

MAY ISSUE

Volume 35 - Issue 5

The Congregational COLUMNS

Going Online!

There is a great deal going on behind the scenes at First church, in spite of the safer at home directives. So many have pulled together to help us get through this time of challenge that I wanted to shine a light on some of these efforts.

As soon as it became clear that we could no longer gather in person, efforts began to provide an online worship experience to our members and others. Scott Mason and Bill Edens have stepped up in a big way to make sure we had worship times during Holy week. Each week Bill, Scott, Barry and I have found a time to record the worship, as did Rhonda and the soloist for the coming Sunday. Then came the task of editing, adding graphics and timing of the audio, which took countless hours of work. Words cannot express the depth of our appreciation to have such talented and dedicated members.

It didn't stop there. Bill Edens has led the effort in giving us the ability to live stream our worship services, not just in these times of social distancing, but in the times to come. We have invested in the necessary hardware and software to give us better capability for online worship. While there is a significant learning curve, I am confident we will be better prepared for the future.

On the Christian Education front, Covenant classes are continuing via Zoom. The girls are meeting with their mentors via telephone or online. The plans are to hold Confirmation on May 17th if we are able to be together. The girls have not missed a beat in regards to our class expectations.

Tonia has been emailing Sunday School and PF lessons to parents on Saturday evenings and daily devotions were sent during Holy Week. Plans are to send the devotions on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

PF gatherings have been held on Zoom, and our middle and high school youth have enjoyed "seeing" each other and having fellowship from the comfort of their own homes. These gatherings will be held once a week until we can be together in person again.

Our Secret Buddy program has not missed a beat, and letters are being shared through the mail. The letters come to Tonia, who sends them where they need to go. The reveal date is obviously to be determined, but in the mean time, our buddies are still connecting with written their notes.

We took the cherished tradition of the Annual Easter Egg Hunt directly to our children this year. On Holy Saturday, a handful of volunteers drove to the homes of our First Church families to hide a bag of treats for each child so they could still have the hunt. This small gesture was to remind the children how much their church family loves and misses them. The smiles in the photos are priceless!

Finally, the nursery is all ready to go when it is time to return to church. Mark Lund had a crew come in and stretch the carpet before cleaning it. Then Barb Dunham worked tirelessly to get the nursery toys and furniture completely cleaned.

Know we are still here keeping that faith connection strong. Stay safe. Check on each other. Know you are all in our prayers.

Missing you,

- Bill



THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

Worship & Discovery

Casual Worship

Saturdays at 4^{pm}

While we are practicing social distancing, the Casual Worship service will be available on the First Church website – firstchurchtosa.org. The link can be found on the home page. It is also available on the First Church Facebook page and Instagram.

Be a Part of Laity Sunday

Sunday, June 28th

The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches has cancelled its annual conference for the last week of June. Even though the ministers won't be out of town, Reverend Trump has decided to continue the tradition of Laity Sunday on June 28th.

This is an opportunity for each of three volunteers to give a short meditation in place of the usual sermon. We also need additional members to help fill other parts of the worship service.

If you would like to be a part of the service, please speak to any of the Deacons, Reverend Trump or Reverend Barry.

Summer Worship Begins

Sunday, June 28th, 9^{am}



Operating Statement Summary

Year to Date as of March 2020

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	27%	22%
Pledge Income	\$144,182	\$107,108
Total Income	\$208,357	\$190,122
Total Expense	\$147,505	\$143,481
Net Income	\$60,852	\$46,642

Detailed financials available at office.

Adult Learning Hour

Sundays, 9^{am}

Adult Learning sessions may be accessed by joining the meeting on zoom.us. The meeting ID is 6215624692. The password is 192256. The book, *Jesus is Risen*, is available from the church Office for \$13. Please contact Patty Reddy with any questions.

Women's Ministry

Tuesdays, 7^{am}

The group continues to work through the Book of Psalms. If you would like to participate, please email Pat Reddy at patreddy@deltaformslltd.com. She will email you a link, Meeting ID and Password prior to the meeting. If the link doesn't work, you can try going to the website – zoom.us -- and clicking on "Join a Meeting."

Men's Bible Study

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30^{am}, in Room 107
when FCC reopens

Led by Bruce Milne, the group is currently studying the Book of Romans. Men's Bible Study meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. They do not meet on the 5th Wednesday of the month when it occurs. Please contact Bruce for information about meeting during social distancing.

Men's Ministry

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6:30^{am}, in Room 107
when FCC reopens

The group is continuing with *The History of Christianity: From the Disciples to the Dawn of the Reformation*, featuring Luke Timothy Johnson, Ph.D. at Emory University -- one of The Great Courses DVD Series. Please contact Bill Edens about meeting during social distancing.

IMPORTANT NOTE!

All event dates are subject
to change, depending
on CDC recommendations
for social distancing.

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

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

www.FirstChurchTosa.org

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Senior Minister

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Director of Christian Education

Dr. Patrick Dill
Director of Music

Rhonda Kwiecien
Keyboard Musician

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

Jillian Bruss
Financial Secretary

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First Congregational Church
1511 Church Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-7375

Like us on Facebook!

Off the Top of My Head

By Rev. William S. Trump, Senior Minister

In his book, *The Yoke of Christ*, Elton Trueblood quotes a letter from a schoolgirl who probes the depth of her soul. She writes:

I've been thinking much this year about the importance of caring, of the passion of life. I've often realized that it takes courage to care. Caring is dangerous. It leaves you open to hurt and to looking like a fool. And perhaps it's because they have been hurt so often that people are afraid to care. You can't die if you're not alive. And then who would rather be a stone? I have found many places in my own life where I keep a secret store of indifference as a sort of self-protection.

That's a penetrating insight -- a secret store of indifference. We are to care, because Christ cared -- even though it means a cross.

It doesn't take long to realize how blessed we are. We have comfortable, safe homes. We sit down to eat



meals with plenty of leftovers. We sleep in warm soft beds. Then I realize there are many in our own community who don't have such blessings. This realization struck me hard as I watched the increased demand on our local food supplies. I realized I do care about these people I have never met. I realized I can do something to help provide for the most basic necessities of life. You can too.

While shopping right now can be a challenge, we still can reach out and support the Tosa Food Bank through our Easter Special Offering. We all hear calls for caring for one another in this difficult time.

We need to battle the store of indifference. We need to risk the hurt of caring. Christ cared -- we must too.

- Bill



A Note of Appreciation

On behalf of First Congregational Church, I want to say thank you to the members for your steadfast, thoughtful support of our church community during this unprecedented time. I am very grateful to all of you who are keeping up with your pledge commitments, despite not being able to attend worship services in person.

Our 2020 Easter Special Offering, designated for the Tosa Community Food Bank and the Congregational Church of Myanmar, continues at this time of great need. Never before has the need been greater for support of the Tosa Community Food Pantry. If you were considering a donation for the Easter Special Offering there is still time. We would like to disburse the funds before the end of May!

Those critically important funds will give both organizations a much-needed foothold as they weather this virus-induced storm. Please either mail your Easter Special Offering, make an online donation on our website OR... drop it off in the lobby off Church Street where we have devised a drop box for your convenience. The same three options apply to your pledge check. Thank you again for all you do. God's blessings and guidance to you, your family and friends -- stay safe & healthy!

Jill Bruss, Financial Secretary

First Congregational Church
1511 Church Street
Wauwatosa, WI. 53213

Website: www.firstchurchtosa.org



Sunday School

*Suspended until FCC reopens
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

*Suspended until FCC reopens
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

*Suspended until FCC reopens
for grades 2-8*

Meet at 9:00^{am} in LL4.

Sing on Sunday, March 15.

Faith Finders

*May event cancelled
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!

Covenant Class

Until FCC reopens, Rev. Trump and Tonia Wallner will be contacting members of the class with instructions.

Pilgrim Fellowship (PF)

*Suspended until FCC reopens
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. Next PF Outing TBD.

SAVE THE DATES

Vacation Bible School 2020 August 10th-14th



I hope that all of our FCC youth will join us for this summer's Vacation Bible School ... August 10th-14th. ROCKY RAILWAY is our theme, and the children will learn that JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH.

This will be a transforming experience, and the kids will discover that they can trust Jesus. Life is rocky for kids - full of ups and downs and twists and turns. At ROCKY RAILWAY, they will explore Jesus' power and how we can trust Jesus to pull us through when life feels like a valley or a mountaintop. They will deepen their friendship with Jesus and leave knowing they can trust Him to do big things in their lives.

With the challenging circumstances in our world today, I am struck with the timeliness of this summer's theme, and I believe that this is the Holy Spirit at work.

I look forward to an amazing week with the youth of First Church, as well as the children in our greater community. Look for more information in the coming months, and a registration form in the June Columns.

WCA Youth Camp 2020 July 12th-18th



This year's camp theme is FAITH OLYMPICS, and our 3rd-12th graders will enjoy a program built around this theme, as well as awesome worship, campfires, and fun activities throughout our week together. WCA Camp is about strengthening connections of friendship, fellowship, and faith - with yourself, with others, with Scripture, and most of all, with God. If you're interested in strengthening these connections, while having lots of fun and meeting new friends, you will have an awesome time!

The camp registration packet is now available in the Atrium, and information can be found on the WCA website as well. It would be great to have a large group of youth representing First Church this summer. If you have any questions, please reach out to Tonia.

** We will not know whether we have to cancel camp until mid-May, but the Early Bird rate has been extended. Camp is still "on" at this moment as well, and yet, we may not be in control as to the final decision. If Mt. Morris is told to shut down, we will have to abide and potentially come up with a multi-day retreat in its place, even if it is virtual.*



Looking Ahead

The Mission Trip is still “on” at this moment, and we will see what happens with the Auction. The Auction was supposed to be held in early April, and I am truly hoping that it will be rescheduled and the trip will go on as planned. Our group was up to 23, with 17 youth and 6 adults, so it would be a shame if it doesn’t happen this June.

Italian Dinner & Auction
FCC YOUTH
Mission Trip

Enjoy These Images From Our Virtual Easter Egg Hunt...





This season's 4 O'clocks Concert Series continues the First Church tradition of bringing unparalleled musical performances to Wauwatosa.

Discover what devoted audiences from our congregation and the community already know – First Church is a center for musical excellence.

4 O'clocks

CONCERT SERIES

— 2019-2020 —

You'll want to put the season's upcoming concerts on your calendar:

MAY 17, 2020
Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble



Lights, Camera, Handbells!
Kaethe Grabenhorst, Director

The Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble takes you to the movies for a star-studded musical trip to Hollywood!

All concerts are at 4:00pm followed by a reception.

There is no charge; however, free-will donations are gladly accepted.

A Note From Pastor Barry

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

According to C. S. Lewis, it is interesting that "It is only for our bad behavior that we find . . . explanations. It is only our bad temper that we put down to being tired or worried or hungry. We put our good temper down to ourselves." He points out that we make all sorts of excuses. We were unfair to our children because we were very tired. We did some shady business because we were very hard up. We didn't help (fill in a name – or someone's description here) because we were frightfully busy. And, as to our wife, husband, sister, brother, we didn't (fill in the blank here) because we were too (fill in the blank here). But C. S. Lewis makes yet another vital point, which is that if we don't believe in decent behavior, why are we so anxious to make excuses for not having behaved decently?

What Lewis seeks for us to admit to ourselves is that, in order to live a genuine, truthful, and honest life, we must think clearly about ourselves. In plain language, not to steam up a mirror so that we can't see ourselves. Isn't that the central problem we all have? Each of us desires to see ourselves in the best



light possible. I recently, and for the first time, had a body check for skin cancer [all is well and next exam is a year from now], but for my dermatologist's physician's assistant to inspect my skin under a magnifying glass was terrifying to me (and I think likewise to the PA).

Did you ever look at your intentions under

magnification? Or your soul? Our ethereal souls may be interesting for us to examine, but perhaps when we begin to carefully scrutinize each of our intentions we may not want to continue to look. We may not want to continue to analyze why we do what we do - and have done. However, we have a divine professional to heal our souls – and to help heal us. Prayerfully invite Jesus into our lives. Live with humility. Practice with persistence. When we are able to recognize our human need for God, His loving grace will be there, for Jesus

promised us that if we abide in Him, He will abide in us. (John 15.)

- Pastor Barry

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

MAY

<div> <div>8^{am}</div> <div>8:30^{am}</div> <div>8:45^{am}</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>10^{am}</div> <div>11^{am}</div> <div>11:15^{am}</div> </div>						<div> <div>1^{8^{am}}</div> <div>5:15^{pm}</div> </div>	<div> <div>2^{10^{am}}</div> <div>4^{pm}</div> </div>	<div> <div>Prepare for St. Vincent</div> <div>Serve at St. Vincent</div> </div>	<div> <div>Purloins of Wisdom</div> <div>Casual Worship</div> </div>
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<div> <div>3^{8^{am}}</div> <div>8:30^{am}</div> <div>8:45^{am}</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>10^{am}</div> <div>11^{am}</div> <div>11:15^{am}</div> </div>						<div> <div>7^{9^{am}}</div> <div>10^{am}</div> </div>	<div> <div>7^{9^{am}}</div> <div>10^{am}</div> </div>	<div> <div>Big Band</div> <div>Sidetracks</div> </div>	<div> <div>8^{9^{am}}</div> <div>4^{pm}</div> </div>	<div> <div>Casual Worship</div> </div>
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6:30^{am}

6^{am}

7^{am}

Men's Bible Study

Debtors Anon

Personnel

7^{7^{am}}

8:40^{am}

10^{am}

6:45^{pm}

7^{pm}

Women's Ministry

Gentle YOGA

Greco Brass Quartet

Boy Scouts

Quilters Anon

<div> <div>10^{8^{am}}</div> <div>8:45^{am}</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>10^{am}</div> <div>11^{am}</div> </div>						<div> <div>14^{9^{am}}</div> <div>10^{am}</div> </div>	<div> <div>14^{9^{am}}</div> <div>10^{am}</div> </div>	<div> <div>Big Band</div> <div>Sidetracks</div> </div>	<div> <div>15^{9^{am}}</div> <div>16^{4^{pm}}</div> </div>	<div> <div>Casual Worship</div> </div>
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6:30^{am}

10^{am}

6^{am}

Men's Ministry

Cream City Rug Club

Debtors Anon

7^{7^{am}}

8:40^{am}

10^{am}

6:45^{pm}

Women's Ministry

Gentle YOGA

Greco Brass Quartet

Boy Scouts

11^{9^{am}}

11^{am}

1^{pm}

5^{pm}

6:15^{pm}

7^{pm}

7^{pm}

8^{pm}

Harmony Singers

Tosa Distinguished Citizen Award Council

Staff Meeting

Faith Finders

Board of Deacons

Board of Christian Ed

Board of Trustees

Al-Anon Meeting

AA-Charlie Stone Group

<div> <div>17^{8^{am}}</div> <div>8:45^{am}</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>10^{am}</div> <div>11^{am}</div> </div>						<div> <div>21^{9^{am}}</div> <div>10^{am}</div> </div>	<div> <div>21^{9^{am}}</div> <div>10^{am}</div> </div>	<div> <div>Big Band</div> <div>Sidetracks</div> </div>	<div> <div>22^{9^{am}}</div> <div>23^{4^{pm}}</div> </div>	<div> <div>Casual Worship</div> </div>
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6:30^{am}

10^{am}

6^{am}

Men's Bible Study

Harwood Communion & Chat

Debtors Anon

7^{7^{am}}

8:40^{am}

10^{am}

6:45^{pm}

7^{pm}

7^{pm}

Women's Ministry

Gentle YOGA

Greco Brass Quartet

Boy Scouts

Tosa Quilters

Historic Heights Book Club

<div> <div>24^{8^{am}}</div> <div>8:45^{am}</div> <div>9^{am}</div> <div>10^{am}</div> <div>11^{am}</div> </div>						<div> <div>28^{9^{am}}</div> <div>10^{am}</div> </div>	<div> <div>28^{9^{am}}</div> <div>10^{am}</div> </div>	<div> <div>Big Band</div> <div>Sidetracks</div> </div>	<div> <div>29^{9^{am}}</div> <div>30^{4^{pm}}</div> </div>	<div> <div>Casual Worship</div> </div>
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6:30^{am}

6^{am}

Men's Ministry

Debtors Anon

7^{7^{am}}

8:40^{am}

10^{am}

6:45^{pm}

7^{pm}

Women's Ministry

Gentle YOGA

Greco Brass Quartet

Boy Scouts

Church Council

8^{8^{am}}

8:45^{am}

9^{am}

10^{am}

11^{am}

Chapel Worship

Adult Learning

Discovery Kids

Worship

NO PF/SS

Nursery

Coffee Fellowship

31^{8^{am}}

8:45^{am}

9^{am}

10^{am}

11^{am}

Chapel Worship

Adult Learning

Discovery Kids

Worship

PF/SS/Nursery

Fifth Sunday Pot Luck

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

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

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