

JUNE 2022

Volume 36 - Issue 6

The Congregational COLUMNS

Statements of the

Confirmation Class of 2022

This year, Rev. Trump, Jon Stern, and Tonia Wallner worked with this great group of teens, starting with a retreat focused on group bonding, answering the questions "Who Is God?" and "Who Am I?" and getting more comfortable with the Bible. Throughout the year, time was spent discussing the sacraments, prayer, stewardship, and discipleship. Jon and Tonia also enjoyed sharing the history of Christianity, Congregationalism, and First Church with the class. The final phase of the journey involved each Confirmand writing a personal faith statement, and their mentors were part of this important process. The statements are incredible, and the teens shared their faith in such a thoughtful and genuine way.



Confirmation Sunday was held on May 15th, and we wanted to introduce you to these wonderful young people and have you get to know them better. Here are some thoughts about each of our new Confirmands, written by their parents and mentors.

Benjamin Walker Hayes, son of **Andy and Emily Hayes**

Curious, persistent, analytical, bright, funny, expressive, unique, and caring - all words that describe Ben. Ben does well in school, and at the same time, his intelligence is much broader than just academics. Whether he's reciting obscure sports stats or sharing facts that you may not believe until you confirm them by fact-checking, his brain is...active. Ben is a kid who has always (and that means from the moment he could talk) offered up thought-provoking questions, comments, and opinions on a broad range of topics. He makes you think, whether you want to or not! Kidding aside, Ben is just plain fun to talk to. He is a good, multi-sport athlete (golf, soccer, and basketball) and this past year he has learned a lot working in his first job at Chick-Fil-A. Few people know this about Ben, but he has a very good singing voice, is a child whisperer (just a natural with little kids) and is a quietly spiritual person who values his faith. We are proud of the way Ben is maturing into a globally aware human being who cares deeply about his family, his faith and broader society. And Ben joins us in thanking FCC for the role the church has played in helping him explore his spirituality and helping him develop into a fine young man. We are proud of you, Ben!

THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

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Worship & Discovery

Women's Ministry

*Tuesdays, June 7, 14, 21, & 28
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,
June 1 & 15 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,
June 8 & 22 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, June 5, & 12
at 8:45^{am}*

The group meets Sundays at 8:45^{am} in the Library. There will be no Adult Learning during the summer months. We will start up again in September. Check future Columns for the fall start date and study topic.

The Tailgate is Back!

Nothing says summer like the Men's Softball Tailgate! John Sgarlata is firing up the grill Tuesday, July 19, at 5:30^{pm} in Hart Park. He's making his signature Italian sausages, brats, hot dogs, and Italian pasta salad. Beverages will be provided. You are encouraged to bring a dessert to share. Seating is very limited, so bring a lawn chair and/or picnic blanket for you and yours.

**Cost is \$6 per adult & \$3 per child under age 12.
Children ages 5 and under eat free!**

FCC's Men's Softball Team goes head-to-head with the team from St. Matthew's Methodist Church at 6:30. Our guys were number one in the church league last year and played in the finals, so stick around following the tailgate and enjoy a good game!

*Please sign up at the Gathering Table in the Atrium.
Pre-pay at the Office.*

Operating Statement Summary Year to Date as of April 2022

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	31.0%	33.0%
Pledge Income	\$146,235	\$163,826
Total Income	\$243,527	\$232,896
Total Expense	\$146,999	\$168,123
Net Income	\$96,527	\$64,774

Detailed financials available at office.

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 of God, Neighbor and Self.**

The presentation of the Congregational Talk will be 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>.

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!

From Katelyn Peterson, FCC Music Director

Dear First Church Family, it is a bittersweet end of the year for me. Sweet because we are wrapping up a fantastic season of music at First Church, I am graduating with my master's in music from UW-Milwaukee, and bitter as I now have to say "good bye."

I have been offered and accepted a Teaching Assistantship at the University of Iowa to pursue my doctorate in music for this coming fall. It is a three-year program, and the assistantship means my tuition is covered as well as healthcare and a small living stipend. God has shown me provision past my wildest dreams in this offer, and I could not say "no" to what He has made possible. I will be earning the terminal degree needed to continue teaching at the collegiate level while being provided for financially. What He has given, I cannot disregard. He brought me to Milwaukee for my current degree and has shown what trusting Him means. I can only imagine what these next three years will reveal about what He has planned for my life.

This means I will be leaving First Church in the Fall. When I applied to doctoral programs this past December it was in the hope I would have an audition and, in the following year, receive an assistantship offer.

Well, God had other plans. I had two auditions this past winter, and then received an offer in the middle of March. April 15th was my deadline to either accept or decline the U of I offer, and I debated until that morning—ultimately coming to the conviction this is where God is sending me next. First Church was the largest factor in my desire to stay in the Milwaukee area. You have been welcoming and kind to me, and all that I have wanted to do with the music at the church. My prayer is I can serve you diligently until a replacement is found.

Thank you for all you have done in what will, regrettably, be my short time at First Church.

- Katelyn



Celebrate the Music at First Church!

The congregation will have an opportunity to show its appreciation for the outstanding music here at FCC. June 12th is Music Appreciation Sunday, a chance to thank all the people who support the worship experience with beautiful music: FCC Choir, Junior Choir, and Jubilation Ringers, as well as Music Director Katelyn Peterson, Keyboard Musician Rhonda Kwieicen, and Jr. Choir Director Roxanne Trump-Miles. A special Coffee Fellowship will follow the worship service.



Discover Professional Baseball That's Udderly Different!

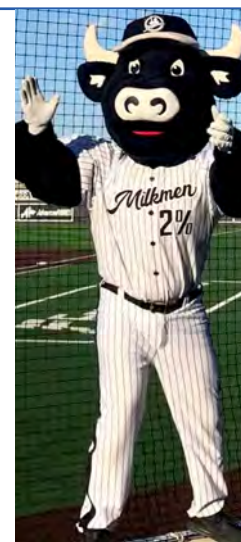
This summer's baseball outing comes with a twist! Fellowship Board has purchased group tickets to the Milwaukee Milkmen game on Sunday, August 7, at 1:00 p.m.

The Milkmen will play the Winnipeg Goldeyes at Franklin Field, which is located near 76th Street and Rawson Avenue in Franklin. The Milwaukee Milkmen are an independent professional baseball organization. Games are accessible, family-friendly events that offer good food and good fun. (The team's mascot is Bo Vine!)



Cost is \$14 per person, which includes the game ticket, a hot dog and soda, and a drawstring bag. (Children 2 and under are admitted free of charge.) Adult beverages and other food items are for sale. Parking is free.

Fifty tickets are available, so you are encouraged to sign up at the Gathering Table in the Atrium as soon as possible. Deadline for sign-ups is June 26th.



The 2022 Project – ‘THE ELEVATOR’ (as of May 12 in week 9)

Nine weeks have passed since we started the project to replace the old, small, ancient elevator.

Here is a summary of what has been accomplished to date:

- Week 1: Asbestos Abatement – Completed March 18.
- Week 2: Nothing accomplished because OTIS was not ready to remove the old elevator.
- Week 3 & 4: OTIS removed the old elevator and hydraulics.
- Week 5: Temporary enclosures were built on four floors to make the areas safe.
- Week 6: The old shaft's north and south walls were taken down from the 3rd floor to the lower level.
- Week 7: The boiler was shut down and steam pipe relocation began.
- Week 8: Existing shaft boundaries were squared up and foundation demo began.
- Week 9: LL3 floor was opened and foundation, pit floor, and maintenance shaft walls excavated.
- Week 10 & 11: Future plan says 'Finish foundation demo, set crock for sump, and pour pit floor mid week 10. Then begin building the masonry pit walls late week 11 or early week 12. Even losing a week at the beginning of the project, the project is ahead of schedule with few surprises.

Here are a set of pictures taken on May 11, 2022



Picture #1 (left) is looking from 2nd floor down to the pit where the shaft divider foundation is being sawed at 8^{am} on May 11

The east wall is at top, CE office is behind billowed protection at the right.



Picture #2 (above) shows the excavation in LL3 for the new south wall foundation at 7^{am} on May 11 looking North with the shaft divider foundation at top center and old pit to the right.



Picture #3 (above right) looking down from 1st floor shows the progress on sawing the shaft divider foundation wall at 1^{pm} on May 11.

The relocated steam pipe is at the right in the picture. The location of old elevator shaft is outlined in RED and new elevator shaft in Green).

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From **Jon Stern, Mentor** – When I first taught Ben in Sunday School, I remember his fascination with the story of Jesus casting demons out of a man and into a herd of pigs. There were WAY too many questions about the pigs and the demons that I could not answer to his satisfaction. Although he didn't get the answers he was looking for, I believe Ben will never stop searching for truth and meaning in the scriptures as he continues to grow in the knowledge and expression of his faith. Whether our discussions touched on Renaissance art, the arcane "casual water" rule in golf, or his beliefs about the sacraments, Ben displayed an ability to think with depth and complexity from multiple perspectives. Combined with his love for his family and his faith community, he has shown me how much he values both his personal and communal relationships with God. I know that Ben will continue to grow stronger in his faith and look forward to seeing how he will use his gifts and talents here at First Church.

Maya Antoinette Hornung,

daughter of **Josh and Genesee Hornung**

The words that come to mind to describe Maya are: hard worker, caregiver, high achiever, and dedicated. We are so proud of Maya and her achievements, whether they are academic, on the basketball court, the softball field, playing her flute, or being a strong example to her younger siblings. Her smile will light up any room and her kindness and generosity towards others draws people to her bright light. Maya began her journey at First Church as a 4-year old at VBS and we are so proud to have her continue in her faith on this day of her confirmation. Congrats Maya—we are so proud to call you our daughter!

From **Jane Boyd, Mentor** – I had the great pleasure to work with Maya this past year. She is one of the kindest souls I've ever come across. Maya is active in many activities at school and still able to provide her support at here at First Church. Maya was more than happy to help with Coffee Hour set-up and assisting with Sunday School. Her faith in God is extremely strong, and she will be a wonderful addition to our church family.

Liam Krause,

son of **Bill and Amanda Krause**

Liam is a caring and thoughtful individual who is honest and true to his friends. His love of sports may only be eclipsed by his love of a digital device. And, his smile, while sometimes elusive, warms our hearts. We are proud of Liam and extremely grateful to Tonia, Jon and Ed for helping to guide him on his journey to adulthood.

From **Ed Probst, Mentor** – Liam has quietly been attending church and Sunday School since he was baptized here at First Congregational Church. But don't be fooled, still waters run deep. He is closest to his faith when it comes to his

feelings about his family. From family drives out West hiking the National Parks, to spending quality time with his sister, parents and grandparents, Liam is at his best when he's with his family. And speaking of driving, Liam can't wait to get his driver's license! A freshman at Wauwatosa West, Liam runs on the cross country team and plays on the tennis team. And when he's not studying, Liam likes to hang out with his friends watching college sports, and he's developed a respect for those athletes who can deliver in the clutch. Looking to the future, Liam sees himself with a career in network engineering. This is totally Liam - making a difference while quietly working away in the background.

Mia Riofrio,

daughter of **Otto Riofrio and Monica Stevens**

Mia is caring and generous and is always eager to help or give a gift that will make someone's day. She is funny and determined, and when she puts her mind to something there is no stopping her. Mia enjoys soccer, tennis, and baking. At church, she enjoys helping in the nursery. We are proud of Mia for spending time exploring her faith this year and grateful to all those who helped guide her on this journey. Congratulations Mia, we love you!

From **Sarah DeYoung, Mentor** – My first memory of Mia is looking into the car seat that her parents carried into church and seeing two big, brown and beautiful eyes calmly and quietly taking in her unfamiliar church family. What a treat to be paired up with Mia now as she learned more about her church family during the Confirmation process. The best way for me to describe Mia is to tell you that Mia is a quiet Light. Mia smiles often and softly speaks with honesty and common sense that is mature and refreshing. I sense that between the loving guidance and example of her home family, and the comfort she feels in this church, Mia has a faith foundation she will be able to lean on forever. She may have found a new calling in our church nursery. When you are out and about this summer, peek into tennis courts, soccer fields, or small clusters of hammocks dangling from parkway trees and you may see Mia's two big brown and beautiful eyes smiling back.





Summer Sunday School

**Begins Sunday, June 12th
for ages 3 – entering 6th grade**

Children who have completed grades 6 and up are encouraged to remain in church with their families.



Pilgrim Fellowship

It has been a successful year of food, fellowship, and fun for our middle and high school teens. We will try to meet once a month this summer so that we can stay connected, and we will hold our meetings out on Ridge Court. Look for e-mails from Tonia to find dates that will work for our busy youth.

Children, Youth & Education Sunday

June 5th during the 10:00^{am} worship service

Our Sunday School classes have prepared 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. There are also a couple of special presentations in the works – come and join us on the 5th to be surprised! We will be celebrating another successful year of youth programming as we move on to the summer ahead. Our children and youth are asked to arrive by 9:30 in order to rehearse, and there will be donuts provided.

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

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

FCC Mission Trip



We are excited to return to Pennsylvania to serve those in need! We will again be working with Hosanna Industries, and will improve the homes (and lives!) of people in the Jonestown area. Our team will head out on Sunday morning, June 19th and return home on Friday the 24th. We are heading out to be the helping hands and open hearts that God has called us to be, and I know that we will have a positive impact on all of those we serve!

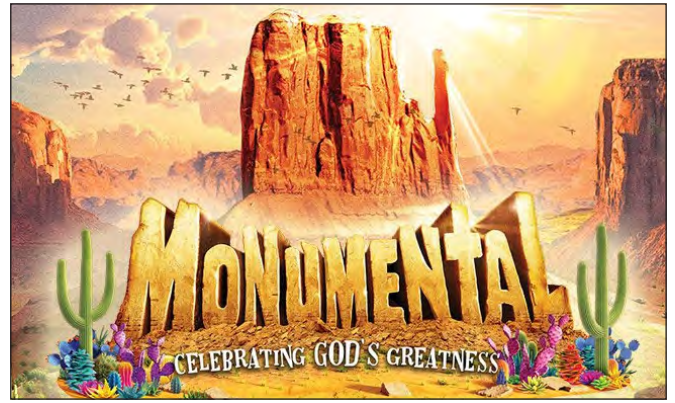
Another Amazing Year of Secret Buddies

The Secret Buddies program was back in full force again this spring, which was incredible! The program was offered to our First Church adults and children during Lent, and once again, was another amazing success! Secret Buddies was launched with the goal of fostering connections between the generations of our church, and this was the 9th year of the program. This spring, eleven of our adults committed to being pen pals with eleven of our 1st-5th grade youth, and the fun began once they were secretly paired up. The Buddies traded notes every two weeks that shared information about a variety of topics – from their age and city where they live to their hobbies and favorite leisure time activities. They also sent notes that talked about their favorite First Church programs, and finally, they shared their favorite Easter memories and family traditions.

The Secret Buddies were finally able to meet in person after Worship the two Sundays after Easter, and the reveal is the most exciting part of this program. From my point of view, it was magical to watch the meetings! The anticipation was high, and the smiles on the faces of both the adults and children were priceless. Our Buddies sat at their own tables, chatting and learning even more about each other – and we also had a couple of meetings on the computer via Zoom! Wonderful connections were made, and personal and thoughtful gifts were shared. Relationships within the First Church community mean so much, and Secret Buddies will remain friends for many years to come.

-Tonia Wallner

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.
Registration form included. Additional copies can be found in the church Atrium.



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