



Congregational Connections

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

GIVING THANKS FOR OUR CHURCH

Near the end of October, the Thrive Team met as part of our Examen(ed) Church program with Marquette. The team is making plans to engage the congregation in exploration of our identity and purpose as a church. Part of this “spiritual discernment” work is recognizing the blessings that God has given to our congregation. In light of some of the problems we face as a church, as well as the fact that we are approaching Thanksgiving, I thought it might be good to share with you some of the things for which we gave thanks to God.

We talked about how thankful we were for the people of this congregation. The people that keep us coming back to worship and fellowship because we value their friendship and the support and encouragement we find here. We are thankful for the way members and friends cooperate with one another and step forward to help with the needs of the community and needs of the church. We are thankful for the incredible variety of people’s gifts and talents at work in the congregation, and the diversity of opinions and insights that the church encourages, nurtures and expects.

We gave thanks for beliefs that are a part of our church’s identity - that there are no strict interpretations of scripture or of the faith - we are open to different people. We are so thankful to be part of a church that strives to always provide an extravagant welcome. Thanks for the sacred place that our building and facility holds in people’s hearts - from the beautiful stained glass windows to the beautiful clear glass window in the chancel and in our temporary worship space in Fellowship Hall. We gave thanks for meaningful worship and transcendent music that lifts our spirits. We gave thanks for new learning in classes and as part of service projects.

These are just some of the things we are thankful for at church. What parts of the church are you thankful for this year?

Thanks be to God!
Pastor Scott

TIME TO FALL BACK ONE HOUR

At 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 5, Daylight Saving Time ends. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour or you will be an hour early for church!

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ALL SAINTS SUNDAY ON NOVEMBER 5

We observe All Saints Sunday on Sunday, November 5. Please see *page 4* for plans to lift up loved ones who have died in the past twelve months.

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CELEBRATING COMMUNION IN OUR SANCTUARY AT 8:00 ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Please note that we will hold our 8:00 Communion worship service in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning, November 5. Please see *page 9* for more information on Church Council's decision regarding our location of services while the elevator is out of order.

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NEW FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Please help spread the word that we are looking to hire a Financial Administrator. Thank you!

SEEKING FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

- ~ QuickBooks knowledge and experience, and willing to learn ACS Church Management Software
- ~ Approve budgeted expenses and pay bills
- ~ Manage and reconcile all bank accounts monthly
- ~ Maintain general ledger and chart of accounts
- ~ Written reports presented to Church Council monthly

~ 6 hours a week
~ \$20 / hour

Send resume to:
office@portucc.org



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP WITH US

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

HOLY COMMUNION

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

LINKED UP

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.



Join us for the 8:00 or 10:00 Sunday morning service, and more! Please note the 8:00 service on November 5 will be in the Sanctuary, and the remaining services will be in Fellowship Hall. Please see the calendar on *page 25* for all events.

Sunday, November 5 *All Saints Sunday (Daylight Saving Time Ends)*

- 8:00 Communion Service in the Sanctuary
- 9:00 Fellowship Hour hosted by Gary and Joyce Bria
- 9:00 Church Budget Listening Session (see *page 5*)
- 10:00 Communion Service in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 12

- 8:00 and 10:00 Services in Fellowship Hall
- Church School at 10:00
- After 10:00 Service:
 - Fellowship Hour hosted by the Fellowship Team
 - Bow Making Workshop in Fellowship Hall
 - Church Budget Listening Session

Sunday, November 19

- 8:00 and 10:00 Services in Fellowship Hall
- Kids Club at 10:00 (see *page 11*)
- After 10:00 Service:
 - Fellowship Hour hosted by the Handbell Choir

Sunday, November 26

- 8:00 Service and 10:00 Family Service in Fellowship Hall
- Fall Congregational Meeting at 10:45 a.m.
 - with Fellowship Hour hosted by the Wednesday Lunch Group



REMINDER- PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR PASTORAL EVALUATION

Our church Pastor Parish Relations (PPR) Team would like to remind all members to complete the Pastoral Evaluation. The evaluation was created with sections pertaining to different aspects of church life. Members are asked to evaluate any area they feel comfortable and can easily skip over questions they may not feel able to complete. Every section invites you to comment, please do so! Responses will be gathered by the PPR Team for review and consideration, with a plan to have goals ready for the new year. All submitted evaluations are anonymous and will be managed with care. You can print a **paper copy** or submit your responses **online**. Please complete by November 10. Thank you!



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - EMAIL NAMES OF LOVED ONES BY NOVEMBER 2

All Saints Sunday is a traditional time to remember friends, family, and church members who have died in the previous twelve months. We often think of “saints” as those who were perfect in their faithfulness during their time on earth. However, in the early church the word “saint” simply referred to any Christian in general. This service recognizes the bond of Christians that stretches beyond this world; the common bond of the church here on earth and the church triumphant in heaven. All Saints Sunday also recalls Hebrews 12:1 in which we are “surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses” as we continue in faithful discipleship.

During worship we will speak the names of our loved ones. We would like to list their names, as well as dates that mark their lifetime, and their relationship to our congregation. Please email Beckie at office@portucc.org by Thursday, November 2. Thanks for your help to make this All Saints Sunday a meaningful experience.



ELEVATOR UPDATE - ONE MONTH AFTER ASSESSMENT FROM ELEVATOR COMPANY

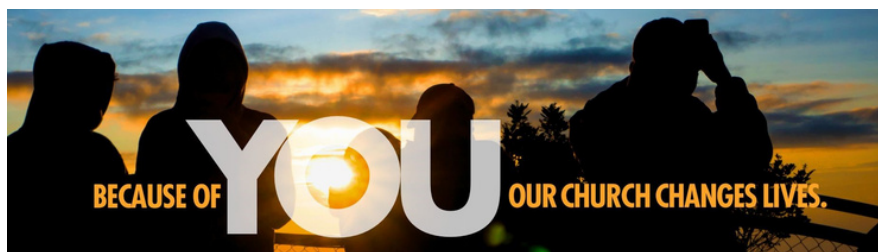
On September 26, we received confirmation that our elevator, installed in 1991, has a serious hydraulic fluid leak due to a hole in the piston casing below ground. This means that the entire piston (15-18 feet in length) must come out and be replaced. The Property Team has been in conversation with three companies to receive bids to make the necessary repairs. The initial “ballpark” cost of the project remains in the \$60,000-\$100,000 range. Unfortunately, there is much that we don’t know about the cost of the repairs until the project begins and we discover what is going on below ground. Members of the Executive Team have been reaching out to the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund, where we received a loan to repair windows and siding in 2020, and the United Church of Christ Building and Loan Fund, to inquire about financing. We have also reached out to a local bank to compare interest rates and terms of a loan.

Last month we had hoped to be able to move quickly on receiving bids, acquiring financing, and making decisions, but the reality of working with three different companies and having them give serious consideration of our situation, has made it clear that we need to slow down. In September, the Council gave approval to conduct a Special Congregational Meeting as soon as suitable plans were developed with the best bid and financing options. When those are in hand, church members will be given two weeks notice of the date for a Special Meeting required by our Church Constitution, and we can vote on how to proceed.

It is important to lift immense thanks to our Property Team: Bill Bond, Joe Mueller, Gary Tackes, and Claude Zimmerman, who have all spent numerous hours on the phone and meeting with elevator representatives, pouring over bids with pages of “fine print” details, and sorting through the various options and bringing their questions back to the companies for answers. They have really put forth an extraordinary effort in an extraordinary year for our church building. Please see *page 9* for information on the location of our services while the elevator is out of order.

OUR ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Because of you, our church changes lives! Our annual Fall Stewardship Campaign provides a chance to think in a particular and prayerful way about the choices we make with our money in support of the church. This month we begin our 2023 Stewardship Campaign to support the ministry of our church in 2024. Christian Stewardship is about more than the church's need to receive; it is about our need to give as an act of discipleship! As we move through November, several members of the congregation will share their thoughts and experiences about the ways our church has helped to change lives and how your continued support will encourage even more transformation. Everyone will receive a stewardship mailing explaining the needs of our church, our financial goals, and the many ways to make a financial pledge. The Stewardship Team asks everyone to respond before December 10 so that we can solidify our 2024 budget. Your prayerful, generous, and timely response will help to make the new year one filled with blessings for our faith community.



NAVIGATING OUR 2024 BUDGET TOGETHER

An Invitation From Our Moderator to Participate in One of Our Listening Sessions to Be Held on November 5, 12, and 16

Traditionally, our church has operated with an annual budget that included a modest deficit between our revenue and expenses. Over the years, we have managed to address these shortfalls through a combination of generous pledges, careful budgeting, and judicious withdrawals from our savings. This approach has allowed us to maintain our mission and ministry with dedication and commitment.

However, we now find ourselves in the midst of what can only be described as a perfect storm of financial challenges. Our transition from a long-term pastoral relationship, the loss of our partnership with Port Pre-School, and the ongoing effects of a post-pandemic world have all contributed to this perfect storm. Our savings accounts will no longer be sufficient to cover the proposed 2024 budget deficit, leaving us in an extremely vulnerable position in 2025.

These financial challenges come at a time when we are also grappling with the demands of our aging infrastructure - including window repairs, elevator maintenance, and other essential building needs. This compound set of circumstances has led the Executive Committee to explore various options to bridge the budget gap. While each option has its merits and challenges, none on its own may lead us to a balanced budget, and all of them will require the support and involvement of our congregation.

(continued on the next page)

CHURCH BUDGET LISTENING SESSIONS continued...

The options we are considering include:

- 1.) **Status Quo:** Control costs and make small cuts whenever possible.
- 2.) **Increase Revenue:** Focusing on replacing rental income and increasing pledges.
- 3.) **Deep Cuts:** Relying on more volunteers to provide for our congregation.
- 4.) **Staff Consolidation:** Acknowledging that staff provide valuable services but represent a significant payroll expense.
- 5.) **Reduced Pastoral Services:** Transitioning from a full-time to a part-time Pastor, resulting in reduced services.
- 6.) **Shared Ministry:** Reducing costs by sharing a minister with another local UCC congregation.

Because your voice matters, we invite you to actively participate in this important decision-making process. To do so, we will be hosting three Listening Sessions during the month of November, followed by our Fall Congregational Meeting (*see below*). Your input is invaluable, and we encourage you to learn more about these options, express your thoughts, and hear from others.

Here are the dates and times of the Church Budget Listening Sessions:

- Sunday, **November 5** at 9:00 a.m. in the Dennett Room
- Sunday, **November 12** at 11:00 a.m. in the Dennett Room
- Thursday, **November 16** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

We ask for your prayers of wisdom and courage as we navigate these financial challenges together. Your involvement and support are crucial as we work to ensure the continued strength and vitality of our beloved First Congregational Church.

Yours in faith and community,
Jason Jacque, Church Moderator



FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 26

Please plan to attend the Fall Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 26, immediately following the 10:00 worship service in Fellowship Hall. A proposed church budget for 2024 will be presented to the church and will be the primary item on the agenda. Remember that the proposed budget is a working document and can be amended and changed prior to being voted on at the Winter Congregational Meeting at the end of January. We plan to abbreviate the 10:00 worship so that we can start the meeting at 10:45. Our plan is to present the budget in a timely manner to as many members of the congregation as possible. We are, after all, a Congregational church - which means that decisions are made not by any single person, or group of leaders, but by the vote of the entire membership.

PREPARATIONS FOR OUR 38th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

We are getting excited for our upcoming Christmas Tree Sale! The trees will arrive on November 21 and will once again be unloaded by high school students. The Sale begins the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 24. Not only is the Tree Sale the biggest fundraiser for our church, it is a beloved tradition within our church and community. You are invited to participate in a variety of ways:



Be on the lookout for an e-blast with the link to sign up to help sell trees.



Help set up the lot on Saturday morning, November 11, at 8:00. Bring a pair of work gloves and come lend a hand.



Decorate ornaments. Church School will, once again, paint wooden ornaments to give to customers. If you are interested in decorating a dozen or so ornaments, please contact the Church Office.



Make bows for the wreaths that will be for sale after the 10:00 service on November, 12. See *next blurb* for more information.



FELLOWSHIP EVENT - BOW MAKING WORKSHOP ON NOVEMBER 12

Learn, Make, & Take Christmas Bows!

Come learn to make hand-tied bows on Sunday, November 12, from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. You will be instructed how to tie Christmas bows big and small! The main objective is to make bows to adorn the Christmas wreaths that will be sold at our Christmas Tree Sale. We will also make time so that you can make bows to take home. This workshop will be led by Beckie Perez and Jennifer Dimmer. Ribbon and wire will be provided, but feel free to bring your own, too!



HELP US SUPPORT LOCAL GIFT-A-CHILD PROGRAM THIS MONTH

Our Community Outreach Team and Church School program are co-sponsoring Gift-a-Child through The Food Pantry again this year. Our congregation will be sponsoring ten children ranging in ages from 1 to 15. Each child has a wish list, broken down into four categories: something they want, something they need, something to wear, and something to read. A small Christmas Tree will be set up in Fellowship Hall and each child/gift combination will be entered onto an ornament. If you wish to sponsor a child/gift, please select an ornament and add your name to the corresponding tracking list. The wish list for the child and any sizes provided will be included on the ornament. Please deliver all gifts along with the ornament (for tracking purposes) to the table outside the Music Room no later than November 25. Gifts are to be unwrapped, but if you wish to send along wrapping paper and bows, they will be delivered along with the gifts. Thank you!

FELLOWSHIP EVENT - CHRISTMAS SWAG WORKSHOP ON DECEMBER 3

Make & Take Swags Plus Cookie Exchange!

Save the Date for another fun event hosted by the Fellowship Team on Sunday, December 3, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Join the team in making your own Christmas Swag with fresh boughs. There will also be a Christmas Cookie Exchange, simply bring three dozen cookies. Please sign up in advance by contacting Jennifer Dimmer, our Fellowship Team Chair, at jenniferdimmer@gmail.com. If it works for you to come at the last minute, just show up!

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR *Breakfast with Santa* ON DECEMBER 16



We are excited to host a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday morning, December 16 from 8:00 to 11:00 here at church. Ticket prices are \$12 for adults and youth, \$10 for children age 9 and under (toddlers 2 and under are free). The event will include a delicious breakfast with pancakes, eggs, ham, milk, OJ and hot chocolate, plus a visit with Santa Claus and photo opportunities, too! Check out the real Santa who will be here by visiting his Facebook page "Santa Claus Scott". What a fun way to celebrate the season! Bring the whole family and invite your friends and neighbors! As we get closer to the event date, we will be looking for volunteers to assist with Breakfast with Santa. Consider giving a couple of hours to set-up, clean-up, help cook or serve, be one of Santa's helpers, help with crafts or activities - there will be lots of ways to help!

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125 YEARS OF CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS - PLEASE SHARE PHOTOS!

Plans are in the works for a Christmas Pagaent Bulletin Board highlighting our congregation's past pagaents. We have a few photos in our collection of historical items but know that many more are in family albums, photo boxes, or digital folders. Do you have photos of family members dressed as one of the characters? A group shot of the entire cast? A rehearsal moment? Please look for your pictures and share them by Sunday, November 19. Send your digital pics to Jane Spalding at jvrspalding@gmail.com. You may scan old photos (color or b&w) or just take a picture of your old photo with your phone. Actual photos may be left in 125th Anniversary mailbox near the church office. Photos will be handled with care, scanned and returned to you. Remember to note the year and identify folks as you are able. Thank you!

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LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Please plan to join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 for Advent Vesper Services in Fellowship Hall, on December 6, 13, and 20. Also, mark your calendar and help spread the word that our Sunday Christmas Eve services will be held at **10:00 a.m.** (Confirmation Christmas Pagaent) in Fellowship Hall, **7:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall, and **9:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary.



GATHERING TOGETHER AS ONE BODY

At the October 19 Church Council meeting, it was decided that we would continue to hold both Sunday morning worship services in Fellowship Hall, except for the 8:00 a.m. Communion service on the first Sunday of the month and the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service. The Sanctuary upstairs will be open and heated on Sunday mornings with the worship service shown on our large-screen TV at 10:00 a.m. for folks who would like to worship there. The online poll (which can be viewed by [clicking here](#)) showed option #1 “All in Fellowship Hall” as the top choice.

Please read a portion of a letter written by Craig Modahl who was instrumental in our church’s decision to become an “Accessible to All” church years ago. Most of you know, Craig is an ordained UCC minister and served on the national Disability Ministries Board for several years. Craig’s subject line read, “Gathering Together as One Body”.

In 2009, our church became one of the first churches in the UCC to be designated as an Accessible to All (A2A) congregation. We went through a period of study, reflection, evaluation and planning to apply for that designation through the UCC Disability Ministries Board. We committed ourselves to do everything in our power to include the full participation of people with disabilities in the life of our church. We recognized that this was a commitment that would require continued attention through the years as accessibility continues to evolve.

With the elevator out of service, we have suddenly found ourselves in a difficult situation. We have lost one of the most visible elements of that A2A commitment – full access for everyone to our sanctuary. This is a temporary situation that will require a substantial financial commitment and patience to rectify.

It is not only the commitment we made 14 years ago that compels us to provide a temporary solution enabling everyone to gather together for worship, but also the commitment we have to each other – to those who come together every week – to fully participate in the life of our faith community. While it may be disappointing to relocate our services until accessibility to the sanctuary is restored, denying full participation in the life of our church to those with mobility restrictions would be a tragedy. Telling our friends that they will need to separate from the rest of the congregation is the equivalent of telling them to stay home so that we – the able-bodied members – are not inconvenienced. We are remarkably fortunate to have a beautiful space in which to gather during this time – Fellowship Hall.

We know it will take several months for the elevator to be repaired, bringing us through the season of Advent and Christmas. During this time of year, extended members of our families often join us in celebration. Some of those members will be elderly and people with disabilities. Dividing our families according to their physical abilities with the able-bodied walking to the sanctuary and those with limited physical access being directed to a separate space or telling them to stay home contradicts what gathering as one body means. We are a community, a body of Christ, wherever we gather together as one.

Signed, Craig Modahl



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Calling All Crafty Kids!

At our Church School class on November 12, we will be reading a passage from Luke 17:11-19 focusing on Saying "Thank You" to God (curriculum can be found [here](#)). Our activity for the day will be creating our own Thank You ornaments, to be handed out to our customers during the Christmas Tree Sale beginning on November 24. We will be using paint and markers in the creation of our ornament masterpieces, so there is no need to wear your Sunday best. Our Confirmation Class (or any members young at heart) is welcome to join us during the 10:00 service!

Our Church School kids would like to thank those who donated to our collection drive for the Port Washington Food Pantry. For the past several years we have kicked off our program year with a donation drive and are always impressed by the generosity of our members. We received an assortment of breakfast cereals, soups, canned vegetables and fruits, and a few personal care items as well. Thank you for helping to instill a service heart in our Church School kids!

New in November! As an extension of our Church School program, we have started **Kids Club**! Please see *next page* to learn all about our plans!

As a reminder, all school age children 4K-7th grade are welcome to attend Church School and Kids Club activities at any time. We understand families are often very busy on weekends, especially in the fall. We focus on a different story and activity each month, making it easy to join as time permits.

As always, we welcome all children ages 4K-7th grade to join us for Church School!

Blessings,

Shandy Roehrig

Christian Education Team Representative on Church Council and Church School Team Leader

UPCOMING CHURCH SCHOOL DATES

Church School, open to all 4K through 7th graders, meets on the second Sunday of each month at 10:00. Here are the fall Church School dates:

	November 12
	December 10

new! KIDS CLUB

Kids Club, also open to all 4K through 7th graders, meets on the third Sunday of each month. Here are the first two dates:

	November 19
	December 17

FAMILY SUNDAYS

On the fourth Sunday of every month at 10:00, the church hosts a Family Service which includes the participation of our youth, specifically the 8th grade Confirmation Class. Here are the fall Family Service dates:

	November 26
	December 24

NURSERY CARE

Every Sunday morning during the 10:00 service we provide Nursery Care for children newborn through elementary. Care is mostly provided by our 8th grade Confirmation students and their families. Our Nursery is located in the Gilomen Room, across from the restrooms.

LEARN ABOUT KIDS CLUB - AN EXTENSION OF CHURCH SCHOOL



As an extension of our Church School program, we have started Kids Club! The club is a chance to gather outside of our second Sundays to expand on the themes of the month. At this time, Kids Club will meet on the third Sunday of the month. The first Kids Club event will be held on Sunday, November 19, during the 10:00 service. All children will join their families in worship, and following a performance by the Handbell Choir, will gather in the classrooms for an activity. There will also be Kids Club on December 17. We hope your children will join us for Kids Club!

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CONFIRMATION CLASS FULL OF ACTIVITY

October was the first full month of activity for this year's Confirmation Class. They have been exploring the Bible and began to unpack the Trinity by discussing the first "person" - God the Creator. The class traveled to Daycholah Center on the shore of Green Lake to help with a camp workday. They spent the better part of a day painting in one of the overnight housing buildings called Oak Mound Lodge, participated in a Creation Care worship service, had lunch, and toured the camp. The class also did an excellent job helping to lead worship on October 22. This month they will be assisting the The Food Pantry here in Port Washington by preparing thanksgiving baskets, and their classroom time will focus on the second "person" of the Trinity - Jesus Christ. On November 26, the class will assist during the 10:00 Family Service.



Confirmation Class at Daycholah Center on October 14.

OUR CHURCH TO TAKE PART IN THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Join Pastor Scott and members of our church as we gather for this Ecumenical Service.



“Grounded in Gratitude”

An ecumenical community Thanksgiving celebration

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Tuesday, November 21nd at 7:00 PM

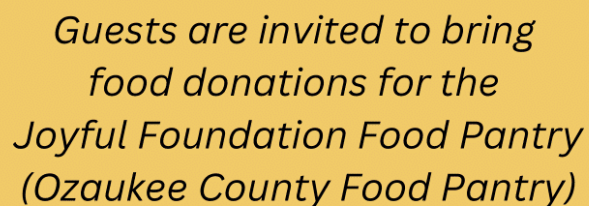
Redeemed Christian Church of God

Household of God

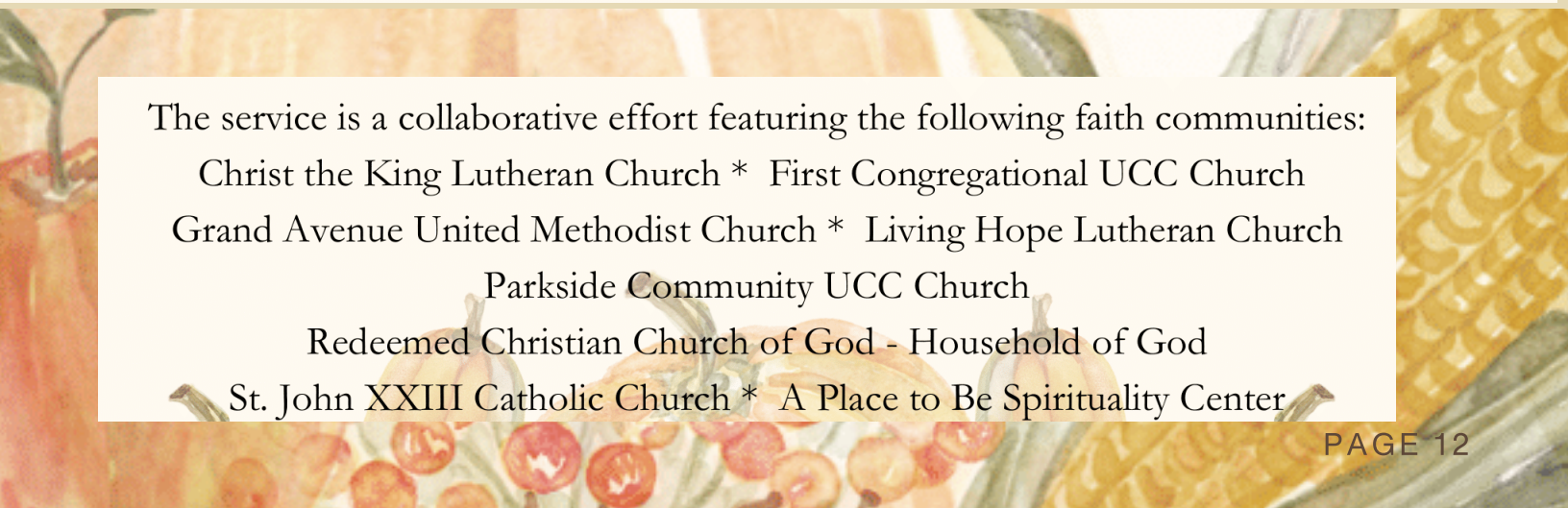
341 S. Dries St., Saukville



*Pie Social!
following
the service.*



*Guests are invited to bring
food donations for the
Joyful Foundation Food Pantry
(Ozaukee County Food Pantry)*



The service is a collaborative effort featuring the following faith communities:

Christ the King Lutheran Church * First Congregational UCC Church

Grand Avenue United Methodist Church * Living Hope Lutheran Church

Parkside Community UCC Church

Redeemed Christian Church of God - Household of God

St. John XXIII Catholic Church * A Place to Be Spirituality Center

DROP BY FOR LUNCH (AND STUDY) ON WEDNESDAYS

Our weekly Lunch Group meets **Wednesdays at Noon**. Bring your own lunch and join this fun and friendly group for interesting conversation! The group reads and discusses the Bible passages that will be used in worship the next Sunday. You don't need to be a Bible expert to participate - just a little curiosity is all that is necessary! Pastor Scott provides a little background information about the scripture and the conversation naturally moves on from there. There is usually lots of laughter and the group shares opinions, stories, insights, and perspectives. Plan to join us for Wednesday Lunch Group - you'll be glad you did!

YOGA OFFERED ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Everyone is welcome to participate in a yoga class each **Wednesday evening at 6:00** at church, led by Dawn Stacey, a licensed yoga instructor and PTA. The group meets in the open classroom space across from the Music Room. Each class costs \$12, payable to Dawn via check, cash, or Venmo.

THURSDAY MORNING MEN'S BREAKFAST

Every Thursday morning at 8:00 a group of members and friends of our church meet for coffee, breakfast, and conversation. This delightful group of men meet at The Beacon restaurant, located downtown on the first floor of the Harborview hotel. The FCC 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 the morning and jumpstart your day!

OUR CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAM

We currently offer two dynamic choirs - Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir. Our Children's Choir is on hiatus at the moment. Our Chancel Choir rehearses 6:30-7:30 on Monday evenings, and performs on the second and fifth Sunday of every month. Our Handbell Choir rehearses 7:00-8:00 on Wednesday evenings, and performs on the third Sunday of every month. Please know that you and your family and friends are invited to join at any time!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR - A CHANCE TO CONNECT WITH CHURCH FRIENDS

We host a Fellowship Hour following our 8:00 service on the first Sunday of each month, and following our 10:00 services on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with other families and friends in the church. Please make an effort to introduce yourself to people you haven't met. This month there will be coffee served on each Sunday morning, hosted by various teams of the church! See *page 3* for details.

LIGHTHOUSE - NOVEMBER PLANS

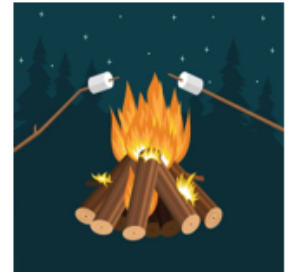


Our church partners with four churches: Grand Avenue United Methodist Church, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Living Hope Lutheran Church, and Parkside Community United Church of Christ, located in Port Washington and Saukville, to support our joint ecumenical initiative - Lighthouse Youth Ministry. All middle school and high school youth are invited to participate! Here are their plans for November:

Sunday, November 12th from 7:00-8:00 pm

Bonfire Night

Come enjoy a fall evening under the stars with a Lighthouse bonfire. Games, s'mores, and other snacks will be provided. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on.



Sunday, November 26th from 6:00-7:00 pm

Friendsgiving Celebration

In the season of giving thanks, we are so thankful for all the amazing students that make up Lighthouse! Join us for a night of celebrating one another as we gather for a meal together. **Everyone is asked to bring a favorite breakfast meal/item** to share for a wacky and delicious potluck.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISER SAVE THE DATE!



[Click here](#) for the full event flyer and [here](#) for more event information.

Please contact Christin at (262) 483-9582 or christin.flucke@lighthouseyouth.org if you have any questions. Stay up to date on any schedule changes as well as event reminders by joining the Lighthouse message group on the Remind app. Simply text "pwseym" to 81010 and follow the directions to join! Check out **Lighthouse - Port Washington Saukville Ecumenical Youth Ministry** on Facebook or go to their website at lighthouseyouth.org.

THEMES FOR WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

November 5: Revelation 7:9-17 Matthew 5:1-12

All Saints Sunday, Communion Sunday

On this All Saints Sunday we celebrate the Sacrament of Communion with the “great cloud of witnesses” of those who have come before us. In worship we will remember our friends and loved ones who have died in the previous twelve months.

November 12: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Matthew 25:1-13

24th Sunday after Pentecost, Chancel Choir

The Gospel text has Jesus using a parable about being prepared for God’s actions in the world, when opportunity knocks, we don’t want to find the doors locked. We are invited to choose to trust in God’s abundance and share all that we are.

November 19: Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Luke 17:11-19

Thanksgiving Sunday, Handbell Choir

The importance of giving thanks and remembering our blessings are lifted in the scripture texts this week. The Gospel of Luke tells the story of a miraculous healing of ten individuals with leprosy - will they show their gratitude?

Tuesday evening, November 21, at 7:00

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service

“Grounded in Gratitude” is the theme of this year’s ecumenical community Thanksgiving celebration held at Redeemed Christian Church of God, Household of God, 341 S. Dries Street, Saukville. Everyone is invited to bring food donations for the Joyful Foundation Food Pantry (Ozaukee County Food Pantry). Plan to stay for a Pie Social following worship. See *page 12* for more information.

November 26: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Matthew 25:31-46

Reign of Christ Sunday, Family Sunday

On this last Sunday of the Christian calendar (next week is the first Sunday of Advent and a new Christian year), we take Christ’s call to heart, and seek to imagine the world of love and justice God hopes for this world.



FRIENDS FOR JUSTICE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 8

On Wednesday morning, November 8, the Friends for Justice Team will be meeting from 9:30 to 11:00 in the Dennett Room to reflect on their field trip to Keshena at the end of September. You are welcome to attend to learn more about the Menominee people, what the group experienced, and further plans. The group will have a pot of tea with a blend purchased at the Keshena gift shop as well as a pot of coffee. See *next page* for more information about the field trip.



REPORT ON MAKING ALL THINGS NEW: PHASE ONE

Stained Glass Repair to Begin This Spring

While we're concerned about the cost of repairs for our broken elevator, let's not forget that earlier this year we were able to raise over \$32,000 to fix and maintain the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. This is a significant achievement and should not be overlooked! After successfully completing the pledge and gift portion of the campaign, our Property Team signed a contract with Staige Stained and Leaded Glass Restoration, LLC to make the necessary repairs as soon as they can in 2024. Our hope is that work on the windows will begin as temperatures warm up in the spring of the new year.



2024 SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP TO FARM IN OHIO

For the third summer in a row, high school youth from our church are invited to participate along with Pilgrim UCC in Grafton, in a mission trip. In 2022 the group traveled to Hazard, Kentucky to work with Appalachia Service Project. In 2023 the youth group traveled to St. Louis, Missouri for an Urban Mission Experience. This coming summer, the group will be heading to Hiram, Ohio to work for the week at Hiram Farm Living and Learning Community July 7-14. They are a rural nonprofit organization that provides services for adults with developmental disabilities, with an emphasis on autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The Farm provides opportunities to grow, learn, work, and live in a setting focused on respect and support for individuals and the environment. Mission trips are wonderful - always filled with fun and meaningful experiences. Please contact Pastor Scott if you are interested, we would love to have a large contingent of our church youth take part!



FRIENDS FOR JUSTICE FIELD TRIP TO KESHENA IN SEPTEMBER

Near the end of September, eight members of our church traveled to Keshena, Wisconsin, to visit the Menominee Indian Tribe's Cultural Museum and Logging Museum. The field trip was organized by our Friends for Justice Team, which has been exploring and discussing justice issues related to the indigenous peoples who lived in Port Washington prior to European settlement. People of the Menominee tribe lived on the land we now know as Port Washington for hundreds of years before us. The group was warmly welcomed by one of the museum directors, Jean Cox, and shown a video describing some of the tribe's history. They toured the exhibits in the Cultural Museum and enjoyed lunch at the Logging Museum nearby. The group had a delicious lunch of fry bread tacos, fruit, and tea. Following lunch, Doug Cox (Jean's husband), a former tribal council member, talked about the Back Forty Mine project. This proposed open pit, metallic sulfide mine located on the banks of the Menominee River in Lake Township, Michigan would be placed on land considered sacred to the Menominee people. It is of great environmental concern to the surrounding area, and of great cultural concern to the Menominee. The tribe has been working with other groups to prevent the mine from opening for over a decade. The entire day was a great learning experience for those who attended.

On Wednesday morning, November 8, the Friends for Justice Team will be meeting from 9:30 to 11:00 in the Dennett Room to reflect on the day spent in Keshena. You are welcome to attend to learn more about the Menominee people, what the group experienced, and further plans. There are tentative plans to return to Keshena next spring to attend a Pow Wow celebration.



Group photo with Doug and Jean Cox taken in front of a wooden bear sculpture. The bear is an important part of the Menominee creation story.



CRAZY HAT DAY PHOTOS



BBQ Lunch on October 15.

A LABOR OF LOVE! THANK YOU TO MIKE DIMMER

Our flower beds, shrubs, and grounds have been manicured and cut back for the season, thanks to Mike Dimmer. This is no easy task! Mike graciously brings in his own equipment and works behind the scenes all year long to help keep our church a beautiful cornerstone in our community. With no line item in our church budget for lawncare and landscaping, Mike has certainly saved us several thousand dollars over the years. Our sincere thanks to Mike!



RAISERIGHT GIFT CARD FUNDRAISING PROGRAM



Jennifer Dimmer and Rhonda Thompson, our church RaiseRight Coordinators, will be placing an order on Sunday, November 12. The gift cards will be available at the church for pick up starting on Sunday, November 26. You can enroll and place an order on the company website, RaiseRight.com/enroll. Our church enrollment code is **P8I47VHNX56H**. Or, you can complete the **paper form** and write out a check to the church. Thank you!

SUNDAY SERVERS - ONLINE SIGN-UP



We will continue to utilize SignUpGenius for Sunday Servers sign ups. If you have any questions, please reach out to Beckie in the church office.

USHERS

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

WORSHIP LEADERS

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

NURSERY CAREGIVERS

Watch over children newborn through elementary in our nursery during the 10:00 service. The 8th grade Confirmation Class will be helping out, but we need some additional help. 8th graders and high schoolers must be accompanied by a parent.

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive Team

Moderator: Jason Jacque (2024)
Associate Moderator: Jodi Cowen (2024)
Clerk: Rhonda Thompson (2025)
Treasurer: *currently vacant* (2025)

Team Representatives

Christian Education: Shandy Roehrig (2024)
Fellowship: Jennifer Dimmer (2025)
Staff Support and Review: Ken Matthews (2024)
Property: Bill Bond (2025)
Community Outreach: Eric Olson (2024)
Liturgy: Tracy Greymont (2025)
Stewardship: *currently vacant* (2025)

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The September minutes were approved at the October 19, 2023 Church Council meeting.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church Council Minutes

September 14, 2023

Call to Order by Jason Jacque, Moderator, @ 7:08 pm.

Pastor Scott, Jason Jacque, Tracy Greymont, Phil Stepanski, Bill Bond, Eric Olson, Jodi Cowen, Jennifer Dimmer, Ken Matthews, Shandy Roehrig and Rhonda Thompson.

Opening Meditation - (Eric) Eric read an Autumn Prayer by Rev. Doug Leonhardt, S. J.

Approval of the Minutes - August 2023 Tracy motions to approve the August minutes and Eric seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Financial Administrator Updates - (Phil)

- Monthly Budget Review - Looking at the Budget vs Actual Report through August of 2023, there are no surprises. Gross Profit total of \$139,566 (2023 Budget is \$202,186), Total Expenditures come to \$151,152 (2023 Budget is \$255,926) for a \$11,586 deficit (2023 Budget is estimated to end with \$53,740 deficit). The Bank Account Balances as of August 31, 2023 are as follows: Main Checking is \$4,939.21; Scrip Checking is \$1553.79; Mission Account is \$1890.00 (Mission Commitment is -\$1690.00); Memorial Account Savings is \$39,445.10 (Making All Things New Commitment is -\$23,780.00) and the Cornerstone Fund is \$25,650.82 . Total money available is \$51,388.92. The Window Loan balance total is \$2,175.46. The Home Depot Raise Right gift card balance is at \$39.56. Jodi asked about the

(continued on the next page)

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

electric line amount and Phil will look into it as it doesn't look right. There was a huge jump in the amount of the transaction. The other extreme number was in computer and network line number.

- Insurance Claim Update - Phil has created a report with Replacement Cost Value and Actual Cash Value and based on money received Phil thinks there is little insurance money due to come in yet.
- Financial Administrator Position Description - The current version is accurate, but not complete. It should probably be revised and some responsibilities divided. Phil is going to make a list.
- 2024 Budget - A draft budget has been created for 2024 with numbers of status quo which again has a deficit. If things stay the same the draft 2024 budget deficit will be about \$47,000 with no extra funds in memorial accounts to cover the deficit as there has been the past couple of years.

Old Business

Property Team/Building Maintenance - (Bill) - The two air conditioning units were quoted as shorted to the ground from one quote. Another company has come in and managed to get one unit running. The other needs to be replaced and that would cost up to \$9000.

Council will wait to purchase/repair as the season is changing to require heat.

During the elevator inspection a leak was discovered and the elevator is not usable. In order to figure out what repairs are needed it will cost about \$9000 to have a crew here to look at the elevator, but an estimated quote for repair is expensive. Bill motions to start with the exploratory work with costs not to exceed \$10,000 and to be paid within 30 days as contract dictates from church funds as needed. Jennifer seconds the motion.

Rental space Update - (Pastor Scott)-Advertise in Oz Press Nothing has been done as materials need to be gathered to place advertisement. Pastor Scott is wondering if it's possible to start our own child care facility. He will reach out to a local facility to see if they need a satellite extension for infant care.

Council Updates from Pastor Parish Relations - (Shandy) The plan is to launch a Pastoral Evaluation October 1st with a month for replies to be filled out and turned back in. The materials have been put together. Brett Dimmer will help to make it digital. Paper options will be available.

Ministry Options Survey - (Pastor Scott) - About twenty surveys have been returned.

Council Positions - (Jason/Pastor Scott) Treasurer/Stewardship/Financial Administrator - Advertise in the Oz. Press - Another name was brought up and Pastor Scott will reach out.

Additional Team Updates (Shandy, Eric, Jennifer, Tracy, Ken) - Shandy said Church School kicked off last Sunday with a small group. In October the theme is Loving Ways which

(continued on the next page)

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

includes a service project with the Port Food Pantry. They will have Donuts with Grown Ups (with crazy hats) to replicate a crazy hat day found in the 125 year celebration articles. In November they plan to have Church School in the evening with ornament painting for Christmas Tree Sales. Eric says the Outreach Team has the wagon for the food drive and they plan to do the Christmas Toy Drive again this season. Jennifer says Fellowship plans to do BBQ Pork on the third Sunday of October for Fellowship hour. In November they will have a bow making activity. In December they will host making a bough craft. Ken has a couple staff reviews left and a plan for the coming year.

New Business

Worship Location - Council discusses moving the service to Fellowship Hall and having Fellowship in the open classroom until further notice.

Hosting Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble Concert - (Pastor Scott) - Pastor Scott asked if we could host a concert. They would be available on Saturday December 9th for \$1500. Getting a sponsor could offset costs. We'll wait to see if the elevator can be fixed.

25+ Year Member Celebration Mugs- (Pastor Scott) - Members will be recognized this Sunday. They will be given a mug that costs \$8 a piece with 70 mugs purchased. The mugs will be filled with candy.

Brunch with Santa - The date will not work and needs to be changed to Saturday December 16th. Jodi will move forward with this new date. Tickets could be sold with tree sales and signs posted to advertise.

Any Other New Business to Come Before the Council? Jodi says the drive is set for use and storage of articles.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment at 8:21 pm
Submitted by, Rhonda Thompson - Clerk



RECORDINGS OF WORSHIP SERVICES

We continue to record our Sunday worship services each week for those who are unable to attend. Be sure to subscribe to our **YouTube channel** ("First Congregational Church of Port Washington"). This allows you to receive immediate notification when a service is uploaded.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Maechtle Family. Mark and Janet's sister-in-law, Wendy Maechtle, passed away in October after battling against her eighth diagnosis of cancer over the past 20+ years. Mark's brother David lives in Colorado and the family is planning to have services for Wendy this coming summer.

Diana Schroeder. Diana is going to have surgery on November 7 to remove a cancerous tumor. When she recovers, she will also be scheduled for neck surgery to relieve numbness in her hands.

SPECIAL THANKS

To Joe Rychtik for helping drive our confirmands to Daycholah Camp on October 14 to participate in a mission experience helping paint around camp.

To Jennifer Dimmer and the Fellowship Team for hosting a BBQ Lunch on October 15. The Bernie's pork, mac 'n cheese, baked beans, and numerous sides and desserts were delicious!

To Jean Hoffman for being the parent helper at the Confirmation Class on October 16.

To Lily Dimmer for her piano performance, "Love Grows Here" during the 10:00 worship service on October 22.

To our Property Team members: Bill Bond, Gary Tackes, Claude Zimmerman, and Joe Mueller for overseeing the grueling process of the elevator inspection and diagnosis.

To Jana Zimmerman for weeding the flower beds on the north side of the church.

To Joe Mueller for helping to tackle the boxelder bugs in Fellowship Hall and on the patio.

To our members and friends who contributed to the Church School collection drive to support the Port Washington Food Pantry.

To Bill Bond for bringing the trash cans to and from the curb each week.

To Jim Schmit for picking up The Food Pantry donations from our cart and delivering them.

October Church Servers:

Worship Leaders - Jason Jacque, Ric Probst, Don Niederfrank, Ken Matthews, Phil Stepanski, Kathy Bretl, Scott Symes, Eric Olson, and our Confirmation Class

Ushers - Joe and Bev Mueller, Mike and Jane Spalding and our Confirmation Class.

Nursery Caregivers - Matt and Sarah Riemer, Simon and Amy Gilhooly, Lois Roth, Kylee and Tina Olson, and Addison and Leeann Wellenstein

Communion Servers - Ken Matthews, Jennifer Dimmer, Jason Jacque, and Ric Probst

Church Offering Counters - Ken Matthews, Kathy Bretl, Phil Stepanski and Tracy Bretl, Joe and Bev Mueller, and Joe and Dawn Rychtik

Fellowship Hour Host Groups – Church School and Confirmation Class (Wellenstein, Olson, Rychtik, and Hoffmann families)

To Congregational Care Team member Alice Ruffin for sending out birthday and wedding anniversary cards in October.

To Margaret Niederfrank for enthusiastically ringing the church bell on Sunday mornings.

To all those who took the Congregational Poll regarding the location of our worship services. The feedback was helpful to the Church Council.

To everyone who participated in the Church School Donuts with Grown-ups and Crazy Hat Day on October 8. If you would like to see photos of Crazy Hat Days of yesteryear, stop by the bulletin board next to the east side entryway of the church.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



1 -	Jeff Suddendorf	13 -	Sherrie Dimmer
2 -	Allen Spaude	14 -	James Maechtle
3 -	Mark Maechtle		Sydney Garthus
	Reese Roehrig	16 -	Alice Sanem
	Kylee Olson	19 -	Mike Umhoefer
4 -	Kurt Blum	20 -	Roberta Blumenberg
	Jane Schwacher		Mira Stimac
6 -	Mike Spalding		Amy Umhoefer
	Pam Zeman	24 -	Sherri Melichar
8 -	Avery Roehrig		Scott Nelson
9 -	Libby Holmes	25 -	Margaret Niederfrank
10 -	Jim Holmes	28 -	Nels Garthus
11 -	Steve Farnsworth	29 -	Barb Bahr
12 -	Addie Chandler	30 -	Michele Franke

NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES




4 -	Gary and Chris Drasch
11 -	Merlin and Janet Behnke

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



*Our new anniversary banner on display.
Thank you to the Property Team for hanging it up.*

NOVEMBER 2023 CALENDAR

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 12 pm Lunch Group 6 pm Yoga 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	2 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon 6:30 pm Executive Team	3	4
5 All Saints Day 8 am Communion Service in the Sanctuary 9 am Fellowship Hour Church Budget Listening Session 10 am Communion Service in Fellowship Hall	6 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 9:30 am Staff Meeting	8 9:30 am Friends for Justice 12 pm Lunch Group 6 pm Yoga Confirmation Mission Experience- Port Food Pantry 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	9 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon 6 pm Knellsville 4-H Club 6:30 pm Church Council	10	11 8 am Christmas Tree Sale Lot Set-Up
12 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Chancel Choir Church School & Nursery Care 11 am Fellowship Hour Church Budget Listening Session Bow Making Workshop 7 pm Lighthouse Youth Group- Fall Bonfire	13 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Girl Scouts Meeting	15 12 pm Lunch Group 6 pm Yoga 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	16 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon 7pm Church Budget Listening Session (Zoom)	17 11 am Property Team	18
19 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Handbell Choir Kids Club Nursery Care 11 am Fellowship Hour	20 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	21 9:30 am Staff Meeting 2 pm Christmas Tree Delivery 7 pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service	22 12 pm Lunch Group 6 pm Yoga 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	23 Happy Thanksgiving	24 38th Annual Christmas Tree Sale Begins	25
26 Reign of Christ 8 am Worship Service 10 am Family Worship Service, Confirmation Class Leads the Service Nursery Care 10:45 am Fall Congregational Meeting 6 pm Lighthouse Youth Group- Friendsgiving	27 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Thrive Team	28 9:30 am Staff Meeting 5 - 8 pm Lighthouse Giving Tuesday Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction at Grand Ave.	29 12 pm Lunch Group 6 pm Yoga 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	30 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon		
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CHURCH INFORMATION

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



Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday mornings from 8:30 - Noon

Pastor Scott's Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays, and by appointment

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, Outgoing Financial Administrator - phil@portucc.org

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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!

