



Congregational Connections

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

THRIVE TEAM DISCUSSES CHURCH VITALITY

Since January, our church has been working with Marquette University on a project called, "The Examen(ed) Church". We formed a Thrive Team of Terry McManus, Louise Mollinger, Karl Pradel, Scott Symes, Gary and Meg Tackes, and myself which meets monthly. We hope to help the whole congregation begin discerning where God is leading us - to come to a closer understanding of what God's vision might be for our church. I thought I would share some of the Thrive Team materials with you. This past month we reflected on our experience of "Church Vitality". We began with a wonderful prayer adapted from Thomas a' Kempis:

Grant us, O Lord, to know what we ought to know, to love what we ought to love, to praise what delights you most, to value what is precious in your sight, to hate what is offensive to you. Do not allow us to judge according to the sight of our eyes, nor to pass sentence according to the hearing of the ears; but to discern with a true judgment between things visible and spiritual and above all things, always to inquire what is the good pleasure of your will. Amen.

The word "vitality" as we used it, describes the continuum of health and vibrancy along which a church moves during its lifetime. Dictionaries define "vitality" as "the state of being strong and active" or "lively and animated in character," which is probably the typical sense in which we use the word. But "vitality" can also refer to something deeper, "the power giving continuity to life" or "the peculiarity distinguishing the living from the nonliving." For the church, this understanding leads us to reflect on our true source of life, the Spirit of God. We had a great discussion about different examples of how our church had demonstrated vitality and how that has changed positively or negatively over time. I'm excited to bring these conversations to the whole church soon!

Courage and Peace,
Pastor Scott

SERVICES IN JULY & PASTOR SCOTT'S VACATION



Our summer services continue at 9:00 on Sunday mornings. Scott will be headed to Connecticut July 8-15. He plans to attend his daughter Ruth's doctoral dissertation defense at the University of Connecticut and help her move to a new apartment in Massachusetts. He will also be spending time visiting and reuniting with his east coast family. Scott will be back in town for several days before heading west to Driggs, Idaho and the Grand Tetons National Park from July 20-29. Don Niederfrank will lead our services on July 9, 16, and 23 and can be contacted for pastoral emergencies.



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS

Did you know? There are activity bags for children available in the Sanctuary every Sunday. They are located on the windowsill, to the left as you enter the Sanctuary. Each bag includes an assortment of coloring and activity books, crayons, colored pencils, a few picture books, and stickers. Please feel free to pick one up!



WORSHIP WITH US

In June, July, and August, we celebrate one Sunday morning worship service at 9:00.

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.

"Making All Things New" PHASE ONE

A financial campaign to raise \$32,000
to repair our stained glass windows



MATCHING GIFT - GIVE THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY TO DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!

On May 21, the congregation voted to proceed with a financial campaign to raise \$32,000 to repair and maintain the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary. On June 8, campaign materials went out to our members and friends seeking one-time gifts or pledges toward the "Making All Things New: Phase One" campaign.

We are very excited to announce that we have received a "matching gift" donation. The anonymous giver will match all donations made to the campaign during the first week of July, up to \$5,000. If you haven't yet donated, now is the time to double your gift. We encourage everyone to reflect on the importance of these repairs and support the campaign. As of June 28, we have received 22 gifts or pledges for a total of \$12,250. Please respond by Sunday, July 16. Thank you to all those who have made a commitment to Making All Things New!



PROPERTY TEAM AS BUSY AS EVER

Our Property Team is an active church team comprised of a handful of folks from the church. 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 at 11:00 on the third Friday of each month. One of the team members, Claude Zimmerman, takes notes at each of their monthly meetings and drafts minutes. [Click here](#) to view their June minutes.



STANDING INVITATION TO YOGA CONTINUES THROUGH SUMMER



Everyone is welcome to participate each Tuesday evening at 6:00 for a yoga class at church, led by Dawn Stacey, a licensed yoga instructor and PTA. Each class costs \$12, which is payable to Dawn via check, cash, or Venmo.

Marking 125 Years on June 25

Our 125th Anniversary Event worship and picnic were held on Sunday, June 25. Due to a weather forecast for rain and storms we abandoned our park reservation and held the events at church. Worship at 10:00 in the sanctuary was highlighted by festive and picnic-appropriate music provided by Pru and Dale Palecek, on guitar and dulcimer. Who knew that we could sing a hymn with harmonica accompaniment - thanks Don Niederfrank! Our picnic was held in Fellowship Hall, with lots of conversation and good food, complete with rolling-cart dixie cup ice cream delivery. It's fun to eat with those little wooden spoons whatever your age. Indoor games were offered as well.



Order Your 125th Apparel Today!



The 125th Anniversary Team, in partnership with members of Church Council, have planned for and designed three apparel options to help mark the occasion! Thank you to our models for showing off the apparel options. Shandy Roehrig (left), who is sporting the scuba hoodie option, Jennifer Dimmer in the middle modeling the short-sleeve t-shirt, and Simon Gilhooly (right), who is wearing the hoodie sweatshirt. We will be honoring our 125th in various ways through the spring of next year and are so excited to add this apparel option! What a wonderful way to celebrate our church's rich history. T-shirts are \$20, and both hoodie options are \$35.

Orders will be accepted through August 1, with payment due at the time of order. They will be ready early September.

You may [click here](#) to submit your order online, or you can use a paper [order form](#). For questions, please contact Jennifer Dimmer at jenniferdimmer@gmail.com or (262) 268-3903.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING UCC CHURCHES MARCH IN MKE PRIDE PARADE



Joe, Bev, David, Louise, and Jeanne at the parade.

David Franks, Jeanne Mantsch, Louise Mollinger, Joe and Bev Mueller, along with Pastor Scott, represented our church, marching with eight other "Open and Affirming" United Church of Christ churches of the Southeast Association in Milwaukee's Pride Parade on June 4. It was a great event and we got lots of cheers from the enthusiastic crowd when they saw that there were churches like ours that were welcoming and supportive of LGBTQ+ people and issues.



BBQ BIBLE STUDY WITH "THE CHOSEN" CONTINUES JULY 5 & 19

You are invited to join the BBQ Bible Study group this month as they continue their viewing of "The Chosen"! The group will be meeting on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 on July 5 and July 19 this month. There will be no Study on July 12 and 26. Scott prepares some easy to grill foods, like brats, dogs, and burgers, which are then paired with the fine side dishes and desserts prepared by group members to share each week. Everyone enjoys dinner and conversation together followed by watching an episode of the religious drama series, "The Chosen" and discussion of the themes and plot.

"The Chosen" is a TV series telling the story of Jesus and his disciples and is in its third season. We began in June with season one, episode one and will be watching episodes four and five this month. Watching an episode and spending a little time discussing and reflecting on it together has been a great way to explore issues of discipleship and the life of faith. We will have watched the whole first season of "The Chosen" by the end of the summer. Join the group for dinner, conversation, and reflection!



BBQ BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Evenings
July 5th & July 19th
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall and Church Patio



REFRESH OF OUR ACTIVITY BAGS

As you may recall, Church School sponsored a small collection drive during the month of May. Many generous donations of coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, markers and stickers were received. These donations have been put into action with a refresh of the children's activity bags available in the sanctuary. A big thank you to everyone who donated and to Avery, Reese, and Noah Roehrig for stuffing the bags.

During the refresh process, a neatly colored picture of a jack-in-the-box was found within one of the coloring books. The picture was signed by Kristy Bokelman and dated June 17, 1992! An unexpected time capsule which has reappeared almost exactly 31 years to the date of its creation. It is hidden gems like this that remind us of the history and strength of our church community. Thank you Kristy for the nice surprise!

Enjoy the sun,
Shandy Roehrig



NEW MINISTRY OPTIONS SURVEY COMING IN AUGUST

In spring of 2022, we created a Ministry Options Survey that members and friends completed to help match personal interests with areas of ministry within in our church.

The survey was helpful and next month we are going to unveil a new version. We would like everyone in the church to complete the survey, either online or a paper copy at church. Our church relies upon an incredible group of volunteers to carry out the variety of things we do - from worship, to fellowship, to mission, to maintenance of the building, to teaching the children, to fundraisers, and so many more! Nothing happens in our church unless we are willing and able to step forward to do it. Keep an eye out for the new survey next month. We will need your help as we move forward into the new fall program season.

"MEDICS IN OUR MIDST" - CPR/AED TRAINING SESSION ON JULY 9

A reminder for those who have signed up with Bill Bond to learn about use of our AED machine and receive CPR instruction, that the second group will have their training session on Sunday morning, July 9, following the 9:00 service. Thanks to all those who are learning and training to assist should a medical need arise while at church. The first group received training on June 11. Bill is hoping to have a third group in the fall, keep an eye out for new dates!



WORSHIP THEMES FOR JULY

July 2: Acts 7:55-60 Genesis 22:1-14 Matthew 10:40-42

5th Sunday after Pentecost and Communion

Our Communion worship welcomes all to receive the sacrament in the beauty of our sanctuary. We are called to serve and welcome one another into communities where God is the host, all of us are guests, and no one remains a stranger.

July 9: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

6th Sunday after Pentecost, Don Niederfrank

We are excited to welcome Rev. Don Niederfrank to lead worship over the next several Sundays. Worship themes are around the rich story about Rebekah's faith and her choice to participate in God's covenant, we are encouraged to turn to God's wisdom for every decision and find rest and compassion.

July 16: Genesis 25:19-34 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

7th Sunday after Pentecost, Don Niederfrank

In a story of rival twins, we examine the things that divide us, and through the words of a psalmist and a parable about seeds we ponder the path toward and the opportunities for growth.

July 23: Genesis 28:10-19a Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

8th Sunday after Pentecost, Don Niederfrank

Through Jacob's divine encounter and a parable about a harvest of promise, we enter a place of blessing assured of a God who is ever-present, all-knowing, and all revealing.

July 30: Genesis 29:15-28 and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

9th Sunday after Pentecost

As we watch and wonder as the tables turn and Jacob becomes the victim of trickery and listen and imagine as Jesus offers metaphors to describe the realm of God, we are inspired to remain open to God's work of transformation in our midst.

LIGHTHOUSE SUMMER PLANS



Lighthouse has a variety of activities for the remainder of summer. Check them out!

Wednesday, July 12th, 2:00-4:00 pm – Digital Scavenger Hunt

Grab your phone and join us for a fun afternoon of crazy pictures and lots of laughs! We'll meet at Lighthouse to split up into teams, and then travel around town to see who can come up with the funniest and most clever photos that capture the various items on the scavenger hunt list. Afterwards, we'll head back to Lighthouse to share everyone's pictures and enjoy some snacks together.

Talk-n-Treat Tuesdays

Come hang out for an informal time to chat while also enjoying a tasty treat (on us!). This is a great opportunity to catch up with your Lighthouse pals or invite some new ones to join us!

Please note for all of these dates, students should be dropped off/picked up directly from the location listed.

July 18th, 1:00-2:00 at Frankie's Ice Cream – for any/all middle schoolers

July 25th, 1:00-2:00 at Frankie's Ice Cream – for any/all high schoolers

August 8th, 1:00-2:00 at Toucan Custard – for any/all middle schoolers

August 15th, 1:00-2:00 at Toucan Custard – for any/all high schoolers

August 18th-20th – "Hunger Quest" Service Trip

Join us for an amazing weekend as we learn more about the issue of hunger, both locally and worldwide. This awesome service trip experience includes:

- Helping at 3 different service organizations who are dedicated to tackling the issue of hunger.
- Experiencing first-hand what it feels like to be hungry by participating in a 24-hour famine (which includes lots of time for games and other fun stuff!)
- Opportunities for worship and faith discussions throughout the weekend
- A trip to Six Flags Great America!

This trip will take place from approximately 12:00 pm on Friday, August 18th until 6:00 pm on Sunday, August 20th. The out-of-pocket cost for the weekend is \$75 per student and includes all meals, transportation, and activities including your Six Flags ticket (Lighthouse will cover the other half of these expenses for all participants). All youth who have completed grades 5-12 are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Please RSVP to Christin by Sunday, July 16th if you would like to participate in this awesome experience!



CONGRATULATIONS

To Joshua Jacque who was selected to represent Port Washington High School at Badger Boys State - a week-long civic leadership program that was held at UW-Eau Claire June 11-17.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to our Anniversary picnic planners: Carolyn Heatwole, Ken Matthews, Jana Zimmerman, Jeanne Mantsch, Louise Mollinger, David Franks, Scott McLeod, and Jane Spalding.

Thanks to our June worship leaders: Carolyn Heatwole, Jeff Ulicki, and Jeanne Mantsch.

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

To our June Communion Servers: Jodi Cowen and Mike Spalding.

To Adele Richert for purchasing and planting Roxanne geraniums around the First Congregational sign and a Sem Ash Leaf Spirea shrub in the northwest corner of the building.

To Mike Dimmer for continuing to cut the grass and edge the sidewalks at church, and all the other pruning and managing of the church grounds.

To Jana Zimmerman, Jeanne Mantsch, and Adele Richert who volunteered as "layweeders" to help maintain the flower beds around the church.

To all those who donated items to help refresh our children's activity bags, and to Avery, Reese, and Noah Roehrig for stuffing the bags.

To Jim Schmit for always picking up the food pantry donations from our congregation and delivering to The Food Pantry, week after week.

Thanks to Bill Bond for sponsoring the CPR and AED training sessions with Paul Taleck, for hosting our first training session of our Medics in Our Midst program! Thanks to Shandy Roehrig, Tom Roehrig, David Franks, Chris Fraser, Phil Stepanski, and Scott McLeod for being in the first group to be trained in CPR/AED device use.

To Jeanne Mantsch and Don Niederfrank for representing our church at the Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meeting.

To Bev Mueller for writing greeting cards for the month of June.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Carl Anderson, Savannah Anderson's father, was hospitalized for just over a month with bladder and kidney issues. He has just returned home but will need to undergo further testing and follow-up procedures.

Roberta Blumenberg, was diagnosed with shingles earlier in June. She is hoping to get better soon and back to her normal routine.

Jennifer Dimmer's father, Irv Bork, died on June 5th and funeral services were held for him in Merrill on June 9th. Irv would have been 84 on June 12.

APPROVED MAY 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The May Minutes were approved at the June 13, 2023 Church Council meeting.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Church Council Minutes

May 11, 2023

Call to Order by Jason Jacque, Moderator, @ 6:37 pm

Attendees: Pastor Scott, Jason Jacque, Phil Stepanski, Ken Matthews (Zoom), Jodi Cowen, Jennifer Dimmer, Shandy Roehrig, Kathy Bretl, Bill Bond, Mike Spalding (Zoom)

Opening Meditation – Phil: Phil chaired the “Covid reopening committee” and found a prayer that is also a good fit for this meeting: “Prayer for Communal Discernment in a Meeting”.

Approval of the Minutes – April 2023- Ken Matthews motions to approve the latest version of the April minutes and Jennifer Dimmer seconds the motion. No discussion. Minutes are approved.

Monthly Budget Review / Church Management Software Update (Phil)-
Statement of Activity shown to identify the income for April.

Highlights:

- Income was increased for April due to Easter donations and Adopt-a-Bill.
- The Dr. Seuss breakfast had an expense submitted (income was shown in March).
- Building usage income of \$200 from the stamping event donation.
- \$875 building usage year to date (over budget, which is great).
- Adopt a bill up to \$6885. (breakdown shown). Request is to keep Adopt a Bill items tallied /accounted for as separate items.
- Not shown - AT&T check refund \$501.07 (just deposited) related to our change to the new service package.
- Bank Balances: Memorial Account balances updated on reports to reflect actuals. \$9000 is unspecified/not allocated. Members in Need fund still exists (started by Jeri Schmidt) = \$873 in that fund - Pastor Scott made aware if it's needed. \$2000 in metal sculpture fund. \$1536 in park project fund. Capital fund - \$400; Barb Liebnow - donation for shrub \$205. Used a donation to buy bell choir music. Reports will be updated next month to show everything in the specific accounts.

New Copier quote: Eight year old existing copier has issues and needs repairs. Phil requested a quote on a new one. Council reviewed quotes from Office Technology group and Novatech. Council agreed to request urgent fixes on the current copier

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

(covered under current service contract) and then replace it with new service contract in January 2024 and plan the appropriate amounts in the 2024 budget.

Pastor's Moment (Pastor Scott)- Quick update on Examined church. Team met at Marquette University and heard a speaker discussion on discernment work of the church and how God is at work in the community. Our team provides feedback to the program and we will have information brought back to church for the wider congregation to engage. Team is enjoying it and just finished individual reflections on the effects of the pandemic and God at work in the world. Next month's meeting topic is the effects of pandemic on our faith communities.

Old Business:

Property Team, Building maintenance updates (Bill)- The team met on 4/28. Need to be able to get more current meeting minutes into the newsletter. Team will adjust meeting timing to be more current in reporting. April activities: discussed insurance issues related to March storm. Boiler damage is being repaired by PBBS (recommended by Joe Miller - city worked with them). \$1200 damage +\$150 an hour rate- given to the insurance adjustor. Solar panel inverter was blown up. Gary Tackes is working with Arch Electric to get a quote for insurance adjustor. Four ADA doors were already repaired and given to Phil to submit bills to the adjustor. Fire alarm panel damage affects doors and will be about \$2300 to repair. Ten shingles over the sanctuary on the south side of the roof blew off. (approximately \$750 quote to repair). Several GFI outlets all over church - burned out 15 and were replaced. Thermostat in the minister's office has been repaired. Shandy Roehrig brought up that our insurance premiums will likely increase and we may need to plan for this in the next budget cycle.

Railing installation is complete. Thank you to Claude Zimmerman. A black walnut tree has been taken down by Jon Crain and he will continue working to clear trees. Brett Dimmer is assisting with the creation of a maintenance calendar (Monthly, quarterly, annual with contract information and contacts.)

Jodi Cowen volunteered to ask Amy Gilhooly about a church google drive for committees to store information.

AED and CPR training (Bill)- Eight folks interested - will be hosted for 2 hours after service in June. Date TBD.

Rental Space update (Pastor Scott)- Tamarack Adult Care Services was contacted by Pastor Scott and he has not heard anything back. Team working on this effort will meet

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

again next week to see if there are additional ideas or opportunities to pursue. We might need to contact people we talked to last year and see if anything has changed with their situations.

Wedding inquiry from last month did not pan out - they found another venue.

Spring Congregational Meeting - May 21st / Annual Reports/ Capital Campaign - (Jason)- Annual reports due to office/Beckie Perez by Sunday, 5/14. Agenda drafted by Pastor Scott and reviewed by Council. All 3 choirs will perform, baptism and a very short sermon planned.

Nominations: Still need a Treasurer and a Stewardship lead.

Pastor Parish relations - Is still building a minister evaluation process. The team is using guidance from several books to break apart sections based on what our congregation and committees are focused on. They would like to figure out how to include the congregation in the process. Base materials from UCC are being used to build this out. Team progress is good and will complete this over the next 2-3 months to execute in early fall with results at the end of the calendar year. Annual report requested for this new team.

St. Ben's coordinator - No attendees for Tuesday's meeting with Joanne Pierringer. Joanne will stay on for the short term but continues to look for a successor. Pastor Scott and Eric Olson will accompany Joanne on an upcoming St. Ben's trip. Suggestion was to highlight this in the newsletter this summer.

Additional Team Updates (Shandy, Eric, Jennifer, Mike, Ken, Jodi)

Church school - last class was on 4/30. Averaged 13-14 kids per Sunday session. Three 7th graders "graduated" who have been with the program since they were young. Might consider Sunday night activities next year to have an option for families who can't attend Sunday mornings due to sports and other activities. Will ensure no conflicts with Lighthouse.

Eric - no updates

Jennifer - Fellowship - Palm Sunday attendees were served cinnamon rolls. Team received lots of assistance with Laabs funeral. Subs and lunch items planned for 5/21.

Ken - A process of staff evaluations is in flight. Annual report in progress. Structure is in place to move ahead now.

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

Jodi - Stewardship - May 19 brat fry - call went out for volunteers and cash donations to offset groceries.

New Business:

Interest surveys will be done again in summer. Last done in spring 2022.

No other New Business.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment 8:21 pm

Minutes submitted by Jodi Cowen



FIVE TAKEAWAYS FROM THE WI CONFERENCE UCC ANNUAL MEETING

The Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting was held at Green Lake Conference Center from June 9 -11. Our church was fortunate to have five members attend in different roles, Jeanne Mantsch was our church representative, Cathy Jones was present in her role as Co-Chair of the Church and Ministry Team of the Southeast Association, Bonnie Jacque was the clergy representative from St. Paul's UCC in Erin, Don Niederfrank was present as a clergyperson (and having way too much fun driving a golf cart around), and Pastor Scott. Here are Five Takeaways from the "Wisconsin Conference Life Newsletter Annual Meeting Edition". Follow the links about the rich and insightful material presented to those in attendance.

1. **We're on a journey to becoming "the next expression of Christ in the world"**

Conference Minister Franz Rigert drew on a metaphor from Stephanie Spellers' book "The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for the Beloved Community" in describing the state of the Wisconsin Conference. Although external forces like COVID-19 and racial and political tensions have produced cracks in the Church, Franz said, the Spirit of Pentecost will continue to "refashion and renew this Church . . . to transform us, to empower us to transcend all that limits us, and ultimately to transition us into the next expression of Christ in the world." [Read the text of Franz's State of the Conference Address.](#)

2. **We got WISEer**

Delegates to the Annual Meeting unanimously approved a resolution declaring the Wisconsin Conference Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged for Mental Health. The resolution followed a year of discussion by a critical mass of Wisconsin UCC congregations. On Saturday evening, Vicki Harvey of the UCC Mental Health Network emailed Associate Conference Minister Lisa Hart with the news that Wisconsin is the fourth WISE conference in the denomination. WISE is an official designation awarded by the UCC Mental Health Network. "We are so impressed with the unprecedented effort you have made to get a large number of Wisconsin churches entering this process," Vicki wrote.

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FIVE TAKEAWAYS FROM CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING continued...

"These churches are aflame with excitement over beginning their journey." Contact Lisa (lhart@wcucc.org) for more information about how to join the WISE movement.

3. A Window of Opportunity for the UCC

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the decline of trust in institutions, including the church, yet it also accentuated individuals' appreciation for community as loneliness and mental health challenges proliferated, said keynoter Sarah B. Drummond, founding dean of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. That presents an opportunity for the UCC. "We learned that chronic loneliness is bad," she said. "The church has something to say about this. The idea that communities that check in on each other and provide spaces for moral meaning-making, I'm not sure how long that will last." [Click for a copy of Sarah's presentation.](#)

4. "Make plans in faith but hold them loosely"

In her sermon at Saturday's closing worship, Damascus Project Director Stephanie Perdew preached about the importance to faith communities of "extraordinary, improvised plans" during uncertain times. "We can improvise our plans, excessively and abundantly, with courage and hope and not just the way we've always done it," Stephanie said. "We can plan and God may laugh, but only in order to ask us to expand our imaginations toward the flourishing God intends for all of us." [Read Stephanie's entire sermon.](#)

5. Through our budgets, we build a beloved community

The way the church spends money is a statement about how we are responding to God's call in this time and place "to create a beloved community wherein lives get transformed," said the Rev. Andrew Warner, development director for the Wisconsin Conference. "Through budgets we make decisions about how we will embody God's love in the world." Examples include the Conference's investments in leadership development and congregational development. Support from congregations through Our Church's Wider Mission makes most of this work possible. Beyond gifts to OCWM Basic Support, individuals in the Conference over the past year have donated generously to refugee relief in Ukraine, earthquake recovery in Syria and Turkey, and tornado recovery in Mississippi and Alabama. [Read Andrew's complete report.](#)



Pastor Scott, Don Niederfrank, Bonnie Jacque, Jeanne Mantsch, and Cathy Jones meet up for a photo at the conference.

INVITATION TO CRAIG AND CAROLYN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

The Heatwole Family invites you to an anniversary party for Carolyn and Craig who are celebrating 50 years of marriage. The party will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday afternoon, August 6, from 1:00 - 4:00. Feel free to drop by and enjoy refreshments in honor of this special couple. The family requests no gifts please.



JULY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- | | | | |
|------|------------------|-----|----------------|
| 2 - | Lefty Fowler | 18- | Joseph Probst |
| 6 - | Violet Nelson | | James Mitchell |
| 7 - | Jennifer Dimmer | 21- | Scott McLeod |
| | Louise Mollinger | 23- | Jonda Johnson |
| 9- | Jane Schneider | 25- | Barb Olson |
| 11- | Taylor White | 26- | Blake Peiffer |
| 12- | Ralph Perez | 27- | Ann Fleischman |
| 13- | Jim Clements | 28- | Gabe Pasten |
| 15 - | Kassie McManus | 30- | Macy Eslinger |
| 16- | Haley Barber | | Joe Wilsnack |
| | | 31- | Kathy Bretl |



JULY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



- | | |
|------|---------------------------|
| 1- | Brett and Jennifer Dimmer |
| | Dave and Jeanne Mantsch |
| 6- | Brad and Payton Katzer |
| 28 - | Emil and Jane Schneider |

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

JULY 2023 CALENDAR

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2 <i>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9 am Worship Communion Service	3	4 Happy Independence Day!	5 5 - 7 pm BBQ Bible Study	6 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon	7	8
9 <i>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9 am Worship Service 10 am CPR/AED Training Session	10	11 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Yoga	12 2 - 4 pm Lighthouse Youth Group - Digital Scavenger Hunt	13 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon	14	15
16 <i>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9 am Worship Service	17	18 9:30 am Staff Meeting 1 -2 pm Lighthouse Youth Group- Talk-n-Treat at Frankie's 6 pm Yoga	19 5 - 7 pm BBQ Bible Study	20 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon	21 11 am Property Team	22
23 <i>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9 am Worship Service	24	25 9:30 am Staff Meeting 1 -2 pm Lighthouse Youth Group- Talk-n- Treat at Frankie's 6 pm Yoga	26	27 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon	28	29
30 <i>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9 am Worship Service	31					

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 Summer Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday mornings from 8:30 - Noon

Pastor Scott's Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays, and by appointment

Financial Administrator Phil's Office Hours

Monday afternoons from 4:30 - 6:30

Office Staff

Rev. Dr. Scott McLeod, Pastor - pastorscott@portucc.org
cell phone - (262) 903-0449, home phone - (262) 723-1100
Amy Gilhooly, Communications Director - amyg@portucc.org
Beckie Perez, Office Manager - office@portucc.org
Phil Stepanski, Financial Administrator - phil@portucc.org

STAY CONNECTED

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"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**

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) or use this QR code. Thank you!

