

The Reverend's Ruminations

Continuing with a theme started in my “ruminations” last month, Christian Education opportunities for everyone here at First Congregational UCC have been on my mind the last few weeks. I hope that you noticed what a great turnout we had for Rally Sunday on September 22nd, and how many of our children and young families were at the worship service. Let’s keep it up! Thank you to our Christian Education Board for putting together a fun welcome and some new ideas for our kids this fall, and thank you to Kay, Elaine, and Ellen for volunteering to teach the various age groups. They can always use extra adults to help, so don’t hesitate to pop in and pick up on the Sunday morning energy!

Our very active women’s Bible study continues on the fourth Thursday each month, confirmation has started on Wednesdays after school with two 7th-graders and two 8th-graders, and by the time you read this, morning Sunday School programs will be in full swing for all ages. Included in that list is a new class being offered for our teens 7th grade and up. Ellen picked up some comfy beanbag chairs and a soft carpet to turn our stage area into a fun and welcoming area for them to engage with curriculum from our church’s online streaming service, **RightNow Media**, entitled “Not a Fan.” The adult Sunday School will also be utilizing **RightNow Media** in the chapel as they did last year, and would welcome even more participants to keep the discussion lively.

As you can see, I’m enthused that we can truly say we have Sunday School opportunities for “children of all ages.” My plan is to also have coffee ready in the narthex by 9:15 on Sunday mornings as well, so whether you’re bringing a child or yourself to Sunday School, feel free to grab a cup before or after our worship service! We are encouraging members to help the environment by bringing a travel mug (or even a favorite old coffee cup) to cut down on the number of disposable cups we use, but don’t worry if you forget—we’ll have cups available here too.

As September somehow already winds to a close and the vibrant colors of October begin to pop, let us all remember to hold our area farmers in our prayers for a safe, successful, and timely harvest. Agriculture is the backbone of this region and directly impacts our church in countless ways, from the availability of church volunteers to the financial support that keeps our church running. As we know, the spring was strangely late, so this prayer request will likely continue well on into November if we can hold the white stuff off until more like December!?!

One final thought as I get ready to send this over to Ann so that the newsletters can get to the post office: our wonderful **STARFISH FUND** has been a blessing to many in the community throughout the summer, and even more active in September. As such, it has been severely depleted and could use a dose of support in order to keep spreading God’s blessing to members our community who very much need bits of financial assistance. Please consider making a donation to keep this valuable community mission active!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Cory Germain

Have you set up a **FREE RightNow Media** account through our church and started checking out all the amazing Christian videos, studies, classes, and children’s content available to you? You are invited to share this link with a friend as well—it’s a great opportunity to talk about our church with them while you offer nourishment for their Christian walk!

If not, just type in the address below on your favorite internet browser:

<https://www.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/FCONG>