



Congregational Connections

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

BECOMING AMBASSADORS FOR JESUS AND THE CHURCH

What a terrific month we just finished up at church. The Lenten Season was filled with great worship and meaningful conversations and study and then Holy Week was a terrific capstone! Between the Handbells, the kids singing, a Wednesday evening scavenger hunt, Maundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae, Good Friday somber scripture readings in worship before pulling out all the stops on Easter morning with beautiful music supplied by the Chancel Choir and brass accompaniment—it was glorious!

The month of May is the Season of Easter and in worship we begin to discern with the disciples, now Apostles, what it means that Jesus has been raised. It is an important movement for the early church to go from being Disciples—those who follow a teacher and leader, to becoming Apostles—those who are sent out. It is a remarkable transition and one that involves remembering what Jesus had said and done, much prayer and discernment of how Jesus' teachings could be applied to new circumstances and situations.

As part of a church community, we are always disciples. Always learning more, seeking to grow deeper in our faith and recognizing where Jesus is leading us in service and ministry with the people around us. While, the name "Apostle" seems to be a title that refers more specifically to the original group active in the first generation of the church, the Apostle Paul uses the same root of the Greek word to call all disciples to also be Ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20).

An ambassador is sent to represent one country or government to another. An ambassador presents and demonstrates all the best that their home country or government has to offer to those to whom they are sent. I believe that part of what this Easter Season is all about is beginning to discern how we might best be ambassadors of Jesus and ambassadors of our church to our circle of friends and family, to our coworkers, and to the communities in which we live.

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...BECOMING AMBASSADORS continued...

In this month of May, may we continue the good discipleship we have developed. But as the first disciples transitioned into becoming Apostles, may we too grow and become ambassadors for Jesus Christ and for our church. How can you best represent the love of Christ and the light of God in your relationships? In your thoughts and actions each and every day? See you in church!

Courage and Peace,
Pastor Scott



MAY ADOPT-A-BILL FUNDRAISER

During the month of May, the Church Council is inviting all of us to help close the budget deficit by adopting one of the church's budgeted expenses for the month, or even just a week. Beginning May 8, you will find a display board in the narthex, and in fellowship hall during Fellowship Hour, which will have a variety of church bills and church expenses that we would like you to consider adopting by taking the slip of paper and enclosing the dollar amount in an envelope toward that particular budgeted item.

We all know the church has bills to pay, month in and month out. Things like the electric bill to keep the lights on and the gas bill to keep the place warm. We pay quarterly bills to make sure we are insured against disaster, monthly bills to maintain the property, and phone, internet, Wi-Fi bills to keep everything running smoothly. They are not the "flashy" kinds of expenses that one might think a church has—ones that might go directly to feeding the hungry or caring for those in need. Instead, they are the bills that enable our ministry to continue, the bills that allow us to continue the upkeep on our beautiful facility. These are the necessary bills that are the means through which we can, in fact, do the work of Jesus Christ in the world— including feeding the hungry and caring for those in need.

Help us close the budget deficit by donating toward our "Adopt-a-Bill Fundraiser" this month!

WORSHIP WITH US - TWO SUNDAY SERVICES THROUGH END OF MAY

We celebrate two Sunday morning worship services at 8:00 and 10:00 through May 29. Nursery care is available at the 10:00 service. We have one service at 9:00 during the summer months of June, July, and August (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.