

The Hilltop Chimes

First Congregational United Church of Christ
120 Kuckkan Lane Watertown, WI 53094
Rev. Robert Koepcke, Pastor

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JUNE 2020

From Your Pastor

How Else Can We Help?



Many of you have read that I'm leaving in August to prepare myself for a new bi-vocational ministry. For years I've had an interest in mediation services that may also be referred to as "dispute resolution" or "conflict transformation."

Whatever the title and regardless if I work with attorneys, churches or any number of crises, the point is "making peace" and is therefore a ministry. "*Blessed are the peacemakers,*" Jesus said on the mountain, "*for they will be called children of God.*" (Matthew 5:9)

Speaking for myself, I just want to help. This isn't easy work and won't always be successful, but I've found when we try to "come and reason" together our compassion and ability to listen improves. The more we listen "with a heart" the more others might talk and when they believe that we care, good things can happen!

Speaking for our church, I've observed how many of us help when we know there's a need. From donations to the Food Pantry to dollars for our Love Fund, we take many opportunities to show how we care. Lately we've received some donations to the Love Fund that allow us to meet a variety of needs. We've been helping church members and some Gingerbread families as well as social agencies with emergency requests. Here I'll give a "shout out" to Jennifer Rhodes of Jefferson County Social Services and Mari Ulatowski with the Community Action Coalition, both of whose agencies are making a BIG local difference. How else can we help, including you and yours?

Living "on the hill" in a time of social distance means we're always on the edge of staying informed. We depend on others' eyes, ears and hearts who not only help us listen, but respond from the heart. Feel free to call me (563-272-8670) or the office (920-261-6213) if you know of a need, even if that someone is your loved one or you. We're all in this together and it's all about love, so on behalf of our Love Fund, "How else can we help?" Blessed are we when we help to make peace!

--Rev. Robert





LISTEN UP! JOIN OUR BIBLE STUDY

John: Part 1 LISTEN UP! Bible Study

From the Pilgrim Press website: Are you seeking comfort for an aching soul? Are you struggling with our broken world? Are you yearning for a way to interpret your life and the events of today

through the lens of love, mercy, forgiveness, and redemption? All of this (and more) can be found in the Gospel of John. John offers a challenge to our lives that can be provocative, unsettling, and richly rewarding ... but what else could we hope for in our encounters with stories of the Divine? In this study, dig deep into the Gospel as you ask: "What am I seeking? What are we searching for? And when we find it, what will we do?" Part 1 of this study of John is divided into ten lessons, covering chapters 1-11 of the Gospel. See *John: Part 2* for a study of chapters 11-21.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Elissa Johnk is the Senior Pastor of the Old Meeting House in East Montpelier Center, Vermont.

From Melissa: Our ZOOM Bible study has been very well attended. We just completed the Book of Job. It was very relatable to the times we are living in. We had great conversations and opinions. The group will be helping me complete a homework assignment the first Tuesday in June, and then we will be moving on to the Book of John. We meet at 9am on Tuesdays, feel free to join us on ZOOM, or if you would like me to email you the weekly readings and "assignments", I can add you to the email group. Several people are studying this on their own as well. Please contact me if you would like the emails.

262-719-1383 or mmattke@firstcongwtnn.org or josc.mom@hotmail.com

Here is the link to the ZOOM meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/232183369?pwd=N0pmNDhqdz09>

Meeting ID: 232 183 369

Password: 607514



From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

Sunday School

We have been meeting every Sunday morning at 10:30 via ZOOM. We have had so much fun and had quite large groups. We are working our way through a unit about snacks. The bottom line of this series is that God's Word can help us through tough times and they can rely on the Bible for help. We also play some games...the favorite is a scavenger hunt. It is so funny to see the kiddos leave the camera and run to find the object assigned! Feel free to pop in and join us any time!

Sunday School at 10:30 am on Sundays

If your student would like to join us, please contact me for the Zoom link.

Melissa Mattke 262-719-1383
mmattke@firstcongwtnn.org
josc.mom@hotmail.com

Youth Group

Our summer youth event in Indiana has been postponed until next June. We have been continuing with our ZOOM meetings every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Sometimes we just chat and play games, and other times we discuss the lesson we are working through. We will be starting a new lesson in June called: "Surf's Up". We will be learning to chill with the Beatitudes, Dude. Every lesson will walk us through the Beatitudes. I am looking forward to some fun summer activities, online, to teach us! Feel free to join us anytime...here is the Zoom link:

Sundays at 11:30am

If your youth would like to join us, please contact me for the link for Zoom.

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The month of May would have been the time that I would normally recognize our choir members. It is hard to be apart as a congregation, but it is also hard to be apart from these youth and adults that I have the privilege to call my choir family. I have sent my personal thank you to them all, but I would like to recognize them in this newsletter:

Cherub Choir: Grady Fremont, Kylie Kulick, Eliza Zabel and Penelope Zabel

Junior Choir: Evan Chowanec, Max Chowanec, Tyler Chowanec, Eli Fremont, Tucker Fremont, Charly Ladwig, Maggie Markus, and Danica Uttke

Senior Choir: Kristin Chowanec, Kim Day, Bill Edington, Erin Edington, Jesse Fremont, Tracy Livermore, Jon Lynch, Jeannine Mallach, Kim Nygaard, Emily Ortega, James Ortega, Jennie Ortega, Jim Ortega, Tom Rusch, Donna Schmutzler, June Schroeder, Chuck Weiss, and our accompanist, Susie Krueger.

Please let me know if you are willing to provide a Musical Offering as we continue our worship on-line. I will help in any way that I can to assist. I don't want technology to stand in your way. I certainly want to thank those who provided musical offerings during the month of May-Charly Ladwig, Susie Krueger, Chancel Choir of Christ Church, Summit, NJ, the Convergence Virtual Choir, and myself.

When I'm not working on preparing music and editing worship, I have been busy preparing and recording my parts for two more virtual choirs. One piece was non-sacred, where I joined 17,561 other singers to sing an Eric Whitacre song (this is his 6th virtual choir endeavor). We just completed uploading our videos, so it is not ready to share. There will be a lot of hard work being done by the visual and audio editors before this can be seen. I will certainly share it when it is available.

The second is a sacred piece specifically being put together to be included in worship services for Pentecost Sunday, May 31, by Convergence, a progressive Christian network of support for clergy,

lay leadership and musicians. Wisconsin's own Bryan Sirchio is a music leader in the Convergence Music Project. This piece will be shared as the Musical Offering for our own worship on Pentecost.

Juanita Edington
c.920-988-2416/h.206-6111
jaemusiclover@gmail.com



Student and Teacher Recognition:

The end of the "school year" is upon us and summer is approaching. At this time, I would like to take a moment to recognize the students and teachers that make Sunday School and Youth Group possible. I am thrilled to be able to work with each and every one of these people. They each bring something unique and fun to our programs.

Sunday School kiddos: Kylie Kulick, Rowan Blaszak, Alexia Asher, Grady Fremont, Penelope Zabel, Kara Lynch, Owen Schwager, Kellen Schwager, Eliza Zabel, Liam Matthews, Charly Ladwig, Max Chowanec, Adacellie Perez, Eli Fremont, and Hailey Zabel

Youth Group: Evan Chowanec, Danica Uttke, Tucker Fremont, Thomas Vogel, Maggie Markus, Lily Kulick, Tyler Chowanec, Sophie Mattke, and Livie Mattke

Teachers and Helpers: Diane Schuenemann, Denyce Derleth, Mindy Markus, Jill and Greg Kulick.

I apologize if I missed anyone
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mmattke@firstcongwtn.org
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CLASS OF 2020 SENIORS

This year we recognize four seniors from our congregation.



Derek Rowedder



Olivia Mattke



Isabelle Day.



Madison Holder

Do you recall this special day? Their Confirmation Sunday: May 15, 2016. Now they are high school graduates!

Melissa Mattke invites you to join a mini

parade past the homes of these seniors. We will meet at the church Saturday, June 13th at NOON and start our parade by 12:15 and drive as a group past their homes.

“I will stop and give each of them a small gift and then we will wave, yell our congratulations, honk and drive on by to the next house. Feel free to make signs or decorations for your vehicle. Please be prompt meeting at the church, so we can begin and stay together as we “toodle” around town. “

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BLOOD DRIVE

BLOOD CENTER OF WISCONSIN

May 28th BLOOD DRIVE: Our latest blood drive was a success. It looked very different than a usual drive, but we had many people donating. Masks were worn, cleaning was done, temperatures were taken and lives were saved. We had 24 blood donations!! This is awesome!

Our next drive will be held on July 30th, 2020 from 1pm-6pm. Watch for details as the time gets closer.



FAMILY FUN GAME NIGHT ON ZOOM FOR

EVERYONE: We will be having another game night on Zoom. Mark your calendars for June 6th. At 6pm, we will be playing BINGO. You can print your own cards online, or you can make your own.

The last time we played, we were able to include others that were not on ZOOM. I would text them the numbers called and they could play themselves. Everybody that played won a prize. It was lots of fun!

Here is the Zoom link to play. If you would like to contact me, I would be more than happy to text you the numbers and you can play too....even if you are not on ZOOM!

Topic: BINGO

Time: Jun 6, 2020 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83700515423?pwd=MFITeGdrblI3M2I2NEFwZ2ZPbkR4UT09>

Meeting ID: 837 0051 5423

Password: 297619

Prayer Concerns

- For peace, love, and justice among the people of Minneapolis and all cities experiencing demonstrations or violence
- For awareness, patience, and progress during this pandemic; for safety and wider testing of those living and working in institutions such as health centers and prisons
- Ann Ludwig, recovering from an eye injury
- Barb Lottmann, receiving therapy
- Bill Edington's brother Darin, experiencing health concerns
- Chris Braunschweig, recovering from surgery
- Fran Milburn's son Nick & family, living in New York City
- Fred Schroeder, receiving therapy at Marquardt Health Center
- Lola Mundt's fiancé Zachary, responding to therapy
- Susie Krueger, recovering from a knee injury

Vivian Howard thanks everyone for the prayers on behalf of her grandson Tyler and son-in-law Brandon. Vivian reports "They're both doing well!"

(please call or email with your joys and concerns)

Robert's mobile phone (563-272-8670)

rkoepcke@firstcongwttn.org

Church office (920-261-6213) or

THANK YOU for your prayers, donations and pledges!

Please remember that our **Love Fund** provides grants to those needing help with food, clothing, health care, rent and utilities. For more information, please call the church office (920-261-6213) or Robert's mobile phone (563-272-8670).

THANKS for your support...join us for worship!

1. Our weekly "Welcome to Worship" email (*Haven't got it? Check your SPAM folder or check with Laurel*)
2. Our church's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-118640148151341/>
3. Watertown Cable channel 985 broadcasts our worship on Thursdays at 10 am and 5 pm plus Sunday at 6 pm.



DAILY ZOOM CHECK INS: Don't forget that we have daily check ins on ZOOM. If you have something exciting, not so exciting or just want to talk or see some faces, you can check in and we will just chat! Here is the link for that.

Every weekday at 10:30am, I am there waiting to see some smiling faces. If you are unfamiliar with ZOOM, I can walk you through the process...all you have to do is contact me and we can make it happen!

Melissa Mattke 262-719-1383

mmattke@firstcongwttn.org

josc.mom@hotmail.com

Here is the link to the ZOOM meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/977283089?pwd=S09GcmZSdlcwOTdPT3FVOUF0b1V5UT09>

Meeting ID: 977 283 089

Password: 817611

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“From the Master Gardener”

Remembering Jan Sanders (1938-2018)
Jan’s gardening column from June 2013



June 2013: “Petunias”

“How can you not love a petunia? They are usually the first thing to catch your eye at the garden center. 20 years ago, I didn’t like petunias at all, now thanks to all the new hybrids, I love them. The old types of petunia looked great in May and early June and then by July were stringy things with a few blooms on the end of the stems. They had to be deadheaded everyday and this was a slimy job after rain.

Now we have many hybrids: two of them, Grandifloras and Multifloras are upright petunias that look best in an upright container. Unfortunately they still have many of the annoying habits of the older varieties, although they have more and larger blooms and have been hybridized to have amazing color and all kinds of variegations. They still need daily deadheading and look terrible after a rain. You can help prevent the stringy look by pinching them back when you plant. This means you will lose all the blooms that are on the plant when you buy it, but this makes the plant bush out and about 3 weeks later you will have blooms again. In July you will have a much better looking plant than any of the neighbors. These are usually the petunias you see in a 4 or 6 pack and are less expensive. They do provide great color in spring and early summer and when they get straggly; you can always cut them back and you should get more blooms as the weather

gets cooler. They come in singles, doubles, stripes, and every color except true blue.

There are also types of petunias available that avoid lots of the problems that the above have. These petunias are mostly all trailing petunias which means they are great in hanging baskets or for covering a large area.

The first is the Wave petunia. This plant is grown from seed and was an AAS winner when first developed. It is available in many colors but not blue or yellow- there is one called blue, but it is really purple. Wave petunias do not need deadheading (that alone makes me buy them) and they are not affected much by rain. This is the petunia that covered the whole front end of our garden last summer. There is one upright variety called Tidal Wave, the other varieties are all trailing. Wave petunias need full sun, they should never be allowed to dry out, and do best if fertilized every other week. Because we added so much organic matter to our church bed, we have never fertilized anything, but for most gardens and definitely container plantings, you need to fertilize. These petunias are usually more expensive, they are often in 4 inch pots at a garden center. Wave petunias can be grown from seed so you will also see them at Fair Day and such.

Next is Supertunias. This plant has the same advantages as Wave- no deadheading and more stamina. There is a yellow variety of Supertunia called Citrus. The Supertunia are only grown from cuttings. Supertunia blooms are usually slightly smaller and the plant trails to a longer length than a Wave. They are heavier feeders and should be fertilized every week. Again, they are usually in 4 inch pots and more expensive. They too require full sun for best performance and should never dry out. A new Supertunia this year that was named one of the top 10 new annuals by the U of Minnesota horticulture trials is “Raspberry Blast”.

(continued →)



Another great petunia is Picotee. This petunia is a type of Surfinia and also can only be grown from cuttings. Its seeds are not sterile but when grown from seed, the plants were never vigorous or as floriferous so the developers chose not to market the seeds. It has all the advantages of Wave and Supertunia plus more. The Picotee comes in red, pink, and purple and they all have a beautiful white border around the edge of the bloom or white striping. The nicest thing is that Picotee reblooms all along the stem so you never get the long stringy stem with blooms only on the end that you do with other petunias. It blooms vigorously all summer, even in the hottest months and can reach 5 foot or more in length. It too needs full sun and fertilizer every week. It is disease, pest and powdery mildew resistant. I had this plant for the first time last year and I absolutely loved it. I had the purple one with white edges and grew it in a pot. It bloomed continuously from late May until into November; although the last month or so I had it in the house. You will definitely see this plant in our church garden this year, probably in the big pot.

A new Supertunia, also a top 10 winner at the U of MN is named "Patio Blue". It's a blue/purple color.

If you buy a hanging pot of petunias, you really need to fertilize every week. These pots look so beautiful because there are a lot of plants in them and they gobble up nutrients and water like crazy. So feed them and keep them moist if you want them to continue looking great.

Be sure to check the petunia plant labels if you are looking for a specific type of petunia.

Many petunias have a fragrance although not everyone likes it. Petunias can hardly be beat for adding lots of great colors, many blooms and interesting variegations to your garden.

--Jan Sanders, Master Gardener

Since Sunday, April 26th weekly lawnmowing has continued. Thank You: Tom Derleth, Greg Kulick, Dale and Jennifer Bakke for keeping the church lawns looking beautiful.

In Addition, The Memorial Flower Beds are slowly being weeded and new plantings are being established. If you enjoy weeding other people's flower beds more than your own, stop by the church!

Solitary and peaceful, weeders should work in separate flower beds to insure social distancing. Let Laurel know if you have questions (lbentz@firstcongwtnn.org 920-261-6213)

There are 5 main flower beds that need weeding.

1. At the Entrance sign when you pull into the church driveway.
2. The Ruth Christensen Memorial Patio on the west side of the building.
3. The flower beds directly below the Youth Room windows.
4. The large raised Gaston Memorial flower bed directly in front of the church main entrance.
5. The flower bed off the parking lot as you enter the memorial garden (with the crane sculptures)

***NOTE: for the sake of the bees and butterflies, the use of Roundup is prohibited.



Birthdays in June

Donna Schmutzler 06/05
 Joyce Uglow 06/08
 Judith Maas 06/11
 Melissa Mattke 06/12
 Rebekah Palmer 06/16
 Kathryn Driessen 06/17
 Suzanne Harms 06/17
 Dennis Ewing 06/21
 Kaye Piotrowski 06/23



Birthdays in July

James Maas 07/01
 Gayle Johnson 07/01
 Donald Hanson 07/01
 Ethel Willing 07/07
 Jeff Nicholas 07/08
 Emryn Milburn 07/11
 Mark Ulatowski 07/14
 Judy Draeger 07/18
 Isabelle Day 07/19
 Russell Ehnert 07/20
 Evan Chowanec 07/22
 Paige Driessen 07/25
 Calvin Edwards 07/25
 Hailey Zabel 07/27
 Ryan Scheunemann 07/27

Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference



Annual Meeting 2020

June 6th via Zoom Webinar 8:30am – 12:00pm

HEALING OUR EARTHLY HOME

All Creation is Groaning...but listen and the Earth will teach you

Romans 8:18-25 and Job 12:7-9

Pastor Robert is attending and Dale Bakke and Laurel W Bentz will serve as delegates.

Visit this link to register as "visitor": <https://www.wcucc.org/about-wcucc/annual-meeting/>



2020	BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	BUDGETED TOTAL INCOME	ACTUAL TOTAL INCOME	BUDGETED EXPENSES	ACTUAL EXPENSES	MONTH GAIN OR LOSS	YEAR GAIN OR LOSS
January	\$19,821	\$15,066	\$20,712	\$16,081	\$20,414	\$20,318	-\$4,237	-\$4,237
February	\$19,821	\$13,698	\$20,712	\$14,752	\$20,414	\$29,503	-\$14,751	-\$18,988
March	\$19,821	\$14,735	\$20,712	\$15,880	\$20,414	\$11,578	\$4,302	-\$14,686
April	\$19,821	\$15,527	\$20,712	\$15,309	\$20,414	\$12,607	\$2,702	-\$11,984
May	\$19,821	\$15,508	\$20,712	\$15,596	\$20,414	\$18,055	-\$2,459	-\$14,443

