



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
31 W. MILWAUKEE AVE., FORT ATKINSON, WI 53538

The Pilgrim Broadcaster

April 2024

Monthly Newsletter

From Pastor Sara:

Happy Easter Greetings!

The holiest of days is the celebration of the risen Christ. The crucified body of God's son placed in the dark tomb, only to reveal greatness in the new day that has come. Symbolically as new bulbs were placed in dormant soil, buried Halleluiahs were muffled by the darkness. There is no fooling the Easter proclamations this year.

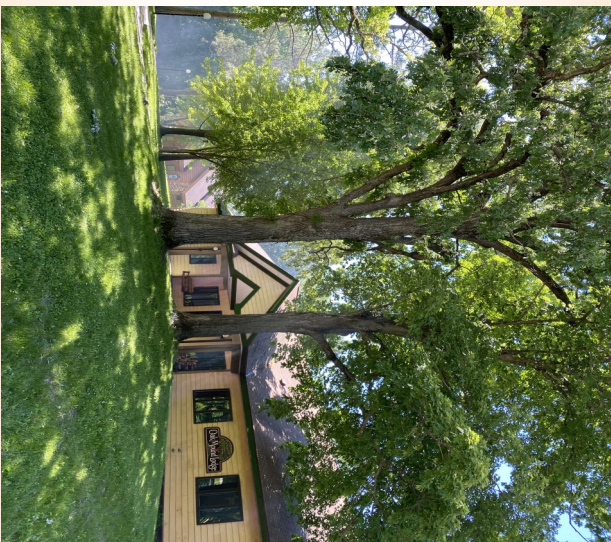


The women who came to the tomb were expecting to find the lifeless body of their beloved. The tomb was empty. They summon the man they thought was the gardener, "please tell us where he is, they've carried away our Lord." Frustrated and disappointed, likened to the squirrels that carry the toil of planted bulbs which do not bloom as we expect. All the gardener had to say was one word, "Mary", and she knew. She recognized the soft tone of his voice. The timbre of his pitch, and the way he formed his lips when he said her name. She identified him, though he was unrecognizable. Mary's heart leapt with Joy! She was in love with him. They were probably bonded by this love.

What the disciples found in the resurrected Christ was something other than what was expected. Our hearts too can be moved by the surprises of newness each and every day that we rise and live. In blossom, with wonder and awe, may we give God thanks for the birth of the rest of our days.

Thanks be to God.

Pastor Sara



Joy

September 20-22, 2024

Daycholah Center UCC–

Ripon

Approx. \$250- 2 nights,

5 meals, boat tour

faith experiences

Registration due



Come join us for a wonderful autumn retreat at Daycholah Center on the southeast shore of beautiful Green Lake! Enjoy a weekend of relaxation, along with many fun and inspirational activities. This sacred place is the ancestral homeland of the Menomonie, Ojibwa, and Ho Chunk Nations.

Sparkling

Joy



First Congregational

Retreat

September 20-22, 2024



We'll nestle into the comfortable accommodations of Oak Mound Lodge, where most guest rooms accommodate two or three people in twin-size beds, while two rooms have four beds. All bedrooms have bathrooms directly accessible—some with a private bath and some sharing a bath between two bedrooms.

Activities may include nature walks, birding, golf, fishing, service projects, Bible study, arts/crafts, music, games, worship, and more! Our programming and schedule will be based on the make-up of the group and input from those who



Sample Schedule TBD

- Friday, Sept. 20
- 3:00 p.m. – Check-in and explore
- 5:30 p.m. – Dinner
- Sunset and Vespers
- Movie night, conversation, after-hours
- Saturday, Sept. 21
- 8:30 am. – Breakfast
- 9:30 am Morning Devotions– Vesper Point
- 10:00am Joy Jar, Scavenger Hunt
- 11:00am Labyrinth
- 12:30 p.m. – Lunch
- 3pm– 4:15pm Green Lake Boat Tour
- 5:30 p.m. – Dinner
- Sunset and Prayer Lanterns at the

Lake

- Bonfire/Game Night
- Sunday, Sept. 22
- 8:00 a.m. – Breakfast
- Worship Service



Registration is approx. \$250, including two nights lodging and five meals. We don't want cost to keep anyone from coming to the retreat. If you have several family members who want to participate or if it will be a financial hardship, please speak to Pastor Sara.

Please complete the enclosed registration slip and place it in an envelope along with your check. Drop it into the offering plate or deliver to the church office to reserve your spot at this exciting retreat opportunity!

September 20-22, 2024

Daycholah Center: <https://uccci.org/daycholah-center/>

Daycholah Center

Coffee Fellowship

A new sign-up sheet to host coffee fellowship is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. THANK YOU to the volunteers who host this enjoyable hospitality time for our church family!



Once again...
WE HAVE THE BEST VOLUNTEERS
that help with **Meals on Wheels!!!**

A “**Special Thank-You**” is extended to the following **Meals on Wheels** volunteers who helped to deliver **517 meals** during the month of **February!** Without their cooperativeness and eagerness to serve others, our church would not be able to participate in this program that reaches out to some of the elderly and homebound in our community.

In grateful appreciation of your time and spirit, we thank:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Marsha & Roger Anderson | Connie Czech |
| Mary Ellen & John Miller | Tom Sehnert |
| Mary & Larry Narkis | Carol Maasz |
| Linda & Jeff Glendon | Brett Maasz |
| Ann & Dave Lueder | Chris Spangler |
| Sue Simonson & Bill Wild | |
| Eunice Ann & Joe Slaney | |

Remember – September, 2024, will be the next month that our church is responsible for supplying volunteers for “Meals on Wheels.” If you have any questions about the program or would like to volunteer, please contact Mary Ellen Miller (563-9085).



APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

- Matthew Siefkes.....2
- Kenzie Lynne Paske.....4
- Peter Fernelius.....8
- Brianna Allard12
- Alyssa Haukom13
- Donna Fox14
- Bianca Spoerl16
- Mary Ellen Miller.....16
- Jack Broadhead19
- Kade Eske.....20
- Paul Broadhead23
- Adam Nowotny25
- Barb Schafer25
- Micah Fromader25
- Patti Heitz.....25
- Isa Riley26
- Dana Bertelsen27
- Karen Smith29
- Emma Reed30
- Hanna Reed30

Council Highlights – March 2024

Peanuts Project: Charlie Knapp reported to Council that for the year, the peanuts crew overproduced peanuts by about 300 bags. They have been sold over the last several months and now are down to just a few bags left. For next year, the number of raw peanuts will be reduced from 1400 pounds to 1000 pounds. The number of peanut sessions will be reduced to 12-13 and hopefully be completed by Thanksgiving. Thanks to Charlie & Judy Knapp for all their work on this important project!

Office Updates: New computers for both the office and the Childcare center are needed. Charlie and Henry will work on this and will request a proposal from Badgerland Computer for this purchase.

Childcare Center: Heidi Yngsdal, Director emailed her complete report to Council. She is looking for an additional teacher.

Clean Up: Sandy Czech reported that 3 classrooms downstairs have been cleaned. There was a lot of trash and items that can be recycled. More work is needed for more areas of the church. No date has been set. She says we are “pack rats”!

Working Committees: Several committees are working on updating some of the church’s policies. Those are Building Use Policy, Record Retention Policy, Kitchen Use Policy, and Employee Handbook. Any changes or updates will be coming soon!

Confirmation and Sunday School: Pastor Sara reports that these programs are starting to wrap up for the year. Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for April 21. There will be no Confirmation Class next year. The Sunday School program worked well, and the curriculum will stay the same for next year.

Church Relations: Save the date! The Church Relations Ministry will host an event at Barrie Park summer concert to benefit the Homeless Coalition. The date is June 17. More information to come!

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.

Congratulations Graduates

The church would like to acknowledge your accomplishments during the May 19, 2024 worship service at 10am.



Please contact Pastor Sara if you are interested in attending this service.

Helper Schedule for April

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support	Sunday School
April 7	David & Sharon Wisch	Patty & Tom Sehnert	Susan Woods	Bob Buell	Jennifer Nowotny
April 14	Bob & Sue Buell	Holly & John Andrews	Vicki York	Kurt Wesemann	Sydney Wesemann
April 21	Connie & Sandy Czech	Sue Simonson Rich Frame	Donna Abel	Kevin Becker	Troy Hartman
April 28	Brenda & Chris Reed	Barb & Gary Vorpahl	Zach Finch	Bob Buell	Theresa Habeck

5 in 1 Special Mission Campaign

Outreach is asking for donations to these special mission funds: **One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, Church World Service Blankets**, and the **Christmas Fund**. Church World Service Blankets is a non-conference mission fund. Due to its importance to those in need around the world, Outreach includes it as one of our special mission funds.

These offerings exist to allow congregations and individuals to meet people at points of critical need in their lives. Through your prayers and donations, needs can be met for all five of the special missions.



From **April 7th – May 5th**, **Outreach Ministry** is asking for your support during the 5 in 1 campaign. Donations may be made in pew envelopes marked 5 in 1. There will be a form in the envelope that allows you to indicate how you would like your donation to be used. For church members viewing Live Stream, donations can be mailed or dropped off at the church office. Please be sure to designate your donation for 5 in 1 or specify if you want it to support one specific mission. Although we highlight these special missions during the next few weeks, donations can be made anytime throughout the year.

Whether you support the special missions individually or as 5 in 1, your giving is greatly appreciated, no matter the amount.

Thank you for being a blessing to others in their time of need!

April 7th Communion Team

Susan Woods
Jeff Woods
Heidi Siefkes
Mike Siefkes



CANCER WALK
JUNE 8, 2024

Fort Atkinson High School Track & Field

PRESENTED BY: **UW Cancer Center**
Johnson Creek

SAVE THE DATES

April 7th: Confirmands Read Statements of faith

April 11th: Lend-a-Hand meeting 1:30 PM

April 16th: Church Relations Meeting 1:30 PM

Outreach Meeting 4:00 pm

April 17th: Prayer Quilt 9:15 AM

April 21st: Confirmation Sunday

April 21-23: Pastor Sara @ Clergy Retreat

April 27: Association Meeting UCC

Choir Dates:

♦ **April 3, 10, 17, 24:** 7:00 PM Rehearsal

Bells Rehearsal Dates:

♦ **April 4, 11, 18, 25:** 6:00 PM Rehearsal time

Community Band Concert Pie and Ice Cream Social!

We will again host the Pie and Ice Cream Social at the Fort Atkinson Community Band Concert on Monday evening, **June 17th**. Volunteers and donations of a variety of baked goods will be needed for this event. Funds raised will benefit a local nonprofit.

Confirmation 2024

Please join us for **Confirmation Sunday on April 21st at 10 am!** We will share this time to celebrate our 2024 Confirmands as they begin their journey of faith as members of the congregation.



David Firari hike presentation will be May 9th, 6 PM at the Dwight Foster Public Library.

NEW Church Office Hours

Moving forward, our church office will be open

9:00am—2:30pm, Monday thru Thursday.

The office will be closed on Fridays.

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

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

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

Church's Website: www.fortfcc.org

