

The Hilltop Chimes

March 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 enter into the season of Lent on March 2nd, I invite you to join me in a different kind of Lenten adventure. A man born in

the month of March in 1928 has had a deep impact on several generations of children and youth. It is good to remember the impact that the Rev. Fred Rogers continues to have on us all. (Yes, Fred Rogers was an ordained Presbyterian minister)

"As human beings, our job in life is to help people realize how rare and valuable each one of us really is, that each of us has something that no one else has – or ever will have – something inside that is unique to all time."

Mr. Rogers Neighborhood on TV for several decades affirmed the truth of that quotation. And this quotation as well: ***"Whether we're a preschooler or a young teen, a graduating college senior or a retired person, we human beings all want to know that we're acceptable, that our being alive somehow makes a difference in the lives of others."***

I believe that focus is the same in the life of Jesus. That focus can be the same for every one of us. In Lent we can grow into that understanding.

I watched Mr. Rogers when I was in elementary school, and I watched with my children for at least a decade each. Every day Mr. Rogers affirmed the way to success in this world. Do you remember his 3 steps to success? ***"There are three ways to ultimate success: the first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind."***

There are several other quotations from Mr. Roger's Neighborhood that I would love to share, but I am almost out of room. So let me finish with a deep appreciation of Mr. Roger's life that is summed up with these words: ***"Love isn't a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like struggle. To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly the way he or she is, right here and now."***

May our Lenten journey teach us the truth of this legacy. Thank you, God, for all that we continue to receive from Mr. Rogers. May our neighborhood reflect the truths and the values of his life. ***"It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood, a beautiful day for a neighbor. Would you be mine? Could you be mine? ... I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you. I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you. So, let's make the most of this beautiful day. Since we're together we might as well say: Would you be mine? Could you be mine? Won't you be my neighbor?"***

Pastor Stephen, Interim Minister

Join Us for Worship

March 2: Ash Wednesday:

Virtual Service available to view at 6:00 p.m. that evening through the email link below.

March 6: Sunday:

In person service at 10 a.m. (Holy communion).
Coffee Fellowship follows the service.

****March 13: Sunday:**

In person service at 10 a.m. In-person
Congregational Meeting at the close of worship.

March 20: Sunday:

In person service at 10 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
follows the service.

March 27: Sunday:

In person service at 10 a.m.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

“Rescheduled” Annual Meeting –
Sunday, March 13th, 2022

“In Person” following the worship service.

Due to lack of a quorum, the Congregation’s Annual Meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 13th at 11:00 am. We encourage all who are able to join in to approve our annual report.

Your copy was mailed/emailed on February 4th.

Please have your copy on hand for the meeting. If you still need a hard copy, stop by the office.

---Dale Bakke, Moderator



Sunday, March 13th

Pastoral Search News:

Small Group Talks **Sunday March 13th**
After Service and the Annual Meeting.

In the middle of January, you should have received a half-page manilla envelope with information concerning searching for a new pastor. The Profile Creation Committee is now collecting your data. Some congregants stated they’d like to be interviewed in small groups after church.

Our first get-together will take place on March 13th after the church service and the annual meeting. If you are interested, join us! Bring along the survey you received in the mail (extra copies will be available) and feel free to share your ideas.

We are thinking in terms of our three focus questions: Who are we? Who is our neighbor? Who is God calling us to become?

--Tom Rusch



Coffee Fellowship Returns Sunday, March 6th

Coffee fellowship returns the first and third Sunday of each month. Please come and join us! Juice boxes and coffee will be available along with pre packaged treats. Tables will be spaced for adequate social distancing.

Free Will Coffee Offering: donations are greatly appreciated Thank you for understanding.

Yours faithfully, Barb Lottmann and Tracy Livermore, coordinators.



Our Bible Study continues....

Our group continues to meet on ZOOM at 9am on Tuesdays. We have wonderful conversations. Please feel free to join us at any time! We will continue with the “Listen Up” series with a 3 part study of the Book of Genesis. Workbook materials are provided.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/232183369?pwd=N0pmNDhq3poTXFtdG1rT0xYazNqdz09>

A new 9 a.m. book study, Grounded by Diana Butler Bass, will began on Fridays/ Books will be available to “borrow” through our Frater Library Fund. Alternatively, you may also purchase one to keep.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/232183369?pwd=N0pmNDhq3poTXFtdG1rT0xYazNqdz09>.



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. We have been enjoying recording our Family time during our Sunday School time.

Here is the Link to Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 876 2167 7567

Passcode: 632783

H2O Youth Group:

Youth Group on Zoom takes place on Sundays at 11:15am and end at 12:30pm 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 for Sundays:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87423748627?pwd=aNfzaXRSWDBjUnk4Y2RiaW1RRFhLZz09>

Meeting ID: 874 2374 8627

Passcode: 431416

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.

Link to Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 878 7193 9725 Passcode: 339374

From Reopening Committee:

Sunday In Person Services
to Begin again March 6

Finally the numbers are going down and we will offer in-person services again starting on Sunday, March 6.

We will follow the protocols exactly as when we were in person before:

1. We are requiring all participants to **wear a mask at all times, no matter of your vaccination status.**
2. Masks and hand disinfectant are available in the Narthex.
3. Keep the mask on until exiting the church.
4. Respect social distancing as best you can.
5. Please do not socialize in the narthex entryway before or after the service.

It is difficult to believe that it has been almost two full years since our lives have changed from the pandemic.

Hopefully our restrictions will become fewer in a small amount of time. It will be good to see everyone again!

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Tom Rusch at 920-988-5235 or thomasdrusch@gmail.com.

How to Join Us for Worship

If you were unable to attend in person you can view the recording through:

- 1) the email link - "Welcome to Worship" from lbentz@firstcongwtn.org
- 2) Our church's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-118640148151341/>
- 3) Our new church website (see 'Media'): <https://firstcongwtn.org/>
- 4) 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.



Juanita Edington

Notes from the Music Director

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 and Bill Edington who provided the musical offerings during the month of February.

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



Serve in Worship:

Our worship team needs volunteers to be Liturgists.

A liturgist reads scripture and other responsive readings during a worship service on a rotating basis.

- You chose when works best for you.
- Readings are in a prepared script that you receive early the week before.
- A printed copy will be ready for you Sunday morning.
- Liturgists arrive by 9:40 for sound check.

If you would like to know more about participating in this way please contact Laurel at lbentz@firstcongwtnn.org



First Congregational UCC was well represented when it was our congregations turn to host the Bread and Roses

dinner for our community mission work on the evening of February 3rd. Tacos were served in "drive through" style. Thank you to the following volunteers that helped with serving or running the carryout meals to the curb: Amy Gillingham, Tom Rusch, Tom and Denyce Derleth, Lee Buescher, Fran Milburn, and Norm Hurtubise.

Thanks also to those that provided and prepared food in advance of the meal: Mary Brey, Ellen Brown, Tracy Livermore. Our church kitchen served as a "food prep" area where Barb & Chuck Weiss got 4 lbs. tomatoes diced, lettuce shredded and Pastor Stephen diced 4 pounds of onions!

Approximately 125 people were served that evening. It will be our congregations turn to host this important event for members in need of a good meal in our community later this year.

BOOK OF LIFE



March Birthdays

3/4	Kristi	Scheunemann
3/5	Audrey	Wolter
3/6	Grady	Fremont
3/8	Penelope	Zabel
3/9	Jacob	Reyburn
3/11	Thomas	Derleth
3/11	Thomas	Rusch
3/20	Barbara	Weiss
3/25	Jack	Lemke
3/25	Hannah	Smith
3/26	Jami	Zabel
3/26	Olivia	Mattke
3/27	Florence	Bingner
3/28	Liam	Matthews
3/28	Aurora	Pauli
3/31	Doug	Budewitz



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](https://www.ucc.org/still-speaking-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/>



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

By the grace of God, all of us have the power to give, and the gifts we give make the world more the way God intended it to be – a place where everyone has what they need.

Together, we can achieve a fair balance in our world by giving back to God what God has so richly bestowed upon us. One Great Hour of Sharing provides support for health, education, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries by working with local, national, and global partners. Will you give to One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 13th.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:

We have Upper Room & These Days devotional booklets for March -June on hand that you can pick the up in person at church starting March 6th.

Peace and grace, Laurel W Bentz

Financial Updates

GENERAL FUND As of January 30, 2022

2022	BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	BUDGETED TOTAL INCOME	ACTUAL TOTAL INCOME	BUDGETED EXPENSES	ACTUAL EXPENSES	MONTH GAIN OR LOSS	YEAR GAIN OR LOSS
January	\$18,513	\$14,830	\$19,426	\$16,656	\$19,343	\$23,895	-\$7,239	-\$7,239

MARCH 2022

**Reminder: Office Hours M-TH 10-4

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>Sunday MARCH 13</p>	<p>1 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 11 AM - STAFF MEETS</p>	<p>2 ASH WEDNESDAY Virtual Service 7 p.m. (see page 2)</p>	<p>3 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm</p>	<p>4 OFFICE CLOSED 9am - ZOOM BOOK Study</p>	<p>5 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM</p>
<p>6 Holy Communion 10:00 – IN-PERSON WORSHIP 9:00 am – ZOOM Sunday School 11 a.m. COFFEE FELLOWSHIP 11:15 a.m. - ZOOM Youth Group 6:00 – Cable TV Broadcast</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 9am - ZOOM Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm</p>	<p>11 OFFICE CLOSED 9am - ZOOM BOOK Study</p>	<p>12 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM</p>
<p>13 10:00 – IN-PERSON WORSHIP 11 a.m. - Congregational Annual Meeting Followed by Small Group Talks - Survey 9:00 am – ZOOM Sunday School TBD - ZOOM Youth Group 6:00 – Cable TV Broadcast</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 9am - ZOOM Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm</p>	<p>18 OFFICE CLOSED 9am - ZOOM BOOK Study</p>	<p>19 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM</p>
<p>20 10:00 – IN-PERSON WORSHIP 9:00 am – ZOOM Sunday School 11 a.m. COFFEE FELLOWSHIP 11:15 a.m. - ZOOM Youth Group 6:00 – Cable TV Broadcast</p>	<p>21 SCRIPS orders due</p>	<p>22 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6:30, Council ZOOM</p>	<p>23 Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>24 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm</p>	<p>25 OFFICE CLOSED 9am - ZOOM BOOK Study</p>	<p>26 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM</p>
<p>27 10:00 – IN-PERSON WORSHIP 9:00 am – ZOOM Sunday School 11:15 a.m. - ZOOM Youth Group 6:00 – Cable TV Broadcast</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9am - ZOOM Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm</p>		