

Fall 2017



INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

NINE TO DINE: Socialize with other members or families over delicious food; 8-9 people gather for meals 4-6 times during the year. Each group is unique; potluck, gourmet, eating out...groups create their own pattern. Couples, singles and families are welcome. A special group is created by parents with child care provided. If the parent group sounds interesting, please ask for information. Groups are formed from the interested members who sign up by Sept. 17.

**Contact: Karen Taylor, 715-559-3170,
krn.taylor@gmail.com**

NINE TO DINE FOR PARENTS: A Parent Nine to Dine group gathers in restaurants or homes. Join other couples 4-6 times over the year with child care provided. You determine the calendar. Benefit—children love getting to know our high school youth who provide child care!

**Contact: Shannon Joshi, 715-834-2668,
shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org**

DATE NIGHT: Trained and supervised middle and high school students will provide care and activities for children on Friday, Dec. 8, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Youth take leadership in planning the activities and supervising children. You may plan free time knowing your children will make cookies, a craft for gift giving, and watch a Christmas movie. A freewill donation is received for child care, which goes to the youth travel fund.

Date: Dec. 8

Time: 5:00-8:00 p.m., First Cong UCC.

Contact: Mary Beth Tusing, lestertusing@gmail.com

CHILD CARE

On site **child care** can be arranged for any activity.

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY

As you browse these offerings, recognize that you are entering the hospitality of First Congregational UCC. The church is not a special school or a spiritual hospital, but a living community in which we seek the presence of God in and through one another. Join us!

First Congregational UCC

www.firstucceauclaire.org

310 Broadway St., Eau Claire, WI

715-834-2668

PUMPKIN CAROLING: An annual tradition you won't want to miss. We begin with a lunch in Ingram Hall, then head to 2-3 nursing homes to sing carols. Halloween-themed songs will be provided; wearing costumes, while optional, adds to the fun! Families, grandparents, and singles are welcome.

Date: Oct. 22

Time: 11:15 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Contact: Mary Barnes, 715-834-2668,
maryb@firstucceauclaire.org**

FAMILY GAMES NIGHT: All ages play board games in Ingram Hall! Envision a variety of board games and new friends to play with you and your children. Come for all or part of the evening; bring a snack to share. Get to know others in a fun, relaxed setting.

Dates: Sept. 24, Oct. 15, Nov. 5

Time: 5:00-8:00 p.m., Ingram Hall

**Contact: Karen McMahon, 715-836-9743,
mcmahonck@att.net**

SERVANT SUNDAY: Our second annual Servant Sunday on Sept. 10 brings all ages together to make a difference in our community. After worship that day, you can pack a lunch in Ingram Hall and then head out to a community site to work on a project.

Sites: Chippewa River Trail, Historic Randall Park Neighborhood, Loretta Young Orchards, First Congregational and more.

Date: Sept. 10

Time: After worship until 3:00 p.m.

**Contact: Shannon Joshi, 715-834-2668
shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org**

Sign up in advance in the office or by email, or register in person that day.



FAMILY FUN

TRAVELING JESUS: In these moments of fun, create a Christmas memory by inviting Jesus into your Advent days. Sign up to host Traveling Jesus in your home for a day or two between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Each kit has a carved wooden baby Jesus, a DVD, a Christmas book, and a craft. Families entertain their guest and let him share their family activities. In the journal, they can record their experience in words or pictures.

Date: Nov. 26-Dec. 24

Contact: Pam Braun, 715-834-2668,
pamb@firstucceauclaire.org

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Our own John Murphy writes this play with an eye to our current culture, the sacred story of Christ's birth, and Murphy's own humor. The Tiny Angel Choir steals the show. Encourage your children to participate and bring your parents and neighbors to hear the birth of Jesus in a way that you hadn't quite imagined. Prelude players, children of the church, provide the prelude beginning at 9:40 a.m.

Date: Sunday, Dec. 17

Time: 10:00 a.m. worship

Contact: Church office, 715-834-2668

HANGING OF THE GREENS: It is a tradition to clothe the sanctuary in the season's greenery the first Sunday of December. Children will remember they helped decorate the "big" trees. Hot chocolate and snacks hold families over until nap time. Other activities available to entertain children and to help decorate the church. Stay for a while or until you finish.

Date: Sunday, Dec. 3

Time: After worship and the Advent Tea

Contact: Shannon Joshi, 715-834-2668,
shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN: School break provides an opportunity to travel with youth and children from first grade and older. This well-organized volunteer experience allows families to have fun working together, keeps children and youth busy the whole time, and friends are welcome. We have reserved 20 spots, 12:00-2:30 p.m., Eagan, MN. Bring a sack lunch to eat before our shift starts. We will coordinate transportation from the church at 9:30 a.m. RSVP by Oct. 6 so that we have adequate drivers and supervision.

Date: Friday, Oct. 13

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Feed My Starving Children, Eagan, MN

Contact by Oct. 6: Shannon Joshi, 715-834-2668
shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org

COVENANT GROUPS

Groups of 10 or fewer persons agree to support one another in their spiritual life. They covenant: to attend covenant meetings, to create space in each day for spiritual practice of prayer, to remember one another in prayer, to share honestly, and to hold in confidence all that is shared in the group.

KINDRED SPIRITS: This women's group will begin Sept. 12 with Pastor Mark as guest speaker. One author suggests the question for discussion: "Are all angels male?" The group will choose their study for the fall at their first meeting.

Date: Tuesdays beginning Sept. 12

Time: 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Contact: Phyllis Kurtz, 715-834-1566

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY – SUNDAY SERMON TEXT: This drop-in Bible study enjoys spontaneous lecture and free-wheeling discussion. Come over lunchtime to probe the meaning of the lectionary text for the following Sunday. Lists of texts are in the church office. No registration is required.

Date: Tuesdays, 12:15-1:15 p.m.

Location: Church library

Leader: Rev. Dr. Mark Pirazzini, 715-834-2668

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: This ongoing, peer-led Bible study for men and women provides an invitation to probe today's meaning of scripture for you. Join this group in-motion as they continue studying the Gospel of Luke.

Date: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays

Time: 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Location: Church library

Contact: Sue Haake, 715-874-5259, dghaake@wwt.net

WOMEN'S MONDAY COVENANT GROUP: This group reads to support one another's journey. Relationship is key here; dynamic discussion with mixed generations.

Dates: 1st and 3rd Mondays, 1:15-2:30 p.m.

Location: Church library

Contact: Joanne Linden, 715-835-0287,
lindenj@charter.net

MEN'S EVENING COVENANT GROUP: One member says, "The Men's Covenant Group provides study opportunity for me to grow in wholeness, to be who I am. Through outreach activities such as raising money for mission, preparing meals for youth, and raking a church member's lawn we provide care for others."

Dates: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. meal (\$2),
6:00 p.m. meeting

Location: Broadway

Contact: Paul Braun, 715-832-2048, braunp@att.net

EVENT REGISTRATION:

To register for an event, contact the listed person, call the church office at 715-834-2668, or email Shannon Joshi at shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org, text 715-514-7340. Costs can be paid with cash, credit card, or check payable to First Congregational UCC with the event noted on the memo line.

ADULT BOOK AND MEDIA EVENTS:

ANIMATE FAITH-Bible: The definition of “animate” is to give life to; make alive. Participation in Animate gives life to our understanding of faith practices. The 2017 series discusses assumptions we may have about the Bible and its significance today. Drop in to find that you are hooked on this lively DVD series. The series material is for use in other small group settings; ask for details.

Sept. 17: Will Willimon, *Scripture Reads Us*. There are the words on the page and then the words behind the words—the history. In this session, Will challenges us to consider the assumptions that frame the way we read the Bible.

Oct. 29: Jay Bakker, *Love is the Bottom Line*. How do you love a book that’s caused you nothing but pain? Jay Bakker takes us through his journey from hard-line fundamentalist kid to faithless rebel young man to grace-filled pastor.

Time: 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Location: The Gathering Place Adult Education Room

**Contact: Shannon Joshi, 715-834-2668,
shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org**

BOOK/STUDY GROUPS

WELCOME HOME BOOK STUDY: Homosexuality in the Bible: Join Welcome Home as Pastor Mark leads the group in examining biblical evidence regarding same-sex relationships and God’s attitude toward them. Materials will include *The Children Are Free* by Rev. Jeff Miner and John Tyler Connoley and *Homosexuality in the Bible* by Walter Wink.

Date: Oct. 17

Time: 6:30 p.m.

**Contact: Julie and Cynthia Horman-Weinkauf,
715-579-0341, jweinkauf92@gmail.com**

THE TWELVE: This book club, open to all, highlights a new book every other month with a guided discussion by either the author of the book or another member of the church to enrich your reading. Book choices are a mix of social justice issues and plain old reading for pleasure. There is literally something for everyone. Join us for one or all of “The Twelve” months.

SEPT/OCT: *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America’s most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.

Date: Monday, Oct. 30

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Ingram Hall

Contact: Paul Savides, 715-875-4203, psavides@wwt.net

NOV/DEC: *All I Really Want: Readings for a Modern Christmas* by Quinn Caldwell. Brief writings address the challenges and realities of the Advent season and include a simple action, ritual or meditation designed to gently steer the reader toward the deeper meaning underlying the season. Readings include a prayer for each morning and evening during Advent. This book takes seriously the modern person’s hunger for meaning and import in a season that feels increasingly frivolous.

Date: Mon., Dec. 4

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Church library

Contact: Shannon Joshi, shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org

PUBLIC FORUMS

JONAH FORUM: “Ecology and Spirituality” – JONAH’s Eco Spirituality Work Group has been studying *Laudato Si*, Pope Frances’s encyclical on the environment and human ecology, for the past two years. They seek to understand and put into practice the lessons outlined in this great work. Join us as the Eco Spirituality Work Group explains their two-year journey, shares their insights, and discusses ways we all can become better stewards of our planet.

Date: Monday, Sept. 25

Time: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Location: First Congregational UCC

Contact: Paul Savides, 715-875-4203, psavides@wwt.net

MEDICATION DISPOSAL: JONAH has established a safe and confidential collection of outdated or unneeded prescription or over-the-counter medications. Items will be collected for safe disposal before the church service on Sunday, Oct. 15. This collection is available to church members only.

Date: Sunday, Oct. 15

Time: 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Location: First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire

Contact: John Urice, (715) 864-4303, jkurice@gmail.com

JONAH CELEBRATION: “Ten Years of Working for Justice and Peace in the Chippewa Valley” – Join us for a lively celebration of the work of JONAH over the past 10 years and the covenanting of new JONAH congregations. There will be live music, a silent auction, inspiring speakers, and great food and conversation. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased in advance or at the door.

Date: Sunday, Nov. 12

Time: 4:00-6:30 p.m.

Location: The Oxford Theater, 1814 Oxford Ave.

Contact: Reverend Julianne Lepp, 715-864-2982,

juliannelepp@yahoo.com or Paul Savides,

715-875-4203, psavides@wwt.net

SCHOLARSHIPS

A generous financial gift assists persons in attending any events, and all are welcome. Scholarship requests may be made at the time of registration.

PRIMETIME FRIENDS: All are invited to come to this friendly senior fellowship gathering where some of the best cooks at First Congregational prepare the meal and guest speakers share interesting topics or musical performance. It's a great way to stay connected with one another, enjoy food and fellowship. Transportation is available to those who need it. Call the church office to reserve your spot on the Monday before the meeting to request a ride.

Dates: 3rd Wednesdays, September-June

Time: noon-1:30 p.m.

Location: Ingram Hall

Contact: Mary Barnes, maryb@firststucceauclaire.org

SMALL GROUPS

DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY CONGREGATION: Lisa Wells from the Aging and Disability Resource Center will train us on recognizing the signs of dementia, learning dementia-friendly communication skills, and knowing local services available to help those with dementia and caregivers. All are welcome.

Date: Oct. 2

Time: 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Location: Ingram Hall

Contact: Mary Barnes, maryb@firststucceauclaire.org

JONAH CORE TEAM: (Joining Our Neighbors, Advancing Hope) is a small group interested in the focus of justice in our work within the community. This is a coordinating group for actions within the congregation, the neighborhood and the community. Members gather information on justice issues alive at the local and state levels, sharing information with the congregation and acting publicly as members of JONAH.

Date: second Tuesdays

Time: 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Contact: Paul Savides, 715-450-3695, psavides@wwt.net

THE INKLINGS (Writer's Group): Have you ever said, "I would like to write," but need a little encouragement? The Inklings meet the first Thursday of each month at members' homes to share something they have composed. Some are working on family history, books for publication, or just plain "feel-good" written expressions. You may choose the subject, aware that we are doing so in a spiritual setting. We are waiting with room in our homes and hearts to welcome you.

Dates: first Thursdays starting Sept. 7

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Jim Alf, 715-514-1840, jalf4840@charter.net

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The love of knitting and crocheting combines with care to form a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Many blessings are included in every shawl. We knit and crochet both alone and as a group.

Dates: 1st Mondays, October-May starting Oct. 2

Time: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Contact: Barb Brenden, barbbrenden@gmail.com

WELCOME HOME (LGBTQ+ Education, Advocacy and Connection): Returning this fall, LGBTQ and Friends, re-named Welcome Home, is planning two events that include you: Homosexuality in the Bible on Oct. 17 (see Book/Study Groups, pg. 3) and a discussion on supporting the transgender community Nov. 14. Watch Talk of the Tower for more details. All are welcome.

Dates: Oct. 17 and Nov. 14

Time: TBD

Location: TBD

Contact: Julie and Cynthia Horman-Weinkauf, 715-579-0341, jweinkauf92@gmail.com

WORSHIP

JONAH SUNDAY: "Courage in the Struggle for Justice and Peace" – At our regular worship service, JONAH members will share their stories and experiences of living out their faith values through their work for justice and peace in the Chippewa Valley. After worship, learn more about past and upcoming JONAH events, opportunities, and actions.

Date: Sunday, Oct. 15

Time: 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Contact: Paul Savides, 715-875-4203, psavides@wwt.net

COMPLINE WORSHIP: An order of worship for night prayer is offered for Advent. Periods of silence, candlelight and music bring your day to a close in the presence of the sacred and of one another.

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 6

Time: 6:15 p.m.

Contact: Ruth Crouse, recrouse@charter.net

CHORAL SUNDAY: During Sunday worship, our Chancel Choir performs "The Magnificat" by Antonio Vivaldi featuring soloists and accompanied by a chamber orchestra.

Date: Dec. 10

Time: 10:00 a.m. worship

Table of Contents:

Intergenerational Activities: p. 1

Family Fun: p. 2

Covenant Groups: p. 2

Adult Book and Media Events: p. 3

Book/Study Groups: p. 3

Public Forums: p. 3

Small Groups: p. 4

Worship: p.4

Edited by Shannon Joshi

Small Group and Family Ministry Committee:

Mary Burt, Bob Eierman, Jeanne Herman, Jane Mazorol, Anne Brown, Ann Lamoureux

Please let us know how you can be supported within this community. We look forward to being with you.

Find us at www.firststucceauclaire.org

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: First Congregational United Church of Christ Eau Claire, WI

