



# Congregational Connections

Monthly E-Newsletter of First Congregational Church, UCC | Port Washington, Wisconsin | December 2022

## "I LOVE THOSE J-I-N-G-L-E BELLS"

It started for me as soon as the 896 Trick-or-Treaters had finished up Halloween festivities on my street. We were still putting away the graveyard decorations when the Bing Crosby and the Andrew Sister's version of "Jingle Bells" began to play in my head. I'm sure you all know "Jingle Bells", perhaps some of you even know the particular version I'm referencing. But the "ear-worm" has remained playing in my head throughout the month of November.

While I love Thanksgiving and feel a great fondness for the story of Pilgrims and Native Americans sharing in a feast celebrating a successful harvest. I mean we are, after all, the church of the Pilgrims. Whenever I try to quickly explain to someone what a Congregationalist is, I usually say something like, "Ever wonder what happened to the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock? As years went by, they began to be called Congregationalists—and that's us." That terrible over-simplification is near and dear to my heart. However, even that, for me, can't compete with Christmas.

I'm looking forward to celebrating another Advent and Christmas season with all of you. Please read all about the many ways we are hoping to celebrate the season in this month's newsletter. Sunday worship, Advent Vesper Communion, the Advent Workshop and Cookie Exchange, the Christmas Tree Sale, Church School Gift Giving, Confirmation Service Project, Christmas Eve services, Lighthouse Fundraiser, Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross. There is so much to look forward to, so many opportunities to participate in, and so much to celebrate! It's going to be a great month!

*Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy,  
Scott*