

# The Hilltop Chimes



December 2020

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

Contact Information:  
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Pastor's email: [swelch@firstcongwttn.org](mailto:swelch@firstcongwttn.org)



## Dear Church Family Members and Friends,

For my Advent newsletter article, I would like to share a meditation entitled "**When the World Was Dark**" which is found in Cloth For

The Cradle by the Wild Goose Worship Group of the Iona Community in Scotland.

"When the world was dark and the city was quiet ... you came. You crept in beside us. And no one knew. Only the few who dared to believe that God might do something different.

### ***Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?***

Will you come into the darkness of today's world – not the friendly darkness as when sleep rescues us from tiredness, but the fearful darkness, in which people have stopped believing – that war will end ... or that food will come ... or that a government will change ... of that the Church cares?

Will you come into that darkness and do something different to save your people from death and despair?

Will you come into the quietness of this city – not the friendly quietness as when lovers hold hands, but the fearful silence when –

The phone has not rung ... the letter has not come ... the friendly voice no longer speaks ... the doctor's face says it all?

### ***Will you come into that darkness, and do something different – not to distract, but to embrace your people?***

And will you come into the dark corners and the quiet places of our lives?

We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden or want to be – but because the fullness our lives long for depends on us being as open and vulnerable to you as you were to us – when you came, wearing no more than diapers, and trusting human hands to hold their maker.

### ***Will you come into our lives, if we open them to you ... and do something different?***

When the world was dark and the city was quiet ... you came. You crept in beside us.

***Do the same this Christmas, Lord.*** Do the same this Christmas. AMEN"

Rev. Stephen W. Welch



## Advent Recital Coming Soon

Well, I am happy to say that I have had a good number of volunteers for our annual Advent Recital, some regulars and a couple of newcomers. (It isn't too late, if you are still interested.) They are in the process of rehearsing, and soon will be recording their selections. After they share their recordings with me, I will edit them into a Virtual Advent Recital.

When the video is completed, Laurel will send out the link as she would a Sunday service, for you to watch at your leisure. I wish I could include some of the great treats we usually have at our reception, but maybe you'll have some of your own to baking to enjoy. Some of the selections will also be used as musical offerings in our Advent Sunday and Christmas Eve services.

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

### Virtual Congregational Budget Meeting

Sunday, December 20 at 11 a.m. via ZOOM  
there will be a congregational meeting.  
Purpose: approve 2021 Budget and Officers.

**FROM THE MODERATOR:** Our Conference is seeing most congregations holding annual meetings via Zoom or via mail. Because our bylaws state that we must meet in person Council (after much discussion) proposed a motion to hold the meeting virtually.

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Council moved to hold our annual budget meeting at 1100 on 12/20/20 via Zoom. The motion carried.

Board Terms: Council had discussion regarding board representation options for 2021 to make recommendation at upcoming congregational meeting. Discussion also about what Board needs are currently and if people could be redeployed from those that aren't currently meeting or have needs due to COVID to those who are.

#### Motions being brought forth to congregation:

- Move to suspend all term limits for the 2021 calendar year in Articles V – Officers, VII – Boards, and VIII - Committees of the Church Constitution's bylaws to allow 2020 board and committee members to serve an additional year on their current board or committee if able. Motion carried.
  - Move to approve the proposed 2021 Budget
- Church members will be sent a ZOOM link prior to the meeting.** Copies of the Budget will be sent out in via email and our first class mail recipients and to those who request.



### *The Christmas Fund Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund*

Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.

*"It wasn't easy picking up the telephone to share with you my present situation. In fact it was one of the*

*most humiliating experiences of my life although it reminded me that grace still happens. Sometimes we as clergy persons lose sight of God's grace when the negative stuff comes into our lives."*

*"thanks so much for sharing your time and ministry with me. Your most gracious gift is appreciated more than words can say as I continue to live in the 'meantime.'"*

These eloquent words are from a pastor who is the recipient of the caring and concern of those who contribute to the **Christmas Fund Offering**. You have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through your participation in this year's **Christmas Fund Offering**.

Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors like the one above, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provide Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to low-income retirees. Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care

First Congregational UCC will be collecting the **Christmas Fund Offering** on during the month of December. Please give generously.

Visit the UCC website for more information:

[https://ext.pbucc.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=290&Itemid=300](https://ext.pbucc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=290&Itemid=300)



The holiday gift giving season is upon us...Do your shopping with us!! Scrip Gift Cards are the perfect gift for that hard to buy for person on your list.

**To have cards in time for Christmas, place your order no later than DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>.  
CALL/TEXT JENNIFER RHODES 920-296-1378.**

*--Tom Rusch, Jennifer Rhodes, Rod Rowedder, Jim Ortega·*



ADVENT JOURNEY EXPERIENCE  
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

MAY THIS SEASON REMIND YOU OF THE  
HOPE, JOY, LOVE AND PEACE FOUND IN  
CHRIST. ROMANS 15:13

From Melissa, I think this year, in particular, we all need this reminder. Please join us as we celebrate and experience Advent in a different way with **“Do Not Be Afraid – Advent Journey”**

We will kick off this Advent journey experience with a meeting on **Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00**. We will then meet virtually on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. The link is included below.

We will be making our own Advent calendars and wreaths, discussing the Advent season and even playing Advent Bingo! There are supporting materials to help guide and prepare your hearts for the birth of Jesus Christ. I will mail or email you the materials needed, whichever is easier for you. \*You do not have to meet on Zoom, you can certainly go through this journey on your own.

Please email me with questions or to sign up!  
Melissa [josc.mom@hotmail.com](mailto:josc.mom@hotmail.com) or  
[mmattke@firstcongwtn.org](mailto:mmattke@firstcongwtn.org)

*Would you like to join this experience and be creative along the way?*

LINK: Do Not Be Afraid: Advent Journey

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88168068327?pwd=WGU3U01hMmZWcU4wajgzNzVzdmx2Zz09>

“Advent is patience, it’s how God has made us a people of promise, in a world of impatience.”—  
Stanley Hauerwas



From the Coordinator of Children  
and Youth Ministries

Melissa Mattke Coordinator  
262-719-1383

[mmattke@firstcongwtn.org](mailto:mmattke@firstcongwtn.org)  
[josc.mom@hotmail.com](mailto: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 will be starting a special Advent series soon! 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

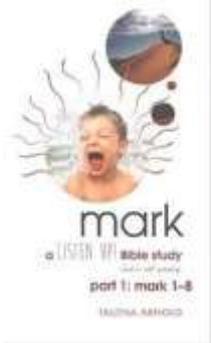
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/183320649?pwd=UnFLMU9TenU2b0t3b2RVUEhyV1J6UT09>

**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=RWsWNIIdOWVR4MVG4QkpXbjNXL1NVQT09>

## 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.

Join Zoom Meeting  
Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/232183369?pwd=N0p mNDhdq3poTXFtdG1rT0xYazNqdz09>

**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/tZUvcumsrD4vH9AFpnxt79Q1COCA7DDukeycy/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGprD4qHtaQtRyDRpwcAI\\_4c-jzpiVYgvp8ug\\_rGzQEozKnFc1hE-VbNM3b](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZUvcumsrD4vH9AFpnxt79Q1COCA7DDukeycy/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGprD4qHtaQtRyDRpwcAI_4c-jzpiVYgvp8ug_rGzQEozKnFc1hE-VbNM3b)

Link to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81250425554?pwd=LzF0VlhFL3J3dzRmL1ZRauU1US1dnZz09>

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

## "Do Not Be Afraid" Annual Christmas Program Sunday, December 20th

It is a multi-generational version of the Christmas story that focuses on the "fears" of the people involved may have felt and that God reminds us to Not Be Afraid.

We will be showing the Christmas program on December 20<sup>th</sup>. The cast is already working on recording this fun show.

### 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

**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.

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[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZUvcumsrD4vH9AFpnxt79Q1COCA7DDukeycy/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGprD4qHtaQtRyDRpwcAI\\_4c-jzpiVYgvp8ug\\_rGzQEozKnFc1hE-VbNM3b](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZUvcumsrD4vH9AFpnxt79Q1COCA7DDukeycy/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGprD4qHtaQtRyDRpwcAI_4c-jzpiVYgvp8ug_rGzQEozKnFc1hE-VbNM3b)

Link to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81250425554?pwd=LzF0VlhFL3J3dzRmL1ZRauU1US1dnZz09>

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Passcode: 266273



SALVATION ARMY  
CHRISTMAS  
CAMPAIGN

Due to Covid, & the safety of our bell ringers, the Watertown Salvation Army Kettle Campaign will look a little different this year. There will be no bell ringers at kettles.

New this year is a way to donate to the Virtual Kettle. Please text **Local** to **24365**. Donations made online will be credited to Jefferson County's Kettle Campaign. Check donations may be mailed to PO Box 774, WTTN, WI 53094.

Thank you for all the past generous contributions to the local Red Kettle Campaign.

Marie Miller

Angela Swinehart

Salvation Army Field Representative

[angela.swinehart@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:angela.swinehart@usc.salvationarmy.org)



Juanita Edington  
 c.920-988-2416/h.206-6111  
 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. We will be having some selections from our Advent Recital during our Sunday Advent and Christmas Eve services, but I am always open to more volunteers.

A big thank you goes to those who provided musical offerings during the month of November-Susie Krueger and myself.

[jaemusiclover@gmail.com](mailto:jaemusiclover@gmail.com)

## Poinsettia Order Form:

New this year: Your flowers will be used to beautify the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve service **RECORDING** earlier in that week.



**This means they will be available Christmas Eve morning 10-Noon for curbside pickup.**

The order form is on the last page....

## Offering Envelopes

Our envelopes for 2021 have arrived. If you have used the mailable envelopes in 2020, we have a box at church for you.

New to using these envelopes? Call/email Laurel to get a box at Office: 920-261-6213 or [lbentz@firstcongwtnn.org](mailto:lbentz@firstcongwtnn.org)



## How to Join Us for Worship:

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Weekly 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://firstcongwtnn.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.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jan Smith	12/01
Cindy Stockhus	12/01
William Piotrowski	12/02
Rob Miller	12/11
Lila Bocher	12/15
Lily Schmidt	12/16
Paul Neitzel	12/16
Thomas Vogel	12/16
Denyce Derleth	12/21
Robert Koepcke	12/24
Marian Carlson	12/25
Sophia Mattke	12/29
Dominic Leija	12/30
Julie Larson	12/30
Joyce Larson	12/31



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bradley Niay	01/01
Nicholas Oxford	01/04
Daniel Edwards	01/04
Lee Buescher	01/08
Tracy Livermore	01/08
Joseph Milburn	01/15
CJ Zabel	01/20
Kimberly Day	01/20
Frances Milburn	01/21
Jeannine Mallach	01/23
Charlotte Ladwig	01/25
Donna Ninmann	01/28
Kay Fuchs	01/31

## BOOK OF LIFE

Died: **Fred Schroeder**, passed away on Friday, November 6, 2020 at Agrace Hospice in Fitchburg. Our sympathy goes out to his widow, June, and the rest of their family. A private funeral was held in our sanctuary Saturday, November 21, 2020, Pastor Stephen Welch officiated.

A link to the full service is available on our website under "Media"

### Trustees Report of Income and Expenses as of October 31, 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	\$20,279	-\$4,198	-\$4,198
February	\$19,821	\$13,698	\$20,712	\$14,752	\$20,414	\$29,503	-\$14,751	-\$18,949
March	\$19,821	\$14,735	\$20,712	\$15,880	\$20,414	\$11,578	\$4,302	-\$14,647
April	\$19,821	\$15,257	\$20,712	\$15,309	\$20,414	\$12,607	\$2,702	-\$11,945
May	\$19,821	\$15,508	\$20,712	\$15,596	\$20,414	\$18,372	-\$2,776	-\$14,721
June	\$19,821	\$14,002	\$20,712	\$14,055	\$20,414	\$24,054	-\$9,999	-\$24,720
July	\$19,821	\$19,102	\$20,712	\$19,575	\$20,414	\$16,865	\$2,710	-\$22,010
August	\$19,821	\$30,316	\$20,712	\$30,664	\$20,414	\$13,136	\$17,528	-\$4,482
September	\$19,821	\$14,477	\$20,712	\$15,900	\$20,414	\$9,316	\$6,584	\$2,102
October	\$19,821	\$22,762	\$20,712	\$24,316	\$20,414	\$14,805	\$9,511	\$11,613

## December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>OUR SERVICE IS BROADCAST on Watertown Community Cable:</b> Thursdays, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sundays, 6:00 p.m. Cable channel 985 Or watch live at <a href="http://www.watertowntv.com/">http://www.watertowntv.com/</a></p>		<p><b>1</b> 9am - <b>ZOOM</b> Bible Study <b>11 AM - STAFF MEETS</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> 4pm - Prayer Requests Due  6 P.M. - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group</p>	<p><b>3</b> 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room <b>Masks required.</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group <b>ZOOM</b></p>
<p><b>6</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent <b>Holy Communion</b> 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – <b>ZOOM</b> Sunday School - 11:30am - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group  6pm - <b>Worship Broadcast</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> <b>Holiday SCRIPS ORDERS DUE</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> 9am - <b>ZOOM</b> Bible Study</p>	<p><b>9</b> 4pm - Prayer Requests Due  6 P.M. - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group</p>	<p><b>10</b> 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group/ Youth Room <b>Masks required.</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group <b>ZOOM</b></p>
<p><b>13</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – <b>ZOOM</b> Sunday School - 11:30am - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group  6pm - <b>Worship Broadcast</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> 9am - <b>ZOOM</b> Bible Study <b>6:30, Council ZOOM</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> 4pm - Prayer Requests Due  6 P.M. - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group</p>	<p><b>17</b> 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room <b>Masks required.</b></p>	<p><b>18</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group <b>ZOOM</b></p>
<p><b>20</b> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 10am - Worship posted <b>11:00 A.M. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – ZOOM LINKED</b>  10:30am – <b>ZOOM</b> Sunday School - 11:30am - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group</p>	<p><b>21</b> <b>4pm - Prayer Requests Due</b> 7 p.m. worship recording session</p>	<p><b>22</b> 9am - <b>ZOOM</b> Bible Study</p>	<p><b>23</b> 11 am. worship recording session  6 P.M. - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group</p>	<p><b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i> Office open 10- noon. <b>**Poinsettia Pick up **</b>  Available at Noon: <b>CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE</b> <b>Holy Communion</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  Available: <b>CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE</b> <b>Holy Communion</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group <b>ZOOM</b></p>
<p><b>27</b> 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – <b>ZOOM</b> Sunday School - 11:30am - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group  6pm - <b>Worship Broadcast</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> 9am - <b>ZOOM</b> Bible Study</p>	<p><b>30</b> 4pm - Prayer Requests Due  6 P.M. - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group</p>	<p><b>31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i> Office Open 10-4</p>		



## Poinsettia Order Form:

New this year: Your flowers will be used to beautify the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve service RECORDING earlier in that week.

**This means they will be available Christmas Eve morning 10-Noon for curbside pickup.**

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER :

**Single poinsettia \$16**

Standard Red

White

Pink

Marble (pink and white)

**Double poinsettia \$30**

Standard Red

White

Pink

Marble (pink and white)

“Given in honor/memory of (circle one): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to donate \$10 towards a plant for a homebound member** . These will be delivered mid December for them to enjoy for the holidays.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check payable to 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational UCC and attach to this order. **DEADLINE: Sunday, December 11th**