

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

September 2026

First Congregational UCC Broadcaster



The first day of school is on the horizon. The supplies are ready and the backpacks nearly ready to go out the door for another beginning. New shoes, a new shirt, we are ready, and there is no other feeling like the first day of school. There are some butterflies of excitement yet nerves. There is joy of a reunion with friends and the anticipation of making new friendships. Summer days are numbered.

Times of transition can bring excitement and pleasant emotion. I can imagine that excitement in the fluttering hearts of those disciples whom Jesus called to say, "follow me". They left their careers, their jobs. They sacrificed time with their families, to learn and grow from Jesus as they followed him to new awakenings and adventures.

In this season of learning, we too can ride the thrill of new awareness and adventures to take on new risks of opportunities that allow us to grow and be challenged in our faith and our way of thinking. Jesus has called us to say, come and follow me.

Blessings,

Pastor Sara

Coffee Fellowship Sign-Up

The sign-up sheet to host coffee fellowship for Sundays from September through November is posted in the narthex. Please consider offering a few hours of your time to host this enjoyable social opportunity following our weekly worship service. Contact any member of Church Relations Ministry if you need orientation to the coffee makers and supplies. Thank you!

Council Highlights – August 2026

Fort Atkinson Preschool and Childcare: The auction for the contents of the Childcare Center is being done by Staude Auctions. It will end on 8/25/26 with pick up of items on 8/27/26. The Council is hoping for a very successful auction! Many thanks to Moderator, Linda Glendon, Jeff Woods and the many, many volunteers who made this transition successful.

Spectrum to TDS: Our telephone system is being upgraded to fiberoptic lines from Spectrum to TDS. The installation is being worked on now and should be operational very soon!

Pastor Sara Sabbatical Grant: Pastor Sara will learn at the end of August if her grant from Lilly Pharmaceuticals has been granted. She has made it to Round 2! Funds will be used for her time away and for our church needs during her absence in Fall 2027.

Usher & Communion Team Training: Chris Reed will schedule training for those members & friends who volunteer to usher or serve on the communion team. The training will be scheduled in the Fall after a worship service. A date will be announced soon.

Church Ministry Restart: After a summer break, the Ministries are meeting in August/September to make their plans for their Fall and Winter events.

Fort Atkinson Chamber Winter Market: The Council voted that we will again be a venue for the Winter Market this year. It will be held on December 5, 2026. Our church will feature the same items as previous years including peanuts, cheese, luncheon, bake sale, basket raffle, soups, & more!

Church Access Changes: Church building access during business hours will change soon. Stay tuned for updates!

Next meeting is September 15, 2026.

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.

The Outreach Committee is bringing to you: The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Jefferson County

As you may have heard, Kindness Fortified is a community-led initiative here in Fort Atkinson, designed to promote a culture where kindness is valued, practiced, and shared.

Your very own Outreach Committee wants to assist in spreading more kindness to all of you and our community!

As a first step, we have arranged for the Aging and Disability Resource (ADRC) of Jefferson County to give an overview of all their available programs on **September 23rd at 9:30 a.m.**

The ADRC provides a wide range of services that we can all benefit from learning about. The services include: transportation, benefit specialists (including Medicare and Social Security), caregiver support, dementia care, elder abuse and neglect, students with disabilities, and long term care options and funding. You may not need these services but your neighbor, friend, or family may.

You can spread kindness by knowing what is available and being an informed messenger!

The ADRC does not sell anything. In fact, your property tax dollars have already paid for these services. So please come listen, learn, and ask questions!

Some helpful links:

https://www.jeffersoncountywi.gov/human_services/adult_services_br_adrc/index.php

https://docaccess.com/docviewer.html?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.jeffersoncountywi.gov%2FADRC%2FADRC%2520Services%2520and%2520Benefit%2520Guide%2520--%2520July%25202026.pdf&url_hash=fb6c06e264de402983440f31ac70ea28&domain=jeffersoncountywi.gov&site=58db1cca-6619-418e-93d3-c93f4c3a4c39&found_on=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.jeffersoncountywi.gov%2Fhuman_services%2Fadult_services_br_adrc%2Findex.php

Coming September 13th 10am Worship
First Congregational UCC- Fort Atkinson
God is still singing!

The **WISCONSIN GOSPELLERS** is a choir ministry & faith community affiliated with the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ. The choir was founded in 2007 by Fritz West, in response to an invitation from the *West End Gospel Singers* in Eberswalde, Germany. Fritz recruited Martin Ulrich as musical director—and rallied singers from around the state. The *West End Gospel Singers* have toured Wisconsin and northern Illinois three times; the WI Gospellers traveled to Berlin-Brandenburg in 2008, 2012 & 2016.

In 2018, we traveled to New York City to help the New York Conference UCC kick start its own state-wide gospel choir. In 2019, the **GOSPELLERS** toured Germany's Hesse and Rhineland regions; we sang with two German gospel choirs and were the featured guests at the Frankenberg Open Air Concert, accompanied by a full youth orchestra!

During Covid-19, we used a WIUCC Catalyst Grant to produce 2 virtual choir performances. And in 2024, we hosted *gospel and more* (our choir partners in Essen, Germany) in Oshkosh and Milwaukee.

From the start, the **WISCONSIN GOSPELLERS** have…

- Supported the long-standing partnership between the United Church of Christ (UCC) and Germany's Union of Evangelical Churches (UEK).
- Aimed to share God's love & grace through the powerful language of gospel music.
- Embraced the mutual hospitality and fellowship of what Germans call *Kirchengemeinschaft* (full church communion). For us, this means joint rehearsals and concerts, homestays, shared meals, and local culture.

Save the Date: Gospellers Choir in worship 10 AM



Trudy's Room Collection

The Outreach Committee will be collecting needed items for Trudy's Room on September 6, and September 13 th.

The needed items are:

- Diapers, newborn through size 6, but most often need size 3, 4, 5 and 6. use 3, 4, 5 and 6.
- Pullups in size 2-3t, 3-4t, 4-5t and 5-6t.
- Unscented wipes, diaper rash cream and bath/ shampoo products.

Helper Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support
September 6	Bob & Donna Abel	Joe & Eunice Ann Slaney	Linda Glendon	Kevin Becker
September 13	Jeff & Linda Glendon	Patty & Tom Sehnert	Roy Hetts	Kevin Becker
September 20	Larry & Mary Narkis	Jeff & Susan Woods	Lynn Klug Stedman	Bob Buell
September 27	Bill Wild	Bob & JoAnn Rose	David Stedman	Kurt Wesemann

The Food Pantry items needed:

Canned Chili

Instant Mashed Potato

Applesauce

Chili Beans

Chicken Soup



Sept 6 Communion Team

Jeff & Susan Woods,

Connie and Sandy Czech

Return to 10 AM on Sept. 13th

Bags & Bags of Thanks...But...

Many thanks to all of you who have collected and brought your plastic to church! We have collected many pounds and continue to put it together with other donations in Fort to donate to Trex. They recycle the plastic to make benches and composite decking materials. Additionaly the plastic does not end up in a land fill!

We do appreciate your efforts, BUT...please also reduce your use of plastic bags overall and use reusable bags instead.

Collection of plastic will continue. Let's all work on our reduction of plastic!

Many bags of thanks again!

RECYCLE, REDUCE. REUSE

Your Creation Care Team

SAVE THE DATES

Sept 7— No Peanuts and office closed for Labor Day

Sept 9— Quilt Ministry 9 a.m.

Sept 10— 12:30 Lend-A-Hand meeting with Potluck

Sept 13— Save the Date: Gospellers Choir in worship **10 a.m.**

Please Sign-up for Food to bring on the sheet in the Narthex

Sept 15— Council Meeting 6 p.m.

Sept 18-20— Congregational Retreat at Daycholah Center near Ripon

Sept 24— Creation Care Meeting 11 a.m.

Sept 28— Hoard Dairy Luncheon—NO Peanuts

Oct 4— Following worship service, there will be an **USHERS** training meeting. Anyone who is an usher throughout the year should plan to attend. We will go over some ushering procedures and highlight some safety items to be aware of when you are ushering

Oct 18— Following worship service, there will be a **COMMUNION SERVER** training meeting. Anyone who helps serve communion throughout the year should plan to attend. We will go over some communion procedures and highlight some items to be aware of when serving.

Prayer Quilt Ministry

Fall is here and our Prayer Quilt Ministry will begin again in September. The September meeting has been changed to September 9th instead of September 16th as usual. We will be meeting on the third Wednesday for the rest of the year.

The meeting will consist of much organizing as we set up our new room. If anyone has questions about this meeting or our quilt ministry,

please contact me at 920-650-2966.

Marsha Anderson

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

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First Congregational Church United Church of Christ