

The Hilltop Chimes

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

Contact Information:
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APRIL 2021



Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, April 1

Good Friday, April 2

Easter Sunday, April 4

Dear Church Family,

The events in these intense and special days give meaning, and direction, and encouragement, and nourishment, and prayerful guidance to each of us individually, and as a church family, and also the very essence of what we know as Christianity.

I am sure that you agree with me and our church leaders that we wish we were meeting together in worship on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. When I began my ministry as your designated interim pastor last October, I was convinced that by Easter we would be worshipping together in the Sanctuary. I am saddened that is not possible. However, I also celebrate our ability to share worship virtually on video and over the Watertown TV Station. We are connected. We are family. Nothing can separate us.

We are together this week. I hope you will join us for prayerful worship and *communion on Thursday* and then for a *Tenebrae Service on Friday* and then the biggest celebration of the year on *Easter*. See you then.

--Pastor Stephen Welch

Each service will be posted on our website, facebook and shared through email the night before the services. April 4th cable channels broadcast Palm Sunday. April 11th our Easter service will be shown.

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) is not a once a year need.

Our Wisconsin Conference needs our support all year. Your Church Council pledged \$7500 from our General Budget to go to OCWM. As a result we send \$625 each month to honor that pledge.

However it's important to know that, in addition to what the church has pledged, you can increase that amount with individual contributions to OCWM throughout the year. Mission/Outreach Board asks that you consider doing just that.

To find out more go to the UCC website

<http://www.ucc.org/ocwm>

How to Join Us for Worship

- 1) Through the email link sent out weekly "Welcome to Worship" from lbentz@firstcongwttn.org
- 2) Our church's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-118640148151341/>
- 3) Watertown Cable channel 985 broadcasts the Sunday service on Thursdays at 10 am and 5 pm and then again on the following 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 the bread and cup to your table at home and join in the sacraments



Have those hymn lyric slides been helpful?

Please let me know if there is anything that would make them more useful to you in your worship.

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. Music should be from sacred or classical literature, and youth are welcome to contribute.

A big thank you goes to Susie Krueger who provided all of the musical offerings during the month of March.

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

**Serve in Worship
Virtually**



Liturgists: Liturgists read the scripture and other responsive readings during a worship service. We have been very successful with recording via Zoom for worship and are looking for volunteers for January.

Recordings are done Thursday mornings at 11 a.m. via Zoom from your home computer or you can come to the office and record on our laptop.

Liturgists are not yet recording in the sanctuary. If you are interested in being a liturgist for the virtual services, please contact Laurel at lbentz@firstcongwtn.org.

“Listen Up” Bible Study continues....

Our group continues to meet on ZOOM at 9am on Tuesdays. We have wonderful conversations. We finished the book of Luke and are now starting the book of John, part 2.

Join our ZOOM meeting, or sign up to receive the emails for the lessons and you can work through it on your own. Join the meeting here:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/232183369?pwd=NOpmNDhq43poTXFtdG1rT0xYazNqdz09>

Pen Pal Club: We are continuing with our 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!

UCC Summer Camps – No one should miss out on Camp!

The Larson Camp Fund provides scholarships to help cover the cost for children and youth attending any of the camp sessions offered so no one gets left out.

No one should miss out on camp for financial reasons so please contact Pastor Stephen about additional scholarship support.

We would love to have increased participation of our church youth at camp this year! Children, Teens, grandchildren.... Don't forget Family Camp!

The camp schedules for 2021 at Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach are set. Information can also be obtained on-line at www.ucci.org



Easter Pageant—“Eye Witness”

Sunday, April 11th we will present an Easter story titled “Eye Witness – A Story of a Promise Kept”. Melissa had gathered a cast made up of many of our youth as well as some other church members.

It will be presented as part of that Sunday’s worship service so watch for links to facebook, website. Cable TV will broadcast it the week of April 18th.

From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

Melissa Mattke
Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries
mmattke@firstcongwtnn.org 920-261-6213
josc.mom@hotmail.com 262-719-1383

Sunday School:

We have been continuing our ZOOM Sunday School at 10:30am on Sunday. We have been busy “walking” through Holy Week, discussing everything Jesus went through. We even washed family member’s feet. We always finish our time together 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!

Here is the Link to Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/183320649?pwd=UnFLMU9TenU2b0t3b2RVUEhyV1J6UT09>

Saturday Morning Fellowship:

Every week on Sat at 10am join in Morning Fellowship for some chat time (and enjoy seeing church family and friends.)

It’s not a Bible Study or a congregational meeting (although Pastor Stephen will be there) Its more like Coffee Fellowship except you provide your coffee and snacks and you can wear cozy slippers.

1. Click this Link to Zoom at 10 a.m. on Saturdays.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81250425554?pwd=LzFOVlhFL3J3dzRmL1ZRau1US1dnZz09>

2. Wait for the host, Melissa, to connect you.
Topic: Saturday Meet Up
Meeting ID: 812 5042 5554
Passcode: 266273

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



H2O Youth Group:

We meet on Sundays at 11:30am and on Wednesdays at 6pm. They have also helped me with some of the assignments I have for my classes. We also play games 😊. 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!

Here is the Link to Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/671375141?pwd=RWswNldOWVR4MVg4QkpXbjNXL1NVQT09>

BOOK OF LIFE



- 04/01 Jessica Behlke
- 04/02 Kevin Driessen
- 04/02 Zander Koellen
- 04/03 Don Christensen
- 04/06 Dave Day
- 04/08 Tyler Stockhus
- 04/08 Bobby Ladwig
- 04/10 Jordan Winkelman
- 04/11 Isabella Reichardt
- 04/14 Amy Gillingham
- 04/14 Rick Scheunemann
- 04/15 Erin Loeffler
- 04/24 Erin Edington Lynch
- 04/24 Josiah Piotrowski
- 04/25 Jason Loeffler
- 04/27 Clarence Zabel II
- 04/27 Jordan Stiemke
- 04/30 Cordell Niay

Prayer Requests....

Those living at home or in health care centers: Irene, Audrey, Marian, Pauline.

Those who are grieving the death of loved ones and friends.

Those dealing with health issues, such as Melissa's father, Jerry who is dealing with extreme pain. We hold in our prayers Lola's aunt Cyndi and aunt Bonnie who are both dealing with significant health issues. Diane's sister in law is transitioning from Florida to stay with family in Illinois as she deals with dementia and Parkinson's disease.

Our prayers are with the judge, jury, witnesses and other citizens of Minneapolis as they deal with the trial relating to the death of George Floyd.

We hold in prayer Heidi Pauli's sister and her husband as they deal with some very difficult issues, and Jason Hale, the husband of Tara Lohaus, who is nearing his death because of a vicious cancer.

Safe travels for Sophia Mattke who is traveling to Costa Rica.

Those friends, family, college students and community members affected by COVID 19 ... either by being sick, or infected, or living in quarantine.

Friends, family, and others living in Tennessee who are recovering from a devastating tornado and extreme flooding.

Prayers for those who are out of work, seeking employment and those making a career change such as Bobbie Ladwig, and Sandi Budewitz.

Prayers for patience.

Thank you for the signs of Spring that inspire us to trust that new life is not only possible, but is your gift to us that we can embrace and expect. Thank you that on Easter many families will be able to connect safely outdoors.

May we all receive our needed virus vaccinations.

Teachers, school staff, students and parents who continue to face significant issues during this pandemic.


Medical teams, doctors, nurses, those working to distribute the vaccines for this deadly virus.

Financial Updates

GENERAL FUND As of February 28, 2021

2021	BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	BUDGETED TOTAL INCOME	ACTUAL TOTAL INCOME	BUDGETED EXPENSES	ACTUAL EXPENSES	MONTH GAIN OR LOSS	YEAR GAIN OR LOSS
January	\$17,807	\$15,325	\$18,715	\$16,399	\$18,586	\$15,669	\$730	\$730
February	\$17,805	\$18,042	\$18,719	\$18,992	\$18,586	\$16,521	\$2,471	\$3,201

April 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Maundy Thursday 6 p.m. service posted 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	2 Good Friday 6 p.m. service posted OFFICE CLOSED	3 10 a.m. – Saturday Morning Fellowship ZOOM
			4 Easter Sunday Holy Communion 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	5 SCRIPS orders due	6 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 11 AM – STAFF MEETS	7 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6-7:00 – Confirmation ZOOM
11 10am - Worship posted Easter Pageant: "Eye Witness – A Story of a Promise Kept" 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	12	13 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	14 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6-7:00 – Confirmation ZOOM	15 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17 10 a.m. – Saturday Morning Fellowship ZOOM
18 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	19	20 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6:30, Council ZOOM	21 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6-7:00 – Confirmation ZOOM	22 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 10 a.m. – Saturday Morning Fellowship ZOOM
25 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	26	27 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	28 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6-7:00 – Confirmation ZOOM	29 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	30 OFFICE CLOSED	