

The Hilltop Chimes

September 2022

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

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



From the Pastor's Desk

First Congregational United Church of Christ is a vital congregation engaged in ministry within Watertown and beyond. I'm excited to have this opportunity to minister with you

during this interim. I look forward to getting to know each of you.

I came to Watertown from an interim position at Grace Congregational United Church of Christ in Two Rivers, WI after serving for six years as Senior Pastor at Evangelical & Reformed United Church of Christ in Waukesha.

Prior to Wisconsin, I served two congregations in Ohio, and have been on the staff of three other congregations in the New York City area.

I'm a Brooklyn, NY native, and a U.S. Navy veteran. I've earned an Associate of Arts degree at Queensborough Community College, a Bachelor of Arts degree from York College, a Master of Divinity degree from New York Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Chicago Theological Seminary.

I currently serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Conference, UCC, on the Church & Ministry team of the Southeast Association, UCC and as the Abbot of the Order of Corpus Christi, a community of clergy and laity committed to common prayer and study.

My wife, Mary, and I have been married for 28 years. We live in Waukesha and are the proud parents of Sarah, 21, a senior at Elmhurst University, and Daniel, 18, a high school senior at the Kradwell School.

When people ask me about First Congregational, I say, "Don't let the small size fool you. This is a strong, vital congregation committed to welcoming everyone."

--Pastor Bob, Interim Minister

Join Us in Person for Worship 10 am, with Coffee Fellowship following

This time of year is often a time of renewal, especially for those with school-age children. Even for those of us who haven't set foot in a classroom this century, it can be a time for reinvention and renewal, getting back to routine after a more relaxed summer. In very personal letters to fellow followers of Jesus, Paul outlines some of the most practical transformations that occur in the life of a disciple, ranging from the reconciliation of broken relationships, to finding peace in a world bent on possession. Christ is making all things new, even us. As summer gives way to fall, I invite you to join us for RE:boot worship and make a new start.

Sunday, September 4 - "RE:concile Relationships, with Holy Communion

Sunday, September 11 - "RE:imagine Regret

Sunday, September 18 - Worship with the First Brigade Band

Sunday, September 25 - RE:think Happiness



Bible Study continues....

We are continuing to meet on Zoom Tuesday mornings at 9am. Please feel free to join us at any time! We are starting to work our way through the book of Romans. I would like to start other Adult Education classes, if anyone has any suggestions, please let me know!

Join our ZOOM meeting using the link below.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82456791631?pwd=50M5R3RCS3dkcFJaODVQUHBWQ0Yvdz09>

Meeting ID: 824 5679 1631 Passcode: 074171

Sunday, September 18 – Celebration
The First Brigade Band in Worship
Celebrating 177 years of our church with
music and food.

10 a.m. – Worship with the Brigade Band.
11:00 – Lasagna Pot Luck Lunch in Fellowship Hall.
**Sign up to RSVP and let us know if you are able
to provide : Garlic Bread, Side Dish or
Dessert)
Contact person: Laurel lbentz@firstcontwtn.org

Saturday Morning Fellowship:

Every week on Sat at 10am join in Morning Fellowship for some chat time (and enjoy seeing church family and friends.) Regular attendance is not necessary. We just meet and chat about life...lots of laughs are also had! In addition, **In person** Coffee Fellowship will take place after worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays!

Here is the link to join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87871939725?pwd=TkUwdTdCRHINV3lvMDJsOENXOVNoUT09>
Meeting ID: 878 7193 9725 Passcode: 339374

Versiti Blood Drive BLOOD CENTER OF WISCONSIN

Thursday, September 30

The blood drive will be held on **Thursday, Sept. 29th 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 May 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@firstcongwttn.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 Dale Bakke, Bill Edington, and Melissa Mattke who recorded during August.

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

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



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 who accompanied hymns and provided the musical offerings during the month of August.

Are we ready to reconvene our choir/s?

I heard from several of our adult choir members and even though September will be a complicated month for me to dive full speed into choir, I would like to meet at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 11 to practice part singing of the hymns for the day, reconnect, and discuss our options with those in attendance. Please plan that we will schedule week to week for a little while and that we will focus more on getting back into singing together as a group more than preparing anthems for church in the short run.

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

A big Thank you to Joyce Uglow who tackled the Bull Thistle the other day and began weeding the rest of the Gaston Flower Garden right outside the entrance to the church. Reed Larson was on hand to haul the pesky weeds away.

FYI 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)

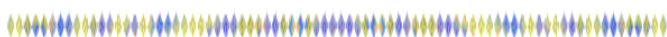


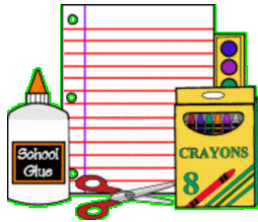
DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:

We have Upper Room & These Days devotional booklets for September-October on hand that you can pick the up at church. .

Call me at church 920-261-6213 or email me at lbentz@firstcongwtn.org

Peace and grace, Laurel W Bentz





SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS

Thanks to you, SOS was again a great success. We had estimated a 20% increase in numbers due to greater need this year. We actually served 147 families and 387 children. This was an increase of 66 children for 2022. So to estimate how many items would be needed we added the number of collected items each week to a spreadsheet. As the time grew closer to the distribution we used donated money to buy multiple items to meet our goals. (We were all out looking for the lowest price to make your donations go farther).

On Monday boxes and boxes of school supplies are piled up in the middle of St. Henry's gym. Volunteers then sorted, inventoried and packed donated supplies into grade level specific bags for each child, then added those to a larger bag for each preregistered family. Families then drove or walked through St. Henry's playground to pick up their bag. The colorful backpacks were hung on the fence so each child could pick a favorite.

A bag of food items from the Watertown Food Pantry was provided and each child could pick a book from the Books to Grow on Program sponsored by Christ United Methodist Church.

Extra school supplies were then delivered to local schools: Lincoln, Schurz, Douglas, Webster and Lebanon elementary Watertown Catholic Schools, Good Shepherd Lutheran and Riverside Middle School for children who come to school without all the needed materials.

-Denyce Derleth

Our church contributed many supplies and over \$450.

LOOSE COIN OFFERINGS

In July: S.O.S (Support Our Students) Over \$450

August : the Bread Basket \$26

September: Watertown Humane Society

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).



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

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.

- 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

Gingerbread Opens!

Gingerbread Preschool and Childcare Center is ready to open with a full staff and we are starting to fill the classrooms. We have made many exciting changes and upgrades. We are still enrolling ages 2 and up, so if you know anyone that is looking for a preschool or child care, please pass on our information!

Thank you to Rob Harms for the banner outside!!

Our website is www.gingerbreadchildcare.com

If you are interested in coming to read to the children or wanting to volunteer or donate anything, please feel free to reach out! Thank you for your continued support.

Melissa Mattke-administrator/director





From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

Sunday School:

We are looking forward to the start of Sunday School. Exciting news! We will be doing both Zoom and in person!! At 9am we will be having Zoom Sunday School and after Family Time during the service we will leave the sanctuary and have in person! You are welcome to choose one option or do both!

This programming will start on October 9th. We will stay in the service on Communion Sundays, so there will only be Zoom on the first Sunday of the month. Watch the October Chimes and your email for the Zoom link!!

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Youth Group:

We will be meeting on Tuesday evenings for our “regular” youth group times! Eating, chatting, games and laughs. We will start at 6pm and end at 7:30pm. On Sundays we will meet at 11:30am and end at 1:00pm and we will be running the Our Whole Lives program. The OWL program will start **on September 25th!** There are several things happening after church on the Sundays before this, so our **the 25th is starting day!!! The Tuesday nights are continuing to happen without interruption!**

Melissa Mattke

Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

mmattke@firstcongwtn.org 920-261-6213

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

Your Interim Church Council
Invites you to a workshop with
Pastor Sara Rabe
Saturday, October 1st -
9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
In Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Sara will help us begin our governance discussions as we look to rewrite our constitution.

9a.m.: Coffee, Juice, pastry
provided.

Morning sessions.

Noon: bring a bag lunch,
beverages will be provided

3 p.m. – Afternoon session close with
prayer.

Watch for further details as the date approaches
and direct questions to Dale Bakke.



September Birthdays

09/01	Colette Kuehl
09/02	Karla Bakke
09/04	Carol Yager
09/05	Kristin Chowanec
09/06	Lori Schwager
09/09	Norm Uglow
09/17	Nick Uglow
09/18	Keegan Behlke
09/19	Kendra Ninmann
09/20	Dale Bakke
09/20	Owen Behlke
09/22	Daryll Boettcher
09/23	Josie Mack
09/23	Tyler Chowanec
09/24	Constance Swenson
09/25	Reed Larson
09/25	Carlee Winkelman
09/26	Dave Ninmann
09/27	Alexia Asher
09/30	Jennifer Rhodes
09/30	Brody Wood

Book of Life



Baptism: *Kylie Kulick*, daughter of Jill and Greg Kulick, was baptized in our sanctuary on Monday, August 15, 2022. Pastor Stephen officiated; Melissa Mattke and Laurel Bentz were in attendance.



Baptism: *Collin Kulick*, son of Jill and Greg Kulick, was baptized in our sanctuary on Monday, August 15, 2022. Pastor Stephen officiated; Melissa Mattke and Laurel Bentz were in attendance.



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

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

Sept. 4th Bakers needed

Sept. 18th – Brigand Band/Luncheon. No coffee hour.

October 2nd Bakers needed

October 16th – Bakers needed



****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>

Financial Report from the Trustees – As of July 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

September 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
4 Communion Sunday 10:00 - WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship 9 a.m. ZOOM Sunday School 11:30-1:00 Youth Group 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	5 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	6 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 11 am – Staff meets 6-7:30 Youth Group	7	8 10am – Cable TV Broadcast 4pm – Prayer Requests Due 5pm – Cable TV Broadcast	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
11 10:00 - WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship 9 a.m. ZOOM Sunday School 11:30-1:00 Youth Group 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	12 4:00, Gingerbread Board meets 6:30 pm, TRUSTEES TBD	13 9am – ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 Youth Group	14	15 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
18 10:00 - WORSHIP With First Brigade Band. Church Luncheon 9 a.m. ZOOM Sunday School 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	19	20 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6-7:30 Youth Group	21	22 4pm - Prayer Requests Due 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM
25 10:00 - WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship 9 a.m. ZOOM Sunday School 11:30-1:00 Youth Group (OWL) 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	26 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE NOON	27 9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6:30 pm, COUNCIL 6-7:30 Youth Group	28 12:00, Clergy Roundtable here.	29 BLOOD DRIVE 1-6:00 in Fellowship Hall	30	

