



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

31 W. MILWAUKEE AVE., FORT ATKINSON, WI 53538

June 2024 The Pilgrim Broadcaster

June Delight.

June is often attributed to the fast and the furious beginning of summer. Graduation parties, family reunions, family vacations and Father's Day. On Mother's Day, I observed a family hustling through the newly turned soil of a garden, pulling lines with steaks setting the rows while mom pointed and directed the planting. It was something grown children can do for their mother on her special day. June brings the surprises of what actually pokes through the ground grown in surprising places where mom wasn't expecting.

God is a God of surprises. There is a favorite hymn written by Brian Wren which speaks deeply to the nature of God in multiple dimensions.



**Bring many names, beautiful and good,
Celebrate, in parable and story,
Holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!**

**Strong mother God, working night and day,
Planning all the wonders of creation,
Setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!**

**Warm father God, hugging every child,
Feeling all the strains of human living,
Caring and forgiving, till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!**

**Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
Calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
Glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!**

**Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
Saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
Crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!**

**Great, living God, never fully known,
Joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
Closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!**

May the great living God speak to you in this season of growth, life and gathering.

Pastor Sara

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

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.

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 & 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!

5-1 Results

With your donations to 5 in 1, a total of **\$2,765** has been raised.

OGHS - **\$636**

Neighbors in Need - **\$661**

Strengthen the Church - **\$506**

Christmas Fund - **\$416**

CWS Blankets - **\$546**

Thank you for continuing to give hope to those in need!

Volunteers Needed

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!

“Tell the Next Generation”

A combined day of worship and workshops with the Southeast Association and Southwest Association was held on 04/27/2024 at First Congregational Church, Oconomowoc, WI. Pastor Sara and I were able to attend. The YouTube link for Opening Worship and the Keynote Address can be found at:

www.youtube.com/@firstcongregationalucc735

Worship began with a circle of drums, band, singers, and we exchanged African greetings with song. There were video screens to follow. Instead of a sermon, we heard video presentations from teenagers sharing their message explaining what they would like to see from their elders in the church. One of the presenters was Alex Thiessen (Pastor Sara’s son). To summarize, they understand previous generations experienced difficulties. They hope we will accept their desire to find their own way, even though it may be different from ours. Key takeaways: they ask for patience, acceptance, respect, and trust. I was struck by how open, honest, and fluent their messages were. The “Next Generation” gives me hope for the future.

At the 2024 SWA (Southwest Association) Business Meeting (like our church’s annual meeting) we heard from Rev. Rachel Bauman, Associate Conference Minister. We were introduced to Members in Discernment; there was the election and installation of officers; we approved the 2025 budget, and more.

Rev. Sandhya Jha (they/them), Minister, Activist, and Author was the Keynote Speaker. Rev. Jha is an anti-oppression consultant who will be working on their PhD 2023-2027. Author of *Rebels, Despots, and Saints: The Ancestors Who Free Us & The Ancestors We Need to Free*. What are the stories of our community? How do we navigate the hard stories? Which ancestors shaped us for good? Who are our spiritual ancestors? What do you want to be remembered for as an ancestor? Reclaiming ancestors can be healing. At times Rev. Jha sang parts of the poem “Breaths” by Birago Diop to remember ancestors and our connection to nature. Rev. Jha’s personal plea for engaging in conversations about ancestors, “keep the conversations interfaith”.

Optional Workshops:

1. Continued Conversations with Rev. Jha – Keynote Speaker
2. Engaging Your Congregation in Anti-Racism work – a Panel
3. Land Acknowledgement Done Right (Pastor Sara and Carol attended)
4. Re-imagining Association Life
5. Sacred Conversations to End Racism (Carol attended)
6. Grants for Conversations

Margaret Majors and I are serving as Delegates for 2024 - thank you for the opportunity to serve. The joint SEA and SWA 2024 Annual Meeting was thought provoking and inspirational.

Respectfully submitted.

Carol Maasz, Delegate

Helper Schedule for June

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support
June 2	Jo Ann & Bob Rose	Chris Reed and Rich Frame	Linda Glendon	Kevin Becker
June 9	Judy Brown and Ruth Hammiller	Lynn Klug and David Stedman	Mary Narkis	Bob Buell
June 16	Carol Maasz and Nancy Onufer	John & Jane Wilmet	Mike Rankin	Kurt Wesemann
June 23	Barbara & Gary Vorpahl	Pat Jung and Rich Frame	Charlie Knapp	Kevin Becker
June 30	Julie Ankomeus	David & Sharon Wisch	Bob Rose	Bob Buell

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

June 2nd Communion Team

Chris Reed, Brenda Reed,
Sydney Wesemann, and Pat Jung

On Sunday, May 5, we welcomed **Justin and Dawn Frey** into our First Congregational United Church of Christ family.

The Freys have been in the community for 20-plus years either as employees in the school district or as residents.

They have two children, Kylie and Aiden.

Dawn enjoys crafting, using her Cricket, photography and spending time with family. Justin is an avid runner and nordic skier, and loves baseball and reading.

Justin was a member of a UCC church growing up and they were married in a UCC church in Evansville.

Pictured are the Freys with the Rev. Dr. Sara Rabe.



Council Highlights – May 2024

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Pastor's Report: Pastor Sara will be taking some well-deserved vacation time and attending a conference over the summer. Our lay pastors will be the substitutes during those few Sundays.

Childcare Center: Heidi Yngsdal, Director attended the Council meeting. Currently, there are 61 children enrolled. The summer program will start on 5/30/24. Our Facilities Ministry spruced up the playground by putting new woodchips down.

Clean Up: Sandy Czech reported that more of the classrooms downstairs as well as the rooms in the office area are being cleaned out. Many items have found new homes with church members. The cleaning will continue through the summer. We have accumulated lots of supplies and these were donated to the Childcare Center and local teachers. Anything left over will be donated to church members or to the local Goodwill.

Building Use: An updated policy along with appropriate fees has been approved by the Council. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested in using the building for your event.

Working Committees: Several committees continue to update some church policies. Those are Record Retention Policy, Kitchen Use Policy, and Safe Sanctuary Policy. Updates were made in the Employee Handbook and approved by the Council.

Facilities: The Facilities team will be working on a few painting projects over the summer. Our HVAC system will be updated in several areas of the church.

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. Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex for baked items to sell. Proceeds to go to the Fort Atkinson Homeless Coalition.

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.

SAVE THE DATES

- ♦ **June 6th:** Store Room Cleaning **1-3 PM**
- ♦ **June 6-9th:** Delegates & Pastor at WI Conference UCC
- ♦ **June 16th:** Church Relations Following Worship Service
- ♦ **June 17th:** Pie and Ice Cream Social
- ♦ **June 18th:** Council Meeting **6 PM**

HELP WANTED

We are still in need of donations of baked goods and volunteers for Monday evening, June 17th, when our church will host the Pie and Ice Cream Social at the Fort

Atkinson Community Bank Concert at Barrie Park! Pies, bars and cookies will be sold, along with ice cream, of course, to concert attendees, and proceeds will be donated to the Homeless Coalition of Fort Atkinson.

June 17th will be the first concert of the season, and attendance is typically high. Last year we were able to donate nearly \$400 to the Unity Project. With your support, we hope to match or beat that amount this year. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Baked goods can be dropped off in the church kitchen on Sunday morning, June 16th, or by early afternoon on June 17th. Thank you for your support of this community outreach project!

June BIRTHDAYS!

Judy Knapp	1
Jane Wilmet.....	1
Joel Winn	5
Matthew Eske.....	6
Natalie Hershman.....	6
Nancy Witt	7
Jane Winiarski	10
Tiffany Figliuzzi.....	13
Amy Lueder	20
Lisa Wilmet	21
Rachel Broadhead	25
Sally Smith.....	25
Pam Topel.....	25
Julie Green	26
Emma Norris	27
Ron Hendriksen.....	29
Penny Shackelford	29
Kathryn Andrews	30

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

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Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

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

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

Church's Website: www.fortfcc.org



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