



The Hilltop Chimes

First Congregational United Church of Christ
120 Kuckkan Lane Watertown, WI 53094

Rev. Dr. Christopher Ross, Pastor

Cell: (920) 838-5630

Email: cross@firstcongwtn.org

Church Office hours: M-TH 10-noon and 1-4

Office Phone/Fax: 920-261-6213



September 2023



From the Pastor's Desk

I love fall. Without a doubt, it is my favorite season. I love the coming change in temperature, I love the change in leaf colors, I love the change in seasonal activities.

But it's not just the natural cycle of seasonal change I love; it's also the change that happens in our communities. Our routines change. We return from however we spent the summer—whether physically or mentally. School starts up again.

And that also means that the program year gets going again at church. Sunday school returns. Another year of Confirmation programming begins. And we'll soon see the choir singing again in worship.

There's a certain excitement with this kind of newness, though I've never quite been able to put my finger on why. Perhaps it's some leftover emotion from starting new school years as a child. But, maybe, it's something else.

Newness and change—those are words that should excite us as followers of Jesus, but sometimes we dread what they bring. We often don't like change, and we may not be interested in anything new. But these ideas lie at the center of the Gospel message, which is a message—above all—of *transformation*.

I'd like to think it's something about this understanding of newness that gets me excited for a new program year. As your pastor, I recognize this will be the first time that we've begun a new program year together, and I certainly find that exciting.

Such newness, if nothing else, offers opportunity. If you've been waiting to come back to church, if you've been thinking about checking it out again, if you've been meaning to get more involved at church, then the beginning of this new season is a perfect time. We'd love to see you so we can travel this new journey together.

-Chris



Pastor's Study Group continues....

On Tuesday mornings our summer adult education class will complete our study of *The First Paul* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

Tuesday, September 5th and 12th
to end the summer session.
We meet at 10:30 in the choir room.



The summer is winding down, and so are the opportunities to provide special music this summer. So, if you've been thinking about sharing your musical gifts in a worship service, please contact me and I will get you on the September calendar. Cooper Wood is scheduled for Sept. 3rd, and the Brigade Band for Sept. 17th. I don't anticipate that choir will sing in service until October. Our congregation is always appreciative of the variety of musical gifts that are shared.

On September 17th, the 1st Brigade Band will once again lead us in worship. Please join us for lunch following the service and please bring a salad or dessert. They will also play a concert at 2:00 p.m. at the Octagon House for the Historical Society Ice Cream Social.

Senior Choir will tentatively have its first rehearsal on Sept. 24th at 9:00 a.m. That may get delayed a week for a family event, but that event has not been confirmed at this time.

Thank you to the musicians who sang at the August 13th Ecumenical Service in Bentzin Town Square: Don Christensen and Audrey Wolter, Jesse Fremont, Jeanine Mallach, Tom Rusch, and Juanita Edington. And, thank you to Deanna Perschke who sang in church on Aug. 24th.

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



Sunday, September 17 – Celebration The First Brigade Band in Worship

10 a.m. – Worship with the Brigade Band.

11:00 – Burger & Brat Pot Luck Lunch in Fellowship Hall.

****Sign up to RSVP and let us know if you are able to provide : Salad, Side Dish or Dessert)**

Contact person: Laurel lbentz@firstcontwtn.org



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

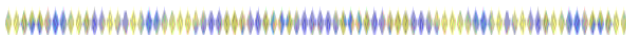
Coffee, Tea, juice boxes and water are available as well as yummy treats. A Free Will offering helps defray costs, but volunteers are in great need. Barb Lottmann and Tracy Livermore will train/guide volunteers.

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.

SIGN UP: Narthex Table or call the church office.





Tech Opportunities

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. With “regular” programming starting up such as Sunday School and Choir, it would be good to get some addition people in the rotation.

Please contact me if you are interested and when you are available. Training is available. Thanks.

Thank you to Dale Bakke and Melissa Mattke who recorded during August.

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



DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:

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

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

-- *Laurel W Bentz*



Versiti Blood Drive

BLOOD CENTER OF WISCONSIN

Thursday, September 28

The blood drive will be held on **Thursday, Sept. 28th from 1:00pm-6:00pm.**

Our blood unit collection goal is 22 with 40 total appointments available. (double red donations will count as 2 units) Plus, the double red donations go directly to helping babies in the NICU, immediate need trauma victims, and more.

This fall, Versiti is asking for some first time donors! If you are 16 years old and would like to donate, the parental consent form that is required for 16-year-old donors is available in the church narthex.. Donors 17+ can donate without the consent form

For the month of September, Versiti is offering all attempting donors a promo code (VST23) to receive \$3.00 off general admission tickets to China Lights Lantern Wonderland as well as a chance to win tickets to watch the Packers play at Lambeau Field!

If you would like to sign up to donate blood, please use this link to sign up:

bit.ly/firstuccsept23

Or contact me or 262-719-1383

[iosc.mom@hotmail.com/](mailto:iosc.mom@hotmail.com)
mmattke@firstcongwtn.org

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Blood Drive

Turn a new leaf
Fall into giving

Thursday
September
28

1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy
meal and drink plenty of
water before donating.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC- WATERTOWN BLOOD DRIVE!

LOCATION: First UCC-Watertown
Fellowship Hall
120 Kuckkan Lane
Watertown, WI 53094



RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY! Sign up at
bit.ly/firstuccsept23, call 877-232-4376, or use
the QR code! 40 available spots!

**Appointments are encouraged, walk-ins are
welcome and will be invited to take an open
spot in the schedule as space allows.**

**Give blood, go to China Lights Lantern Wonderland!
Use promo code online to receive \$3.00 off general
admission. Rush into donate and be entered to win 2
tickets and a VIP experience* to your favorite
hometown football team.**

*NO PURCH. NEC. MI, OH, IL, IN, and WI residents only; 18+. Ends 9/30/23. 5 sep. drawings (IN, IL, MI, OH, WI). Enter by blood donation or online. See Official Rules at versiti.org/rushin. Sponsor: Versiti, Inc., 638 N. 18th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233





What is the “Neighbors in Need” special mission offering?

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.

Who participates in Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering?

Anyone can give a donation by contributing to the Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering (NIN SMO) either through their congregation’s annual collection drive or anytime online at ucc.org/nin.

How is the offering used?

Through this offering we express our deep commitment to reaching out and touching our neighbors with justice and compassion. This allows us to speak prophetically to those in power and to advocate for a society where all people have a voice in decisions that affect their lives. In the spirit of Christ, we will seek to confront evil in the world and to alleviate suffering. We will do this through direct service as well as advocacy.



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 the targeted food for September is “Crackers” 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



Gingerbread Opens: Starting in September, Gingerbread will be serving breakfast and lunch for these kiddos. Exciting news in the kitchen with Chef Robin Kangas putting the meals together.

The refrigerators and freezers will be put to good use for both our Coffee Hours and GB meals!

The dishwasher will now be serviced through Gingerbread since they will use it each day.

The center is now licensed to care for 104 children between the ages of 6 weeks and 12 years. Staff are all set for the beginning of the new school year and look forward to serving the Watertown community in this way.

The staff and board are very grateful for your continued support! If you would like a tour, contact Melissa.

****If you ever want to come and read a story to our friends, please contact Melissa to set up a time for you to do that!**

Melissa Mattke
Administrator/director

Gingerbread email: gbchildcare120@gmail.com
Melissa Cell: 262-719-1383



Church Newsletter Submission Deadline

These are the new deadlines:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Sept 25 th | for Oct newsletter |
| Oct 23 rd | for Nov newsletter |
| Nov. 21 st | for Dec newsletter |
| Dec 19 th | for Jan newsletter |



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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

The directory was sent out at the end of August. I didn't get responses back from everyone but this directory is easily revised. Folks were then listed the way they were in the old directory.

It's never too late to send me the information you wish to have listed. I have already had corrections pointed out to me so Please look it over for spelling errors or if you wish to add/delete any information.

A final section will be added that lists names of all voting members of the congregation.

Contact Laurel: lbentz@firstcongwtn.org



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 |
| 09/20 | 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 |
| 09/27 | Alexia Asher |
| 09/30 | Jennifer Rhodes |
| 09/30 | Brody Wood |

Book of Life



Passing: Jackie Kadinger, mother of Calvin Edwards, died on August 17, 2023 in Fitchburg WI. A celebration of her life was held Saturday, August 26 in Madison. Please hold Calvin, his father Dan Edwards and the rest of her family in your prayers.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Sunday School: Ages Preschool through grade 5

Registration will begin on September 10th! Our first day of Sunday School will be September 24 children are in worship with their family and leave for class after Melissa's Family Time. If you are interested in teaching Sunday School, please see me. I would like to set up a rotation for teachers.

Youth Group: Middle School and High School

If you are interested in participating in Youth Group, please let me know! We would be meeting on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings, or Sundays after church.

Melissa Mattke

Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

mmattke@firstcongwttm.org 920-261-6213

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

Financial Report from the Trustees – As of July 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 | \$28,419 | -\$5,369 | -\$26,235 |
| June | \$17,328 | \$14,455 | \$18,548 | \$16,958 | \$22,275 | \$22,571 | -\$5,613 | -\$31,848 |
| July | \$17,328 | \$20,791 | \$18,548 | \$22,189 | \$22,275 | \$17,234 | \$4,955 | -\$26,893 |

September 2023

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Loose Coin: (NIN) Neighbors in Need special UCC offering Food Pantry: Crackers Bread Basket: egg cartons and grocery bags. | | | | | 1 OFFICE CLOSED | 2 |
| 3 Communion Sunday 10:00 - WORSHIP Coffee Fellowship 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast | 4 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED | 5 10:30 a.m. "The First Paul" Book Study at church 1 p.m. – Staff meets | 6 | 7 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group | 8 OFFICE CLOSED | 9 10:00 Women's Breakfast at Two Sisters Building Usage: Fellowship Hall (Afternoon) |
| 10 10:00 - WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast | 11 6:30 pm, TRUSTEES TBD | 12 10:30 a.m. "The First Paul" Book Study at church | 13 | 14 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group | 15 OFFICE CLOSED | 16 |
| 17 10:00 - WORSHIP With First Brigade Band. Church Luncheon 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast | 18 6:30 pm, COUNCIL | 19 7:00, Gingerbread Board meets | 20 | 21 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group | 22 OFFICE CLOSED | 23 |
| 24 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir Rehearsals begin 10:00 – WORSHIP Sunday school: right after Melissa's Family Time 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast | 25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 26 | 27 12:00, Clergy Roundtable here. | 29 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast BLOOD DRIVE 1-6:00 in Fellowship Hall 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group | 30 OFFICE CLOSED | |