



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
31 W. MILWAUKEE AVE., FORT ATKINSON, WI 53538

March 2026
First Congregational UCC Broadcaster

Blessing upon blessing. I recently read an article in Psychology Today magazine which studied the notion of happiness. Interesting as it may seem, it was something that was not new to me, or new to our faith. The basic premise was that those who live lives with gratitude and acknowledge the blessings in their lives are often more happier than those who do not. They are at least happier than those who feel that life has shortchanged them in some way.



When Jesus was with his disciples celebrating the Passover meal he gave thanks. We do the same again and again as we remember the sacrifice, the dedication and love that Jesus gave in revealing the magnificent love of God.

We give gratitude and thanks to God in the ways we worship, the ways we interact with others, the way we dedicate our time. I am struck by this every Sunday in worship. We arrive in our sanctuary expecting the worship to feed and nourish us, but the effort it takes to accomplish this takes a joint effort from a lot of people. Someone was there to prepare, maintain and clean the church, to print the bulletin, to prepare the communion. Our choirs and musicians do a wonderful job every week as they practice through the week and allow God to sing through their music. Someone is there to collect the offerings, to count it, to deposit, to pay the bills. On and on, someone is there, and may we be ever grateful. With gratitude we are a healthy faith family.

In Lent as we prepare for the Easter season we are made aware of the opportunities for new life to bloom. Possibly there is someone you encounter who could use a boost. Someone, who would find meaning in coming to worship and being part of something. Invite them. Ask them to come. Share in the goodness that we find when we know that God is part of our lives. Let the Hallelujah of Easter ring out in joy for a time to come!

Lenten Blessings,

Pastor Sara

Council Highlights – February 2026

Moderators 2026-2027: Linda Glendon will serve as Moderator and David Stedman as Vice Moderator for this church year. Please contact them with any questions or suggestions!

Fort Atkinson Preschool and Childcare: A transition team has been formed to assist Heidi Yngsdal, Director, along with her staff to prepare for the Center closing in June. Employees and students are encouraged to stay on until closing. Please contact Moderator, Linda Glendon with any questions.

Organ Dedication and Fund Update: A dedication service will be held on April 19. It will feature Jane Lubke and Allen Organ founder, Dean Roskoe with beautiful music. Dean previously was the organist for the Milwaukee Brewers. He has been the organist for Admiral Hockey games and UW Milwaukee's Panther Arena since 2015. A reception hosted by Nurture Ministry will be held immediately after worship. The "Let's Pull Out All the Stops" campaign has received \$23,350.00 in donations. The organ acquisition and installation cost was approximately \$41,000.00. If you are interested in contributing, please use the envelopes in the church pews and note that your donation is for the Organ Fund. Thank you!

Church Ministry 2026: The church Ministries have started for the year with several new members. They are all busy planning the year's activities. There will be new banners purchased, receptions, outreach giving and community outings. Stay tuned for all the activities!

Pastor Sara Sabbatical: Pastor Sara's sabbatical will be in 2027. A grant application to the Lilly Company has been applied for. The application outlines what she will be doing during her time away. It will be a time for education, reflection and more. More information to follow.

Next meeting is March 17, 2026.

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.

More Organ Dedication Info!

The Milwaukee Brewers' former organist will keynote the dedication of First Congregational United Church of Christ's newly installed organ. Dean Rosko of Allen Organ Co. will highlight the organ's features during the Fort Atkinson church's 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 19. Serving as organist for worship will be Jayne Lubke. The Nurture ministry team will host a luncheon following the service.



The public is invited to the organ dedication. Among the attendees will be the Rev. Rachel Bauman, associate minister of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ.

First Congregational UCC received the organ from the Whitewater Congregational United Church of Christ when it closed permanently last April.

The Renaissance Quantum organ manufactured by the Allen Organ Co. was dedicated to the memory of the late Robert Jennings. A music professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for 26 years and choir director at the Whitewater church for 17 years, Jennings passed away in 2013.

The founder of Allen Organs of Wisconsin LLC in 2020, Rosko served as organist for the Brewers baseball team from 2003 until right before the 2024 season, when the live organ was removed from American Family Field. He also has been the organist for Milwaukee Admirals hockey games at UW-Milwaukee's Panther Arena since 2015.

In addition, Rosko is director of music and organist at the Church of the Gesu next to Marquette University in Milwaukee, vice president of the Dairyland Theatre Organ Society and a past board member of the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

The costs for procuring, moving and installing the Allen organ at the Fort Atkinson church totaled \$40,032.37. Persons wishing to contribute toward that effort may write a check to First Congregational UCC with a notation of "Organ Fund" in the memo line.

Located at 31 W. Milwaukee Ave. in Fort Atkinson, First Congregational UCC is an inclusive congregation that welcomes persons of all races, ethnicities, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family structures, faith backgrounds, abilities and economic circumstances.

For further information about the church or organ dedication, call (920) 563-4802 or email officefortucc@gmail.com.

Helper Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support
Mar. 8	Ann Williams	Judy Brown and Zach Finch	Martha Firari	Bob Buell
Mar. 15	Heidi & Michael siefkes	Bob & Sue Buell	Donna Abel	Kurt Wesemann
Mar. 22	Roger & Marsha Anderson	Mary Beyerly and Donna Abel	Chris Reed	Kevin Becker
Mar. 29 Palm Sunday	Amy Elvekrog	Tom & Patty Sehnert	Sharyl Beranek	Bob Buell

The Food Pantry items needed:

Canned Beans
Canned Pasta
Clam Chowder
Kids Cereal
Chili Beans



Pastor Sara Out of Office

Pastor Sara will out of town the UCC National Church Board Meeting Wednesday March 11th returning March 14th she will be in worship on March 15th. This is one of two board meetings a year for the National board one in October and one in March.

Pastor Sara will be on vacation March 19th through the 24th. Mary Narkis will be leading worship On March 22nd

Outreach THANK YOU!

THANK YOU, twenty-five members and friends of FCC Fort Atkinson, for serving **237 families (585 individuals)** at the Fort Atkinson Food Pantry during the month of January 2026! A **special thanks** to the Patefields and Senherts for their leadership and background work that makes it an easy and pleasant experience for the other volunteers! Thank you, too, to friends and members of the church who continue to support the Food Pantry with your donations of money and food. Together you make life a little easier for those facing many challenges in their lives.

Savoring Spirit Retreat

Take the time.

Slow your life. Find healing, calm and peace in the chaos.

Join us for a retreat at Moon Beach Camp to learn and experience ways to embrace a Savoring Spiritual Life connected to the essence of the Spirit in nature.

May 28-30, 2026

Cost \$215 includes 2 nights, 5 meals

Date: Thursday noon May 28- Saturday morning May 30, 2026

We'll nestle into the comfortable accommodations where most guest rooms have 1-2 single beds. All bedrooms have bathrooms directly accessible- some with a private bath and some sharing a bath between two bedrooms.

For more information about the camp: <https://ucci.org/moon-beach/>

Sample Schedule TBD

Thursday May 28

Noon - Arrival and Picnic Lunch

1:30 pm - Wander and listening (all abilities)

5:30 p.m.—Dinner

Sunset and Vespers

Conversation, afterhours

Friday May 28

8:30 am. - Breakfast

9:30 am Morning Devotions

10:00am- Savory Senses

12:30 p.m. - Lunch

1:30 pm - Contemplation or Field Trip

5:30 p.m.—Dinner

Sunset and Vespers,

Conversation, Afterhours, Bonfire

Saturday May 29

Breakfast- Devotion and return home

*Other activities offered may include:

Pontoon ride, Book discussion, Meditation, Games, Hiking, Relaxation and Release

Registration is due by May 1st. revsarafortucc@gmail.com for details. We don't want cost to keep anyone from coming to the retreat. If it will be a financial hardship, please speak to Pastor Sara.

revsatucc@gmail.com

Moon Beach Camp

1487 Moon Beach Rd, St Germain, WI 54558

SAVE THE DATES

March 15 - 8:45 AM New member breakfast

March 17 - Council meeting 6 PM

March 19 - Church Relations 10 AM meeting

March 26 - Creation Care 11 AM meeting

March 29 - Palm Sunday with Nurture Ministry hosting yogurt, fruit, pastries, and fellowship following the Palm Sunday service.

Holy Week Schedule
March 29th—Palm Sunday
April 2—6 PM Maundy Thursday Worship
April 5— 10 AM Easter Sunday Worship

Coffee Fellowship Sign-Up

The sign-up sheet for Coffee Fellowship volunteers for March - May is posted in the narthex. Please consider hosting a Sunday for our family of faith. Connect with any member of Church Relations Ministry if you'd like more information. Thank you!

Save the Date

April 19, 2026- Organ Dedication

With gratitude to Congregational UCC in Whitewater for their gift, we will dedicate the new organ to our Sanctuary during the Ten O'Clock worship. Jayne Lubke, along with Allen Organ Company representative Dean Rosco will be featuring the organ and all it's glory!

Nurture will be providing fellowship after worship in light of the celebration.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

31 W. Milwaukee Ave.

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Church Office: (920) 563-4802

Church Email: officefortucc@gmail.com

Moderator: Linda Glendon jlglendon@tds.net

Rev.Dr. Sara Rabe: revsarafortucc@gmail.com

Church's Website: www.fortfcc.org

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

