

JULY 2020

Volume 35 - Issue 7

The Congregational COLUMNS

Thank You for Supporting Our Youth

With the unprecedented pandemic, many of our treasured First Church spring traditions had to be cancelled. We typically celebrate our children and youth on Education Sunday the first Sunday of June, which includes special music, Sunday School presentations, readings and ushering by our youth, and recognizing our volunteers who work with our young people throughout the program year.

Our volunteers are the lifeblood of our youth programs, and I appreciate the fact that they share their time and talents with the children on a weekly basis. Our line-up of Sunday School teachers was top notch again this year, with Julie Wills and Patti Bartholf in the 3,4, & 5-year-old room, Sara King in the 1st & 2nd grade room, and Sarah Trump in the 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade room. I was also blessed to have Jim Santelle and Jon Stern on this incredible team, ready to teach at nearly any level where there was a need on any given week....priceless!! Rounding out our Sunday morning team is the dynamic duo of Kari Leon and Alissa Elwing, always making sure that our tiniest members are loved and cared for in the nursery. And we can't forget Roxanne Trump-Miles, the woman who leads our Junior Choir to sing like angels!

Our Sunday morning crew is vitally important, and yet, there are a handful of adult volunteers who lend a hand at youth events on other days. Barb Dunham is our chef extraordinaire for Faith Finders the second Monday of each month, and creates kid-friendly meals before our meetings begin. Cathy Denny is the most creative person I know, and lends her amazing talents for Vacation Bible School, the PF Christmas Play, and with our Mission Auction, as well as sharing upcoming church events on the bulletin board outside of the Christian Education office. I don't know what I would do without her! I also want to thank the fine folks who serve as mentors to our Covenant teens and Secret Buddies to our 1st-5th graders, as well as those who craft with the children at our annual Christmas Workshop.

The other special phase of worship that we missed from Children's Sunday was the recognition of our graduating high school seniors. I hope that we can honor them at a Sunday service this summer, and in the meantime, wanted to share how wonderful this group of young adults is with you.

Payton Breitzmann, daughter of Kevin and Jenny Breitzmann, graduated from Germantown High School. She will attend Vanderbilt University on the pre-med track, majoring in Medicine Health and Society and minoring in Spanish. Payton's favorite memories from First Church include the Mission Trip, PF Christmas Plays, Dave & Buster's outings, and the Sunday morning PF lessons.

Luke Huitink, son of Mike and Sandy Huitink, graduated from Wauwatosa West High School. He will attend Coe College, play on the soccer team, and will double major in Political Science and History. Luke appreciated when Tonia reached out to invite him to join our youth programs, and his favorite memories are from the overnights, especially the Famine. Chill, Chat, Challenge events were also really fun times.

continued on page 6

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.



Operating Statement Summary

Year to Date as of May 2020

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	37.0%	31.0%
Pledge Income	\$197,328	\$149,914
Total Income	\$273,960	\$244,951
Total Expense	\$198,553	\$178,023
Net Income	\$75,407	\$66,928

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.

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

Tonia Wallner
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

Marianne King
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Like us on Facebook!

IMPORTANT NOTE!

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

Off the Top of My Head

By Rev. William S. Trump, *Senior Minister*

Back in the earliest days of this land, the place our pilgrim forebears gathered for worship was not called the church. It was known as “the meetinghouse.” And, you know, when you think of it carefully, there is no better name by which to call a place such as that beautiful structure on Church Street that we love so much. Calling it “The Meeting House” places the emphasis is where it belongs - people ... together.

On the day of Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian church, the Spirit filled crowd heard Peter and understood his testimony of faith and relationship was born. The church is people, not a building. The building is the meetinghouse where the church gathers to gain comfort, strength, and insight, and from which the church scatters into the community.

There is meaning in meeting. There is meaning in our being in relationship with others. We need to meet with others. We do it all the time: we meet around a joy

or a sorrow, at a wedding or a funeral. In such meeting there is meaning never found anywhere else.

Normally, We come to the meetinghouse, the place of Christian gathering. We are together - with one another and with God. We come and we meet and carry away the meaning of our shared worship.

Right now, to care for one another, to care for our community, we can't do things the same old way. The church and the work of the church continue in new and exciting ways. We human persons are not solitary creatures: we live in relationship. And Christianity is not a solitary religion: the people of this Faith come alive in relationship and, in relationship, we live.

We have before us a challenge to care for one another and continue the work of the gospel in a different kind of world. May God bless and guide our efforts.

- Bill



FCC Thank You and Best Wishes to Dr. Patrick Dill

We would like to announce to the congregation that Dr. Patrick Dill has accepted a new teaching position as Choral Director and Co-Professor of Music Education Courses at Swinney Conservatory of Music in Fayette, MO. This means he must leave his position with First Congregational Church as Director of Music. Patrick, Ryan and the girls, are moving from Wisconsin to their new home in Missouri in June. We are sorry to see them leave our church family and wish them all the best and much success in their next chapter.

Patrick shared with us his many talents and great enthusiasm for making music. He brought an extensive knowledge and understanding of the church calendar which allowed him to select very relevant pieces to enhance and

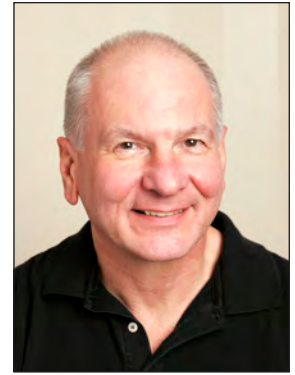
add meaning to the worship services. His talents also extended to handbells and he was able to resurrect the bell choir, for your listening pleasure!

He presented opportunities for the choir to join with the singers at Carroll University to perform a number of beautiful works. The choir also had occasion to join with multiple choirs to form a spectacular group of approximately 300 for a memorable Easter season performance in Shattuck Auditorium at Carroll University. And of course, there were the inspiring Christmas programs and beautiful works at our own Good Friday services.



A Note From Pastor Barry

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



Treasured Silence

One way of praying is in silence. A period of silence, no words, is termed meditation. If the words of scripture are used, or if an attribute of God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit is in the forefront of our minds, it is called contemplative prayer.

Who meditates? Jesus meditated while alone. Christian desert monks meditated. Modern people meditate, and it seems to be a current rage. Teachers have asked children in school to be quiet for a controlled five minutes. Buddhists meditate as do Hindus. I have prompted my two grandchildren to have “treasured silence” at our home.

Another word for meditation is mindfulness. Medical science has shown that this practice of a period of silence reduces stress. Isn't that what is needed now? By centering ourselves in our own breathing we are in the here and now. The past is past. The future, uncertain as it may be, is not our current concern. Hard to do? Yes, it may be. But what use is anxiety for something we cannot fully control. Be with Jesus now. In this moment as we spend even a few minutes with Him.

Meet on the Links

There are a host of reasons to love golf: the fresh air, the natural surroundings, the exercise, the 19th hole . . . but golf has the added advantage of being perfectly suited to social distancing.

You are invited to join other men and women from First Church for Monday night golf during July and August at Silver Spring Golf Club.

Riding cart fees are based on two players per cart. If golfers wish to ride alone to facilitate social distancing, an extra \$7 fee will apply for 9 holes and \$14 for 18 holes. Pull carts are available on a first-come first-serve basis. Pull cart fees are \$5 for 9 holes and \$8 for 18 holes.

For more information, please contact Bill Edens at wre.specter@gmail.com.

Softball Season is Shortened

COVID-19 has played havoc with all kinds of plans, including the Men's Softball League. We're happy to report that the season is simply delayed, not cancelled.

According to the Wauwatosa Rec Department, the Softball Leagues will begin the week of July 6th, as long as the department can prove full compliance to social distancing modifications and group size requirements.

The primary obstacle facing the program is the guidance from the CDC and the State of Wisconsin which requires group size stay at 10 people or less. If this specific restriction isn't loosened by July 5th, our leagues will be forced to cancel. Realistically, we cannot operate unless this restriction is eased to group sizes of 25-30 people.

For more information contact Scott Rondeau at infocandybouquetwauwatosa@gmail.com.

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

JULY

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Summer Sunday School

For ages 3 – entering 6th grade

Children who have completed grades 6 and up are encouraged to remain in church with their families.

Summer PF: Chillin' on the Ridge July 12th and 26th at 7:00^{pm}

The PF Leadership Team is thrilled to announce summer fellowship opportunities for our middle and high school youth. We will meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month out on Ridge Court, with time for games, discussion, and time around the fire pit. We can follow safe social distancing guidelines while participating in fun activities...together again! There will be themes for each meeting, and our attendees will be encouraged to dress for the theme. The July 12th meeting will have a Hawaiian theme, while the July 26th theme will be tailgate/favorite sports team. Let's show our PF spirit this summer!

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.



Thank You... continued from page 1

Miles King, son of Mark and Sara King, graduated from Wauwatosa East High School. He will attend Duke University and major in Political Science and Economics. Miles' favorite First Church memories are going to the PF Lock-In for the first time, the Confirmation process (especially the retreat and meeting with Mrs. Boyd), and the recent Zoom PF gatherings.

Brenna Masloroff, daughter of Scott and Deb Masloroff, graduated from Franklin High School. She will be attending UW-Oshkosh to study Elementary Education and Special Education, and will also throw the shot put, discuss, and hammer for the track team. Brenna enjoyed Sunday morning PF activities, Covenant Class, and acting like a ninja with Maddie ("stealing" donuts and cookies from the Social Hall before Worship).

Maddie Sgarlata, daughter of Nick and Carrie Sgarlata, graduated from Wauwatosa East High School. She will attend UW-Oshkosh in the fall and will major in Psychology and Criminal Justice. Maddie loves EVERYTHING at church, and especially enjoyed VBS, Children's Sunday, WCA Camp, the PF Christmas Play, Christmas Workshops, Sunday School, Junior Choir, and singing/playing guitar for Worship services throughout the year.

Maryanne York, daughter of David and Debbie York, graduated from Brookfield Academy. She will be attending Drake University in the fall to study Environmental Science and Psychology. Some of Maryanne's favorite FCC memories are from Vacation Bible School, both as an attendee and as a teen group leader, as well as the PF Christmas Plays when I helped with the props and the sets.

You can see that this group of seniors is smart and talented, and their futures are bright. I am extremely proud of them and who they are as young adults, and wish them all of the joy and happiness that new adventures bring. God bless you, Seniors!

Vacation Bible School

August 10th - 14th

9^{am} – Noon



Name of child(ren) _____ Grade _____
_____ Grade _____
_____ Grade _____

Entering in Fall

Entering in Fall

Entering in Fall

Address

City

State

Zip

Email _____

Allergies/Health _____

Parent Name (s) _____ Home Phone(s) (_____) _____

Cell Phone(s) _____ Work Phone(s) (_____) _____

Emergency Contact _____ Emergency Phone (_____) _____

Cost: \$10.00/first child; \$5.00/each additional child; \$20/maximum per family

☐ Yes, I am interested in helping out during VBS. *Please check all areas of interest.*

☐ teaching ☐ science/imagination ☐ games ☐ where needed

☐ While volunteering, I will need childcare for my children not yet old enough to participate in VBS.

How did you hear about our Vacation Bible School Program?

☐ I belong to the church ☐ I am a guest of _____

☐ Other _____

Photographic Release

I, (print) _____
give consent for any photograph(s) of my child(ren) to be used for promotional purposes.

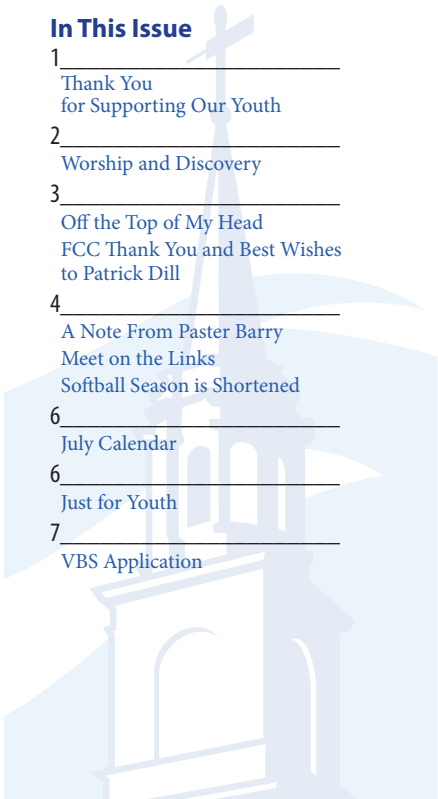
Signed: _____

The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
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In This Issue



1	Thank You for Supporting Our Youth
2	Worship and Discovery
3	Off the Top of My Head FCC Thank You and Best Wishes to Patrick Dill
4	A Note From Paster Barry Meet on the Links Softball Season is Shortened
6	July Calendar
6	Just for Youth
7	VBS Application