



Church Office: Hours: M-TH 10-noon and 1-4
Office Phone/Fax: 920-261-6213
Office Email: lbentz@firstcongwttn.org
WEBSITE: www.firstcongwttn.org

Pastor's Cell: (920) 838-5630
****Please call with pastoral care needs.**
Email: rev.fatmoses@gmail.com



From the Pastor's Desk

We arrive at the most important events of the Christian liturgical year this month—Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and of course, Easter Sunday.

But before all that, there's another special Sunday in April. One of the things we may not spend too much time thinking about is that when our congregation was founded, most of its members were Presbyterian. In the 19th century, Presbyterians and Congregationalists shared missionary outreach. Often, these missionaries alternated between which denominational affiliation would be used with each new church plant—one town Congregationalist, perhaps, the next Presbyterian.

That means that our congregation's heritage includes Presbyterian roots, and the Presbyterians are denominational descendants of the Church of Scotland. So, although you may not have realized it, our congregation's founders are connected to Scottish history. (Coincidentally, so is my family name.)

To celebrate this Scottish connection, we're planning a Scottish-themed worship service on Sunday, April 6, known as Tartan Day.

What's Tartan Day? Well, you'll have to come to find out (kilts and other tartan-themed attire are welcome). But the day was originally connected to the Easter celebration, believe it or not. And so, on the following Sunday—April 12—we'll be observing Palm Sunday and begin our remembrance of the events of Holy Week.

Like last year, we will offer a Tenebrae service with Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday (April 13, 7 p.m.) and a 3 p.m. worship service on Good Friday.

And early on Easter Sunday, we will again be holding a Sunrise Service—this year at **6 a.m.** And this service—weather permitting—will be outside in the area around the gazebo. We will have our regular 10 a.m. worship in the sanctuary with Holy Communion as well, and in between there will be a light Easter breakfast.

This month brings a lot of opportunities for different kinds of worship—we'd love to see you at all of these events!

Rev. Dr. Chris Ross, Pastor
Contact Information:
Email: rev.fatmoses@gmail.com
Cell: (920) 838-5630

Every few months, it seems we go through a round of someone using my name in a scam attempt. Most of these attempts have come through the form of text messages. Because of this situation, I think it's best to explain: *although my cell number is available for emergency pastoral calls, I do not use text messaging as part of my pastoral duties.* In other words, when it comes to trying to figure out if a potential scam text message is from me, it's not—**unsolicited text messages claiming to be from me are never from me, since I avoid texting.**

I hope this reminder helps avoid any confusion. But, again, please know that my cell number remains available to receive calls.

Thanks!-Chris



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!

The camp schedules for 2025 at Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach are set. Information can also be obtained on-line at www.ucci.org

Copy your registration to Laurel to make sure your scholarship gets processed from the Larson Fund. Email: lbentz@firstcongwttn.org

Adopt a Highway Expedition!

Saturday, April 19th
Help celebrate Earth Day
(4/22).

We have planned "Adopt a Highway" at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 19th, the day before Easter.

We'll need a crew of about ten (ages 12 & up). It usually takes about an hour. Meet at church parking lot at 9 am. We'll provide bags, gloves, and a map.

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

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.



It's time to begin planning for Holy Week and Easter. Last year, the Easter breakfast was organized by Jennifer Rhodes and her sister, Jill.

This year, Jennifer has revised the menu to be simpler with lots of coffee cake, pastries, fresh fruit, hard boiled eggs, cheese and sausage platter. Coffee, tea milk juice included.

The breakfast will be served from 7:00 – 9:30 (between the 6:00 Sunrise service and the 10 a.m. Easter service.)

There will be opportunities to help: providing ingredients, being a kitchen crew helper, with table setting and cleaning up afterwards.

If you'd like to help with this year's Easter breakfast please look for the **Sign Up** on Sunday mornings or contact Jennifer Rhodes at: myvibe04@yahoo.com

Serve in Worship

Liturgists: Liturgists read from a script the scripture and other responsive readings during a worship service. You will receive the script on Wednesday, arrive Sunday at 9:40 for sound check. A Printed script will be waiting for you at the podium.

Acolytes: The purpose of candle lighting is to "bring the light of the Holy spirit" into our worship space. Although it's been children who serve as acolytes, people of all ages are invited.

If you are interested, please contact Laurel in the church office (920) 261-6213
lbentz@firstcongwttn.org.

Pastor's Continuing Education

April 22 through May 5th

During his absence, **The Rev. Katie Van Der Linden**, Pastor of Ebenezer Moravian Church, will be available for pastoral care emergencies. **She can be reached at (610) 442-3790.**



Notes from the Music Director...

Thank you to Tom Rusch who played keyboard and accompanied the choir during March. It was a treat to celebrate Women's

Sunday with the trio of Kristin Chowanec, Jennie Ortega, and Juanita Edington, accompanied by Laura Yurs on flute and Tom Rusch on piano. Laura and Tom added another duet in that service. Thanks also to James Ortega, who visited and sang with us later in the month.

Senior Choir-continues to rehearse at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We rehearse and sing in service almost weekly, but there will be some pre-planned days off. Check weekly announcements for changes to the regular schedule.

During Holy Week, we will sing on Palm Sunday, April 13; Maundy Thursday, April 17 (rehearse 6:25); and Easter Sunday (10:00 service). We can always use additional singers and you do not have to make a weekly commitment to be a part of the choir. High school age and above are welcome. Drop-ins are certainly welcome.

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

Watertown High School Concert In our Sanctuary

The Watertown High School Concert and Select Voices Choirs presented their mid-winter concert in our sanctuary on March 18th. It was a wonderful variety of sacred and secular music with spirit, energy, and soloists, including Cooper Wood, who also accompanied one of the Concert Choir pieces.

Tech Opportunities

Thank you to Pamela Martin, Melissa Mattke, Bill Edington & Dale Bakke who recorded during February.



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.

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



Rotations of servers and Bakers are needed each Sunday of the month. Bakers provide the snacks and prior to worship, "servers" get

the coffee started and place the snacks out in time to attend worship.

****SIGN UP to help** by contacting Jennifer Rhodes at myvibe04@yahoo.com or calling her at (920) 296-1378

****Schedules are on the narthex table, if you need to switch dates please contact one of the volunteers directly.**

APRIL SCHEDULE:

April 6: Bake:, Jennifer and Brian
Serve: Jennifer and Brian

April 13: Bake: Jennifer and Brian
Serve: Jennifer and Brian

April 20 = Easter Sunday: Because of the breakfast, only coffee will be available after the 2nd service.

April 27: Bake: Ellen Brown & Diane Koch
Serve: Jesse Fremont

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

THE BREAD BASKET PANTRY



Is newly located at 208 S. 3rd St., Watertown and is 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 There is a shopping cart in the narthex You are welcome to bring any food at any time . **There is always a need for** egg cartons

THE BREAD BASKET HOURS ARE:

- Mondays 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays 11 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Fridays 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Note: Bread Basket is moving to 208 South 3rd Street and will reopen Monday, April 7th.

Learn more at their website:

<https://www.breadbasketwisconsin.org/>

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 3 p.m.—5:30 p.m.
- Fridays 10 a.m. -12 p.m.

Learn more at their website:

<https://www.watertownfoodpantry.org/>

March & April LOOSE COIN



Weekend Food to Go and Grow

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

The Shared Community Mission Group's Weekend Food Bag program is currently filling 56 food bags each week for needy children. Our church’s portion this week is one half of those (28). Since there is often some left from previous donations the number is sometimes less than 28.

HOW TO HELP:

1. Donate to Loose Coin in March & April
2. Donate designated items at church on Sunday prior to the Thursday.
3. Help pack the duffel bags: weekly at 10:30 on Thursday Mornings at the Methodist Church, 112 Hall St.

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

Note: If you wish to contribute more than “coins in the plate”, you can use a “Loose Coin Envelope” and enclose the cash or check (made out to 1st. Cong UCC Wttn) Memo: “Weekend Food to Go and Grow”

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

Wednesday Evening Worship

Reminder: Lenten worship services continue each Wednesday leading up to Holy Week. Each of these services will begin at 7 p.m. (There will be no Wednesday evening service during Holy Week.)



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 13th: 10 a.m. Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 17th: 7:00 Service of Tenebrae and Communion

Good Friday, April 18th: 3:00 Worship at our church

Easter Sunday, April 20th: 6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service;
7 a.m. Easter Breakfast followed by 10 a.m. Worship and Communion

Easter Flowers..

Help to beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday service by donating a plant of your choice. If you wish, you may send a dedication ("given in honor of/in memory of") to Laurel in the church office by Wednesday, April 14th.

Special Note: Please, when ordering, *request delivery to the church for Saturday, April 19th, by noon.*

Plants will be labeled for you to take home with you after the 10 a.m. service.



Financial Updates

GENERAL FUND As of February 28, 2025

2025	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	\$18,599	\$20,579	\$20,186	\$23,969	\$19,997	\$189	\$189
February	\$19,604	\$16,034	\$20,579	\$16,049	\$23,969	\$19,093	-\$3,044	-\$2,855

Calendar on next page →



April 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
While Chris is away, The Rev. Katie Van Der Linden , Pastor of Ebenezer Moravian Church, will be available for pastoral care emergencies. She can be reached at (610) 442-3790.		1	2 <i>7:00 Lenten Worship Service</i>	3 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 Tartan Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir; NO Pastor's Study Group; NO Sunday School 10:00 – WORSHIP; Coffee Fellowship <i>1:00, Build a Welcoming Wttn at the library</i> 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	7 <i>1 p.m. Staff meets</i>	8	9 <i>7:00 Lenten Worship Service</i>	10 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12
13 Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir; Pastor's Study Group; NO Sunday School 10:00 – WORSHIP; Coffee Fellowship 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	14	15	16	17 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast <i>6:25, Sr. Choir rehearses 7:00 – Service of Tenebrae, Communion</i>	18 <i>Good Friday</i> 3:00 Service OFFICE CLOSED	19 <i>Holy Saturday</i> <div style="background-color: #ffff00; padding: 2px;">9 a.m. ADOPT A HIGHWAY (page 2)</div>
20 Easter Sunday 6 a.m. – Sunrise service outdoors. 7:30 a.m. Breakfast. 9 a.m. Sr. Choir 10:00 – WORSHIP w/ Communion Coffee Fellowship, 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	21 <div style="background-color: #ffff00; padding: 2px;">NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</div> <i>6:30, Council meets</i>	22 ⇨ <div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 2px;">Pastor out of Office</div> Earth Day	23 ⇨	24 ⇨ 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	25 ⇨ OFFICE CLOSED	26 ⇨
27 ⇨ 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir; NO Sunday School NO Pastor's Study 10:00 – WORSHIP; Guest worship leader. Coffee Fellowship 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	28 ⇨	29 ⇨ <i>7:00: Gingerbread Bd</i>	30 ⇨	March & April Loose Coin Offering: <i>Weekend Food to Go and Grow</i> -through the Community Shared Mission Project. (Page 4)		