

First Congregational

United Church of Christ –Rhinelanders –September 2025

I just can't seem to kick the habit of the school year calendar. Most of my life has been dictated by the school year! As a student myself for many, many years and now my kids are in school, every year falls into a rhythm of school starting in September after a long summer of freedom. September is when we get back into our seats, start up again, buckle down for programs, sports, clubs, and practices. Here we are once again. After a summer of freedom, fun, trips, vacations, and swimming in the lake, it is now time to settle into a weekly schedule, set some goals, and work toward them. Admittedly, this transition comes with a sadness to leave summer and also relief to get back on a schedule.

Are you ready?

Come sing with us! The choir is starting up and begins practice on Wednesday September 3 at 3:30 p.m. It will be great to have the choir back to enhance our worship. As well, come sing with us from your spot in the pew! Singing together is proven to be a huge help to our immune system, emotions, cognitive function, and sense of belonging. Sing with us because it is good for your soul and invite a friend.

Can't sing? Come ring with us! The bell choir begins practice on Thursday September 4 at 5:00 p.m. Many hands are needed to create sacred space through sound in our worship service. The only requirement to participate is to climb the stairs up to the balcony. If you can do that, we would love to have you!

Rather create bling? Come craft with us! The Bazaar is happening Saturday November 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We need your handiwork or your hands of participation for wreath making. Plan to come shop and spend the day with us.

More interested in studying something? Come study and share with us on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. starting on September 17. Tim will be reviving this weekly dive into a scripture passage and calling it Deepen: Searching the Scriptures Together.

Or is working with children more your thing? Come hang with the kids Sunday mornings! Our Fall Kick Off Rally Day is Sunday September 14. Join Jesus in saying, "let the children come to me."

Does all of this just make you hungry...Come eat with us! After church on the first and third Sundays of the month we will be sharing lunch together (Starting September 14 because that is Rally Day). This is potluck style so bring a dish to share or just bring yourself to eat your share.

However you want to participate this fall, please join us, invite a friend, and enjoy belonging in this family of God.

Co-Pastor Tim Grade



Christmas Bazaar

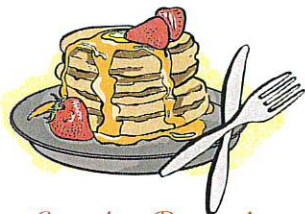
It's Time to Think "Bazaar" Thoughts!!

Our Christmas Bazaar, scheduled for November 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., will be here before we know it. So start creating beautiful items for our craft table, and gather those gently-used Christmas decorations for the Christmas Past table. There will be green wreaths and baked goods for sale as well, and a luncheon will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Coffee and cookies will be available from 9 to 11 a.m. (donations gladly accepted!) and Darlene Cole will be providing lovely music on her harp at various times during the Bazaar. SO . . . what can you do to make the return of our Christmas Bazaar a success?? We will need people to help as follows: a chairperson for the coffee time; a bake sale chairperson; lots of baked goods to sell as well as cookies for the coffee time; craft items, hand sewn and hand

knitted items (Gale Willcox chairing this department); as many people as we can get to help make the beautiful wreaths and kissing balls our church is so famous for (Des Dahlquist and Mary Moxon in charge here); and waitresses (and waiters!!) for the luncheon (Mary Dork in charge of the lunch). Sign-up sheets will be forthcoming as the date gets a little closer. But if you know now how you'd be able to help, talk to Gale Willcox or Mary Dork to get signed up. We're very excited about the return of our annual Bazaar, and if everyone pitches in we'll have a successful event!

Adopt A Basket

Our church is the grateful recipient of several baskets made by Sharon Schroeder. Sharon is truly an artist in her quality design and construction of baskets. We would like to fill the baskets and offer them for raffle at the Christmas Fair planned for November 22, 2025. If you would like to adopt a basket to fill, please contact Mary Moxon (cell number 715-401-0130). Please consider forming a small team to fill your basket. This will allow for shared effort and expense, as well as pooled ideas. Baskets will need to be completed and returned to church by November 9, 2025.



Sunday Brunch

Sunday Brunches Are Coming Back!

Starting Sunday, September 14 our popular Sunday Brunch will be returning. Each first and third Sunday we will serve brunch at 11 a.m. right after worship. Yes, the 14th of September is the second Sunday of the month, but we will begin our brunches that day as we celebrate a return to fall with worship including our bell and vocal choirs. So the brunch schedule is as follows: September 14 and 21, October 5 and 19,

November 2 and 16, and December 7 and 21 with a free-will offering taken. So mark your calendars now and join us for worship AND brunch beginning September 14 and the first and third Sundays thereafter!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FINANCIAL CORNER

Because of several issues in July, mainly computer and e-mail problems, the Board of Trustees was unable to meet at the scheduled time. We will meet early in August to bring us up to date on the financial work of the church. We are pleased that Tim and Susie are working hard to fit in with our needs, as well as bring some new dimension into our worship experience. At our virtual conference with our Schwab account representative in June we were made aware of some current trends, and we will be meeting with them on a regular basis, at least annually, to update our portfolio. We will continue to monitor all of our accounts as the year progresses.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Tom Winqvist, Patricia Juday,
and Dave Havel

	July 2025	Jan-July 2025	Budget 2025
Income	\$ 8,961.00	\$65,618.00	\$162,275.00
Expenses			
Ministerial	\$8,699.76	\$17,958.29	\$63,086.00
Temporary	\$0.00	\$4,262.20	\$9,500.00
Staff	\$3,462.59	\$22,530.80	\$35,640.00
Music	\$0.00	\$339.87	\$200.00
Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
Mission	\$2,166.67	\$9,166.69	\$15,000.00
Maintenance	\$1,134.43	\$35,191.61	\$51,300.00
Office	\$783.21	\$5,824.76	\$12,300.00
Boards	\$560.25	\$2,824.76	\$6,900.00
Total Expenses	\$16,806.88	\$98,037.06	\$194,726.00



Margaret Baker	09/03
Judy Martin	09/03
Mary Moxon	09/03
Jeffrey Seifert	09/05
Carlie Jahn	09/06
Marilyn Norden	09/08
Merlin Van Buren	09/11
Jude Hammer	09/16
Mary Baker	09/21

**Deadline for October Newsletter articles is:
September 19, 2025**

Contact Information:

Mailing Address: 135 E Larch Street,
Rhineland, WI 54501

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

Call Us: 715-365-1535

After Hours Call: 715-493-3526

Prayer Chain: 715-360-5306

Visit Us Online: rhinelanderucc.org

E-mail Us: rhiucc@newnorth.net

Like Us/Watch Us on Facebook:



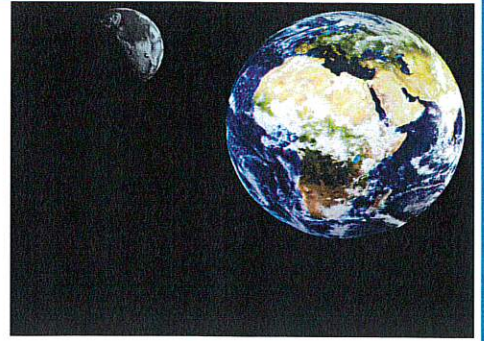
September Lay Readers:

09/07	Beth Studer
09/14	Judy Thoms
09/21	Beth Studer
09/28	Linda Boyd

September Greeters:

09/07	Cecily Dawson
09/14	Bob and Judy Thoms
09/21	Dave Havel
09/28	Jan Winnicki

CREATION CARE CORNER



I recently read a couple of articles from the Union of Concerned Scientists' magazine. Following are some excerpts: "Last year, coal's share of the US electricity mix hit a new low; just 15 percent, down from 50 percent a quarter-century ago. It's no surprise why. As a source of electricity, coal is more expensive than the alternatives, less efficient than the alternatives, responsible for significant harms to the environment and people's health- including asthma, cancer, and other debilitating conditions - and has claimed more than 100,000 US lives from the mining process alone. But for purely political reasons, the current presidential administration is attempting to bring coal back."

"What the administration is doing, aided by the majority in Congress, will without question slow the transition to cleaner, safer, and more affordable energy." "Still, with all of that, there is no doubt ... that a clean energy future is where we're going. The opportunity costs of all this time wasted are enormous. Enormous!"

"The administration is taking actions that are very real-and very illegal-to ease the path for coal. Things like rolling back pollution limits on coal power plants, ...easing permitting processes, forbidding consideration of the costs of climate change, and declaring an intention to not enforce environmental and health standards for any part of the energy sector" are in the works. Even with all this, coal-fired power generation has been on a long-term decline as a share of the US electricity mix for years..." It's possible we will see a temporary plateau, but coal is on its way out.

The administration's policies also slash health protections for coal miners and end investments for communities transitioning toward cleaner options. People don't want to return to the polluting past, now that they've seen the opportunities of a clean energy transition. We will get to a clean energy future, but it will be at a far higher cost due to these avoidable delays.

Some good news from Maine: "A new law signed by Gov. Janet Mills in June sets up the state to source all of its power from the wind, sun, and other carbon-free electricity sources by 2040." This is expected to help reduce health- and climate-harming emissions, lower energy costs for consumers, and create new jobs by adopting stronger clean energy policies. This shows that states can make progress without federal support.

From the New York Times: the Environmental Protection Administration is reversing the 2009 "endangerment finding" that established carbon dioxide and methane as posing a threat to human lives. The EPA administrator argues that climate regulations on auto manufacturers harms human health because it "leads to higher prices and reduced consumer choice."

Sandy McKittrick, Climate Care Team

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
31	10:00am –11:00am In-Person and Facebook Worship 11:00am –12:00pm Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour	1	Labor Day	2	10:00am –11:00am Spiritual Life Board (Conference Room) 10:00am –11:00am TOPS (Lounge)	3	3:30pm –4:30pm Sr. Vocal Choir	4	5:00pm –6:00pm GEM Handbell Choir 5:00pm –6:30pm NATH (Bob Wolf) Conference Room	5		6	
7	10:00am –11:00am Communion 10:00am –11:00am In-Person and Facebook Worship 11:00am –12:00pm Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour	8	1:00pm –2:00pm Trustees	9	8:30am –9:30am Outreach Board (Outreach Room) on hold until further notice 10:00am –11:00am TOPS (Lounge) 6:30pm –8:00pm Northwoods Choraliers Rehearsals (Fellowship Hall)	10	9:30am –10:30am Building and Grounds 3:30pm –4:30pm Sr. Vocal Choir	11	1:00pm –3:00pm P.E.O. (Dean Theatre) 4:00pm –5:15pm Northern Arts Council (Conference Room) 5:00pm –6:00pm GEM Handbell Choir 5:00pm –7:00pm NATH Board Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	12		13	
14	Rally Day (tentatively planned for this day) 10:00am –11:00am In-Person and Facebook Worship 11:00am –12:00pm BRUNCH 3:00pm –6:00pm 4-H Positive Youth Development (Fellowship Hall)	15		16	10:00am –11:00am TOPS (Lounge) 6:30pm –8:00pm Northwoods Choraliers Rehearsals (Fellowship Hall)	17	9:00am –10:00am Deepen: Searching the Scriptures Together (Conference Room) 3:30pm –4:30pm Sr. Vocal Choir	18	1:00pm –2:30pm Non-Fishin' Book Club (Lounge) 5:00pm –6:00pm GEM Handbell Choir	19	Newsletter Article Deadline	20	
21	10:00am –11:00am In-Person and Facebook Worship 11:00am –12:00pm BRUNCH	22		23	10:00am –11:00am TOPS (Lounge) 6:30pm –8:00pm Northwoods Choraliers Rehearsals (Fellowship Hall)	24	9:00am –10:00am Deepen: Searching the Scriptures Together (Conference Room) 3:30pm –4:30pm Sr. Vocal Choir	25	1:00pm –2:30pm Book Bags Book Club (Lounge) 3:30pm –4:30pm Executive Council 5:00pm –6:00pm GEM Handbell Choir	26		27	9:30am –11:30am Warm for Winter Distribution
28	10:00am –11:00am In-Person and Facebook Worship 11:00am –12:00pm Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour 11:00am –12:00pm 'Townhall Listening Post' after Worship (Lounge)	29		30	10:00am –11:00am TOPS (Lounge) 6:30pm –8:00pm Northwoods Choraliers Rehearsals (Fellowship Hall)	1	Personnel Committee (Time and date TBD) 9:00am –10:00am Deepen: Searching the Scriptures Together (Conference Room) 3:30pm –4:30pm Sr. Vocal Choir	2	5:00pm –6:00pm GEM Handbell Choir 5:00pm –6:30pm NATH (Bob Wolf) Conference Room	3		4	