

The Hilltop Chimes

August 2022

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

Contact Information:
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From the Pastor's Desk:

How do I begin? How can I possibly find the right words to express my thanks for all our years together? This is the last time for me to share a message in the Hilltop Chimes before my retirement on August 21st. What words can adequately express my thanks and my deep appreciation and my indebtedness for ALL the care and support you have shared with me over the last 23 months? (Not to mention the three years we shared in 2015-2018)

The word "Interim" implies a short relationship. An "Interim Pastor" just fills in for a short time and has no lasting effect. **WRONG! Not true!**

You **ALL** have had a **deep and lasting impact** upon my life. You have provided pastoral care to the pastor. You have hugged me, helped me, guided me, listened to me, and made it possible for me to continue as your designated interim pastor for as long as I could.

Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (from the Message, slightly adapted) *"Every time I think of you, I thank God for you. Day and night you are in my prayers as I call to mind your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ, before God our Father. It is clear to me, friends, that God not only loves you very much but also has put his hand on you for something special."*

This church family is **incredibly special to me and to this community**. I intend to maintain my church membership here at First Congregational UCC, Watertown. There are rules that require me to stay away for a while so that I will not be a distraction to the new pastor. I will fulfill those rules. But I look forward to when we can be together again in worship and witness and mission.

In retirement I will no longer be serving in a pastoral role. No more funerals. No more weddings. No more baptisms. No more Sunday morning "supply" preaching. I am not able to serve in those ways any longer. But my deep appreciation to **all** of you is **life-long**. It will never end. Thank you. God bless you all.

—Pastor Stephen, Interim Minister

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, August 7 - In person service at 10 a.m. (Holy communion). Coffee Fellowship follows the service.

Sunday, August 14 - In person service at 10 a.m. Coffee Fellowship follows the service.

Sunday, August 21 - In person service at 10 a.m. "Farewell Service" – Rev. Stephen Retires from ministry. A special Coffee Fellowship follows the service.

Sunday, August 28 - In person service at 10 a.m. We welcome Rev. Dr. Bob Gross as Interim Minister. Coffee Fellowship follows the service.

The Profile Creation Committee Completes Task

The Committee has finished an eight-month journey of writing a profile to attract a new pastor.

The members signed off on July 27. The completed document will be forwarded to the conference to be put on the UCC Ministry Opportunities page, and the search committee will continue the work in finding our new facilitator/leader.

Some observations about our time together:

- We met every week or every other week (except in March and April, when people were interviewed or filled out surveys).
- It was sometimes two steps forward and one step back. However, the “one step back” was always a positive learning experience.
- We have used the interviews and surveys to complete an entirely honest look at the church as we are, pandemic and all!

Several copies of the Profile will soon be produced and will be available in the narthex.

So many thanks to the members of the committee. Thanks to Rob Harms, Barb Lottmann, and Fran Milburn. Rob’s sense of the Conference and our history added greatly to a coherent and focused document. Barb gave us valid support as a newer member of the congregation. Fran’s optimism gave us hope for what our church may someday be.

Special thanks go to Jennifer Bakke as our secretary whose continued energy, knowledge, and perseverance made the document well-edited, honest, and complete.

Thanks also go to others who helped to fill in some of the blanks: Laurel Bentz, Sue Padron, Melissa Mattke, and Pastor Stephen Welch.

I have enjoyed organizing meetings and developing strategies to approach the completion of the document. I am grateful that we produced a document that will not only be used as a tool to find a new pastor, but also as a reference as we grow in the future.

--Tom Rusch



Juanita Edington

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We continue 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. 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 Sophie Mattke** for leading our hymns on July 31. Thank you to Susie Krueger who accompanied hymns and provided the musical offerings during the month of July.

Are we ready to reconvene our choir/s?

I’m looking to know whether you have interest to resume/start singing in choir (any age). Please let me know either a yes or no by talking to me in person or contacting me via email, text or phone. Previously, the schedule was Sr. Choir (high school age/adult) rehearsals at 9:00 on Sunday mornings, and there was both a cherub (K-3rd grade) and a youth (4th-8th grade) choir offered on Wednesday.

After a two-year break, we may have to make some adjustments. Once I can gauge interest, I can get a schedule going, but my intention would be to resume rehearsal in September.

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 July.

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

Thanks, Juanita Edington:



Bible Study continues....

Our group continues to meet on ZOOM at 9am on Tuesdays. We have wonderful conversations. We are studying Part 2 of Romans and the study book is available at no cost just call Melissa. We plan to continue meeting into the fall.

Join our ZOOM meeting using the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82456791631?pwd=S0M5R3RCS3dkcFJaODVQUHBWQ0Yvdz09>

Meeting ID: 824 5679 1631 Passcode: 074171

From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries



Melissa Mattke

Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

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Sunday School and Plans are in the works for our Fall Programming! New Bible Stories and activities are being planned for some extra fun learning! I cannot wait to start the school year! Watch your emails for more details!

H2O Youth Group We will continue to meet in person. Starting August 7th We are changing our scheduled time to Sunday 11:15-12:45 pm. We will be starting the Our Whole Lives Program. Watch your email for the exact timing of this time/date change.



Summer Fun at Church

Wednesday, August 24th

Come join us for an array of art! There will be many different supplies and crafts for you to design your own project(s). We will provide the materials, you provide the imagination and creativity. Of course, there will be snacks and fun. See you August 24th at 630pm in Fellowship Hall.



Our turn to Help:
Thursday August 11
From 3:45-6:30



The dinner, Spaghetti Dinner, is served as a drive through and is prepared by Immanuel ELCA .

1. 7-9 volunteers are needed to help
2. In addition, we are asked to provide salads and cookies/bars for dessert for 225 meals.

Sign up is on the Narthex Table, further details will be shared as the date gets closer.



Wednesday, July 20th Campfire & Trivia Night.

Folks gathered around the newly renovated campfire site outside on the church property. It was a lovely evening for s'mores (made with peanut butter cups or chocolate). No official report on any mosquito bites at the time of this printing.



Everyone showed off their knowledge of some useless trivia!



Dale taught everyone how to patiently roast the perfect marshmallow!

** thanks to Reed Larson and Tom Derleth for "refreshing" the picnic table and putting in place by the fire pit.



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.

All are welcome to attend and regular attendance is not necessary. We just meet and chat about life...lots of laughs are also had!

Here is the link to join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87871939725?pwd=TKUwdTdCRHINV3lvMDJsOENXOVNoUT09>
Meeting ID: 878 7193 9725
Passcode: 339374

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>

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 Marquart 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 ANYTIME 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



Distribution:

Parking lot @St Henry Parish Center,
300 East Cady Street
Tuesday, August 16
Wednesday, August 17.

Register:

Register to receive school supplies:

Monday, August 1 through Friday, August 12, at:

Churches:

Christ United Methodist Church, Ebenezer and Watertown Moravian Church, St. Bernard and St. Henry Catholic Churches, First Congregational-UCC, First Baptist Church, River City Church, River Valley Alliance Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Immanuel Lutheran Church and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

Programs:

Summer Sandwiches in the Park:

Tuesdays at 11:30 - 12:30 at Clark Park

Wednesdays at 11:30 -12:30 at Riverside Park

Fridays at 11:30 -12:30 at Timothy Johnson Park
Watertown Food Pantry and PEP at Immanuel ELCA

Community Laundry Program at Easy Wash on 3rd street Tuesday mornings

Fishes and Loaves (Monday evening) at Watertown Moravian

Mary's Room at St. Paul's Episcopal Church



MONARCH ON PURPLE CONEFLOWER
Jan Sanders Butterfly Garden

August Birthdays

08/01	Pamela Blaszak	08/15	Elcie Milburn
08/03	Pastor Stephen Welch	08/16	Nicholas Milburn
08/05	Diane Scheunemann	08/16	Derek Rowedder
08/05	Cooper Wood	08/17	Robert Schmutzler
08/06	Brian Cowan	08/20	Doris Ehnert
08/08	Deanna Perschke	08/21	Shawna Hyde
08/09	William Edington	08/22	Rick Scheunemann
08/10	Robert Harms	08/22	Eliza Zabel
08/11	Aron Chowanec	08/24	Norman Hurtubise
08/14	Lauren Behlke	08/24	Jim Ortega
08/15	Lynda Eicher	08/24	Royal Pauli
08/15	Eric Ninmann	08/30	Nicholas Maas



Book of Life

- † **Died:** *Doris Ehnert* passed away surrounded by her family on Sunday July 10, 2022. A funeral was held in our sanctuary July 16, 2022 and Rev. Stephen Welch officiated.
- 🐚 **Baptism:** *Tracy Livermore's granddaughter, Amorilee Ann Livermore*, was baptized in our sanctuary on Sunday, July 10, 2022 during our worship service. Pastor Stephen officiated. She was born May 6, 2022.
- 🐚 **Baptism:** *Charlotte (Charly) Rae Ladwig* was baptized in our sanctuary on Sunday, July 17, 2022 Pastor Stephen officiated. Her parents are Melissa Mattke and Bobbie Ladwig.

Financial Report from the Trustees – As of June 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
May	\$18,513	\$16,772	\$19,426	\$17,786	\$19,343	\$16,742	\$1,044	-\$6,049
June	\$18,513	\$17,848	\$19,426	\$19,700	\$19,343	\$25,913	-\$6,213	-\$12,262

August 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 11 AM - STAFF MEETS	4 4:00, Gingerbread Board meets	5 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
7 Communion Sunday 10:00 - WORSHIP Chris Brauschweig Recognition Coffee Fellowship 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	8 SCRIPS orders due	9 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	10 DEADLINE FOR SOS Support Our Students Drop Off	11 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast BREAD & ROSES 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
14 10:00 - WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship TBD 11:15-12:45 Youth Group 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	15 6:30 pm, TRUSTEES **Setup/Assembly of SOS packs At St. Henry's	16 9am – ZOOM Bible Study SOS Distribution at St. Henry's Parish Center	17 SOS Distribution at St. Henry's Parish Center	18 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
21 10:00 - WORSHIP Pastor Stephen Farewell Coffee Fellowship TBD 11:15-12:45 Youth Group 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	22	23 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6:30 pm, COUNCIL	24 FELLOWSHIP EVENT 6:30pm: ART Night	25 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
28 10:00 - WORSHIP Welcome Rev Bob Gross Coffee Fellowship TBD 11:15-12:45 Youth Group 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	29	30 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	31			