

APRIL 2021

Volume 36 - Issue 4

The Congregational COLUMNS



THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

Join Us in Person or Online! Holy Week & Easter at First Church

Palm Sunday

March 28 at 10^{am} in the Nave

Music: Kim Porter, *Soprano* and Meaghan Heinrich, *Oboist*
&

Hot Cross Buns

Fresh hot cross buns will be packaged and ready
for you to take home following the service.

Hot cross buns and palms will be available 11^{am} to Noon for those who
prefer to drive-through and pick-up them up in the parking lot.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

April 1 at 7^{pm} in the Nave

Kristen DiNinno, *Soprano* and Emma Koi, *Flutist*

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 2 at 7^{pm} in the Nave

Indra Brusubardis, *Soprano*, the Brusubardis String Quartet
and Vocal Quartet

Saturday Under the Steeple Candlelight Vigil

April 3 at 4^{pm} in the Social Hall

Easter – He is Risen!

April 4 at 8:30^{am} and 10^{am} in the Nave

Kim Porter, *Soprano*; Jillian Bruss, *Mezzo-Soprano*;
and the Brass Trio

Rev. William S. Trump, *Minister* ~ Rhonda Kwiecien, *Keyboard Musician*

Services are in-person and online. In-person services require registration.
Contact the Office at 414.258.7375 or email marianne@firstchurchtosa.org.
Please let us know if your group will include children.

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, April 6, 13, 20 & 27, 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 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, April 11, 18 and 25, at 8:45^{am} in Room LL2, which is next to the Choir Room.

Men's Ministry

Currently on hiatus.

Men's Bible Study

April 7 and 21 at 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 February 2021

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	16.0%	17.0%
Pledge Income	\$80,732	\$88,067
Total Income	\$126,643	\$139,826
Total Expense	\$81,497	\$92,770
Net Income	\$45,146	\$47,056

Detailed financials available at office.

JUST FOR YOUTH
April 2021



Sunday School

Sunday, April 4, 11, 18, and 25
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)

PF is pleased to be getting together two times each month for Sunday afternoon/evening meetings. E-mails will be sent with the exact schedule of dates and times. All Junior and Senior High students are welcome, and please feel free to bring your friends.

Covenant Class

Sunday, April 18
for 9th graders

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

Faith Finders

Monday, April 12

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

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

Kari Leon - Nursery Supervisor

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!



Off the Top of My Head

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

Easter is all about New life. Whole life. Abundant Life. Redeemed life. Resurrected life. The purpose of life is not death, Easter says. The purpose of life is life itself . . . a life that triumphs over death forever. Celebrating Easter is the best thing that the church can do because it is a celebration of all that is good, all that is true, and all that is beautiful.

This year, in particular, our church celebrating Easter is the greatest public service that we can perform for the world. Why? Because it is the reality of Easter that gives us hope. Remember Jesus' final words on the cross? "It is finished."

On Easter morning the great surprise is that sacrifice was not the end of Jesus' mission. Out of Jesus' broken body



there emerged a new body, a resurrected body, an unbreakable, unstoppable body. On Easter "It is finished" becomes "Now it begins."

Life begins anew with the resurrected rhythms of the Body of Christ at Easter. As our world begins to cautiously open up, once again the message of Christ needs to be heard loudly and clearly. It is in the lives we lead, the causes we fight for, and the love we have for one another that will say to the world – there is hope.

My prayer for this church is that, as the Body of Christ in the world, we might bring hope to our troubled world.

He is Risen indeed.
-Bill

2021 Special Easter Offering

The money collected from the Special Easter Offering will benefit two, important missions: Tosa Community Food Pantry and Asociacion Civil Cristiana Congregational in Argentina.

Tosa Community Food Pantry is well-known to First Church. Housed at St. Bernard's Church on Harwood Avenue, the food pantry collects and distributes food to people in need in and around Wauwatosa. The demand has grown exponentially because of COVID-19. Your generosity during the pandemic has allowed First Church to provide the pantry with extra support during this challenging time. We will continue that support with a gift from the Special Easter Offering.

For several years we have designated a portion of the Special Easter Offering for the Congregational Church of Myanmar. Sadly, unrest and violence have continued since the democratically elected government was overthrown by the military this past February. As a result, the NACCC has had difficulty getting donations to the Reverend Elvis Sa Do. Both the NACCC and First Church are in communication with Rev. Sa Do, and we pray that a workable solution will be found in the near future.

The Board of Stewardship & Benevolence has decided to postpone sending a donation to the Congregational Church of Myanmar pending a secure way to transfer funds. Instead, we will direct a portion of the Easter Special Offering to Asociacion Civil Cristiana Congregational. The mission, headed by the Reverend Dr. Harding Stricker, brings the gospel and assistance to Spanish descendants living in poverty on the outskirts of Misiones, Argentina. Services include Christian education, Children Sponsorship, health care, community gardening, and a kitchen and dining room service. This past winter, Rev. Stricker and assistants prepared and distributed 30 school bags, and, more recently, bags of food.

The Special Offering envelope has been mailed to all church members. We encourage you to return your offering by mail or drop it off at the church.

Thank you for your support.

FCC Education Scholarship Program

The Board of Stewardship & Benevolence is now accepting scholarship applications from our 2021 high school graduates. Completed applications must be returned by April 25, 2021. The Scholarship Committee will review applications and conduct interviews in early May. Recipients of the scholarship will be announced on Education Sunday, June 6th. Please contact Ann Harris at annsteinmetzharris@gmail.com with any questions or to request an application form.



The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
1511 Church Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593

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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