

JUNE 2021

Volume 36 - Issue 6

The Congregational COLUMNS

Statements of the

Confirmation Class of 2021



This year, Rev. Trump and Tonia worked with this great group of teens, starting with a retreat focused on group bonding, answering the questions “Who Is God?” and “Who Am I?,” and getting more comfortable with the Bible. Throughout the year, time was spent discussing the sacraments, prayer, stewardship, and discipleship. Rev. Trump also enjoyed sharing the history of Christianity, Congregationalism, and First Church with the class. The final phase of the journey involved each Confirmand writing a personal faith statement, and their mentors were part of this important process. The statements are incredible, and the teens shared their faith in such a thoughtful and genuine way.

Confirmation Sunday was held on May 16th, and we wanted to introduce you to these wonderful young people and have you get to know them better. Here are some thoughts about each of our new Confirmands, written by their parents and mentors.

Olivia Greipp,

daughter of **Jonathan and Melissa Koenig, and the late Jeff Greipp**

Olivia is a thoughtful and creative person whose gentle smile and bright sense of humor always bring joy to those around her. We are deeply touched that she has reflected carefully on her faith from early childhood with her children’s Bible to now, as a member of this year’s Confirmation class. We are grateful to her Covenant leaders and to Carolyn for shepherding her on her faith journey at First Church. We are honored to see how hard Olivia works in school—she puts her full heart into her studies and her other passions, which include field hockey, rock climbing, geology, and mock trial. Olivia is a loving daughter, granddaughter, and friend. We are so proud to see the lovely young woman she has become. Congratulations, Olivia!

From Carolyn Simpson, Mentor – I met Olivia when she sat on my lap of her own accord in a large summer Sunday school class when she was a toddler. We live close by, and I have enjoyed and been deeply impressed by her self-assurance, empathy, courage, curiosity, inclusiveness and wisdom way beyond her years ever since. Despite her very busy life of family, school, friends, field hockey and choir, she stays grounded in the present moment. She has an unbelievable “I got this” attitude. Olivia is dedicated to making good choices with God’s free will and helps others without judgment.

THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

continued on page 4

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, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 7:30^{am}

Beginning June 1, Women's Ministry will meet outside by the parking lot door for our continuing study of the Book of Revelation. Bring a lawn chair and your Bible. All are welcome to join us whenever possible. Contact: deltaforms1td@sbcglobal.net

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

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.)

Men's Ministry

Currently on hiatus.

Men's Bible Study

June 2 at 6:30am in Room LL2

Led by Bruce Milne, the group is finishing its study of the Book of Romans. Beginning June 16, Men's Bible Study will go on hiatus as the group seeks someone to take over leadership as Bruce Milne steps back from his teaching responsibilities.

Operating Statement Summary

Year to Date as of April 2021

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	33.0%	37.0%
Pledge Income	\$164,226	\$194,915
Total Income	\$233,296	\$273,060
Total Expense	\$168,123	\$198,375
Net Income	\$65,174	\$74,685

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

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Like us on Facebook!

Get Ready To Picnic On The Ridge!

Sunday, June 27th

you are invited to B.Y.O.P.B – bring your own picnic basket –
for a gathering on Ridge Court immediately
following the 10^{am} Worship Service.

This is a do-it-yourself picnic, so bring
whatever your family prefers, from sandwiches to fried chicken.

The Board of Fellowship will provide the beverages.

Please come with chairs or a blanket for seating.

We have reserved Sunday, July 11th as a rain date.

Off the Top of My Head

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

The busy month of May is behind us with its baptisms, Mother's Day, and confirmation, Pentecost and Memorial Day celebrations. June begins with our celebration of Youth Education Sunday, where we recognize our educational ministries. Then on June 16th, we will begin having an outside worship on Ridge Court, Sundays at 8:30 am, where we can be distanced and sing hymns together. It will be similar to the 8:00 am service that was held before the pandemic. The 8:30 service will be in addition to our regular 10:00 am service in the Nave. We will share communion at both services on June 16th. The following Sunday is Father's Day and the week after that is Laity Sunday. I hope, as more of us receive our vaccines, we will get back to worshipping together in this new normal.

While my own father has been gone for nearly 40 years, Father's Day gives me a chance to reflect on my role as father. As I do this, I can more clearly understand why Jesus used the image of a father in helping us understand what God is like. While it was born out of a paternalistic society, it is still one of those images we can all understand. The love and care of a parent illustrates the relationship we have with God. God's unconditional love prompts us to not only respect God but to love God in return.



J. W. Stevenson in his book, *God, In My Disbelief* tells how Dr. Christopher, an old minister, had gone south to London to seek his son who had left home under unfortunate circumstances. "There was no address to guide him. Only, after many days, was the name of the street discovered; and when the old minister, with his white hair, stood at the end of it he knew it was beyond him to go from door to door. But a street musician came by just then and Dr. Christopher stopped him and asked, did he know an old tune, one that had been

a favorite in the minister's home when the children were young? Could the old minister walk with the musician along the street as he played? And he told the musician why.

So, they went slowly, the street musician and the old minister with his hat in his hand so that his face could be seen, taking this last slender chance to find the son who had no use for him; seeking him who had no understanding of the love in his father's heart."

It is reassuring to know our relationship with our Creator is one of closeness and intimacy, not distance and fear. I hope as you take time to honor your earthly Fathers, you also take time to remember and honor our Heavenly Father and God's many blessings upon us.

- Bill

Myanmar Update

This is an extremely difficult time for the Congregational Church of Myanmar and its founders, Rev. Elvis Sa Do and his wife, Rev. Naw Pale Say. This past March, Myanmar's military seized power in a coup, detaining civilian leaders in the capital and declaring a state of emergency in the country.

The results have been disastrous. The internet and access to news have been disrupted. Bank branches are closed, government employees are boycotting their jobs, workers in cities are fleeing to rural areas, and the economy is collapsing. The United Nations predicts that half of all people in Myanmar could be in poverty by 2022.

The Grace Children's Ministry operated by Rev. Sa Do provides free education and care for needy and orphaned children in Myanmar. It also is involved in Gospel outreach, discipleship, Tract Ministry, community efforts and home cell church planting. COVID-19 had already disrupted activities before the coup, but the coup has made it difficult for the NACCC and other supporters to provide financial support, which is affecting the ministry's ability to pay its staff.

The NACCC continues to work with Rev. Sa Do and third parties to find ways to transfer funds.

Despite these challenges, Rev. Sa Do and his staff are making progress, including successful completion of the summer school (summer is March-May in Southeast Asia) and the establishment of a home cell church in Pago.

Please continue to pray for the CCM staff and the people it serves.



Staff before the new home cell church in Pago.



Children study during summer school class.

Caden Hoffman,

son of **Andy and Sarah Hoffman**

Caden is a thoughtful young man who loves drumming, playing Xbox and golf, working the spotlight or sound board at school plays and musicals, and spending time with his friends. He always has an interesting fact or piece of history to share, often from Snapple caps! During this challenging past year, Caden has kept his sweet personality and goofy sense of humor without a hitch. He has come a long way in strengthening his faith this year. We are so proud of Caden as he completes his Covenant journey and joins the church.

From **Rich Raymond, Mentor** – Caden attends Brookfield Central High School, and is a percussionist in the band. He enjoys jazz music and theater, and would like to pursue a career in film making. Caden is a bright and cheerful young man with an inquisitive mind, and is also caring and empathetic to others. His interest in science makes for interesting discussions of faith and God. His faith journey is understanding how Biblical history and science work together to make the world and the universe. It has been a pleasure working with Caden this year.

Addison McVoy-Holtz,

daughter of **Jim McVoy and Tori Raddemann**

Addison's spunky and lively personality lights up every room she steps into. She is an independent thinker and works hard and is dedicated to all things she puts her mind to. Whether it be academics, running track or cross country, or singing and acting on stage, she always is pushing herself to be her best. Addison is also always optimistic and finds the positive in every situation. She is a great friend and an even better daughter and sister. We are so proud of all of the things she has accomplished already, and cannot wait to see what other ways her beautiful soul will brighten the world we live in.

From **Carrie Sgarlata, Mentor** – Addison is truly a ray of sunshine. She lights up a room with her smile and positive energy. She is a thoughtful soul who carefully considers her beliefs and how she can best live her faith. Addison cares deeply for others, and her kind heart is on display through her words and actions. I have enjoyed working with Addison as she is a blessing to all, and I am confident her faith will continue to grow in the future.

Maura McVoy-Holtz,

daughter of **Jim McVoy and Tori Raddemann**

Maura's thoughtful and kind spirit makes her an amazing person to have on your team. She is always happy to help others in any way that she can, which is what makes her such an excellent friend, daughter, and sister. Maura is very driven and puts her best effort into all things that she does, and is an amazing student, singer, actress, and runner. Her positive energy and smile make those who are around her feel safe and comfortable. We could not be more proud of the strong

and wonderful woman that she is becoming, and cannot wait to see how many more ways her loving soul will touch the world we live in.

From **Nick Sgarlata, Mentor** – Maura is an insightful and inquisitive young lady with a big smile. She has a great family support system that encourages her to openly explore her faith. Maura is well grounded in how she views her faith, yet she continues to question and seek answers. I have no doubt Maura will do great things on her faith journey.

Bella Sanders,

daughter of **Debbie Hayden**

Bella has grown so much in her faith as well as her daily life since we found First Church 7 years ago. She loves participating in the church events and activities, which include everything from the Mission Trip to the PF Christmas Play, and of course, her favorite is attending WCA Summer Camp. Outside of church, Bella plays the French horn & volleyball, likes to create art, and loves going on road trips. If you have ever had a conversation with Bella, you know that she is an "Old Soul", loves to learn and laugh, knows many random facts, cares deeply about her friends and family, and has a great sense of humor. I am so proud of her determination, and can't wait to see where she goes in life.

From **Sarah DeYoung, Mentor** – Bella Bean! That's what I called her when I first got to know Bella in Discovery Kids many years ago. It has been so nice to reconnect and get to know her as a teenager. Bella is a busy freshman at Wauwatosa West High School, and enjoys playing volleyball, going on road trips with her family, and watching movies. She has a sweet kitty named Lennon that was a great addition to her home life during the isolation of Covid. Bella is discovering her love for art as she explores painting and photography. She is incredibly articulate and easy to have conversations with, and has a love for the activities and people of our church. It was a pleasure to be Bella's mentor and to explore our faith journeys together.

Kerrington Schulz,

son of **David and Tina Schulz**

Kerrington is the youngest of five. He is quite the young man! He has the kindest heart and the sweetest disposition. Kerrington is an amazing friend and loves to spend time with his large extended family. He is passionate about sports, especially basketball and snowboarding. K (as we like to call him) has many hopes and dreams, and we know that because he dreams it, he will do it - he is driven and has an amazing work ethic. Anyone who knows or loves K sure is blessed to have him in their lives!

From **JC Moore, Mentor** – This year I had the pleasure of mentoring Kerrington. He's a remarkable young man with a bright future. He's ambitious and works hard to achieve his many goals. Kerrington also understands the importance of paying it forward, and incorporates that into his plans.

continued from page 4

He's very thoughtful and knows what is important to him about his relationship with God and the church. When we discussed this, he didn't hesitate to tell me how "at home" he feels attending First Church, and how worshipping with us has strengthened his faith. I'm glad Kerrington feels so strongly about his connection to First Church, and enjoyed getting to know him and welcome him as a member of the congregation.

Mara Schulz,

daughter of **David and Tina Schulz**

What can I tell you about our only daughter, Mara? Mara is brave, strong, compassionate and loving. She would do anything for her friends and strives to see the best in people. She tends to be a bit "dramatic," but that serves her well as she has a passion for theater, singing and writing some pretty impressive poetry (if I do say so myself). We know she will continue to use her power for good and are excited to see all that God has in store for her!

*From **Sara King, Mentor*** – I have been blessed to know Mara since she was a little girl, and deepening our relationship through this year of conversation has been a true gift. She is a creative, funny, and thoughtful young woman who will be an outstanding addition to the First Church family. Mara is a wonderful conversationalist with a passion for the arts and expression - poetry, fashion, theater, photography, and even special effects make-up! Mara is empathetic, loyal and envisions a future working with, and helping, others. This Covenant group has meant a lot to Mara and she looks forward to their future fellowship, service, and role in offering a warm welcome to church guests and new members.

Gunner Sgarlata,

son of **Nick and Carrie Sgarlata**

Gunner was baptized at FCC at just a few months old and has been an active participant ever since. Gunner is a kind-hearted, wise, sensitive, young man who truly enjoys helping others. This is especially evident in his interactions with all the foster children who have lived in our home. His thoughtfulness shines through in all he does, and we have no doubt he will live his faith through his actions in all aspects of his life. We could not be prouder of Gunner, and we are blessed to be his parents.

*From **Jon Stern, Mentor*** – One doesn't often meet teenage boys who carry themselves with a mixture of confidence and humility, but Gunner demonstrates both of these qualities in all he does. As long as I've known him, he has shown the ability to live out his faith, through service at St. Vincent's, as a big brother to foster children, and through involvement at First Church in, well, just about everything. Gunner meets challenges and triumphs with the same assurance that, no matter the outcome, he is following God's path. I am certain he will continue to live out his faith in the coming years.

Riley Stern,

son of **Jon and Kristin Stern**

The name Riley means "valiant" and was first associated with a warrior who died in a long forgotten Irish battle against the Vikings. This is a fitting name for a kid who brings passionate intensity to all he does. Whether it's an athletic field, a classroom, a family game, or involvement with his First Church family, Riley is all in. He seeks to be a part of the action through PE, Christmas plays, and (future) mission trips, but he also attempts to better understand his faith by spending time in personal reflection and devotion. We are very proud to have him become a member of the church, and hope he continues to be passionate in his faith.

*From **Roger Gruebling, Mentor*** – I first met Riley in my second grade Sunday School class. He came to class regularly, sat still, was quiet, attentive, and participated. Who could ask for anything more? At age 15, Riley is an enjoyable teenager with a good grasp of the present and future. Riley is well rounded, and is active with school, church, family, and friends. He gets it! Having two daughters of my own, I would give most of the credit to his parents. Riley and I have many things in common, one of which is playing cribbage. I think he let me win most of the time. I see a bright future for young Mister Stern, and his continued support and love of First Church. Congratulations, Riley!

Madison York,

daughter of **David and Debbie York**

Madison is as steady as they come. While not outwardly vocal, she is fiercely determined, competitive, and always puts her best into everything she does. She independently manages her time with her active life of school, basketball, tennis, soccer, and golf, and she excels in all. Madison has the respect of her peers and is kind and respectful to all. Most importantly, she is a child of God, and we are so proud of her for taking this Confirmation step. We look forward to watching her grow in her faith as she follows His guiding light through life.

*From **Cindy Davis, Mentor*** – Although I have known Madison her whole life, I have truly appreciated the opportunity to get to know her on a deeper level while serving as her mentor. We have bonded over our mutual love of sports, especially basketball. When I think of Madison, the saying, "Don't mistake my kindness for weakness," comes to mind. While Madison is extremely thoughtful, caring, and compassionate, that gentle and quiet exterior covers a strong, fierce and determined warrior. One of the many things I admire about Madison is her optimism. While working together on her faith statement, Madison expressed that, while there is a lot of bad in the world, there is also a lot of good and God is always there for us. That was a nice, inspirational reminder for me and is just one of the many ways in which Madison shines her bright light in this world. Madison has grown on her faith journey this year, and I look forward to seeing where God leads her. Most importantly, I want her to know I am here for her always.



Summer Sunday School

**Begins Sunday, June 13th
for ages 3 – entering 6th grade**

Children who have completed grades 6 and up are encouraged to remain in church with their families.

Children, Youth & Education Sunday

June 6th during the 10:00^{am} worship service

Our middle and high school youth will serve as readers, ushers, greeters, and musicians. A special presentation is in the works as well. . . .stay tuned! We want to celebrate our talented youth, and truly appreciate those who have stayed connected to First Church through PF meetings and Covenant class over the past year.

**Join us on Ridge Court following this special service for
our annual Ice Cream Social.
Come and enjoy a novelty treat!**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021



**August 9th-13th
9^{am} - Noon**

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs. The Rocky Railway theme will create a VBS experience where kids explore Jesus' power and trust Jesus when life feels like a valley or a mountaintop.

VBS is open to children entering 4K through 6th grade.

Look for more information in the coming months.

Pilgrim Fellowship

It has been a successful year of food, fellowship, and fun for our middle and high school teens. We will try to meet once or twice a month this summer so that we can stay connected, and we will hold our meetings out on Ridge Court. Look for e-mails from Tonia to find dates that will work for our busy youth.

Local Missions

We are planning to have our wonderful youth serve our local community in lieu of the Hosanna Mission Trip this summer. Our goal is to offer multiple opportunities in the Milwaukee metropolitan area the week that we were scheduled to be in Pennsylvania, which is June 21st-25th. More details will be coming out soon!



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

Secret Buddies....Continued!!

The Secret Buddies program had a bit of a “hitch” due to the Covid closure in the spring of 2020, and yet, we picked up right where we left off during this Lenten season. Ten Buddy pairs continued their connection this spring, with the reveals happening on a handful of Sundays to accommodate busy schedules.

This is technically the eighth year of this program, which was launched to foster connections between the generations of our church. Our adult buddies exchanged letters every couple of weeks with our 1st-6th grade buddies, and shared information about their hobbies, the activities that kept them busy during Covid, Easter plans, and the most important lesson learned during the shutdown.

The Secret Buddies were finally able to meet in person (after being in touch for over a year) after Worship on Sundays in late April and early May, and these reveals were extremely special. I feel blessed that I was able to witness the magic of these reveal meetings, and the smiles on the faces of both the adults and the children were priceless. Our Buddy pairs sat at their own tables, chatting and learning even more about each other. Wonderful connections were made, and personal and thoughtful gifts were shared. Relationships within the First Church community mean so much, and the Secret Buddies will remain friends for years to come.



Ddg Wakefield & Emmalyn Neary



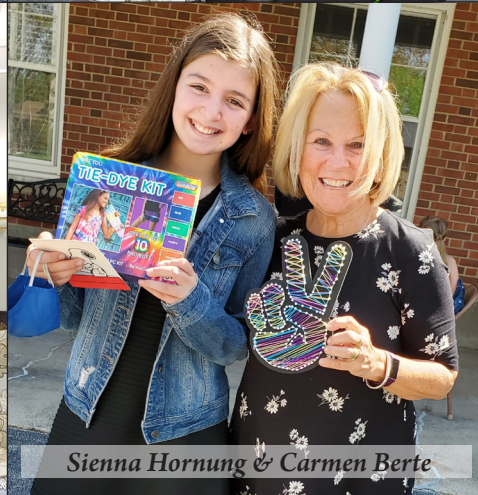
Robert Neary & Jim Santelle



Cathy Trump & Robin Thomas



Scott Rondeau & Tanner Wakefield



Sienna Hornung & Carmen Berte



Sarah DeYoung & Caleb Wakefield



Pat Reddy & Eloise Neary



Finn Krugman & Keith Harmon



*Elizabeth Dummert
& Marianne King*

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In This Issue

- 1 Confirmation Class of 2021
- 2 Worship & Discovery
Picnic on Ridge Court
- 3 Off the Top of My Head
Update from Myanmar
- 4 Confirmation Class of 2021 con't.
- 5 Confirmation Class of 2021 con't.
- 6 Just for Youth
- 7 Secret Buddies
- Insert VBS Registration Form

