

December 2020

The Hilltop Chimes

First Congregational United Church of Christ
120 Kuckkan Lane Watertown, WI 53094

Rev. Stephen Welch, Pastor • Email: swelch@firstcongwttn.org

Contact Information: Phone/Fax: 920-261-6213



Dear Church Family
Members and Friends,

**“When the World was
Dark”** from *Cloth For The
Cradle*, by the Wild Goose
Worship Group of the Iona
Community in Scotland.

When the world was dark and the city was quiet ...
you came. You crept in beside us.

And no one knew. Only the few who dared to
believe that God might do something different.

Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?

Will you come into the darkness of today’s world –
not the friendly darkness as when sleep rescues
us from tiredness, but the fearful darkness, in
which people have stopped believing –

That war will end ... or that food will come ... or
that a government will change ... or that the
Church cares?

Will you come into that darkness and do something
different to save your people from death and
despair?

Will you come into the quietness of this city – not
the friendly quietness as when lovers hold
hands, but the fearful silence when

... The phone has not rung ... the letter has not
come ... the friendly voice no longer speaks ...
the doctor’s face says it all?

Will you come into that darkness, and do
something different – not to distract, **but to
embrace your people?**

Will you come into the dark corners and the quiet
places of our lives?

We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden or
want to be – but because the fullness our lives
long for depends on us being as open and

vulnerable to you as you were to us – when you
came, wearing no more than diapers, and
trusting human hands to hold their maker.

Will you come into our lives, if we open them to
you ... and do something different?

When the world was dark and the city was quiet ...
you came. You crept in beside us.

Do the same this Christmas, Lord. Do the **same** this
Christmas. Amen.

Rev. Stephen W. Welch



Photo by [Mariana B.](#) on [Unsplash](#)

I hope that you will all mark your calendar for our
19th Advent Recital. As of this writing, it will be
held in-person in our sanctuary on December 19th
at 4:00 p.m. I have reached out to previously
participating musicians, as well as some new faces,
and it looks like we have a good mix of youth,
adults, solos, ensembles, vocals, and instrumentals
lining up. It’s not too late to join the performers,
just send me an email or give me a call.

This will be a nice way to take a step back from your
holiday preparations and relax to music of the
season in our sanctuary. We’ll even sing a couple
of carols. Hope to see you there. We will use our
church service protocols of spacing and masking.
We will not host a reception this year.

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

Pastor Search Update

In November we officially kicked off our Pastor Search process. Rather than form a Search Committee, the Council decided to launch the search process with a small 5-person Church Profile Creation Committee with Tom Rusch serving as the committee chair. The four other committee members are: Barb Lottmann, Fran Milburn, Jennifer Bakke, and Rob Harms. The Profile Creation Committee's goal is to have our church's profile, used for marketing and recruiting Pastor applicants, completed by March 1, 2022.

You'll quickly be hearing more about the important role everyone will play in the creation of our church's profile as gathering members' views and opinions via surveys and focus groups serves as the foundational information for the profile's creation.

Please contact Tom Rusch if you have any questions. He can be reached by phone at (920) 988-5235 and by email at thomasdrusch@gmail.com.

Thank you for your upcoming and ongoing support.

Congregational Budget Meeting

Sunday, December 12 at 11 a.m. via ZOOM
there will be a congregational meeting.



Great Lakes Scrip Center®

Sunday, December 5th Jennifer Rhodes will be selling cards during coffee fellowship.

The holiday gift giving season is upon us...Do your shopping with us!! Scrip Gift Cards are the perfect gift for that hard to buy for person on your list.

**To have cards in time for Christmas, place your order no later than DECEMBER 12TH.
CALL/TEXT JENNIFER RHODES 920-296-1378.**

--Tom Rusch, Jennifer Rhodes,



The Christmas Fund Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.

"It wasn't easy picking up the telephone to share with you my present situation. In fact it was one of the most humiliating experiences of my life although it reminded me that grace still happens. Sometimes we as clergy persons lose sight of God's grace when the negative stuff comes into our lives."

"thanks so much for sharing your time and ministry with me. Your most gracious gift is appreciated more than words can say as I continue to live in the 'meantime.'"

These eloquent words are from a pastor who is the recipient of the caring and concern of those who contribute to the **Christmas Fund Offering**. You have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through your participation in this year's **Christmas Fund Offering**.

Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors like the one above, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provide Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to low-income retirees. Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care

First Congregational UCC will be collecting the **Christmas Fund Offering** on during the month of December. Please give generously.

Visit the UCC website for more information:

https://ext.pbucc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=290&Itemid=300



From the Coordinator of Children
and Youth Ministries

Melissa Mattke Coordinator

262-719-1383

mmattke@firstcongwtnn.org

josc.mom@hotmail.com



ADVENT IN NARNIA

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We have been continuing our ZOOM Sunday School at 10:30am on Sunday. We have moved on to a new unit...Christmas! I will be sending home materials that we will be working through together during our Zoom Time! Feel free to join us anytime!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/183320649?pwd=UnFLMU9TenU2b0t3b2RVUUhYV1J6UT09>

YOUTH GROUP: Youth Group on Zoom will begin at 11:15am and end at 12:30pm. We are not meeting on Wednesday evenings anymore. I will be sending home materials that we will be working through together during our Zoom Time! We are struggling a bit with everybody's schedules to get us all together at the same time.

Our campfire in November was SO GREAT! Thank you to Jennifer and Dale Bakke and Adam Markus for helping us make it all happen.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/671375141?pwd=RWwNldOWVR4MVg4QkpXbjNXL1NVQT09>

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: This year, it was decided to do another virtual Christmas program. I would like to Zoom meet with different people and record their answers to questions. Some questions will be "Bible" related, others will be questions about you and your Christmas traditions, gifts etc. Please contact me to set up a time to record.

Please email me with questions or to sign up!

Melissa josc.mom@hotmail.com or mmattke@firstcongwtnn.org

BIBLE STUDY: We are continuing to meet on Zoom Tuesday mornings at 9am. Please feel free to join us at any time! We are starting to do an Advent study. *Advent in Narnia* is the name of the study book. It follows along with the book "The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe."

I would like to start other Adult Education classes, if anyone has any suggestions, please let me know!

Join Zoom Meeting **Tuesdays at 9 a.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/232183369?pwd=N0p mNDhqd3poTXFtdG1rT0xYazNqdz09>

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. Every week on Sat at 10am Melissa Mattke is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Here is the link if you would like to join. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments or if you need some help with Zoom!

Link to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81250425554?pwd=LzFOVlhFL3J3dzRmL1ZR aU1US1dnZz09>

Topic: Saturday Meet Up
Meeting ID: 812 5042 5554
Passcode: 266273

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:
We have Upper Room & These Days devotional booklets for DECEMBER on hand that you can pick the up at church on the Narthex table..
Peace and grace, Laurel W Bentz



Music Notes...

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

Thank you to Susie Krueger who faithfully shared her musical gifts during the month of November. Thank you for willingly sharing your gifts of time and talent.

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



Acolytes:

We would love to have this as part of our service! If you are interested in being an acolyte for the virtual services, please contact:

Melissa Mattke 262-719-1383
Juanita Edington

LOOKING AHEAD...

BLOOD DRIVE: A blood drive will be held at First Congregational UCC on January 13, 2022. Covid precautions will still be in place and there will not be any food served. Please use the following link to schedule your appointment, or feel free to contact me.

https://donate.wisconsin.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/252034

Offering Envelopes

We are ordering offering envelopes for 2022 so if you wish to reserve a box Call/email Laurel to get a box at Office: 920-261-6213 or lbentz@firstcongwttn.org

How to Join Us for Worship:

- 1) check out the email link sent out weekly "Welcome to Worship" from 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)



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jan Smith	12/01	Denyce Derleth	12/21
Cindy Stockhus	12/01	Marian Carlson	12/25
William Piotrowski	12/02	Sophia Mattke	12/29
Rob Miller	12/11	Julie Larson	12/30
Lila Bocher	12/15	Joyce Larson	12/31
Lily Schmidt	12/16		
Paul Neitzel	12/16		
Thomas Vogel	12/16		

BOOK OF LIFE

TOTENFEST -- Service of Remembrance

On Sunday, November 7 during 10:00 a.m. worship we joined in a special service of remembrance. Church members were invited to send the names of loved ones who have died since last year at this time. On that Sunday, the FOLLOWING names were read, a candle was lit as the church bell tolls.

Fred Schroeder (June's husband)
Born: May 17, 1934
Died: November 6, 2020

Hans Christopher Schroeder (Fred & June's son)
Born: June 5, 1973
Died: November 24, 2020

Richard Milburn (Fran's son)
Born: April 26, 1980
Died: December 15, 2020

Mark Leiser (Laurie's husband)
Born: June 6, 1952
Died: January 8, 2021

Helen Eicher (Lynda's mother)
Born: September 27, 1925
Died: April 24, 2021

Pauline Wittenwyler
Born: February 1, 1941
Died: May 9, 2021

Rosa Maria Moore (Alicia Boettcher's mother)
Born: August 30, 1928
Died: May 19, 2021

Darin Edington (Bill's brother)
Born: January 1, 1962
Died: May 29, 2021

Justin Fuchs (Kay's son)
Born: July 20, 1980
Died: June 18, 2021

Sheila Kelly, friend of Cindy Stockhus)
Born: November 3, 1946
Died: July 25, 2021

Michael J. Revolinski (Melissa's brother in law)
Born: May 6, 1952
Died: July 27, 2021

Rev. Bobbie Taylor (Jeannine Mallach's sister)
Born: July 20, 1939
Died: September 15, 2021

Carey Gardiner Mack (Josie Mack's daughter)
Born: March 21, 1974
Died: October 15, 2021

Glenna Jo Petersen (Arlene Bennett's sister)
Born: September 27, 1950
Died: October 21, 2021



Poinsettia Order Form:

These flowers will be used to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas Eve service. . They will be labeled and you will be able to take yours home that evening.

"Given in honor/memory of (circle one): _____

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER :

Your Name: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Check # _____

Make Check payable to 1st Congregational UCC and attach to this order.

DEADLINE: Sunday, DECEMBER 12th

___ **Single poinsettia \$16**

___ Standard Red

___ White

___ Pink

___ Marble (pink and white)

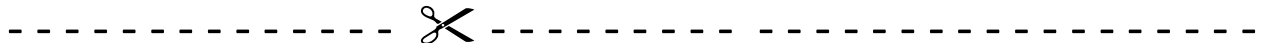
___ **Double poinsettia \$35 .**

___ Standard Red

___ White

___ Pink

___ Marble (pink and white)



Trustees Report of Income and Expenses as of October 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
September	\$17,805	\$12,289	\$18,719	\$13,139	\$18,588	\$14,683	-\$1,544	\$7,307
October	\$17,805	\$14,335	\$18,719	\$15,144	\$18,588	\$7,769	\$7,375	\$14,682

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Our SERVICE IS BROADCAST on Watertown Community Cable: Thursdays, 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sundays, 6:00 p.m. Cable channel 985 Or watch live at http://www.watertowntv.com/			1 4pm - Prayer Requests Due	2 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
5 2 nd Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:15 A.M. - ZOOM Youth Group 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	6 Holiday SCRIPS ORDERS DUE	7 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 11 AM - STAFF MEETS	8 4pm - Prayer Requests Due	9 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group/ Youth Room Masks required.	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE TOMORROW →
12 3 rd Sunday of Advent 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP 11:00 A.M. In Person CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – with a ZOOM LINK 9:00 am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:15 A.M. - ZOOM Youth Group	13	14 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6:30, Council ZOOM	15 4pm - Prayer Requests Due	16 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
19 4 th Sunday of Advent 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:15 A.M. - ZOOM Youth Group 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	20	21 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	22 4pm - Prayer Requests Due	23 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 7:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE Holy Communion OFFICE CLOSED	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
26 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP 9:00 am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:15 A.M. - ZOOM Youth Group 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	29 4pm - Prayer Requests Due	30 10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group /Youth Room Masks required.	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> OFFICE CLOSED	