



Congregational Connections

Monthly E-Newsletter of First Congregational Church, UCC | Port Washington, Wisconsin | April 2022

CELEBRATING EASTER IN CHURCH THIS YEAR!

I'm really ready for spring to be here. I'm sure you all are too. The longer days are so nice now that I have recovered from the daylight savings "spring ahead". The birds are beginning to sing their greetings, the buds on the trees are beginning to show themselves, the sun is on a little higher arc in the sky—it's wonderful. Easter is approaching and I'm looking forward to a "real" Easter with all of you and celebrating the depth and meaningful joy of worshiping together on April 17th. Last Easter we were still worshiping virtually, and the Palm Sunday cinnamon rolls were delivered to cars in the parking lot as a "drive thru" event. Needless to say, I think it will be a little nicer to be able to enjoy cinnamon rolls together as we start our Holy Week and be together over three different worship services on Easter morn.

Easter is not quite as popular a cultural event as Christmas, in fact I think it ranks behind Thanksgiving and maybe even Halloween in its relative popularity. Of course, our Puritan/Pilgrim ancestors had no room for either Christmas or Easter (clearly, they were no fun). They viewed them as pagan celebrations and believed they brought out the worst in people who would celebrate in the worst ways with lots of drinking and laziness. While Christmas got a "make-over" in the 1800's thanks to Charles Dickens as well as a shift in messaging to children, giving of alms to the poor and the popularization of Santa, Easter had no such luck.

Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny are no match for St. Nick! Plus, Easter is a little more difficult to deal with in a secular way. Its story of empty tombs and frightened, amazed disciples doesn't lend itself to those who don't know the full story. At the same time, the themes of resurrection and miraculous victory snatched from the jaws of defeat are ones that if you look, can be found all over the place. The hero who sacrifices everything and gives up his own life, only to be somehow restored is one that can be found in stories from the "Chronicles of Narnia" to "Pokemon: The Movie", from "Lord of the Rings" to the original "Matrix" movies,

...continued on the next page...

...CELEBRATING EASTER continued...

from "Harry Potter" to "Frozen", the theme is there in popular culture if you look for it.

"But the message of Easter, that of an adult man who was horribly killed, only to rise from the dead, is much harder to secularize. Celebrating Easter demands celebrating something so miraculous that it cannot be reduced, as Christmas can, to a heartwarming story about motherhood; its supernatural elements are on display front and center. It's a story about death and resurrection."

- Tara Isabella Burton, 03-29-18, Vox.com

It's why being here at church as we tell the story of Holy Week is important. We can't rely on the world around us to tell the stories of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, or to retell the parables that Jesus used to disarm his opponents and detractors in the Temple. You need to be here at church to do that.

You won't hear about Judas' betrayal, Peter's denial and the disciples abandonment elsewhere on the most popular cable channels. There will probably not be any Easter specials to help frame the message of resurrection and eternal life in a way the kids will understand. But we'll be doing that here at church.

We'll be working extra hard to tell the stories again, to help all of us begin to understand what it means that Jesus suffered and died on the cross. That Jesus stood up to the social, economic, military, religious, and political powers of his day. When it seemed like the worldly powers had triumphed and all was lost, an impoverished, First Century, woman in the hours just before dawn discovered an empty tomb and encountered the risen Christ. God triumphs after all, and we are blessed because of it.

See you in Church!

Peace,

Pastor Scott

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Congratulations and a warm welcome to our newest members who were received into our community of faith on Sunday morning, March 27:

Don and Connie Cross

Jeff and Tyfani Ulicki (children Taylor & Thomas)

Steve and Carol Davidson

Kristen Wolf (daughter Kendra)

HOLY WEEK 2022

Palm
Sunday

April 10th
8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Maundy
Thursday

April 14th
7:00 p.m.

Good
Friday

April 15th
7:00 p.m.

Easter
Sunday

April 17th
6:00, 8:00, 10:00 a.m.

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

April 10, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Palm/Passion Sunday with Handbell Choir and Children

The worship begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as we pass out palms for everyone that we might celebrate like the crowds calling out, "Hosanna!" We also begin to develop some of the themes of Holy Week as Jesus speaks powerful words in response to those who would seek to bring his ministry to the poor and outcast to a close. The children will be singing, and the Handbell Choir will be ringing at the 10:00 a.m. worship. And our Fellowship Team will serve the delicious cinnamon rolls once again, after both services. *(see next page for more on Palm Sunday)*

April 14, 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday

The Maundy Thursday service of Tenebrae is filled with meaning just in the name alone. The word "Maundy" coming from Jesus' "command" to love one another given at the last supper and the word "Tenebrae" meaning "shadows". This night we share communion in remembrance of the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples and experience the growing shadows of the worldly powers gathering to end Jesus' life and ministry. A powerful worship experience featuring a choral quartet, communion and readings telling the story of the disciples' betrayal, denial and abandonment.

April 15, 7:00 p.m. Good Friday

This year's Good Friday service will tell the story of Jesus' crucifixion, through music, scripture, and message. We recall Jesus' suffering, his last words from the cross and the pain of abandonment. An emotionally moving service of worship in which we contemplate Jesus' sacrifice for his disciples and the whole world. Experiencing the services on Thursday and Friday make the joy that is to come on Easter all the more sweet and meaningful.

April 17, 6:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday with Chancel Choir and Brass Quartet

The 6:00 a.m. service begins in the dark and welcomes the sunrise as together we dismantle the black pall that covers the communion table to experience anew the joy of God's resurrection power that makes a way where there had been no way. The twin services of 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. feature the joyful, beautiful music of our Chancel Choir and the excitement of Brass accompaniment to our hymns. There will be Nursery care available at the 10:00 service. In each service we hear again of Mary Magdalene's discovery of the empty tombs and her witness to having seen the Lord! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY PLANS

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Palm Sunday, April 10, we join with Christians in six other denominations in receiving the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This special offering supports the mission work of the United Church of Christ and our interfaith partner Church World Service. You might like to know that 95 cents of every dollar contributed goes directly to mission. You can [click here](#) for more information. You may contribute until the end of April.

ECO-PALMS

More than 300 million palm fronds are harvested each year for U.S. consumption alone — most of them for Palm Sunday, but also for floral displays for church-related events. You might be interested to know that for over a dozen years, our congregation has purchased eco-palms for our Palm Sunday worship services. Through our commitment to purchase eco-palms, we help to protect forests, local jobs, and sustainable livelihoods in the harvesting communities of Guatemala and Mexico.

CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO SING

All children of the church are invited to come to church early on Palm Sunday. Sherri Melichar will teach two short, simple songs to the kids at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. For more information, *please head to page 8.*

CINNAMON ROLLS SERVED AFTER BOTH SERVICES

The Fellowship Team would like to invite everyone to join them for a cherished tradition of cinnamon rolls and coffee after both services! Please plan to stay after the 8:00 or 10:00 service (or come to both!). We are excited to celebrate Palm Sunday with the fellowship of our beloved church friends.

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SPRING CLEANING ITEMS BEING COLLECTED TO SUPPORT FAMILY PROMISE THROUGH APRIL 10

Our friends at Family Promise will be putting together Spring Cleaning Baskets in April and May and are in need of cleaning supplies and paper products (**dish soap, kitchen cleaner, bathroom cleaner, Clorox wipes, toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towel, 13-gallon garbage bags**, etc.). Please help us in supporting their efforts by donating the above listed items. You may drop off donations in the church entryway. One other item that is needed is **size 7 diapers**. We will collect donations through April 10th.



Thank you,

Eric Olson, Community Outreach Team Representative on the Church Council

First Congregational Church

EASTER GIVING

2022

In celebration of Easter, you are invited to order flowers and/or contribute to one of the six community organizations that our church supports on an ongoing basis. Your flowers will help decorate our sanctuary for Easter and your financial contribution will help raise the spirits of those who are in need. Names of gift givers, along with those who they wish to honor or remember, will be listed in our Easter Sunday worship service bulletins.

Flowers \$9.00 each:

Easter Lily \$ _____

Tulip Plant \$ _____

Hyacinth Plant \$ _____

Daffodil Plant \$ _____

Financial Contributions to: *(you may select one or multiple)*

Advocates _____

Balance _____

Family Promise _____

Habitat for Humanity _____

Ozaukee Family Services _____

The Food Pantry _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Given By: _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

(_____ I wish for my Easter Giving contribution to remain anonymous)

You may make your financial gift by utilizing our *PayPal online giving option*, or you may enclose a check (made out to FCC) and drop off to the church office. Please submit payment and form information no later than **Monday, April 11.**



APRIL SCRIPTURE TEXTS AND WORSHIP THEMES

April 3: Isaiah 43:16-21, John 12:1-8

Communion Sunday and Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jesus comes to minister to others and becomes the one ministered to in surprising ways and by a surprising individual, revealing the possibilities of God's grace.

April 10: Luke 19:28-40, Luke 20:9-20

Palm/Passion Sunday with Handbell Choir and Children's Choir

We begin with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and follow him into the start of Holy Week which will see Jesus act with defiance but those who would silence him begin to put their plan together.

April 14: Luke 22:1-62

Maundy Thursday

Luke's version of the Last Supper is clearly a Passover Seder meal and Luke is careful to show that Judas too shares in the Holy Meal. This evening's service takes scripture texts from each Gospel, but the Lukan account is a beautiful telling of the story.

April 15: Luke 23

Good Friday

The final events of Jesus' life are well told in Luke's Gospel. Like the Maundy Thursday worship, Good Friday worship takes scripture text from all the Gospels in order to come up with the "Seven Last Words of Jesus" and other sections of the worship experience.

April 17: Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18

Easter Sunday with the Chancel Choir and Brass Quartet

The incredible story of Mary Magdalene approaching Jesus' tomb and the confusion and joyful wonder that results when she learns the tomb is empty and Jesus is alive!

April 24: Acts 5:27-32, John 20:19-31

Second Sunday of Easter

We move into the Season of Easter with stories about the community of Jesus after the Resurrection and hold our breath as Peter and John disrupt the status quo and proclaim the risen Christ.

May 1: Acts 9:1-20, John 21:1-19

Third Sunday of Easter/Communion Sunday

In the story of Saul's transformation and renewed vision, we open our eyes to new ways we might be part of an ever-expanding community of faith and witness.



**CLICK HERE
TO COMPLETE
SURVEY**

A NOTE FROM PASTOR SCOTT - PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION WITH OUR 2022 MINISTRY OPTIONS SURVEY

Last month I introduced the 2022 Ministry Options Survey in order to help make sure we are matching the 2022 interests and gifts of our members with the 2022 ministries and activities of our church. So far, the response has been less than spectacular. I sincerely want to thank the 30 people who did respond and filled out either the online version or took home a paper copy and sent it back into the office. Knowing that these folks are interested in particular ministries in the church and community will be extremely helpful as we get moving through the year.

But there is still time for everyone else! A few weeks ago, I preached a sermon about Jesus' parable of the fig tree and revealed that I can be something of a procrastinator and often need deadlines in order to make sure I get things done. So maybe many of you are a little like me, and you were planning on filling out a survey, but didn't since I hadn't put a hard and fast deadline on completing it or sending it in. I know your pain! And I can offer a solution! **The deadline is midnight on Easter Sunday!**

All joking aside, I really would like every person in the church to complete the survey by Easter Sunday. There are paper copies available at church as well. The survey has over 65 different ministry options listed, with brief descriptions, in hope that we can match the gifts, talents, abilities and interests of each person with the wide assortment of ministry opportunities we offer. One of the worst jobs in any volunteer organization is the thankless job of countless phone calls trying to find even one person that will say "yes" to a new team, activity, or time slot, on something like a fundraiser. Everybody knows the work has to get done, and everyone thinks it will get done by someone else. Nope! I am hoping that a more complete list of people who actually are interested in doing particular service will help to streamline the process and make everyone's life more pleasant!

Consider helping out in a new way, whether it is within the walls of the church or in the wider community. Take pride in marking the areas of ministry in which you already participate and would like to continue; marvel at the variety of opportunities our church provides. Creatively ponder if there are still more ways that you would like to put your faith into action and let us know you'd like to be involved. I hope it is clear to everyone that in 2022 we are going to need "all-hands-on-deck". We carry out an incredible variety of ministry and mission over the course of a year. All these activities are only possible because of the passions and interests of our members and friends. Thank you for the work you already do on behalf of the church and the ways you can continue to put your faith into action.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

We are almost to the end of a great program year of Church School. Please know that you can join us at any time.

The next Church School Sunday is coming up on **April 10**, which also happens to be Palm Sunday. We invite all children (4k through 7th grade) to **arrive early at 9:30**. We will gather in Fellowship Hall to learn and rehearse two simple songs that we will sing during the first part of the 10:00 service. Our traditional "Hosanna" is one of them, and the kids will sing it during a procession into the sanctuary. (Even if you are unable to arrive early, all children are invited to be a part of the procession.) After the rehearsal, the group will greet congregants and hand out palms.

The kids will return downstairs after they are done signing to learn more about the Palm/Passion Sunday story and the significance of the palms. They will then create a donkey craft to go along with the story.

We hope you and your family can participate! Also, please plan to stay after Church School for cinnamon rolls in Fellowship Hall!



Shandy Roehrig, one of our Church School Leadership Team members, teaching our kids the Parable of the Prodigal Son on Sunday, March 13.

Sunday, April 10
Church School
"Welcome to Jerusalem"

Wednesday, April 13
Holy Week
Scavenger Hunt
(see flyer on next page)

Sunday, May 8
Church School
"Tabitha/Dorkus story"
(last of the program year)





FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Church School Leadership Team
invites all kids of the church
and their friends to a



Holy Week SCAVENGER HUNT



A weeknight Church School event
for all youth (4K-7th grade)

Wednesday, April 13
5:30 - 7pm

A meal of hotdogs and chips will be provided

The group has had so much fun playing
hide-and-go-seek, now it's time
to try a big scavenger hunt!



BRAT FRY ON APRIL 23 AT SAUKVILLE PIGGLY WIGGLY



A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Just a reminder that the church is currently operating on a budget deficit, so additional pledges or gifts are appreciated at any time during the year. For more information, or to make a pledge, please visit the [Stewardship page](#) on our church website. You may contact Phil Stepanski, our Financial Administrator, at phil@portucc.org, to discuss a financial gift to the church. Thank you!



(PayPal QR Code)

APRIL LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVITY - ASSEMBLING EASTER BASKETS

On Sunday, April 10, starting at Noon, middle school and high school youth are invited to meet at Lighthouse Youth Ministry Headquarters, 513 W. Grand Avenue here in Port Washington, for their April activity. The group will start with a pizza lunch and then assemble Easter baskets for children being served by Family Promise of Ozaukee County. 36 baskets will be assembled and our church will be providing the Easter candy for them. If you would like to make a monetary donation for the candy, please contact the church office. Thanks!

UCC CHURCH CAMPS



Sacred places meant for you!
Enjoy time away and the opportunity to connect deeply with nature, in a loving and accepting community.

Event registration is open!
Go to ucci.org



Daycholah Center
Ripon, WI



Moon Beach
St. Germain, WI



Cedar Valley
West Bend, WI



Camp AweSum
Supporting Youth on the Autism Spectrum and their Families

Our congregation is fortunate to have three different church camp locations to camp at and retreat to as part of the United Church Camps in the state of Wisconsin. Daycholah Center, Moon Beach, and Cedar Valley are outdoor ministry programs associated with the United Church of Christ, the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC, and Outdoor Ministry Association UCC.

You may learn more about all of the camps, retreats, classes and events of the United Church Camps by visiting ucci.org.

Our church offers camp scholarships to individuals and families who sign up for camp. There are also scholarship opportunities through the Southeast Association UCC and UCCi. If you are interested, please contact Amy Gilhooly, Communication Director, at amyg@portucc.org, and she will email you the forms.



Year-round camps, retreats, and events for all ages!



One Ministry – Three Sites

Daycholah Center

is located on the Southeast Shore of Green Lake, near Ripon

Moon Beach

is nestled in the Northwoods, between Eagle River and St. Germain on the shores of Moon Lake and Little Saint Germain

Cedar Valley

is in the heart of Washington County, surrounded by 100 acres of natural beauty



Amari Daevel, Graham Garthus, Brooke Peiffer, Grady Karrels, and Ben Sanem providing a dramatic reading on Sunday morning, March 27.

CONFIRMATION CLASS - ACTIVE PROGRAM YEAR CONTINUES

It hardly seems possible that Confirmation Sunday is coming up so quickly next month on May 29th. The class has continued to gather on a monthly basis for classes (just finishing up a section on the Holy Spirit and prayer). This month they'll be changing gears just a bit in order to begin focusing on writing their personal "Statements of Faith" in preparation for confirming their baptism and joining the church.

The class has also continued to engage in monthly "Mission Experiences" like helping create "Birthday Kits" for the Saukville Community Food Pantry and touring the facility located at Parkside Community UCC in Saukville. They have participated in a "focus group" for Lighthouse Youth Ministry and will be traveling over to Holy Hill on April 9th to walk and pray the Stations of the Cross located on the scenic walk up to the church. The Confirmands and their families continue to provide nursery care each Sunday morning during the 10:00 worship and host Fellowship Hour on Family Sundays. Parents have been quick to volunteer as drivers and as helpers during the classes and other activities. It has been great!

Most of the congregation has probably noticed them most during their worship leadership on Family Sundays. They are a talented group and I have tried to use their gifts creatively by designing "dramatic readings" for them to offer during worship. I'm hoping that the readings have added an interesting element to the service for the kids and adults present as well as an additional emphasis for the Confirmands on the meaning of the text being used in worship when I "know" they have to be there.

We only have a couple of months left to the program year. I pray they have taken in enough to have had a meaningful experience and that they retain at least some of what we have discussed as they move into their High School years. I do hope that the addition of a regularly scheduled summer mission experience in the years to come will be additional incentive to stay connected with the congregation. Only time will tell!

FINDING EASTER ON OUR LITURGICAL WALL CALENDAR

Easter Sunday, the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, is marked with a sparkling gold panel on our Liturgical wall calendar.

Ever wonder why the date of Easter changes each year? Easter Sunday is determined by a formula using the sun cycles and moon phases. This formula was established in the year 325 at a gathering of church leaders at the Council of Nicaea.

Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. For 2022 the spring equinox was Mar 20; the next full moon after that is April 16; the first Sunday after that is April 17, Easter Sunday!! Easter Sunday can be as early as March 22 to as late as April 25.

The date of Easter determines the dates for the liturgical seasons that come before and after Easter. The season of Lent is to be 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter Day. The day for the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday, also determines the end of the Season of Epiphany. The date of Easter also determines the date of Pentecost, 50 days after Easter Day, and the length of the Season of Pentecost that follows Pentecost Day.

Easter Day is the beginning of 50 days of celebration that make up the season of Easter, sometimes called Eastertide. This season of the liturgical year is marked with warm white panels on our wall calendar and among the white and gold decorations added to the panels are butterflies. Butterflies have long been symbolic of new life and are a fitting symbol for a season that celebrates resurrection and new life. These particular butterflies were also part of the original calendar created in 1996.

The seasonal marker for Eastertide on the wall calendar is a white and gold butterfly.

We thank Jane Spalding for contributing this article.



PORT PRE-SCHOOL FAREWELL OPEN HOUSE

Port Pre-School will be hosting a community Farewell Open House on Wednesday afternoon, May 4, from 4:00 - 6:00.

Thousands of children, many of them children of former Port Pre-School alumni went through the doors of the school, which has been housed here at First Congregational Church since 1967, 55 years! Two of the five founding members, Sally Ziegler and Beverly Tutas, were also longtime members of our church. Sadly, the doors will be closing as the 4K program moves to the local elementary schools. First Congregational Church is so proud to have housed a non-profit, nonsectarian Pre-School cooperative run by the parents of its students!

All former and current students and teachers, as well as community members, are welcome to stop by and take one last stroll through the classrooms.



UPDATE ON OUR CHURCH SPACE BEING VACATED IN JUNE

Church member and realtor, Troy Bretl, has agreed to help our church as we seek a new renter for the space that will be available after Port Pre-School closes its doors with the end of the academic year in June. We are very sorry to see Port Pre-School close, but hope we can create a new opportunity for another community non-profit to use the beautiful and welcoming space our church building is able to provide. Troy has been in contact with several non-profit organizations and is beginning to hear word that there might be some interest. **We would love to use the networking connections of our church members and friends to also spread the word.** The people of our church are connected with many of the community service organizations in Ozaukee County-- so make sure the groups you work with are aware that **we have space available!** Thank you for spreading the word and thanks to Troy for putting an excellent information flyer together (*see next page*).

For Lease!**\$12-\$14 per
sq. foot**

Classroom space
Can be separated
Elevator
Full kitchen
ADA Compliant



First Congregational Church in Port Washington will have available very soon over 1600 square feet of classroom space that is perfect for projects, development, training and so much more. Building is handicap accessible with elevator and ADA bathrooms. Rooms can be divided as well.

Rooms measure approximately 39x18, 39x16 & kitchen 20x14

Seeking non-profit tenant**Contact me today to schedule a showing****Troy Bretl**

414-899-8190

TroyBretl@RealtyExecutives.com

UKRAINE RELIEF FUND

Our Ukrainian neighbors need us. Millions have been displaced, seeking shelter and basic necessities. Please take a moment now to help our partners in the region meet these needs with a gift to the [UCC Ukraine Relief Fund](#).

Ministering with our global partners, your love of neighbor will be made tangible through a gift that will:

- Provide welcome, shelter, and respite for refugees seeking safety
- Support Hungarian Interchurch Aid, which has provided resources to 9,000 people while shipping convoys of aid into western Ukraine - delivering more food, water, and sanitation items daily
- Join humanitarian relief partners in Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Romania, and Ukraine through the ACT Alliance
- Attend to the most vulnerable - children, the elderly, and refugees from other countries who are now twice displaced.

United in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion with all affected and with our global partners who are welcoming those driven from their homes.



JUSTICE TEAM APRIL MEETING - ALL WELCOME

The next Zoom get-together for Friends for Justice of First Congregational Church will be on Monday, April 18 at 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join us to listen, learn, and speak.

Considering the great need for charity in our society, we want to look beyond that need to its causes, to the economic and political inequities that leave people in need in spite of their best efforts. Among other topics, we will learn more at the April meeting about the group "Black Lives are Sacred". This year we will attempt to become better listeners and lift up the voices of those who are marginalized in our community.

To get the Zoom link, email Louise at lmollinger@yahoo.com.

MAC 'N' CHEESE FUNDRAISER RESULTS

We want to thank the Church School kids for their awesome February service project. The group prepared and sold almost 30 pans of mac 'n' cheese which raised \$555 for the church! The money has gone towards our window repairs loan. Thanks also go out to the Church School Leadership Team for planning the fundraiser and everyone who purchased and picked up the mac 'n' cheese. Enjoy the action photos!



Addison and Austin Wellenstein, and Claire Rychtik



Tom Roehrig and Eric Olson



Kylee Olson, Reese and Noah Roehrig, and Simon Gilhooly



Collette Olson, Avery Roehrig, Theo Riemer, and Emma Riemer

MARCH ACTION SHOTS



Elaina, Beckie, and Eva Perez showing their card creativity!

Spring Card Making Workshop on March 27



Jane Spalding, Kathy Bretl, Sherrie Dimmer, and Mary Downing enjoying each other's spring card making creations!



Our Wednesday Evening Vesper Services.

OUR THANKS

To Matthew Dimmer, Katja Cira, Drue Nelson, Ben Sanem, and their families for providing Nursery Care in March.

To Jennifer Dimmer for hosting a Spring Card Making Workshop on Sunday afternoon, March 27. The springtime and other themed cards made by the participants were just beautiful.

To Jane Spalding, Phil Stepanski, David Franks, Jeanne Mantsch, Ric Probst, Jane Schneider, Scott Symes and the Confirmation Class for serving as Worship Leaders in March.

To Justin and Michelle Franke, Matthew Dimmer and family, and Gary and Joyce Bria, for hosting Fellowship Hour in March.

To Sherri Melichar for purchasing a new piece of choral music in memory of Jim.

To Joe Rychtik for helping with garbage removal.

To Joe Mueller, Claude Zimmerman, and Gary Tackes for replacing and installing new ceiling panels and lights in the elevator.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Eva Perez. Eva has been living with Crohn's disease for almost 4 years and had to be hospitalized several times over the past 2 months with complications related to the disease. Please keep her in your prayers as a new diagnosis related to her liver has led to new medication and treatment plans.

Symes Family. Scott Symes' father, Steve Symes, passed away unexpectedly on March 18th. As Scott wrote, "He was 84, lived a great life, and was outside in nature doing things he enjoyed right up until the end." Please keep Scott and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Cathy Jones. Cathy had knee replacement surgery on March 24th. Surgery went well and she is recovering at home. Cathy hopes to have the other knee replaced once she has recovered from this surgery.

Norman Joplin. Norman will have knee replacement surgery on April 26. Keep him and his wife, Sue, in your prayers as Norman goes through the surgery and the physical rehab to recover.

Ray Shupe. Ray is having should replacement surgery on April 19. He had his other shoulder replaced a couple of years ago. Keep Ray and Brenda in your prayers.

The people of Ukraine. The violence and devastation of the Russian invasion has been well documented. With 4 million refugees moving into the surrounding countries, and millions more displaced within the country, we pray for an end to the violence.

APPROVED FEBRUARY CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The February Minutes were approved at the March 10, 2022 meeting.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Church Council Minutes February 10, 2022

Call to Order - By Jeanne Mantsch @ 7:02 PM

Pastor Scott, Jeanne Mantsch, Mike Spalding, Ric Probst, Jennifer Dimmer, Kathy Bretl, Jason Jacque, Phil Stepanski, Savannah Anderson, Eric Olson, Bill Bond, and Rhonda Thompson

Opening Meditation – Kathy Bretl read a prayer by James Vanden Bosch.

Approval of the Minutes – January, 2022 – Bill motions to approve the January minutes with the spelling correction and Jason seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Monthly Budget Review (Kathy) – After reviewing the reports, Bill has asked if the \$50 amount for snow removal is from December as he has just received January's invoice for \$75. Kathy will look into it and get back to us with the answer. Mike had emailed Kathy asking if it is possible to get reports that show the beginning and ending balance of 2021 for the following accounts: checking; memorial; savings and Cornerstone. Then going forward, a report with Year To Date beginning and ending balances on a monthly basis. Kathy has not heard back at this point, but will get us the information when she does.

Pastor's Moment (Pastor Scott)-Pastor Scott would like to discuss the Ministry Options form that was created and sent out. He'd like to have a paper version as well as an online version that members can use to sign up. Brett Dimmer has agreed to help with the online form. The hope is to have sign ups in March and then team leaders get any names willing to help in their areas. There's hope the list educates members on all the happenings and needs of First Congregational Ministry. Pastor Scott asks if the list might be overwhelming or if there was anything forgotten. The list needs some prioritizing or organizational changes. Need to add representatives for Southeast association meeting and state annual meeting. Team leaders should be added with each category as contact and reference. Having current volunteers listed can serve as a source of contact and recognition.

Old Business

Stewardship Committee Report – (Jason)-The last of the pledge thank yous went out.

Winter Congregational Meeting - 2022 Budget – (Kathy)-It passed, but the question was asked, of council, what council would be doing to work on reducing the deficit.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

Capital Campaign – Pastor Scott has talked with others about it. He spoke with the Property Team about the building needs. They have created a list and prioritized the list. The hope is to recruit seven or eight individuals to form a team and have them promote the campaign. They would need to come up with a theme and then present the campaign to the congregation and put it to a vote. If the congregation agrees to it then the team will need to raise funds and pledges for the duration of campaign year(s) and then allocate what on the list of needs is taken care of based on the money raised. Property Team gave some names of possible leaders that are trusted by the congregation for Pastor Scott to contact.

Building maintenance updates – (Bill)-Property Team will meet the last Friday of each month at 1pm in library or fellowship hall if any council member would like to join. At the last meeting the committee started to prioritize a list with some monetary estimate of cost. Property Team is wondering if they post notes from their meeting they might create communication with congregation making others aware and others might have services to contribute. Snow removal service was altered to removal regardless of depth for two entrances and north sidewalk prior to Sunday services and the two inches depth for weekdays. Mowing service was quoted in the range of \$60/\$70 with trimming once every two weeks. Bill will check his email to verify if there was a volunteer for summer mowing. Open invoices were taken care of. As far as seasonal HVAC needs they plan to keep some stock of ignition parts. Property Team is in favor of the campaign and making themselves available to make it work.

2nd Fellowship Dinner (Jennifer) - & review of 1st. Chili dinner coming up. Chili and salad will be held the last week of February. Game night again next Wednesday.

Port Pre-school and the future-Port Pre-school will be closing the doors. The 3K program is not sustainable without the 4K. Steps have been taken to try to rent out the space. Property taxes could be assessed if for profit renters contract to rent the space. Jennifer asked Port Pre-school about Breakfast with Santa fundraiser to obtain information to see if the we would like to take this over.

Lighthouse Youth Ministry board of directors' representatives/ Lighthouse (Savannah)- They hired Kellen to do the community assessment. The 20th of February is deadline for receiving donations for Saukville Food Panty birthday box supplies. They are trying to schedule focus group, a discussion night to dive into what is wanted by participants and congregations. Only \$125 was used from the Mission Fund to complete the \$2500 we committed to give.

New Business

Change in Financial Administrator- The positions description was reviewed as well as best practices to match what is current practices. They revised the description and delivered it to the Finance Team for review. They

have a couple candidates interested in the position. One of the candidates is a member. Attendance used to be required, maybe work that into the description again. A requirement of regular attendance could aid in financial control and less back and forth with questions. It feels like lack of attendance has hampered control recently.

Any other new business to come before the Council?-Jennifer suggests trying a Scrip (gift card) fundraiser. Pastor Scott recommends it.

Poll – meet in person or continue to meet via Zoom?-Half vote to keep meeting over Zoom and half vote to meet in person. A hybrid option (some in person as well as zoom for those that want to stay home) is talked about and Jeanne says she will poll each of us prior to the executive meeting. As long as several can make in person the hybrid meeting will be held.

On Hold

UCC Legacy Program (Jason)

Kathy motions to adjourn, Mike seconds it. Meeting is adjourned 8:31PM.

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Baptism

Congratulations and a lifetime of blessings to Nolan Paul Bernhardt, son of Jamie and Max, who was baptized into the Christian faith on Sunday, March 13.

APRIL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

1 -	Joe Rychtik	14 -	Karen Oftedahl
2 -	Doug Bichler	15 -	Sarah Modahl
4 -	Jason Bergin		Meg Tackes
	Edie Webb	16 -	Gary Drasch
5 -	Debra Wickesberg	18 -	Christy Claerbaut
6 -	Don Cooper		Bryce Bertler
	John Karrels	19 -	Colton Jagow
8 -	Brynn Nelson	21 -	Hailey Bergin
	Allyson Schlehle	22 -	Aaron Rose
9 -	Mike Dimmer	25 -	Mya Ternes
10 -	Michele Norman	26 -	Mia Blum
13 -	Steve Schowalter		Jeanne Mantsch
	Megan Verheyen		Jeff Ternes
	Payton Katzer	28 -	Bradd Lemke
	Steve Davidson		Grady Karrels
		29 -	Sandy Modahl



APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

14 -	Jason and Emma Jacque
16 -	James and Roberta Blumenberg
18 -	Rick and Jean Hoffmann
20 -	Sean and Amy Gilhooly
27 -	David Franks and Louise Mollinger
30 -	Bill and Ann Fleischmann

Please contact Beckie Perez, at office@portucc.org, if you would like to add a Birthday or Anniversary.

APRIL 2022 CALENDAR

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> 8 am Communion Worship Service 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Communion Worship Service Nursery Care 11:15 am Adult Lenten Study	4 5:45 pm Children’s Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 6:30 pm Adult Lenten Study-Zoom	6 12 pm Wednesday Lunch Group 6:30 pm Lenten Vesper Service 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	7 8 am Men’s Breakfast – The Beacon 6:30 pm Church Executive Team	8	9 12 pm – 4 pm Confirmation Class to Holy Hill
10 <i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i> 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Handbells Children’s Choir Church School Nursery Care 9 am/11 am Fellowship Hour Cinnamon Rolls 11:15 am Adult Lenten Study	11 5:45 pm Children’s Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 6:30 pm Adult Lenten Study-Zoom	13 12 pm Wednesday Lunch Group 5:30-7 pm Church School Holy Week Scavenger Hunt 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	14 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 8 am Men’s Breakfast – The Beacon 7 pm Worship Service	15 <i>Good Friday</i> 7 pm Worship Service	16 <i>Holy Saturday</i>
17 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 6 am Sunrise Worship Service 8 am Worship Service Chancel Choir Easter Brass 10 am Worship Service Chancel Choir Easter Brass Nursery Care	18 5:45 pm Children’s Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Justice Team 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	19	20 12 pm Wednesday Lunch Group 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	21 8 am Men’s Breakfast – The Beacon 6:30 pm Church Council	22 1 pm Property Team	23 10 am-2 pm Brat Fry - Piggly Wiggly Saukville
24 <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> 8 am Worship Service 10 am Family Service Nursery Care 11 am Fellowship Hour	25 5:45 pm Children’s Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26	27 12 pm Wednesday Lunch Group 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	28 8 am Men’s Breakfast – The Beacon	29	30

CHURCH INFORMATION

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

131 North Webster Street

Port Washington, WI 53074

(262) 284-2022

website - portucc.org, email - office@portucc.org



Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday mornings from 8:30 - 11:30

Pastor Scott's Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays, and by appointment

Office Staff

Rev. Dr. Scott McLeod, Pastor - pastorscott@portucc.org

Amy Gilhooly, Communications Director - amyg@portucc.org

Beckie Perez, Office Manager - office@portucc.org

Phil Stepanski, Financial Administrator - phil@portucc.org

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