

The Hilltop Chimes

First Congregational United Church of Christ 120 Kuckkan Lane Watertown, WI 53094
Interim Pastor: Rev. Stephen Welch Email: swelch@firstcongwttn.org
Phone/Fax 920-261-6213

November 2020



Dear Church Family
Members and
Friends,

I pray that you are aware
that Sunday, November 8,
2020 is our Consecration

Sunday. Because of the current pandemic this year requires that we celebrate Consecration Sunday in a different way than we have known before. But I believe that what has not changed is our commitment to the Mission and Ministries of our church. Worship is virtual, and the fulfillment of the goals for Consecration Sunday will be an experience that requires you to respond by submitting your estimate of giving form through the mail or by dropping it off in the church office in the days ahead of us.

Our congregation's ability to practice our promises and make our missions and ministries helpful and relevant both start and depend on YOU—your interest, your participation, your prayerful encouragement, and of course, your commitment. I look forward to sharing a BIG celebration with you!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (262-490-5585) or by email (swelch@firstcongwttn.org)

Rev. Stephen W. Welch

Interim Pastor

A sample of estimate of giving form is included in this newsletter.



Service of Remembrance
TOTENFEST

Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020

On Sunday, November 3 during
10:00 a.m. worship we join in a
special service of remembrance.

Church members were invited to
send the names of loved ones who have died since
last year at this time. On Sunday, the names will
be read, a candle will be lit as the church bell tolls.

These are names shared for remembrance:

Harvey Perschke

(father-in-law of Deanna Perschke)

Died: December 9, 2019

Donna Tofte Jaye, (wife of Gayle Johnson)

Died: February 14, 2020

Susan McNaughton (wife of Don)

Died: February 17, 2020

Rev. Alan J. Kromholz (our former pastor)

Died: March 19, 2020

Janet Eicher (cousin of Lynda Eicher)

Died: March 19, 2020

Ed Bennett (husband of Arlene)

Died: March 25, 2020

Patricia Becker (wife of the late Dr. John Becker)

Died: March 30, 2020

Grace Eicher (aunt of Lynda Eicher)

Died: July 28, 2020

Anita Dusowsky (75 year member)

Died: August 1, 2020

Joseph Brezovar (cousin of Diane Koch)

Died: October 12, 2020

Patricia Rose Stuckey (sister of Helen Eicher)

Died: October 25, 2020



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

Advent Recital HOPES



Calling musicians past and present to participate in a virtual Advent Recital. With the ongoing pandemic, it seems that it will be wise to record music of the season to be combined into an online Advent Recital. This could be a wonderful family project for those who might have more than one musician in the family. And I would certainly extend the invitation to people who are not church members, but who might be interested musicians (grandchildren, neighbor, friend, etc.)

What I am envisioning is people choosing selections and either recording at your own home or another location if you have the technology and human power, or working within safety precautions, recording at church. Both Susie Krueger and Tom Rusch have agreed to accompany those who would wish or need that, and those would be recorded at church. (Tom's availability will be limited to Saturday and Sunday to practice and record.)

We will need to have a minimum of eight selections to make a decent recital. I know this is early, but with needing to schedule, record, and edit, we won't be able to wait until the last minute to get things done. I will roll out the video whenever it is completed and it will be available to watch at any time.

It would also be nice to include some of these selections during the Advent season for the musical offerings in our Advent services, and for music enhancement during our Christmas Eve service, so keeping that in mind, earlier is better. Advent begins November 29th.

Contact Juanita Edington to volunteer, or with questions. 206-6111, 988-2416 or

jaemusiclover@gmail.com

We continue to seek your offering of musical gifts for our online worship. You can record from a smart phone or computer, which are the easiest ways, but there are several other options. Let me know if you want to sing or play, but don't know how to begin. Technology shouldn't stand in the way of you sharing your musical gifts.

A big thank you goes to those who provided musical offerings during the month of October-2016 Praise Team: Jack Mattke, Olivia Mattke, Sophie Mattke, Saedra Fremont, Kristin Chowanec & Erin Lynch; Susie Krueger, and myself.



FALL ROADSIDE CLEANUP "Adopt-A-Highway"

**Fran Milburn and Lee Buescher,
 Coordinators**



Our last highway clean-up for 2020 is Saturday, November 7 at 10 am. (Sunday, Nov 8 - rain date)

Please join the church crew (ages 12 & up) to clean up our designated hi-way CW (Boughton Street) from Schumann Drive to Turke Lane, about 2 1/2 miles. We will meet at the "Adopt a Highway" sign, Boughton & Schumann Drive (the back entrance to the hospital). We will bring vests and bags and divide up the crew. We usually work about 1 to 2 hours.

Call Fran at 920 988 6719 for rain/snow cancelation.



From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We have been continuing our ZOOM Sunday School at 10:30am on Sunday. The group is working our way through the Books of the Bible. Each week we learn different "highlights" in each Book. We always end with a scavenger hunt...that is the favorite activity with these kiddos. They are now loving sending me on hunts! Feel free to join us anytime!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/183320649?pwd=UnFLMU9TenU2b0t3b2RVUEhyV1J6UT09>

YOUTH GROUP: We meet on Sundays at 11:30am and on Wednesdays at 6pm. We have been doing a lot of discussing about their feelings with the Covid-19 situation and school. They have also helped me with some of the assignments I have for my classes. We also play games 😊. We have started thinking of ways that we can help serve our community during these trying times. We all miss eating together and playing games in person, however we are all being patient for when the time comes for us to do that safely. Feel free to join us!

Join Zoom Meeting

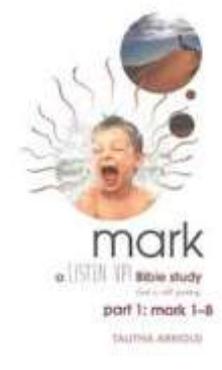
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/671375141?pwd=RWswNldQWVR4MVg4QkpXbjNXL1NVQT09>

Acolytes: We would love to have this as part of our service! If you are interested in being an acolyte for the virtual services, please contact:
Melissa Mattke 262-719-1383
Juanita Edington



c.920-988-2416/h.206-6111

LISTEN UP! JOIN OUR BIBLE STUDY



From Melissa Our group continues to meet on ZOOM at 9am on Tuesdays. We have wonderful conversations. We are working our way through the Book of Mark. Join our ZOOM meeting, or sign up to receive the emails for the lessons and you can work through it on your own.

From Pilgrim Press website:
Mark: 2 LISTEN UP! Bible Study:

Mark's Gospel, the shortest of the four Gospels, gets right to the point and tells us what mattered most to the earliest of Christians.

Mark didn't have the time, or want to take the time, to deal with anything that didn't draw a straight line from Jesus' baptism to the empty tomb. His goal is to get this good news down on papyrus and out to people now, before it lost its urgency, before any more people died or drifted away from this new faith.

Mark's is a bare-bones Gospel with a raw faith. From the very beginning of his Gospel, Mark has one purpose--to show us that this Jesus Christ was the One. The One who truly was, as the Roman centurion proclaimed at the cross when Jesus breathed his last, the "Son of God."

Mark seeks to strengthen his readers, and us, in that faith. From the very first verse, his focus is the good news that this Jesus is who he said he was--the One worth listening to, the One worth following, the One worth giving your life for. This is the Jesus we meet in the pages of Mark. That's reason enough to read this urgent, raw Gospel.

Join Zoom Meeting
Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/232183369?pwd=N0pmNDhq3poTXFtdG1rT0xYazNqdz09>



Pen Pal Club: We would like to set up pen pal club. This will be a fun way to keep in touch with each other and get to know somebody better! Cards, letters and personal artwork can be mailed to each other. There is no “requirement” to join this club. No limited age or number of things you can send.

If you are interested in joining, please let me know and I will “assign” you a pal!

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

Saturday Morning Chats: A few people used to gather in the church parking lot on Saturday mornings just to chat. The weather is making that not much fun 😊. So, let’s change it to a Zoom chat time.

Here is the link if you would like to join. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments or if you need some help with Zoom!

Every week on Sat at 10am Melissa Mattke is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZUvcmsrD4vH9AFpnxt79Q1COCA7DDukecy/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGprD4qHtaQtRyDRpwcAI_4c-jzpiVYgvp8ug_rGzQEOzKnFc1hE-VbNM3b](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/81250425554?pwd=LzFOVlhFL3J3dzRmL1ZRaU1US1dnZz09)

Link to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81250425554?pwd=LzFOVlhFL3J3dzRmL1ZRaU1US1dnZz09>

Topic: Saturday Meet Up
Meeting ID: 812 5042 5554
Passcode: 266273



REMINDER

Midnight on Saturday
October 31st
Turn Clocks Back 1 Hour.



How to Join Us for Worship:

- 1) Through the link sent out weekly “Welcome to Worship” email.
- 2) Our church’s Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-118640148151341/>
- 3) Watertown Cable channel 985 broadcasts on Thursdays at 10 am and 5 pm; Sunday at 6 pm.
- 4) Our new church website (see ‘Media’):
<https://firstcongwttn.org/> Services posted on Saturday night.
- 5) **Communion Sundays** the first Sunday of each month. Bring bread and juice to your table at home and join in the sacraments

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

From the Gospel of

Matthew we know that we are to “Love the Lord our God with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves.” This scripture also serves as the Purpose Statement for the United Church of Christ.

I am with you today to give a stewardship call for your continued commitment and support for our congregation. I have been fortunate to remain gainfully employed this past year, and Jennifer and I are able to continue our tithing in support of our congregation’s missions, programs, and staff.

This has been a year of great change and as your Moderator I am counting my blessing. Here are just a few of them:

- We changed pastors with Rev. Robert’s retirement and our welcoming Pastor Stephen as our interim. I feel so blessed to have Pastor Stephen back among us.
- We’ve experienced monumental change in how our services and meetings are conducted and delivered. I feel so blessed by our staff’s quick adaptation of new technology that has allowed us to remain connected via the internet to one another during a time of disconnection and isolation. Correspondingly, I feel so blessed by all of our resilience as we adjust to these changes in how we “do” church.
- Our website is back up and running on a mobile compatible platform. I’m feeling blessed for the volunteers and staff that worked so hard to make this possible.
- We’ve maintained our grounds and facilities. I feel so blessed that members continue to honor their financial commitments during these extremely trying times and that we are down to the final \$9,000 in pledges needed to be whole with our “Re-Pave the Lot”.

I also find great blessings in our continued support of the 3 great loves of the United Church of Christ:

- The Love of Children
- The Love of Neighbor
- The Love of Creation

To support these 3 great loves, we have to support our congregation’s General Fund budget to have the impact we seek for our members and community. 80% of our Total General Fund Operating budget of \$245,000 for 2020 are within 3 categories.

- 65% is for Staff salaries and benefits. I give my thanks and count my blessings for each and every member of our staff.
- 8% is for Maintenance Expenses for our buildings and grounds. This is low due to a few great volunteers that donate goods and services. I give my thanks and count my blessings for each and every one of these volunteers.
- 7% is for Utilities that include electricity, gas, phone, and internet services. I give my thanks and count my blessings for the Trustee’s super job of decreasing our each of these costs over the past three years.

In the near future and to assist Council in preparation of the 2021 budget, please remember to count your blessings as you decide what your financial commitment – your stewardship commitment-- to our amazing church can be for 2021 .

In closing

- Thanks to each of you for your past, present and future support in all the wondrous ways that you give.
- Thank you for helping us Love Our Children.
- Thank you for helping us Love Our Neighbor.
- Thank you for helping us Love Creation.

May God bless you and your family.



SAMPLE - ESTIMATE OF GIVING 2020

TAKE ONE STEP UP . . . FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my (our) faith in and commitment to Christ and his church I (we) plan to TAKE ONE STEP UP in giving

THIS COMMITMENT IS \$ _____ per week per month per year

This represents an increase over last year

Name _____ DATE _____

Address _____ Apt. No _____ Phone (____) _____

Email: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

This commitment may be revised or canceled at any time at my request

November BIRTHDAYS

11/04 Danica Uttke
 11/06 Emily Ortega
 11/07 Elijah Fremont
 11/10 Chrysa Wescott
 11/12 Brent Wallen
 11/16 William Evans
 11/17 Nicholas Miller
 11/19 Peter Welbourne
 11/22 Owen Schwager
 11/22 Kellen Schwager
 11/23 Angela Howard
 11/23 Nathaniel Budewitz
 11/27 Lee Hyde
 11/29 Ruth Martin
 11/30 Diane Koch



December BIRTHDAYS

12/01 Jan Smith
 12/01 Cindy Stockhus
 12/02 William Piotrowski
 12/11 Rob Miller
 12/15 Lila Bocher
 12/16 Thomas Vogel
 12/16 Paul Neitzel
 12/16 Lily Kulick
 12/21 Denyce Derleth
 12/25 Marian Carlson
 12/29 Sophia Mattke
 12/30 Julie Larson
 12/31 Joyce Larson



"Coats for Kids"

Even though we are not seeing each other and many kids are not going to school, they still need a warm coat, boots, hats, gloves, scarves and snow pants this winter! If you have any gently used items you would like to donate, please drop them off at *Community Action Coalition* in downtown Watertown. Together we can make a difference in our community! With God's Blessings, Jennifer

Please Note: If you or someone you know could benefit from **Coats**

Distribution there will be distributions at the following locations:

Watertown: Sat. Nov. 7 (10-1) Riverside Park

Lake Mills: Sat. Nov 7 (3-7) Rotary Park

Jefferson: Sun. Nov 8 (Noon-3) Fair Park

Trustees Report of Income and Expenses as of September, 2020

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	\$15,257	\$20,712	\$15,309	\$20,414	\$12,607	\$2,702	-\$11,984
May	\$19,821	\$15,508	\$20,712	\$15,596	\$20,414	\$18,372	-\$2,776	-\$14,760
June	\$19,821	\$14,002	\$20,712	\$14,055	\$20,414	\$24,054	-\$9,999	-\$24,759
July	\$19,821	\$19,102	\$20,712	\$19,575	\$20,414	\$16,865	\$2,710	-\$22,049
August	\$19,821	\$30,316	\$20,712	\$30,664	\$20,414	\$13,136	\$17,528	-\$4,521
September	\$19,821	\$14,477	\$20,712	\$15,900	\$20,414	\$9,316	\$6,584	\$2,063

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Holy Communion 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School - 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	2	3 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 11 AM - CHURCH STAFF MEETS ELECTION DAY	4 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6 P.M. - ZOOM Youth Group	5 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group meets in Youth Room Masks required.	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
8 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School - 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	9	10 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	11 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6 P.M. - ZOOM Youth Group	12 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group meets in Youth Room Masks required.	13 Estimate of Giving – Due in Church Office	14 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
15 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School - 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	16	17 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6:30pm - Church Council -	18 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6 P.M. - ZOOM Youth Group	19 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group meets in Youth Room Masks required.	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
22 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School - 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	23	24 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	25 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6 P.M. - ZOOM Youth Group	26 Thanksgiving 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast NO MEDITATION	27 OFFICE CLOSED	38 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
29 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School - 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	30	☺ WORSHIP SERVICE IS BROADCAST on Watertown Community Cable: Thursdays, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sundays, 6:00 p.m. Cable channel 985 Or watch live at http://www.watertowntv.com/				