



Monthly Newsletter of First Congregational Church, UCC | Port Washington, Wisconsin | April 2024

## CELEBRATING OUR FIRST 125 YEARS Spotlight on the Anniversary Planning Team

This was not the anniversary year we expected!

Starting in the spring of 2023, the church gathered a 125th Anniversary Team who planned for a full year of remembrances. Thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of Carolyn Heatwole, Ken Matthews, Louise Mollinger, Jana Zimmerman, and myself, we have had a variety of anniversary-related accomplishments: “Rooted in Love” theme, a logo featuring our oldest stained glass, an outdoor banner featuring the logo and theme, a spring picnic (regrettably relocated by storm threats), long-time member recognition, creation of anniversary apparel and mugs, newsletter articles (**our start**, **our foremothers**, and **Sunday School**), and bulletin boards celebrating Crazy Hat Days and Christmas Pageants.

Lack of elevator access postponed our planned October 2023 community open house. As the congregation focused on financial issues related to elevator repair, it felt only right to pause our 125th anniversary activities. As we talked about postponement, we realized that celebrating is not restricted to only special anniversary years and that there *will* be a day when a celebratory community open house will be just right.

Our 125th anniversary year officially ends soon on Sunday, April 14, 2024. This place in our history hardly seems celebratory: we still await the full repair of our elevator; we will have just said our thank yous and goodbyes to Scott McLeod; we still have annual budget concerns. We should remember that on April 12, 1898 (Easter Sunday!) this brand-new congregation had no formal building to call home, no settled minister in place, no set budget. What was in place was the determination to build a community of faith, to work and worship together, “Rooted in Love”.

Submitted by Jane Spalding, Team Member