

MAY 2021

Volume 36 - Issue 5

The Congregational COLUMNS

To Be a Congregational Church

By Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum

It would be fair to say, I think, that we NACCC Congregationalists may be best known for our ecclesiology – that is, for our understanding of the nature of the church and how a church should function. The statement we most often make is that we believe each church is self-governing and thus, autonomous. We do believe that this self-governance functions under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and we acknowledge that Christ is the head of the church, as that church seeks to fulfill the will of God in the world. Yet, we acknowledge that no other agency makes decisions for the church but the church itself.

In the 1880 book, *The Congregationalism of the Last Three Hundred Years*, the author, Henry Martyn Dexter, that 19th century scholar of Congregationalism, concluded with a lecture titled “Things More Clearly Seen.” In this lecture, he asserted that there are 12 qualities the modern investigator can discern about the Congregational way. His third point within the twelve was “essence of a Congregational Church in being two things: 1) a complete entity 2) in sisterly relations with like bodies.”

Dexter described a church that is a complete and separate entity from other churches, but in order for that church truly to be Congregational it must be in relationship with other kindred churches. We put this into practice as our churches have relations within various local or regional associations. Yet, there is another dimension to this relationship. On a national level, this is best seen in the annual gathering of the member churches of our National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

Let me then encourage you to make every effort to be part of the 2021 Annual Meeting of the NACCC to be held online Saturday, June 19 and Sunday, June 20. Start times are 11^{am} on Saturday and 2^{pm} on Sunday.

There is no registration fee, but registration is required. For more information check out the NACCC website at <https://www.naccc.org/2021-amc-information.html>.

- ¹ Henry Martyn Dexter, *The Congregationalism of the Last Three Hundred Years, as Seen in Literature: With Special Reference to Certain Recondite, Neglected or Disputed Passages*. In Twelve Lectures, Delivered on the Southworth Foundation in the Theological Seminary at Andover, Mass, 1876-1879, (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1880) 695.

After 30-plus years pastoring Congregational churches, Michael accepted the position of Executive Director for the National Association of Congregational Churches in 2015. His office was initially housed at Olivet College in Michigan. In 2018, Michael and Vicki relocated to Oak Creek so he could work from the NA's central office. He and Vicki soon began attending First Church, with Michael filling in for Bill in the pulpit from time to time, and Vicki joining Circle 7. Michael is retiring from the NA this spring. He and Vicki are moving to Fort Worth, Texas, to be near their son and daughter-in-law, who are expecting their first child. We wish them the very best!



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, May 4, 11, 18, 25 at 7:30am

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, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, at 8:45am in Room LL2, which is next to the Choir Room.

Men's Ministry

Currently on hiatus.

Men's Bible Study

May 5 and 19 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 March 2021

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	25.0%	27.0%
Pledge Income	\$125,341	\$142,169
Total Income	\$187,428	\$207,857
Total Expense	\$133,712	\$147,328
Net Income	\$53,716	\$60,529

Detailed financials available at office.

JUST FOR YOUTH May 2021



Sunday School

Sunday, May 2, 9, 16, 23. No SS on May 30.
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.

Confirmation Sunday Sunday, May 16

Covenant Class

Sunday, May 2 for 9th graders

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

Faith Finders

Monday, May 10

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 chicken tenders, french fries, and fruit. 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*

In his book, *The Yoke of Christ*, Elton Trueblood quotes a letter from a schoolgirl who probes the depth of her soul. She writes, "I've been thinking much this year about the importance of caring, of the passion of life. I've often realized that it takes courage to care. Caring is dangerous. It leaves you open to hurt and to looking like a fool. And perhaps it's because they have been hurt so often that people are afraid to care. You can't die if you're not alive. And then who would rather be a stone? I have found many places in my own life where I keep a secret store of indifference as a sort of self-protection." That's a penetrating insight – a secret store of indifference. We're to care, because Christ cared – even though it means a cross.

It doesn't take long to realize how blessed we are. We have comfortable safe homes. We sit down to eat meals with plenty of leftovers. We sleep in warm soft beds. Then I



realize there are many in our own community who don't have such blessings. This realization struck me hard yesterday as I walked by the food collection table in the Atrium at church. There wasn't very much there for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission's Rise And Shine Food Drive. We are collecting non-perishable breakfast items. The need has become even greater during the pandemic.

I realized I do care about these people I have never met. I realized I can do something to help provide for the most basic necessities of life. You can too.

Please, next time you go to the store remember to pick up some items for the Rise And Shine Food Drive. We need to battle the store of indifference. We need to risk the hurt of caring. Christ cared – we must too.

- Bill

Congregational Home to Expand



Kris Sprtel, CEO of the Congregational Home, announced that she has received final approval from the Board of Directors to proceed with a \$7.7 million expansion of the Home.

The 28,000 SF expansion will add 21 new private Community Based Residential Care (CBRF) rooms to the main level and a Wellness Center below it on the ground level. The CBRF certification will add an extra level of care for those who need more help than the Residential Care Apartment Complex (RCAC) level of care currently provides. The Wellness Center would be a new amenity for Home residents, offering a workout room, an exercise

machines, an exercise studio, a massage room, a coffee bar/lounge and a theater room.

Congregational Home, through the vision of a few and generosity of many members of our church, was founded in 1974. Now, after 47 years, it is the only facility in Brookfield offering CCRC, Continuing Care Retirement Community, from Independent Living to Skilled Care all under one roof.

This is an exciting and proud time for our Congregational Home and for the residents who live there. Construction is scheduled to begin in late May and will take about eight months to complete.

Merrill York *Chair, Congregational Home*



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

VBS
August 9th-13th

