

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

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The church **Safety Committee** has been busy meeting during the spring and summer months with the goal of reviewing the **Emergency Procedures Manual** and making updates as needed. This has now been accomplished. The Committee

also reviewed the **Safety Procedures handouts** located in the hymnal holders in each pew. Several changes were made and new handouts distributed. The committee has also arranged for review and/or training for the congregation in conjunction with the handouts, and after much discussion, came up with the following times/dates:

1) **Sunday, October 8** after the **10am** service, an Officer from the Fort Atkinson Police Department will give a short presentation on **Unsafe/ Armed Intruder**. (Plymouth Hall)

2) **Sunday, October 15** after the **10am** service, we will review **Fire / Tornado / Severe Weather /Unsafe Intruder drill** (Sanctuary).

3) **Saturday, October 21** at **10am**, members of the Fort Atkinson Fire Department EMS will be in Plymouth Hall **to provide training in CPR and the use of an AED**. This will be basic training in CPR and no test or certification will be offered.

There is now a sign-up sheet in narthex for training dates/sessions. All training is provided at no cost.

We hope as many members of the congregation as possible will attend. Thank you!



IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, October 1

10 am Worship

Monday, October 2

Hoard Luncheon
(No Peanut Production)

Tuesday, October 3

7 pm Men's Dartball

Sunday, October 8

8:30 am Confirmation Class
10 am Worship Service
Service Personnel Sunday
Communion Sunday

Monday, October 9

8 am Peanut Production

Tuesday, October 10

7 pm Men's Dartball

Thursday, October 12

1 pm Lend-A-Hand

Sunday, October 15

10 am Worship
Fire/Tornado/Severe Weather/
Unsafe Intruder Training

Monday, October 16

8 am Peanut Production

Tuesday, October 17

5:30 pm Moderator's Mtg.
6 pm Council Meeting
7 pm Men's Dartball

Wednesday, October 18

9:15 am Quilt Ministry

Saturday, October 21

10 am CPR/AED Training

Sunday, October 22

10 am Stewardship Sunday
8:30 am Confirmation Class

Monday, October 24

8 am Peanut Production
9 am Broadcaster Deadline

Tuesday, October 25

7 pm Men's Dartball

Sunday, October 29

10 am Polka Worship Service
11 am Brats & Kraut Lunch



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Pilgrim Broadcaster October 2023 Monthly Newsletter

There is a hymn that I love to sing: ***In the Midst of New Dimensions:** In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways. Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways? God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.*

This is a reminder that the God of all the time has led us and guided us to adapt into new dimensions of living our lives, growing in faith and being the church together. An example of this is in our programs for children and youth. Confirmation is now a one-year program, and the Sunday School is a hybrid model within the worship hour. Indeed, this has required an adaptation. What I celebrate in this new dimension is the response of thoughtful individuals to give of their time to lead a Sunday School class. When the request went out for the need, several people responded to take the risk and lead the youngest people in our church on their beginning of faith development. Together we are on the journey of a new discovery of learning the stories of our ancestors of faith in how God has been revealed to all people.

I am grateful for the leadership of our Sunday School leaders: Troy Hartman, Jen Nowotny, Sydney Wesemann, Dana Bertelsen and Emily Dunlap. They have signed up for the task at hand and from now through the end of May, nearly all the Sunday slots are filled with leaders to teach Sunday School. This is great and I am so very grateful!

A word from Ephesians: *Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things we cannot see.* In faith people before us were led in new dimensions. We are people still on that journey today.

Blessings and thanks to all,
Pastor Sara



Council Highlights – September 2023

Rally Sunday September 17: Rally Sunday was held and starts a new year with Confirmation and Sunday School with the new narrative lectionary. The “new” Sunday School room, behind the sanctuary has been painted and updated. The group currently is small but is expected to grow over the coming months.

Safety Committee: The committee has completed an updated Safety Brochure. Upcoming safety events include:

Sunday, 10/8 – Intruder class, presented by the Fort Police Dept.

Sunday, 10/15 – Fire & Tornado Drill

Saturday, 10/21 – CPR/AED Training (no certification). The signup sheet is in the Narthex.

Werthmann Room TV: Very generous church members will be donating a 75” TV to be hung on the wall. This unit will be very helpful for upcoming education and meetings. Many thanks!

Childcare Center: As with other childcare centers in Wisconsin, our center has been a victim of the state and federal Childcare Counts funding. This has reduced salary and facility funding. Our director, Jen Graf, along with the Council, are watching this situation closely.

Building Keys: We are gathering any outstanding keys to the building or offices. If you have a key in your possession and no longer need it, please return it to the office. Thank you!

Winter Market 12/2/23: As in previous years, we will be participating in the city Winter Market. We will be selling our peanuts, cheese, bakery, lunch, and gift basket raffle. We ask for members to donate a gift basket or contents of a basket to be presented at the raffle. This is always a fun event! More information to follow.

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.

PEANUT SEASON IS HERE!

Come join the Peanuts crew! You’ll find great people, fantastic fellowship and good fun! Peanuts may first be ordered by **members of our church a half-hour before & after worship on Sundays**. The cost per bag of processed peanuts is \$8.00 for 11.5 oz., and the bag limit per order is now 10 bags.



Peanuts will be available for sale/pickup in Plymouth Hall or the Church Office from **11am to 2pm on Mondays**. They will also be available a half-hour before & after worship service, and **can be ordered during sale times**. **Dates for processing Peanuts:** October 9, 16, 23, 30; November 6, 13, 20, 27; December 4, 11, 18. Needed dates in January will be determined. On-the-job training is gladly provided, and peelers usually work from 8 to 11am. As always, all are welcome! Thank you.

First Congregational Church—UCC has an exciting opportunity for a **Church Organist/Pianist!** If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining our music ministry, please share this communication.

For more information,
call the church office at (920) 563-4802.





Don't forget to like us on Facebook! Check out our **Facebook** site for Daily and weekly updates & news!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

- Stephanie Heitz 1
- Jen Nowotny 6
- Jodi Allard..... 6
- Kristi Kloplic..... 9
- Ryan Patefield..... 9
- Glissandra Korback..... 11
- Travis Ehlers 11
- Brock Brodhead 12
- Karissa Patefield 12
- Nathan Gilbert 12
- Trent Topel..... 12
- Bryan Green 14
- Cora Wahl 16
- David Wisch 17
- Pamela Stegehuis 17
- Tom Siefkes 17
- Charlie Knapp 18
- Judy Brown 18
- Leslie Paske 19
- Hannah Bingham 20
- Kathy Kruk 20
- Christina (Scullin) Bogie 22
- Ann Olsen 25
- Leigh Luedtke 30
- Nathan Dunlap 30
- Scott Spoerl..... 30
- Jeff Woods 31

Polka Worship October 29, 2023 ~ 10am

We welcome the **Dave Austin Polka Band** back to worship on Sunday, October 29! The band will be leading the music during the 10 am service. Come and join us in a joyful, toe-tapping celebration like you have never experienced before! Bring your neighbors, friends and family for a worship experience that is sure put a spring in your step and a smile on your face!

After worship, you are invited to an **Oktoberfest Potluck**, complete with brats, buns, kraut, condiments, beverages and hot dogs! There will be a sign-up sheet in the church narthex if you would like to bring a salad or dessert to share and add to our meal!



Use the sign-up sheet or call the church office to help us better plan for food. Thank you!

Church Clean-Up Day is tentatively scheduled for the morning of November 18. All helping hands are welcome! Stay tuned for more information.



On Sunday, September 24, we celebrated Marvin Olsen’s 50th Anniversary as Choir Director at First Congregational Church—UCC Fort Atkinson! Somehow everyone managed to keep the celebration a surprise — we think! If Marvin knew about it, he didn’t let on. Marvin’s family was also present for the celebration, for which we are especially grateful. Ann Olsen provided vintage photos to share and was ‘instrumental’ in corroborating the story of their son, daughters and families visiting ‘just’ to celebrate September birthdays! (Thank you, Ann!)

Marvin began his service at FCC in September 1973, and was known as “Mr. Music” in Fort Atkinson where he served within the Fort Atkinson School District for over 31 years. With a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Music Teacher Education from UW-Whitewater and a Master’s Degree in Vocal Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Marvin was uniquely qualified to teach.

As Choir Director, Marvin leads both the Senior Choir and the Chapel Bells and does so with unflinching grace and good humor. He manages to keep music selections fresh while not forgetting familiar favorites. It is not surprising that both the Senior Choir and Chapel Bells are also part of Marvin’s fan club, since Marvin’s love of music is contagious. And so, on Sunday, September 24, members of the congregation pulled out all the stops to honor Marvin! There was an amazing celebration of food and treats following worship, thanks to Heidi Siefkes and several much-appreciated kitchen volunteers, with over 90 people in attendance. Pastor Sara presented Marvin with flowers and a plaque from the congregation, along with words of gratitude. Congratulations, Marvin!



Congratulations Marvin, on your 50 years of service as Choir Director at First Congregational Church—UCC!



HELPER SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support
October 1	Jeff & Susan Woods	Sydney Wesemann/ Trent Topel	Susan Woods	Bob Buell
October 8	Open	Heidi & Mike Siefkes	Zach Finch	Kurt Wesemann
October 15	Susan & William Black	Eunice Ann & Joe Slaney	Donna Abel	Kevin Becker
October 22	Ann & Dave Lueder	Sharon & David Wisch	Open	Kurt Wesemann
October 29	Mike & Heidi Siefkes	Brenda & Chris Reed	Heidi Siefkes	Bob Buell

