



Congregational Connections

Monthly E-Newsletter of First Congregational Church, UCC | Port Washington, Wisconsin | July 2022

QUESTIONS OF FAITH- PART TWO

As this year's Confirmation Class was coming to a close, and the Confirmands were beginning to write their personal "Statements of Faith", I asked them to send me questions they still had as it related to the different areas of their statements. The questions they asked were fascinating! When we met again, I did my best to answer many of them, but there were some that are incredibly difficult to answer. Some were the same questions asked by people of faith through the centuries: why do bad things happen to good people? What happens after we die? How could Jesus have been raised from the dead? Confirmands always ask the best questions!

I thought I would spend just a little time each month of the summer attempting to respond to just a few of their questions, and probably some of the questions we still carry around with us. Often enough we adults have learned to live with the questions, even if we haven't quite produced answers—and sometimes that is all we can do.

So, the question this month is: **If all the stories in the Bible aren't literally true, how can we tell fact from fiction?**

The teenagers in the Confirmation Class are sometimes confronted for the first time with the idea that all the stories in the Bible might not be historically accurate. It's one thing to sort of guess that there is a discrepancy between the science that is being taught in school and the story of creation in Genesis. For some, it's the first time that they have heard a person in church (me) say that the story of Noah's Ark is, in fact, just a story. For some it is a relief, and for others it can be a bit of a crisis of faith.

I try to explain that the stories in the Bible can still be true, even if not historically, or scientifically accurate. For instance, the two stories of creation in Genesis chapter 1 and chapter 2 are not historically accurate, *...continued on the next page...*

...QUESTIONS OF FAITH continued...

(which even the original authors knew, because they contradict one another) but what the stories have to say about human nature, or about the ultimate source and sacred nature of the creation, along with the special relationship between God and humanity “made in God’s image” are still true. The Bible makes claims about God, our relationship with God and who we are because of our relationship with God; these are areas that science cannot discern. So, the insights that Genesis offers are deeply significant and can still be true, even if we now have a better scientific understanding of the age of the universe, the formation of planets and of how life on Earth evolved over millions of years.

It’s a little like Jesus telling the story of “the Good Samaritan” or “the Prodigal Son”. These parables are filled with meaning that we continue to discern for the way we live our lives today. There are issues of forgiveness, of selfishness, of love, of recognizing the humanity of one another, of God’s love for us, and many more that impact our decision making in 2022. Does it matter whether these two stories that Jesus told are historically accurate and factually true? Do we need to know the name of the forgiving father, or the address of where the two brothers lived in “the prodigal son”? Do we need to know the date the man was robbed, beaten, and left on the side of the road? Would having verification of the factual truth of the parable impact whether the story moves our hearts to follow the example of the Samaritan?

Behind the question of “what is ‘actually’ true in the Bible?” is the question of authority. By what authority can I know that I am making good decision, know that I am beloved, know that I am on the right path? Where is the foundation upon which I can stand?

In our tradition, scripture is the primary, but not the only foundation upon which we stand. We also value the religious tradition of which we are a part, plus our own reason and experience. In seminary I was taught that making use of these four “authorities” was the “Wesleyan Quadrilateral” after John Wesley the founder of Methodism. Scripture, tradition, reason and experience need to be used together to discern our paths. We believe God has given us brains to use (reason), that God is at work in our lives (experience), that we are a part of a living community of faith (tradition) and that we have the insights of people of faith developed over thousands of years (scripture) all working together to help direct us and move us toward the world God has envisioned.

As I said earlier, Confirmands ask the best questions. I hope you have a wonderful month of July. See you in church!

Courage and Peace,
Pastor Scott

P.S. - Special thanks to Don Niederfrank for filling in and preaching on three Sundays in June while I was away on vacation. Thank you also to all the members and friends of the church for allowing me to take a once in a lifetime trip to Scotland, traveling with my daughter, sister and brother-in-law.

BBQ BIBLE STUDY ON TUESDAY EVENINGS STARTING THIS MONTH

Each Tuesday evening at 5:30, beginning on July 5, all the way to the end of August (August 30), everyone is invited for dinner and then a Bible study focusing on themes from the Gospel of Luke. Pastor Scott will cook up Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers on July 5, Bratwurst on July 12, Polish Sausage on July 19 and then Hotdogs on July 26. All those who attend are invited to bring something to share: chips, salads, desserts, etc. We'll gather outside on the patio, when the weather is nice, or inside if its rainy. After dinner we'll share in conversation around scripture texts from the Gospel of Luke, and finish up by 7:30.

JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR

BBQ BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Evenings
in
July & August

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall
and Church Patio



JULY 5 - BURGERS

JULY 12 - BRATWURST

JULY 19 - POLISH SAUSAGE

JULY 26 - HOTDOGS

WORSHIP WITH US - SUMMER SERVICES

We have one service at 9:00 during the summer months (sorry, no nursery care provided in the summer).

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.

PREACHING AND LEADING WORSHIP IN JULY

We are so fortunate to have clergy members of the congregation who are able to step forward and help fill our pulpit so well when Pastor Scott is away. In June Don Niederfrank did an outstanding job and now in July Rev. Craig Modahl and Rev. Steve Davidson will be leading worship while Scott is away on a Mission Trip. Please plan to come and hear the Word as discerned by Rev. Modahl on July 10th and then from Rev. Davidson on July 17th.



SUMMARY OF SPRING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Spring Congregational Meeting took place on June 26 in Fellowship Hall following worship. After Jeanne Mantsch called the meeting to order, Pastor Scott offered a brief prayer and Treasurer Kathy Bretl and Financial Administrator Phil Stepanski updated everyone on the church's finances for the first half of 2022. The Financial good news was that our giving has kept pace with expenses, and we are filling in the deficit gap so far. We still have a real challenge ahead, but if additional fundraisers are successful there is cautious optimism, that we will meet all obligations. The annual reports of the different team leaders were accepted, and a new slate of officers and Team leaders were presented to the congregation for a vote. Our new officers and team representatives: Jason Jacque, Moderator, Shandy Roehrig, Christian Education, Eric Olson, Community Outreach, Ken Matthews, Staff Support and Review, were elected to the Church Council and will begin serving July 1st. We are still seeking an Associate Moderator. Jodi Cowen was appointed as Stewardship Team Representative to complete the term vacated by Jason Jacque as he moved to serve our new Moderator. Pastor Scott introduced a new Capital Campaign Planning Team; Bill Bond, Carolyn Heatwole, Jeanne Mantsch, Joe Mueller, Karen Oftedahl, and Ray Shupe. They will be working with Wisconsin Conference UCC staff person, Rev. Andrew Warner, in putting together a possible financial campaign to attend to the church's necessary building repairs and bring to the congregation a proposed campaign for a vote sometime in the fall or winter. Thanks to all those who attended the meeting. Our Annual Report can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR OUTGOING CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

To Jeanne Mantsch for serving as our Moderator.

To Phil Stepanski for serving as our Associate Moderator before being hired as our Financial Administrator this spring.

To Savannah Anderson for serving two terms as Christian Education Team Representative on the Church Council.

To Ric Probst for serving a term as Staff Support and Review Team Representative on the Church Council.



JULY MISSION TRIP WITH PILGRIM UCC IN GRAFTON A NOTE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

Earlier in the year I put out a call to see if there was any interest in having some of the high school youth from our church join the Pilgrim UCC youth group in Grafton on their annual mission trip. Josh Jacque and Taylor Ulicki answered the call and so the three of us will be accompanying the Pilgrim youth and adults on a mission trip to Kentucky from July 10 - 17.

We will be working with the Appalachia Service Project. They are a Christian ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia. They hope to one day eradicate substandard housing in Central Appalachia and by doing so, transform everyone who comes in contact with their ministry.

Taylor, Josh, and I will be a part of a small team and sent out to help a family with home repairs. While none of us are particularly skilled in carpentry, the ASP folks will be sending us out to do manageable jobs (painting, cleaning, etc.) and perhaps send some skilled folks along that can show us or teach us what we need to do to be helpful. After the day's work, we will be staying together as part of the larger group and sharing in group meals and activities. The ASP group has a great reputation and has been working with mission groups like ours for decades.

My hope is that our church will be able to offer something like this on an ongoing basis in years to come for our high school youth. Working with the Grafton church makes sense as we learn what will work for us, and as it has been some years since the last time I went on one of these trips. But the experience and the learning that can happen is transformational for all those who participate—youth and adults. I'm so glad that Josh and Taylor will be able to be a part of the group. Keep us all in your prayers!

OUR NEW PRIDE FLAG

If you drove past the church or attended worship during the month of June, you may have noticed our new Pride flag flying from the south-side of the building over the outdoor patio. Thanks to Brad Mueller and Karl Letsche for donating the flag, flagpole, and holder to the church as well as to members of the Property team for installing it. Many churches proclaim that they are “open” to all but many folks in the rainbow spectrum of the LGBTQ community question whether any churches are truly welcoming due to often painful personal experience. During the month of June, Pride month, to our knowledge, we were the only church in Port Washington to fly the Pride Flag and hopefully we have gone a step further to make sure that everyone in Port Washington knows we are truly “Open and Affirming” - all are welcome to be a part of our faith community.



ADOPT-A-FLOWERBED - THANK YOU

Our Adopt-a-Flowerbed initiative is off to a great start this year. It’s wonderful to have past volunteers commit to the beautification of our church grounds as well as new faces. The flower beds were raked and brought back to life. This effort will continue through the Fall.

Special thanks to our church friends for getting their hands dirty:

Shandy Roehrig, Adele Richert, Joe and Bev Mueller, Scott Symes, Brook Holmes, Susan Niederfrank, Mike Dimmer, Jana Zimmerman and Beckie Perez.

SCRIP GIFT CARD PROGRAM SIGN UP TODAY!

**NEXT FCC ORDER
IS JULY 17TH**



You buy a gift card

You get the full value.



The brand gives back

No extra money comes out of your pocket.



Your organization earns

Impacting what matters most to you.

Through our new Scrip program, the church can raise money when our members and friends use retail gift cards to pay for everyday purchases, like gas and groceries, instead of credit or debit cards, cash, or checks. The church earns a small percentage back. Click to visit raiserright.com.

There are 100's of gift cards you can purchase for retail stores and online merchants, restaurants, gas stations, entertainment, even flights and travel purchases; and each can be turned into a small percentage of money coming directly to help the church. Your purchase of graduation gifts, Christmas gifts, birthday gifts, wedding gifts can all become ways through which the church receives a small percentage of the total. It really does begin to add up, especially when you consider this is not "new" spending, just doing the usual things, but being mindful of an opportunity to help us out.

We thank Jennifer Dimmer and Rhonda Thompson who are our church Scrip Coordinators. Please email the church office with questions (office@portucc.org) and Beckie will forward on to Rhonda and Jennifer.

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Jen H., earns for hockey

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First Congregational Church Enrollment Code:

P8I47VHNX56H

THEMES FOR WORSHIP IN JULY

July 3: 2 Kings 5:1-14 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Independence Day Weekend, Communion Sunday, and 4th Sunday after Pentecost

We celebrate the sacrament of Communion together, and encounter God's compassionate love through unlikely and unexpected sources.

July 10: Amos 7:7-17 Luke 10:25-37

5th Sunday after Pentecost - Rev. Craig Modahl Preaching

This morning we seek to recognize how care is extended in unexpected ways and strive to act with justice and compassion.

July 17: Amos 8:1-12 Luke 10:38-42

6th Sunday after Pentecost - Rev. Steve Davidson Preaching

Faithful Listening In a story of two sisters in Luke's Gospel, we are encouraged to listen to God's word of grace and let it shape our everyday lives.

July 24: Hosea 1:2-10 Luke 11:1-13

7th Sunday after Pentecost

The nature of God's love and compassion assures us of God's readiness to hear and attend to our prayers, and we are inspired to ask and ask and ask again that we might receive (and perceive) what we need.

July 31: Hosea 11:1-11 Luke 12:13-21

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Assured of God's rich love toward us, we reflect on how life under the reign of God empowers us to live with an attitude of abundance, secure that we have enough for ourselves and enough to share.

AVAILABLE CHURCH SPACE - PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

As you may know, we are seeking a new renter for the space that is available due to Port Pre-School closing its doors. Please call the church if you have any leads or questions, or contact Troy for a showing - (414) 899-8190, TroyBretl@RealtyExecutives.com.

**REALTY
EXECUTIVES**

131 N Webster St. Port Washington

For Lease!

**\$12-\$14 per
sq. foot**

Classroom space
Can be separated
Elevator
Full kitchen
ADA Compliant



First Congregational Church in Port Washington will have available very soon over 1600 square feet of classroom space that is perfect for projects, development, training and so much more. Building is handicap accessible with elevator and ADA bathrooms. Rooms can be divided as well.

Rooms measure approximately 39x18, 39x16 & kitchen 20x14

Seeking non-profit tenant

A LITTLE CHURCH HISTORY...

...HOW OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR CAME TO BE

A Church-School-made liturgical calendar has hung in our entry stairway since spring of 1996. The Church School teacher team for 1995-1996 created a custom curriculum for that program year that included learning about the seasons of the church year.

Jane Suddendorf was a Church School teacher that year and she created the plan for our calendar. Jane designed our calendar to be big and to hang on the wall at the landing of our narthex stairway, a space that had been empty since its creation as a part of our accessibility project in 1992.

Jane cut each of the individual matte boards, chose an array of colored fabric and then glued fabric to each panel. Church School teachers and congregation members donated buttons, lace, sequins, yarn, and other small items in all the seasonal colors. Members of Church School, from preschoolers to middle-schoolers, glued some of these bits on to each of the separate fabric-covered panels with craft glue. After the glue dried, Jane (with other adults) assembled the panels onto three giant frames with hot glue, attached the three frames together and hung the calendar.

A set of seasonal symbols was designed by the oldest church school class to be used in conjunction with the calendar and is still in use today. You'll see one these 12 in x 12 in squares on display hanging below the current church season to help you "read" the calendar.

Church School volunteers for 1995-1996 also included Robin Weber, Paul Weining, Michelle Stanisch, Kathy Kohl, Jane Mawer, Dena Bley, Janet Maechtle, Stan Young, Kandy Bichler, Susan Niederfrank, Paul Grady, Barb Olson, and Jane Spalding, Church School Director.

By the Fall of 2019 the original liturgical calendar was looking tired; fabrics had faded, had collected dust and bits of decoration had fallen off over the years. Jane Suddendorf agreed to help with a refreshing of the calendar and oversaw the reassembly.

The calendar had not been designed to be removed or disassembled so it was a great relief when the entire calendar was able to be removed from the wall and disassembled, and the panels and framework were able to be reused. Each of the panels was stripped of faded fabric and old glue and recovered in new fabric. A new group of church school children glued new decorative bits to individual panels. (The real scallop shells and fabric butterflies from the original calendar were able to be reused.) The panels were then reassembled as the refreshed calendar.

In conjunction with this refreshing of the big calendar, Church school children reviewed the seasons of the church year and created personal miniature calendars (3 x 5 inches) using colored sticks.

Our refreshed liturgical calendar was in place, and dedicated, on October 27, 2019, Jeff Suddendorf's final Sunday leading worship before his retirement.



"CHURCH YEAR PEOPLE"

We are Advent people—
keeping watch for the comings of the Lord,

We are Christmas people—
celebrating God-with-us,

We are Epiphany people—
showing forth God's presence in the world,

We are Lenten people—
turning from death to life,

We are Easter people—
rejoicing for God makes all things new,

We are Pentecost people—
growing by the power of the Holy Spirit,

We are Church Year people—
living in God's time.

*-Carol Myers, from the St. Nicholas Center,
www.stnicholascenter.org*

*We thank Jane Spalding for contributing the article on the previous page,
for sharing the above poem, and for writing the following article on the season of Pentecost.*

PENTECOST ON THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Easter season ends with the Day of Pentecost—exactly 50 days after Easter Sunday. (Pentecostē means “fiftieth [day]” in Greek.) The custom of counting 50 days from Easter to Pentecost was borrowed from Jewish tradition, which celebrates the harvest festival of Shavuot 50 days after the feast of Passover. This year the Day of Pentecost was Sunday, June 5.

The Day of Pentecost is often referred to as the “Birthday of the Church” because Pentecost Sunday celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit to Jesus’ gathered disciples, and the resulting first actions by those followers to share Jesus’ story and teachings.

The Holy Spirit is symbolized as fire, so the color for the Day of Pentecost is red. The Pentecost story also talks of the Holy Spirit coming with the sound of a rushing wind. Take a careful look at our red panel on the calendar, for that panel has a hint of Holy-Spirit-windiness too. Our seasonal chancel window for Pentecost shows both fire and a dove, another symbol for The Holy Spirit. The calendar marker for the Day of Pentecost is a descending dove on a red background.

The final and longest season of the church year is the Season after Pentecost. This season continues all summer, well into the fall, ending just 4 weeks before Christmas. This season can be 22 to 27 weeks long depending on the date of Easter Sunday and is one of the “ordinary” seasons of the liturgical calendar, meaning the Sundays are named for their “ordinal” placement : 1st Sunday after Pentecost, 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, etc.

Green is the color chosen for the Season after Pentecost. Green is a color we associate with growing plants and that is fitting as this season is all about growth and nurture. The lectionary includes stories of famous folks from the Hebrew Scriptures, some of Jesus’ Parables, and stories of the struggles and successes of the earliest church. The variety of greens in our calendar panels can be seen as a reminder of all the various readings of the season and all the avenues for personal and congregational growth, action, and witness. The calendar marker for the Season after Pentecost is a green vine, with fruit.

OUR THANKS

To Mike and Jane Spalding, Mike and Sherrie Dimmer, Dave and Jeanne Mantsch, and Joe and Bev Mueller for serving as Ushers in June.

To Carolyn Heatwole, Jane Spalding, Joe Mueller, and Gary Tackes for serving as Worship Leaders in June.

To Jane Spalding for overseeing our church history archives and organizing all of the information. Jane is finding all sorts of treasures! More to come!

To Jane Spalding for arranging beautiful and meaningful summer altar arrangements.

Mike Dimmer for cutting the grass, edging, and trimming the bushes.

To our dedicated Property Team: Bill Bond, Joe Mueller, Claude Zimmerman and Gary Tackes for meeting on a regular basis and identifying and maintaining building projects.

To Sherrie Dimmer for continuing to send out thoughtful cards to our church friends.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Jason Jacque for being elected as our Church Moderator.

To Shandy Roehrig for being elected as our Christian Education Team Representative on the Church Council.

To Ken Matthews for being elected as our Staff Support and Review Team Representative.

To Jodi Cowen for being appointed to serve as our Stewardship Team Representative.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Eva Perez underwent a recent liver procedure. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers as she and her family navigate two auto-immune diseases.

Bruce Laabs, Sr. was hospitalized near the end of June and will be moving to an assisted living facility soon.



Congratulations and a lifetime of blessings to Cohan Nicholas Hechtel, son of Christine and Jason, who was baptized into the Christian faith on Saturday, June 25. Cohan is the grandson of Dawn Guschl.

APPROVED APRIL CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The May Minutes were approved at the June 9, 2022 meeting.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Church Council Minutes May 12, 2022

Call to Order – By Jeanne Mantsch at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Jeanne Mantsch, Jason Jacque, Rhonda Thompson, Phil Stepanski, Savannah Anderson, Jennifer Dimmer, Ric Probst, Bill Bond, Pastor Scott, and Kathy Bretl

Opening Meditation – Pastor Scott opened with a meditation by Richard Foster, found in Freedom of Simplicity. He shared that Richard Foster is a good resource for prayer.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes – Kathy moved to approved minutes of April 21, 2022 as corrected. Jason seconded. Motion approved.

Monthly Budget Review – Phil provided Statement of Activity by Month and a Budget vs. Actuals: FCC2022 – FY22 P&L reports explaining that corrections still need to be made because the reporting system is broken. He will be transitioning to a new Tax Preparer who is familiar with working with churches, after corrections are made by the current accountant. Aside from that, things are going very well and he is easing into the job.

A deposit of \$1,153 was made for the Adopt-A-Bill Fundraiser

The balance in Mission Account is \$1,214 from Easter donations

The Brat Fry profit was \$854.71

There was a service charge in the Scrip Account, but he was able to get it reversed and will keep a \$100 balance to avoid future charges

Pastor's Moment – Pastor Scott reminded the Council that he will be in Scotland a little over two weeks, missing 3 Sundays next month. Don Niederfrank will cover the Sundays and other pastoral needs that arise during this time.

Pastor Scott met with the Pastor/Parish Relations Group last night. He found the meeting very helpful, supportive, insightful, and positive. The group gave helpful tips for moving forward.

Scrip Sales Progress – Rhonda will meet this Sunday or next Sunday after the service with anyone interested in learning more about Scrip. This should take about 30 minutes.

(continued on the next page)

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

Pastor Scott will remind people during Announcement to grab coffee and a piece of cake and attend the meeting to learn more about the program and how participate.

Capital Campaign – The Property Team is working on different projects that will need funding. Pastor Scott is in the process of forming a team. It's coming together slowly, but he is more hopeful today than he was 2 weeks ago.

Building Maintenance Updates – Bill handed out Property Team Minutes from their April 29, 2022 meeting, a Property Committee Description, and a Maintenance Checklist.

Bill said there was significant elevator repair after the failure on Palm Sunday. There is also a water issue in Fellowship Hall that the team thinks a row of gutter work on the south side of Fellowship Hall should help to move water away from the building. He also believes the amount of mulch in the flower bed causes a pool of water to form on the patio, which will be addressed.

Bill got 2 reasonable and very informative quotes for the roof. He is leaning toward the quote that addresses shingles, gutters, and faulty shakes, but says the flat roof is in great shape. This potentially adds \$190,000 to the Capital Campaign.

The team also discussed a potential donation procedure to avoid a lifetime monetary commitment for repairs or maintenance by the Church. They will continue to work on this.

A flagpole will be installed above the window that goes into the utility closet. Bill suggested that we procure an American flag for the times there isn't a different flag displayed.

Bill asked whether there is Church software that would allow entering the Maintenance Checklist into an electronic calendar and sending notifications to assist the team in knowing what needs to be done monthly, quarterly and annually. Jason suggested that he talk with Amy about a calendar in Google.

Fellowship Team – Jennifer shared that the first funeral gathering since before COVID happened last Friday and went well.

She shared there will be a Potluck Lunch on May 22, after the 10:00 service. The Fellowship Team will provide sandwiches and those who wish will bring side dishes. There will be cake.

'Adopt-a-Bill' Program – As Phil shared earlier, the first deposit for this fundraiser was \$1,153.

(continued on the next page)

Pastor Scott and the Council thank Amy for her awesome display and all the work she put into designing it!

Jennifer suggested keeping the display up and adding more bills to it. The rest of the Council agreed.

Port Preschool and the Future – Pastor Scott shared that he, Amy, and Beckie along with Abby, the President of the Port Preschool Board, went through the classrooms and looked at the furniture, etc., determining what belongs to the Port Washington-Saukville School District, what belongs to the Preschool, and what belongs to the Church. Most items that belong to the Church are quite worn. There are two TV monitors that belong to the Preschool and Abby said they will be left for the Church. Abby suggested that we go through the items first, taking what belongs to the Church, or that we feel is too worn, and letting PWSSD take the rest. PWSSD is coming June 7th to pickup their items.

Pastor Scott said that Troy Bretl was pursuing a group that had potential, but it fell through. He wants to meet with Troy before the end of the month to discuss possibilities. Jennifer suggested staging the space and taking pictures of it.

Lighthouse Youth Ministry/Board of Directors Representatives – Savannah shared that Dawn Guschl went to the recent meeting and that Tina Olson is tentatively interested.

Savannah reported that the recent survey revealed that the group needs to be innovating, technologically advanced and flexible. The traditional church youth group is not going to work. To reflect all this, the new name will be Lighthouse Community Hub. Savannah is hoping that these changes help her replacements be set up for success.

Pastor Scott said Lighthouse Community Hub will provide youth in this community with something they currently do not have—a space where they feel welcome, safe, and accepted; a space where they can form relationships; and a space that has values that we want the group to have, while not being overtly “church”.

Pastor Scott explained that while the new leader of the group is more of a traditional Youth Minister, she will receive help and encouragement from the board to go in the new direction.

Savannah will reach out again to Dawn and Tina and welcomes any other ideas or thoughts.

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Ministry Options List for Team Leaders – Pastor Scott reminded Team Leaders to reach out the members showing interest in participating on the different teams, letting them know we’re working on it, even with the ‘aspirational’ things, we’re working on it.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Report from Team Leaders – Jeanne told the team leaders that their annual reports are due by the end of May.

Positions to be filled at the Congregational Meeting on June 26, 2022 are: Associate Moderator, Christian Education, Staff Support, and Community Outreach.

Fund Raising Team? Should we have a group dedicated to Fund Raising? Yes—it’s being worked on.

Any Other New Business?/Should We Meet during the Summer? There was no other new business and we will meet during the summer.

Pastor Scott shared a Closing Prayer, followed by The Lord’s Prayer and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Bretl ,Treasurer



IN MEMORIAM

Mark Sdun, a former member of our church, passed away on June 6, 2022, after complications from surgery. Mark was 69. Services were held at Random Lake, UCC on June 12. We lift up his family and friends in our prayers, especially his wife Terry Sdun and his daughter Holly Ternes, son-in-law Jeff, and grandchildren Elaina, Mya and Erik Ternes.

Paul Schultz, father of Bonnie Jacque-Gorecki, and grandfather of Jason Jacque, passed away on June 10 at the age of 93. Services were held June 18 at the Myrhum-Patten Funeral Home with Don Niederfrank leading the service. Our prayers are with all those who knew and loved Paul.

JULY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

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

JULY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

Please contact Beckie Perez, at office@portucc.org, if you would like to add a Birthday or Anniversary.



FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE HOURS

Phil Stepanski, our Financial Administrator, will continue to hold office hours on Mondays, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the church office. Phil invites you to reach out at anytime! His email is phil@portucc.org.

OFFICE MANAGER HOURS THIS SUMMER

Beckie Perez, our Office Manager, holds summer office hours Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 to Noon. Call, email, or stop by if you need anything!

JULY 2022 CALENDAR

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 <i>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9 am Communion Service	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5 5:30 pm BBQ Bible Study	6	7 8 am Men's Breakfast - The Beacon 6:30 pm Executive Team	8	9
10 <i>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9 am Worship Service	11	12 5:30 pm BBQ Bible Study	13	14 8 am Men's Breakfast - The Beacon 6:30 pm Church Council	15	16
17 <i>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9 am Worship Service	18	19 5:30 pm BBQ Bible Study	20	21 8 am Men's Breakfast - The Beacon	22 1 pm Property Team	23
24 <i>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9 am Worship Service	25	26 5:30 pm BBQ Bible Study	27	28 8 am Men's Breakfast - The Beacon	29	30
31 <i>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9 am Worship Service						



CHURCH INFORMATION

First Congregational Church - *United Church of Christ*
131 North Webster Street
Port Washington, WI 53074
(262) 284-2022
website - portucc.org, email - office@portucc.org



Summer Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday mornings from 8:30 - Noon

Pastor Scott's Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays, and by appointment

Financial Administrator Phil's Office Hours

Mondays from 4:30-6:30

Office Staff

Rev. Dr. Scott McLeod, Pastor - pastorscott@portucc.org

Amy Gilhooly, Communications Director - amyg@portucc.org

Beckie Perez, Office Manager - office@portucc.org

Phil Stepanski, Financial Administrator - phil@portucc.org

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"First Congregational Church of Port Washington"

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Please let us know if you have a new email address

Check out the church website - portucc.org

ONLINE GIVING WITH PAYPAL

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!

