



Congregational *Connections*

Monthly E-Newsletter of First Congregational Church, UCC | Port Washington, Wisconsin | July 2021

JULY AND THE START OF A NEW PROGRAM YEAR

Several years ago, when our children were still active in an incredible variety of sports, activities and clubs, my wife, Laura, looked at the calendar and said, “Oh no, its July 4th already, summer is over!” I could not believe she felt that way, because it seemed to me that summer was just getting started. But, from her perspective, school sports and other “back to school” events and orientations were already crowded into August, to prepare for them properly we would have to begin in July. Hence, her disappointed conclusion: July 4th: summer is over.

I understand where she was coming from, especially this year. We have all been quarantined in our homes and are so looking forward to getting back out there into the world—there are a million things we would like to do! As I look at the beginning of the program season in September and October, there are so many things I would love to help get the church started into and back up and running; we are going to need a long head start to get it all going. I am tempted to start sprinting forward and really push to get things going.

One of the nice things about having a Spring Congregational meeting this past Sunday, June 27th was reading through the Annual Reports from the Council members and team representatives. It reminds me of how much we have already achieved and already accomplished simply by having gotten through the last 18 months. Instead of sprinting forward right away, those reports remind me that significant ministry has been occurring all along, even while we were quarantined and not worshiping publicly.

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...JULY continued...

You might think an Annual Report would not be very exciting, but it is incredible to read and consider the amount of time and effort, the talent and skill necessary that allowed this congregation to continue its ministry and mission during an incredibly difficult year. We are all remarkably fortunate to be a part of a church that has been so blessed with the members, staff and resources on display in those reports.

So, while June passed rather quickly, and September is on the way (and here before we know it), let's agree to enjoy the summer days of July for the gift that they are and do our best not to worry too much about the Fall schedule ahead. We will be ready. And hopefully we will find this slower month as an invitation to get the rest we need to continue our ministry anew in the new program year.

Courage and Peace,
Pastor Scott



SPRING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES AND 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

According to the Church Constitution, "A meeting of the congregation shall be held no later than the last Sunday in June to elect officers and team representatives to the Council. An Annual Program Report shall be presented at this meeting."

We met as a congregation via Zoom on Sunday morning, June 27, to elect officers and accept team reports. [Click here](#) for minutes of the meeting. The minutes will be approved at the Fall Congregational Meeting.

Paper copies of the 2020-2021 Annual Report are available at church. Or, you may [click here](#) to view the Report electronically.

WORSHIP WITH US!

During the summer months, from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend, we will have one service on Sunday mornings at 9:00.

CLICK AWAY!

Remember to be on the lookout for orange text throughout this e-newsletter. The orange text is linked up to other documents or web pages that you might find helpful and interesting.

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEXT E-NEWSLETTER

If you have any celebrations, concerns/prayer requests or other contributions that you would like us to include in a future e-newsletter, let us know. Please email us 7-10 days before the first day of the month.