

JULY 2021

Volume 36 - Issue 7

The Congregational COLUMNS

Thank You for Supporting Our Youth

It is with the most heartfelt gratitude that I thank our congregation for their love and support of our youth over the past year. Covid changed many of our First Church traditions, and yet, our youth found ways to stay connected to the church and to one another throughout the year.

As many of you know, we were able to have multiple PF (Pilgrim Fellowship for our middle and high school students) gatherings each month, which were led by our PF Leadership team. A couple of these gatherings were on Zoom during the winter, but we also met out on Ridge Court last summer and fall, and then in the Friendship Lounge this spring. The laughs and fellowship meant a lot to our youth, and I could tell that they enjoyed their time with their "church friends."

Our middle and high schoolers were also able to offer our usual PF Play for the family service on Christmas Eve, and presented "The Backwards Christmas Pageant" flawlessly. Because the service was virtual, I was extremely impressed at how these teens handled the service when no one was sitting in the pews!

We were able to bring the Faith Finders meetings back in the fall, and we had a strong group of 1st-5th graders who were committed to attending each month. We had food from restaurants the first couple of months, and then Barb Dunham was able to step in and start cooking again – the kids love her dinners! I know that the kids enjoyed their time at church on those Monday evenings, and had fun with the variety of activities they could do together.

Our treasured Christmas Workshop was also held, with some special modifications made. The event was held on Ridge Court, and our children enjoyed games, a couple of crafts, cookies, and hot chocolate on a mild December Sunday afternoon. Those in attendance also left with a bag of supplies to create their crafts at home.

The Secret Buddies program picked up where it left off in the spring of 2020, and our pairs kept their buddies and continued to connect this spring. It was so great to have them finally connect on their multiple reveal days, with gifts exchanged and stories shared.

We celebrated the Covenant Class of 2019-2020 with a belated Confirmation service in the fall, and then had a somewhat "normal" Covenant experience this past year. Some classes were held on Zoom, and then we were able to finish the year in person. The Confirmation service on May 16th was a wonderful celebration of our 10 Covenant teens, even though it looked a bit different than past years.

Having Children, Youth, & Education Sunday again was also a huge blessing. On June 6th, our middle and high schoolers served as greeters, ushers, readers, and actors as they were the focus of the service. We were able to honor our graduating seniors, and our FCC Scholarship recipient, Kale Lund, as well. No Education Sunday would be complete without ice cream, so our youth handed out novelty treats to our attendees out on Ridge Court.

Most recently, our youth have been so understanding and flexible with the decision to stay home instead of going on the Hosanna Mission Trip, and 12 teens have taken part in local service projects the week of June 21st. We have done work at Pathways High School, as well as the OneHope27 House, and have had a positive impact on these organizations. The variety of tasks that were accomplished is amazing, and this crew worked hard, had fun, and thoroughly enjoyed being together while serving. I couldn't be more proud of our teens!

Finally, I want to take the opportunity to thank Kari Leon for more than 25 years of service to our Nursery on Sunday mornings. Kari has made the decision to step away, and will be sorely missed. She offered incredible, loving service to our youngest First Church children, and had such a caring and nurturing presence. Kari's selfless nature and welcoming personality were such a blessing for both the parents and children.

-Tonia

THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

Worship & Discovery

Women's Ministry

Tuesdays, July 4, 11, 18, 25 at 7:30^{am}

Women's Ministry will meet outside by the parking lot door and will be reading and discussing John Bunyuns' "Pilgrim's Progress". Bring a lawn chair and your Bible. All are welcome to join us whenever possible. Contact: deltaforms1td@sbcglobal.net

Men's Ministry

Currently on hiatus.



Casual Worship

The 4^{pm} Saturday Worship Service is on summer hiatus. It will return beginning Saturday, September 11th.

Adult Learning Hour

Adult Learning is on hiatus during the summer and will resume in September with a study of the Book of Romans.

(Look for the start date in August Columns.)

Operating Statement Summary

Year to Date as of May 2021

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	42%	43%
Pledge Income	\$208,734	\$225,056
Total Income	\$281,788	\$305,465
Total Expense	\$203,868	\$237,314
Net Income	\$77,920	\$68,151

Detailed financials available at office.

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

Office Telephone
414-258-7375

On-Call Minister
414-258-7378

Rev. William S. Trump
Senior Minister

Jim Harris
Administrator

Tonia Wallner
Director of Christian Education

Rhonda Kwiecien
Keyboard Musician

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

Jillian Bruss
Financial Secretary

Marianne King
Office Coordinator

Cindy Walsh - Staff Support

Mark Lund - Custodian

Cathy Denny - Columns Coordinator
sdenny1-cathy@wi.rr.com

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

Like us on Facebook!



SAVE THE DATE!
Friday
August 6th

The Board of Fellowship Presents:
OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT ON RIDGE COURT

Family fun for everyone!

games ★ popcorn ★ camaraderie ★ a movie under the stars

Off the Top of My Head

By Rev. William S. Trump, Senior Minister

As the world around us comes back to life after the struggles of the pandemic, we see changes all around us. The Church universal and our church are on the verge of some significant change. I urge those in leadership roles and all in our church family to seek God's guidance and wisdom as we try to embrace a time of change. In our prayers, both individually and as a group, we need to listen for God's voice.

Over the years, my faith journey in the area of prayer has wandered, gotten lost numerous times, found a comfortable place, and continues to be important in my

life. One of the areas I still struggle with is the area of Intercessory Prayer – “praying for others.” I keep asking myself (and God) “what really happens when I pray for other people?” I imagine a scenario like this one written by Robert H. McPherson in his book *Intercessory Prayer: A Working Partnership With God*.



God is on the throne in heaven, a heavenly scribe at his side, my case in hand.

God: *Whose case do you have now?*

Scribe: *Bob's. He's in the hospital.*

God: *How are things stacking up for him?*

Scribe: *Well, we've got 35 names on the record asking that he get well, not counting his own.*

God: *We need 40 before I change my mind. I know HE wants to get well. That's expected.*

Scribe: *Hold it – we have 6 more prayers coming in ... for recovery!*

God: *Any against? No? Let him off this time. Lower his temperature and take away some of the headache. We'll wait for a few more prayers to come in before deciding to send him home.*



This seems to make God into some kind of heavenly accountant or errand boy, and that does not fit with the rest of my theology. At the same time, I am thoroughly convinced that there is an immense power that lies in Intercessory Prayer. I am convinced because I have experienced it first hand as not only the “pray-er,” but as

one who has felt the prayers of others surrounding me during the toughest times of my life.

Pray for our church as we seek to share the love of Christ in a changing world.

- Bill

Welcome To The Choir!

Meet the two new members of the FCC Choir --Brett Hanisko, Bass Section Leader, and Anthony John Andronczyk, Tenor Section Leader. Brett and Anthony have enhanced the 10 AM Worship Services as soloists, performing special pieces as well as hymns.

Brett Hanisko, a baritone, frequently appears in Milwaukee-area choral ensembles, such as Milwaukee Chamber Choir, and as a section leader and soloist with Bel Canto Chorus and Chant Claire, for which he also serves as vice president. He has performed stage roles with UWM Opera, Milwaukee Opera Theatre, and Waukesha Civic Theatre. At UW-Milwaukee, he studied in Kurt Ollmann's studio and graduated with a BA in Vocal Performance. Brett is thrilled to officially join the choir



as the Bass Section Leader and looks forward to the time when the choir can all sing together again!

Anthony John Andronczyk, a tenor, is working toward a BFA in Music at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He was exceptionally active in music at Case High School in Racine. He was a Tenor 1 in Master Singers and performed the role of Jean-Michel in Cinderella, Piangi in Phantom of the Opera, and Potiphar, Butler, and Simeon in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat. In his sophomore year, Anthony performed the role of Tommy in the Who's Tommy at the International School of Stuttgart, Germany. He is currently Tenor 1 in the Kameraden Chorus with Dr. Zachary Durlam and was in the chorus of Le Nozze di Figaro at UW-Milwaukee.



Congrats, Grads!

June was cap and gown season, and many members of our church family celebrated the achievements of children and grandchildren who walked across the stage to accept a diploma or degree. We offer our blessings to all graduates as they enter a new phase of their lives.



Grace Anderson, daughter of Laura Petrie and granddaughter of Sharon and Jim Petrie, received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. She majored in Environmental Studies and spent Fall 2019 semester studying in India.



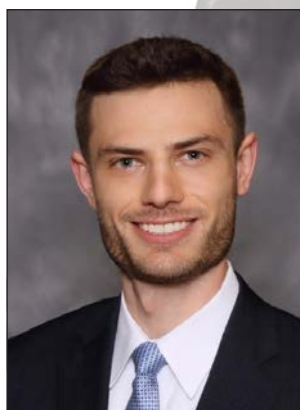
Brendan Jeide, son of Matt and Susan Jeide, received his diploma from Brookfield Academy, Class of 2021. He is attending Michigan State University. Brenden was on Varsity Soccer (team captain his junior and senior years), and two-time state qualifier on the alpine ski race team.



Kale Lund, son of Cheryl and Mark Lund and grandson of Lucy Miyazaki, received his diploma from Wauwatosa East High School on June 12th. He will be attending St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, in the fall.



Julia Moore, granddaughter of Mary and Richard Berger, graduated from Arrowhead High School. She will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she will participate in track and on the pole vault team.



Matthew Simpson, son of Tom and Carolyn Simpson and grandson of Marilyn Rennebohm, received his Doctor of Medicine Degree with academic and research honors from the Medical College of Wisconsin. He will be studying diagnostic radiology at the University of Utah - Salt Lake City after a transitional year at Aurora-St. Luke's Medical Center in Milwaukee.



Jonathan Ward, son of Richard and Anne Ward and grandson of Jim and Margaret Ward, graduated from Menomonee Falls High School. He will be entering the University of Utah in the fall.

Youth Mission Team 2021

We are so excited that our youth have taken part in a Mission this summer... it just looks a little different! With questions still surrounding Covid and safety for our team, we felt it would be best to serve our own community.

The mission team started their week of service at Pathways High School, where our youth and adult volunteers completed a wide variety of projects. They cleaned and organized, landscaped, built a Little Free Library and picnic tables, and decorated picnic tables. Our youth worked hard all day and enjoyed their time of fellowship while serving. The smiles on their faces in the photos say it all!

Tuesday, the team spent the day at the OneHope27 house, and like Monday, they tackled a variety of projects. One group spent much of the day outside pulling vines off of the house, followed by hours of weeding. Another group scrubbed walls, woodwork, cabinets, light fixtures, and anything else they could clean to give the house a fresh feel. Carpet was pulled from the attic and the floor swept in preparation for more work up there later in the week.

I truly enjoyed watching these young people serve with open hearts and minds. It was a joy seeing them talk, laugh, and thoroughly enjoy each other's company while working and breaking bread together. No phones needed....their connections are personal, thoughtful, and face-to-face.

The OneHope27 Support Home will assist moms with a mentoring program, peer team building, life skills classes, and low-cost housing right in the heart of the city. The aim is to help young moms in crisis begin to thrive and reunify with their children more quickly and successfully.

On Wednesday, we split up into small groups throughout the day at the OneHope 27 house and accomplished a lot, both inside and out. We dug out flower beds, built and stained planter boxes, mowed, and pulled more weeds....the yard looks amazing! The garage was cleaned and organized as well, and a couple of trips to the dump were extremely helpful with this project.

The first floor of the house was scrubbed, from walls to windows to floors, and looks and smells so clean. The attic was another destination for cleaning, and I know that it will be a wonderful and useful space for the OneHope folks moving forward. Finally, the basement walls were prepared for painting, and a handful of youth demonstrated super teamwork as they primed the walls. It looks new and fresh!

Thursday we split into two groups for the project's finishing touches. One group headed back to Pathways High School to paint and decorate the picnic tables that were built by our crew on Monday. The girls were so creative and the tables turned out beautifully.

The other crew headed to the OneHope House for final cleaning and more painting in the basement. Our youth also wrote their favorite Bible passages on the floor of the attic, which will serve as inspiration and a solid foundation for the children and parents who will benefit from this house in the future.

It was a special week together, and we capped it off with a dinner Thursday evening. I enjoyed hearing the feedback from our youth about their week, as well as their desire to do more local service projects throughout the year. They loved having a positive impact on their own community, which is so awesome.



The week flew by so quickly, and yet, so much was accomplished along the way! We appreciated the support of our First Church family throughout our Mission.

The local mission team included Miles Coppage, Drew Welch, Riley Stern, Logan Breitzmann, Maya Hornung, Aubrey Moore, Katie York, Bella Sanders, Maura and Addison McVoy-Holtz, Gunner Sgarlata, Ben Hayes, Jim Santelle, Tina Schulz and Tonia Wallner.

- Tonia





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.

Vacation Bible School 2021 August 9th-13th • 9-noon

I hope that all of our FCC youth will join us for this summer's Vacation Bible School....August 9th-13th.

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.



WISCONSIN CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION 2021 WCA Camp



The Wisconsin Congregational Association (WCA) summer camp will be held at Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center, located near Wautoma, WI, from Sunday, July 11-Saturday, July 17. Camp is for youth who have completed grades 6 through 12. Our theme this year is titled: Olympic Games.

Who can come to camp?

- **Junior Camp** – completing grades 6-8 in the spring of 2021.
- **Senior High** – completing grades 9-12 in the spring of 2021.
- **Super Senior High** – completed grade 12 in the spring of 2020.

What do you do at camp?

- **Faith** – worship & singing, small group discussion, campfires, cabin devotions, Bible study, communion, personal reflection
- **Fellowship** – star-gazing, nature hikes, organized activities, free time, games
- **Fun** – swimming, volleyball, ropes course, arts & crafts, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, disc golf

Packets and forms for camp can be found on the Gathering Table or download online: wiscongregational.net/youth

Vacation Bible School

August 9th - 13th

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
1511 Church Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593

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