

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC
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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

The Pilgrim Broadcaster

**August 2023
 Monthly Newsletter**

Wednesday, August 2

9:15 Coffee Chat –Beauty & the Bean
 7 pm Men's Dartball

Sunday, August 6

8:30 am Worship Service

Wednesday, August 9

9:15 Coffee Chat—Beauty & the Bean

Sunday, August 13

8:30 am Worship Service
 Peanut orders taken after worship

Monday, August 14

9 am Broadcaster Article Deadline

Tuesday, August 15

5:30 pm Moderator Meeting
 6:00 pm Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 16

9:15 Coffee Chat—Beauty & the Bean
 7 pm Men's Dartball

Sunday, August 20

8:30 am Worship Service
 Peanut orders taken after worship

Wednesday, August 23

9:15 Coffee Chat—Beauty & the Bean

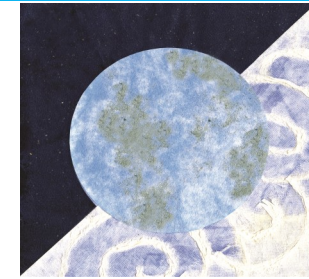
Sunday, August 27

8:30 am Worship Service



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Natalie Macklem	1
Cameron Bingham	3
Sam Jaeger	4
Loren Gray	5
Luke Winn	5
Michael Siefkes.....	5
Ryan Klopcc.....	5
Katie Topel.....	7
Mary Beyerly	8
John Pett.....	10
Drew Dunkleberger.....	11
Tom Neuhauser	12
Bandon Housley	13
Dave Lueder	15
Sharon Cox	15
Leah Kincaid	16
Kyle Harker	19
Hailey Paske.....	20
Gale Puerner.....	24
Donna Abel	26
Evan Hartman	28
Russ Patefield.....	31

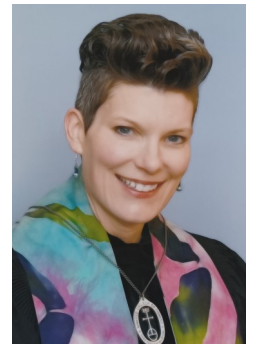


Scriptures with New Meaning to Begin in September!

September begins a time of new learning and discovery. This year the whole congregation will engage with the Biblical stories in new dimensions. We will hear the word and stories told through picture form. Above are three examples of stories: Creation, Moses, and Daniel. The Council approved the purchase of these pictures and curriculum for the Sunday School. The blessings are abundant and will allow inclusion of learning for all ages. Beginning in September, the scriptures will begin with the story of Creation and run consecutively through the Bible each Sunday. The exception will be the seasons of Advent and Lent, when the preparation of the Birth and Resurrection will be celebrated.

The Sunday School will begin with their families in worship. They will hear the story introduced in the *Time With Children*, then during the sermon they will go to the back room off the sanctuary for a lesson. This is the introduction of a Hybrid Model Sunday School which blends worship and instruction within the hour. This fresh new approach will create a broader opportunity for learning and growing in our faith exploration.

Blessings on the journey,
Pastor Sara



OPEN HOUSE!

Please join us for a
**Werthmann Room
 Open House on
 Sunday, August 6th,**
 following 8:30 am
 Worship!



**“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, Wisconsin.** Enjoy a weekend of relaxation along with many fun activities tailored to the make-up of our group. Activities may include nature walks, golf, fishing, music, games and more! We will nestle into the lovely accommodations of **Oak Mound Lodge** for an end-of-summer weekend in a beautiful natural setting where we’ll enjoy sunsets and vespers, community and camaraderie.

We will share daily devotionals, walks, amazing meals, Afterhours and perhaps a bonfire and game night in addition to our daily activities. The projected cost per person is estimated to be \$210, which includes two nights’ lodging and five meals. If this presents a challenge financially, please speak to Pastor Sara. An anonymous donor has come forward to help cover costs. Thank you!



It’s Almost Peanut Time!!



As in the past, our peanuts shipment will arrive sometime in August. **Could you help with the chore of moving the bags of peanuts** from truck-side to our storage room off Plymouth Hall? Watch for signup to help with the Peanuts project. You will be contacted when we know that the peanuts are about to arrive. This is an excellent example of “Many hands make light work!”

Peanuts may be first ordered by members of our church a half-hour before and a half-hour after Worship on August 14 and 21. Orders after those dates are open to the general public in addition to our Congregation.

The cost and weight of a bag of processed peanuts this season will be **\$8.00 for 11½ ounces.** The bag limit per order is 10 bags. **Orders not picked up after three weeks will be returned to inventory.** Peanuts this season, as last year, will be packaged in zip-lock storage bags, a method that has proved popular with our workers and customers alike!

Peanuts will be available for sale or pickup in Plymouth Hall or the Church Office from **11:00 am to 2:00 pm on Mondays.** They will also be available ½ hour before and after Church Service on Sundays. **You can also order Peanuts during sale times.**

The calendar for processing Peanuts is August 28; September 11, 18, 25; October 9, 16, 23, 30; November 6, 13, 20, 27; December 4, 11, 18; needed dates in January will be determined. If the schools are closed, so are we!!

Everyone is welcome to help make our popular Congregational Peanuts on these Monday mornings. On-the-job training is gladly offered; peelers typically work from 8:00 to 11:00 am. **Bring your friends—all are welcome!**

As always, **come when you can, leave when you must.** Your willingness to help makes light work for all, but it also makes our Peanut season possible!

Worship Helper Schedule for August

Date	Ushers	Greeters	Lay Reader	Tech Support
Aug 6	Carol Maasz	David & Sharon Wisch	Vicki York	Kurt Wesemann
Aug 13	Barb & Gary Vorpahl	Rich Frame & Carol Maasz	Charlie Knapp	Kevin Becker
Aug 20	Patty & Tom Sehnert	Chris & Brenda Reed	Mike Rankin	Kurt Wesemann
Aug 27	Nancy Onufer & Mike Rankin	Bob & Jo Ann Rose	Eunice Ann Slaney	Bob Buell

Diaper Drive Success!!



On June 28th, **Outreach Ministry** delivered 1,165 diapers of various sizes and 1,058 baby wipes to **Trudy's Room** at Fort's **United Methodist Church**. Bringing comfort to the youngest members of our community and families who need assistance is a true joy, joy that we celebrate in the spreading of God's love. Thank you for your incredible generosity!



SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT, January 1 to June 30, 2023

Total amount pledged for 2023: \$184,810 (96 pledges) (AVG: \$1,925)

The total of the 47 pledges at or under \$1000 is \$28,080 (15%)

The total of the 49 pledges over \$1000 is \$156,730 (85%)

Pledge total contributed to date: \$128,495 (71%)

Average attendance at 10:00 service (1/1/23 to 6/4/23): 73

Average attendance at 8:30 service (6/11/23 to 6/25/23): 39

Attendance April 2 (Palm Sunday): 88

Attendance April 6 (Maundy Thursday): 50

Attendance April 9 (Easter Sunday): 135

Attendance April 30 (Installation Service for Pastor Sara): 130

Attendance May 21 (Confirmation Sunday): 124

I will be happy to honor requests from anyone who wishes to receive an Individual Statement for the first half of 2023. Simply make your request by calling the church office (563-4802) or sending an email to the Financial Secretary at the address given below. Please indicate if you will allow your information to be returned to you via email. Otherwise, it will be sent via US Mail.

Yours Faithfully,
Charlie Knapp, Financial Secretary
fin.sec.fortucc@gmail.com

This I Believe! Exciting News on the Confirmation Front!



Confirmation Class News!

In mid-September, SIX confirmation students will start their Affirmation of Faith journey by meeting twice a month until their confirmation day in April.

We are a congregation that values education, support, and faith. A blessing of this congregation is the care given to young people on their faith journey, and we will shower blessings upon these youth and their families in the coming months. This I know to be true!

- Pastor Sara



Summer Coffee Chat Days – August 2 – August 23

Join Pastor Sara on Wednesday mornings in August from 9:15 - 11:15 am for an open coffee time at **Beauty and the Bean** (207 Milwaukee Avenue E). Anyone can come and chat and everyone is welcome. It promises to be a lot of fun!

News from our the Wisconsin Conference Delegates!

Pastor Sara and Delegates **Margaret Majors** and **Carol Maasz** attended the 61st Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ held from June 9–11, 2023 at the Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI.

Included with this mailing is the approved resolution “*Declaring the Wisconsin Conference a WISE Conference for Mental Health*” and the “*Delegates’ Report*,” which can also be found in the Narthex.



Student Aid & Scholarship Fund Offering News from the Wisconsin Conference—United Church of Christ:

Conference scholarships, along with financial aid from the seminaries and the students’ personal funds, provide crucial support to financing theological education and preparation for those who will serve in the ministry.

Your sponsorship of seminary students at the time of Pastor Sara’s installation service provided **\$1,011** in funds in crucial support of scholarship funds for those studying for the ministry. Sincere thanks for your generosity!

Come on down to the Werthmann Room on August 27th!

Do you ever wonder how the scripture readings are selected for worship?

Join **Pastor Sara** and the **Worship Team** for a workshop on **August 27th from 9:30–10 am in the Werthmann Room**. Pastor Sara will present a new approach to selecting the readings as the congregation will be led through the stories of the Bible in new and exciting ways beginning in September.



Please join the conversation and learn about the process of shaping the worship experience. We look forward to seeing you there!

Wanted: Old Magazines for Soul Collage Project!

Do you have old magazines or other colorful used print items that you would like to donate to a worthy cause? Please consider donating them to First Congregational Church—UCC! We will be creating a collage art project at our **Congregational Retreat on September 8–10 at Camp Daycholah**, and would appreciate any contributions to our artistic endeavors!

Please bring your donations to the church office no later than **August 25th**. Thank you!

