

The Hilltop Chimes

MAY 2022

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

Greetings to all friends and members
of First Congregational UCC.



When I was a seminary student, I was introduced to what is known as “*The Just War Theory*”. This is an academic theory that has been a part of most religions in most cultures including Christianity since about 400 A.D. This “*Just War Theory*”

allows countries and cultures to give themselves permission to engage in warfare for a variety of self-serving reasons. I believe we all can see how “well” this has worked. **NOT!**

For several decades, congregations in the United Church of Christ (Including First Congregational UCC, Watertown!) have sought to develop a public identity as a Just PEACE Church. We boldly proclaim and prayerfully seek to be a Justice-doing and a Peace-seeking church. This is our calling. This is our message. This is our commitment. Every day. Every moment. Every opportunity. Not just now and then and not just once a year.

There is one Sunday in September every year when we join with ALL United Church of Christ congregations in affirming that we are devoted to being a “Just Peace” faith community. This year that Sunday will be September 18. However, with all that is happening in Ukraine and with the thousands of people seeking safety as refugees and with the deadly news every day that shows the devastation that this war has created, I believe we need to join together in prayer and witness and financial support for Peace and public critique of those who would

try to believe that this is a Just War. There is no place for that failed theory in today’s world.

I hope you will join me in choosing to teach and pray and share and learn what it means to be devoted to a Just Peace witness. I pray that you and your families and your neighbors and your friends will join us in this significantly important time.

--Pastor Stephen Welch



Profile Creation Committee

The Profile Creation Committee has finished gathering information from the congregation. The committee would like to thank all those who have participated. Throughout this time, the committee has been meeting almost every Friday to study the responses and how they can be most effectively put into our church’s profile, to show how our members think about:

Who we are, who our neighbors are, and who God is calling us to become.

Many of the profile items are narratives, and your responses are providing us direction to complete them honestly and completely. The completed church profile will then be shared with you and will be used to attract possible pastoral candidates.

A rough estimate of completion is mid-June. Then the Pastor Search Committee begins its work! ***If you are interested in being on the Pastor Search Committee, please contact Dale Bakke, Laurel Bentz or me.***

Sincerely, Tom Rusch
Profile Creation Chair



Serve in Worship - 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@firstcongwtn.org

Tech Opportunities

Have you been a videographer for church in the past? Would you be willing to run the camera during the service? The responsibilities are easier than in the past as you merely need to run the camera, no uploading, editing, or converting to DVD time is necessary at this time.

Since print information such as hymn lyrics, bulletin outline, scripture readings, music information, and responses are added before uploading to Vimeo, I do this at my home and then get the link out to the cable station and church office, and finally create a DVD that is shared with Marquardt before coming back to the church for the archives.

Please contact me if you are interested and your availability. Training on the new camera and expectations is available. Thanks.

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

Reopening Committee Report April 28, 2022 meeting

From Tom Rusch, Chair.....Our committee wishes to emphasize to the congregation about protocols that will now in place:

We are mask affirming. We respect others who do or do not wear masks.

Our mask affirming policy allows congregational singing with or without masks.

Each congregant should decide whether to participate or not.

We encourage you to think about those around you and their health needs.

We have removed the crepe paper barriers but encourage social distancing.

Please use hand sanitizer that is provided.

Please stay home when not feeling well.

For Fellowship and Fellowship Hall

We will have weekly fellowship. (But to do so, we will first need more volunteers!)

We will freshen up Fellowship Hall. We will return round tables, etc. and clean off the bulletin boards, etc.)

We will have limited food servers and they will wear disposable gloves. We will have single serve food portions *when possible*.

We will clean up the kitchen and Fellowship Hall after each use.

For Worship and the Sanctuary

We will freshen up Sanctuary: return all hymnals, Bibles, and attendance booklets to the pews.

We will place the visitors' book back in the narthex.

We will continue to have prayer requests phoned to Laurel by Thursday. (We request that Pastor Stephen give an opportunity for oral prayer requests during the service.)

We will not replace the prayers request cards.

We will continue to serve communion with the prepackaged wafer and juice.

We will remove the crepe paper barriers.

We will keep the offering plates in back.



From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries



Sunday School

We have been continuing our ZOOM Sunday School at 9am on Sunday. Feel free to join us anytime! Our last Sunday School will be May 22nd. We will be taking a break over the summer. Watch for special events to take place over the summer. We will see what happens for next year!

Here is the Link to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/183320649?pwd=UnFLMU9TenU2b0t3b2RVUEhyV1J6UT09>

Meeting ID: 876 2167 7567

Passcode: 632783

H2O Youth Group

We have been meeting in person the last couple of weeks! It has been wonderful to see everyone in person! Meetings are held on Tuesday evenings 6:00-7:30pm. We will not be meeting in the summer, however, watch for some events over the summer! We are also looking for some service projects, if you have anything that you would like us to help with, please contact me.

CONTACT: Melissa Mattke

mmattke@firstcongwttn.org

josc.mom@hotmail.com

262-719-1383

Versiti BLOOD CENTER OF WISCONSIN

Our next blood drive will be held on **May 26th from 1:00pm-6:00pm**. We will not be serving any food.

If you would like to sign up to donate blood, please contact me or use this link to sign up.

https://donate.wisconsin.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/203518.

Masks are required. If you have any questions, or would like to schedule an appointment, please do not hesitate to contact me. Melissa Mattke 262-

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

mmattke@firstcongwttn.org

josc.mom@hotmail.com

Study groups continues....

Bible Study 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=N0pmNDhq3poTXFtdG1rT0xYazNgdz09>

Meeting ID 10 824 5679 1631

Passcode: 074171

Book study group meets on Friday mornings at 9 a.m. to read the book "The Power of Now" by Eckhart Tolle. If you would like to do this study but cannot attend the Friday discussions, please let me know and I can email you the discussion questions. If you have any suggestions for a new book study, please let me know.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/232183369?pwd=N0pmNDhq3poTXFtdG1rT0xYazNgdz09>.

Meeting ID 10 824 5679 1631

Passcode: 074171



DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:

We have Upper Room, & These Days devotional booklets for May-June on hand that you can pick the up at church/have mailed to you. (They cover May – June) The next booklets will come out in late June for July-August series.

Call me at church 920-261-6213 or email me at

lbentz@firstcongwttn.org

Peace and grace, Laurel W Bentz



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. A solo vocalist leads the hymns for the day at a safe distance, unmasked and with a microphone for clarity for the in-person congregation and for the congregation attending on-line. I am looking for singers who would be willing to lead the hymns at any time, but especially for Sundays when I am not able to be in worship. (I will be gone May 1, thank you Jennie Ortega for leading this day. I will also be gone June 26.) Please contact me if interested.

Would you be interested in sharing a musical offering? I am looking for musicians to serve our church by sharing their musical gifts. Susie has been filling this role almost exclusively since March of 2020, but any musician in the congregation or friend of the congregation is welcome to participate. The musical offering can be vocal or instrumental. Please contact me if you would be interested. Thank you!

Thank you to Bill Edington and Susie Krueger, who provided the musical offerings during the month of April.

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



Saturday Morning Fellowship:

Every week on Sat at 10am join in ZOOM Morning Fellowship for some chat time (and enjoy seeing church family and friends.)

Link to Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87871939725?pwd= TkUwdTdCRHINV3lvMDJsOENXOVNoUT09>

Meeting ID: 878 7193 9725

Passcode: 339374

Join Us for In Person Worship

Each service will also be posted on our website, Facebook, Watertown Community Cable and shared through email.

Sunday, May 1st

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

Sunday, May 8: Mother's Day

In person service at 10 a.m.

Sunday, May 15th:

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

Sunday, May 22:

In person service at 10 a.m..

Sunday, May 29:

In person service at 10 a.

How to Join "Virtual" 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
- 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.



BOOK OF LIFE



Birthdays in May

Richard Smith	05/05
James Ortega	05/05
David Maas	05/05
Jennifer Bakke	05/10
Helen Ulatowski	05/10
Vivian Howard	05/10
Jean Nicholas	05/11
Nicole Schumacher	05/12
William Brey	05/16
Chuck Weiss	05/16
Jonathan Edington	05/17
Laurel Bentz	05/19
Toni Howard	05/21
Sandi Budewitz	05/21
Susan Krueger	05/23
Jill Kulick	05/25
Chara Asher	05/27
Maxwell Chowanec	05/28
Collin Kulick	05/28
Madison Holder	05/29
Joe Ruddell	05/29



UCC Summer Camps Don't miss out!

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.

The camp schedules for 2022 at Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach are set. Information can also be obtained on-line at <https://ucci.org/calendar/>



Adopt a Highway Expedition!

Saturday May 7th from 9-11 a.m.
ADOPT A HIGHWAY



Meeting location: corner County CW and Schumann Drive behind Watertown Hospital. We will provide blaze orange vests, gloves and plastic bags.

Rainstorm date: Sunday May 8th after worship

CONTACT - Lee Buescher 920-285-1217
Fran Milburn 920 - 988- 6719

Financial Updates

GENERAL FUND As of March 31, 2022

2022	BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	BUDGETED TOTAL INCOME	ACTUAL TOTAL INCOME	BUDGETED EXPENSES	ACTUAL EXPENSES	MONTH GAIN OR LOSS	YEAR GAIN OR LOSS
QTR 1								
January	\$18,513	\$14,830	\$19,426	\$16,656	\$19,343	\$23,602	-\$6,946	-\$6,946
February	\$18,513	\$15,152	\$19,426	\$15,993	\$19,343	\$15,857	\$136	-\$6,810
March	\$18,513	\$17,858	\$19,426	\$18,784	\$19,343	\$17,565	\$1,219	-\$5,591

May 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Holy Communion 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am - ZOOM Sunday School 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	2 SCRIPS orders due	3 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 11 AM - STAFF MEETS 6-7:30 p.m. -Youth Group	4	5 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm	6 OFFICE CLOSED 9am - ZOOM Book Study	7 ADOPT A HIGHWAY 9:00-11:00 A.M. 10 a.m. - Saturday Morning Fellowship ZOOM
8 10am IN PERSON WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am - ZOOM Sunday School 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	9	10 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. -Youth Group	11	12 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm	13 OFFICE CLOSED 9am - ZOOM Book Study	14 10 a.m. - Saturday Morning Fellowship ZOOM
15 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am - ZOOM Sunday School 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	16	17 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. -Youth Group	18	19 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm 1:00-6:00 BLOOD DRIVE	20 OFFICE CLOSED 9am - ZOOM Book Study	21 10 a.m. - Saturday Morning Fellowship ZOOM
22 10am IN PERSON WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am - ZOOM Sunday School 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	23	24 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. -Youth Group 6:30, Council ZOOM	25	26 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 Meditation Youth Rm	27 OFFICE CLOSED 9am - ZOOM Book Study	28 10 a.m. - Saturday Morning Fellowship ZOOM
29 10am IN PERSON WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am - ZOOM Sunday School 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	30 Memorial Day Office Closed	31 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. -Youth Group				