



# Congregational *Connections*

Monthly E-Newsletter of First Congregational Church, UCC | Port Washington, Wisconsin | November 2021

## GIVING THANKS FOR OUR CHURCH

I always look forward to Thanksgiving. Time with family and friends, a feast of some of my favorite foods, a little football: Thanksgiving has it all. Of course I also take pride in our church's role in the whole history of thanksgiving because the original Pilgrims on the Mayflower over 400 years ago are our spiritual ancestors. Growing up in Connecticut, in a Congregational Church, the memory and pride in the Pilgrims was felt quite deeply.

We will be celebrating Thanksgiving here in church in several different ways on Sunday, November 21st. Both worship services will be filled with music, prayer, scripture and a message that lifts our gratitude for all of God's gifts; with members of the Confirmation class helping to lead worship and the Children's Choir singing at 10:00. November 21st will also be one of those times that our members and friends can return their pledge cards; during the service as an act of worship.

Our Stewardship Campaign, "Rooted in Love" has been a great experience for me as I got to hear the moving testimonies of several of our church members as they described the important role this congregation has played in their lives. There were descriptions of the welcoming and loving atmosphere that fills this place, which is just what the world needs at such a time as this. The stories we heard described a church that encourages people to be true to themselves, as well as inspires our members and friends to dream new dreams. This is the kind of faith community that deserves our support as we give thanks to God for the continuing presence of the Spirit. While I am just finishing up my first year, it is already clear to me what a gift this congregation has been to so many people.

This Thanksgiving I give thanks for this congregation and the strong tradition of discipleship that has been a part of this church for so many years. Who needs the Pilgrims to be proud of, when I have all of you.

Courage and Peace, Pastor Scott

# SUBMIT NAMES FOR ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



On Sunday, November 7, we celebrate All Saints Sunday. Together in prayer we remember all of those friends, family and church members who have died in the previous twelve months, recalling how, in New Testament usage, the word “saints” referred to Christians in general. It is the recognition of the common bond of Christians, both living and dead, and the common bond of the church here on earth and the church triumphant in heaven. It also recalls Hebrews 12:1 in which we are “surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses” as we continue in faithful discipleship.

During worship we would like to lift up the names of all those who have died in the last year and are known to our members and friends. Names will be printed in the bulletin as well as lifted by those in attendance. We would like to be able to list people’s names, as well as the appropriate dates that mark their lifetime, and their relationship to our congregation. For instance, a friend of mine died this fall, and I would like to add him to our list of saints. So, I could send the office an email with the information: All Saints Sunday, Allen Zdroik, Dec. 8, 1964 – Sept. 28, 2021, friend of Scott McLeod. In order to include people in the bulletin, we would need their names by **Thursday, November 4th**. Thanks for your help in making this All Saints Sunday a meaningful worship experience.

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## TIME TO FALL BACK ONE HOUR

At 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 7, Daylight Saving Time ends. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour or you will be an hour early for church!

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## FAMILY SERVICES IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Please note that in November and December, Family Services will be held on the third Sundays due to the holidays.

## 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.

## 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.



# CHURCH SCHOOL PLANS

Our Church School will be gathering at 10:00 in the Dennett Room on Sunday morning, November 14th. They will be learning about a Thanksgiving text from Matthew 6:25-33 with a craft project that reminds all of us to trust in God and give God our thanks. As well as a text from Mark 13:1-8 that teaches “people are more important than things”. We hope all the children of the church will join us!

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# OUR CHOIRS

A reminder that our choirs are back in action and they welcome new faces!

- Children's Choir** rehearses 5:45-6:30 on Monday evenings, and performs on the 4th Sunday of every month.
- Handbell Choir** rehearses 7:00-8:00 on Wednesday evenings, and performs on the third 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. Feel free to join the Chancel Choir within the next few weeks and then sing on Christmas Eve. No long-term commitment required!

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# WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP

You are invited to come to church on Wednesdays at noon for lunch and Bible study. The group meets in Fellowship Hall and everyone brings their own bag lunch and beverage. After they eat together they read 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.

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# THURSDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP



Every Thursday morning at 8:00 a.m., 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 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. You are welcome to join the group at any time!



We have a lot planned for Thanksgiving Sunday, November 21st!

**Turn in pledges:** The Stewardship Team invites all those who are able to bring their pledges with them to church. There will be a special liturgy during worship and an opportunity for people to bring their pledge forward to the Communion Table as an act of worship.

**Bring non-perishable food items to support Advocates of Ozaukee:** As a church we strongly believe that part of the way we show gratitude for the blessings we have received from God is by sharing our gifts with others. We invite everyone to not only bring their pledges, but to bring non-perishable items to worship, and these too will be brought forward during worship and collected around the Communion Table during both worship services. (see wish list on next page)

**Our 10:00 Thanksgiving Family Service** will be led by worship leaders from this year's Confirmation Class and also features music from our Children's Choir. The involvement of our youth and children is something we celebrate and give thanks!

**Fellowship Hour:** Share fellowship with one another on this celebratory day.

**Our Fall Congregational Meeting** will be held immediately following the 10:00 service. The primary item of business is the presentation of the proposed 2022 Church Budget. Remember, we don't vote to approve the budget until our Winter Congregational Meeting at the end of January.



## ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE





### A Thanksgiving Journey to Hope, Journey to Joy

An Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service will take place on Tuesday, November 23, at 7pm. Saint John XXIII will be hosting the community at their St. Peter's campus location, 1800 N. Wisconsin St. Port Washington. Pastor Scott helped research and design the liturgy for the service based on a number of prayers of St. Francis. He will also be giving a reflection on one section of St. Francis' "Canticle of the Sun" prayer along with several other clergy from the ecumenical churches of Port Washington and Saukville. There will be an ecumenical choir sharing in the worship service led by the music director of Saint John XXIII, Tim Handle.



# PREPARATIONS FOR OUR 36th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

We are eagerly awaiting our upcoming Christmas Tree Sale. The Sale begins the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 26th. Not only is the Tree Sale the biggest fundraiser for our church, it has also become a beloved tradition within our church and community. You are invited to participate in a variety of ways:

-  Be on the lookout for an e-blast with the link to sign up for a shift or two to sell trees.
-  The Christmas Tree Committee needs your help setting up the lot on Saturday morning, November 13, at 8am. Please bring a pair of work gloves and come lend a hand.
-  Church School invites you to decorate ornaments to give to our customers. More information can be found on page 11.
-  The Christmas trees arrive on November 23rd and will be unloaded by high school students who are members of Port Pride.



## HELP FILL ADVOCATES THANKSGIVING BASKETS

One of the service organizations that we support on an ongoing basis is [Advocates of Ozaukee](#). Their mission is to work to end domestic and sexual violence through intervention, education, and prevention services. Advocates is putting together Thanksgiving Baskets for clients in need so that they can prepare and enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. You may bring non-perishable contributions to the church through Sunday, November 21. There will be a bin by the entryway. Here is Advocates Thanksgiving Basket Wish List:



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Canned Fruit</b>                       | <b>Canned Soups</b>                         |
| <b>Canned Veggies</b>                     | <b>Jell-O (<i>boxed</i>)</b>                |
| <b>Stuffing Mix</b>                       | <b>Canned Meat (<i>tuna or chicken</i>)</b> |
| <b>Biscuit or Roll Mix</b>                | <b>Rice</b>                                 |
| <b>Gravy (<i>jar</i>)</b>                 | <b>Canned Beans</b>                         |
| <b>Cranberry Sauce</b>                    | <b>Peanut butter and Jelly</b>              |
| <b>Coffee, Tea, or Hot Cocoa mix</b>      | <b>Applesauce</b>                           |
| <b>Canned Fruit Pie Filling</b>           | <b>100% Fruit Juice (<i>jug</i>)</b>        |
| <b>Pie Crust (<i>non-perishable</i>)</b>  | <b>Potatoes/Instant Mashed Potatoes</b>     |
| <b>Macaroni and Cheese (<i>boxed</i>)</b> | <b>(<i>boxed/bagged or canned</i>)</b>      |

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW MEMBERS



**Franke Family** - Justin and Michelle grew up in Port Washington and Saukville and met in high school in 2002. They've been together ever since. They built their home in Adell. Justin works in HVAC at Professional Services. Michelle is an RN at the Orthopedic Hospital of WI. Justin and Michelle have three children - Travis - 12, Audrey - 10, and Levi - 7 1/2 months old. The Franke family loves animals and has a hobby farm. They have a dog, Shelby, two cat brothers, Sly and Pounce, and two goats, Leonard and Lucy. All of these happy animals are 2 years old. They also love nature and playing outside and enjoy their time together.



**Adele Richert** - Adele moved to Port in 2016 to be closer to her son and his family. She spends most of her time painting and enjoys *en plein air* (outdoors) painting the most.



**Holmes Family** - Jim and Brook moved to the Town of Grafton in 2004, after they did some bike riding in the area and found it to be beautiful and peaceful. Jim is a Pilot for NetJets; he flies out of Milwaukee and Brook is a physical therapist at Aurora Hospital in Grafton. They have two daughters; Lainey and Libby, who are involved in soccer almost year round; they balance that with snowboarding, biking and 4-H. The Holmes family has a small flock of chickens and a dog. They enjoy traveling, watching movies and playing games as a family.





It's that time of year for our church's annual Stewardship Campaign. Members and friends are asked to make a formal pledge to support the church financially in the year to come. Receiving pledges is the only way the Church Council can plan and execute a balanced budget.

The Stewardship Team asks you to read and reflect on the information that was mailed and emailed to assist with your giving decision. You can also go to the [Stewardship](#) page on our website.

Even though we practice tight expense management, our revenue has declined in recent years. This year's Stewardship Campaign is crucial to our financial future. If you have any questions about Stewardship, you may speak to Jason Jacque, Chair of the Stewardship Team, or any members of the team (Jodi Cowen, Craig Modahl, and Bev Mueller). If you have questions specific to your current and/or future giving, please contact Lorraine Halls, our Financial Administrator, at [lorraine@portucc.org](mailto:lorraine@portucc.org). Thank you!

## WAYS TO SUBMIT YOUR PLEDGE

### ***Send In Mail***

Print and complete a [Pledge Form](#) and mail to church.

### ***Bring to Church***

You can bring your pledge to worship any Sunday. We invite you to do so especially on 11/21, Thanksgiving Sunday.

### ***Submit Online***

You can submit an [Online Pledge Form](#).



*While on our Stewardship journey, we celebrate the deep roots of our church, 123 years of strength and love.*

# LOOKING FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Scott is developing a list of Worship Leaders to help with either the 8:00 or 10:00 worship services on Sunday mornings and maybe an occasional special service. Worship leaders would lead the congregation in responsive readings (Call to Worship), unison prayers and read scripture passages before the sermon. He has already begun reaching out to a number of church members but is a little reluctant to ask too many because he's not sure who is comfortable in front of people and for whom this is their worst fear! He hopes to have a roster of 30-35 people who are willing to help lead worship on a rotating basis, so that no one will do it more than 3 or 4 times a year.

Right now, the month of November is filled, but he would love to have the Sundays in December and January filled with volunteers. Would you like to help with the Sunday morning worship? Then send Pastor Scott an email at [pastorscott@portucc.org](mailto:pastorscott@portucc.org) and let him know if you prefer the 8:00 or 10:00 worship. He is also looking for several people to help at each of the Christmas Eve worship services. The calendar will be filled up on a first come-first served basis. Thanks for helping!

## **Worship Leaders in November**

### **November 7** *Communion*

8:00 Joe Mueller

10:00 Jeanne Mantsch

### **November 14** *Church School Sunday*

8:00 Don Niederfrank

10:00 Jane Schneider

### **November 21** *Reign of Christ, Family Sunday*

8:00 Jane Spalding

10:00 Confirmation Class

### **November 28** *First Sunday of Advent*

8:00 Mike Spalding

10:00 Carolyn Heatwole



# SCRIPTURE TEXTS FOR NOVEMBER WORSHIP

## **November 7: Isaiah 25:6-9 and John 11:32-44**

*All-Saint's Sunday, Communion Sunday*

We will celebrate Communion as we remember the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us this previous year and yearn for the day Isaiah describes, "God will wipe away the tears from all faces and he will swallow up death forever."

## **November 14: 1 Samuel 1:4-20 and Mark 13:1-8**

*25th Sunday after Pentecost, Church School Sunday*

What Lasts? As Jesus warns of trouble ahead, we reflect on all the issues we are facing in the present and future: climate crisis, unjust political systems, waning faith in global and national institutions, and take a deep look to what lasts.

## **November 21: Revelation 1:4b-8 and John 18:33-37**

*Reign of Christ, Thanksgiving Sunday, Family Service*

Reign of Christ: We watch as Jesus speaks truth to power in a conversation with Pilate. Jesus reminds us about ultimate power and calls us to take our part in God's wise reign by living the truth of that witness, even when it threatens authority and puts us at risk.

## **Tuesday, November 23: Joel 2:21-27 and Matthew 6:25-33**

*Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service*

"Journey to Joy" This year's ecumenical community Thanksgiving service will feature reflections on the life of St. Francis of Assisi. Join us and give thanks on Tuesday, November 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at St. John XXIII St. Peter's Campus, 1800 N. Wisconsin Street, in Port Washington.

## **November 28: Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 21:25-36**

*First Sunday of Advent*

Our season of Advent begins with hopeful waiting and active trust. Through Jeremiah's promise of a "righteous branch," and with our eyes focused on God's reign breaking forth in the world, we begin Advent anticipating our celebration of Christ's birth while awaiting Christ's return.

## LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

## WAYS TO SERVE



Please contact Beckie in the church office if you are able to serve in the following ways:

### Counters Needed

Adult volunteers are needed to count our offering plates on Sunday mornings, after the 10:00 service. We need two counters for the first, second, and fourth Sundays and one counter when there happens to be a fifth Sunday.

### Acolytes Needed

If your child is in 5th, 6th or 7th grade, we invite them to Acolyte! Acolytes are responsible for lighting the altar candles at the beginning of our 10:00 service.

Lighting the candles is an important part of our Sunday morning services. We hope your child will consider serving our church in this way.

### Ushers Needed

Ushers are needed at the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Let us know if you would like to be placed on rotation.



## WJ NIEDERKORN LIBRARY RACIAL JUSTIC & IMPLICIT BIAS SERIES

These events, related to American Indians, are part of the library series this month. Both events are in the Community Room at WJ Niederkorn Library, 316 W. Grand Avenue, Port Washington. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, November 10, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

### **Indigenous History in Southeast Wisconsin**

Presenter: Kate Erickson, member of Oneida Nation of Wisconsin; History faculty at MATC

Thursday, November 18, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

### **Port Conversations: Land Acknowledgments**

Discussion guided by resources from the Native Governance Center

What are land acknowledgments? How can we respectfully make land acknowledgments?

Submitted by Louise Mollinger, on behalf of the Justice Team





## DECORATING ORNAMENTS FOR TREE SALE CUSTOMERS

The ornaments that were decorated and handed out at last year's Christmas Tree Sale were such a hit that the Church School Leadership Team plans to do it again! Both kids and adults are invited to decorate wooden ornaments to give to customers as a Thank You at the Tree Sale. The wooden ornaments will be available on Church School Sunday, November 14, and thereafter near the entryway and in the church's Little Free Library. Please return finished ornaments to the church by November 26.

*Save the Date!*

THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM INVITES  
YOU TO AN



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5**  
**12:00-2:00 pm**

The Fellowship Team is planning a fun event to help celebrate Advent and Christmas! Join the team, members, and friends for an afternoon creating Advent crafts, on Sunday, December 5, from Noon to 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This free event is open to all ages! Invite your neighbors and friends! Along with creating crafts that everyone can take home, stockings will be made for families at Family Promise. Light snacks and Christmas cookies will be offered.

Please sign up in advance by emailing or calling/texting Jennifer Dimmer, our Fellowship Team Chair.

(jenniferdimmer@gmail.com, (414) 303-1813)





# Church Council Team Spotlight

## OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

There have been some exciting things going on with our Community Outreach at First Congregational Church. We have continued to grow our relationship with Family Promise where last year we took several hundred knitted hats that were generously donated to us and placed them in the hands of Family Promise. We also had a very successful "Paper Drive" earlier this year that collected much needed paper-goods for Family Promise. In addition to our work with Family Promise, we were recently able to give charitably (\$100) to Chris Fraser for his "Go Fund Me" campaign to achieve his life dream of going to Disney World. We were also able to make a charitable contribution (\$100) to Jon Crain's recent bike ride in Colorado. Jon is Port's Superintendent of Parks & Forestry. He has been a friend of the church for many years and is very giving of his time and expertise regarding our church trees. [Click here](#) for more info on Jon's bike ride to raise money for forestry causes.

Currently, we are encouraging everyone to contribute non-perishable food items to help build Thanksgiving Baskets for clients at Advocates. See page 5 for their wish list. The Fellowship Team is inviting members and friends to gather and create take-home Advent crafts on December 5. In addition, the group will be making stockings for families at Family Promise! See page 11 for more information.

We are very excited to welcome the Justice Team. The Justice team put together an amazing weekly study on *Scared Conversations to End Racism* that was open to anyone in our community. Covid may have put a temporary hiatus on some of the work we have done but we are excited to reconnect with and grow our relationships with Advocates, Balance, Family Promise, Ozaukee Habitat for Humanity, and The Food Pantry. Please continue to reach out with any additional ideas or needs that may help us better serve our community. We look forward to seeing you in our amazing community.

Eric Olson, Chair





## SEEKING LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH MINISTRY SUPPORT

As you probably already know, Lighthouse Youth Ministry is a shared ministry of five congregations from three denominations in Saukville and Port Washington. These five churches joined forces in 2018 to establish Lighthouse because we all saw the need for a vibrant Christian group which welcomes youth grades 5-12 of all faith backgrounds. The idea has been that together we could all seek to create a welcoming and safe community where youth could grow in their relationships with God and with each other. As you can imagine the pandemic has been very difficult for this new youth ministry program to manage; the challenges are unprecedented. At the October meeting of the Lighthouse Board it was announced that the youth director, Erica Brooks, was resigning (but will serve in the position into December). The Board is currently making sure Lighthouse's mission and purpose are clear and will begin a search for a new youth director soon.

Right now, we are in need of two things - your financial support and two volunteers:

- First, in the next several weeks we will be asking for donations toward Lighthouse to complete our annual gift to the organization. We budgeted \$2,500 in 2021 toward Lighthouse's ministry and hope to raise an additional \$2,500 to fulfill our obligation before the end of the year. Please keep an eye out for more details about this project later in the month.
- Second, we are also looking for two of our church members or friends to step forward to help with this important community ministry by serving on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in making sure Lighthouse is able to fulfil its mission of creating a safe and welcoming space for youth in the community, than we have an opportunity for you! If you would like more information, please send Pastor Scott a note at: [pastorscott@portucc.org](mailto:pastorscott@portucc.org). There is great potential and a real perceived need for this group, but we need your help.





# CONFIRMATION MISSION EXPERIENCE TO DAYCHOLAH CAMP



*Thank you to the group of kids from our Confirmation Class who helped at Daycholah Camp on Saturday afternoon, October 16. You represented our church well!*





## OCTOBER ACTION SHOTS



*Our Church School kids creating "Love Wheels" on Sunday, October 10.*



*Our Handbell Choir performing on October 17. Left to right, Pru Palecek, Director Lydia Clough, Sandy Modahl, Jamie Karrels, Carolyn Heatwole, Francine Barclay, Amanda Malloy, and Jennifer Dimmer.*

## OCTOBER THANKS

- To the trio of Lily Dimmer and Collette and Kylee Olson for singing Living in the Light during the Worship Service on October 24.
- To our Confirmation parents Jennifer Dimmer, Brook Holmes, and Danielle Peiffer who drove the kids to their Mission Experience trip to Daycholah Center, Ripon on October 16.
- To the Blum, Eslinger, Sanem, and Crain families for providing Nursery Care on Sunday mornings during the month of October.
- To the Dimmer, Garthus/O'Brien, and Karrels families for hosting Fellowship Hour after the 10:00 service during the month of October.
- To Joy Bloemer for handwriting the book tags for each confirmand's study bible.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

- Jim and Sherri Melichar. Jim is receiving hospice care at home.
- Jana and Claude Zimmerman. Jana is having knee replacement surgery on November 3rd.

## CONGRATULATIONS

- To Jess Shupe, daughter of Ray and Brenda, and Bob Korup who were married at Sandy Knoll Park in West Bend on Friday afternoon, October 8. Pastor Scott officiated the wedding ceremony. The weather cleared up just in time for the ceremony!



## Baptism

*Congratulations to Abigail Lou Brunner, daughter of Stephani and Kurt, who was baptized into the Christian faith on Sunday, October 10, during our 10:00 service. Abby's parents are standing closest to Pastor Scott and her godparents are to the right.*





## UPDATES FROM OUR FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Expenses and Revenue continue to remain as anticipated for 2021. There have been no drastic changes one way or the other.

The 2022 budget planning is underway. The 2022 budget will be presented at the Fall Congregational Meeting on Sunday morning, November 21 at 11:15. The vote to approve the budget will take place during the Winter Congregational Meeting, typically at the end of January.

Pledge statements were mailed the last week of October. If you have not received yours, please contact me ([lorraine@portucc.org](mailto:lorraine@portucc.org)).

Lorraine Halls, Financial Administrator

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## NEXT LIGHTHOUSE OUTING TO SHALOM ZOO



All middle and high school youth are invited to join Lighthouse Youth Ministry on their next outing to Shalom Zoo in West Bend on Sunday evening, December 19, from 6:00 to 8:30. Join us at Shalom where the zoo will be lit up with special holiday LED lights for a night drive-thru. At the end, each person will receive a treat bag and will be able to enjoy a campfire. The petting zoo will be open; feed for the animals is available for purchase. Cost of outing is \$10 per person.

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## RENAMING OF PILGRIM CENTER - NOW DAYCHOLAH

On September 9, 2021, **UCCI** announced that the Outdoor Ministry site in Green Lake, Wisconsin, is being renamed. The new name is Daycholah Center [ dā-chō-lə ]. Daycholah is the original Ho-Chunk name for Green Lake.

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## NO AA MEETINGS AT THE CHURCH

Unfortunately, due to low participation, the AA group is not meeting at our church on Sunday afternoons at this time.

# APPROVED SEPTEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The September Minutes were approved at the October 14, 2021 meeting.)

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Church Council Minutes September 9, 2021

Call to Order- By Jeanne Mantsch @ 7 pm

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

Opening Meditation - Jeanne Mantsch – Prayer for Communal Discernment in a Meeting by Debra Mooney.

Approval of the Minutes – August, 2021 – Kathy motions to approve the August minutes. Mike seconds the motion. The minutes are approved as they are printed.

Financial Administrator's Overview of Giving (Kathy) – Meeting mid September to go over next year's budget. Lorraine is reaching out to committee heads. Lorraine has concerns for next year with PPP (Paycheck Protection Program/Covid 19 Relief) Funds coming to an end with this year. Expenses are in line and fine. It's Revenue or lack of it, that is the concern. Bill is asking if line 46434 Donations to Memorial Funds and line 46435 Donations to Mission Fund on the operating budget belong under REVENUE or if they should be categorized under own revenue line as/like Port Pre-School.

### Old Business

Reopening Committee Report and Discussion (Phil) – Several options have been considered. Each with a no win solution. In light of this, Kathy motions to keep the mask mandate in place; to begin singing again with masks on; begin passing the peace and passing the offering plate as well. Savanna seconds the motion and the vote passes.

Sacred Conversations to End Racism Series (Jeanne) -Sessions will be recorded, but not live streamed on Tuesday from 6:30-8 pm. Some equipment was purchased below the budgeted amount to be used for the Sacred Conversations and to be used as needed throughout the church.

### New Business

Nominating Committee Formation – Council members agree this committee should be formed and will think about who should be elected for the committee.

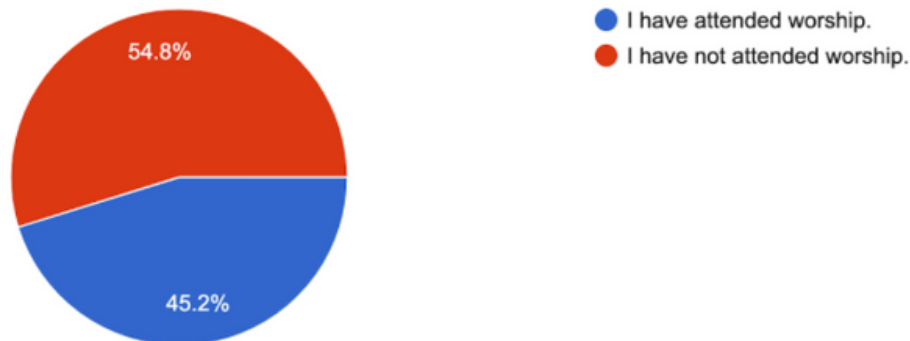
Lighthouse Youth Ministry Board of Directors Representatives – Is in need of two representatives.

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# Reopening Committee's Fall Survey Results – September 2021

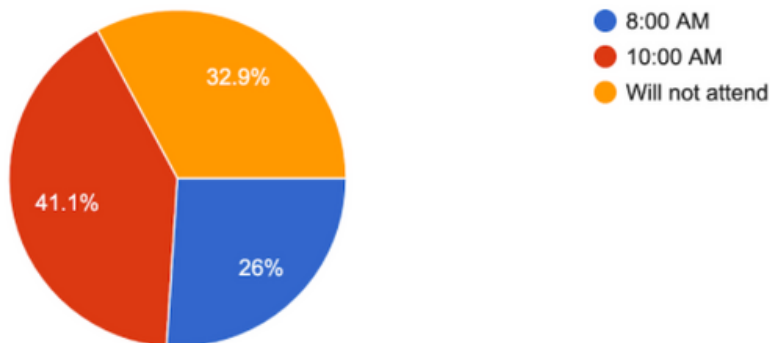
Since we opened the church for in-person worship in May of 2021, please tell us if you have attended.

73 responses



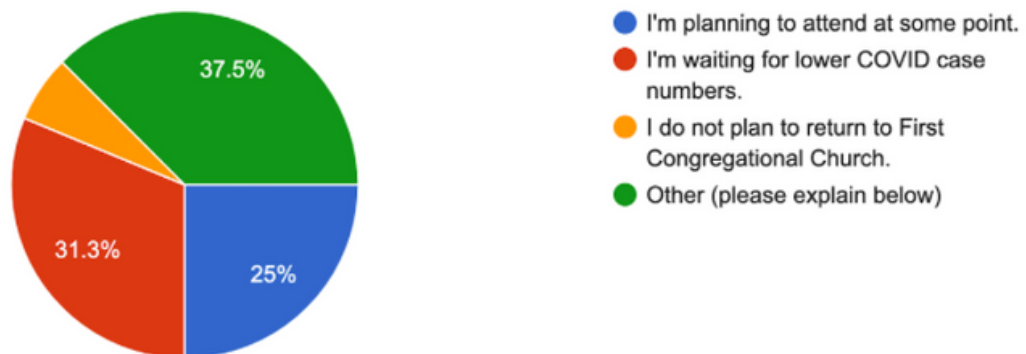
The 2021/2022 program year begins on September 12, 2021. Do you plan to attend church in the coming weeks and at what time?

73 responses



If your answer to the question above is "Will not attend" please tell us the reason.

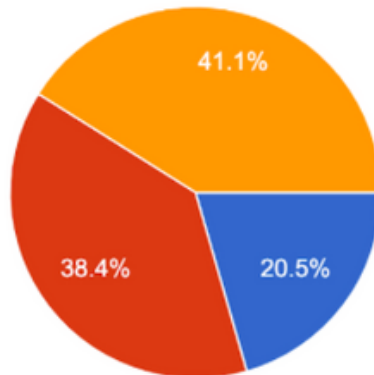
32 responses



# Reopening Committee's Fall Survey Results...continued

If you are planning to attend in-person worship, how do you feel about requiring masks?

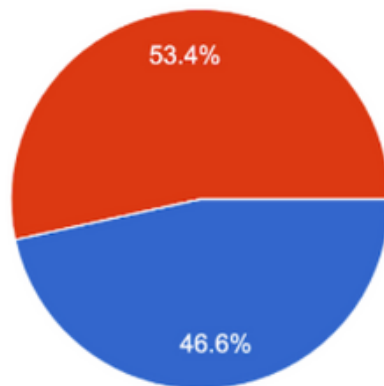
73 responses



- I think everyone should be required to wear a mask.
- I think no one should be required to wear a mask. It should be optional.
- Masks should be required when COVID case numbers are high.

What would you do if masks were optional?

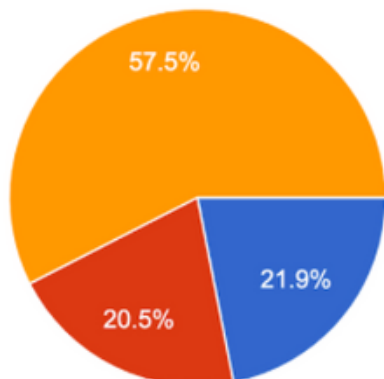
73 responses



- I would wear a mask even if it were not required.
- I would not wear a mask if it is not required.

Depending on the mask requirement I would...

73 responses



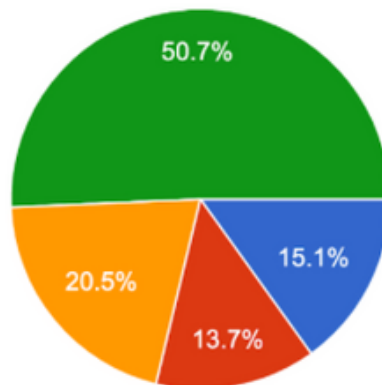
- Not attend if masks are required.
- Not attend unless masks are required.
- Attend whether masks are required or are optional.



# Reopening Committee's Fall Survey Results...continued

When it comes to singing either by the congregation or by one of the choirs.

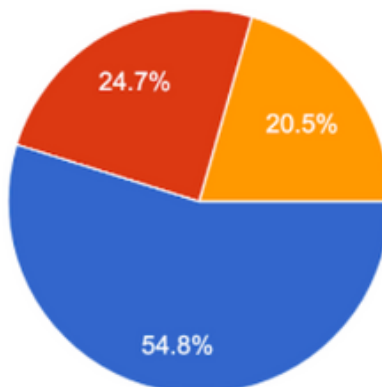
73 responses



- I prefer not to re-start singing in church at this time.
- Choir singing is ok but not the whole congregation.
- I'm in favor of singing if everyone is wearing a face covering.
- I'm in favor of full singing by everyone with face covering optional.

Regarding Fellowship Hour which is also begins with the program year on September 12, 2021.

73 responses



- I will attend Fellowship Hour whenever it is available.
- I will not attend Fellowship Hour even when I attend services.
- I am more comfortable with Fellowship Hour if it is held outdoors.

Thank you to the almost 75 respondents to this survey. The results were reported to the Church Council at their monthly meeting on October 14, and was discussed by the Council.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES, continued

Building maintenance updates – (Bill)- A total of three professional service invoices and proposals have been received for the Heat/Air Units; an invoice for air conditioner and two proposals to repair the unit and one for the fall/spring maintenance for a total of \$2700. This is under the budgeted amount. Bill has informed the council that the water tanks and the heating/air units are about 20 years old and will need replacing soon. Kathy is checking with Lorraine to see if there is a reserve of money that has been set aside from over the years for such repairs. Unfortunately, the stained glass windows are also in need of repair.

# NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	<b>1</b>  <b>5:45 pm</b> Children's Choir Rehearsal <b>6:30 pm</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>      <b>6:30 pm</b> Sacred Conversations to End Racism	<b>3</b>  <b>12 pm</b> Wednesday Lunch Group   <b>7pm</b> Handbell Choir	<b>4</b> <b>8am</b> Men's Breakfast – The Beacon	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <i>All Saints Sunday</i> <i>Communion</i> <b>8 am</b> Service <b>9 am</b> Fellowship Hour <b>10 am</b> Service Chancel Choir	<b>8</b>  <b>5:45 pm</b> Children's Choir Rehearsal <b>6:30 pm</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>12 pm</b> Wednesday Lunch Group <b>6:00 pm</b> Confirmation Class Mission Experience- The Food Pantry <b>7pm</b> Handbell Choir	<b>11</b> <b>8am</b> Men's Breakfast – The Beacon	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>8 am</b> Christmas Tree Lot Set-Up
<b>14</b>  <b>8 am</b> Service <b>10 am</b> Service <b>10 am</b> Church School <b>11 am</b> Fellowship Hour	<b>15</b> <b>5:45 pm</b> Children's Choir Rehearsal <b>6:30 pm</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>6:30 pm</b> Confirmation Class	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>12 pm</b> Wednesday Lunch Group   <b>7pm</b> Handbell Choir	<b>18</b> <b>8am</b> Men's Breakfast – The Beacon	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>8 am</b> Service <b>10 am</b> Family Service Children's Choir <b>11 am</b> Fellowship Hour <b>11:15 am</b> Fall Congregational Meeting	<b>22</b>  <b>5:45 pm</b> Children's Choir Rehearsal <b>6:30 pm</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> <i>Christmas Trees  Delivered!</i>  <b>7 pm</b> Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. John XXIII Catholic Church, St. Peter's	<b>24</b>  <b>12 pm</b> Wednesday Lunch Group   <b>7pm</b> Handbell Choir	<b>25</b>  <b>Happy  Thanksgiving</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>9am</b> Christmas Tree Sale Begins!	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>8 am</b> Service <b>10 am</b> Service	<b>29</b>  <b>5:45 pm</b> Children's Choir Rehearsal <b>6:30 pm</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b>				

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- |      |                  |      |                      |
|------|------------------|------|----------------------|
| 1 -  | Jeanne Weir      | 13 - | Sherrie Dimmer       |
| 2 -  | Allen Spaude     | 14 - | James Maechtle       |
| 3 -  | Mark Maechtle    |      | Sydney Garthus       |
|      | Lola Garven      | 16 - | Alice Sanem          |
|      | Reese Roehrig    | 19 - | Mike Umhoefer        |
|      | Kylee Olson      | 20 - | Roberta Blumenberg   |
| 4 -  | Kurt Blum        |      | Mira Stimac          |
|      | Jane Schwacher   |      | Amy Umhoefer         |
| 6 -  | Jim Melichar     | 21 - | Jennifer Garven      |
|      | Mike Spalding    | 24 - | Sherri Melichar      |
|      | Pam Zeman        |      | Scott Nelson         |
| 8 -  | Avery Roehrig    | 25 - | Margaret Niederfrank |
| 9 -  | Libby Holmes     | 28 - | Nels Garthus         |
| 10 - | Jim Holmes       | 29 - | Barb Bahr            |
| 11 - | Steve Farnsworth | 30 - | Michelle Franke      |
| 12 - | Addelyn Chandler |      |                      |

## NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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



## CHURCH INFORMATION

First Congregational Church

*United Church of Christ*

131 North Webster Street

Port Washington, WI 53074

(262) 284-2022

website - [portucc.org](http://portucc.org), email - [office@portucc.org](mailto: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

### Office Staff Emails

Rev. Dr. Scott McLeod, Pastor - [pastorscott@portucc.org](mailto:pastorscott@portucc.org)

Amy Gilhooly, Communications Director - [amyg@portucc.org](mailto:amyg@portucc.org)

Beckie Perez, Office Manager - [office@portucc.org](mailto:office@portucc.org)

Lorraine Halls, Financial Administrator - [lorraine@portucc.org](mailto:lorraine@portucc.org)

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Check out the church website - [portucc.org](http://portucc.org)

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