



#### Location:

120 Kuckkan Lane  
Watertown, WI 53094  
Office Phone: 920-261-6213  
Est. 1845

#### Church Office Hours

M-TH 9-11:00 a.m.  
Noon – 2:00 p.m.  
Or by appointment

#### Office Staff:

*Rev. Dr. Chris Ross, Pastor*  
Cell: (920) 838-5630  
[rev.fatmoses@gmail.com](mailto:rev.fatmoses@gmail.com)

#### *Jody Reamer*

Front Desk &  
Communications Coordinator  
[jreamer@firstcongwttn.org](mailto:jreamer@firstcongwttn.org)

#### *Sue Padron*

Accounts Payable/Treasurer:  
[spadron@firstcongwttn.org](mailto:spadron@firstcongwttn.org)

#### *Laurel W Bentz*

Accounts Receivable  
Church Historian  
[lbentz@firstcongwttn.org](mailto:lbentz@firstcongwttn.org)

#### Social Media:

FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-118640148151341/>

WEBSITE:

<https://firstcongwttn.org/>

## From the Pastor's Desk



As you have likely seen or read somewhere along the way, this summer marks a very important milestone in the history of the United States—the *semiquincentennial* (250th anniversary) of the Declaration of Independence.

This summer, there will undoubtedly be historic remembrances of all kinds. However, one approach that may not come immediately to mind is the overlap between U.S. history and church history. In truth, the tradition and values of Congregationalism have played a large role in American history, and this anniversary would be lacking if we let that connection go unacknowledged.

So, we plan to observe this celebration in two ways this summer. First, we'll have a "six week summer Sunday sermon series for the Semiquincentennial" (say that ten times fast!) that looks at issues of authority and justice through a scriptural and historical perspective. The name for this sermon series is "**No Pharaohs, No Emperors, No Kings,**" and will cover the six Sundays of May 31-July 5. We'll hear about Moses and Pharaoh, Samuel and Saul, other prophets and monarchs, Jesus and what he taught about authority, special figures and events from Congregational history, and how Congregationalism and the UCC have been involved in continuous struggles for liberty *since* the founding of the U.S.

But there's so much more to explore! So to help focus on our own religious tradition's roles in U.S. national history, I'm offering an adult educational opportunity as well. Beginning on May 26, we'll be studying "**Congregationalism in U.S. History**" for six weeks on Tuesdays at 4 p.m., with our last session falling on June 30. Some of the information you may already know, but I bet you will find surprises in this deeper dive.

Everyone is encouraged to attend these special worship services and adult educational opportunities, but of course, you're likely to get the most out of this time if you choose to attend *both* sets of programming.

We'd love to see you, and the Semiquincentennial comes around only once!  
*-Chris*



## Notes from the Music Director...

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

Finishing up the Holy Week at the beginning of April, I wanted to thank the musicians for Maundy Thursday-Senior Choir, Good Friday-Juanita Edington, Easter Sunrise-Laura Yurs, and 10:00 Easter-Senior Choir. The season of Lent, and especially Holy Week, takes a lot of planning and playing for our dedicated keyboardist Tom Rusch, so a huge amount of thanks goes out to him, as well. Thanks also go to Cooper Wood, who we welcomed as guest keyboardist on April 12<sup>th</sup> which enabled Tom to take a well-deserved day away.

The church hosted the Euterpe Music Club Scholarship Showcase on April 13th. Euterpe Music Club has functioned in Watertown since 1896. Currently, the club supports a women’s choir which rehearses September-December, in preparation for a public concert and performances at various senior living centers in December, provides a free concert series to the public September through May, and through donations from members, and the public at these concerts, we are able to provide scholarships to attend music camps and for college education (for music majors or minors). The 2026 scholarship winners performed for the public at this showcase: Rebekah Wheeler—high school cellist; Abigail Booruju—college pianist; Katherine Booruju—high school pianist; Megan Morken—college pianist and arranger.

**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. We only have the month of May before the choir will take a break for the summer. Drop-ins are still welcome and this might be the perfect opportunity to try it out!



But, that means that the opportunity for providing *special music* is right around the corner. Special music is simply a solo or group, vocal and/or instrumental, and of open genre within the sacred realm or can be connected to the scripture/theme. I know that I will be gone for several Sundays during the summer, so I will not be able to fill the gap on those Sundays.

Looking ahead: June dates are 7, 14, 21, 28. I will not be in church on June 28.

## Tech Opportunities

**Thank you** to Pamela Martin, Bill Edington & Dale Bakke who recorded during April.

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 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](mailto:jaemusiclover@gmail.com)

## You can Serve in Worship



**Ushers:** It’s the hope that we will have a rotation of volunteers to usher and greet on Sunday mornings. Training is provided.

Ushers arrive at 9:30 to open the main entrance doors, turn the lights on and greet worshippers. In addition, you would assist the acolyte in lighting the taper of the candle lighter. Ushers help collect the offering.

If you are interested, check in with Bill Edington on Sunday or contact Laurel in the church office (920) 261-6213 [lbentz@firstcongwttn.org](mailto:lbentz@firstcongwttn.org).



Coffee Fellowship: Rotations of servers and Bakers are needed each Sunday of the month. Bakers provide the snacks. Prior to worship, “servers” get the coffee started and place the snacks out in time to attend worship.

\*\*SIGN UP to help by contacting Sue Harms at [robsue900@charter.net](mailto:robsue900@charter.net) or call her at (920) 261-7710

**May SCHEDULE:**

- May 3:** Bake: Ellen Brown  
Serve: Sue Harms
- May 10:** Bake: Juanita Edington  
Serve: Dale Bakke
- May 17:** Bake: Tom Rusch  
Serve: Barb Weiss
- May 24:** Bake: Lori Rhode  
Serve: Cindy Stockhus
- May 31:** Bake: Jennifer Rhodes  
Serve: Sue Harms

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### 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). Join our mailing list.
- 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 church website: <https://firstcongwtn.org/> ('Media') Service links are posted on Monday.



✓ **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

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### **THE BREAD BASKET PANTRY**

Located at 208 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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/>

**BLOOD DRIVE**

**Thursday, May 21st 1-6 p.m.**

**In Fellowship Hall**

**Blood Drive:** our next blood drive will be on Thursday, May 21st from 1pm-6pm. Please let Melissa Mattke know if you would like to register for a time to donate. This time of year always brings a low number of donors. Let's do our part to help

## LOOSE COIN OFFERING May-June



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/>

If you wish to donate more than coins, use the special “Loose Coin” envelopes.



## UCC Summer Camps Don't miss out!

**The Larson Camp Fund** provides scholarships of 50% 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 the church office about additional scholarship support.

The camp schedules for 2026 at Daycholah and Moon Beach are set. Information can also be obtained on-line at <https://ucc.org/calendar/>

Questions? Contact person: Laurel W Bentz  
[lbentz@firstcongwttn.org](mailto:lbentz@firstcongwttn.org)

## STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH SPECIAL UCC OFFERING

### During the month of May

Conferences in the UCC work to support leaders, connect congregations, engage youth and young adults, and to imagine together a just world for all. And the **Strengthen the Church** offering makes this revitalizing work possible.



### Adult Education/Study

**Tuesdays May 26th through June 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Beginning May 26, we'll be studying **Congregationalism in U.S. History** for six weeks on *Tuesdays at 4 p.m.*, with our last session falling on June 30. Some of the information you may already know, but I bet you will find surprises in this deeper dive

### Sunday Sermon Series

**Sundays May 31<sup>st</sup> through July 5<sup>th</sup>**

Pastor Chris will present this sermon series **“No Pharaohs, No Emperors, No Kings,”** and will cover the six Sundays of May 31-July 5.

We will look at issues of authority and justice through a scriptural and historical perspective. We'll hear about Moses and Pharaoh, Samuel and Saul, other prophets and monarchs, Jesus and what he taught about authority, special figures and events from Congregational history, and how Congregationalism and the UCC have been involved in continuous struggles for liberty *since* the founding of the U.S.

# BOOK OF LIFE



James Ortega	05/05
David Maas	05/05
Lucas Blaszak	05/08
Jennifer Bakke	05/10
Helen Ulatowski	05/10
Vivian Howard	05/10
Jean Nicholas	05/11
Nicole Schumacher	05/12
Chuck Weiss	05/16
Jonathan Edington	05/17
Laurel W Bentz	05/19
Toni Farrell	05/21
Sandi Budewitz	05/21
Jill Kulick	05/25
Chara Asher	05/27
Maxwell Chowanec	05/28
Collin Kulick	05/28
Joe Ruddell	05/29

† **Passing:** Melissa Mattke's mother, **Linda Neubert**, passed away at home on April 16, 2026 surrounded by her family after a battle with cancer. A celebration of life will be held Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Concord Community Center, Sullivan.

† **Passing:** We have received news that long time church member, **Jack Lemke**, passed away on April 20, 2026 after a battle with cancer. He and his wife Louise moved to Port Washington to be close to children and grandchildren but remained members. Jack was a beloved member of the church and served as Moderator, Council member. He joined in a few of our Hilltop Players' musicals plays as well. A service is planned for May 16<sup>th</sup> at Schmutzler Vick Funeral Home. (Visitation at 10 a.m., service at 1:00 p.m.)

## Words of thanks...

**Thank you to all who helped with the Easter Breakfast!** There are too many to mention names. We had a great selection of food - Egg Dishes, French Toast casseroles, yummy muffins, donuts, pastries, and coffee cakes. Church members came on Saturday to help set-up and drop off food.

*A special thank you to Barb and Chuck Weiss who were able to stay after the early service to help clean up and put away tables and chairs. God blessed us with a beautiful Easter morning to enjoy each others company and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ!*

--Sue Harms and Jim Ortega

**"The Warming Shelter Task Force of Building a Welcoming Watertown** thanks the management of the Heritage Inn, the Super 8, and Hardee's for all their collaboration in providing support for our emergency warming shelter program this past winter."

## Financial Updates

GENERAL FUND    As of March 31, 2026

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
March	\$19,604	\$24,011	\$20,579	\$25,338	\$24,219	\$20,778	\$4,560	\$7,495

# May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2
<b>3 Communion Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir; Sunday School 10:00 – WORSHIP; Coffee Fellowship <b>1:00-3:00, Warming Shelter Task Force</b>  6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	<b>4 1 p.m. Staff meets</b>	5	<b>6</b> Noon: Deadline for weekly announcements	<b>7</b> 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	<b>8</b> OFFICE CLOSED	9
<b>10 Festival of the Christian Home</b> 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir; Sunday School 10:00 – WORSHIP; Coffee Fellowship  6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	11	12	<b>13</b> Noon: Deadline for weekly announcements	<b>14</b> 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	<b>15</b> OFFICE CLOSED	16
<b>17 Ascension Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir; Sunday School 10:00 – WORSHIP; Coffee Fellowship <b>11:30, Social Justice Team Mtg.</b>  6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	<b>18 6:30, Council</b>	19	<b>20</b> Noon: Deadline for weekly announcements  <div style="background-color: yellow; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b></div>	<b>21</b> 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast  <div style="background-color: yellow; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>1:00-6:00 BLOOD DRIVE</b></div>	<b>22</b> OFFICE CLOSED	23
<b>24 Pentecost</b> 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir; Sunday School 10:00 –WORSHIP; Coffee Fellowship  6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast	<b>25 Memorial Day</b>  Office Closed	<b>26 4 p.m. Pastor's Adult Education: Congregationalism in US History (page 4)</b>	<b>27</b> Noon: Deadline for weekly announcements	<b>28</b> 10am - Cable TV Broadcast 5pm - Cable TV Broadcast	<b>29</b> OFFICE CLOSED	30
<b>31 6 week Sermon Series begins</b> 9:00 a.m. Sr. Choir; 10:00 –WORSHIP; Coffee Fellowship  6 pm - Cable TV Broadcast						