

The Hilltop Chimes

October 2022

Photo by Ludovic Charlet on Unsplash

First Congregational United Church of Christ
120 Kuckkan Lane Watertown, WI 53094
Rev. Dr. Bob Gross, Interim Pastor

Contact Information:
Phone/Fax: 920-261-6213
Pastor's email: bgross@firstcongwttn.org



From the Pastor's Desk

I am writing to invite you to participate in a Cottage Meeting.

What are they? Cottage Meetings are informal gatherings, often in the homes of members, where we engage in meaningful

conversation about our common life at First Congregational Church.

Why have them? There are several reasons for gathering in Cottage Meetings. Among them are:

- As your Interim Minister, it will be an opportunity for us to get to know each other.
- It's an opportunity for us to rebuild the community that has been under strain for the last couple of years due to Covid and pastoral transitions.
- They will allow us the opportunity to focus on who we are as a congregation and be better prepared for our next settled Pastor when that person arrives.
- They will help your Search Committee as they prepare to interview prospective Pastors.

What happens at a Cottage Meeting? It starts with a member offering to host a gathering. Then they bring together a group 6-8 people, including myself and a recorder. (We will have sign-up sheets in the narthex for you to offer to host or attend a meeting.)

I will offer a few questions to serve as conversation starters and you share your experiences of involvement, growth, and

vision for the future of the congregation. No preparation necessary. I will then compile your answers and share an overview here and a more detailed, yet anonymous, report to your Search Committee.

Will you host a Cottage Meeting at home?
Daytime or evening? Will you attend?

Contact me email: bgross@firstcongwttn.org.

I look forward to our conversation.

--Pastor Bob, Interim Minister

Join Us in Person for Worship
10 am, with Coffee Fellowship following
on the first and third Sunday of the month.

What do our prayers say about our faith? During the month of October, I will offer a sermon series titled, "Four Prayers that Don't Work." Based on texts from the Gospel of Luke, these sermons will each address some fundamental aspect of prayer, empowering us to speak to God more boldly and more honestly. Fear of "praying wrong" keeps some people from praying at all, but Luke shows us that prayer is ultimately a way of practicing dependence on God.

Sunday, October 2 – The Prayer for Enough Faith to Have No Need for Faith, with Holy Communion.

Sunday, October 9 – The Prayer That You Didn't Pray.

Sunday, October 16 – The Prayer That Quits

Sunday, October 23 – The Prayer of Comparison

Sunday, October 30 – Reformation Sunday



Juanita Edington:
c.920-988-2416/h.206-6111
jaemusiclover@gmail.com
Notes from the Music Director

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

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 Susie Krueger and the 1st Brigade Band, who accompanied hymns and provided the musical offerings during the month of September.

SENIOR CHOIR HAS RECONVENED!!!

If you like to sing and wish to help rebuild our choir, we are meeting weekly at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays. Right now, we practice singing the harmony parts for the hymns of the day, reconnecting, and plan to incorporate some anthems soon.



We were blessed to have the 1st Brigade Band (who now reside in our former church building on S. Fourth St.) lead us in a historic Service of Hymns. They led our congregational singing, provided preludes, postlude, and shared a variety of instrumental and vocalist renditions of many classic hymns, interspersed with information about the lyrics and music. This was followed by a lasagna luncheon, which featured Kate and Kevin Driessen’s “famous lasagna” and a wide array of salads, garlic bread, and desserts, provided by church members.

It was a wonderful way to celebrate the 177th year of our founding. If you did not get a chance to watch and listen to the service you can find it on our Facebook page, the church’s website, or follow this link:

<https://vimeo.com/751065266>



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP IS HELD EVERY SUNDAY AFTER COFFEE HOUR - REVISED SCHEDULE

Coffee hours are held the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

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

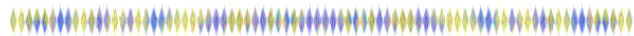
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AA5A92DA1FFC70-fellowship>



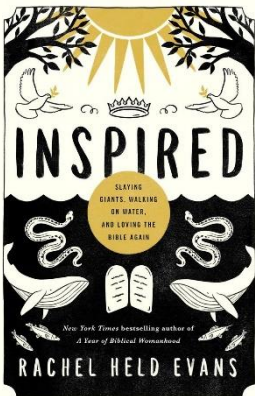
The Confirmation Experience!

Confirmation is an important time in the life of faith. It's when we affirm the promises made for us at our baptism and claim them as our own. The Confirmation Experience is more than a class. It's a time for examination of a Confirmand's faith experience, an exploration of areas for ongoing spiritual growth, along with a lot of community building fun as they prepare for Confirmation.

We'll gather on **Wednesday evenings, 6-7:30 pm**, at the church, starting on **October 19**. (There will be snacks!) The experience is open to youth in the seventh grade or above. Please contact Pastor Bob, bgross@FirstCongWtnn.org, to let him know you'll be part of the journey.



Rachel Held Evans - Book Study



We are starting a new Book on October 4th. The book is called "Inspired", by Rachel Held Evans. Study materials are on the Narthex table.

The group meets on Zoom Tuesday mornings at 9am. Please feel free to join us at any time!

Here is the link to join:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82456791631?pwd=S0M5R3RCS3dkcFJaODVQUHBWQ0Yvdz09>

Meeting ID: 824 5679 1631
Passcode: 074171



Teachers Holly Knopp and Jennifer Kopecky shepherding the children from the play area.

Gingerbread Preschool & Childcare

Gingerbread is slowly increasing its enrollment and we have quite a few 2-year-olds! All are new to "school" but are slowly learning the routine. We are learning about friendships and have started a new theme about "the Farm".

We would love to have some of you come read to us or sing a song with us! Just contact Melissa in the Gingerbread office!

Gingerbread Phone: 920-261-9727
Email: gbchildcare120@gmail.com
Website: www.gingerbreadchildcare.com



CPR CLASS OFFERED BY GINGERBREAD

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

Gingerbread staff is required to take a CPR/AED class and we would like to offer this opportunity to church members to join the class.

The cost is \$30. It will be held in Fellowship Hall on **November 15, 5:30 pm-8:00pm**. Contact Melissa to attend so the instructor will know how many people to expect.

Gingerbread Administrator/Director
Gingerbread Phone: 920-261-9727
Email: gbchildcare120@gmail.com

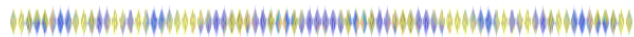


UNDIES SUNDAY IN OCTOBER

Back by popular demand for over 17 years!
...Undies Sundays are in October ! Once again, our church holds this special drive to collect packages of new underwear and socks for kids in our local grade schools.

Sometimes children come to school without spare underwear and socks. The schools are so grateful for the donations we deliver. All children’s sizes are welcome!

Let’s fill the Undies Collection Cart in the narthex.
--Denyce Derleth, contact person.



KOATS FOR KIDS (AND ADULTS)

What: New or gently used coats, scarves, mittens, gloves, snow pants

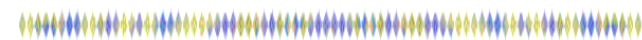
Where: Drop Off at church Sunday mornings, or at the Office M-TH 10-4:00.

When: Starting October 1st.

LEARN MORE about this annual collection

visit: <https://www.cacscw.org/koats-for-kids/>

Jennifer Rhodes at 920-296-1378
Chair of First Congregational Church's
"Coats for Kids" Campaign



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 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.

Thank you for your help!!

Jennifer Bakke and Jennifer Rhodes

LOOSE COIN OFFERINGS

August : the Bread Basket \$26

September: Watertown Humane Society \$33

October: Neighbors in Need (UCC)

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).



From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

Sunday School:

I'm excited to announce the start of Sunday School for the 2022-2023 school year! I'm thrilled that we are offering two opportunities for your child to participate.

The first will be an online option on Zoom. It will begin at 9 am and wrap up around 9:30-9:45 am. I will send home materials that we will work through together during our Zoom Time! Here is the link for the **Zoom Sunday School**:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87325960866?pwd=Y S92UVN6MnR2RUFGdk01QUd4Rzl0dz09>

Meeting ID: 873 2596 0866

Passcode: 559333

The second option will be In Person Sunday School.

We will gather with everyone for worship at 10 am, and then depart for Sunday School after Family time!

We will start with these two parallel tracks and continue to evaluate the situation depending on the needs of families as evidenced by your participation.

OPENING DAY will be October 9th! We will have a little celebration in Fellowship Hall after worship with a few snacks. Please join us, at 9 am on Zoom, or 10 am in worship, as we kick off a new year of Sunday School!

Please register to indicate your intent. Here is a link to the registration form!

<https://forms.gle/kiZuSmomgXJm6Aex7>

If you are interested in helping with the in-person teaching, contact Melissa Mattke

Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries
mmattke@firstcongwtn.org 920-261-6213
josc.mom@hotmail.com 262-719-1383

H2O Youth Group

Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

Youth Group OUR WHOLE LIVES

We have started our OWL program! Our Whole Lives is human sexuality and our faith collaboration that was created by the UCC and Unitarian faith leaders. I have taken several hours of training in the 7th-12th grade levels as well as several hours of the adult age level training.

We are running the program currently with members of the youth group. There are many different aspects of this program.

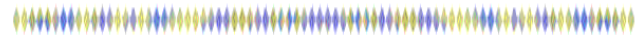
Tuesdays 6:00-7:30 Youth Group.

Eating, chatting, games and laughs. We will start at 6pm and end at 7:30pm.

Contact Melissa: Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

mmattke@firstcongwtn.org 920-261-6213

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



Neighbors In Need (NIN)

During October we will collect Neighbors in Need offering. **Special Offering Envelopes are available at church.**

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice

For more extensive information about Neighbors In Need or the NIN grant process, visit the [NIN homepage](#) or email nin@ucc.org.

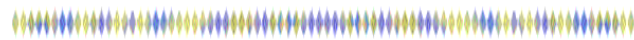


October Birthdays

Jeffrey Pauli 10/01
 Jennie Ortega 10/02
 Zachary Fuchs 10/02
 Lexy Davis 10/02
 William Lamp 10/02
 Greg Kulick 10/03
 John Welbourne 10/03

Rob Rowedder 10/04
 Dan Winkelman 10/06
 Dianna Stai 10/07
 Molly Ryan 10/09
 Stacy Winkelman 10/10
 Louise Lemke 10/11
 Bruce Bentz 10/11
 Jack Mattke 10/12
 Andrew Behlke 10/13
 Ayden Kulick 10/15
 Clarence Zabel III 10/15

Irene Neitzel 10/15
 Easton Schumacher 10/16
 Camie Wood 10/18
 Roger Martin 10/19
 Mari Ulatowski 10/21
 Joseph Schumacher 10/21
 Janet Stangler 10/21
 Cheryl Rowedder 10/25



Book of Life

- ✝ **Died:** *Emmy Gylacki*, Josie Mack's mother, passed away on Tuesday, September 6, 2022-
- ✝ **Died:** *Marian Carlson*, a member for over 75 years, passed away on Friday, September 9, 2022
- ✝ **Died:** *Emily Pantely*, Vivian Howard's sister in law passed away on Wednesday, September 14, 2022

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:

We have Upper Room & These Days devotional booklets for October -November on hand that you can pick the up at church.. Call me at church 920-261-6213 or email me at lbentz@firstcongwttn.org

Peace and grace, Laurel W Bentz

Financial Report from the Trustees – As of August 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
June	\$18,513	\$17,848	\$19,426	\$19,700	\$19,343	\$25,913	-\$6,213	-\$12,262
July	\$18,513	\$19,410	\$19,426	\$19,688	\$19,343	\$23,595	-\$3,907	-\$16,169
August	\$18,513	\$15,846	\$19,426	\$15,933	\$19,343	\$20,195	-\$4,262	-\$20,431

October 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Loose Coin: Neighbors in Need Ucc (see page 5) Food Pantry Theme: Mashed Potatoes/Mac & Cheese						1 9 a.m.-3 p.m: Rev. Sara Rabe workshop in Fellowship Hall
2 Communion Sunday 9 a.m. Choir; ZOOM Sunday School 10:00 - WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship - SCRIPS 11:30-1:00 OWL Youth Group	3	4 9am –ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 Youth Group	5	6 10am – Cable TV Broadcast 4pm – Prayer Requests Due 5pm – Cable TV Broadcast	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
9 9 a.m. Choir; ZOOM Sunday School 10:00 – WORSHIP and In Person Sunday School 11:30-1:00 OWL Youth Group	10 6:30 pm, TRUSTEES TBD	11 9am –ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 Youth Group	12	13 4pm - Prayer Requests Due Gingerbread Board meets: TBD 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15 10 a.m. ZOOM Morning Chat Group
16 9 a.m. Choir; ZOOM Sunday School 10:00 – WORSHIP and In Person Sunday School Coffee Fellowship – SCRIPS 11:15, Cottage meeting 11:30-1:00 OWL Youth Group	17	18 9am –ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 Youth Group 6:30, Church Council	19 Confirmation 6-7:30 p.m.	20 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-8:00, Cottage meeting	221 OFFICE CLOSED	22 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
23 9 a.m. Choir; ZOOM Sunday School 10:00 – WORSHIP and In Person Sunday School 11:30-1:00 OWL Youth Group	24	25 9am –ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 Youth Group	26 Confirmation 6-7:30 p.m.	27	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
30 9 a.m. Choir; ZOOM Sunday School 10:00 – WORSHIP and In Person Sunday School 11:30-1:00 OWL Youth Group	31	Watertown Community Cable broadcasts our worship: Sundays: 6:00 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.				