

MAY 2022

Volume 37 - Issue 5

The Congregational COLUMNS

From Our Vice Moderator

I appreciate the congregation's vote of confidence in me in making me Vice Moderator. I did not seek this position, but I am honored that you gave me the vote of confidence to serve in it. Let me start by saying we have a great Moderator. I have seen Peggy working on committees, interacting with people in the church, and serving the church in general. Every Vice Moderator should be as privileged as I to have that type of Moderator, and we are all lucky to have her.



We definitely have many challenges in the upcoming year. We are (hopefully) coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a congregation we have many viewpoints on how to do so. We are also choosing a new Senior Minister for the first time in approximately a decade, and that choice will impact the future of this church. These issues must be addressed by the congregation as a whole, because no Moderator, Vice Moderator, or Church Council member can resolve these issues on his or her own. We need input, we need collaboration, and we need a genuine respect for one another's opinions.

But, with every challenge comes an opportunity. We will collectively decide who we will be, and how we will approach this Christian mission of ours. We do not get this opportunity often, and we have it now. I look forward to embracing this challenge as an opportunity, as I hope all of you do as well.

In the past few years, we have too often let differences of opinions – whether on COVID-19, politics, or otherwise – divide us. Bill Trump told me that we are stronger and wiser when we act together, and I wholeheartedly believe that. We are at our best when we respect each other, listen to different opinions, and forge consensus based on our diverse and well-informed opinions, because we have so much talent and capability in this congregation. I look forward to talking to you, listening to you, and learning from you.

In sum, we have a unique opportunity to shape what First Congregational Church will be in future years, and I am humbled to play a part in that. I trust we will remember that our Church has, and welcomes, many backgrounds, many viewpoints, and many unique perspectives. We are better when we respect all of those and when, building on all of them, we move forward with our collective wisdom.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I sincerely believe our future is very, very bright. This Church is ready to polish its already bright shine. Let's make it happen!

Michael D. Huitink

THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

Worship & Discovery

Women's Ministry

*Tuesdays, May 5, 8, & 22
at 7:30^{am}*

Women's Ministry meets in the Library, Tuesdays at 7:30^{am} for an hour, moving outside to Ridge Court when weather permits. The current study is Surviving Religion 101 by Michael J. Krugel. Contact Pat Reddy with any questions.

Men's Bible Study

*First & Third Wednesdays,
May 4 & 18 at 7:00^{am}*

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

Men's Ministry

*Second and Fourth Wednesdays,
May 11 & 25 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."

Adult Learning Hour

Sundays, May 1, 8, 15, & 22 at 8:45^{am}

The group meets Sundays at 8:45^{am} in the Library on May 1 and Room 107 on all other dates. The current study is 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.

Church Clean Up

Saturday, May 21 at 9^{am}

Coffee and doughnuts will be waiting for you when you arrive for the May 21st Church Spring Clean Up. Troop 47 will join us Saturday morning to spread mulch. We also need help getting the flowerbeds ready for spring. Bring your lawn and garden tools with you. If you have a wheelbarrow, bring that too. Please sign up at the Gathering Table in the Atrium.

Operating Statement Summary

Year to Date as of March 2022

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	25%	25%
Pledge Income	\$116,526	\$125,341
Total Income	\$201,203	\$187,428
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$114,920</u>	<u>\$133,712</u>
Net Income	\$86,283	\$53,716

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!



Joyous attendance and service Easter morning.

68th NACCC Annual Meeting & Conference

June 25-28, 2022

This year's Annual Meeting & Conference of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches is a hybrid. The event will convene in-person in Wichita, Kansas, as well as on Zoom, making it accessible to more people across the country.

On Saturday afternoon, June 25, the keynote speakers will address the theme . . . **and the Greatest of These is Love:**

Love of God: Diana Butler Bass, *speaker*

Love of Neighbor: Valarie Kaur, *speaker*

Love of Self: Mihee Kim-Kort, *speaker*



1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

NACCC Executive Director Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere is presenting the Congregational Talk on Monday, June 27, at 1^{pm}.

For more information about the 68th AMC and what it has to offer, go online: <https://www.naccc.org/2022amc>.

Easter Sunday at FCC





Sunday School

*Sunday, May 1, 8, 15 and 22
for ages 3 – 5th grade*

Children will begin in church with family during 10 am worship and dismissed to Sunday School during the service.

Junior Choir

*Sunday, May 1, 8, 15, and 22
Meet at 9:15 in LL4
Sing on Sunday, May 8*

Faith Finders

*Monday, May 9
for grades 1 – 5*

This group meets on the second Monday of the month for singing, fellowship, games, and program time. They begin with an optional dinner at 5 pm, followed by programming from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Friends are welcome! Come and enjoy chicken tenders, french fries and fruit.

Covenant Class

*Sunday, May 1
for 9th graders
Group meets at 8:30 am in room 107.*

Sunday, May 15

A special breakfast for the confirmands and their families will be held at 9 am. Confirmation will be held during the 10 am worship service followed by a Special Coffee Fellowship honoring the new confirmands.

Pilgrim Fellowship (PF)

*Sunday, May 1, 8, 15, and 22
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. On Confirmation Sunday, May 19 - PFers will help to set-up for the Special Confirmation Coffee Hour following the 10 am service.

PF End of the Year Cookout

*Sunday, May 22
from 5:00-6:30 on Ridge Court*

We'll celebrate the end of the school year with games, food and fun!

Contact Tonia at
tonia@firstchurchtosa.org
if you are interested.



Tonia shares Youth Sermon on Easter.

Children, Youth & Education Sunday

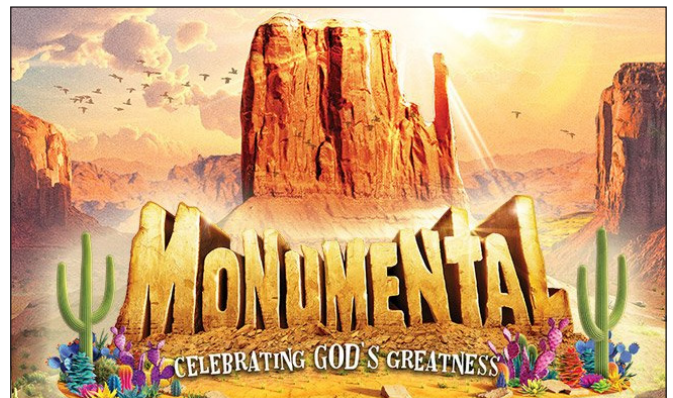
June 5th during the 10:00 am worship service

Our Sunday School classes will be preparing special presentations to share with the congregation, and they are looking forward to sharing this wonderful day with all of you. Our Junior Choir will sing, and our middle and high school youth will act as readers, ushers, and greeters. We will be celebrating another successful year of youth programming as we move on to the summer ahead. Our youth are asked to arrive at least 15 minutes early on the 5th, and there will also be a rehearsal for the Sunday School classes immediately after worship on Sunday, May 22nd. On Sunday, May 29th, there is NO Sunday School.

**Join us on Ridge Court following this special workshop service for our annual Ice Cream Social.
Enjoy a wide variety of ice cream novelties.**

Summer Sunday School begins on June 12th. Summer Sunday School is for children ages 3 through entering 6th grade, so those who have completed grades 6 and up are encouraged to remain in church with their families. Looking ahead, Rally Sunday will take place on September 11th. I will reach out to those who have taught Sunday School in the past, but I would also like to invite anyone interested in teaching for the first time or if you would like to lend a hand with our youth to contact me: tonia@firstchurchtosa.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022



**August 8th-12th
9:00-12:00**

“Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest.

By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.”

**Look for more information in the coming months,
as well as registration forms.**

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 10-Saturday, July 16. Camp is for youth who have completed grades 3 through 12. Our theme this year is titled: GODAPALOOZA.

Who can come to camp?

- **Mini Kamp** – completing grades 3-5 in the spring of 2022.
- **Junior High** – completing grades 6-8 in the spring of 2022.
- **Senior High** – completing grades 9-12 in the spring of 2022.

You don't have to be an official Congregationalist to come to camp! Friends from other denominational backgrounds are always welcome. However, please understand that this is a Christian camp, and the program and activities will reflect that tradition.

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, random dancing, deck party
- **Fun** – swimming, volleyball, ropes course, arts & crafts, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, disc golf



What will we learn?

Mini Kamp – Directors Julie Sheridan-Smith and Abby Wass are excited to have those youth who just completed grades 3-5 back for a week of fun this summer! They want you to join us for a weeklong “Summerfest” style celebration of Peace and Faith through music! The kids will discover God in Hymns and Modern Hits, Christmas Carols in July, Award Winning Films, and beloved Camp Songs.

Junior High – Bo Wilkinson will be back to direct this “tween” group with meaningful programming and thoughtful activities. He knows that every great music festival has multiple stages where all kinds of artists and musical genres can be heard, and Godapalooza is no different. Jesus is the headliner, and He's playing all the greatest hits, including “Don't Stop Believin',” “Stairway to Heaven,” and “You Give Love a Good Name.” The junior high campers will be catching shows at all the great stages here at Godapalooza, including Graceland, Mercyville, God's Light Oasis, and more!

Senior High – Directors Shannon Brophy and Tom Penno will explore hits of today and hits from the Bible with our campers who just completed grades 9-12. They will learn about pop culture of today, as well as some of the Bible's star performers. How can we find faith in the media we consume, the movies we love, the music we listen to, and more? Look forward to a week of faith, fellowship, and great music.



Full information packet and forms for camp can be found on the Gathering Table or download online: wiscongregational.net/youth



FCC Mission Trip

After two summers without a Mission Trip, we are excited to go back to Hosanna from June 19th-24th. I know that this will be an impactful trip for our small crew, as we will work to improve the living conditions of those in need in the Pittsburgh area of Pennsylvania. We have youth with willing hands and hearts, ready to serve in any way they are needed!

I am also pleased to share that we have continued to do local mission/service at the OneHope21 House. We had a work night in April to do some necessary painting, and will also be donating money for kitchen appliances. The house will be opening in June, which is so wonderful for this great organization.



The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
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