



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

October 2024 The Fort UCC Broadcaster

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“God appeared by the Oaks of Mamre.” Genesis 18:1

Oaks are a symbol of time immemorial. Meaning, they grow a long time. Just as our Burr Oak has been part of our landscape for the last 15 generations, the tree is part of us, one of us. It's been there longer than any one of us and we respect it's presence. We give gratitude for it's faithfulness and we pray it will be standing for many generations to come.

Strong and solid at it's base, trees are still vulnerable to stress, disease and invasive species. The General Sherman Tree in the Sequia National Forest is 2,100 years old. Thousands of years these old trees have stood. Some have been standing before Christ walked on the earth, and now, in our current time their lives are held in peril.

Trees have a spirit all their own. They communicate with one another sharing impulses to bear more fruit, or withhold so as to adjust to the weather conditions. They know more than we can anticipate because they are connected to the systems around them, and they are influenced by this. On these fall days, the trees will loose their leaves and take their resources into their veins to be stored there to brave the winter ahead. As we examine the trees may we observe the spiritual eco system surrounding us and pay attention. In this we are more readily able to adapt and adjust for the seasons that change and challenge us. Like the trees, we can prepare for what is to come, we are given all that we need, and God's abundance will be plenty.

Thanks be to God!



Pastor Sara



Fall Retreat Photos



The Food Pantry items needed:

Kids Sweet Cereals
 Canned Corn
 Canned Carrots
 Mac and Cheese
 Crunchy Peanut Butter
 Canned Pasta



October Helper Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support
Oct. 6th	Marry Ellen & John Miller	Bob Rose and Rich Frame	Mike Rankin	Kevin Becker
Oct. 13	Paul & Sandy Hankowitz	Holly & John Andrews	Chris Reed	Bob Buell
Oct. 20	Donald & Nancy Hoepfner	Mary Beyerly and Carol Maasz	Bob Rose	Kurt Wesemann
Oct. 27	Larry & Mary Narkis	Mike Rankin and Sue Simonson	Martha Firari	Kevin Becker

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!



If you are having an event and need cups, plates, napkins, etc, please feel free to use the extras in the sliding cupboards in Plymouth Hall. There are many accumulated supplies that need to be used. They have been organized by the Nurture committee. They are for church use, not "owned" by a specific group. We have a lot of styrofoam cups and other supplies. Please Do not order more. We are trying to go to a "greener" alternative, but we need to use up what we have. If you use the last of an item, just leave a note.

Oct. 3th Communion Team

Zach Finch, Richard Frame, David Stedman, and Lynn Klug

An abundant Thank You!!

Pastor Sara, Amy, Alex, Samuel and Meredith would like to thank all of you for your out-pouring of care and support through your expressions of prayer, cards and love.

It was so very touching to arrive at the night of visitation and approach my mom's casket to see the arrangement of beautiful flowers from the Family of First Congregational Church UCC Fort Atkinson. It was as if your arms of strength were there holding our family during this time.

Thank you for showing the love of Christ!

Pastor Sara and Amy and Family

Christmas Market

The Fort Holiday Winter Market is being held **December 7, 2024**. We are working in partnership with the Fort Atkinson Farmers Market, and along with our offerings we will be a venue for other market participants. As in years past, we will offer our famous Congregational Peanuts, cheese, bakery, lunch, Lend a Hand soup and a great selection of Raffle Baskets!

Again, we are asking for donations for the raffle baskets. These can be dropped off at the church beginning **November 18**, and all donations must be received by **December 2nd**. You can bring your completed themed basket, or you can bring the contents to be put together in a basket. There will be a few volunteers who will be the “basket makers”. Baskets will be displayed at the Winter Market, then on **December 8 and 15th**. The drawing will be on December 15th after worship.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex after worship starting **November 3rd**. Thank you for your generosity!

There will be many opportunities for volunteer helpers for the Winter Market, so please watch for announcements coming soon!

Please contact Nancy Onufer or Sandy Czech with any questions.

Once more ... 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 **461 meals** during the month of September! 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

Mary Ellen & John Miller

Connie Barbian

Mary & Larry Narkis

Judy Brown

Tom Sehnert

Connie Czech

Eunice Ann & Joe Slaney

Sandy Czech

Barb Vorpahl

Linda & Jeff Glendon

Jane & John Wilmet

Ann & Dave Lueder

Carol Maasz and Brett Maasz



Remember – **February, 2025**, 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).

Council Highlights – September 2024

Creation Care Committee: Margaret Majors gave Council information on the creation and purpose of this committee. The purpose is to be the “green team” focusing on eco-justice and reducing our carbon footprint. This is a focus of the WI UCC Conference. The projects will include overall recycling, education and more. Watch for updates and how you can help reduce and recycle!

Telephone and Security Updates: Dimax has been working on updating our telephone system. This new system will include the church and Childcare telephones.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Sara reports that the “Safe Church” policy is being updated with social issues included. The August Coffee Chats averaged between 10-13 people each week. It’s A nice gathering where people can get to know one another.

Adult Confirmation Class: Begins on 10/2/24 at 1:00 pm will take place on each Wednesday in October.

Church Supplies: There is an abundance of supplies such as cups, plates, napkins and more available for any Ministry or Committee. Please check our supply before purchasing more!

Holiday Winter Market: Again, this year we will participate in the city-wide Winter Market on 12/7/24. We will feature our Congregation Peanuts, Cheese, Bakery, Soup Mixes, Lunch-eon and Basket Raffle. We will also welcome vendors who will be selling their wares in Plymouth Hall. Mark your calendars...we will need many volunteers to assure another successful event!

Council & Ministry Members 2025: If you would like to become a member of Council or a specific Ministry...we need you! Please contact Rich Frame, Vice Moderator if you are interested.

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.

Legacy Planning Part 1- Wednesday November 6th 10-11:30am

When the end of life occurs, are we ready? Are we leaving our family with a plan or a burden.

Jean Logicki Experienced Clinical Social Worker will lead a presentation on how to create a Power of Attorney for Medical and Financial arrangements. She will also answer any questions to ensure your wishes are implemented when end of life occurs.



Give your family the gift of a plan.



October

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

6th—Volunteer Recognition Sunday- Sharing your best

13th—Stewardship Sunday

An invitation to share your pledge to enhance the mission of Christ's Church

17th—Cleaning Sunday
School Store rooms and classrooms. 9-11 am

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



SAVE THE DATES



3rd—All Saints Sunday

6th—Legacy Planning Seminar 10:00-11:30am

9th—Fall Church Clean Up 9 AM –11 AM

15TH—All Church Bowling at Rock River Lanes 6:30pm

24th—Thanksgiving Sunday

29th—Hanging of the Greens 9am

Adult Confirmation- October Wednesdays at 1pm in Werthman Room.

Need a refresher, enjoy having thought provoking conversation?

Come and join us as we think about God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Communion, Baptism, the Church and much more!

December

1st—First Sunday in Advent

7th—Winter Market

22nd—"Ugly" sweater Sunday

24th—Christmas Eve

The annual Stewardship Campaign has been sent out! Please return these letters as soon as possible!

If you would like to have an event or announcement added to the list

Please let Henry know at officefortucc@gmail.com

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

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