

The Hilltop Chimes

November 2022

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@firstcongwtn.org

Looking ahead...

Daylight Savings Ends Sunday, Nov 6th
...turn your clocks back 1 hour.

Christmas Eve, Saturday Dec 24th 4:00 p.m.
Candlelight service with Holy Communion.

Christmas Day, Sunday Dec 25th There will be NO worship service held.

From the Pastor's Desk,



The month of November with our annual **Totenfest** as we celebrate the feast of **All Saints, on November 6**. We will remember and give thanks for all who have died and, through faith, now rest with God. We appreciate all that they have been to us, and how they helped form us

into the people we are today. We celebrate members of this congregation who have shared of their lives to build the church community we call home. First Congregational Church stands today, a holy place of radical welcome and a springboard for ministry in Watertown and beyond. By their example, they have taught us what it means to be a loving, caring Christian, committed to doing God's work through the church.

Now, it's our turn to leave a legacy that others may follow. On Sunday, **November 13, Consecration Sunday**, we will celebrate a Harvest of Love as we gather our commitments to God's ministry in this place. In addition to your financial pledges to the church, you will be asked to complete a Time and Talent Survey. Please take the time to prayerfully

consider how you will contribute of your time, your talent, and your treasure. Most of all, I hope you will be present that day. Just being here is a gift.

On **November 20, Thanksgiving Sunday**, we will celebrate the Reign of Christ as we offer our sincere gratitude to God for all the blessings we enjoy.

November 27 is the First Sunday of Advent. I will begin a worship series titled, *Angels Among Us*. It will focus on the angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth. They would have been very comfortable in our world of tweets and hashtags. Their messages were often short and to the point — their favorite line being #DoNotBeAfraid. As we look at the stories of these winged messengers to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds and their reactions to them, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear and bring **#morehope**, **#morepeace**, **#morejoy**, and **#morelove** to the world.

Our worship participation is on the rise. Will you join the trend?

--Pastor Bob, Interim Minister



Wing Night

You are invited to join our Confirmands for a potluck supper and craft night on November 9 at 6 pm.
RSVP to the church office.



Juanita Edington
 c.920-988-2416/h.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. 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!

We are saddened by the recent loss of our long-standing church keyboardist and choir accompanist, Susie Krueger. She brought such talent and joy to our services throughout her years serving our congregation. Thank you to Zach Jones, Tom Rusch, and Sue Weihert, who accompanied hymns and provided the musical offerings during the month of October during Susie's absence and ultimate passing.

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. You are welcome to join us at any time. Right now, we practice singing the harmony parts for the hymns of the day, reconnecting, and plan to incorporate some anthems soon.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:

We have Upper Room & These Days devotional booklets for November-January that you can pick the up at church.. Call me at church 920-261-6213 or email me at lbentz@firstcongwtnn.org
 Peace and grace, Laurel W Bentz

Tech Opportunities

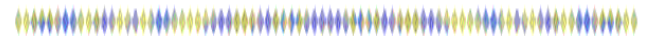
Have you been a videographer for church in the past? Would you be willing to run the camera during the service? The responsibilities are easier than in the past as you merely need to run the camera and keep an ear out for microphone adjustments. No uploading, editing, or converting to DVD time is necessary 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 be filed in the church archives.

Thank you to Dale Bakke, Bill Edington and Melissa Mattke who recorded during October.

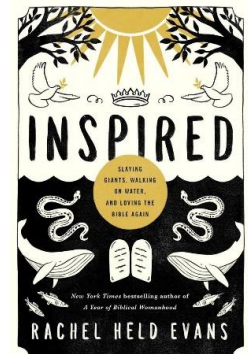
Please contact me if you are interested and when you are available. Training on the new camera is available. Thanks.

Juanita Edington
 c.920-988-2416
jaemusiclover@gmail.com



Rachel Held Evans - Book Study

We continue with the book "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

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.

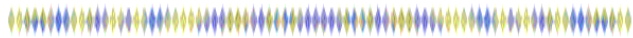
THE WATERTOWN FOOD PANTRY HOURS ARE:

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



Saturday Night, Nov. 4th

Daylight-Saving
Time Ends

Turn your clocks back
Daylight Savings Ends

The Loose Coin Offering in
November will go to support the
Unity Project of Watertown

THE UNITY PROJECT OF WATERTOWN!

Our mission is "to promote a sense of acceptance and belonging among all members of our community."

We created it to show Watertown that we are here, and there is support. We want to be able to lift the community up and make it a better place for anyone to live.

Join us on our mission to spread awareness and affirmation of the LGBTQ+ community in Watertown.

Website: <https://unityprojectofwatertown.wordpress.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1019324575515106/>

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).



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

Greetings from your search committee!

Your prayers and words of encouragement have been warmly received as we work to honor the goals, visions, and history consolidated during the profile creation process.

Although all concerns, questions, and comments are welcomed during the search process, **we are sworn to keep candidate information and identifying characteristics confidential. However, we can say that we are reviewing 4 profiles for consideration!**

Rev. Rachel Bauman and Pastor Bob have met with us in October and have been instrumental in outlining the search process. Both Rachel and Bob have complimented the work of the profile committee as the Watertown UCC profile positively stands out among the crowded field of Wisconsin UCC churches searching for a full time pastor.

Please be on the look out for more updates to come via worship service, future Chimes articles, and mailings regarding our pastoral search!

Jennifer Bakke, Chair, Sue Harms, External Candidate Communicator, Kristi Scheunemann, Internal Communicator, Jesse Fremont, Chaplain, Mindy Marcus & Livie Mattke, Members



From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

Sunday School:

Update: Sunday School for the 2022-2023 school year Offers 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 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=YS92UVN6MnR2RUFGdk01QUd4RzI0dz09>

Meeting ID: 873 2596 0866

Passcode: 559333

The second option is In Person Sunday School. We 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.

If you have not done so already, 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

Our Whole Lives (OWL) group is still meeting on Sunday mornings. We are embracing our topics about sexuality and our bodies. Last month we discussed a lot about sexualization and how and why things in our society are sexualized. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Tuesdays 6:00-7:30 Youth Group.

Our Tuesday night group will only be meeting occasionally. Please watch for communication from me about this. We will pick it back up regularly once Confirmation is over!

Contact Melissa: Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

mmattke@firstcongwtn.org 920-261-6213
josc.mom@hotmail.com 262-719-1383



CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Sunday, November 13th

In gratitude we will dedicate our Estimates of giving for 2023 during worship. Remember to turn in your form.



BOOK OF LIFE

✝ **Died:** Susie Krueger, passed away after a short battle with cancer on Wednesday, October 19, 2022. She shared her musical gifts in many capacities, including being part of the music staff at our church for almost 30 years. She accompanied the Watertown High School choirs for concerts, musicals, and also accompanied individual students in the state Solo & Ensemble music competitions. She was a piano teacher as well, and prided herself on passing the gift of music on to further generations.

A memorial service was held on October 30 at Hafemeister Funeral Home. Rev. David Zimmermann officiated.

November BIRTHDAYS

11/04 Danica Uttke
 11/06 Emily Ortega
 11/07 Elijah Fremont
 11/15 Alicia Boettcher
 11/16 William Evans
 11/17 Nicholas Miller
 11/19 Peter Welbourne
 11/22 Owen Schwager
 11/22 Kellen Schwager
 11/23 Angela Howard
 11/23 Nathaniel Budewitz
 11/27 Lee Hyde
 11/29 Ruth Martin
 11/30 Diane Koch

TOTENFEST - Service of Remembrance

On Sunday, November 6 during 10:00 a.m. worship we will join in a special service of remembrance. Church members are invited to send the names of loved ones who have died since last year at this time. Please include their birthdate and date of death; send no later than Wednesday Nov. 2nd. lbentz@firstcongwtnn.org.

Gingerbread Preschool & Childcare

Things are going well at Gingerbread. We have decided to open a room for grade school age up to 11 years old school. There were a few days that the school district did not have school last month and we were able to accommodate a few families by offering this service. Feel free to reach out if you would like to come read a story to the class, provide a healthy snack, or help with an art project. We would love to see your faces!

Gingerbread Phone: 920-261-9727

Email: gbchildcare120@gmail.com

Website: www.gingerbreadchildcare.com

Trustees Report of Income and Expenses as of September 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	
February	\$18,513	\$15,152	\$19,426	\$15,993	\$19,343	\$15,857	\$136	
March	\$18,513	\$17,858	\$19,426	\$18,784	\$19,343	\$17,565	\$1,219	
April	\$18,513	\$16,715	\$19,426	\$17,541	\$19,343	\$19,043	-\$1,502	
May	\$18,513	\$16,772	\$19,426	\$17,786	\$19,343	\$16,742	\$1,044	
June	\$18,513	\$17,848	\$19,426	\$19,700	\$19,343	\$25,913	-\$6,213	
July	\$18,513	\$19,410	\$19,426	\$19,688	\$19,343	\$23,595	-\$3,907	
August	\$18,513	\$15,846	\$19,426	\$15,933	\$19,343	\$20,195	-\$4,262	
September	\$18,513	\$16,783	\$19,426	\$16,834	\$19,343	\$20,896	-\$4,062	-\$24,493

November 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Loose Coin: The Unity Project</p> <p>Food Pantry Theme: Ketchup and Pickles</p>		<p>1</p> <p>9am - ZOOM Bible Study</p> <p>6:30, Architect. Task force meets</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Confirmation 6-7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10am – Cable TV Broadcast 4pm – Prayer Requests Due 5pm – Cable TV Broadcast</p>	<p>4</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM</p> <p>Turn your clocks back Daylight Savings Ends</p>
<p>6 TOTENFEST Communion Sunday</p> <p>9 a.m. Choir; ZOOM Sunday School 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship - SCRIPS 11:30-1:00 OWL Youth Group 6:00 – Cable TV Broadcast</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:00 pm – Staff meets</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9am - ZOOM Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Confirmation 6-7:30 p.m. “Wing Night” project</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10am – Cable TV Broadcast 4pm – Prayer Requests Due 5pm – Cable TV Broadcast</p>	<p>11</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM</p>
<p>13 CONSECRATION SUNDAY</p> <p>9 a.m. Choir; ZOOM Sunday School 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP 11:30-1:00 OWL Youth Group 6:00 – Cable TV Broadcast</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 pm, TRUSTEES TBD</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9am – ZOOM Bible Study 5:30, CPR class pre-register.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Confirmation 6-7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10am – Cable TV Broadcast 4pm – Prayer Requests Due 5pm – Cable TV Broadcast 5:30-7:00:Gingerbread Families: Thanksgiving Event</p>	<p>18</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10 a.m. ZOOM Morning Chat Group</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9 a.m. Choir; ZOOM Sunday School 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship - SCRIPS 11:30-1:00 OWL Youth Group 4:00, ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE at Immanuel Lutheran ELCA 6:00 – Cable TV Broadcast</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6:30 pm, COUNCIL</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Confirmation 6-7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED 10am – Cable TV Broadcast 4pm – Prayer Requests Due 5pm – Cable TV Broadcast</p>	<p>25</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10 a.m. – Morning Chat Group ZOOM</p>
<p>27 ADVENT BEGINS</p> <p>9 a.m. Choir; ZOOM Sunday School 10:00 - IN PERSON WORSHIP 11:30-1:00 OWL Youth Group 6:00 – Cable TV Broadcast</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9am - ZOOM Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Confirmation 6-7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Looking Ahead: Sunday, December 11th Congregational Budget Meeting at the end of worship. Details in the December Newsletter.</p>		