



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

FIRST SERVICE OF APRIL IN THE SANCTUARY

A reminder that the first service of each month is held in the Sanctuary. Join us Sunday morning, April 7, at 8:00. Our other services will continue to be held in Fellowship Hall until our elevator is fixed. See *page 5* for an elevator update. Thank you for your continued patience!

APRIL 7 - PASTOR SCOTT'S LAST SUNDAY

+Farewell Luncheon 

Pastor Scott's last Sunday is April 7. During the 10:00 service, we will release Pastor Scott of his ties to First Congregational Church through a Liturgy of Farewell. The Liturgy of Farewell is a meaningful tradition within the United Church of Christ, providing a structured way for congregations and pastors to mark the end of their time together. This liturgy allows for a mutual expression of gratitude, forgiveness, and acknowledgment of the pastor's service and contributions. This ceremony is not just an ending, but also a celebration of new beginnings, as both pastor and congregation look forward to the paths that lie ahead. The farewell service is a poignant reminder that while roles and relationships may change, the bonds of faith and fellowship continue to unite and strengthen all involved. Please plan to stay for a Farewell Luncheon after the 10:00 service. Sub sandwiches, chips, and cake will be served. You are invited to bring a side salad if you would like.

FAREWELL TO PASTOR SCOTT AND NEXT STEPS

As we enter a time of pastoral transition, we want to provide as much information as possible and lay out our next steps. Please see the following pages:

- Page 3 - Goodbye Note from Pastor Scott
- Page 4 - Transition Terminology & Exit Interview
- Page 5 - Guest Leadership on April 14, 21, and 28
- Page 6 - Transition Updates from Church Council, including Interim Plans

WORSHIP WITH US

We celebrate two Sunday morning worship services at 8:00 and 10:00. Nursery care is available at the 10:00 service.

HOLY COMMUNION

The first Sunday morning of each month we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Communion is open to all who seek to follow in the way of Christ, both children and adults.

LINKED UP

Be on the lookout for orange text - it's linked up to documents and web pages that you might find helpful or interesting.

SUBMIT INFO FOR THE NEWSLETTER

If you have a celebration, prayer request, or other contribution for the newsletter, please email us 7-10 days before the first day of the month.

SAYING GOODBYE - A NOTE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

The time for my departure has come. I really hate having to say “goodbye”. I’m going to miss you and the Port Washington community. Just today as I drove into town, I realized how much I am going to miss the view of Lake Michigan as I drive down Grand Avenue on the way to church. I’m going to miss coffee at Java Dock and lunch at Dockside Deli or at The Steerage. I’m going to miss running over to the Niederkorn Library in the afternoon to write or to read, or when the weather is nice to sit near the creek of the church’s Creekside Commons, or move up to Upper Lake Park for a walk.

I’m going to miss this congregation of talented, intelligent, loving, dedicated, and faithful folks. A church with incredible musicians who bring their gifts of praise to every single worship service—piano, organ, handbell, and voice (never mind the Christmas and Easter Brass)! What a joy it has been to worship with all of you! I’m going to miss the Wednesday Lunch group and the large Confirmation Classes. I’m going to miss Chris Fraser’s laugh from the back of the sanctuary when I do something silly during worship. I’m going to miss Mike Spalding selecting hymns (what a gift that has been!) and having an actual “staff” to help get things done around the church! There is so much I will miss about being your pastor here at FCC in Port Washington. Of course, it is the people of this congregation that I will miss most of all.

Saying “farewell” has already begun as some folks knew they wouldn’t be able to be present near my last couple of weeks. And I’m thankful that I have been able to make pastoral visits to others, saying goodbye even as I brought Lenten and Easter communion. I have been trying to make sure that there is information ready for the new interim pastor to pick up and continue without missing anything too important. It is one thing I can do to help ease my sadness—trying to make sure the church will be fine without me.

As we say goodbye, it is important to remember the ethical boundaries that need to be maintained. You are probably familiar with at least one portion of the Ordained Minister’s Code. The Code includes the following ethical guideline: “I will not, upon my termination and departure from a ministry position, interfere with or intrude upon the ministry of my successor. I will not perform pastoral services within a parish or for a member of a parish without the consent of the pastor of that parish. I will deal honorably with the record of my predecessor and successor.” The Ordained Minister’s Code was created in reaction to real experience when pastors do not pay close attention to boundaries of personal and professional ethics. Our tendency is to think, “Oh, this doesn’t pertain to me!” But it does.

I leave you with one last word; from Paul in 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, **“Keep alert; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”** In the transition that is now upon all of you, keep alert for the movement of God’s Spirit. God is at work here! Be attentive to the push and pull of the Spirit’s call. Be brave—these are not easy times to be a mainline church. Be strong—you have so many gifts, talents, and abilities—now is the time to use them all. And of course, love one another! Love is difficult work. It requires forgiveness. It calls for mercy. But when love reigns supreme—healing and vitality will follow. God bless you, now and forever. Amen.

TRANSITION TERMINOLOGY AND INFORMATION

Transition Period – There are two major phases the church will move through during a transition period: the congregational self-study, often led by an interim minister, that leads to the development of a Local Church Profile followed by the search for, nomination of, and election of a settled minister.

Pulpit Supply – Wisconsin Conference UCC maintains a list of interested guest ministers available temporarily on a week-to-week basis. Our church compensates the clergy member for the specific Sunday morning they preach.

Interim Minister – Within the United Church of Christ, interim ministry is understood to be the specialized, time-limited pastoral ministry provided to a local congregation during a pastoral vacancy. During the interim period, in addition to performing the usual pastoral role, the interim also helps the church focus on issues of identity and mission in specific and intentional ways, as it evaluates its past and present plans for its future. The ethical norm throughout the UCC is that those doing interim ministry are not candidates for the settled position. Because of the unique situation of each congregation, the length of the interim ministry period varies greatly, but is common to last 12-18 months.

Search and Call Process – The work to find a minister to be called to provide settled ministerial leadership through a Search Committee. Search and Call takes considerable time and thoughtfulness, with prayerful attention to both logistical detail and the movement of God’s Spirit. It is expected that authorized ministers and local congregations work closely with Conferences and Associations while engaged in Search and Call.

Settled Minister – Clergy person we call to serve our church. Settled Ministry has no predetermined end-date and is meant to mature in partnership over time between a pastor and a congregation.



EXIT INTERVIEW ON APRIL 4 - A TIME FOR MUTUAL REFLECTION

As Pastor Scott prepares to embark on a new chapter, our church leadership is taking a moment to reflect on the journey we've shared by participating in an Exit Interview on Thursday evening, April 4. The Exit Interview is not just a formality, but a heartfelt exchange between Pastor Scott and the Church Council, along with the Pastor Parish Relations Team. This process is a thoughtful review of the pastor's tenure and examines the growth and challenges faced by our congregation. It's an opportunity to celebrate our collective achievements, acknowledge the work still to be done, and offer affirmations to both Pastor Scott and our church family. This Exit Interview is a testament to our commitment to continuous reflection and improvement, ensuring that our church remains a safe, vibrant, and nurturing community for all. Thursday, April 4, will be Pastor Scott’s last day in the office before his last worship services on April 7.

GUEST LEADERSHIP FOR OUR SUNDAY SERVICES IN APRIL

After Pastor Scott's last Sunday, we plan to utilize Pulpit Supply for the remainder of the month. It is our hope to have an interim minister in place starting in May.

Rev. Bob Wells and Rev. Jim Gorman will be our guest leaders. Please join us in giving them a hearty welcome!

APRIL 14



REV. BOB WELLS

Bob Wells is currently serving as a full time chaplain at Cedar Community in West Bend. Ordained in 1986, initially serving for 14 years in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Bob began serving churches in the United Church of Christ in 2009. He and his wife, Jean, celebrated their 23rd anniversary on Easter Sunday. They are blessed with two beautiful "kids", David and Mary, who are both in college.

APRIL 21 & 28



REV. JIM GORMAN

Jim Gorman has served two congregations in Wisconsin as a full time pastor. He and his wife Sally have lived in Wisconsin for 40 years. Jim began his ministry in Chicago after graduating from Eden Seminary. He was drafted in the Army and served in the Washington D.C. area where he met his wife. He and Sally have two grown children and two grandchildren. Jim paints in oils and watercolors and loves teaching his grandchildren how to paint. He has been retired for 10 years and served several congregations as an interim pastor.



UP-TO-DATE ELEVATOR NEWS

On Wednesday, March 27, Otis Elevator Company helped the Property Team determine that two control boards have failed. One controls the calling of the elevator carriage to the different levels, and one controls the door motors. One of the control boards is able to be repaired and the other is on order.



TRANSITION UPDATES

FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Dear Members and Friends,

We would like to provide you with a few updates as we enter this time of transition:

1. We are working on selecting an interim minister to provide continuity in worship, pastoral care, and program oversight. Rev. Jane Anderson, Associate Conference Minister of the Southeast Association Wisconsin Conference UCC, is assisting us.
2. The interim selection process has about twelve steps in the UCC's guide to "Welcoming the Interim Pastor". We are currently working on steps nine and ten, a clarification of responsibilities and compensation. Once we fully secure our interim minister, we look forward to sharing information about this clergy person.
3. After the interim minister is in place, we will initiate a Search and Call process for a new pastor. We will invite all of you to be part of a self-study that will identify our church's pastoral needs. A Search Committee will develop a Church Profile to be shared with potential candidates.
4. Our Conference office will advertise our vacancy among UCC clergy across the country. Our Search Committee will read ministerial profiles, screen candidates, conduct interviews, check references, and eventually select a candidate who will be recommended to the entire congregation.

The UCC Conference strongly recommends that the church not move ahead with the selection of a Search Committee until transition decisions are made and ongoing pastoral coverage is assured for the following reasons:

- Moving ahead too rapidly does not allow "space for members to adjust to and deal with a complex variety of emotions related to the previous pastorate".
- Moving ahead too rapidly does not allow our congregation to utilize the specialized talents/training of the interim minister we choose. This time allows us to know ourselves better and gain a more solid sense of the qualities we seek in a settled minister if we pause to learn from our intentional interim time.
- Moving ahead too rapidly leads to premature closure of a renewal process that might enable the congregation to explore dramatic new opportunities for mission and service.

We are keeping a running list of those who have offered to be part of the Search Committee and appreciate their interest.

We drafted this update so you can trust that we are taking steps to ensure the stability and vitality of our future. We will keep you informed on a regular basis and plan to share "Transition Updates" every month.

In closing, we'd like to express gratitude for Pastor Scott's ministry. Please keep Scott and his family in your prayers, and we appreciate that he will be praying for us in return.

Sincerely, Your Church Council

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ALL CHILDREN
4K-7th GRADE
INVITED!



See You
on April 28!

Happy Spring from Church School!

We had a fun-filled March in Church School and Kids Club, learning about Jesus's Ride into Jerusalem. The children made wreaths outlining the events of the season, palm leaves, and learned the meaning of the word Hosanna. In April, our lesson is entitled "A Joyful Sunday, Jesus is Risen!". We will be reading the story of Joseph taking Jesus to the tomb and the discovery of the stone having been rolled away. These stories cover several passages from the book of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The children will be using markers and their imaginations as they create the scene of the stone being rolled away (*see photo below*).

For our final service project of the program year, we are asking Church School families to bring a box of Life cereal to church on Sunday, April 7. Jesus gave his *Life* for us, and we will give *Life* to our local food pantry. We welcome all members of the church to join us in our service project by donating a box of cereal this month. Thank you!

Signed,
Shandy Roehrig
Christian Education Team
Representative on
Church Council
and Church School Team Leader



Life Cereal
Collection
in April

KIDS CLUB

Kids Club, open to all 4K through 7th graders, meets on the third Sunday of each month. The next Kids Club is **April 28** during the 10:00 service. All children join their families for the start of the service, and, following a performance by the Handbell Choir, gather in the preschool classrooms for an activity.

NURSERY CARE

Every Sunday morning during the 10:00 service, we provide Nursery Care for children newborn through elementary. Care is mostly provided by our 8th grade Confirmation students and their families. Our Nursery is in the Gilomen Room, across from the restrooms.



Please
note
upcoming
date
changes!

April 7 - Church School
April 28 - Kids Club
Stories: **Jesus is Risen,**
Jesus Speaks to Mary Magdalene

May 5 - Church School
May 19 - Kids Club
Lesson: **Respecting Others**



April craft preview

APRIL COLLECTIONS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

Our Community Outreach Team invites you to contribute personal care and household products for those in need. You may place donations in the grocery cart in the entryway and Eric Olson, Team Representative on the Church Council, will deliver to The Food Pantry here in Port Washington at the end of this month. Here is a list of needed items:

- Toilet Paper
- Kleenex
- Paper Towels
- Shampoo
- Bath Soap
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes



Additionally, our Church School program invites families and friends to donate a box of cereal for their April service project. See *page 7* for more information.



FAMILY PROMISE “VOICES FOR WELLNESS” EVENT

Our Community Outreach Team would like to lift up Family Promise of Ozaukee County and their upcoming fundraising event regarding mental health awareness featuring Meg Kissinger, author of *While You Were Out*, on May 14. [Click here](#) to view the flyer.



CONFIRMATION CLASS TO BEGIN WRITING STATEMENTS OF FAITH

In March, the Confirmation Class visited America’s Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee. The class toured the museum and discussed the experience as well as learned some of the ways our church has been a positive force for civil rights and justice for African Americans, as well as ways our church has been complicit in continuing racial prejudices. During classroom time, the UCC’s history was reviewed, and they learned how the United Church of Christ fits in with the wider Christian Family Tree. With Pastor Scott’s resignation and departure, the confirmands are fortunate to have Eric and Tina Olson stepping in to help lead the class through the final weeks. On April 8, the class will watch the final section of the DVD, “Jesus, the Complete Story” which focuses on Jesus’ final week including his crucifixion and resurrection. The class will also begin working on writing their personal Statements of Faith which will be presented on Confirmation Sunday, May 19. The class will be traveling to Holy Hill to walk the Stations of the Cross on Saturday, April 13. This year’s class includes Sawyer Crain, Simon Gilhooly, Ruby Hoffmann, Kylee Olson, Chloe Rychtik, Addison Wellenstein, and Sydney White.



LOOKING AHEAD - MAY AND JUNE DATES

Mark your calendars:

- Confirmation Sunday on May 19 - including music from our choirs and a picnic luncheon.
- Brat Fry at Saukville Piggly Wiggly on Saturday, June 1. Please contact the church office if you would like to help coordinate this church fundraiser.
- Spring Congregational Meeting on Sunday morning, June 23. The main item of business will be Church Council elections.

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Do you have difficulty with hearing? We'd like to hear from you as we try to improve our church accessibility for persons with hearing loss.

Church member, Mike Spalding, recently tested our Hearing Assistance Loop that was installed in the sanctuary 12 years ago, thanks to a donation from Paul & Bev Tutas in honor of their grandson, Max. Good news, Mike's testing found that our Loop System is in working order. This system works for hearing aid users when they switch their aid to the "T" (Telecoil) setting. For persons with hearing loss who do not use hearing aids, the church has a receiver device with headset that will also amplify sound transmitted through microphones connected to the Loop System in the Sanctuary.

If you would like to try the Loop System privately, set up a time with Mike Spalding by emailing him at mike.spalding1@frontier.com. Whether you can benefit from the Loop System or improved use of microphones at other church gatherings, please send your responses to the following questions to church member, Louise Mollinger at lmollinger@yahoo.com.

1. Have you experienced difficulty hearing at worship or other church gatherings?
If so, where or in which setting?
2. Do you use hearing aids?
Have you tried using the church loop system in the past by setting your aid to "T" (Telecoil)? Was this a positive experience?
3. How can our church improve communication for people with hearing loss?



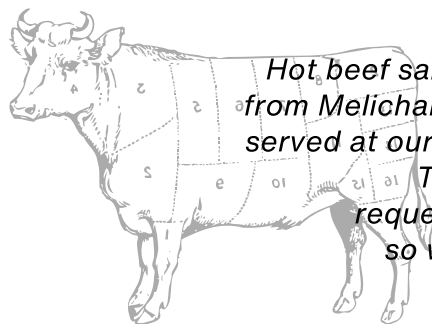
Submitted by Louise Mollinger & Mike Spalding,
in an effort to become fully Accessible to All (A2A)



HOT BEEF SANDWICHES RECIPE

Recipe from Jennifer Dimmer (a variation of **Best Danged Beef Pot Roast ~ Crock Pot**)

- Small to medium size rump roast
- 1 envelope brown gravy mix
- 1 cup water (to go with brown gravy mix)
- 1 individual size serving apple sauce
- 1 onion, diced
- Salt and pepper, to taste



Hot beef sandwiches, with beef from Melichar Broad Acres, were served at our potluck in January. The recipe has been requested several times, so we want to share it !

Sear the roast in frying pan with small amount of oil. Sear it well on all sides. Put roast in crock pot. Mix envelope mix with water and applesauce, then pour over all. Set crock pot on low and let it cook for at least 8-10 hours. Shred beef after cooking. Serve on rolls.

MARCH PHOTOS



Seuss Breakfast Celebration on March 2



HOSANNA Kids Club Craft



Church School in March



29:11 International Exchange Music Group visits on March 7



Pysanky Egg Workshop on March 10

UCC CHURCH CAMPS, RETREATS, & ART WORKSHOPS



Sacred places meant for you!
Enjoy time away and the opportunity to connect deeply with nature, in a loving and accepting community.

Event registration is open!
Go to ucci.org



Daycholah Center
Ripon, WI



Moon Beach
St. Germain, WI



Cedar Valley
West Bend, WI



Camp AweSum
Supporting Youth on the Autism Spectrum and their Families

Our congregation is fortunate to have three different church camp locations to camp at and retreat to as part of the United Church Camps in the state of Wisconsin. Daycholah Center, Moon Beach, and Cedar Valley are outdoor ministry programs associated with the United Church of Christ, the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC, and Outdoor Ministry Association UCC.

For young families, consider the “& Me” camps, a special, shorter adventure for young campers (K-2nd grade) and an adult they love. The “& Me” camps have been providing meaningful first-time camp experiences for generations at Daycholah Center.

Cedar Valley, a multi-faceted retreat center, is just under a 40-minute drive from our church. The property spans across 100 acres of natural beauty with hiking trails, multiple gardens, a pond, rolling hills, and panoramic views. The buildings include the main lodge, an art studio, a historic log house, a barn, and the iconic Spirit Chapel. Cedar Valley offers dynamic art workshops for everyone! Class size is kept small to offer personal instructions. No previous experience is needed. Expert instructors will guide you through the creation of your project. The cost includes supplies, unless otherwise noted. [Click here](#) to learn more.

You may learn more about all of the camps, retreats, classes and events of the United Church Camps by visiting ucci.org.



Year-round camps, retreats, and events for all ages!



One Ministry - Three Sites

Daycholah Center

is located on the Southeast Shore of Green Lake, near Ripon

Moon Beach

is nestled in the Northwoods, between Eagle River and St. Germain on the shores of Moon Lake and Little Saint Germain

Cedar Valley

is in the heart of Washington County, surrounded by 100 acres of natural beauty

Cedar Valley Art Workshops

YOGA OFFERED ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Everyone is welcome to participate in a yoga class on **Wednesday evenings at 6:00** at church, led by Dawn Stacey, a licensed yoga instructor and PTA. The group meets in the open classroom space across from the Music Room. Each class is \$12, payable to Dawn via check, cash, or Venmo.

THURSDAY MORNING MEN'S BREAKFAST

Every Thursday morning at 8:00 a group of members and friends of our church meet for coffee, breakfast, and conversation. This delightful group of men meet at The Beacon restaurant, located downtown on the first floor of the Harborview hotel. Men's Breakfast Group is open to all the men of the church. Everyone places their own order and pays their own bill. It is a great way to spend the morning and jumpstart your day!

OUR CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAM

We currently offer two dynamic choirs – Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir. Our Chancel Choir rehearses **6:30-7:30 on Monday evenings**, and performs on the second and fifth Sunday of every month. Our Handbell Choir rehearses **7:00-8:00 on Wednesday evenings**, and performs on the third Sunday of every month. Please know that you, your family, and friends are invited to join at any time!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

We host a Fellowship Hour following our 8:00 service on the first Sunday of each month, and following our 10:00 services on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with other families and friends in the church. Please make an effort to introduce yourself to people you haven't met.



SUNDAY SERVERS - PLEASE CONTACT CHURCH OFFICE TO HELP

For the remainder of the program year, through May 19, we will be reaching out to folks to ask for help with Sunday Servers such as Nursery Care and Worship Leaders. If you are interested, please email Beckie at office@portuucc.org.



Our Nine Readers on Maundy Thursday



Baptism

Congratulations to Ruby Elizabeth Hoffmann, daughter of Rick and Jean, who was baptized into the Christian faith on Sunday, March 17.



LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH MINISTRY

Our church partners with four other churches, Grand Avenue United Methodist Church, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Living Hope Lutheran Church, and Parkside Community United Church of Christ, all located in Port Washington and Saukville, to support our joint ecumenical initiative, Lighthouse Youth Ministry.

Lighthouse Youth Director, Christin Flucke, and the board welcomes all middle school and high school youth to join the group at any time. Events are held at Lighthouse Headquarters, 513 West Grand Avenue in Port Washington, unless indicated otherwise. Here are their upcoming plans:

Sunday, April 14 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Bowling at Circle B

Come enjoy a fun evening of bowling at Circle B Recreation in Cedarburg*. Bowling, shoe rental, and snacks are all included.

**Students can be dropped off/picked up from Lighthouse HQ to carpool together. If you prefer to meet at Circle B, please let Christin know.*



Sunday, April 28 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Stone Soup Service Project

Join Lighthouse as they partner with Stone Soup, a ministry of Christ the King Lutheran Church, to create some delicious homemade chicken soup to share with those in need. No cooking experience is necessary, and all supplies will be provided.


Friday, May 17 from 8:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. Saturday LIGHTHOUSE LOCK-IN!

Many of the kids have been asking for this event and here it is! Join Lighthouse for 12 hours of late-night fun as the group enjoys games, snacks, more games, midnight worship, movies, and more. Students can be dropped off/picked up from Christ the King Lutheran Church located at 420 W. Whitefish Road here in Port Washington. Please RSVP by Sunday, May 12 if you plan to attend.



CONGRATULATIONS

To Kai-i Tien, our pianist, who recently celebrated ten years with our church!



SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks and congrats to Jennifer Dimmer and Tyfani Ulicki, with special help from Jodi Cowen and Taylor Ulicki, for coordinating our second annual Seuss Breakfast Celebration on Saturday, March 2. Thanks to all those who made the event possible: those who made financial contributions, those who purchased tickets, and those who volunteered their time setting up, cooking and cleaning in the kitchen, bussing tables, helping with craft projects and games, ticket table, and cleaning up! It was a wonderful team effort!

To Jim Schmit for serving as our church liaison to The Food Pantry in Port Washington. Nearly every Tuesday morning, for countless years, Jim has picked up the donations in the Food Pantry cart in our entryway and delivered to the pantry. Jim served the church in this way in memory of his late wife JeriAnn, who for many years was our church liaison to the Food Pantry. Jim recently retired from this role and we sincerely thank him for his devotion and kindness!

To Brett Dimmer and the Chancel Choir for hosting the South African Choir 29:11 dinner and concert on March 7.

To Terry McManus for hosting the Pysanky Egg Workshop on March 10.

To our Fellowship Team for hosting the Ecumenical Lent Soup and Salad Dinner on March 20. It was such a hit, that we almost ran out of food!

To Mike Dimmer for shoveling the late spring snowfall the morning and afternoon of March 22.

To Jon Crain for being the Confirmation parent helper at the Black Holocaust Museum mission experience, and at Confirmation Class.

To our Congregational Care Team member, Alice Ruffin, who sent out birthday and anniversary cards to our members and friends in March.

To our Fellowship Team for providing warm cinnamon rolls, a treasured tradition in our church, on Palm Sunday morning.

To our Maundy Thursday Servers: Readers- Jennifer Dimmer, Carolyn Heatwole, Jason Jacque, Jeanne Mantsch, Don Niederfrank, Ric Probst, Jane Spalding, Gary Tackes, and Rhonda Thompson. Choral Quartet- Barb Bahr, Brett Dimmer, Tracy Greymont, and Mike Spalding. Pianist- Sherri Melichar.

To our Good Friday Servers: Readers: Kitchie Allen, David Franks, Louise Mollinger, Scott Symes, and Jeff Ulicki. Soloist: Kathy Bretl and Pianist: Kai-i Tien.

SPECIAL THANKS continued...

To everyone who contributed to our Easter Sunday services - the Chancel Choir, Servers: Kitchie Allen, Kathy Bretl, David Franks, and Jane Spalding, Easter Brass: Brett and Jennifer Dimmer, Lydia Linendoll, and Jamie Karrels, and Pianist: Sherri Melichar.

To all those who purchased flowers to decorate our church for Easter, and to those who made financial contributions to support Advocates of Ozaukee, Balance, Family Promise, Habitat for Humanity, Ozaukee Family Services, and Port Food Pantry.

To all those who contributed Easter items to Lighthouse Youth Ministry for their Easter basket mission project benefiting Family Promise and "Egg My Yard" fundraiser to benefit Lighthouse's future endeavors.

To Jane Spalding for preparing fresh palms for congregants on Palm Sunday, arranging altar flowers in celebration of Easter, and arranging fresh pots of flowers for Easter morning.

To our March Counters: Ken Matthews, Kathy Bretl, Phil Stepanski and Tracy Bretl, Bev and Joe Mueller, and Joe and Dawn Rychtik.

To our March Worship Leaders: Phil Stepanski, Kitchie Allen, Scott Symes, Allen Cottrell, Jane Spalding, Jeff Ulicki, and Don Niederfrank.

To our March Nursery Caregivers: Sawyer and Jon Crain, and Ruby and Jean Hoffmann.

To Chris Drasch for sending cards of concern to our members and friends on an ongoing basis.



PROPERTY TEAM MEETING MINUTES

Our Property Team is an active church team comprised of a handful of folks from our church. The team keeps a close eye on our church and works to maintain all aspects of our church building and grounds. The team would like to share their recent monthly meeting minutes:

March 2024 Property Team Minutes



RAISERIGHT GIFT CARD FUNDRAISING PROGRAM



Jennifer Dimmer and Rhonda Thompson, our church RaiseRight Coordinators, will be placing an order on Sunday, April 14. The gift cards will be available at the church for pick up starting on Sunday, April 21. You can enroll and place an order on the company website, RaiseRight.com/enroll. Our church enrollment code is **P8I47VHNX56H**. Or, you can complete the **paper form** and write out a check to the church. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you!

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive Team

Moderator: Jason Jacque (2024)
Associate Moderator: Jodi Cowen (2024)
Clerk: Rhonda Thompson (2025)
Treasurer: Phil Stepanski (2025)

Team Representatives

Christian Education: Shandy Roehrig (2024)
Fellowship: Jennifer Dimmer (2025)
Staff Support and Review: Ken Matthews (2024)
Property: Bill Bond (2025)
Community Outreach: Eric Olson (2024)
Liturgy: Tracy Greymont (2025)
Stewardship: *currently vacant* (2025)

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The February minutes were approved at the March 14, 2024 Church Council meeting.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church Council Minutes
February 8, 2024, 6:30pm

Call to Order – by Jason Jacque, Moderator, @ 6:35 pm
Pastor Scott, Jason Jacque, Tracy Greymont, Bill Bond, Eric Olson, Jodi Cowen, Jennifer Dimmer, Shandy Roehrig and Rhonda Thompson present

Opening Meditation – (Rhonda) Rhonda read a daily devotion from Paul Tripp's New Morning Mercies.

Approval of the Council Minutes – January 2024 - Shandy motions to approve the January minutes and Eric seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Treasurer Updates (Phil)- At the Executive Council meeting Phil reported that his meeting with Kristina went very well and role responsibilities are still being assigned. Kristina plans to reconcile the accounts back to 2019 and did not find that daunting. The final reports for 2023 have not been completed.

Old Business

Property Team (Bill)

- Elevator Repairs Update-The mechanical side of the installation of the new elevator part is completed and took less time than anticipated. The drilling was done and took two hours which leads them to think the bill will be way below the estimated \$45,000. The elevator is operating, but has not been inspected yet, and is not electronically functioning. Have you heard anything from the insurance adjustor? Arc melted/metal weeping was evident according to the insurance adjustor, but nothing official has been reported yet.
- Building Maintenance- Smoke Detectors, Solar Panels - The smoke detectors are functioning properly, and all work completed. The Property Team has received an estimate for \$595 to replace some

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

parts for the solar panels. Gary Tackes has been a blessing to the team. The team would like some weekday help identifying the circuit breakers and the location they control.

- Church Security- Please table till next month.

Council Positions: Stewardship (Pastor Scott) - Jason has the thank you notes. Jodi and Jason will try to recruit someone to start in June.

Additional Team Updates (Shandy, Eric, Jennifer, Tracy, Ken) - Christian Education's report from Shandy is that Church School and Kids Club are going well. They are setting the dates for the remainder of the Sundays. Confirmation is May 19. For Community Outreach, Eric will create an email to let members know the plan for the Port Food Drive and Family Sharing restocking drive. They will be asking for canned goods, dry goods and paper goods. Jennifer says the next Fellowship event, February 18, is soup and salad. March will be Ukrainian Pysanky Egg decorating. March 2 is the Suess Breakfast fundraiser. Cinnamon rolls are planned for Palm Sunday. Wednesday March 20th we will host the Ecumenical Lent Service and dinner. Tracy says all is good with Liturgy. Jennifer has submitted the forms for the raffle license.

Congregational Meeting / Listening Sessions (Jason)

- Sunday, February 4th at 9am
- Sunday, February 11th at 11am
- Thursday, February 15th at 7pm via Zoom

A small change to clarify to attendees that the fundraising on the budget is presented as coming from the community attending hosted events.

Building Usage and Fee Schedule (Pastor Scott)- Alcohol and deposit fees were discussed as well as providing cleaning procedures. It was also discussed to have a statement on a price for repeat room usage.

New Business

Preparations for February 25th Special Congregational Meeting (Jason)

- Approve Winter Congregational Meeting Minutes
- Vote to change the Call Agreement terms
- Vote to approve the 2024 Budget
- Ask for volunteers to create a Fundraising Team

Make a list of cuts made and list volunteers that are doing the work instead.

Any other new business to come before the Council? - A choir from South Africa will be in the Sheboygan area. Pastor Hollister of First Congregational Sheboygan asked if we'd like to host and hear the South Africa Choir on March 7. They asked us to provide a potluck dinner for the choir and members at 5:30 then the choir will perform. Pastor Scott will let them know we are interested.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment at 8:05 pm
Submitted by Rhonda Thompson - Clerk

APRIL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----|-----------------|
| 1 - | Joe Rychtik | 14- | Karen Oftedahl |
| 4- | Edie Webb | 15- | Meg Tackes |
| 5- | Debra Wickesberg | 16- | Gary Drasch |
| 6 - | Don Cooper | 19- | Colton Jagow |
| | John Karrels | 20- | Austin Raaflaub |
| 7- | Jocelyn Becker | 21- | Hailey Bergin |
| | Joshua Becker | 22- | Aaron Rose |
| 8- | Brynn Nelson | 26- | Mia Blum |
| | Allyson Schlehlein | | Jeanne Mantsch |
| 9- | Mike Dimmer | 28- | Grady Karrels |
| | Sean Malloy | 29- | Sandy Modahl |
| 13- | Steve Schowalter | | |
| | Payton Katzer | | |
| | Steve Davidson | | |

APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



- 14- Jason and Emma Jacque
- 16- James and Roberta Blumenberg
- 18- Rick and Jean Hoffmann
- 20- Sean and Amy Gilhooly
- 27- David Franks and Louise Mollinger
- 30- Bill and Ann Fleischmann

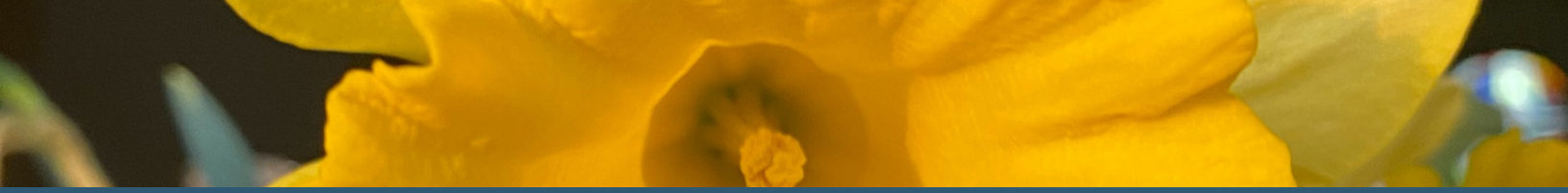
Please contact Beckie Perez, at office@portucc.org if you would like to add a Birthday or Anniversary.



Chancel Choir on Easter Sunday Morning

APRIL

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						
	1	2 9:30 am Staff Meeting	3 10 am Friends for Justice 12 pm Last Lunch Group 6 pm Yoga 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	4 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon 6:30 pm Exit Interview	5	6
7 Second Sunday of Easter 8 am Worship Communion Service 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Worship Communion Service and Liturgy of Farewell Church School, Nursery Care 11 am Farewell Luncheon for Pastor Scott	8 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	9 9:30 am Staff Meeting	10 6 pm Yoga 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	11 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon 6:30 pm Church Council	12	13 10 am - 3 pm Confirmation Class Mission Experience to Holy Hill
14 Third Sunday of Easter 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Chancel Choir, Nursery Care 11 am Fellowship Hour 11:15 am Spring Card Making Workshop 6 pm Lighthouse Youth Group - Bowling	15 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16 9:30 am Staff Meeting	17 6 pm Yoga 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	18 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon	19 11 am Property Team	20 1pm Connie Cottrell Memorial Service
21 Fourth Sunday of Easter 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Handbell Choir Nursery Care	22 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	23 9:30 am Staff Meeting	24 6 pm Yoga 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	25 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon	26	27
28 Fifth Sunday of Easter 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Kids Club, Nursery Care 11:00 am Fellowship Hour 6 pm Lighthouse Youth Group - Stone Soup Service Project	29 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	30 9:30 am Staff Meeting				



CHURCH INFORMATION

First Congregational Church - United Church of Christ
131 North Webster Street
Port Washington, WI 53074
(262) 284-2022
website - portucc.org email - office@portucc.org

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday mornings from 8:30 - Noon

Office Staff

Amy Gilhooly, Communications Director - amyg@portucc.org
Beckie Perez, Office Manager - office@portucc.org

Church Council group email - fcc.committees@gmail.com

STAY CONNECTED

Like us on [Facebook](#)

"First Congregational Church, Port Washington, WI"

Receive our E-Blasts (emails)

Please let us know if you would like to be added or have a new email address

Check out the church website at portucc.org

RECORDINGS OF WORSHIP SERVICES

We record our Sunday worship services each week. You may subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) ("First Congregational Church of Port Washington"). This allows you to receive notification when a service is uploaded.

ONLINE GIVING WITH PAYPAL

PayPal is an easy way to give to the church to pay your pledge and/or make an extra financial gift. You can find the [PayPal](#) button on the home page of the church website (portucc.org) or use this QR code. Thank you!



The words of our Church Covenant proclaim:

*Depending upon the teachings and life of Jesus for inspiration and guidance,
we promise to seek to love God with all our heart, with all our soul,
with all our strength and with all our mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.*