



Congregational Connections

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

"IT'S ABOUT LOVE, LOVE, LOVE"

"That's what it's all about. Because God loves us, we love each other; mother, father, sister, brother. Everybody sing and shout, 'cause that's what it's all about." Do you recognize this Church School song? A simple song, with lyrics understandable to children, and yet a concept that has profound meaning for all of us. The author of 1 John wrote, "Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God, everyone who truly loves is a child of God and knows God." The song for children sums it up, "it's about love, love, love."

We are focusing on the text from 1 John in this year's stewardship campaign. At first glance it may seem like a strange scripture text to use as a focus for stewardship. There is no mention of money, or giving, or budgets, or the church's bills, or anything resembling the way we often think about stewardship. Our text is much more all-encompassing than a church budget. 1 John is calling us to a fundamental reorientation of our lives!

When we think of stewardship in a spiritual sense, it is essentially the wise and generous use of God's gifts. The author of 1 John is calling us to use the greatest gift, the gift of love—and to use that gift generously; multiplying that gift by loving one another. As you prayerfully consider your financial support of the church in 2023, consider how your support of our church's ministry can embody God's love and multiply it as it serves our members, friends and the wider community. We are stewards of the greatest gift of all—LOVE!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Scott



Here is a quick overview of our Sundays in November. Join us for the 8:00 or 10:00 Sunday morning service, and more! Additional information provided within this newsletter.

Sunday, November 6 (*Daylight Saving Time Ends*)

All Saints Sunday
Church Soup & Salad Potluck Lunch after 10:00 service

Sunday, November 13

Church School Sunday
Fall Congregational Meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Sunday, November 20

Fellowship Hour after both services
Family Service at 10:00

Sunday, November 27

First Sunday of Advent



TIME TO FALL BACK ONE HOUR

At 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 7, Daylight Saving Time ends. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour or you will be an hour early for church!



FAMILY SERVICES IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Please note that in November and December, Family Services will be held on the third Sundays due to the holidays (November 20 and December 18). Our Children's Choir will perform on November 27 and December 18.



LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Christmas time is right around the corner! Please plan to join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 for Advent Vesper Services, beginning on November 30. Also, mark your calendar and help spread the word that our three Christmas Eve services will be held at 5:00, 7:00, and 9:00.

WORSHIP WITH US

We celebrate two Sunday morning worship services at 8:00 and 10:00. Nursery care is available at the 10:00 service.

HOLY COMMUNION

The first Sunday morning of each month we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Communion is open to all who seek to follow in the way of Christ, both children and adults.

CLICK AWAY

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

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER

If you have a celebration, prayer request, or other contribution for the newsletter, please email us 7-10 days before the first day of the month.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY ON NOVEMBER 6

We will celebrate All Saints Sunday as part of our Communion Service on November 6. Together in prayer we remember all of those friends, family and church members who have died in the previous twelve months, recalling how, in New Testament usage, the word “saints” referred to Christians in general. It is the recognition of the common bond of Christians, both living and dead, and the common bond of the church here on earth and the church triumphant in heaven. All-Saints Sunday also recalls Hebrews 12:1 in which we are “surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses” as we continue in faithful discipleship. During worship we would like to lift up the names of all those who have died in the last year and are known to our members and friends. Names will be printed in the bulletin as well as lifted by those in attendance. We would like to be able to list people’s names, as well as the appropriate dates that mark their lifetime, and their relationship to our congregation. In order to include people in the bulletin, we will need their information in the office by Thursday, November 3rd. Thanks for your help in making this All Saints Sunday a meaningful worship experience.



SOUP & SALAD POTLUCK LUNCH ON NOVEMBER 6



The Fellowship Team invites everyone to stay after the 10:00 service for a Soup and Salad Potluck Lunch. You are welcome to bring a pot of soup or dessert, or simply come join in food and fellowship. Thanks to the team, there is always plenty of food! We hope you will mark your calendars and come enjoy good food and the company of church friends!



FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 13 AT 10:50 A.M.

All members of the church are invited to attend the Fall Congregational Meeting on November 13 in the Sanctuary, immediately following the 10:00 worship service. A proposed church budget for 2023 will be presented to the church and will be the primary item on the agenda. Our Financial Administrator, Phil Stepanski, has been hard at work putting the numbers together and receiving input from the different Team Leaders and the entire Church Council. The proposed budget is a “working document” and can be amended and changed prior to being voted on at the Winter Congregational Meeting on January 29.

We are hoping to encourage wider participation in the Fall meeting by starting the meeting immediately following the worship service. The 10:00 worship service on November 13 will be slightly amended to ensure that we begin the meeting at 10:50. Our plan is to call the meeting to order and present the budget in a timely manner to the broadest possible group of the congregation. A crucial part of our church’s identity is that we are a “Congregational” church - which means that decisions are made not by any single person, or even a small group of leaders, but by the vote of the entire membership. Please join us on November 13 as we begin to make decisions about our budget in 2023.

HELP CHURCH SCHOOL STOCK THE SHELVES OF THE FOOD PANTRY

Our Church School program has chosen to support The Food Pantry here in Port Washington for their upcoming November Community Service Project and welcome your participation! They are collecting a variety of donations, with a focus on three food items - hearty soup, canned pasta, and canned fruit. Personal items, new bed sheets, and other shelf-stable food items are also appreciated. Donations can be placed in the red wagon located in the church entryway now through November 13 and will be celebrated by the Church School kids that morning prior to being delivered to The Food Pantry. Thank you!

DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY
November Church School Community Service Project

Items Requested:

- Canned Pasta
- Hearty Soups
- Canned Fruits

The Food Pantry is also in need of new bed sheets

Help our Church School kids fill the wagon in the church entryway!

Items accepted now through Sunday morning, November 13.



FREE BUILDING USAGE FOR MEMBERS

In an effort to bring back more activity to our church building, especially since the departure of Port Pre-School during the week, the Church Council recently approved free church building usage for Members through the program year. Are you having a family get together and need a larger space? Use Fellowship Hall! Do you need a meeting space? Use the Dennett Room! Contact Beckie in the church office to reserve a date.



Girl Scout Troop 8210 making Halloween cookies in Fellowship Hall. Church member Dawn Rychtik is their co-leader and Lily Dimmer and Claire Rychtik are troop members.

BEL LOVED

Love. Gratitude. Response.

Fall 2022 Stewardship Campaign

The work and ministry of our church happens through the generous financial and volunteer support of our church members and friends. Because of you, our church shares God's love within and beyond our faith community. While there are many ways to support the congregation, our annual Fall Stewardship Campaign provides a chance to think in a particular and prayerful way about the choices we make with our money in support of the church.

During October, we began our 2022 Stewardship Campaign by asking several members to share their thoughts and experiences about what makes them feel beloved in our church. Thank you to Phil Stepanski, Ken Matthews, and Chris Frasier for doing such an excellent job in sharing their reflections.

As we begin November, each family will receive a mailing explaining our church needs, financial goals, and the many ways to pledge. The Stewardship Team asks everyone to respond sometime this month. Your prayerful as well as timely response will be helpful for our planning. The campaign wraps up on December 11 so that our teams can prepare our 2023 budget.



PREPARATIONS FOR OUR 37th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

We are eagerly awaiting our upcoming Christmas Tree Sale. The Sale begins the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 25. Not only is the Tree Sale the biggest fundraiser for our church, it has also become a beloved tradition within our church and community. You are invited to participate in a variety of ways:



Be on the lookout for an e-blast with the link to sign up for a shift or two to sell trees.



The Christmas Tree Committee needs your help setting up the lot on Saturday morning, November 12, at 8:00. Please bring a pair of work gloves and come lend a hand.



The Christmas trees arrive on November 22 and will be unloaded by high school students.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN MEETINGS CONTINUE THIS MONTH

We will be finishing up our Awareness Campaign this month. We hope you have attended one, are planning to attend one, or at least have received an invitation to attend one! All those who have participated have found them to be enjoyable and filled with great conversation about the church's future. The idea for an "Awareness Campaign" originated with the Capital Campaign Planning Team as they grappled with trying to address concerns raised by the Property Team around maintenance and necessary repairs of the church, as well as issues that have arisen with the pastoral transition and global pandemic that our congregation has faced.

Thanks to Bill Bond, Carolyn Heatwole, Jeanne Mantsch, Joe Mueller, Karen Oftedahl, and Ray Shupe for all their work on the Awareness Campaign, and on a potential future capital fund building campaign. One of the team members is present at each small group meeting, and Pastor Scott helps lead and facilitate the conversations. These gatherings have already been a great opportunity to get together and reconnect with one another, sharing in fellowship around our church and faith lives, discussing what is on the horizon for our congregation, and beginning to share ideas about ways to move forward.

The meetings start with a time for introductions and sharing of favorite church memories. Then there is a time for conversation around hopes, dreams, and fears about the present and future of the church. Lastly, the team presents the projects we see on the horizon around the church building. The hope is that the Awareness Campaign will help reconnect all of us and begin the path toward a strong future. Please say "yes" to the invitation to come to one of the small group meetings this fall and join in the reflections upon our past and conversations about our future.



INCREASING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ON NOVEMBER 20

In recognition of the descendants of the First Peoples in Wisconsin, our worship on Sunday, November 20, will include a brief time for "Listening to Other Voices", using video of a Wisconsin tribal elder sharing oral history. In conjunction with this special worship service, Friends for Justice will host Fellowship after both the 8:00 and 10:00 services. Native-related books and maps will be available for browsing during Fellowship. A historical timeline featuring First Peoples history in the Americas will be on display throughout the month of November.

You can listen to two Wisconsin tribal oral traditions with these links:

Menominee - <https://wisconsinfirstnations.org/tribal-histories-menominee-history/>

Potawatomi - <https://wisconsinfirstnations.org/tribal-histories-potawatomi-history/>

Submitted by Friends for Justice members -

Louise Mollinger, Jeanne Mantsch, Kathy Bretl, and Jane Spalding

KEEPING THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY IN OUR PRAYERS

On Thursday morning, October 20, there was an incident at Port Washington High School leading to a lock-down of school buildings and the evacuation of students. We know now that there was a false report of an intruder in the building, part of a wider series of false reports to school districts in the area. Fortunately, there was not an intruder and there were no serious physical injuries during the clearing of the building. But in the minutes and hours following the lock-down and evacuation it was experienced as real and there were certainly many frightened students, staff, and parents. In the rapid departure of students and staff from the high school our church became a safe place for students and staff to find shelter quickly. Amy Gilhooly and Beckie Perez were able to shepherd the frightened students into different areas around the church, so they could take a breath and find some calm, allowing calls to be made and school staff could begin to organize. Our congregation can be proud of the way church staff quickly reacted to the rush of people, providing warmth and care in a crisis situation.

In the coming days, weeks, and months, let's all keep our school community in our prayers. It is horrifying that school shootings are something for which the current generation of students, staff, and parents have to prepare. We can be grateful for the quick response of the Port Washington Police Department and the Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office. Thankful for church members and PWHS staff Ralph Perez, Diana Pasten, and Kerry O'Brien and other staff and the administrators of the school district who helped to provide or lead students to safe spaces, calm student fears, and then reconnect students and parents. Thankful to counselors and advisors who will continue to unpack the trauma of those moments with students and staff to help them move forward. Thankful for the supportive way the community has responded. Please keep all of those who were present on October 20 in your prayers that they might all experience the peace and presence of God in difficult circumstances. And then let's all pray for guidance and leadership to find a way to make these kinds of "incidents" a thing of the past; no one should have to worry about these kinds of events.



COMMUNITY ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

You are invited to attend this year's Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship on Tuesday evening, November 22. The service will take place at 7:00 at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 420 W. Whitefish Road, here in Port. The theme for this community service is, "Kinship: Where Everyone Matters". Pastor Scott along with several other clergy from the area churches will be sharing brief reflections on the theme. Those who attend are invited to bring food donations for the Port and Saukville food pantries. Following the service there will be fellowship time, featuring homemade pie. The service will also feature a community choir made up of members of different church or community choirs and you are invited to join them. If you are interested in singing, please talk to Brett Dimmer and he can get you the music (a choral version of "All Things Bright and Beautiful"). If you would like to bake a pie to share, that would certainly be appreciated!



DECORATING ORNAMENTS FOR TREE SALE CUSTOMERS

We will once again decorate ornaments to give to customers as a 'Thank You' at our Christmas Tree Sale. Both kids and adults are invited to decorate wooden ornaments. Our Church School kids will decorate a bunch of the ornaments as a group on November 13 at 10:00, but we can use more help! The wooden ornaments will be available on Sunday, November 13, and thereafter near the entryway and in the church's Little Free Library. We would like most of the ornaments complete by November 25.



THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM INVITES
YOU TO AN



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4
11:00 am-1:00 pm

The Fellowship Team is planning another fun event to help celebrate Advent and Christmas! Join the team in creating an Advent craft, Christmas cards, and exchanging cookies on Sunday, December 4, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This free event is open to all ages! Invite your neighbors and friends! Light snacks will be offered.

More information to come about a cookie exchange.

Please sign up in advance if you are able, by contacting Jennifer Dimmer, our Fellowship Team Chair, at jenniferdimmer@gmail.com or (414) 303-1813.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Church School is in full swing this fall. We invite all 4K-7th graders to our next Church School Sunday at 10:00 on **November 13!** Come when you can, we are always happy to have you take part!

Please take a look at page 4, we are hoping to fill a wagon (and then some!) to help support The Food Pantry. On November 13, the kids will roll the wagon of food goods to their room to start the morning, feeling inspired to keep the service to others "rolling"!

We will present our November story of "**A Dream for the Future**", based on *Isaiah 65:17-25*, as our inspiration. We will decorate ornaments for those who purchase a Christmas Tree during our church's sale, a tradition that started two years ago. The kids will also discuss their upcoming December service project of purchasing Christmas gifts for those in need. Stay tuned!

If you are not able to join us, you are always welcome to grab the previous month's crafts/activities which are available on the bulletin boards.



Church School kids busy creating Gratitude Trees on October 13.

COME FOR CHURCH SCHOOL AND STAY TO SING!

Sherri Melichar, our Children's Choir Director, wants to help busy families who want to find the time for their child to be involved in church choir. Sherri invites all children to stay after Church School and the 10:00 service to rehearse upcoming songs. Parents can enjoy Fellowship Hour while Sherri and the children are upstairs in the sanctuary. Plan for them to rehearse for about 30-45 minutes. Children's Choir does not rehearse on Monday evenings at this time. The Children's Choir performs on November 27 and December 18.

LOOKING AHEAD

11/13 - Church School
"A Dream for the Future"
& "Living God's Way"

Service Project to
Support The Food
Pantry

11/20 - Family Service

11/27 - Children's Choir
Sings at 10:00 Service

12/11 - Church School
"Mary, Joseph, & Jesus"
Toy Drive Service
Project

12/18 - Family Service
Children's Choir Sings at
10:00

NURSERY CARE

A reminder that 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. Please note that the current nursery location is in the Gilomen Room across from the restrooms.

FINANCE TEAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

There are opportunities to participate in the church finances. The first is the Finance Team, led by our church treasurer, Kathy Bretl. The team meets periodically to review the budget and finance information in order to provide feedback and perspective to our Financial Administrator, Phil Stepanski. The team is seeking more members. The second opportunity is becoming a Sunday offering counter. Teams of two count the offering every Sunday and holiday services after the 10:00 service. The goal is to have four teams in place so that each team will count about once a month. It takes 10-15 minutes. If you are interested in joining the Finance Team or becoming a Counter, please email Kathy: kathyb@portucc.org. Thank you!

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CALLING ALL QUILTERS AND CRAFTERS!

Longtime member Jana Zimmerman, and the North Shore Quilters Guild, is hosting a two day quilting and crafting retreat in Fellowship Hall on November 4 and 5 from 9:30 - 5:00. Everyone is welcome to join them! Come and go as you wish, bring your projects and supplies, and interact with fellow quilters and crafters. Bring your own lunch and snacks or contact Jana if you would like to bring something to share or order out. Please RSVP to Jana at jgzim3415@icloud.com. There is no cost, however a donation to the church is welcome.

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CONFIRMATION CLASS ACTIVE THIS FALL

This year's Confirmation Class is off to a great start. We have begun our study of the Bible by going over and discussing some of the major stories of the Old Testament. We moved from stories of creation in Genesis to Noah, Abraham, Moses, the first Passover and the Ten Commandments and into the stories of Samson and Delilah, David and Goliath, Jonah, Daniel - there is just too much to cover! Then the class traveled to Daycholah Center on the shore of Green Lake for a day-long "mission experience" cleaning the camp's bathhouse and cabins in preparation for the quiet of winter, as well as lunch and a tour of the camp. The class also helped lead worship on October 23.

This month the class begins a study of the life of Jesus, and will be helping at The Food Pantry here in Port Washington for their monthly "mission experience". They will also be assisting with the worship service at the Family Service on November 20.

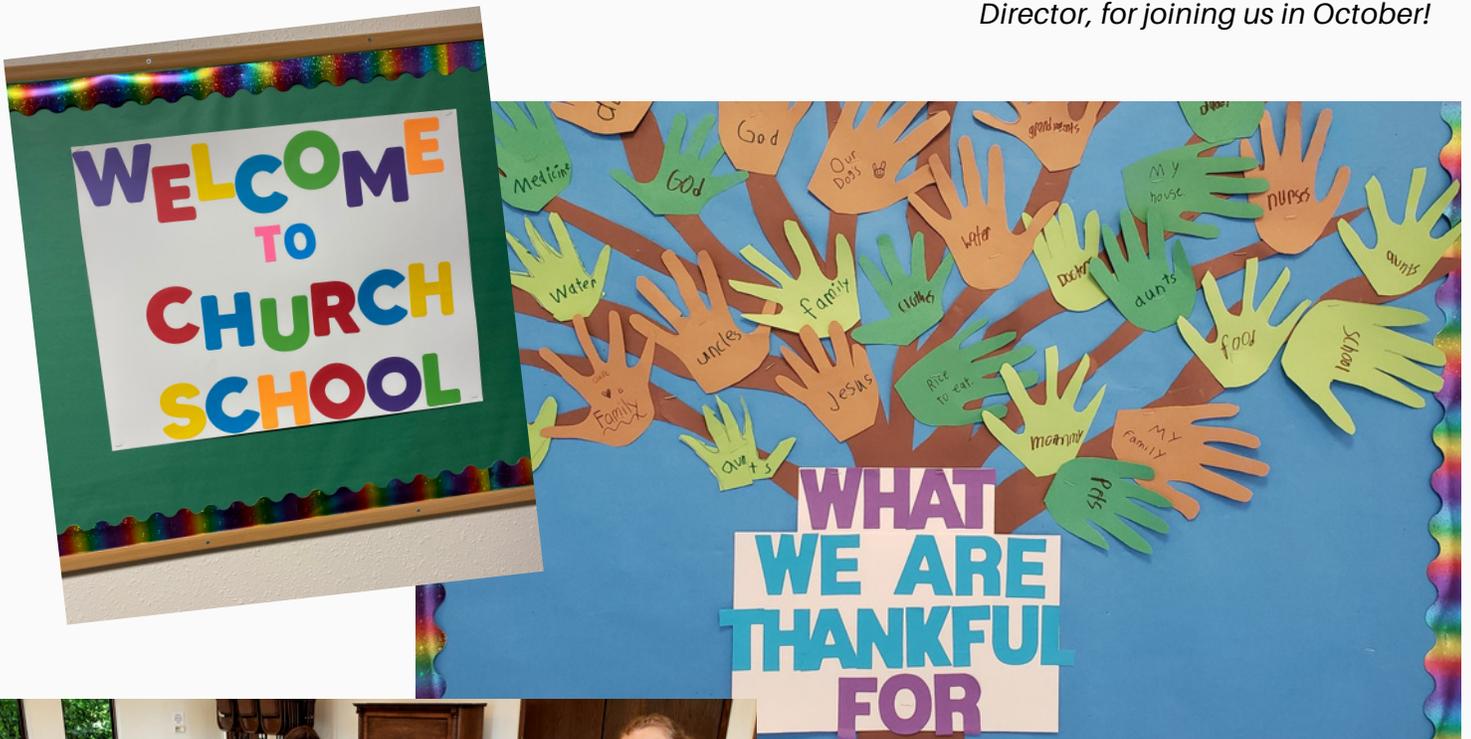


Pastor Scott, Andrew Arthur, Addie and Becky Chandler, and Maile Thompson at Daycholah Center last month.

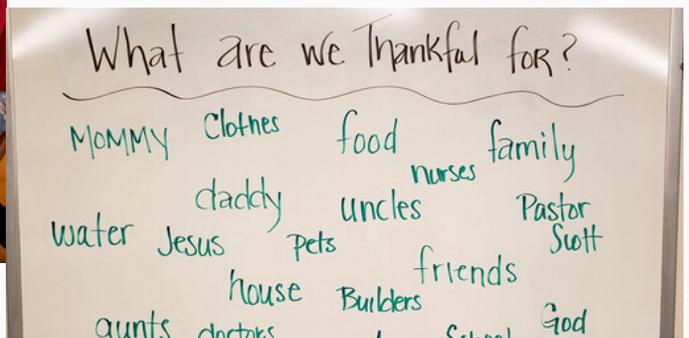
MORE CHURCH SCHOOL PHOTOS FROM OCTOBER



Thank you to *Christin Flucke*, Lighthouse Youth Director, for joining us in October!



A Gratitude Tree to show off all the things the kids are thankful for!!



BIRTHDAY CARD WORKSHOP



Thank you to everyone who attended the Birthday Cardmaking Workshop in October. The crew made over 80 cards!



BOUNDARY TRAINING HELD AT CHURCH



Over 20 clergy members from the UCC SE Association attended a Boundary Training Seminar at our church on October 19.

JULY 2023 MISSION TRIP WITH PILGRIM UCC

This past summer Josh Jacque, Taylor Ulicki, and Pastor Scott traveled to Hazard, KY and worked with the Appalachia Service Project as part of Pilgrim UCC's mission trip. It was such a great experience that everyone wanted to do it again. This coming summer, July 9-15, 2023, First Congregational and Pilgrim UCC will be joining up again for another youth mission trip. In 2023, the destination will be St. Louis, MO and the combined group will be working with the "St. Louis Urban Mission Experience." It would be extremely helpful to have a sense of how many of our youth and adults are interested in participating this coming summer. Please contact Pastor Scott by December 1. Hope you can go!

Mission Trip 2023

Urban Mission Experience

St. Louis

July 9-15

8th –12th graders

Check out the website for more info!



Interested in going on the trip?
Want more information?
Scan this and fill out the form!



Pastor Scott, Josh, and Taylor and friends working hard this past summer.



THEMES FOR WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

November 6: 2 Psalm 149 Ephesians 1:11-23

All Saints Sunday Communion Sunday

On this All Saints Sunday we celebrate the Sacrament of Communion with the “great cloud of witnesses” of those who have come before us. In worship we will remember our friends and loved ones who have died in the previous twelve months.

November 13: Isaiah 65:17-25 Luke 21:5-19

23rd Sunday after Pentecost Chancel Choir Church School Sunday

As we move toward the end of the church liturgical calendar, we are greeted with a vision of a world healed of its brokenness; where the promise of God’s love and justice is made real for all people and all Creation.

November 20: Luke 1:68-79 Colossians 1:11-20

Reign of Christ Sunday Handbell Choir Family Sunday

On this last Sunday of the liturgical calendar, our scripture passages lead us to anticipate a renewed Creation, which God envisioned in the One sent to transform and save.

Tuesday, November 22: Colossians 3:5, 9-17 John 15:12-17

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship at Christ the King ELCA

Our Ecumenical worship this year is focused on the ties of kinship: giving thanks for the bonds of friendship we enjoy as well as growing those relationships to include all people and creation.

November 27: Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:1-14

First Sunday of Advent

As we begin the season of wonder, looking to see where we might find Christ in our ordinary lives, a prophet inspires us with what it looks like to cease war and learn peace.

LIGHTHOUSE NOVEMBER PLANS



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's Youth Director, Christin Flucke, welcomes all middle school and high school youth to join the group on November 13 & 27, and on three Wednesday afternoons this month!

SERVING A MEAL TO THOSE IN NEED

Sunday, November 13 (times tba)

Join Lighthouse as they show love to our neighbors in Milwaukee by helping to prepare and serve a meal for them. They are still working to finalize the exact timing of this event, so please contact Christin Flucke if you are interested in helping and she will keep you posted!



FRIENDSGIVING POTLUCK CELEBRATION

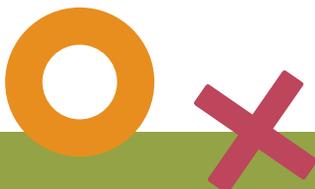
Sunday, November 27 from 6:00-7:00

In the season of giving thanks, we are so thankful for all of the amazing students that make up Lighthouse! Come for a night of celebrating each other as we gather for a community meal and some fun together. Everyone is asked to bring a dish/snack to share that begins with the first letter of your first name for a crazy potluck meal.

new! MIDDLE SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16

All 5th through 8th graders are invited to gather at Lighthouse Headquarters (513 W. Grand Avenue in Port) the first three Wednesday afternoons of November (November 2, 9, and 16) from 3:00 to 5:00. This is something new that Lighthouse is offering, we hope your middle schooler might consider joining in the fun!



MIDDLE SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

OFFERING A SAFE AND WELCOMING SPACE FOR YOU TO HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS (AND MAYBE EVEN MAKE NEW ONES)

JOIN US EACH WEEK FOR SNACKS, GAMES AND OTHER FUN ACTIVITIES, ALL FREE OF CHARGE!

November 2	513. W. Grand Ave. Port Washington
November 9	
November 16	
3:00 - 5:00 pm	Open to all students in grades 5-8

OUR THANKS

To Fellowship Team for serving at Ginny Laubenstein's Memorial Service Dinner on October 8: Barb Bahr, Jennifer Dimmer, Tracy Bretl, Phil Stepanski, Jane Spalding, Carolyn Heatwole, Alice Ruffin, Jeanne Mantsch, and Roberta Blumenberg.

Thanks to Karl Pradel for lighting the Christ Candle each and every week.

To Jennifer Dimmer for hosting a birthday card making workshop at church on October 16.

To Kathy Bretl and Cathy Jones for coordinating and setting up Fellowship Hall to welcome over 20 clergy members from the UCC SE Association for a Boundary Training Seminar hosted by First Congregational Church on October 19.

To the Fellowship Team for serving at Barb Liebnow's Memorial Service Dinner on October 21: Jennifer Dimmer, Barb Bahr, Sherrie and Mike Dimmer, Jane Spalding, Tracy Bretl, and Carolyn Heatwole.

To the Confirmation Class for helping lead the Family Service on October 23: Jackson Bergin, Maile Thompson, and Addie Chandler.

To Mike Dimmer for cutting back the shrubs around the church.

To our October Ushers: Jennifer and Lily Dimmer, Bill Bond, Claude Zimmerman, Jeanne Mantsch, Mike and Jane Spalding, and Mike and Sherrie Dimmer.

To our October Worship Leaders: Jane Spalding, Jeff Ulicki, Kitchie Allen, Ken Matthews, Ric Probst, Kathy Bretl, Mike Spalding, Phil Stepanski, and Louise Mollinger.

To our October Fellowship Hour Hosts: Mike and Sherrie Dimmer and Jennifer Dimmer and family.

To our October Nursery Caregivers: Elaina and Beckie Perez, Matt and Sarah Riemer, Addie and Becky Chandler, Lainey, Libby, and Brook Holmes, and Avery and Shandy Roehrig.

IN MEMORIAM

Barb Liebnow, a long-time member of the church, died on Friday morning, October 14. Barb was very active as the wife of Rev. Jim Liebnow who served our church for 18 years, 1970 —1988, and active on her own living here in Port Washington after Jim's passing. A funeral service was held on Friday, October 21. You may [click here](#) to read Barb's obituary.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Emma Kasza-James, a senior at Port Washington High School who is a member of the National Interscholastic Mountain Biking Cycling Association who won every Varsity high school race this season. Emma went on to compete at the 50-mile USA Cycling Marathon Mountain Bike National Championship in Maryland on October 23 and came in second place in the 17-18 year old age group!

To Grady Karrels and Gabe Chandler, members of the inaugural Port Washington High School Boys Volleyball Team.

To Girl Scout Troop 8210 Co-Leader, Dawn Rychtik, and members Claire Rychtik and Lily Dimmer, who coordinated a community shoe drive and collected over 500 PAIRS of shoes.

To Port Washington High School Football Team Varsity Coaches John Bunyan and Ralph Perez - the team will advance to round three of the playoffs at home on November 4.

To Elyse Karrels, a junior on the Port Washington High School Girls Varsity Volleyball Team - the team advanced to sectional finals on October 29.

To Mia Blum, a freshman on the Port Washington High School Girls Cross Country Team - Mia and her team advanced to State! The team earned 9th place at Wisconsin Rapids on October 29.

To Port Washington High School Football Team Freshman Coaches Dave Eslinger and Jason Bergin, and player Grant Eslinger - the team had an undefeated season, 9-0!

To Port Washington High School Boys Cross Country Team Head Coach Mark Pasten - one of his runners advanced to State.



Baptism

Congratulations and a lifetime of blessings to Mia Josephine Turenne, son of Evan and Allissa Turenne-Lopez, who was baptized into the Christian faith on Sunday, October 9. Pictured along with Pastor Scott and the family are siblings Maverick and Lucy, and godparents Jay Wendland and Isabel Lopez.

CHURCH CHOIRS

A reminder that our choirs always welcome new faces!

Children's Choir rehearses various Sunday mornings, and typically performs on the 4th Sunday of every month.

Chancel Choir rehearses 6:30-7:30 on Monday evenings, and performs on the second and fifth Sunday of every month.

Handbell Choir rehearses 7:00-8:00 on Wednesday evenings, and performs on the third Sunday of every month.



WEDNESDAY LUNCH GROUP

You are invited to come to church on Wednesdays at noon for lunch and Bible study. The group meets in the Dennett Room and everyone brings their own bag lunch and beverage. After they eat together, the group reads through the Bible passages that will be used in worship on the next Sunday. Pastor Scott provides some Biblical background materials and some questions for discussion and then the conversation begins. You don't need to be a Bible scholar to participate, just a curiosity to explore and reflect on the text. The conversation is always interesting and there is usually laughter and sharing of stories, opinions and an insight or two. Give it a try, there is always room for more around the table!



THURSDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Every Thursday morning at 8:00, a dedicated group of gentlemen from the church gather at The Beacon restaurant, which is located downtown on the first floor of The Harborview hotel. The Thursday 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 an hour (or two) and begin your day. You are welcome to join the group at any time!



FELLOWSHIP HOUR ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

We host a Fellowship Hour following our 8:00 service on the first Sunday of each month, and following our 10:00 service 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. Help newcomers to feel that, wherever they are on life's journey, they are welcome here. If you have any questions, please speak to Jennifer Dimmer, our Fellowship Team Representative on Church Council.

SUNDAY SERVERS - ONLINE SIGN-UP

We are utilizing the online SignUpGenius tool which allows for easier scheduling. Below are the areas we need your participation. Simply click on the links and choose which Sundays you would like serve. Sign up once, or as many times as you'd like! Together we can fill in all the gaps. If you have any questions, please reach out to Beckie in the church office.

Thank you!



You may click the button to see all of the Sunday Servers sign-ups or click below to view the individual sign-ups.

USHERS

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

ACOLYTES

5th, 6th, and 7th graders are invited to light the altar candles just before the start of every 10:00 worship service

WORSHIP LEADERS

Help Pastor Scott 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 (currently in the Gilomen Room) during the 10:00 service. The 8th grade Confirmation Class will still be helping, but with a smaller class, we need some additional help. Please note, 8th graders and high schoolers must be accompanied by a parent

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

Serve coffee and provide simple treats following the 10:00 service on the second and fourth Sundays - two families preferred

OPPORTUNITY TO EARN PORT PRIDE HOURS

A component of Port Washington High School's Port Pride Program is community service in which students pledge to complete 15 hours of community service each semester in exchange for one final exam exemption.

First Congregational Church is a partner of the program! High school students may earn hours by serving our church in a variety of ways: Nursery care, hosting Fellowship Hour, ushering, serving as a Worship Leader, selling Christmas trees and more. Contact Beckie Perez in the church office for more information at office@portucc.org.



APPROVED SEPTEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The September Minutes were approved at the October 13, 2022 meeting.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Church Council Minutes
September 8, 2022

Call to Order by Jason Jacque @ 6:36

Pastor Scott, Jason Jacque, Phil Stepanski, Mike Spalding, Ken Matthews, Kathy Bretl, Jennifer Dimmer, Jodi Cowen, Shandy Roehrig and Rhonda Thompson.

Opening Meditation – Mike Spalding found his inspiration for meditation at UnfoldingLight.net. The site is a daily reflection by Steve Garnaas-Homes. His meditation was from a passage of Luke on where to sit at a banquet table.

Approval of the Minutes – August 2022 – Ken Matthews motions to approve the August minutes with the stated revision and Kathy Bretl seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Monthly Budget Review (Phil/Kathy)-Phil feels that things are still okay. The checking account balance is down about \$5000 from where it had been. He feels expenses are likely to exceed income the next couple of months and money will need to be transferred from the memorial savings. Phil is in the midst of reconciling Quickbooks with the bank statement. He started the reconciliation with the calendar year of 2022.

Pastor's Moment (Pastor Scott)-Membership review in the past followed procedures according to the constitution and practices like review of membership roster and sending missing members letters asking for acknowledgment to continue or not continue with membership. With all the changes the last few years it seemed appropriate for more than a letter to be sent when asking if continued membership was desired for anyone not seen within the church walls. A small team of members have reviewed the list and finalized it so Pastor Scott can call those members to confirm their membership. He is hoping to finish by the end of September. Ken is volunteering to help reach out to members.

Old Business

Capital Campaign Update – (Scott)- The planning team has written a letter. This letter is set to go out to about 40 families asking if they would help by hosting a meeting in their house or at the church in October and November. The idea for the meeting is to connect with others and to obtain feedback on hopes, dreams and/or worries. Then Capital Campaign members would like to share concerns for the church building as it ages and what that might look like for the years to come.

Building maintenance updates – (Bill)- There is no report as Bill was unable to make the meeting, but Jennifer brings up the possible addition of a handrail in the area of the sanctuary podium.

Rental Space update – (Scott)-Troy and Lorraine are brainstorming on possibilities. Once the rooms are painted they plan to take photos and advertise to promote the space for rent.

(continued on the next page)

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

Meditation schedule for Council Meetings – (Jason)- Half the slots are full. Jason will start randomly assigning months that are not filled.

New Business

Stewardship Campaign Introduction (Jodi)-They are down one committee member, if anyone knows of someone that could help please pass contact information along. The committee will come up with a theme and use the same plan as last year. In October a two fold mailing will be sent out. Newsletter announcements and social media posts, testimonials will start in October. This all starts with an announcement in the October newsletter. Once again there will be a three week challenge. Pledges will officially be due the first week in December and then follow up phone calls for those not turning them in. Written thank you's will also be sent out. Jodi's request is for more willing volunteers, for Phil to share the financial story, for Amy and Beckie to help as they always do, and for Brett to run video.

Chris Drasch will be taking on the responsibility of Card ministry.

Communion servers- Pastor Scott has learned that Council members in previous years had served communion. He would like to reinstate this practice.

Pastor Scott plans to reinstate the Passing of the Peace this Sunday.

Any other new business to come before the Council? No

Closing Prayer and Adjournment- Meeting is adjourned at 8:03 pm.



PROPERTY TEAM UPDATES AND MEETING MINUTES

Our Property Team is an active church team comprised of a handful of folks from the church. The team keeps a close eye on our church and works to maintain all aspects of our church building and grounds. Bill Bond is their Team Representative on the Church Council. Bill invites anyone who is interested to join the team. They meet around noontime on the last Friday of each month. The team would like to share their minutes with the church. Please click below for their recent meeting minutes:

[September 2022 Property Team Minutes](#)



RECORDINGS OF WORSHIP SERVICES

We continue to record our Sunday worship services each week for those who are unable to attend. Be sure to subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) ("First Congregational Church of Port Washington"). This allows you to receive immediate notification when a service is uploaded.

**NEXT FCC ORDER
IS NOVEMBER 13TH**

SCRIP/RAISE RIGHT GIFT CARD FUNDRAISING PROGRAM



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 gift card fundraising program, also called Scrip fundraising, by a company called Raise Right, the church can raise money when members and friends use retail gift cards to pay for everyday purchases (like gas and groceries) and more, instead of paying by credit card, cash, or check.

There are hundreds of gift cards you can purchase from retail stores, online merchants, restaurants, gas stations, entertainment, even flights and travel purchases; and each can be turned into a small percentage of money that will go directly to our church. You have options to buy eGift cards (available immediately), physical gift cards, and reloadable gift cards.

For every gift card purchased, earnings are up to 20%, with an average earning of 6% that goes to the church. The earnings come from the gift card brand you are purchasing - their way of supporting organizations and communities like ours. You do not pay anything extra, for example, if you buy a \$50 gift card, you pay \$50.

Jennifer Dimmer and Rhonda Thompson, our church Scrip/Raise Right Coordinators, will be placing an order on Sunday, **November 13**. The gift cards will be available at the church for pick up starting on Sunday, **November 20**. You can enroll and place an order ahead of time on the company website, RaiseRight.com/enroll. Our church enrollment code is **P8147VHNX56H**. Or, you can complete the **paper form** and write out a check to the church and mail it to church or bring it to the office or with you to church on Sunday. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

1 -	Jeff Suddendorf	13-	Sherrie Dimmer
2-	Allen Spaude	14-	James Maechtle
3 -	Mark Maechtle		Sydney Garthus
	Reese Roehrig	16-	Alice Sanem
	Kylee Olson	19-	Mike Umhoefer
4 -	Kurt Blum	20-	Roberta Blumenberg
	Jane Schwacher		Mira Stimac
6-	Mike Spalding		Amy Umhoefer
	Pam Zeman	24-	Sherri Melichar
8 -	Avery Roehrig		Scott Nelson
9-	Libby Holmes	25-	Margaret Niederfrank
10-	Jim Holmes	28-	Nels Garthus
11-	Steve Farnsworth	29-	Barb Bahr
12-	Addie Chandler	30-	Michele Franke

NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 - Gary and Chris Drasch
- 11 - Merlin and Janet Behnke

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.
<h1 style="text-align: center;">NOVEMBER 2022 CALENDAR</h1>		1	2	3	4	5
		9:30 am Staff Meeting	12 pm Lunch Group 3-5 pm Lighthouse After School Program 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	8 am Men's Breakfast-The Beacon 7 pm Executive Team	9:30 am – 5 pm Quilter and Crafting Retreat	9:30 am – 5 pm Quilter and Crafting Retreat
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
All Saints Sunday 8 am Communion Service 10 am Communion Service Nursery Care 11 am Soup & Salad Potluck Lunch	6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 pm AC at Mueller Home	9:30 am Staff Meeting 7 pm Stewardship Team	12 pm Lunch Group 3-5 pm Lighthouse After School Program 6 pm Confirmation Service Project- Port Food Pantry 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	8 am Men's Breakfast-The Beacon 6:30 pm Church Council Knellsville 4-H	7 pm AC at McManus Home	8 am Christmas Tree Lot Set-up
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Church School Chancel Choir Nursery Care 10:50 am Fall Congregational Meeting 11 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am AC Heatwole at church	6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am Staff Meeting	9:30 am AC Bond at church 12 pm Lunch Group 3-5 pm Lighthouse After School Program 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	8 am Men's Breakfast-The Beacon	6 pm PW Pride Group	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Thanksgiving Sunday 8 am Worship Service 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Family Service Confirmation Class Helps Nursery Care Handbell Choir 11 am Fellowship Hour	6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	9:30 am Staff Meeting 7 pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Christ the King		Happy Thanksgiving!	37th Annual Christmas Tree Sale Begins!	
27	28	29	30	AC = Awareness Campaign		
First Sunday of Advent 8 am Worship Service 10 am Worship Service Children's Choir Nursery Care 6 pm Lighthouse Youth Group – Friendsgiving	6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am Staff Meeting	9 am Congregational Care Team 12 pm Lunch Group 6:30 pm Advent Vesper 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



Church Office Hours

Monday - 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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Subscribe to our **YouTube Channel**

"First Congregational Church of Port Washington"

Receive our E-Blasts (emails)

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!

