



Congregational *Connections*

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

STARTING OFF THE NEW YEAR

I hope that you enjoyed the Advent and Christmas seasons here at church. There was a lot of ministry going on. But here we are with the new year upon us! Doesn't it sometimes feel like our lives are spent just barely managing to finish one thing before we're quickly off chasing the next event or activity? Am I the only one? The new year is traditionally a time to look ahead, making resolutions and that sort of thing, but it is also a time to review the time that has passed.

In the following pages of our newsletter there is a nice combination of looking forward to 2023 and reviewing what has taken place in 2022. You will see the first stages of planning for our 125th Anniversary Year: certainly a time to celebrate our years of service and mission in Port. At the same time, the Capital Campaign Planning Team is reporting on what took place at the Awareness Campaign meetings in October and November. Interestingly, those Awareness Campaign meetings not only did quite a bit of reflecting on the past, but also looked toward future needs of the church.

You will also read about the Examen(ed) Church program that is about to get started this month. Our church has been accepted into this program sponsored by Marquette University. We have a small team that will receive training and through a spiritual discernment process will help the whole church begin to look toward the directions God is calling our congregation as we move into 2023 and beyond.

And of course, all the reports about what has taken place recently - Church School, Confirmation, Christmas Tree Sale, fellowship events, worship and more! Focusing on the past and on the future should never allow us to forget about what is happening right now! It is a gift, which is why it is called "the present"! Enjoy the first newsletter of 2023!

Peace,
Scott