

MARCH ISSUE

Volume 34 - Issue 3

The Congregational COLUMNS

Meet your New Vice Moderator

Harry H. Collis

I am most humbled that First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa has called me to serve as your next Vice Moderator.

It has been an interesting trip. Growing up, my family moved a lot following my father's career opportunities. I was born in Toledo, Ohio, and moved to Northern New Jersey where I learned to speak English (sort of). We moved to Central Ohio when I was in second grade and had to slow down the speed of my speech! Additional moves to Cleveland, back to central Ohio, then on to Buffalo and Grand Rapids followed before I started moving on my own: East Lansing for college and Washington, DC, for my first job as a Congressional Intern for Gerald Ford. I joined the Navy in 1971 and headed out to Newport, Rhode Island and then to Norfolk, Virginia. (I wasn't in Norfolk much as my ship was underway almost 90% of the three and a half years I was aboard, so I don't know a lot about the area.)

My late wife, Kathy, and I relocated to Columbus after I was released from Active Duty where I worked as a professional recruiter with my parents in their consulting company. While raising our two children, Andrew and Amanda, I decided it would be a good idea to get an advanced degree in Logistics from "The" Ohio State University. (And, yes, I am a proud Buckeye: sort of a Badgered Buckeye! I trust that is not an impeachable offense.) In addition to graduate studies, I worked at Battelle Institute in Defense and Space System, raised our two children, and rebuilt our house (room by room). Oh, I almost forgot about my Navy Reserve duties and training. Those four years are a real blur!

I have had two careers: one in the Navy/ Navy Reserve (including a

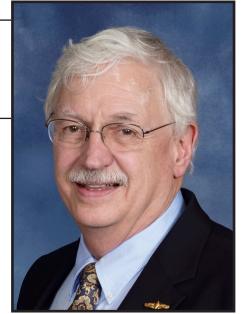
recall to Active Duty in 1996 when I was shipped out to Germany for a year) and another in the civilian world with P&H Mining. I retired from the Navy in 2001 as a Captain and from P&H as an RCM/ Logistics Coordinator in 2017.

First Church means a great deal to me. Many of you have been there to see me through a roller coaster of challenges including the death of my first wife, Kathy. And you have been here to share in my blessings including the marriage to my long time friend, Diane. We have since sold both our houses and found an "our" house out in Delafield. The acre and a half "estate" keeps me busy cutting trees and splitting fire wood, moving boulders (which the glaciers kindly deposited all over the property), and driving my little tractor all over the yard. My evenings are spent reading and building wooden model sailing ships.

The greatest lesson I learned in my military and civilian careers is that to be a good leader, you must first be a good servant, willing to take the menial tasks to heart. You must be willing to sacrifice the personal glory for the opportunity for others to succeed in their lives.

First Congregational Church has now given me an opportunity to be a servant and give back (as well as pay forward) the friendship and service you have always given to me. With God's guidance and your help, we will do great things for our church and the church Family.

- Harry Collis



THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

Off the Top of My Head

By Rev. William S. Trump, Senior Minister

Many of you, I am sure, are familiar with the watchwords of Congregationalism – faith, freedom, and fellowship. These ideals have been exemplified in the life and work of the First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa for more than one hundred seventy-five years. We have learned over the years to treasure the freedom of the local church and the fellowship opportunities of our church life as vital elements in the practice of our faith.

About twenty-five years ago Dr. George Lamore, in his Bible lecture at our National Association Annual Meeting, challenged the gathered congregationalists to add a fourth “F” to our congregational watchwords –



FUTURE. He emphasized the need to look ahead to the challenges that will be meeting us in the years ahead. He reminded us that trying to recreate the church of the 60's and 70's won't work. We must respond to the world of the 21st century with its unique problems and challenges. At the same time we cannot divorce ourselves from the rich tradition and the cloud of witnesses that built the First Congregational Church. As we identify the problems we will face and prepare ourselves to meet these challenges, we must be open to the leading of God's spirit. I am encouraged and energized as we look at the potential for the future of our church.

- Bill

New Financial Secretary

At our Annual Meeting of the congregation we shared with you the plans to restructure the church office staff. The Personnel Committee has been working with me to define a new position to share office responsibilities with Jill Bruss. The position - Financial Secretary - will be responsible for the management of the fiscal and budgetary operation of the church.

The Financial Secretary position is a part-time position of approximately 25 hours per week. This person will be responsible for the bookkeeping accounts including payroll, depositing and recording all income, recording pledges and issuing statements. This person will prepare reports for various boards and committees, work with church database and software, and work closely with the Office Coordinator, Treasurer, and Senior Minister/Administrator.

A complete job description and application may be picked up at the church office. The job is open to members, as well as non-church members. Please contact Rev. Trump if you have any further questions at 414-258-7375 ext. 227 or at trumpb@firstchurchtosa.org.



CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

A monthly newsletter produced by the First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa to keep members and the community up to date on activities at the church.

www.FirstChurchTosa.org

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Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Barry W. Szymanski,
Minister of Pastoral Care

Chaplain Tesha Urban
Congregational Home

Michael “Chip” Smith
Ministerial Intern

Tonia Wallner
Director of Christian Education

Dr. Patrick Dill
Director of Music

Rhonda Kwiecien
Keyboard Musician

Roxanne Trump-Miles
Dir. of Jr. & Cherub Choirs

Jillian Bruss
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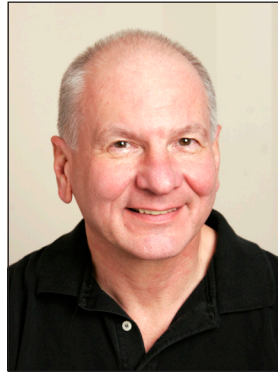
FMO Fear of Missing Out

By Rev. Barry W. Szymanski, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

One of the diseases [dis-ease-es] of our society is FMO, the FEAR-OF-MISSING-OUT. We cannot be without our iPhones, Androids, smart tablets; without Facebook, Instagram, e-chats. Yet, as David Leonhardt wrote in 'You're Too Busy. You Need a 'Shultz Hour,' we need to carve out one hour each week for quiet reflection. George Shultz, who's now 96, and served as Secretary of State in the 1980's, told Leonhardt that his hour of solitude was the only way he could find time to think about the strategic aspects of his job. Otherwise, he would be constantly pulled into moment-to-moment tactical issues, never able to focus on larger questions of the national interest. And the only way to do great work, in any field, is to find time to consider the larger questions. The psychologist, Amos Tversky, said, "You waste years by not being able to waste hours."

Leonhardt notes that we carry supercomputers in our pockets and place them next to us as we sleep. They're always there. There is FMO. Even before smartphones, this country's professional culture had come to venerate freneticism.

Leonhardt finds it striking that new-business formation has declined over the last 15 years, despite (or perhaps partly because of) the digital revolution. He notes that he, himself, has confused the availability of new information with the importance of it. If a person spends all of their time collecting new information, they



won't have enough time to make sense of it. The science of the mind is clear about this point. Our brains can be in either "task-positive" or "task-negative" mode, but not both at once. Our brain benefits from spending time in each state. Task-positive mode allows us to accomplish something in the moment. Task-negative mode is more colloquially known as daydreaming, and as Daniel J. Levitin of McGill University has written, it "is responsible for our moments of greatest creativity and insight, when we're able to solve problems that previously seemed unsolvable." In reflecting on what he wrote, I find what Jesus told us [recorded Matthew 6:6] that whenever we pray we should go into our room and shut the door and then pray to our Father. This solitary prayer, us alone with God, is 'task-negative.' It is pure prayer. It is simply union with God. But this simple union is the most powerful of unions! In this prayerful and quiet union with God we bring our problems, concerns, interests, and our life itself to Him who created us. As Jesus promised us, when we do so our "Father who sees in secret will reward you." I firmly believe the reward of this in-the-room-alone quiet reflective prayer will ultimately lead us to focus on the larger issues of our life – which will ultimately lead us to a closer bond with God.

- Pastor Barry



"Doubting is Believing: Poets that Question God"

After the 10:00 service on March 10, Retired Professor and First Church member, Ben Lindsay will talk, well, amiably chat at least, to all who wish to learn and explore the subject of "Doubting is Believing: Poets that Question God." He'll look at poems by John Donne, Emily Dickinson, and Gerard Manley Hopkins. Clarence "Ben" Lindsay received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. He was a professor of English at the University of Toledo and has contributed many articles to such scholarly journals as *Victorian Poetry*, *Studies in the Novel*, *The Hemingway Review*, *The*



Critical Review, and *MidAmerica*. His book on Sherwood Anderson, "Such a Rare Thing: Sherwood Anderson's Art in Winesburg, Ohio" was published in 2009.

Lenten Gathering Programs

New day and time! Thank you everyone who responded to the Deacon's survey about the Lenten Program. Based on your response, we will host a four-part program on Sunday mornings starting on March 17th from 11:15-12:45. Pastors Bill and Barry will be leading us in a discussion of the book, "Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved" by Kate Bowler. They will make a brief presentation about the chapters for each week and provide questions for discussion around the tables. Some reviewers have said that this story made the reader feel "more present, grateful and less alone...an inspiring story of finding faith." The Deacons will provide Brunch.

EVENT - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
details online at firstchurchtosa.org

4 O'clock

2019 Free Concert Series

held on select Sundays

at 4 O'clock.

*Bring a guest
and enjoy some great music.*



MARCH 10, 2019

**Milwaukee Symphony
Brass Quintet**



MAY 5, 2019

Jubilate Chorale

Vicki Taylor, Director

Operating Statement Summary *Year to Date as of January 2019*

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	8.4%	7.5%
Pledge Income	\$41,367	\$41,559
Total Income	\$107,224	\$93,304
Total Expense	\$41,771	\$45,267
Net Income	\$65,453	\$48,037

2019 Pledge Base 490,732 2018 Pledge Base 555,292

Detailed financials available at office.

Discovery Hour

Adult Learning Hour

Sundays, 8:45 am, Rm. 107

We will be following Jesus from His birth through the ascension in a chronological parallel study of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The classes are led by Pat Reddy. All are welcome and weekly attendance is not mandatory! For more info, contact Pat: 414-771-8292

Women's Ministry

Wednesdays, 7:00 am, in the Parlor

We will be reading the book of Psalms. Please bring your Bibles.

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays, 6:30 am, March 6 & 20 in Rm. 107

Led by Bruce Milne, we meet on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month. We do not meet on the 5th Wednesday of the month.

Men's Ministry

Wednesdays, 6:30 am, March 13 & 27 in Rm. 107

We typically meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month and are using the DVD series, The Dead Sea Scrolls. There is open discussion and reflections on the contents.

Taize-inspired Services

Have you experienced our Taize-inspired services here at First Church? We hope so! But if you haven't yet, there are still more opportunities coming up! Services are held in the chapel at 8 am on the dates listed below. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Upcoming Taize-inspired services:

March 3 & 31, June 16

Women's Choir - Rehearsals

March 3 & 10 in the Choir Room

The women of First Church are invited to sing with the Women's Choir, which is the counterpart to the long-standing tradition of the Men's Choir here at First Church. It is an excellent opportunity for the women of FCC to be part of our music ministry. The Women's Choir will sing for the 10 am worship service on Sunday, March 10, our next rehearsal will be at 9-9:30 on March 3 in the choir room.

For questions, contact Patrick Dill at dillp@firstchurchtosa.org.

JUST FOR YOUTH

March 2019



Sunday School

*Sunday, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31
for ages 3 – 5th grade*

Children will begin in church with their families during 10 am worship. They will be dismissed to Sunday School during the service.

Discovery Kids

*Sunday, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31
for kids of all ages in LL5*

Kids enjoy this special time of additional activities, led by volunteers at 9 am, before their traditional Sunday School at 10 am. Those who rehearse with the choir will join them after practice. Older youth are invited to help lead.

Junior Choir

*Sunday, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31
for grades 2-8* Meet at 9:00 in LL4
Sing on Sunday, March 17

Cherub Choir

*Sunday, March 31
for age 3-1st grade* Meet at 9:15 in LL4

Faith Finders

Monday, March 11 for grades 1 – 5

This group meets on the second Monday of the month for singing, fellowship, games, and program time. They begin with an optional dinner at 5 pm, followed by programming from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Friends are welcome! Come enjoy spaghetti, garlic bread and salad.

Covenant Class

*Sunday, March 3, 17 and 31
for 9th graders*

Group meets at 8:30 am in the Library.

Pilgrim Fellowship (PF)

*Sunday, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31
for grades 6 – 12*

Teens will begin in church with their families during 10 am worship and will be dismissed to PF during the service.



PF SPECIAL EVENT

Curling at Tosa Curling Club (Hart Park)

Sunday, March 17 from 3-5pm

Bring your warm clothes, hats, gloves, and a couple of friends to this unique event! Youth will receive a demonstration from the Elwing Family on how to curl, followed by the opportunity to try curling for themselves. We will follow the curling experience with supper. The cost is \$4 per person. Please contact Tonia at: tonia@firstchurchtosa.org (Consent forms are a MUST.)

Fab Flicks at First

Friday, March 8th at 6pm



Youth Mission Trip Italian Dinner and Silent Auction

Save this date, April 6th, 2019, for a wonderful evening of fellowship and fantastic food by Chef John Sgarlata!

The members of the Youth Mission Team of FCC are excited to be preparing for the physical and caring support we will be offering Pittsburgh's surrounding communities during the week of June 22-28, 2019.

They will be working with Hosanna Industries to construct new homes and perform critical repairs on existing homes for families in need over the course of the week. Home building and repairs are made possible with the hands and hearts of the Youth Mission Team of FCC, supported by generous donations. A family can move into a new home worth many times the face amount of the mortgage, and existing homeowners in need can rest assured that they will have a safer, warmer and drier home.

This deserving community and our Youth Mission Team will mutually benefit from the work of their hands and their hearts with the full knowledge that they are an active part of the positive transformation of lives that is occurring in our community and country today.



To make this opportunity possible, FCC is holding a fundraising Italian Dinner/Auction. Your support will go directly to offset the costs for the Youth to participate in this life-changing event. Watch for ticket sales in mid-March.

Would you, your place of work, or someone you know have something to contribute to the Silent Auction? No donation is too small! Put together a themed basket, donate an item and we'll pair items or make a monetary donation and we'll do the shopping to complete a "basket".

Please drop off donations to the office by Friday, March 29th. If you have a question or need something picked up, please email Cathy Denny at sdenny1-cathy@wi.rr.com.



NEW Opportunity at First Church for Fellowship, Food & Fun!

Fifth Sunday POTLUCK



The Board of Fellowship invites one and all to the first Fifth Sunday Potluck of 2019! Sign up at the Gathering Table in the Atrium and indicate what dish you plan on bringing to share. Then join us for some fellowship over a casual family style potluck lunch on Sunday, March 31st at 11am in the Social Hall. And finally, mark your calendars for two more Fifth Sunday Potlucks for 2019: Sunday, June 30th and Sunday, September 29th!

For questions, contact Ryan Kangas at mkangas@gmail.com or (512) 917-2775.

Tie-Blanket Service Project

In November 2018, the Board of Fellowship organized a service project where attendees crafted fleece tie blankets and then enjoyed a potluck dinner together after they were completed. Many thanks to Jill Bruss, Patrick, Serenity, and Patience Dill, Carol Hudson, Rich and Sharon Raymond, and Diane, Jeff, and Mark Saeger for their work in creating the blankets and for their warm fellowship during the project. Thanks, too, to Peggy Griffith for her work in setting up the space for the event.

In January, Serenity and Patience brought me along as they donated the blankets to The Robyn's Nest. The Robyn's Nest is a service of the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin that provides new and gently used clothing, hygiene products, infant items, toys, books and other household goods free of charge to families in the foster care system or that have unmet needs.

Lona Long Velasco met us to receive the donation, gave us a tour of the Robyn's Nest, and graciously posed for a picture with Serenity and Patience. Thanks to Barb Dunham for helping us get in contact with Lona! I'd also like to pass along Lona's gratitude to the First Church family for providing help and comfort to families in need in our community. - *Ryan Kangas, Chair of Fellowship*



Scout Troop 47 News

Winter Klondike

By Noah Fuller, Life Scout

On February 1st - 3rd our troop participated in the 2019 Winter Klondike. On this campout we stayed in a cabin. Our goal on Saturday was to complete eight different tasks scattered around camp. We had a huge sleigh with us that had all our needed materials



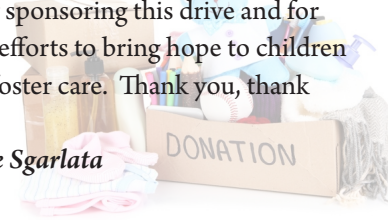
that was pulled by the scouts. After the challenges, we competed in a full camp sleigh race. One of our patrols placed second in the race. The Hot Dog Water Patrol only lost by one second. Otherwise we would have placed first. Throughout the entire event we worked on teamwork and learning basic scout skills. All around it was a great trip.

OneHope27 Thank You!

On behalf of OneHope27, I would like to thank everyone for their donations to help fill placement bags for kids recently coming into foster care. I am beyond grateful for the generosity displayed by so many of you. The clothing, personal care items, and monetary donations will positively impact the lives of hundreds of children over

the next several months. I would also like to thank the Board of Benevolences for sponsoring this drive and for supporting OneHope27's efforts to bring hope to children and families impacted by foster care. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

With gratitude, *Carrie Sgarlata*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

MARCH

3 8 ^{am} 8:30 ^{am} 8:45 ^{am} 9 ^{am} 10 ^{am} 11 ^{am} 11:15 ^{am}	TAIZE Chapel Worship Covenant Class Adult Learning -Discovery Kids -Jr. Choir Rehearsal -Women's Choir Reh. Worship -PF/SS/Nursery Coffee Fellowship Board of Stewardship	4 9 ^{am} 12:30 ^{am} 1 ^{pm} 7 ^{pm} 8 ^{pm}	Harmony Singers Heritage Garden Club Staff Meeting AI-Anon Meeting AA-Charlie Stone Group	5 9 ^{am} 6:45 ^{pm} 7 ^{pm}	YOGA Boy Scouts Tosa Quilters	6 6:30 ^{am} 7 ^{am} 6 ^{pm} 7 ^{pm}	ASH WEDNESDAY Men's Bible Study Women's Ministry Debtors Anon Personnel	7 9 ^{am} 10 ^{am} 6 ^{pm} 6:30 ^{pm} 7:30 ^{pm}	Big Band Sidetracks BSF Handbells FCC Choir	8 6 ^{pm}	Fab Flicks	9
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10 8 ^{am} 8:45 ^{am} 9 ^{am}	Chapel Worship Adult Learning Bd/Fellowship -Discovery Kids -Jr. Choir Rehearsal -Women's Choir Reh. Worship/Women's Ch. -PF/SS/Nursery	11 9 ^{am} 1:30 ^{pm} 1 ^{pm} 5 ^{pm} 6:30 ^{pm} 7 ^{pm} 7 ^{pm} 8 ^{pm}	Harmony Singers TCTC Staff Meeting Faith Finders Board of Deacons Board of Christian Ed Board of Trustees AI-Anon Meeting AA-Charlie Stone Group	12 9 ^{am} 12 ^{pm} 6:45 ^{pm} 7 ^{pm}	YOGA Circle 7 Boy Scouts Community thru Understanding	13 6:30 ^{am} 7 ^{am} 9 ^{am} 6 ^{pm}	Men's Ministry Women's Ministry Cream City Rug Club Debtors Anon	14 9 ^{am} 10 ^{am} 6 ^{pm} 6:30 ^{pm} 7:30 ^{pm}	Big Band Sidetracks BSF Handbells FCC Choir	15		16 4 ^{pm}	Casual Worship Leadership Meeting
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17 8 ^{am} 8:30 ^{am} 8:45 ^{am} 9 ^{am} 10 ^{am} 11 ^{am} 11:15 ^{am} 3 ^{pm}	Chapel Worship Covenant Class Adult Learning -Discovery Kids -Jr. Choir Rehearsal Worship/Jr. Choir Sing -PF/SS/Nursery Coffee Fellowship Lenten Gatherings PF Curling at Hart Park	18 9 ^{am} 1 ^{pm} 5:30 ^{pm} 7 ^{pm} 8 ^{pm}	Harmony Singers Staff Meeting Board of Cong. Care AI-Anon Meeting AA-Charlie Stone Group	19 9 ^{am} 6:45 ^{pm} 7 ^{pm} 7 ^{pm}	YOGA Boy Scouts Tosa Quilters Historic Heights Book Club	20 6:30 ^{am} 7 ^{am} 10 ^{am} 12:15 ^{pm} 5 ^{pm} 6 ^{pm}	Men's Bible Study Women's Ministry Harwood Communion & Chat Lunch at Our Home Milwaukee Riverkeeper Debtors Anon	21 9 ^{am} 10 ^{am} 6 ^{pm} 6:30 ^{pm} 7:30 ^{pm}	Big Band Sidetracks BSF Handbells FCC Choir	22		23 8 ^{am} 4 ^{pm}	Civic Music Private Lesson Auctions Casual Worship Leadership Meeting
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24 8 ^{am} 8:45 ^{am} 9 ^{am} 10 ^{am} 11 ^{am} 11:15 ^{am}	Chapel Worship Adult Learning -Discovery Kids -Jr. Choir Rehearsal Worship -PF/SS/Nursery Coffee Fellowship Lenten Gatherings	25 9 ^{am} 1 ^{pm} 7 ^{pm} 8 ^{pm}	Harmony Singers Staff Meeting AI-Anon Meeting AA-Charlie Stone Group	26 9 ^{am} 5:30 ^{pm} 6:45 ^{pm} 7 ^{pm}	YOGA Communications Boy Scouts Church Council	27 6:30 ^{am} 7 ^{am} 6 ^{pm}	Men's Ministry Women's Ministry Debtors Anon	28 9 ^{am} 10 ^{am} NO 6:30 ^{pm} 7:30 ^{pm}	Big Band Sidetracks BSF (Spring Break) Handbells FCC Choir	29		30 4 ^{pm}	Casual Worship Leadership Meeting
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APRIL

31 8 ^{am} 8:30 ^{am} 8:45 ^{am} 9 ^{am} 10 ^{am} 11 ^{am} 11:15 ^{am}	TAIZE Chapel Worship Covenant Class Adult Learning -Discovery Kids -Jr. Choir Rehearsal Cherubs join at 9:15 Worship -PF/SS/Nursery Coffee Fellowship Lenten Gatherings	1 9 ^{am} 12:30 ^{pm} 1 ^{pm} 7 ^{pm} 8 ^{pm}	Harmony Singers Heritage Garden Club Staff Meeting AI-Anon Meeting AA-Charlie Stone Group	2 9 ^{am} 6:45 ^{pm} 7 ^{pm}	YOGA Boy Scouts Tosa Quilters	3 6:30 ^{am} 7 ^{am} 6 ^{pm} 7 ^{pm}	Men's Bible Study Women's Ministry Debtors Anon Personnel	4 9 ^{am} 10 ^{am} 6 ^{pm} 6:30 ^{pm} 7:30 ^{pm}	Big Band Sidetracks BSF Handbells FCC Choir	5 8 ^{am} 5:15 ^{pm}	Mission Team Italian Dinner & Auction Prep Prepare for St. Vincent's Serve at St. Vincent's	6 10 ^{am} 5 ^{pm} 4 ^{pm}	Purils of Wisdom Mission Team Italian Dinner & Auction Casual Worship Leadership Meeting
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The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
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Church Family News

Congratulations...

In December, **Emma Hudson** graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and Environmental Studies.

Sarah & Robert Blake on the birth of their son,
Joseph James Blake, Tuesday, February 5, 2019.
Congrats to the grandparents! – Carmen & Joe Berte.

Jon & Jessie Leyrer on the birth of their daughter,
Ruby Mae Leyrer, Tuesday, February 12, 2019.
Congrats to the grandparents, Pete & Patty Reddy and great-grandparents, Bob & Helen Milne.