

JANUARY 2023

Volume 38 - Issue 1

The Congregational COLUMNS

A New Year Full of Promise

By Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith

As I write this, we are quickly approaching Christmas with the sweet enjoyment of Breakfast with Jesus, the children's Nativity pageant and a baptism, an amazing Christmas Workshop afternoon, and the building brimming with people! Music Sunday is about to fill us with songs of praise, and Christmas Eve is just beyond! But as you read this, it is 2023 and we are moving forward.

We, as a faith community, have been part of greeting old friends, visitors, and new friends who have been embraced with a sense of welcome and belonging. There is a tangible sense of excitement that God is doing a "new thing" within beloved and long held traditions at First Church. There is also a sense of openness to where God is leading us as we enter a new year in the expanding life of First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa!

I am so grateful to be a part of this with you, and am humbled by the staff, the boards and committees, and the many volunteers who come together as a team to be the Church. Wow! Talk about dedication and a heart for God's work. This is alive and well at First Church.

As we step into the New Year, please feel invited to refresh or learn some basics about the Congregational Way and how that is lived out here by attending the information sessions we will have after church on January 8 and 15. Welcome those who choose to become members on January 22. Then, collectively practice a tenet of Congregationalism through our Annual Meeting on January 29.

We are bubbling with hope and ideas, conversations, and implementation. As a Congregational church we deeply celebrate both the responsibility as well as the opportunity we have as individuals and groups to take part in the life and work of the church. We are very interested to hear from you, if God is pressing into your spirit something you would like to be part of, as an expression of faith related to the ongoing life here. Let's sit down and talk! Coffee somewhere, out for a walk together, drop into the Office? Let us continue to share in the worship and service of God through the gifts, time, and hope we have to share.

Welcome to 2023 and all that God has for us ahead!

Serving With You,

Rev. Julie

Join us for the Installation of Reverend Julie Sheridan-Smith

Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith will be officially installed as Senior Minister of First Congregational Church in Wauwatosa on Saturday, January 28th.

The ceremony will take place at 4^{pm} in the Nave,
with Rev. Dr. Martin Hall, Rev. Rob Fredrickson, Rev. Dr. Stu Merkel,
and Rev. Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer officiating.

All are invited to take part in this joyful occasion.

A dinner in the Social Hall, hosted by the Board of Deacons,
will immediately follow the service.

Please RSVP for the dinner no later than January 18th by contacting the Church Office.

THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

Worship & Discovery

Women's Ministry

*Tuesdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
from 8-9^{am}*

Women's Ministry meets in the Friendship Lounge. Study is *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller.

Men's Ministry

*Second and Fourth Wednesdays,
January 11 & 25 at 7:00^{am}*

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

Chancel Flowers for 2023

A floral arrangement for the Chancel is a lovely way to acknowledge a loved one or special occasion. Patty Reddy, Board of Deacons, has been scheduling flowers for the coming year. If you would like to donate flowers in honor or memory of someone special in your life, please refer to the chancel flower board in the atrium to find what dates remain available and sign up.

Adult Learning Hour

*Sundays, January 8, 15 & 22
at 8:45^{am}*

The group will meet in Room 107. Topic is understanding the liturgical year.

Men's Bible Study

*First & Third Wednesdays,
January 4 & 18 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.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Immediately following a shortened 10^{am} Worship

The Annual Meeting will propose the 2023 budget for approval, vote on the slate of Board and Committee nominees and update the congregation about church projects.

JUST FOR YOUTH January 2023



Sunday School

Sunday, January 8, 15, 22 & 29 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, January 8, 15, 22 & 29 for Kindergarten - 8th grade
Meet at 9:00 in LL4. Children sing once a month.

Covenant Class

January 15 & 29 Group meets at 8:30^{am} in Conference Room.

Pilgrim Fellowship (PF)

Sunday, January 8, 15, 22 & 29 for grades 6 – 12
Teens will begin in church with their families during 10^{am} worship and dismissed to PF during the service.



Christmas Kringle Coffee Hour

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

Office Telephone
414-258-7375

On-Call Minister
414-258-7378

Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith
Senior Minister

Jim Harris
Administrator

Tonia Wallner
Director of Christian Education

Rhonda Kwiecien
Director of Music & Keyboard Artist

Ellen Shuler
Director of FCC Choir

Roxanne Trump-Miles
Director of Jr. Choir

Jillian Bruss
Financial Secretary

Marianne King
Office Coordinator

Cindy Walsh - Staff Support

Mark Lund - Custodian

Cathy Denny - Columns Coordinator
sdenny1-cathy@wi.rr.com

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

Like us on Facebook!

Operating Statement Summary

Year to Date as of November 2022

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge base received	83.0%	88.0%
Pledge Income	\$390,781	\$435,345
Total Income	\$556,296	\$565,424
Total Expense	\$459,650	\$473,114
Net Income	\$96,646	\$92,311

Detailed financials available in the office.

Officers, Boards, Committees & Nominations for 2023

Church Officers

- *Moderator:** Mike Huitink
- *Vice Moderator:** Randy Sitzberger
- *Past Moderator:** Peggy Griffith
- *Treasurer:** Rick Nowacki, 2023-2024
- *Assist. Treasurer:** Cindy Walsh, 2023-2024
- *FCC Clerk:** Diane Collis, 2023-2024
- *NACCC Delegate:** Dick Berger, 2023-2024

Church Council At-Large – Members: 6

1. Butch Boyd, 1st year*
2. JC Moore, 1st year*
3. Jeff Petrus, 1st year*
4. Frank Sterbin, 1st year*
5. John Griffith, 2nd year
6. Hank Collis, 2nd year

Board of Congregational Care –Members 6-10

1. Sharon Nortman, 1st year*
2. Mary Berger, 1st year*
3. Sarah De Young, 1st year*
4. Ann Harris, 2nd year
5. Anne Callen, 3rd year
6. Martha Golz, 3rd year

Nominating Committee – Members 5

1. Jane Boyd*
2. Steve Russ*
3. Mary Kay Olston*
4. Council at Large
5. Council at Large

Board of Deacons – Members 8

1. Jon Stern, 1st year*
2. Carol Hudson, 1st year*
3. Carolyn Simpson, 1st year*
4. Pat Reddy, 2nd year
5. Rich Raymond, 2nd year
6. Margie Idzikowski, 2nd year
7. Mychale Thomas, 3rd year
8. Melissa Coppage, 3rd year

Board of Stewardship/Benevolence –Members 6

1. Dylan Thomas, 1st year*
2. Sharon Raymond, 1st year*
3. Bobby Russ, 2nd year
4. Kristin Stern, 2nd year
5. Fred Kingsley, 3rd year
6. Will Schoyer, 3rd year

Board of Fellowship – Members 7

1. Casey Zoss, 1st year*
2. Paige Galfano, 1st year*
3. Scott Rondeau, 2nd year
4. Barb Dunham, 3rd year
5. Elizabeth Carger, 3rd year
6. Keith Harmon, 4th year
7. Carmen Berte, 4th year

Personnel Committee – Members 7

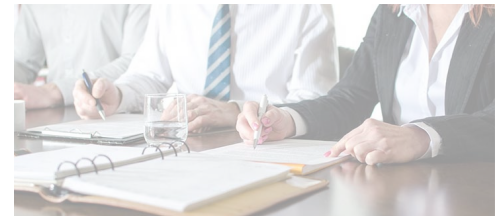
1. Moderator
2. Vice Moderator
3. OPEN
4. Merrill York (1st year of 3rd term)
5. Lisa Mauer (1st year of 3rd term)
6. Jennifer Wakefield (2nd year of 2nd term)
7. Nick Sgarlata (2nd year of 3rd term)

Board of Christian Education – Members 6

1. Ardith Moore, 1st year*
2. Diane Saeger, 2nd year
3. Tina Schulz, 2nd year
4. DdG Wakefield, 2nd year
5. Genesee Hornung, 3rd year
6. Tori Raddemann, 4th year

Board of Trustees – Members 9

1. Sarah Blake, 1st year*
2. Ben Hudson, 1st year*
3. George Meyer, 1st year*
4. Kurt Raddemann, 2nd year
5. Charlie Wakefield, 2nd year
6. Paul Kwiecien, 2nd year
7. Michelle Russ, 3rd year
8. Mike Elwing, 3rd year
9. Bob Ornst, Jr., 3rd year



2023 Stewardship & Budget

Thank you to all who have turned in your estimated pledges for 2023. As of December 13th, we had received 134 pledges totaling \$453,500. In comparison, the total Stewardship campaign for 2022 received 152 pledges totaling \$468,000.

These are exciting times at First Church. We are blessed to have Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith as our new Senior Minister. Julie has brought great energy and ideas to the church. Please help us to continue Moving Forward Together. Our Budget and Finance Committee is working on the budget that will be presented at the Annual Meeting on January 29th, but needs to hear from all of our members and friends. If you have not turned in your pledge, please prayerfully consider what level of support you can afford to provide First Church to enable us to continue to serve our members and those in need.

We hope that each of you had a safe, healthy, and joyous Christmas.

Blessings,

Jim Harris, FCC Administrator



Christmas Pageant

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

Dated Material - Please deliver immediately.

PRSR STD
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MILWAUKEE, WI
PERMIT NO. 5276

In This Issue

1

A New Year Full of Promise
Join us for the Installation of
Reverend Julie Sheridan-Smith

2

Worship & Discovery
Chancel Flowers for 2023
Annual Meeting
Just for Youth

3

Officers, Boards, Committees
& Nominations for 2023
2023 Stewardship & Budget

Italian Dinner & Auction is Back!

Save the date:
**Saturday,
February 25th, 2023**



The Fellowship Committee is helping bring back this wonderful evening of
Fellowship and Fantastic food by Chef John Sgarlata!

Watch for more information to follow, but it's not too early to mark your calendar and start planning for donations. Would you, your place of work, or someone you know have something to contribute to the Auction? No donation is too small! Put together a themed basket, donate an item and we'll pair items or make a monetary donation and we'll do the shopping to complete a "basket".

Pick up a donation form in the Atrium!

