

The Hilltop Chimes

MAY 2021

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@firstcongwftn.org



"In-vangelism"

Dear Church Family,
On Saturday, April 24, 2021,
the churches of the
Southeast Wisconsin
Association of the United

Church of Christ held our Annual Meeting. Or at least we gathered to conduct ½ of the necessary business. The second half of the meeting will be in the fall.

The meeting was held on zoom. More than 60 individuals, clergy and laity, representing the 52 churches in the Southeast Association joined on their computers and/or phones. It was good to see so many familiar faces. It seems like "forever" since we have been together.

During the meeting, our Wisconsin Conference Minister, the Rev. Franz Rigert, shared a brief greeting and his overview of the church after more than a year of pandemic. In his message, he shared a word that either I misunderstood, or he made it up to describe an important truth we need to embrace as our churches seek to re-open safely.

Franz recognized that many church members and families will not automatically return to in person worship when that opportunity happens. Many families have developed different habits in the last year and attending worship in person or serving on a mission board or bringing our children to Sunday School or youth groups is not the way their lives are being lived right now.

So, Franz suggests that instead of promoting evangelism to recruit new members we should focus on "in-vangelism" which is finding meaningful ways to reach out and invite our

current members to refocus and to return. We need each other and it will take effort to rebuild our church family and our church structure.

Does that make sense to you? It does to me. We have not had much contact for more than a year. How can we begin the process of "in-vangelism" to connect with our friends and family? What do you suggest? We are aiming to offer in person worship in a month or so. In addition to worship, what other steps do you think we need to take? Let's work on this together. We need each other. We care for one another. This is vital for the future of our congregation.

"In-vangelism". Let's do it!

--Pastor Stephen Welch



Reopening Committee Report

The reopening committee is working on its task!

- A consultant has been hired to look at platform possibilities. Ideally, we'll be able to meet in person and stream live. We also hope to record services for those who'd like to view it later.
- A Covid Protocol is also being devised. We are keeping in mind what other churches are doing and what the UCC Conference and the Watertown Health Department are recommending.
- Our goal for a first in person service will be for Confirmation Sunday, May 23rd. However, we don't know if that will be only for the Confirmands, their families and sponsors, or for the congregation in general.

As things come together, we will keep you up to date through emails. Thank you for your patience!

--Tom Rusch, Reopening Chair



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.**

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Most congregations will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021.

<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/strengthen-the-church/>



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=N0pmNDhqdz3poTXFtdG1rT0xYazNqdz09>

UCC Summer Camps Don't miss out!

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.

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



H2O Youth Group

We meet on Sundays at 11:30am. 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>



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 Melissa know and she will "assign" you a pal!



OUR TURN May 13th From 4:30-6:30

6-8 volunteers are needed to work serving curbside meals on Thursday, May 13th. The dinner (Mac & Cheese with Ham) is prepared by the cooks. In addition, we are asked to provide 200 rolls, 200 desserts and 200 milk cartons.

The curbside meals are put together using food safety protocols (much like Summer Sandwiches in the Park lunches are served.)

1. 200 cartons of milk are delivered by Kraemer’s to Immanuel ELCA for us.
2. We wrap/bag each Roll and dessert for the prep crew to include with each meal. (Bags will be provided, pick them up at church, please call Laurel ahead of time)
3. Runners bring the meals up to the street for curbside pickup.

RSVP with the form on page 7 of this newsletter.

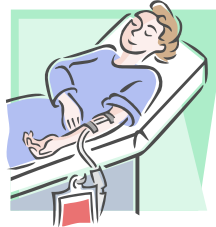
For more information go their website:

<https://www.watertownimmanuel.org/bread-and-roses>

“**Bread & Roses** is a free, weekly community meal. We serve a wide range of people - elderly, singles, young families, and everyone in between. It is a meal of fellowship for the community. The joy of Bread & Roses is that **all are welcome**. There is no sign-up or sign-in sheet. There is never a request for a donation. Find an empty chair at a table and enjoy the delicious home cooked meal.

There is no paid staff. Our community provides monetary donations and volunteers. Most of the meat is purchased by funds that have been donated. We currently have 28 different groups from various churches, businesses, and fraternal organizations that rotate to help prepare, serve and clean up. Desserts, salads and milk are just some items that each group provides each week.

If you have never helped at Bread and Roses, please consider volunteering. It is a very rewarding experience and a service that we can all be proud of.”



Versiti Blood Drive
BLOOD CENTER OF
WISCONSIN

Thursday, May 27

We had a great turnout for our January blood drive.

We collected 33 units of blood. Thank you to all that were able to come out and donate. For future reference, if you receive your Covid-19 vaccination, you need to wait 48 hours before you can donate any blood product.

Our next blood drive will be held on **May 27th from 1:00pm-6:00pm**. We will not be serving any food. If you would like to sign up to donate blood, please contact me or use this link to sign up. https://donate.wisconsin.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/203518. Many donors are needed at this time. Our goal is to have at least 30 donors at the May drive.

Masks are required. If you have any questions, or would like to schedule an appointment, please do not hesitate to contact me. Melissa Mattke 262-719-1383 josc.mom@hotmail.com/
mmattke@firstcongwtnn.org



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=LzFOVlhFL3J3dzRmL1ZRauU1US1dnZz09>

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



From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

Melissa Mattke

Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

mmattke@firstcongwttn.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 continuing to talk about the things that happened after the Resurrection. 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>

We also talked about what Jesus looks like:



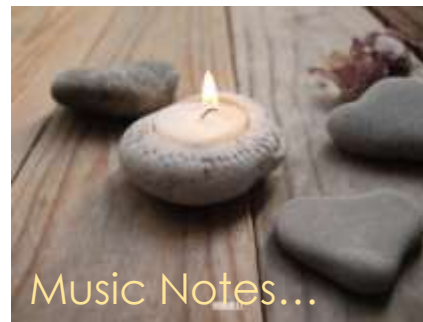
Owen Schwager



Kylie Kulick



Kellen Schwager



These musicians contributed musical offerings during the month of April: Jim and Jean Strathdee, Kellen Schwager, Susie Krueger, and the UCC Musicians Association Virtual Choir (including myself). Thank you for willingly sharing your gifts of time and talent.

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.

We recently sang the hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory", text written by Harry Emerson Fosdick in 1930. This is what the New Century hymnal says: "Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years."

This church is considered an interdenominational church, affiliated both with the American Baptist and United Church of Christ. It was originally conceived by both Fosdick (a Presbyterian minister) and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (a Baptist). Fosdick's vision was to create an "interdenominational, interracial, and international church" and is know for its global and national activism. The congregation includes members of more than forty ethnic groups.

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

jaemusiclover@gmail.com



Latest Adopt a Highway Expedition!

Saturday, April 24th Lee Buescher and Fran led our churches roadside cleanup last Saturday and picked up 7 large bags of trash.

Volunteers included:

Slone, Stella and Lara Koellen
 Norman Hurtubise
 Tom Rusch
 Adam Markus
 Fran Milburn
 Lee Buescher



DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:

We have Upper Room, & These Days devotional booklets for May-June on hand that you can pick the up at church/have mailed to you. (They cover May – June) The next booklets will come out in late June for July-August series.

Call me at church 920-261-6213 or email me at

lbentz@firstcongwttn.org

Peace and grace, Laurel W Bentz



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 including the family and friends of Helen Eicher who died this week at the age of 95.

Those dealing with health issues including Jean Nicholas who is recovering from hip replacement surgery; Linda Eicher who is undergoing some tests this week and Rev. Welch's daughter in law, Shawna who is having surgery.

We pray for our community and our state and our country to deal with significant issues that divide us and hurt us, such as racism, homophobia, and political differences.

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

Prayers for patience.

Thank you for the signs of Spring that inspire us to trust that new life is not only possible, but is God's gift to us that we can embrace and expect.

May we all receive our needed virus vaccinations.

Teachers, school staff, students and parents who continue to face significant issues during this pandemic, and the Medical teams, doctors, nurses, and those working to distribute the vaccines for this deadly virus.





Richard Smith	05/05
James Ortega	05/05
David Maas	05/05
Jennifer Bakke	05/10
Helen Ulatowski	05/10
Vivian Howard	05/10
Jean Nicholas	05/11
Nicole Schumacher	05/12
William Brey	05/16
Chuck Weiss	05/16
Jonathan Edington	05/17
Laurel Bentz	05/19
Toni Howard	05/21
Sandi Budewitz	05/21
Susan Krueger	05/23
Jill Kulick	05/25
Chara Asher	05/27
Maxwell Chowanec	05/28
Collin Kulick	05/28
Madison Holder	05/29
Joe Ruddell	05/29

BOOK OF LIFE

✠ **Passing:** church member, *Helen Eicher*, peacefully passed away Saturday, April 24, 2021. A funeral service was held Friday, April 30 at Schmutzler-Vick Funeral home. Rev. Stephen Welch presiding. Our prayers of comfort go to her children: Lynda Eicher, Dianna Stai, Cathy Wallen, John Eicher and Elizabeth McCabe; extended family including 8 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.



Confirmation Sunday May 23, 2021

We have been meeting on Wednesday evening via Zoom. Our plan is to celebrate confirmation on May 23rd. Students and mentors have enjoyed getting class going again.

We had a Saturday afternoon retreat in person (with all of the safety protocols in place) to work on writing our Faith Statements. We have seven *students* and mentors in class.

Brody Wood/Kevin Driessen
Tucker Fremont/Brian Cowan
Jordan Winkelman/Denyce Derleth
Lily Kulick/Jennie Ortega
Maggie Markus/Barb Lottman
Danica Uttke/Jesse Fremont
Tyler Chowanec/Bill Edington

At the time of the writing of this article, the details for the Confirmation service are being worked out. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa or Pastor Stephen.

Financial Updates

GENERAL FUND As of March 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
February	\$17,805	\$18,042	\$18,719	\$18,992	\$18,586	\$16,521	\$2,471	\$3,201
March	\$17,805	\$17,685	\$18,719	\$21,170	\$18,587	\$19,298	\$1,872	\$5,073



SIGN UP FORM

**OUR TURN Thursday May 13th
From 4:30-6:30**

The dinner (Mac & Cheese with Ham) is prepared by Immanuel ELCA .

6-8 volunteers to help On Site on Thursday, May 13th. Involves steps.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____

In addition, we are asked to provide 200 rolls, 200 desserts.

***Don't buy bags, we will provide them Just call Laurel ahead of time.*

200 ROLLS --INDIVIDUALLY BAGGED

- 2 DOZEN _____
- 2 DOZEN _____
- 2 DOZEN _____
- 2 DOZEN _____
- 2 DOZEN _____
- 2 DOZEN _____

200 COOKIES/BARS – INDIV. BAGGED

- 2 DOZEN _____
- 2 DOZEN _____
- 2 DOZEN _____
- 2 DOZEN _____
- 2 DOZEN _____
- 2 DOZEN _____

MILK You may contribute towards our purchase of 200 cartons of milk. Kraemer's delivers for free to Immanuel ELCA for us.

CONTACT: Laurel in the church office. lbentz@firstcongwtn.org
261-6213 920-988-5182.

May 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 10 a.m. – Saturday Morning Fellowship ZOOM
2 Holy Communion 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	3 SCRIPS orders due	4 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 11 AM - STAFF MEETS	5 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6-7:00 – Confirmation ZOOM	6 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 10 a.m. – Saturday Morning Fellowship ZOOM
9 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	10	11 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	12 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6-7:00 – Confirmation ZOOM	13 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 4:30-6:30 BREAD & ROSES 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15 10 a.m. – Saturday Morning Fellowship ZOOM
16 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	17	18 9am - ZOOM Bible Study Office closes at 2:00 6:30, Council ZOOM	19 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6-7:00 – Confirmation ZOOM	20 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 10 a.m. – Saturday Morning Fellowship ZOOM
23 Confirmation Sunday 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	24	25 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	26 4pm - Prayer Requests Due	27 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 10 a.m. – Saturday Morning Fellowship ZOOM
30 10am - Worship posted 10:30am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:30am - ZOOM Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	31 Memorial Day Office Closed					