



Church Office: Hours: M-TH 9-11 and 12-2
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

“Then Simon Peter came...and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there” (John 20:6). This verse— taken from one of the traditional Easter Gospel readings—reveals

more than we might be able to tell at first glance. It reminds us that the Resurrection story is more than some fanciful fairy-tale, for the Gospel doesn't end simply with Jesus somehow escaping the cross or vanquishing those who put him there.

Instead, as we know, Jesus is raised from the dead. And to begin the discovery of this good news and what it means, Simon Peter *has to go into the tomb*. There is no avoiding the reality of Jesus' death before we can begin to see the meaning of Jesus' Resurrection. We cannot see “the linen wrappings lying there” if we try to skip entering the tomb.

Many of us have likely heard the cliché that we can't have Easter Sunday without Good Friday, but for generations churches have experienced the opposite: Easter tends to be one of those days everyone goes to church, but Holy Week services like Maundy Thursday and Good Friday usually don't attract as much attendance. Indeed, most Christians do try to have Easter Sunday without Good Friday; too many of us avoid going into the tomb, perhaps afraid of what we might find. Death, as we know too well, can be a very scary thing.

But one of the many things the Resurrection teaches us is that even in an experience of death, God is there. As 21st century disciples, we too are called to enter into that tomb so that we may wonder at the mystery of its emptiness. This year, we again all have the opportunity to make that journey to the tomb together through worship—Maundy Thursday (Tenebrae with communion at 7 p.m. on April 2) and Good Friday (3 p.m. on April 3). Of course, Holy Week will culminate on Easter Sunday (April 5, with a 6:15 Sunrise Service in the sanctuary and 10 a.m. worship with communion). Once again, we are called to go with Jesus and the disciples along the path of discipleship that leads to the cross and goes through the tomb.

Won't you join us this year?
Rev. Dr. Chris Ross, Pastor
Contact Information:
Email: rev.fatmoses@gmail.com
Cell: (920) 838-5630

Are you considering joining First Congregational UCC as an official member?

Would you like to know a little more about the United Church of Christ or First Congregational Church?

At 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, Pastor Chris will be offering a “new member orientation” for anyone interested.



Notes from the Music Director...

As we journeyed through Lent, we continued to sing each week. We featured a women's trio on Women's Sunday and sang two anthems during Celtic worship, as well as having Laura Yurs-

flute, Tom Rusch-piano, and myself-cello, join on a Celtic Instrumental prelude. As I write this, we will be entering Holy Week with its many opportunities to worship and sing. My ongoing thanks goes to the mighty few who faithfully sing when able, Laura Yurs, who adds her flute when asked, and to Tom Rusch, who serves the music program of our church in so many ways!

The church was host to the Watertown High School Choir Concert on March 12th under the direction of Ryan Moldenhauer. It was so beautiful to experience a sanctuary filled with parents, grandparents and friends of these talented young people, and to have so many songs, both sacred and secular, move me to tears with the quality of their singing and the messages of the texts. Youth of our church, Charlotte Ladwig and Cooper Wood are both members of the Concert Choir, and Cooper was a featured soloist on one of the songs.

Senior Choir continues at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the choir room and meets weekly, unless noted ahead of time. We can always use more singers. There are no special requirements to be in the choir. Familiarity with music reading is helpful but not required. In the past few years, I have been choosing and adapting the music that I use to the skills and numbers of the singers that attend. We generally work on 2-3 pieces of music each week, so that we are working ahead and have several rehearsals on the same piece of music before singing it in a service. You do not have to be a church member or make a weekly commitment to be a part of the choir. High school age and above are welcome (and I would consider musically enthusiastic or advanced 8th graders.) Drop-ins are also welcome. If you play an instrument, please let me know. You never know when there might be an opportunity to play.

Church musicians, vocal or instrumental, are providing ministry in another way. We not only serve as leaders of the hymns but also add an anthem or special music to the service which is intended to expand upon the theme of the lectionary or the service, or provide music as a backdrop for prayerful meditation.

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

Tech Opportunities

Thank you to Pamela Martin, Bill Edington and Dale Bakke who recorded during March.

We record each service and are looking to expand our camera operators. 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 5: Easter Sunday: Because of the breakfast, only coffee will be available after the 2nd service.

April 12: Serve: Fran Milburn
Bake: Diane Koch

April 19 :Serve: Jerold Martinez
Bake: Joyce Uglow

April 22: Serve: Lexy Davis
Bake: Diane Scheunemann



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 2026 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@firstcongwtn.org

Adopt a Highway Expedition!

Sunday, April 26th
Help celebrate Earth Day
(4/22).

We have planned "Adopt a Highway" at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 26th.

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.



Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5th

7:30-9:30

Breakfast will be served 7:30 – 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. (between the 6:15 Sunrise service and the 10 a.m. Easter service.)

1. **Please RSVP** for the Breakfast and how many will be attending with you.
2. **Please be sure to sign up to help out** with the Easter Breakfast Potluck, and to bring a dish to pass. The sign-up sheet is on the Narthex table.
3. Dishes to pass can be brought in Saturday, April 4th 2-4 p.m. and refrigerated, or Sunday, April 5th before the 6:15 a.m. sunrise service.

(No later than 7:30a.m. on Sunday the 5th.)

Clean-up is at 9:30am Sunday and continuing after the 10am service as needed. Thank you, Church Council

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@firstcongwtn.org.



From the
Coordinator of
Children and
Youth Ministries

Sunday school: Numbers are few, but laughter is abundant! We are silly, but we are learning many things! We made kindness jars to help us remember to share lots of love and kindness during the season of Lent.



Gingerbread: We are making many plans for our second location. Enrollment is already happening, even though we haven't officially opened it up yet! If you are interested in helping with cleaning, putting furniture together, or donating, please let me know!

Just down the hall, we are bursting at the seams with staff and children. We are looking forward to being able to get outside regularly to get rid of germs and get rid of our wiggles!! If you would like to volunteer to read, do a project, or anything else, just let us know!



✓ **Weekend Food to Go and Grow** is currently filling 46 bags to go home with the children on the weekend. Each of the 11 churches brings one food item for each bag. Because we are a smaller church we divide the number of items necessary with First Baptist. Each church supplying half.

Items we will need for January-May are:

- Small box of muffin mix (Jiffy or similar)
- Box of regular crackers (Ritz type or saltine)
- Package of Tortillas
- Box of graham crackers

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

THE BREAD BASKET PANTRY



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

Learn more at their website:

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

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: “Bread Basket”

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
- 04/15 Brian Smith
- 04/20 Tim Swenson
- 04/25 Jason Loeffler
- 04/27 Clarence Zabel II

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29th:

10 a.m. Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd:

7:00 Service of Table and Tenebrae. We are an open Communion Church. *ALL are Welcome to come to the table.*

Good Friday, April 3rd:

3:00 Worship at our church

Easter Sunday, April 5th:

6:15 a.m. Sunrise Service;

7:30 – 9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10 a.m. Worship and Communion. We are an open Communion Church. *ALL are Welcome to come to the table.*



Breakfast will be served 7:30 – 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. (between the 6:15 Sunrise service and the 10 a.m. Easter service.)

All Are Welcome.

For planning purposes please RSVP to lbentz@firstcongwtn.org no later than noon on Thursday, April 2nd

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Financial Report for January and February 2026 for the General Fund

Financial Updates


2026	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	\$16,584	\$20,579	\$18,084	\$24,219	\$22,901	-\$4,816	-\$4,816
February	\$19,604	\$26,585	\$20,579	\$30,269	\$24,219	\$22,517	\$7,751	\$2,935

Calendar on next page →



April 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">March & April LOOSE COIN</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: green;">THE BREAD BASKET PANTRY</p>			1	2 Maundy Thursday 7pm Holy Communion w/Tenebrae 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	3 Good Friday 3pm Service OFFICE CLOSED	4 Holy Saturday
5 Easter Sunday 6:15am Sunrise Service Breakfast served 7:30-9:30. 9am Sr. Choir; No Sunday School 10am Worship, Communion. Coffee Fellowship 6pm - Cable TV Broadcast	6 Tartan Day .	7 1pm Staff mtg	8 Noon: Deadline for weekly announcements	9 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	10 <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Wis. Conference Annual Meeting at Green Lake </div> OFFICE CLOSED	11 <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Wis. Conference Annual Meeting at Green Lake </div>
12 9am Sr. Choir, Sunday School 10:00 – WORSHIP; Coffee Fellowship 6pm Cable TV Broadcast	13 7:00 Euterpe Concert	14 6:30, New Member Orientation (see page 1)	15 Jackie Robinson Day Noon: Deadline for weekly announcements	16 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18
19 Earth Sunday 9am Sr. Choir, Sunday School 10:00 – WORSHIP; Coffee Fellowship 11:30, Social Justice Team Mtg. 12:30, Building a Better WTTN Team mtg.	20 <div style="background-color: #ffcc00; padding: 2px;">NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</div> 6:30 Council mtg.	21	22 Earth Day Noon: Deadline for weekly announcements	23 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir; Sunday School 10:00 – WORSHIP; Coffee Fellowship 11:30 a.m. ADOPT A HIGHWAY (see page 3) 6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	27	28 7:00: Gingerbread Bd	29 Noon: Deadline for weekly announcements	30 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast		