month from 9:15–10 a.m. All singers of high school age and up are welcome.

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, Sept. 25, 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

Hi there friends! It's Spire time again. This is where you get the latest Outreach news. We are always looking for new ways to use the 'Jesus touch.' Thinking of our many projects, Equal Exchange chocolate and beverages from all over the world, benefiting poor farmers and their communities, Refugee support, Orphanages in Kenya, our Prison Ministry, where we help men to see themselves through the eyes of our Creator. With a look, with a touch, with a tear, the love Jesus shared is present. We want to explore other projects; do you have any ideas for us to ponder?

Our big project for September is 'Neighbors in Need.' One-third of this offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds is administered by Justice and Witness Ministries, supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

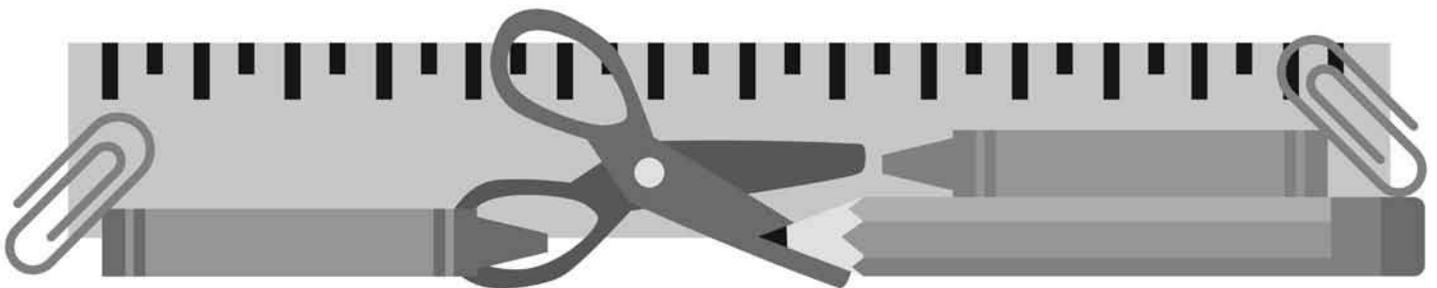
Our 5 for 5 missions address critical human needs, and when unified with all our UCC communities, we, together, can make a substantial and positive difference for lives in need. To provide, support, and encourage these, we at First Congregational Church have pledged our support. These 5-5 special offerings include contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission, sustaining the UCC's national ministries, and the four Special Mission Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church (which we concluded this spring), NIN for fall, and The Christmas Fund, spread the UCC's safety net wide. The NIN offering will be received on the First Sunday of October as part of World Communion Sunday. The offering envelopes will be in the pews before Sept.16, giving us plenty of time to remember to bring our offering in.

We have a new project for Christmastime. I'll share it with you in October. It will be fun.

There is a clarification that needs to be made: There are two food pantries in Ripon! Who knew? St. Catherine's is open a few hours each week, mainly for emergency needs. They serve 1-10 families, and allow the Girl Scouts to stock their shelves as a community project. At this time they are requesting pancake mix and syrup. Our local Girl Scouts empty the carts during the school year. We are hoping the girls can separate requested foods for each pantry, sharing in proportion to the numbers of people served. This we will need to sort out with Scout Leader, Ruth Retzlaff. The Ripon Food Pantry serves a larger community and could really use condensed cream soups for crock pot dinners. Our Sunday bulletin has a page listing what foods the pantries need in real time. Our usual target for getting food here for distribution each month is Communion Sunday. Easy to remember, since this is the day we are fed with the Bread of Life, so we can go and do likewise.

We hope your summer has been an adventure, full of laughter, friends, family and sunshine sparkling on lake waters.

Janis Edwards, for the Outreach Committee



Playground Fundraiser



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

CHURCH OF RIPON

Js BBQ

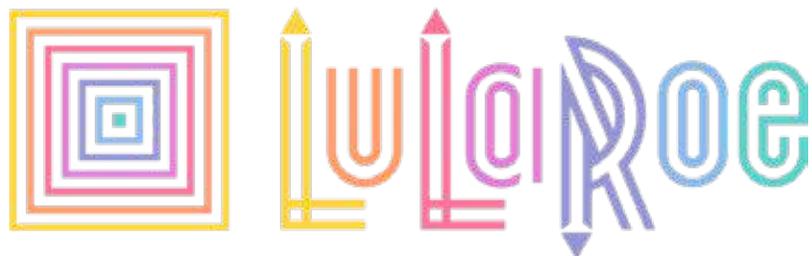
Downtown Ripon

TEXAS-INSPIRED, WISCONSIN-SPIRITED

Thursday, September 13th, 2018

4:00-7:00 PM

Present this ad when you order and a percentage of your bill will be donated to the playground project.



simply comfortable

Women and Children's Clothing Sale



At Js BBQ

Thursday, September 13, 2018

4:00-7:00 PM

A percentage of sales will be donated to the playground project at First Congregational Church of Ripon.

Faith Formation - August Report

Rally Sunday

Our Sunday School year will start with Rally Sunday on September 9, 2018. We are very happy to have Miss Kate, Miss Mackenzie, Mr. Wyatt, and Mr. Lane returning to work with the children. The year will be filled with Bible stories, songs, arts and crafts, and a host of other exciting learning activities. Children should be at the church by 9 AM, but can be dropped off beginning at 8:30 AM each week. We will continue to staff the nursery after the children's moment in the service and will have supervision for outdoor play during coffee hour as we have had this summer. We want the First Congo Kids to know that church is a welcoming place where they can get to know God and all the members of this community of believers.

Playground Project Update • Kids are gonna play!!!



As of August 13th, donations and pledges totaling approximately \$12,500 have been secured. The Faith Formation committee is looking at two options for the playground. We will take a firm proposal to the cabinet in August. A fundraiser is will be held on September 13th from 4–7 p.m. at J's BBQ where you will be able to enjoy their great food, purchase our remaining congregational artworks, and get great deals on LulaRoe clothing. In the meantime, if you haven't already, please consider making a donation to this project. Donations can be dropped off at the church in the lock box by the office. We hope to install the playground in late September or early October.

Upcoming Family Events: Faith Formations will plan a **Fall Harvest Event** in the coming months. Please let us know if you have ideas of a place or activities. **Parents' Night Out** will be held in early December. Children will be welcome at the church for several hours of fun while parents have time to enjoy some adult company!

Save the Date: Kate Myszewski will give her senior recital on Sunday, November 11th at 3:15 PM in Demmer Recital Hall in the Rodman Center for Arts. Please plan to attend to support Kate at this important moment in her journey to become a music teacher.

Worship Volunteer Schedule

| Date | Lector | Ushers/Greeters | PowerPoint | Coffee Hosts |
|----------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Sept. 2 | Betsy Heffernan | Tony Reilly/Scott Henke | JP Stanfield | Andy & Stephanie Prellwitz |
| Sept. 9 | Jane Cotter | Barb & Kallin Splittgaber | Xavier Manuel | Lyke Family |
| 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 |
| Oct. 7 | Ardis Mitchell | Michele & Skip Wittler | Liz Stanfield | Tom & Debbi Konecny |
| Oct. 14 | Erin Ter Beest | Carolyn Capelle/Anne Flasch | JP Stanfield | Gary & Dawn Scholtens |
| Oct. 21 | Tom Konecny | Julie & Lyle Mathias | Xavier Manuel | Norm & Sue Loomer |
| Oct. 28 | Lelani Sanchez | Casey Ter Beest/David Minch | Chloe Capelle | The Manuels & Capelles |

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!

SEPTEMBER 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------------------------|---|----------------------|--|-----------|-----------|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 4:10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship | | 5 pm Candidate Forum presented by Ripon Democrats | | 6 pm NA meeting | | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 9 am Sunday School 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Worship - Rally Sunday 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship 4:15 pm Ripon UCC Zen Meditation Group: Late Summer Taste | 6:15 pm Weekly Book Club | 5 pm Sharing the Table, Grace Lutheran Church | | 10:30 am Weekly Discussion Group 4 pm Playground fundraiser 5 pm Worship Committee 5:45 pm Girl Scouts 6 pm NA meeting | | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship 4:15 pm Ripon UCC Zen Meditation Group: Late Summer Taste | 6:15 pm Weekly Book Club | 6:30 pm Cabinet meeting | 12 pm Spire deadline | 10:30 am Weekly Discussion Group 6 pm NA meeting | | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 9 am Sunday School 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Worship - Rally Sunday 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship 4:15 pm Ripon UCC Zen Meditation Group: Late Summer Taste | 6:15 pm Weekly Book Club | 5-6 pm Community Dinner | | 10:30 am Weekly Discussion Group 6 pm NA meeting | | |
| 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Coffee Fellowship 4:15 pm Ripon UCC Zen Meditation Group: Late Summer Taste | 6:15 pm Weekly Book Club | | | 10:30 am Weekly Discussion Group 6 pm NA meeting | | |



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

