

MAY ISSUE

Volume 34 - Issue 5

The Congregational COLUMNS

Thank You from the 2019 Youth Mission Team!

The 10th annual Youth Mission Team Auction Dinner was held in the Social Hall on Saturday, April 6th. Nearly 70 guests were treated to a 5-course Italian dinner prepared by John Sgarlata and his culinary team. As always, the meal was delicious and the portions so big that many went home with a doggy bag!

Cathy Denny used her creative touch to create the atmosphere for John Sgarlata's incredible Italian menu. The Mission Trip teens and adults (including three youth and one adult from Ozaukee Congregational Church's Mission Team) served as our amazing wait staff, working hard to make the event a joy for our guests. On top of the delicious food and great service, there was a silent auction with a vast array of items and a lively game of 50/50, followed by a presentation about this summer's trip. All of these, along with in-kind donations, helped the event raise more than \$8,000. The money raised will not only cover the expenses of the trip, but will also allow the team to make additional unscheduled home repairs in the area we will serve.

Thank you to everyone who attended, donated items, or volunteered their time and talents to make this event a success. Together, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of those who live in poverty. We are all supporting our teens as they grow in their faith, develop a heart for service, and prepare to be our future leaders.



I am excited that we will be embarking on our second year with Hosanna Industries, a NACCC sponsored mission in the Pittsburgh area, with the good folks from North Shore and Ozaukee Congregational Churches. Among our three churches, we will have nearly 45 dedicated volunteers willing to work together for the greater good. The team that will be representing First Church on this trip includes the following teens: Jack Clark, Nick Clark, Dylan Hayden, Jason Hayden, and Bella Sanders. As for adult chaperones, Jim Santelle and I will be making the trek with this great group of young people, and are genuinely looking forward to this week of service (and adventure!) together in June. Thank you again for your support and generosity with this important mission.

- Tonia Wallner



THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

Off the Top of My Head

By Rev. William S. Trump, Senior Minister

Mother Nature has been messing with us this year. I guess after eighteen years in Southern California I forgot about the unpredictability of April in Wisconsin. Two days ago on Sunday we received four inches of the white stuff. The only ones that seemed delighted were our Golden Retrievers. Today, just two days later, I took my mid-day walk in shirtsleeves.

While this winter seems like it will never end, I am starting to see daffodils and tulips poking their shoots up looking for the warm sun. Soon the earth will be bursting forth with color here on the frozen tundra called Wisconsin.

During my childhood I never really enjoyed gardening, especially the annual chore of preparing the long flowerbed in the front where Mom planted endless petunias. I always knew Memorial Day weekend meant a weekend of weeding and edging. My aversion to gardening didn't improve after marriage, and so I have been little help in supporting the efforts of my wife's green thumb. I know deep



down that working together we would have a better chance of keeping ahead of the weeds and having a more productive garden . . . but when it comes to planting and weeding, I'd rather wait for someone else to do the work. Later, I'll be around to admire the beautiful flowers and brag to others what a gorgeous garden we have.

Many of us have the same attitude toward the spreading of God's Word. Many would rather wait for someone else to invite a friend to church or share our faith with them. Unfortunately, like our gardens, if no one does any work to cultivate God's Word, the crop can be rather poor. If it is only a few putting effort into the process of building God's church, the work becomes long and difficult and the results often reflect the limited participation. If we all wait around for the beautiful garden to appear, when it comes to the church we may have an awfully long wait.

Let's all make the effort to do our share of the sowing of God's love.
- Bill



WCA Annual Summit & Meeting

May 3 & 4, 2019

Smart Church

Featuring ADRIE GROENEWEG
ANGELA SMITH
CHRIS DEMOTTO

For more information: <https://www.wiscongregational.net/events>

When: **Friday, May 3** 6:00 - 9:00pm
Saturday, May 4 8:00am - 3:00pm

Location: **First Congregational Church**
Mukwonago

Fee: \$30 per person
(includes presentation and lunch)



NACCC 65th Annual Meeting & Conference

June 22-25, 2019

Featuring Rev. Brett Younger, Ph.D.
Rev. John Tamilio III, Ph.D.
Rev. Charles Warnock, DMin.

For more information: <http://www.naccc.org/2019-amc-information.html>

When: **Friday, June 22** 7:00 - 9:00pm through
Tuesday, June 25 6:00am - 6:30pm

Location: **Cleveland Airport**

Hosted by the Ohio Association

First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa • 1511 Church Street Wauwatosa, WI 53213 • 414-258-7375

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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A Note From Pastor Barry

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

I recently reflected on this passage in Matthew's Gospel [in chapter 25]: "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." Then I read this letter, written by Bria Smith, a student at Franklin High School, who, after attending a vigil for Sandra Parks, a 13-year-old girl who was killed in November when bullets shattered her bedroom window, wrote a letter to the deceased young Sandra. I cannot say anything more than what Bria so elegantly wrote.

Dear Sandra,

I didn't know you. But I attended your vigil. It was very cold; so so so cold that my toes went numb, and my fingers lost their feeling, and I tried so hard to snuggle myself in a coat that was too small for me. Sandra, Milwaukee was freezing over in sadness for you, telling us that this cold was your way of squeezing the last bit warmth out of our neighborhood. I wasn't the only one who attended your vigil. I noticed a couple of your friends, clutching onto each other, crying in their sleeves, their childlike whimpers piercing the hearts of us all. I watched as your mother exited your house, slowly and gracefully, crying and begging for you. I watched as a few community leaders chanted into the air, their fists held high, eyes shut with exhaustion and impatience. An impatience that preys on every activist, the continuous cycle of death that sends you five steps backwards and discouraged that any attempted effort can even amount to a change.

Sandra you were 13 years young. 13 years young when a bullet pierced through your window and then pierced through your body. 13 years young when your life was robbed by the societal violence that diseases our community. Too young to fall victim to the culture that has uninvitingly rooted itself in Milwaukee's foundation. Too young, Sandra, to die.

You were an activist. You won an award for your MLK letter. You addressed the violence in our community and its effects on the youth who live here. You brought awareness to the crime that has manifested itself into our everyday lives, the feeling of isolation and the fear that prevents our progression as young people. Sandra, you were only 13, but ahead of your years, wise and unmatched. Unfairly labeled

a child, your innocence disrupted by the faults of the adult world. It takes courage and the strongest mental power to be able to break the generational curse — the community curse — and speak against the unjust stereotypes that bounds youth of color to an untrue narrative.

Sandra, I didn't know you. But I work with young girls your age through an organization called PEARLS For Teen Girls. Your face is reflected through these young girls, your wisdom delivered through your peers and carried on with confidence. I could only imagine how you were. I have no doubts that you were a beautiful and special child.

We fall into routine, eyes shut, mouths close, businesses close, liquor stores always open. Teddy bears taped to lamp posts with flowers littered at its core. Children selling their bodies for shelter, food and water. We stand in silence, hands burrowed deep in our pockets and condolences on our minds, though we will never give or say them. We hold our hopes to a limited power, our dreams and aspirations at an expectancy bar that levels with our worst nightmares. Milwaukee youth are confined to a stereotype that is morphed and created for us through biases and prejudice. Narratives that we had no hand in making or creating, though we fall victim to it.

Sandra, you knew all of this. You lived it, witnessed it, wrote about it, hated it. Sandra you deserved to live. You deserved to see our community grow and prosper past this narrative that allowed oppression and violence to hurt us! We've created this conditioned culture of gun violence. We are so normalized to gun shots in the distance, so normalized to over-policed neighborhoods and normalized to receiving an injustice in replace of fair consequence. Sandra, you asked why? You questioned this. You denounced this. And I was inspired by you, so young, so intellectual, so hurt. Milwaukee is hurt. Milwaukee is broken. Milwaukee can be healed, but it takes the completed effort of the collective. It takes the reforming of our apathetic mindsets. Sandra, I want you to rest. I want you to feel content. I want the youth to continue your legacy and remodel the community that you weren't able to remodel for yourself. We will do it, Sandra. For you.

Sincerely, Bria

- Pastor Barry



Laity Sunday

Sunday, June 23th

Volunteers Needed

&

9 am Summer Worship Begins!

Bill will be out of town at the NACCC meeting on Sunday, June 23rd. We are looking for 3 people to give a short meditation in place of the Sermon.

We also need additional members to help fill other parts of the worship service.

**If you would like to help,
please speak to any of the Deacons, Bill or Barry.**



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

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge Base Rec'd	22%	23%
Pledge Income	\$107,108	\$110,186
Total Income	\$190,122	\$182,140
Total Expense	\$143,481	\$150,263
Net Income	\$46,642	\$31,877

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

May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 7:00 am, in the Parlor

Please bring your Bibles for reading from the book of Psalms.

Men's Bible Study

May 1 and 15 at 6:30 am, 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

May 8 and 22 at 6:30 am, 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 service on June 16

Join In First Church Fellowship, Food & Fun!

Fifth Sunday POTLUCK



The Board of Fellowship invites one and all to the next 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, June 30th and
Sunday, September 29th
at 11am in the Social Hall.**

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

JUST FOR YOUTH



Sunday School

*Sunday, May 5, 12, and 19
for ages 3 – 5th grade*

Children will begin in church with family during 10 am worship and dismissed to Sunday School during the service.

Discovery Kids

*Sunday, May 5, 12, and 19
for kids of all ages in LL5*

Kids enjoy this special time of activities, led by volunteers at 9 am, before their traditional Sunday School at 10 am. Choir members will join them after practice. Older youth are invited to help lead.

Junior Choir for grades 2-8

*Sunday, May 5, 12, and 19
Meet at 9:15 in LL4
Sing on Sunday, May 12*

Cherub Choir for age 3-1st grade

Sunday, May 12 Meet at 9:15 in LL4

Faith Finders

*Monday, May 13
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 and enjoy pizza, salad, and garlic bread.

Covenant Class

*Sunday, May 5
for 9th graders*

Group meets at 8:30 am in the Library.

Sunday, May 19

A special breakfast for the confirmands and their families will be held at 9 am. Confirmation will be held during the 10 am worship service followed by a Special Coffee Fellowship honoring the new confirmands.

Pilgrim Fellowship (PF)

*Sunday, May 5, 12 and 19
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. On Confirmation Sunday, May 19 - PFers will help to set-up for the Special Confirmation Coffee Hour following the 10 am service.

PF End of the Year Cookout

Sunday, May 19

from 5:00-6:30 on Ridge Court

We'll celebrate the end of our PF year with a cookout on Ridge Court. Enjoy games, food (brats, burgers, and hot dogs) and fun! Please bring a salad, appetizer, or dessert.

Contact Tonia at
tonia@firstchurchtosa.org
if you are interested.

Children, Youth & Education Sunday

June 3rd during the 10:00 am worship service

Our Sunday School classes will be preparing special presentations to share with the congregation, and they are looking forward to sharing this wonderful day with all of you. Our Junior Choir will sing, and our middle and high school youth will act as readers, ushers, and greeters. We will be celebrating another successful year of youth programming as we move on to the summer ahead. Our youth are asked to arrive at least 15 minutes early on the 3rd, and there will also be a rehearsal for the Sunday School classes immediately after worship on Sunday, May 19th. On Sunday, May 26th, there is NO Sunday School.

**Join us on Ridge Court following this special workshop service for our annual Ice Cream Social.
Enjoy a wide variety of flavors and toppings.**

Summer Sunday School begins on June 10th. Summer Sunday School is for children ages 3 through entering 6th grade, so those who have completed grades 6 and up are encouraged to remain in church with their families. Looking ahead, Rally Sunday will take place on September 9th. I will reach out to those who have taught Sunday School in the past, but I would also like to invite anyone interested in teaching for the first time or if you would like to lend a hand with our youth to contact me: tonia@firstchurchtosa.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019



August 12th-16th

9:00-12:00

"Get ready for an African adventure that engages the whole herd! Life is sometimes wild, but God is always good! The ROAR theme will create a VBS experience where kids discover a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life."

Look for more information in the coming months, as well as registration forms.

2019 WCA Camp -



The Wisconsin Congregational Association (WCA) summer camp will be held at Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center, located near Wautoma, WI, from Sunday, July 7-Saturday, July 13. Camp is for youth who have completed grades 3 through 12. Our theme this year is titled: SHINE.

Who can come to camp?

- **Mini Kamp** – completing grades 3-5 in the spring of 2019.
- **Junior High** – completing grades 6-8 in the spring of 2019.
- **Senior High** – completing grades 9-12 in the spring of 2019.

You don't have to be an official Congregationalist to come to camp! Friends from other denominational backgrounds are always welcome. However, please understand that this is a Christian camp, and the program and activities will reflect that tradition.

What do you do at camp?

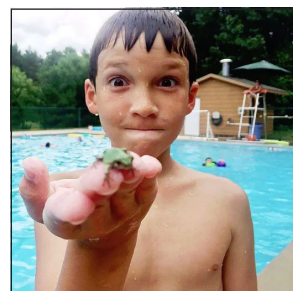
- **Faith** – worship & singing, small group discussion, camp fires, cabin devotions, Bible study, communion, personal reflection
- **Fellowship** – star-gazing, nature hikes, organized activities, free time, games, random dancing, deck party
- **Fun** – swimming, volleyball, ropes course, arts & crafts, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, disc golf

What will we learn?

Mini Kamp – Becca Penno and her team of wonderful counselors are beaming from ear to ear getting ready for this summer's camp theme... Shine! Through Bible study lessons, fun experiments, group activities, and crafts, we will be exploring and brightening God's light shining in, and through, each and every one of us. By the end of the week, we hope to learn and see that even when times seem dark, there is a bright light within us that can guide the way for us, and everyone in our lives. Bring your best attitudes, bright knowledge, and all of your friends to share God's light!

Junior High – Tonia Wallner will lead the program for the Junior High campers again this summer.

"I am so excited about our overall camp theme for this summer, as we want all of our campers and counselors to SHINE the light of God's love on those around us!"



This positive and uplifting theme prompted a program idea for our Junior High Camp to take a step further....FINDING OUR JOY! The word joy is referenced 214 times in the Bible. Joy and rejoicing can be found scattered throughout the New Testament as well. We will read many of these Scripture passages together, and look for their meaning and relevance to the youth in today's busy, chaotic world. We will also discuss the sincerity of the emotion that we call joy, the fact that joy is not always dependent on our circumstances, and how joy is made possible when we feel loved and secure in our relationship with God. That is just a taste of what these junior high campers will encounter during our program time, and I am looking forward to hearing how they can find their joy each and every day!"

Senior High – Rachel Siebenaller will lead this group in her program called *God's Light*. Rachel says, *"Throughout the Bible, God has not only created light, but He is the light. Throughout the week, we'll explore the importance of light, how light can help us through times of darkness, how God's guidance gives us light, and how God's light shines through us. Join us for Senior High Camp as we uncover how remarkable God, and His light, is in our lives!"*

Full information packet and forms for camp can be found on the Gathering Table or download online:

wiscongregational.net/youth

All Church Spring Clean-Up

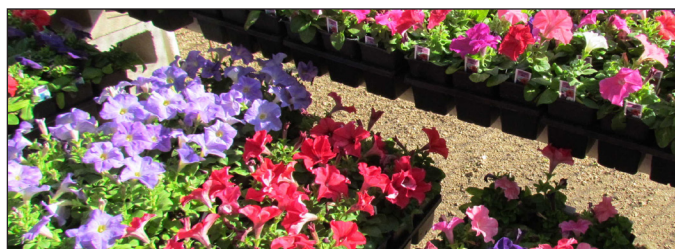
The Board of Trustees invites you to the ALL-CHURCH SPRING CLEAN-UP, which will be held on Saturday morning, May 4, 9 to noon, beginning with coffee and donuts. Outdoor tasks include getting everything ready for the perennials to come in and preparing the gardens for spring planting. Bring your lawn and garden tools with you. We'll need to spread mulch, so please bring a wheelbarrow if you have one. Inside, there is the cleaning and polishing of cabinets, furniture and toys to be done. Folks of all ages are encouraged to come and help. Children are welcome! They can work with their parents, other adults, or our youth, depending on their level of independence.

Please sign up at the Gathering Table in the Atrium.

2019 Church Flower Sale

**Orders must be received by May 1st
Pick-up at church Sunday, May 12th**

If you have any questions, contact Pat Reddy at 414-771-8292, or patreddy@deltaformsltd.com



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

MAY

MAY	1	CHURCH FLOWER ORDERS DUE			2	3	4
	6:30am	Men's Bible Study	7am	Women's Ministry	9am	Big Band Sidetracks	8am
	7am	Women's Ministry	5pm	Civic Music Private Lesson Recital	6pm	BSF	5:15pm
	5pm	Civic Music Private Lesson Recital	6pm	Debtors Anon	7pm	FCC Choir	St. Vincent Serve
	6pm	Debtors Anon	7pm	Personnel			WCA Annual Summit Mukwonago

5	8 ^{am}	Chapel/Comm. Worship	6	9 ^{am}	Harmony Singers	7	9 ^{am}	YOGA	8	6:30 ^{am}	Men's Ministry	9	9 ^{am}	Big Band	10	11	4 ^{pm}	Casual Worship
	8:30 ^{am}	Covenant Class		1 ^{pm}	Staff Meeting		6:45 ^{pm}	Boy Scouts		7 ^{am}	Women's Ministry		10 ^{am}	Sidetracks				
	8:45 ^{am}	Adult Learning		7 ^{pm}	AI-Anon Meeting			Understanding		9 ^{am}	Cream City Rug Club		6 ^{pm}	BSF				
	9 ^{am}	Discovery Kids		8 ^{pm}	AA-Charlie Stone Group		7 ^{pm}	Quilters Anon		5 ^{pm}	Civic Music Private Lesson Recital		7:30 ^{pm}	FCC Choir				
	9:15 ^{am}	Jr. & Cherub Choir																
		Rehearsal																
	10 ^{am}	Worship								6 ^{pm}	Debitors Anon							
		-PF/SS/Nursery																
	11 ^{am}	Coffee Fellowship																
	11:15 ^{am}	Stew./Ben. Bd Meeting																
	4 ^{pm}	Jubilate																

12	8am	CHURCH FLOWER PICK-UP	13	9am	Harmony Singers	14	9am	YOGA	15	6:30am	Men's Bible Study	16	9am	Big Band Sidetracks	17	18	Casual Worship
8:30am	Chapel Worship	11am	Dist. Citizen Award Council	6:45pm	Boy Scouts				7am	Women's Ministry	10am	Harwood Communion & Chat	7:30pm	FCC Choir			
8:45am	Covenant Class	1pm	Staff Meeting														
9am	Adult Learning	5pm	Faith Finders														
	-Fellowship Bd Meeting		Board of Deacons														
	-LRP		Board of Christian Ed														
9:15am	Jr. & Cherub Choir Reh.		Board of Trustees														
10am	Worship/Jr. Choir Sings		Al-Anon Meeting														
	-PF/SS/Nursery		AA-Charlie Stone Group														
11am	Coffee Fellowship																

19	8am	Chapel Worship	20	9am	Harmony Singers	21	9am	YOGA	22	6:30am	Men's Ministry	23	9am	Big Band Sidetracks	24	25	Casual Worship
8:45am	Adult Learning	1pm	Staff Meeting	6:45pm	Boy Scouts				7am	Women's Ministry	10am	Debtors Anon	7:30pm	FCC Choir			
9am	-Confirmand Breakfast	5:30pm	Board of Cong. Care														
	-Discovery Kids		Al-Anon Meeting														
9:15am	Jr. & Cherub Choir Rehearsal		AA-Charlie Stone Group														
10am	Worship/Confirmation																
	-PF/SS/Nursery																
11am	Special Coffee Fellowship																
12pm	CTU-Visit Westlawn Gardens Neighborhood																
5pm	PF Cookout																

26	8am	Taize Chapel Worship	27	9am	Harmony Singers	28	9am	YOGA	29	7am	Women's Ministry	30	9am	Big Band Sidetracks	1	2	Casual Worship
8:45am	Adult Learning	1pm	Staff Meeting	6:45pm	Boy Scouts				6pm	Debtors Anon	10am	Debtors Anon					
10am	Worship		Al-Anon Meeting														
11am	Coffee Fellowship		AA-Charlie Stone Group														

JUNE 3rd Children, Youth & Education Sunday

JUNE

The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
1511 Church Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593

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Church Family News

Nancy Hartter passed away on
March 29, 2019. Services were held.

Scout Troop 47 News

Troop 47 completed our charter with the Boys Scouts of America. This is the 96th year that Troop 47 has been in existence and the 91st year that we have been chartered by the First Congregational Church. Thank you



for the decades of support for our youth. We expect that within the next 18 months we should have the 100th Eagle Scout from Troop 47. We will keep you informed as we get closer to that incredible milestone. We have had seven new scouts in Troop 47 this spring and they are already huge contributors. We participated in Scouting For Food the first two Saturdays in March and had a very successful food drive. We are planning a horseback riding event on April 6th and a full weekend outing in May. If you are interested in finding out more information please feel to contact us at tosatroop47@gmail.com.