

OCTOBER 2021

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# The Congregational COLUMNS

## First Church Rallies on Rally Sunday

The official start of First Church's program year, Rally Sunday 2021, marked a much-anticipated return to several pre-pandemic traditions we had missed over the past 18 months. A lively congregation of 116 people gathered in the Nave to welcome back the FCC Choir under the direction of our new Director of Music, Katelyn Peterson, and the Handbell Choir, directed by Roxanne Trump -Miles. Rally Sunday saw the largest number of in-person worshipers since Easter 2020. Previously introduced to Katelyn's piano skills during her piano duet with Rhonda Kwiecien, the congregation was treated to Katelyn's vocal solos on the morning's hymns. The Rally Sunday congregation was also privileged to share in the baptisms of Raphael Avila and Joseph Charles, adopted sons of Nick and Carrie Sgarlata, along with their sponsors Hailey, Maddie, and Gunner Sgarlata.

Following the service, approximately 100 people reconvened on Ridge Court for the annual Rally Sunday Picnic hosted by the Board of Fellowship. The menu featured roasted chicken, shredded barbecued pork, cole slaw, potato salad, as well as one chocolate and one vanilla cake to celebrate the special day. Church members and friends reveled in the opportunity to share a meal with people they hadn't seen in over a year. If there has been any upside to the pandemic, it is the renewed appreciation of our church traditions and our church family.



THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
IN WAUWATOSA



# Worship & Discovery

## Women's Ministry

*Tuesdays, October 5, 12, 19 & 26 at 7:30<sup>am</sup>*

Women's Ministry will meet in the Friendship Lounge, Tuesdays at 7:30<sup>am</sup> for an hour. The group will be studying the attributes of God using the devotional "None Else," which will be provided. All are invited. Contact Pat Reddy with any questions.

## Celebrate Worldwide Christian Unity

First Church will join Christian churches around the world when it celebrates World Communion Sunday on October 3rd. Always recognized on the first Sunday in October, the event promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation.

The observance began in 1933 at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. From there it spread throughout U.S. Presbyterian churches and beyond until it was recognized worldwide. As we celebrate communion together on October 3rd, we remember our spiritual connection to all Christians around the globe.

## Adult Learning Hour

*Sundays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 at 8:45<sup>am</sup>*

Adult Learning resumed on Sunday, September 19, at 8:45<sup>am</sup> in LL2. Please bring your Bible as we begin a study of the Gospel of John. You need not attend every week or stay the full hour to be part of the group. All are welcome to join us as you are able.

## Casual Worship UNDER THE STEEPLE

Suspended until further notice.

### Operating Statement Summary

*Year to Date as of August 2021*

|                      | Current Year | Prior Year |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|
| Pledge base received | 65%          | 62%        |
| Pledge Income        | \$321,926    | \$328,777  |
| Total Income         | \$413,840    | \$433,506  |
| Total Expense        | \$341,060    | \$368,632  |
| Net Income           | \$72,780     | \$64,874   |

*Detailed financials available at office.*

## Purls of Wisdom

FCCs knitting and crocheting group, "Purls of Wisdom," is back! We will meet the first Saturday of the month from 10 am to 12 noon, in the Lounge, starting October 2nd. The Care Board has an active prayer shawl ministry that provides shawls to church members, family or friends who are in need of extra comfort.

Would you like to help with this creative mission? Please consider knitting or crocheting a prayer shawl on your own or stop by our "Purls of Wisdom" knitting group. We share patterns, other service project ideas, and fellowship. Don't know how to knit but would like to learn? Stop on by, we would love to teach you.

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.

- Margie Idzikowski

## 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.

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# Off the Top of My Head

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

In his book, *Swann's Way*, the French novelist Marcel Proust wrote of returning home late one evening on a dull winter day when he faced the prospect of a depressing tomorrow. The maid greeted him and, seeing that he was tired, brought him a cup of hot tea and some cake. Being both tired and depressed he at first refused them. Only at her insistence did he finally begin to drink the tea and eat the cake. Proust wrote that an unexplainable delight suddenly came over him. His anxieties and troubles seemed to vanish. Suddenly, he wrote, I had "ceased to feel mediocre, accidental and mortal."

What caused this wonderful sensation to come over him? He was at a loss to explain it. How could a taste of tea and cake produce this feeling of peace? He drank and ate more but he still could not decipher the secret. The truth, he guessed, must be in himself and not in what he was eating and drinking.

Proust began to search within himself. Suddenly he began to remember. His mind carried him back to Combray, France, where in childhood he visited his aunt, and she fed him cake and hot tea. Proust had been unmoved by the sight of the tea and cake, but the



taste had sent shockwaves through him and reminded him of scenes long forgotten. Suddenly he remembered the little town, the village church, the old house, the long-forgotten relatives, and the flowers in the garden. The tea and cake had recovered for Proust the memory and mystery of an existence long past.

Is it, indeed, possible to hand a person a cup of tea and say to that person: Now drink this and remember who you are? It not only is possible, but in a real sense, that is what we do when we partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. By partaking of the bread and wine we are seeking to recover the experience of those first disciples. Like the novelist Proust, it causes us to think back on experiences that happened long ago and in remembering these experiences we begin to recover our own sense of identity as Christians. In a haunting and mystical way, the sacrament calls us to remember who we are and whose we are.

Sunday October 3rd is World Communion Sunday when we will join with Christian churches around the world to remember whose we are. I hope you can be with us.

- Bill

## JUST FOR YOUTH October 2021



### Sunday School

Sunday, October 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31  
for ages 3 – 5th grade

Children will begin in church with their families during 10 am worship. They will be dismissed to Sunday School during the service.

### Junior Choir

Sunday, October 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31  
for grades 2-8

Meet at 9:00 in LL4

Children usually sing once a month.

### Covenant Class

Starting in October for 9th graders  
Group meets at 8:30 am in the Library  
on the first and third Sundays.

### Pilgrim Fellowship (PF)

Sunday, October 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31  
for grades 6 – 12

Teens will begin in church with their families during 10 am worship and will be dismissed to PF during the service.

### Ultimate Kick-Off Event

Date TBD

## Rally Sunday - A Wonderful "Welcome Back"

What a thrill to celebrate Rally Sunday and kick off the new program year together on September 12th. We handed out Bibles to 3rd graders, commissioned the Sunday School teachers, and participated in special baptisms for the Sgarlata family. It was also a blessing to have the children return to their Sunday School and PF classrooms, programming that has been missed since March of 2020.

We will have two Sunday School classes this year, one with 3, 4, and 5-year-olds, and the other with 2nd-5th graders. With our numbers by age level, this made the most sense. The middle and high school students will be up on the 3rd Floor for their lessons on Sunday mornings as well, which I know they are excited about.

I am also looking forward to the restoration of our Youth Service Initiative on the third Sunday of each month. Our youth will serve as greeters, ushers, liturgists, cookie bakers, and service project helpers. Our Sunday Schoolers will make cards for homebound members in the Social Hall, and we are also looking for other service projects that our young children can participate in. Our cookie bakers will be busy in the kitchen, and Worship attendees will enjoy warm cookies during Coffee Hour.

With so much for our youth to look forward to this school year, and having their energy in the building every Sunday morning will be awesome.

Blessings, Tonia

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*Rally Sunday*

