

# First Congregational United Church of Christ



## Search Committee Report:

Since August the committee of five has been meeting on a weekly basis to complete the updated profile for our church. A huge thank you goes to Mary Dork and Mary Moxon for their extensive work filling in the profile based on the information gathered from the work with intentional interim Myles Alexander. Our Associate Conference Minister Michael Jones has also provided invaluable help throughout this process. In spite of all that help, there has been some very tedious work because of complications related to entering the information.

The really good news is that as of today, September 17, the profile is completed, in possession of the Northwest Association office in Eau Claire and available to potential candidates!

Submitted by Marilyn Norden for the Search Committee

## GEM Handbell Choir

Beautiful music had always been appreciated at the First Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC) in Rhinelander, and for the past 50 years, the ringing of the handbell choir has been a favorite. Tom Winqvist was there in the beginning when the brand-new set of bells arrived in the mid-1970s.

“Gladys Ekman had served for 40 years as church organist, and she received many gifts and money donations. She wanted to use it for the church, and decided to purchase two octaves of handbells,” Tom explained. Thus, began what is now called GEM for Gladys Ekman Memorial Handbell Choir.

Neither Tom nor Gladys had any experience in the beginning. “We set out to attend every workshop and seminar we heard of,” he recalled. “Handbells were just becoming popular, and we were the first in town to try it out.”

Now, GEM includes a dozen players at home in the choir loft at UCC. Recently, generous donations from the congregation made it possible to have the bells serviced, and they are sounding and looking better than ever. GEM rehearses weekly and performs about once a month for Sunday services held at 10 am. They can also be heard on the church Facebook page.

New players are always welcome to join and need not be church members. Anyone interested is invited to call the church office at 715-365-1535 and leave a message for someone from the choir to get in touch.

An excerpt from an article written by Sue Schneider



## Contact Information:

**Mailing Address:** 135 E Larch Street, Rhinelander, WI 54501

**Church Office Hours:** Tuesday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to Noon

**Call Us:** (715) 365-1535 **After Hours Call:** 715-550-1419 **Prayer Chain:** 715-360-5306

**Visit Us Online:** [rhinelanderucc.org](http://rhinelanderucc.org) **E-mail Us:** [rhiucc@newnorth.net](mailto:rhiucc@newnorth.net)

**Like Us/Watch Us on Facebook:** 1st Congregational UCC Rhinelander

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES FINANCIAL CORNER

Donations were up in August while expenses were down slightly resulting in a positive net of \$1,812 for the month. The lower expense was a result of the ACES payment (\$1,000) last month offset by the quarterly water bill in August. The year-to-date and budget income have been adjusted to reflect the \$16,900 in prepaid 2024 pledges received in December 2023. With this adjustment, the YTD net shows a small deficit of \$4,233. The budget shows a positive net of \$1,500, primarily due to the Pastor expenses being less as we only had an interim Pastor for the first quarter. The Trustees decided that including the prepaid pledges in the current year income gave a more accurate presentation of the donations received compared to current year's pledges. Operating funds continue at an acceptable level.



	August 2024	Jan-Aug 2024 Act	Budget 2024
Income	\$ 8,868	\$93,407	\$143,075
Expense			
Ministerial	\$ 463	\$26,619	\$ 27,745
Mission	\$ 1,397	\$13,019	\$ 19,940
Staff/Office	\$ 3,512	\$28,497	\$ 45,590
Maintenance	\$ 1,684	\$29,505	\$ 48,300
Total Expense	\$ 7,056	\$97,640	\$141,575
Net	\$ 1,812	-\$ 4,233	\$ 1,500

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Tom Winqvist, Patricia Juday, Dave Havel, and Bob Abel



### October Birthdays:

Mary Peterson	10/01	Carole Arndt	10/08
Linda Herber	10/01	Wally Dahlquist Jr.	10/10
Amanda Jahn	10/03	Mary Dork	10/18
Sandra McKitrick	10/04	Allen Ring	10/26
Colleen Wendt	10/05	Linda Boyd	10/26
Carl Corey	10/08	Steve Dahlquist	10/28

### October Lay Readers:

10/06	Sandy McKitrick
10/13	Linda Boyd
10/20	Beth Studer
10/27	Sue Tessendorf



### October Greeters:

10/06	Judy & Ted Fisher
10/13	Judy & Bob Thoms
10/20	Jan Winnicki
10/27	Carla & Gene Chropkowski

Our Volunteers are a Blessing!

The time and dedication of our monthly volunteers is a blessing and greatly appreciated by all. Please join our team and sign-up to be a lay reader, usher/greeter, or coffee hour server. Thank you from the Spiritual Life Board!

## CREATION CARE CORNER

### A PLEA TO VOTE YOUR CONSCIENCE AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO VOTE



It is October already, and it will soon be time to vote in our state and national elections. We want to remind you to vote and persuade your family members and friends to vote also.

There are many issues at stake, so if we want to see sensible solutions we will need to make our voices heard at the ballot box. Not voting is no solution to any issue you are concerned about. You must vote to participate in our democracy.

Do your own research into the candidates for state Assemblypersons and state Senators, representatives in the US House and Senate, and also for President, so you can make choices that are consistent with your views on today's issues. Actions these elected representatives will take in the next year or two will have major effects on our lives and whether our planet can sustain us going forward. Please read up on the history and positions of these candidates. Don't decide only because of ads you have seen on television or the mailings we have been receiving. Some are very misleading. You can find out more on the candidates by doing an online search for "learn about candidates and issues".

As you may guess, I encourage you to give major consideration to what the candidates' views are on the environment and climate change. Because we only have 5 or 6 years to turn around our country's over-use of fossil fuels before it is too late to stop irreparable polar ice melt and destruction of the Amazon forests, I believe that should be a major consideration in deciding how to vote. There is also the important issue of Christ's teaching us to respect and help other people, especially in this time when citizens and immigrants in our country are being attacked just for being who they are. Think of the good Samaritan. We are all descendants of immigrants, after all.

You can check if you are registered to vote by visiting the website [vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov). This is also where you can find out where and how to vote in the upcoming election. You may even decide you want to become a poll worker.

**Sandy McKitrick,  
Climate Care Team**



**PRAYER  
LIST**

Lisa Johnson has volunteered to be our Prayer Chain Leader.

If you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain List, or if you have a Prayer Need, please call Lisa at 715-360-5306.

Requests for the Prayer Chain will remain anonymous and do not have to be for a church member.

Thank-You Lisa!

# October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 10:00am - 11:00am In-Person and Face-book Worship 10:00am - 11:00am Musician: Darlene Cole 10:00am - 11:00am Rev. Missy Miller 11:00am - 12:00pm Fellowship Time/ Coffee Hour 11:00am - 12:00pm 'Townhall Listening Post' after Worship (Lounge)	<b>30</b> 1:00pm - 2:00pm Search Committee (Conference Room)	<b>1</b> 10:00am - 4:00pm P.E.O. Chapter AO (Fellowship Hall/Lounge) 10:00am - 11:00am TOPS (Lounge) 10:30am - 11:30am Outreach Board 3:15pm - 4:15pm Workshop Planning (Conference Room) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Northwoods Choralliers Rehearsals (Fellowship Hall)	<b>2</b> 3:30pm - 4:30pm Sr. Vocal Choir	<b>3</b> 9:00am - 10:30am Study and Share (not meeting today) 5:00pm - 6:00pm GEM Handbell Choir 5:00pm - 6:30pm NATH (Bob Wolf) Conference Room 5:30pm Frederick Place Dinner (Frederick Place)	<b>4</b> 1:00pm - 3:00pm North-ern Arts Council (Fellowship Hall)	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 10:00am - 11:00am Communion 10:00am - 11:00am In-Person and Face-book Worship 10:00am - 11:00am Musician: Mary Peterson 11:00am - 12:00pm Sunday Brunch	<b>7</b> 1:00pm - 2:00pm Search Committee (Conference Room)	<b>8</b> 10:00am - 11:00am TOPS (Lounge) 3:15pm - 4:15pm Workshop Planning (Conference Room) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Northwoods Choralliers Rehearsals (Fellowship Hall)	<b>9</b> 9:30am - 10:30am Building and Grounds (Conference Room) 3:30pm - 4:30pm Sr. Vocal Choir	<b>10</b> 9:00am - 10:30am Study and Share (meeting at Rennes today) 4:00pm - 5:00pm North-ern Arts Council (Conference Room) 5:00pm - 6:00pm GEM Handbell Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 10:00am - 11:00am In-Person and Face-book Worship 10:00am - 11:00am Musician: Marilyn Norden 11:00am - 12:00pm Fellowship Time/ Coffee Hour	<b>14</b> 1:00pm - 2:00pm Search Committee (Conference Room) 4:00pm - 6:00pm Warm for Winter Distribution	<b>15</b> 10:00am - 11:00am TOPS (Lounge) 11:00am - 12:00pm Spiritual Life (Conference Room) 3:15pm - 4:15pm Workshop Planning (Conference Room) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Northwoods Choralliers Rehearsals (Fellowship Hall)	<b>16</b> 3:30pm - 4:30pm Sr. Vocal Choir	<b>17</b> 9:00am - 10:30am Study and Share (not meeting today) 1:00pm - 2:30pm Non-Fishing Book Club 5:00pm - 6:00pm GEM Handbell Choir 5:30pm Frederick Place Dinner (Frederick Place)	<b>18</b> Newsletter Article Deadline	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10:00am - 11:00am In-Person and Face-book Worship 10:00am - 11:00am Musician: Darlene Cole 11:00am - 12:00pm Sunday Brunch 3:00pm - 6:00pm 4-H Anne Williams (Fellowship Hall)	<b>21</b> 1:00pm - 2:00pm Search Committee (Conference Room) 4:00pm - 5:00pm Trustees	<b>22</b> 10:00am - 11:00am TOPS (Lounge) 3:15pm - 4:15pm Workshop Planning (Conference Room) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Northwoods Choralliers Rehearsals (Fellowship Hall)	<b>23</b> 3:30pm - 4:30pm Sr. Vocal Choir 3:45pm - 6:00pm Food Pantry (volunteers are needed to help)	<b>24</b> 9:00am - 10:30am Study and Share (not meeting today) 1:00pm - 2:30pm Book Bags Book Club (Lounge) 4:00pm - 5:00pm Executive Council 5:00pm - 6:00pm GEM Handbell Choir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:30am - 11:30am Warm for Winter Distribution
<b>27</b> 10:00am - 11:00am In-Person and Face-book Worship 10:00am - 11:00am Musician: Mary Peterson 11:00am - 12:00pm Fellowship Time/ Coffee Hour 11:00am - 12:00pm 'Townhall Listening Post' after Worship (Lounge) 4:30pm - 6:00pm 4-H Service Awards (Fellowship Hall)	<b>28</b> 1:00pm - 2:00pm Search Committee (Conference Room)	<b>29</b> 10:00am - 11:00am TOPS (Lounge) 3:15pm - 4:15pm Workshop Planning (Conference Room) 6:30pm - 8:00pm Northwoods Choralliers Rehearsals (Fellowship Hall)	<b>30</b> 3:30pm - 4:30pm Sr. Vocal Choir	<b>31</b> 9:00am - 10:30am Study and Share (not meeting today) 5:00pm - 6:00pm GEM Handbell Choir	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>