



The Hilltop Chimes

First Congregational United Church of Christ
120 Kuckkan Lane Watertown, WI 53094
Rev. Dr. Christopher Ross, Pastor

Office hours: M-TH 10-noon and 1-4
Office Phone/Fax: 920-261-6213



July 2023



From the Pastor's Desk

Last month, I noted how church life seems to slow down during the summer, but this July shows that nothing could be further from the truth. It looks to be a busy month at First Congregational United

Church of Christ! Some of the things going on include...

In Sunday worship on July 2, we will acknowledge U.S. Independence Day. This year marks the 250th anniversary of some major events leading up to the conflict that birthed our country, events that center around an historic UCC congregation in Boston. Come and hear about Congregationalists' involvement in the struggle, but please know that we won't be throwing any tea into the harbor this year.

On Tuesday morning, July 11, our summer adult education class will begin studying *The First Paul* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. The class will continue to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays for the rest of the summer, with a few exceptions.

At 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, July 23, a service marking my Installation as your Pastor has been scheduled, with fellowship time to follow. Plans for this service involve representatives from the Clergy Roundtable, the Association, the Conference, the Wisconsin Council of Churches, and the WISDOM interfaith statewide organizing network. Please make plans to attend this important day honoring our covenantal relations in ministry.

On Saturday, July 29, the Unity Project has scheduled another Pride in the Park event here in Watertown. Please come and show support for the LGBTQIA+ community! These events serve as important opportunities to highlight that voices of faith are not limited to the most intolerant among us and to put our "Open and Affirming" promise into action.

And finally, following worship on Sunday, July 30, the Council has called a special congregational meeting to discuss proposed updates to the congregation's Constitution. Please also make plans to attend and participate in this important meeting that affects how we order our life together as Church.

Like I said, we have a lot going on! If you've been staying away for a while, checking out any of these events may be a good chance to re-engage your faith community. All are welcome, and we'd love to see you!

Rev. Dr. Chris Ross, Pastor
Contact Information:

Cell: (920) 838-5630

Email: cross@firstcongwttn.org



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST SATURDAY JULY 8TH

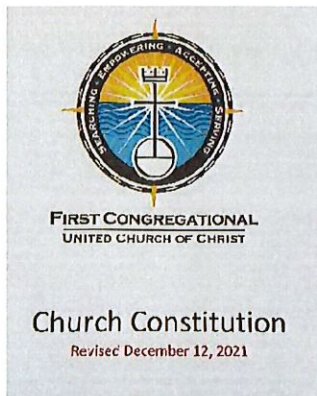
We gather at 10 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday each month at Two Sisters Restaurant and order from the menu.

Join us July 8th at 10 a.m. for an hour of fellowship. It will be an excellent time to get to know each other better, plan special projects & exchange ideas.

Maybe a local road trip or two. See you July 8th.

CONTACT - Laurel Bentz lbentz@firstcongwttn.org

RSVP no later than Wednesday, July 5th



Timeline Set to Approve New Constitution

The Interim Church Council is working diligently to rewrite our church constitution to meet our present and future needs. The congregation voted last year for a temporary constitution that would be valid until the end of July 2023. And that deadline is soon upon us!

A subcommittee (as well as the Council) have gone through our current temporary constitution word by word and page by page. It will be ready for your approval by voting at the Special Congregational Meeting called for July 30 after the service.

Timeline for the Constitution's approval:

- * The Council will put the final touches to the temporary constitution at their monthly meeting on July 17.
- * The final product will be sent via email to everyone on July 18 for your study.
- * Any questions can be asked after the July 23 service if you care to remain and discuss it.
- * The vote for approval will take place at a Special Congregational Meeting after the service on July 30.
- * If passed, the new constitution will take effect on January 1, 2024.

We hope that you can be present for that Special Congregational Meeting on July 30. If you have any immediate questions, please contact Tom Rusch (thomasdrusch@gmail.com) or any council member.

Service of Installation for Pastor Chris Sunday, July 23, 2023 at 3:00.

All are invited to the Installation of the Rev. Dr. Christopher J. Ross as Pastor and Teacher of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Watertown, Wisconsin on July 23, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. The worship service is in our Sanctuary.

Reception following.

Installation: What is it? How important is it? It has been a while (and my memory is not the best), so I perused the UCC website and have used some ideas about an installation that Steve Leichty attended and related it to Chris's Installation. I hope Steve approves of my adaptation of his article:

The Service of Installation is a sacred rite we perform in the UCC. It is a favored time for many clergy and lay people. For one thing, everyone is happy. A new leader has been found. There is a sense of hope and possibility.

We believe that Chris has unique gifts, skills, vision, passion, and talent that set him apart from all others.

The Service of Installation is a way of saying "You belong here!"

But something else goes on in the liturgy of the Installation and that is 'The Call.' There is something deeply and profoundly sacred about this. We do believe that the Holy Spirit is an engaged partner in the unfolding life, health, and vitality of the Church.

And the Service of Installation is more than just saying to someone "This is your new job – do it well." It is a way of affirming the movement of a Holy Spirit who participated with us in the process: the writing of the profile, the search, the prayers. And so now, THIS leader has been called to THIS place for THIS time.

--Tom Rusch, Moderator

Steve Leichty's article is at:

https://www.ucc.org/into_the_mystic_installation/

From the Pastor Parish Relations Committee:

The purpose of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee is to support a healthy relationship between the pastor and congregants in order to enhance the effectiveness of the church's ministry. The committee serves in three primary ways:

- As an advisory group to the pastor: sharing ideas, dreams, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor.
- As a support group for the pastor's leadership: helping to understand roles, functions, boundaries, opportunities, and needs of the pastor as it relates to the interactions with the congregation.
- As an advocate for the pastor in the event of a dispute between pastoral staff and an official church governing body.

Please feel free to reach out to any of the members below with any questions or concerns.

The members of the committee include:

Jennifer Bakke (chair); [email jdbakke@gdinet.com](mailto:jdbakke@gdinet.com)

Jim Ortega; [email ajtega@yahoo.com](mailto:ajtega@yahoo.com)

Kristin Chowanec (secretary);
kristinchowanec@gmail.com

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS July-August available

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

Peace and grace, Laurel W Bentz

lbentz@firstcongwtn.org

920-261-6213



Notes from the Music Director

Please mark your calendars for July 16th, when we will welcome the Faithful Men from Immanuel ELCA to sing multiple selections during our worship service.

On July 23rd, we will gather a choir together to provide an anthem for the installation service for Pastor Chris. I have already made initial contacts, but if I missed you and you wish to sing, please contact me as soon as you are able, so that I can gather necessary materials. This is open to youth as well as adults. We will meet at 2:00 p.m., ahead of the 3:00 p.m. service, to prepare the anthem for the service.

It is always nice to have people provide special music during the summer months, so if you wish to share your musical gifts in a worship service, please contact me and I will get you on the calendar. Our congregation is always appreciative of the variety of musical gifts that are shared.

Thank you to Sophie Mattke, in addition to myself, who served as song leaders during the month of June.

I want to thank Tom Rusch for his faithful accompaniment of hymns and weekly selections of keyboard music.

Juanita Edington
c.920-988-2416 (feel free to text)
jaemusiclover@gmail.com





Tech Opportunities

Can we expand our tech crew?

Thank you to Dale Bakke, Bill Edington, Norm Hurtubise, and Melissa Mattke who recorded during June.

Can we expand our tech crew? Have you been a videographer for church in the past or would you be willing to run the camera during the service? Your responsibilities are to run the camera focusing on the "action at the moment" (the liturgist, acolyte, minister, choir, or special musician/s) and make microphone adjustments as needed.

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

Uploading, editing, and converting to DVD is being done with some enhancements. Print information such as hymn lyrics, bulletin outline, scripture readings, music information, and responses are added before uploading to Vimeo, but 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 The Marquardt before coming back to be filed in the church archives.

Juanita Edington, Choir Director
c.920-988-2416 (feel free to text)
jaemusiclover@gmail.com



Vacation Bible Event:

We have been invited to join in a SUMMER CELEBRATION on the 3rd Wednesdays of June, July and August.

"ALL AGES are invited as we gather for monthly Summer Celebration events on the third Wednesday of each month with activities and

worship geared especially for children and families.

We'll get together in the Multipurpose Room for a meal at 5:30pm before things kick-off at 6:00pm. We'll explore scripture, sing, pray, learn, and play together! Our time will wrap up with outdoor worship (weather permitting) from 7:00pm-7:30pm.

July 19th – Celebrate Jesus!

August 16th – Celebrate Baptism

If you have questions or would like to help, please [contact Trevor Thom](mailto:trevor.thom@watertownimmanuel.org).

<https://www.watertownimmanuel.org/summer>



Gingerbread has been busy this summer!

For instance, MESSY WEEK playing with Jello, shaving cream, painting with pudding, and face paint. We are having fun running in the sprinkler and making our own slip-and-slide. We had CAMPING WEEK where we had a tent set up to eat snacks and listen to our story.

In July we will be having an ICE CREAM WEEK. Guess what we will be making!!!??? We will also be having two weeks of Sports!

The construction process is moving along. All of the permits have been approved. Testing has been done and contractors have been in and out of Gingerbread.

As always, if you would like to come in and read a story to us, please let me know. We are collecting donations of certain items. Here is our Wish List:

- 100% Juice
- Gallon ZipLock Bags
- Paper Bowls
- Financial Donations towards our expansion
- Gallons of water
- Reams of white paper

Thank you all for your support of Gingerbread!

--Melissa Mattke, Director



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 Watertown Food Pantry, located in Immanuel Lutheran Church and The Bread Basket 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.

- Coats and winter clothing will be especially needed. **The Bread Basket** also does mobile food pantries to Marquart Manor and other areas of town where people have a hard time with transportation.
- **Bread Basket** is in need of egg cartons and plastic grocery bags with handles. Vivian Howard will get them over to them.
- There is a shopping cart in the narthex 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"** in the memo .

Jennifer Bakke and Jennifer Rhodes

Loose Coin Offerings

July – **Pride in the Park**

On Saturday, July 29, the Unity Project has scheduled another Pride in the Park event here in Watertown. Our Loose Coin will go to help defray their costs for this event.

These events serve as important opportunities to highlight that voices of faith are not limited to the most intolerant among us and to put our "Open and Affirming" promise into action.

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 Wtn)

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



Watertown schools are gearing up for a school supply demand in August. You can help students be ready to learn in September. Once again we are participating in the *Shared Community Mission's* annual school supply distribution event (SOS) Supporting Our Students by collecting school supplies and offering a FREE distribution.

The goal is to collect enough supplies so that any family in need has supplies for school. Leftover supplies are distributed to various schools as resources for students throughout the school year.

DROP OFF CART : Collection cart is located in the narthex .During July watch for sales and go shopping.

Volunteer: Watch in August for opportunities to helping with the project, our contact person is Denyce Derleth .

Important: If you, or someone you know, is hard pressed to provide their students with the supplies they need, contact the church for the registration form. No questions asked. These forms will be available July 31 – August 11. Distribution will take place at St. Henry's Gym August 15th.

BOOK OF LIFE



James Maas	07/01
Gayle Johnson	07/01
Arlene Bennett	07/02
Rowan Blaszak	07/05
Jeff Nicholas	07/08
Emryn Milburn	07/11
Mark Ulatowski	07/14
Judy Draeger	07/18
Russell Ehnert	07/20
Evan Chowanec	07/22
Paige Driessen	07/25
Calvin Edwards	07/25
Hailey Zabel	07/27
Ryan Scheunemann	07/27

✝ Passing: On Saturday, June 10, 2023 **Cordell R. Niay**, passed away after an accident due to a medical condition. He was born April 30, 1993 to Donna Ninmann and Bernie Niay, and was baptized and confirmed in this church. He is the younger brother of Brad Niay. His memorial service was held at Hafemeister Funeral Home, Rev. David Zimmerman officiated.

✝ Passing: We have received word that former church member, **Vivian (Speicher) McQuoid**, passed away at Fairhaven Senior Center in Whitewater on June 24, 2023 with her family at her side. She was just shy of her 100th birthday in October.



How to Join Us for Worship

- 1) Through the email link sent out weekly "Welcome to Worship" from lbentz@firstcongwtn.org. Join our mailing list.
- 2) Our church's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-118640148151341/>
- 3) Watertown Cable channel 985 broadcasts the Sunday service on Thursdays at 10 am and 5 pm and then again on the following Sunday at 6 pm.
- 4) Our new church website (see 'Media'): <https://firstcongwtn.org/>
Services posted on Monday

Financial Updates

GENERAL FUND As of May 31, 2023

2023	BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	BUDGETED TOTAL INCOME	ACTUAL TOTAL INCOME	BUDGETED EXPENSES	ACTUAL EXPENSES	MONTH GAIN OR LOSS	YEAR GAIN OR LOSS
January	\$17,328	\$12,984	\$18,548	\$13,052	\$22,275	\$20,505	-\$7,453	-\$7,453
February	\$17,328	\$24,828	\$18,548	\$25,079	\$22,275	\$21,622	\$3,457	-\$3,996
March	\$17,328	\$16,136	\$18,548	\$16,199	\$22,275	\$26,989	-\$10,790	-\$14,786
April	\$17,328	\$17,674	\$18,548	\$17,962	\$22,275	\$24,042	-\$6,080	-\$20,866
May	\$17,328	\$22,750	\$18,548	\$23,050	\$22,275	\$17,192	\$5,858	-\$15,008

SOS: Supporting Our Students 2023

List of needed school supplies

Revised July 2022

Thanks for helping kids succeed in school !!!

1. Backpacks
2. Simple inexpensive 4 function calculator
3. **Scientific calculator (Solar TI-31, TI -30xiis(battery/solar combo \$12-15.00 range (trendy colors are more expensive) also Casio makes scientific calculator that is often now less than 10.00**
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 (kids 5 inch pointed tip and larger student 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

July 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LOOSE COIN: Pride in the Park						
2 Holy Communion 10:00 – WORSHIP; Coffee Fellowship; Script Sale 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	3	4 Office Closed Independence Day	5	6 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8
9 10:00 – WORSHIP 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	10	11 10:30 a.m. “The First Paul” Book Study at church	12 5:30-7:30 Building Use GB Teacher Training Fellowship Hall	13 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15
16 10:00 – WORSHIP; Coffee Fellowship; Script Sale 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	17 6:30, COUNCIL	18 10:30 a.m. “The First Paul” Book Study at church	19 5:30-7:30 Building Use GB Teacher Training Fellowship Hall VBS -Celebrate JESUS @ Immanuel ELCA 5:30-7:30	20 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22
23 10:00 – WORSHIP 3:00 – Service of Installation for Pastor Chris. 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	24	25 10:30 a.m. “The First Paul” Book Study at church 7:00, Gingerbread Bd	26	27 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 Pride in the Park NOON-6:00
30 10:00 – WORSHIP Special Congregational Meeting at the end of worship. 6:00 - Cable TV Broadcast	31	August 1 10:30 a.m. “The First Paul” Book Study at church	August 2 5:30-7:30 Building Use GB Teacher Training Fellowship Hall	August 3 4:30, our turn to help with Bread & Roses.		