



# Congregational Connections

Monthly E-Newsletter of First Congregational Church, UCC | Port Washington, Wisconsin | April 2023

## CONNECTING WITH HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Our month begins with a deep dive right into Holy Week this year, and then we begin the Easter Season - which goes through April to the end of May. We started Lent back in February and have been spiritually “gearing up” during the month of March in preparation for this holiest of weeks.

Easter is the original holiday of the Christian Church. It was the empty tomb found by the women who had come to mourn and prepare Jesus’ body for his final burial that changed everything. It was Jesus’ appearance to Mary, and her proclamation to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” that inspired all of them to begin believing again. Then Jesus’ appearance, later that day, to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, “their eyes were opened and they recognized him,” in the breaking of the bread.

The early church began to gather on Sunday, the first day of the week, because that was the day of resurrection. Gathering for prayers, for the reading of scripture, singing songs of praise, retelling the stories of Jesus, and all that he had taught. Finally, they would break bread and share the meal Jesus shared with his disciples in that upper room. The word began to spread about this small community that shared their gifts with one another, that welcomed all people, regardless of background and from all walks of life. The community grew.

The way forward for the tiny community of disciples wasn’t easy. There were stops and starts, successes and failures, controversy and fear, as well as miracles and abundant blessings for the disciples. Eventually, of course, 2,000 years later, we exist because they persevered in their faithfulness and proclamation. The church today exists because of those who have gone before us, but also because of the faithfulness we practice today. As we gather during Holy Week and Easter this year, let’s do so with a sense of being part of this long line of discipleship that goes all the way back to the women at the tomb - the very beginning of our Christian faith.

Easter Blessings! Pastor Scott

## KICKING OFF OUR 125TH YEAR

The 125th Anniversary Planning Team is very excited to start celebrating our 125th anniversary year over the next 12 months. Be sure to take a look at pages 5 & 6, lifting up significant parts of our congregation's story.

We invite you to mark your calendars for the first of our celebration events - an All-Church Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic on Sunday morning, June 25. We're going to pick up the whole 9:00 service of worship and bring it down to Veteran's Memorial Park and then follow it with a good, old-fashioned church picnic. This is just one of several events we are planning for this year and into the next. Keep an eye out for more information about the Picnic and for updates, stories and new events in coming months!

Save  
the  
Date

OUTDOOR SERVICE  
&  
CHURCH PICNIC  
at Veteran's Park  
on June 25th

## EASTER GIVING - DUE APRIL 5

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. The flowers will help decorate our sanctuary for Easter and financial gifts will help raise the spirits of those in need. Names of gift givers, along with those who they wish to honor or remember, will be listed in our Easter Sunday bulletins. New this year, there are two ways to place your order - print the **paper order form** and bring to church, or submit a **Google form** online (link also on our News & Announcements webpage). Payment and order forms are due by Wednesday, April 5. Thank you!

## WORSHIP WITH US

We celebrate two Sunday morning worship services at 8:00 and 10:00. Nursery care is available at the 10:00 service.

## HOLY COMMUNION

The first Sunday morning of each month we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Communion is open to all who seek to follow in the way of Christ, both children and adults.

## CLICK AWAY

If you are reading this newsletter online, be on the lookout for orange text - it's linked up to documents and web pages that you might find helpful or interesting.

## CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER

If you have a celebration, prayer request, or other contribution for the newsletter, please email us 7-10 days before the first day of the month.





We want to encourage everyone to experience the meaningful worship services of Holy Week. The whole range of emotions are present in the different worship services this particular week. If you have never been to a Maundy Thursday or Good Friday worship service, please give them a try. The services, while covering some of the difficult portions of Jesus' story, make the joy of Easter even greater. The ancient church used to look at Holy Week as a single, long worship service; let us enter into these seven days with open hearts ready to be filled with God's Spirit.

**April 2, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Palm/Passion Sunday and Communion Sunday** 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 end his ministry to the poor and outcast. Our Fellowship Team will serve the delicious cinnamon rolls once again, after both services.

**April 5, 6:30 p.m. Final Wednesday Lenten Vesper Service** It is a simple service of prayer, scripture reading, and spiritual discernment. The Sanctuary is lit with candles and Pastor Scott begins the 30-minute worship with prayer, followed by a scripture reading, and then a guided meditation on the text. The scripture is the story of the "Suffering Servant" from the prophet Isaiah.

**April 6, 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Communion and Service of Tenebrae** The word "Maundy" comes from Jesus' "command" to love one another given at the last supper and the word "Tenebrae" means "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. It is a powerful worship experience featuring a choral quartet, communion, and readings telling the story of the disciples' betrayal and abandonment.

**April 7, 7:00 p.m. Good Friday** We hear the story of Jesus' crucifixion, through music, scripture, and proclamation. We recall Jesus' suffering and his last words. It is an emotionally moving service in which we contemplate Jesus' sacrifice for his disciples and the whole world.

**April 9, Easter Sunday Morning Services at 6:00, 8:00, 10:00** The 6:00 morning 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. The twin services at 8:00 and 10:00 feature the joyful music of our Chancel Choir and the excitement of Brass accompaniment to our hymns. In each service we hear again of Mary Magdalene's discovery of the empty tombs as she witnesses to having seen the Lord! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!



## PALM/PASSION SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Join us for Palm Sunday and the start of Holy Week. This year we also celebrate Holy Communion at both services.

### ECO-PALMS USED ON PALM SUNDAY

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.

### 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 with the fellowship of our church friends.



## NEW MEMBERS CLASSES ON APRIL 23 & 30 - JOIN US!

All those who are considering joining the church are invited to come to our two informational classes; Sunday, April 23, and Sunday, April 30. Both classes will follow the 10:00 worship service and will be held in our Dennett Room. These classes are an opportunity to get to know one another, learn about our local church and ministry, as well as learn more about the wider United Church of Christ.

The April 23 class will focus on learning more about our denomination, the United Church of Christ (UCC), the “wider” church beyond Port Washington and the April 30 class will focus on our local church’s past, present, and future. We will be inviting our current church leadership so that we might get to know one another better and help answer questions.

Those who would like to become members will be invited to join on Sunday morning, May 7, during the 10:00 communion worship service. We are so excited to welcome people into our fellowship; we hope you will consider formally becoming a part of our faith community!



## RECAP OF DR. SEUSS BREAKFAST

We are excited to share that our first Dr. Seuss Breakfast Celebration on March 4 was a hit! Thank you to everyone who supported the event. Please see page 12 for a full recap and [click here](#) for a slideshow of action photos!



## OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

First Congregational Church, Port Washington, will celebrate our 125th anniversary year from April 2023 to April 2024. Newsletter articles, bulletin board displays, and special events throughout the coming year will share a variety of “windows” into our past. Our intention is not to be sentimentally nostalgic for the “good old days” but to touch on many aspects of past church community as inspiration for our church members and friends today.

Speaking of windows, the logo for our anniversary year is a window: it is based on the circular stained-glass piece once installed on the west wall of the chancel. This is the oldest stained-glass piece we have and was “discovered” during the installation of the clear glass sanctuary windows in 1991. It was removed, repaired, and mounted so we are able to hang it; the design it creates when hung with our clear prisms cross is known as a Celtic cross—an ancient Christian cross variation that dates back to the early Middle Ages. In a lovely serendipity, this old window hangs approximately where it was before removal. We plan to display this window much of our anniversary year, connecting our past and present.

The theme chosen for the anniversary year is “Rooted in Love.” FCC is indeed “rooted in Love”, planted here in Port Washington near Sauk Creek in 1898. The joys and struggles of the past are our inheritance, as is the building in which we still meet and worship. We are now the stewards of this church community: we are making church history today!



Submitted by Jane Spalding,  
125th Anniversary  
Planning Team Member

## GETTING STARTED - OUR CHURCH HISTORY

In 1898, as a new century approached, a group of Port Washington residents began meeting in the home of John & Julia Dennett to discuss organization of what was to become *The Congregational Church of Port Washington*, the first Congregationalist Church in Ozaukee County.

*(continued on the next page)*

## GETTING STARTED continued...

The Dennett home was located where Port Washington High School is now, and contemporaries called the location Dennett's Hill.



Both John, who was Vice President of the Wisconsin Chair Factory, and his wife Julia had grown up in Congregationalist churches. They invited other English-speaking Protestant friends to join their discussions of a new church. A Methodist Episcopal church was the only English-language church in Port Washington, as the Presbyterian, Protestant Episcopal, and Baptist churches with English-speaking members had already dissolved. The last half of the century had brought large waves of German-speaking and Catholic immigrants to Wisconsin, many settling in Port Washington. Cultural divisions related to language and religious traditions had become more dominant than ethnic divides\*; subsequently, people and their churches were aligning broadly with either the uniquely American Protestant “Yankee” values (temperance; personal salvation; congregational versus hierarchical authority) or Teutonic immigrant values (liturgical/ritualistic orientation; hierarchical organization; prescribed practices).\* Along with wanting a place of Christian worship for English-speaking persons, the organizers of the new Congregational Church wanted to establish a “freer and more inclusive” community of faith than other churches offered. [Click here](#) to read more on the early churches of Port Washington.

The end of the nineteenth century also brought major economic growth to Port Washington with the arrival of the railroad and two large industrial operations, the Wisconsin Chair Factory (1888) and Gilson Manufacturing (1894). The city's population almost doubled, reaching 3,010 in the century's last decade.

The first services and Sunday School meetings of the new Congregational Church were announced in the local paper and took place starting in March of 1898, using meeting rooms in the County Courthouse, with preaching by Daniel W. Dexter, a “licentiate” student from the Chicago Theological Seminary. Mr. Dexter traveled by train from Chicago on Saturday, stayed overnight as a guest of Dennett's, and led worship and meetings on Sunday before returning to Chicago Sunday afternoon to continue his studies. On April 10, 1898 (Easter Sunday afternoon) a group met and voted to form the new church. The initial membership was 27: 7 men and 20 women. By December 1898, the congregation had built and roofed the basement on the current Webster Street land that had been donated by Fred A. Dennett, President of the Chair Factory, and brother of John. The first worship service in this new building was held December 25, 1898, with dedication in January 1899.

\*Buenker, John D., *The History of Wisconsin, vol IV: The Progressive Era, 1893 - 1914*. State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison. (1998).

Submitted by Louise Mollinger,  
125th Anniversary  
Planning Team Member

## "MEDICS IN OUR MIDST" - CPR/AED TRAINING AT CHURCH

A close friend of one of our members, Bill Bond, had his life saved because of medical training of those near him. Bill's friend, Joe Bruno, and his wife were playing pickleball against a mother and son team, when Joe suffered a heart attack known as a "widow-maker". Fortunately for Joe, his opponents happened to be an ER nurse (the mom) and an EMT trainee (the son). Due to their quick response, along with their training in both CPR and AED (defibrillator), they were able to restart Joe's heart. Bill's friend was saved by angels in disguise! This incident led to Bill reflecting on our church's AED device and whether there are folks who know how to use it and if there were those with knowledge of CPR. Bill is now inspired to make certain we have "medics in our midst" and hopes to find ten members or friends of the church who are interested in taking CPR/AED training so that we too might be someone's angel. It would be great to know that we have a small team that has training and knowledge of these life-saving skills when we are worshiping or during church events. The classes might take place after church over 2 or 3 Sundays this spring. Are you interested? Please contact Bill at [bbond@freightwatch.com](mailto:bbond@freightwatch.com). A local news story of Joe and his angels is [available here](#). Please consider joining others in the church in becoming "medics in our midst".



## SUPPORTING THE NEW FAMILY PROMISE PORTLIGHT SHELTER

**Portlight Shelter** (a program of Family Promise) is now up and running. They have set up a list of their current needs on [Amazon Wishlist](#) and plan to update monthly with a range of prices for the items they are requesting. If you would like to purchase items from the list, please feel free to do so directly. If you would like to donate a certain dollar amount, please drop off a monetary donation to the church in an envelope labeled "Family Promise - Amazon List" and we will purchase Amazon cards through our church's RaiseRight program and deliver to Family Promise. This is an exciting time for Family Promise. Thank you for considering this donation opportunity!

Eric Olson, Community Outreach Team Representative on Church Council



## STANDING INVITATION TO YOGA AT CHURCH



The weekly yoga class at church, led by Dawn Stacey, a licensed yoga instructor and PTA, continues to go well and attracts about 10-12 participants each week. Everyone is welcome to participate each Tuesday evening at 6:00! Dawn has been teaching yoga for over a decade and her personal approach is to focus on the student's discovery of greater ease in their body through movement, breath, and meditation. Each class costs \$12, which is payable to Dawn via check, cash, or Venmo.



## APRIL ADOPT-A-BILL FUNDRAISER



In 2022 the church did the first Adopt-a-Bill fundraiser with great success. We filled a display board in the narthex with a breakdown of church expenses (a week or a month's cost), and invited our members and friends to "adopt" one or two of these bills as way to help with the budget deficit. The response was inspiring! The financial contributions came in so well that we filled the display board a second time so that everyone could participate. We are going to try it again this month, and are hoping that the response will be just as generous.

This year, we are going to include not only the budgeted expenses to be adopted, but some other items that have come up, for which we don't have budgeted funds. For example, we would love to do some advertising to promote activities, events, and advertise our available rental space - but there is no room in the budget. We would like to have funds to support the 125th Anniversary Team's activities, but we don't have room in the budget. We would love to be able to invest in a new design and update our church's website, but you guessed it, we don't have the money in the budget.

We invite you to adopt one or two of our budgeted expenses and perhaps one of the dedicated "new" items that you would like to support. Look for the display board around church this month. Your generosity is very much appreciated and really helps to keep our ministry moving forward. Thank you for your support!



## "GROWING SPIRITUALLY"

Pastor Scott, Don Niederfrank, and the Lenten Book Study group continue to explore a book called "Soul Feast". The book, by Marjorie J. Thompson, is a way to learn about and begin practicing different forms of prayer and devotion that will help renew and form our Christian spiritual lives. We meet each Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30, in-person and online. During Lent, the class will meet immediately following the 6:30 Wednesday evening worship services. Here are the remaining four sessions:

April 5, Session 7: *Of Conscience & Consciousness: Self-Examination, Confession, & Awareness*

April 12, Session 8: *Companions on the Journey: The Gift of Spiritual Direction*

April 19, Session 9: *Entertaining Angels Unawares: The Spirit of Hospitality*

April 26, Session 10: *Putting it All Together: Developing a Rule of Life*

# SUNDAY WORSHIP THEMES & SCRIPTURE TEXTS FOR APRIL

## **April 2: Matthew 21:1-11 and Matthew 23:1-7, 11-15, 23-30**

*Palm/Passion Sunday and Communion Sunday*

We begin with a parade and the glad shouts from the crowd, but quickly move toward anger, resentment and betrayal; we find our praise confused with sorrow and our hope mixed up in tragedy.

## **April 9: Matthew 28:1-10**

*Easter Sunday, Chancel Choir and Easter Brass at 8:00 & 10:00 Services*

Everything had felt so lost on Good Friday, but on Easter morning we find a joy that surprises us and invites us to look anew at the world and ourselves.

## **April 16: Acts 2:12a, 22-32 and John 20:19-31**

*Second Sunday of Easter with Handbell Choir at 10:00*

After the joyful surprise of Easter, we are invited to push through locked doors and boundaries that had held us captive to take the good news of new life in our own hands and are encouraged to look to find good news everywhere we look.

## **April 23: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 and Luke 24:13-35**

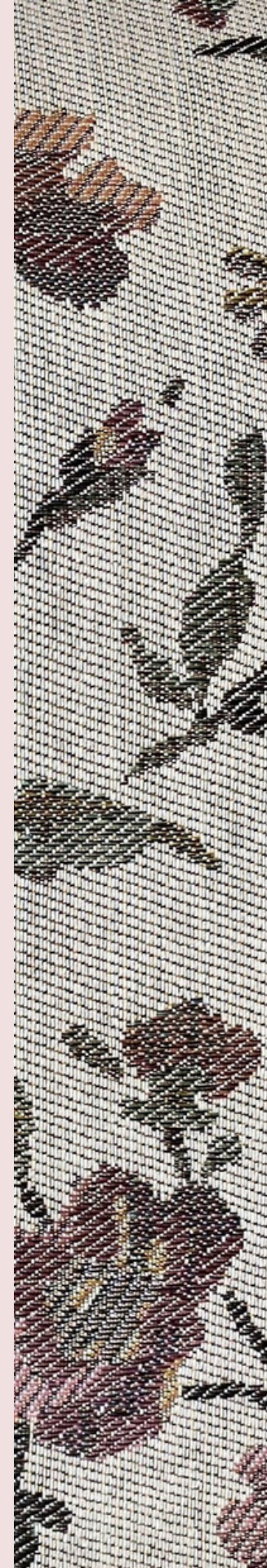
*Third Sunday of Easter with Family Service and Children's Choir at 10:00*

As Jesus breaks bread with companions on the road to Emmaus, we are inspired to open our hearts to new life in Christ.

## **April 30: Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18**

*Fourth Sunday of Easter, Church School Sunday*

Comforted by the image of the shepherd that protects, leads and feeds as well as the example of Tabitha's loving service and kindness, we consider how everyday acts of love, compassion, and kindness have the power to lift people to life.



# CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Hello and Happy Spring Church School Families,

If you haven't had a chance to take a peek at our Church School bulletin board, we hope you will on your next visit to church. During our March lesson we learned about "The Visitor at the Well" and made our very own wishing wells. Pictures have been posted on the board to highlight our success. This craft was tricky, but the kids were all up for the challenge and worked really well together. Special thanks to our Church School Leadership Team and volunteer families who helped out!

While we are nearing the end of our program year, there is still one more chance to join us for learning and fun. Due to the 2nd Sunday of April falling on Easter Sunday, and the 2nd Sunday in May falling on Mother's Day, we have decided instead to hold our final class of the program year on April 30. We will be reading a story from Acts 2:42-47 entitled "**The Early Church**" and exploring what it means to be a church. We will be making two crafts, one to take home and another to decorate the church.

In celebration of our time together, we will be having cake following the service and will add a final ribbon to our name tags. We hope all of our Church School families will join us on April 30 to celebrate our church and our successful program year!

Blessings,

Shandy Roehrig, Christian Education Team Representative on the Church Council and Church School Leadership Team Chair



*Building wishing wells on March 12.*



*Take-home craft for April 30.*



## LOOKING AHEAD

**4/23** - Family Service (including Children's Choir) at 10:00

**4/30** - Last Church School Class of Program Year

## CONSIDER SUMMER CAMP

We encourage you to [click here](#) for information on summer camp opportunities. Brochures are also available on our church bulletin boards.

## NURSERY CARE

Every Sunday morning during the 10:00 service we provide Nursery Care for children newborn through elementary.



## PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS TEAM UPDATE

Please check back for an update from our PPR Team which met most recently on Thursday evening, March 23.



### EXAMEN(ED) CHURCH: OUR THRIVE TEAM'S JOURNEY

In January, the church started out on an 18-to-24-month journey toward long-range planning and exploring our church's call to discipleship. A seven-member team was put together to work with the Marquette University sponsored program, "The Examen(ed) Church". Terry McManus, Louise Mollinger, Karl Pradel, Scott Symes, Gary and Meg Tackes, along with Pastor Scott, first met in January at Marquette for an initial training session. The group has been spending the months of February and March engaged in personal spiritual "disciplines" such as using the model of daily prayer called "The Examen". This method of prayer was developed by St. Ignatius Loyola back in the 16th Century and has been used by Christians for hundreds of years to discern the movement of God's Spirit in their lives. The group has gathered once a month to get to know one another better and share the joys and struggles of spiritual life.

As the program leaders wrote in their message to the group last month, "the goal... is to for your Thrive Team as a 'community of reflective discernment'. For most of us, this requires the development of a different set of spiritual skills than our experience to date has formed in us. We might think of this like taking up a new physical activity that works a different set of muscle groups than our current physical condition has employed. The activities in these early months of The Examen(ed) Church program are intended to work and tone those distinct 'spiritual muscle groups' to prepare for the work of communal discernment later in the program."

The group is getting into spiritual "shape" for the work that is to come. They meet again at Marquette University with several other churches on April 22 and will report back to the church again next month. Keep the team in your prayers!

# INAUGURAL COMMUNITY BREAKFAST EVENT FUN & SUCCESSFUL!

Our church hosted a breakfast event on Saturday, March 4, welcoming the community to help us celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. We hosted about 80 guests who enjoyed a delicious meal, photo stops, Dr. Seuss characters, games, crafts, movie viewing room, and reading nook. A fun time was had by all - we had lots of great feedback and were proud to show off our beautiful church to many newcomers. Thank you to all the volunteers who bussed tables, cooked, and washed dishes, as well as the many families who donated groceries. A special thank you to Jodi Cowen, Jennifer Dimmer, and Tyfani Ulicki for creating, organizing, and spearheading this event! We are proud to report that the event raised \$1,000 for our church and served as a good "practice run" for a Breakfast with Santa event planned for this December. Please contact the church if you are interested in helping!

Because it was such a jovial event with many great photos taken, we invite you to [click here](#) for a slideshow of all the action shots! Enjoy!

[Click here](#) for the news article by Ozaukee Press.



## LIGHTHOUSE EVENTS



Lighthouse welcomes all middle school and high school at anytime!

### **"EGG MY YARD" Part 1 - Sunday, April 2, 4:30-6:00 p.m.**

Meet at Lighthouse Headquarters (513 W. Grand Avenue, Port) to fill the dozens of eggs that were ordered for our "Egg My Yard" fundraiser.

### **"EGG MY YARD" Part 2 - Saturday, April 8, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

Meet at Lighthouse and divide up into teams to deliver all the egg orders to homes. This way, when the kids wake up Easter morning, they'll have a fun egg hunt waiting for them in their yard!

### **Bowling - Sunday, April 23rd from 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Join us for a fun evening of bowling at Harbor Hills. Bowling, shoe rental, and snacks are all included. Kids can be dropped off/picked up at Harbor Hills (101 N. Freeman Drive, Port).

Have questions? Contact Christin at (262) 483-9582 or [christin.flucke@lighthouseyouth.org](mailto:christin.flucke@lighthouseyouth.org)



# SHARE OUR SPACE!

## PLEASE CONTINUE TO SPREAD THE WORD!

The space previously used by Port Pre-School is ready for new occupants. A team of Troy Bretl, Jodi Cowen, Jason Jacque, Karen Oftedahl, Tiffani Ulicki, Pastor Scott are meeting to reenergize the search. We can use your help - please feel free to use **this flyer** to generate interest with the groups with whom you work or volunteer. If you can think of a group that might be interested, let them know we have a great space for them!

**REALTY  
EXECUTIVES**

**131 N Webster St. Port Washington**

## For Lease!

### Call for Pricing

Can be separated  
Elevator  
Full kitchen  
ADA Compliant



First Congregational Church in Port Washington has over 1600 square feet of space available 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





# CHURCH CHOIRS

A reminder that our choirs always welcome new faces!

**Children's Choir** rehearses second and fifth Sunday mornings at 11:00, and performs on the 4th Sunday of every month.

**Chancel Choir** rehearses 6:30-7:30 on Monday evenings, and performs on the second and fifth Sunday of every month.

**Handbell Choir** rehearses 7:00-8:00 on Wednesday evenings, and performs on the third Sunday of every month.



# WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP

You are invited to come to church on Wednesdays at noon for lunch and Bible study. The group meets in the Dennett Room and everyone brings their own bag lunch and beverage. After they eat together, the group reads through the Bible passages that will be used in worship on the next Sunday. Pastor Scott provides some Biblical background materials and some questions for discussion and then the conversation begins. You don't need to be a Bible scholar to participate, just a curiosity to explore and reflect on the text. The conversation is always interesting and there is usually laughter and sharing of stories, opinions and an insight or two. Give it a try, there is always room for more around the table!



# THURSDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP



Every Thursday morning at 8:00, a dedicated group of gentlemen from the church gather at The Beacon restaurant, which is located downtown on the first floor of The Harborview hotel. The Thursday Men's Breakfast Group is open to all the men of the church. Everyone places their own order and pays their own bill. It is a great way to spend an hour (or two) and begin your day. You are welcome to join the group at any time!



# FELLOWSHIP HOUR ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

We host a Fellowship Hour following our 8:00 service on the first Sunday of each month, and following our 10:00 service on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with other families and friends in the church. Please make an effort to introduce yourself to people you haven't met. Help newcomers to feel that, wherever they are on life's journey, they are welcome here. If you have any questions, please speak to Jennifer Dimmer, our Fellowship Team Representative on Church Council.



## RAISERIGHT - GIFT CARD FUNDRAISING FOR OUR CHURCH

**NEXT FCC ORDER IS APRIL 16**

Through our gift card fundraising program, also called Scrip fundraising, by a company called RaiseRight, the church can raise money when members and friends use retail gift cards to pay for everyday purchases (like gas and groceries), instead of paying by credit card, cash, or check.

Jennifer Dimmer and Rhonda Thompson, our church Scrip/Raise Right Coordinators, typically place orders the second Sunday of every month. Due to Easter, you may order online or drop off your order form with payment by Sunday, **April 16**. The gift cards will be available at the church for pick up starting on Sunday, **April 23**. To enroll and place an order, head to the company website, [RaiseRight.com/enroll](https://RaiseRight.com/enroll). Our church enrollment code is **P8I47VHNX56H**. Or, you can complete the **paper form**, write out a check to the church, and turn in both to the church office.



## SUNDAY SERVERS - ONLINE SIGN-UP

We continue to utilize the online SignUpGenius tool to allow for easier scheduling of our Sunday morning servers. Below are the areas we need your participation. Simply click on the links and choose which Sundays you would like to serve. Sign up once, or as many times as you'd like! Together we can fill in all the gaps. If you have any questions, please reach out to Beckie in the church office.



*You may click the button to see all of the Sunday Servers sign-ups or click below to view the individual sign-ups.*

### USHERS

Greet congregants, hand out service bulletins, and collect the offering at the 8:00 or 10:00 Sunday morning worship service

### ACOLYTES

5th, 6th, and 7th graders are invited to light the altar candles just before the start of every 10:00 worship service

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Help Pastor Scott lead the congregation in responsive readings, unison prayers, and scriptures during the 8:00 or 10:00 worship service

### NURSERY CAREGIVERS

Watch over children newborn through elementary in our nursery (currently in the Gilomen Room) during the 10:00 service. The 8th grade Confirmation Class will still be helping, but with a smaller class, we need some additional help. Please note, 8th graders and high schoolers must be accompanied by a parent

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

Serve coffee and provide simple treats following the 10:00 service on the second and fourth Sundays - two families preferred

# APPROVED FEBRUARY 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The February Minutes were approved at the March 9, 2023 Church Council meeting.)

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

### Church Council Agenda

February 9, 2023

Call to Order by Jason Jacque @ 6:36 pm

Pastor Scott, Jason Jacque, Phil Stepanski, Ken Matthews, Eric Olson, Mike Spalding, Jodi Cowen, Jennifer Dimmer, Shandy Roehrig, Kathy Bretl, Bill Bond, and Rhonda Thompson.

Opening Meditation – Shandy – Shandy read a section of God's Unconditional Love by Henri Nouwen Society.

Approval of the Minutes – January 2023- Jennifer motions to approve the January minutes and Shandy seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Monthly Budget Review (Phil) -Phil is hoping to run Quick Books Budget vs Actual report the first of every month for the most accurate monthly report. If he runs the report after the first of the month and asks for it by month, it runs a formula with the budgeted amount and divides it by twelve and is not an accurate look at the entries for the month. The report with the bank balances reflects the payment to the missions (wider and local missions) and came out of the memorial account to cover the checking account. The payments were late and Phil is changing the mission payments to quarterly. Phil is considering a new software program as he questions the accuracy of information reported based on input of information. Some statements are still being finalized and will be mailed as they are ready. It is promoted as accounting and payroll software program.

Pastor's Moment (Pastor Scott)- The Thrive Team has met with the Marquette staff for the Examined Church program. They were asked to practice the examined prayer. The idea is for each to develop their own spiritual practice. Our team will meet in February and March and then with all program teams in April to start group discernment. After they work a few weeks together they may start sharing their learnings with the congregation to introduce some of the methods and ideas to encourage others in the congregation to do the same. The goal is to eventually as a church and as members to discern where God is calling the congregation to be at work and of service. Don Neiderfrank and Pastor Scott are co- leading a lenten book study called Growing Spiritually on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 pm. It's based on the book Soul Feast by Marjorie Thompson. Prayer has developed and changed from years past.

### Old Business

Property Team Building maintenance updates – (Bill)-The altar handrail is hopefully going to be installed by February 19. A quote was received for tree removal and trimming, with all brush to be left on the creek bank (for creek/ground build up and dirt) for a total of \$950. Bill is asking for permission to go ahead with the clean up. Ken motions to go ahead with the clean up of trees as long as it doesn't exceed \$1000. Bill seconds the motion. The vote passes with the money coming from the Property Team budget if needed. Pastor Scott says individual

*(continued on the next page)*



## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

invoices would be good to allow for “adopt a bill”. The last snow was enough for the first professional snow removal of the season. Bill will ask Mike if he is willing to continue with the sidewalk snow removal. Bill is asking if we want stain glass done in 2023 or if we should push it to 2024. After discussing it, it's decided Bill should get back to them asking for the work to be done in 2024. Bill is waiting to hear back from the fire department as to the options we have for AED/CPR class offerings. It does not look like Northern Ozaukee will be able to rent the classrooms due to our location outside of their district.

Stewardship (Jodi)- Pledge campaign was wrapped up in January. Jodi says thank you to the Church School kids for coloring the thank you cards. Jodi is hoping to get a May date for a brat fry and a second brat fry on a later date. Stewardship is hosting a Dr Seuss pancake breakfast. From 8-11 am on March 4. Tickets are available for \$8 at Port Washington State Bank.

Rental Space update – (Pastor Scott)- The poster/flyer is being updated with new pictures. The space should be advertised at the pancake breakfast with a poster on one of our boards. There is no line in the budget for advertising of the space. Once we learn how much advertising costs, it could be another “adopt a bill”.

Succession Planning (Jason)- Some of the terms will be up in June and replacements should be considered now. Most have turned in a list of team members, but those that have not should email the list to Jason.

Winter Congregational Meeting (Jason)-Does anyone have any feedback? Holding it in the sanctuary seems to work. The weather might have reduced the attendance a little.

AED and CPR training (Bill) - Bill is waiting to hear back from the fire department as to the options we have for AED/CPR class offerings.

Membership Count (Pastor Scott)-The office staff has reviewed the list of members to come up with a final count. They sent several letters out to members in question, asking anyone wishing to stay on as a member to contact the church. If they did not reach out it would be understood they were not interested and could be removed. We report the current membership this time of year, but the association plans their budget based on last year's number. Our current number is 319 members and 124 friends.

Additional Team Updates – (Shandy, Eric, Jennifer, Mike, Ken)-Shandy says they have 27 orders for the Mac and Cheese fundraiser. The Church School will meet in March and will combine April and May classes on April 30. Jennifer said chili dinner was good. Soup and salad will be on the third Sunday in February. Next Thursday is going to be youth game night with pizza and hide and seek. March will be making cards event. Mike needs help on March 5, Jennifer volunteers to be the second server. Ken will have a full report in March.

### New Business

Any other new business to come before the Council? Bill would like to attend an anniversary meeting as he has some ideas to share. Submitted by, Rhonda Thompson -Clerk

# AN INVITATION TO THE SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Southeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference will be held on Saturday, April 29, from 8:30-1:30, at Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Grafton. Registration costs \$20 and includes lunch, workshops, and featured speaker, Rev. Rebecca Anderson who will be speaking on the theme, "Well Watered: Stories of Rest and Restoration". Our church is encouraged to have two delegates to attend and vote on the business items and proposed budget, but anyone who would like to attend is welcome. Since this year's meeting is in Grafton, this is a great opportunity to experience the wider church and enjoy fellowship with our UCC brothers and sisters. Please talk to Pastor Scott if you are interested in attending.



## PROPERTY TEAM UPDATES AND MEETING MINUTES

Our Property Team is an active church team comprised members Bill Bond, Joe Mueller, Gary Tackes, and Claude Zimmerman. The team keeps a close eye on our church and works to maintain all aspects of our church building and grounds. Bill Bond is their Team Representative on the Church Council. Bill invites anyone who is interested to join the team. They meet around noontime on the last Friday of each month. The team would like to share their minutes with the church. Please click below for their recent meeting minutes:

[February 2023 Property Team Minutes](#)

You might be interested to know that the Property Team identified several problems at the church resulting from an electrical surge after the power outages on March 10. More information will be supplied in the next newsletter.



## IN OUR PRAYERS

- To Cathy Jones who had knee replacement surgery in January.
- To Ned Huwatschek who was hospitalized with pulmonary embolisms on March 8. He was able to return home after several days, and with new medication is doing well and is on his way to a full recovery.
- To Jane Spalding who had knee replacement surgery on March 20.
- To Cindy Zozak who had surgery on March 23 and is beginning cancer treatments.
- To Karl Pradel who has been suffering headaches following a procedure on his neck.
- To Betty Bollinger who continues physical therapy at Cedarburg Health Services.
- To Bruce Laabs, Sr. who continues on hospice palliative care at Ellen's Home in Port Washington. He would welcome cards and prayers (Ellen's Home, 1800 Granite Lane #17, Port)

## SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks and congrats to Jodi Cowen, Jennifer Dimmer, and Tyfani Ulicki for coordinating the inaugural Dr. Seuss Breakfast Celebration on Saturday, March 4. Well done! Thanks to all those who made the event possible: those who donated food items, those who made financial contributions, those who purchased tickets, and those who volunteered their time setting up, cooking and cleaning in the kitchen, bussing tables, helping with craft projects and games, selling and taking tickets, and cleaning up! It was a wonderful team effort!

To Congregational Care Team member, Chris Drasch, who sent out birthday and anniversary cards to our friends and members in March. Chris also writes care notes to those lifted in prayer during worship.

To our March Worship Leaders: Phil Stepanski, Carolyn Heatwole, Scott Symes, Gary Tackes, Karl Pradel, Ken Matthews, and the Confirmation Class.

To our March Ushers: Jodi Cowen, Claude Zimmerman, David Franks and Louise Mollinger, Joe and Bev Mueller, Janet and Merlin Behnke, Meg Tackes, and Margaret Niederfrank.

To our March Nursery Caregivers: Matt and Sarah Riemer, Becky and Addie Chandler, and Kerry O'Brien and Graham Garthus.

To our March Fellowship Hour Servers: Jennifer Dimmer and the Handbell Choir.

To our March Sunday Offering Counters: Joe Rychtik, Ken Matthews, Kathy Bretl, Joe and Bev Mueller, and Phil Stepanski and Tracy Bretl.

To Bill Bond, Joe Mueller, Claude Zimmerman, and Gary Tackes for spending COUNTLESS hours at church trouble-shooting electrical problems after the church lost power during the snow storm on March 10 and beyond.

To Jim Schmit for continuing to collect the goods in the cart in the church entryway and delivering to The Food Pantry here in Port Washington.

To Diana Schroeder for continuing to crochet baptismal and lap blankets for our members and friends.

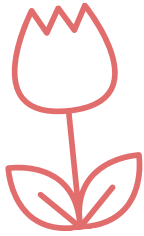
## CONGRATULATIONS

To Brett Dimmer who was named the new Director of the Port City Band. You might be interested to know that Brett has been playing in the band since he was in 8th grade!

To Taylor Ulicki for signing up to go on her second mission trip. Taylor will be representing our church when she joins Pilgrim UCC in Grafton on their Urban Mission Experience to St. Louis July 9-15.



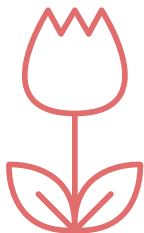
## APRIL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



- 1- Joe Rychtik
- 4- Jason Bergin  
Edie Webb
- 5- Debra Wickesberg
- 6- Don Cooper  
John Karrels
- 8 - Brynn Nelson  
Allyson Schlehle
- 9- Mike Dimmer
- 13- Steve Schowalter  
Payton Katzer  
Steve Davidson
- 14- Karen Oftedahl
- 15- Meg Tackes
- 16- Gary Drasch
- 18- Bryce Bertler
- 19- Colton Jagow
- 21- Hailey Bergin
- 22- Aaron Rose
- 26- Mia Blum  
Jeanne Mantsch
- 28- Grady Karrels
- 29- Sandy Modahl



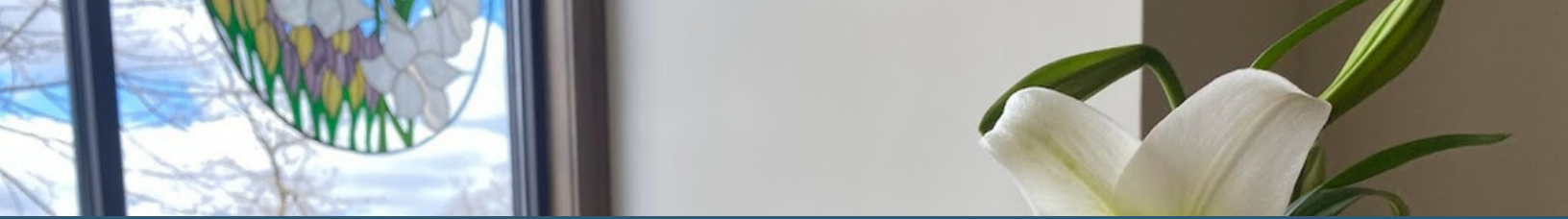
## APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



- 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.*

[illegible]



## CHURCH INFORMATION

First Congregational Church - *United Church of Christ*  
131 North Webster Street  
Port Washington, WI 53074  
(262) 284-2022  
website - [portucc.org](http://portucc.org), email - [office@portucc.org](mailto:office@portucc.org)



### Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday mornings from 8:30 - Noon

### Pastor Scott's Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays, and by appointment

### Financial Administrator Phil's Office Hours

Mondays from 4:30 - 6:30

### Office Staff

Rev. Dr. Scott McLeod, Pastor - [pastorscott@portucc.org](mailto:pastorscott@portucc.org)

Amy Gilhooly, Communications Director - [amyg@portucc.org](mailto:amyg@portucc.org)

Beckie Perez, Office Manager - [office@portucc.org](mailto:office@portucc.org)

Phil Stepanski, Financial Administrator - [phil@portucc.org](mailto:phil@portucc.org)

## STAY CONNECTED

Like us on **Facebook**

"First Congregational Church, Port Washington, WI"

Subscribe to our **YouTube Channel**

"First Congregational Church of Port Washington"

Receive our E-Blasts (emails)

*Please let us know if you would like to be added or have a new email address*

Check out the church website - [portucc.org](http://portucc.org)

## ONLINE GIVING WITH PAYPAL

PayPal is an easy way to give to the church to pay your pledge and/or make an extra financial gift. You can find the **PayPal** button on the home page of the church website ([portucc.org](http://portucc.org)) or use this QR code. Thank you!

