



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Pilgrim Broadcaster

February 2024

Monthly Newsletter

From Pastor Sara:

There is a driveway I pass on the way to work that has a sign that states, NO TURN AROUND. It seems rather odd to me that on a sleepy quiet country road, cars would perpetually turn in and back out to go the other way. Who knows, possibly it has happened a couple of times and it caused such a ruckus where the dog would bark tenaciously, and the stir of possibly company was too much stress of a messy house, only to discover that the car would eventually drive away. It is much easier to put up a sign for the whole world to see that indeed, this is not the place to turn around.



February 14th is Ash Wednesday. Yes, that's Valentine's Day. Take your sweetie for an outing after the steak dinner and bring them to church for worship. The journey of Lent begins as we acknowledge that our lives are not perfect, we are broken or cracked people, and that there indeed IS an opportunity to turn your life around. This worship service is about pulling in, parking, and sitting for a while to think about what direction your life will take next. The opportunity will be presented for all to turn around all that is not great, into something of worthiness and greatness. This notion of turning around is called repentance.

When we are given signs that all hope is lost and we are who we are and we are forbidden from turning around, we have to travel farther down the road. It does not change the reality that we still need to turn around eventually. That is why our driving instructors taught us the beauty of the Y turn. Navigating sharp turns, backward and forward. Once again, we are set on the lane where we find our orientation and life with greater comfort, meaning and ease.

The invitation is posted "TURN AROUNDS WELCOME HERE". Come and see what God can do with you!

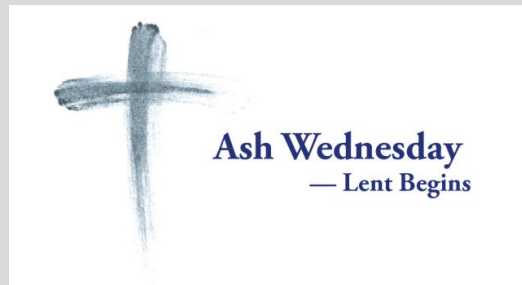


Pastor Sara

Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 2024

7pm



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday: March 24th, 10am Worship

Thursday, March 28th: Maundy Thursday, 7pm Worship with Communion

Easter Sunday: March 31st, 10am Worship



BASKETS OF THANKS!

The Basket Raffle at the Holiday Market was a Success!

Our total ticket sales were \$1,448.00!

Thank you to everyone who donated baskets, photos and money; created the baskets; prepared the tables; and sold tickets. It would not be a success without you!

Thanks to basket donors: Mike & Nancy Rankin, E.G. Becker (3 baskets), Ruth Gavin, Linda Glendon, Mary Beyerly, Sandy Reinhold (2 baskets), Heidi Siefkes, Judy Brown, Linda Frohmader, Vicki York, JoAnn Rose, Chris McKinney, Bob Buell, Sandi Hankowitz, Nancy Hoeppner, Martha Firari, Sandy & Connie Czech, David Stedman & Lynn Klug, and Marsha & Roger Anderson.

Thanks to basket creators: Linda Frohmader & Judy Brown

Thanks for basket signage and table decor: Mary Beyerly & Carol Maasz

Thanks to ticket sellers: Vicki York & Judy Wittenwyler

Nancy Onufer, Winter Market Coordinator

It's the Newlywed Game!

Sunday, February 25th, following Worship

Join us for a lively and entertaining display of love when three couples from our congregation show how well they know each other!

In a re-enactment of the longtime gameshow, questions will be asked of each of the participating couples.

Which couple knows each other best?

Who will win the grand prize?

Bring an appetizer to share afterwards!

Mark your calendars now for this fun event!

February 25th after Worship



Appetizer Luncheon

Sunday, February 25th

Following the Newlywed Game

The Nurture Committee thanks all who brought soups and who helped with the Soup Luncheon! Many hands make light the work for a successful event!

Next up: please bring your favorite appetizer—savory, salty or sweet—to enjoy after the Newlywed Game.

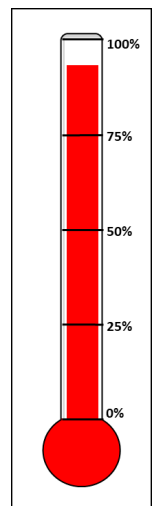
Stewardship Campaign Progress!!

Goal: \$200,000

As of Jan 29, 2024: \$187,102 from

91 pledges received

Actual percent of goal achieved: 94%



Thank you for supporting First Congregational!!

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ~1 John 4:7*

Council Highlights – January 2024

Annual Meeting: Moderator, Chad Klauer is passing the gavel to Vice-Moderator, Sandy Czech at our Annual Meeting on 1/28/24. Thank you to Chad for doing a great job this year. With membership approval, we will welcome new Council members Jeff Woods, Chris Spangler, and Matt Eske. We will also welcome new Ministry Members. We are looking forward to a fantastic 2024!

Annual Reports & 2024 Church Directory: The Annual Report and updated Church Directory are available to be picked up at the church. If you are unable to stop by and you would like a copy, please contact the church office.

Childcare Center: Heidi Yngsdal has been hired as our new Childcare Director. She has worked at our center since 2018 and is excited for the new opportunity!

Church Office Manager: Since our Manager, Sandy resigned in early January, the office has been “held together” by our wonderful volunteers. Thank you to Loren Gray, Charlie Knapp, Carol Maasz, Martha Firari, Roy Hetts, Sydney Wesemann, Mary Beyerly, Nancy Onufer & more! Interviews are beginning to find a replacement.

Coming Soon! Our Accessibility Task Force has evaluated and secured an updated sound system for our hearing-impaired worshipers. This system will be coordinated with our current sound system. More to come!

Facilities: Our facilities leader, Bob Rose, will be pulling away from most of the church tasks. Jeff Woods will fill his role along with Bryan Green and Facilities Ministry members. **Thank you, Bob,** for your many years of devoted service to our church.

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.

Leadership Team 2024

Moderator Sandra Czech

Financial Secretary Charlie Knapp

Vice-Moderator Rich Frame

Treasurer Loren Gray

Past-Moderator Chad Klauer

Clerk Nancy Onufer

Council Members Mary Beyerly, Rich Frame, Chris Spangler, Jeff Woods, Matt Eske

We extend our gratitude and support to these officers and to the ministry team members as they guide us through 2024.

Helper Schedule for February

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support	Sunday School
Feb 4	Mary Beyerly	Judy Brown Rich Frame	Ruth Hammiller	Bob Buell	Emily Dunlap
Feb 11	Roy and Karen Hetts	Roger and Marsha Anderson	Lynn Klug	Kurt Wesemann	Jennifer Nowotny
Feb 14 Ash Wed	Larry and Mary Narkis	Patty and Tom Sehnert	Charlie Knapp		
Feb 18	Helen Macklem Pat Jung	Brenda and Chris Reed	Mary Narkis	Kevin Becker	Troy Hartman
Feb 25	Mary Ellen and John Miller	Jeff and Susan Woods	Mike Rankin	Bob Buell	Emily Dunlap

Happy Birthday!!

Gabe Cox..... 1	Owen Eske..... 5	Kierwynn Stack-Vaughn 22
Kori Becker 1	Aina Senfelds 10	Sharon Wisch..... 22
Jessica Negus..... 4	Mona Mason..... 13	E.G. Becker 24
Rebecca Arndt..... 4	Jason Ensweiler..... 16	Paul Hankowitz 24
Susan Wilde..... 4	Bruce Ehlers 19	Ryan Wesemann..... 26
	Jim Schafer..... 20	Amanda Stack 28
	Aurynn Stack-Vaughn 22	Sarah Brietzke 28

Volunteer Opportunity!

Spring Extreme Makeover at Moon Beach Camp
St. Germain, WI May 13 – 17, 2024

Skilled laborers of all specialties are invited to work together for an intense week of improvements around Moon Beach Camp! Anyone (age 18 or over) with the skills and love for construction, painting, sewing, landscaping, etc. is welcome to participate in a week of rejuvenation for the beloved site!

There is no cost for volunteers' lodging, meals, and amenities. Volunteers will have an option to cover some or all of the hospitality costs as a donation during registration.

Visit <https://ucci.org/events/spring-extreme-makeover/>, email moonbeach@ucci.org, or call 715-479-8255 for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, February 1

1pm Lend-A-Hand

Sunday, February 4

10 am Worship & Sunday School

Communion

Tuesday, February 6

7pm Men's Dartball

Sunday, February 11

10 am Worship & Sunday School

Tuesday, February 13

7 pm Men's Dartball

Wednesday, February 14

7pm Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 18

10 am Worship & Sunday School

Tuesday, February 20

5:30 pm Moderator's Mtg.

6 pm Council Meeting

7 pm Men's Dartball

Wednesday, February 21

9:15 am Quilt Ministry Mtg.

7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 22

6 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 23

9 am Broadcaster Deadline

Sunday, February 25

10 am Worship & Sunday School

11am Newlywed Game and

Appetizer Luncheon

Tuesday, February 27

7 pm Men's Dartball

Wednesday, February 28

7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 29: Leap Day!!

6 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal



Church Office Hours

Until a new office manager is hired, volunteers will staff the office each day from

9:00am—12noon.

Outside of these hours, messages can be left on the office voicemail or by sending an email.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

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Church Office: (920) 563-4802

Church Email: officefortucc@gmail.com

Moderator(Sandy Czech): 2czechs.sc@gmail.com

Rev.Dr. Sara Rabe: revsarafortucc@gmail.com

Church's Website: www.fortfcc.org

