

MARCH 2021

Volume 36 - Issue 3

The Congregational COLUMNS

Meet Your New Vice Moderator, Peggy Griffith

I am excited and honored to be voted by our wonderful congregation to the role of Vice Moderator. It is hard to believe that my first visit to First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa was 21 years ago, after I moved to Milwaukee from the commonwealth of Kentucky.

People often ask what brought me to Wisconsin, and I tell them simply "love." I met my husband, John, during a bank merger and promptly relocated in the brutally cold month of January 2000. After settling in, our first decision as a couple was to find a church that we both loved. Coming from diverse religious backgrounds and experiences, Congregationalism offered a place where we could grow together in our faith. We were married by Rev. Chris Rygh on July 2, 2002.

Through several corporate relocations, we moved away, but we made it back to Milwaukee in 2011. We re-joined First Congregational Church in 2014. On the day of new-member installation, Jane Boyd stopped me at coffee hour and asked me if I wanted to be a Deacon. Well, after such a wonderful hug from Jane, how could I possibly say no? I went on to serve the Board of Deacons for three years, then on to Fellowship and Christian Education. I have also served on the Communications and Long-Range Planning Committees.

For the past two years, I have had the pleasure to co-lead the laity-driven Saturday Under the Steeple worship. I cannot even begin to describe the spiritual growth that has come from this experience. I am looking forward to continued efforts to build on this worship option for our church and the community. We have some wonderful, dedicated lay members who regularly contribute to sharing the Gospel of Jesus including Pat Reddy, Carolyn Simpson, and Maddie Sgarlata. I am honored to learn from them continuously.

I am also in the middle of the three-year Lay Ministry training, provided by the Wisconsin Congregational Association. We have an awesome cohort of lay leaders throughout the state, learning and growing in our faith, and how to share it with the world.

Outside of church, I am an IT Project Manager, and I love spending time at home with John and our two cats, Daisy and Romeo.

I am optimistic and looking forward to the next year at our blessed church. The year 2020 was a challenge, and we all felt its impacts. That said, we opened a new "door" to our church via live streaming and social media. I look forward to maintaining both in-person and live-streamed worship options as we navigate safe options for returning to some semblance of normal church life. While I anticipate having challenges along the way, our hearts are bound together by our beautiful church covenant. We have a lot ahead of us this year, and with God's help and direction, His church will thrive.

Blessings,
Peggy Griffith, *Vice Moderator*



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 the Social Hall. It may be watched as a live-stream on Facebook Live.

Women's Ministry

Tuesdays, March 16, 23 and 30, 7:30^{am}

Sessions meet in the Friendship Lounge. We are studying the Book of Revelation. Please bring a mask and a Bible and join us! Contact Pat Reddy at deltaforms1td@sbcglobal.net about participating via email.

Chancel Flowers for 2021

Floral arrangements are needed for various dates during the coming year. Consider giving flowers in honor of or in memory of someone special in your life. Please sign up on the board in the Atrium or call the Church Office at 414.258.7375 to schedule a date to provide flowers for the 10 am Worship Service.

Adult Learning Hour

The session meets Sundays, March 21 and 28, at 8:45^{am} in Room LL2, which is next to the Choir Room.

Men's Ministry

Currently on hiatus.

Men's Bible Study

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30^{am}, 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 January 2021

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	6.0%	11.0%
Pledge Income	\$32,614	\$50,626
Total Income	\$77,989	\$99,823
Total Expense	\$24,608	\$47,274
Net Income	\$53,381	\$52,549

Detailed financials available at office.

JUST FOR YOUTH
March 2021



Sunday School

Sunday, March 7, 14, 21, and 28
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.

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.

Covenant Class

Sunday, March 7 and 21
for 9th graders

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

Faith Finders

Monday, March 8 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 5^{pm}, followed by programming from 5:30-6:30^{pm}. Friends are welcome! Come and enjoy pizza, garlic bread and salad. Donations for the meal are appreciated.

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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Like us on Facebook!



Off the Top of My Head

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

Lent is a journey of preparation as we move with Jesus to Jerusalem, toward the cross, and finally toward the empty tomb. It is an introspective time, a time of rededication and recommitment. It is a time to look at the life and ministry of Jesus and to learn and grow as Christians.

As I look at the life of Christ and all of his teachings one thing that stands out quite clearly is that of selflessness. As Christians we are a living expression of Paul's comment to the Romans: "So we though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. That is what the church is all about."

As a matter of fact, that is what religion is all about. Emile Durkheim, who spent years studying primitive religions, came to the conclusion that religion's earliest function was not to put people in touch with God, but to put them in touch with each other.

Rituals, he said, taught them how to share the experiences of birth and bereavement, of children marrying and parents dying. In that way, people could share the most joyous and the most frightening things in life. No one would ever have to face them alone. Or as the apostle



Paul put it, "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together."

I am convinced that all of us want that kind of community . . . and convinced that we not only want it, but need it. But the more sophisticated we become, the more we destroy the community that meets our needs. We destroy it by our own self-centeredness. The more sophisticated we become, the more we create our own little kind of hell.

And so, my challenge to you is this for this season of Lent: In spite of the challenges of the pandemic, help to recreate this community of faith that is our church. Participate in the opportunities for fellowship and growth in spirit. Interact with others who you have pledged to walk with on this spiritual journey of life. See the best in all of them. Heal your broken relationships. Help those who are in need.

To do so we need to hold always before us the example of our Lord Jesus Christ. But we need more than Christ's example. We need His Spirit in our lives.

-Bill

Those Who Followed Jesus: A Lenten Journey

You are invited to join Bill on a five-week Lenten Bible Study focusing on some of Jesus' closest followers. The five studies look at New Testament characters who encountered Jesus at a point in their lives, either through curiosity or need, and the effect that encounter had upon their lives. Several of them still appear in the gospel accounts openly or in secret at the end of Jesus' life, as he makes his way toward Jerusalem and the cross. A few are standing there watching the whole drama of the cross unfold before their eyes.

We will offer this time together in person, socially distanced in the Friendship Lounge, and via Zoom, whichever you prefer on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

March 3 – Nicodemus

March 24 - James, Son of Thunder

March 17 - The Woman at the Well

March 10 - Mary and Martha

March 31 - Mary Magdalene

Please call the church Office to sign up for this time together.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

FCC has an active prayer shawl ministry that provides shawls to church members, family or friends who are in need of extra comfort. We thank our gracious knitters and crocheters for their beautiful gifts of prayerful love. For those receiving a prayer shawl, it can offer a warm hug and support; a private place to relax and renew; or something to hold on to when things seem to be drifting away.

Would you like to help with this creative mission? They can be large or medium in size, happy, warm or manly in color and long or triangular in shape. Please consider knitting or crocheting a prayer shawl and turn it in to the church office.

The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
1511 Church Street
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Youth Mission Trip

REGISTER NOW

for the **Youth Mission Trip 2021** **June 19-25**

FCC members and non-members welcome!

The 2021 Youth Mission Team is now accepting applications.

Due to successful past fundraising, the application fee is only \$100. This fee covers food, lodging, and travel expenses. Applications are located in the Atrium. Scholarships are available!

Need more info?

Contact Tonia Wallner: tonia@firstchurchtosa.org