



Congregational Connections

Monthly E-Newsletter of First Congregational Church, UCC | Port Washington, Wisconsin | February 2023

FEBRUARY - THE SHORTEST MONTH OF THE YEAR

When I was in elementary school I had a joke book with illustrations, and the one I remember clearly had a drawing of a small alarm clock being thrown out of a second-story window with the caption, "Why did the boy throw the clock out the window? He wanted to see time fly." It is not a great joke, but I am often reminded of it when I reflect on how time does tend to fly past so quickly.

This month I will be attending an overnight retreat with some clergy colleagues who have become friends through a program called "Companions in Ministry". The group was formed two years ago to encourage mutual support and dialogue across ecumenical boundaries and has been very helpful to me as I began my ministry with all of you here in Port. Unfortunately, this retreat, scheduled long ago at the start, marks the end of the program.

How quickly two years has passed! Two years ago I was just in my second month of being your pastor. The pandemic was still lasting so much longer than was imagined possible, we were still only offering virtual worship. Time has moved so quickly in those two years, yet doesn't that episode of our time together seem so long ago?

We have started planning ways to celebrate our church's 125th Anniversary this year. 125 years is a long time-- how the world has changed since the Dennett families felt the spiritual calling to create a Christian community that could be more open to people and ideas. Yet, as our doors were opening in 1898, the church in which I grew up in Connecticut would have been celebrating its 180th Anniversary. In 2017 I was fortunate to go to Germany for the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. And some of the churches we visited had been in existence for 300 years before the wave of reformation came to their city in 1517.

How time does fly. Make the most of the time we have this month, *(continued on next page)*

the shortest month of the year. There is so much happening around the congregation and so much for which we can be grateful. Worship, fellowship, church school, adult study, anniversaries marking our past, plans for our future, and so much more. Come and see! Peace, Pastor Scott



JOIN US FOR OUR 125th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING

Our 125th Anniversary Planning Team will meet next on Sunday, February 5. Please join us in the library after the 10:00 service. We brainstormed a long list of possibilities at our January meeting. It's not too late to add your thoughts and/or participation to our efforts as we decide on events/themes for the year April 2023 - April 2024. Any questions? Please contact Jane Spalding, jvrspalding@gmail.com or Pastor Scott.



TAKE A LOOK AT VARIOUS PAGES OF INTEREST!

New Members Classes.....PAGE 5

Mac & Cheese Fundraiser.....PAGE 7

Property Team & Addressing Building Concerns....PAGES 10 & 11

Summary of Winter Congregational Meeting.....PAGE 12

RaiseRight Earnings in 2022.....PAGE 14

new! Church Fundraiser -
Green Eggs & Ham Event on March 4.....PAGE 17

Birthdays and Anniversaries.....PAGE 21

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.

CLICK AWAY

If you are reading this newsletter online, be on the lookout for orange text - it's linked up to documents and web pages that you might find helpful or interesting.

CONTRIBUTE TO 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.