



The SPIRE



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

August 2022

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

— Matthew 11:28

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God...” —Revelation 21:1-2



Life can get busy sometimes. It’s easy to feel stressed and overwhelmed. Which is why we need rest, naps, downtime, seasons, we need a rhythm to life that allows us to do our very best, and then take a break.

Seasons throughout the year can be full of expectations and working hard to make sure things go just the way we want them to. Summer is no exception. Even though this is a time (seasonally) for something different to happen and travel and vacations to take place, we can still fill our hours with more work than is reasonably possible.

But before we become overwhelmed with it all... we must pause, breathe, and break from our normal routine.

Summer does seem to offer us the best opportunities to do this: beaches, waterfronts, lakes, rivers, streams, wilderness, ice cream, sprinklers, BBQ’s. The possibilities are all around you.

So do it.

Rest, have fun, and delight in being human this summer. Time is ticking, and soon the season will be replaced with pumpkins and sweaters.

Stay up with your children, friends, parents, or whoever, and watch the sunset. Enjoy fireflies! Campfires! S’mores! Or get up early to watch the sunrise and listen to the early birds sing.

I have been reading the Salt Project’s “Great and Small’ Guide to the Most Okayest Summer Ever”, and I am reminded that “There are delights in this season that can’t be had any other time... a touch more connection. A sprinkling of faith. A little more summer, and maybe a little more God. Here’s to a summer that, even if it’s not the most amazing ever, can still be pretty okay.”

The scriptures remind us that heaven is here on earth, not far off at a distance, but close here at hand. Now is the perfect time to pause, and enjoy a little bit of heaven here on earth!

P.S. Speaking of enjoying a little heaven here on earth, I will be taking a couple of weeks of vacation, from July 26-August 1, and August 22-28. I look forward to seeing you all when I return!

—Pastor Jeffrey



Prayers for health and healing...

For Health & Healing: Dawn Scholtens (cancer surgery); Nate Berndt (stomach surgery); Loren Boone (cancer); Cal Edwards (foot surgery); Katie Del Ponte's grandmother (fractured hip, dementia); Rose Marie Freeman (sister of Al Jarreau, health); Van Smith (stroke, heart issues); Brent Woyke, Janis & Cal Edward's son (health); Don Amsden (health); Lisa Reber, Maria's mom (cancer); Grandmother Cindy from the Berndt/Selz's family (cancer); all those experiencing health issues in need of prayer.

Katie Berndt asks for prayers for one of co-workers whose mother was in ICU with kidney failure.

Prayers of Joy for a successful **Vacation Bible School** session from July 18-21. We had 9 kids participate in stories, songs, and drama about the life of King David. A performance was held on July 21 for the church.

For the **Afghan family** we sponsor. The family has been in the USA for 1 year in August, and our 6 month sponsorship of the family ends this month. Our support for them will continue in an unofficial capacity.

For an end to gun violence.

For expanding women's health care choices rather than restricting choice.

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



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. We look forward to getting to know you and to share with you the marvelous ways God is working in our church and beyond. 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.



Spire Deadline

Our next Spire newsletter will be for September, 2022. The deadline is Wednesday, August 17, at noon. Please submit materials to the church office, or email to Maria Dietrich at dietrich.maria@gmail.com. Please mark your calendars.

Church Contact Info

Office manager Ashley Dodson:
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If not in the office, Pastor Jeffrey Dodson can be reached at ...

Cell: (719) 330-8549 or by email, at
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Jeanne Williams, CE Director
jeanne@riponcongregationalucc.org

Rod & Peggy Freeman – Church Custodians - Cell: 920-896-2152



- Pastor *Jeffrey Dodson*
- CE Director *Jeanne Williams*
- Moderator *Erin Ter Beest*
- Vice-Moderator. . . *Michele Wittler*
- Clerk *Justus Paul*
- Treasurer *Andy Lyke*
- Choir Director *Kurt Dietrich*
- Faith Formation . . *Barb Splittgaber*
- Finance. *Judy Neill*
- Historian *Robin Patzlaff*
- Maintenance Officer . *Lyle Mathias*
- Membership. *Deanna Boone, B. Christ, M. Lyke, A. Dalziel*
- Nominating. . *J. Christ, T. Konecny*
- Organist. *Maria Dietrich*
- Outreach *Dawn Scholtens*
- PPRC *Michele Wittler*
- Women's Fellowship *Susan Osteen*
- Worship *Kathleen Hones*



Congratulations

... to **Tom and Debbi Konecny** for the birth of their newest grandchild, **Emmett Finn Konecny**, born to **Ben and Caitlin Konecny** in Colorado on June 30!

... to **Marguerite Penick** for the birth of her newest grandchild, **Mason Daniel Lavin**, born to **Lizbet and Frank Lavin** on July 6!

August 2022 Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 31 | Eighth Sunday after Pentecost | Guest Preacher
9:30 am Worship IN-PERSON | 4:00 pm Worship ONLINE

Sunday, August 7 | Ninth Sunday after Pentecost | Communion
9:30 am Worship IN-PERSON at Daycholah | 4:00 pm Worship ONLINE

Sunday, August 14 | Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 am Worship IN-PERSON | 4:00 pm Worship ONLINE

Sunday, August 21 | Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 am Worship IN-PERSON | 4:00 pm Worship ONLINE

Sunday, August 28 | Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost | Guest Preacher - Nicole Henning Herda, MDiv.
9:30 am Worship IN-PERSON | 4:00 pm Worship ONLINE

Sunday, September 4 | Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost | Communion | Labor Day Weekend | Gathering of the Waters | Return to 10:30 Worship
10:30 am Worship IN-PERSON | 4:00 pm Worship ONLINE

Sunday, September 11 | Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost | Rally Sunday | Blessing of the Backpacks
10:30 am Worship IN-PERSON | 4:00 pm Worship ONLINE

THEME DAYS



As you are traveling this summer, whether it is through the national parks or on a warm sunny day at Green Lake, gather some water and share it with the church. On September 4, we will gather the water and bless it and use it throughout the year during baptisms. Please label your water when you drop it off at the church office by August 28 with your name and the location where the water was gathered.



From the Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee met on Sunday, July 17th. A check will be sent to the Daycholah Center to help with a golf cart for transportation around the campus. A check will also be sent to the mosque in Oshkosh to help with purchasing prayer rugs for the many new refugees - your donations to our church put into action!

How is your garden growing? We are accepting donations of your extra produce on Sundays. Items will be picked up Monday mornings and taken to Traded Treasures for them to distribute. How nice to receive fresh vegetables for your family. Thank you so much for sharing!

Our refugee family continues to thrive in Oshkosh. School, jobs, and English classes fill much time. Our “official” commitment with World Relief has ended but our friendships will not. —Dawn Scholtens, for Outreach



COMMUNITY DINNER

Our Community Dinners, held on the fourth Tuesday of every month, are temporarily in a drive-through format due to COVID-19. Our next dinner will be held on August 23.

Help Stock the Pantry

During the month of August, the food pantry would appreciate your donations of pancake mix, syrup, kid friendly cereal. Ongoing needs include paper grocery bags, peanut butter, and personal toiletry items such a deodorant, soap, and feminine hygiene products. Cash donations are always very much appreciated as well. Donations may also be dropped off at the church and will be delivered to the pantry. Thank you for your help!

—Outreach Committee



...to those who have experienced a recent loss:

The family of **Nick Reilly** who passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, July 3 in a car accident. Nick is the grand-nephew of **Tony Reilly** and **Scott Henke**, and second cousin of **Katie Del Ponte**. A funeral service was held July 16 at Divine Passage.

The family of **Natalie Adams**, who passed away in Colorado on February 13, 2022. Natalie and her husband were members of our church when Bernard Adams served as President of Ripon College, 1966-1985. A memorial service was held July 24 at Broadmoor UCC in Colorado Springs.

The family of **Ardis Mitchell**, who passed away on April 24. A memorial service was held on July 9, 2022 at the Green Lake Conference Center.



Faith Formation

VBS 2022 All About Making Friends!

This year we had nine kids participate in Vacation Bible School at First Congo. They learned about the story of King David from the book of 1 Samuel in the Bible. Each day we had storytime, prayer, sharing, music, drama, and games. Our favorite games that helped us learn about David were “Giant, King, David” (rock, paper, scissors); “David, David, Saul” (duck, duck, goose!); and “Don’t topple the Donkey!” (stacking blocks). We also had archery, ice cream at Sweet & Salty, and a

Lego build at Alexandria Games.

We learned about some important characters in King David’s life and the promises and covenants that helped David be a good friend. David was anointed by the prophet Samuel and defeated the giant Goliath. David became



best friends with Jonathan, King Saul’s son. David married Jonathan’s sister, Michal, and then was protected by her and Samuel when he fled from angry King Saul. In hiding, David was remarried to Abigail who helped feed him and his soldiers. When King Saul and Jonathan died in battle, David returned from hiding and became king.

The VBS kids performed a skit and sang songs about David and his friendship with Jonathan during their VBS performance on July 21, followed by a fun picnic with food and games. Special thanks to our staff and volunteers who helped make this year’s VBS a great experience: Jeanne Williams, Lydia Wiley-Deal, Maria Dietrich, and Ashley and Jeffrey Dodson.

Rally Sunday - September 11, 2022 - Join us with fun activities as we celebrate the beginning of our Fall Worship. First Congo Kids will resume Sunday school. There will be a special dedication for third grade Bibles, and a blessing of backpacks. All teachers, educators, and students are invited to bring their work bag, lunch bag, and backpacks to be blessed for the school year.

—Jeanne Williams, Faith Formation



Plastic Recycling

Our church is involved in two recycling programs for the next six months. The Trex program involves collecting plastic film products (grocery and produce bags, bubble wrap and plastic mailers, product overwraps for paper products and water bottles, and bags from salt. We have handouts that list the projects to be collected available for you to take home. Our goal for the Trex program is to collect 500 pounds of plastic film by January 31, 2023. In return, the Trex corporation will give us a bench made from recycled plastics for our playground.

In addition, during the same time we will collect...

- mechanical pencils
- Glue stick tubes and caps
- Markers and caps
- Highlighters and caps
- Stick pens and caps
- Watercolor containers

Packaging from these products will be recycled by the Bic corporation. Look for containers by the church entrances and in the Fellowship Hall.



RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!

FROM THE STORE

- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags

FROM YOUR PANTRY

- ✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bread bags

FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR

- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue.

RECYCLED IN AMERICA **NexTrex**

trex.com/recycling 1-800-Buy-Trex



Sunday, August 7
9:30 AM
Worship at Ley
Chapel



Dayeholah Center
W1010 Spring Grove Rd.

Followed by Fellowship Hour and
games and actives at camp!

God among the rubble

The nonprofit World Central Kitchen provides fresh meals for communities in need following natural disasters or during humanitarian crises. After Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, WCK fed millions of people in the country and refugees at border crossings.

When I feel discouraged by tragic news and ask where God is, I'm reminded that God shows up precisely in people such as the WCK teams. They are God's hands serving healthy food to people fleeing home. They are God's heart and arms welcoming those in need to be nourished.

Often in the Bible God shows up around meals: Sarah and Abraham host the Lord in the form of three visitors; God rains manna from heaven for the Israelites; an angel provides food for exhausted Elijah; Jesus eats with "tax collectors and sinners" and feeds crowds with a few loaves and fish. Supremely, Jesus gives to all the meal of Holy Communion, the bread and wine that are his very body and blood.

In our broken world, God is among the rubble, among the helpers, among us.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Fruit or false



Spotting true fruits can be tricky. Thankfully, it's much easier to spot the fruit of the Spirit.



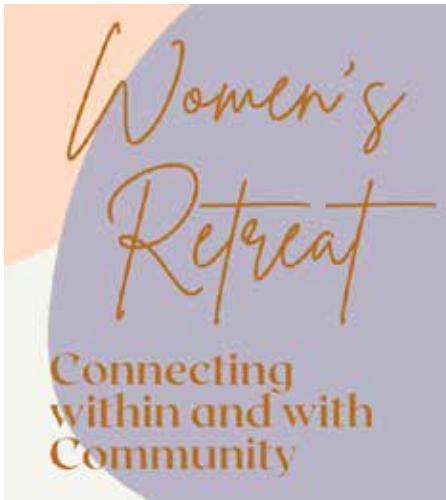
Directions: Determine whether each item is a fruit or vegetable and circle the correct letter. Then insert the letters in order below to complete the verses.

	Fruit	Vegetable		Fruit	Vegetable
Apple	V	P	:	Pepper	O U
Carrot	E	O	:	Spinach	R S
Tomato	Y	R	:	Watermelon	H P
Grape	C	F	:	Broccoli	G N
Eggplant	T	D	:	Pumpkin	T Y
Celery	I	N	:	Pear	F C
Banana	K	M	:	Asparagus	L R
Cucumber	N	W	:		

But the fruit of the Spirit is lo_e, j_ _ , pea_e,
pa_ie_ce, _ind_ess, go_dne_s,
fait_ful_ess, gen_leness, sel_-cont_ol.

GALATIANS 5:22-23, ESV

Answer: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control



Women's Retreat at Daycholah Center

Friday, Sept 23 | 5 PM -Sunday, Sept 25 | 12 PM

Sponsored by Women's Sharing Table, First Congregational Church

These past two years have been a challenge for all of us. Many of us struggle with all the shifts and losses that have occurred. Relationships have been lost or changed, and core values have been rocked. However, little shifts are happening all the time to guide our new normal. It is time to reconnect with our higher selves, to others with whom we are forming new communities, and to our environment. These connections are invaluable and will allow you to set a reinvigorated tone for your life.

This retreat is designed to nourish, restore, and inspire you. Within a safe and intimate group of fellow wise women in the beautiful setting of Daycholah Center on Green Lake, you can create:

- Inner strength
- Mindfulness
- Nature awareness
- Connection to other women

Brochures and registration forms for this event will be available in the church office. \$200 per person covers meals, lodging, and activities.

Worship Volunteer Schedule

Date	Lector	Ushers/Greeters	Worship Slides	Coffee Fellowship Hosts
Aug. 7	Dan Volkmann	TBD	Katie Del Ponte	Minch & Mathias families
Aug. 14	Marguerite Penick	Lou & Ed Scholtens	Tim Lyke	Seidler-Halwas & Retzlaff
Aug. 21	Casey Ter Beest	Tony Reilly & Scott Henke	Marguerite Penick	Scholtens & Scholtens
Aug. 28	Grace Retzlaff	Barb & Todd Splittgaber	Gary Scholtens	Lyke & Lyke families
Sept. 4	Lynn Grout-Paul	Julie & Lyle Mathias	Erik Dietrich	Del Ponte and Reilly/Henke
Sept. 11	Tony Reilly	Youth/Confirmands	Sarah Seidler-Halwas	Boscaljon and Osteen
Sept. 18	Dave Iserman	Erik & Kurt Dietrich	Erik Dietrich	Iserman and Konecny
Sept. 25	Susan Osteen	Judy & Bill Neill	Katie Del Ponte	Dodson and Williams



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 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30 am Worship 9:45 am First Congo Kids 10:30 am Fellowship			5:30 pm Youth	6 pm NA meeting	9 am Coffee at Mugs	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 am Worship at Ley Chapel, Daycholah, Green Lake 9:45 am First Congo Kids 10:30 am Fellowship		6:30 pm Cabinet meeting	5:30 pm Youth	6 pm NA meeting	9 am Coffee at Mugs	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 am Worship 9:45 am First Congo Kids 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am Worship Committee		5 pm Sharing the Table at Grace	12 pm Spire deadline 5:30 pm Youth	6 pm NA meeting 7 pm Membership Committee	9 am Coffee at Mugs	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 am Worship 9:45 am First Congo Kids 10:30 am Fellowship		5:30 pm Community Dinner	5:30 pm Youth	6 pm NA meeting	9 am Coffee at Mugs	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
9:30 am Worship 9:45 am First Congo Kids 10:30 am Fellowship			5:30 pm Youth	6 pm NA meeting 7 pm RC Choral Union	9 am Coffee at Mugs	

Future Events:

Sept. 4 return to 10:30 am Worship
Sept. 11 Rally Sunday



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.



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@ripcongregationalucc.org. Thanks!

First Congregational Church of Ripon

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Enter to Worship—Go Forth to Serve

