



Congregational *Connections*

Monthly E-Newsletter of First Congregational Church, UCC | Port Washington, Wisconsin | September 2022

EXCITING PROGRAM SEASON AHEAD

We have been gearing up through the month of August to be fully ready for September, and it is finally here! We'll be starting up all the fall ministries and you can read about them in the pages to follow. But, let's just take a look at the first week we're back:

Beginning on September 11, we are back to two Sunday morning worship services at 8:00 and 10:00. There will be a Fellowship Hour following both services and Church School will meet for the first time this program year. The very next day the Confirmation Class gets underway with an orientation and the Chancel Choir and the Children's Choir will each be rehearsing too! Two days later the Wednesday Lunch Group resumes and the Handbell Choir rehearses that evening. Thursday morning, the Men's Breakfast Group will be meeting and two days later, on Saturday, everyone is invited to help care for God's Creation by helping with a morning service project led by Jon Crain here in Port.

Wow! This is just the first full week of programming! There are many opportunities for ministry here at First Congregational Church and we want you to be involved! Please read on and discover the ones that fit into your calendar. Whether you want to join a group going to tour America's Black Holocaust Museum later in the month, or be a part of a new Congregational Care Team helping to offer the prayer and care of the congregation to our members, there is a ministry for you.

Perhaps most importantly, you can simply come and join us in worship on a Sunday morning: you know there will be beautiful music, meaningful prayer, an uplifting sermon, and the fellowship of friends and neighbors. We have it all. And it is all here for you.

See you all soon,
Pastor Scott

NEW PROGRAM YEAR STARTS ON SEPTEMBER 11

We invite all members and friends to join us as we kick off another program year in the life of our church! On Sunday morning, September 11, we move back to two services at 8:00 and 10:00.

To help us celebrate, the Fellowship Team will be hosting Fellowship Hours following both services.

Church School will gather for the first time this program year and Nursery Care resumes at 10:00, now located in the Gilomen Room (*see page 6 for more information*). We hope you can join us!



SEPTEMBER ALL-CHURCH SERVICE PROJECT "CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION"

Our worship themes in September focus on our many connections to the natural world and our Christian calling to be good stewards of God's Creation. It's one thing to talk about it in church, it is another thing to put our thoughts and prayers into action in the "real" world!

Pastor Scott connected with Jon Crain who is a long-time friend of the church and is Port Washington's Arborist in the Forestry Department of Public Works. He is going to lead an all-church clean-up service project on Saturday morning, **September 17**, at **9:00**. We will work in several city parks, from South Beach over to Coal Dock Park, then on to Rotary Park, Veteran's Memorial Park and finish off with Upper Lake Park. Depending on our numbers, we might split into two groups and start on the two ends and meet in the middle. The city will provide gloves, trash pickers, and bags. This is a great opportunity if your high schooler would like to earn Port Pride hours. Mark your calendar and plan to attend so you can help take care of God's creation here in our own backyard!

WORSHIP WITH US

We have one service at 9:00 on September 4. Our program year will start on September 11, with two services at 8:00 and 10:00. Nursery care is provided 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.

CLICK AWAY

If you are reading this newsletter online, be on the lookout for orange text - it's linked up to documents or web pages that you might find helpful and interesting.

IT'S GENIUS! LET'S SIGN UP TO TAKE TURNS AS SUNDAY SERVERS

We are mainstreaming the process for members and friends to serve by utilizing the online SignUpGenius tool. This allows for better communication and transparency, and easier scheduling. Below are the areas we need your participation. Simply click on the links and choose which Sundays you would like serve. Sign up once, or as many times as you'd like! Together we can fill in all the gaps. If you have any questions, please reach out to Beckie in the church office. Thank you!



You may click the button to see all of the Sunday Servers sign-ups or click below to view the individual sign-ups.

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|------------------------------|---|
| USHERS | Greet congregants, hand out service bulletins, and collect the offering at the 8:00 or 10:00 Sunday morning worship service |
| ACOLYTES | 5th, 6th, and 7th graders are invited to light the altar candles just before the start of every 10:00 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 (currently in the Gilomen Room) during the 10:00 service. The 8th grade Confirmation Class will still be helping, but with a smaller class, we need some additional help. Please note, 8th graders and high schoolers must be accompanied by a parent |
| FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS | Serve coffee and provide simple treats following the 10:00 service on the second and fourth Sundays - two families preferred |

OPPORTUNITY TO EARN PORT PRIDE HOURS

A component of Port Washington High School's Port Pride Program is community service in which students pledge to complete 15 hours of community service each semester in exchange for one final exam exemption.

First Congregational Church is a partner of the program! High school students may earn hours by serving our church in a variety of ways: Nursery care, hosting Fellowship Hour, ushering, serving as a Worship Leader, selling Christmas trees and more. Contact Beckie Perez in the church office for more information at office@portucc.org.





Church Council Team Spotlight

Church School gathering in the Dennett Room in the spring.

OUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM

Church School - Confirmation - Adult Education

Our Christian Education Team is currently comprised of our Church School Leadership Team (which facilitates our Church School program). In June, Shandy Roehrig was elected as our new Christian Education Team Representative on the Church Council. Shandy may be new to this particular role, however is one of our long-time volunteer Church School leaders, in addition to being active on other church teams. Shandy will be leading the planning and facilitating of our Church School program, with the help of the dedicated team, and will also provide support to Pastor Scott, who conducts our 8th grade Confirmation Program. A Wednesday Lunch Group meets at noon each week as one of our adult education offerings. More adult education opportunities and retreats are offered periodically, please contact Shandy or Pastor Scott if you are interested.

CHURCH SCHOOL - INVITATION FROM SHANDY ROEHRIG

As the sun and fun of summer comes to a close, many in our congregation are preparing for the new school year. Our Church School leadership team is also preparing, for what we hope is another successful program year for the children of our congregation.

Our Church School program is open to children 4K through 7th grade. 8th grade Confirmation students and high school students are always welcome to join us to provide assistance! We meet the second Sunday of each month and focus on stories and scripture which align to the lessons shared during the church service throughout the same month.

We typically start our lesson with a fun activity or ice breaker, followed by an abbreviated church service which is similar to the larger service upstairs. The story or lesson of the day is then shared through storytelling and group discussion, with an activity or craft aligning to the message. The Church School Leadership Team works with Pastor Scott to review and discuss the messages; seeking creative, inventive ways to make the learning both fun and educational. Each lesson is independent in theme and content, making it easier for children to attend when able.

Throughout the program year we also seek to incorporate ways to partner with our larger congregation. In the past, our Church School students have sponsored donation drives, raised money for various charities through our mac 'n' cheese fundraiser, (continued)

INVITATION TO CHURCH SCHOOL *continued...*

and made crafts and cards for those who may not be able to join us on Sunday morning. We hope to continue this tradition for our upcoming year and welcome ideas from the congregation on how best to spread our message of inclusion and faith.

Sunday morning, **September 11**, at 10:00, is our first Church School class of the new year, and we will be focusing on the Season of Creation. The story discusses the wonder of nature and the interconnected aspect of life within the world. Our discussion will include the ways in which we play a part in this interconnected world, and the students will be making name tags which we will keep on display throughout the year.

Registering your children for the Church School program is easy. You can [click here](#) for the registration form or we will have forms available. Whether you can join us on second Sundays, or can commit to only a few throughout the year, all are welcome! Please watch this monthly newsletter for insights on the Church School program and upcoming lessons.

If you have any questions, ideas, or would like to join our team, please feel free to reach out to me directly. On behalf of the Church School Leadership Team, I wish everyone a wonderful start to the new school year and look forward to seeing you and your family on Church School Sundays! *(see next page for more information)*

Respectfully submitted,

Shandy Roehrig - Christian Education Team Representative on the Church Council

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NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS STARTING UP

It is time to begin another year of Confirmation! Pastor Scott is excited to get started with this year's class of 8th graders. The confirmands will be meeting once a month for classroom instruction on the Bible, the Trinity (God the Creator, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit), a little church history, the life of prayer, and our calling to discipleship (among other subjects!). Almost every month the class will have a Mission Experience that will help them develop the habit of "putting faith into action" and encourage their spiritual life as well. We will be helping at The Food Pantry here in Port, serving at Daycholah Center on Green Lake near Ripon, walking the Stations of the Cross at Holy Hill, working at Family Promise, visiting America's Black Holocaust Museum, and hopefully having an interfaith worship experience.

Confirmands also help serve the church by participating in worship on Family Sundays and providing Nursery Care. We hope that this "praxis" (the combination of practice, reflection and learning) will help each of our confirmands feel good about affirming their Baptismal vows and joining our congregation as adult members. The Confirmation journey begins on Monday evening, **September 12**, with a gathering of parents and 8th graders together in Fellowship Hall from 6:30-8:00. The first class will be held the following week on **September 19** at 6:30 p.m.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Let's have
fun & grow
in faith...
together!



Church School kids working on a craft in the spring.

We are so excited to start another fun program year of Church School! Church School, open to all 4K-7th graders, meets on the second Sunday of each month at 10:00. To learn more, please see the invitation from Shandy Roehrig, our Christian Education Team Representative, on page 4. We invite you to join us on the following dates this fall:

- **September 11**
- **October 9**
- **November 13**
- **December 11**

Church School parents are asked to complete a registration form each program year. You may [click here](#) to print it out, or complete when you are at church.

Our Church School Leadership Team, along with Pastor Scott, utilize a resource called "Seasons Fusion" which is a part of "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum.



A sample of one of the craft activities that the kids will create on September 11.



NURSERY CARE TO RESUME ON SEPTEMBER 11

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. Please note that the current nursery location is in the **Gilomen Room** across from our restrooms.

Nursery parents are required to register their children, [click here](#) for the form or complete at church. We also ask parents to sign their children in and out of the nursery. We want to do our very best to make the nursery safe and secure.

FAMILY SUNDAYS

On the fourth Sunday of every month at 10:00, we conduct a Family Service which includes the participation of our Confirmation Class and our Children's Choir. Please note that the schedule changes a bit in November and December. Here are the fall Family Service dates:

- **September 25**
- **October 23**
- **November 20**
- **December 18**

OUR CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAM

We currently offer three wonderful choirs - Handbell, Chancel, and Children's Choir. You are invited to join at any time! All choirs start rehearsing this month.



Handbell Choir

Our Handbell Choir, under the direction of Lydia Clough, rehearses for an hour at 7:00 on Wednesday evenings in the Music Room, starting on **September 7**. Handbells perform on the third Sunday of every month. Lydia invites anyone who is interested to join at any time!



Children's Choir

Our Children's Choir, led by Sherri Melichar, is open to all children 4K through middle school. The choir rehearses from 5:45 - 6:30 on Monday evenings, starting on **September 12**, in the Sanctuary. The choir typically performs on the fourth Sunday of every month. Whether you have sung before or are new to singing, we would love to have you. You do not need to be a member of our church to participate in our choirs. Therefore, if your child has a friend or neighbor who enjoys singing, feel free to bring them along! If other activities take you away during some Mondays of the year, all are welcome to join us when they are available.

Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir, under the direction of Brett Dimmer, is open to individuals 8th grade and older. Both members as well as friends of the church are welcome! The choir rehearses for an hour at 6:30 on Monday evenings in the Sanctuary, starting on **September 12**, and typically performs on the second Sunday of every month. No experience is necessary, just a desire to sing! You do not need to know how to read music. Come as you are able - no long-term commitment required. We truly are a "come when you can" group. Join at any time throughout the program year!



AWARENESS CAMPAIGN COMING TO A HOME NEAR YOU!

The Property Team has been diligent in their care of the church building, and they have made it clear that there are issues of maintenance and repair with our facility which will soon need to be addressed. At the same time, we as a congregation are still recovering from an unprecedented time of church transition and national health crisis.

This summer, Pastor Scott recruited a team to help address the issues with the building and we are so fortunate that Bill Bond, Carolyn Heatwole, Jeanne Mantsch, Joe Mueller, Karen Oftedahl, and Ray Shupe stepped forward to take a role in a potential capital fund building campaign. From the start, the team was faced with the twin crises: repair issues with the building that need to be fixed, and a community still recovering from transition and pandemic. We went back and forth about how to move forward and have decided that we need to proceed on both fronts.

Our plan to address these issues is imperfect, but is achievable and a good first step. It will require your help and input. During the months of October and November we are going to be asking church members to host small group meetings in their homes or here at church. Every member and friend on our mailing list will be invited to participate. This is an "Awareness Campaign" in which the team and Pastor Scott will have an opportunity to become aware of the hopes, fears, dreams, and visions for the future of church members and friends. At the same time, bringing awareness to everyone about the building and what is on the horizon. We hope this Awareness Campaign will help reconnect all of us and begin the path toward a strong future. As the leaves change, we hope everyone will say "yes" to the invitation and join in one of these house meetings this fall.

BBQ BIBLE STUDY SUMMER REPORT



When Savannah Anderson offered to donate a Weber Charcoal Grill to the church, she sparked the idea for a weekly event during the summer. The BBQ Bible Study began in July and continued through August. Each Tuesday, Pastor Scott cooked an assortment of burgers, brats, dogs, and sausages and a group of between 8 and 14 folks gathered and shared salads, desserts, chips and even charcuterie along with the grilled items for a hearty dinner. After eating, the group began to delve into the Gospel of Luke. Luke's Gospel was explored for its major themes, unique parables, historical context, as well as the similarities and differences between it and the other gospels. The food was delicious and the conversation was spiritually nutritious. We will plan to do it again next summer! Special thanks to Savannah Anderson for the donation of the grill, to Ken Matthews for helping to lead one of the sessions, and to Joe Mueller for manning the grill while Scott was away.



NEW PROGRAM YEAR FOR LIGHTHOUSE

Our church continues to partner with four other churches, Grand Avenue United Methodist Church, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Living Word 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. Lighthouse has a new Youth Director, Christin Flucke. Christin welcomes all middle school and high school youth to join the group this fall!

Here is Lighthouse's September schedule:

Service Project

Sunday, September 11, 7:00-8:00 pm

Join us for an awesome service project and a chance to get to know one another at the Lighthouse building.

Spieker's Pumpkin Farm & Pumpkin Carving

Sunday, September 25, 4:00-7:00 pm

Looking for an afternoon of fall fun with some friends? Then join us as we travel to Spieker's Pumpkin Farm where everyone can pick out a pumpkin and try and navigate our way through the giant corn maze! Then, we'll head back to Lighthouse for dinner and end with a pumpkin carving contest. Lighthouse will cover the cost of the activities and dinner, but students may bring along a little money if they wish to purchase something from the concession stand at the pumpkin farm.

Students should be dropped off and picked up at Lighthouse - 513 W. Grand Avenue in Port Washington.

Have questions about Lighthouse or want to get involved? Contact Director Christin Flucke at (262) 483-9582 or christin.flucke@lighthouseyouth.org. Check out [Lighthouse - Port Washington Saukville Ecumenical Youth Ministry](#) on Facebook or go to their website at lighthouseyouth.org.

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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.



Please Join Us!

WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP STARTS 9/14

The Wednesday Lunch Group returns into action this month after a summer hiatus. We will resume our weekly meetings on Wednesday, September 14. You are invited to join this friendly group as we meet together in Fellowship Hall for lunch, study, and great 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. Consider making the Wednesday Lunch Group a part of your weekly schedule this fall!

THURSDAY MORNING MEN'S BREAKFAST

Every Thursday morning at 8:00, a dedicated group of men from the church gather at The Beacon restaurant, which is located downtown on the first floor of The Harborview hotel. The Thursday Morning Men's Breakfast Group is open to all the men of the church. Everyone places their own order and pays their own bill. It is a great way to spend an hour (or two) and begin your day!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

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. Help newcomers to feel that, wherever they are on life's journey, they are welcome here. If you have any questions, please speak to Jennifer Dimmer, our Fellowship Team Representative on Church Council.

FRIENDS FOR JUSTICE - SEPTEMBER INVITATIONS

One of our church teams, Friends for Justice, invites members and friends to join the group for a tour of America's Black Holocaust Museum (ABHM), located at 401 W. North Avenue, Milwaukee, on Sunday afternoon, **September 25**, from **1:00-2:30**. The ABHM's mission is to "build public awareness of the harmful legacies of slavery and Jim Crow in America and promote racial repair, reconciliation and healing". The gallery and exhibits are described as both historical and memorials of the Black Holocaust, from pre-captivity in Africa to the present day in the United States. For more information on ABHM, please visit abhmuseum.org. Admission is \$7 for adults. Please email the church office if you plan to attend and if you are interested in carpooling.



Looking for a way to explore your understanding of Native Americans?

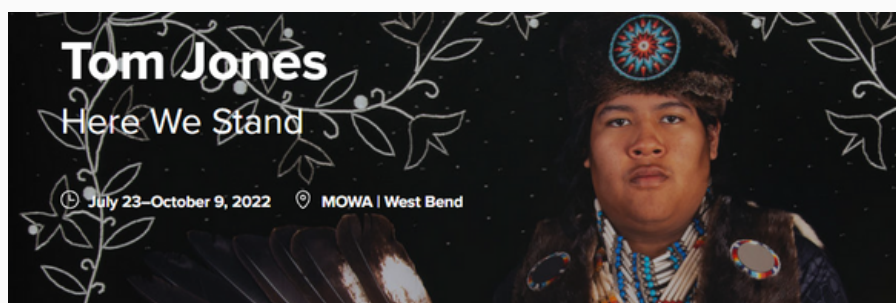
A Note from Jane Spalding, Member of Friends for Justice

I encourage you to take a short road trip to West Bend, to the [Museum Of Wisconsin Art](#) (MOWA) to visit the current exhibit of photography by Tom Jones. This retrospective show, "Here We Stand", includes 120 images from 25 years of work by Jones, a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation and of the UW- Madison faculty.

For more information about the exhibit (which runs through October 9) or the museum location, hours, and more, [click here](#).

You may be interested in the allied workshops on cornhusk weaving or woodland applique, or signing up for the artist lead tour of "Here We Stand" on October 1. While at MOWA, also plan to see "Strange Lands" by Tom Antell, a reimagining of immigration and colonization.

Whether or not you can get to the exhibits in person, do take advantage of the ten short [YouTube conversations](#) and accompanying images that MOWA created about Tom Jones and the "Here We Stand" exhibit.



THEMES FOR WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

This month we step away from the “Revised Common Lectionary” to focus on the wonders of God’s creation and our calling to be good stewards. Each Sunday this month we will focus our worship on a particular aspect of God’s creation. When we look closely at the scriptures, we begin to recognize how closely attuned the ancient world was to the natural environment around them. While we know so much about the world through scientific development, there is much wisdom that has been set aside. In our worship and study, it can be rediscovered and experienced with joy. We return to the regular Lectionary texts in October.

September 4: Job 38:1-18 Luke 5:1-11

13th Sunday after Pentecost Ocean Sunday Communion Sunday

This morning we “dive” into the Season of Creation with Ocean Sunday. The connections between ourselves and God, between ourselves and God’s creation in the waters of the ocean depth, are incredible wonders. We dig deep into what could be, and into the crisis of climate change that has, in so many ways, defined our present moment.

September 11: Job 39:1-8, 26-30 Luke 12:22-31

14th Sunday after Pentecost Fauna and Flora Sunday Church School Sunday

The program year begins for our congregation with worship at 8 and 10 am. The children return to Church School and all of us are called to open our eyes and ears to the wisdom of God’s creation. If we carefully observe we find that the plants, trees, animals, creeping things, and even the food we eat have wisdom to teach us. We can all offer our praise to God for the ways we learn from the wilds.

September 18: Job 28:20-27 Psalm 29 Luke 8:22-25

15th Sunday after Pentecost Storm Sunday Chancel Choir

How incredibly fortunate we are to have such a talented choir! We welcome them back this morning after their summer vacation. The themes of our worship invite us to consider how our faith empowers us to find our way through the storms of life. God’s Spirit is present to us at all times and in all places. We pray we might know God’s presence in this time of social and environmental change.

September 25: Proverbs 8:22-31 Psalm 148 John 6:41-51

16th Sunday after Pentecost Cosmos Sunday Family Sunday

On this final Sunday of our Season of Creation we are called to ponder the call of wisdom that is beyond speech and even what our eyes can behold. Today we can find joy and wonder as we rediscover how interconnected God has made us to this world. We hope everyone will come for worship and then join us downstairs for fellowship on this Family Sunday.

A NOTE FROM OUR FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

I wanted to provide you with a few notes as we pass the 7 month point in our current year. As of July 31, 2022 our expenses are 47.03% of the budget with revenue at 77.12% of the budget. That means that after just over ½ of the year our expenses are less than half and our income is more than half. I am mildly optimistic that we will end the year in better condition than we thought when the deficit budget was approved. Before we start the party, remember, any financial report is considered a point in time. There are some expenses pending that are not reflected in this report and some income that is weighed heavier at the beginning of the year. A simple measure is, we have been keeping the bills paid with our ongoing income and not having to pull from our reserves.

I am starting to prepare the proposed budget for 2023. All team leaders have been asked to submit any changes to our chart of accounts and we will be considering what changes may be possible and/or appropriate in expenditures.

To all who participated in our Adopt-a-Bill fundraiser. Thank You!! It was incredibly successful and raised just about \$8200. Our Scrip/Raise Right program is up and running and is increasing month over month. Please look for information on how you can participate in that.

I will be back to more consistent office hours of Mondays from 4:30 to 6:30 with the start of the program year. I will be in the office at other times as well. Feel free to contact me at phil@portucc.org.

Phil Stepanski,
Financial Administrator

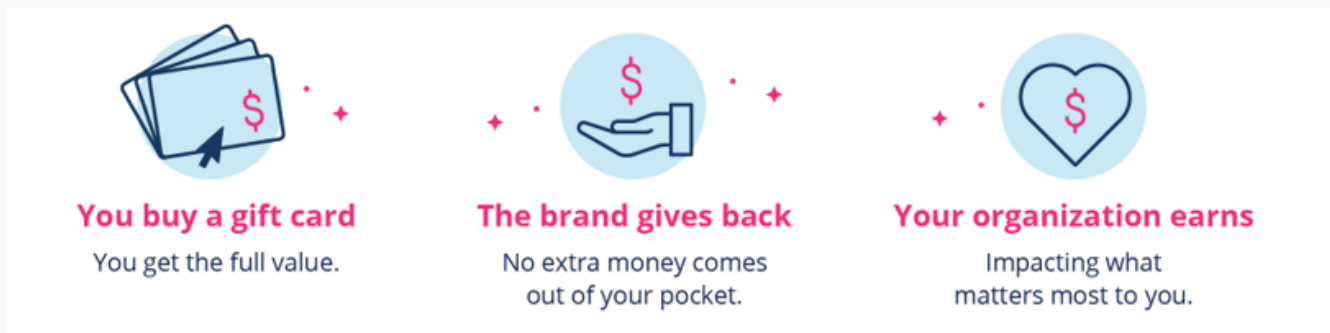
God is still speaking,

PROPERTY TEAM UPDATES AND MEETING MINUTES

Our Property Team is an active church team comprised of a handful of folks from the church. The team keeps a close eye on our church and works to maintain all aspects of our church building and grounds. Bill Bond is their Team Representative on the Church Council. Bill invites anyone who is interested to join the team. They meet around noontime on the last Friday of each month. One of the team members, Claude Zimmerman, takes notes at each of their monthly meetings and drafts minutes. The team would like to share their minutes with the church. You may click below for recent meeting minutes:

[July 2022 Property Team Minutes](#)

SCRIP/RAISE RIGHT GIFT CARD FUNDRAISING PROGRAM



Through our new gift card fundraising program, also called Scrip fundraising, by a company called Raise Right, the church can raise money when members and friends use retail gift cards to pay for everyday purchases (like gas and groceries) and more, instead of paying by credit card, cash, or check.

There are hundreds of gift cards you can purchase from retail stores, online merchants, restaurants, gas stations, entertainment, even flights and travel purchases; and each can be turned into a small percentage of money that will go directly to our church. You have options to buy eGift cards (available immediately), physical gift cards, and reloadable gift cards.

For every gift card purchased, earnings are up to 20%, with an average earning of 6% that goes to the church. The earnings come from the gift card brand you are purchasing - their way of supporting organizations and communities like ours. You do not pay anything extra, for example, if you buy a \$50 gift card, you pay \$50.

Jennifer Dimmer and Rhonda Thompson, our church Scrip/Raise Right Coordinators, will be placing an order on Sunday, **September 11**. The gift cards will be available at the church for pick up starting on Sunday, **September 18**. You can enroll and place an order ahead of time 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 and mail it to church or bring it to the office or with you to church on Sunday. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

**NEXT FCC ORDER
IS SEPTEMBER 11TH**

AVAILABLE CHURCH SPACE - PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

We were really dealt a blow when the school district announced they were moving all the pre-school programs "in house". Port Pre-School had been a part of our church for over 50 years but the change in funding meant the program was no longer sustainable. The Pre-School closed its doors in June and the district came and picked up their furniture and the rooms are now empty. It is sad to see an empty space this month in what would normally be a place alive with children, teachers, and parents. In purely practical terms, it has also meant a sizeable hole in our church's income, adding to a deficit budget.

But there are signs of life. No, we don't have a new renter. Yet. But, work has begun on getting the rooms ready for their next chapter. Thanks to Joe Mueller, Gary Tackes and other members of the Property Team, walls are being cleaned and repaired.

During the first full week of this month, Rhonda Thompson will be leading a small group of painters in getting the rooms ready for new use. Meanwhile, Troy Bretl has been seeking new occupants through his realtor connections and while there have been a couple of leads pursued, none of them has panned out, yet!

With the rooms ready to go, our hope is that new pictures can be used to advertise a bright, shiny space ready to welcome someone new.

Please help us spread the word! Contact Pastor Scott if you have any ideas or leads.



One of our church rooms being prepped for a new coat of paint.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM CREATED

Last month a small group of folks met in Fellowship Hall with Pastor Scott and Jennifer Dimmer, Fellowship Team Representative on the Church Council. The group was brought together by their answers to the Ministry Options survey back in the spring in which they had all indicated they were interested in either being a part of a Congregational Care Team or in helping with Greeting Card Writing. The group is going to begin extending our current practice of sending notes to people who we have become aware are facing a particular crisis or celebrating a special joy and begin sending notes to everyone around their birthday and at the time of their wedding anniversary.

Special thanks to Chris Drasch, Alice Ruffin, Jane Schwacher, Bev Mueller, Meg Tackes, and Jeanne Mantsch for each taking two months of the year to write all of those thoughtful notes! Chris Drasch has also agreed to take on the writing of notes throughout the year for people experiencing those special joys and concerns. We were so fortunate that Sherrie Dimmer had been doing this for us, but glad that Chris will be able to continue this ministry.

We are also working on extending the care of the church and strengthening our connections through a group of fellow church members who could reach out to those in need with a phone call, an additional note, or even a visit, and so thanks to Roberta Blumenberg, Meg Tackes, Ken Matthews, Alice Ruffin, and Bev Mueller for being willing to help Pastor Scott in this way. Really, they already do this sort of thing naturally, but we're hoping to all be in better communication and give support and encouragement! The group will be meeting again, and would welcome additional assistance. Please let Pastor Scott know if you are interested in being a part of the Congregational Care Team.



TEASEL REMOVED BY A MIGHTY TEAM

On Saturday, August 20, a work group gathered to remove teasel from Creekside Commons, our section of land on the southern edge of our church. They also ended up removing the vines that had taken over several trees near the concrete reinforcement wall. Thanks to Bill Bond, Mike Dimmer, David Franks and Louise Mollinger, Brook and Jim Holmes, Jeanne Mantsch, Scott McLeod, Susan Niederfrank, Adele Richert, Jane and Mike Spalding, and Tyfani and Thomas Ulicki for helping to cut down the invasive plant species and remove the vines.

Special thanks to Mike Dimmer for the use of his trailer to take everything away to the municipal center to dispose of properly (and then he came back and cut the grass, including the Creekside Common area!). As you may already know, teasel is very aggressive and will take over prairie and grassland areas if left unchecked. Last summer, Jane Spalding brought the infestation to the church's attention, and another small group removed the plants. Because of its life cycle we knew it would be back again this year, and it will probably be back again year after year. But, with any luck, it will just be a few plants rather than hundreds!



INVITATION TO GET INVOLVED ON VARIOUS TEAMS

Our church has a whole variety of teams (see our main teams below), that conduct and facilitate all of our church programs and activities. Members and friends of the church are not elected to serve on these teams, they simply volunteer! Serving on a team is a great way to learn more about how our church works and a wonderful opportunity to meet other members of the church. If you would like to learn more about serving the church on a team, please reach out to Pastor Scott or Jason Jacque, our new Church Moderator, or contact the church office.



YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive Team

Moderator:	Jason Jacque (2024)
Associate Moderator:	
Clerk:	Rhonda Thompson (23)
Treasurer:	Kathy Bretl (23)

Team Representatives

Christian Education:	Shandy Roehrig (24)
Fellowship:	Jennifer Dimmer (23)
Staff Support & Review:	Ken Matthews (24)
Property:	Bill Bond (23)
Community Outreach:	Eric Olson (24)
Liturgy:	Mike Spalding (23)
Stewardship:	Jodi Cowen (23) <i>*appointed</i>

Our Church Council, along with Pastor Scott and Phil Stepanksi, our Financial Administrator, meets on the second Thursday evening of each month.

OUR THANKS

To Dave and Jeanne Mantsch, Don and Susan Niederfrank, Mike and Jane Spalding, and Mike and Sherrie Dimmer for serving as Ushers in August.

To Kathy Bretl, Jason Jacque, Phil Stepanski, and Ric Probst for serving as Worship Leaders in August.

To Josh Jacque and Taylor Ulicki for sharing their Appalachia mission trip experience with the congregation on Sunday morning, August 14.

To the Fellowship Team for providing a special Fellowship Hour on Sunday morning, August 14 to our congregation and Pilgrim UCC following the Appalachia mission trip presentation.

To Bill Bond, Mike Dimmer, David Franks and Louise Mollinger, Brook and Jim Holmes, Jeanne Mantsch, Scott McLeod, Susan Niederfrank, Adele Richert, Jane and Mike Spalding, and Tyfani and Thomas Ulicki for helping to cut down teasel and vines on Saturday morning, August 20.

To Joe Mueller, Gary Tackes, and Claude Zimmerman for prepping the former Port Pre-School walls for a new coat of paint.

To Ken Matthews for leading the BBQ Bible Study on August 16 and to Bev and Joe Mueller for helping to prepare the food and grill the hotdogs for the meal that evening.

To Karl Pradel for keeping the Christ Candle shining brightly in the Sanctuary week-by-week throughout the year.

To Mike Spalding for selecting hymns for worship almost every Sunday this summer

IN OUR PRAYERS

To our recent high school graduates Brielle Bertler, Michael Bunyan, Makenna Eslinger, Brady Fleischmann, Ella Gilhooly, Hannah Lemke, Kamryn Lapacek, Vegas Mantsch, Jakub Micha, Gabriel Pasten, Taylor Peiffer, Elijah Perez, Sydney Rychtik, and Emily Schowalter as they prepare for their freshman year in college, the military, and the workforce.

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

APPROVED JUNE CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The June Minutes were approved at the August 11, 2022 meeting.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Church Council Minutes June 9, 2022

Call to Order By Jeanne Mantsch @ 6:31 PM

Jeanne Mantsch, Phil Stepanski, Mike Spalding, Bill Bond, Jennifer Dimmer, Eric Olson, Savannah Anderson, Kathy Bretl and Rhonda Thompson.

Opening Meditation – Bill Bond said a prayer and had a moment for silent prayer.

Approval of the Minutes – May, 2022 – Bill Bond motions to approve the May minutes and Eric seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Monthly Budget Review (/Phil/Kathy) – Phil has updated Quick Books and things are current. The insurance audit was conducted. There was a worker's comp insurance refund of \$659 due to an over payment. The premium was \$942 with \$1400 budgeted thus a credit for that account in Quick Books. Light House Ministry is asking for the first installment of \$2500 and Phil will get them a payment.

Old Business

Capital Campaign – Jeanne- Scott has put a team together. Members of the team thus far are Jeanne Mantsch, Bill Bond, Carolyn Heatwole, Karen Oftedahl, Joe Mueller and Ray Shupe. A meeting date has been set.

Building maintenance updates – (Bill)- A new estimate for the stained glass windows has been submitted from Staige Stained Glass. It is \$22,000 less than other estimates. This will be looked into with references from other churches to make sure this is a legitimate company with quality work. and question references from someone with work that is five or ten years old to make sure that the work has held up as well. There is a need for a line gutter with two down spouts to help get the water to the creek/away from the building. Based on past experience, Mike mentions to make the gutter company aware that snow melting off the solar panels can rip the gutter off.

Scrip sales progress – (Rhonda)- The bank account balance is \$58.73. A total of \$80.23 in rebates has been earned.

'Adopt a Bill' program-(Phil)- A total of \$7883 in bills has been covered.

Lighthouse Youth Ministry board of directors' representatives/ Lighthouse (Savannah)- Savannah will be stepping away as of the June meeting. The board will meet over the summer. The new youth director is the wife of the Lutheran minister. She'd like to start with meeting the congregation and tour the church. The open position should be mentioned at the congregational meeting stating the time commitment can take as much or as little time as one

(continued on the next page)

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

wants it to; meetings are two hours a month. With new changes it would be wise to be involved and a part of the board to have a say and provide something wonderful for the youth.

Ministry Options List for Team Leaders-Team leaders, please be sure to reach out with an email to contacts on the list given to you.

New Business

Annual reports from team leaders for June congregational meeting are due June 12.

Positions to be filled at June Congregational Meeting: Associate Moderator; Christian Education (Shandy Roehrig); Staff Support (Ken Matthews); Community Outreach (Eric Olson); and Jodi Cowen will replace Jason Jacque as Stewardship Leader. It should be mentioned at the Congregational meeting that the Council is in need of an Associate Moderator.

Port Pride group is seeking permission to use Fellowship Hall and patio as backup picnic location on Jun 26 if it rains. The date is open on the calendar. Bill Bond moves to allow Port Pride use of the hall. Kathy seconds the motion. The vote is approved.

Any other new business to come before the Council? If anyone wishes to have a flag flown it should be brought to Council for approval.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment- Meeting is adjourned at 7:17PM.

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OUR CHURCH DESIGNATIONS

As we move into a new program year, we wanted to refresh you on some of our church designations:

Safe Sanctuary

We are doing our very best to ensure that all people, most especially children, are always safe when at the church or when participating in church activities or programs.

Accessible to All (A2A)

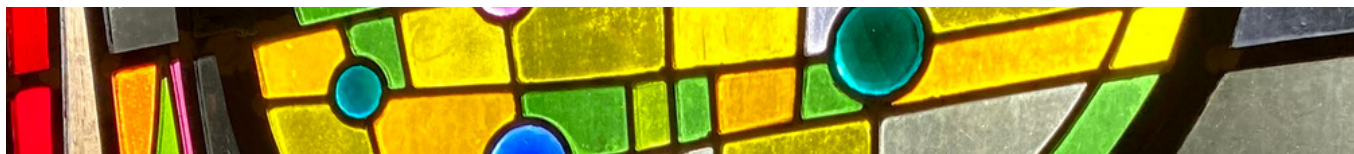
We are doing our very best to make our church fully accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

Open and Affirming (ONA)

We are doing our very best to welcome all people into full participation in the life of our church regardless of their sexual orientation.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Cindy Lopez | 15 - Bruce Laabs, Sr. |
| 3 - Jim Olson | Marti DeMario |
| 5 - Kitchie Allen | 16 - Zair Katzer |
| 7 - Cash Mantsch | 17 - Mark Yellen |
| 8 - Amanda Laabs | 18 - Skylar White |
| Roman Cira | Chad Mitchell |
| Jean Hoffmann | 19 - Chris Drasch |
| Sam Pasten | 20 - Melissa Bergin |
| 10 - Annette Stimac | 21 - Adele Richert |
| 11 - Mike Nowicki | 22 - Louise Reed |
| Diane Fowler | 23 - Emily Schowalter |
| 14 - Jacob Schowalter | 24 - Madison Yellen |
| Rick Hoffmann | 27 - Makenna Eslinger |
| Justin Franke | Bill Greymont |
| | 28 - Debbie Arndt |
| | 29 - Tracy Greymont |



SEPTEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 3 - Angelo and Cindy Lopez | 23 - Craig and Sandy Modahl |
| 4 - Phil and Susan Skowbo | 24 - Mike and Jane Spalding |
| Jim and Barb Olson | 26 - David Martin and Margaret Niederfrank |
| 5 - Brian and Jeanne Weir | 27 - Jim and Brook Holmes |
| 20 - Kevin and Lynda Ward | 28 - Neil and Jonda Johnson |
| Kallyn and Angela Vandenack | 30 - Troy and Bridget Bretl |
| 21 - Bruce and Amy Laabs | Jennifer and Patrick Garven |
| 22 - Scott and Andrea Briese | |

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

SEPTEMBER 2022 CALENDAR

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon 6:30 pm Executive Team	2	3
4 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Communion Service	5 Labor Day	6 9:30 am Staff Meeting	7 7pm Handbell Choir	8 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon 6:30 pm Church Council & Knellsville 4-H Club	9	10
11 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost New Program Year! 8 am Worship Service 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Worship Service Church School Nursery Care 11 am Fellowship Hour 7 pm Lighthouse - Service Project	12 5:45 pm Children's Choir 6 pm Friends for Justice (Zoom) 6:30 pm Chancel Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation Class Orientation	13 9:30 am Staff Meeting	14 12 pm Lunch Group 7pm Handbell Choir	15 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon	16	17 9 am All-Church Service Project in the Community
18 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Nursery Care	19 5:45 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Chancel Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	20 9:30 am Staff Meeting	21 9 am Congregational Care Team 12 pm Lunch Group 7pm Handbell Choir	22 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon	23 1 pm Property Team	24
25 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Children's Choir Nursery Care 11 am Fellowship Hour 4-7 pm Lighthouse - Spieker's Pumpkin Farm & Pumpkin Carving	26 1-2:30pm Friends for Justice to ABHM 5:45 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Chancel Choir	27 9:30 am Staff Meeting	28 12 pm Lunch Group 7pm Handbell Choir	29 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon	30	

CHURCH INFORMATION

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



Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday mornings from 8:30 - Noon

Pastor Scott's Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays, and by appointment

Financial Administrator Phil's Office Hours

Mondays from 4:30 - 6:30

Office Staff

Rev. Dr. Scott McLeod, Pastor - pastorscott@portucc.org

Amy Gilhooly, Communications Director - amyg@portucc.org

Beckie Perez, Office Manager - office@portucc.org

Phil Stepanski, Financial Administrator - phil@portucc.org

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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!

