



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.

WELCOME AND THANKS TO NEW AND OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS

We welcome and thank our two new Council members - Rhonda Thompson, who has been elected to serve as Clerk on the Executive Team of the Church Council and Jennifer Dimmer, who has been elected to serve as Fellowship Team Representative on the Council. Kathy Bretl has been elected to serve as Treasurer. She was appointed to the role last fall. Mike Spalding has been elected to serve as Liturgy Team Representative and Jason Jacque was elected to serve as Stewardship Team Representative, both were appointed to these roles back in June of 2020. We'd also like to thank Jim Clements, who served two terms as Property Team Representative, and Marti DeMario, who served as Fellowship Team Representative. Bill Bond served was elected to serve as Property Team Representative. Bill is transitioning to this role after serving a term as Clerk. [Click here](#) for a list of all of the current Church Council members.

The Church Council acts as the over-all administrative body of the church, having authority over programs, finance and property. It is comprised of the Executive Team and the Team Representatives, with the Pastor serving as an ex-officio member.



GENEROSITY ABOUND AT THE BRAT FRY

Our thanks to the Stewardship Team for hosting another Brat Fry on Sunday, June 27. (You may recall they held their first one last October.) Thank you also to everyone who made an effort to go and support the event! Due in large part to a very generous anonymous donor who paid the grocery bill (meat, buns, chips, etc.), the team raised almost \$700! The Team would also like to recognize all of the generous tippers. Many purchased about \$12 of food and gave those in the stand a \$20 bill and told them to keep the change. The money raised will go towards our window repair loan payments which start this coming September (\$1,097 a month). Thanks also to the Fellowship Team, especially Marti DeMario, for baking sweet treats for the sale.



Pictured in the stand are Jason Jacque, Team Chair, Joshua Jacque, Jodi Cowen, Event Chair, and Craig Modahl.

FAMILY

SUNDAY FUN DAYS!

Brought to you by our Church School Leadership Team

A chance to join Pastor Scott and church families for fun and fellowship this summer!



PLAYTIME & COFFEE

Sunday morning, July 11 8:00 a.m.

Meet up at Possibility Playground to start the day. Parents can enjoy coffee while the kids play! A light breakfast will be provided for both kids and adults. There will be a handful of middle school kids to hang out and play with the younger children.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL & POOL NIGHT

Sunday afternoon, July 25 3:00 p.m.

Join us in the grassy area between the church and the pool for an ice cream bar (from 3-4pm) before we all head to Pirates Hollow Waterpark for some swimming and fun. We will partake in the pool's Family Time (inflatables allowed) which runs from 4-6 pm. We will hand out admission tickets for those who do not have a pool pass.



KICKBALL & SMORES

Sunday evening, August 22 6:00 p.m.

We will play kickball and other games in the church parking lot and enjoy a campfire and smores after the games.

Feel free to bring neighbors and friends! More details will be emailed as the events get closer. Please contact the church if you have questions.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE CHURCH IN VARIOUS WAYS

A reminder that we invite you to consider serving the church in various ways. If you have been thinking of getting more involved, or have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Scott to discuss. We will also be recruiting team members for various Church Council and church teams in the coming months.



Here is a current list of volunteer needs:

- An Ushering Team is being developed for the start of the program year in September.
- We are looking to form a team of lay readers to take turns reading scripture for worship.
- We are looking for an additional volunteer/family to care for a specific flower bed in Creekside Commons.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Scott or the church office.



CHARITABLE FUNDRAISERS

Every year, members and friends of our church participate in charitable fundraising events (walks, runs, bike rides, etc.) helping to raise thousands of dollars for a variety of worthy causes. As a church community, we support these efforts by contributing \$100 per event from our Local Mission Fund.

If you are planning to participate in one of these fundraisers, please complete and submit the [Charitable Fundraiser Contribution Request](#) form.



SUMMER CHURCH CAMP

You might be interested to know that a handful of kids and adults from our church will be attending summer church camp: Amy, Simon, and Max Gilhooly, Jeanne, Kerry, and Cash Mantsch, and Elaina Perez. Have a great time!

VISITING WITH PASTOR SCOTT

Pastor Scott wants to remind everyone that he would enjoy a chance to get acquainted.

He can visit with you at your home or here at church.

Please email him at pastor.scott@portucc.org.



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Our thanks to Brenda Shupe for managing our Little Free Library!

If one of the things you are planning to do this summer is clean out your kid's room/s, please remember we take all ages of children's and young adult books. Just drop them off here at church. Thank you!



THURSDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Every Thursday morning at 8:00 a.m., a dedicated group of gentlemen from the church gather at The Beacon restaurant, which is located downtown on the first floor of The Harborview hotel. The Thursday Morning 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 an hour (or two) and begin your day.

If you are interested in attending, you are welcome to join the group, or you can send Ken Matthews, group facilitator, an email if you have questions (k0matthews76@gmail.com).



SPECIAL THANKS

To Rev. Don Niederfrank for conducting our Sunday services while Pastor Scott was on vacation.



To John and Christa Karrels for maintaining the flowerbed at the corner of Wisconsin and Webster Streets. They also planted a rose bush to beautify the area even more!



To Joe and Bev Mueller for maintaining the Sculpture flowerbed and replacing old shrubs with new boxwood shrubs.



Special thanks to Jeanne Mantsch for planting sunflowers by Creekside Commons.



We appreciate Mike Dimmer for trimming shrubs and cleaning out flower beds. Mike also made a brace for our a/v equipment to help us record the services. Thanks, Mike!



UPDATES FROM OUR FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Six Month Financial Update:

In the first six months of 2020 we had \$111,441 in revenue which included pledges, identified revenue and unidentified revenue. For the same period 2021, our revenue categories as listed above totaled \$100,050 for a negative difference of \$11,391 between 2020 to 2021.

In April of 2020 we received a \$34,448 loan from the Payroll Protection Plan. This loan was forgiven after we provided substantiating information showing these funds were spent on salaries. In February of 2021 we received \$34,448 from the second stimulus package Payroll Protection Plan and loan forgiveness documents will be filed soon.

Our Port Washington State Bank checking account balance is \$61,468.
Our Cornerstone checking account balance is \$25,200.
The Memorial & Special Gifts savings account balance is \$63,239.

We do have one loan in the amount of \$25,000 which covered our window repair project in 2020. Payments of \$1,097 begin on September 1, 2021, and last two years. Thank you to the Stewardship Team for hosting a Bray Fry to raise money to go towards the first of the payments.

While we do have an expected shortfall in 2021, we also have assets to help cover this shortfall as we resume our regular church activities and grow our community of faith.

Lorraine Halls
Financial Administrator



Church Council Team Spotlight

OUR FELLOWSHIP TEAM

The Fellowship Team is gearing up for a return to activity after more than a year of being dormant during the COVID-19 isolation. Even though we did perk up a bit when Pastor Scott arrived in January and requested our assistance in providing fresh baked cookies to deliver to congregants as he called on them individually as his personal way of getting to know each of us. Team members baked hundreds of cookies to be packaged in gift bags and were happy to be doing what we all love to do.....COOK! Imagine the excitement when we plan our first potluck dinner and welcome back all our church family to once again share a meal together.

Palm Sunday was yet another opportunity to bake cinnamon rolls that were passed out to members who drove through the parking lot to receive a palm branch AND a hot cinnamon roll with their blessing from Pastor Scott. The Ozaukee Press was impressed with our celebration of Palm Sunday during a time when many churches were closed so they featured our church on the cover of their newspaper. A Brat Fry was enjoyed by all, hosted by the Stewardship Team on Sunday, June 27th. Desserts were available for purchase after being lovingly prepared by the Fellowship Team.

Our team has always had many members over the years, but it's fun to see new faces show up for any event....the more the merrier. Just a few of our "vintage" members include Barb Bahr, Terry Sdun, Holly Ternes, Roberta Blumenberg, Jane Schwacher, Alice Ruffin, Sherrie Dimmer, Jennifer Dimmer, Joyce Bria, Tracy Bretl, Lorraine Halls, Kathy Bretl, Beckie Perez, and Cindy Lopez. Our memories of Jerry Schmit and others who added to this team but are no longer with us, give us lots of stories to tell when we are all gathered in the kitchen at First Congregational Church here in Port Washington. Any ideas for fun events that will help to bring us all back together again in the weeks and months ahead are always welcome. Feel free to contact me, and I will share your ideas with this awesome group of ladies and occasionally a man or two...Phil Stepanski, David Franks, Gary Bria, and Mike Dimmer.

Marti DeMario

Fellowship Team Representative on the Church Council

Our thanks to Marti for serving on the Council in this role, and a welcome to Jennifer Dimmer for being elected as the new Fellowship Team Representative on June 27.

JUNE CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

The June 10, 2021, the Church Council meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Jeanne Mantsch, Moderator.

Present: Jeanne Mantsch, Mike Spalding, Ric Probst, Jason Jacque, Kathy Bretl, Phil Stepanski, Bill Bond and special guest Louise Mollinger.

Opening Meditation - Jason Jacque

Jason told the Council about an ex-coworker who has a daily blog called "The Daily Mantra". He read one day from that blog based on Acts 10-34.

Approval of the Minutes - May, 2021

Scott sends out the Minutes for approval and some of us find the website is a little "wonky". We will speak to Scott to get a clarification on the approval process for our next meeting. (Specifically, should we edit in place, or comment only, and is approval noted physically via a comment at the end.)

Financial Administrator's Report (given by Kathy, Treasurer)

Kathy presented the Quarterly Statement of Activity with the 1st quarter summarized and the first 2 months of the 2nd quarter summarized as well.

The budget vs. actual report was also presented. There were some comments regarding tweaking column titles and redundant rows.

Old Business

Reopening Team - Report (Phil)

Phil reported that the "soft" opening of services was going well. There will be a Reopening/Ushering Team meeting on 6/22/21. One of the topics to be discussed will be a review of increased capacity from 40 to 60 worshippers in attendance on Sunday mornings (which went into effect May 30). Also to be discussed was the inclusion of more music into the service. The handbells would be the safest, but with the retirement of the director, we may have to wait for a new director. Congratulations on your retirement, Lori!

New Business

Louise stated that the Justice team applied for and received a Catalyst Grant from the Conference of \$1,500 and a donation of \$1,000 to offset some of the cost involved with their project, which is to hold a seminar on racial issues of the day. This seminar called "Sacred Conversations to End Racism" will be co-taught by Rev. Andre Pirtle and Scott's wife, Rev. Laura McLeod. The main reason for Louise' presence at the Council meeting was to ask the

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES, continued

Council for the balance of the funds necessary to bring this seminar to our church (\$2,500). Louise will bring to our next Council meeting a clearer picture of what the seminar will bring to our Church and some estimated numbers of attendees. A motion to approve her request for funds was made by Kathy and seconded by Phil and approved. The money would come from the Marquardt Mission Fund, subtracting whatever amount is received through free will offerings by attendees.

Spring Congregational Meeting – Agenda and Council Elections

Jeanne shared a draft agenda for our Spring Congregational Meeting, to be held 6/27/21. Those topics were:

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Acceptance of annual reports

Election of new Council members

“some business topics” TBD

Special recognition and thanks to outgoing council members

Jason wanted to make sure that the “Church Brat Fry” was also added to the agenda.

Jeanne noted that the annual reports from each Council chair are due “NOW” so they can be sent to all who will be attending the Spring meeting prior to the meeting.

Summer Council Meetings

It was brought up that in prior years, the Council did not meet in July or August. A motion was made to that effect, discussed and approved to move the Council back to its old “pre-Covid” schedule of not meeting during the summer.

Emergency Procedure Review (Jeanne)

We agreed that the usher schedule document covered much of the information. Phil suggested that ushers be shown where the emergency defibrillator and other equipment is kept, and how to use it. Jeanne noted that the ‘No Guns’ signs were no longer posted on our doors, and should be replaced.

Reminders:

Next Executive Committee Meeting – September 2, 2021

Next Council Meeting – September 9, 2021

Opening Meditation – Pastor Scott McLeod

THIS MONTH'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

July 4 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

July 18 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 11 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

July 25 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21



THE FOOD PANTRY - CURRENT NEEDS

The Food Pantry here in Port Washington is currently in need of: Suddenly Salad, Mustard, Ketchup, canned fruits, Fruit cups, Pudding cups, Juice boxes, Capri sun, Knorr Rice sides, Salad dressing - both Mayo and lettuce dressings, Jam, Jelly, Chex mix/snacks, popcorn, 1# bags of rice, canned green beans and peas.

You may drop off donations to the church Tuesdays through Friday mornings.



LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH MINISTRY - SUMMER UPDATES

An Update from Erica Brooks, Lighthouse Director

Lighthouse's weekly Youth Group will be on pause for the summer, we will resume after Labor Day! Starting this fall we will be offering small groups for high school students. These will be offered in Cedarburg and Port Washington so far. These groups will be going through an interactive video series called Alpha. We would love to be able to offer one more group, so if you are interested in hosting a small group of high school students once a week please contact us directly. We would love to talk with you. Lastly, save the date for our back to school event on Sunday, September 12! This is going to be a great time for youth and their families to learn more about Lighthouse; as well as play games, eat food, and possibly win some cool prizes. All are welcome, and more information will be available later this summer. For more information about Lighthouse or to contact us please visit our website, www.lighthouseyouth.org.

****Our church is still looking for a representative on the Board.*

Please contact Pastor Scott to learn more.

JULY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Men's Breakfast The Beacon 8am	2	3
4 Independence Day Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service with Communion 9am AA 3pm	5	6	7	8 Men's Breakfast The Beacon 8am	9	10
11 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost SUNDAY FUN DAY Playtime and Coffee at Possibility Playground 8am Worship Service 9am AA 3pm	12 Justice Team 4pm (Zoom) Church School Leadership Team 7pm (Zoom)	13	14	15 Men's Breakfast The Beacon 8am	16	17
18 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service 9am AA 3pm	19	20 Reopening Team 7pm (Zoom)	21	22 Men's Breakfast The Beacon 8am	23	24
25 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service 9am SUNDAY FUN DAY Ice Cream Social and Pool Night 3pm AA 3pm	26	27	28	29 Men's Breakfast The Beacon 8am	30	31

JULY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2 - Lefty Fowler | 18 - Joseph Probst |
| 6 - Violet Nelson | Lyle Falk |
| 7 - Jennifer Dimmer | James Mitchell |
| Louise Mollinger | 21 - Scott McLeod |
| 9 - Jane Schneider | 23 - Jonda Johnson |
| 10 - Kevin Ward | 25 - Barb Olson |
| 11 - Taylor White | Jenna Bloemer |
| 12 - Ralph Perez | 26 - Blake Peiffer |
| 13 - Jim Clements | 27 - Ann Fleischman |
| 15 - Kassie McManus | 28 - Gabe Pasten |
| Brandon Hinneberg | 30 - Macy Eslinger |
| 16 - Haley Barber | Joe Wilsnack |
| Nick Braam | 31 - Kathy Bretl |



JULY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Brett and Jennifer Dimmer
- Dave and Jeanne Mantsch
- 3 - Bruce and DonnaMae Laabs
- 6 - Brad and Payton Katzer
- 11 - Brad and Heidi Bertler
- 22 - John and Michele Norman
- 28 - Emil and Jane Schneider



CHURCH INFORMATION

First Congregational Church
131 North Webster Street
Port Washington, WI 53074
(262) 284-2022

email - office@portucc.org
website - portucc.org



Summer Church Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday mornings from 8:30 - 11:30

Office Staff Emails
Rev. Dr. Scott McLeod, Pastor - pastorscott@portucc.org
Amy Gilhooly, Communications Director - amyg@portucc.org
Beckie Perez, Office Manager - office@portucc.org
Lorraine Halls, Financial Administrator - lorraine@portucc.org

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PAYPAL REMINDER

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!

