



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

## **September 2024 The Fort UCC Broadcaster**

If you are a farm kid growing up in Wisconsin, you have an intimate connection with stones. Every spring- go and pick stones. I notice more and more the line fences where these 'beloved' stones found their eternal rest, are now being bulldozed, cleared to make swaths of land for one large field increasing the tracks of land. Rocks have many purposes. They are used to stabilize foundations in buildings. Crushed to be packed in laying sidewalks. There are other types of rocks called precious jewels. Valuable rocks of Granite, Quartzite, Marble take on beauty. Landmarks of outcroppings with unique features often named in description of an experience that was special and sacred.



### **Joshua 4:20-24**

And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. And he said to the people of Israel, "When your children ask their fathers in times to come, 'What do these stones mean?' then you shall let your children know, 'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.' For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever."



### **Matthew 21:42-44**

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

The stone in your shoe has been around for a while. Four Billions years old. Think about the significance of time in relations to the presence of a timeless God. God has been and will forever be with us. Imagine what these stones have seen in knowing this everlasting God.

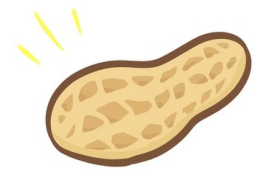
Next time you are on a walk, or sitting on your porch, pick up a stone, examine it closely. That rock has the timeless features of a stable ever present God.

Let it blow your mind, *Pastor Sara*



## CALLING ALL PEANUTS WORKERS!!!

The 2024 Peanut season has begun. We really need **YOU** to fill out our crew of dedicated peelers. The next session will be on Monday, Sept 9. Peeling redskins off our wonderful Super Extra Large peanuts begins around **8:00am** and finishes usually around **11:00am**. Our rule is: "Come when you can, leave when you must." We need everyone to help make our peanuts season successful. All profits support our Church and its Ministries.



## Dartball Season is Coming!

We'll be practicing Wednesday nights at 6:30. Come on down and give it a try! Women and men are welcome. No experience is necessary.

Questions? Call Larry at 920-563-8629



## Prayer Quilts

Summer is over and it is time to get back to quilting again. We meet for quilting on the third



Wednesday of each month. The first quilting day will be **Wednesday, September 18, from 9:15 to 11:15**. We welcome anyone who is interested in helping us make quilts for our ministry. If you have any questions, please ask any member of Prayer Quilts or call

Marsha Anderson at

**920-650-2966.**

## The Food Pantry items needed:

Black beans  
Tuna fish  
Macaroni and cheese  
Vegetable beef soup  
Oats and honey cereal

### For the backpack program

- Little boxes of cereal
- Individual size Mac and cheese pouches/cups



## Helper Schedule for August

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support
Sept. 1	Sue Simonson and Bill Wild	Mike Rankin and Bob Rose	Linda Glendon	Bob Buell
Sept. 8	Mary Beyerly	Jeff & Susan Woods	Charlie Knapp	Kurt Wesemann
Sept. 15	Bob & Donna Abel	Brenda & Chris Reed	Lynn Klug	Kevin Becker
Sept. 22	Connie and Sandy Czech	John & Jane Wilmet	Ruth Hammiller	Bob Buell
Sept. 29	Dave & Ann Lueder	Judy Brown and Rich Frame	Mary Narkis	Kurt Wesemann

### Coffee Fellowship Volunteers

The sign-up sheet to host coffee fellowship for the coming few months is posted in the narthex. Please sign up for a date (or two) to provide this ministry of hospitality after our Sunday worship services. Thank you!



### Sept. 8th Communion Team

Jeff & Susan Woods and  
Mike & Heidi Siefkes



**Are you seeking an opportunity to connect with young people?**



Try teaching Sunday School!!

It is simple and easy to do.

Please see Pastor Sara if you are interested.

It takes a village to raise a child.

The annual Stewardship Campaign will soon be here. Look for your packet in the mail towards the end of this month. The theme this year is "A Puzzle."

## Council Highlights – August 2024

**Telephone and Security Updates:** Council received a presentation from Aaron Falk from Di-max. He proposed that our current analog system through Spectrum be updated for both the church and Childcare offices. This proposal would be updated to voice over internet utilizing the Spectrum infrastructure. New telephone sets will replace the old ones with added features that can be accessed remotely. The office has recently received phishing scams through both Pastor Sara's and Henry's email addresses. The new system will identify malicious emails, open and quarantine them. The Council reviewed and approved both upgrades. There will be a minimum monthly cost increase.

**Website Proposal:** Henry Harrell, Office Manager has proposed to update our website and hosting company. Our current site is slow and does not allow the user to easily update or change information. Therefore, Henry proposes a change of hosting company to GoDaddy. Henry has worked with GoDaddy and feels that it will make our site much easier to manage and avoid the need for outside consultant help. The Council approved this change.

**Hoard Dinner:** Hoards has requested that their annual luncheon be held in Plymouth Hall, as in previous years. The event will be on Monday, September 30. The event will be catered; therefore, no volunteers will be needed from our membership.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Sara reports that the Safe Sanctuary policy is being updated with social issues included. The Safety Team will schedule an annual fire drill and tornado training. A new group, Creation Care has started. Their focus is on sustainable recourses and environmental issues at our church and homes. There are 14 people who signed up for the Daycho-lah Retreat! The fall activities are being planned and a calendar will be available.

**Werthmann Room:** Council was presented a fabric sample and costs for valances to be added to the windows in the Werthmann Room. The council approved this addition. It was noted that we still need some artwork to be selected.

**Wisconsin Conference UCC Campaign – "Forward Leadership"** Several of our leaders we contacted regarding this project. The goal is to raise \$2M for the future of UCC. This includes Education, Damascus Project, Pastor Fund, Confirmation and Grants. The UCC Conference is asking for a 5-year commitment to raise \$1000 per year for this fund. They have raised \$1M so far. The council approved this commitment. There is more information on this in the Narthex.

**Winter Market:** Mark your calendars! The Fort Winter Market is scheduled for December 7. A committee is being put together to make sure we have another successful day!

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.



## SEPTEMBER 8th

10 AM Worship Returns!



**5th**—Relations Ministry 2:30 pm

**8th**—10 am worship returns with  
Communion, Jo Ann Rose  
Reception following Worship

**12th**—Lend-A-Hand Potluck 12:30pm

**15th**—Rally Sunday, Nurture Brunch  
following worship

**18th**—Quilting Ministry Returns! 9am

**22nd-24th**—Congregational Retreat @  
Daycholah UCC- Pastor  
Luke Bocher Pulpit Supply

**SAVE THE DATES**



**2, 9, 16, 23, 30**—1pm Wednesdays-Adult  
Confirmation

**6th**—Volunteer Recognition  
Sunday- Sharing your  
best

**13th**—Stewardship Sunday

**27th**—Polka Sunday- Dave  
Austin Band



## Rally Sunday Brunch- Lunch Potluck

Mark your calendar for  
September 15 and dust off  
your recipes for Nurture's  
first ever Rally Sunday  
Brunch-Lunch Potluck.  
Plan to share your favorite  
breakfast/ hot dish, salad,  
veggie, dessert or pastry  
and join us for a new  
church year celebration.  
Look for a signup in the  
Narthex.

## JoAnn Rose 65th Anniversary In the Choir

Sunday, Sept. 8, at the 10:00 AM service, you are all invited to  
join the Senior Choir in honoring Joann Rose! We have been  
truly honored and blessed to have Joann share her musical  
talents with us by singing in our Senior Choir for 65 years!

The choir will be hosting a reception honoring Joann  
immediately after church in Plymouth Hall. Please join us in  
recognizing Joann for this remarkable achievement.

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

31 W. Milwaukee Ave.

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

**Church Office:** (920) 563-4802

**Church Email:** [officefortucc@gmail.com](mailto:officefortucc@gmail.com)

**Moderator(Sandy Czech):** [2czechs.sc@gmail.com](mailto:2czechs.sc@gmail.com)

**Rev.Dr. Sara Rabe:** [revsarafortucc@gmail.com](mailto:revsarafortucc@gmail.com)

**Church's Website:** [www.fortfcc.org](http://www.fortfcc.org)



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST