



Congregational Connections

Monthly E-Newsletter of First Congregational Church, UCC | Port Washington, Wisconsin | April 2021

THE FIRST FEW MONTHS...THE NEXT FEW MONTHS



I have finished my first three months of ministry with all of you. It is hard to believe. On the one hand I feel like I have just arrived and am only beginning to scratch the surface of becoming familiar with this congregation. On the other hand, it seems very natural, and I feel comfortable enough to somehow believe that I have been here for much longer. Thank you to the staff and to the members of the different teams and Council, who have made this continuing transition so easy for me.

One of the things that feels very confusing is that while I have been leading worship for over a dozen weeks, I still do not know what a Sunday morning is like. When we return to in-person worship, I will feel like I am starting all over again. The Reopening Committee has been meeting and planning on a return to in-person worship. The members of the church have responded candidly and helpfully to surveys asking questions and seeking direction for our ministry going forward. Believe me, I am aware that frustration is growing with each week that passes without firm news concerning "in-person" worship.

As a church we have decided to act conservatively in regard to potentially exposing our members and friends to viral spread. We know that decision was not made with unanimous consent. And we are well aware that other churches and organizations have made different choices. Ironically, we will never know the good that we have done by remaining closed. I believe we have probably saved lives by going online for worship all this time.

(continued on next page)

...THE NEXT FEW MONTHS continued...

That is conjectural good news. But **real** good news is that we believe we will be able to open for small groups beginning the first full week of this month. Groups of 10 or less will be able to gather in Fellowship Hall. So, we hope that study groups and team meetings (if desired) can return to the building. (See invite below.) While everyone would love to open up to Sunday morning worship again; we hesitate to name a start date because we know we have been disappointed before. I remember thinking we would certainly be open by Easter last year!

In Phil Stepanski's Reopening Committee article you can learn more about where to look for information that we are tracking. As soon as vaccination level reaches 50% in Ozaukee County, with infection rates staying below 10%, and the new infection rate stays below 10, we'll see you in the sanctuary for Sunday worship (provided you sign up, wear a mask, stay socially distanced, and follow the other guidelines).

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Scott

God is still speaking,

EXCITED TO WELCOME BACK SMALL GROUP MINISTRY TO THE CHURCH!

On April 7th the Wednesday Noon Group will be the first small group to start up again meeting in the church. The group suspended in-person gatherings at the beginning of the pandemic, and now, just over a year later, we are all excited that they will be able to start up again. If you are interested in being a part of this small group, please call or email the church office to reserve your spot. At this time, we can only have nine participants, plus Pastor Scott.

As we begin meeting again, we are going to keep it simple and not share in food and drink. The group will discuss the Lectionary scripture passages for the coming Sunday morning worship. In keeping with Reopening Committee guidelines, the group will meet in Fellowship Hall, will need to wear masks, and will stay socially distanced.

HOLY WEEK

ARROW PRAYER

APRIL 1
MAUNDY THURSDAY

"With God all
things are
possible."

ARROW PRAYER

APRIL 2
GOOD FRIDAY

"Lord Jesus Christ
have mercy on
my soul."

ARROW PRAYER

APRIL 3

"Son of God,
have mercy on
me, a sinner."

ARROW PRAYER

APRIL 4
EASTER SUNDAY

"Alleluia! He is
risen!"

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Pastor Scott has prepared a [Holy Week Devotional Guide](#) so that we may follow along each day with scripture, stories, and prayers. It's not too late to walk with your fellow church members, in spirit, as we move closer to Easter. (Paper copies are available in our Little Free Library.)

WORSHIP SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY Thursday, April 1

The Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service will be a virtual worship service of lessons accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights. "Tenebrae" is the Latin term for shadows. This night we remember the shadows lengthening as Jesus celebrates the Last Supper with his disciples, the betrayal, arrest and trial. Our Confirmation kids have each contributed a reading to the service. Thank you to Kathy Bretl and Sherri Melichar for providing beautiful music for the service.

GOOD FRIDAY Friday, April 2

Please join us for an online Ecumenical Good Friday worship service. The mood of the service is rather solemn, but there is also hope, as we look forward to the great celebration of Easter. We will lift the story of the passion using readings known as the seven last words. This important worship combines scripture and prayer so we may all hear again "the old, old story of Jesus and his love." Kelly Lemons, Director of A Place to Be Spirituality Center, is coordinating the worship service and our church will be joined by Parkside UCC in Saukville, St. John XXIII, Grand Avenue United Methodist Church and other community churches.

EASTER SUNDAY Sunday, April 4

The moving narrative of Jesus' trials and sufferings recalled during Holy Week makes the glory of Easter morning even more wonderful and triumphant! We hope everyone can join online for our special celebration of Easter. As the women witness the empty tomb and begin the joyful proclamation, "He is risen! He is risen, indeed!"—we too, will know the joy of Jesus' resurrection!

PALM SUNDAY DRIVE-THRU

Thank you to everyone who came to church on Palm Sunday morning to pick up their palms, Holy Week Devotional Guides, and warm cinnamon rolls! Special thanks to Marti DeMario, Sherrie and Mike Dimmer and Jennifer Dimmer, for assisting Pastor Scott and for preparing the cinnamon rolls!



PALM SUNDAY - COVER OF THE OZAUKEE PRESS

PUBLISHED IN PORT WASHINGTON

Ozaukee PRESS

Wisconsin's Largest Paid Circulation Community Weekly

Three sections Thursday, April 1, 2021 \$1.75



If it works for burgers and fries, why not for palms on Palm Sunday?

Drive-through services have become all the rage during the pandemic, and First Congregational Church in Port Washington has taken them to new levels this Easter season, first by offering drive-through ashes on Ash Wednesday, then by distributing palms as members of the congregation drove through the church parking lot on Palm Sunday. Handing fronds, as well as cinnamon rolls, to Richard "Lefty" and Diane Fowler on Sunday was Marti DeMario, a member of the church's Fellowship Team.

Photo by Sam Arendt



Making a name for herself on the college court

Graton High graduate Hannah Belanger named a Division II All-American.

Sports



Soup's on ... for anyone who wants it

Connie Hoffmann leads a band of volunteers who make soup by the gallon at Christ the King Church for folks in need of a hearty meal.

Good Living

Inside the
PRESS

www.ozaukeepress.com

Section A Opinion pages
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Graton news • Fredonia news
Belgium news

Section C Good Living features
Recipes • Weddings • Engagements
Real Estate • Classifieds



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Newspaper Caption:

On this week's cover: If it works for burgers and fries, why not for palms on Palm Sunday? Drive-through services have become all the rage during the pandemic, and First Congregational Church in Port Washington has taken them to new levels this Easter season, first by offering drive-through ashes on Ash Wednesday, then by distributing palms as members of the congregation drove through the church parking lot on Palm Sunday. Handing fronds, as well as cinnamon rolls, to Richard "Lefty" and Diane Fowler on Sunday was Marti DeMario, a member of the church's Fellowship Team.

Photo by Sam Arendt

LENTEN 2021

CONNECTIONS

LENTEN CONNECTIONS RECAP

Thank you for your involvement in *Lenten Connections*! We hope you found the weekly activities to be meaningful. We also hope many of you enjoyed reading the Daily Arrow Prayers that Pastor Scott wrote up, and putting together paper prayer chains. Here is a recap of the past six weeks:

Week 1 - Folks signed up to receive a Daily Devotional in their inbox each day.

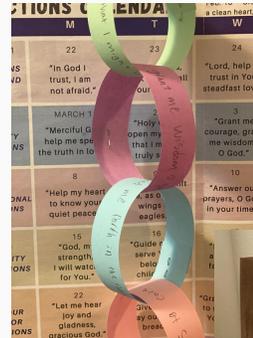
Week 2 - Thank you for filling up our Food Pantry cart multiple times with donations to The Food Pantry in Port Washington!

Week 3 - We hope you enjoyed our first edition of "Congregational Connections", our new monthly e-newsletter. Also, thanks to everyone who colored and sent notecards to church friends. We hope many of you have enjoyed receiving one!

Week 4 - An impressive amount of paper goods, towels, laundry pods, and more were dropped off at the church to help Family Promise of Ozaukee stock their shelves!

Week 5 - We are pleased that we were able to continue our tradition of giving to local organizations in celebration of Easter. Thank you to everyone who was so generous. Kudos to those who tried out PayPal, our new online giving feature!

Week 6 - Pastor Scott provided us with a Holy Week Devotional Guide as we journey through Holy Week.



MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR

Thank you! Thank you! For your amazing and wonderful support for The Food Pantry and Family Promise of Ozaukee over the past several weeks! Eric Olson, Chair of the Community Outreach Team, along with his family, and I took all the Family Promise supplies over to their office. A week before that, I ran into Jim Schmit, as he was loading up another car-full of donations to The Food Pantry. We agreed that it was wonderful to see such an outpouring of love and support from our congregation!

Jeanne Mantsch
Church Moderator



Collette Olson showing off our donations at the Family Promise Office.



LAYREADERS WANTED!

Are you interested in reading scripture during the worship service? We would love to include you and hear your voice! It's easy to record at home and we would be happy to help you with directions. We have heard many positive comments from our members of how much they enjoy having more people participate in worship.

If you would like to help, please contact Beckie Perez (office@portucc.org) to find out more information.

CONTRIBUTE

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.

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.

MANY THANKS

Thank you to Eric, Tina, Kylee and Collette Olson and Jeanne Mantsch for delivering our donated goods to Family Promise of Ozaukee County. Thanks also to the Olson Family for creating a fun promo video to help encourage us all to donate to our Family Promise Paper Goods Drive.



UPDATES FROM OUR FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Our Incoming Money:

In the first two months of the year, we received \$43,157 in donations which is certainly a nice start. We have received two more pledges in March, so it is never too late to send in a pledge if you wish.

Payroll Protection Program Loan:

We have received \$34,447 from the Small Business Administration as part of the Payroll Protection Plan. This will certainly help us in the months ahead with our shortfall.

Contribution Statements:

You may expect to see your quarterly contribution statement in the early part of this month. Thank you for your continuing generosity!



CHECK OUT PayPal

PayPal may have been launched during *Lenten Connections* to give to others in celebration of Easter, but we want to remind you that PayPal will continue to be an online tool to simplify giving for members and friends of the church! You can find the PayPal button on the homepage of the church website (portucc.org) or you can use the QR code below.

We welcome you to utilize PayPal to make one-time or recurring financial contributions to the church! If the payment is intended to be applied to your pledged amount, please write a note (like a memo line on a check) to indicate that on the PayPal screen.



If you have not already, you may click on the image to view the short video that Pastor Scott put together to walk us through how to make a PayPal payment.

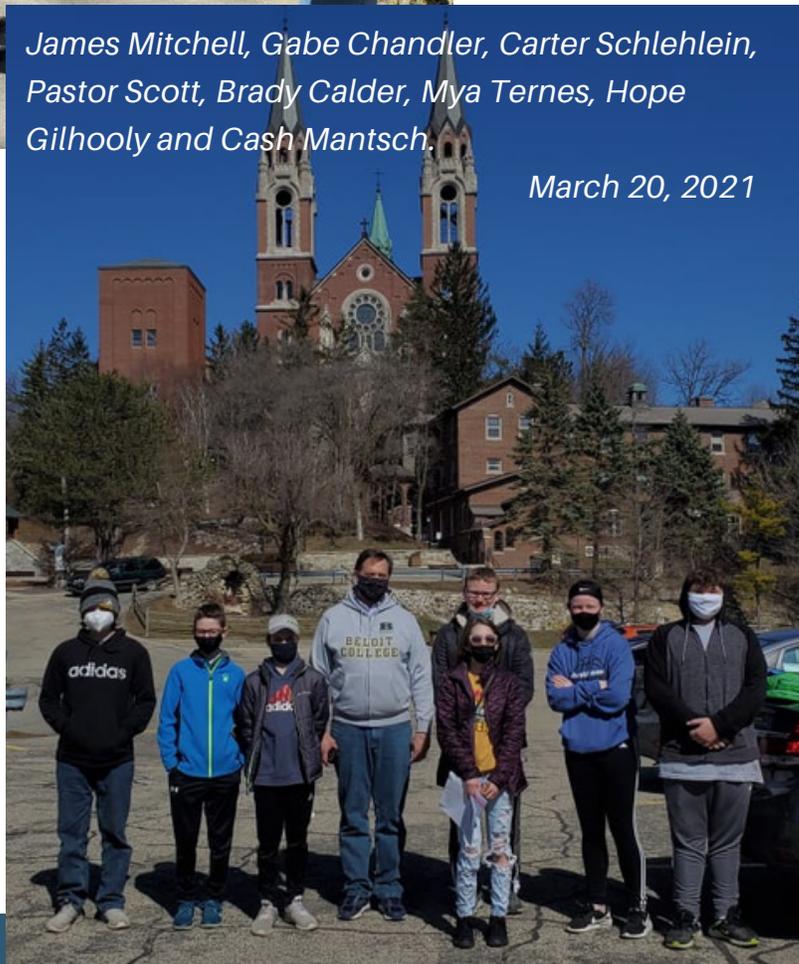


CONFIRMATION TRIP TO HOLY HILL



James Mitchell, Gabe Chandler, Carter Schlehlein, Pastor Scott, Brady Calder, Mya Ternes, Hope Gilhooly and Cash Mantsch.

March 20, 2021



CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Please don't forget that there are scholarship opportunities for church camp. [Click here](#) to view the camp information that was included in last month's e-newsletter. Please email Amy Gilhooly, our Communications Director, at amyg@portucc.org, to learn more about scholarships.



WISCONSIN CONFERENCE VIRTUAL CHOIR

All are invited to participate in the Wisconsin Conference UCC's First Virtual Choir, which will be featured in the various worship services during the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting (held virtually May 11-16, 2021).

Click the link below for instructions on how to listen, record and submit your video by **April 5**.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1-NJAYvHUDCnyhx0nruxTmQFv2sqhr9NpSxkx-ZCu3_/edit#slide=id.gade2870df6_0_1



SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to Becky Chandler (Gabe's mom) and William and Lenore Chandler (James Mitchell's grandparents) for serving as drivers for the Confirmation Class trip to Holy Hill.

Our thanks to Joe Mueller and Claude Zimmerman for continuing to take such great care of the inside of our church. They conduct weekly walk throughs and do a number of fix-it projects.

We thank Lorraine Halls for baking cookies for Pastor Scott to deliver to church folks.

Thanks go out to Barb Olson for adding PayPal buttons on our website.

Thank you to Phil Stepanski and Tracy Bretl for changing our Sanctuary windows for the season of Easter.



First Congregational Church

An open and inclusive community of faith.

APRIL UPDATE FROM THE REOPENING COMMITTEE

GREAT NEWS!! WE HAVE A PLAN TO REOPEN!!

The Reopening Committee recommended a plan to the Church Council which was approved. We have a date planned but all plans depend on reaching the benchmark numbers set forth by the Wisconsin Council of Churches.

We are looking at 3 numbers:

Vaccination rate of 50 - 70%

New cases of < 5 - 10 per 100,000

Positive Test Rate of < 10%

We are using numbers from Ozaukee County as that is the most relevant to our congregation. Here are the websites for any who wish to watch with us:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-data.htm#residents>

This link shows the vaccination data. Click on Ozaukee County for county specific data. Vaccination rate as of 3/31/21 (Ozaukee County) is **37.3%** single dose and 20.7% both doses.

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/a422d25a1c184f77aec4c414e9f4bc1b>

This link is the Washington Ozaukee Counties Dashboard. See the right side to filter to just Ozaukee County. Click the "Burden" tab to see total number of cases per 100,000 residents in the past 2 weeks. This number, as of 3/31/21, is 128.9, divided by 14 (days) is **9.2**. The Dashboard also shows Ozaukee County's 7-Day rolling average of % positive tests. As of 3/31/21 this number is **6.6%**.

The target date that was picked, if all benchmarks are met, is Sunday morning, April 18, 2021, with one service at 9:00. Safety protocols will be in place. Reservations will be required through Sign-up Genius. Attendance will be limited by social distancing requirements. Masks will be mandatory.

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(Reopening, continued...)

There will be music but no congregation singing at this point. We plan to publish an informational video on "What to Expect When Returning to In-Person Worship".

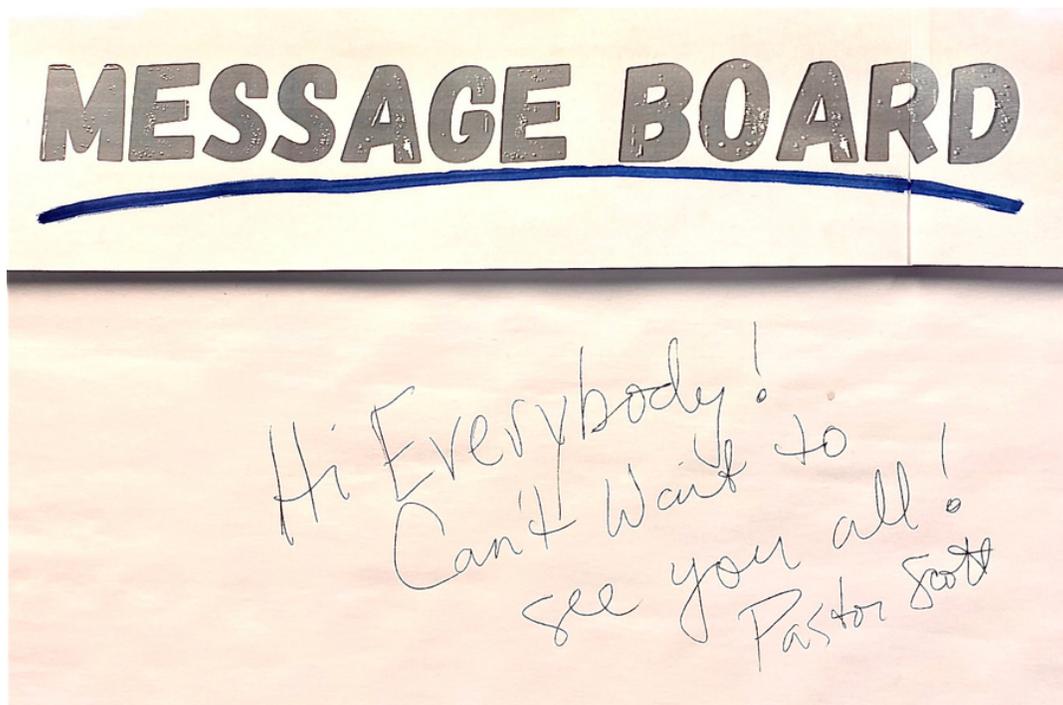
Online, recorded, and live services will continue. When we start in-person we will record those services as well. Thank you to the 67 folks who completed our second survey last month. The results of the survey are included on the next page.

The health and safety of all, especially the most vulnerable among us, has been our priority from the beginning. We have a plan, and we thank God for that! We miss everyone and look so forward to being together again!

Phil Stepanski
Reopening Committee Chair
and Associate Moderator on the Church Council

Reopening Committee members - Savannah Anderson, Brett Dimmer, Doug McManus, Kerry O'Brien, Mike Spalding, Tom Roehrig, and Pastor Scott

PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE FOR RESULTS FROM OUR SECOND SURVEY

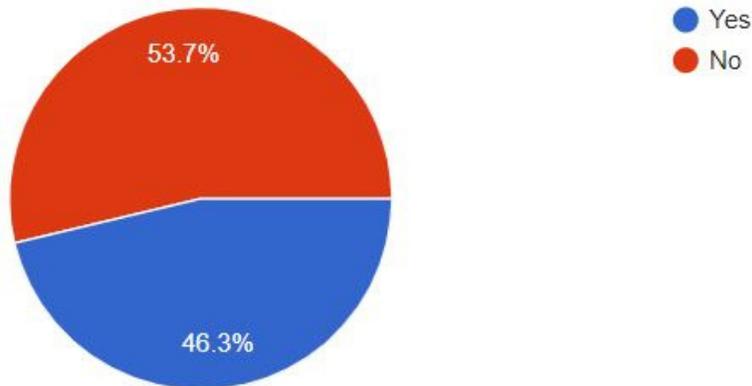


A note from Pastor Scott on the message board in the entryway during Lenten Connections.

Reopening Committee's Second Survey Results – March 2021

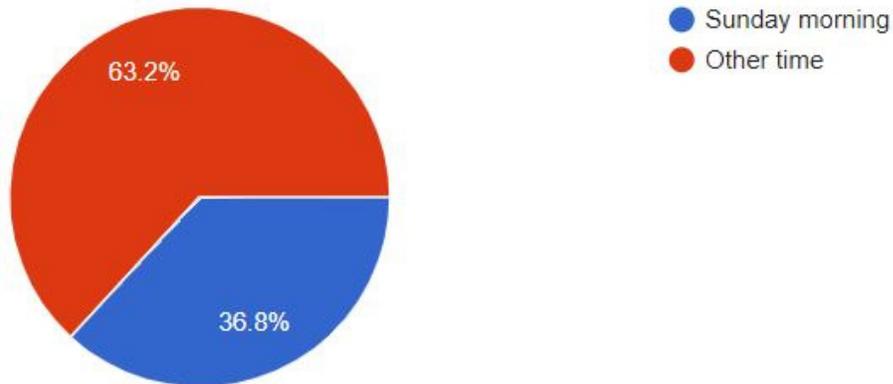
Do you watch most of the online church services?

67 responses



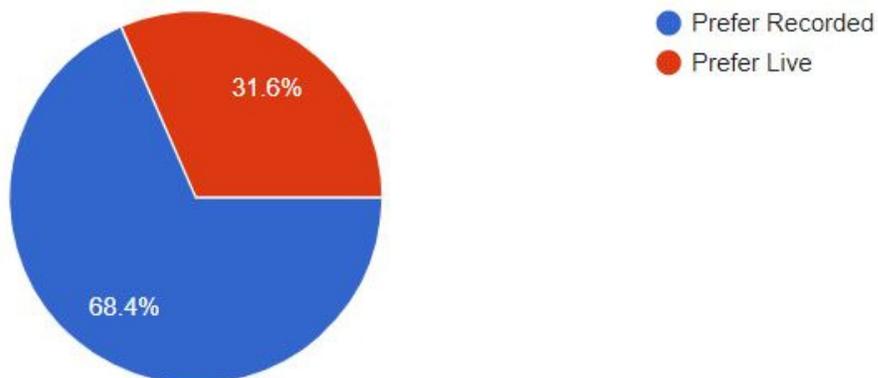
Do you watch on Sunday morning or at a different, more convenient, time?

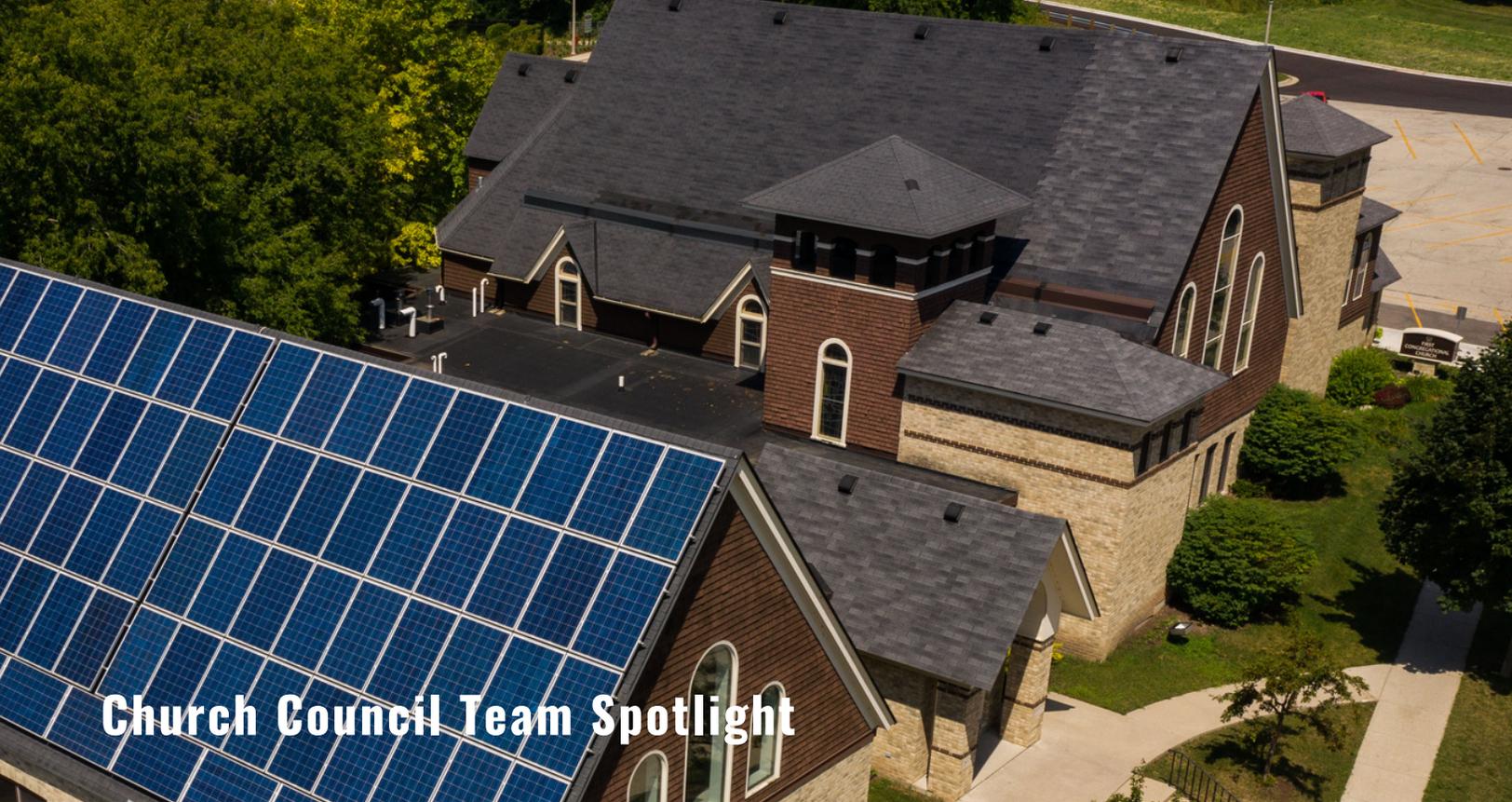
57 responses



We have been conducting more and more live Zoom services and meetings which allows for interaction. Do you prefer the recorded services or the live Zoom?

57 responses





Church Council Team Spotlight

OUR PROPERTY TEAM

Greetings from your Church Council. I am Jim Clements, your Property and Grounds (P&G) chairperson. I have been asked to give you some insight into what I do and what I have been working on, regarding the church property and grounds. If you are like me, before joining the Council in 2017, I did not know what the folks on the Council did (or do) on a monthly basis nor did I realize the costs associated with the operation of the church. Since joining the Council, I have gained a greater understanding and a greater appreciation of the efforts of the Council and what the Council does to keep the church going each month. After reading this article, I hope you will gain a better understanding and appreciation of what the Council does, specifically the Property Team, and how it keeps our church going.

Although in-person church services have been shut down during most of 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the need to tend to the daily operational and maintenance issues of the church continue. The business of the church also continues, and the church staff still makes use of the building along with the Port Pre-School program which operates out of our lower level of the church. Just as there are costs to “operate” your home, there are also costs to operate our church. Likewise, just as there are costs to “maintain” your home, there also costs to maintain the church.

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PROPERTY, continued...

As the P&G chairperson, I help to manage approximately \$40,000 worth of operational church expenses annually and I also manage a varied amount of expenses each year to maintain the church structure. Some of the operational expenses that fall under the chairmanship of Property and Grounds are as follows:

OPERATIONAL COSTS:

Utilities (Monthly) - Electric, Gas, Water, Sewer & Trash (\$550 per month)

Groundskeeping (Spring through Fall) - 4 Lawn treatments (\$70 each)
and lawn mowing 1x/week (\$60 each)

Groundskeeping (Fall through Spring) - Snow removal (\$40 per visit)

Cleaning Services (Weekly) - cleaning/vacuum offices, upper and lower entrance areas, sanctuary, bathrooms, garbage removal, etc. (\$145 per week, prior to 2021 we were paying \$250 per week)

Cleaning Services (Semi-annual) - specialty cleaning items, such as carpets and fabrics (\$500, 2x/year)

Pest Control (Quarterly) - ants, bugs, rodent controls (\$200, 4x/year)

Property and Liability Insurance - (\$2400, 4x/year)

As stated above, there are also costs associated with the maintenance of the church and just as it is with your own house, the longer these maintenance items are neglected, the more these items will cost to repair or replace. Below is a comprehensive list of our maintenance items which you may or may not be aware of:

MAINTENANCE COSTS:

Exterior Building Maintenance and Repairs (windows, doors, roofing, siding, paint)

Exterior Property Maintenance and Repairs (concrete, asphalt, drainage)

Interior Building Maintenance and Repairs (windows, doors, carpets, flooring, walls/ceilings, paint)

Mechanical Maintenance and Repairs (elevator, furnaces, boilers, air conditioning, plumbing)

Electrical Maintenance and Repairs (solar power, sound systems, alarms, security, lighting/outlets)

With the above list of maintenance items, since joining the Council in 2017, I have tackled some of the following maintenance issues:

1.) **Parking Lot, Sidewalk, Curb and Gutter** at the north entrance. This was needed as the parking lot and walkway were broken and irregular and would often hold water or ice at the entryway, obviously a fall hazard to us all. The new concrete and asphalt helped to facilitate

(continued on next page)

PROPERTY, continued...

proper drainage and removed the uneven walking and wheelchair access. Also, as a part of this reconstruction, another handicap parking space was added and one of the handicap parking spaces was made wider to accommodate loading/unloading from a van. The parking lot is co-owned with the City of Port Washington. With the city doing the repair work, these repairs cost \$3000.

2.) **Entrance Doors and Lock Repair/Replacement.** After 20+ years of use and futile attempts to repair the locks on the exterior doors at the north and east entrances, it was determined that the north doors had to be replaced immediately and that the east doors could get by a little longer with some work on the lock and crash-bars. The replacement of the double doors at the north entrance cost \$9000 and a similar or slightly more expensive cost can be expected for the east doors as they are about two feet taller.

3.) **Windows and Bell Tower Repairs.** Approximately 40 windows on the church received exterior repair. Some of the worst windows on the church received some exterior repairs in the way of sill replacement, new casings, aluminum cladding, paint, and caulking. During the inspection of the windows, it was noticed that the condition of the siding on the bell tower was beyond repair and was in need of replacement and therefore the cedar shake siding was replaced. The cost of window repairs was \$16,500 and the bell tower siding was \$20,000.

I hope that this gives you a better understanding of what I do (tend to), a better understanding of the costs involved in operating and maintaining the church structure, and a better understanding of how your stewardship dollars are being used.

Jim Clements
Property Team Representative
on the Church Council



AN INVITATION FROM THE JUSTICE TEAM

During this time of less congregational activity, we want you to know that your Justice Team has been very active. We have been meeting monthly to explore issues of injustice and the suffering caused and how those issues fit in with our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. If you would like to be part of those conversations and/or become part of the team, you are warmly invited to join our Zoom meeting on Monday, April 12 at 4:00 p.m. Please email Pastor Scott for the Zoom link (pastorscott@portucc.org).

Don Niederfrank
Justice Team Member



AN EASTER GREETING FROM THE WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UCC

You may [click here](#) to view a Holy Week and Easter Greeting from Tisha Brown on behalf of the Wisconsin Conference Staff.



REMINDER - 3K ENROLLMENT TIME AT PPS

Port Pre-School (PPS) rents classroom spaces within the church Monday through Friday during the school year (this year, they are off on Wednesdays). Port Pre-School was founded by members of our church in 1967. It was the first preschool in the City of Port Washington and has always been non-sectarian and open to the entire community.

Port Pre-School continues to offer a quality preschool program for children three and four years old. Enrollment is open for their 3K program. Your child will enjoy circle time, child-centered play, music and movement, teacher-directed projects, snack time, sharing time and story time! Each child must be 3 years old by September 1. For more information, visit portpreschool.com or call 284-6173.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church Council Minutes

March 11, 2021

Call to Order 7:02 p.m. Jeanne Mantsch, Marti DeMario, Eric Olson, Kathy Bretl, Lorraine Halls, Mike Spalding, Savannah Anderson, Jason Jacque, Scott McLeod, and Bill Bond

Opening Meditation Kathy Bretl

Approval of the Minutes – February 2021 There was some confusion over whether the February minutes were approved before or after additions made by Mike. Approval of February minutes is tabled until next meeting. These Minutes did appear in the first church e-newsletter. Marti moved to continue to have Council minutes appear in the newsletter. Mike seconded. Motion approved.

Financial Administrator's Report Lorraine Halls

Lorraine presented the Statement of Activity – Financial, for the months of Jan.-Feb. 2021. Mike recommended that there be a column added showing what the "budgeted 2021 amount" per line item was. Scott discussed that the financial report should reflect transaction date not date of transaction completion so as to apply to the correct month going forward; example O.C.W.M. should have been applied to Dec. 2020 not Jan. 2021. Lorraine will talk with the CPA. This report is one that does not need to be approved.

Old Business

Reopening Committee –

Phil reported that the committee met last week. It was a good meeting, with lively discussion and a positive final outcome.

There were 64 responses to the 2nd survey, with a lot of comments that need to be reviewed. The survey was to be completed by 3/9, so they haven't received the final update.

The committee went ahead with planning small group gatherings of 10 people or less. An example is meeting for lunch and discussing the Scripture reading for the next week. These gatherings will begin after Easter and will require reservations.

While there appears to be a lot of interest in outdoor services, there are many concerns regarding how problematic outdoor services can be.

This discussion turned to in-person worship. It was determined that worshiping in person will be dependent upon these three numbers in

Ozaukee County—vaccination rate, number of positive cases per 1,000, and daily number of positive tests. The target date for the first in-person service is April 18th.

A sub-committee was formed, and they met to plan how to facilitate all aspects of in-person worship, keeping safety front and center.

They measured the pews, the space between pews and the space across the aisle and they created a seating chart for 40 people who will need to make a reservation. However, space was planned for someone who shows up unexpectedly.

We will start with one service beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Ric confirmed with the musicians that there will be coverage.

There will be 4 hand-picked ushers. They will greet people as they arrive at the parking lot door, checking reservations. Worshipers will be required to wear a mask and sanitize their hands. (Pastor Scott will also be wearing a mask.) The ushers will seat each person in their assigned seat starting in the front. At the end of the service, they will release each person beginning at the back. Also, at the end of the service, Pastor Scott will head outside to greet people.

There, unfortunately, will be no singing, passing of the peace or passing of collection plates (there will be a collection drop by the door).

Further “nitty gritty” details of how to make this happen will be discussed, i.e. will a temperature check be done, will areas of the church be closed off, will bathrooms be available, how will use of the elevator work. (Pastor Scott knows of other churches that allow one person in the elevator at a time or one person in the bathroom at a time and wipes are available to disinfect after using.)

Phil moved, based on the recommendation of the Reopening Committee, that we start in-person worship on April 18th, assuming that the required numbers are in order. Marti seconded. Motion approved.

Discussion: Marti asked if there was any conversation regarding the possibility of being able to open up Fellowship Hall to accommodate overflow. Phil said it came up but was initially rejected in order to keep overall control. Pastor Scott said it needs to be made clear in the April newsletter that masks will be required, we will not be able to sit in our favorite seat—there are assigned seats, there will not be singing, in order to provide a safer, limited-risk environment. Phil added that people should be

reminded that if they are sick, or if they have been exposed to someone with COVID, they should not come. Jeanne said we will need to communicate all of this to Amy. Pastor Scott said that with Brett Dimmer's video at the beginning of the virtual services, coming in to the church, he thought that it may be a great idea to make of video of how things will work beginning with how someone will enter the church.

While it may be too soon, Marti asked that the committee give thought of ways to continue the fellowship aspect. Phil said that to keep people safe, we need to take time and be deliberate in deciding what to open up next. Pastor Scott suggested that maybe we set up something in the parking lot, but that the recommendation of the Wisconsin Council of Churches does not recommend indoor fellowship at this time. Jeanne said perhaps we could announce a Zoom fellowship, with no other reason than to just chat.

Jeanne then called for the question and the motion passed.

Property Committee – Discussion

This discussion is tabled until the parties involved can meet to discuss the Property Committee's make up and priorities.

New Business

Financial Separation of Duties (Jeanne)

This topic was tabled as well because Jeanne, Scott and the financial group will be meeting next week. The Council will review the structure of the separation of the duties at our next meeting.

Minister's Report (Pastor Scott)

Scott stated that the cookie visitation continues to go very well. He was able to get into Harbor Club and met Barb Liebnow. He most recently met with the Olson family. He said that Eric, Tina and their girls produced an outstanding promo for the Family Promise Paper Goods Drive that will be front and center in our next virtual service.

Scott recommended that a Nomination Team be developed to help the Council chairs form teams for each discipline they are responsible for. He said a Nominating Team is actually mentioned in the Constitution and that it is a team that would probably fall under Jeanne's and Phil's "jurisdiction". The Nominating Team would find and invite people with skills and gifts that they could use to help form teams like Congregational Care Team, Pastoral Relations Team, Finance Team, Outreach Team and so on. Jeanne mentioned that she will tap into Amy and Beckie for initial ideas.

In regard to what is being looked for from each member for their area of the Council in the monthly e-newsletter, a perfect example is what Mike wrote for Liturgy in the March edition.

Finally, Pastor Scott explained that an expense of \$300 that the Church agreed to pay, will not be needed thanks to the Lilly Endowment, Partners in Ministry.

On Hold

UCC Legacy Program (Jason)

Reminders:

Next Executive Committee Meeting –April 1, 2021

Next Council Meeting –April 8, 2021

Opening Meditation – Bill Bond

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.



THIS MONTH'S SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

April 4 Easter Sunday and Communion

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-18



April 11 Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35

John 20:19-31



April 18 Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19

Luke 24:36b-48



April 25 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12

John 10:11-18



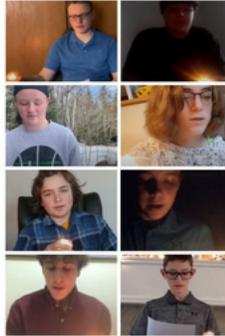
OUR THANKS...

We have many people to thank for enhancing our online worship services!

Thank you to the following people who have recently read scripture passages:

-Our Confirmation Class

(Brady Calder, Gabe Chandler, Hope Gilhooly, Cash Mantsch, James Mitchell, Sam Pasten, Carter Schlehlein and Mya Ternes) on Maundy Thursday, April 1



-Eric and Tina Olson, and Phil Stepanski on Palm Sunday, March 28

-Ryan and Jodi Cowen, and Bruce Laabs, Jr. on March 21

-Jean and Ruby Hoffmann on March 14

Thanks to Kathy Bretl for her solo on Maundy Thursday, April 1.

We thank Kylee Olson and Lily Dimmer for playing special piano music on March 21 and March 14, respectively.

Thank you to Pru Palecek, and her friend Glenyss Gilliam, for offering four hand piano pieces for our online services.

Thanks to Karen Oftedahl for her recent solos.

Ongoing thanks to Brett Dimmer and Sherri Melichar for their musical contributions!

PASTOR SCOTT'S WORDS OF BENEDICTION

"May God in Christ give you strength to overcome whatever barriers you face and to take up your cross and follow him; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit be with you and abide with you always.

Amen.

(spoken on March 14)



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT - WORKSHOP TO PREVENT FALLS

One in four people age 65 or older has a fall each year.



Don't be one of them!

Take a Stepping On Workshop!

Stepping On can help you avoid a dangerous and costly fall so you can keep doing the things you love to do. In just seven weeks, you'll learn:

- ▶ To identify and remove or avoid fall hazards both inside and outside your home
- ▶ How vision, hearing, medication, and footwear affect your risk of falling
- ▶ Strength and balance exercises you can adapt to your individual level
- ▶ To get back on your feet the right way if you do fall



Stepping On has been researched and proven to reduce falls by 30%!

Join Us for Stepping On!

This is an ONLINE workshop! Participants will need a tablet or computer with mic/audio and have internet access.

When: April 20-June 1, 2021 seven Tuesday mornings, 10 am-12 pm.

To register: contact Kari Dombrowski at the Ozaukee County ADRC at: 262-284-8120 or email: kdombrowski@co.ozaukee.wi.us

Registration is required by April 6, 2021

Suggested Donation: \$20



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT - SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



The Port Washington High School Key Club is hosting a Community School Supply Drive this month (through April 26). The schools in the PW/S district will be competing with one another to be the top school with the most donations. At the end, the Key Club will disperse the donations to area food pantries.

Since we are on a roll with donations to local organizations, we would like to keep the momentum going! Please consider picking up school supplies to help support The Food Pantry in Port Washington. You may drop off donations outside of the church (the black barrel will be out from April 6-26) or inside the entryway 8:00-3:00 during the week. Thank you!



April Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday Worship Service (Online)	2 Good Friday Worship Service (Online)	3 Holy Saturday
4 Easter Sunday Worship Service (Online)	5	6	7 Wednesday Noon Group – Fellowship Hall Reopening Committee 7:00pm (Zoom)	8 Executive Committee 7:00pm (Zoom)	9	10
11 Second Sunday of Easter Worship Service (Online) Confirmation Class 6:00pm – Fellowship Hall	12 Justice Team 4pm (Zoom)	13	14 Wednesday Noon Group – Fellowship Hall Reopening Committee 7:00pm (Zoom)	15 Church Council 7:00pm (Zoom)	16	17
18 Third Sunday of Easter Worship Service (Online)	19	20	21 Wednesday Noon Group – Fellowship Hall Reopening Committee 7:00pm (Zoom)	22	23	24
25 Fourth Sunday of Easter Worship Service (Online) Confirmation Class 6:00pm – Fellowship Hall	26	27	28 Wednesday Noon Group – Fellowship Hall Reopening Committee 7:00pm (Zoom)	29	30	

Disclaimer: The dates on the calendar are as of March 31. Please go to the church website for up-to-date worship, meeting, and activities information.

APRIL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Joe Rychtik | 15 - Sarah Modahl |
| 2 - Doug Bichler | Meg Tackes |
| Alex Lopez | 16 - Gary Drasch |
| 4 - Jason Bergin | 18 - Christy Claerbaut |
| Edie Webb | Bryce Bertler |
| 5 - Debra Wickesberg | 19 - Colton Jagow |
| 6 - Don Cooper | 21 - Hailey Bergin |
| John Karrels | 22 - Aaron Rose |
| 7 - Josh Schaefer | 25 - Mya Ternes |
| 8 - Brynn Nelson | 26 - Mia Blum |
| Allyson Schlehlein | Jeanne Mantsch |
| Mike Dimmer | Jackie Voigt |
| 10 - Michele Norman | Jeff Ternes |
| 13 - Steve Schowalter | 28 - Bradd Lemke |
| Megan Verheyen | Grady Karrels |
| Payton Katzer | 29 - Marlys Herbert |
| 14 - Karen Oftedahl | Sandy Modahl |



APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 - Jim and Sherri Melichar
- 14 - Jason and Emma Jacque
- 16 - James and Roberta Blumenberg
- 18 - Rick and Jean Hoffmann
- 20 - Sean and Amy Gilhooly
- 27 - David Franks and Louise Mollinger
- 30 - Bill and Ann Fleischmann

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

CHURCH INFORMATION

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



Church Office Hours
Weekdays from 8:30 - 11:30
(The church is open 8:00 - 3:00 because of Port Pre-School)

Office Staff Emails
Rev. Dr. Scott McLeod, Pastor - pastorscott@portucc.org
Amy Gilhooly, Communications Director - amyg@portucc.org
Beckie Perez, Office Administrator - office@portucc.org
Lorraine Halls, Financial Administrator - lorraine@portucc.org

STAY CONNECTED

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"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