



# The Hilltop Chimes

## April 2024

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

Church Office: Hours: M-TH 10-noon and 1-4  
Office Phone/Fax: 920-261-6213  
Office Email: [lbentz@firstcongwttn.org](mailto:lbentz@firstcongwttn.org)  
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Pastor's Cell: (920) 838-5630  
**\*\*Please call with pastoral care needs.**  
Email: [rev.fatmoses@gmail.com](mailto:rev.fatmoses@gmail.com)



### From the Pastor's Desk

Although Easter Sunday fell on March 31, we spend the entire month of April this year celebrating Easter. The truth is that the 50 days of Easter will last into the third week of May.

We likely won't be hiding Easter eggs over and over again for 50 days, so what does it really mean to celebrate the season of Easter for so long? I think one reason Eastertide might be so long is to help remind us that living the truth of the Risen Christ is not a one-day affair, but a constant calling for Christians. Proclaiming the Risen Christ is something we do every day. We do it whenever we continue to love our neighbors. We do it whenever we welcome others. We do it whenever we seek peace. We do it whenever we share goods. We do it whenever we work for a more just society. Every time we do any of these things, we witness to the truth that Christ lives—that empires of violence, oppression, conquest, hatred, and suffering cannot keep Christ in the grave. The Body of Christ still lives, because we are the members of that Body, and we continue Christ's work.

This month offers several opportunities to do exactly this kind of work. Sunday afternoon, April 14 brings our next **"Building a Welcoming Watertown"** event at the public library with folks from three other area churches. We will observe Earth Sunday on April 21, remembering our call to honor and preserve God's creation. The Annual

Meeting of the Southeast Wisconsin Association is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 27 in Oconomowoc, affording an opportunity to live out our identity as the Body of Christ in our closest denominational setting. And on April 28, we will acknowledge Camp Sunday in worship, reflecting on how outdoor ministries help us to encounter God as individuals and in community.

Eastertide is a great time to keep up with what's happening at First Congregational UCC. You don't want to miss out!

**Rev. Dr. Chris Ross, Pastor**

Contact Information:  
Cell: (920) 838-5630  
Email: [rev.fatmoses@gmail.com](mailto:rev.fatmoses@gmail.com)



### Basic Church History Study Sundays at 8:45 a.m.

Adult Sunday School continues in April. Chris is leading a basic church history class that covers the era between the New Testament and *Crisis in Watertown*. And to help make this class more accessible for folks' schedules, we meet on Sunday mornings at 8:45 in the office conference room.

Questions/more details: check in with Chris  
Cell: (920) 838-5630  
Email: [rev.fatmoses@gmail.com](mailto:rev.fatmoses@gmail.com)

## Moderator's Message

Welcome to Wisconsin. Winter, spring, winter, spring...

The "spring" part has the Council and other groups in the church looking at the grounds.

We've all acknowledged that the large planter at the entrance of the church needs some major attention. Because it will be a larger ordeal, we're looking into different scenarios. If you have any ideas, please contact me and I'll pass them on. The *April Loose Coin* will go toward purchasing perennials and annuals for other areas of our campus. If you'd like to help us with the gardening, please contact Laurel or me.

*The Social Justice Team* is coming together. We are still defining exactly who we are so we can determine what we'd like to focus on. The next meeting will be held March 24 after fellowship and will last about an hour. All are welcome!

We are looking for delegates to represent our church at the *Southeast Wisconsin Association Meeting on April 27* in Oconomowoc and the *Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting on June 7, 8 (and perhaps the morning of the 9)*, which will take place at the Green Lake at the Daycholah Campground. If you're interested in being a delegate or attending just to observe, please contact me for more information.

Please remember that this is your church. Not only do we appreciate your time and talents, but also your feedback. Please contact me for any ideas you might have to improve and strengthen us to serve our mission.

Serving in the Christ-Spirit, Tom



### Women's Fellowship Breakfast Saturday, April 13th

Join us at **10 a.m.** at Two Sisters, (1300 Memorial Drive, Wttn). All are invited and, as always... Invite a Friend! We order from the menu.

We ask for your RSVP by Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> in order for their staff to hold a space for us.

\*\* RSVP – Sign up sheet on Narthex table or at

[lbentz@firstcongwtn.org](mailto:lbentz@firstcongwtn.org)

920-261-6213



## UCC SUMMER CAMPS – NO ONE SHOULD MISS OUT ON CAMP!

The Larson Camp Fund provides scholarships to help cover the cost for children and youth attending any of the camp sessions offered so no one gets left out. No one should miss out on camp for financial reasons so please contact Pastor Chris about additional scholarship support.

We would love to have increased participation of our church youth at camp this year! Children, Teens, grandchildren.... Don't forget Family Camp!

*On April 28, we will acknowledge Camp Sunday in worship*, reflecting on how outdoor ministries help us to encounter God as individuals and in community.

The camp schedules for 2024 at Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach are set. Information can also be obtained on-line at [www.ucci.org](http://www.ucci.org)

Copy your registration to Laurel to make sure your scholarship gets processed from the Larson Fund. Email: [lbentz@firstcongwtn.org](mailto:lbentz@firstcongwtn.org)

## Adopt a Highway Expedition!

Sunday, April 21st  
ADOPT A HIGHWAY



**We'll need a crew of about ten (ages 12 & up).**

We would like to meet about noon after coffee fellowship and caravan over to the starting point.

We will provide trash bags, gloves and reflective vests. It usually takes about an hour.

Sign UP AT THE Narthex table or call Lee/ Fran.

CONTACT - Lee Buescher 920-285-1217 Fran Milburn 920 - 988- 6719

If you've not already seen it, "our" Adopt-a-Highway sign is on County CW near the access road to Watertown Hospital. Our stretch runs from Schuman Drive to Turke Lane.



## SENIOR CHOIR HAS RECONVENED

**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.

The choir has two responsibilities in the service, one is serving as leading voices for congregational singing and the second is to share a musical rendering of scripture or focus of the service in the form of an anthem.

**Thank you to** all of our musicians who had more responsibilities this month, but especially to Deanna Perschke who was soloist on Palm Sunday, to Saedra Fremont who was soloist on Good Friday, and to Tom Rusch who continued his faithful playing as both service musician and choir accompanist for the March services.

## Watertown High School Concert In our Sanctuary

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, our church hosted the Concert Choir and Select Voices for their Showcase Concert. It was a beautiful mix of sacred and secular music from the United States and abroad. For me, it was especially wonderful to hear several students performing who I have worked with either in church choir or community theater. The level of musicianship that Ryan Moldenhauer evokes from his students is remarkable.

Both Tucker Fremont and Cooper Wood are members of the Concert Choir and Cooper also accompanied the choir on "True Colors."

Mr. Moldenhauer shared a tribute to Susie Krueger (long time accompanist of the High

School Choirs, as well as our church musician) before the Select Voices sang "Things That Never Die." This song was a favorite of Susie's and was included on the last concert that she would have accompanied before her passing prior to the choirs' fall concert in 2022.

The audience filled our sanctuary and both musicians and audience agreed that it is a lovely space to experience music.

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

## Tech Opportunities



We record each service and are looking to expand our recorders. The 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 Pamela Martin and Bill Edington who recorded during March.

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





## From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

**Sunday School** is going well. When we get together, we work on projects or just discuss things that are going on in the community or the children's lives. I love their questions and more importantly, their responses. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to help with Sunday School.

**Youth Group:** This time of year is difficult for us to get together in the evenings. Watch for possible "pop-up" times over the summer!!



Things are continuing to blossom at Gingerbread. We are getting ready for the summer. We are planning to garden and be outside as much as we can. Our enrollment right now is 95. We are looking to enroll a few more friends for the summer. 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 Spring Wish List:

100% Juice  
Gallon ZipLock Bags  
Paper Bowls  
Financial Donations  
Gallons of water

Thank you all for your support of Gingerbread!  
Melissa Mattke

Gingerbread Phone: 920-261-9727

Email: [gbchildcare120@gmail.com](mailto:gbchildcare120@gmail.com)

Website: [www.gingerbreadchildcare.com](http://www.gingerbreadchildcare.com)

## Mission and Giving: An Opportunity to Help Your Community!!

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

- In addition to food items, clothing are especially needed. Many individuals and families don't arrive prepared for our seasons.
- **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.

## THE WATERTOWN FOOD PANTRY

Located in Immanuel Lutheran Church serves the people of Watertown to provide fresh food for individuals and families.

### 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.



Our church participates in the **Community Shared Mission** project "Weekend Food to Go and Grow". A number of children in need in the Watertown School system receive a duffel bag full of nutritious food items for their family for the weekend. Please consider dropping off the following items at church on Sunday.

Denyce Derleth, who is our representative, is the contact person.

# BOOK OF LIFE



04/01 Jessica Behlke  
 04/02 Kevin Driessen  
 04/03 Don Christensen  
 04/08 Tyler Stockhus  
 04/08 Bobby Ladwig  
 04/09 Kylie Kulick  
 04/09 John Tomaneng  
 04/10 Jordan Winkelman  
 04/14 Rick Scheunemann  
 04/15 Erin Loeffler  
 04/24 Josiah Piotrowski  
 04/25 Jason Loeffler  
 04/27 Clarence Zabel II  
 04/27 Jordan Stiemke

✝-**Passing:** **Jeannine Mallach** passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 25, 2024 at the age of 91. A celebration of Jeannine's life was celebrated Saturday, March 9, 2024 in our sanctuary. Rev. Chris Ross officiated. Our prayers go out to her family.

✝-**Passing:** **Irene Neitzel**, age 95, passed away on Friday, March 15, 2024, at Oregon Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, (Oregon Manor), in Oregon, Wisconsin. A celebration of her life was celebrated Friday, March 22, 2024 in our sanctuary. Rev. Chris Ross officiated. Our prayers go out to her family.

✝-**Passing:** Word reached us that **William "Bill" Brey**, age 93, passed away on March 8, 2024 in Kokomo, Indiana. Our prayers go out to his wife, Mary and the rest of the family.



**Loose Coin Offering**  
**PERENNIALS AND PLANTS**  
**FOR FLOWER BEDS**

## How to Join Us for Worship

- 1) Through the email link sent out weekly "Welcome to Worship" from [lbentz@firstcongwtn.org](mailto:lbentz@firstcongwtn.org)
- 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

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## Financial Updates

### GENERAL FUND As of February 28, 2024

2024	BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	BUDGETED TOTAL INCOME	ACTUAL TOTAL INCOME	BUDGETED EXPENSES	ACTUAL EXPENSES	MONTH GAIN OR LOSS	YEAR GAIN OR LOSS
January	\$19,604	\$16,475	\$20,579	\$17,588	\$22,889	\$19,558	-\$1,970	-\$1,970
February	\$19,604	\$15,095	\$20,579	\$15,620	\$22,890	\$26,020	-\$10,400	-\$12,370

# April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  OFFICE CLOSED	2  1 p.m. Staff meets	3	4  10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	5  OFFICE CLOSED	6
7 <b>Holy Communion</b> 8:45 a.m. – Church History Study 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir 10:00 – WORSHIP; NO Sunday School Coffee Fellowship 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	8	9	10  -	11  10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	12  OFFICE CLOSED	13  10 a.m.: Womens' Breakfast at Two Sisters
14 8:45 a.m. – Church History Study 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir 10:00 – WORSHIP; Sunday School Coffee Fellowship 12:30-2:30- Welcoming Community 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	15  6:30, Council meets	16	17	18  10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	19  OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 <b>EARTH DAY</b> 8:45 a.m. – Church History Study 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir 10:00 – WORSHIP; Sunday School Coffee Fellowship, ADOPT A HIGHWAY 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	22  <b>EARTH DAY</b> 1:30, Rainmaker Team	23  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24	25  10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	26  OFFICE CLOSED	27  8:30-1:30, SE Assoc Annual Meeting
28 <b>CAMP SUNDAY</b> 8:45 a.m. – Church History Study 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir 10:00 – WORSHIP; Sunday School Coffee Fellowship 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	29	30  7:00 Gingerbread Bd	<div> <b>Loose Coin Offering</b>  <b>PERENNIALS AND PLANTS</b>  <b>FOR FLOWER BEDS</b> </div>  			