



Congregational Connections

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

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

We have completed a full month of in-person worship services, and it feels great to finally be together with you in public praise, prayer and proclamation! It has been a long fourteen month stretch between in-person services for all of us. Consider all that has changed in that time: I was still in Elkhorn when it all began and had not even finished my Ministerial Profile, and you were getting used to an interim minister. We all had to learn many new online computer skills to make it all work, and I, for one, got proficient at recording myself using my phone's video camera. While the new technology made online worship possible, I think we all knew that it was never going to be the same as being together with friends and family in the comfort of the church sanctuary. Then, in fulfillment of some of our worst fears, the pandemic stretched on and on; weeks turned into months, a couple of seasons turned into a full year and continued. Thank God the roots of our faith run deep, and our church family continued in their support and affection for the church. We have weathered the storm!

After serving this church for four months, it was such a blessing to finally experience what Sunday morning was like. It had been a very odd and rather depressing experience to preach and pray without a congregation, recording myself, all alone. Even as I was getting more and more used to it, I did not realize exactly how much I missed the congregational worship until that first Sunday of May. Simply to be able to say, "Good Morning!" and have the congregation respond, was a terrific feeling. And then, of course, to have the congregation chuckle at my failure to wait for the bells to ring before I went into the opening of the service—again, how I missed those kinds of genuine responses. To be able to greet people before and after worship; to hear "live" music; to see the expressions on people's faces (or at least, the look in their eyes!)—it was all simply icing on the cake!

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...WORSHIPPING TOGETHER continued...

This month we can all look forward to more of the same. With the changes to the CDC guidelines and with the infection rate continuing to go down, the Church Council has recommended that we open the sanctuary to a larger group of people in each service. We will still be keeping our masks on for the service and maintaining social distancing in order to protect those who are not vaccinated. As the summer progresses toward the fall program season, we hope to be able to ease restrictions even more and promise to keep everyone updated as we make further changes.

Thanks for your patience and for your faithfulness to our church family as we have gone through this very difficult time together. By God's grace we seem to be coming through this pandemic and can look forward to worshipping together every Sunday going forward.

Courage and Peace,
Pastor Scott



PASTOR SCOTT ON VACATION

Pastor Scott and his wife Laura will be heading out on a road trip on May 31 that will eventually bring them to Seattle, WA for a family wedding. On the way there and back they will be touring several National Parks and celebrating their 30th Wedding Anniversary on June 8. They will be in Seattle for the wedding and staying with extended family. They will be back to Wisconsin and "the real world" on June 22. While Scott is away the Rev. Don Niederfrank will be preaching and leading worship for the first three Sundays in June (June 6, 13, and 20). Don has also agreed to be on-call in the case of any emergency pastoral care issues. Please notify the church office if you have any pastoral needs.

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. Please head to our [News and Announcements](#) page to sign up to attend.

REOPENING UPDATES

[Click here](#) for updates from the Reopening Team.

USHERING TEAM

An Ushering Team is being developed for the start of the program year in September. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the church office.

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.