



TIMELY LYRICS FROM WORSHIP

On September 24 we worshiped in Fellowship Hall for the second week in a row due to the elevator being out of order. As we worshipped, I was very much aware of the potential financial difficulty we were facing as a congregation in having a major equipment failure of our elevator. Now those fears have been confirmed, and I'm worried. But, I remember that, as we were singing the middle hymn for the service, "*In the Midst of New Dimensions*", the last verse spoke to me of hope and of our need to act faithfully in a time of difficulty.

*Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.*

The dire predictions of the expense of repairing the elevator, the concerns about next year's budget, the bad news of the world around us can lead us to feel rather depressed about the future of our faith community. But we are a people of faith and know that God is present with us. The image of the phoenix rising out of the ashes is a major part of our central stained glass window and speaks of a faith that trusts God to make a way where there seems no way.

As I sang the lyrics, I was reminded that we are God's people, and it is our journey to travel. It was reassuring to hear the whole church sing of God's love shown in rainbow signs and fiery pillars leading us through the darkest night. God will lead us to where we need to be—that we might continue to serve God and our neighbor, that we might continue to be the Body of Christ, the Church serving Port Washington. No easy answers, just the assurance that God will lead us forward.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Scott

ELEVATOR PROBLEMS

A close inspection of our elevator on September 26, by Otis Elevator, confirmed the earlier diagnosis that it has a significant hydraulic leak and will need a very costly repair to get it running again. Initial “ballpark” estimates for the repairs range from \$60,000 to \$100,000. This is, of course, devastating financial news for us as a congregation. [Click here](#) to view a report from Gary Tackes, a member of our Property Team.

Now that we know the unfortunate diagnosis, the Property Team will begin seeking bids for the repair work. Our Executive Team met on September 27 and plans are in motion to hold a Special Congregational Meeting soon. According to our Church Constitution, a two-week minimum notice is required to get the word out to the congregation. The date of the meeting is also dependent upon the timing of receiving bids and exploring potential funding options. Please stay tuned - we will make announcements during services, send e-blasts, and post information on the church website.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 1, is known as World Communion Sunday in the life of the church. We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion at both services, along with Christian communities throughout the world.



OCTOBER HAPPENINGS

Here are a few quick dates to mark on your calendar. Please help Church School with their current project, a food collection, being held now through October 8. Also, plan to join them for Crazy Hat Day (bring a fun hat to wear) at Donuts with Grownups that same day. More information can be found on page 5.

Join the Fellowship Team for a BBQ Lunch after the 10:00 service on October 15. See page 6 for the flyer. Hope you can join us!



OPEN HOUSE POSTPONED

Our Community Open House event that was scheduled on October 22 is being postponed to the spring due to the elevator being out of order.

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. 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.



PASTORAL EVALUATION

During the month of October, all members of the congregation are encouraged to complete a Pastoral Evaluation. The evaluation can be completed **electronically** or **on paper**. Paper copies are also available at church and will be mailed upon request.

Evaluating pastors is an important aspect of their ministry. It helps identify areas for improvement and fosters a healthy relationship between the pastor and the congregation. An ideal pastoral evaluation process is intentionally supportive of the pastor in their calling and positively constructive in helping the pastor identify areas for improvement. An evaluation process which is done well will help foster an atmosphere of trust, strengthening the relationship between the pastor and his congregation.

The Pastor Parish Relations (PPR) Team has taken great care in creating the evaluation, leveraging recommendations and guidance provided by the United Church of Christ. The evaluation is broken down into six areas of focus:

- Worship Leading and Preaching
- Educational Guidance and Teaching
- Pastoral Care and Counseling
- Public Witness and Church Growth Advocacy
- Church Administration and Planning
- Pastoral Self Care

The evaluation was created with the understanding that each member has a different level of engagement within church life, and that all areas of focus may not apply. There is an option within the rating scale to select if one feels unable to thoughtfully assess any particular area. Comments are welcome and encouraged throughout the evaluation. Responses will be gathered throughout the month of October for review and consideration, with a plan to have goals for the new year ready for sharing at the congregational meeting in January. All submitted evaluations are anonymous and will be managed with care.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration in the completion of the Pastoral Evaluation.



Hello Church School Families,

We are off to a delightful start to the 2023-2024 Church School program year. At our September class, we discussed that God is always present with us everywhere on Earth. We made our nametags and added blue ribbons. We also kicked off our first service project of the year, a collection drive for the Port Washington Food Pantry. The children made posters to highlight the drive to share with family and friends. We encourage the congregation to join us in collecting soup, cereal, canned goods or personal care items. All items can be placed in the red wagon in the church entryway through October 8.

Our next class is October 8, where we will be learning about God's Loving Way, with a story based on Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20. [Click here](#) to review the curriculum. The children will be making a craft to highlight the ways in which we can all live in Loving Ways, and celebrate the ending of our first service project. The Church School program is also hosting Fellowship Hour that morning, an event they have decided to call "Donuts with Grown-ups in Fun Hats". In honor of our 125th anniversary, and the memories highlighted from Church School classes of the past, we invite all grown-ups to join us for Fellowship and bring along a fun or crazy hat to wear. The Church School children will be asking grown-ups a few questions about their Church School memories and together we will take a commemorative photo to add to the archives. We hope you will support our Church School children by dusting off your very best fun or crazy hat and sharing your time while enjoying donuts and fun.

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:

October 8

November 12

December 10

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 and our Children's Choir. Here are the fall Family Service dates:

October 22

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.

COLLECTION DRIVE
Port Washington Food Pantry

For the

Collection Items:

- Soup
- Cereal
- Canned Goods
- Personal Care Items

Donations can be placed in the red wagon in the church entryway through October 8. Thank you!



Crazy/Fun Hat Day



**Fun for kids and adults during
DONUTS WITH GROWN-UPS
A Special Fellowship Hour
Hosted by Church School on October 8th**

Join Church School kids for fellowship and bring along a fun and crazy hat to wear, like Crazy Hat Days of the past! The children will be asking grown-ups a few questions about their church memories and together we will take a commemorative photo to add to the archives.



THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM INVITES YOU TO A

BBQ LUNCH

After the 10:00 Service on
Sunday, October 15th

PORK, MAC, & FIXIN'S!

You are welcome to bring a side
dish or dessert, or simply come join
in food and fellowship!



FINANCIAL UPDATE

From Financial Administrator, Phil Stepanski,
Written By Pastor Scott

Here is where we stand financially as we enter the last three months of the year. There is some good news and some bad news. Pledges are right on track and our overall giving is up. That is good news. But the number of "giving units" (the individuals and families that pledge on an annual basis) is down. That is bad news. We have narrowed this year's budgeted deficit through careful spending and increased giving and fundraising efforts by about \$18,000. That is good news. However, the deficit is estimated to still be around \$35,600 by the end of December and we will need much of what is in the church's savings to make ends meet. That is bad news.

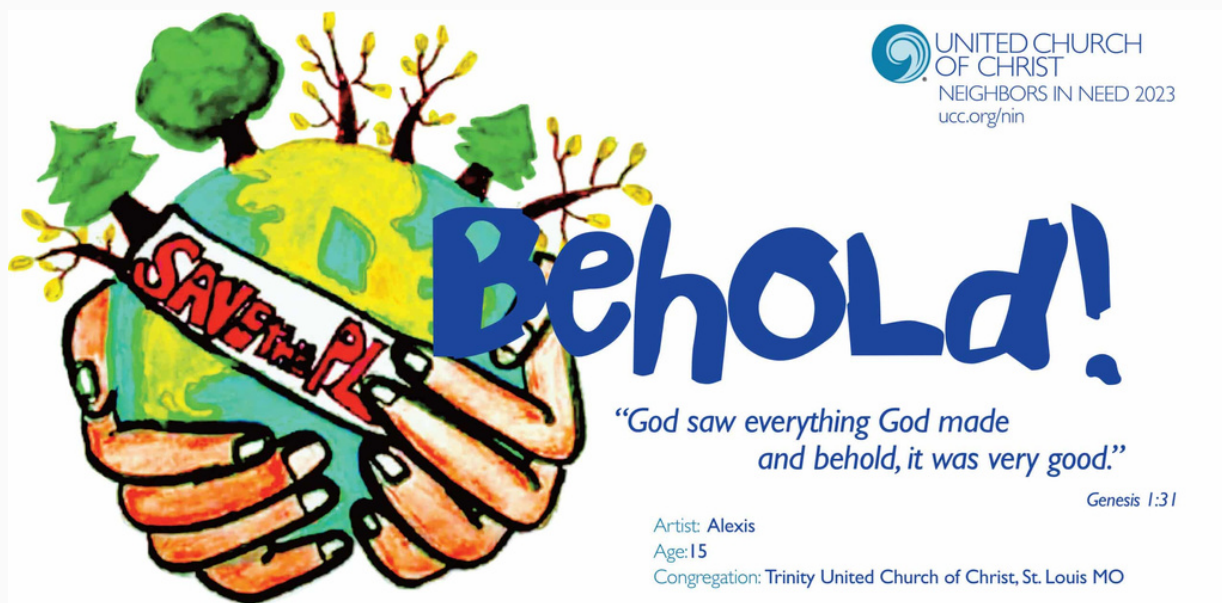
Need some more good news? How about this: even during a time when our church is facing income shortages, our members and friends rallied to raise \$32,700 in gifts and pledges for the "Making All Things New" Capital Campaign to maintain and repair the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. That is great news! However, we just received the news that our elevator needs repair which will cost at least double the amount we raised this spring. That is terrible news.

Important repairs to siding and windows back in 2020 were funded through memorial gifts of over \$13,000 and a loan of \$25,000. The loan has been paid back over the last three years and our final payment is this month. That is good news. We will likely need to take out a new loan to pay for the elevator repairs. That is bad news.

Our church was the recipient of pandemic employee retention credits of approximately \$34,000 in 2020 and 2021 allowing us to maintain our budget even while income went down. That was good news. The loss of Port Pre-School when Port Washington-Saukville School District brought their 4K program "in house" has meant a loss of about \$15,000 annually and we have been unable to find another paying tenant. Bad news.

You get the point. It begins to feel like one step forward and two steps back. We have been working hard in several different ways to keep our ministry vibrant and alive. The members of our church have been faithful and generous, but finishing this year and beginning the next is going to test us in ways we are not used to. The budget process as we look to 2024 will be faced with very difficult decisions. We can get through this difficult financial time as we pull together and share the gifts that God has given. As we close out the year, let's try to be as generous as we can, the church needs our faithful stewardship now and in the coming year.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING ON OCTOBER 22



The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 22, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through our national Justice and Local Church Ministries office you can find resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hock in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

With your assistance, we can help our Neighbors in Need. Please give generously. And remember, contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made online at any time at ucc.org/nin.

OUR CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAM



We offer three dynamic choirs – Handbell, Chancel, and Children's Choir. You are invited to join at any time!



HANDBELL CHOIR - Open to all high school students and older. You do not need to be a member of our church to participate. Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors to join. The Handbells rehearse every Wednesday evening from 7:00 - 8:00 in the music room. They generally perform on the third Sunday of each month during the 10:00 service. No experience is necessary. If you can count to ten, you can learn how to play! Join at any time.

Director Lydia Linendoll began leading our Handbells two years ago. Lydia is also a member of the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble.

CHANCEL CHOIR - Open to all high school students and older. You do not need to be a member of our church to participate. Therefore, if you have a friend or neighbor who enjoys singing, feel free to invite them. The choir rehearses every Monday evening from 6:30 - 7:30 in the sanctuary. They generally perform on the second and fifth Sundays of each month during the 10:00 service. No experience is necessary, and you don't need to know how to read music. Join at any time!

Director Brett Dimmer has led the Chancel Choir for 10 years. Brett begins his 25th year teaching instrumental music in the Grafton school district and just finished his inaugural year as the Director of the Port Washington City Band.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR - Our Children's Choir, led by Sherri Melichar, is open to all children 4K through middle school. You do not need to be a member of our church to participate. Therefore, if your child has a friend or neighbor who enjoys singing, feel free to bring them along, too! No experience required.

The choir rehearses:

Second Sunday: 11:00 in the sanctuary

Fourth Sunday: 9:00 in the sanctuary

The choir performs during the 10:00 service either monthly, or seasonally, depending on participation.



Director Sherri Melichar has been our church Pianist and Organist since 1995 and has led our Children's Choir for over 15 years. Sherri teaches music at Lumen Christi School in Mequon.



FELLOWSHIP HOURS

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, be sure to join us for a special Fellowship Hour hosted by our Church School kids! See page 5 for details.

ONGOING WEEKLY OFFERINGS

WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP

The Wednesday Lunch Group meets weekly starting at **12:00 noon on Wednesdays**. You are invited to join this friendly group in the Dennett Room for lunch, study, and conversation. Bring your own lunch and a beverage, and we will read and discuss the Bible passages that will be used in worship on the coming Sunday morning. Please know that you don't need to be a Bible expert to participate! Pastor Scott will provide some background information about the Bible passages and an assortment of thought-provoking questions. The conversation naturally moves on from there and the discussion is always interesting. There is usually lots of laughter and the sharing of individual opinions and perspectives.

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 AT 8:00

Every Thursday morning at 8:00 a group of members and friends of the church get together 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, and converse. 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 CONFIRMATION CLASS

We are excited to be off and running with our Confirmation program. The class includes the following 8th Graders: **Sawyer Crain, Simon Gilhooly, Ruby Hoffmann, Kylee Olson, Chloe Rychtik, Addison Wellenstein, and Sydney White**. On September 11, we held an orientation with parents and confirmands and the first class session was September 18.

On Saturday, October 14, we will be traveling for a "Mission Experience" workday to Daycholah Center, our UCC camp on the shores of Green Lake. On October 16, the confirmands will be discussing their Old Testament homework and learning more about God the Creator, the first "person" of the Trinity. The class will be helping to lead worship for the first time on October 22, as part of our 10:00 Family Service.

LIGHTHOUSE - OCTOBER PLANS

Our church continues to partner with four other churches: Grand Avenue United Methodist Church, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Living Hope Lutheran Church, and Parkside Community United Church of Christ, all 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 October:

Sunday, October 8th from 6:30-7:30 pm

Mental Health Workshop

The first week in October is Mental Illness Awareness Week. Join us as we have a chance to discuss and learn more about the incredibly important topic of mental health from guest speaker Carole Hynes, who works for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). All are welcome!



Sunday, October 29th from 4:00-7:00 pm

Halloween Food Drive and Fun

Help the hungry in our community while enjoying Halloween at the same time! In this "Trick-or-Treat so Others Can Eat" event, students will be sent out in groups during Saukville's trick-or-treating time to collect donations for the Ozaukee Food Alliance.

Then we'll meet back at Parkside UCC Church to sort the donations, eat pizza, and have some Halloween fun together. Everyone is encouraged to dress up and we'll have a costume contest as well.

**Drop off/pick up for this event at Parkside Community UCC*

You may [click here](#) to view the events calendar through December. Also, for your interest, a video was created to show others the experiences of our middle school youth who participated in Hunger Quest mission trip in August. Head to lighthouseyouth.org and scroll down a bit to view.

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 OCTOBER

This month we return to the lectionary scripture texts after our September journey into a “Season of Creation”. Our October focus is on some of the major themes of the Exodus story. The Israelites struggle with their new freedom from slavery and must adjust to the risks of living in a trusting relationship with God. They hear the Ten Commandments for living in community as Moses receives them on Mt. Sinai. They lose faith and seek the false comfort of other gods. And though God is angry and dismayed; God refuses to give up on them (and us), reassuring Moses that the covenant still stands. The last Sunday of the month, Moses is able to look into the Promised Land and know that God has led the people and never given up on them.

October 1: Exodus 17:1–7 Matthew 21:23–32

18th Sunday after Pentecost, World Communion Sunday

We return to the Season after Pentecost with World Communion Sunday—celebrating the Lord’s Supper at our Open Table with brothers and sisters around the globe. We also reflect on the book of Exodus as hungry, thirsty, tired, grieving, grumpy people just like us are wandering in the wilderness.

October 8: Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20 Matthew 21:33–46

19th Sunday after Pentecost, Chancel Choir

This morning we focus on the Ten Commandments. Through these “ten rules for living”, God invites the people of Israel into a new relationship. As we lean into God’s covenant, we can find a new awareness of how God’s loving ways shape us.

October 15: Exodus 32:1–14 Matthew 22:1–14

20th Sunday after Pentecost, Handbell Choir

In our focus text from Exodus the people of Israel gather around a golden calf seeking comfort in new and unfamiliar circumstances. Through events in the distant past we explore our own emotions and the moments that cause us to falter in our faith.

October 22: Exodus 33:12–23 Matthew 22:15–22

21st Sunday after Pentecost, Family Sunday

After the Golden Calf “incident” there is some healing that needs to be done in the relationship with God. Moses is comforted with the assurance that God is present with us—in worship we seek to align ourselves with God’s ways.

October 29: Deuteronomy 34:1–12 Matthew 22:34–46

22nd Sunday after Pentecost, Chancel Choir

As we stand with Moses and the people of Israel on the border of a new land, we also hear the gospel summary of the law in Matthew. In conversation we begin to place our stories within God’s larger story.



Church Council Team Spotlight

STEWARDSHIP TEAM A Note About Our Upcoming Campaign

Later this month we will begin our annual Stewardship Campaign. This year’s theme is “Because of YOU Our Church Changes Lives”. We will be inviting church members to tell their personal stories about the significance of the church as part of our Sunday morning worship. Stewardship materials will be sent out to our members and friends that will include reflections on the importance of giving as a spiritual practice, the ways our church is helping to change lives, and our hopes for the year to come. We know the year ahead is going to be challenging! But we also believe that God has given us an abundance of gifts: time, talent, and treasure - we have the gifts we need to continue our important ministry! Everyone will be invited to Commitment Sunday on November 19 when all of us can present our pledges as an act of worship. Please watch for the mailing with this year’s campaign information, and prayerfully reflect on how faith and our church have changed your life!



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY COMMUNION SERVICE ON NOVEMBER 5

We will observe All Saints Sunday this year on November 5. 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 in the Church Office (office@portucc.org) by Thursday, November 2. Thanks for your help to make this All Saints Sunday a meaningful experience.

A CELEBRATION TO RECOGNIZE OUR 25+ YEAR MEMBERS

The Congregational Care Team recognized those in our church who have been members for 25+ years on Sunday, September 17. We are very fortunate to have nearly 70 longtime members. During worship there was a special prayer litany giving thanks for their years of faithful discipleship, and following the service, a special Fellowship Hour was held in their honor. If you believe we have missed someone who should be on the list, please let Pastor Scott know and we will check our records. Special thanks to the Congregational Care Team for hosting Fellowship Hour and to the Church Council for purchasing the anniversary gift mugs.

Here are our 25+ year members:

1998–1994, 25+

Barb Bahr (96), Tim Cira (97), Diane Fowler (94), Lefty Fowler (94), Nancy Hinneberg (96), Maritza Jackson (96), Pamela Marquardt (96), Sherri Melichar (96), Kassie McManus (98), Brad Mueller (95), Ric Probst (97), Cindy Zozak (98)

1993–1989, 30+

Bridget Bretl (90), Kathy Bretl (90), Terry Bretl (89), Troy Bretl (90), Tracy Bretl (90), Dena Cooper (92), Brett Dimmer (90), Sherrie Dimmer (90), Ann Fleischmann (93), Amy Gilhooly (92), Tracy Greymont (89), Dawn Guschl (91), Jason Jacque (91), Barb Olson (91), Jim Olson (91), Kay Rego (89), Shandy Roehrig (93), Matt Schlehle (93), Jane Spalding (93), Mike Spalding (93), Jeff Suddendorf (89), Gary Tackes (91), Meg Tackes (91), Patt Westphal (93), Amy Wilsnack (91)

1988–1984, 35+

Emil Schneider (85), Steven Schowalter (85), Wendy Schowalter (85), Edie Webb (87), Dick Webb (87), Claude Zimmerman (86), Jana Zimmerman (86)

1983–1979, 40+

Kierstin Cira (83), James Johnson (79), Janet Maechtle (82), Darcy McManus (81), Doug McManus (81), Jane Schneider (82), Jane Veale (81), Tom Veale (81), Dave Wickesberg (82), Debra Wickesberg (82)

1978–1974, 45+

Chris Drasch (77), Gary Drasch (77), Carolyn Heatwole (74), Joe Mueller (76), Jim Schmit (75)

1973–1969, 50+

Allen Cottrell (73), Patt Cottrell (73), Jonda Johnson (72), Neil Johnson (72), Don Laubenstein (72)

1968–1964, 55+

Bev Mueller (65), Eric Oleson (68), Jackie Oleson (68)

1963–1959, 60+

Craig Heatwole (59), Ken Matthews (62)

1958–1954, 65+

Ned Huwatschek (55)

Mugs gifted to our 25+ year members. Now available to order, see next page.





FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

125th Anniversary Apparel & More Order Form



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

new!

Commemorative Mug - \$12: _____
(design on both sides!)



Tote Bag - \$20: _____

T-Shirt - \$20:

XS__ S__ M__ L__ XL__ XXL__ XXXL__

Regular Hoodie - \$35:

XS__ S__ M__ L__ XL__ XXL__ XXXL__

(made with soft, smooth fabric)

Print and complete form or [click here](#) for the online form.

Two ways to pay:

-Mail or drop off cash or check (payable to FCC) to the church

-Utilize our PayPal online giving option (go to portucc.org)

Please submit form and payment by the end of the month for this round of orders.

For questions, contact Jennifer Dimmer at

jenniferdimmer@gmail.com or (262) 268-3903.

THANK YOU!

SEPTEMBER PHOTOS



Church Service with Chancel Choir on September 17.



Handbell Choir on September 24.



Church School on September 10.



Elevator diagnosis on September 26.



Lighthouse Presentation on September 24.



THRIVE TEAM MOVES TO PHASE TWO

Our church Thrive Team - Terry McManus, Louise Mollinger, Scott Symes, Meg Tackes, Gary Tackes and Pastor Scott - met with the lead facilitators of the Marquette University Examen(ed) Church program on September 23 in Milwaukee. The morning program invited us to consider our values as individuals and as a faith community. Part of being a church with vitality and energy is having a clear sense of identity and values. Knowing who we are, what we hope to do, why we're doing it, and how it will be done are all really important issues - especially as we deal with limited resources of time, energy, and finances.

The challenge to discern our values, our identity, our purpose as a congregation is going to be a significant part of "Phase Two" of the Examen(ed) Church program. We believe this work can be done in a healthy way that will actually be helpful to the congregation because of some of the training we have done so far this year. In "Phase One" we learned a spiritual practice first taught by Ignatius of Loyola called the "Daily Examen". We practiced this on our own and reflected together about the process. Eventually we began to do "group discernment" work reflecting on the experience of the pandemic for us personally and for the congregation as a whole. Where was God at work in our lives? Where was God at work in the life of the church? Most recently we talked about "church vitality" and were challenged to direct our attention to the things that God values: depth of relationship, transformation, service; rather than the things our culture and society typically value: numbers, money, power.

We hope to share some of the insights of our work, and listen for your insights into the things we, as a community of faith, find valuable and want to build upon for the future. As we begin to look toward 2024, knowing that there are many challenges ahead, we can step boldly forward confident that whatever changes need to take place they will be in keeping with who we are as a church community following the Spirit's call.



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. Please note, 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 August minutes were approved at the September 14, 2023 Church Council meeting.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Church Council Agenda August 10, 2023

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

Attendees- Pastor Scott, Jason Jacque, Tracy Greymont, Phil Stepanski, Ken Matthews, Eric Olson, Jodi Cowen, Jennifer Dimmer, and Rhonda Thompson.

Opening Meditation – (Jason J.) Devotion by Rev. Dr Lillian Daniel: Real Relationships Renegotiate based on the bible verse Romans 12:2 and ends with the following prayer: When the next negotiating session begins, remind me “God is still speaking.” And not only to me. Amen.

Approval of the Minutes – June 2023 Ken Matthews motions to approve the June minutes and Eric Olson seconds the motion. Minutes are approved.

Financial Administrator Updates (Phil)-Phil has taken on a new position and will no longer be able to continue as the Financial Administrator. Phil has started the 2024 budget.

- Monthly Budget Review-Looking at the Budget vs Actual Report through July of 2023, there are no surprises. Gross Profit totals \$127,518 (2023 Budget is \$202,186), Total Expenditures come to \$129,550 (2023 Budget is \$255,926) for a \$2032 deficit (2023 Budget is estimated to end with \$53,740 deficit). The Bank Account Balances as of July 31, 2023 are as follows: Main Checking is \$16,223.85; Scrip Checking is \$1511.79; Mission Account is \$2490.00 (Mission Commitment is -\$2,290); Memorial Account Savings is \$38,614.77 (Making All Things New Commitment is -\$23,780.00) and the Cornerstone Fund is \$25,650.82. Total money available \$58,421.23 The Window Loan balance total is \$3256.96. The Home Depot Raise Right gift card balance is at \$39.56.
- Insurance Claim Update-We received a \$8200 check from the insurance company. They calculated a claim for just over \$12,000. There are some bills still coming in from the storm. The air conditioning units are shot and beyond repair. The units are older and likely will not be covered completely by the insurance storm claim.
- Capital Campaign-Raised a total of \$32,770 either already donated or pledged.

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

- Church Management Software Update – Phil has not transferred to the new program.
- 2024 Budget- Phil has started the budget for 2024. He used the last twelve months of data to create totals for each line item.

Pastor's Moment (Pastor Scott)- Pastor Scott is looking for clarification on timing of December 10 events with Santa (brunch fundraiser) to make sure that all things flow. Beckie and Amy had a few concerns with everything scheduled for the day. On Sunday the 24 of December, the proposal is to have a 10am service (Confirmation Christmas Pageant), no 8am service, then 7pm and 9pm services. The Council is okay with the schedule. There was a suggestion to have coffee hour between services every Sunday. It might help to assign groups or members to a Sunday to get people back into the building. KeepSign Up Genius, but help fill in with assigning groups/teams and members as needed. Fellowship should continue with the second and forth Sunday. The last thought, is to advertise in the Ozaukee Press for bell ringers, choral singers and promoting our wonderful music programs. Would it be okay to advertise? There is money in the Adopt A Bill that was meant for advertising. Ken moves we spend up to \$500 for advertising for rental space and music program. Tracy seconds the motion. All approve.

Old Business

Property Team, Building Maintenance (Bill)- Nothing at this time.

Church Google Drive (Jodi)-Jodi has started setting up the drive. She will set up folders and then will let everyone know the name and password.

Rental Space Update – (Pastor Scott)- They last met in June and nothing has changed. Word of mouth has not produced any results.

Council Updates from Pastor Parish Relations (Shandy)- They are meeting on August 21.

Ministry Options Surveys (Pastor Scott)-The responses have been slow to return. Council members should make sure they turn theirs in.

Council Positions: Treasurer/Stewardship/Financial Administrator (Jason)-Jason had reached out to a member for the Treasurer position. Pastor Scott will follow up with the member to see what they decided. Jennifer Dimmer and Jodi Cowen are willing to help with Stewardship Team. If no members of the church want the Financial Administrator position it might be passed onto a non member that has done this kind of financial work for other churches.

Additional Team Updates (Shandy, Eric, Jennifer, Tracy, Ken)-Eric and Shandy plan to work together on a food drive. Eric has tried to connect with Habitat for Humanity to look at the possibility of filling some of their needs. Jennifer and Beckie brainstormed some ideas for Fellowship Team. They are hoping to do a BBQ lunch, along with the soup and salad, and chili meals. She would also like to make sure the wreaths have bows for the tree sale. Tracy is learning but has nothing to report. Ken says they are almost done with reviews and hopes to have them complete before the new program year starts.

New Business

2024 Church Program Year (Jason)-

- Monthly Newsletter Schedule-Each month Amy highlights teams throughout the year. August is Pastor Parish; September is Christian Education; October is Stewardship; November is Community Outreach; December is Liturgy; January is Fellowship; February is Property; March is Staff Support & Review; April is Historical Team; May is Congregational Care Team; June is

(continued on the next page)

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

Friends for Justice; July is Finance Team. All paragraphs should be turned in seven to ten days prior to your assigned month.

- Discussion on one verses two services during Program Year-Ken moves to hold one service at 9am rather than having two at 8am and 10am. Eric seconds the motion. After some talk on financial benefits and program impact the Council feels getting members to change to a different service time may negatively impact attendance. Past experience has had occasions of declining attendance. Before the end of 2023, attendance numbers and Stewardship results will be reviewed to determine if the 2024 budget dictates changes. Jason takes vote on moving to one service. There are not enough votes to change. The motion is denied and program year will continue as planned.
- Scheduling of Confirmation Sunday-Confirmation Sunday is proposed for May 19, 2024.
- Impacts of Program Year on 2024 Budget- See above notes. Music is a strength, a big draw and not worth cutting.

Opening Meditation Schedule (Jason)- Jennifer will take October, Ken will take November, Jodi will take December, Tracy will take January, Rhonda will take February.

Any other new business to come before the Council? Church growth needs to be part of the agenda. There are programs to invite a friend to church events.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment 8:48 pm.
Submitted by, Rhonda Thompson -Clerk



PROPERTY TEAM MEETING MINUTES

Our Property Team is an active church team comprised of a handful of folks from our church. The team keeps a close eye on our church and works to maintain all aspects of our church building and grounds. The team would like to share their recent monthly meeting minutes:

September 2023 Property Team Minutes

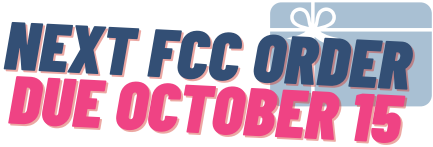


RECORDINGS OF WORSHIP SERVICES

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.



RAISERIGHT GIFT CARD
FUNDRAISING PROGRAM



Jennifer Dimmer and Rhonda Thompson, our church RaiseRight Coordinators, will be placing an order on Sunday, **October 15**. The gift cards will be available at the church for pick up starting on Sunday, October 22. 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!

SPECIAL THANKS

To Louise Mollinger, who donated the outside 125th church anniversary banner.

To Amy Gilhooly for being the parent helper at the Confirmation Class on September 18.

To Gary Tackes for driving church folks who are part of the Thrive Team to Marquette University on September 23 and the field trip to Keshena on September 28.

To Lily Dimmer for her solo performance, “Open My Eyes, Lord” during the 10:00 worship service on September 24 under the direction of Sherri Melichar.

To Property Team members: Bill Bond, Gary Tackes, Claude Zimmerman, and Joe Mueller for overseeing the grueling process of the elevator inspection and diagnosis. Their time and effort in reporting the news to the congregation to keep us up-to-date is so appreciated!

To our members and friends who completed a Ministry Options survey.

To our September Church Servers:

Worship Leaders - David Franks, Carolyn Heatwole, Scott Symes, Jeanne Mantsch, Jane Spalding, and Gary Tackes.

Ushers - Joe and Bev Mueller and Mike and Jane Spalding.

Nursery Caregivers - Matt and Sarah Riemer, Mia and Kelly Blum, Chloe and Dawn Rychtik, and Addison and Leeann Wellenstein.

Communion Servers - Jennifer Dimmer and Ken Matthews.

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

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CONGRATULATIONS

To Jemma Jane Franke, daughter of Michelle and Justin, who was baptized into our community of faith on Sunday morning, September 10. Jemma’s siblings are Travis, Audrey, and Levi.



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IN OUR PRAYERS

Betty Bollinger needed to quarantine due to COVID.

Mark and Janet Maechtle’s sister-in-law who is battling cancer.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1- Maile Thompson
Aaron White | 15- Allen Cottrell
Cathy Jones |
| 2- Ellie Modahl | Max Gilhooly |
| 3- Sarah Riemer
D'Angelo Lopez | Randy Zeman |
| 4- Abbey Proctor | 18- Lainey Holmes |
| 5- Don Niederfrank | 19- Craig Heatwole
Noah Roehrig |
| 8- Nancy Walle | 20- Jana Zimmerman
Grant Eslinger |
| 9- Jamie Karrels | David Franks |
| 11- Troy Bretl
Tracy Bretl
Janet Maechtle
Daniel Oftedahl
Kerry O'Brien | Tyler Umhoefer |
| 13- Lu Keagy
Miles Malloy | 21- Miriam Mitchell |
| | 24- Scott Symes |
| | 27- Max Malloy |
| | 28- Miranda Laabs
Ruby Hoffmann |
| | 30- Madeline Schlehle
Dianne Taylor |

OCTOBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



- | | |
|-----|---|
| 3- | Shane and Annette Stimac
Dave and Julie Eslinger |
| 4- | Ray and Brenda Shupe |
| 8- | Bob and Jess Korup
Kurt and Kelly Blum |
| 13- | Don and Marion Cooper |
| 24- | Gary and Meg Tackes |

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



LET US KNOW IF YOUR CONTACT INFO CHANGES

As always, please reach out if your contact information changes. You may email Beckie in the Church Office at office@portucc.org. Thank you!

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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, Financial Administrator - phil@portucc.org

STAY CONNECTED

Like us on **Facebook**

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Subscribe to our **YouTube Channel**

"First Congregational Church of Port Washington"

Receive our E-Blasts (emails)

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

Check out the church website - portucc.org

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!

