



The Hilltop Chimes

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

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November 2023



From the Pastor's Desk

The month of November brings with it that holiday so important in the tradition of American Congregationalism: Thanksgiving. For most of us--and my family included--our tables on that fourth Thursday

of this month will be surrounded by people who look like us, speak like us, and--relatively speaking--think like us.

Nothing could be further from the reality of the 1621 meal. The vast majority of those attending that event were Native American--the Pilgrims were much fewer in number and yet could spend days of eating and sharing without being afraid of those so different from them. Most of the people there were not white. Most of them were not native English-speakers. Most of them were not Christian. And those who were white, spoke English, and professed to follow Christ--they were not only the minority, they were refugees and illegal immigrants. This status is not some reconstructed Native American hypothetical category for the newly arrived English; since they did not settle where they had permission from the Crown back in London, the Pilgrims were illegal immigrants even by European standards. We should never, ever, forget these facts.

What we have been taught to think of as the "first" Thanksgiving in 1621 represents a brief historical moment before removal and

extermination of the long-established inhabitants of North America became the usual policy. Rather, the original Thanksgiving was an incredibly multi-cultural event that actively embraced diversity.

Although there would be much to lament about the relations between European descendants and Native Americans in later colonial history and for long thereafter, there still remains something right about that first Thanksgiving with its utterly open table and radical hospitality (shared by both sides). It remains faithful to our identities both as Congregationalists and as Americans to remember such an occasion as our origin story--and a story from which we still have much to learn. In so many important ways, it continues to represent the best of who we were and can be still.

Happy Thanksgiving! *-Chris*



Building a Welcoming Watertown

Sunday, November 5th -- 12:30-2:30:

the Community room - Watertown Public Library.

For our second gathering we welcome Watertown native David Liners, executive director of WISDOM, who will lead us in the next steps of building bridges and making change in our community. Lunch will be provided. See you for our next steps toward putting our vision and voice into action together!

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Sunday, November 12th

In gratitude we will dedicate our Estimates of giving for 2024 during worship. Remember to turn in your form



COATS 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



THE WATERTOWN FOOD PANTRY, located in Immanuel Lutheran Church serves the people of Watertown to provide fresh food for individuals and families.

This month's Item: Mac & Cheese

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 PANTRY, located in the YMCA building in Watertown. Another amazing local resource for our community

- In addition to food items, Coats and winter clothing are especially needed. Many individuals and families don't arrive prepared for our winters.
- **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 .
 - **THE BREAD BASKET HOURS ARE:**
 - Mondays 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 - Fridays 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Gingerbread has been continuing to grow! The themes in October have been very Fall-related: scarecrows, acorns, and of course, Halloween! November we look forward to being Thankful! The kids have been enjoying getting outside whenever we can. You should see the 6-passenger and the 4-passenger stroller we have!! We take daily walks around the parking lot with the 1- and 2-year-olds. We thank you all for your continued support.

Melissa Mattke-Administrator/director
Gingerbread email: gbchildcare120@gmail.com
Melissa Cell: 262-719-1383



From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

Melissa Mattke

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

Sunday School:- has started and we have had a few meetings. Our groups may be small, but we do have fun! We have talked about what we can pray about and what is the right way to pray...oh, there isn't a right way to pray!!!

We will continue to meet on Sundays during the worship service. Come join the fun!

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service

Hosted by Congregations of
the Watertown Clergy Roundtable

Sunday, November 19, 2023
4:30pm

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

Monetary gifts will be collected for Hometown Missions and donations of socks and underwear will be collected for area schools through the Shared Community Mission Group.

All are welcome!





Senior Choir meets weekly on Sundays before church. We are always looking for more singers. Time is 9:00 a.m. and while regular attendance is appreciated, please don't let an irregular schedule prevent you from participating. We accept singers at any time during the choir season.

Thank you to Saedra Fremont who served as hymn leader at the end of September, Cooper Wood who was our pianist on October 8th, and of course, to Tom Rusch who continued his faithful playing as both service musician and choir accompanist.

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



- 1) Join our mailing list: for an email link sent out weekly "Welcome to Worship" from lbentz@firstcongwtn.org.
- 2) Visit 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 church website (see 'Media'):
<https://firstcongwtn.org/> Services posted on Monday

Tech Opportunities

As the year falls into the regular programming, it seems to be a good time to find some additional people who aren't involved in Choir or Sunday School who will be willing to run tech. In the past there was a sign up with a regular rotation, similar to our liturgists.

Your primary 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. I am currently taking care of the editing and production.

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

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

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



*Fall Back -
Daylight Savings Time Ends*



November BIRTHDAYS

- 11/04 Danica Uttke
- 11/06 Emily Ortega
- 11/07 Elijah Fremont
- 11/15 Alicia Boettcher
- 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

BOOK OF LIFE

✝ **Died:** William Evans, 88 of Ixonia, passed away at his care facility, London Lodge, with family and caregivers by his side, on October 3, 2023. He was Ethel Willing’s brother and Stacy Winkelmann’s uncle.




TOTENFEST - Service of Remembrance

On Sunday, November 5 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 Tuesday, October 31st to lbentz@firstcongwttn.org.

NOVEMBER LOOSE COIN MISSION OFFERING:

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

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).



Financial Report from the Trustees – As of September 30., 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
August	\$17,328	\$15,875	\$18,548	\$16,010	\$22,275	\$17,013	-\$1,003	-\$27,896
September	\$17,328	\$16,067	\$18,548	\$16,133	\$22,275	\$21,251	-\$5,118	-\$33,014

November 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Pastor Vacation	2 Pastor Vacation 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	3 Pastor Vacation	4 Pastor Vacation Daylight Savings Ends
5 All Saints Day TOTENFEST Communion Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir 10:00 – WORSHIP Financial Update Presentation Coffee Fellowship 12:30-2:30 – Building a Welcoming Watertown (see front page) 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	6 1 p.m. – Staff meets	7	8	9 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11 10:00 Women's Breakfast at Two Sisters
12 Stewardship Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir 10:00 – WORSHIP; Sunday School 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	13	14	15	16 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18
19 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir 10:00 – WORSHIP; Sunday School Coffee Fellowship 4:30, Community Thanksgiving Service at our church. 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	20 6:30 pm, COUNCIL	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22	23 Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast NO – Meditation Group	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 Reign of Christ Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir 10:00 – WORSHIP; Sunday School Coffee Fellowship 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	27	28 7:00 pm, Gingerbread Board	29	30 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast 6:30-7:00 – Meditation Group	Dec. 1 OFFICE CLOSED	Dec. 2

