

# The Hilltop Chimes

## October 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@firstcongwttn.org](mailto:swelch@firstcongwttn.org)

### From the Pastor...



I recently stumbled on to an article that I first read while in seminary in the early 1970's. It was written by the Rev. Earl Stanley Jones who served as a Methodist missionary to India for more than 40 years. The article refers to a conversation that Rev.

Jones had with Mahatma Gandhi. Rev. Jones spoke one-on-one with Gandhi to explore how he could help make Christianity more acceptable in India. "How can we make Christianity naturalized in India, not a foreign thing. What would you, as one of the Hindu leaders of India, tell me, a Christian, to do in order to make this possible?"

Gandhi's response was on target! It was clear and direct: "First, I would suggest that all of you Christians, missionaries and all, must begin to live more like Jesus Christ. Second, practice your religion without adulterating it or toning it down. Third, emphasize love and make it your working force, for love is central in Christianity."

Then Jones adds: "We have inoculated the world with a mild form of Christianity so that it is now proof against the real thing." In the 1920's as in the year 2021 we are worshiping Jesus, but not following him. Gandhi could see that Christians had reduced our religion to a creed rather than actually living out the message and the mission and the life of Jesus. We are facing some of these realities right here in Watertown. With the huge changes that the COVID pandemic has caused and continues to cause interference with the way our lives are being lived, I pray that we can see where our mission and our ministry is needed in this culture. Living by faith and not fear means that we will continue to identify how and where Jesus wants us to live out our faith. It takes creativity. It requires focus. It

means getting out of the box, and seeking out the lost, the lonely, the grieving, the addicted, the sick and providing for them what they need in this moment of chaos.

Lastly, we do not need to do any of this alone. We are a team. We are a family. This message is as important today as it was 100 years ago. Gandhi is speaking to you and me. Let's do it!

--Rev. Stephen Welch  
Interim Pastor

### Neighbors In Need (NIN)

October 3rd will be the start of our Neighbors in Need offering. **Special Offering Envelopes are available at church.**

**Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

Most UCC congregations will receive the NIN offering on **October 3, 2021** as part of their World Communion Sunday observance. However, some local churches select another date.

For more extensive information about Neighbors In Need or the NIN grant process, visit the [NIN homepage](#) or email [nin@ucc.org](mailto:nin@ucc.org).

WANTED:

CLEANING CREW COORDINATOR

This volunteer position will coordinate fellow volunteers to help clean various parts of the church on an as needed basis. A cleaning document does exist but may need updating after consultation with the Gingerbread program director.

If you have any questions or are willing to volunteer, please contact Adam Markus at [adammarkus3@gmail.com](mailto:adammarkus3@gmail.com) or leave your name with Laurel in the church office.



HELP WANTED:

CLEANING CREW VOLUNTEERS

As Gingerbread is beginning the new school year, we need a few volunteers to assist with regular housekeeping activities. If you have an hour or two a week or even a month, please let us know where and how you can assist.

Assistance is needed for cleaning the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, office, restrooms, and Narthex, and occasional cleaning of the Choir and Youth Rooms and Sunday School classrooms. Possible tasks may include vacuuming floors and pews, dusting, washing windows, washing floors, emptying waste baskets, or ensuring soap supplies are stocked.

If you have any questions or are willing to volunteer, please contact Adam Markus at [adammarkus3@gmail.com](mailto:adammarkus3@gmail.com) or leave your name with Laurel in the church office.



Campfire Gathering Saturday, Oct. 9th

Enjoy a fall campfire at Fran's and Lee's farm 5 miles northwest of Watertown. Enjoy conversation and songs around the fire. Feel free to bring friends. Confirmation would be appreciated but not necessary.

WHEN: Saturday, Oct 9 from 6 - 8 pm (weather permitting)

WHERE: N1567 Walton Road.

Call if you need more specific directions

BRING: chair (although we have extras) your own beverage jacket if cool

guitar if you want to lead songs

\*\*\*We will supply munchies

Fran Milburn

920-988-6719

[frances.milburn@gmail.com](mailto:frances.milburn@gmail.com)



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)

## Saturday Morning ZOOM 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



Juanita Edington:  
c.920-988-2416/h.206-6111  
[jaemusiclover@gmail.com](mailto:jaemusiclover@gmail.com)

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 (The Hymn Society recommendations). 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. Aerosols expelled by singing move outward farther than those of ordinary breathing or talking.

**We are seeking your offering of musical gifts for our worship.** 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? I am looking for musicians to serve our church by sharing their musical gifts. The musical offering can be vocal or instrumental. Please contact me if you would be interested. Thank you!

These musicians contributed during the month of September: Deanna Perschke, Tom Rusch, Susie Krueger and myself. Thank you for willingly sharing your gifts of time and talent.

## HYMN INSIGHTS

Sometimes it's not just the words to a hymn that are important, but also the circumstances behind the writing. Do you ever take the opportunity to read the information on the lower left of the hymn? It is just a little information but helps give some context to the hymn.

**We recently sang "O For a World" Tune: AZMON and lyrics by Miriam Therese Winter written in 1982.** Sister Miriam is a Roman Catholic Medical Mission Sister, theologian, writer and songwriter. She currently teaches at Hartford Seminary as a Professor of Liturgy, Worship, Spirituality and Feminist Studies. I had the privilege of attending a webinar where she was the leader, as part of the UCC Musicians Association Biennial Conference (held virtually) this past summer. She is a passionate, well-spoken woman in her eighties.

*"Sometimes, old tunes set to a new text can lead us into the future"-Sister Miriam Therese Winter*



## UNDIES SUNDAY IN OCTOBER

Back by popular demand...Undies Sunday in October ! This is our 16<sup>th</sup> year of collecting packages of new underwear and socks for kids in our local grade schools. Sometimes children come to school without spare underwear and socks. All children’s sizes are welcome! So watch for the Undies Collection Cart in the narthex.



## KOATS FOR KIDS (AND ADULTS)

### Drop Off by October 15th

What: New or gently used coats, scarves, mittens, gloves, snow pants

Where: Drop Off at church Sunday mornings, Office M-TH 10-4:00.

When: September 1 through October 15<sup>th</sup>.

LEARN MORE about this annual collection visit: <https://www.cacscw.org/koats-for-kids/>

Jennifer Rhodes at 920-296-1378  
Chair of First Congregational Church's  
"Coats for Kids" Campaign



## Adopt a Highway

Planned for Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> after worship and coffee fellowship.

Fran Milburn and Lee Buescher, contacts. Sign up in the Narthex.



## Rummage Sale – Nov. 6th

November 6 is the date for the next “Great Church Rummage Sale!” Please bring your donations of clean, usable household and yard items to the church by **November 4**, so we can get things set up for a successful sale. *PLEASE avoid bringing items the day of the sale.*

I am requesting a few people to help out:

1. After the services on October 31 to bring all the items from the back storage room into fellowship hall.
2. About 5~6 people to help set up on Thursday, November 4 and Friday, November 5, from 9-noon.
3. Saturday, November 6, we will need people at 7:30 am to help keep things organized through out the sale and bag purchases.
4. We will also need people to help pack up after the sale. So if you are able to help, please let me know!

This is the last year I will be in charge of the rummage sale, ( I am still willing to help) so if you are interested in taking over next year on contact me.

Contact person: Jennifer Rhodes at 920-296-1378



## H2O Youth Group



### Bible Study continues....

We continue to work our way through the book of Acts. Our group continues to meet on ZOOM at 9am on Tuesdays. We have wonderful conversations. **I would like to start other Adult Education classes**, if anyone has any suggestions, please let me know!

Join our ZOOM meeting using the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82456791631?pwd=SQM5R3RCS3dkcFJaODVQUHBWQ0Yvdz09>

Meeting ID: 824 5679 1631 Passcode: 074171



### From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

Melissa Mattke

Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

[mmattke@firstcongwtn.org](mailto:mmattke@firstcongwtn.org) 920-261-6213

[josc.mom@hotmail.com](mailto:josc.mom@hotmail.com) 262-719-1383

**Sunday School** It has been decided by the re-opening committee and the Church Council that all youth programming be done virtually to start the school year off due to the rising number of positive cases and the fact that the youth are not able to be vaccinated. So in order to show love and compassion for others, this difficult decision has been made. Things will be evaluated periodically each month.

We changed things a bit this year. Sunday School will be on Zoom at 9am and wrap up around 9:30-9:45. This maybe helpful to some families

Our first unit is Numbers in the Bible. I will be sending home materials that we will be working through together during our Zoom Time! Things are going well and we are having a great turn out every week.

**Here is the new Zoom Link:** Topic: Sunday School 9am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87621677567?pwd=ZnErNTJST3hBeWJESThXSUZBVERzUT09>

Meeting ID: 876 2167 7567

Passcode: 632783

It has been decided by the re-opening committee and the Church Council that all youth programming be done virtually to start the school year off due to the rising number of positive cases and the fact that the youth are not able to be vaccinated. So in order to show love and compassion for others, this difficult decision has been made. Things will be evaluated periodically each month.

We changed things a bit this year. Youth Group on ZOOM will meet from 11am and on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. The new Zoom links are listed below. This may be helpful to some families.

I will be sending home materials that we will be working through together during our Zoom Time! I am excited to get things started again! We are struggling a bit with everybody's schedules to get us all together at the same time.

**Here is the new Zoom Link for 11 a.m. Sundays:**

Topic: Youth Group

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87423748627?pwd=anFzaXRSWDBjUnk4Y2RiaW1RRFhLZz09>

Meeting ID: 874 2374 8627

Passcode: 431416

**And here is Zoom Link for 6:30 Wednesdays link:**

Topic: Youth Group Wednesdays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82097526378?pwd=a2VreEJnRXp4NTVmbDFWL2ZNbFIUUT09>

Meeting ID: 820 9752 6378

Passcode: 570623



## October Birthdays

Jeffrey Pauli 10/01  
 Jennie Ortega 10/02  
 Zachary Fuchs 10/02  
 Lexy Davis 10/02  
 William Lamp 10/02  
 Greg Kulick 10/03

John Welbourne 10/03  
 Rob Rowedder 10/04  
 Dan Winkelman 10/06  
 Dianna Stai 10/07  
 Molly Ryan 10/09  
 Stacy Winkelman 10/10  
 Louise Lemke 10/11  
 Bruce Bentz 10/11  
 Jack Mattke 10/12  
 Andrew Behlke 10/13  
 Ayden Kulick 10/15

Clarence Zabel III 10/15  
 Irene Neitzel 10/15  
 Easton Schumacher 10/16  
 Camie Wood 10/18  
 Roger Martin 10/19  
 Mari Ulatowski 10/21  
 Joseph Schumacher 10/21  
 Janet Stangler 10/21  
 Cheryl Rowedder 10/25

## Outdoor Coffee Fellowship



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

Free Will Coffee Offering: Our board will do all the purchasing for coffee, snacks, juice so monetary donations are greatly appreciated Thank you for understanding.

Yours faithfully, Fellowship Board



## DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:


We have Upper Room & These Days devotional booklets for October -November on hand that you can pick the up at church.. Call me at church 920-261-6213 or email me at [lbentz@firstcongwtnn.org](mailto:lbentz@firstcongwtnn.org)

Peace and grace, Laurel W Bentz

## Financial Report from the Trustees – As of August 31, 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
July	\$17,805	\$14,237	\$18,719	\$14,396	\$18,588	\$12,886	\$1,510	-\$1,078
August	\$17,805	\$24,755	\$18,719	\$24,892	\$18,588	\$14,963	\$9,929	\$8,851

# October 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
		<b>REMINDER:</b> Saturday, October 9th <b>Family Campfire Gathering at Milburn's</b> <b>WHERE:</b> N1567 Walton Road. Watertown			<b>1</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>2</b> 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group <b>ZOOM</b>	
<b>3 Communion Sunday</b> 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP <i>Outdoor Coffee Fellowship</i> 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	<b>4</b> <i>SCRIPS</i> orders due	<b>5</b> 9am - <b>ZOOM</b> Bible Study <b>11 am – Staff</b> <b>meets</b>	<b>6</b> <b>6:30 P.M. - ZOOM</b> <b>Youth Group</b>	<b>7</b> 10am – Cable TV Broadcast <b>4pm – Prayer Requests Due</b> 5pm – Cable TV Broadcast <b>6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm</b>	<b>8</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>9</b> 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group <b>ZOOM</b> <b>6-8:00</b> <b>Family Campfire</b> <b>Gathering</b>	
<b>10</b> 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP 9:00 am – <b>ZOOM</b> Sunday School 11:00 A.M. - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group 6:00 – Cable TV Broadcast	<b>11</b> <b>6:30 pm,</b> <b>TRUSTEES</b> TBD	<b>12</b> 9am – <b>ZOOM</b> Bible Study	<b>13</b> <b>MISSION OUTREACH</b> <b>10:30 at Berres Bros.</b>  <b>6:30 P.M. - ZOOM</b> <b>Youth Group</b>	<b>14</b> <b>4pm - Prayer Requests Due</b> 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast <b>6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm</b>	<b>15</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>16</b> 10 a.m. <b>ZOOM</b> Morning Chat Group	
<b>17</b> 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP <i>Outdoor Coffee Fellowship</i> 9:00 am – <b>ZOOM</b> Sunday School 11:00 A.M. - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group <b>11:30, Adopt A Highway</b> 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9am - <b>ZOOM</b> Bible Study <b>6:30 pm,</b> <b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>20</b> <b>6:30 P.M. - ZOOM</b> <b>Youth Group</b>	<b>21</b> <b>4pm - Prayer Requests Due</b> 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast <b>6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm</b>	<b>22</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>23</b> 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group <b>ZOOM</b>	
<b>24</b> 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP 9:00 am – <b>ZOOM</b> Sunday School 11:00 A.M. - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9am - <b>ZOOM</b> Bible Study	<b>27</b> <b>6:30 P.M. - ZOOM</b> <b>Youth Group</b>	<b>28</b> <b>6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm</b>	<b>29</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>30</b> 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group <b>ZOOM</b>	
<b>31</b> 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP 9:00 am – <b>ZOOM</b> Sunday School 11:00 A.M. - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast			<b>LOOKING AHEAD:</b> <b>8-3:00, Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup></b> - Rummage Sale at Church <b>10 a.m. Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup></b> – Totenfest: Service of Remembrance; Holy Communion; Outdoor Coffee Fellowship (weather permitting)				