



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

The Pilgrim Broadcaster

May 2024

Monthly Newsletter

From Pastor Sara:

For the Love of Weeding: said no person ever!!

With springtime upon us, we are delighted to have the flowers in our gardens. Unfortunately, what also grows in our gardens are those weeds we hoped would not grow again. Like a bad penny they emerge through the soil, and we look at them with disappointment as if to say, "you again?" Amy and I (well mainly Amy) spent a couple of hours weeding our flowerbeds with the intent to stay on top of the weeds this year. On our knees pulling and pulling, feeling accomplished for how things were tidied, but knowing full well, those weeds will return. Physically, weeding is a drag. It's uncomfortable to be down on the hard rocky ground. And then to get up again! But looking beyond that, weeding can be relaxing and allows one to let the mind wander or think about nothing at all. I tend to think of God's Spirit, and, "I come to the garden alone... as he walks with me and he talks with me." Jesus promised his disciples that he would return. Similar to those weeds, invisible to the eye until it emerges, we know that they will return. Jesus' presence is a welcome return, but similar to the weeds, we then have to deal with it. We can choose to ignore, however, eventually we will come face to face and know. I pray that we can find the Holy Spirit at work in our mundane tasks of daily labor. In this reflection we will find peace and calm, joy and delight even when we have to deal with the struggles and difficulties of life. It gives us an opportunity to find new life.



Blessings on your springtime surprises

- even 'for the love of the weeds'.

Pastor Sara

Diaper Drive

Raising kids is an expensive adventure. One of the contributing factors is the cost of diapers! In June, the Outreach Ministry is asking for donations of diapers that will be made available through Trudy's Room to young families in the School District of Fort Atkinson.

Trudy's Room, housed at Fort Atkinson's First United Methodist Church, was established in 2019 by family and friends of the late Trudy Tuttle.

Baskets will be available in the narthex to receive your diaper and baby wipe donations from June 2 through 30.

Diaper sizes newborn, 1, 4, 5, 6, or 7 are needed. Pull-ups in size 4t and 5t are also needed. Diapers and Pull-ups must be in store packaging.

Baby wipes are also needed. Wipes that are fragrance free/for sensitive skin are suggested.

Thank you for helping the young families in our area!



**Starting June 2, 2004 Summer
Worship Begins 8:30 AM**

MAY BIRTHDAYS!

**Happy Birthday and
Many Blessings!**



Dorothy Peich	1
Mariah Allard	3
Susan Simonson	3
Carol Maasz	5
Ruth Hammiller.....	6
Gary Shackelford	8
Robert Ehrike	10
Connie Barbian	14
Bob Abel.....	15
Terry Teipner	16
Marvin Olsen.....	20
Mary Ann Ehrike.....	21
Bev Wittenwyler	22
David Firari	22
Pastor Sara.....	25

Jefferson County Coalition Cancer Walk



The Jefferson County Cancer Coalition Cancer Walk, presented by UW Cancer Center, is a community gathering that allows everyone to fight back against cancer. Teams will put up a tent at the Fort Atkinson High School Track and Field and take turns walking or running around the track. At the event, participants celebrate survivors, remember loved ones lost, and learn more about how to fight back against cancer. The Cancer Walk will raise much-needed funds, while increasing awareness of cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and services available right here in Jefferson County.

When: June 8, 2024 **Where:** Fort Atkinson High School Track

Congratulations Confirmands

Sunday, April 21, marked a special day in the life of our congregation as First Congregational, United Church of Christ, three young women celebrated their Confirmation by affirming their faith. Confirmed during worship were:

Madylynn Green, the daughter of Julie Green and Bryan Green and granddaughter of church member Tammy and Bryan Green;

Sophie Elise Kloplic, the daughter of Ryan and Kristi Kloplic and granddaughter of church members Richard and Jane Kloplic;

Ellie Grace Norris, the daughter of Amy Lueder and granddaughter of church members David and Ann Lueder.



Pictured from left are: The Rev. Dr. Sara Rabe, Madylynn Green, Ellie Norris and Sophie Kloplic.

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 May

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support	Sunday School
May 5	Eunice & Joe Slaney	Marsha & Roger Anderson	Jo Ann Rose	Kurt Wesemann	Jennifer Nowotny
May 12	Susan & Jeff Woods	Donna Abel and Carol Maasz	Linda Glendon	Kevin Becker	Sydney Wesemann
May 19	Dave & Ann Lueder	Judy Brown and Mary Beyerly	Ruth Hammiller	Bob Buell	Troy Hartman
May 26	Helen Macklem and Pat Jung	Paul & Sandy Hankowitz	Lynn Klug	Kurt Wesemann	No more till end of summer

April 7th Communion Team

Zach Finch
Richard Frame
Heidi Siefkes
Mike Siefkes

May 5th Sunday School Huddle after worship
Special Thanks to those who led Sunday School
Classes this year!
You were awesome!



The **NEW Hearing Assistance** system has been installed and is up and running in the Sanctuary. Several of our members have used the system already and have had good results! There are several options with this new system. One option is a power pack and headset. This option is mainly for those without hearing aids. For those with hearing aids there are different options depending on the type of aid you have. One option is to use a power pack, a necklace and change the T switch on the hearing aid. For other aids you can use your smart phone with an app on it. Place the phone in Bluetooth mode. Finally, for some of the newer hearing aids that are Bluetooth enhanced, they should pickup the system automatically.



Headsets, power packs, and necklaces are provided by the church.

If you are interested in trying one of these options, see Bob Buell, Kurt Wesemann or Rich Frame for assistance.

Council Highlights

– April 2024

Peanuts Project: Charlie Knapp reported to Council that the Peanuts Project is completed for this season! The total receipts are \$14,322.00. Thanks to Charlie & Judy Knapp along with all the Peanut Project volunteers for the success of this project.

Childcare Center: Heidi Yngsdal, Director attended the Council meeting. She continues to struggle to hire appropriately educated teachers and staff. She is working on the annual licensing process and the summer program.

Hearing Loop: The new hearing loop has been installed and has been utilized by several worshipers. Articles on how to use it will be put in the future Broadcaster and Bulletins. If interested, please see one of the ushers before the worship service.

Clean Up: Sandy Czech reported that more of the classrooms downstairs as well as the rooms in the office area are being cleaned out. We have accumulated lots of supplies and these will be donated to church members or to the local Goodwill.

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: Our new Confirmands this year include Ellie Norris, Sophie Kloplic, and Madylynn Green. They were confirmed on 4/21/24. Welcome to your church family!

Facilities: Spring Clean-up will be held on 5/11/24 at 9:00 AM. Bring your rake to help tidy up our grounds. The more the merrier!

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 at 6:30 PM. More information to come!

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.

SAVE THE DATES

May 2— Facilities Meeting 6:00 PM

May 5— Sunday School Huddle

May 11— Spring Clean Up 9:00 AM

May 14— Church Relations Meeting 1:30 PM

May 16— Inside Cleaning 1:30 PM

May 19— Pentecost Sunday

May 26— Mike Rankin Pastor Substitute

Choir Dates:

- ♦ **May 1, 8, 15:** 7:00 PM Rehearsal
- ♦ **No Rehearsal May 22 until September**

Bells Rehearsal Dates:

- ♦ **May 2, 9, 15, 23, 30:** 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

New Member

Sunday May 5th

Justin & Dawn



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



Join in the Spirit of Pentecost Sunday May 19th

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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