

The Congregational

COLUMNS

2020 Stewardship Campaign

Once or twice in every generation, the time comes to proverbially "pass the torch" from one generation to the next. This is true with any organization, team, or association - and, yes, even churches. One generation lays a foundation, on which the next generation can build. We are both excited and challenged to report that the time to "pass the torch" at this church has come.

Why are we challenged? While we have been blessed by the generosity of members of this generation, we have lost many of them this past year as they have moved on to join our Lord in his heavenly home. The torch they left burning so brightly for us must be picked up and carried forward, and that is not an easy task. Last year, for example, we had an approximate \$80,000 drop in income, covered primarily by our staff members taking on more duties to make up for the shortfall. Now, we need to ensure that we collectively lift that torch and carry it forward to ensure the gifts of this church and congregation are just as available to the next generation as they have been to the current one.

Why are we excited? This generation has already shown it is ready, willing, and able to take that torch. We have seen it in the wonderful response to our capital campaign in September. We have seen it in our volunteers stepping forward for mission trips and charitable work for the church and other charities we support throughout this community. We have seen it in our young people, including the volunteerism and turnout for our Vacation Bible School week this August. We have seen it in both our newest and youngest members volunteering for Sunday school duties, committee service, ushering, music, and our church services. In so many respects, we have already seen the passing of the torch.

The torch has been passed, but will only move forward if we step up to the challenge in the same way our staff stepped up last year. The gifts of the past generation must be met and replaced with the generosity of this generation, to provide for the future generations of this church. We need your already-demonstrated generosity to meet and exceed the challenge going forward.

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP Thursday, November 28th at 9am in the Nave

All are welcome to join us for our special Thanksgiving Service. Bring your friends and relatives! Our church supports two outstanding organizations with our Thanksgiving Special Offering and collects for the Tosa Food Pantry.



Sojourner Family Peace Center is the largest non-profit provider of domestic violence prevention and intervention services in Wisconsin, serving over 9,500 clients each year. Sojourner provides an array of support aimed at helping families affected by domestic violence achieve safety, justice and well-being.

Asociacion Civil Cristiana Congregacional, located in Jardin America, Argentina provides families with Christian education, garden plots, a medical clinic and a sponsorship program to assist children with food, clothing and school supplies.

And...FCC collects non-perishable food items such as canned fruits, vegetables, soups, canned protein items (Spam, tuna, beef stew) and peanut butter and jelly for the Tosa Food Pantry.



Purls of Wisdom



10^{am}-12^{noon} in the Fellowship Lounge

We will meet the first Saturday of each month through the month of May.

Women's Advent Tea



"A Seat at the Table" is scheduled for Saturday December 7th. Please save the date and watch for more information.

Casual Worship



Saturdays at 4^{pm} in the Chapel

The 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.

The upcoming message will be on the Fruit of the Spirit"and the speaker will be:

11/2 Hank Collis

A Beginner's Guide to (Christian) Meditation



Join FCC members on Saturday, November 16, 2019 from 9:00 to Noon for an Introduction to (Christian) Meditation. We will start with very simple techniques to help settle ourselves, then proceed with other calmative practices. The morning will include a discussion on centering, meditation, contemplation, and mindfulness. The intent is for participants to leave with skills for practicing imagery meditation on the psalms and the Gospel. The facilitator will be Pastor Barry. If you have any questions, please contact him directly. There is no charge. Please sign up as attendance is limited. Bringing a small head pillow and, if possible, one or two throws is recommended. Please, no latecomers!

Discovery Hour

Adult Learning

At 8:45am in Room 107

We are 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

November 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 7^{am} in the Parlor

Please bring your Bibles.

Men's Bible Study

November 6 and 20 at 6:30^{am} in Room107

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

November 13 and 27 at 6:30^{am} in Room107

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

Taize-inspired Worship at FCC



We are pleased to once again offer Taizeinspired worship during the 8am services in our Chapel during the upcoming church year:

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.

Operating Statement Summary

Year to Date as of September 2019

	J 1						
(Current Year	Prior Year					
Pledge base received	69.0%	70.3%					
Pledge Income	\$338,913	\$390,270					
Total Income	\$477,835	\$506,595					
Total Expense	\$434,870	\$467,901					
Net Income	\$42,965	\$38,694					
Detailed financials available at office.							

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 chuch.

www.FirstChurchTosa.org

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Like us on Facebook!



Off the Top of My Head

It is appropriate as we look back on a successful Capital Campaign and ongoing pledge drive that our focus for this month is on Thanksgiving. The elevator/Chancel project elicited incredibly generous financial support, and my hope is that the amazing generosity of our members will continue during this stewardship campaign. These gifts to the church give this year's Thanksgiving special meaning at FCC.

Dick Buchman would always call

Thanksgiving "the high holy days for Congregationalists." I love its wonderful foundation in our Congregational roots and the connection I feel to the forbears of our faith. The first Thanksgiving we see depicted with the Pilgrims and the Native Americans is a wonderful pastoral kind of scene. I think we tend to forget sometimes what came before that first celebration. The pilgrims had gone through a winter of terrible hardships that resulted in the deaths of nearly half of their number. This hearty band held fast to their faith in God, and it gave them strength to survive. It is understandable why after the harvest was gathered that they stopped to worship the God who delivered them.

It is often those who have the least and those who have suffered most deeply who understand best what God's goodness and grace really means. Maybe this is the biggest



By Rev. William S. Trump, Senior Minister

danger that threatens us as a society. Never before has society seen such affluence, and yet there is a world outside our doors that is hungry. As people of faith we must respond.

As heirs of the Pilgrim Way we must remember and keep alive in our society the pure message of Thanksgiving and do all we can to keep this important message alive and untouched by the commercialism of our day. We need to remember and share

the message that Thanksgiving is not just a festival of food. It is first and foremost a festival of faith. The Pilgrims gave thanks to God, not only for the successful harvest and their well filled storerooms, but for the faith which had sustained them on their journey and would sustain them through all the years ahead.

Therefore, in the Pilgrim Spirit, try and join us Thanksgiving morning and remember in worship how blessed we truly are. Take a moment with your loved ones to give thanks to God for all his goodness – for life, for health, for family, for friends, and for the opportunity to share in this community of faith that is our church.

I pray that your Thanksgiving is a blessed one.

- Bill

Hanging of the Greens

Everyone is invited to join the Deacons for the Hanging of the Greens — decorating our church for the Advent and Christmas season. This is a family friendly event and fun for all ages! Many hands will make our work lighter and much more fun and festive!

It will be either Friday evening or Saturday morning the 1st weekend in December. Watch the Green Sheet for the exact date and time. Please sign up at the Gathering Table in the Atrium, call the church office at 414-258-7375, or contact us by email: jill@firstchurchtosa.org

The Board of Deacons will gladly accept donations toward the purchase of these decorations for the church. Fill out the form and return it to the church office with your check made payable to FCC.

Dedications will be printed in the Christmas Eve orders of worship for both 4:00 pm & 10:00 pm.

Christmas Decor Donations Dedicate to Your loved ones this Holiday Season Your Name(s) In honor of: (and/or) In memory of: Amount: \$ ______

Provide a Thanksgiving Meal to Someone in Need

On Thanksgiving, the Milwaukee Rescue Mission

people who have needed the

Mission's help in the past. The generous support of First Church helps make this holiday meal program possible.

Your kind donations of \$15 Pick 'n Save and/ or Walmart gift cards will be collected now through November 10. Our goal is 125 cards.

Bring your gift cards to the Office. If the Office is closed, you are welcome to drop your cards into the mail slot.



The Giving Tree Supporting Foster Children

For the 12th consecutive year, we are supporting a Giving Tree benefiting children in foster care, respite care (children with very special medical or emotional needs) and counseling programs through Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services. Many of these children are removed from neglectful, dangerously abusive home situations and placed into foster care or protective guard in Children's Hospital due to injuries and trauma. Take a tag off the Giving Tree, which will be in the Atrium, and then sign your name by the tag number on the



master list. We then keep track of who is shopping for which child. The tag has information on the child: age, gender and one or two gift "wishes." The Giving Tree gift tags will be available from November 4th – 25th. The gift range should be about \$25 or less. Please bring the gift, unwrapped, with the tag information attached to it, to the church office by Sunday, December 2nd. If you don't have time to shop, choose a tag, and tell me who you have and I'll be glad to shop for you! Your gifts go a long way to making the holiday season brighter for families in need. We are hoping you'll consider supporting this ministry again this year. For more information, contact Therese Ramseyer: 414-491-9993 / therese.ramseyer@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

FCC has an active prayer shawl ministry that provides shawls to church members, family or friends who are in need of extra comfort. We thank our gracious knitters and crocheters for their beautiful gifts of prayerful love. For those receiving a prayer shawl, it can offer a warm hug and support, a private place to relax and renew, or something to hold on to when things seem to be drifting away.

Would you like to help with this creative mission? Please consider knitting or crocheting a prayer shawl on your own or stop by our "Purls of Wisdom" knitting group. We meet the first Saturday of the month from 10-12am. We share patterns, other service project ideas, and fellowship. Don't know how to knit but would like to learn? Stop on by; we would love to teach you.

Wrap Others in Warmth This Winter!

The falling temperatures are a reminder that cold weather is especially hard on families struggling to make ends meet. Join us on Saturday, November 16, at 5^{pm} in the Social Hall to make fleece tie-blankets and tie-scarves for those in need. It takes about two hours to create one tie-blanket from a kit. The Board of Fellowship will provide a dinner of salad, pulled pork sandwiches, dessert and beverages. Enjoy good food and great fellowship while making winter a little easier for others. Please sign up at the Gathering Table in the Atrium.

"Thanksqiving is a very important holiday." Ours was the first country in the world to make a national holiday to give thanks."



JUST FOR YOUTH November 2019



Sunday School _____

Sunday, November 3, 10, 17, and 24 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, November 3, 10, 17, and 24 for kids of all ages in LLS 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, November 3, 10, 17, and 24 for grades 2-8
Meet at 9:00^{am} in LL4
Sing on Sunday, November 24

Faith Finders_

Monday, November 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 pizza, salad and garlic bread this month. No cost, but donations for the meal are appreciated.

Covenant Class -

Sunday, November 3 and 17 Group meets at 8:30^{am} in the Conference Room.

Pilgrim Fellowship (PF) ___

Sunday, November 3, 10, 17, and 24 for grades 6 – 12 Teens will begin in church with

Teens will begin in church with their families during 10^{am} worship and will be dismissed to PF during the service. Next PF Outing TBD.

FALL RETREAT

The Joyous Journey: Celebrating the Joys of Life Through Faith, Deeds, and More!

WHEN: Nov. 8 at 6 p.m. – Nov. 9 at 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Fox River Congregational Church
N43 W23575 Capitol Drive, Pewaukee, WI

RSVP: Email wcayouth@gmail.com or text Julie at (414) 588-8693



\$15 if RSVP by Nov. 4 \$20 anytime after Nov. 4 *fees collected at the doo

SCHEDULE

Friday:

6 p.m. | Pizza

7 p.m. | Ice Breakers/Music, What Does Joy Look Like With Others?

8 p.m. | Free Time/Games

9 p.m. | Movie and Snacks

10:30 p.m. | Vespers/What Does Joy Look Like With God?

12 am Hights out

Saturday:

8 a.m. | Rise and Shine/Breakfast 9 a.m. | What Does Joy Look Like in the World? 10 a.m. | What Does Joy Look Like in Service? We will do an in-house service project.

11 a.m. | Free time/Clean-up Noon | Communion/Closing 12:30 p.m. | Retreat conclusion

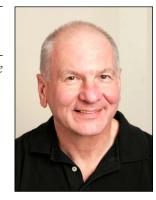


Send us pictures in advance that you think shows joy in the world. We will use them during this session.

A Note From Pastor Barry

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

As a reader of the Columns you are familiar with the Lord's Prayer - even though you and I may often rush through praying it. When I have preached on the prayer Jesus taught us, I have suggested slowing down and praying it by phrases. When I did so recently I began to wonder what is contrary to what we pray for in the Lord's Prayer. So I tried this process, and found the result to be not spiritual-neutral, but in stark contrast to the life of one's spirit; actually quite selfish [truly the inverse of what Jesus taught]! So, what might be the thoughts of a person who has no interest in the divine:



For instead of invoking God, even as Father, there is no thought of the supernatural in any name. And the concept of 'our' is reduced to 'my' and 'mine'. Heaven is neither up, nor down, nor inside, nor outside; heaven does not exist - at least at this point in my life. The only will to be done is my will. The only 'kingdom to come' is the one I want to live in - and am creating for myself. I, myself, make my own daily bread; I need no other. I do not need to be forgiven for I don't see myself doing anything wrong as I work my way through this world; and I certainly am not going to forgive anyone who wronged me. Because I do what I want, when I want, there cannot be any temptation, nor can there be any evil. For the world is positively mine; and all power is absolutely mine; and all glory definitely belongs to me! So be it!!!!!

But, if you want to align yourself with Jesus as he taught the prayer, this is it: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. And, I add, may we [at least in our joyful hearts] shout Amen!

- Pastor Barry



Serve on a Church Board

After hearing the reports from each of the Board Chairs during the Program Meeting in September, you might have felt drawn to become a more integral part of the Church.

Join fellow members using your talents, time, and abilities to 'return to God a portion of God's Gifts' and come 'grow in the knowledge and expression of your faith' as stated in our Covenant.

The Nominating Committee would love to hear from you as they will begin meeting this month to propose nominations to fill vacancies on our Boards. There are openings to serve on all of the boards:

Congregational Care, Deacons, Christian Education, Fellowship, Stewardship & Benevolence, Trustees

As well as...Personnel Committee, Nominating Committee If you have an interest in serving or even learning more about any of the boards, please contact the church office: 414-258-7375.

SATURDAY			10°m Purk of Wisdom 4°m Casual Worship	4pm Casual Worship	16 9°m Christian Meditation Workshop	4pm Casual Worship 5pm Tie-Blanket/Tie-Scarf Project	4pm Casual Worship	NO Casual Worship
FRIDAY			S:15pm St. Vincent Serve	6			2 23	29 оғнсе слоѕер
THURSDAY	NGREGATIONAL			7 9*** Big Band 10*** Sidetracks 5:30*** BSF 6:15*** Handbells 6:30*** FCC Choir	14 9em Big Band 15 10em Sidetracks	5:30°m BSF 6:15°m Handbells 6:30°m Financial Peace University 7:30°m FCC Choir	21 9-m Big Band 10-m Sidetracks 5:30-m BSF 6:15-m Handbells 6:30-m FCC Choir 7:30-m FCC Choir	28 THANKSGIVING NO Big Band 9*** Worship 5:30*** BSF
WEDNESDAY	AR OF EVENTS AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL			6 6:30°m Men's Bible Study 6°m Debtors Anon 7°m Personnel	13 6:30 ^{am} Men's Ministry 9 ^{am} Cream Gity Rug	6 ^{pm} Debtors Anon	20 6:30°m Men's Bible Study 10°m Harwood Communion & Chat 60°m Debtors Anon	6:130°m Men's Ministry 6°m Debtors Anon 6:15°m Handbells 7:30°m FCC Choir
TUESDAY	2019 CALENDA			7°m Women's Ministry 9°m Y0GA 1:30°m Greco Brass Quartet 6:45°m Boy Scouts 7°m Quilters Anon	12 7am Women's Ministry 9am Y0GA	12pm Circle 7 1:30pm Greco Brass Quartet 6:45pm Boy Scouts	9°m Y0GA 1:30°m Greco Brass Quartet 6°m Tosa Quilters 6:45°m Boy Scouts 7°m Historic Heights Book Club	Young Women's Ministry 9-m YOGA 1:30-m Greco Brass Quartet 6:45-m Boy Scouts 7-m Church Council
MONDAY				9m Harmony Singers 12:30pm Heritage Garden Club 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Al-Anon Meeting 8pm AA-Charlie Stone Group	ony Singers	1pm Staff Meeting 5pm Faith Finders 6:15pm Deacons 7pm Christian Ed 7pm Trustees 7pm Al-Anon Meeting 8pm AA-Charlie Stone Group	9am Harmony Singers 1pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Congregational Care 7pm Al-Anon Meeting 8pm AA-Charlie Stone Group	9em Harmony Singers 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Al-Anon Meeting 8pm AA-Charlie Stone Group
SUNDAY		NOVEMBER		8 8.30am Chapel/Comm. Worship 4 9.m Harm. 8:35am Covenant Class 8:45am Adult Learning Hour 1pm Staff by 9.m - Discovery Kids 9.m - Discovery Kids 7pm Al-An 9.	10 8 ^{am} Chapel Worship 1.8:45 ^{am} Adult Learning Hour	9*** • Discovery Kids • Jr. Choir Rehearsal • Nursery • Fellowship Board • LRP • Men's Choir Rehearsal • Worship/Men's Choir Sings • PF/SS/Nursery • T1*** Coffee Fellowship	8:30*** Covenant Class 8:30*** Covenant Class 8:45*** Adult Learning Hour 9*** - Discovery Kids - Jr. Choir Rehearsal - Nursery - Nursery - Nursery - Norship/Handbells Perform - PFSS/Nursery - Capital Campaign Task Force	24 8.45.m Chapel Worship 9.m Discovery Kids - Jr. Choir Rehearsal - Nursery 10.m Worship/Jr. Choir Sings #F/5S/Mursery 11.m • Coffee Fellowship - Communications Committee

The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa

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Church Family News

Janice Miesbauer passed away on September 23, 2019. Services were held.