

MARCH 2022

Volume 37 - Issue 3

The Congregational COLUMNS

Message from Steve Russ

To my fellow church members, at long last a letter from your Moderator. About 14 months ago I answered a call at home. The CALLER ID appeared on the phone, but the CALL ID was not readily apparent. And yet, I answered the call. Knowing that it was from a member of the Nominating Committee at First Church, I had an idea of the subject matter. And still, I answered the call. I suspected that the caller would ask for me to stand for election to be your Moderator once again. And I answered the call nonetheless. Why am I belaboring this point? Because when I joined this church nearly 31 years ago, I realized that I might receive this call, not just once, but whenever the need arose for me to answer it. There certainly are a number of biblical references that could be made to support this point but the sentiment that I think most captures my impression of this phenomenon is derived from the song written by Ralph Vaughan Williams titled "The Call," based on a poem written by George Herbert and published in 1633, the year of his passing:

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath,
such a truth as ends all strife,
such a life as killeth death.*

*Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast,
such a feast as mends in length,
such a strength as makes his guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move,
such a love as none can part,
such a heart as joys in love.*

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the Church Council, it's members at large and board chairpersons, for their contributions during this past year, and welcome new members at large and board chairpersons to continue the work of the church at hand during the term of your incoming Moderator, Peggy Griffith. She will do great work in leading the church forward. I would also like to express my deep appreciation for the staff of First Church who work tirelessly on your behalf every day to make this church a viable institution of faith. Thanks to Jim Harris, Marianne King, Jill Bruss, Mark Lund, Rick Nowacki, Jim and Cindy Walsh, and Bill Edens and Kayla Bruss for their contributions to help make things run smoothly and seemingly effortlessly during this past year. Many thanks to Tonia Wallner, Katelyn Peterson, Rhonda Kwiecien, and Roxanne Miles for being constantly present during this past year. Your contributions are immeasurable. Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank and apologize to Cathy Denny, our Columns coordinator who can finally meet her deadline.

Finally, I would like to extend appreciation to Bill Trump for his nine years of service to First Church and best wishes to Reverend Dr. Gerry B. Krupp and Design Group International for their important work during this interim ministry period to help our congregation discern its best path forward. May God bestow his blessings upon you all as we answer the CALL of the future!

Steve Russ, Past Moderator

THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

Worship & Discovery

Women's Ministry

*Tuesdays, March 1, 15, 22 & 29
at 7:30^{am}*

Women's Ministry meets in the Friendship Lounge, Tuesdays at 7:30^{am} for an hour. All are invited. The current study is Colossians. Contact Pat Reddy with any questions.

Men's Ministry

*Second and Fourth Wednesdays,
March 9 & 23 at 7:00^{am}*

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,
March 2 & 16 at 7:00^{am}*

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, March 13, 20 & 27 at 8:45^{am}

Adult Learning is held at 8:45^{am} 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.

Women's Circle

*Tuesday, March 8 at 7:30^{am}
in the Friendship Lounge*

Gale Tanger has been called "one of the most influential and innovative voices in the world of figure skating." She has judged international competitions and served key leadership roles in several Olympics. Gale served as U.S. Team Leader for figure skating at the 1994 Games in Lillehammer, Chef de Mission of the U.S. Olympic Team at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games, and was elected to the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 2021.



Operating Statement Summary

Year to Date as of January 2022

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base rec'd	9.2%	6.6%
Pledge Income	\$42,950	\$32,614
Total Income	\$110,575	\$77,989
Total Expenses	\$36,180	\$24,608
Net Income	\$74,394	\$53,381

Detailed financials available at office.

JUST FOR YOUTH
March 2022



Sunday School

Sunday, March 6, 13, 20, & 27 for ages 3 – 5th grade

Children will begin in church with their families during 10^{am} worship and dismissed to Sunday School during the service.

Junior Choir

Sunday, March 6, 13, 20, & 27 for Kindergarten - 8th grade • Meet at 9:15 in LL4.

Covenant Class

March 6 for 9th graders • Group meets at 8:30^{am} in 107.

Pilgrim Fellowship (PF)

Sunday, March 6, 13, 20 & 27 for grades 6 – 12

Teens will begin in church with their families during 10^{am} 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

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First Congregational Church

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Like us on Facebook!



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



Pardon the Dust!

The new elevator project is scheduled to begin the week of March 7th. We are busy preparing the areas that will be affected by the construction.

Tonia Wallner will relocate the Christian Education Office into Bill Trump's old office. The furniture from the Parlor will be moved into the Social Hall. All of the scenic design materials stored in room LL-3 are being moved into Room 202.

The removal of the old elevator will begin the week of March 14th. There will be asbestos abatement work leading up to the major portion of the project. The project will fully swing into action during April. The heating system for the Church will need to be shut down during construction as steam and condensate pipes are relocated.

Access to certain areas of the Church will be restricted during construction due to fire code regulations. We will update the congregation as our contractors progress in the project.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Capital Campaign to make this possible!

We will face some dust and obstructions during the project, but come October we will have a new modern, fast, convenient and easily accessible elevator ready for use by our members and groups!

Stay tuned! We will provide updates and photos as the project progresses.

The Elevator Team

Women's Circle Sponsors Tosa Cares Spring Drive

First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa is holding its spring drive for Tosa Cares during the month of March. The congregation came to Tosa Care's rescue last fall when the organization's supply of hygiene products was completely depleted! After a challenging winter, Tosa Cares could use our support once more as it meets the needs of families and seniors in crisis this spring and summer.

Women's Circle will have a collection table for donations in the Atrium throughout March. The popular Drive-up/Drop-off event for Tosa Cares is scheduled for Saturday, March 26th, from 8^{am} until 1^{pm} in the First Church parking lot.

Tosa Cares needs the following full-size items:

- Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and dental care items
- Hand and bath soaps and body wash
- Hand antibacterial and disinfectant wipes

- Feminine hygiene products
- Hair care products and accessories
- Deodorant
- Laundry detergent
- Facial tissue and paper towels
- Shaving supplies
- Hand and body lotion
- Cleaning products such as dish soap, all-purpose cleaner, furniture polish, etc.
- Diapers (no newborn or size 1) and baby wipes
- No toilet paper needed.



**For more information contact
First Congregational Church at 414-258-7375.**

Random Acts of Kindness Dominated February!

In February, the First Church youth challenged the congregation to love their neighbor and demonstrate God's love for us all through random acts of kindness. The bulletin board outside the Christian Education Office was the collection point for notes about random acts. Here are acts reported by members of the congregation:

- Shoveled for neighbors on both sides.
- Walked with my neighbor while his wife recouped from surgery.
- Smiled at someone who cut me off in traffic.
- Took banana bread to Congregational Home resident.
- Brought Tonia a bag of candy heart rings.
- Mailed a poem and note to a cousin who is alone.
- Bought a bag of M&Ms for check-out clerk and bagger.
- Gave gloves to the person collecting carts at Woodman's.
- Sunday School kiddos wrote notes to people they love.

- I bought and delivered a bag of much-needed gloves to my grandson's school.
- Today I was at the Marquette basketball game. The little boy sitting next to me told me it was his birthday tomorrow. During the game I left to use the restroom. The boy's father was behind me. When we got to the top of the stairs, I asked him if I could buy his son something for his birthday. He thanked me but declined the offer. Soon after I got back to my seat, a gentleman sitting three rows ahead of us came up to the boy and asked him if he wanted the t-shirt he had just gotten in the t-shirt toss as it was a size S and wouldn't fit him. The boy and his father gladly accepted. I feel that my intended random act of kindness was out there in the universe but came to this boy in a different way than I had intended. P.S. My thought had been to buy him a size S t-shirt!

The project was a good reminder that random acts of kindness have no boundaries but are good practice year-round!

The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
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