



Congregational *Connections*

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

LENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Season of Lent started on February 22 with Ash Wednesday and continues all the way until Easter on April 9. The Lenten season has been observed in the Christian Church since the 4th Century (the Council of Nicea in 325!). It was the Church's practice to baptize new converts on Easter morning and those who were preparing for the sacrament would receive special instruction and fast for 40 days (not including Sundays) prior to being brought into the Church. Their fellow church members started to join them in solidarity by fasting and praying for them as they also prepared their hearts and minds for the big Easter celebration. Eventually, the practice was adopted throughout the whole Church.

Over the years, different Protestant Churches have varied in their observances of Lent, but over the last 40 years, most have "rediscovered" that it can be a valuable way to mark this period of time as we move through the calendar year. Please read through this month's newsletter and you will see a number of special events, classes, worship services, and fellowship activities that all work toward helping us ready our hearts and minds for our own Easter celebration.

Please join us every Wednesday evening at 6:30 as we gather for a special Lenten Vesper Worship service with prayer, scripture, and proclamation by candlelight. And/or join the Book Study that meets immediately after the Vesper Worship (it's not too late!). "Growing Spiritually" will continue meeting in-person and online Wednesday evenings at 7:00, discussing a chapter of the book "Soul Feast" until the end of April. Be with us each Sunday morning in March as we focus on different stories from John's Gospel for our worship themes at the 8:00 and 10:00 services. There are special events like the Dr. Seuss Breakfast Celebration on March 4, Spring Card Making Workshop March 12, and Bells Test Drive on March 19. There are lots of ways to prepare for Easter all month during Lent.

Yours In Christ,
Scott

OUR FIRST DR. SEUSS BREAKFAST - JOIN US!

Our church is hosting a Dr. Seuss Breakfast Celebration this Saturday morning, March 4, from 8:00-11:00. Please help spread the word! Pancakes, ham, applesauce, and refreshments will be served. Dr. Seuss-themed activities will be available as well! Tickets are \$8 per person and are available here at the church office, at Port Washington State Bank (PW location), and at the door.

Volunteers for this breakfast fundraiser are needed, as well as food and monetary donations to offset the cost. Please sign up below and plan to bring donations to the church by this Friday, March 3. Thank you!

Check the Volunteer Sign-Up

Check the Donations Sign-Up (you may use our **PayPal** account to make a monetary donation, or write a check to the church)



Dr. Seuss
Breakfast Celebration

\$8
Per Person

ENJOY
Seuss Stories
Photo Backdrop
Crafts
Activities

Breakfast Menu
Pancakes, Ham,
Applesauce, OJ, Milk

Saturday,
March 4th
8:00 – 11:00 am

WORSHIP WITH US

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

HOLY COMMUNION

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

CLICK AWAY

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

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER

If you have a celebration, prayer request, or other contribution for the newsletter, please email us 7-10 days before the first day of the month.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN VESPER WORSHIP SERVICES AT 6:30 PM

Beginning on Wednesday evening, March 1, at 6:30, we will be gathering together for a brief evening service of scripture, poetry, and prayers. This year we will be using guided meditations on scripture texts as a basis for our reflections and prayer. Worshipers will be invited to step "inside" the text to listen for the gentle consolation and gift of peace from the Holy Spirit. The Wednesday evening worship service in the quiet of our candlelit sanctuary provides another opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds for the trials of Holy Week and the joy of Easter. Join us for a time of centering and refocusing on following the ways of Jesus.



INSTALLATION OF BONNIE JACQUE AT ST. PAUL’S UCC ON MARCH 5

Longtime member and friend of the church, Bonnie Jacque, is being installed as the called, licensed minister of St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, Erin which is located at 495 Saint Augustine Road in Colgate, Wisconsin. Don Niederfrank will be one of the featured speakers. The Church and Ministry Team of the Southeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference has invited all members and friends of the SE Assoc. churches to attend this special service on Sunday afternoon, March 5, at 2:00. It would be great to have a representative contingent of our church members attend to show their support of Bonnie who began her journey to serve and lead the church while she was attending First Congregational Church. Pastor Scott is planning to go and would be happy to “carpool” from our parking lot if anyone is interested.



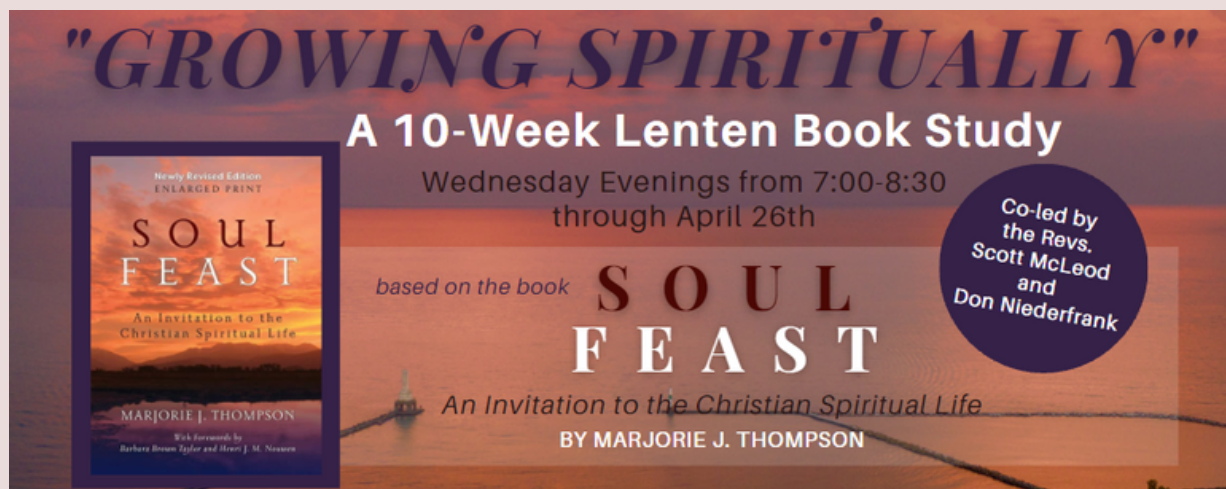
"PROPS" TO THE PROPERTY TEAM!

Thank you to Claude Zimmerman and the Property Team for the new set of handrails on the steps between seating area in the sanctuary and the raised chancel. The handrails were custom built by Claude and match the surrounding woodwork so well that they look as if they have always been there. The team has also been systematically replacing the lighting in the church with LEDs to help save energy. Thank you for your excellent work!

January 2023 Property Team Minutes



AN INVITATION TO THE CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL LIFE!



Pastor Scott and Don Niederfrank will be exploring a book called “Soul Feast” over a 10-week period. While the series started after the Ash Wednesday Worship service it is not too late to join. The book, by Marjorie J. Thompson, is an invitation to learn about and begin practicing different forms of prayer and devotion that will help renew and form our Christian spiritual lives. Many of us yearn for a deeper spiritual connection with the Divine—this is a great opportunity to grow in your faith. We will be meeting in person, but if you would prefer to participate from home, the class will be available “live” over Zoom.

The book is available for purchase in the church office (\$14) or you can order your own copy online. And really, don’t worry if you haven’t started reading. Because each week will focus on a single chapter, you can quickly catch up with the group! The material in each session is based on a chapter each week and forms the basis for discussion during class. We will meet each Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 - in-person and online. During Lent, the class will meet immediately following the 6:30 Wednesday evening worship services. Here are the 10 sessions; and remember, don’t worry if you miss a week (or more), just keep moving through the chapters!

March 1, Session 2: *Chewing the Bread of the Word: The Nature & Practice of Spiritual Reading*

March 8, Session 3: *Communication and Communion with God: Approaches to Prayer*

March 15, Session 4: *Gathered in the Spirit: Our Common Worship*

March 22, Session 5: *Reclaiming Sabbath Time: The Sacred Art of Ceasing*

March 29, Session 6: *The Practice of Self-Emptying: Rediscovering the Fast*

April 5, Session 7: *Of Conscience & Consciousness: Self-Examination, Confession, & Awareness*

April 12, Session 8: *Companions on the Journey: The Gift of Spiritual Direction*

April 19, Session 9: *Entertaining Angels Unawares: The Spirit of Hospitality*

April 26, Session 10: *Putting it All Together: Developing a Rule of Life*



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING ALL-CHURCH OFFERING

Please [click here](#) to learn more about this special offering on March 19.



FINANCIAL APPEAL FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN SYRIA & TURKEY

Please [click here](#) to learn how you can support the victims of the recent earthquakes.



AN UPDATE FROM OUR FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Thank you to all who have been so supportive of me since I took over as Financial Administrator. It has been just 1 year now so; I think I have experienced the full cycle of events. Holidays, fund raisers, stewardship, budget. There are many moving pieces to this organization.

The biggest challenge I have faced is our accounting program. We moved to Quick Books On-Line version in the beginning of 2021. My having been familiar with the QB desktop program was not as helpful as you would think. I am looking at some possible options in order to make the accounting and payroll systems more efficient and practical.

Regarding year-end statements for 2022. Most statements are fine. Some have been sent and others will be going out soon. Within the accounting program there is data that gets entered in several different ways depending on differing circumstances. I will be working with representatives at Quick Books to figure out how to compile all that data into a usable statement. In the interim, please contact me and I will work to expedite statements for those who require them right away.

Lastly, I have written a spread sheet to track all special donations and gifts so those can also be reported to you at year end. I know that there are many donations that go unaccounted for. I'd like to add those to the tracking and the reporting. Strictly confidentially. Drop me a note or a receipt and I will gladly add it.

Signed,
Phil Stepanski
Financial Administrator
(phil@portucc.org)

CHURCH SCHOOL'S GAME NIGHT IS RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH 9



SIGN UP FOR A DAILY DEVOTIONAL SENT TO YOUR INBOX

The United Church of Christ offers a free Daily Devotional as part of their Stillspeaking initiative. We invite you to subscribe to the Daily Devotional by [clicking here](#). You can also view the devotional on Facebook, simply "like" the Stillspeaking Daily Devotional page.



INVITATIONS FROM OUR FELLOWSHIP TEAM



The Fellowship Team has planned another craft event! Join them for a Spring Card Making Workshop on Sunday, March 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Jennifer Dimmer if you know you will attend (jenniferdimmer@gmail.com). As always, if you decide you can make it last minute, feel free to come! [Click here](#) for the flyer and an example of the cards.

Also, please plan to join us on Palm Sunday, April 2, for Fellowship Hour featuring warm cinnamon rolls served after both services, a long-standing tradition in our church!



BELLS TEST DRIVE & FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTED BY HANDBELL CHOIR



Have you ever been curious about bell ringing? Have you always wished you could try and ring one? Well now's your chance! The Handbell Choir is hosting Fellowship Hour on Sunday, March 19, and we would like to give you an opportunity to try your hands at ringing. Bells will be set up in Fellowship Hall and you will have the chance to try them out, learn a few pointers from one of our ringers, and even play through a short, simple piece of music. We are always looking for new ringers, and you don't know until you try! All ages and skill levels are welcome. If you have two hands and you can count to four, come try it out! [Click here](#) for the event flyer.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Hello Church School Families,

As you may have heard, our Macaroni and Cheese fundraiser was a great success! The children were terrific little chefs and demonstrated great partnership as we prepared over 30 take-and-bake pans. In total they made \$769 to support our church! Thank you to those purchased from us, we hope you enjoyed a warm meal on a cold wintery night.

The story for our March Church School class focuses on a Visitor at the Well from the story of John 4:5-42. [Click here](#) to read the story. We will be building our own wishing wells out of popsicle sticks as a reminder that we will worship God in both spirit and in truth.

Looking ahead, our last Church School lesson for this program year will be held on April 30, combining our April class (which fell originally on Easter Sunday) and our May lesson (which coincided with Mother's Day). We hope all of our Church School children will join us for our March and April classes and add two final ribbons to our name tags.

Blessings,

Shandy Roehrig, Christian Education Team Representative on the Church Council and Church School Leadership Team Chair



SIGN UP TO HAVE YOUR YARD "EGGED" BY LIGHTHOUSE

Parents of young children - consider signing up to have Lighthouse Youth Group "egg your yard" on the evening before Easter Sunday! See page 13 for details or go to their [event webpage](#) to order.

TIME TO THINK ABOUT SUMMER CAMP!

Please [click here](#) for more information on church summer camps.

LOOKING AHEAD

3/9 - Rescheduled
Game Night 5-6:30 pm
([Click here for flyer](#))

3/12 - Church School
(+ Children's Choir
Rehearsal After)

3/19 - Family Service
(including Children's
Choir) at 10:00

4/23 - Family Service
(including Children's
Choir) at 10:00

4/30 - Last Church
School of Program Year



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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP THEMES & SCRIPTURE FOR MARCH

This month we focus on four wonderful stories from the Gospel of John. While the other gospels tend to have a minimalist approach to telling a story, John's Gospel tells stories that unwind in complex ways, with lots of symbolism. Jesus seems to have a very clear view of his role in salvation and often appears more "divine" in John's Gospel than in the other gospel accounts. Jesus' powerfully moving encounters with Nicodemus, the woman at the well, the blind man, and finally with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus are all themes that will help make our worship meaningful during this month in Lent.

March 5: Genesis 12:1-4a John 3:1-17

Second Sunday in Lent

Through the Night, Communion Sunday, 9:00 Fellowship

Nicodemus' faith questions take him into the deep of night, and we find that we are all challenged to figure out what really matters.

March 12: Exodus 17:1-7 John 4:5-42

Third Sunday in Lent

With Thirst for New Life, Church School, Chancel Choir, & 11:00 Fellowship

As we listen to the conversation between Jesus and a Samaritan woman, we find the courage to use our voice to say what matters most.

March 19: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 John 9:1-41

Fourth Sunday in Lent

After Vision Shifts, Handbell Choir, Family Service, Children's Choir, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, 11:00 Fellowship

Perspectives shift as sight is restored with mud and spit, and we ponder how ordinary elements of life point to the extraordinary.

March 26: Ezekiel 37:1-14 John 11:1-45

Fifth Sunday in Lent, Out of the Depths

In wildernesses of grief, we gasp as Lazarus emerges alive and is unbound by the community and explore the concept of hope.



LOOKING AHEAD: HOLY WEEK APRIL 2 - 9

April 2, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Palm/Passion Sunday and Communion Sunday

The worship begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as we pass out palms for everyone that we might celebrate like the crowds calling out, "Hosanna!" We also begin to develop some of the themes of Holy Week as Jesus speaks powerful words in response to those who would end his ministry to the poor and outcast. Our Fellowship Team will serve the delicious cinnamon rolls once again, after both services.

April 6, 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae

The word "Maundy" coming from Jesus' "command" to love one another given at the last supper and the word "Tenebrae" meaning "shadows". This night we share communion in remembrance of the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples and experience the growing shadows of the worldly powers gathering to end Jesus' life and ministry. A powerful worship experience featuring a choral quartet, communion, and readings telling the story of the disciples' betrayal and abandonment.

April 7, 7:00 p.m. Good Friday

On Good Friday we hear the story of Jesus' crucifixion, through music, scripture, and proclamation. We recall Jesus' suffering and his last words from the cross. An emotionally moving service of worship in which we contemplate Jesus' sacrifice for his disciples and the whole world. Experiencing the services on Thursday and Friday make the joy that is to come on Easter all the more sweet and meaningful.

April 9, Easter Sunday Morning Services at 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 with Chancel Choir & Brass Quartet

The 6:00 a.m. service begins in the dark and welcomes the sunrise as together we dismantle the black pall that covers the communion table to experience anew the joy of God's resurrection power.

The twin services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. feature the joyful, beautiful music of our Chancel Choir and the excitement of Brass accompaniment to our hymns. In each service we hear again of Mary Magdalene's discovery of the empty tombs as she witnesses to having seen the Lord! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

UPDATED RENTAL SPACE FLYER - PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

The space previously used by Port Pre-School is ready for new occupants. Unfortunately, we have not found those new occupants yet. Troy Bretl has been seeking a non-profit organization to lease the space for almost a year now, and while a few leads have been pursued, we are still looking! A team of Jodi Cowen, Jason Jacque, Karen Oftedahl, Tiffani Ulicki, Pastor Scott and Troy have begun meeting to reenergize the search. We can use your help - please feel free to use **this flyer** to generate interest with the groups with whom you work or volunteer. If you can think of a group that might be interested, let them know we have a great space for them!

**REALTY
EXECUTIVES**

131 N Webster St. Port Washington

For Lease!

**\$12-\$14 per
sq. foot**

Can be separated
Elevator
Full kitchen
ADA Compliant



First Congregational Church in Port Washington has over 1600 square feet of space available that is perfect for projects, development, training and so much more. Building is handicap accessible with elevator and ADA bathrooms. Rooms can be divided as well.

Rooms measure approximately 39x18, 39x16 & kitchen 20x14

Seeking non-profit tenant

ACTION PHOTOS FROM LAST MONTH



Soup and Salad Potluck Lunch on February 19.



Preparing Mac and Cheese on February 12.

LIGHTHOUSE EVENTS



Lighthouse welcomes all middle school and high school youth to join the group anytime you are able! We thank Christin Fluke, Youth Director, for attending our Family Service on February 26. [Click here](#) to watch her invitation to all youth (at start of service). Here are the plans for March:



MOVIE NIGHT - Sunday, March 12, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Get out of the house/in from the cold and join us for dinner and a movie, complete with popcorn of course! The movie selection will be made that night by those attending.

EASTER BASKET SERVICE PROJECT - Sunday, March 26, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

We will be assembling Easter baskets for children served by Family Promise of Ozaukee County. This was a project Lighthouse started last year and it was so well received we've been asked to do it again! Our supporting congregations will be asked to help us collect supplies this month (more info coming soon!) and then we'll meet at this time to assemble all of them as a way to share God's love with our neighbors this Easter!



EGG MY YARD!
LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISER

SIGN UP TO HAVE CANDY AND TOY FILLED EGGS DELIVERED IN YOUR YARD AND WAKE UP TO A FUN AT HOME EGG HUNT ON EASTER MORNING!

2 DOZEN - \$20
4 DOZEN - \$35
8 DOZEN - \$60

SIGN UP AT
WWW.LIGHTHOUSEYOUTH.ORG/EGGS

EGG MY YARD FUNDRAISER

Support Lighthouse by participating in our "Egg My Yard" fundraiser! Let us help you create a fun at-home egg hunt by spreading plastic eggs filled with candy and toys throughout your yard. You can also order this as a fun surprise to be sent to a friend or family member to help brighten their Easter! Delivery by Lighthouse youth is available for any home within Port Washington or Saukville, or you can arrange to pick up a collection of pre-filled eggs and hide them yourself if you live in other areas.

For more information, or to sign up, please visit lighthouseyouth.org/eggs or call Christin Flucke at (262) 483-9582. The deadline to order eggs is Sunday, March 26, and all deliveries will be made the evening of Saturday, April 8 - just in time for Easter morning!



CHURCH CHOIRS

A reminder that our choirs always welcome new faces!

Children's Choir rehearses second and fifth Sunday mornings at 11:00, and performs on the 4th Sunday of every month.

Chancel Choir rehearses 6:30-7:30 on Monday evenings, and performs on the second and fifth Sunday of every month.

Handbell Choir rehearses 7:00-8:00 on Wednesday evenings, and performs on the third Sunday of every month.



WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP

You are invited to come to church on Wednesdays at noon for lunch and Bible study. The group meets in the Dennett Room and everyone brings their own bag lunch and beverage. After they eat together, the group reads through the Bible passages that will be used in worship on the next Sunday. Pastor Scott provides some Biblical background materials and some questions for discussion and then the conversation begins. You don't need to be a Bible scholar to participate, just a curiosity to explore and reflect on the text. The conversation is always interesting and there is usually laughter and sharing of stories, opinions and an insight or two. Give it a try, there is always room for more around the table!



THURSDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Every Thursday morning at 8:00, a dedicated group of gentlemen from the church gather at The Beacon restaurant, which is located downtown on the first floor of The Harborview hotel. The Thursday 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. You are welcome to join the group at any time!



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 service 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.



RAISERIGHT - GIFT CARD FUNDRAISING FOR OUR CHURCH

NEXT FCC ORDER IS MARCH 12

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

Jennifer Dimmer and Rhonda Thompson, our church Scrip/Raise Right Coordinators, place orders the second Sunday of every month. Please order online or drop off your order form with payment by Sunday, **March 12**. The gift cards will be available at the church for pick up starting on Sunday, **March 19**. To enroll and place an order, head to the company website, RaiseRight.com/enroll. Our church enrollment code is **P8I47VHNX56H**. Or, you can complete the [paper form](#), write out a check to the church, and turn in both to the church office.



SUNDAY SERVERS - ONLINE SIGN-UP

We continue to utilize the online SignUpGenius tool to allow for easier scheduling of our Sunday morning servers. Below are the areas we need your participation. Simply click on the links and choose which Sundays you would like to 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.



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

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

APPROVED JANUARY 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The December Minutes were approved at the February 9, 2023 Church Council meeting.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church Council Minutes

January 12, 2023

Call to Order by Jason Jacque @ 6:54

Pastor Scott, Jason Jacque, Phil Stepanski, Bill Bond, Mike Spalding, Jodi Cowen, Jennifer Dimmer, Shandy Roehrig, Kathy Bretl, and Rhonda Thompson.

Opening Meditation – Jodi read a section from Martin Luther King Jr.'s, "Christmas Sermon on Peace" 1967.

Approval of the Minutes – December 2022- Bill motions to approve the December minutes and Mike seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Monthly Budget Review / 2023 Budget Status (Phil)-The Quickbooks communication with the bank has been fixed and will change very little. Mike is asking if numbers for 2022 will be closed by the congregational meeting and Phil says 2022 will be finalized. Pledges are still coming in so Phil would like to wait till Saturday January 28 to finalize the pledge line item. Phil is working with Beckie on terminology and making sure they both submit entries the same way. Both lawn service and pest control contracts have been eliminated reducing those costs.

Pastor's Moment (Pastor Scott)-The Pastor Parish Relations Team discussed a pastoral evaluation. They are prepared to create a process by which to evaluate. What does the process look like? Who should conduct the evaluation? They plan to review every three years the role itself and make adjustments as needed. The UCC has some guidelines that the team will look at and consider putting into place. One of the tools that should be considered is some form of feedback from members of the congregation. Confidentiality should also be a consideration as to what all needs to be shared. Shandy feels their next steps will be to review material, put thoughts together, build a framework working with Ken Matthews, Staff Support & Review Team Chair, then do another overview.

Old Business

Building maintenance updates – (Bill)-They have established a contract agreement with J&H Heating and Otis Elevator. The team has come up with a fix for the south roof line of Fellowship Hall for better drainage. Systematic changing to LED lights is underway. A sanctuary hand rail will be installed at the north end of the altar area. It will look like the handrail in the bell tower stairway. After moving the wires another rail will be installed on the south side. The stain glass quote has come in and is close to the other quotes (\$25,000). They met with Jon Crain and are awaiting his quote for tree removal for trees that are blocking the solar panels.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

Stewardship (Jodi)-Phil reports that a total of 89 pledges have been turned in for an amount of \$158,564. The average pledge is \$1781.62. There are nine new pledges, five decreased the amount, 26 stayed the same and 49 increased the amount pledged. Seventeen pledging units from 2022 have not yet made a pledge for 2023. About 85 follow up messages were conducted, which resulted in seven additional pledges. They will start writing thank you notes. Jodi asks if there is any concern for sending the thank yous around the congregational meeting and no one sees any concern.

Rental Space update – (Pastor Scott)- No update. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Kathy will check with Troy about getting the flyer updated. Jodi has a place to post the updated flyer.

Associate Moderator position – Any candidates asked have declined. Pastor Scott is welcoming any new suggestions.

“The Examen(ed) Church” – (Pastor Scott) The first event is Saturday January 21 at Marquette. A Thrive Team of Gary and Meg Tackes, Karl Pradel, Scott Symes, Louise Mollinger, Terry McManus and Pastor Scott has been formed. This is a pilot program that will involve a \$2000/\$3000 endowment with the possibility of some seed/start up money as well for any ministry program we may choose to start.

Additional Team Updates – (Shandy, Eric, Jennifer, Mike, Ken)-Church School is going well with a few new faces-some of which have returned. February will bring back the Mac and cheese fundraiser. Fellowship is hosting chili dinner on January 22. On the 21 there will be a wedding, the first in awhile. Gathering of Grands (grandparents & grandkids) is next event. Mike has sent out the communion server schedule and needs some help March 5.

New Business

Winter Congregational Meeting (Jason)-Finance Team will meet January 23 to wrap up the 2022 year. Phil will make copies of the 2023 budget report. Everyone agrees that it worked to shorten the service and hold the meeting in the sanctuary immediately following the service so we'll do it again. For any pledges turned in after the approval of the budget, Phil will include them on a separate revenue line to show the additional pledge in revenue but it won't change the fixed/approved amount.

AED & CPR Training -Bill is hoping to talk about getting some training classes to offer to members and community members. Shandy will share a list of area places and people that aid in the training. The Council agrees this is a good idea.

Membership Count-Pastor Scott and staff have reviewed the roster. They have a rough count of 345 members, 142 friends and 91 inactive members. They plan to send 25 letters asking for confirmation on continuing membership or not. They are hoping to get responses back before the congregational meeting. These are not official numbers.

Succession Planning- Jason is asking each team chair for a list of names of those on each team, and then to nominate one or two that have potential to step up and lead when your term is up.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment at 8:35 pm.

SPECIAL THANKS

To Church School for decorating the Stewardship thank you cards.

To Bill Bond, Joe Mueller, and Claude Zimmerman for constructing a new handrail leading up to the altar in the sanctuary. Several folks had expressed that a railing was needed and would be helpful to navigate the stairs. Indeed, the railing is a great addition, and blends in nicely with the existing woodwork. Well done guys!

To Congregational Care Team member, Jeanne Mantsch, who sent out birthday and anniversary cards to our friends and members in February.

To everyone who helped with the Church School Mac and Cheese Fundraiser. Through the hard work of the Church School children and teachers, along with the generosity of our families, the Church School raised \$769! Proceeds will be put to use purchasing supplies and other materials in 2023.

To Dick and Edie Webb for their generous financial gift toward the Church School Mac and Cheese fundraiser.

To the Roehrig family for donating the cost of the mac & cheese supplies for the Church School Mac and Cheese fundraiser.

To Jane Spalding and Joe Mueller for leading Wednesday Lunch Group on February 15.

To Jennifer Dimmer, our Fellowship Team Chair, and the Fellowship Team, for hosting a soup and salad potluck lunch on Sunday, February 19. Fellowship Team events held immediately after the second worship service have been well attended!

To our February Worship Leaders: David Franks, Jason Jacque, Jeanne Mantsch, Ric Probst, Phil Stepanski, and Scott Symes.

To our February Ushers: Merlin and Janet Behnke, David Franks, Jeanne Mantsch, Louise Mollinger, Margaret Niederfrank, Mike and Jane Spalding and our Confirmation Class parents.

To our February Nursery Caregivers: Maile and Rhonda Thompson, Andrew and Erin Arthur, Gabe and Becky Chandler, Matt and Sarah Riemer.

To our February Fellowship Hour Hosts: Jennifer Dimmer and the Church School program.

To Jane Spalding for creating a beautiful Lenten altar arrangement.

To Joe Mueller and the rest of the Property Team for making almost daily trips in February to check on the boilers and heating system and a difficult to diagnose temperature control shut-off issue.

To Erin Arthur for being the Parent Helper at the February Confirmation Class.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Katja Cira and Hailey Bergin who are part of an a cappella choral group at PWHS, "Focus", who won 2nd place at the ICHSA Quarter Finals in Oak Creek. They are moving on to the Semi-Finals at the Pabst Theater in Milwaukee later this month.

To Craig Modahl who has completed a new book that is on its way to a publisher. The memoir is called "A Needed Life" about his experience with Kevin, a man with special needs that Craig and Sandy brought into their home to care for. [Click here](#) for the Ozaukee Press article.

Eva Perez was featured in an Ozaukee Press article about the Ozaukee Youth Apprenticeship program and her work as a CNA at Harbor Campus. [Click here](#) to read the article.



Baptism

Congratulations to Autumn Patricia Zausch, who was baptized into the Christian faith on Sunday, February 12. Autumn is being held by Godfather Brad Melichar, parents on right, Melissa and Josh, and godmother on left, Bailey Magnin.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Betty Bollinger. After recovering from a broken hip suffered on Christmas Eve, Betty returned to Harbor Campus only to suffer another fall and a broken right leg. She had surgery to repair the leg and will be starting physical therapy in hopes of returning home again.

Bruce Laabs, Sr. Bruce is stable and retains a sense of humor while being on hospice palliative care at Ellen's Home in Port Washington. He would welcome cards and prayers.

Cindy Zozak. Cindy is already a cancer survivor but was recently diagnosed with a new breast cancer. She will have surgery on March 23 and invites our prayers of support and healing.

Steve Melichar. Sherri Melichar's brother-in-law went to the Mayo Clinic and had good news that spots found on an earlier test were not cancer, he continues to go through testing to find a new diagnosis.

MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- 1- Caitlin Calder
- 2- Levi Franke
- 3- Nancy Hinneberg
- 4 - Emma Kasza-James
Brooke Peiffer
Caitlin Zozak
- 5- Chris Wach
- 8- Amy Gilhooly
Brad Mueller
- 12- Hannah Lemke
Joe Mueller
- 15- Dave Eslinger
- 16- Bridget Bretl
- 17- Angelo Lopez
- 18- Zoe Mantsch
- 22- Cynthia Zozak
- 23- Calhan Norman
- 24- Carol Davidson
- 25- Tim Cira
- 26- Dawn Rychtik
- 27- Darcy McManus
- 29- Jason Jacque
Otto Katzer
- 30- James Johnson



MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 - Eric and Jackie Oleson
- 15 - Joe and Dawn Rychtik



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

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
MARCH 2023 CALENDAR			1 12 pm Wednesday Lunch Group 6:30 pm Vesper Service 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7 - 8:30 pm Lenten Book Study	2 8 am Men's Breakfast -The Beacon 6:30 pm Executive Team	3	4 8 - 11 am Dr. Seuss Breakfast Celebration
	5 Second Sunday in Lent 8 am/10 am Worship Communion Service 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Nursery Care 11:15 am 125 th Anniversary Planning	6 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Yoga	8 12 pm Wednesday Lunch Group 6:30 pm Vesper Service 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7 - 8:30 pm Lenten Book Study	9 8 am Men's Breakfast -The Beacon 5 - 6:30 pm Church School Game Night & Pizza 6:30 pm Church Council	10
12 Third Sunday in Lent 8 am/10 am Worship Service 10 am Chancel Choir Church Nursery Care School 11 am Fellowship Hour 11:15 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Spring Card Making Workshop 6 - 8 pm Lighthouse Movie Night	13 4:00 pm Friends for Justice (Zoom) 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Yoga	15 12 pm Wednesday Lunch Group 6:30 pm Vesper Service 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7 - 8:30 pm Lenten Book Study	16 8 am Men's Breakfast -The Beacon	17	18
19 Fourth Sunday in Lent 8 am Worship Service 10 am Family Worship Service Confirmation Class Participation Handbell Choir Children's Choir Nursery Care 11 am Fellowship Hour "Bells Test Drive"	20 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30-8:00 pm Confirmation Class	21 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Yoga	22 12 pm Wednesday Lunch Group 6:30 pm Vesper Service 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7 - 8:30 pm Lenten Book Study	23 8 am Men's Breakfast -The Beacon 7 pm Pastor Parish Relations Team	24 1 pm Property Team	25
26 First Sunday in Lent 8 am/10 am Worship Service 10 am Nursery Care 7 - 8 pm Lighthouse Easter Basket Assembly for Family Promise	27 6:30 pm Chancel Choir	28 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Yoga	29 12 pm Wednesday Lunch Group 6:30 pm Vesper Service 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7 - 8:30 pm Lenten Book Study	30 8 am Men's Breakfast – The Beacon	31	

CHURCH INFORMATION

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



Church 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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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!

