

NOVEMBER 2020

Volume 35 - Issue 11

The Congregational COLUMNS

2021 Stewardship Campaign

Our annual stewardship campaign is upon us. Traditionally, this is when we explain First Congregational Church's upcoming budgetary needs and ask for your pledges to meet those needs. We typically provide you with a theme for the campaign designed to motivate us all to meet the upcoming financial obligations of First Church by pledging our support.

This year we have faced many challenges, and members have risen to the occasion with continued encouragement and generosity. We want to start by simply saying thank you!

Your response to the challenges of 2020 has been nothing less than extraordinary. That is not hyperbole. While other churches struggled to meet basic needs such as payroll, we funded our entire budget. We paid our staff, met our commitments, supported our programming and events, and provided for our most critical needs, including youth education and much-needed outreach to our members.

Your generosity did not stop there. Because of your commitment, we were also able to support missions outside the church and meet community needs. We contributed to those who house homeless veterans, supported abuse victims trapped in the isolation of this pandemic, fed those who are hungry, and provided clothing and supplies to foster children and others in need both here and in our international missions.

2020 presented every opportunity for us to fail. Instead, we succeeded. You succeeded.

The coming year will once again present financial challenges. First Church, again, needs you to pledge your support to meet those needs and fulfill our Christian mission, both internally for our members and externally for those in need. You may already have received your pledge card in the mail. We ask that you renew your commitment to First Church and its mission by making your pledge.

Thank you again for an extraordinary effort in 2020. On to 2021!

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Thursday, November 26th at 9^{am} 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**.

THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

Worship & Discovery

Casual Worship



Saturdays at 4^{pm}

Until further notice, Casual Worship will be meeting in Room LL1 - the Choir Room. It may be watched as a live-stream on the First Church Facebook page. You can access the Facebook page from firstchurchtosa.org - Home Page.

Adult Learning Hour

The session meets Sundays at 8:45 am in Room LL2, which is next to the Choir Room.

Women's Ministry

Tuesdays, 7:30^{am}

Sessions meet in the Friendship Lounge. We are studying the Book of Ruth. Please bring a mask and join us! Contact Pat Reddy with questions at deltaformltd@sbcglobal.net.

Men's Ministry

Currently on hiatus. Watch for the fall start date.

Men's Bible Study

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30am, in Room LL2

Led by Bruce Milne, the group is currently studying the Book of Romans. Men's Bible Study will meet in Room LL2 on the Lower Level on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. There is no meeting on the 5th Wednesday of the month when it occurs.

Please contact Bruce for information about meeting during social distancing at wbmilne@aol.com

Operating Statement Summary Year to Date as of September 2020

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	68%	69%
Pledge Income	\$361,646	\$339,203
Total Income	\$480,151	\$477,835
Total Expense	\$426,912	\$434,870
Net Income	\$53,239	\$42,965

Detailed financials available at office.

Hanging of the Greens

This has been an extraordinary year. Our plans have been sabotaged and our lives upended. We look forward to Christmas, the season of hope, to bring much-needed joy to our lives. The Deacons will help us celebrate the season with the traditional Hanging of the Greens!

You are invited to join the Deacons on Saturday, November 28th to help deck the halls with natural wreaths and greenery. The exact time of our gathering will be announced in the What's Happening eblast and on firstchurchtosa.org as we get closer to the date.

To volunteer, please call the Office at 414.258.7375 any time Monday through Thursday, between 9 am and 3 pm, email marianne@firstchurchtosa.org, or sign up at the Gathering Table in the Atrium.

The Board of Deacons will gladly accept donations toward the purchase of these joyful decorations. Fill out the form provided in the Columns and make your check payable to First Congregational Church or FCC.

Dedications will be printed in the Christmas Eve orders of worship.

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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414-258-7375

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Rev. William S. Trump
Senior Minister

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

Tonia Wallner
Director of Christian Education

Rhonda Kwiecien
Keyboard Musician

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

Jim Harris
Administrator

Jillian Bruss
Financial Secretary

Marianne King
Office Coordinator

Cindy Walsh - Staff Support

Mark Lund - Custodian

Kale Lund - Sunday Custodian

Kari Leon - Nursery Supervisor

Cathy Denny - Columns Coordinator
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First Congregational Church
1511 Church Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-7375

Like us on Facebook!

Christmas Decor Donations

*Dedicate to Your loved ones
this Holiday Season*

Your Name(s) _____

In honor of: _____
(and/or)

In memory of: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Off the Top of My Head

By Rev. William S. Trump, Senior Minister

Thanksgiving is probably one of my favorite holidays of the year. It has, for the most part, escaped the commercialism of our modern day. Yet as a whole, we are not very good at being thankful. There is a story about a Vermont farmer who was sitting on the porch with his wife. He was beginning to realize how much she meant to him. It was about time--for they had lived together forty-two years, and she had been such a help, a very willing worker. One day as they sat together, he said, "Wife, you've been such a wonderful woman that there are times I can hardly keep from telling you."

Why are we so reluctant to thank one another for the graces we extend to each other? Gratitude and thanksgiving have been foundational to the Christian faith. From the early pages of Genesis to the last verses of Revelation, we see great expressions of appreciation and thanksgiving to God. Throughout our struggles with the pandemic I have tried to express our deepest gratitude to all of you for your continued support in so many ways.



John Henry Jowett, a British preacher of an earlier generation, said this about gratitude: "Gratitude is a vaccine, an antitoxin, and an antiseptic." What did he mean? He meant that gratitude, like a vaccine, can prevent the invasion of a disgruntled, discouraged spirit. Like an antitoxin, gratitude can prevent the affects of the poisons of cynicism, criticalness, and grumbling. Like an antiseptic, a spirit of gratitude can soothe and heal the most troubled spirit.

It's good to have this special time to count our blessings and express our thanksgiving to God, not just one day a year, but with every beat of our hearts.

*"Thou hast given so much to me
Give one thing more-a grateful heart:
Not thankful when it pleaseth me,
As if thy blessings had spare days,
But such a heart whose pulse may be
Thy praise." George Herbert (1593-1633)*

- Bill

Fall greetings to you, First Church friends!

As we continue to journey through this challenging season of our lives, I hope you are staying healthy and finding opportunities to share and experience God's love in nourishing ways.

It seems many people are returning to nature — and especially birds — as a way to find connection. As a bird person myself, I have been appreciating the seasonal change as I watch Canadian geese migrate through our Mississippi Flyway. When I see their typical "V" formation, I am reminded that this is how they uplift one another, because the formation helps them share the load and fly longer distances, compared to what they otherwise could do alone.

Last January, I made the difficult decision to resign from Congregational Home in order to focus on completing my internship and academic coursework. I loved my ministry of care, there, and I served for two wonderful years. I had the opportunity to lead weekly ecumenical worship services, initiate monthly prayer circles, share weekly spiritual reflections for staff, officiate at funerals, and enter into many pastoral care visits. It was a formative ministry, and I learned so much!

The residents helped me appreciate that journeying together — like the Canadian geese — is a blessing of togetherness that can uplift us and help us soar farther and longer in our migration with God.

I've been reflecting on this ministry and wanted to extend the encouragement for us to do the same as we uplift our community. For example, who is single and flying alone in our

community? Who especially needs to hear the call of your voice? Who would appreciate receiving a card? For us single people, it also encourages us to be proactive and call out too. After all, we're not a "lone goose!" We're part of the flock too, so, who can we reach out to for encouragement? Prayer? Help? Others need us as much as we need them! As we continue to soar through this time and prepare to reach our final destination, consider the importance of communication. How can we uplift one another today?

Some of you have asked how my unfolding journey has been going, and I appreciate your support! I graduated with my M.A. Pastoral Counseling degree in August, and I will be graduating in May with my M.Div., both from Loyola University Chicago. It has been a wonderfully formative program! I recently moved up to Fond du Lac to stay with my family "flock" during this winter COVID time, and I am participating in community gatherings online. Like you, I am eagerly awaiting the opening of our world and opportunities, while at the same time, I am finding gifts in the midst — like the important reminder that we belong to each other. We are called to journey together and uplift one another. When we do, we can soar farther!

May your journey — and our collective journey — continue to be blessed with God's abiding grace, love, and hope.

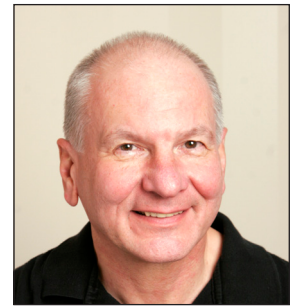
With Thanksgiving blessings,

- Tesha Urban



A Note From Pastor Barry

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

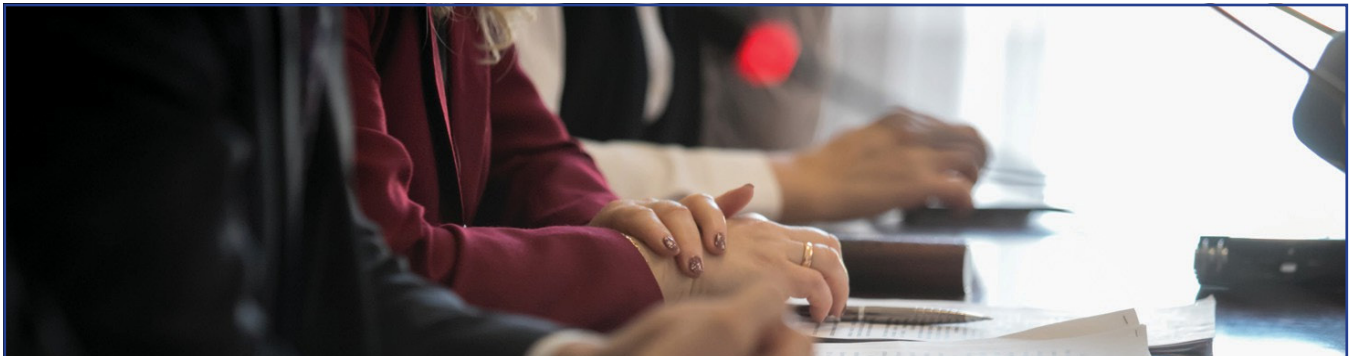


I read the Harry Potter books and watched all of the movies. Evil lurks everywhere in Harry Potter's world. Often, we can't tell the "good" characters from the "bad." Some who were evil remained evil. Other characters were redeemed. But what I read was that evil, all-encompassing evil, never triumphed. Yet, sometimes, in specific situations, evil did win. I think this is the benefit of that series.

As we journey through life, evil can persist as an addiction gone bad. Individually, we can easily become addicted to alcohol, impersonal sex, emotional anger, violence, power which controls and overwhelms another, gambling, or even prescriptive drugs. Societally, we can easily overlook the evils of random violence, domestic violence, hatred, legal and illegal slavery, rape, incest, bad drinking water resulting in horrible stomach ailments, the lack of adequate medical care to each person on this earth, religious intolerance, the spoken and unspoken caste systems even in these United States, the spread of misinformation, and so much more. It is then we must examine the prayer we say weekly, if not daily, the prayer Jesus taught us to pray with these words: "Our Father, who art in heaven . . . deliver us from evil."

I can picture Jesus with his disciples gathered around him just as we gather around a table or campfire. Then when he said "Our" his followers knew they were together with him in prayer. When we pray today, we become a people in union with each other. Together we pray to be delivered from the evils of this world. The "us-ness" of this petition is clear, for when we pray as Jesus taught, we include everyone. It is wrong if I pray that, as a bizarre example, I be delivered "from the evil of the violent homicidal maniacs of this world" without including that you also be delivered from the homicidal maniacs of this world. Otherwise, I might as well lock myself in a concrete bunker and pray that I, and only I, be delivered from evil. We are all sisters and brothers in this together. Simply stated, the prayer Jesus taught us implores God our Father that everyone be delivered from evil.

- Respectfully submitted for your reflection by Pastor Barry



Serve on a Church Board

After hearing the reports from each of the Board Chairs during the Program Meeting in October, 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...the Personnel Committee and Nominating Committees. If you have an interest in serving or even learning more about any of the boards, please contact the church office: 414-258-7375.

JUST FOR YOUTH

November 2020



Sunday School

*Sunday, November 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29
for ages 3 – 5th grade*

Children begin in church with their families during 10^{am} worship. They will be dismissed to Sunday School during the service. We will be following a One Room Schoolhouse model to get the year started, with classes being held outside on Ridge Court, in the Friendship Lounge, or in the Social Hall. Class will be taught by one adult, along with teen helpers.

Faith Finders

Monday, November 9 for grades 1-5

This group meets on the second Monday of the month for fellowship, games, and program time. They begin with an optional dinner at 5pm, followed by programming from 5:30 - 6:30pm. Friends are welcome! Come and enjoy sub sandwiches, chips, and dessert. Donations for the meal are appreciated. Meetings will be held outside on Ridge Court (if the weather permits), or in the Social Hall.

Covenant Class

Sunday, November 1 and 15 for 9th graders

Group meets at 8:30am in the Friendship Lounge.

Pilgrim Fellowship (PF)

We started the year on a positive note and are looking forward to Sunday afternoon/evening meetings moving forward. E-mails will be sent with the exact schedule of dates and times, and we will meet two times per month. All Junior and Senior High students are welcome, and please feel free to bring your friends.

Confirmation Celebration

The First Congregational Church family was able to celebrate the Confirmands from the 2019-2020 school year on September 27th, and it was a lovely morning to offer a special service for this great group of young women. Shannon Damuth, Katie Huitink, Brynn Jeide, Hannah Kabelowsky, Abi Masloroff, and Katie York were honored as they confirmed their faith and became members of First Church.

With the Covid lockdowns and church being “closed” since March, this group was adaptable and handled the last months of the Confirmation process in stride. They were also patient as we worked to find the right time for the official Confirmation service to take place, which says so much about their character.

This is a loving and talented group with a wide variety of skills, talents, and interests. The personal statements written about each of the Confirmands by their parents and mentors painted such a great picture of each individual Confirmand, so if you would like to learn more about them, please check pages 5 & 6 in the June edition of the Columns.

Congratulations again to Shannon, Abi, Katie, Brynn, Katie, and Hannah - you make us all proud!



Provide a Thanksgiving Meal to Someone in Need

Each Thanksgiving, the Milwaukee Rescue Mission delivers Thanksgiving dinner baskets to people who have needed the Mission's help during the year. The generous support of First Church helps make this holiday meal possible.

Your kind donations of \$15 Pick 'n Save and/or Walmart gift cards will be collected now through November 12th. Our goal is 125 cards.

Please bring your gift cards to the Office any time Monday through Thursday, from 9 am until 3 pm; or Sunday morning from 9 am until 11:15 am. You are also invited to mail your gift cards to First Congregational Church, 1511 Church Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53213.

The Milwaukee Rescue Mission is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.



Bring a Smile to a Foster Child with the Giving Tree

Thanks to Therese Ramseyer and Barb Dunham, the beloved Giving Tree is back! For the 13th consecutive year, we are supporting a Giving Tree to benefit children in foster care, respite care (children with 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 under protective guard in Children's Hospital due to injuries and trauma.

There are two ways to participate.

In-Church: Pick one of the 50 tags from the Giving Tree in the Atrium and sign your name beside the corresponding tag number on the master list. This allows us to keep track of the tags.

Online: Watch for an online sign-up that will be emailed several times in November. The email will provide the numbers and information for another 50 tags. Use the easy sign-up system to let us know which tag you have chosen.

Each tag (whether on the tree or online) has information on the child: age, gender, special needs (if relevant) and one or more gift "wishes."

Gift tags will be available from November 1 through November 22. Please spend \$25 or less for the gift. Attach the tag to the unwrapped gift and bring it to the First Church Office by Sunday, November 29th.

If you would like to choose a tag but are unable to shop, please contact Therese Ramseyer at 414.491.9993 or therese.ramseyer@gmail.com or Barb Dunham at 414.774.7147 or bdunham@milwpc.com for assistance.

Your gifts help make the holiday brighter for families in need!



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

NOVEMBER

1 8:30 ^{am} Covenant Class 8:45 ^{am} Adult Learning 9:45 ^{am} Nursery 10 ^{am} Worship-Nave • SS/Nursery 11:15 ^{am} Bd Stewardship/Benev.	2 1 ^{pm} Staff Meeting 7 ^{pm} AI-Anon Meeting 8 ^{pm} AA-Charlie Stone Group	3 7:30 ^{am} Women's Ministry 9 ^{am} Gentle YOGA 10 ^{am} Greco Brass Quartet on hiatus 6:45 ^{pm} Boy Scouts	4 6:30 ^{am} Men's Ministry-on hiatus 6 ^{pm} Debtors Anon	5 9 ^{am} Big Band-on hiatus 10 ^{am} Sidetracks 5:30 ^{pm} BSF-on hiatus 6:15 ^{pm} Handbells-on hiatus 7:30 ^{pm} FCC Choir -on hiatus	6 8 ^{am} St. Vincent Prep	7 4 ^{pm} Casual Worship
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8 8:30 ^{am} Covenant Class 8:45 ^{am} Adult Learning 9:45 ^{am} Nursery 10 ^{am} Worship-Nave • SS/Nursery 11:15 ^{am} Bd Stewardship/Benev.	9 11:30 ^{am} TCTC on hiatus 1 ^{pm} Staff Meeting 5 ^{pm} Faith Finder's 6 ^{pm} Board of Deacons 7 ^{pm} AI-Anon Meeting 7 ^{pm} Board of Christian Ed 7 ^{pm} Board of Trustees 8 ^{pm} AA-Charlie Stone Group	10 7:30 ^{am} Women's Ministry 9 ^{am} Gentle YOGA 10 ^{am} Greco Brass Quartet on hiatus 6:45 ^{pm} Boy Scouts	11 6:30 ^{am} Men's Ministry-on hiatus 6 ^{pm} Debtors Anon	12 9 ^{am} Big Band-on hiatus 10 ^{am} Sidetracks-on hiatus 5:30 ^{pm} BSF-on hiatus 6:15 ^{pm} Handbells-on hiatus 7:30 ^{pm} FCC Choir -on hiatus	13	14 4 ^{pm} Casual Worship
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15 8:45 ^{am} Adult Learning 9:45 ^{am} Nursery 10 ^{am} Worship-Nave • SS/Nursery	16 1 ^{pm} Staff Meeting 5 ^{pm} Faith Finders 5:30 ^{pm} Board of Cong. Care 7 ^{pm} AI-Anon Meeting 8 ^{pm} AA-Charlie Stone Group	17 7:30 ^{am} Women's Ministry 9 ^{am} Gentle YOGA 10 ^{am} Greco Brass Quartet on hiatus 12 ^{pm} Circle 7-on hiatus 5:30 ^{pm} Tosa Quilters-on hiatus 6:45 ^{pm} Boy Scouts-on hiatus	18 6:30 ^{am} Men's Bible Study 10 ^{am} Harwood Comm. & Chat on hiatus 6 ^{pm} Debtors Anon 7 ^{pm} Bd of Christian Education	19 9 ^{am} Big Band-on hiatus 10 ^{am} Sidetracks 5:30 ^{pm} BSF-on hiatus 6:15 ^{pm} Handbells-on hiatus 7:30 ^{pm} FCC Choir -on hiatus	20	21 4 ^{pm} Casual Worship
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22 8:30 ^{am} Covenant Class 8:45 ^{am} Adult Learning 9:45 ^{am} Nursery 10 ^{am} Worship-Nave • SS/Nursery	23 1 ^{pm} Staff Meeting 7 ^{pm} AI-Anon Meeting 8 ^{pm} AA-Charlie Stone Group	24 7:30 ^{am} Women's Ministry 9 ^{am} Gentle YOGA 10 ^{am} Greco Brass Quartet on hiatus 5:30 ^{pm} Communications 6:45 ^{pm} Boy Scouts 7 ^{pm} Church Council	25 6:30 ^{am} Men's Ministry-on hiatus 6 ^{pm} Debtors Anon	26 9 ^{am} Big Band-on hiatus 10 ^{am} Sidetracks-on hiatus 5:30 ^{pm} BSF-on hiatus 6:15 ^{pm} Handbells-on hiatus 7:30 ^{pm} FCC Choir -on hiatus	27	28 9 ^{am} Hanging of the Greens 4 ^{pm} Casual Worship
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29 8:45 ^{am} Adult Learning 9:45 ^{am} Nursery 10 ^{am} Worship-Nave • SS/Nursery	30 1 ^{pm} Staff Meeting 7 ^{pm} AI-Anon Meeting 8 ^{pm} AA-Charlie Stone Group					
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The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
1511 Church Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593

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In This Issue

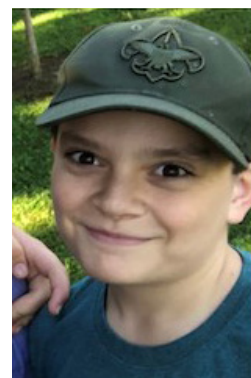
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2021 Stewardship Campaign
Thanksgiving Service
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A Note from Pator Barry
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Provide a Thanksgiving Meal
to Someone in Need
Bring a Smile to a Foster Child
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- 7 _____
Calendar

Boy Scout Troop 47 Christmas Wreath Sale

Hi,

My name is Teddy Reuchen, and I'm a Second Class (almost First Class!) Scout with Troop 47. Our annual Wreath Sale has started and goes through November 1st. The wreaths are very nice and made from fresh pine branches. Contact the FCC office to obtain an order form. Orders can be emailed to our Troop at tosatroop47@gmail.com.

Thanks for considering ordering from us, and Troop 47 would like to thank First Congregational for all its support of Scouting.



Teddy, Troop 47

TO ORDER:

- Send email to tosatroop47@gmail.com
- Include 1) name of wreath you want,
2) size of wreath, and
3) how many wreaths you are ordering
- Provide your name and address

ORDER: Now thru November 1

PICK UP: Sunday, November 22 in Church parking lot