

AUGUST 2019

Volume 34 - Issue 8

# The Congregational COLUMNS

## FELLOWSHIP AT THE HEART OF THE NACCC CONFERENCE

Report from Dick Berger, Year Round Delegate to the NACCC

This past June, I attended my fourth Annual Meeting & Conference with the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. The event, hosted in Cleveland by the Ohio Association of Congregational Christian Churches, drew 237 men and women from 103 NACCC member churches in 25 states. Ninety-six of those folks, like me, are Year Round Delegates.

As Congregationalists, we're familiar with the "faith, freedom and fellowship" theme. Fellowship refers to the supportive relationship among member churches. That relationship is on full display at the conference. During the workshops, for example, churches share their experiences, achievements, and failures. This year's topics ranged from leading your church through difficult times to learning from successful community outreach programs. Though our churches range in size, location and resources, we face many of the same challenges and can benefit from sharing strategies.

The Congregational Lecturer and Bible Lecturer spoke about the conference's theme: Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Congregational Lecturer Reverend Dr. John Tamilio III, described the three key treasures of Congregationalism as covenant, faith and service.

Bible Lecturer Reverend Dr. Brett Younger spoke of the treasures



the Bible offers us if we are willing to look for them. In particular, he focused on the Book of Mark. Younger challenged the audience to "open our hearts and minds and listen for what God wants us to do," adding that "all of us

need to find ways to roll up our sleeves and do God's work."

Lunches and dinners offered time to chat with other delegates. Monday night we were treated to a dinner cruise on Lake Erie. It was great fun, but I admit I'm partial to Lake Michigan!

The people at First Church would have been real proud at the closing meeting when the National Association recognized the latest



*Plymouth 400 Task Team*

CFTS graduate, Joel Boyd. Heidi Boyd was in the audience. Many who we have sponsored at First

*Continued on page 2*

THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
IN WAUWATOSA

# Off the Top of My Head

By Rev. William S. Trump, Senior Minister

It won't be long before the kids return to school and the frantic pace of our activities will be upon us. Summers are good for taking a step back and a deep breath. A wise individual offered this advice.

"Every now and then go away, have a little relaxation, for when you come back to your work your judgment will be surer, since to remain constantly at work will cause you to lose power of judgment... Go some distance away because then the work appears smaller, and more of it can be taken in at a glance, and lack of harmony or proportion is more readily seen."

These are the words of Leonardo da Vinci, and no idler he; he excelled as a painter,

sculptor, poet, architect, engineer, city planner, scientist, inventor, anatomist, military genius, and philosopher. Jesus was good at taking time away from the crowds to reconnect with His Father and recharge for ministry.



As August is upon us I hope you have a chance to spend some time with your loved ones relaxing and recharging your batteries.

Jesus said, "come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and

I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls."  
– Matthew 11:28-29

- Bill



Cathy and Bill cruise Lake Erie

## CONFERENCE

*Continued from front cover*

Church have done well. Joel is now a minister in Marshfield, Massachusetts.

Hearing from the NACCC's Plymouth 400 Task Team was a highlight of the Annual Meeting & Conference. The team presented its plans for helping churches celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' landing at Plymouth in 1620! This national event is the perfect opportunity for us to shine a spotlight on First Church and Congregational history in Tosa and the greater Milwaukee community. It's also a good time to brush up on our own understanding of who we were then and who we are now. I look forward to helping our church take full advantage of this exciting opportunity!

After a great deal of prayer and contemplation, Michael "Chip" Smith has decided to redirect his career plans. He has chosen to resign as a ministerial intern at First Church and as a fellow with the

NACCC's Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies. We greatly appreciate Chip's service as Administrator at First Church and wish him well as he pursues a new vocational path.



## 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](http://www.FirstChurchTosa.org)

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## First Congregational Church Capital Campaign:

# Elevate to a new level: Help raise up people

By Bill Edens on behalf of the Board of Trustees

### What drives our needs for church renewal?

Church renewal studies began in 2014 by the Trustees. Many projects are already complete.

The Elevator needs are quite evident to those that need and use the existing unit.

- Heavy, clumsy doors that are difficult to open by those with disabilities and physical challenges.
- Small size that does not accommodate today's larger wheelchairs and scooters..
- Age of the physical working of the current elevator make maintenance difficult.
- Age of the congregation that would benefit with access to the Social Hall and Parlor.

The Chancel's functionality will improve with resolution of numerous safety issues.

- Maintain the primary goal and grandeur of the chamber as the house of worship.
- Move the Piano from blocking a primary exit aisle to the outside in emergency.
- Bring the organ out of the "pit" and movable for concerts and presentations.
- Provide much safer access to and between the organ and piano.
- Provide a non-Anglican expandable choir arrangement and hand rails for area access.
- Move the "Altar" to prominence as a real communion table consistent with the faith.
- Provide an open layout for weddings, music venues, and possible public events.

### What is the support for the projects?

- The Chancel and Elevator projects were presented on Sunday, June 10, 2018.
- Many questions were answered.

- An all congregation vote was taken to determine support for proceeding with exploration of the projects. 86 for both; 39 for elevator; 6 for Chancel; 4 no.

### What are the Campaign funding goals?

- The goal is \$700,000 (+ 10% contingency) for completion of both development projects.
- General partitioning of funds is about 75% for elevator and 25% for the Chancel.
- The Church Facilities Renewal Fund will provide half of the cost of the projects.
- The other half is to be supported by member and friend contributions.
- There will be no external fund borrowing.

### What time period is proposed for fund fulfillment?

- The campaign will begin soon before the Stewardship drive..
- Each pledge of support may be made as a 1, 2 or 3 year investment in the Church future life.
- You will be asked which project you want your pledge to support. (both; elevator; or chancel).
- Construction will start with the elevator when the funds are available.

### How does this relate to the Operating Budget pledge needs?

- Your commitment to our facility future is outside and above the Church's operating needs.

We ask that you support these projects so we can create a church facility that meets the current and future needs of our congregation..

## PIG ROAST



SAVE THE DATE!

**September 8, 2019**

## ANNUAL RALLY SUNDAY PIG ROAST

*Every year it seems to get better!*

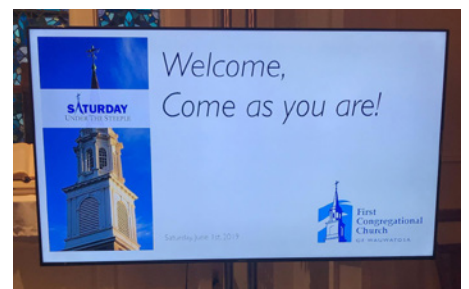
Immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship service, we'll be serving roasted pig and chicken with all the trimmings.

Find us on Ridge Court, unless it rains, and then we'll retreat to the Social Hall.

## Casual Worship Service

*Saturdays at 4pm in the Chapel*

This new Saturday service is a comfortable, "come as you are," whether it's right from the soccer field, running errands or before your evening plans. If you or someone you know might be looking for a new worship opportunity like this, please feel free to check it out and share with friends.



**SATURDAY**  
UNDER THE STEEPLE

# WCA Camp 2019 A Week to SHINE

by Tonia Wallner, Director of Christian Education

WCA Summer Camp was an absolutely amazing experience for the 54 youth and 18 staff in attendance. We had a solid Wauwatosa presence at camp, sending eleven students and two adults as representatives from First Church. I was honored to act as the Junior High Director, while Amelia Moore was on the senior high counselor team. The “SHINE” theme was evident throughout the week and in all of the camp activities, which were held at Mt. Morris Camp and Conference Center in Wautoma from July 7th – 13th. The weather was sunny and gorgeous throughout the week, and we had no rain. Needless to say, it was a beautiful week to be at camp!



FCC high school teens Jack Clark, Miles Coppage, Dylan Hayden, Jason Hayden, Aubrey Moore, Claire Ranft, and Maddie Sgarlata enjoyed a week of programing with director Rachel Siebenaller. They explored 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. They uncovered how remarkable God and His light shines in our lives through pair shares, quad groups, journaling, activities, and small group discussion.

Our middle school campers were Katie Huitink, Bella Sanders, Gunner Sgarlata, and Riley Stern. They were inspired by a program that included the SHINE theme, and yet, there was a focus on one of the important fruits of the Holy Spirit . . . the idea of FINDING OUR JOY. These youth were encouraged to look for joy in their daily lives, and we discussed the fact that joy is not always dependent on our circumstances. During daily programing, we worked through Scripture that embodied the joy and rejoicing that occurred in the Bible, and how joy is made possible when we feel loved and secure in our relationship with God. My hope is that the Bible passages and stories that were shared with the junior high campers will stick with them as they pursue joy on a daily basis.

It is easy to share positive feedback about this transformative week as a discerning adult, so sharing personal

thoughts and testimonials from the minds and hearts of our FCC youth seems more appropriate . . .

*Camp is the best week of the year. Not only does it allow me to strengthen my relationship with God, but also to reconnect with friends and grow as a person.* – Maddie Sgarlata

*Camp is a piece of heaven on Earth that everyone who has the chance to experience it knows just how loving and beautiful every person there is. I can’t recommend going to WCA Camp enough.* – Dylan Hayden

*Camp is like no other place you’ll experience in your life. The people bring you unexplainable joy and love you unconditionally. WCA Camp also is an amazing opportunity to strengthen your connections with God and your faith.* – Aubrey Moore

*Camp is an amazing place, and not only is it a time to reconnect with God, but is also a place filled with the best people.* – Jason Hayden

*WCA Camp is a great place to strengthen your connection with God, as well as with your friends, through great discussion, fun activities, and, of course, delicious food.* – Miles Coppage

Obviously, the welcoming nature of camp, where faith, fellowship, and fun are central to every activity, have a lasting impact on friendships and strengthening relationships with God. This continues to be one of my favorite weeks of the year, and I feel truly blessed to learn, grow, and connect with such wonderful youth and adults. I hope to have even more First Church campers next year!



## Operating Statement Summary

Year to Date as of June 2019

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	47%	44.2%
Pledge Income	\$228,453	\$246,339
Total Income	\$344,524	\$346,296
Total Expense	\$295,514	\$323,775
Net Income	\$49,010	\$22,521

Detailed financials available at office.



## JUST FOR YOUTH



### 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.”

**MORE ONLINE OR  
SEE TONIA FOR MORE INFO!**

## Paris Flea Market TEAMS UP WITH TRUSTEES

The Paris Flea Market team will give the plans for a new elevator a little boost by contributing all profits from the 2019 Flea Market to the First Church Elevator Fund.

Scheduled for **Saturday, September 21**, this year's event will be bigger and better than ever. We will have an exciting variety of excellent condition items for sale – jewelry and accessories, artwork, home décor, china and glassware, linens, books, media and more. Donate items to the church Monday through Thursday, 9am to 4 pm.

Our ever-popular **bake sale** will return (it sold out last time), and we have added an **autumn mum sale**. The **Paris Café** will feature quiche and crepes, and there will be live music during the day.

You can help us promote the Paris Flea Market to the community by putting a yard sign in a high-traffic location (your own yard) and handing pro motional cards to your friends and neighbors. Both are available in the church Office.

*There are also many ways to assist with the event:*

- Help sort and price items (Can be done at your convenience.)
- Contribute home-baked bars, cookies, pies, breads etc.
- Help set up booth in the Social Hall on Friday, September 20.
- Be a day-of volunteer with choice of booth or area to staff.
- Work in the Paris Café. Help cook or serve.
- Assist with take-down at the end of the day, September 21.

The more the merrier. Men and women of all ages are encouraged to help. If you're interested contact Lucy Miyazaki, Colleen Foster, Cheryl Lund or Marianne King.

## Joel Boyd Graduates CFTS

*By Marianne King*

Joel Boyd was one of two ministers who graduated from the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies Program (CFTS) this past June. The ceremony was held at the NACCC Annual Meeting in Cleveland. Joel's heart was filled with gratitude when he addressed the audience.

Joel had many to thank for the completion of his seminary studies and his CFTS graduation. A number of NACCC member churches awarded him scholarships, but he noted First Church Tosa in particular. Joel expressed his appreciation for the mentoring and encouragement provided by Bill Trump and Barry Szymanski. He also noted he was very grateful for the love and support of the people of First Congregational Church.



Joel Boyd speaks as part of the CFTS graduation at the NACCC Annual Meeting.

“When we joined First Church our daughter was a toddler,” said Joel. “In fact, all three of our babies were baptized there.”

Joel served his seminary internship as the Licensed Interim Pastor at St. Jacobi Congregational Church in Richfield. He received his Master of Divinity Degree from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. Last year he was hired as senior minister by First Congregational Church in Marshfield, Massachusetts. Joel's parents live on the East Coast, and he, Heidi, Clara, Ben, and August enjoy spending time with them. They also miss Milwaukee and First Church.

“First Church embraced our family,” said Joel. “It meant a lot to us.”

CFTS augments seminary by educating ministers to Congregational history and polity and preparing ministers for service to Congregational churches.

# Our Mission Team Thriving With Hosanna Industries

*by Tonia Wallner, Director of Christian Education*

Bright and early on Saturday, June 22nd, the youth mission team gathered at FCC and headed out to Hosanna Industries in Rochester, PA for a week of service. With a small crew of five youth and two adult chaperones, we were able to fit into one van for the trek eastward. We met the teams from Ozaukee Congregational and North Shore Congregational Churches so we could caravan out together.



We attended worship at the First Congregational Church of Etna on Sunday, and we heard Rev. Dr. Donn Ed share inspiring words of wisdom on being a good Christian in our world today. The church members were so welcoming and supportive, and provided a special coffee hour for us afterward. We followed that up with a trip to PNC Park to watch the Pittsburgh Pirates, and then pizza dinner in Cranberry. We had devotions, learned about our projects for the next day, and prepared our bagged lunches.

On Monday, three of our FCC boys were part of a small crew that spent hours excavating (by hand) in order to create a sidewalk, and were our “heavy lifting” crew for the day. The sidewalk is at the home of a woman in a wheelchair, so this will be such a practical improvement for her. The rest of us drove out to Pine Valley Bible Camp, where we installed insulation and added framing to the lower level of a new lodge. This camp is a non-profit organization that serves urban and at-risk youth with a Christ-centered message of love and acceptance. The Executive Director spoke with us about the mission of the camp, and his passion for sharing Jesus with these children and teens was so inspiring! We were all tired and sweaty by the end of the day, and yet, we know that our work will be appreciated for years to come.

Tuesday's project was siding a whole house in one day! Our work site was a 45 minute drive away, and yet, well worth the trip! We worked on the home of Dale and Rosemary, whose 1960's original siding had seen better days. It was time for an update to make sure that their home would be safe, warm, and dry. They were so appreciative of us, and were practically in tears when they came out to see the finished product. It was a true team effort, and everyone played their roles beautifully. From tearing off the old siding or cleaning up the pieces, to taking measurements or

cutting, to holding ladders or pounding in nails, we needed “all hands on deck” to be successful.

On Wednesday, we roofed a house! We also had a group clearing overgrown plants, weeds, and shrubs, while a final group scraped and stained the deck. Needless to say, we were quite productive! And, again, the homeowner (Brenda) was extremely pleased with, and thankful for, the work that was completed. We also had the opportunity to head back to the camp where we worked on Monday to have a bit of fun (after a long day of work in the sun). Many of our team members rode the homemade water slide over and over, and then we spent some time in the camp's pool. We truly lived the “Work hard, play hard” motto that day.

Thursday featured a potpourri of work sites and tasks that needed to be completed before our departure. We started as a full group at the site that was started on Monday, where part of our crew dug out a path to create a sidewalk. Today, the concrete was “poured” by using the bucket brigade method. It was amazing what can be accomplished when 39 people have a goal! After finishing the sidewalk, we split into teams to work on two brand new projects. The first was the scraping, sanding, and staining of a deck and wheelchair ramp for a woman named Joanne. The other job was tearing out stones and building a brand new retaining wall, so a lot of heavy lifting was needed for that project. We



finished the day at Hosanna's Gibsonia campus for a tour and group circle, which was the perfect finale for our last day of work. The love and appreciation that the Hosanna staff shared with us both today and throughout the week was extraordinary....such amazing people of faith!!

On behalf of the 2019 Mission Team, we want to send our most heartfelt love and appreciation to our First Congregational Church members who bought coffee and peppermint bark at Christmas time, donated to and/or attended our Auction Dinner in April, or have supported this team with prayer and well wishes.... it all meant the world to us!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL - SEE FULL CALENDAR ONLINE AT [www.firstchurchtosa.org/church-calendar](http://www.firstchurchtosa.org/church-calendar)

# AUGUST 2019

<b>1</b> 9 <sup>am</sup> 10 <sup>am</sup> 10:30 <sup>am</sup> Cong. Home 45 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. Service @ CH	<b>2</b> 8 <sup>am</sup> 5:15 <sup>pm</sup>	Big Band Sidetracks St. Vincent Prep St. Vincent Serve	<b>3</b> 4 <sup>pm</sup>	Casual Worship
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<b>4</b> 9 <sup>am</sup> 10 <sup>am</sup> 10:15 <sup>am</sup> Bd/Stewardship & Benevolence 10:15 <sup>am</sup> Bd/Fellowship	<b>5</b> 1 <sup>pm</sup> 7 <sup>pm</sup> 8 <sup>pm</sup>	Worship/SS/Nursery Coffee Fellowship Al-Anon Meeting AA-Charlie Stone Group	<b>6</b> 7 <sup>am</sup> 9 <sup>am</sup>	Staff Meeting Al-Anon Meeting AA-Charlie Stone Group	<b>7</b> 6:30 <sup>am</sup> 6 <sup>pm</sup> 7 <sup>pm</sup>	Men's Bible Study Debtors Anon Personnel	<b>8</b> 9 <sup>am</sup> 10 <sup>am</sup>	Big Band Sidetracks	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 4 <sup>pm</sup>	Casual Worship
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<b>11</b> 9 <sup>am</sup> 10 <sup>am</sup> 10 <sup>am</sup> 10 <sup>am</sup> 1 <sup>pm</sup>	<b>12</b> 9 <sup>am</sup> 1 <sup>pm</sup> 6:30 <sup>pm</sup> 7 <sup>pm</sup> 7 <sup>pm</sup> 7 <sup>pm</sup> 8 <sup>pm</sup>	Worship/SS/Nursery Coffee Fellowship LRP Leave for Brewer's Tailgate & Game FCC Outing Brewer's Game	<b>13</b> 7 <sup>am</sup> 9 <sup>am</sup> 9 <sup>am</sup>	Women's Ministry NO YOGA VBS	<b>14</b> 6:30 <sup>am</sup> 9 <sup>am</sup> 6 <sup>pm</sup>	Men's Ministry VBS Debtors Anon	<b>15</b> 9 <sup>am</sup> 9 <sup>am</sup> 10 <sup>am</sup>	NO Big Band VBS Sidetracks	<b>16</b> 9 <sup>am</sup>	VBS	<b>17</b> 4 <sup>pm</sup>	Casual Worship
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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

<b>18</b> 9 <sup>am</sup> 10 <sup>am</sup> 10 <sup>am</sup> 11:30 <sup>am</sup>	<b>19</b> 1 <sup>pm</sup> 5:30 <sup>pm</sup> 7 <sup>pm</sup> 8 <sup>pm</sup>	Worship/SS/Nursery Coffee Fellowship Elevator Campaign Task Team FCC & ST. MARK AME YOUTH EVENT	<b>20</b> 7 <sup>am</sup> 9 <sup>am</sup> 5:30 <sup>pm</sup>	Staff Meeting Bd/Congregational Care Al-Anon Meeting AA-Charlie Stone Group	<b>21</b> 6:30 <sup>am</sup> 10 <sup>am</sup> 6 <sup>pm</sup>	Men's Ministry Harwood Communion & Chat Debtors Anon	<b>22</b> 9 <sup>am</sup> 10 <sup>am</sup>	Big Band Sidetracks	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4 <sup>pm</sup>	Casual Worship
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<b>25</b> 9 <sup>am</sup> 10 <sup>am</sup> 10 <sup>am</sup>	<b>26</b> 1 <sup>pm</sup> 7 <sup>pm</sup> 8 <sup>pm</sup>	Worship/SS/Nursery Coffee Fellowship Communications	<b>27</b> 7 <sup>am</sup> 9 <sup>am</sup> 7:00 <sup>pm</sup>	Staff Meeting Al-Anon Meeting AA-Charlie Stone Group Church Council	<b>28</b> 6:30 <sup>am</sup> 6 <sup>pm</sup>	Men's Ministry Debtors Anon	<b>29</b> 9 <sup>am</sup> 10 <sup>am</sup>	Big Band Sidetracks	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 4 <sup>pm</sup>	Casual Worship
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The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa  
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## Scout Troop 47 News Camp Long Lake

*by Adam Bartelme*

This year, Troop 47 went to Camp Long Lake (CLL) for summer camp for a week. We had a blast! All of our younger scouts took project First Class and got to the rank of First class. Also, each younger scout earned 2 out of 3 merit badges that were available for them to get.

Some of our Star/First class rank scouts were at Aqualand for most of their time taking a variety of classes including: small boat sailing, snorkeling, and kayaking. During small boat sailing, scouts had to sail across the lake with a buddy and try to catch the wind. A few scouts took up snorkeling, learned how to dive and swim better. We also learned how to save people while swimming and even had fun doing it.



Many scouts spent their free time, which was from 3-5pm daily, down in the shooting sports area. There, we were excited to learn archery skills and how to shoot shotguns as well as rifles. Other scouts went to Aqualand to jump on the water trampoline or go water skiing. Other scouts participated in GaGa ball and open climb.

A few camp-wide games were held that involved scouts from other troops playing games such as: backyard games, football, and camp wide relays

at Aqualand. During the water relay, Troop 47 took 5th place out of 13 troops. Summer camp 2019 at CLL was an awesome time that will be remembered.

Adam Bartelme  
Troop 47 Asst. Senior Patrol Leader

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## Church Family News

### Deaths

**Barbara Jane Lindl** passed away on Wednesday, June 26, 2019. Services will be held on Saturday, August 10th.

**Arthur "Art" Gaulke** passed away on Monday, July 1, 2019. Services were held.

**Joyce Wildner Cave** passed away on Thursday, July 11, 2019. Services were held.

### Congratulations

**Simon Barry Gehl**, son of Melissa (Hages) & Jeffrey Gehl, was baptized on Sunday, June 30, 2019.