



Congregational Connections

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

MAKING ALL THINGS NEW: PHASE ONE

On May 21, at our Spring Congregational Meeting, church members voted to proceed with a financial campaign to raise \$32,000 to repair the beautiful stained glass windows in the sanctuary. The Property Team has secured several bids to make the necessary repairs and plans to accept the bid from Staige Stained and Leaded Glass Restoration, LLC in Onalaska, Wisconsin to do the work in 2024. This is an exciting opportunity to show love and care for the space that has meant so much to us during our time in the congregation.

We are calling the campaign, *"Making All Things New: Phase One"*. *Making all things new...* is a quote from Revelation 21:6 and is the inspiration behind the symbolism of the right-hand side window facing Webster Street. Phase One is a reference to our knowledge that this is only the first step in making repairs and maintaining our church building; steps necessary for the long-term health of our congregation.

We will be sending out a letter and brochure with more information about the campaign early in June. The materials will also include a pledge form and envelope to return your pledge to church by July 16. We are inviting everyone to prayerfully consider their desire to help repair the beautiful windows and to respond with a financial pledge as they are able. *"Making All Things New: Phase One"* pledges can be fulfilled through a one-time gift, or by giving on a monthly or quarterly basis over the next twelve months. Our hope is that the congregation's response will be generous, and we can joyfully and confidently move forward to begin *making all things new!*

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Scott

SUMMER SERVICES START ON JUNE 4

Beginning on June 4, we have one worship service at 9:00 on Sunday mornings during the summer months of June, July, and August. Please note - no nursery care is provided in summer.



Marking 125 Years

OUTDOOR SERVICE & CHURCH PICNIC CELEBRATION



Sunday, June 25th

Veteran's Park,
Port Washington

10:00 Sunday Morning Service

With Lunch & Games Provided After

The 125th Anniversary Team is excited to invite everyone to come to Veteran's Memorial Park on Sunday morning, June 25, for a special outdoor worship service followed by a church picnic in honor of our 125th year. Worship will not be held at the church, instead everyone will gather in the park at 10:00. A picnic lunch will be provided after the service, along with games for all!

We encourage everyone to dress casually for the service and picnic. Please consider bringing the usual assortment of things you might need to spend time outdoors: lawn chairs, sunscreen, and bug spray. Right now the plan is to have great weather, but if rain seems certain, we will move the whole event back to church and Fellowship Hall. More information will be coming in our weekly e-blasts. We hope you can join the fun!

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.



CLASS OF 2023



A Salute To Our FCC GRADUATES



Caitlin Calder

Port Washington HS

Cait will be attending Mount Mary University to study fashion design.



Ella Hoffmann

Port Washington HS

Ella will be attending UW Madison and majoring in Japanese.



Connor Cowen

Port Washington HS

Connor will be attending UW Stevens Point - College of Natural Resources, majoring in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.



Emma Kasza-James

Port Washington HS

Emma will be spending a year in Germany before studying business at Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO, and joining their mountain bike team.



Sydney Garthus

Port Washington HS

Sydney will be attending the University of Alabama Tuscaloosa. She is planning to major in international relations.



Eva Perez

Port Washington HS

Eva will be attending UW Milwaukee. She has been accepted to the School of Nursing.



CLASS OF 2023



Abbey Proctor

Homeschool

Abbey will be attending Concordia University Wisconsin to study Biology, with a minor in Spanish.



Grace Wilsnack

Cedar Grove/Belgium HS

Grace will be attending Moraine Park Technical College, to complete the Radiology Program.



Colin Umhoefer

Port Washington HS

Colin will be attending Moraine Park Technical College, to pursue a career as an electrician.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES INVITED TO CHURCH ON JUNE 11

It is a tradition to invite all high school graduates to attend church on Graduation Sunday morning, June 11, at 9:00. We understand it is a full day, but hope you might find it meaningful to join with your church community to mark this special milestone. We ask graduates to stand to be recognized and share a bit about their future plans.

OUR 2023 CONFIRMATION CLASS



Front left to right: *Pastor Scott, Andrew Arthur, Jackson Bergin, Elaina Perez, Addie Chandler, and Maile Thompson*

Congratulations to our five Confirmands; Andrew Arthur, Jackson Bergin, Addie Chandler, Elaina Perez, and Maile Thompson. On Pentecost Sunday, May 28, they affirmed for themselves the baptismal vows their parents had made for them when they were infants, and joined the church as adult members of the congregation. Each of the confirmands read their personal Statements of Faith prior to being joined by their families for the laying of hands and the act of confirmation.

This year's class has been a quiet group, but always thoughtfully engaged in the topics being discussed and willing to work hard during the mission experiences in which they participated. Special thanks to each of the families of this year's Confirmation class for their support and encouragement. Throughout the year, family members helped chaperone mission experiences, as well as serving as drivers and class helpers. They also ushered on Family Sundays when the class was helping to lead worship, and provided Nursery Care on various Sundays.



CHURCH SCHOOL KIDS SHARE WHAT OUR CHURCH MEANS TO THEM



Church School's final lesson of the program year was *The Early Church* from Acts:2. The group discussed the meaning of a congregation and what our church means to them. Take a look at their collection of

responses in the hallway outside the Music Room. One serves as the front page image for this month's newsletter! See page 11 to learn the great things that took place on Church School Sundays.



"MEDICS IN OUR MIDST" - CPR/AED TRAINING SET FOR JUNE 11 & JULY 9

Bill Bond was inspired by the experience of a friend's life being saved due to the quick CPR response of two strangers, to make sure our congregation is ready to respond should someone be in need due to a cardiac event. Fortunately, the church has an AED machine (defibrillator), but many folks are unsure how to use it. Bill hopes to have a small team that has training and knowledge of the AED as well as CPR so we will be prepared with these life-saving skills here at church. So far, nine folks, plus Bill, have committed to the training. The first of two training sessions will be held on Sunday, June 11, following the 9:00 service. Bill has graciously funded the training sessions (thank you, Bill!). Please contact Bill at bbond@freightwatch.com if you would like to be added to the list or have questions.



BBQ BIBLE STUDY - WATCHING & DISCUSSING "THE CHOSEN" SERIES

Pastor Scott will be hosting a Bible Study through the summer again this year - and you are invited to join in the fun! The group will meet on Wednesday evenings beginning at 5:00 on June 14. Scott will be cooking brats, hotdogs, and/or burgers (depending on the week), and everyone is invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will share a meal together and then watch an episode of the religious drama series, "The Chosen".

"The Chosen" is a TV series telling the story of Jesus and his disciples and is in its third season. I know many folks have heard of the show, and some have even watched episodes here and there - but we'll begin with season one, episode one. Watching an episode and spending a little time discussing and reflecting on it together will be a great way to explore the issues of discipleship and the life of faith. Each week Scott will bring in the Biblical texts upon which some of the plot points are based, as well as clarify those storylines that come from the artistic imagination of the filmmakers. Some of the episodes are longer than others (from 35 minutes to 50 minutes), but the group will end the conversations by 7:00. Please come for dinner and a fun discussion with our BBQ Bible Study this summer!



BBQ BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Evenings
starting June 14th
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall and Church Patio



END OF THE PROGRAM YEAR ON MAY 21



You may [click here](#) to watch and listen to the combined performances of our three choirs.



*"Sing A Joyful Song" (Dimmer)- Introit
Children's Choir, Chancel Choir, and
Handbell Choir (5:10)*

*"A Joyful Rhondo" (Behnke)
Handbell Choir (13:05)*

*"Seasons of Love" (Larson/Emerson)
From the Musical "Rent" - Children's Choir
and Chancel Choir (27:25)*

*"Shut de Do" (Stonehill/Hayes)
Children's Choir and Chancel Choir (44:23)*



Luncheon following the 10:00 service and Spring Congregational Meeting.

Corn Salad Recipe

Served at Spring Luncheon by Carolyn Heatwole

- 2 cans whole kernel corn, well drained
- ½ C. red pepper, chopped
- ½ C. green pepper, chopped
- ½ C. celery, chopped
- 1 bunch finely chopped green onion
- ½ C. mayonnaise
- 4 Tbsp. Ranch dressing
- 1 bag Chili Cheese Fritos

Mix everything, except Fritos, together. Chill for at least 3 hours. Stir in the bag of crushed Chili Cheese Fritos right before serving.

Hints: The person who gave me the recipe uses up to ¾ to 1 cup of chopped vegetables. Be sure to drain and dry off your vegetables well, otherwise it gets too soggy. I let the chopped vegetables sit out for a while to dry or wrap them in paper towels to squeeze out excess moisture.

SPRING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUMMARY ✓

The Spring Congregational Meeting was called to order by Moderator, Jason Jacque immediately following worship on May 21. The minutes of the Winter Congregational Meeting were approved and our Financial Administrator, Phil Stepanski presented a brief report. The Annual Reports from our Church Officers and Team Representatives on the Council were accepted.

A ballot of Church Council Officers and Team Representatives was presented for elections including a new Associate Moderator, Jodi Cowen, and new Liturgy Team Leader, Tracy Greymont. Council members continuing to serve for a second term include; Clerk - Rhonda Thompson, Property Team - Bill Bond, Fellowship Team - Jennifer Dimmer. The slate of nominees was unanimously elected. At this time there are still openings for our Treasurer and Stewardship Team Representative.

Pastor Scott, Bill Bond and Joe Mueller then introduced the “Making All Things New: Phase One” financial campaign proposal. Scott briefly reviewed the work of the Property Team in bringing forward the need for repairs to our stained glass, as well as several other projects around the church building. They also reminded those in attendance the creation of a Capital Campaign Planning Team last summer to consider appropriate ways for the church to raise funds to complete the repairs. Awareness Campaign Meetings were held this past fall to gather feedback from the congregation and raise awareness about the maintenance needs of the building.

Bill Bond then talked about seeking bids for repair of the stained glass windows because the windows were the highest priority item on the Property Team’s list of repairs. They would like to accept a bid from Staige Stained and Leaded Glass Restoration, LLC in Onalaska, WI. The “Making All Things New: Phase One” campaign would seek to raise \$32,000 in donations above and beyond regular giving over the next twelve months, to make the repairs in 2024. After some discussion, a motion to accept the bid of Staige Stained and Leaded Glass Restoration and to raise the \$32,000 was passed. Following this vote there was a reminder from Jennifer Dimmer about the RaiseRight gift card fundraising program and Pastor Scott thanked members of the church and council for their service to the congregation. Following the close of the meeting, everyone was invited to a luncheon provided by the Fellowship Team to celebrate the end of the program year. You may view the meeting on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/eMnrhPCDhqA>



2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE

Each of the Officers and Team Representatives on the Church Council, as well as various church team members, drafted reports for our 2022-2023 Annual Report. Paper copies are available in the church entryway. You may [click here](#) to access the report electronically.



Church Team Spotlight

FRIENDS FOR JUSTICE TEAM

The Friends for Justice Team is a group of individual church members from our congregation who come together around issues of justice. The group speaks to, but not for, the First Congregational Church of Port Washington. Friends for Justice (formerly The Justice Team) began its discussions of justice work in 2018. With support of a Catalyst grant from the Wisconsin Conference UCC in November 2018, the group collaborated with four other UCC congregations (2 urban and 2 suburban) to implement a 5-part Lenten Speaker Series in 2019, titled "WOKE! A Community Conversation about Racial Justice". Friends for Justice then re-organized in Summer 2020, creating a Justice page on the Church website with racial justice resources and the following guiding statement:

*But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream (Amos 5:24).
Responding to God's will, expressed in the prophet Amos' words and Jesus' call to love our neighbors as ourselves, we seek to encourage and facilitate learning and action in our congregation that furthers a just society and world.*

Beginning this year, the group has been focusing on the possibility of an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement statement. The group has been gathering resources, studying, and discussing the topic of Indigenous Land Acknowledgement thanks to the research work of Louise Mollinger and the input from team members. After much discussion, the group concluded that making a land acknowledgement statement related to FCC's land would be hollow without commitment to additional meaningful justice actions. In order to promote further consideration of meaningful justice actions, the group held two Learning Sessions last month on May 10 and 24 for all interested church members. The group will be meeting again on Wednesday morning, June 7, at 10:00 here at church to discuss further information and insights gathered at the Learning Sessions. Please take a look at the links below. There are slides from the two presentations, as well as a third document that has a wealth of resource information. Please view to learn more about land acknowledgement, the Doctrine of Discovery, and our Native Tribes.

[Slideshow](#) of Learning Session held on May 10

[Slideshow](#) of Learning Session held on May 21

[Resources](#) for both Learning Sessions

WORSHIP THEMES FOR JUNE

June 4: Acts 7:55-60 Genesis 1:1-2:4a Matthew 28:16-20

Trinity Sunday and Communion Sunday

This Trinity Sunday morning, we begin our 9:00 summer worship schedule and celebrate the Sacrament of Communion. The scripture texts invite us to explore and celebrate the many ways God is revealed in and through our continuing relationship with God's Creation.

June 11: Genesis 12:1-9 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Second Sunday after Pentecost and Father's Day

On Father's Day we reflect on how God's grace provides each one of us a fresh start. The Biblical passages tell the stories of new life for Abram and Sarai, for Mathew and a religious leader, for a young child and a woman with a chronic illness.

June 18: Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7 Matthew 9:35 - 10:8-23

Third Sunday after Pentecost

We listen as unexpected messengers deliver good news to Sarah and Abraham and to Jesus as he sends disciples to show God's compassionate love in the world and look for ways we can bring the good news of new life.

June 25: Genesis 21:8-21 Matthew 10:24-39

10:00 Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic at Veteran's Memorial Park, Port Washington

We hope the whole church is able to join in an outdoor worship morning service at Veteran's Memorial Park at 10:00. Following the service, a picnic lunch will be provided as well as games for all ages! The worship theme will invite us to make room to listen for God's steadfast love.



LIGHTHOUSE SUMMER PLANS



A reminder that Lighthouse Youth Group is off the month of June. [Click here](#) to view their plans for July and August. Lighthouse welcomes all middle school and high school to participate in their activities!



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.

CHURCH SCHOOL OVERVIEW

As summer begins, and we take a hiatus from our Church School classes, we can't help but take a look back at our 2022-2023 program year with a smile. We were blessed with a fun group of children who joined us as they were able to learn about Jesus, to celebrate our faith and to support our community. We use a curriculum called "Seasons of Fusion" which offers us bible passages summarized in ways the children can easily understand. Whether through our lessons, our craft times, or hosting Fellowship Hour, our Church School children were active and energized to learn and grow together. Below are some highlights from our lessons this past year.

- We kicked off the year by "Growing with Kindness", making name tags, and hosting a collection drive for The Food Pantry here in Port Washington.
- In October, we read the story on how the Ten were Healed, and what it means to show gratitude.
- Jesus had a "Dream for the Future" which we put into motion by participating in The Food Pantry Gift-a-Child program and decorating ornaments for the church Christmas Tree Sale.
- In December, we studied the stories of Joseph and Mary, talking about courage and faith.
- Our January story was of Jesus asking for a favor, which partnered well with the creation of thank you cards to support the Stewardship Campaign.
- We rolled up our sleeves to make Mac and Cheese for our annual Church School fundraiser, making \$770 to support our program.
- In March, we read the story of "A Visitor at the Well" and made our very own wishing wells.
- Our final lesson was of the Early Church, the meaning of a congregation, and what church means to us.

Our last Church School on April 30 celebrated the advancement of three of our 7th grade students to Confirmation next year. Chloe, Kylee, and Simon have been very active in our Church School program and will be greatly missed as they move to the next step in their faith journey.

While this is my first year as the Christian Education Team Representative, this is my eleventh year supporting our Church School program. I feel very fortunate to have had an opportunity to lead this team, and am looking forward to another fun year ahead. Stay tuned for information on our 2023-2024 program year later this summer. If you are interested in joining our Church School team, or have a talent/craft you'd like to share with us in the year ahead, please feel free to reach out.

Have a wonderful summer,
Shandy Roehrig



PROPERTY TEAM NOW MEETING ON THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

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 May minutes.



GET YOUR GIFT CARDS! GRADUATION GIFTS, SUMMER TRAVEL, & MORE

NEXT FCC ORDER IS JUNE 11

Through RaiseRight, our gift card fundraising program, 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. Be thinking about upcoming graduation gifts and summer travel!

Jennifer Dimmer and Rhonda Thompson, our church RaiseRight Coordinators, place orders the second Sunday of every month (even through summer!). You may order online or drop off your order form with payment by Sunday, June 11. The gift cards will be available at the church for pick up starting on Sunday, June 18. To enroll and place an order, head to the company website, [RaiseRight.com/enroll](https://www.raise-right.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.



PLEASE CONTINUE TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OUR AVAILABLE SPACE!



***SHARE
OUR SPACE!***

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, and 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. Let them know we have a great space!

SUMMER PLANS FOR WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP & MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Wednesday Lunch Group met for the last time this program year on May 31. They will resume meeting in September. The Men's Breakfast Group will continue to meet throughout the summer on Thursday mornings at 8:00 at the Beacon Restaurant inside the Harborview Hotel.



FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE HOURS

Phil Stepanski, our Financial Administrator, will continue to church hold office hours on Monday late afternoons, 4:30 to 6:30. Phil invites you to reach out at anytime!



OFFICE MANAGER HOURS THIS SUMMER

Beckie Perez, our Office Manager, will hold summer office hours Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 to Noon. Call, email, or stop by if you need anything!



SUMMARY OF SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATION MEETING

The annual meeting of the Southeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ was held on April 29 at Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Grafton. The day began with an opening worship at 9:00, followed by the business meeting and the keynote speaker, Rev. Rebecca Anderson. Rev. Anderson is the co-creator and co-pastor of Gilead Church Chicago, and Bethany United Church of Christ, also in Chicago. She is a very energetic and engaging speaker, who also has experience in stand-up comedy and playwriting, as well as preaching. At one point during her keynote, she passed out small slips of paper, which had printed on one side, 'I secretly love...' and on the other, 'I secretly hate...' requesting that we pick one side or the other to fill in, and provide our names. After they were collected, she picked one randomly to highlight. She picked Don Niederfrank's slip of paper, which declared 'I secretly hate rabbits!'. There was an amusing exchange between the two of them, of course, during which she asked Don why he hated rabbits. And he said 'Well, they're just so useless!'....or something like that! Following Rev. Anderson's keynote, we broke for an early lunch, followed by breakout sessions including further discussion with Rev. Anderson, what's happening at our church camps, contemplative prayer practices, a discussion with the Creation Care team, and an update on the Frieden's food pantry needs. The day ended with a short closing worship led by Rev. Ashley Nolte and the Pilgrim staff.

Submitted by Jeanne Mantsch, Attendee

SPECIAL THANKS

To Jodi Cowen, Jason Jacque, Joshua Jacque, Joe and Bev Mueller, and David Franks for organizing our church brat fry fundraiser at the Saukville Piggly Wiggly on Friday night, May 19.

To our Chancel, Children's, and Handbell Choirs, for putting on an incredible joint performance on Sunday morning, May 21, to mark the end of our church program year.

To Barb Bahr, Jennifer Dimmer, and our Fellowship Team, for hosting Bruce Laabs Sr. memorial service luncheon on Saturday afternoon, May 6.

To Terry McManus for hosting The Examen(ed) Church Thrive Team in her home each month (in May she hosted the team twice).

To Jeanne Mantsch and Don and Susan Niederfrank for representing our church at the Southeast Association Annual Meeting.

To Louise Mollinger for the research she has done and her leadership with the two "Friends for Justice" learning sessions on "What might Justice look like now?" regarding the history of our church land and the Native Peoples who lived here before European settlers arrived.

To Karen Oftedahl for purchasing Chancel Choir music, "This is a Day for Rising".

To Brett Dimmer for writing and presenting his original composition, "Sing a Joyful Song" in honor of the 125th Anniversary of our church, which incorporated the Chancel, Children's, and Handbell Choir on Sunday morning, May 21.

To our May Worship Leaders: Ric Probst, Phil Stepanski, Kitchie Allen, David Franks, Confirmation Class, Jennifer Dimmer, and Jane Spalding.

To our May Ushers: Claude and Jana Zimmerman, Ken Matthews, Mike Spalding and Jane Spalding, Margaret Niederfrank, and Peter and Becky Chandler.

To our May Communion Servers: Jodi Cowen, Jennifer Dimmer, Kathy Bretl, and Ken Matthews.

To our May Nursery Care Providers: Jennifer and Lily Dimmer, Kurt and Mia Blum, and Matt and Sarah Riemer.

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

To Mike Dimmer for cutting the church grass, edging the sidewalk, trimming the shrubs, and beautifying our church grounds!

To Elijah Perez for inscribing the Confirmation Class certificates and bibles.

To everyone who donated items for the Church School's mini-collection for our activity bags!

MORE SPECIAL THANKS

To Merlin Behnke for hand crafting wooden toys that are gifted to children baptized at our church.

To Diana Schroeder for continuing to knit baptismal blankets that are gifted to children baptized at our church.

To Renee Proctor and Family for providing floral baskets for all the tables in Fellowship Hall to enjoy at our end of the program year luncheon.

To Congregational Care Team member, Jane Schwacher, who sent out birthday and anniversary cards to our members and friends in May.

To Jane Spalding for creating the beautiful altar flowers arrangements.

To Phil Stepanski and Tracy Bretl for continuing to hang and switch out the stained glass windows in the church pulpit.

To Jennifer Dimmer and the Fellowship Team for providing subs, salads, and dessert for our end of the program year luncheon on Sunday morning, May 21. Thanks to Shandy Roehrig for providing cake.

To Claude Zimmerman and Bill Bond who installed a second handrail leading to the altar.

To Bill Bond and Dawn Guschl for continuing to prepare our communion elements.

To Kathy Bretl and Mike Spalding who are our outgoing Church Council members. We thank them for serving on the Council!

To our new incoming Church Council member, Tracy Greymont. Tracy will serve as our Liturgy Team Representative.

To Jodi Cowen for serving as Stewardship Team Representative this past year, and for being elected as our new Associate Moderator.

To Rhonda Thompson (Clerk), Bill Bond (Property Team), and Jennifer Dimmer (Fellowship Team) for being re-elected to serve a second two-year term on the Church Council.



CONGRATULATIONS

To Wes and Meghan Manderscheid who became official members of our church on Sunday morning, May 7. Wes and Meghan have two children, Cora and Raymond.

To our Confirmation Class: Andrew Arthur, Jackson Bergin, Addie Chandler, Elaina Perez, and Maile Thompson who affirmed their faith on Sunday morning, May 28 and became official members of our church.

APPROVED APRIL 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The April Minutes were approved at the May 11, 2023 Church Council meeting.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Church Council Minutes April 20, 2023

Call to Order by Jason Jacque, Moderator, @ 6:34 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 – (Ken)- Ken shared a daily devotion by Talitha Arnold, a senior minister of the United Church of Santa Fe UCC. The title is “For All That Will Be, Yes!” based on the bible verse, Revelation 21:5 (adapted) and ended with a prayer – For all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes! Amen.

Approval of the Minutes – March 2023- Ken motions to approve latest version of the March minutes and Shandy seconds the motion. Minutes are approved.

Monthly Budget Review / Church Management Software Update (Phil)- Phil says reports are accurate through March 31, 2023. The end of March is the end of the first quarter of the budget. If you compare line items to 25% that indicates the over/under budget amount so far this year. Line item 65054- Computer and Network Expenses, compared to last year is high, but the overall Administrative Costs are more where they should be. Something new Phil has been doing is to separate the expenses into their own line items for better knowledge on where the money is being spent, but that skews the individual line numbers.

The mission account balance of \$950, that is already committed is included on the Balance Statement, but he doesn't want anyone to think all the funds are available for use. That money is already committed to the Missions we support. For example Easter giving and local missions. Bill asks if the phone credit has been received yet. Phil says the credit of \$578 has not been applied yet and will be reflected in the account over the months as it will only change a little in the coming months. The deposit after Easter weekend was \$3478.00, Adopt a Bill as of April 20, 2023 totaling \$1865, with a few more coming in. Statements for 2022 were done for those asked as Phil had to do several by hand. ERC (Employee Refund Credit), has contacted Phil to gather payroll information and will look into applying for a refund on our behalf. Phil has the new software, ACS Technologies, called Relm. The three modules we will be using are General Ledger, Payroll and Membership. Phil will take payroll over, hopefully in May. We got a certificate from The Wisconsin Conference for contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). The insurance adjuster has come through to assess the damage from the storm on March 10. Once the adjuster sends the paperwork in they will come back with the okay to begin the claim. Phil plans to create a spreadsheet for all the areas of damage. Phil asked for a lease quote for the copier to get it replaced. The copier is eight years old and needs about \$2500 in work. The lease price includes a service contract for churches. A lease to own contract for about \$115 a month with per page color or black and white charge. Phil will bring an exact number for the differences on the line items to the next meeting.

Pastor's Moment (Pastor Scott)- Pastor Scott is asking permission from Council to shift some of his income from salary to housing in the Minister's package. This doesn't change his salary; He'd like to reduce salary by \$2400 (annual amount is currently \$42,000 and would become \$39,600) and then add the \$2400 into housing (annual amount is currently \$18,000 and would become \$20,400). The Council is okay with the adjustment and Phil will make the needed payroll changes. The Thrive Team is going to Marquette on Saturday. This month they have been talking about the pandemic and its effects personally and on the church as a whole. The goal is to see where we see God at work, in the church, and community. Also to see where the needs and gifts match and God is leading us in our ministry.

(continued on the next page)

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

Old Business

Property Team, Building maintenance updates (Bill)- The March storm ripped several roof shingles off and did a lot of damage. Joe Miller sent a message noting damage to auto opening handicapped doors, fire doors, boiler diagnostic boards, fire protection panel (parts no longer available), a major component in one of the inverters associated with the solar panels, some GFI protected outlets and exterior lighting. Gary Tackes figured out the phone lines and made adjustments and got them ringing in the appropriate location.

AED and CPR training (Bill)- Bill has seven members interested in the training. Bill Bond is paying for the training fee. They will start looking at possible dates to hold the training after 10am Sunday services.

Rental Space update (Pastor Scott)- Tamarack Adult Care Services came through to tour the space. They came through in March. They are interested in fellowship hall and Dennett room. They are a for profit entity. What are our tax liabilities and is there any permits needed? After some discussion, Council is not comfortable with the company making a donation instead of paying rent or using Fellowship Hall.

Spring Congregational Meeting - nominations (Jason)- Kathy has given Jason her description of responsibilities. If you are not renewing please send Jason any ideas for successors, and description of responsibilities. The meeting date is May 21, 2023.

125th Anniversary Team (Pastor Scott, Ken)- May is an informational month with information on the beginnings/start up and an article about the women's groups. The picnic in June is on the 25th and is set for Veterans Park. The Sunday church service will be held there as well. Bill has a friend with a Model T that is open to putting it on display if we'd like.

Additional Team Updates (Shandy, Eric, Jennifer, Mike, Ken, Jodi)- Church School has last meeting on April 30 with kringle and cake after. They are collecting gently used coloring books and crayons/colored pencils to replenish the kids bags for Sunday services.

Eric says the Family Promise Amazon link is through April. In May or June they'd like to do a paper drive for Family Promise.

Jennifer said the cinnamon rolls were a big hit on Palm Sunday. End of the year, May 21, will be subs. Fellowship will help support as needed for Bruce Laabs funeral service.

Mike says the communion server schedule is full through June. He will email reminders.

Ken needs a second body to sit in on the reviews.

Jodi was given a date for the brat fry but it won't work so she will look for a new date.

New Business

Council updates from Pastor Parish Relations (Shandy)- Pastor Parish Relations Team is new this year. Shandy will bring a printed list of suggested administrative requests at the next meeting. For example, it was suggested that office hours get posted. They have gathered material to create an evaluation process for the minister. They will work with Ken on the evaluations.

Group Rentals (Pastor Scott)- Pastor Scott has gotten a request to have a wedding at the church, but they don't want the package deal that the church arranged. He's wondering if he has the ability to negotiate on behalf of the church. Council agrees that Pastor Scott can make adjustments as needed.

October Meeting Motion: Kathy moved to suspend room use fee to promote use by outside groups, through the end of 2023. Claude (for Bill) seconded motion. Motion carried.- There was no specification, but members felt it wasn't spelled out with

(continued on the next page)

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

fees charged and regular use. Any use going forward where users are charged a fee from the leader members could be charged less than others from the community or a donation could be made to the church. Any congregational needs that are met through services provided at the church are different than community members using our building and charging an entry fee. Shandy motions to amend the free space agreement to stipulate that we evaluate the rental differently and consider a fee based on whether anyone approaches us and will profit from said event held in the building verses we approach someone to fill a need for the congregation. Ken seconds the motion. The vote passes.

Capital Campaign “Making all things new” (Pastor Scott)- The Awareness Campaign in fall of 2022 prioritized Making all things new. Joe Mueller and the Property Team has created a five year plan for the upcoming needs for building repair. The highest priority is the stained glass windows. Making all things new is a scripture quote that is used in describing the stain glass windows. Each of the windows have themes, the scripture used for the window on the right is making all things new. The bid is based on looks, but the Capital Campaign Team would like a contingency amount, a small percentage for just in case, for a total of \$32,000. The Capital Campaign would like to present this plan at the Spring Congregational meeting for approval. If approved, the first week of June they want to send the materials to everyone in the church with a pledge program. They will accept one time gifts/donations, or monthly pledges. Any pledges would be due back the middle of July and then receive gifts roughly August through July 2024. Ken moves we go ahead with the first phase of All Things New Campaign to commence in June of 2023. Bill seconds the motion. Any money raised beyond will be set into a building fund for future repairs. Vote passes. The Spring Congregational Meeting will be May 21. At the meeting all needs and asks for the future should be presented.

St. Benedict’s Coordinator for Ozaukee County (Pastor Scott)- The Coordinator Joann Perringer is stepping aside and would like for someone to take it on. She has come to our church to ask if anyone here is interested. Joann left the staff with a job description. Pastor Scott is asking if we should pursue this as part of our church's mission. We would be a center hub with a coordinator or two. The third Thursday of the month all year. We should post the need in the newsletter and arrange to meet with Joann if anyone is interested, but as a church we don't feel we are in a position to coordinate at this time as it seems we can't fill our own vacancies. The meeting with Joann will be second Tuesday in May on the 9th if anyone is interested in learning more.

Any other new business to come before the Council?- Bill has brought an article from the Press with regards to ARPA money that we may qualify for a portion of the grant money for capital projects.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment 8:55 pm

Submitted by, Rhonda Thompson -Clerk



CONGRATULATIONS

Baptism

To Jovie Marie Johnston, child of Scot and Danielle and sister to Jack, who was baptized into the Christian faith on Sunday morning, May 21.



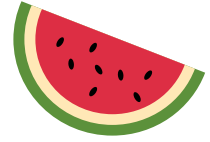
IN OUR PRAYERS

Jennifer Dimmer’s father, Irv Bork, who is in hospice care at his home in Merrill, Wisconsin.

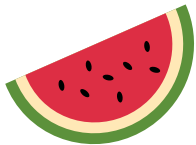


JUNE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

1 -	Jackson Bergin	16-	Scott Peiffer
	Dale Sanem	19-	Ryan Umhoefer
3-	Joyce Bria		Alice Ruffin
5 -	Don Laubenstein		Tiffany Ulicki
7 -	Janet Behnke	21-	Sydney Rychtik
10 -	Patt Westphal	22-	Dawn Guschl
11 -	Grant Bergin		Bill Bond
	Brielle Bertler		Ben Pasten
12 -	Beau Fleischmann	23-	Brett Dimmer
13 -	Bev Mueller		Tom Roehrig
14-	Norman Joplin		Tina Olson
	Colin Umhoefer	24-	Eric Oleson
	Terry Bretl	27-	Mike Perket
	Patt Cottrell		Grace Wilsnack
	Merlin Behnke		Peter Chandler
	Brad Katzer	29-	Jacob Sanem
			Ray Shupe



JUNE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



- 1 - Gary and Joyce Bria
- 6- Don and Susan Niederfrank
- 8- Scott and Laura McLeod
- 9 - Mark and Janet Maechtle
- 11 - Mike and Kelly Perket
- 13 - Ryan and Jodi Cowen
- Mark and Diana Pasten
- 15 - Allen and Patricia Cottrell
- Dave and Debra Wickesberg
- 20 - Claude and Jana Zimmerman
- 23- Aaron and Missy White
- 24 - John and Christa Karrels
- 25 - Dick and Edie Webb
- 26 - Lefty and Diane Fowler
- Ralph and Beckie Perez
- Joe and Bev Mueller
- 27 - Scott and Dani Peiffer
- 30 - Matt and Julie Schlehlein



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

JUNE 2023 CALENDAR

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon	2	3
4 Trinity Sunday 9 am Worship Communion Service 10 am 125 th Anniversary Planning Team 2 pm MKE Pride Parade	5	6 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Yoga	7 10 am Friends for Justice	8 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon	9 <i>UCC Annual Conference</i>	10 <i>UCC Annual Conference</i>
11 Second Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Worship Service Recognition for our High School Graduates 10 am AED Training	12	13 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Yoga 6:30 pm Church Council	14 5 - 7 pm BBQ Bible Study	15 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon 5:30 pm Pastor Parish (PPR)	16 11 am Property Team	17
18 Third Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Worship Service	19	20 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Yoga	21 5 - 7 pm BBQ Bible Study 7 pm Rental Property Team	22 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon	23	24
25 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10 am Outdoor Worship Service Celebrating our 125 th Anniversary at Veteran's Memorial Park + Picnic Lunch provided by church with games for all ages!	26 6:30 pm Thrive Team	27 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Yoga	28 9:30 am Congregational Care Team 5 - 7 pm BBQ Bible Study	29 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon	30	



CHURCH INFORMATION

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



Church 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

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Check out the church website - **portucc.org**

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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!

