

FEBRUARY 2022

Volume 37 - Issue 2

# The Congregational COLUMNS

## Making a Difference

The generous support of First Church members and friends is felt both locally and internationally through the work of the Board of Stewardship, Benevolence and Church Relations. The following are samples of the feedback received from recipients of that support.

### Milwaukee Rescue Mission

Thank you for your generous donation of 13 Walmart giftcards and 125 Pick 'n Save giftcards for Thanksgiving! Folks in need celebrate this holiday because you care.

Thanksgiving should be a time of joy and hope, but for our hurting and homeless neighbors, it can be a time of hardship and hopelessness. Because of your support, men, women, and children can thrive through a difficult time. Your gift provides vital resources to those who come through our doors. And it offers us the opportunity to help even more people with meals, shelter and long-term care like education and recovery services.

Through God's grace and your generosity, people who are struggling find relief. Thank you!

Thankfully,

Patrick H. Vanderburgh, D.Min., *President*

### Gift of Adoption

Thank you for your organization's donation of \$1,000.00 on July 20, 2021, in support of the Wisconsin Chapter.

As we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Gift of Adoption, we took the opportunity to catch up with some of the children adopted years ago to see where they are NOW.

Jon Michael was adopted in 2014. His mother shared, "Jon Michael can take control of a room with his charisma and the fact that he will talk to anyone. He lights up any space he is in. Jon Michael is an honor student and plays every sport he can. He recently won the school talent show with his bicycle riding skills and a little bit of politicking!"

We are so very grateful and honored by your generosity. Thank you kindly.

Pam Devereux, *Chief Executive Officer*



### VA Fisher House

It is a proven fact that a family's love is good medicine. When a veteran or service member receives care at the VA, the last thing their family should have to worry about is how to support their loved one during hospitalization. For many of these families, not only is the VA Medical Center hours away from home, it can also be very difficult to predict how long their stay might be. Distance isn't nearly the only issue the families face. Travel and lodging add a financial burden on them as they seek answers and wait for results.

THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
IN WAUWATOSA

*continued on page 4*

# Worship & Discovery

## Women's Ministry

*Tuesdays, February 1, 8, 15 & 22  
at 7:30<sup>am</sup>*

Women's Ministry meets in the Friendship Lounge, Tuesdays at 7:30<sup>am</sup> for an hour. All are invited. Contact Pat Reddy with any questions.

## Men's Ministry

*Second and Fourth Wednesdays,  
February 9 & 23 at 7:00<sup>am</sup>*

Meet in Room 107 for the DVD Series, "The History of Christianity: From the Disciples to the Dawn of the Reformation."

## Men's Bible Study

*First & Third Wednesdays,  
February 2 & 16 at 7:00<sup>am</sup>*

Men's Bible Study meets at 7am on Wednesday mornings. Join us in Room 107 for interesting studies and good conversation.

## Adult Learning Hour

*Sundays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27  
at 8:45<sup>am</sup>*

Adult Learning is held at 8:45am in LL2. Please bring your Bible as we study 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.

### It's a new pledge year!

Please stop by the Office if you would like a box of numbered envelopes for 2022.

The Office is open Monday through Thursday, from 9:00<sup>am</sup> until 3:00<sup>pm</sup> and before and after the 10:00<sup>am</sup> Worship Service on Sundays.

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

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	103.0%	99.0%
Pledge Income	\$515,035	\$528,718
Total Income	\$664,290	\$686,163
Total Expense	<u>\$598,653</u>	<u>\$641,012</u>
Net Income	\$65,637	\$45,151

*Detailed financials available at office.*

## JUST FOR YOUTH February 2022



### Sunday School

*Sunday, February 6, 13, 20, & 27 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.



*Children sang in church on Sunday, Dec. 19  
preceeding Brunch for Bill Trump*

### Junior Choir

*Sunday, February 6, 13, 20, & 27 for Kindergarten - 8<sup>th</sup> grade • Meet at 9:15 in LL4.*

### Covenant Class

*February 6 & 20 for 9<sup>th</sup> graders • Group meets at 8:30<sup>am</sup> in 107.*

### Pilgrim Fellowship (PF)

*Sunday, February 6, 13, 20 & 27 for grades 6 - 12*

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

## 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)

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**414-258-7375**

On-Call Minister  
**414-258-7378**

**Dr. Gerry B. Krupp**  
Interim Minister

**Jim Harris**  
Administrator

**Tonia Wallner**  
Director of Christian Education

**Katelyn Peterson**  
Director of Music

**Rhonda Kwiecien**  
Keyboard Musician

**Roxanne Trump-Miles**  
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### First Congregational Church

1511 Church Street  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213  
(414) 258-7375

Like us on Facebook!



## Message from Bill



*My Dear Church Family,*

*I want to thank you for the wonderful words and celebration of the Christmas brunch on my retirement. I was truly overwhelmed by your love and generosity. It has been such an honor and privilege to serve you. I pray God will continue to bless First Church during this time of change.*

*With love, Bill*



## Welcome to Our Interim Ministers!

Leading up to our search for a Senior Minister, First Church held a number of listening sessions, led by Dr. Gerry Brannon Krupp of Design Group International, to obtain the input of church members. After hearing so many good reports about Dr. Krupp, we were excited to learn that he was available to serve as Interim Minister.

Pastor Krupp has over 35 years of ministry experience. He holds a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity. While Interim Minister at First Church, he plans to preach the second and fourth Sunday of the month and will serve the pastoral care needs of members.

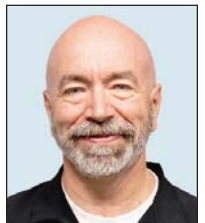


Zach Vincent will preach the first Sunday of each month. He is an ordained minister and Hospital Chaplain at Bellin Health. Pastor Vincent also works with Design Group International as a special assignment consultant.

Dr. Mark Vincent, PhD, EPC, and founder of Design Group

International, will preach on the fifth Sunday of the month when that occurs.

It will be up to First Church to fill the pulpit on the third Sunday of each month. We are looking forward to hearing from guest ministers, as well as laypersons from our First Church family.



At the Milwaukee Fisher House, all families are able to stay as long as they have a need at no cost to them. No family in need is ever turned away.

Thank you for your very kind and generous donation to our veterans and their families.

Dirk J. Debbink

Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy Reserve (retired), *President*

### **NACCC**

Thank you for your recent gift to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) in the amount of \$3,930.00. The NACCC, after careful review, will apply your donation as follows:

\$1,965.00 Happy Life    \$1,965.00 Panamerican Institute

Your contribution not only helps us to sustain programs and projects, but also fulfills dreams in the ministries of our missions. We are grateful for your commitment and expression of fellowship represented by your gift.

Blessings in Christ and in all the good work you do,  
Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, *Executive Director*

National Association

of Congregational Christian Churches

### **Asociacion Civil Christiana Congregational of Jardin America, Argentina**

Greetings from Argentina!

We wish you and all of our mission friends at First Church in Wauwatosa a good and blessed year 2022! Thank you for the received support and for the communion in thoughts and prayer.

Rev. H Harding Stricker,

*On behalf of the Mission Team*

*of the Asociacion Civil Christiana Congregational of Jardin America, Argentina*

### **St. Vincent de Paul**

On behalf of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Milwaukee Board of Directors, along with our incredible volunteers and staff members, we are grateful for your generous donation of \$650.

Thank you for your kind support of our mission!

Your gift allows us to continue carrying out our critical mission of eliminating poverty and hunger throughout Milwaukee County during the COVID-19 crisis.

Our work in the Milwaukee community meets the basic needs of individuals and families living in poverty. These needs include food, clothing, and household essentials -- necessities we often take for granted. Now, more than ever, your support ensures families are equipped with these fundamentals, offering them security during an unprecedented time.

With gratitude,

Deborah Duskey, *Executive Director*

### **Sojourner Family Peace Center**

Thank you for the very generous gift from First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa. We are so grateful to you and the entire congregation for supporting Sojourner Family Peace Center. In January, we will be holding a series of sessions on the state of domestic violence in Milwaukee.

Warmest Regards,

Cherie Paust Swenson, *Vice President & Chief Development Officer*

### **Tosa Community Food Pantry**

Thank you to you and your members for the generous check we received for the Tosa Community Food Pantry.

We received your check in the amount of \$650.00. We appreciate your consideration of us in your charitable giving.

We provide food and other necessities to needy people in the Wauwatosa area. And there is a real need.

Thanks again,

David Brand, *TCFP Treasurer*

### **Congregational Church of Myanmar**

I'm very pleased to send you our Mission (Ministry) updates for your prayer as you and your church are the most supportive members of our Ministries in Myanmar! Due to the growing unrest, war in Chin state, thousands of families flee to the jungle in order to find a safeguard and they

need our continued prayer for the relief efforts. Everything in Myanmar is unusual, unsafe, we are serving in the most terrible place of non-Christian community! Please pray for the safety of our Ministries, children, staff, and Yangon Grace home dining building project.

In Christ,

Rev. Elvis SaDo



### **Milwaukee Rescue Mission**

The year has quickly come to a close, but your generous donation of \$3,928.00 that we received on 12/31/2021 through your 2021 Christmas Special Offering came just in time to help men,

Women and children who are hurting and homeless.

Thank you so much for your support, and I pray the Lord blesses you in the New Year!

Gratefully,

Patrick H. Vanderburgh, D. Min. *President*



## OneHope27

Thank you for your recent donation to OneHope27, Inc. [\$1,000 on December 30, 2021]

We continue to see first hand how financial donations, as well as clothing and equipment donations for children in foster care are bringing hope and showing the love of Christ. Thank you for partnering with us financially, as well as tangibly, with the use of storage space.

This year we will open our support home for young moms whose children have been removed from their care to aid in quicker and more successful reunifications.

I invite you to connect with OneHope27 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to see photos and read stories of how kids and families involved in foster care are being impacted by your generosity. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or ideas you would like to share with us.

Gratefully,

Charonne Ganiere, OneHope27, Inc.,

Executive Director

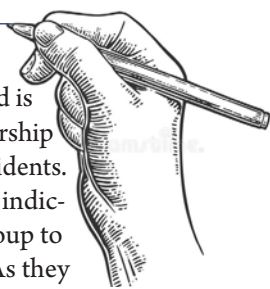
## FCC Women's Circle Welcomes Women Of All Ages

After a long hiatus in response to COVID, Circle 7 has regrouped and is undergoing a renewal under the leadership Jane Boyd and Colleen Foster, co-presidents. The new name, FCC Women's Circle, indicates their interest in expanding the group to all women at FCC – young and old. As they finish the current program year, Women's Circle will be considering other opportunities for reinventing the organization to better meet the needs of women who would like to attend.

Women's Circle's next gathering is Tuesday, February 8th, at 12:30 pm in the Friendship Lounge.

Michael Foster, retired high school art teacher, will present Drawing Strategies of a Retired High School Art Teacher. Michael will discuss his approach to drawing - an inquiry into "whole" via direct observational drawing strategy. During his career, a large number of his students were featured in the Scholastic Art Awards: Wisconsin Exhibition, hosted at the Milwaukee Art Museum. His remarks will help the audience deepen their appreciation of the art of drawing.

Enjoy fellowship, a delicious dessert and coffee at the February 8th Women's Circle. Sign up by calling the church Office at 414.258.7375 or email [marianne@firstchurchtosa.org](mailto:marianne@firstchurchtosa.org).



## Drivers Needed for St. Vincent's Meal Program

For over 30 years, a dedicated group of women and men has prepared a meal for St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) on the first Friday of each month. The individuals and families who eat at St. Vincent's love the dinner, which includes potato crusted fish, mac and cheese, a green salad, Jello, and cookies. For many years, Don Schaeffer picked up the meal containers and drove them to St. Paul's at 931 West Madison Street. Don is no longer able to deliver the meal, and the future of this mission depends on our ability to find volunteer drivers.



### Requirements

First, an SUV or station wagon is required to haul the food containers due to their size. Second, lifting the containers into the car requires a lot of muscle.

On the first Friday of the month, the volunteer driver picks up the meal at the church at about 3:15 pm. (There's often someone here to help load the SUV). The meal is driven to St. Vincent's southside location, 931 W. Madison, where SVDP staff unload the SUV and take the meal inside. There's a little wait while staff transfer all food to their own serving pans and return the empty containers to the SUV. The driver then brings the empty containers back to the church. The entire process typically takes about 2 hours.

### Many Hands Make Light Work

The goal is to have a few volunteers who can share the responsibility. That way, no one is responsible for driving every single month.

If you are interested or would simply like more information, please call the church Office at 414.258.7375 or stop by any time Monday through Thursday, 9 AM until 3 PM or after Sunday worship. Just a few hours of your time will mean a great deal to the folks who depend on

First Church's mission to SVDP for one meal a month.



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

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### **In This Issue**

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Making a Difference
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Worship & Discovery  
Just for Youth
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Message from Bill  
Welcome to Our Interim Ministers!
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Making a Difference con't.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
FCC Women's Circle Welcomes  
Women Of All Ages  
Drivers Needed For  
St. Vincent's Meal Program

