

NOVEMBER 2021

Volume 36 - Issue 11

# The Congregational COLUMNS

## Coming Back Together! 2022 Stewardship Campaign

We are in a time of change. That surely is an understatement. We've faced challenges this past year, but we are now *coming back together* and moving forward as a Congregation to create a new chapter for our Church.

What have we done so far? We've come back together to worship in-person while still providing virtual options. This summer our youth participated in a local mission project to support our community and our staff and volunteers brought together over 40 children for Vacation Bible School. We've also supported local charities and NACCC missions so they can shelter the homeless, protect abuse victims, feed the hungry, care for children and help those impacted by civil unrest abroad.

On Rally Sunday we came back together with choral and handbell music, commissioned our Sunday School teachers, and enjoyed a fellowship picnic on Ridge Court. Every table was full! Yes, we are coming back together.

How are we moving forward? In light of Rev. Trump's retirement, we have engaged Dr. Gerry Brannon Krupp with Design Group International to facilitate Listening Sessions with members of the Congregation to help direct the search for a new minister. Your voice is important as we move forward.

What are we asking? We are asking for your continued generosity and faith in the future. So far this year, pledges are meeting the Church's financial goals, however contributions have fallen short of forecast. The good news is that we anticipate meeting our 2021 budget due to savings in staffing costs and tight control of expenses by our boards.

We hope you will renew your commitment to First Church as we come back together by returning your 2022 pledge card. Please know that no one on the Board of Stewardship has knowledge of your pledge amounts.

It is a time of change – one filled with hope and opportunity to create a new chapter for First Congregational Church as we move forward together to serve our Lord.

Your Board of Stewardship, Benevolence and Church Relations,

Ann Steinmetz Harris – Chairperson

Fred Kingsley

Will Schoyer

JC Moore – Secretary

Bobby Russ

## Boards are Vital to Church Life

At First Church we are blessed with a beautiful building, inspiring worship services, active church life, and excellent programs for children and youth, as well as outreach to our community. It's easy to take it all for granted, but none of it would be possible without our boards and the people who serve on them.

Our boards are fundamental to the quality of your experience here at First Church, and it doesn't take much of your time to serve. As a board member, you actively live our Covenant by "returning to God a portion of God's gifts" and "growing in the knowledge and expression of our faith." Share your talents and abilities by offering to join one of the boards:

**Congregational Care, Deacons, Christian Education,  
Fellowship, Stewardship & Benevolence, Trustees**

If you have an interest in serving or would like to know more about any of the boards, please contact the FCC Office at (414)258-7375. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
IN WAUWATOSA



# Worship & Discovery

## Women's Ministry

*Tuesdays, November 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30  
at 7:30<sup>am</sup>*

Women's Ministry will meet in the Friendship Lounge, Tuesdays at 7:30am 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.

### Operating Statement Summary Year to Date as of September 2021

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	72.0%	68.0%
Pledge Income	\$355,243	\$361,249
Total Income	\$464,158	\$479,751
Total Expense	\$385,501	\$426,349
Net Income	\$78,658	\$53,402

*Detailed financials available at office.*

## Men's Bible Study

*First & Third Wednesdays,  
November 3 & 17 at 7:00<sup>am</sup>*

Men's Bible Study has returned! We now meet at 7 am, so you can sleep an extra half hour Wednesday mornings. Join us in Room 107 for interesting studies and good conversation.

## Adult Learning Hour

*Sundays, November 7, 14, 21 & 28  
at 8:45<sup>am</sup>*

Adult Learning resumed on Sunday, September 19, at 8:45am in LL2. Please bring your Bible as we 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.

## Celebrate Thanksgiving's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Thursday, November 25 at 9<sup>am</sup> in the Nave*

In 1621, those Pilgrim colonists who had survived the first year in the New World, joined the local Wampanoag Indians to share in a feast and to thank God for a bountiful harvest and to show appreciation for the Wampanoag's help in the successful planting and growing of crops like corn. Today, that event is known as the first Thanksgiving. It wasn't until 1863, during the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday.

Honor our Congregational forebears and thank God for His blessings. Join us for our special Thanksgiving Service. Friends and neighbors are welcome! Our Thanksgiving Special Offering will support two outstanding organizations:

**Sojourner Family Peace Center** is the largest non-profit provider of domestic violence prevention and interventions services in Wisconsin, serving over 11,800 clients each year. Sojourner provides an array of support aimed at helping families affected by domestic violence achieve safety, justice, and well-being.

**Congregational Church of Myanmar** has as its primary project, Grace Children's Ministry, which provides free education and care for needy and orphaned children in Myanmar. Grace Children's Ministry was founded by The Reverend SaDo and his wife, Rev Naw Pale Say, in 2005. The objective of GCM is to provide education and care for children in need and to fulfill the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 13:34, Mt 28:19-20) Gospel outreach, discipleship, Tract Ministry, community efforts and Home Cell church planting are other components of its ministry.

In addition, on behalf of **Tosa Community Food Pantry**, we'll be collecting non-perishable food items, such as canned fruits, vegetables, soups, canned protein items (i.e., Spam, tuna, beef stew) and peanut butter and jelly.

## 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](http://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

**Katelyn Peterson**  
Director of Music

**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

**Cathy Denny** - Columns Coordinator  
[sdenny1-cathy@wi.rr.com](mailto: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*

"A man whom many believe was the greatest American president is a good example for us. When he was 7 years of age, his family was forced out of their home, and he went to work. When he was 9, his mother died. He lost his job as a store clerk when he was 20. He wanted to go to law school, but he didn't have the education. At age 23 he went into debt to be a partner in a small store. Three years later the business partner died, and the resulting debt took years to repay.

When he was 28, after courting a girl for four years, he asked her to marry him, and she turned him down. On his third try he was elected to Congress, at age 37, but then failed to be re-elected. His son died at 4 years of age. When this man was 45, he ran for the Senate and lost. At age 47 he ran for the vice-presidency and lost. But at age 51 he was elected president of the United States.



The man was Abraham Lincoln, a man who learned to face discouragement and move beyond it. Did you know that it was Abraham Lincoln who, in the midst of the Civil War, in 1863, established the annual celebration of Thanksgiving? Lincoln had learned how important it is to stop and thank God during great difficulties."

From the earliest days of our Pilgrim forebears a spirit of thanksgiving has been foundational to the American Spirit. It is an attitude that crosses all lines of culture and religion. This year as we look out at the condition of our world it is vital we learn the importance of thanking God.

First Congregational church will be hosting its annual Thanksgiving Morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. I hope you will make a special effort to be present for this time to stop and thank God for our many blessings and join our voices in prayer.

- Bill

## Provide a Thanksgiving Meal to Someone in Need

Every Thanksgiving, the Milwaukee Rescue Mission delivers Thanksgiving dinner baskets to people who have needed the Mission's help in the past. The generous support of First Church is vital to the success of this worthy project.

Your kind donations of \$20 Pick 'n Save and/or Walmart cards will be collected now through November 10. Our goal is 125 cards.

Bring your gift cards to the Office. If the Office is closed, you are welcome to drop your cards into the mail slot.

Celebrate the 400th anniversary of Thanksgiving by sharing your blessings with others.

*The Milwaukee Rescue Mission is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.*



## Time for Hanging of the Greens

*Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 8<sup>am</sup>*

Everyone is invited to help the Deacons decorate our church for Advent and Christmas. Hanging of the Greens is a family friendly event that's fun for all ages! Many hands make light work, so the more the merrier!

Let us know if you're coming:

- Sign-up at the Gathering Table in the Atrium,
- Call the Office at 414.258.7375, or
- Email [marianne@firstchurchtosa.org](mailto:marianne@firstchurchtosa.org).

The Board of Deacons is accepting donations toward the purchase of these decorations for the church. Fill out the form on the back page or look for the form in Sunday's Order of Worship, and return it with your check (made out to FCC) to the Office.

Dedications will be printed in the 4 pm and 10 pm Christmas Eve Orders for Worship.

## JUST FOR YOUTH November 2021



### Sunday School

Sunday, November 7, 14, 21 & 28  
for ages 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Children will begin in church with their families during 10<sup>am</sup> worship and dismissed to Sunday School during the service.

### Junior Choir

Sunday, November 7, 14, 21 & 28  
for Kindergarten - 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Meet at 9:15 in LL4  
Children sing on Sunday, November 21.

### Covenant Class

November 7 & 21 for 9<sup>th</sup> graders  
Group meets at 8:30<sup>am</sup> in Room 107.

### Pilgrim Fellowship (PF)

Sunday, November 7, 14, 21 & 28  
for grades 6 – 12

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



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

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

PRSRT STD  
AUTO  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MILWAUKEE, WI  
PERMIT NO. 5276

**In This Issue**

- 1  
Coming Back Together!  
2022 Stewardship Campaign  
Boards are Vital to Church Life
- 2  
Worship & Discovery  
Celebrate Thanksgiving's  
400th Anniversary
- 3  
Off the Top of My Head  
Provide a Thanksgiving Meal  
to Someone in Need  
Time for Hanging of the Greens  
Just for Youth



Your Name(s)	_____
	_____
	_____
In honor of:	_____
	(and/or)
In memory of :	_____
Amount: \$	_____