

SEPTEMBER 2019

Volume 34 - Issue 9

The Congregational COLUMNS

VBS a “ROAR”ing Success

August 12-16, 2019



Vacation Bible School was an exciting and enthusiastic week of food, fellowship, and fun for both the children and adults involved. Our VBS experience took place from August 12th-16th, and 55 kids, 19 teen helpers, and 15 adult volunteers had a blast with the “ROAR” theme. This was the highest number of teen helpers during my tenure here at First Church, so it was quite exciting!! Throughout the week, the activities helped the kids explore God’s goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wildlife. They were encouraged to experience God in new and creative ways, and side by side with their peers.

Each day, our 4K – 6th grade VBS attendees moved from station to station with their crews, which allowed them to get to know their fellow Crew Members on a deeper level. Every station was designed to reinforce the Bible message in a hands-on, interactive way, with the goal to keep everyone engaged in the lesson. The 4K and 5K children were grouped together for developmentally appropriate activities, while the 1st through 6th graders were assigned their groups to make the experience as fun as possible.

At the Imagination Station, the kids were able to experiment with “Sciency-fun gizmos” that incorporated the daily Bible message, and then took the gizmos home to share the learned lesson with their parents. The children were also active participants in the daily Bible story at Wild Bible Adventures, which was followed by thought-provoking discussions. At KidVid Cinema, our attendees “met” five real kids from Zambia who are learning to follow Jesus in everyday life. Next, our attendees were able to run, jump, and play through fun games that reinforced the daily Bible verse at Stampede Sports. One of the favorite stations each year is Sing & Play Roar, and this year was no exception! The kids sang and danced to a mix of classic worship and more contemporary songs, and there are so many smiles and so much energy in the

THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

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Casual Worship Service

Saturdays at 4pm in the Chapel

This Saturday service is a comfortable, "come as you are" worship time - 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.

Starting on September 7th the messages will be on the Fruit of the Spirit"

Speakers will be:

- 9/7 **Jim Santelle**
- 9/14 **Julie Smith** (Pastor at NSCC)
- 9/21 **John Giffith**
- 9/28 **Maddie Sgarlata**
- 10/5 **Barry Szymanski**
- 10/12 **Pat Reddy**
- 10/19 **Peggy Griffith**

Taize-inspired Worship at First Congregational Church

Taize is a small village in eastern France near the town of Cluny. Beginning in 1940 with the arrival of Brother Roger, the members of this community, referred to as brothers, have come from over 20 different countries around the world. They make a monastic commitment to a life of celibacy and living together to serve the ecumenical Taize community. Although not all the brothers who come to the community remain in Taize, they all share Taize's vocation to strive for communion for all. Some brothers live in small groups or fraternities among the poor on different continents. One such fraternity is located in a poor section of New York City.

From the beginning, the Taize community has worked for reconciliation among Christians. However, the brothers do not view this reconciliation as the culmination of their work; the work of the Taize community concerns all of humanity, making the church a place of communion for all.

At First Church, we are pleased to once again offer Taize-inspired worship during the 8AM services in our chapel.

Pastor Barry, along with Rhonda Kwiecien (keyboard), Pierre Payne (vocals), and Rebecca Schulz (violin) will lead the Taize-inspired



Adult Learning

Resumes Sunday 9/15 at 8:45 in Room 107

We will be continuing our walk through the Gospels chronologically and using the Book "The True Jesus" by David Limbaugh. All are welcome, and it is not necessary that you attended last year or are unable to participate every week. Books are available if you wish to join us.

Women's Ministry

September 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 7^{am} in the Parlor

Please bring your Bibles.

Men's Bible Study

September 4 and 18 at 6:30^{am}, in Room 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

September 11 and 25 at 6:30^{am}, in Room 107

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

Operating Statement Summary Year to Date as of September 2019

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	56.0%	57.6%
Pledge Income	\$273,093	\$321,398
Total Income	\$394,560	\$422,049
Total Expense	\$340,076	\$375,272
Net Income	\$54,484	\$46,777

Detailed financials available at office.

worship on the following dates during the upcoming church year:

Sept. 22; Oct. 20; Nov. 17; Jan. 19; Feb. 16; Mar. 15; May 10; and June 14.

We invite you to join us for a time of reflection, meditation, and prayer through song and scripture.

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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Minister of Pastoral Care

Chaplain Tesha Urban
Congregational Home

Tonia Wallner
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Dr. Patrick Dill
Director of Music

Rhonda Kwiecien
Keyboard Musician

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

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Like us on Facebook!

Paris Flea Market: New Time, New Focus

The Paris Flea Market has moved to September! This year's extravaganza will happen on one day – **Saturday, September 21** – from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. All profits will go to the Elevator Fund.

This fall's event may be our biggest yet, with large selections of excellent quality jewelry and women's accessories, artwork, collectibles, china, glassware, home décor, books, CDs, DVDs, linens, crafting supplies and a whole lot more. The Flea Market will also feature our best ever selection of toys, games and dolls, a sports "fan zone," and gift items.

The bakery, which sold out at the past two Paris Flea Markets, will bring you even more home-baked goodies, such as cookies, bars, pies, and quick breads.

A mum sale will be held at the parking lot entrance – outside if the weather permits.

The Paris Café will be serving Quiche Lorraine, Asparagus Quiche, Chicken Mushroom Crepes and Vegetable Crepes from 11 am until 3 pm. Coffee and doughnuts will be available between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Live music will enhance the French ambiance.

Call your friends and make a date for the Paris Flea Market on September 21. It will be très magnifique!

Volunteer opportunities with the Paris Flea Market are still available. Help with set-up on Friday, September 20, or during the event on Saturday, September 21. We also need assistance with packing up at 4 p.m. All volunteers will be provided lunch, snacks, and beverages. For more information contact:

Colleen Foster at fostercolleen@att.net or Lucy Miyazaki at lucy2034@wi.rr.com. You can also call the Office at 414.258.7375.

Off the Top of My Head

By Rev. William S. Trump, Senior Minister

These times are tough ones for the mainline protestant churches. We have seen a gradual decline in attendance and participation and now, facing financial challenges, the church has been hurt further. We don't know where to turn. With so much work to do to fix these situations and so many conversations we need to have, where do you start?

There is one starting point common to nearly all churches from all traditions. It is something I read about every month in journals. There are hundreds of books and seminars that tell us, "Here is the place to start." The common starting point is to focus on "purpose."

First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa has had a strong statement of purpose from the very beginning. "The Purpose of [our] Church Shall be to bind together followers of Jesus Christ for the object of sharing in the worship of God and making God's will dominant in the lives of people especially as that will is set forth in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ." It is a reasonably clear, theologically sound statement of purpose. Our task, however, does not end there. We not only need a clear and compelling statement of purpose, we also need a sense of purpose. The two are related but different. A statement of purpose puts the big idea into words. A sense of purpose gets you out of bed in the morning and keeps you going in the face of challenges.

There are things we need to remember as we journey forward. It is important to have a sense of both urgency



and patience; two qualities that don't often go together. As we look at the world around us we can see it has changed drastically since this church began. Our society is no longer dominated by the Christian church in any positive way, and yet the need for the church and gospel is not over. T

It seems the need for the church is even more important. All of this shows us we can't wait. We have to get on this right now. We have to work to become a new congregation with a great sense of urgency. And yet we must

be patient. We must be patient with each other because this is tough, demanding work. We must be patient with our leaders as they learn new ways and as they struggle to acquire new skills. We must be patient as old structures give way and we don't quite know what the new ones are. Doing this work means that we don't have the answers in advance. We are learning as we go.

Right after the Exodus the Hebrews had to learn what it meant to *be* Israel during their long journey in the wilderness. Like the church in the Book of Acts learning what it meant to *be* church, we are in a time of new learning. As we change our perspective and strengthen our sense of purpose we shall come to see this new time not as a time of inevitable decline but as a new time of learning, of deepening faith, and of a great adventure.

- Bill

I am indebted to Tony Robinson, author, teacher and consultant for his insight contained in this article.



A LONG TERM **OUTLOOK**

What Our Church Needs How can you help?

A message from the Capital Campaign Committee

We have entered into a one month major capital fund-raising campaign for church facility renewal. First to replace a very old and difficult to operate church appliance. Second to pursue renovation of the Chancel in the Nave.

Our elevator is small, difficult to enter, slow, but otherwise seemingly reliable. What the church walls have heard: 'Can you use our elevator?' Answer: 'Too hard to open/enter.' 'Will you use our elevator?' 'Never, I don't trust it.' These statements come from our members.

A Chancel renovation will provide safety benefits and improved functionality while preserving the majesty and grandeur of our worship experience.

What are we asking?

We ask for your contribution of money for these efforts. We are requesting nearly \$400,000 in member participation during this month of September. Other Church funds contributions will add to the total renewal projection of \$700,000.

How can this happen?

We ask that you look into your hearts and consider the needs of the infirm and older members who have difficulty handling the stairs. Help us to provide a more inviting means to gather all members upstairs in congregation social events. We also ask you to support

improved worship needs, events and musician safety.

More details?

A contribution of \$10,000 will be matched with \$1000 from a generous donor. A 10% added benefit of your commitment. This is a real stretch goal that we ask from those who can provide it.

If you are more mature and have an IRA and must take out a yearly RMD, consider a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) directly paid to the church. This amount comes off the top of your taxable income

before tax calculation and can give a generous tax relief eliminated by the itemized tax deduction changes. This works for any charitable contribution to church fund-raising campaigns.

For the cost of a Starbucks latte each day, you can support our capital project and contribute \$60 to \$75 per month. Whatever the amount, just giving the best you can will make a big difference to your Church.

We ask you to think of how to gather up some pennies and dollars to renew our church facilities. We ask you to reach deep. This is what our forefathers and mothers did to make this church a meeting place in this community. Can we honor this tradition for the future generations that we are part of today? Can you reach into what you have worked for, and give to this cause?



PIG ROAST



SAVE THE DATE!

September 8, 2019

ANNUAL RALLY SUNDAY PIG ROAST

Every year it seems to get better!

Immediately following the 10:00am 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.

Tosa Cares

Circle 7's annual request for personal care/toiletries items for Tosa Cares is coming up in October. Tosa Cares is a local non-profit 501(3)(C) organization. Hundreds of people were helped last year. Some are seniors living at the poverty level. FCC is their only source for personal care items, and they really depend on us for them.

Items can be brought to the church anytime between Sunday September 22nd and Monday October 7th and will be delivered to Tosa Cares on October 9th. Items needed: Dental items, hand and bath soaps, shampoo, combs, brushes, bows and other hair accessories, laundry detergent, facial tissue, and shaving supplies. (No toilet paper needed)

Thank you for your continued generosity and support... but most of all, for caring. If it's more convenient, you may bring your items to the FCC parking lot on Saturday, October 5th., from 9:00am to 12 noon.

JUST FOR YOUTH

September 2019



Sunday School

Sunday, September 8, 15, 22, and 29
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, September 8, 15, 22, and 29
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, September 15, 22, and 29
for grades 2-8

Meet at 9:00 in LL4
Sing on Sunday, September 29

Faith Finders

Monday, September 9 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

Starting in October for 9th graders
Group meets at 8:30 am in the Library.

Pilgrim Fellowship (PF)

Sunday, September 8, 15, 22 and 29
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.

Ultimate Kick-Off Event

Date TBD

Our first special event will be a kick-off party here at church! We will gather from 4-6pm and will fill the afternoon with awesome games and water activities. All Jr. & Sr. High students are welcome - bring your friends

If you are interested in signing up for these events or have questions contact:
Tonia Wallner: tonia@firstchurchtosa.

VBS continued from page 1

room! Finally, at Hungry Herd Cafe, one crew prepared and served delicious treats that connected to the day's theme, and all of the crews enjoyed the snack time together in the Social Hall.

The "ROAR" theme was extremely relevant to all who attended and participated, from the awesome decorations in the Social Hall, stairwell, and Wild Bible Adventures room to the questions posed at the Imagination Station. Each daily mascot was based on a real animal that God created to thrive and survive in their unique African habitat. On Monday, Mack the rhinoceros was our mascot and we learned that "When life is unfair...God is good". On Tuesday, the children learned that "God is good, even when life is scary" through the story of the plagues in Egypt. Wednesday's mascot was Marge the Cape buffalo, and the children escaped from Egypt, crossed the Red Sea, and wandered the wilderness



Singing and dancing was lead by Roxanne Trump-Miles.

while God provided for them through the struggles and changes of their journey. On Thursday, Zion the lion taught that "When life is sad...God is good" through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Friday's mascot, Savanna the giraffe, shared the theme of God's goodness, and the children heard the story of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River, building a memorial in the Promised Land, and thanking God for all of the good things that He did for them. What a cool Bible story to wrap up our time together. This week of VBS was an incredible blessing...for the kids, teens, and adults alike!

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Jim Santelle added props and a little "drama" for Wild Bible Adventures.

The memories that were made mean so much more coming from those involved, so I wanted to share a handful of testimonials....

"My favorite part of VBS is the Imagination Station....it's magic." – **Charlie York**

"I loved the snacks, as well as interacting with the adult presenters." – **Robert Neary**

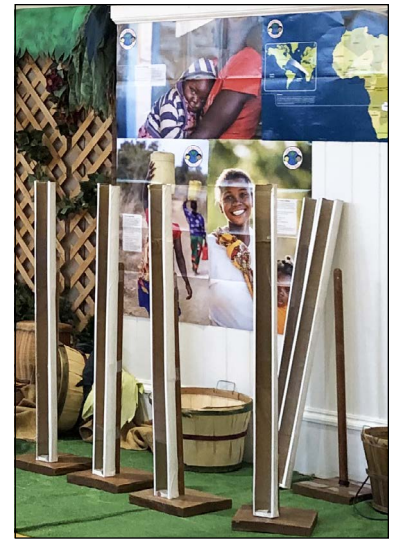
"I enjoyed the Operation Kid2Kid coin competition, the games, and the Wild Bible Adventures ...and learning about the kids in Africa." – **Andre Riofrio**

"I really like the games, and the fact that the schedule is not the same every day. And you meet new people."
– **Meghan Jeide**

"My favorite thing was making snack and eating it, but I loved EVERYTHING!!" – **Emmalyn Neary**

"I like VBS because I am able to spend time with friends, make new friends, and find out more about the Bible. I enjoy Wild Bible Adventures, KidVid Cinema, and the snacks (especially making them). Everything is awesome, and I am looking forward to next year!" – **Nolan Straza**

"My favorite part is snack and Stampede Sports. I also learned not to stay down when things may seem bad."
– **Dylan Wergin**



Coins dropped into Operation Kid2Kid Crew Tubes contributed to the \$850 amount raised.

Jane Boyd (left) incorporated creative fun with the daily lessons at Imagination Station.



Brian Denny and Jeff Mason (right) "herded" the Crews during Stampede Sports.

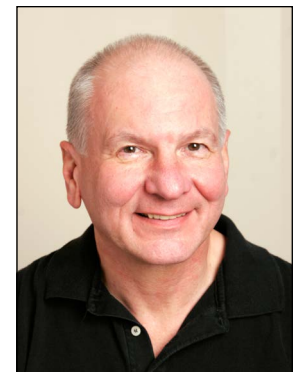


A Note From Pastor Barry

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

Are you a faucet or a drain? In your life do you fill the spirit, the self-esteem, the soul of those around you? Or do you drain their life-force, their self-worth, the passion of those around you? Do you treat those around you with compassion and empathy? Or are you cold and unconcerned? Faucet people can fill to the brim – and even overflow. Drain people leave a hole, an emptiness. Jesus was a faucet person. He filled every person he had contact with. When he interacted with people they left free and happy. Their sins were forgiven. Their conscience pure. If they were confused or troubled, Jesus answered their questions. If they were suffering they were healed. I often wonder what could happen if I, after meeting people, and for people I have known for decades, leave them free and happy? Do I fill them? Or do I drain them? And you?

- Pastor Barry



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

SEPTEMBER

<div>1</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>Worship</div> <div><i>NO SS/Nursery</i></div> <div>10^{am}</div> <div>Coffee Fellowship</div> <div>10:15^{am}</div> <div>Fellowship Bd Meeting</div> <div>10:15^{am}</div> <div>Stew./Ben. Bd Meeting</div>	<div>2</div> <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div> <div>NO Staff Meeting</div> <div>NO Al-Anon Meeting</div> <div>NO AA-Charlie Stone Group</div>	<div>3</div> <div>7^{pm}</div> <div>Women's Ministry</div> <div>9^{pm}</div> <div>YOGA</div> <div>6:45^{pm}</div> <div>Boy Scouts</div> <div>7^{pm}</div> <div>Quilters Anon</div>	<div>4</div> <div>6:30^{am}</div> <div>Men's Bible Study</div> <div>12:30^{pm}</div> <div>Heritage Garden Club</div> <div>6^{pm}</div> <div>Debtors Anon</div> <div>7^{pm}</div> <div>Personnel</div>	<div>5</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>Big Band</div> <div>10^{am}</div> <div>Sidetracks</div> <div>7:30^{pm}</div> <div>FCC Choir</div>	<div>6</div> <div>8^{am}</div> <div>St. Vincent Prep</div> <div>5:15^{pm}</div> <div>St. Vincent Serve</div>	<div>7</div> <div>4^{pm}</div> <div>Casual Worship</div>
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LABOR DAY SUNDAY

<div>8</div> <div>8^{am}</div> <div>Chapel Worship</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>• Discovery Kids</div> <div>• LRP</div> <div>• Nursery</div> <div>10^{am}</div> <div>Worship</div> <div>PF/SS/Nursery</div> <div>11^{am}</div> <div>Pig Roast</div>	<div>9</div> <div>11:30^{am}</div> <div>TCTC</div> <div>1^{pm}</div> <div>Staff Meeting</div> <div>5^{pm}</div> <div>Faith Finders</div> <div>6:30^{pm}</div> <div>Board of Deacons</div> <div>7^{pm}</div> <div>Board of Christian Ed</div> <div>7^{pm}</div> <div>Board of Trustees</div> <div>7^{pm}</div> <div>Al-Anon Meeting</div> <div>8^{pm}</div> <div>AA-Charlie Stone Group</div>	<div>10</div> <div>7^{am}</div> <div>Women's Ministry</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>YOGA</div> <div>12^{pm}</div> <div>Circle 7</div> <div>6:45^{pm}</div> <div>Boy Scouts</div>	<div>11</div> <div>6:30^{am}</div> <div>Men's Ministry</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>Cream City Rug Club</div> <div>6^{pm}</div> <div>Debtors Anon</div>	<div>12</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>Big Band</div> <div>10^{am}</div> <div>Sidetracks</div> <div>7:30^{pm}</div> <div>FCC Choir</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div> <div>4^{pm}</div> <div>Casual Worship</div>
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RALLY & BIBLE SUNDAY

<div>15</div> <div>8^{am}</div> <div>Chapel Worship</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>• Discovery Kids</div> <div>• Jr. Choir Rehearsal</div> <div>• Nursery</div> <div>10^{am}</div> <div>Worship/Jr. Choir Sings</div> <div>PF/SS/Nursery</div> <div>10:45^{am}</div> <div>Program Meeting</div> <div>11^{am}</div> <div>• Coffee Fellowship</div> <div>• Elevator Campaign Task Team</div>	<div>16</div> <div>1^{pm}</div> <div>Staff Meeting</div> <div>5:30^{pm}</div> <div>Board of Cong. Care</div> <div>7^{pm}</div> <div>Al-Anon Meeting</div> <div>8^{pm}</div> <div>AA-Charlie Stone Group</div>	<div>17</div> <div>7^{am}</div> <div>Women's Ministry</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>YOGA</div> <div>6:30^{pm}</div> <div>Children's Hospital</div> <div>Foster Care</div> <div>6:45^{pm}</div> <div>Boy Scouts</div> <div>7^{pm}</div> <div>Historic Heights</div> <div>Book Club</div> <div>7^{pm}</div> <div>Tosa Quilters</div>	<div>18</div> <div>6:30^{am}</div> <div>Men's Bible Study</div> <div>10^{am}</div> <div>Harwood Communion & Chat</div> <div>6:00^{pm}</div> <div>Debtors Anon</div>	<div>19</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>Big Band</div> <div>10^{am}</div> <div>Sidetracks</div> <div>6:15^{pm}</div> <div>Handbells</div> <div>7:30^{pm}</div> <div>FCC Choir</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>Paris Flea Market</div> <div>Set-Up</div> <div>4^{pm}</div> <div>Casual Worship</div>
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PROGRAM MTG SUNDAY

<div>22</div> <div>8^{am}</div> <div>Taiza Worship</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>• Discovery Kids</div> <div>• Jr. Choir Rehearsal</div> <div>• Nursery</div> <div>10^{am}</div> <div>Worship</div> <div>PF/SS/Nursery</div> <div>11^{am}</div> <div>• Coffee Fellowship</div> <div>• Communications Committee</div>	<div>23</div> <div>1^{pm}</div> <div>Staff Meeting</div> <div>7^{pm}</div> <div>Al-Anon Meeting</div> <div>8^{pm}</div> <div>AA-Charlie Stone Group</div>	<div>24</div> <div>7^{am}</div> <div>Women's Ministry</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>YOGA</div> <div>6:45^{pm}</div> <div>Boy Scouts</div> <div>7^{pm}</div> <div>Church Council</div>	<div>25</div> <div>6:30^{am}</div> <div>Men's Ministry</div> <div>6^{pm}</div> <div>Debtors Anon</div>	<div>26</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>Big Band</div> <div>10^{am}</div> <div>Sidetracks</div> <div>6:15^{pm}</div> <div>Handbells</div> <div>7:30^{pm}</div> <div>FCC Choir</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>4^{pm}</div> <div>Casual Worship</div>
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YOUTH MISSIONS SUNDAY

<div>29</div> <div>8^{am}</div> <div>Chapel Worship</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>• Discovery Kids</div> <div>• Jr. Choir Rehearsal</div> <div>• Nursery</div> <div>10^{am}</div> <div>Worship/Jr Choir Sings</div> <div>PF/SS/Nursery</div> <div>11^{am}</div> <div>• 5th Sunday Pot Luck</div> <div>• Coffee Fellowship</div>	<div>30</div> <div>1^{pm}</div> <div>Staff Meeting</div> <div>7^{pm}</div> <div>Al-Anon Meeting</div> <div>8^{pm}</div> <div>AA-Charlie Stone Group</div>					
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The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
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Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593

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September Calendar

Church Family News

Congratulations:

Skylar Ann Berry, daughter of
Melissa (Owen) & Julian Berry, was
baptized on Sunday, August 18, 2019.