



Congregational Connections

Monthly Newsletter of First Congregational Church, UCC | Port Washington, Wisconsin | March 2024

“MARCH”ING THROUGH LENT

Most Christians worship on Sunday because in the ancient world, Sunday was the first day of the week. Followers of Jesus began to gather in their homes on the first day of the week because it was the day of resurrection. On the traditional Sabbath, Saturday, they would have worshipped in the synagogue with their Jewish brothers and sisters.

Once a year the group of believers would celebrate a great day of resurrection that we know as Easter. Often times new converts to “the way” would be baptized on Easter after participating in a 40-day time of preparation (not counting Sundays). Their preparation time itself was modeled after Jesus’ time in the wilderness as he prepared for his public ministry and witness to the gospel. Fellow believers would join the newly converted in this time of preparation - a time of fasting and prayer, to support and encourage the new disciples. By the time of the First Council of Nicaea in 325 CE, Lent was an established practice of the whole Christian Church.

We continue this ancient practice today. During Lent there is a renewed calling to spiritual practices like daily devotions and regular prayer. The scripture passages for the Sundays in Lent focus on how we might live out our sense of discipleship - following Jesus in the choices we make and the way we care for our neighbors. Many Christians will practice a form of fasting, by giving something up for Lent. Unfortunately, this “giving something up” can be trivialized and becomes rather marginal in actual practice. Giving up chocolate is probably not a deep spiritual exercise. But giving up something like judging others can help us think about how we interact with others, inviting us to view the world in new ways.

I often write in a prayer journal, but this Lent I am trying to write every day and I’m using a Lenten Devotional from one of my favorite authors. Join me this month as we “march” our way through Lent toward the celebration of Easter. Give something up or add something new to your spiritual practices. Together we will prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Peace,
Pastor Scott

SEUSS BREAKFAST CELEBRATION ON MARCH 2

Please join us for breakfast and fun on Saturday morning, March 2, here at the church from 8:00 to 11:00! Everyone is invited - young *and* old, church members *and* community members! You may purchase tickets at the door for \$10 per person (ages two and under are free). Eggs, pancakes, ham, and applesauce are all on the menu! There will be activities, crafts, stories, and a photo backdrop. We hope you can share a festive morning with us!



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FIRST SERVICE OF MARCH IN THE SANCTUARY

Our 8:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 3 will be held in the Sanctuary. Due to ongoing elevator repair, we will continue to hold the majority of our services in Fellowship Hall. See *page 16* for an elevator update. Thank you for your patience!

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MARCH EVENTS

The Seuss Breakfast starts the events of the month, and there are many more to follow. Please peruse all the pages for details and mark your calendars!

March 6 - Lenten Dinner & Service at Grand Avenue Church

March 7 - Concert at our church with Potluck beforehand

March 10 - Church School, Pysanky Egg Workshop

March 13 - Lenten Dinner & Service at Christ the King Church

March 17 - Kids Club

March 20 - Lenten Dinner & Service at our church

March 24 - Palm Sunday Cinnamon Rolls after both services

March 28 - Maundy Thursday Service at 7pm

March 29 - Good Friday Service at 7pm

March 31 - Easter Sunday Morning Services at 6, 8, & 10am

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PASTOR SCOTT'S RESIGNATION

Pastor Scott has accepted a call to become the pastor at Community Church of Fontana. You may [click here](#) to read his letter to the church. See *page 13* for more information. Scott's last Sunday will be April 7. Please plan to join us and stay for a Farewell Luncheon after the 10:00 service.

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.

LINKED UP

Be on the lookout for orange text - it's linked up to documents and web pages that you might find helpful or interesting.

SUBMIT INFO 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.

ECUMENICAL MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES - MARCH 6, 13, & 20

Our church is partnering with four local churches to provide midweek ecumenical services during Lent. The services move from church to church each Wednesday evening. Folks from participating churches, and the greater community, will meet at the host church for a light supper at 6:00, followed by a service at 7:00. Our church will be hosting the supper and service on March 20. Please plan to attend. If you would like, you can help the Fellowship Team, who will be providing the meal that evening, by bringing a crock of soup or a side dish.

We hope you will join us for the remaining Wednesday evening meals and services as part of your Lenten season. Learn more on the Facebook [event page](#).



*Ecumenical
Midweek
Lent*

LIGHT SUPPER AT 6PM
SERVICE AT 7PM

Wednesday, March 6	Grand Avenue UMC (PORT WASHINGTON)
Wednesday, March 13	CHRIST THE KING ELCA (PORT WASHINGTON)
Wednesday, March 20	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC (PORT WASHINGTON)



**POTLUCK AT 5:30
CONCERT AT 6:30**

Community Outreach Event
March 7- First Congregational Church, Port Washington

SPECIAL CONCERT AT OUR CHURCH ON MARCH 7

We are excited to host a special event at the church on Thursday evening, March 7! The South African Choir, “29:11 International Exchange” will join us for a potluck dinner in our preschool rooms and then perform a concert for us in Fellowship Hall. Church and community members are welcome!

29:11 is a unique musical group based in Cape Town, South Africa. Their mission is to facilitate hope and reconciliation through music, cross-cultural relationships, and individual artist development. By recognizing that each of us is worthy of understanding and love, we can bridge the ideological, racial, and socio-economic gaps that divide us, and live together as citizens of the world. It is the African concept of “Ubuntu”.

The potluck dinner is being coordinated by our Chancel Choir and will begin at 5:30 with the hour-long concert to follow at 6:30. You are invited to bring a dish to share and join for the meal! Or, just come for the concert!

First Congregational UCC in Sheboygan reached out to our church to let us know that they were hosting 29:11 between March 6-16 and were looking for opportunities to share the group’s music and message in different communities. They connected with us because Pastor Scott has known their pastor, Jim Hollister, for years and Ann Berchem, who taught music in Port Washington, is a member of FCC in Sheboygan, and is helping to coordinate the group’s stay in Wisconsin.

While the group is in Wisconsin they will be singing and sharing their love for music at special assemblies for different public schools in Sheboygan and their host congregation, First Congregational UCC in Sheboygan. The group sings a mix of African and World Music styles, and while they are not necessarily “Christian”, the name of their group was inspired by a Bible verse, Jeremiah 29:11, “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope”.

A free-will offering will be accepted on behalf of the 29:11 group at the concert. If you would like to make a donation online to help with the cost of hosting the group, [click here](#). Please visit 2911intl.org to learn more about the group.

Pysanky Egg Workshop

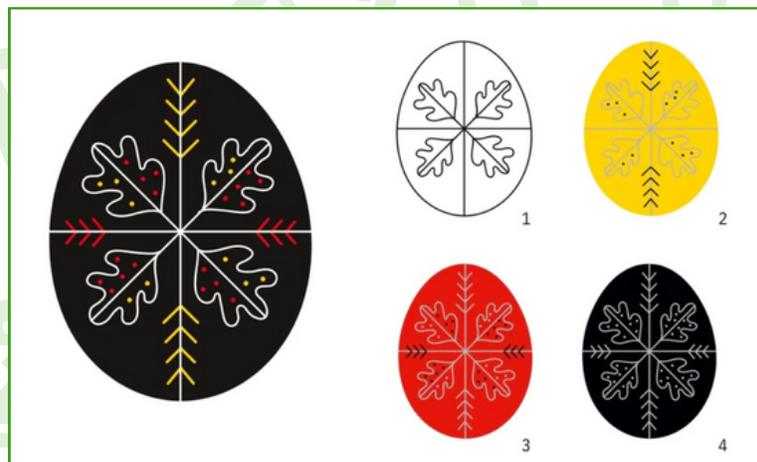
COME MAKE A PYSANKY EGG AT CHURCH ON MARCH 10

The Fellowship Team is hosting a Pysanky Egg Workshop after the 10:00 service on Sunday morning, March 10. Church member, Terry McManus, brought the idea to the team, and will be helping to lead the workshop. Terry writes, *“Before I moved to Port Washington from Ann Arbor, Michigan, I would get together with friends every year to make Ukrainian Easter eggs or “write Pysanky”. Debbie, Marta, me, and sometimes Edna, would sit together at the table as we dipped our kistkas in and out of the candle flames. We were focused and intent. The problems of the day forgotten. Over the years, I have introduced Pysanky to high school and middle school classes, relatives, and friends. Some take inspiration from the intricate Ukrainian designs, but most enjoy making up their own designs. All are beautiful! Everyone enjoys the process. I would now like to share this beautiful and pleasurable art form with you.”*

Here is a description of how the eggs will be created:

Plan a design and draw or apply beeswax on a raw white egg with a tool called a kistka. The kistka is a small stylus that holds beeswax and is heated in the candle flame to keep the beeswax flowing. What you draw on the white egg will stay white. Next, immerse the egg in a yellow dye. Using your kistka, add to your design. What you draw on the yellow egg will stay yellow when you immerse the egg into a darker color. You may also [click here](#) to preview the egg making process. For inspiration, examples will be on display of old Ukrainian eggs and Ukrainian needlework from the Kutny family of Saukville.

Come and enjoy “Pysanky writing” at church! The workshop will be about two hours in duration and snacks and refreshments will be served. **Pre-registration is required** and open to the **first ten people** who respond to Beckie in the church office by March 6.

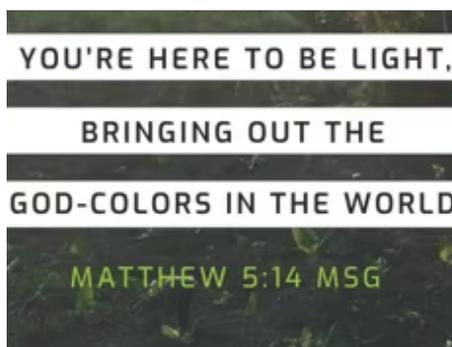


75 YEARS OF ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING - "SHARE THE LIGHT"

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is one of five special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC within Wider Church Ministries. We will receive this offering on March 10 during our morning worship services. You may bring cash or check (indicate "OGHS" in the memo) to place in the offering plate. Or, see below for the online giving option.

It was back on Easter Sunday in 1949, through a nation-wide radio broadcast, that Christians from across the denominational spectrum were challenged to donate one million dollars in one hour to help people devastated by the aftermath of World War II. Faithful Christians answered the challenge, and the goal was met. That was the beginning of One Great Hour of Sharing. This year marks the 75th Anniversary of its inception. Our world has changed since 1949, but human needs remain. OGHS continues to carry God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. You can help "Share the Light" this year by giving a financial gift to OGHS.

Since that first offering, OGHS has expanded its mission to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster, advocate and offer resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. Each year the offering is gathered by several denominations and Church World Service (CWS) under a single theme - this year, "Share the Light" based on Matthew 5:14. Please consider giving toward this important ministry and bring a little "light" to people in need. Click on the image below to view a short video or [click here](#) to be directed to the ucc.org giving page.



Click on image to view short video.



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

ALL CHILDREN
4K-7th GRADE
INVITED!



See You
on March 17!

Love was in the air during the month of February in Church School. We learned about Paul's visit to the Church in Corinth and his letter to the Corinthians, a favorite scripture often read during weddings. We made valentines, decorated the windows within church with thoughts on how our church makes us feel, and created a circle wheel to remind us of what love is and is not.

During the month of March, our lesson will focus on the events of Holy Week, beginning with Jesus' ride into Jerusalem as outlined in Matthew 21:1-22, Mark 11:1-11, and Luke 19:28-40. Our next Church School will be held **March 10**. We invite all school-aged children to join us in the creation of a Holy Week wreath, which highlights the events leading up to Easter. At Kids Club on March 17, children will construct their own palm leaves and learn the meaning of the word hosanna (to express adoration, praise, or joy).

Looking ahead, our Church School classes during April and May will each be held on the first Sunday of the month - instead of our usual time on the second Sunday. Kids Club will move to the fourth Sunday in April and return to the third Sunday in May. A reminder that all children are welcome to join us for Church School or Kids Club, even if they have not had a chance to visit yet this year.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter,
Shandy Roehrig
Christian Education Team Representative on
Church Council and Church School Team Leader

KIDS CLUB

Kids Club, open to all 4K through 7th graders, meets on the third Sunday of each month. The next Kids Club is **March 17** during the 10:00 service. All children join their families for the start of the service, and, following a performance by the Handbell Choir, gather in the preschool classrooms for an activity.

FAMILY SUNDAYS

On the fourth Sunday of every month at 10:00, the church hosts a Family Service which includes the participation of our youth, specifically the 8th grade Confirmation Class. The next Family Sunday is on **March 24**.

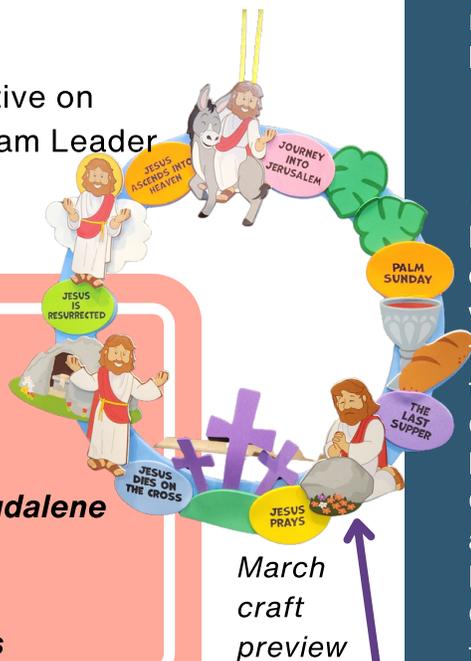
NURSERY CARE

Every Sunday morning during the 10:00 service, we provide Nursery Care for children newborn through elementary. Care is mostly provided by our 8th grade Confirmation students and their families. Our Nursery is located in the Gilomen Room, across from the restrooms.

Please note upcoming date changes!

April 7 - Church School
 April 28 - Kids Club
 Stories: **Jesus is Risen, Jesus Speaks to Mary Magdalene**

May 5 - Church School
 May 19 - Kids Club
 Lesson: **Respecting Others**



LOVE IS IN THE AIR



Church School in February.
See page 7 to learn more!



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS MARCH 10 - TIME TO SPRING FORWARD

Don't forget about the start of Daylight Saving Time, which happens to be the next time the kids meet for Church School, on the second Sunday of the month, March 10.



PALM SUNDAY - PALMS AND CINNAMON ROLLS ON MARCH 24

Looking forward to Palm Sunday on March 24, you might be interested to know that for over a dozen years, our congregation has purchased eco-palms for our Palm Sunday services. Through our commitment to purchase eco-palms, we help to protect forests, local jobs, and sustainable livelihoods in the harvesting communities of Guatemala and Mexico. Additionally, our Fellowship Team would like to invite everyone to join them for a cherished tradition of cinnamon rolls and coffee after the 8:00 or 10:00 services.



EASTER GIVING

In celebration of Easter, you are invited to order flowers and/or contribute to one of the six community organizations that our church supports on an ongoing basis. Your flowers will help decorate our church for Easter. Your financial contribution will help raise the spirits of those who are in need.

Flowers \$10 each:

Easter Lily \$ _____

Tulip Plant \$ _____

Hyacinth Plant \$ _____

Daffodil Plant \$ _____

Financial Contribution(s) to:

Advocates of Ozaukee \$ _____

Balance \$ _____

Family Promise \$ _____

Habitat for Humanity \$ _____

Ozaukee Family Services \$ _____

Port Food Pantry \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Our Easter Sunday bulletins will include an insert with names of gift givers, and those you wish to honor or remember.

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

Please print, enclose a check with your order, and return to the Church Office by Monday, **March 18**. Thank you!



TRANSITION WORK & SEARCH COMMITTEE INTEREST

With the announcement of Pastor Scott's departure, Church Council is diligently learning the steps of a transition time and actively working to secure an interim minister. They are also gaining an understanding of what goes into forming a Search Committee, a group tasked with finding our next settled minister. Please contact Church Council at fcc.committees@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more about the commitment and process of the Search Committee. The Council feels a diverse representation of members (ages, interests, backgrounds) will ensure the strength of the committee. Thank you for your patience as this committee is formed with care and consideration.



FUTURE FUNDRAISING PLANNING

Church Council plans to form a Fundraising Team that would work to bring in additional revenue for the church. The idea is that this team will generate ideas of events and initiatives and establish processes. Let us know if you have interest in serving in this way!

**Please note - the dinner event planning meeting scheduled for March 3 has been postponed.*



CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE

The Confirmation Class has been studying the third "person" of the Trinity - the Holy Spirit. In January, the class looked at the Spirit in scripture and in February, explored how they might engage in prayer and the life of the Spirit. This month, the class will be learning church history and with Holy Week approaching the class will review: the Last Supper, Jesus' trial and crucifixion, and the empty tomb and Easter resurrection.

The class traveled to Milwaukee to visit Temple Beth Israel Ner Tamid led by Rabbi Joel Alter in January. Rabbi Alter taught the confirmands all about Jewish worship practices and the kids were able to see the scrolls of their Hebrew Bible. This month the class will be touring America's Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee. It is a powerful witness to the struggle against racism and the resiliency of the black community - plus, we will explore ways the church has helped and, unfortunately, hurt people of color in our nation's history.

With Pastor Scott's departure, parents Eric and Tina Olson have graciously agreed to assist the class during the last two classes and mission experiences. The group will be working on their personal Statements of Faith. The class will walk the Stations of the Cross at Holy Hill in April. Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for Pentecost Sunday, May 19 and we are pleased that Rev. Don Niederfrank will be conducting this special service.

THRIVE TEAM SHARES PRAYER RESOURCES FOR LENT

The Thrive Team made up of Terry McManus, Louise Mollinger, Scott Symes, Meg Tackes, Gary Tackes, and Pastor Scott have been engaged in a two-year program called The Examen(ed) Church. The purpose is to develop skills in spiritual discernment work to help the church explore God's call. How is God calling our church to serve the Port Washington community? We have just passed the half-way point and are beginning to move outward to engage the congregation in prayerful reflection on the church's mission and purpose. We have worked on trying to develop our own personal spirituality, and have been learning about the work of spiritual discernment - how does one figure out God's call to discipleship?

During the Lenten season (and beyond) we would like to invite everyone in the church to consider the practice of prayer using the Daily Examen. The Daily Examen is a practice of prayer developed by Ignatius Loyola in the 16th Century and still used by millions of Christians today but may be unknown to many others (we were unfamiliar with it, at least). The season of Lent is a perfect time to try a new spiritual practice. We found this form of prayer helpful and imagine that many of our friends and members might find it a good way to pray, too. Below you will find five different online resources. You could try one for a week, and then try another for another week, and so on. Our team liked the 7-minute Examen. But the others are worth trying out too!

- **7-minute Examen** (God in All Things)
- **26 minute Examen to Music** (A New Liturgy)
- **18 minute Prayer of Examen on YouTube** (Fuller Studio)
- **Pray As You Go** has a number of specific resources for the Examen that are useful
- **A 10 minute examen** (Reunion)

If you don't care to use online resources, Pastor Scott has written resources you could try and see if those might suit you better. In February copies of The Daily Examen were passed out as part of Pastor Scott's sermon. Copies are available on the back table in Fellowship Hall. There is an additional written resource for use this month: "Journaling with the Examen". We believe the daily examen as a resource for prayer is worthy of our church's attention. When you use the daily examen you will find that: you'll always have something to pray about, your prayers will always contain a sense of gratitude, it will help you find God at work in your life day-by-day, it will help you discern feelings about things and people and circumstance, and it will help you recognize where God is leading. Give it a try!



SIGN UP FOR A DAILY DEVOTIONAL SENT TO YOUR INBOX

The United Church of Christ offers a free Daily Devotional as part of their Stillspeaking initiative. We invite you to subscribe to the Daily Devotional by [clicking here](#). You can also view the devotional on Facebook, simply "like" the Stillspeaking Daily Devotional page.



HOLY WEEK 2024

Everyone is encouraged to experience the meaningful worship services of Holy Week. If you have never been to a Maundy Thursday or Good Friday worship service, please give them a try. Those who regularly attend these services will tell you that while covering some of the difficult portions of Jesus' story, they make the joy of Easter even greater! The ancient church used to look at Holy Week as a single, week-long worship service; let us enter these seven days with open hearts ready to be filled with God's Spirit.

March 24, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Palm/Passion Sunday

Our worship begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as we pass out palms for everyone that we might celebrate like the crowds calling out, "Hosanna!" As worship continues some of the themes of Holy Week and the Passion begin to resonate. Jesus speaks powerful words in response to those who would end his ministry to the poor and outcast. In continuing tradition, our Fellowship Team will serve cinnamon rolls after both services.

March 28, 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Communion and Service of Tenebrae

The word "Maundy" comes from Jesus' "command" to love one another given at the last supper and the word "Tenebrae" means "shadows". This night we share communion in remembrance of the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples and experience the growing shadows of the worldly powers gathering to end Jesus's life and ministry. It is a powerful worship experience featuring a choral quartet, communion, and readings telling the story of the disciples' betrayal and abandonment.

March 29, 7:00 p.m. Good Friday

In this emotionally moving, powerful service, we contemplate Jesus' sacrifice for his disciples and the whole world. Together we hear the story of Jesus' crucifixion, and through music, scripture, and proclamation we recall Jesus' suffering and his last words.

March 31, Easter Sunday Morning Services at 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 a.m.

The 6:00 morning service begins in the dark and welcomes the sunrise as together we dismantle the black pall that covers the communion table to experience anew the joy of God's resurrection power. The twin services at 8:00 and 10:00 feature the joyful music of our Chancel Choir and the excitement of Brass accompaniment to our hymns. In each service we hear again of the women's discovery of the empty tomb. However, according to Mark's gospel, they run away in fear! Who will witness having seen the Lord? It is up to us!



A NOTE FROM PASTOR SCOTT

Saying Goodbye and Granting “Release” from Pastoral Role on April 7

On Sunday, February 18, I notified Church Council and other leaders of the church that I was resigning my position as Pastor of First Congregational Church. An email notifying church members and friends went out on Tuesday, February 20, along with a letter through the mail. I have received a call to serve the Community Church of Fontana. While I am excited about the opportunities of a new call, I am also very sad to be leaving this congregation.

Working with Council, and in conversation with Associate Conference Minister, Jane Anderson, we have agreed that April 7 will be my final Sunday with the congregation. This will allow me to finish Lenten season, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday responsibilities, arrange for coverage for things like Confirmation, and allow time for saying goodbye to members and friends of the church.

On Sunday, April 7, we will celebrate communion together one last time and we will release one another from the vows and commitments made three years ago at my installation. During worship, we will participate in the “Liturgy of Farewell” from the UCC Book of Worship. You will be asked, “Do you, the members and friends of First Congregational Church, release Scott McLeod from the duties of pastor?”. And, likewise, one of the questions addressed to me will be, “Do you, Scott McLeod, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?”. This is an important part of saying goodbye.

These vows of release remind us that while our connections within the Church of Jesus Christ will never change, the nature of our bond will indeed undergo significant change; the vows mean that I will no longer be performing pastoral services for you, nor leading any worship services, nor discussing any church matters. The vows mean that you will not expect me to perform such services nor make such requests of me. The “release” will allow you to connect with the next minister that comes to serve your church and will allow me to connect with the members and friends of the Community Church of Fontana.

With the assistance of the Associate Conference Minister, you will move into an interim time in the coming months. The purpose of the upcoming interim time is to enable you, the members, to separate from me as your pastor, as well as to learn more about your own identity as a local congregation. I pray that you will be open to that interim time, that you will clarify your identity as a church, and be ready to accept and welcome a new minister when the time comes.

Saying goodbye is never easy. But I do find comfort in our shared faith, for I am confident and feel assured that God continues to be at work among all of you. God has plans for First Congregational Church in Port Washington and will never abandon you. Specific and concrete plans for the future may remain a little cloudy, but there is a future for this congregation, and God will continue to bless you. I will always pray for your continued success and abundant ministry in years to come.

Peace,
Scott

SUNDAY WORSHIP THEMES FOR MARCH

March 3: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22

Third Sunday of Lent, Communion Sunday

We will celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of the month. Our 8:00 worship will be upstairs in the Sanctuary, while our 10:00 worship location TBD. The scripture texts for this week are fascinating: John's Gospel tells the story of Jesus driving the "moneychangers" out of the Temple, while Paul makes a distinction between God's Wisdom and human wisdom.

March 10: Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Chancel Choir, Church School Sunday

Our worship theme will be built around John 3:16, "For God so loved the world..." which has been called the very essence of the gospel message. This Fourth Sunday of Lent will be busy with the Chancel Choir singing and Church School meeting during the 10:00 service.

March 17: Jeremiah 31:31-34 John 12:20-33

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Handbell Choir, Kid's Club

The prophet Jeremiah imagines a day when a new covenant of love will be written on the hearts of believers and Jesus speaks of the difficult nature of lives lived in pursuit of this vision - but with God's Spirit there is renewal and life! Worship with us at 10:00 and enjoy the Handbell Choir and Kids Club.

March 24: Mark 11:1-11 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:53-65

Palm/Passion Sunday, Family Sunday

Our worship begins by remembering the joy of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and then moves into some of the themes of Holy Week. The forces of worldly power conspire together to silence Jesus' message of love and justice. The Fellowship Team will be serving cinnamon rolls after both services!

March 31: Acts 10:34-43 Mark 16:1-8

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m. Chancel Choir and Brass at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

The Sunrise Service begins in the darkness of shadows but ends with the light of a new day and the mysterious triumph of the empty tomb. The services at 8:00 and 10:00 celebrate the beauty and grandeur of Easter morning.



SUNDAY SERVERS - ONLINE SIGN-UP

We utilize SignUpGenius for Sunday Servers sign ups. If you have any questions, please reach out to Beckie in the church office.

USHERS

Greet congregants, hand out service bulletins, and collect the offering at the 8:00 or 10:00 Sunday morning worship service.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Help lead the congregation in responsive readings, unison prayers, and scriptures during the 8:00 or 10:00 worship service.

NURSERY CAREGIVERS

Watch over children newborn through elementary in our nursery during the 10:00 service. The 8th grade Confirmation Class are the primary volunteers, but we need additional help from time to time. 8th graders and high schoolers must be accompanied by a parent.



LUNCH AND STUDY ON WEDNESDAYS

Our weekly Lunch Group meets **Wednesdays at Noon**. Bring your own lunch and join this fun and friendly group for interesting conversation! The group reads and discusses the Bible passages that will be used in worship the next Sunday. You don't need to be a Bible expert to participate. Pastor Scott provides background information about the scripture and the conversation naturally moves on from there. The group shares opinions, stories, insights, and perspectives. The Lunch Group will be on a pause after April 3. Be sure to check back!

YOGA OFFERED ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Everyone is welcome to participate in a yoga class held **Wednesday evenings at 6:00** at church, led by Dawn Stacey, a licensed yoga instructor and PTA. The group meets in the open classroom space across from the Music Room. Each class costs \$12, payable to Dawn via check, cash, or Venmo.

THURSDAY MORNING MEN'S BREAKFAST

Every Thursday morning at 8:00 a group of members and friends of our church meet for coffee, breakfast, and conversation. This delightful group of men meet at The Beacon restaurant, located downtown on the first floor of the Harborview hotel. 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 the morning and jumpstart your day!

OUR CHURCH MUSIC PROGRAM

We currently offer two dynamic choirs – Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir. Our Chancel Choir rehearses **6:30-7:30 on Monday evenings**, and performs on the second and fifth Sunday of every month. Our Handbell Choir rehearses **7:00-8:00 on Wednesday evenings**, and performs on the third Sunday of every month. Please know that you, your family, and friends are invited to join at any time!



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

We host a Fellowship Hour following our 8:00 service on the first Sunday of each month, and following our 10:00 services on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with other families and friends in the church. Please make an effort to introduce yourself to people you haven't met.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 25

Over 50 people attended our Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 25. We thank those who were in attendance for their participation! Our main item of business was a vote to approve the church budget for this year. The proposed budget was approved with a majority vote. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Church Council at fcc.committees@gmail.com.



ELEVATOR UPDATE - ELECTRICAL ISSUE HOLDING UP REPAIR

We remain hopeful and optimistic that the elevator will be fully operational in time for Easter Sunday, but have run into a snag. Our elevator's old hydraulic jack was removed and replaced with a new one. Unfortunately, when the crew ran the new hydraulics, they discovered an electrical issue. We are currently waiting for the proper diagnosing software/equipment to be delivered from out of state. The Property Team will be meeting with repair company, MEI, the week of March 4 for the diagnosis. Please stay tuned! We appreciate everyone's continued patience. Thank you to the members of our Property Team: Bill Bond, Joe Mueller, Gary Tackes, and Claude Zimmerman for their continued work on this project on our behalf.



FINANCIAL ROLES AND CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we transition our financial roles. Kris Tontis, CPA of Tontis Accounting, has started as our contracted accountant and Phil Stepanski was recently appointed to serve on the Church Council as our Treasurer. The transition has not moved as quickly as we had hoped. 2023 Contribution Statements will be mailed on March 1. We apologize for the delay.

LIGHTHOUSE PLANS FOR MARCH

Our church partners with four other churches, Grand Avenue United Methodist Church, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Living Hope Lutheran Church, and Parkside Community United Church of Christ, all located in Port Washington and Saukville, to support our joint ecumenical initiative, Lighthouse Youth Ministry.

Lighthouse Youth Director, Christin Flucke, welcomes all middle school and high school youth to join the group at any time. Events are held at Lighthouse Headquarters, 513 West Grand Avenue in Port Washington, unless indicated otherwise. Here are their March plans:

Sunday, March 3 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. “Chopped” Style Food Competition

Your teamwork and culinary creativity will be put to the test in this fun and fast-paced competition based off the hit cooking show “Chopped”. Students will be divided into teams and given a “mystery basket” of ingredients. You will then work together to create the best dish using those items in a designated amount of time before presenting your culinary creations to a panel of judges.



Sunday, March 17 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Easter Basket Service Project

Lighthouse will once again be assembling Easter baskets for children served by Family Promise of Ozaukee County. Join the group as they put them together to share God’s love with our neighbors this Easter!

Lighthouse youth will help on two dates for the upcoming “Egg My Yard” fundraiser:

“Egg My Yard” Part 1 – Sunday, March 24 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Kids meet at Lighthouse to fill the dozens of eggs ordered, all supplies provided.

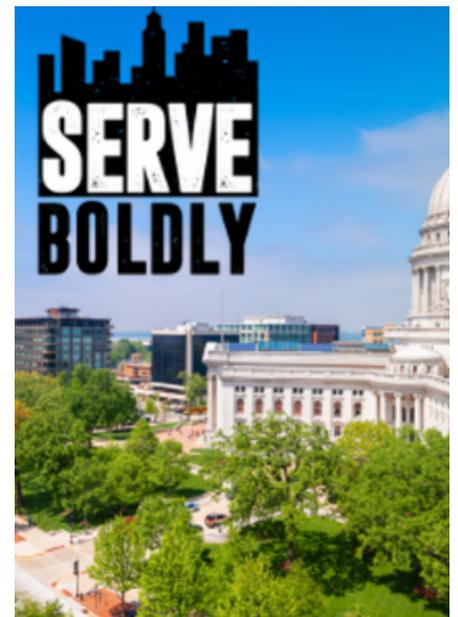
“Egg My Yard” Part 2 – Saturday, March 30 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Kids meet at Lighthouse and then deliver all the egg orders to the houses.



LIGHTHOUSE SUMMER SERVICE TRIP TO MADISON July 14-17

All youth who have completed grades 5-12 are welcome to join Lighthouse for an exciting half week of service, learning, and fun! We will be partnering with Serve Boldly, a non-profit organization that helps organize trips for youth groups which focus on answering Christ’s call to “love your neighbor”. Together, the group will have the opportunity to learn about challenges such as poverty and homelessness that many in our state’s capital city face, and partner with some incredible service organizations working to fight those challenges and serve the community. The out-of-pocket cost to participate in the trip will be \$175 per person, with Lighthouse covering the other half of the expenses. This cost includes housing, transportation, all of your meals, service projects, and some fun activities throughout the week. Interested in participating or learning more? Please talk to Christin by Friday, March 15.





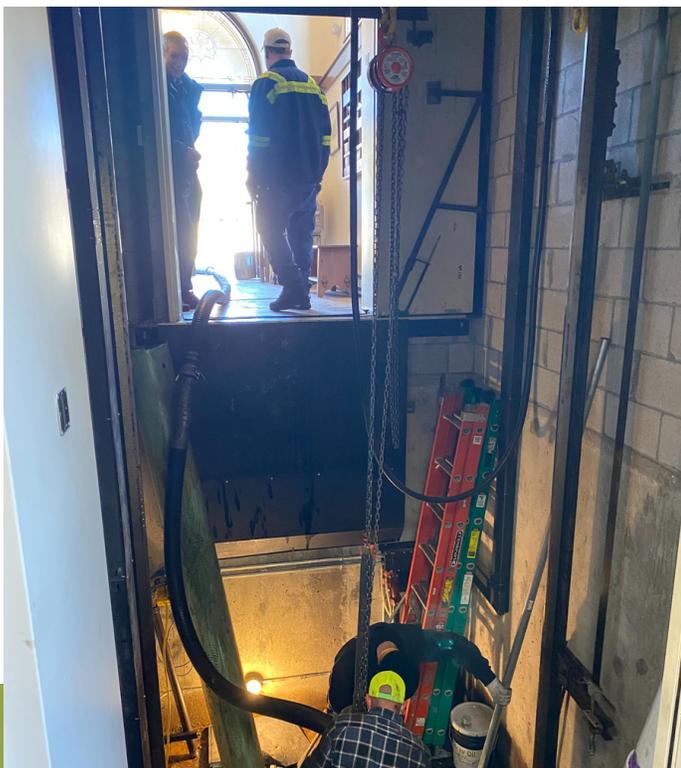
LIGHTHOUSE EGG MY YARD FUNDRAISER

Support Lighthouse by participating in their “Egg My Yard” fundraiser! Folks can sign up to have Lighthouse youth hide plastic Easter eggs filled with candy and toys in their yards the night before Easter and then wake up to an at-home Easter egg hunt on Easter morning!

Let Lighthouse help you create a fun at-home egg hunt by spreading plastic eggs filled with candy and toys throughout your yard. You can also order this as a fun surprise to be sent to a friend or family member to help brighten their Easter! Delivery by Lighthouse youth is available for any home within Port Washington or Saukville, or you can arrange to pick up a collection of pre-filled eggs and hide them yourself if you live in other areas.

Note to congregation members: Lighthouse is not requesting item donations for the Easter projects this year and also does NOT need any more plastic Easter eggs donated as they have an over-abundance from your generosity last year. Thank you!

For more info or to sign up please visit lighthouseyouth.org/eggs or call Christin Flucke at (262) 483-9582. The deadline to order is Sunday, March 17, and all deliveries will be made the night of Saturday, March 30 - just in time for Easter morning!



PROPERTY TEAM MEETING MINUTES

Our Property Team is an active church team comprised of a handful of folks from our church. The team keeps a close eye on our church and works to maintain all aspects of our church building and grounds. The team would like to share their recent monthly meeting minutes:

[January 2024 Property Team Minutes](#)

[February 2024 Property Team Minutes](#)

Elevator repair supervision by our faithful Property Team members.



Church Council Team Spotlight

OUR STAFF SUPPORT AND REVIEW TEAM

Our church Staff Support and Review Team conducts an annual review with each staff member, giving them the opportunity to provide feedback concerning their position. In addition issues arising throughout the year may be brought to the Team at any time. The minister is not part of this team's responsibility. The pastor falls under the Pastor Parish Relations Team.

The Staff Support and Review Team is a part of Church Council, is accountable to Council and, of course, to the congregation. An update is expected at each monthly Council meeting and a report is to be prepared for the Annual Report presented at each Spring Congregational Meeting.

As an example of how the Team functions: if staff member #1 was having an issue with staff member #2, staff member #1 would ask to meet with the Team. The Team would set up a time to meet with staff member #1 at which time we would listen to the complaint and ask the staff member what they feel the best solution might be. The Team would then follow the same procedure with staff member #2. After hearing both staff members, the Team will meet to discuss how the situation can be handled. Once a possible resolution has been decided on, the Team will set up a meeting with both staff members to review the possible resolution. The hope is the meeting will produce an equitable solution to the matter.

This is all a hypothetical, of course, and fortunately has not been something the Team has had to deal with in the two years I've been heading up the Staff Support and Review Team. We have a wonderful staff that works well together and keeps moving the congregation forward.

Finally, as a member of Council, it is recommended you get involved in a variety of activities in the life of the congregation. You may also have other duties as assigned by the Moderator.

We are always looking for people to serve on the Team; assisting with reviews and showing support and appreciation to our staff. Please reach out if you are interested.

Signed,
Ken Matthews, Team Representative on Church Council

CONGRATULATIONS

To Bob and Jess Korup, on the birth of their son Harvey Roy Korup on February 12. Harvey weighed in at 9 pounds 10 ounces and was 21 inches long.



SPECIAL THANKS

To all those who attended the church Listening Sessions held by the Church Council during the month of February. Your input was invaluable!

To Erin Arthur for providing special music “Ashes” at our Ash Wednesday service.

To Joe Rychtik for being the Confirmation Class parent helper.

To Don Niederfrank for providing guest leadership and meditations at both services on February 18.

To the Fellowship Team for hosting a delicious Soup and Salad Potluck Lunch on February 18.

To Kylee Olson for providing special music on the piano on February 25.

To all those who responded to the Thrive Team survey.

To Jane Spalding for creating a beautiful altar centerpiece for Lent.

To our February Nursery Caregivers: Addison and Leeann Wellenstein, Chloe and Dawn Rychtik, and Simon and Amy Gilhooly.

To our February Worship Leaders: Ric Probst, Gary Tackes, Scott Symes, Jason Jacque, David Franks, and our Confirmation Class.

To Chris Drasch for sending birthday, anniversary, and cards of concern to our members and friends in February.

To Terry McManus for hosting Thrive Team meetings at her home.



RAISERIGHT GIFT CARD FUNDRAISING PROGRAM



Jennifer Dimmer and Rhonda Thompson, our church RaiseRight Coordinators, will be placing an order on Sunday, March 10. The gift cards will be available at the church for pick up starting on Sunday, March 17. You can enroll and place an order on the company website, RaiseRight.com/enroll. Our church enrollment code is **P8I47VHNX56H**. Or, you can complete the **paper form** and write out a check to the church. Thank you!

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive Team

Moderator: Jason Jacque (2024)
Associate Moderator: Jodi Cowen (2024)
Clerk: Rhonda Thompson (2025)
Treasurer: Phil Stepanski (2025)

Team Representatives

Christian Education: Shandy Roehrig (2024)
Fellowship: Jennifer Dimmer (2025)
Staff Support and Review: Ken Matthews (2024)
Property: Bill Bond (2025)
Community Outreach: Eric Olson (2024)
Liturgy: Tracy Greymont (2025)
Stewardship: *currently vacant* (2025)

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The January minutes were approved at the February 18, 2024 Church Council meeting.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church Council Minutes
January 11, 2024, 6:30pm

Call to Order – by Jason Jacque, Moderator, @ 6:30 pm.
Pastor Scott, Jason Jacque, Tracy Greymont, Bill Bond, Eric Olson, Jodi Cowen, Jennifer Dimmer, Shandy Roehrig and Rhonda Thompson.

Opening Meditation – (Tracy) Tracy shared a daily devotional and prayer, titled “Go!” by Talitha Arnold, a Senior Minister of the United Church of Santa Fe.

Approval of the Council Minutes – December 2023 (Rhonda) – Bill motions to approve the December minutes and Shandy seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Financial Administrator Updates (Jason on behalf of Phil)- Financial statements have not been completed yet and therefore not provided and there are no year-end balances as of this meeting.

- Stewardship Pledge Update – Total pledges received as of January 4, 2024 were 66 for a total amount of \$140,876. That leaves us short 27 pledges compared to 2023 pledges received.
- Christmas Tree Sales Update- There was a profit of \$12,148.56.
- Breakfast with Santa -There was a profit of \$926.

Old Business

Property Team (Bill)-

- Elevator Repairs Update-Bill has gotten an email from MEI stating the jack should be here about January 26. MEI would like to start with the old jack removal and will proceed with installation as soon as the new jack arrives. Bill will email Phil and ask to get the loan process started ASAP. Josh Jacque raised \$1154.29 on a Go Fund Me page for the elevator repair.

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

- Building Maintenance: Smoke Detectors, Solar Panels, Tree Trimming. The smoke detector is repaired and functioning. There is one small repair that they need to come back for at a later date. The Solar Panels are starting to age and are not as productive, but the snow may be hindering productivity. The repair guys would like to save us some money by coming later when the snow melts and they can fix the bracket. The trees have been trimmed some more.
- Church Security. The Port Police shift commander visited and provided a report for safety consideration. The biggest factor in safety is making a plan and then educating the members on the plan. The Property Team will work on a plan and show it to the Council for review.

Council Positions: Financial Administrator (Pastor Scott) - Kristina Tontis, a CPA, has submitted a letter of engagement. She would be considered a contracted service and has a fee of \$800 a month to pay bills and do payroll. She currently works with four churches and is familiar with church finances/taxes. She would work online and remotely while Beckie and Phil handle things like gifts/donations and deposits. Her fee over the year is a little more than what we currently pay for payroll and accounting services, but her expertise would be worth it. The Finance Team recommends we hire her for these services. Bill motions to hire this independent contractor. Jennifer seconds the motion. The vote passes unanimously. Pastor Scott will contact Kristina and let her know we accept her terms. Jodi nominates Phil as the new Treasurer to start January 15, 2024. Jennifer seconds the motion. The vote passes.

Thrive Team Update (Pastor Scott) – The Thrive Team would like to come to a meeting to present the Council with a sample of materials received and discuss what the next steps might be to share the material with the congregation. They meet January 20 at Marquette to discuss how to engage the congregation.

Council updates from Pastor Parish Relations (Shandy) – The team met yesterday. The team is pausing until early February to see what happens with the budget and how the congregation votes on the budget.

Additional Team Updates (Shandy, Eric, Jennifer, Tracy, Ken) – Christian Education is going to color thank you cards for Stewardship. Two new families have been attending. The kids are younger, so things need to be simpler. Nothing new for Community Service, except sharing the thank yous we received for the support. Tracy will share contact info with Eric for Family Sharing. An idea for Lent would be to give something away instead of giving something up for each of the weeks. February 18th is the First Sunday in Lent. Jennifer says Fellowship Team is hosting hot beef sandwiches for the third Sunday, January 21, and then February 18 will be Soup and Salad. Seuss Breakfast is a go for March 2. Eric would like to add to the flyers asking for a donation of food to contribute to the Food Pantry.

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

2024 Budget (Phil/Jason)- An updated status quo proposed budget with pledges reduced to reflect those received by January 4, 2024 totaled \$140,000 that was changed; a \$5000 added fundraiser amount and a change to reflect the new accounting contractor fee, leaving a deficit of \$41,000. Another working budget option with reduced services in addition to changes listed above with a deficit of \$9,100. Bill is generously paying for 2024 snow removal; that line can change from \$600 to zero. Property Team has agreed to clean floors and windows with a cleaning party twice next year and that \$1000 can also become zero. The elevator maintenance and repair should be adjusted from \$2,000 to \$1,170. Any delay in approving a budget will cost about \$2400 a month. Jodi motions to present the full-time minister budget but because it's not working, we recommend the second budget with part-time minister services. Then offer some form of education, but not for an extended time as it will cost \$2400 each month we don't vote and approve the budget. She recommends tabling the final vote until a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 25. Listening Sessions will be provided prior to the special meeting to help educate members with an opportunity to submit or ask questions prior to the special meeting. Eric seconds motion. Motion passes.

New Business

Preparations for January 28th Winter Congregational Meeting (Jason)- Create a cover letter with Stewardship numbers to be shared. The full-time budget and the part-time budget should be shared. A Google form for questions as well as a box located at church for questions. Make an announcement for the Special Congregational Meeting on February 25, 2024 to vote on the budget. Offer Listening Sessions. Print copies of both budgets and the cover letter for distribution this Sunday, January 14. The plan should be mentioned in the newsletter.

Review of Building Usage and Fee Schedule (Pastor Scott) – Scott presented a form with existing prices. It was discussed to remove the fee for the Dennett Room and the Library for members. Fellowship Hall will only be allowed use for members until the elevator is fixed. The nonmember fee will be increased from \$150 to \$200 once the elevator is fixed. Add lower classrooms as well with the possibility of kitchen use. Scott will bring it next month revised and consider alcohol policy changes.

Any other new business to come before the Council? The Council will ask a Fundraising Team to look into getting an alcohol permit. We were invited to participate and host one service in a community organized event for Wednesday's Lenten service and supper. Pastor Scott will let them know that we would like to be included. Ash Wednesday service would be here, as well as Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Let's look at switching Council meeting dates.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment 9:16 pm
Submitted by Rhonda Thompson - Clerk

MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----|----------------|
| 1- | Caitlin Calder | 16- | Bridget Bretl |
| 2- | Levi Franke | | Jack Becker |
| 3- | Nancy Hinneberg | 17- | Angelo Lopez |
| 4 - | Emma Kasza-James | 18- | Zoe Mantsch |
| | Brooke Peiffer | 19- | Amanda Malloy |
| | Caitlin Zozakiewicz | 22- | Cindy Zozak |
| 5- | Chris Wach | 24- | Carol Davidson |
| 8- | Amy Gilhooly | 25- | Tim Cira |
| | Brad Mueller | 26- | Dawn Rychtik |
| 11- | Abby Bordak-Raaflaub | 27- | Darcy McManus |
| 12- | Hannah Lemke | 29- | Jason Jacque |
| | Joe Mueller | | Otto Katzer |
| 15- | Dave Eslinger | | |

MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



- | | |
|-----|------------------------|
| 4 - | Eric and Jackie Oleson |
| 15- | Joe and Dawn Rychtik |



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



Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		MARCH 2024 CALENDAR			1	2 8 am - 11 am Seuss Breakfast Celebration
3 Third Sunday in Lent 8 am Communion Service 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Communion Service Nursery Care	4 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5	6 9:30 am Congregational Care Team 12 pm Lunch Group 6 pm Yoga 7 pm Ecumenical Lent Service w/ Dinner 6 pm @ Grand Ave Methodist Church 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	7 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon South African Choir 29:11 5:30 pm Potluck Dinner 6:30 pm Concert	8	9 10 am - 2 pm Confirmation Class Mission Experience to Black Holocaust Museum
10 Fourth Sunday in Lent 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Chancel Choir Church School Nursery Care 11 am Fellowship Hour 11 am - 1pm Pysanky Egg Workshop	11 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 9:30 am Staff Meeting	13 12 pm Lunch Group 6 pm Yoga 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Ecumenical Lent Service w/ Dinner 6 pm @ Christ the King	14 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon 7 pm Church Council	15 11 am Property Team	16
17 Fifth Sunday in Lent 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Handbell Choir Kids Club and Nursery Care	18 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	19 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Girl Scouts	20 12 pm Lunch Group 7 pm Ecumenical Lent Service w/ Dinner 6 pm @ our church	21 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 8 am Worship Service 9 am Cinnamon Rolls 10 am Family Worship Service - Confirmation Class Leads the Service Nursery Care 11:00 am Cinnamon Rolls	25 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26	27 12 pm Lunch Group 6 pm Yoga	28 Maundy Thursday 8 am Men's Breakfast- The Beacon 7 pm Worship Service	29 Good Friday 7 pm Worship Service	30 Holy Saturday
31 Easter Sunday 6 am Sunrise Worship Service 8 am Worship Service Chancel Choir Easter Brass 10 am Worship Service Chancel Choir Easter Brass						



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

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday mornings from 8:30 - Noon

Pastor Scott's Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays, and by appointment

Office Staff

Rev. Dr. Scott McLeod, Pastor - pastorscott@portucc.org
cell phone - (262) 903-0449, home phone - (262) 723-1100
Amy Gilhooly, Communications Director - amyg@portucc.org
Beckie Perez, Office Manager - office@portucc.org

STAY CONNECTED

Like us on **Facebook**

"First Congregational Church, Port Washington, WI"

Receive our E-Blasts (emails)

Please let us know if you would like to be added or have a new email address

Check out the church website at portucc.org

RECORDINGS OF WORSHIP SERVICES

We record our Sunday worship services each week. You may subscribe to our **YouTube channel** ("First Congregational Church of Port Washington"). This allows you to receive notification when a service is uploaded.

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!

