

# The Hilltop Chimes

## August 2021

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

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### From the Pastor's Desk:

*"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't*

*keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end."*

-1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 (The Message)

After the love-filled Sunday worship that we shared yesterday in which Jim and James Ortega and Susie Krueger offered "You Raise Me Up" as a musical offering, I was reminded of a Chimes article that I shared more than 5 years ago. What follows is that article (with several updates and edits)

I have a friend who served as custodian in another church, who once admitted that when all of us started e-mailing and texting and then tweeting or using any other electronic communication or social media, she didn't know what people meant when they used "**LOL**" in their message.

Many people use these three letters to communicate "Laugh Out Loud". My friend, however, interpreted "LOL" as "**Lots Of Love**". From what she told me, this mistake continued for several years, and it was a source of laughter in her family who did not tell her that her interpretation was different from everyone else.

She used "LOL" to convey support, compassion, caring, understanding, and affection to her friends and neighbors. Well, I have to tell you that I have come to believe that she was correct all along. And I believe Scripture supports me.

Here in our congregation, there has been "**Lots Of Love**" for 176 years and especially in the last 2 years when the COVID pandemic required us to find different ways to stay connected and to share support in different, but still very loving ways. LOL.

Juanita Edington, our choir director, became our video guru who put together a virtual Service of Worship every Sunday. The hours spent in learning new skills, editing, and sharing our worship with the Watertown television station and on Facebook and with Marquart Village and the church website and to every church member through email. LOL.

Melissa Mattke, our director of Children and Youth ministries has invested untold energy and countless hours to ensure that our Sunday School is not only a safe place for our children, but also a loving home. From September to June, the Sunday School and the Youth Group met weekly via Zoom. The families who were involved found the programs to be uplifting, safe, and loving. LOL.

And now we are able to worship together safely because we follow necessary protocols to keep everyone safe from COVID. It isn't perfect yet, but it is an important step forward. We are here with and for each other. LOL

And how wonderful our worship is. As Jim, James and Susie reminded us when they shared "You Raise Me Up" by Josh Groban: "When I am down and oh my soul so weary. When troubles come and my heart burdened be. Then I am still and wait here in the silence. Until you come and sit a while with me. You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains. You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas." Now that is who we are as a church. That represents **Lots of Love!**

Thank you to all of you who keep showing us the truth found in Scripture: "*So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.*" – 1 Corinthians 13:3

LOL. –Pastor Stephen, Interim Minister



Juanita Edington:  
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**These musicians contributed during the month of**

**June:** Susie Krueger, Jennie, Jim, and James Ortega, and myself. Thank you for willingly sharing your gifts of time and talent.

**We are seeking your offering of musical gifts for our worship.** As we have been sharing in-person worship, it continues to be recommended to have congregational singing only when masked and appropriate distance between family groups. We need to remember that while many may be vaccinated in our congregation, there are those who are not yet eligible to receive vaccines, or cannot, for various reasons. **\*\*Please note, one of the sources that was used in this decision comes at the end of my column.** For our third month of in-person services, we are maintaining the guideline highlighted in yellow. This is well within the common practice for churches of members in the United Church of Christ Musicians Assoc., although many are still not having congregational singing. Unfortunately, cases are again on the rise, both nationally and in Wisconsin.

**We would like to continue the practice of sharing music in a safe way to enrich our worship.** The plan includes a solo vocalist leading the hymns for the day at a safe distance, unmasked and with a microphone for clarity for the in-person congregation and the congregation attending on-line.

Would you be interested in *leading the hymns during worship* on a Sunday? Would you be interested in *sharing a musical offering* (now that technology isn't a problem?) I am looking for some interested musicians for these parts of worship. The musical offering can be vocal or instrumental. -Please contact me if you would be interested.

**\*\* THE HYMN SOCIETY'S RECOMMENDATION:  
WE DO NOT CURRENTLY RECOMMEND THAT  
CONGREGATIONS SING.**

1. The CDC still indicates that for unvaccinated people gathering and singing together is a high risk activity.
2. 27,000 new cases are still being reported daily in the U.S.
3. Worship services are by their very nature public events which include a number of variables that, depending on how each variable plays out, can quickly change the risk-factors involved in a gathering.
4. The new recommendations for unmasking only apply to those who are fully vaccinated, which still makes up far less than 50% of the total U.S. population.
5. The CDC guidelines for [Communities of Faith | CDC](#) have not changed or been updated since February 19th, 2021.

**For any public group that does sing, wearing a mask will reduce the risk of spreading infection.**



### Reopening Committee and Council Update

The test run of offering an outdoor Fellowship went very well after our 176<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on July 11<sup>th</sup>. In August we plan to offer outdoor Fellowship the first and third Sunday of the month weather permitting.

We've also agreed that unvaccinated children may come forward for Family Time if they wish as long as they are wearing a mask. Children will be socially distanced from each other at the front of the congregation.

The balance of the covid safe management policies for August's services remain the same as followed in July: participants that are fully vaccinated are free to choose if they want to wear a mask; those who have not been vaccinated are requested to wear a mask, and everyone is encouraged to wear a mask while singing.

As stated last month, reservations are not necessary as we have plenty of room to socially distance in our sanctuary.



### **Bible Study continues....**

Our group continues to meet on ZOOM at 9am on Tuesdays. We have wonderful conversations. We are studying the book of Romans and the study book is available at no cost just call Melissa. We plan to continue meeting into the fall.

Join our ZOOM meeting using the link below. Call Melissa to let her know so the materials can get to in time.

Here is the link to join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82456791631?pwd=50M5R3RCS3dkcFJaODVQUHBWQ0Yvdz09>

Meeting ID: 824 5679 1631  
Passcode: 074171



### **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.

Regular attendance is not necessary. We just meet and chat about life...lots of laughs are also had!

In addition, **In person** Coffee Fellowship will take place after worship on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays!

Here is the link to join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87871939725?pwd=TkUwdTdCRHINV3lvMDJsOENXOVNoUT09>

Meeting ID: 878 7193 9725  
Passcode: 339374



### **Coffee Fellowship: August 1<sup>st</sup> outdoors.**

So excited to be able to share fellowship time with you all again!

Juice boxes and coffee will be available in the Narthex after service which you then can go outside in front of church and also the patio where there will be seating to visit each other.

Mark your calendars: The Fellowship Board will offer this the first and third Sunday of each month. Please come and join us!

Free Will Coffee Offering: Our board will do all the purchasing for coffee, snacks, juice so your monetary donations are greatly appreciated. At this time until further notice, please direct all questions or food items (coffee, creamers, etc) to Barb Lottmann or Tracy Livermore. This will ensure no food wasted and proper date rotation. Thank you for understanding. Yours faithfully, Fellowship Board



### **From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries**



Melissa Mattke

Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries  
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### **Sunday School and H2O Youth Group**

Sunday School and Youth Group Plans are in the works for our Fall Programming! New Bible Stories and activities are being planned for some extra fun learning! I cannot wait to start the school year! Watch your emails for more details! 😊

Be watching for more information as our reopening committee continues to strive to make things safe for us to return!



## Watertown Food Pantry and Personal Essentials Pantry Open House in September

The Watertown Food Pantry and PEP Pantry have had facelifts and we would love for you to see their new space. Come to our Open House on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 12-2pm.

Please take a few minutes to learn about **your** Watertown Food Pantry. Board members will be happy to show you our facilities and share how our program works. Patrons are able to select fresh meat and a huge variety of many purchased and donated items on a monthly basis.

We partner with the Personal Essentials Pantry, located next to us, and they will also be showcasing their program at the same time. PEP provides personal essentials ranging from laundry soap to toothpaste to shampoo and everything in between.

We both operate with volunteer teams of dedicated people. We live in a very generous community and are grateful for every volunteer and donor, and our ability to share with others.

We are located in the basement of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 209 N. Ninth Street. Come meet us!!

### What if you missed Worship?

- 1) check out the email link sent out weekly "Welcome to Worship" from [lbentz@firstcongwttn.org](mailto:lbentz@firstcongwttn.org)
- 2) Go to Our church's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-118640148151341/>
- 3) Tune in: 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) Visit our church website <https://firstcongwttn.org> Services posted on Mondays. (see "Media" tab)



**Check out the Big Yellow Bus in the Narthex**  
Our Mission/Outreach is participating with the Shared Community Mission's school supply distribution event (SOS)

**"S.O.S." (Support Our Students)**

**DRIVE-THRU FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

**Tuesday, August 17th**

Drop off supplies in our church Narthex in the next two weeks M-TH from 9-4:00. Final Deadline: Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. Monetary Donations: Make checks payable to 1<sup>st</sup> Cong. UCC and in the memo write "S.O.S"

"The SOS Free School Store will look different this year as we try to keep everyone safe and healthy Children will not shop for school supplies."



- Free School supplies will be prepackaged for your children based on the **REGISTRATION form you fill out.**
- **Every family MUST pre-register this year.**
- **Registration forms will be available Monday August 2-Friday August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

Registration Forms available at these churches:

Christ United Methodist Church, Ebenezer Moravian Church, Watertown Moravian Church Good Shepherd Lutheran First Congregational-UCC, River City Church, River Valley Alliance, St. Bernard and St. Henry Catholic Churches

Watertown Moravian (Loaves & Fishes on Mondays)  
St. Paul's Episcopal (and Mary's Room)  
Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church (Food Pantry; Bread & Roses on Thursdays)

Summer Sandwiches in the Park

Tuesdays 11:30-12:30	Clark Park
Wednesdays 11:30-12:30	Riverside Park
Fridays 11:30-12:30	Timothy Johnson Park



MONARCH ON PURPLE CONEFLOWER  
Jan Sanders Butterfly Garden

## August Birthdays

08/01	Pamela Blaszak	08/15	Elcie Milburn
08/03	Pastor Stephen Welch	08/16	Kim Ryan
08/05	Diane Scheunemann	08/16	Nicholas Milburn
08/05	Cooper Wood	08/16	Derek Rowedder
08/06	Brian Cowan	08/17	Robert Schmutzler
08/08	Deanna Perschke	08/20	Doris Ehnert
08/09	William Edington	08/21	Shawna Hyde
08/10	Robert Harms	08/22	Rick Scheunemann
08/11	Aron Chowanec	08/22	Eliza Zabel
08/14	Lauren Behlke	08/24	Norman Hurtubise
08/15	Lynda Eicher	08/24	Jim Ortega
08/15	Eric Ninmann	08/24	Royal Pauli
08/15	Amanda Ketchum	08/30	Nicholas Maas



## Book of Life



**Baptism:** *Nora Lynn Kuehl* was baptized in our sanctuary on Sunday, July 11, 2021 during our worship service. Pastor Stephen officiated. Her parents are Kevin and Colette (Swenson) Kuehl.



**Baptism:** *Dillon Patrick Pierce* was baptized in our sanctuary on Friday, July 16, 2021. Pastor Stephen officiated. He was born May 4, 2020 to Derek and Danielle Pierce.

## Financial Report from the Trustees – As of June 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
April	\$17,805	\$15,600	\$18,719	\$16,684	\$18,588	\$14,630	\$2,054	\$7,127
May	\$17,805	\$14,840	\$18,719	\$14,942	\$18,588	\$15,354	-\$412	\$6,715
June	\$17,805	\$16,118	\$18,719	\$16,177	\$18,588	\$25,480	-\$9,303	-\$2,588



## August 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 Communion Sunday</b> 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP Outdoor Coffee Fellowship 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9am - ZOOM Bible Study <b>11 am – Staff meets</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation- Youth Rm.	<b>6</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>7</b> 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
<b>8</b> 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	<b>9</b> SCRIPS orders due	<b>10</b> 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	<b>11</b> <b>MISSION OUTREACH 10:30 at Berres Bros.</b>  <b>DEADLINE FOR SOS Support Our Students Drop Off</b>	<b>12</b> <b>BUILDING USE: 10 am– 1:00 pm Fellowship Hall</b> 4pm – Prayer Requests Due 10am – Cable TV Broadcast 5pm – Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation- Youth Rm	<b>13</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>14</b> 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
<b>15</b> 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP Outdoor Coffee Fellowship 6:00 – Cable TV Broadcast	<b>16</b> <b>6:30 pm, TRUSTEES</b> TBD	<b>17</b> 9am – ZOOM Bible Study <b>SOS Distribution</b> 9-4 p.m. appts at St. Henry’s Parish Center	<b>18</b> <b>SOS Distribution</b> 9-11 a.m. appts only at St. Henry’s Parish Center	<b>19</b> 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation - Youth Rm	<b>20</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>21</b> 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
<b>22</b> 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9am - ZOOM Bible Study <b>6:30 pm, COUNCIL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation -Youth Rm	<b>27</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>28</b> 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
<b>29</b> 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9am - ZOOM Bible Study				





