Monthly E-Newsletter of First Congregational Church, UCC | Port Washington, Wisconsin | June 2021

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

We have completed a full month of in-person worship services, and it feels great to finally be together with you in public praise, prayer and proclamation! It has been a long fourteen month stretch between in-person services for all of us. Consider all that has changed in that time: I was still in Elkhorn when it all began and had not even finished my Ministerial Profile, and you were getting used to an interim minister. We all had to learn many new online computer skills to make it all work, and I, for one, got proficient at recording myself using my phone's video camera. While the new technology made online worship possible, I think we all knew that it was never going to be the same as being together with friends and family in the comfort of the church sanctuary. Then, in fulfillment of some of our worst fears, the pandemic stretched on and on; weeks turned into months, a couple of seasons turned into a full year and continued. Thank God the roots of our faith run deep, and our church family continued in their support and affection for the church. We have weathered the storm!

After serving this church for four months, it was such a blessing to finally experience what Sunday morning was like. It had been a very odd and rather depressing experience to preach and pray without a congregation, recording myself, all alone. Even as I was getting more and more used to it, I did not realize exactly how much I missed the congregational worship until that first Sunday of May. Simply to be able to say, "Good Morning!" and have the congregation respond, was a terrific feeling. And then, of course, to have the congregation chuckle at my failure to wait for the bells to ring before I went into the opening of the service—again, how I missed those kinds of genuine responses. To be able to greet people before and after worship; to hear "live" music; to see the expressions on people's faces (or at least, the look in their eyes!)—it was all simply icing on the cake!

...WORSHIPPING TOGETHER continued...

This month we can all look forward to more of the same. With the changes to the CDC guidelines and with the infection rate continuing to go down, the Church Council has recommended that we open the sanctuary to a larger group of people in each service. We will still be keeping our masks on for the service and maintaining social distancing in order to protect those who are not vaccinated. As the summer progresses toward the fall program season, we hope to be able to ease restrictions even more and promise to keep everyone updated as we make further changes.

Thanks for your patience and for your faithfulness to our church family as we have gone through this very difficult time together. By God's grace we seem to be coming through this pandemic and can look forward to worshiping together every Sunday going forward.

Courage and Peace, Pastor Scott

PASTOR SCOTT ON VACATION

Pastor Scott and his wife Laura will be heading out on a road trip on May 31 that will eventually bring them to Seattle, WA for a family wedding. On the way there and back they will be touring several National Parks and celebrating their 30th Wedding Anniversary on June 8. They will be in Seattle for the wedding and staying with extended family. They will be back to Wisconsin and "the real world" on June 22. While Scott is away the Rev. Don Niederfrank will be preaching and leading worship for the first three Sundays in June (June 6, 13, and 20). Don has also agreed to be on-call in the case of any emergency pastoral care issues. Please notify the church office if you have any pastoral needs.

WORSHIP WITH US!

During the summer months, from Memorial Day
Weekend through Labor
Day Weekend, we will have one service on Sunday mornings at 9:00. Please head to our News and
Announcements page to sign up to attend.

REOPENING UPDATES

Click here for updates from the Reopening Team.

USHERING TEAM

An Ushering Team is being developed for the start of the program year in September. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the church office.

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEXT E-NEWSLETTER

If you have any celebrations, concerns/prayer requests or other contributions that you would like us to include in a future e-newsletter, let us know. Please email us 7-10 days before the first day of the month.

PENTECOST SUNDAY CONFIRMATION SERVICE



Front left to right: Hope Gilhooly, Mya Ternes, Gabe Chandler, and Carter Schlehlein Back: Pastor Scott, Cash Mantsch, Brady Calder, Sam Pasten, and James Mitchell

Our Church gained eight new members as this year's Confirmation Class affirmed their baptismal vows and joined our membership on Sunday morning, May 23. It was an unusual year due to the pandemic and because of the condensed format with class first beginning in January when Pastor Scott arrived at our church.

The class met over Zoom the first several months as they discussed the Bible, examined the books of the Old and New Testament, discussed the Trinity, the person and work of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the early Christian Church. In March, they were also able to walk, pray and reflect on the Stations of the Cross at Holy Hill in. The class performed a mission project at The Food Pantry in May.

Each member of the class wrote a personal statement of faith and read it as part of the Confirmation worship service. Congratulations to all of our Confirmed new members! Special thanks to their parents and families for being so supportive and encouraging during this year filled with so many changes.





A Salute To Our FCC GRADUATES

Sarah Bloemer Ty Callen Roman Cira Jessica Clements Breanna Franks Emmitt Karrels Michael Rego Jacob Sanem Mira Stimac Tyler Umhoefer Joe Yandry



Sarah Bloemer Grafton High School

Sarah plans to study Actuarial Science at UW-Madison next year.



Michael Rego
West Bend East High School

Michael will be attending UW-Platteville in the fall to study Engineering.



Jessica ClementsPort Washington High School

Jessica will be attending UW-Milwaukee. She was accepted into the Honors program for Business and plans to pursue an Accounting degree.



Jacob Sanem Cedarburg High School

Jacob will be attending UW-Whitewater and plans to double major in Freshwater Sciences and Business.



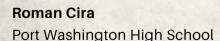
Emmitt KarrelsPort Washington High School

Emmitt is going to attend UW-Washington County for Accounting / Business.



Mira StimacPort Washington High School

Mira will be attending University of South Florida and plans to pursue a Mechanical Engineering degree.



In the fall of 2022, Roman plans to attend MSOE to study Mathematics and Statistics.



Joe Yandry
Port Washington High School

Joe will head to UW Stout in the fall to major in Golf Enterprise Management.

LOTS HAPPENING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 27!



Sunday Fun Day at Possibility Playground, 8:00 a.m.

Pastor Scott and our Church School Leadership have planned three family events this summer. *Please see flyer on the next page*. The first event on Sunday morning, June 27, is a chance for kids to play together at Possibility Playground while Scott and parents enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation. Pastor Scott will head to 9:00 church, but the rest can stay and play. We hope you can join us!

Spring Congregational Meeting via Zoom, 11:00 a.m.

According to the Church Constitution, "A meeting of the congregation shall be held no later than the last Sunday in June to elect officers and team representatives to the Council. An Annual Program Report shall be presented at this meeting."

We will meet as a congregation via Zoom at 11:00 a.m. to elect officers and accept team reports. It will be an online Zoom meeting because we still have a limited attendance on Sunday morning and there may be some church members that would like to participate in the meeting that would otherwise not be able to attend. So, an online Zoom meeting is the simplest solution.

Paper copies of the 2020-2021 Annual Report will be available at church on June 27 and will also be available online for all church members for the meeting. As we get closer to the meeting, please keep an eye out for further information and for the Zoom invitation. We do hope that this will be last time we have to hold an online only Zoom Congregational Meeting. In the future we may be able to have "hybrid" meetings which would allow both in person attendance, as well as online attendance, but at this time, we are not able to make that work smoothly.

Stewardship Team Brat Fry, 10:00 - 2:00

The Stewardship Team will be hosting another Brat Fry at the Saukville Piggly Wiggly. Proceeds will go towards Window Repair Loan Payments. *Please see flyer for more information*. If you would like to help with grilling, selling, or baking cookies and bars, please contact Stewardship Team member and event coordinator, Jodi Cowen, at j_cowen@yahoo.com.

You may click here to pre-order!

____ FAMILY ____ SUNDAY FUN DAYS!

Brought to you by our Church School Leadership Team

A chance to join Pastor Scott and church families for fun and fellowship this summer!



PLAY TIME & COFFEE

Sunday morning, June 27 8:00 a.m.

Meet up at Possibility Playground to start the day. Parents can enjoy coffee while the kids play! A light breakfast will be provided for both kids and adults.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL & POOL NIGHT

Sunday afternoon, July 25 3:00 p.m.

Join us in the grassy area between the church and the pool for an ice cream bar (from 3-4pm) before we all head to Pirates Hollow Waterpark for some swimming and fun. We will partake in the pool's Family Time (inflatables allowed) which runs from 4-6 pm. We will hand out admission tickets for those who do not have a pool pass.



KICKBALL & SMORES

Sunday evening, August 22 6:00 p.m.

We will play kickball and other games in the church parking lot and enjoy a campfire and smores after the games.

Feel free to bring neighbors and friends! More details will be emailed as the events get closer. Please contact the church if you have questions.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

FUNDRAISE R

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



outside of the

Saukville Piggly Wiggly

Our Stewardship Team is once again hosting a Brat/Burger Fry.

Proceeds will go towards
Window Repair Loan Payments.

Pre-Order and Drive-Thru will be available. new!Cookies and Bars will be added to the Menu.



OUR THANKS AND BEST WISHES TO LORI MACRAE

We are very sad to announce that Lori MacRae, our Handbell Choir Director for almost 30 years, has decided to resign from the position.

In a note she wrote to members of the Handbell Choir, Lori wrote, "Jeff and I joked about retiring at the same time. Well, he left but I didn't want to leave with an interim minister at the helm. Then Covid hit. Now that we have a new chief of staff and are back having in-person services with more 'normalcy' in sight, it is time for me to leave. I have so many fond memories of working and making music with you all I will never forget. I do hope that you will continue to play... Mark and I will be around and hope to see you soon."

Since 1992, Lori helped to build a wonderful music ministry here at First Congregational Church and her talents will be missed terribly by the whole church, especially on those Sundays in which the Bell Choir rang out with such precision and joy.

With Lori's resignation, the Church Council will be looking to create a small team to begin the search for a new Handbell Choir Director. Lori has offered to be a resource for the search process and graciously offered to be a part of interviews to lend her experience and knowledge to the selection of a new person. We hope to fill the position as soon as we are able.

Thank you, Lori, for all of your years sharing your time, dedication and talents!



CONFIRMATION CLASS MISSION EXPERIENCE TO THE FOOD PANTRY

The Confirmation Class spent a little bit of time over at The Food Pantry here in Port Washington on Sunday, May 16. The class learned about the pantry's history and current mission as well as assisted with two different projects.

The class members helped to organize, sort and count the items that had come in as part of the pantry's collection of school materials and also put together "snack bags" filled with an assortment of kid friendly snack items (granola bars, bags of chips, cookies) that are given to families with school age children for after school snacking.

The Confirmation Class's work was commended and appreciated by all of the adult volunteers at the pantry.



VOLUNTEER(S) WANTED - GREETING CARD WRITING/SENDING



Do you enjoy writing cards to folks to mark a special occasion or help lift others' spirits? We are seeking an individual or multiple individuals to help us send cards to church members and friends. This person would have a small budget to purchase cards and stamps, and would be provided information to send out occasional cards.

If interested, please reach out to Amy Gilhooly, our Communications Director, at amyg@portucc.org.

AA TO RESUME MEETING AT CHURCH

Alcoholics Anonymous will resume meeting at the church on Sunday afternoon, June 6, at 3:00 after a long absence. This virus has taken its toll on most people and alcoholics are no exception. If you feel you need support please feel free to join us.

The group meets every Sunday afternoon throughout the year, holidays are no exception. We have a fifteen+ year relationship with First Congregational Church and are extremely thankful for all the support we have been given throughout the years.

If you have any questions you can call me at (262) 284-5230 at any time and I will be happy to answer them.

Donnamae Laabs, Church Friend



THURSDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Every Thursday morning at 8:00 a.m., 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 Morning 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.

If you are interested in attending, you are welcome to join the group, or you can send Ken Matthews, group facilitator, an email if you have questions (k0matthews76@gmail.com).



SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to Julie
Schlehlein for serving as
our Parent Helper and
Driver for the
Confirmation mission
experience at The Food
Pantry and class session
on Sunday evening, May
16.

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Our thanks to Brenda
Shupe for volunteering
to manage our Little Free
Library. If you have used
children's books in good
condition, you may drop
them off to the church
office so Brenda can tag
them and stock the
Library!

We thank Jeanne
Mantsch for serving as
our church
representative at the
virtual Wisconsin
Conference UCC Annual
Meeting in mid-May.

• • • •

Special thanks to Joy Bloemer for handwriting our Confirmation certificates.

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We appreciate Jennifer Dimmer recording and uploading the 9:00 and 11:00 worship services on Sunday, May 23.

UPDATES FROM OUR FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Thanks to our Easter Giving and budgeted funds (\$3,800) for Local Missions, we were recently able to send checks to the following organizations:

Advocates of Ozaukee - \$1,051
Balance - \$792
Family Promise of Ozaukee County - \$1,097
The Food Pantry - \$856
Habitat for Humanity, Ozaukee Chapter - \$892
Ozaukee Family Services - \$747
UCC One Great Hour of Sharing - \$355
UCC Our Church's Wider Mission - \$20

It is wonderful to see our caring church community support the efforts of these organizations.

With regard to the 2021 Budget, expenses are very much under control and revenue continues to come in as expected.

Lorraine Halls, Financial Administrator

VOLUNTEER NEEDED - FLOWER BED CARE IN CREEKSIDE COMMONS



The church grounds are looking more beautiful than ever thanks to our church volunteers who each maintain a small section throughout the growing season.

We are in need of an additional volunteer to help maintain a flower bed located in Creekside Commons. If you can lend a hand, please contact Beckie in the church office.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR

I was honored to attend the Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of

Wisconsin Conference
UCC Annual Meeting
Powered by Generosity
May 11-16, 2021

THE PARTY OF

Christ as your delegate. The conference was completely virtual and took place between May 11 - 16, with the final worship service being available to the entire conference. The entire meeting was focused on generosity, including the workshops, which were held concurrently on Thursday evening. I attended one titled 'Reparatory Justice through Active Stewardship'. The business meeting was held on Saturday morning, at which new board and various committee members were elected and installed, and the budget for the coming year approved.

Having attended many annual meetings before, a virtual conference was certainly much less exciting than 'living' at the Green Lake conference center for three days. Although the planning staff attempted to create times for all of us to interact with one another, it was quite difficult to catch up with old friends. Hopefully, by next year, we will resume meeting in person – complete with an exhibit area and a great book store!

Jeanne Mantsch, Moderator

THIS MONTH'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

June 6 Second Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 130

Mark 3:20-35

June 13 Third Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 17:22-24

- A - C

Mark 4:26-34

June 20 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

- N. C.

Mark 4:35-41

June 27 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 30

Mark 5:21-43





OUR STAFF SUPPORT AND REVIEW TEAM

As you might expect, the last year and a half has been extremely unusual in the life of our church. It has certainly been not only unusual, but taxing at times for our outstanding church staff. They have all been called upon to make sacrifices, either financially or in shifting job descriptions, or both. In some instances they have been asked to take on much more than they "signed on for". But they have ALL risen to the task, and then some! Beckie, Amy and Lorraine have not only kept the office operating smoothly, they have literally kept the church and its members connected through a pandemic. And Brett, Sherri, Pru and Kai-i continued to provide beautiful music for our online services. None of this has been easy for the staff, but I hope that they know how much we as a congregation appreciate their efforts!

Over the last several months, the Staff Support and Review team has been able to sit down with each and every one of this amazing staff and find out how they've been holding up. We also asked what we, as council and church, could do to help them in their jobs. We've also, hopefully, been able to express to each of them how much the congregation appreciates their service and dedication. The good news is that, to a person, they have recently felt a great relief and the beginning of a return to some sort of "normal". This has all been due to the presence and addition of Pastor Scott who has taken so much from the shoulders of the staff. We are truly in a better place as a congregation than we've been for a long time! There's a real feeling that things are getting better, and I know that when we sit down with the staff again later this year, we will be in an even better place! Thanks again to the outstanding and caring staff of First Congregational Church!!! When you see any of this great group of people, take the time to tell them how glad you are that they're here.

Ric Probst
Staff Support and Review Team Representative
on the Church Council

MAY CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

The May 13, 2021, the Church Council meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Jeanne Mantsch, Moderator.

Present: Jeanne Mantsch, Scott McLeod, Phil Stepanski, Mike Spalding, Marti DeMario, Kathy Bretl, Jason Jacque, Eric Olson, Savannah Anderson, Bill Bond

Opening Meditation "Lord Help Me See" Bill Bond

Approval of the Minutes - April 2021 - how did Google docs work? Seems to have worked well, we will continue to use this tool for Minute's approval going forward.

Financial Administrator's Report (given by Kathy, Treasurer)

Kathy was asked about a line item that showed \$733 for Pulpit Support. She

reported that amount was for Don Niederfrank and those funds were moved to the 2020 budgeting. Mike noted that because we may be returning to in-person worship, the budgeted amount for our music ministry may go over budget by the end of the year. It was requested of Kathy to have the financial reports bring quarterly summaries forward along with current monthly reporting. Scott reported that there is approx. \$17K left of the Marquardt Mission/Activities Fund created back in 2009. Those funds have been taken out of our general checking account and moved to a newly created Memorial Funds account.

Old Business

Reopening Team Report (Phil)

The current Pandemic numbers from Ozaukee County were reported by Phil: 52.4% Vaccinated; 7.7% Poss. Tests; 5.84 New Cases per 100K. The reopening so far is going very well. The last 2 services had attendance of right around 40. The Reopening Team sees the current service structure staying in place, however, the team will be meeting 6/22/21 and will revisit the current system. Phil recommended that Council develop an "usher team". Council will discuss at the next meeting.

Financial Separation of Duties

Kathy reported that the responsibilities are basically:

Accounts Payable: Kathy and Accounts Receivable: Lorraine

With Jim Schmit as the other member of the Financial Team. It was recommended by Pastor Scott that the "right" number of members for the financial team is 5. It was also discussed that the Financial Team will continue to negotiate contracts but will receive Council approval prior to signing any contract. Lastly, it was discussed that the Financial Team will present the annual budget to the congregation. (continued on next page) PAGE 14

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES, continued

New Business

Marquardt money; The 17K Marquardt Mission/Activities Fund money was moved from the church checking account into the Memorial Funds account and a newsletter article should inform the congregation that those funds are available for charitable use. There was an additional gift from the Marquardt Estate of \$39,500 which was received by the church on Oct. 31, 2019. This money has also been moved into the Memorial Funds account and Council was asked to consider ways this gift might be put to best use.

Emergency Procedure Review (Jeanne)

Jeanne asked that a copy of the current "emergency building procedures" be emailed to the Council, by Beckie. It was also noted that any Church service cancellation will be sent to the entire congregation if needed.

Pastor's Report (Pastor Scott)

Scott stated that the Annual meeting will be June 27 to elect Council positions, Team leaders and approve annual reports. Scott is working on forming a nominating team to help build a larger "involvement pool" of church members to draw from for all needed Church Teams.

Scott gave us a "family" story. Did you know that Scott's wife made the "inclusive doors" that we displayed outside our little Church. Scott gave the Council his initial impressions and he stated that our office and musical staff are second to none, and we should feel very blessed. There will be our regular 9:00 service as well as an 11:00 Confirmation service next Sunday.

The Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

On Hold

UCC Legacy Program (Jason)

Reminders:

Next Executive Committee Meeting –June 3, 2021
Next Council Meeting –June 10, 2021
Opening Meditation – Jason Jacque

JUNE CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Men's Breakfast The Beacon 8am Executive Team 7pm (Zoom)	4	5
6 Second Sunday after Pentecost/ Graduation Sunday Worship Service with Communion 9am AA 3pm	7	8	9	10 Men's Breakfast The Beacon 8am Church Council 7pm (Zoom)	11	12
13 Third Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service 9am AA 3pm	Justice Team 4pm (Zoom)	15	16	17 Men's Breakfast The Beacon 8am	18	19
20 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/ Father's Day Worship Service 9am AA 3pm	21	Reopening Team	23	24 Men's Breakfast The Beacon 8am	25	26
27 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday Fun Day Playtime and Coffee 8am Worship Service 9am Spring Congregational Meeting 11am (Zoom) Stewardship Team Brat Fry 10am-2pm AA 3pm	28	29	30			

JUNE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- 1 Jackson Bergin Barbara Sorlie Dale Sanem
- 3 Joyce Bria
- 5 Don Laubenstein
- 7 Janet Behnke
- 9 Kevin Melbye
- 10 Patricia Westphal
- 11 Virginia Bichler
 Grant Bergin
 Brielle Bertler
- 12 Ezra Bretl Beau Fleischmann
- 13 Bev MuellerMary Johnson
- 14 Norman Joplin
 Colin Umhoefer
 Terry Bretl
 Patricia Cottrell
 Merlin Behnke
 Brad Katzer

- 16 Isabel LopezScott Peiffer
- 19 Ryan Umhoefer Alice Ruffin Laura McLeod
- 20 Nathan Rego
- 21- Sydney Rychtik Grant Melichar Kim Schuessler
- 22 Dawn Guschl Bill Bond Ben Pasten
- 23- Brett Dimmer Tom Roehrig
- 24 Eric Oleson
- 26 Katie Sanford
- 27 Mike Perket
 Grace Wilsnack
 Peter Chandler
 Heidi Bertler
- 29 Jacob Sanem Ray Shupe

JUNE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Gary and Joyce Bria
- 6 Don and Susan Niederfrank

一, 20、10

- 7 Scott and Susan Westerbeke
- 8 Scott and Laura McLeod
- 9 Mark and Janet Maechtle
- 11 Mike and Kelly Perket
- 13 Ryan and Jodi CowenMark and Diana Pasten
- 15 Allen and Patricia CottrellDave and Debra WickesbergMark and Terry Sdun

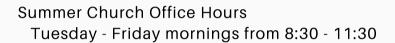
- 20 Claude and Jana Zimmerman
- 21 Perry Lieuallen and Darcy McManus
- 23 Aaron and Missy White
- 24 John and Christa Karrels
- 25 Dick and Edie Webb
- 26 Lefty and Diane FowlerRalph and Beckie PerezJoe and Bev Mueller
- 27 Scott and Dani Peiffer
- 30 Matt and Julie Schlehlein



CHURCH INFORMATION

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Office Staff Emails

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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) or use this QR code. Thank you!

