



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

July 2024 The Pilgrim Broadcaster

The Law of Averages.

One of the geeky clergy things I like to do is to research data and statistics on where the church is today, and where it might be going tomorrow. I did a happy dance on June 1 st realizing this was year 3 in my tenure here at First Congregational Church UCC in Fort Atkinson. How has that felt to you? Does it feel like just yesterday? Has it felt like forever ago? Hard to believe, but 3 years ago, we were still in CoVid and worshipping with masks on still trying to determine the best way to serve communion. How far we have come in the snap of a finger, and here we are a few miles down the road.



Getting back to the research... I have been dabbling in the BARNA research which indicates that one fourth of pastors hope to retire in the next seven years because the average age of pastors is age 57, according to the 2020 Faith Communities Today. As of March 2022 a whopping 42% of pastors said they were considering leaving full time ministry. Now remember the happy dance on June 1 st ? The average tenure of a pastor at a church is now 3.5 years. This makes me post a sad emoji. 🙄

Fear not, I am not falling in line to any statistics, heck, I'm well below age 57! 😂

I feel like we are just getting started in creating effective ministries together. The roots of fellowship, community and extension of ourselves are becoming stronger and nourished as we establish our promises made to one another. I promise, I will not push the church to do anything, I promise, I will not pull the church in any direction. I promise to do what you called me to do. To lead. It does not mean that you will follow. It does not mean that you will go kicking and screaming, it means the very beauty of what it means to be a disciple of faith, to find your own call, and lead. Then we will go together.

When people ask me how my church is. I smile, feel joy in my heart, I think of all of you, and respond. I love them!

God bless our journey together and the path that is before us,

Pastor Sara



Back to School Deodorant Drive

During the month of August, Outreach is collecting deodorant for the Fort Atkinson school district. Deodorants are given to fifth-grade students when body growth is discussed, and deodorants are kept at all six school buildings for students in need. The school district is asking for 275 deodorants from the community, either regular or mini-sized.

There is also a need for feminine hygiene items in the schools. Tampons (regular or super) and Maxi pads are requested.

As you are shopping in July and August, please consider buying and donating one or more of these items. All items donated need to be in their original sealed packaging.

Starting August 4, baskets will be in the narthex at church for donations.

Thank you for your donations that help support our youth in the Fort Atkinson School District.

Donations are truly appreciated by all!



July BIRTHDAYS!

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Judy Wittenwyler..... | 1 |
| Sandy Czech, John Wilmet..... | 3 |
| Chris Spangler | 4 |
| Courtney & Morgan Dunkleberger | 10 |
| Ann Lueder | 11 |
| Joe Slaney | 12 |
| Sydney Wesemann..... | 12 |
| Bryan Wallace..... | 13 |
| Madalynn Green | 14 |
| Eunice Ann Slaney | 15 |
| Lainey Kincaid | 23 |
| David Nowotny | 23 |
| Emily Dunlap..... | 24 |
| Alex Harker | 24 |
| Jennifer Woods | 26 |
| Tony Fromader | 27 |
| Doris Puerner..... | 27 |
| Ed Klingaman | 29 |
| Jesse Topel | 29 |
| Mildred Lemke | 30 |
| Carter Klopchic..... | 31 |
| Helen Macklem..... | 31 |
| Laura Nowotny | 31 |

Helper Schedule for July

| Date | Greeters | Ushers | Lay Reader | Tech Support |
|---------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| July 7 | Carol Maasz and Nancy Onufer | Patty & Tom Sehnert | JoAnn Rose | Bob Buell |
| July 14 | John & Jane Wilmet | Roger & Marsha Anderson | Eunice Slaney | Kevin Becker |
| July 21 | Lynn Klug and David Stedman | Donna Abel and Bob Rose | David Stedman | Bob Buell |
| July 28 | Clarice & Pete Fernelius | Larry & Mary Narkis | Sharon Wisch | Kurt Wesemann |

Put the Coffee on and Pull up a Chair

Coffee Chat with Pastor Sara Wednesday mornings in August 9am- 11am at the Langhoff Café- 225 S Main St, Fort Atkinson
August 7, 14, 21, 28

All are welcome to share in the casual conversation about life, gratitude's, challenges, and interesting facts about Spam. Pull up a chair and check it out.



July 14th Communion Team

Joe & Eunice Slaney
and Bob & Sue Buell

Volunteers are needed at the Food Pantry for the month of July! Sign up sheet is on the Outreach Bulletin Board in the Narthex for anyone who can volunteer or you can call Tom Sehnert (920) 397-0089. The time you give is helpful to so many. Thank you!

Despite the heat, Monday's ice cream social at the Fort Atkinson Community Band concert in Barrie Park was a big success! Thanks to everyone who contributed baked goods, volunteered at the social and/or bought pie, cookies, brownies and ice cream! Thanks also to the Church Relations Committee for spearheading the event.



Council Highlights

– June 2024

Pastor's Report: Pastor Sara reports that the Sunday School classes will start again in the Fall. Parents will work with Pastor Sara on lesson plans and teaching. August Coffee Chats will start on Wednesday, 8/7 from 9-11 at Langhoff's. The chats will continue for 4 weeks. An adult "confirmation" class will begin in the Fall. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

Werthmann Room: The committee is working on possibly adding window treatments and artwork.

Clean Up: Sandy Czech reported that all the multitude of art supplies found in the storage rooms downstairs were donated to area teachers. Other items not needed were donated to local resale stores. Another cleanup day will be scheduled in July.

Wisconsin Conference UCC: Our delegates, Carol Maasz and Margaret Majors along with Pastor Sara attended the annual conference in June. The theme of the conference was "Listening in New Ways". They enjoyed and were inspired by the speakers and breakout sessions. Their report can be found in the Narthex. Thanks to our delegates and Pastor for attending!

Facilities: The Facilities team has been busy! They have painted Pastor Sara's office along with the office next to hers. This will be the office of the Financial Secretary, Charlie Knapp and Clerk, Nancy Onufer.

Barrie Park Summer Concert: Many church members and friends hosted a table serving pie and ice cream. The proceeds, which were about \$500, will be donated to Fort Homeless Coalition. Many thanks to Margaret Majors, Church Relations and Outreach members along with all who donated to this important event!

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.

SAVE THE DATES

- **August 7, 14, 21, 28**
9 AM—11 AM Coffee with Pastor Sara at Langhoff
- **August 26th**
Pnut season begins!!

**July
Communion is
July 14th!**

It's time to clean! Mark your calendar for Wednesday, July 11. 1-3 pm. We are nearing the end of this task. We have a lot of recyclables that need to be recycled. Our church recycle bin fills very quickly. If you could bring a manageable box, so you could take it home and put it in your bin, it would be appreciated. We will be putting items on the tables in Plymouth Hall in July. Watch the bulletin for details.

**THANK
YOU!**



Many thanks to all the wonderful bakers, donors and volunteers who worked together to host the Pie and Ice Cream Social at the Fort Atkinson Community Band Concert on June 17th! We raised \$497 for the Fort Atkinson Homeless Coalition!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

31 W. Milwaukee Ave.

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

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

