



Congregational Connections

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

BECOMING AMBASSADORS FOR JESUS AND THE CHURCH

What a terrific month we just finished up at church. The Lenten Season was filled with great worship and meaningful conversations and study and then Holy Week was a terrific capstone! Between the Handbells, the kids singing, a Wednesday evening scavenger hunt, Maundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae, Good Friday somber scripture readings in worship before pulling out all the stops on Easter morning with beautiful music supplied by the Chancel Choir and brass accompaniment—it was glorious!

The month of May is the Season of Easter and in worship we begin to discern with the disciples, now Apostles, what it means that Jesus has been raised. It is an important movement for the early church to go from being Disciples—those who follow a teacher and leader, to becoming Apostles—those who are sent out. It is a remarkable transition and one that involves remembering what Jesus had said and done, much prayer and discernment of how Jesus' teachings could be applied to new circumstances and situations.

As part of a church community, we are always disciples. Always learning more, seeking to grow deeper in our faith and recognizing where Jesus is leading us in service and ministry with the people around us. While, the name "Apostle" seems to be a title that refers more specifically to the original group active in the first generation of the church, the Apostle Paul uses the same root of the Greek word to call all disciples to also be Ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20).

An ambassador is sent to represent one country or government to another. An ambassador presents and demonstrates all the best that their home country or government has to offer to those to whom they are sent. I believe that part of what this Easter Season is all about is beginning to discern how we might best be ambassadors of Jesus and ambassadors of our church to our circle of friends and family, to our coworkers, and to the communities in which we live.

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...BECOMING AMBASSADORS continued...

In this month of May, may we continue the good discipleship we have developed. But as the first disciples transitioned into becoming Apostles, may we too grow and become ambassadors for Jesus Christ and for our church. How can you best represent the love of Christ and the light of God in your relationships? In your thoughts and actions each and every day? See you in church!

Courage and Peace,
Pastor Scott



MAY ADOPT-A-BILL FUNDRAISER

During the month of May, the Church Council is inviting all of us to help close the budget deficit by adopting one of the church's budgeted expenses for the month, or even just a week. Beginning May 8, you will find a display board in the narthex, and in fellowship hall during Fellowship Hour, which will have a variety of church bills and church expenses that we would like you to consider adopting by taking the slip of paper and enclosing the dollar amount in an envelope toward that particular budgeted item.

We all know the church has bills to pay, month in and month out. Things like the electric bill to keep the lights on and the gas bill to keep the place warm. We pay quarterly bills to make sure we are insured against disaster, monthly bills to maintain the property, and phone, internet, Wi-Fi bills to keep everything running smoothly. They are not the "flashy" kinds of expenses that one might think a church has—ones that might go directly to feeding the hungry or caring for those in need. Instead, they are the bills that enable our ministry to continue, the bills that allow us to continue the upkeep on our beautiful facility. These are the necessary bills that are the means through which we can, in fact, do the work of Jesus Christ in the world— including feeding the hungry and caring for those in need.

Help us close the budget deficit by donating toward our "Adopt-a-Bill Fundraiser" this month!

WORSHIP WITH US - TWO SUNDAY SERVICES THROUGH END OF MAY

We celebrate two Sunday morning worship services at 8:00 and 10:00 through May 29. Nursery care is available at the 10:00 service. We have one service at 9:00 during the summer months of June, July, and August (sorry, no nursery care provided in the summer).

CLICK AWAY

Remember to be on the lookout for orange text throughout this e-newsletter. The orange text is linked up to other documents or web pages that you might find helpful and interesting.

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEXT E-NEWSLETTER

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. Please email us 7-10 days before the first day of the month.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

We are excited to welcome seven new members into our church. They were welcomed into our fellowship back on March 27th and are excited about getting to know the members and friends of our church as they participate in worship and ministry in the coming months and years.

Connie and Don Cross met in Gurnee, Illinois and were married there in 1993. They later moved to Green Bay and lived there 8 years until moving to the Port Washington area in 2010. They have one daughter, Haley, who is 23 and lives and works in Sheboygan. Don works for Associated Bank as a Unified Communications Manager. Connie retired from the Port Washington/Saukville school district in 2018 where she worked as a special education and math/reading para. She currently enjoys shopping for others through Shipt. They have one dog, Max, and an old rescued cat named Mittens. Don and Connie enjoy camping, the outdoors, getting together with family, and love to travel and see new things. Their hope is to do more of all of that soon. They feel really blessed to have found this church.



Carol and Steve Davidson come to us from their home at Cedar Community in West Bend, a retirement community of the UCC. Before moving to this area 6 years ago, they lived near Traverse City in northwest Lower Michigan, preceded by over 30 years in 6 major cities, mainly Chicago which they claim as a home base. These moves were occasioned as part of Steve's journey as an ordained pastor and teacher of the UCC. A year ago, he completed a 30-month interim ministry at St. Paul's UCC, Oshkosh. Carol's career has taken a series of twists and turns primarily in the field of education, but, also, as executive director of a County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Bureau in northern Michigan. They are the parents of 3 sons, 11 grands, even 5 great grands. Steve enjoys running, singing, spending time in the UK, reading, writing, and is making a desperate effort to play the piano! Carol is a committed pastelist (an artist who works with pastels) and participates in a range of activities at Cedar Community, including book discussions and exercise groups. The Davidsons anticipate becoming better acquainted with the people of the church and involved in the church's ministry.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS...continued



Tyfani and Jeff Ulicki - Tyfani was born and raised in Port Washington and recently moved back. She and Jeff were married on September 13, 1997 and shared many years of just the two of them. They adopted their two children, Thomas and Taylor-Joette, from different families in WI. Jeff and Tyfani named their children after their parents. Both children are 15 years old, attend Port Washington High School and are active in sports and clubs. Along with the children, they have three dogs; Harley, who is 14 years old, Zoe, who is 7 years old and Diesel, who is 4 years old. All three of them are half shih-tzu mixes. Jeff works as a Senior Account Executive at WFA Staffing for the past 18 years. He has enjoyed guiding people to new career opportunities. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing, reading, ice fishing and attending the kids' activities. Tyfani is an Inside Sales Order Services at WAGO Corporation. In her spare time, she enjoys walking, shopping, helping the kids with their studies and watching movies. As a family, they enjoy traveling to the Dells and Door County. They spent spring break in the Dells with two other families. The kids had fun in the waterparks, indoor mini golfing, go-carting, and laser tag to name a few activities.

Kristen Wolf - Kristen is excited to meet more members of the church and wants to get involved in the church's activities as best as she can. Kristen enjoys camping, hiking, and simply being outdoors as much as possible. Kristen has a daughter, Kendra, who is 14 years old and is now finishing up her 8th grade year at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. Kendra loves music, roller skating, and spending lots of time with her friends. Kristen had been attracted to the church through the website and watched worship services online during the pandemic before checking us out in person and attending the new member classes. She is really looking forward to nicer weather this spring and can't wait to get more involved with her new community!



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MARLYS HERBERT ON MAY 7

April 29, 1928 – November 20, 2021

A Celebration of Life for Marlys Herbert, a member of our church for 65 years, will take place on Saturday, May 7, here at church. The family will receive visitors at 10:30 a.m. until services at 11:30. Refreshments will follow in Fellowship Hall. Marlys was the church secretary for 18 years, retiring in 1984. She also sang in the Chancel Choir for many years.

FELLOWSHIP PLANS IN MAY

We have additions to our Fellowship Hour schedule in May. Please note the following offerings:

May 8 - The Church School kids invite you to join them in creating pennants during Fellowship Hour to celebrate important women in your life! There is a suggested small donation, all money received will be given to Family Promise.

May 15 - There will be a special Fellowship Hour after the 10:00 service with cake and coffee to honor and thank the Handbell Choir.

May 22 - There will be an expanded Fellowship Hour to include a Potluck Lunch (*see below*). There will also be cake to honor and thank the Chancel Choir.

May 15 & 22 - Join us for a Scrip Info Session during Fellowship Hour on both of these Sundays to provide information and answer questions about this new fundraising program for the church. (*see next page*)

POTLUCK LUNCH TO CELEBRATE THE END OF THE PROGRAM YEAR

The Fellowship Team invites one and all to a Potluck Lunch to celebrate the end of the church program year on Sunday, May 22, after the 10:00 service. The team will be providing sub sandwiches and there will be cake. Please feel free to bring a side, dessert, or chips if you feel so inclined.

Potluck Lunch Celebration

SUNDAY, MAY 22nd

After the 10:00 Service, in Fellowship Hall



NEW SCRIP GIFT CARD PROGRAM TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH



Our Church Council decided to implement a new, ongoing fundraiser for our church called Scrip. Through Scrip, the church can raise money when our members and friends use retail gift cards to pay for everyday purchases, like gas and groceries, instead of credit or debit cards, cash, or checks.

Let's use groceries as an example. 3% is the average return on grocery gift cards. Essentially, you purchase a \$100 gift card for Piggly Wiggly (for example) through the church's Scrip program and the church receives \$3. You still get the full \$100 value of the card, but the church has received \$3 for something you would have been buying anyway. We know, it still doesn't sound like a lot. However, the average person spends over \$2,500 a year in groceries. If you were to use a gift card purchased through the church's Scrip program for all those groceries, it equals \$75. And if a church our size were to have 100 people use the gift cards purchased through Scrip we'd have a fundraiser of \$7,500 which begins to rival our most successful fundraisers. Again, for grocery items you would have been buying anyway. Click to visit ShopwithScrip.com.

Plus, there is much more; there are 100's of gift cards you can purchase for retail stores and online merchants, restaurants, gas stations, entertainment, even flights and travel purchases; and each can be turned into a small percentage of money coming directly to help the church. Your purchase of graduation gifts, Christmas gifts, birthday gifts, wedding gifts can all become ways through which the church receives a small percentage of the total. It really does begin to add up, especially when you consider this is not "new" spending, just doing the usual things, but being mindful of an opportunity to help us out.

We thank Jennifer Dimmer and Rhonda Thompson who will be our church Scrip Coordinators. They will be available for a Scrip Info Session during Fellowship Hour on May 15 and May 22 in the Dennett Room to help people sign up online as well as to answer any questions.



MINISTRY OPTIONS 2022 SURVEY - THANKS!

Thank you to the 45+ people who filled out one of our "Ministry Options 2022" surveys. It was exciting to see people step forward to help with the ongoing work and service of the church. It takes many hands to carry out the great variety of ministries our church takes on over the course of a year. The team leaders on Council will receive the names and contact information of people who volunteered to help in their areas. So you should hear from one or two of those leaders over the next several weeks as we begin to make connections and discern how we can make sure everyone gets a chance to serve. This is not a "one and done" survey, we hope to put it to work again next year with revisions on what new opportunities are on the horizon in 2023 and beyond.



SCRIPTURE TEXTS AND WORSHIP THEMES FOR MAY

May 1: Acts 9:1-6, (7-20), Psalm 30, John 21:1-19

Third Sunday of Easter, Communion Sunday

In the story of Saul's transformation and renewed vision, we open our eyes to new ways we might be part of an ever-expanding community of faith and witness. The communion elements of bread and cup strengthen us for the road ahead.

May 8: Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, John 10:22-30

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, Chancel Choir, Mother's Day

On this Mother's Day we are comforted by the image of the shepherd that protects, defends, leads and feeds. As the Chancel Choir leads us in song we consider how everyday acts of love, compassion, and kindness have the power to lift people to life.

May 15: Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, John 13:31-35

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Handbell Choir

In Acts of the Apostles we learn how Peter's experience on the rooftop reminds us of our call to go beyond human set boundaries, challenges us to question the walls we build, and invites us to build bridges. The beauty of the Handbell Choir will lift our spirits for their finale this program season.

May 22: Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67, Revelation 21:10, John 14:23-29

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Children's Choir and Chancel Choir

The theme of witness continues as we join the welcoming women by the river of life and see God's new ways expressed in the Christian community spreading to the ends of Earth. In worship, a special combined effort of the Children's and Chancel Choir brings the program year to a close.

May 22: Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 97, John 17:20-26

Seventh Sunday of Easter, Confirmation Sunday, Memorial Day Weekend

We join in celebration with our Confirmands and their families on this Confirmation Sunday. The texts for this day show the ripples of God's powerful love continuing to spread and reflect on how unity in Christ and solidarity with those in need frame God's call to our community.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

It's hard to believe, but we only have one more Church School Sunday of the program year! The next Church School Sunday is coming up on May 8. We invite all children (4k through 7th grade) to join us!

The kids will learn about the life of Tabitha. She was a highly respected disciple in the early church, one who put her faith into action by caring for the weak and the widowed in her town. The Church School will also be thinking about important women in our lives on this Mother's Day and creating "Pennants" to celebrate their contributions to our lives and our church.

For a small donation during Fellowship Hour on May 8, you too can create a pennant to celebrate the important women in your life! All donations will be given to Family Promise.

Holy Week SCAVENGER HUNT



The kids split into two groups and had a great time at the Holy Week Scavenger Hunt on Wednesday evening, April 13.



THANK YOU - DONATIONS FOR FAMILY PROMISE

Thank you to Eric Olson, Community Outreach Team Representative on the Church Council, for initiating a collection of spring cleaning supplies to support one of the local service organizations that we support on an ongoing basis - Family Promise of Ozaukee County. We'd also like to thank all of you who dropped off donations to the church. It was an impressive collection of goods!



Members of the Confirmation Class visited Holy Hill and walked the stations of the Cross on Saturday, April 9.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY ON MAY 29

Our 14 Confirmands have gone into the last stage of their class process as they begin to write their personal statements of faith. The month of May will engage them in discerning what it is they believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, the Church and about their own call to discipleship. The previous months' classes and mission experiences have attempted to get across a variety of lessons on all of these subjects, but now it is their turn to try and express their faith.

I often think of it in a similar way to the occasion during Jesus' life after the disciples had gathered together as Jesus asks them, "Who do people say that I am?" The disciples are quick to answer, "Some say Elijah!" and others say, "John the Baptist, returned". But then Jesus asks the disciples the more difficult question, "But who do you say that I am?" This is the question the Confirmands are being asked.

You will be able to hear their answers if you join in our Confirmation Sunday worship service at 10:00 on May 29.



CONGRATULATIONS AND "WAY TO GO"!

To our church youth who participated in the Port Youth Theatre production of Frozen, Jr. on April 22 and 23 which included Katja Cira (middle Anna), Simon Gilhooly (Olaf), and Taylor White (young Anna).

To Sydney Garthus who is a member of Port Washington High School's acapella group. *Limited Edition* placed 5th at Nationals in New York City on April 23.

To Courtney Cowen who is a member of Alma College dance team. Alma Dance Team won multiple first place honors and the National Dance Alliance (NDA) and Dance Team Union (DTU) national championships in Daytona Beach, Florida at the beginning of April.

A NOTE FROM PHIL, OUR NEW FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR



Thanks to everyone for the enthusiasm and confidence shown by hiring me as the new Financial Administrator. I will do the best I can to be thorough, accurate and transparent.

These past two years have been hard on us all, as individuals and as a community. Our church has some challenges financially, but I feel optimistic about the future. There are several efforts underway to close the deficit gap in the budget and to work on our infrastructure. You'll see more about some of that in other places and in the future.

I plan to keep office hours on Mondays from 4:30 to 6:30. If anyone wants to talk to me in person that would be a convenient time. I will be working at other times as well, but those times will be less structured. Otherwise, feel free to reach out to me by e-mail or leave a message at the church and I will be certain to get back to you (phil@portucc.org).

Thanks again. Together we can do this.
Phil Stepanski

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ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:00 DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

Beginning on June 5, we have one worship service at 9:00 on Sunday mornings during the summer months of June, July, and August. Please note - no nursery care is provided in summer.

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HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES INVITED TO CHURCH ON JUNE 5

It is a tradition to invite all high school graduates to attend church on Graduation Sunday morning, June 5, at 9:00. We understand it is a full day but hope you might find it meaningful to join with your church community to mark this special milestone. We ask graduates to stand to be recognized and share a bit about their future plans.



APRIL BRAT FRY RESULTS

The Stewardship Team lucked out with a beautiful day for the Brat Fry which took place on April 23. We thank the crew who made the Brat Fry happen (Jodi Cowen, Jason Jacque, Josh Jacque, Bev and Joe Mueller). The team thanks everyone who made a point to stop for lunch. You might be interested to know that Camping World placed a big order (25 brats and 25 hot dogs)! We are especially appreciative of the generous donation that covered the cost of the meat. Just over **\$850** was raised!

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SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Jeanne Mantsch, our Church Moderator, will be attending and representing our congregation at the annual meeting of the Southeast Association, Wisconsin Conference, UCC to be held at Brookfield Congregational Church on Saturday, May 7. The theme is "Celebrating: A Beloved Community Embracing Servant Leadership". The inspirational scripture text for the year is from 1 Cor. 12:7-8, "Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: everyone get in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful!"

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SUMMER PLANS FOR WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP & MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Wednesday Lunch group will meet for the last time this program year on Wednesday, May 25. They will resume meeting in September. The Men's Breakfast group will continue to meet throughout the summer. They meet on Thursday mornings at 8:00 at the Beacon Restaurant inside the Harborview hotel.

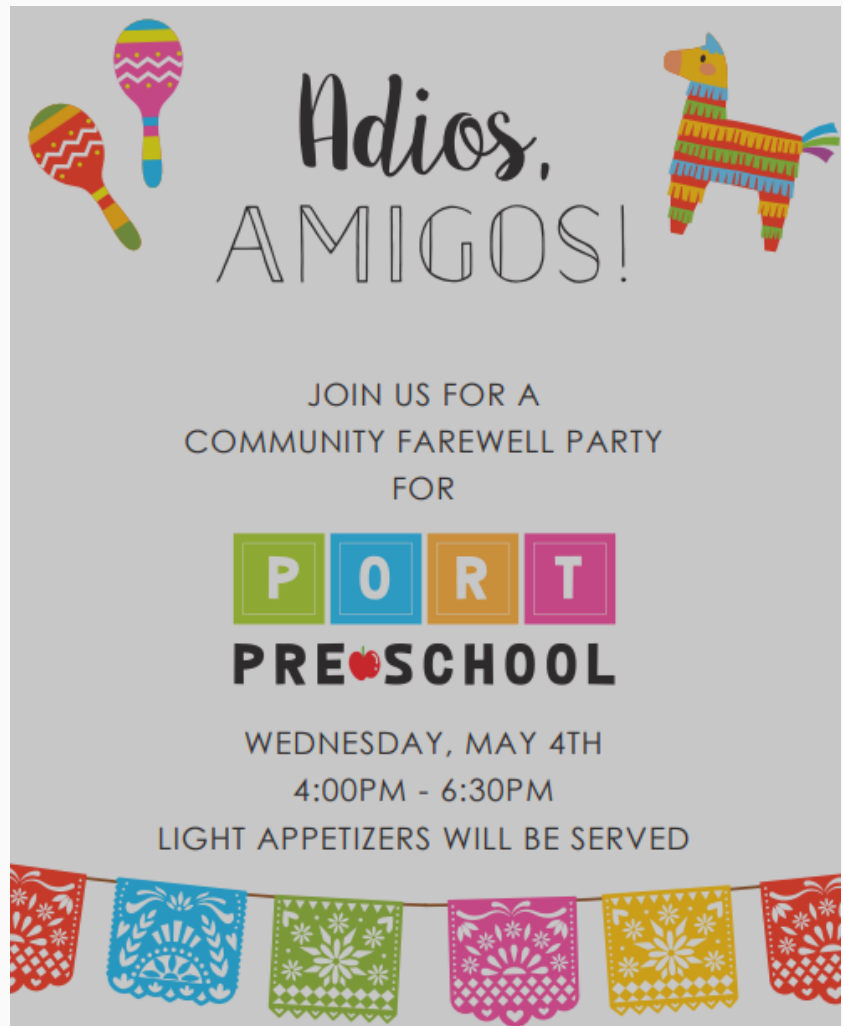
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PASTOR SCOTT TRAVELING TO SCOTLAND IN JUNE

Due to a happy coincidence of circumstances, Pastor Scott will be traveling to Scotland for two weeks in June. His daughter, Ruth, was scheduled to attend a Neurological Conference in Glasgow and his sister, Cathy, and her husband had been planning a trip to Scotland this summer. So, everyone decided to coordinate their travel plans and do it together. The McLeods will be in Edinburgh and then Glasgow for about a week before travelling over to the Isle of Skye and staying on the grounds of Dunvegan Castle, which is the ancestral home of the McLeod Clan (the clan chief of the McLeod's still lives there). With the travel time needed for the trip, Scott will be away from June 4 to June 23. During his absence the Rev. Don Niederfrank will be leading worship. Scott will be back in time for the Spring Congregational Meeting on June 26.

PORT PRE-SCHOOL FAREWELL OPEN HOUSE ON MAY 4TH

Port Pre-School will be hosting a community Farewell Open House on Wednesday afternoon, May 4, from 4:00 – 6:00. Thousands of children, many of them children of former Port Pre-School alumni went through the doors of the school, which has been housed here at First Congregational Church since 1967, 55 years! Two of the five founding members, Sally Ziegler and Beverly Tutas, were also longtime members of our church. Sadly, the doors will be closing as the 4K program moves to the local elementary schools. First Congregational Church is so proud to have housed a non-profit, nonsectarian Pre-School cooperative run by the parents of its students! All former and current students and teachers, as well as community members, are welcome to stop by and take one last stroll through the classrooms.



AVAILABLE CHURCH SPACE - PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

Church member and realtor, Troy Bretl, is helping our church as we seek a new renter for the space that will be available after Port Pre-School closes its doors with the end of the academic year in June. We are very sorry to see Port Pre-School close, but hope we can create a new opportunity for another community non-profit to use the beautiful and welcoming space our church building is able to provide. Troy has been in contact with several non-profit organizations and is beginning to hear word that there might be some interest. We would love to use the networking connections of our church members and friends to also spread the word. The people of our church are connected with many of the community service organizations in Ozaukee County-- so make sure the groups you work with are aware that we have space available! Thank you for spreading the word and thanks to Troy for putting an excellent information flyer together (see next page).

For Lease!**\$12-\$14 per
sq. foot**

Classroom space

Can be separated

Elevator

Full kitchen

ADA Compliant



First Congregational Church in Port Washington will have available very soon over 1600 square feet of classroom space 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**Contact me today to schedule a showing****Troy Bretl**

414-899-8190

TroyBretl@RealtyExecutives.com

UCC CHURCH CAMPS



Sacred places meant for you!
Enjoy time away and the opportunity to connect deeply with nature, in a loving and accepting community.

Event registration is open!
Go to ucci.org



Daycholah Center
Ripon, WI



Moon Beach
St. Germain, WI



Cedar Valley
West Bend, WI



Camp AweSum
Supporting Youth on the Autism Spectrum and their Families

Our congregation is fortunate to have three different church camp locations to camp at and retreat to as part of the United Church Camps in the state of Wisconsin. Daycholah Center, Moon Beach, and Cedar Valley are outdoor ministry programs associated with the United Church of Christ, the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC, and Outdoor Ministry Association UCC.

You may learn more about all of the camps, retreats, classes and events of the United Church Camps by visiting ucci.org.

Our church offers camp scholarships to individuals and families who sign up for camp. There are also scholarship opportunities through the Southeast Association UCC and UCCi. If you are interested, please contact Amy Gilhooly, Communication Director, at amyg@portucc.org, and she will email you the forms.



Year-round camps, retreats, and events for all ages!



One Ministry – Three Sites

Daycholah Center

is located on the Southeast Shore of Green Lake, near Ripon

Moon Beach

is nestled in the Northwoods, between Eagle River and St. Germain on the shores of Moon Lake and Little Saint Germain

Cedar Valley

is in the heart of Washington County, surrounded by 100 acres of natural beauty

OUR THANKS

To Mia Blum, Matthew Dimmer, and Drue Nelson for providing Nursery Care in April.

To Louise Mollinger, Kathy Bretl, Don Niederfrank, Gary Tackes, Mike Spalding, Jane Spalding, Kitchie Allen, and the Confirmation Class for serving as Worship Leaders in April.

To Kitchie Allen, Kathy Bretl, Carolyn Heatwole, Jason Jacque, Louise Mollinger, Joe Mueller, Jane Spalding, and Phil Stepanski for serving as Tenebrae Readers on Maundy Thursday.

To the Choral Quartet: Barb Bahr, Brett Dimmer, Tracy Greymont, and Mike Spalding for their beautiful music on Maundy Thursday.

To Katja Cira, Louise Mollinger, Jane Schneider, Phil Stepanski, and Gary Tackes for serving as Worship Leaders on Good Friday.

To Mike and Sherrie Dimmer for serving as Ushers and coordinating the candles and lights on Good Friday.

To Joe Mueller, Jane Spalding and Kitchie Allen for serving as Worship Leaders on Easter Sunday.

To Lefty and Diane Fowler and the Cira Family for providing Fellowship Hour in April.

To Jennifer Dimmer and the Fellowship Team for providing warm cinnamon rolls on Palm Sunday during Fellowship Hour—a time honored and sweet tradition in the life of our church.

To Kathy Bretl for providing special music at the Good Friday service and Sunrise Easter Service. Kathy has made this a longtime tradition.

To Brett Dimmer, Dale and Alice Sanem, and Dave Eslinger for being the Confirmation parent helpers at Holy Hill.

To Tina Olson and Jennifer Dimmer for coordinating an Easter scavenger hunt and snacks for our church youth on April 13.

To Kerry O'Brien for serving as a parent helper during Confirmation class on Monday, April 25.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Bruce Laabs, Sr. fell at home on Sunday, April 24th and is currently at Grafton Aurora Medical Center. He is doing well and doctors are adjusting blood pressure medication.

Patt Cottrell had surgery on April 28th and is recovering at home.

Norman Joplin had knee replacement surgery the last week of April. He is recovering at home.

Ray Shupe had surgery on his shoulder just after Easter and is recovering at home.

Prayers continue for the people of Ukraine and for a just and peaceful end to war.

APPROVED MARCH CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The March Minutes were approved at the April 21, 2022 meeting.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Church Council Minutes March 10, 2022

Call to Order By Jeanne Mantsch @ 7:01 PM

Pastor Scott, Jeanne Mantsch, Mike Spalding, Ric Probst, Jennifer Dimmer, Kathy Bretl, Jason Jacque, Phil Stepanski, Eric Olson, Bill Bond, and Rhonda Thompson

Opening Meditation – Jason Jacque- a prayer for Ukraine

Approval of the Minutes – February, 2022 - Phil motions to approve the February minutes with an amended clarification and Mike seconds the motion. The minutes are approved with the change.

Monthly Budget Review (Phil/Kathy) – There are several notes from Loraine with adjustments that she's waiting for the accountant to make.

Pastor's Moment (Pastor Scott) – The Ash Wednesday service went well with good attendance. The bible studies and Wednesday night services have also been well attended.

Old Business

Capital Campaign - Pastor Scott met with Rev. Andrew Warner, Director of Development with the United Church of Christ Wisconsin Conference and he felt it was a realistic goal to reach between \$100,000 and \$200,000 with the giving units we have. Andrew recommended we build some seed money into an endowment/legacy with the campaign. He suggested creating a team and campaign before the end of March. Then creating a proposal for the congregation in April to begin promoting the end of April or first of May with a summer start. Jeanne likes idea of folding UCC Legacy into the campaign. He also advocated to give 10% of raised funds to UCC conference ministry project.

Building maintenance updates – (Bill) -Team talked about snow removal, there are enough people who volunteered to help with removal for the rest of the season. Mike Dimmer was volunteered to mow the lawn. Jenny Schlenvogt, (snow/lawn service) will gladly stay on standby for as needed basis. All seasonal HVAC work was completed. Bill would like to meet with Phil to establish a procedure to keep repair estimates, budget and spending in line. The etched glass at the north entrance has a crack and the family that purchased it, is willing to pay for the repair. It's just a matter of finding some company capable of the repair.

Review of 2nd Fellowship Dinner (Jennifer) -The chili dinner was last month and had more attendees. They'll host another card making event Sunday March 27th from noon to 2:00 pm. There will be cinnamon rolls for Palm Sunday. They were thinking about having a church picnic at the end of the school year, May 22.

Port Pre-school and the future – any updates? - There are no updates.

Lighthouse Youth Ministry board of directors' representatives/ Lighthouse (Savannah) – Is currently reviewing what was working. They've tried having a conversation with our student members to see what they would like the program to be. Monday the board made a proposal to hire a new youth leader.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

Change in Financial Administrator – Kathy announces the new financial administrator, Phil Stepanski. Kathy motions for Phil's start date to be retro active from 3/1/22 and Lorraine has access, including online till 3/31/22. Jennifer seconds the motion. The vote is approved.

Covid restrictions relaxed – Phil mentions that the Covid numbers have been falling. The Reopening Committee has considered the numbers and open with relaxing and eliminating restrictions. In accordance with the February 25th guidelines of the Washington-Ozaukee Public Health Department and the CDC for counties whose Covid risk level is “low”, our Covid policy is now as follows: All restrictions requirements and mandates are no longer in force. For the love of your neighbor, we request that you please stay up to date with Covid 19 vaccinations and get tested if you have symptoms. You may choose to wear a mask at any time. If you are immunocompromised or otherwise at risk of serious disease, please consult your physician regarding appropriate safety precautions. Anyone not feeling well should consider others and stay home. Jason motions to accept the committee's recommendation as it's written. Ric seconds the motion. Bill asks if we have any idea how many are still watching the recorded services. Recordings will continue. The vote is approved. This will be emailed and posted to get the word out.

Responses from the congregation re: opportunities to be involved? - Only 14 have filled out the survey thus far, but starting to fill in some of the gaps.

Fundraisers – Scrip? - We'd like to proceed with the fundraiser. Kathy motions to open a separate checking account for the Fellowship Team to run the Scrip fundraiser with a beginning balance of \$2000. Mike seconds the motion. The vote is approved.

Any other new business to come before the Council? - Pastor Scott would like some of the Council to come to the New Member Classes March 13 and 20 at 6pm. There are 5-7 new members.

Poll – meet earlier? - Does it work to meet at 6:30? Everyone is okay with changing it to 6:30 instead of 7.

On Hold

UCC Legacy Program (Jason)

Kathy motions to adjourn, Bill seconds it. Meeting is adjourned 8:31PM.

MORE CONGRATULATIONS

To our high school Seniors who were honored at the Kiwanis High Honors Banquet at Port Washington High School on April 20 for their academic achievement: Ella Gilhooly, Elijah Perez, Gabe Pasten, Brielle Bertler, Brady Fleishmann, Jakub Micha, Brayden Thompson and Peyton Yellen.

To our high school Juniors who were honored at the Kiwanis High Honors Banquet at Port Washington High School on April 20 for their academic achievement: Caitlin Calder, Connor Cowen, Sydney Garthus, Ella Hoffmann and Emma Kasza-James.

To our high school Sophomores who were honored at the Kiwanis High Honors Banquet at Port Washington High School on April 20 for their academic achievement: Macy Eslinger, Elaine Holmes, Joshua Jacque, and Tessa Yandry.

MAY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

1 -	Melissa Wach	19 -	Erin Arthur
2 -	Olivia Oftedahl	22 -	Ryan Cowen
	Alyssa Laabs	23 -	Wendy Schowalter
3 -	Patrick Rego	25 -	Adam Rego
4 -	Audrey Franke		Kay Rego
5 -	Emmitt Karrels	26 -	Elaina Ternes
	Dave Mantsch		Missy White
7 -	Heather Brede		Bob Woelfl
8 -	Ric Probst		Kristen Wolf
9 -	Brenda Shupe	28 -	Eva Perez
12 -	Graham Garthus	29 -	Katja Cira
13 -	Diana Schroeder	30 -	Sally Schirk-Ehrlich
14 -	Gabe Chandler	31 -	Dawn Clements
18 -	Joy Bloemer		Marion Cooper
	Diana Pasten		



MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3 -	Doug and Vicki McManus
	Norman and Sue Joplin
4 -	Tom and Shandy Roehrig
9 -	Nels Garthus and Kerry O'Brien
18 -	Mike and Sherrie Dimmer
20 -	Doug and Virginia Bichler
21 -	Dale and Alice Sanem
23 -	Wally and Amy Wilsnack
27 -	Steve and Wendy Schowalter

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

MAY 2022 CALENDAR

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1 Third Sunday of Easter 8 am Communion Worship Service 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Communion Worship Service Nursery Care	2 4 pm Friends for Justice 6:30 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	3	4 12 pm Wednesday Lunch Group 4-6 pm Port Pre-School Farewell Open House 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	5 8 am Men's Breakfast - The Beacon 6:30 pm Executive Team	6	7 Memorial Service for Marlys Herbert 10:30 am Visitation 11:30 am Service
8 Fourth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Church School Nursery Care 11:00 am Fellowship Hour	9 6:30 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10	11 12 pm Wednesday Lunch Group 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	12 8 am Men's Breakfast - The Beacon 6:30 pm Church Council	13	14 Confirmation Class Mission Experience-Black Holocaust Museum
15 Fifth Sunday of Easter 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Handbell Choir Nursery Care 11:00 am Fellowship Hour SCRIP Info Session	16 6:30 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	17	18 12 pm Wednesday Lunch Group	19 8 am Men's Breakfast - The Beacon	20	21 Confirmation Class Mission Experience-Black Holocaust Museum
22 Sixth Sunday of Easter 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Chancel Choir and Children's Choir Nursery Care 11:00 am Potluck Lunch Celebration SCRIP Info Session	23	24	25 12 pm Wednesday Lunch Group (Last gathering of the program year)	26 8 am Men's Breakfast - The Beacon	27 1 pm Property Team	28
29 Confirmation Sunday 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Service of Confirmation Nursery Care	30 Memorial Day	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 - 11:30

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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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!

