

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH—
UCC**

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**The Church Office will be closed on
Monday, July 3, and Tuesday, July 4,
in observance of Independence Day.
Wishing you a safe and
Happy 4th of July!**

Don't forget to
Like us on
Facebook!

Facebook.com/ucccongfort/



Judy Wittenwyler	1
Sandy Czech, John Wilmet	3
Chris Spangler	4
Matthew Ehlers	9
Courtney & Morgan Dunkleberger	10
Ann Lueder	11
Joe Slaney	12
Sydney Wesemann	12
Emily Klatt	13
Deb Puerner	13
Bryan Wallace	13
Madalynn Green	14
Eunice Ann Slaney	15
Sabrina Stegehuis	17
Carter R. Schroeder	17
Derek Brown	22
Lainey Kincaid	23
David Nowotny	23
Emily Dunlap	24
Alex Harker	24
Jennifer Woods	26
Tony Fromader	27
Doris Puerner	27
Ed Klingaman	29
Jesse Topel	29
Baden Bentheimer	30
Mildred Lemke	30
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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

The Pilgrim Broadcaster

July 2023

Monthly Newsletter

A Message from Pastor Sara

The world is filled with new wonders each and every day. Consider all these things the scriptures tell us:

"They who dwell in the ends of the earth stand in awe of Your signs; You make the dawn and the sunset shout for joy." - Psalm 65:8

God continues to take something that is of seeming slough and turn it into great purpose and value. Take, for instance, Tone Balls. A Tone Ball is merely a fancy name for the dust bunnies that tend to collect inside guitar bodies. This ball can remain inside as residue for decades or even centuries. It collects in the cavity of an acoustic instrument such as a violin, viola, cello or bass violin or guitar. The Tone Balls are a creation of the result of the vibrations inside the acoustic instrument. The better the instrument, the tighter the ball. It is made up of lint and other debris that collect inside. The vibrations that create the beautiful sound gather the lint and cause it to collect and spin into a ball.

The presence of the ball is believed to assist in the tone which enhances the vibrations that reach the listening pleasure of the music being created. People will collect these lint balls, and some will even purchase them for their instruments. Who knew!?!

When we consider all that is shed as waste from our lives, we may further re-purpose and find value in our past and time as God has. Summer is a time to sweat out the toxins of the building months of the past and spin new joy among you in the play and enjoyment of this season. The season is quick. Discover new ways to collect and create a peaceful tone for future days together. Enjoy each moment!



Pastor Sara

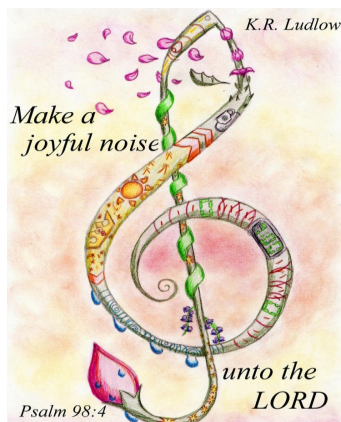
**“INSPIRATION FOR LIFE”—FIRST CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT,
SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2023**

There’s still time to sign up and submit your registration/deposit for the **First Congregational Retreat on September 8-10!** The retreat will be held at the beautiful **Daycholah Center** on the shores of **Green Lake in Ripon.** The retreat promises to be a special time to connect, to relax, to enjoy the beauty of a Wisconsin summer in an amazing outdoor setting. Take the plunge into fun!



Worship Helper Schedule for July 2023

Date	Ushers	Greeters	Lay Reader	Tech Support
July 2	Judy Knapp & Ruth Hammiller	Tom & Patty Sehnert	Chris Reed	Kurt Wesemann
July 9	Sandi & Paul Hankowitz	Linda & Jeff Glendon	Ruth Hammiller	Bob Buell
July 16	Pat Jung/Gary Vorpahl	Roy & Karen Hetts	Bob Rose	Kurt Wesemann
July 23	Chris & Brenda Reed	Clarice & Peter Fernelius	Mary Narkis	Kevin Becker
July 30	Mary & Larry Narkis	Don & Nancy Hoepfner	Martha Firari	Bob Buell



SUMMER MUSIC WANTED!

Looking for musicians for summer worship services!
If you or someone you know might consider participating, please contact:
Marvin Olsen or
Sandy Reinhold in the church office at 920-563-4802. Thank you!

Council Highlights – June 2022

Your Council met on June 20, 2023. Below are the highlights.

Congregational Retreat Update: Space is still available for members to register for the Daycholah UCC Camp Retreat! The retreat will be held from September 8-10. We currently have 12 people registered and are hoping for more to join us. The deadline for registration has been extended, so be sure to sign up soon! The retreat will be a combination of outside activities such as golf and boating, crafts, campfires, movies, spiritual time and more. Pastor Sara can address any other questions. It will be a great weekend!

Summer Worship Time Change: The worship service time change has been in effect for a few weeks, and many like the “added” hours to their summer Sundays. The Council will continue to monitor attendance at our 8:30 service and will make any changes necessary.

Safety Committee: The Committee has been busy with updates to the current Safety Brochure. In addition, they have set up safety events including armed intruder class, fire/tornado drill and CPR/AED training. These events will take place in October.

Narrative Lectionary: Pastor Sara gave Council a presentation focusing on changes in the Lectionary starting in September. The Narrative Lectionary is a 4-year cycle from September through May, reviewing the Bible in chronological order, starting with the Old Testament until Christmas, then New Testament thereafter. There is a break during Advent and Lent. This change will increase our Bible literacy and includes the children, as well as adults. The Council approved this change to start on Rally Sunday, September 17.

Styrofoam Usage: UCC nationwide had a resolution pass which discontinues the use of Styrofoam in the churches. This product does not disintegrate, and a “greener” alternative should be used. A council member will look into options, and we will move toward this goal as soon as possible.

Werthmann Room: The room is almost ready to re-open! The painters will complete the project soon and we expect it to be re-opened in the later part of July.

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.