

AUGUST 2021

Volume 36 - Issue 8

The Congregational COLUMNS

Meet the Senior Minister Search Committee

The groundwork is being laid as we prepare for the year-end retirement of Rev. Bill Trump. In consultation with the Church Council, our search is two-fold, hiring an interim, transitional pastor and searching for our new settled, Senior Minister.

To allow our Search Committee to focus on the mission of finding our new Senior Minister, the Personnel Committee will lead the effort in identifying and hiring our interim pastor. The Personnel Committee, chaired by Lisa Mauer, has been active in developing contacts and a network to identify interested individuals. To provide for a smooth transition, the goal is to have an interim in place before Bill's retirement. The interim will shepherd us until we call a new Senior Minister.

Be sure to watch for our ad for an interim pastor in the September issue of *The Congregationalist* magazine!

The Search Committee is under the leadership of Peggy Griffith, Vice Moderator.

Steve Russ, Moderator



The Nominating Committee, in partnership with Moderator Steve Russ, has identified the Pastoral Search Committee charged with the task of searching and calling a new Senior Minister for First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa. The committee will focus first on filling the Senior Minister position, and once a Senior Minister is called, will focus on an Associate Minister position.

The Long-Range Planning Committee has been actively analyzing the church's ministerial needs in alignment with long-term vision and goals in mind. As such, the Nominating Committee has called this committee to conduct the pastoral search.

The Search Committee welcomes any feedback or input from the members of the congregation. Feel free to reach out to any of the following members.

Peggy Griffith, Chair and Vice-Moderator

Pgriffith7602@yahoo.com



Peggy joined First Church in 2001, and was married to her husband, John, here in 2002. After several business relocations, they returned to Milwaukee, and rejoined the church in 2013. Peggy has served on the Boards of Deacons, Fellowship, and Christian Education. She has also been an active member of the Long-Range Planning and Communication Committees and is now Vice-Moderator. Peggy also co-leads the Saturday Under the Steeple worship service and is currently pursuing Lay Ministry Certification with the Wisconsin Congregational Association.

THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

continued on page 4

Worship & Discovery

Women's Ministry

*Tuesdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
at 7:30^{am}*

Women's Ministry will meet outside by the parking lot door and is 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.



Operating Statement Summary

Year to Date as of June 2021

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	47.0%	49.0%
Pledge Income	\$235,078	\$258,288
Total Income	\$326,021	\$359,173
Total Expense	\$254,293	\$286,485
Net Income	\$71,728	\$72,687

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

Katelyn Peterson
Director of Music

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
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Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-7375

Like us on Facebook!

Knitters Needed

The Care Board gives Prayer Shawls to members and friends in our congregation who have health challenges and would like to receive a shawl. Our supply is running low. We are looking for novice or seasoned knitters who would like to help us replenish our supply. The Care Board has yarn you can use and directions you can follow. Or feel free to knit or crochet a pattern of your own choosing. Rectangular shawls should measure approximately 24" to 30" wide and 60" long. Return the completed shawls to the Church Office at your convenience. Contact Anne Callen from the Care Board at 414.788.3554 with any questions.

Off the Top of My Head

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

During the years in California, our family had a number of opportunities to experience the Giant Sequoia trees of California. They are spectacular - towering as much as 300 feet above the ground. Strangely, these towering trees have unusually shallow root systems that spider out just under the surface of the ground to catch as much of the surface moisture as they can. And this is their vulnerability. Storms with heavy winds would almost always bring these giants crashing to the ground. This rarely happens, because they grow in clusters, and their intertwining roots provide support for one another against the storms.

When we are together as a church, we provide this same support. Pain and suffering come to all of us. But, just like those giant Sequoia trees, we can be supported in those difficult times by the touch of one another's lives.

The knowledge that we have someone, that we are not alone, that there is someone who is willing to touch us and hold us, keeps us from being destroyed.

The pandemic short-circuited this vital part of our life as a church. For eighteen months we have been separated from one another, and the church has suffered. It is my hope that soon we all will be back to worship together and support one another against the storms of life.

See you in church,

- **Bill**



Say Hello To Our New Music Director

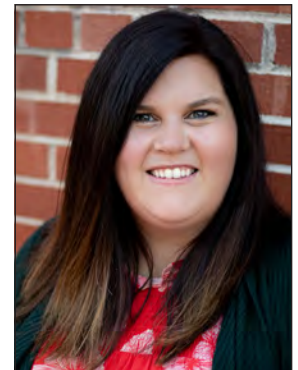
I am pleased to welcome Katelyn Peterson as our new Director of Music! Below, Katelyn shares a bit about herself with us. Please join me in welcoming Katelyn to the First Congregational Church family! - **Rhonda Kwiecien**

Hello, my name is Katelyn Peterson. I'm greatly excited to be joining the staff at the First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa as the Director of Music. I am currently a second-year graduate Teaching Assistant at UW-Milwaukee where I am pursuing my Master of Music Degree in choral conducting. I also direct the university's Alta Voce, an entry-level treble-clef choir. Prior to moving to Milwaukee, I taught middle and high school choir in River Falls and New Richmond, Wisconsin school districts. I've also had the privilege of conducting church choral ensembles at First Congregational Church of River Falls and

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Afton, Minnesota.

In my spare time, I enjoy hanging out with my dog, Orson, spending time with family, playing board and card games, and exploring the world. I am looking forward to making music with the people of FCC!

- **Katelyn Peterson**



Welcome Our New Nursery Supervisor!

Hi! My name is Alissa. I have grown up here in First Church and started helping in the nursery when I was in high school, then was happy to have the time to come back while finishing grad school. During the week I am a physical therapist working in multiple settings with adult and geriatric populations. Sundays in the nursery are a highlight of my week and it is my pleasure to continue watching over the youngest (and cutest) of our congregation.

Sincerely,

Alissa Elwing, PT, DPT
Supervisor, First Church Nursery



Pat Reddy

patreddy@deltatformsltd.com

Recording Secretary



Patty grew up in this church and has been a member since confirmation in the early '70s. Married to Pete for 42 years, they have two grown daughters and four grandchildren, with one on the way. She has lived all but the

few short years of college right here in Wauwatosa and feels abundantly blessed to have her family and Church community within walking distance. Having served on multiple boards and committees over many years she is currently part of Long-Range Planning. She leads Women's Ministry on Tuesday mornings along with Adult Learning between services on Sundays, and co-leads Saturday Under the Steeple worship service as well. Patty's heart desire is to know the Lord Jesus in all His fullness and glory, and for this generation and those who will come after us, to have this a place where His light is the one that shines brightest.

Hank Collis

hcollis@twc.com



Hank joined First Church in 1986 after moving here from Columbus, Ohio. He has been active in all aspects of the Church serving on Trustees, Deacons, and Stewardship Boards as well as Long-Range Planning,

Communications, and the Facilities Projects committees. He has also served as Vice-Moderator and Moderator and is now the Past Moderator. He and wife, Diane, live in Waukesha

Rick Nowacki

RickN@conceptmachine.com



Rick has been a member of First Church since 2005. He has served and chaired the FCC Stewardship & Benevolence Board and has been our church Treasurer since 2016. Rick is married to lifetime FCC member,

Carolyn. They have two children, ages 12 and 10, who are actively involved in our youth programs.

Dylan Thomas

Dylanwyatt1@hotmail.com



Dylan and his wife, Mychale, were married at First Church in 2010 after they had interviewed many churches. "We felt at home here right away," says Dylan. "We became members,

and both of our daughters, Robin and Daisy, are baptized members of the church who love attending all the great youth programs from Sunday care to Faith Finders. We are committed to helping pass this legacy of this great church to our girls and their friends."

Randy Sitzberger

randy.sitzberger@gmail.com



Randy joined the church in 2015 before marrying Cindy Davis in the church in 2016. Since joining First Congregational Church, Randy has served on the Trustees Committee from 2018-2020, serving as the Chair of Trustees in 2020. Randy currently serves on both the Board of Stewardship and Benevolence and the Long-Range Planning Committee.

Sarah Blake

scblake7@gmail.com



Sarah was born and raised at First Church with her brother (Michael), sister (Elizabeth) and parents (Joe & Carmen Berte) and was actively involved in Sunday School, PF and volunteering at the Congregational

Home throughout middle and high school. After college, Sarah moved back to Tosa and re-joined the church in 2013. She currently serves on the Board of Fellowship. Sarah and her husband, Rob, live in Tosa, and her son JJ regularly attends nursery school. Some of Sarah's best memories involved the church and she's looking forward to serving on the Search Committee to help ensure a bright and successful future for First Church and its members.

Jim Harris

jim@firstchurchtosa.org

Ex-Officio

Jim has been associated with First Church since



he belonged to Boy Scout Troop 47! Jim and his wife, Ann, were long-time attendees of First Church until officially becoming members in 2013. Since then, he has chaired the Stewardship Committee, served on

Communications and Long Range Planning and as Vice Moderator and Moderator. He has been heavily involved in the Capital Campaign project. After serving as Moderator, Jim was asked to join the FCC staff as Administrator.

Notes from the NACCC Annual Meeting & Conference



Again this year, due to continuing health and safety concerns, the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) was held via Zoom. It was attended by 263 individuals. NACCC is made up of 313 churches in 36 states across the country. Online meetings are nothing new to many of NACCC's member churches, with 93 of them taking their services online during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been an unusual and eventful year for NACCC:

The association provided contributions and financial assistance to 25 U.S. and international missions during the past year.

Michael Chittum, executive director since 2015, retired as of June 1 of this year.

The Executive Director Search Committee from the Board of Directors were pleased to announce the selection of the Reverend Dr. Ashley Cleere as the new Executive Director for NACCC. Her most recent position was Chaplain, Director

of Church Relations and Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Piedmont College in Demorest, Georgia. At the time of her selection, she was serving as President of the Board of Governors of the Congregational Foundation. For more about our new NACCC Executive Director, go online to <https://www.naccc.org/new-executive-director>.



If you would like to take a look at our Annual Meeting, Bible Lecture, Congregational Lecture series, and/or workshops, visit <https://www.naccc.org/2021-annual-meeting-conference>.

- **Dick Berger**

NACCC Year Round Delegate for First Church

Troop 47 Enjoyed the Outdoors

This past June, Boy Scout Troop 47 went to Ed Bryant Scout Reservation for our summer camp. The camp is settled in a forested area along Castle Rock Lake in Juneau County. We had 13 scouts attend who learned new skills and earned new merit badges. Some of our scouts participated in special activities, such as jet skiing, metalworking, and shooting sports. At the end of our week, we participated in camp-wide games where one of our scouts sank a kayak! We had great weather for most of the week with a little rain, but not enough to ruin the week. We can't wait until next year for more great adventures.

- **Andrew Reuchlen**
Troop 47 Scribe



JUST FOR YOUTH

August 2021



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

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.



WCA Camp 2021- Happy to Be Together Again!

We had an incredible return to WCA Summer Camp! It was an amazing experience for the 35 youth and 15 staff in attendance. We had a strong Wauwatosa presence, sending eight youth and two adults as representatives from First Church. I was honored to be Camp Administrator, and Sandy Huitink served as Camp Nurse. The OLYMPIC theme was evident throughout the week and in all of the camp activities, which were held at Mt. Morris Camp and Conference Center in Wautoma from July 11th – 17th. The weather was sunny and gorgeous, and we only dealt with rain on Wednesday. Needless to say, it was a beautiful week to be at camp!

FCC high school teens Miles Coppage, Katie Huitink, Addison McVoy-Holtz, Maura McVoy-Holtz, Aubrey Moore, Bella Sanders, Gunner Sgarlata, and Riley Stern enjoyed a week of programming with director Rob Fredrickson. They explored stories from the Bible like David & Goliath, Peter walking on water, and Jesus calming the storm, and talked about the importance of running the race that God lays out, of staying faithful so we don't sink, and of pressing on toward the goal of eternal life. They participated in interviews during large group, and ended each program session with small group discussion.

It is easy to share positive feedback about this transformative week as a discerning adult, so sharing testimonials from the minds and hearts of our FCC youth seems more appropriate....

Though different this year, WCA Camp was still just as amazing of an experience as it always is. It still had the classic faith, fellowship, and fun!
– **Miles Coppage**

I had a great first year at camp, and it was really fun! Everyone was so welcoming, and it was an amazing experience. I can't wait to go back next year! – **Maura McVoy-Holtz**

Camp was such an amazing experience and fun thing to do this summer. I made so many new friends, did so many new things, and worship and activities were really fun. If you have the chance to go, do it!
– **Addison McVoy-Holtz**

Camp was really fun, and it was super great to see my friends after two years! I really enjoyed the topics we discussed during small groups and the activities that were planned. – **Aubrey Moore**

I love camp because it's a break from all of the chaos for a whole week. It also helps me grow stronger to God and meet great people! – **Bella Sanders**



Camp this year was great! It was very mellow, and I liked having a smaller camp. The activities were fun and it was awesome to see everyone, as always. Everything was wonderful...the people, the activities, worship, and much more. Can't wait for next year! – **Gunner Sgarlata**

Even though we had to change some things due to Covid this year, camp was still a great place to grow your faith and meet new friends.

– **Riley Stern**

The welcoming nature of camp - where faith, fellowship, and fun are central to every activity - have a lasting impact on friendships and strengthening relationships with God. This

continues to be one of my favorite weeks of the year, and I'm blessed to learn, grow, and connect with wonderful youth and adults. I hope to have even more First Church campers next year!



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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In This Issue

- 1

Meet the Senior Minister
Search Committee
- 2

Worship & Discovery
Knitters Needed
- 3

Off the Top of My Head
Say Hello To Our
New Music Director
Welcome Our
New Nursery Supervisor!
- 4

Senior Minister
Search Committee con't.
- 5

Notes from the NACCC
Annual Meeting & Conference
Troop 47 Enjoyed the Outdoors
- 6

Just for Youth
WCA Camp 2021
- 7

VBS Registration Form



*Photos from
WCA Camp.*

*Article on
page 6.*