

The Hilltop Chimes

JUNE 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 friends and members of First Congregational UCC.

The fourth Sunday in June is **Open and Affirming Sunday** in the United Church of Christ.

(This year that will be June 26) Because being an ONA faith community here at First Congregational has such a faithful, devoted, inclusive, welcoming, and affirming history, I believe that there may be some First Congregational UCC members who do not know what Open and Affirming means. We all are living the meaning of this designation in such a way that we **assume** that we do not need the title anymore.

Not true. YES, we are living out our faith here that welcomes ALL people, but still there are many in our community who do not understand. There are even so-called Christians who seek to use our faith as a weapon against Lesbians, Gays, Bi-Sexual, Transgender and Queer sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers. (LGBTQ)

That is why we need this special Sunday to again lift up, name, proclaim, love, and celebrate God's love and blessing and welcome and care for ALL.

The testimonies of these ministries proclaim the truth of God's power to transform cultures of hate and violence into communities of healing and reconciliation. They give witness to God's continuing testament and how the gifts of God are being liberated for service in the world.

Our church became an ONA congregation in 2014.

This means we joyfully and faithfully welcome LGBT people into the full life and leadership of our community.

In the years since we've joined in the struggle for civil rights, blessed many couples, celebrated the 2015 ruling for same-sex marriage rights. We continue to work for the full inclusion of people regardless of sexual orientation and gender expression.

I hope and pray that when you join us in a time of worship, prayer, joyful sharing and affirmation of who we are as children of God and disciples of Jesus that you and everyone else will know without a whisper of doubt that YOU are beloved and affirmed as a child of God and a devoted disciple of Jesus.

Interim Pastor, Stephen Welch



Join Us for In Person Worship

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.

Pentecost Sunday, June 5th

In person service at 10 a.m. (Holy communion).

New Members received.

Coffee Fellowship follows the service.

Sunday, June 12

In person service at 10 a.m.

Sunday, June 19th: Father's Day

In person service at 10 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship follows the service.

Sunday, June 26

In person service at 10 a.m..

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

Pastoral Search Process Update:

Profile Committee Looking Down the Home Stretch

June will be a hard push down the home stretch for the Profile Creation Committee as they work to complete our Church Profile for recruiting our permanent Pastor. The Summary of the Ministry Description is the first item a prospective Pastor sees and reads about us. It is also a paragraph that frames the entire Church Profile. This paragraph was finalized Friday, May 27th, by the Profile Committee who also ran it by Pastor Stephen and Moderator Dale Bakke .

It was read during announcements prior the Sunday, May 29th service and received an applause from those who were present.

SUMMARY MINISTRY DESCRIPTION:

“In a short paragraph, reflect on where your church is going and what it might look like when you get there. What do you need to get there? Who are you seeking to join you on this part of your church’s faith journey? ”

Being a progressive Christian church in a conservative community is a legacy that we are proud of. The Covid pandemic, societal shifts, and the far-reaching impacts of technology and social media are challenging us to review and renew how we carry our legacy forward. We know that our future will always be driven by our embracement and commitment to the beliefs of today’s United Church of Christ (UCC). It is our shared persistent dream and vision that our church will be that “Beacon On A Hill” that espouses UCC beliefs through message and mission. Much work lies ahead as we re-evaluate our purpose, mission, vision, and organizational structure as we aspire to better serve our inclusive, loving God.

We are seeking a pastor who will shepherd us into being a renewed, revitalized faith community and spark us to proactively re-engage our larger community in new ways while respecting past successes and commitments.



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 continue with the “Listen Up” series with a 3 part study of the Book of Genesis and then will move on to Romans. Workbook materials are provided.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

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=N0pmNDhq3poTXFtdG1rT0xYazNqdz09>

Meeting ID 10 824 5679 1631

Passcode: 074171



In person 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 and would like to be on the email group, please contact Laurel at lbentz@firstcongwttn.org

How to Worship from Home...

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.



Music Notes...

We have moved to a mask affirming policy. You are welcome regardless of your masking choice and **please** feel free to sing.

We are seeking your offering of musical gifts for our worship. A vocalist leads the hymns for the day with a microphone for clarity for the in-person congregation and for those 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 June 12 (thank you, Pastor Stephen for agreeing to be on mic) and June 26, where I am still looking for a volunteer. 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 Jennie Ortega who led our hymns on May 1 and Susie Krueger who provided the musical offerings during the month of May.

Juanita Edington

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

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



We had a great turnout for May blood drive. We collected 22 units of blood. Thank you to all that were able to come out and donate. For future reference, if you receive your Covid-19 vaccination, you need to wait 48 hours before you can donate any blood product.

Our next blood drive will be held on July 28th 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. Many donors are needed at this time. Our goal is to have at least 30 donors at the July drive. 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/
mmattke@firstcongwtn.org





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:

Our last Sunday School was 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!

H2O Youth Group:

We have been meeting in person the last couple of weeks! It has been wonderful to see everyone in person! We meet on Tuesday evenings 6:00-7:30pm. If anyone is interested in preparing a meal for us, we would welcome the donation! We love to eat! 😊 We are also looking for some service projects, if you have anything that you would like us to help with, please contact me.



Hey, Church folks!

Here are some fun summer events to
mark on your calendars!

Wednesday, June 29th 6:30pm:

BINGO and Ice Cream Sundaes

Wednesday, July 20th 7:00pm:

Campfire and Trivia

Wednesday, August 24th 6:30pm:

Art Night

Immediate 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.

Thank you to Bill Edington and Melissa Mattke who recorded during May.

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



Summer Office Hours;

The **Office** will continue normal business hours of M-TH 10-noon and 1-4

However, Gingerbread is closed for the summer and access to the building will only be through the church office.

Services: Council has set Summer worship time at 10 a.m.



During the month of June....
Conferences in the UCC work to support leaders, connect congregations, engage youth and young adults, and to imagine together a just world for all. And the **Strengthen the Church offering makes this revitalizing work possible.**

In the Penn Northeast Conference, we utilized **Strengthen the Church Offering** Funds to coach and teach a congregation how to manage conflict and disagreement proactively. People learned how to speak up against bullying and how to lead effectively. The congregation regained a positive approach to ministry and mission. Strengthen the Church Funds helped train coaches like the Rev. Dr. Jo Marchetto and the Rev. Heather Kurtz for this conflict intervention (pictured below). Because of your gifts to Strengthen the Church, the coaches will be ready to help the next congregation struggling with conflict. Benefits upon benefit from our partnerships.

The Strengthen the Church Offering helped us wonder what new ministry God calls our congregations. Nine urban churches in Allentown, PA, participated in a Feasibility Study, partly funded by Strengthen the Church. This study checked the demographics, membership, location of members, financial supports, and mutual ministry opportunities for 5 of those conversations called for ideas for shared ministry, community outreach, mission, and building repurposing

recommendations. Because of your gifts to Strengthen the Church, these congregations embraced new ministries offered in new ways with new leadership and new energy. Truly a strengthening moment.

Our conferences across the United of Christ can do this faithful work because of gifts to Strengthen the Church. Last year, Penn Northeast congregations quadrupled their support for this offering.

Imagine what we could all do together if we committed to Strengthen the Church!

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Conference Minister
 Penn Northeast Conference UCC



**Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)
 is not a once a year need.**

Our Wisconsin Conference needs our support all year. Your Church Council pledged \$7500 from our General Budget to go to OCWM. As a result we send \$625 each month to honor that pledge.

However it's important to know that, in addition to what the church has pledged, you can increase that amount with individual contributions to OCWM throughout the year. Mission/Outreach Board asks that you consider doing just that.

To find out more go to the UCC website
<http://www.ucc.org/ocwm>



Partnering for Mission and Giving

Jennifer Rhodes (volunteer for the Watertown Bread Basket Food Pantry) and Jennifer Bakke (board member on behalf of 1st Congregational UCC for the Watertown Food Pantry) are developing a plan to re-engage member giving of food items starting in July 2022.

Their primary focus during April & May has been discussing the similarities and differences of the two food pantries and how to coordinate giving to both food pantries by identifying items both pantries can use and then seeking monthly donations that will be equally divided between the two pantries.

They intend to develop a 12-month calendar with a few specific items to donate per month. For example:

July: Boxed pancake mix and/or syrup

August: Boxed cake and/or brownie mixes

September: Spaghetti sauce and spaghetti noodles

October: Boxed mashed potatoes and/or macaroni & cheese.

Jennifer and Jennifer are also envisioning ways to incorporate other targeted giving including Christmas in July, Support Our Students in August, Undies Sunday in September, diapers for Mary's Room in October, etc.

Watch the Chimes Newsletters , notes in the weekly bulletin and occasional in-person announcements before the Sunday service. They hope to get the communication ball rolling and keep it rolling.

They're open to your insights, suggestions, and support.

Jennifer Rhodes can be reached via email: myvibe04@yahoo.com

Jennifer Bakke can be reached via email: jdbakke@gdinet.com



The Memorial Flower Beds are in great need of weeding and new plantings are waiting for warmer weather to be transplanted. Volunteer: If you enjoy weeding other people's flower beds more than your own, stop by the church!

Sunshine and bird song, weeders can work in separate flower beds or together with some social distancing.

There are buckets for collecting the debris of weeds and a bin to dump them in.

*****NOTE: for the sake of the bees and butterflies, the use of Roundup is prohibited.**

Let Laurel know if you have questions (lbentz@firstcongwtn.org 920-261-6213)



Since April the weekly lawnmowing crew has shown great dedication Thank You: Tom Derleth and Reed Larson for keeping the church lawns looking beautiful.



Birthdays in June

Donna Schmutzler	06/05
Joyce Uglow	06/08
Judith Maas	06/11
Melissa Mattke	06/12
Rebekah Palmer	06/16
Kathryn Driessen	06/17
Suzanne Harms	06/17
Dennis Ewing	06/21
Kaye Piotrowski	06/23

BOOK OF LIFE

✿ **Wedding:** *Gayle Johnson and Carol Smith* were married on Thursday, May 26, 2022 at a family home in Oconomowoc. Rev. Stephen Welch officiated

☞ **Baptism:** *Norah June Long* was born February 4, 2022 to Brittany and Casey Long. Rev. Stephen Welch officiated at her baptism on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at the Long home. Family and friends were in attendance.

✝ **Passing:** church member, *Audrey Lamp* peacefully passed on, May 17, 2022. We extend prayers of comfort to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Rev. Stephen Welch lead the Celebration of Life which was held Wednesday, May 25th at our church.



Congratulations We have two Watertown High School Graduates this year!



Clarence Zabel III: Clarence is the grandson of Lynda Eicher. He will be taking a year off of school and then going to WCTC to pursue his childhood dream career of becoming a police officer.

Sophie Mattke: Sophie will be attending UW-Oshkosh in the fall to pursue a degree in nursing. Her goal right now is to become a labor and delivery nurse.

Financial Updates from the Treasurer

GENERAL FUND As of April 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	\$23,602	-\$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
April	\$18,513	\$16,715	\$19,426	\$17,541	\$19,343	\$19,043	-\$1,502	-\$7,093

June 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group Youth Room	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
5 Communion Sunday 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP New Members Received. Coffee Fellowship after worship 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	6	7 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 11 AM - STAFF MEETS 6-7:30 p.m. –Youth Group 7:30, COUNCIL	8	9 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group Youth Room	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
12 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship after worship 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	13	14 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. –Youth Group	15	16 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group Youth Room	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
19 Father's Day 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship after worship 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	20	21 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. –Youth Group 6:30, COUNCIL	22	23 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group Youth Room	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
26 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship after worship 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	27	28 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. –Youth Group	29 FELLOWSHIP EVENT 6:30pm: BINGO and Ice Cream Sundaes	30 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group Youth Room	July 2 OFFICE CLOSED	July 3 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM