



## 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](http://www.firstucceauclaire.org)

310 Broadway Street, Eau Claire,  
WI 54703, 715-834-2668

### INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

**FAMILY GAMES NIGHT:** All ages playing board games in Ingram Hall! Envision a variety of board games, snacks, and new friends to play with you and your children. Typical attendance: 15 persons. Come for all or part of the evening, have fun, and get to know others in a fun, relaxed setting.

**Dates:** Jan. 21, Feb. 25, March 11, April 22

**Time:** 5:00-8:00 PM, Ingram Hall

**Contact:** Karen McMahon, 715-836-9743,  
[mcmahonck@att.net](mailto:mcmahonck@att.net)

**A WRINKLE IN TIME DISCUSSION AND MOVIE:**

Young adults and not-so-young adults are invited to join us on a two-part adventure in relation to the book. First dust off and re-read your copy (or purchase a new one in the church library) then join us on Tuesday, Feb. 20, for a discussion on the book. Next join us for a private showing of the soon-to-be released movie at Micon Cinemas in March (date TBD). Meg Murry and her little brother, Charles Wallace, have been without their scientist father, Mr. Murry, for five years, ever since he discovered a new planet and used the concept known as a tesseract to travel there. Joined by Meg's classmate Calvin O'Keefe and guided by the three mysterious astral travelers known as Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who and Mrs. Which, the children brave a dangerous journey to a planet that possesses all of the evil in the universe.

**Book Discussion Date:** Wednesday, Feb. 21

**Time:** 6:00-7:30 PM

**Location:** The Gathering Place

**Movie Date:** TBD (watch for more info. in February)

**Location:** Micon Cinemas (EC or Chippewa Falls TBD)

**Contact:** Shannon Joshi, [shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org)

**NINE TO DINE FOR PARENTS:** Forming in January, a Parent Nine to Dine will begin gathering 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, [shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org)

**DATE NIGHT:** Youth take leadership in planning the activities and supervising children. Trained and supervised middle and high school students will provide care and activities for children on Friday, April 13, 5:00 to 8:00 PM. You may plan free time knowing your children will make cookies, a craft for gift giving, and watch a movie. A freewill donation is received for child care: suggested \$5 child/\$15 family maximum.

**Date:** Friday, April 13

**Time:** 5:00-8:00 PM, First Cong UCC.

**Contact:** Shannon Joshi, [shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org)

### FAMILY FUN

**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN:** School break gives us 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 PM, Eagan, MN. Bring a sack lunch to have before our shift starts. We will coordinate transportation from the church at 9:00 AM. RSVP by Feb. 15 so we have adequate drivers and supervision.

**Date:** Thursday, Feb. 22

**Time:** 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

**Location:** Feed My Starving Children, Eagan, MN

**Contact:** Shannon Joshi, [shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org)

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION:** Dates, times and contact information are listed with the event description. Register by contacting Shannon Joshi in the church office at 715-834-2668, by emailing [shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org](mailto:shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org), by texting 715-514-7340 or on the church app. Registration costs are cash, credit card, or check made payable to First Congregational UCC with the event noted on the memo line. For event reminders and the most up-to-date church calendar, download the app from the Google Play Store or from iTunes by searching "First Congregational EC."

## FAMILY FUN, cont'd

**FIRST COMMUNION:** First Congregational UCC invites children to take communion before confirmation when parents see that their children understand communion in an age-appropriate way. If you have questions about when your child might be ready for First Communion, talk with Pastor Mark Pirazzini or Shannon Joshi. Activities and resources are available to support your family decision for First Communion. Preparation takes place through the message of Easter in the Sunday school lessons Feb. 4-25; independent learning stations that prepare children to understand the sacrament of Holy Communion as a lived remembrance of Jesus' ministry are available in the lower level of the church Feb. 18-March 4. On Feb 25, a communion event will be held in a family home with Pastor Mark available for your questions. Watch for more information. First Congregational UCC celebrates First Communion on **Sunday, March 4**. This is a celebratory and interactive environment for children to participate in their first communion.

**Date: Sunday, March 4**

**Time: 10:00 AM**

**Contact: Shannon Joshi or Rev. Dr. Mark Pirazzini,  
715-834-2668**

**HISTORIC RANDALL PARK CARNIVAL:** A wonderful time is offered for families on May 20 when our church doors open to the neighborhood with hundreds of students and other families in celebration of this space we call home. Many games, activities and treats keep our 500 and more guests busy. Favorite activities are the balloon guy, fish pond, cake walk and the dunk tank. Put SUNDAY, MAY 20, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM on the calendar. Have lunch, take the cake walk and enjoy the sights. If you can't be with us, it can be equally fun to purchase tickets for children who don't have resources. This activity supports our youth travel fund. Join us! (Interested volunteers are still being scheduled!)

**Date: Sunday, May 20**

**Time: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**Location: Randall Park**

**Contact: Shannon Joshi, shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org**

## COVENANT GROUPS

*Small 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.*

**WOMEN'S MONDAY COVENANT GROUP:** The Women's Monday Covenant Group reads to support one another's journey. Relationship is key here; dynamic discussion with mixed generations. Contact Joanne to arrange a visit!

**Dates: First and third Mondays, 1:15-2:30 PM**

**Location: Church library**

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

## COVENANT GROUPS, cont'd

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

**Date: Tuesdays, 12:15-1:15 PM**

**Location: Church library**

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

## PUBLIC FORUMS

**JONAH FORUM: "Housing for Everyone: Part 1"** – As the Chippewa Valley grows, property values rise, and rents skyrocket, housing options for those on the margins are becoming very limited. Join us as we hear from representatives of local organizations and agencies who work on housing and homelessness issues in Eau Claire. Learn how you can become involved in helping everyone in our community find safe, affordable housing for themselves and their families.

**Date: Monday, Feb. 26**

**Time: 6:30-8:00 PM**

**Location: First Congregational UCC**

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

**JONAH FORUM: "Housing for Everyone: Part 2"** – What kinds of actions and activities are going on in the Chippewa Valley to help those who are struggling to find affordable housing? How successful are they? Who's involved? Learn about some of the initiatives that are already underway. Find out where you might want to get involved or consider what new initiatives might be necessary so all our neighbors can have a safe, affordable place to call home.

**Date: Monday, April 23**

**Time: 6:30-8:00 PM**

**Location: First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire**

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

**MEDICATION DISPOSAL:** Church members are invited to take advantage of safe medication disposal through First Congregational UCC. JONAH has established a safe and confidential collection of outdated or unneeded prescription or over-the-counter medications. They will be collected for safe disposal before the church service on Sunday, April 22.

**Date: Sunday, April 22**

**Time: 9:00-10:00 AM**

**Location: First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire**

**Contact: Peggy Savides, (715) 875-4203,  
chickenheaven@wwt.net**

### CHILD CARE INFORMATION:

On site child care can be arranged. Please request childcare at the time of registration or by contacting Shannon Joshi, shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org, 715-834-2668

## THE TWELVE

*A book club for anyone. A new book is chosen every other month with a guided discussion by the author of the book or another member of the church to either kick off or conclude your reading. Join us for one or all of "The Twelve" months. Copies are available for purchase in the church library.*

### **January/February: *The Hearts of Men* by, Nickolas Butler**

An epic novel of intertwining friendships and families set in the Northwoods of Wisconsin at a beloved Boy Scout summer camp—from the bestselling author of *Shotgun Lovesongs*. Join local author Nickolas Butler as he guides us through a discussion of his most recent book, *The Hearts of Men*. All are welcome; feel free to invite a friend!

**Date: Thursday, Feb. 8**

**Time: 6:00-7:30 PM**

**Location: The Gathering Place**

**Contact: Shannon Joshi, shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org**

**Leader: Nickolas Butler**

**Book Price: \$17.00**

### **March/April: *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson**

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the furthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

**Date: Tuesday, April 17**

**Time: 6:00-7:30 PM**

**Location: Ingram Hall**

**Contact: Shannon Joshi, shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org**

**Book Price: \$12.00**

**May/June: *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson** offers an intimate tale of three generations, from the Civil War to the 20th century: a story about fathers and sons and the spiritual battles that still rage at America's heart. In the words of Kirkus, it is a novel "as big as a nation, as quiet as thought, and moving as prayer. Matchless and towering." *Gilead* tells the story of America and will break your heart.

**Date: Tuesday, May 22**

**Time: 6:00-7:30 PM**

**Location: The Gathering Place**

**Contact: Shannon Joshi, shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org**

**Book Price: \$9.00**

#### **SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:**

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

## BOOK/STUDY GROUPS

**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. There is always a chair waiting for the next new member.

**Date: Jan. 17, first and third Tuesdays, church library**

**Time: 10:00-11:30 AM**

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

**KINDRED SPIRITS:** This women's group focuses time reading and discussing current books on religion. Books are suggested by a member of the group or by Pastor Mark. Kindred Spirits will resume meeting Tuesdays in January. Contact Phyllis to arrange to visit the group!

**Date: Jan. 9, Tuesdays**

**Time: 10:00-11:00 AM**

**Contact: Phyllis Kurtz, 715-834-1566**

## 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 understandings of faith practices. The series for 2017-18 is Bible and 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 would be available for you to use in other small group settings; ask for details.

**Feb. 18: 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 AM-12:15 PM**

**Location: The Gathering Place Adult Education Room**

**Contact: Shannon Joshi, shannonj@firstucceauclaire.org**

**Ragtime and Vintage Jazz Concert:** Enjoy an evening of jaunty rhythms and whimsical moods at this year's Ragtime and Vintage Jazz Concert benefiting the American Red Cross. Preconcert begins at 6:25 PM; concert 7:00-9:00 PM. Stay for a musical afterglow sponsored by the First Congregational youth group from 9:00-10:30 PM: Salted peanuts in the shell, root beer floats, and more music will round out the evening.

**Date: Saturday, Jan. 13**

**Preconcert: 6:25-6:55 PM**

**Concert: 7:00-9:00 PM**

**Tickets: \$15.00 adult, \$5.00 students**

**Afterglow: 9:00-10:30 PM; freewill donation supports youth travel fund**

**Contact: Jim Radloff, jaradloff@charter.net**

## ADULT BOOK AND MEDIA EVENTS, cont'd

**LENTEN BOOK STUDY: *The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem*** by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Two of today's top Jesus experts offer what they believe is the real gospel account of Jesus's final week in Jerusalem — from his triumphal entry on Palm Sunday to his death on the cross. Join Pastor Mark as he leads a four-part discussion to accompany your reading. Child care will be available in the nursery upon request.

**Dates: Feb. 13, Feb. 27, March 13, March 27**

**Time: 5:30-6:30 PM**

**Location: Church library**

**Contact: Shannon Joshi, shannonj@firststucceauclaire.org**

**Book: \$11.00 (available in the church library)**

## SMALL GROUPS

**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 Jan. 4**

**Time: 10:00 AM**

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

**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 (715-834-2668) to reserve your spot by the Monday before the gathering to request a ride.

**Dates: Third Wednesdays, January-August**

**Time: Noon-1:30 PM**

**Location: Ingram Hall**

**Contact: Mary Barnes, maryb@firststucceauclaire.org**

**WELCOME HOME:** LGBTQ+ Education, Advocacy and Connection is planning two events that include you in our invitation to members of the community looking for safety and support for our differences. Join us in February to discuss homelessness in the LGBTQ+ community and in April for a continued discussion on the issues facing transgender youth. Watch Talk of the Tower and the app for more information.

**Date: Feb. (date TBD) and Tuesday, April 10**

**Location: TBD**

**Contact: Julie Horman-Weinkauff, 715-579-8795, jweinkauff92@gmail.com**

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** The love of knitting and crocheting has been combined 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. Call for more information.

**Dates: First Mondays, October-May**

**Time: 7:00-8:30 PM**

**Contact: Mary Barnes, maryb@firststucceauclaire.org**

**JONAH CORE TEAM:** (Joining Our Neighbors, Advancing Hope) is a group focusing on justice in our work within the community. It's 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: Jan. 9, second Tuesdays**

**Time: 2:00-3:00 PM**

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

## WORSHIP

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

**Date: Wednesdays, Feb. 28 and March 14**

**Time: 6:15-7:00 PM**

**Location: Chapel**

**Contact: Ruth Crouse, 725-933-0621, recrouse@charter.net**

**CHORAL SUNDAY:** A spring treat that is much anticipated; The Chancel Choir, Gary Schwartzhoff, conductor, will present *Requiem* by John Rutter.

**Date: April 29, 10:00 AM**

### Table of Contents:

Intergenerational Activities, p. 1  
Family Fun: p. 1-2  
Covenant Groups: p. 2  
Public Forums: p. 2  
The Twelve: p. 3  
Book/Study Groups: p. 3  
Adult Book and Media Events: p. 3-4  
Small Groups: p. 4  
Worship: p. 4

Edited by Shannon Joshi

Small Group and Family Ministry Committee:  
Bob Eierman, Anne Brown  
Ann Lamoureux, and Mary Burt

*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](http://www.firststucceauclaire.org)**

