



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

**August 2025 First Congregational
UCC Broadcaster**

Summer chores:

I just returned from the basement to make some lunch as I have a couple of minutes to spare while letting the Old Wringer washing machine do her magic. We had Cherry Jell-O for supper the other night and there are some red stains on the tablecloth that need to reconcile with some soaking time.

I am reminiscing of washing day as a family affair as Meredith and Alex will take care of the wringer, rinse and spinning process, while I am outside hanging up the laundry. We bonded down in the basement, just as I remember many good chats with my mother. One of those serious conversations I had with my mom around her wringer had to do with the talk about Santa Claus.

Sure, there are many advantages of modern day washing machines. Just toss the clothes in, and walk away. I have come to appreciate that there is a lot to learn about doing things the “hard” way and not walk away. One must sit with what is and be patient with the dirt and grime to work it out in the process of becoming fresh and clean and ready to be reused again. I love my Wringer because it has become a way of life. It forces our family to slow down and appreciate one another and the way we are together. It has allowed us a greater appreciation for time. When we invest our time in something, there is a greater appreciation. I appreciate the time in clearing my mind while I am hanging out the laundry on the line. It is time I would otherwise spend cluttering my mind with needless thoughts. There is great gratitude later in the day as the wash is pulled off the line and folded and we sit back and think, “We did this, and we did it together.” Together, meaning in partnership with the Spirit as she has been present in the every-day of life, because I prayed to her and thought about her and how she helps us reconcile our stains in life. She allows her breeze to blow through us, to help us become light and free and clear in thought once again. She gives us greater purpose as we are folded and brought back to use and function again and again renewed.

This is the mystery of life, this is the ordinary become profound. Thanks be to God, the Spirit, for this day and all that is to be learned from it.

God Bless,
Pastor Sara



Pastor Sara

Fun times at the Fireside!

Church Basement Ladies did not disappoint with humor, one liners, and a sad reality of churches decline. We all could relate to something in the show.

We had a delicious meal, gathered together and laughed.

Thanks to Nurture Ministry for planning this event!



Back to School Hygiene Drive

During the month of August, Outreach is asking for donations of deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and tampons (regular or super) and maxi pads for the Fort Atkinson School District. These items are needed for students throughout the school year. Please consider buying and donating one or more of these items. All items donated need to be in their original sealed

packaging. Starting August 3, baskets will be in the narthex at church for donations.

Thank you for your kindness in supporting this need.



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.



3rd Annual Congregational Retreat registration deadline August 17th

Do you need a brief break from your hectic daily routine??

A few days to relax, meditate, and be inspired by an uplifting program designed by our Pastor Sara? All while enjoying nature at its best on beautiful Green Lake? Plus lots of fun, fellowship and fabulous food!! Who Could resist?

Register Today to come join your First Congregational UCC family at this year's fall retreat. "From Broken to Beautiful" September 26-28th -Mary Beyerly

Daycholah Retreat Testimony—Linda Glendon

Our experience at the fall retreat has been wonderful. We love the beautiful and peaceful setting. Mainly, we have enjoyed the deepening of our faith, through learning more about other members, and thoughtful activities that are really fun.

It is relaxing and self guiding. The chapel there is breathtaking and Pastor Sara makes it extra special!!

Creation Care Regional Meeting

Your Creation Care Team is excited to announce that we'll be hosting the WI UCC Creation Care Regional Meeting in early September! This is an opportunity to share where our churches are on the "green" spectrum, discussion, and brainstorming about where we go from here. Anyone with an interest in caring for creation is welcome to attend. Preregistration is requested so we can plan for lunch and seating arrangements.

Sat., Sept. 6 (Registration info and further details coming soon)

10:00 am – 2:00 pm: WI UCC Creation Care meeting with Rev. John Helt and team. Lunch provided by Lend-a-Hand ministry. Werthmann Room/Plymouth Hall.

2:30 – 4:00 pm: Nature Walk (optional, weather permitting) at Dorothy Carnes Park & Rose Lake State Natural Area – West, N3220 Radloff Lane, Fort Atkinson. www.jeffersoncountywi.gov

Sun., Sept. 7

10:00 – 11:00 am: Worship with Rev. John Helt focusing on creation care, followed by coffee fellowship hour hosted by our Creation Care Team. Please feel free to wear your favorite Earth-themed/nature/camp t-shirt!

We're in a process of discernment on how to best care for God's incredible creation, and we invite you to visit a meeting to see what we're about! Our next meeting is scheduled for Thurs, Aug. 28th at 11:00 a.m.

With gratitude,
Your Creation Care Team

Helper Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support
August 3	Nancy Onufer	Judy Brown and Linda Fromader	Chris Reed	Bob Buell
August 10	Judy Brown	Jeff and Linda Glendon	Jo Ann Rose	Kurt Wesemann
August 17	Sharyl Beranek	Zach Finch and Pat Jung	Robert Rose	Kevin Becker
August 24	Mary Beyerly	Ruth Hammiller and Nancy Onufer	Eunice Ann Slaney	Bob Buell
August 31	Christine McKinney	David Stedman and Lynn Klug	Vicki York	Kurt Wesemann

The Food Pantry items needed:

Canned Carrots

Pineapple

Sauerkraut

Pasta

Beef Stew

Sweet Cereal



August 3rd Communion Team

Zach Finch, Nancy Onufer

Donna Abel, and Charlie Knapp

AUGUST Coffee Chats with Pastor Sara

Join Pastor Sara for a time of coffee and conversation.

The Wednesday mornings in August

9am-11am at Langhoff Coffee

End of Life Care

Accompanying a loved one through end of life phases can be stressful and emotionally draining.

View this website to understand these Ten Things to avoid doing while your loved one is in hospice.

<https://fallsgarden.com/10-nice-things-families-do-in-hospice-that-actually-make-it-worse/>

SAVE THE DATES

Coffee Chat with Pastor Sara

Wednesdays in August 9 AM— 11 AM at Langhoff
Coffee

Sept. 6 & 7—Creation Care Regional Meeting

Sept 14—Rally Sunday, (Tentative) Organ Dedication, and
Nurture Upscale Potluck

September 26-28—Congregational Retreat at Daycholah

Musically Talented?

Weekly rehearsals begin
Wednesday, September 3 at 7:00
P.M. in the choir loft. If you have
questions, talk to Marv Olsen or
any choir member.

Weekly rehearsals begin
Thursday, September 4, 6:00-
6:45 P.M. and continue each
Thursday there after. Please
talk to Marv Olsen if you are
interested in becoming a
member of our Bell Choir.

You can also text Marv any time, at **920-650-0172**, if you are
interested

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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**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

