



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

**November 2025 First  
Congregational UCC Broadcaster**

As Thanksgiving Day draws near I recall a song I heard a few years ago titled The Table. The lyrics speak eloquently as we anticipate the gathering of our families this Thanksgiving. It also speaks of the Table that Jesus prepared as he gave God thanks and shared a meal with those who would then take their place at the head of The Table.

The Table:

Year after year family gathers here, the table set, kids running round the noisy sound of life.

Holidays come and go. We're watching grow. Candles are all aglow blessings everywhere.

You never knew the time could move so fast before your eyes. Somehow you blinked and thirty years flew by. Seasons bring new life in. Those kids are having kids. A new generation lives, the old ones gone, it passes on.

Take your seat at the head of the table. You've become the next in line. It's your time, to give your heart as best you are able. You help the next one learn so they can take their turn, when you are gone.

You look behind you see the table were you and your cousin sat long ago. As children we were unaware of our parents' hopes and fears. They were shielding all along until we were grown.

Now we sit at the head of the table.

Honor the young, the old, treasure each story told, those are the secrets told, we need to hold, the history holds the secrets hold us to the table.

God be with you in your coming and going in this season of Thanks. We share an abundant life filled with Belonging and Goodness. I give thanks to all of you for the opportunity to share in the communion and fellowship of Christ's table.

It is a true honor,

*Pastor Sara*



# Council Highlights – October 2025

**Organ Update:** A deposit for the organ installation has been sent to Allen Organ. We hope that the process starts soon! We are hoping it will be completed for the Christmas Holidays. Keep your fingers crossed! An organ fund has been established to cover these costs. If you are interested in contributing, please use the envelopes in the pews and note that your donation is for the Organ Fund. Thank you!

**Stewardship:** Our Campaign is continuing with Stewardship Sunday on November 9. Please complete your pledge card with your Time & Talent sheet and deposit it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. As always, many thanks for your support!

**Winter/Holiday Market 12/6/25:** We will again partner with Fort Atkinson Farmer's Market for the Holiday Market this year. We will host 15 vendors in Plymouth Hall and have our offerings which include Congregational peanuts, cheese, bakery, Lend-a-Hand Soups and Raffle Baskets. More information to come!

**Parking:** When parking for Sunday worship, please keep the front parking spots open for people with mobility issues. We understand that parking is at a premium! Parking is available in front/side of the Hoard's building and at Badger Bank. Thank you for your consideration!

**Facility Updates:** Our Facility Team has been busy! They have completed contracts for the sidewalk repair in front of the Edward Jones Building, the church flooring cleaning, and Grant Street door painting.

**Church Ministry 2026:** There are many opportunities to serve your church in 2026. If you are interested in being a member of a church Ministry, please contact Sandy Czech, Moderator or Linda Glendon, Vice Moderator. The Ministries are Worship, Nurture, Outreach, Church Relations, Food Pantry and Delegate.

**Upcoming Events:** Please make sure that you are following the Bulletin, Broadcaster or website for all the upcoming Fall events!

Next meeting is November 18, 2025.

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.



Habitat for Humanity is building in Jefferson County, and it will be built in Fort Atkinson on land donated by the hospital at 700 Schumacher Way. We are putting together church work teams for November 4. Jobs for all skill levels are available. A sign up sheet and more information are available in the narthex.

Contact Mike Rankin (920-929-4186) if you have any questions.

## **FORT HOLIDAY WINTER MARKET**

The Fort Holiday Market is being held December 6, 2025. We are working in partnership with the Fort Atkinson Farmers Market, and along with our offerings we will be a venue for other market participants.

As in years past, we will offer cheese, our famous Congregational Peanuts, cheese, bakery, lunch, Lend a Hand soup and a great selection of Raffle Baskets!

We are again asking for donations for the raffle baskets. These can be dropped off at the church beginning November 16, and all donations must be received by December 1st. You can bring your completed themed basket, or you can bring the contents to be put together in a basket. There will be a few volunteers who will be the “basket makers”. Baskets will be displayed at the Winter Market, then on December 7 and 14<sup>th</sup>. The drawing will be on December 14<sup>th</sup> after worship.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex after worship starting November 2nd. Thank you for your generosity!

There will be many opportunities for volunteer helpers for the Holiday Market. Sign-up sheets will also be available for those tasks.

We look forward to this great fundraiser for our church!

Please contact Nancy Onufer at 920-691-6106 with any questions.

First Congregational Church UCC- Fort Atkinson

# **All Church Bowling Event**

**Friday November 14, 2025**

**Rock River Lanes- 6:30pm**

**\$3.00 per game & free shoe rental.**

**Please sign up at church or email  
church office:**

**[officefortucc@gmail.com](mailto:officefortucc@gmail.com)**

# Memorial/Gift Fund



One of the responsibilities of the Moderator group is to review and update the Memorial Fund Policy and brochure. In doing this, this year, I was enlightened to see that this fund is not just for memorials. It is also for GIFTS!

We want to encourage you to mind your family to remember you in church, when you are no longer with us. It is also important to let your family know how important your church has been in your life.

But do you want to do something now, to express what a blessing the church is? Something more than your yearly pledge.

The Memorial/Gift fund is here for just such an opportunity. Your gifts can be designated for special items in the church, or it can be designated to go to a specific fund, like our new organ. You can also leave it undesignated, and allow the Memorial Committee to use the funds in a church benefiting project. Again, not part of your pledge and not used for church operations costs.

Pick up a flier, and consider donating to the church. Whether this is a planned part of your legacy, or as your legacy now, you can experience a personal blessing and a stronger sense of faith and community.

Blessings.

Sandra Czech, Moderator



## All Saints Outdoor Worship under the Burr Oak Tree

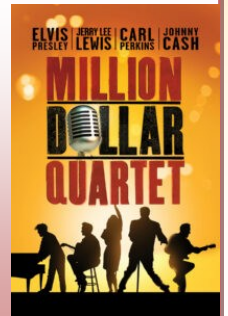
Join us for a moving outdoor spiritual worship experience under the old Burr Oak tree on November 1, 2025 @ 10am. The theme of this spiritual experience is Resilience.

If you have wondered what vespers is like on retreat, you can get a feel at this outdoor worship time. Please bring a Lawn Chair and a blanket.



## Save the Date for the Next Fireside Theater Outing

Nurture has reserved a block of seats on June 26 to see “Million Dollar Quartet “. Watch for the preliminary signup in February with final signup in April. The cost will be \$84.50 per person. Following worship Nurture will be hosting a Potluck which will include brats, hotdogs, veggie dogs, and all the trimmings.



## A Special Thank-You to the Meals on Wheels Volunteers!

A “**Special Thank-You**” is extended to the following **Meals on Wheels volunteers** who helped to deliver **466 warm meals** during the month of **September**! Without their cooperativeness and eagerness to serve others, our church would not be able to participate in this program that reaches out to some of the elderly and homebound in our community.

In grateful appreciation of your service and spirit, we thank:

Marsha & Roger Anderson – Sarah Brietzke – Connie Czech –

Nathan Fjelstad – Linda & Jeff Glendon – Elaine Hulstein –

Sarah Johnsen – Ann & Dave Lueder – Brett Maasz –

Carol Maasz – Mary Ellen & John Miller – Sandra Mittelstadt –

Mary & Larry Narkis – Tom Sehnert & Patty Sehnert – Eunice Ann, Joe & Grayson Slaney – Doreen Wendlandt.

Remember – **February, 2026**, will be the next month that our church is responsible for supplying volunteers for “Meals on Wheels.” If you have any questions about the program or would like to volunteer, please contact Mary Ellen Miller (563-9085) or the church office.

## Helper Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support
<b>Nov. 2</b>	Jeff & Susan Woods	Judy Brown & Eunice Ann Slaney	Martha Firari	Bob Buell
<b>Nov. 9</b>	Ann Williams	Trent Topel and Christine Spangler	Lynn Klug Stedman	Bob Buell
<b>Nov. 16</b>	Pat Jung	Gary & Barbara Vorpahl	Charlie Knapp	Kurt Wesemann
<b>Nov. 23</b> <b>Thanksgiving Service</b>	Roy & Karen Hetts	Jeff & Linda Glendon	Heidi Siefkes	Kevin Becker
<b>Nov. 30</b> <b>1st Sunday of Advent</b>	Chris & Brenda Reed	Chad Klauer and Pat Jung	Donna Abel	Bob Buell

### The Food Pantry items needed:

Pancake mix

beets

pasta noodles

canned pasta

Honey oats cereal



### Oct. 5 Communion Team

David & Lynn Klug Stedman, and

Heidi & Mike Siefkes

**SAVE THE DATES**

Nov 4—Dartball @ St. Marks (Jeff.)

Nov 9—Stewardship Sunday

Pledge Cards and Time and Talent sheets collected with Gratitude.

Nov 11—Dartball @ Home

Nov 13—Lend-a-Hand, 1 PM

Nov 14—All Church Bowling Event—Last Day to Sign Up in

Narthex @ Rock River Lanes 6:30 PM

Nov 15—9 AM to Noon Outdoor Fall Clean-Up

Come when you can, stay as long as you are able

Nov 18—Dart Ball @ St. Lukes (Rome)

Council Meeting 6 PM

Nov 19—Quilts Ministry, 9 AM

Nov 20—Creation Care 11:30 AM

Nov 29—9 AM Hanging of the Greens

Advent Decorating of the Church

Dec 6—Winter Market at First Congregational Church

Cheese, peanuts, bakery, lunch, dry soups, and raffle baskets all for sale. A fundraiser for the church. Volunteer spots available. Contact Nancy Onufer (920-691-6106) for more information/ volunteer opportunities.

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](mailto:officefortucc@gmail.com)

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC**

31 W. Milwaukee Ave.

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

**Church Office:** (920) 563-4802

**Church Email:** [officefortucc@gmail.com](mailto:officefortucc@gmail.com)

**Moderator:** Sandy Czech [2czechs.sc@gmail.com](mailto:2czechs.sc@gmail.com)

**Rev.Dr. Sara Rabe:** [revsarafortucc@gmail.com](mailto:revsarafortucc@gmail.com)

**Church's Website:** [www.fortfcc.org](http://www.fortfcc.org)

**First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ**

