

The Hilltop Chimes

First Congregational United Church of Christ 120 Kuckkan Lane Watertown, WI 53094
Phone/Fax 920-261-6213

SEPTEMBER 2020



Guest Ministers in September:

Sunday, September 6th

Communion Sunday
Rev. Tom Payden

Sunday, September 13th

Rev. Dr. Steve Hecky

Sunday, September 20th

Rev. Richard Broach

Sunday, September 27th

Rev. Bonnie Jacque-Gorcki

How to Join Us for Worship:

- 1) Through the link sent out weekly "Welcome to Worship" email.
- 2) Our church's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-118640148151341/>
- 3) Watertown Cable channel 985 broadcasts on Thursdays at 10 am and 5 pm; Sunday at 6 pm.
- 4) Our new church website (see 'Media'):
<https://firstcongwttn.org/> Services posted on Saturday night.
- 5) **Communion Sundays** the first Sunday of each month. Bring bread and juice to your table at home and join in the sacraments.

A Word from the Moderator

Greetings Fellow Congregational Members,

As Rev. Koepcke has departed I wanted to give a short update on the process to identify a new interim and senior pastor. There are other congregations that are presently searching for full time pastors that are currently using the services of interim pastors. As we know from our own experience, these searches sometimes take longer than expected, especially during this time of the Coronavirus challenge. After my latest contact with our UCC Wisconsin Associate Conference Minister, we should expect to have at least one interim candidate available to serve our congregation by late September or early October. This is all dependent upon searching congregations agreeing to call candidates selected by their search committees.

At this time and until an interim can provide her or his services, our staff members as well as guest pastors from the pulpit supply will be planning and providing weekly messages for our virtual Sunday services. Going forward, the church council will be setting up a search committee for a permanent full-time senior pastor sometime after the interim pastor is in place. Please advise me if you are interested in assisting with our search.

I thank you for your patience during this time of yet more change. I greatly appreciate our paid staff, church boards, and all volunteers that have come forward over these past few months to help us transition to the new virtual services and move our congregation forward to where we are today.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to leave me a message or give me a call.

Dale

Dale.bakke@live.com

920-400-0265

From the Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries

Melissa Mattke 262-719-1383.

josc.mom@hotmail.com

mmattke@firstcongwtnn.org



Sunday School

We have been continuing our ZOOM Sunday School at 10:30am on Sunday. The group worked our way through snacks. We wrapped up that unit and are moving on to some science experiments. We always end with a scavenger hunt...that is the favorite activity with these kiddos. Feel free to join us anytime!

Zoom Meeting: **Sundays at 10:30 am**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/183320649?pwd=UnFLMU9TenU2b0t3b2RVUEhyV1J6UT09>

Youth Group

We meet on Sundays at 11:30am and on Wednesdays at 6pm. We have been doing a lot of discussing about their feelings with the Covid-19 situation and school starting soon. They have also helped me with some of the service preparations as well as some VBS help. We also play games 😊 We all miss eating together and playing games in person, however we are all being patient for when the time comes for us to do that safely. Feel free to join us!

Zoom Meeting: **Sundays at 11:30 / Wednesdays at 6 p.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/671375141?pwd=RWswNldOWVR4MVg4QkpXbjNXL1NVQT09>



Report of the Virtual Vacation Bible School -

Update: I am very excited to report that this summer's VBS was a success. The program was called God's Global Kids. We met a diverse group of people from around the world and celebrated their uniqueness. We also focused on themes such as "caring for the environment", "human rights", and "identity/self-awareness".

We all met virtually and had a very diverse group of people involved. If you haven't already, check out the church service from August 23rd. That is a great review of the things we did and learned...and several of the participants helped to make that service unique. Thank you all for your support.



LISTEN UP! JOIN OUR BIBLE STUDY



From Melissa: Our group continues to meet on ZOOM at 9am on Tuesdays. We have wonderful conversations. We have just started the Book of Ecclesiastes. Join our ZOOM meeting, or sign up to receive the emails for the lessons and

you can work through it on your own. Join the meeting here:

From Pilgrim Press website:

“Ecclesiastes LISTEN UP! Bible Study

Sometimes considered the most curmudgeonly and cynical of all the books of the Bible, Ecclesiastes is also praised for telling it like it is. It addresses eternal problems that have always troubled human society: the problem of pain, the fruitlessness of overwork, the vanity of ambition, the age of anxiety, the fear of death and being forgotten. Ecclesiastes reminds us that these are not 21st century problems.

This book of wisdom also reminds us that the great joys in life are fairly simple: snuggling under the covers, having close friends and/or a sweetheart, sunlight, rest, eating good food and drinking good wine, and a good days' work. It offers soothing certainty about what it means to enjoy the good life: waiting, expecting, with open arms, to receive day by day the good things that come from God.”

This study is divided into four sections:

- Chapters 1-2 - Vapor of Vapors: Everything Evaporates
- Chapters 3:1-4:8 - A Time for Everything
- Chapters 4:9-6:12 - The Key to Life is in Low Expectations
- Chapters 7-12 - Time and Chance Happen to All

Join Zoom Meeting: Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/232183369?pwd=N0pmNDhqd3poTXFtdG1rT0xYazNqdz09>

From Mission/Outreach Board: STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE



The nation’s largest food drive re-emerges with a whole new look. During this time of Covid19 you might be wondering what will be happening in the future for the Food Pantry. Originally the annual Postal Food Drive normally

held the second Saturday in May was postponed to either August or September. With no immediate end in sight for this pandemic, the National Association of Letter Carriers has developed a new plan to address the problem of hunger.

All the nation’s food pantries, as well as ours here in Watertown continue to be willing to work with the [National Association of Letter Carriers \(NALC\)](#). The result is a “virtual” food drive created to fit the current circumstances facing us all. A website has been created for this express purpose.

It’s simple to do.

- ** Log onto nalc.org/food
- ** Scroll down and select “Wisconsin” from the drop-down box
- ** Scroll down and select “Watertown Food Pantry”
- ** You will be taken directly to the Watertown Food Pantry website where you can make your on-line donation.

Every dollar raised will go directly to our food pantry so we can purchase food for the hungry. By selecting the Watertown Food Pantry as the recipient of your donation, you are assured that all food purchased will be for our food pantry to help residents in the City of Watertown and surrounding rural area residing in the Watertown School District.

This isn’t the normal food drive; but these aren’t normal times. The one good thing rising from this approach is that rather than a one-day event, donations will continue as needed.

Thank you, Dawn at

dawn@watertownfoodpantry.org



Juanita Edington
c.920-988-2416/h.206-6111
jaemusiclover@gmail.com

Please let me know if you are willing to provide a Musical Offering as we continue our worship on-line.

You can record from a smart phone or computer, which are the easiest ways, but there are several other options. Let me know if you want to sing or play, but don't know how to get the video to me. Technology shouldn't stand in the way of you sharing your musical gifts.

Thank you goes to those who provided musical offerings during the month of August-Erin Lynch, Susie Krueger, Deanna Perschke, tumbah (VBS music), National Youth Event, the Normal Christian Life, and myself.

While Pastor Robert was here, he had asked me to choose hymns. Now, as we are having guest ministers, there are times that they are choosing hymns, and sometimes they are asking me to do so.

When we hear unfamiliar hymns, it can be jarring and uncomfortable. For me, as well! We are not called to be comfortable, but to learn and serve God. So, I would give you the challenge if you hear a new hymn in our online worship, go back and re-listen to it, and dare I say, sing along. Maybe, even several times. (You don't get that opportunity in person.) It is a great opportunity to open your mind to the text, your ears to the tune, and your heart to what God is saying to you with that hymn.

One more thing, let me know if there is a hymn that you have missed having in worship. I really look at the scriptures or a worship theme to choose the hymns and try not to repeat them too frequently since there is such a wealth of great hymnody. I may just be missing your favorite.



LOVE FUND “ Please remember that our *Love Fund* provides grants to those needing help with food, clothing, health care, rent and utilities.

For confidential assistance, please call the church office

How to Contact Us:

Office Phone/Fax:
920-261-6213

Interim Office email:
lbentz@firstcongwtnn.org

Prayer Concerns

- Audrey Lamp, Fred Schroeder, Irene Neitzel, Marian Carlson, and Pauline Wittenwyler, living at home or in health centers
- Adam Markus' friend Kevin, recently diagnosed with an inoperable tumor
- Barb Lottmann, receiving therapy; Barb's daughter Heather
- Bill Edington's brother Darin, dealing with health concerns
- Bobbie Smith, former church member, dealing with cancer
- Kathy Lamp (daughter-in-law of Audrey), for healing
- Kelly, recovering from the coronavirus
- Lola Mundt's fiancé Zachary, for healing and good health
- Nancy Renz and her daughter, Jessica Greene
- Norm Hurtubise's sister Vietta, for healing and good health
- Schools, colleges and universities as they prepare for the coming year

(Call or email prayer requests by Wednesdays)

Church office (920-261-6213) or
lbentz@firstcongwtnn.org

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sep 2020 (Central Time - Chicago)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		9am - Church Staff meets 9am - ZOOM Bible Study	4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6 P.M. - Youth Group	10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast		5pm - Worship posted
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10am - Worship posted 10:30am - Sunday School - 11:30am - Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	Labor Day	9am - ZOOM Bible Study	4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6 P.M. - Youth Group	10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast		5pm - Worship posted
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10am - Worship posted 10:30am - Sunday School - 11:30am - Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast		9am - ZOOM Bible Study 6:30pm - Church Council -	4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6 P.M. - Youth Group	10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast		5pm - Worship posted
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10am - Worship posted 10:30am - Sunday School - 11:30am - Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast	6:30pm - Trustees - TBA	9am - ZOOM Bible Study	4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6 P.M. - Youth Group	10am - Worship Broadcast 5pm - Worship Broadcast		5pm - Worship posted -
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
10am - Worship posted 10:30am - Sunday School - 11:30am - Youth Group 6pm - Worship Broadcast		9am - ZOOM Bible Study	4pm - Prayer Requests Due 6 P.M. - Youth Group			