

The Hilltop Chimes

January 2022

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

Contact Information:
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Dear Church Family Members and Friends,

As we begin a New Year and as many of us are taking this opportunity to examine our lives and to re-focus our priorities, I am appreciative of the insights shared by Richard A. Wing in Deep Joy for a Shallow World in which he observes that lifestyle and creative use of leisure can be more important than diet and exercise in preventing heart attacks. I would suggest that a balance among all three is most desirable, but it is significant to note the importance of leisure, rest, re-creation and Sabbath time for our well being. This is not only for our physical health, but for spiritual and emotional balance as well. Is the pace of your world in this pandemic so fast that life seems to be spinning out of control? There are things you can choose to do about that. I pray that we all will reflect on where we can find our balance.

This book was written in the 1990's, long before the COVID pandemic, but it is a valuable tool for us to deal with the shallow world of 2022.

One of the suggestions in Richard Wing's book is that we can learn to live less frantic lives by living more by the calendar than the clock. Think about it for a moment. We live in a culture that reveres "multi-tasking" as something to be admired. And yet, we can't understand why we are so tired all the time. Doing several things at the same time usually means that we do few things well, and we are always feeling behind. We are pressured to follow the masking and spatial distancing rules that are very important for the safety of our family and our community, but truthfully they also add to our daily stress and worries.

Here are some possibilities for you to consider:

1. Stop thinking about several things at one time. When our attention is divided, the best we can accomplish is confusion.
2. Listen without interrupting. Active listening gives full attention to the other person. It's amazing what communication can occur when we actually hear what the other is saying.
3. Read books and magazines that demand concentration (games, too).
4. Plan for some personal quiet time **every** day. For me that time is when I awake. I make time for prayer, Bible study and meditation. I intentionally think through and plan my day in ways that empower me to be my best.
5. Finally, acknowledge and affirm that things worth "being" are much more important than things worth "doing" or "having". It is only when our human "being" is well grounded, that we can succeed in "having" a life that is meaningful, successful, faithful and healthy. Now that sounds like a meaningful New Year's Resolution. Will you join me?

Pastor Stephen
Interim Minister



Blood Drive – Thursday, January 13th.
will be held at First Congregational UCC on January 13, 2022 from 1-6:00 p.m.. Covid precautions will still be in place and there will not be any food served. Please use the following link to schedule your appointment:
https://donate.wisconsin.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/252034.

From Your Moderator, Dale Bakke

December 12th, Congregational Budget Meeting

The meeting was called to order shortly after 11 am with participants attending in person in our sanctuary as well as online. A quorum was confirmed to be present for the meeting. Jennifer Bakke provided a brief update on the *Profile Creation Committee* and our Congregational Covenant was read in unison.

The first motion to accept members in good standing to participate and vote either in person or via Zoom for this one meeting was approved after a motion from Linda Eicher and a second from Jennifer Rhodes.

The next four motions were read. They included

- (1) a motion to suspend term limits on committees in Article VII of our Constitution for the 2022 calendar year.
- (2) a motion to suspend all boards as defined in Article VII of our Constitution for 2022.
- (3) a motion to suspend term limits for Officers as defined in Article VII of our Constitution for 2022.
- (4) a motion to establish an Interim Leadership Team consisting of five Congregation members plus the Church Moderator, Clerk, Pastor and Administrative Assistant who will assume all responsibilities of Boards identified in Article VII of our Church Constitution for the 2022 calendar year.

All four motions were supported as one by Gayle Johnson with a second by Melissa Mattke and passed by voice vote.

The budget for 2022 was presented for approval with a projected increase of 3.8% to \$233,114. We feel blessed by the members that committed during the Consecration service and the weeks around it to propose this budget. The budget was passed after a motion from Rob Harms and a second by Linda Eicher.

Brian Cowen made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Laurel Bentz.

February 13th, 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting

Please save the date after our morning service to participate in the Annual meeting to close out the 2021 year. 2021 Board Chairs and staff will present reports for your review and approval. We look forward to seeing you there.

From the Reopening Committee

From the discussions of the appearance of the Omicron variant, the committee has decided it is best for the general health of the congregation that we do not have Coffee Fellowship after Sunday services.

We are waiting to gather more information and we will reassess at the end of January.

Tom Rusch and committee

Honorable Mention:

On Christmas Eve, with the extreme contagion of the new Omicron Variant and our concern for our congregants, we offered an added Live Zoom stream for folks to decide which was best for them.

Our efforts to provide a safe and meaningful Christmas Eve service included a ZOOM Live Stream that evening. Thank you to *Kate Driessen* for the ZOOM set up and facilitating access for those viewing from home.

At 7 p.m. as the church bell rang, they joined us from home. They heard the music, saw Pastor Stephen deliver his message and shared communion with bread and juice of their own.

As we switched our “electric” candles on, they lit their own candles and as Juanita lead us in “Stille Nacht,” they sang right along with us.

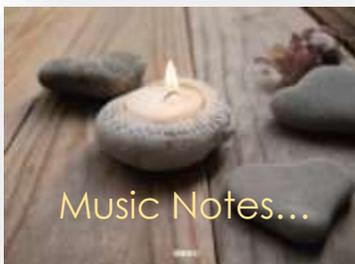


The Daily Devotional is a spiritually deep and refreshing well, to which thousands of readers are drawn each day.

The overall vision and voice of the Daily Devotional is tended by the [Stillspeaking Writers' Group](#) and supported by the staff of The Pilgrim Press.

Check it out at the link below and you can choose to get daily devotionals sent to your inbox.

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>



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 Jennie Ortega who led our singing on December 26th, The Watertown High School Carolers who visited us during their annual tour of churches, Bill Edington who added trumpet and Juanita Edington who added guitar for Christmas Eve, Tom Rusch who filled in for Susie at 15 minutes notice, and Susie Krueger who faithfully shared her musical gifts throughout the busy music month of December. I also want to thank the Heritage Military Music Foundation and First Brigade Band for offering videos of carols performed by a brass quintet to churches, which I used in several of our videos. Thank you all, for willingly sharing your gifts of time and talent.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH - We had a wonderful turn out for performers and audience alike, despite the Packer game being moved directly opposite the recital! We had 63 in the audience.

Our performers were: Evan Chowanec, Kristin Chowanec, Bill Edington, Juanita Edington, Jesse Fremont, Charly Ladwig, Erin Lynch, Kevin Koehnke, Susie Krueger, Maggie Markus, Theresa Janke Oestreicher, Emily Ortega, Jennie Ortega, Jim Ortega, Tom Rusch, June Schroeder, and Eliza Zabel. Thank you to all who attended and those who performed.

Juanita Edington

jaemusiclover@gmail.com

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

Serve in Worship

Liturgists: Liturgists read from a script the scripture and other responsive readings during a worship service. You will receive the script on Wednesday, arrive Sunday at 9:40 for sound check. A Printed script will be waiting for you at the podium.

If you are interested in being a liturgist for the 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. Although it’s been children who serve as acolytes, people of all ages are invited. If you are interested in being an acolyte for services, please contact Laurel in the church office.



Our "Listen Up" Bible Study continues....
Tuesdays at 9 a.m. via ZOOM

Acts 16–28 follows the footsteps of Paul and those who traveled and taught with him.

We see Paul teaching by the stream in Philippi and the emergence of Lydia and the church at her home. We see Paul starting a riot among the silversmiths in Ephesus. We hear his charge to future leaders of the church in Acts 20 and his encouragement to them to "not shrink."

All the while, the church spreads. As Acts draws to a close Paul returns to Jerusalem to face his opponents there, and then sails through choppy seas to the city of destiny, Rome.

This group meets at 9am on Tuesdays via a Zoom link. A printed workbook is provided for everyone by contacting Laurel in the church office.

At 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Join Zoom meeting here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82456791631?pwd=S0M5R3RCS3dkcFJaODVQUHBWQ0Yvdz09>

SPECIAL NOTE: I am looking to start other Adult Education class, if anyone has any suggestions, please let me know! --Melissa Mattke
mmattke@firstcongwttn.org 920-261-6213
josc.mom@hotmail.com 262-719-1383

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:

We have Upper Room & These Days devotional booklets for January-March on hand that you can pick the up at church.

If you are unable to come to church to pick one up, we'll mail it you.

Call me at church 920-261-6213 or email me at lbentz@firstcongwttn.org

Peace and grace, Laurel W Bentz



Reminder: Thursday MEDITATION

The Thursday evening meditation group meets at 6:30 in the Youth Room. Typically, sessions last for 30 minutes and are led by church member, Pam Martin. Participants say that it's a great way to refocus and relax. No RSVP needed, Masks are required.

Please contact Laurel Bentz via email or phone at lbentz@firstcongwttn.org or 920-261-6213 and we will follow up with you.



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.

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

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Link to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87871939725?pwd=TKUwdTdCRHINV3lvMDJsOENXOVNoUT09>

Meeting ID: 878 7193 9725 Passcode: 339374



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 9am on Sunday. The group is starting a new unit titled *"The Talent Show"*. Each week we learn different gifts that each of us have and how we can use them in the kingdom of God.

We always end 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 new Zoom link:*

Join Zoom Meeting

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

H2O Youth Group:

We meet on Sundays at 11:15a.m – 12:30p.m. 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 to meet. We are hoping to meet in person soon, it will all depend on the community Covid numbers. *Here is the new Zoom link:*

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Christmas Poinsettia Memorial and Dedications

The Christmas Eve Poinsettias were provided by:

- * Dale & Jennifer Bakke, in memory of Anita Been
- * Lee Buescher, in memory of Janice and Nicholas Buescher
- * Bill & Juanita Edington, in honor of our children and grandchildren.
- * In honor of Doris & Russ Ehnert, given by their children & grandchildren
- * Vivian Howard family, in memory of Peter, Lulu & Joe Pantely. Michael Howard.
- * Diane Koch, in memory of Dean Koch
- * Barb Lottmann
- * Fran Milburn, in memory of Richard Milburn.
- * Irene, Diane and Paul Neitzel, in memory of Neal Neitzel.
- * Norm & Joyce Uglow, in honor of our grandchildren: Charley & Hayden
- * The Haus of Peace as a Thank you for our support this year.



Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 11

for their donation of the beautiful Christmas wreaths at the front entrance to the church.

Thank you to those that worked
to support church staff
behind the scenes in December:
Decorating the tree and the sanctuary; cleaning
and tidying the church; setting up for Communion.
Those who provided for coffee fellowship; those
who served as ushers and Liturgists. The money
counters who took careful care of the offerings.

BOOK OF LIFE



01/01 Bradley Niay	01/21 Frances Milburn
01/04 Dan Edwards	01/23 Jeannine Mallach
01/08 Lee Buescher	01/25 Charlotte Ladwig
01/08 Tracy Livermore	01/28 Donna Ninmann
01/16 Desirae Dunn	01/31 Kay Fuchs
01/20 CJ Zabel	

How to Join Us for Worship

- 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 Mondays.
- 5) **Communion Sundays** the first Sunday of each month. Bring the bread and cup to your table at home and join in the sacraments if you watch the recording.

OFFERING ENVELOPES or EFT

Envelopes for 2022 If you have used the mailable envelopes in 2021, we have a box at church for you.

Wish to get envelopes? Call/email Laurel to get a box at Office: 920-261-6213 or

lbentz@firstcongwttn.org

EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) We work with VANCO to provide a safe way to send contributions electronically. If you wish to sign up, included in this newsletter is an EFT form. The church already has close to \$6,000 funds coming from members this way. Direct questions to Laurel.

Financial Updates GENERAL FUND November 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
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
November	\$17,805	\$22,420	\$18,719	\$24,276	\$18,588	\$11,255	\$13,021	\$27,703

ELECTRONIC GIVING (EFT): giving electronically is an option we have offered for a number of years with great success. You decide how much you want to have sent and when you want it sent through our secure Vanco program. Changes can be made easily within a day or two by contacting Laurel. Records are kept secure and confidential.

If you are interested in using this convenient method for giving to the church, use this form and give to Laurel in the church office. You can direct all questions to Laurel Bentz in the church office (261-6213 M-Th) or via email (lbentz@firstcongwtnn.org)

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

**First Congregational UCC
120 Kuckkan Lane, Watertown, WI 53094**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	ENVELOPE/DONOR #	DATE
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____ Type of authorization: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation		
Last Name		First Name
Address		
City		State Zip
Email Address		
Date of first donation: ____/____/____	Frequency of donation: (please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-Weekly (every other week) <input type="checkbox"/> One Time	Amount of first donation: \$ _____
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit my donation from my (check one): Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) Checking Account (attach a voided check below)	Routing Number: _____ <i>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</i> Account Number: _____
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.	
Authorized Signature: _____		Date: _____

If using a checking account, please attach a voided check at the bottom of this page.

January 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
REMINDER: We are on Facebook and have a website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-118640148151341/ Our church website (see 'Media' for services): https://firstcongwtn.org/ 						1 NEW YEARS DAY 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
2 Communion Sunday 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP NO Coffee Fellowship 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	3	4 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 11 am – Staff meets	5	6 EPIPHANY 10am – Cable TV Broadcast 4pm – Prayer Requests Due 5pm – Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
9 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP 9:00 am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:15 a.m. - ZOOM Youth Group 6:00 – Cable TV Broadcast	10	11 9am – ZOOM Bible Study	12	13 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 1-6 P.M.: BLOOD DRIVE 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15 10 a.m. ZOOM Morning Chat Group
16 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP NO Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:15 a.m. - ZOOM Youth Group 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	17 SCRIPS orders due	18 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6:30 pm, Interim COUNCIL	19	20 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
23 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP 9:00 am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:15 a.m. - ZOOM Youth Group 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	24	25 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	26 Newsletter Deadline	27 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
30 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP 9:00 am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:15 a.m. - ZOOM Youth Group 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	31	LOOKING AHEAD: The Congregational Annual Meeting will be held Sunday February 13 th at 11 a.m.				