

The Hilltop Chimes

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

Contact Information:
Phone/Fax: 920-261-6213
Pastor's email: swelch@firstcongwttn.org

MARCH 2021



Dear Church Family,
Do you have a favorite hymn?

Hymns in worship offer each of us the opportunity to prayerfully, joyfully and thoughtfully to share the Christian message with meaning, melody and emotion. Even though we have not enjoyed in person worship on Sunday mornings for almost a year, the virtual worship sustains us and affirms our covenant of faithfulness. And some of the **most significant** parts of our virtual worship are the hymns. I know that some of you sing along with Juanita and I invite you all to give that a try. **It has meaning.** In this way you are not merely the audience watching others lead worship -- instead you are now a worship leader and full participant. I assure you, it makes a difference.

Every week Juanita, Susie and I choose 2 or 3 hymns that (hopefully) encourage every worshiper to share the message of the day with thoughtfulness, faith, and passion. These hymns are an important part of weekly worship. Singing along with others -- even when you cannot see them or hear them -- can be a moving experience that transcends virtual and makes our worship personal.



Do you have a favorite hymn that you wish we would sing on Sunday? Do you have a suggestion of a hymn that has helped to guide and empower your life of faith? Do you have a favorite that has not been sung for a long, long, long time? If so, please take this opportunity to let me know. Your suggestions are not only welcomed, **but requested.**

Pastor Stephen, Interim Minister



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

By the grace of God, all of us have the power to give, and the gifts we give make the world more the way God intended it to be -- a place

where everyone has what they need. Together, we can achieve a fair balance in our world by giving back to God what God has so richly bestowed upon us. One Great Hour of Sharing provides support for health, education, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries by working with local, national, and global partners. Will you give to One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 14th.

How to Join Us for Worship

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS - Sunday, March 14th
Spring 1 hour Ahead!

- 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



Juanita Edington

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 February-Bill Edington, Susie Krueger and Washington, D.C. singer-songwriter Lea Morrison, whose song "Be the Light" was inspired by the words of Amanda Gorman's Inaugural poem.

Recently, we happened to sing two hymns with text and/or music written by Rev. Dosia Carlson, "We Yearn, O Christ for Wholeness" and "Why?" When I was researching the copyright information about her, I came upon some interesting facts about her. She died from complications from COVID-19 just two days following her 91st birthday on January 13, 2021.

Although originally intending to become a missionary to China, she was stricken with polio during high school. She developed and administered a high school program for the orthopedically handicapped, taught college level religion and obtained her Ph.D. despite numerous hospital stays.

Because of these experiences, she turned towards service to the most vulnerable, leading her to the Beatitudes Campus of Care in Phoenix, AZ where she served as coordinator of resident services, and Associate Minister at the Church of the Beatitudes, UCC. She was instrumental in

founding several programs that were resources for the aging.

She spent her final years residing at the Beatitudes Campus, volunteering as a director of the resident choir and developing the Center for Lifelong Learners on Campus. For those who might wish to read a complete obituary the link is included here:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/azcentral/obituary.aspx?n=dosia-carlson&pid=197664676>

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@firstcongwttn.org.

Acolytes: The purpose of candle lighting has been to "bring the light of the Holy spirit" into a worship space. To virtually light candles for our worship setting acolytes are recorded lighting candles from home. Juanita gives guidance on how to do this and assists in making it possible and meaningful.

Although it's been children who serve as acolytes, people of all ages are invited. If you are interested in being an acolyte for the virtual services, please contact Juanita. We love to have this as part of our service!

From Reopening Committee:

Committee Discusses Reopening Possibilities

The Reopening Committee has been meeting through emails throughout the past year. Results have been shared with Church Council. We are a group of Church Council members, staff, and a health professional to look at when we can meet in person again. We have looked at what other churches have been doing, but I think our main information has come from general UCC recommendations and our "gut". We know how we feel and can represent our families and other congregants.

We are finally to the point where the new Covid-19 cases are dwindling, many are getting the vaccine (slowly but surely), and the weather is getting nicer. It is finally time to think about coming together in person!

Here are some ideas as to how we might do this:

Have outdoor services

- With loud speakers.
- With a radio transmitter so congregants can listen on their radios (I think AM).
- Are there other outdoor possibilities?

Have services indoors:

- Social distancing. Every other pew. Unused pews closed off with masking tape. Cleaning procedures after each service. No congregating indoors before or after the service.
- Should there be singing, limited singing, or no singing?
- Should plexiglass be placed between pulpit speaking or not?

Broadcasting:

- Broadcast it live (virtually and in person)
- Share copy of live service online as well as the local channel.

What do you think? Any comments would be welcome! Please contact me at thomasdrusch@gmail.com. Thanks!

Tom Rusch
Reopening Committee Chair

VIRTUAL MEDITATION?

Have you considered Virtual Meditation?

The Thursday evening meditation group that meets at 6:30 is questioning if others may be interested in joining if we were to offer these sessions virtually via Zoom or phone? Typical sessions last for 30 minutes and are a great way to refocus and relax. We are not currently set up to offer the virtual sessions, but we can easily accommodate any requests. Please contact Laurel Bentz via email or phone at lbentz@firstcongwttm.org or 920-261-6213 and we will follow up with you.

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Our Bible Study continues....

Our group continues to meet on ZOOM at 9am on Tuesdays. We have wonderful conversations. We are working our way through the Book of Luke. 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=N0pmNDhq3poTXFtdG1rT0xYazNqdz09>

UCC Summer Camps

The camp schedules for 2019 at Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach are set and the brochures are in the Narthex. Information can also be obtained on-line at www.ucci.org



Just to remind everyone:

The Larson Camp Fund continues to pay half of the cost for children and youth attending any of the camp sessions offered. Simply send in or drop off a copy of your registration form at the church office. We would love to have increased participation of our church youth at camp this year!



Confirmation

We are meeting on Wednesday evenings via Zoom from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The class is made up of students in 8th and 9th grades as well as their mentors. The curriculum being used is "Affirming Faith". Our plan is to celebrate confirmation on Sunday, May 23rd 2021.



Easter Pageant—"Good News"

Calling everyone of all ages!!!! We would like to put together an Easter program. The program that I picked out "GOOD NEWS" is written by Illustrated Ministry, the same company that wrote our Christmas Pageant.

It will be recorded on Zoom and can be very flexible. Parts will be given to everyone that wants to participate! Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to be a part of this. It will be a lot of fun!!

mmattke@firstcongwtn.org 920-261-6213
josc.mom@hotmail.com 262-719-1383

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. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments or if you need some help with Zoom!

Here is the Link to Join Zoom Meeting

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

Topic: Saturday Meet Up

Meeting ID: 812 5042 5554 Passcode: 266273

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!

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

Church Phone Pals



Report on the Church Phone Pals

February 21 – Easter, April 4th

Coordinator: Fran Milburn, Mission/Outreach and partnering with Deacons and Fellowship Board.

She reports that 10 folks are signed up and already made phone calls!

Contact person: Fran via phone (920-988-6719)
email frances.milburn@gmail.com



From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

Melissa Mattke

Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

mmattke@firstcongwtn.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 are talking about Lent and what it means to us. Several of the kiddos put Cross Tattoos on for Ash Wednesday. (Photos included) ->

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>

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



March Birthdays

3/4	Kristi	Scheunemann
3/5	Audrey	Wolter
3/6	Grady	Fremont
3/8	Penelope	Zabel
3/9	Jacob	Reyburn
3/11	Thomas	Derleth
3/11	Thomas	Rusch
3/20	Barbara	Weiss
3/25	Jack	Lemke
3/25	Hannah	Smith
3/26	Jami	Zabel
3/26	Olivia	Mattke
3/27	Florence	Bingner
3/31	Doug	Budewitz

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 Sophie Mattke, who is dealing with significant pain issues and is preparing for back surgery, and Melissa's father, Jerry who is dealing with extreme pain.

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

Friends, family, and others living in Texas who are affected by the loss of heat, electricity and water because of severe cold.

Prayers of thanks and praise for those who are recovering from illness and finishing treatments, and those who are beginning cancer treatment programs such as Jason Hale, the husband of Tara Lohaus.

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

Prayers for patience.

May we all receive our needed virus vaccinations.

Teachers, school staff, students and parents who are facing 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 January 30, 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

MARCH 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 11 AM - STAFF MEETS	3 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6-7:00 – Confirmation ZOOM	4 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
7 3rd Sunday of Lent Holy Communion 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	8 SCRIPS orders due	9 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	10 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6-7:00 – Confirmation ZOOM	11 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
14 4th Sunday of Lent DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS Turn Clocks Ahead 1 hour 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	15	16 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6:30, Council ZOOM	17 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6-7:00 – Confirmation ZOOM	18 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
21 5th Sunday of Lent 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	22	23 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	24 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6-7:00 – Confirmation ZOOM	25 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
28 6th Sunday of Lent 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	29	30 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	31 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6-7:00 – Confirmation ZOOM			