

# The Hilltop Chimes

APRIL 2022

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

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Dear Church Family  
Members and Friends

As we enter into the month of April, we are also nearing the end of the Season of Lent. As April begins, we are

celebrating the fifth Sunday *in* Lent. As I am creating this article, I am reminded of an important conversation many of us had around March 2<sup>nd</sup>, or the Facebook questions to which some of us replied. The question comes to the surface when we are counting the days of Lent. If Lent is 40 days, why are there 46 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter?

And the answer is ... the 6 Sundays during the Lenten Season are not included in Lent. That's right. Sundays are *in* the Lenten Season but are not *of* the Lenten Season.

When this question is asked at the beginning of the 46 days it is often related to wondering if any of the things that I choose to give up for Lent can be ignored on Sundays. And the answer that most people choose is "Yes!" But that is not at all why I find this subject very important for all of us.

My concern is not the sweet desserts that someone gives up for 46 days. My pastoral concern is wondering if we all understand the importance of every Sunday the whole year long. Sunday is the day of our worship because it is the day of the Resurrection. Sunday's message does not connect us to Lent ... it connects us to Easter. And every Sunday should connect us to Easter. It is a way of life that we should not take for granted.

The Easter message and ministry of Jesus proclaims that God **never** gives up on us. **God**

**refuses to allow death to be the last word.**

Easter is God's message to us all that this world and this life can be redeemed, rather than destroyed. The death of Jesus is not the last word – for God uses even this painful, sinful, hateful event as a means for life, forgiveness and renewal.

That is a story that needs to be shared. Every Sunday. Every Season. Easter defines who we are as disciples of Jesus. Celebrate. **It makes all the difference.**

--Pastor Stephen Welch

## Join Us for Worship

*Each service will be posted on our website, Facebook and shared through email.*

**April 3: Sunday:**

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

**April 10: Palm Sunday:**

**In person service at 10 a.m.**

*Watertown Cable broadcast on Thursday at 10 am and 5 pm and on Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm*

**April 14: Maundy Thursday:**

**In person service at 7:00 p.m.**

**April 15: Good Friday:**

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

**April 17: Easter Sunday:**

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

*Watertown Cable broadcast on Thursday at 10 am and 5 pm and on Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm*

**April 24: Sunday:**

**In person service at 10 a.m..**

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
**OVER \$6,000 COLLECTED**



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.

This year, with a special emphasis on bringing emergency relief to Ukraine, **over \$6,000** was received from you through our One Great Hour of Sharing offering in March.



**We continue to seek your offering of musical gifts for our online worship.** As we have been sharing in-person worship, we have moved to a mask optional policy, but support those who choose to continue to wear a mask.

**We are seeking your offering of musical gifts for our worship.** We also continue to include 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 James Ortega who led our hymn singing, Bill Edington and Susie Krueger, who provided the musical offerings during the month of March.

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



**“Listen Up” 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>



ONLINE - 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/>

**DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:**

We have Upper Room & These Days devotional booklets for April -June on hand that you can pick the up in person at church starting April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Peace and grace, Laurel W Bentz



**UCC SUMMER CAMPS – NO ONE SHOULD MISS OUT ON CAMP!**

The Larson Camp Fund provides scholarships to help cover the cost for children and youth attending any of the camp sessions offered so no one gets left out.

No one should miss out on camp for financial reasons so please contact Pastor Stephen about additional scholarship support.

We would love to have increased participation of our church youth at camp this year! Children, Teens, grandchildren.... Don't forget Family Camp!

The camp schedules for 2021 at Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach are set. Information can also be obtained on-line at [www.ucci.org](http://www.ucci.org)

Copy your registration to Laurel to make sure your scholarship gets processed from the Larson Fund. Email: [lbentz@firstcongwttn.org](mailto:lbentz@firstcongwttn.org)



**FROM THE COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES**

Melissa Mattke

Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries  
[mmattke@firstcongwttn.org](mailto:mmattke@firstcongwttn.org) 920-261-6213  
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**Sunday School:**

We have been continuing our ZOOM Sunday School at 9am on Sunday. We will not be meeting on Easter Sunday. I hope to see you all in church that day!

Please let me know if you would like to continue to meet on Sundays on Zoom throughout the summer! Feel free to join us anytime!

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

# BOOK OF LIFE



- 04/01 Jessica Behlke
- 04/02 Kevin Driessen
- 04/02 Zander Koellen
- 04/03 Don Christensen
- 04/08 Tyler Stockhus
- 04/08 Bobby Ladwig
- 04/09 Kylie Kulick
- 04/10 Jordan Winkelman
- 04/14 Amy Gillingham
- 04/14 Rick Scheunemann
- 04/15 Erin Loeffler
- 04/16 Chris Braunschweig
- 04/24 Erin Edington Lynch
- 04/24 Josiah Piotrowski
- 04/25 Jason Loeffler
- 04/27 Clarence Zabel II
- 04/27 Jordan Stiemke
- 04/30 Cordell Niay

✝ Passing: Donald R. Hanson, a Golden church member, died on March 21, 2022 surrounded by his loving family. He was 94 and had spent the last few years at Highland House in Watertown. Don was preceded in death by his wife, Phyllis, and daughter, Kristin Borck and is survived by his son Alan Hanson.

## 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=TkUwdTdCRHlNV3lvMDJsOENXOVNoUT09>

Meeting ID: 878 7193 9725    Passcode: 339374

### 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@firstcongwttn.org](mailto:lbentz@firstcongwttn.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://firstcongwttn.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.


## Financial Updates

### GENERAL FUND    As of February 28, 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
February	\$18,513	\$15,152	\$19,426	\$15,993	\$19,343	\$15,857	\$136	-\$7,103



# April 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1  OFFICE CLOSED	2  10 a.m. – Saturday Morning Fellowship <b>ZOOM</b>
3 <b>Communion Sunday</b> 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP <b>Coffee Fellowship</b> 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	4  SCRIPS orders due	5  9am - <b>ZOOM</b> Bible Study 11 AM - STAFF MEETS	6	7  10am – Cable TV Broadcast 4pm – Prayer Requests Due 5pm – Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm	8  OFFICE CLOSED	9  10 a.m. – Saturday Morning Fellowship <b>ZOOM</b>
10 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP 9:00 am – <b>ZOOM</b> Sunday School 11:15 a.m. - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group 6:00 – Cable TV Broadcast	11	12  9am - <b>ZOOM</b> Bible Study	13  Recording of Good Friday Virtual service 10-noon	14 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 10am – Cable TV Broadcast 4pm – Prayer Requests Due 5pm – Cable TV Broadcast 6:30 -Meditation Youth Rm 7 p.m. IN PERSON worship	15 <b>Good Friday</b>  OFFICE CLOSED  Virtual Service	16  10 a.m. – Saturday Morning Fellowship <b>ZOOM</b>
17 <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP <b>Coffee Fellowship</b> TBA <b>ZOOM</b> Sunday School TBA - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group 6:00 – Cable TV Broadcast	18	19  9am - <b>ZOOM</b> Bible Study 6:30, Council meets	20	21  10am – Cable TV Broadcast 4pm – Prayer Requests Due 5pm – Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm	22  OFFICE CLOSED	23  10 a.m. – Saturday Morning Fellowship <b>ZOOM</b>
24  10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP 9:00 am – <b>ZOOM</b> Sunday School 11:15 a.m. - <b>ZOOM</b> Youth Group 6:00 – Cable TV Broadcast	25	26  9am - <b>ZOOM</b> Bible Study	27	28  10am – Cable TV Broadcast 4pm – Prayer Requests Due 5pm – Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm	29  OFFICE CLOSED	30