

The Hilltop Chimes

JULY 2022 - Celebrating 177 years

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

Contact Information:
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Pastor's email: swelch@firstcongwttm.org



From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Church Family,
Good morning. What a wonderful summer day we are enjoying today. I hope and pray that you are able to take some time to truly appreciate and breathe in this gift.

I would like to reflect with you the meaning and essence of Ephesians 2, especially verses 14 and 15. Here are those 2 verses from The Message translation: *"The Messiah has made things up between us so that we're now together on this, both non-Jewish outsiders and Jewish insiders. He tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance. He repealed the law code that had become so clogged with fine print and footnotes that it hindered more than it helped. Then he started over. Instead of continuing with two groups of people separated by centuries of animosity and suspicion, he created a new kind of human being, a fresh start for everybody."*

While we sometimes may idealize the early church, the truth is that local communities of faith were frequently and profoundly divided over questions of doctrine, and especially over the question of who was 'in' and who was 'out.'" Gentiles (non-Jewish believers) were considered by Jewish Christians to be 'outsiders' who could never be included in the church unless they followed Jewish laws and customs. This was a *very divisive* issue for many years in the early church.

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians reminds both groups that they are already reconciled by the life, the ministry, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we see in the quote above, **"He tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance."**

The questions that divided early churches were settled long ago, but churches continue to hotly contest issues of doctrine, morality, and more. Honest disagreement and dialogue are healthy; **hostility is not**. Whatever our differences, we dare not forget that we are made one by the cross of Christ.

We are not perfect. Our church is not perfect. We are a human institution that seeks to be open to God's guidance, God's spirit, God's grace, and God's love. But we are still human beings. We are not of one mind on all subjects. There are differing opinions present in every meeting, every conversation, and every time of worship. **We are richer because of this diversity!** I celebrate the many differing gifts that are present when we come together for mission, ministry, and worship.

But let us all receive and hear and digest the truth from Paul's letter to the Ephesians. We are all welcome and included and valued in this congregation because of our Lord Jesus Christ. Honest disagreement and dialogue are healthy; **HOSTILITY IS NOT!**

Today is a perfect opportunity to take this to heart and to enjoy the "Fresh start" that is God's gift to us all.

--Pastor Stephen Welch

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



∞ Stories of Hymns ∞

Perhaps some of you noticed that on June 19, 2022 that there were two music selections in the African-American tradition in honor of the Juneteenth holiday.

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 July 31. 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 Pastor Stephen who led our hymns on June 12 and Sophie Mattke on June 26. Thank you to Susie Krueger and Tom Rusch who accompanied hymns and provided the musical offerings during the month of June.

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

Meditation Group
Continues to meet Thursdays
6:30-7:00 p.m
In the Youth Room
Contact the church office to connect up.

Our first hymn was “In Christ There is no East or West” with the hymn tune MCKEE and text by John Oxenham. MCKEE is thought to have been an Irish tune that was brought to America and adapted by enslaved people to become the spiritual “I Know the Angels Done Changed My Name.” The tune MCKEE was later arranged and paired with the Oxenham text by African-American performer, composer and arranger, Henry Burleigh to create the hymn we sing. The original hymn (hymn tune-ST. PETER) is also in our hymnal, but the MCKEE tune is the more familiar to our congregation.

Burleigh came from a musical family and in 1894 was hired as a soloist for St. George’s Episcopal Church in New York City. His hiring was not without controversy in this (at the time) all white church. J.P. Morgan cast the deciding vote to hire him. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 1946. His musical work includes concert soloist, composing, editing music, arranging art songs and spirituals, but most importantly promoting spirituals through publications, lectures, and arrangements. His life-long advocacy of the spiritual became his most important legacy.

Our closing hymn was “I’m So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me” of which we have no additional information than it is an African-American Spiritual. For the most part, this simply means that this tune and text is in the original form that was passed down aurally and orally, and that there was no knowledge of the name of the original creator/s at the time of putting the spiritual into music notation.

These musicians contributed during the month of June: Susie Krueger, Jennie Ortega, and myself. Thank you for willingly sharing your gifts of time and talent.

Juanita Edington: c.920-988-2416/h.206-6111
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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.

Sunday, July 3 - In person service at 10 a.m. (Holy communion). Coffee Fellowship follows the service.

Sunday, July 10 – Celebrating the church birthday. In person service at 10 a.m. Special Coffee Fellowship follows the service.

Sunday, June 17 - In person service at 10 a.m. Coffee Fellowship follows the service.

Sunday, June 24 - In person service at 10 a.m. Coffee Fellowship follows the service.

Sunday, June 30 - In person service at 10 a.m. Coffee Fellowship follows the service.



From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

Melissa Mate

Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

mmattke@firstcongwtn.org 920-261-6213

josc.mom@hotmail.com 262-719-1383

H2O Youth Group

We have been having a lot of fun meeting together. We are still looking for donations for outdoor sporting activities! If you have anything, please let me know!

Our Whole Lives (OWL) program :On Tuesday, July 5th at 6-7:30, there will not be youth group. Instead, we will be having a parent orientation about the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program.



Bible Study 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 continue with the "Listen Up" series studying the book of Romans. Workbook materials are provided.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID 10 824 5679 1631

Passcode: 074171

BLOOD DRIVE

BLOOD CENTER OF WISCONSIN



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/schedule/s/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/](mailto:josc.mom@hotmail.com)

mmattke@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.

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 Health Center before coming back to the church for the archives.

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

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

Juanita Edington
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jaemusiclover@gmail.com



Partnering for Mission and Giving

Exciting Opportunity to Help Your Community!!

Jennifer Bakke and Jennifer Rhodes have teamed up to connect two amazing Watertown resources, **The Watertown Food Pantry**, located in Immanuel Lutheran Church and **The Bread Basket Food Pantry**, located in the YMCA building in Watertown. These two amazing local resources are working together to serve the people of Watertown to provide fresh food for individuals and families.

THE WATERTOWN FOOD PANTRY HOURS ARE:

Mondays 10 a.m.- 12 p.m., Tuesdays 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., Wednesdays 12 p.m. - 2 p.m., Thursdays 1 p.m.-- 3 p.m. and Fridays 10 a.m. -12 p.m.

THE BREAD BASKET HOURS ARE:

Mondays 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Fridays 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Bread Basket also does mobile food pantries to Marquardt Manor and other areas of town where people have a hard time with transportation.



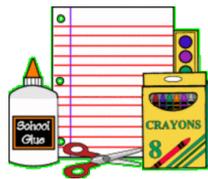
WE SEEK YOUR PARTICIPATION AND DONATION!! There are several ways to assist with this food insecurity mission.

- There is a shopping cart in the narthex with a list of items we will be collecting monthly. You are welcome to bring any food at any time but we will also have a targeted list of foods we want to focus on each month. All collected items will be split between the two pantries.
- *“You can donate monetarily by placing a check or cash donation in the offering plate using the **“Food Pantry + Bread Basket” envelopes** .*
“Make checks payable to “1st Cong UCC Watertown.” Any money collected will be use directly to serve the people who come to the food pantries. Again, the money will be split between the two pantries.
- If you are looking for a very fulfilling volunteer opportunity, extra hands are always welcome to stock shelves, unload the truck, organize and help on the days the pantries are open.

Many of us have been very blessed in our lives. God has called us to help others in need and this is a wonderful opportunity to help others!!! If you or someone you know needs help with food, please check out one of these pantries for assistance or talk with one of the Jennifer’s’.

Thank you for your help!!

Jennifer Bakke and Jennifer Rhodes



*S.O.S. (Support Our Students)

You can help students be ready to learn in September. Once

again we are participating with the Shared Community Mission's annual school supply distribution event (SOS).

DROP OFF BOXES: During July watch for sales and go shopping. Collection boxes are located in the narthex.

Needed items include: List is included below. There will be more specific item details later on but if you would like more information about helping with the project, our contact person is Denyce Derleth .

List of needed school supplies

Thanks for helping kids succeed in school !!!

1. Backpack
2. Simple inexpensive 4 function calculator
3. Scientific calculator
4. Crayons-set of 8 large
5. Crayons -set of 24
6. Washable markers-set of 8-10 bold colors
7. Markers set of 8-10 bold colors
8. School glue bottles
9. Glue sticks
10. Scissors
11. Ruler (preferably inches and centimeters)
12. Pencil box for elementary and 3 hole pencil bags for older kids
13. Large pink erasers
14. Standard #2 pencils
15. Set of 10-12 colored pencils
16. Dry erase markers (black and colors)
17. Highlighters
18. Protractor/compass
19. Post-it notes
20. Red pens
21. Black or blue pens
22. Composition books-both wide and college ruled
23. Index cards
24. Folders: plastic or laminated preferred, variety of two pocket and center clip styles (red, blue, yellow and green most requested)
25. Spiral notebooks-wide and college ruled (red, blue, yellow and green most requested)
26. Loose leaf filler paper-wide and college ruled
27. 1 inch wide and 2 inch- 3 ring binders
28. Dividers (5 or 10 tab) for three ring binders
29. Pencil Sharpeners (that catch the wood shavings)
30. Ear buds or head phones for computer use



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP IS HELD EVERY SUNDAY AFTER WORSHIP

Coffee, Tea, juice boxes and water are available as well as yummy treats. A Free Will offering helps defray costs, but volunteers are in great need. Barb Lottmann and Tracy Livermore will train/guide volunteers.

What VOLUNTEERS do:

"Bakers" - provide homemade or store bought treats. 2 dozen (cookies, bars, muffins....) prepackaged snacks are also provided.

"Servers" - make the coffee and set out the treats.

****Here is the link for the sign up.** Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA5A92DA1FFC70-fellowship>



LOOSE COINS FOR JULY

In July, all loose change in the offering plate will go towards **S.O.S (Support Our Students)***

Note: If you wish to contribute more than "coins in the plate", you can use a "Loose Coin Envelope" from the Narthex table and enclose the cash or check (made out to 1st. Cong UCC Wttn).



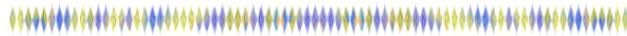
James Maas 07/01
 Gayle Johnson 07/01
 Ethel Willing 07/07
 Jeff Nicholas 07/08
 Emryn Milburn 07/11
 Mark Ulatowski 07/14
 Judy Draeger 07/18
 Isabelle Day 07/19
 Russell Ehnert 07/20
 Evan Chowanec 07/22
 Paige Driessen 07/25
 Calvin Edwards 07/25
 Hailey Zabel 07/27
 Ryan Scheunemann 07/27

Campfire & Trivia Night All Church Event:



On July 20th at 6:30 pm we will be having a fun campfire and trivia event. Come and enjoy conversation by the newly renovated campsite outside on the church property and test your knowledge of useless information with some fun challenges! Of course, there will be s'mores!!!

Remember to Bring a lawn chair!



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. We may be meeting in person in the future, and all are welcome to attend that as well. Regular attendance is not necessary. We just meet and chat about life...lots of laughs are also had!

Starting July 3rd, there will be a new link to join! Please let me know if you have any questions or comments or if you need some help with Zoom!

Here is the link to join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87871939725?pwd=TkUwdTdCRHINV3lv>

[MDJsOENXOVN0UT09](#)

Meeting ID: 878 7193 9725

Passcode: 339374



DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

July-August available

Upper Room and These Days devotional booklets are available in the narthex. You pick one up after church on Sundays OR you can stop by and pick one up during the week (please call ahead.)

Peace and grace, Laurel W Bentz

Financial Report from the Trustees – As of May 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
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
May	\$18,513	\$16,772	\$19,426	\$17,786	\$19,343	\$16,742	\$1,044	-\$6,049

July 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LOOSE COIN: SOS Support our Students School supply drive					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 10 a.m. – Morning Chat ZOOM
3 Communion Sunday 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	4 Office Closed	5 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 11 AM - STAFF MEETS 6-7:30 p.m. –Parents of Youth – OWL orientation meeting	6	7 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
10 Church Birthday 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP - Baptism Coffee Fellowship 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	11 SCRIPS orders due	12 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. –Youth Group	13	14 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
17 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP - Baptism Coffee Fellowship 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	18	19 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. –Youth Group 6:30, COUNCIL	20 FELLOWSHIP EVENT 6:30pm: Campfire/Trivia Night	21 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	23 OFFICE CLOSED	23 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
24 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	25	26 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. –Youth Group	27	28 1-6 p.m. BLOOD DRIVE 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 PRIDEFEST NOON-4:00 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
31 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast						