



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

31 W. MILWAUKEE AVE., FORT ATKINSON, WI 53538

**May 2025 First Congregational UCC
Broadcaster**

They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” Luke 24: 32

This is a post Easter experience of the disciples feeling the burning of passion and emotion while Jesus was walking with them on the road to Emmaus. With clarity and insight, they viewed their world and lives differently than before.



What if we led our lives by feelings? Rather than using our thinking brain to conclude that broad and wide, expensive experiences will create change within our hearts, what if we were intentional enough to discover awe and wonder in the ordinary path? In this we may discover the Risen Son of God as a companion on the journey. Amy and I have traveled to far and wide places in our past. Wonderful, yes! But the most fun we have ever had was only within hours from home. In approaching decisions like retirement, travel, where to spend your time, a good question to ask is: What do I want to get out of this experience? And follow it up with, will this experience give me what I am seeking?

The followers of Christ were looking for experiences from the one they believed was their liberator. He was the one to free them from their burdens, trials and tribulations. They thought this person was to come in the form of a king, emperor or ruler. But what they discovered was a person of humility, gentleness and love. When they were around him, they craved more of him and their hearts burned with passion.

From the book, *When the Heart Waits*, Sue Monk Kid says, “To die to the old and open the door to the know of waiting, to allow ourselves to be sheathed in the experience of waiting, to allow ourselves to be sheathed in the experience of incubating what needs be born. We find that we must trust the process enough to go into the circle and stay there until the time comes for emergence... A young monk once asked Abba Moses, one of the desert fathers, how to find true spiritual growth. ‘Go sit in your cell.’ Said the monk, ‘and it will teach you everything’...In the stayed-ness of waiting we find everything we need in order to grow.”

In this Eastertide season of hearts still warm from the experience of Jesus’ resurrection, we wait for the appearance of Christ in our midst feeling a discovery to that which we had been seeking.

Blessings on the humble journey,

Pastor Sara

Pastor Sara

Council Highlights – April 2025

Fort Preschool & Childcare: The director of our center, Heidi Yngsdal attended the last Council meeting to discuss community changes in childcare. BASE is an after-school program that is expanding into a new location and accepting children 5 years and older. This change will likely affect our after-school program beginning in the Fall. Heidi is working on alternatives to support families and the Center considering these changes. More information to come.

Treasurer Position: We have a new Treasurer! Kim Lutes has graciously accepted the position and will begin training in May. Kim is a new member of our church and is already active as a choir member. Loren Gray will continue in the position until his retirement in August. Congratulations Kim!

Committees Coming Back! Moderator Rich Frame has requested that the Memorial Committee and Long-Range Planning Committee meet again after several inactive years. Updates will be reported soon!

Ministry's Mission & Vision: At Pastor Sara's guidance, most all the Ministries have had time to reflect on their mission and vision for the benefit of our church. This exercise has allowed members to focus on the true meaning of their contribution to their Ministry and our Church.

Creation Care: Please continue to collect your clean plastic and deposit it into the barrel in the Narthex area. This plastic will be recycled and go toward another community bench. Thank you!

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.

Easter Sunday filled the pews at First Congregational United Church of Christ as members, families and guests gathered to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

The chancel was decorated with beautiful Easter lily and tulip plants, as well as new spring banners and a white dossal curtain gracing the wall behind the altar.

Special music was presented by the choir, Chapel Bells and flautist Vicky Daniels.



5 in 1 Special Mission Campaign

Outreach is asking for donations to these special mission funds: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, Church World Service Blankets, and the Christmas Fund. Church World Service Blankets is a non-conference mission fund. Due to its importance to those in need around the world, Outreach includes it as one of our special mission funds. These offerings exist to allow congregations and individuals to meet people at points of critical need in their lives. Through your prayers and donations, needs can be met for all five of the special missions.

On May 4th-18th, Outreach Ministry is asking for your support during the 5 in 1 campaign. Donations may be made in pew envelopes marked 5 in 1. There will be a form in the envelope that allows you to indicate how you would like your donation to be used. For church members viewing Live Stream, donations can be mailed or dropped off at the church office. Please be sure to designate your donation for 5 in 1 or specify if you want it to support one specific mission. Although we highlight these special missions during the next few weeks, donations can be made anytime throughout the year.

Whether you support the special missions individually or as 5 in 1, your giving is greatly appreciated, no matter the amount.

Thank you for being a blessing to others in their time of need!

First Congregational United Church of Christ welcomed five new members during the Palm Sunday worship service on April 13. Pictured are, from left: Richard and Gloria Hunt, Rebecca Hulstein, Jeremy Hulstein, Elaine Hulstein and the Rev. Dr. Sara Rabe.



The Food Pantry items needed:

Sweet Cereal
Chicken Soup
Canned Pasta
Spaghetti Sauce
Kidney Beans
Canned Chicken



Small changes can add up to big climate results

Did you know?



The average washing machine uses 41 gallons of water per load, whereas newer, high-efficiency models use less than 28 gallons of water per load.

An average tree can absorb 1 ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.

Replacing one incandescent lightbulb with a compact fluorescent light can save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide per year, and the CFL can last up to 10 times as long.

Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 7,000 gallons of water, three cubic yards of landfill space, and 4,100 KW-hours of electricity.

The average home-packed school lunch generates 67 pounds of packaging waste in a year, whereas reusable containers and wraps can eliminate this waste.

A microwave oven uses approximately 50 percent less energy than a conventional oven.

About a third of all the food produced globally is never eaten. According to the EPA, 20 percent of what goes into landfills is food. With some planning and thoughtful preparation, such waste can be dramatically decreased, saving money at the same time.

US consumers spend up to 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than for tap water.

For many more sustainability tips, visit Worldwildlife.org, the source of the tips above.

TREASURER POSITION FILLED



The Church council is pleased to announce the election of KIM LUTES to the position of church Treasurer. This action took place at the council meeting on Tuesday Night, April 15th. Kim will be replacing long time Treasurer Loren Gray who announced his plans to retire in August. This action will take effect May 1, 20025 We thank Kim for taking on this major responsibility and wish her all the best.

May Helper Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech
May 4 Creation Sunday	Pat Jung	John and Holly Andrews	Vicki York	Kevin Becker
May 11	Dave & Ann Lueder	Julie Ankomeus and Mary Beyerly	Susan Woods	Bob Buell
May 18	Larry & Marry Narkis	Judy Brown and Linda Fromader	Sharyl Beranek	Kurt Wesemann
May 25	Chris & Brenda Reed	Zach Finch and Sandy Mittelstadt	Sarah Brietzke	Kevin Becker

Twenty members of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fort Atkinson celebrated Earth Day on Tuesday evening, April 22, by picking up litter along the Glacial River Trail.

May 4th Communion Team

Joe & Eunice Ann Slaney,
and Bob & Sue Buell

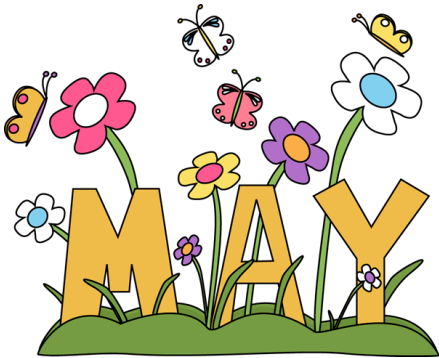


CONGREGATIONAL PEANUTS 2025!!!

The 2025 Peanut season will begin on Monday, August 25. We really need YOU to fill out our crew of dedicated peelers. If you haven't tried peeling redskins off our wonderful Super Extra Large Virginia peanuts, you are invited to join us for fun and fellowship. Peeling begins around 8:00am and finishes usually around 11:00am. **Our rule is: "Come when you can, leave when you must."** On-the-job training gleefully given. There's a lot of camaraderie, companionship and chatter that everyone shares! We need *you* to help make our peanuts season successful, so mark this starting date on your calendar. All profits support our Church and its Ministries.

SAVE THE DATES

- 1st—11 AM Nancy Witt Funeral at FCC
- 4th—**Dream Team** meeting after worship in the Werthman Room
- 7th—10 AM at **Dream Team** meeting. The Langhoff. Do you have ideas? Pastor Sara would like to hear from you! Come exchange your ideas for programs or events that our church can engage in.
- 8th—10 AM Creation Care Meeting
- 12:30 PM Lend-A-Hand Potluck
- 13th—10 AM Memorial Committee Meeting
- 15th—3 PM Church Relations Meeting
- 18th—Worship Committee Meeting after Worship
- 19th-24th—Pastor Sara out of office for Continuing Ed Week
- 21st—9 AM Prayer Quilt Ministry
- 25th—Drum Choir from First Congregational Madison
- Come and Feel the Beat of the Spirit in this vibrant worship



June 8th—8:30 AM Worship returns for Summer!

Due to personal reasons, Rich Frame has resigned as our Moderator. Our plans on how to go forward were discussed at a special Council meeting. It was determined that Linda Glendon will assume the Moderator position in September. Because she is new to the Council, we did not feel it was correct to thrust her into the new role so quickly. I, Sandy Czech, will assume the position of Moderator, until September. We will work together as a Moderator Team. We will continue to foster the growth and development of Our Congregation. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Your Moderator Team Sandy Czech and Linda Glendon

If you would like to have an event or announcement added to the list
Please let Henry know by the 25th of each month at officefortucc@gmail.com

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

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