

NOVEMBER 2022

Volume 37 - Issue 11

# The Congregational COLUMNS

## Moving Forward Together!

As I write this, our life of "Moving Forward Together" is at its beginnings. You have welcomed Tom and me so warmly and we, as a church have also welcomed Ellen Shuler as Choir Director.

As you know, education for all ages is now well underway, our October collection drive for Tosa Cares found our collection table overflowing with personal care items, and you have begun to respond with Pick and Save gift cards for the Thanksgiving baskets for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. Meals are being served to our neighbors at St. Vincent's, some of our youth have spoken about their mission trip this past summer. This building is full of groups meeting throughout the building during the week. Clearly, you are a people who open your hearts to others, and we have much to give thanks for!

November brings us the opportunity to celebrate our Congregational heritage, drawing on the story of the people who risked so much leaving home to establish a new community, landing first at Cape Cod on November 11 and in December beginning to establish what would become Plymouth Plantation they where a people inspired and daring to worship God in the way they were called to do so. November 20 we worship together ushering in the week of Thanksgiving. Join us at 9<sup>am</sup> Thanksgiving morning to share in some special music and the story of our heritage. Come as you are with family and friends as we know it can be a busy morning! November comes to a close with the beginning of Advent and all that the season ahead brings!

Needless to say (but I will), life here at First Congregational Church feels vibrant; the voices of children, youth, and adults speaking and singing of God's presence. There is a warmth, curiosity, and a palpable sense of hope and purpose in the air and on your faces.

I am so grateful to be here with you, "Moving Forward Together!"

And yet... there is much we need to learn about each other and how we might engage in the life of those around us. Please watch for updates and join in conversations about additional opportunities for family and adult formation. Look for updates on new ways you might become involved with ministries such as St. Vincent's Meal program. Did you know, they have numerous security cameras throughout the property and people watchful and attending to entrance areas?

This is a taste of what I am hearing bubble up at meetings, and in the hallways or coffee shop. And I will be blunt, I need help getting to know YOU. Please feel invited to call, email, meet for coffee, or drop in for a chat. I want to hear some of your thoughts and hopes for First Congregational here in Wauwatosa. Moving Forward Together is where we want to be!

Serving with you,

*Julie*

THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
IN WAUWATOSA

# Worship & Discovery

## Women's Ministry

*Tuesdays, November 1, 8, 16 & 29  
from 8-9<sup>am</sup>*

Women's Ministry meets in the Friendship Lounge. Bring a Bible and join them.

## Men's Ministry

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

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

## Adult Learning Hour

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

The group will meet in Room 107.

## Men's Bible Study

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

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

## Women of FCC, Join Us at...



**LIGHT  
of the  
WORLD**

**Come Celebrate the Joy of Advent**  
through the reading of Scripture,  
singing of beloved carols and the fellowship of friends.

**First Congregational Church Advent Tea**  
**Saturday, December 3, 2022**  
**2:30<sup>pm</sup> in the Social Hall**  
Sign up in the Atrium or call 414-258-7375

**Consider Hosting a Table!**  
Provide the dessert for a single table.  
Invite women from the church, friends, family and neighbors to join you.  
OR hostess an open table.

To hostess contact Patty Reddy: [patreddy@deltaformslltd.com](mailto:patreddy@deltaformslltd.com)  
[www.FirstChurchTosa.org](http://www.FirstChurchTosa.org)

## 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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**Like us on Facebook!**

### Operating Statement Summary

*Year to Date as of September 2022*

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge Base Received	66%	72%
Pledge Income	\$308,263	\$355,193
Total Income	\$447,835	\$463,808
Total Expenses	\$351,388	\$385,501
Net Income	\$96,446	\$78,308

*Detailed financials available in the office.*

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# Final Notes From Pastor Gerry

It was just about a year ago that I began work with First Church. I met with members of the Personnel Committee and the Council to talk about the impending transition due to Pastor Bill Trump's retirement.

We began the journey together in a series of small group conversations. The biggest value those conversations brought to us was an appreciation for how this church has impacted families' lives down through the years. It also allowed the current members, who had felt disconnected and fragile, to find strength and vitality in hearing one another's stories. First Church holds significant value for everyone who calls this church home.

Those interactions acted like an extended interview and opened the door for me to continue to interact with First Church as the interim pastor. I know that several wondered how a part-time presence at the church would make an impact. I personally feel like too much of me could have been like an overdose of Gerry. Seriously, there would have very likely been benefits to my presence every Sunday, however, the choice was some or none. I'm so grateful the church chose to engage me for some of the time.

I have been blessed by how many restorative moments happened during my time with you. The return to singing in worship, the freedom to wear or not wear masks, the greeting

of peace at the beginning of worship, the return of coffee hour, fully engaged children's ministries, etc.

Thanks so much to each Board and Committee Chair for their kind sensitivity to counsel and input. Thanks to the Past Moderator, Moderator, and Vice-Moderator for their willingness to engage with me and, in doing so, allowing me to feel like I was a full partner in the future of the church.

Huge thanks to the church staff who were invaluable in training me in the culture of First Church. This church is greatly blessed to have Jim, Tonia, Marianne, Jill, Cindy, Rhonda, and Mark who are in the church almost every day and oversee day to day ministry, maintenance, communication, and congregational needs! Special thanks to Bill Edens who spent countless hours helping to get me technically up to speed in the Office and works tirelessly on the streaming of our worship events.

Your new Senior Minister, Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith, has already been actively engaging with various boards and committees. It is a blessing to hand-off First Church to her shepherding guidance.

Wenda and I love you all and will keep you in our active prayers. May the Lord bless you and encourage you in the days ahead.

Rev. Dr. Gerry B. Krupp, *Interim Pastor (emeritus)*

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## First Church Welcomes New Choir Director

First Church is happy to announce that Ellen M. Shuler has joined us as Choir Director. Ellen holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Montana State University and a Master of Music Education with Choral Emphasis from Florida State University. She is the Chair of the Performing Arts at the University School of Milwaukee, the Upper Director for the Upper School and Middle School musical productions. In 2018 she was awarded the Outstanding Middle Level Choir Director Award from Wisconsin Choral

Director's Association and in 2015 was presented the Choral Teacher of Excellence from the Milwaukee Civic Music Society. She has been a guest clinician for singers all around the greater Milwaukee area. Outside of school, Ellen was the founder and director of the Bel Canto Boy Choir, director of the Milwaukee Children's Choir, and was the Youth Choir director at Mequon United Methodist Church for 20 years.



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## Moving Forward Together: Stewardship Campaign 2023

Wonderful things are happening at First Church! Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith is setting us on the path to a future full of promise. Planning for the Chancel renovation has begun. The 2022-2023 Program Year is off to a robust start. As the new elevator reminds us, we're "going up!"

Please help us continue Moving Forward Together energetically, as you prayerfully consider your 2023 Pledge.

Let's go forward with a renewed sense of community and a commitment to serving God in our daily lives.

Your Board of Stewardship and Benevolence,

Randy Sitzberger, *Chairperson* Will Schoyer, *Vice Chairperson*

J.C. Moore – Secretary

Fred Kingsley Bobby Russ Kristin Stern



# Men’s Ministry And Bible Study Need Your Input

We want to gather the men in the church who want to seek and to learn about biblical, social, and outreach opportunities. There are a number of different presentations that can be educational, foster discussion, and enrich our lives.

Our Bible Study will start a series on the Parables of Jesus on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7<sup>am</sup>. These will be 30-minute audio presentations and be followed by a discussion session and fellowship. The first session will discuss the Parable of the Wedding. The sessions are stand alone and do not require continual attendance – in other words, come when you can as often as you are able. We remain flexible as to day of the week and the time of our ministry.

Do you have an ideal time to gather at Church for an hour of study with time afterwards for fellowship? What works best for you: mornings, evenings, other times?

Should we provide ZOOM, Google Meet, GoToMeeting or an other form of network connectivity for participation?

Please let **Hank Collis** (hcollis@twc.com) and/or

**Bill Edens** (wre.specter@gmail.com)

know your thoughts and suggestions for the Men’s Ministry and Bible Study.

The Board of Christian Education is also interested in your thoughts. You can share them by contacting:

**Tori Raddemann** (tori.holtz@gmail.com)

## Fellowship Offers a Slice of Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, will initiate Thanksgiving week at First Church. In keeping with the holiday, the Board of Fellowship will offer a variety of pies at the Coffee Hour following the service. If you’re interested in baking a pie, please contact a member of Fellowship. On Thanksgiving Day, join

us for the 10:00<sup>am</sup> service, which will celebrate our Pilgrim and Congregational heritage. Make this Thanksgiving a time to remember at First Church.



### Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>am</sup>

Everyone is invited to join the Deacons for the Hanging of the Greens as we decorate our church for Advent and Christmas. We’ll meet Friday, November 26, at 9:00<sup>am</sup> in the Atrium.

This is a family friendly event and fun for all ages!

Please sign up at the Gathering Table in the Atrium, call the church Office at 414.258.7375, or email marianne@firstchurchtosa.org if you plan to join us. Watch the Green Sheet for updates and more information.

The Board of Deacons will gladly accept donations toward the purchase of the Christmas decorations for the church. Please fill out the form provided and return it to the church Office with your check made payable to FCC.

Dedications will be printed in the Christmas Eve Orders of Worship for both the 4:00pm and 10:00<sup>pm</sup> Worship Services.

*Board of Deacons*

### Christmas Decor Donations

*Dedicate to Your loved ones  
this Holiday Season*

Your Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(and/or)

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# JUST FOR YOUTH

## November 2022



### Sunday School for ages 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Sunday, November 6, 13, 20 & 27

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

### Covenant Class

November 6 & 27

Group meets at 8:30<sup>am</sup> in the Conference Room.

### Junior Choir K-8<sup>th</sup> grades

Sunday, November 6, 13, 20 & 27  
for K-8<sup>th</sup> grades

Meet at 9:00 in LL4

Children will sing once a month.

### Pilgrim Fellowship (PF) grades 6-12

Sunday, November 6, 13, 20 & 27

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



Covenant Retreat

## Provide a Thanksgiving Meal to Someone in Need

First Church has nurtured a special relationship with the Milwaukee Rescue Mission for many years. As we approach Thanksgiving, we will again support the Mission as, once again, it delivers Thanksgiving dinner baskets to those in need. The generous support of First Church helps make this holiday meal possible. Donations of \$20 Pick 'n Save and/or Walmart gift cards will be collected now through November 13<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is 125 cards.

Please bring your gift cards to the Office or drop them into the mail slot. Thank you for your generosity!



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

## Boy Scout Wreath and Greenery Pick Up



Orders of wreaths and other greenery from Troop 47 will be available for pick up on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Your order will be available in the church Parking Lot before and following the 10<sup>am</sup> Worship Service.

## Ways to Give Back to Your Church Community

The Board of Deacons, along with the church Office is wanting to update its Data Base of Volunteers willing to help with the weekly service here at First Congregational. There are a number of places that we need you, our members, to give of your time and talents. These are opportunities for you to be in fellowship with other members, and to make a commitment to share in the worship service. Please take the time to review these needs and pray about where God may be calling you to give back.

**Communion Servers:** Board of Deacons is hoping to get 8-10 individuals who will serve communion the month's first Sunday.

**Ushers:** Each Sunday we need 4 individuals to usher at our 10<sup>am</sup> service.

**Greeters:** Greeters needed every Sunday at the 10<sup>am</sup> service.

If you are able to serve in any of these ways please fill out the information below and return to the office or put in the offering plate when it is passed. Thank you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I can be reached by:

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

or Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Usher ☐ Communion ☐ Greeter

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

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