



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

**June 2025 First Congregational UCC  
Broadcaster**

**Share the Good News of God!**

Barbara Cmehil is a homebound member of our congregation who joined our church a couple of years ago. She moved to the Fort Atkinson area to be near her niece. Barbara is a former nun in the Catholic Church and has a deep resounding faith where she shares the Good News of God with all she meets. One of her expressions, each and every time is a response to the question, "How are you?" She responds, "Blessed and Highly Favored." Blessed and highly favored is from the gospel of Luke 1:28, where the angel Gabriel greets Mary: "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."



Hearing this expression *Blessed and Highly Favored* immediately invokes a feeling of peace and gratitude. Many times, a smile will follow. It has taught me to put my best self forward and greet one another, as though the angel has visited and blessed me.

There are angels among us. How are you? Really, truly, how are you? Even on rough days, we really don't share how we really truly are, because the greeter may be sorry they asked. To feel Blessed and Highly Favored melts away the list of "this and that" and shares the Good News of God.

We are Blessed to have God and one another in our lives, because God has looked upon us with favor. What more can we ask for?

Go in peace, share the Good News,

*Pastor Sara*

## Council Highlights – May 2025

**New Organ:** Our Music Director, Marvin Olsen attended our Council meeting to let us know of an opportunity to obtain an organ from the Whitewater UCC church. The church unfortunately has closed, and they offered theirs to replace our 35-year-old Galanti Praeludium. The organ is a 2013 Model Q390 Allen Electronic organ. The Council approved the donation by Whitewater UCC for the organ, and they accepted! Work is being done now through Yerges Van Lines and Metro Sound to get the organ moved to our location. New speakers and a dedicated sound system will be installed. The current one will be sold. We look forward to many years of beautiful organ music!

**Memorial Committee:** The committee has met and has updated our informational brochure for those wishing to give a memorial or honorary gift for a loved one. This information will be available in the church office.

**Dream Team:** Pastor Sara held 2 meetings for interested members to share their ideas for church activities or groups that can be considered in the future. Ideas included a hymn sing, addressing needs of an anxious generation, caroling to the community or homebound, booth at Farmer's Market, book study, adult Christmas pageant, retreats, scavenger hunt and more! Great ideas from great people!

**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 towards another community bench. Thank you!

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.

## DIAPER DRIVE

Raising kids is an expensive adventure. One of the contributing factors is the cost of diapers. In June, the Outreach Ministry is asking for donations of diapers that will be made available through Trudy's Room to families in the School District of Fort Atkinson.

Trudy's Room, housed at Fort Atkinson's First United Methodist Church, was established in 2019 by family and friends of the late Trudy Tuttle.

Diaper sizes newborn, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 are needed. Donated diapers must be in store packaging.

There is also a need for baby wipes that are fragrance free for sensitive skin, baby shampoo, and body wash.

Baskets will be available in the narthex to receive your donations from June 1 through 29.

Thank you for helping the young families in our area!



## NEW MEMBERS CELEBRATION

On Sunday, May 18, members and guests of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fort Atkinson gathered for a Connect and Celebrate Potluck following worship. The meal was held to greet new spiritual friends who have both been visiting and joining our congregation.



A drum choir led the music during the Sunday, May 25, worship service at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fort Atkinson.

Leading the choir was Jeff Rabe, director of Christian education for children and youth at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Madison. He also is the brother of our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Sara Rabe.

Having started serving the Madison church in 2002, he established the drumming program about 10 years ago. The group performed three songs, two in which the congregation participated. In addition to Rabe, drum choir members included Melissa Bauman, Emily Brooks, Cass Kight, Liz Michaels and Marcia Olson.

Pictured here is Rabe introducing the musicians, whom he led in a participatory song and then joined for the concluding musical number.





## Creation Care Team Update

### Curious about what we've been up to?

The Trex bench has arrived! It takes about 1000 pounds of plastic to make a bench – many thanks to all who helped us keep it out of the landfill! We're continuing to collect plastic in coordination with the Fort Atkinson Lion's Club as we "pay it forward" for additional benches around the community.

Have you noticed the recycle bins in the sanctuary, Plymouth Hall, the kitchen and offices, along with the combination stainless trash/recycle bin in the Burr Oak Room? We're still investigating (and will keep you posted) as to what exactly is recyclable (paper plates? plastic cutlery?) under the local recycling program. An additional curbside bin has been obtained for the increase in recyclables collected.

Twenty members celebrated the 55th annual Earth Day on April 22 by cleaning up litter along the Glacial River Trail near Lion's Park, Fort Atkinson. The weather turned nice just in time and we used pails, "grabbers", gloves, and "Green Core" trash bags for our "garbage hunt." Thanks to all who participated, and to Chris Spangler for the Daily Union article and photos!

"When you realize Earth and Heart are spelled with the same letters, it all starts to make sense." Hope you've been able to stop by our Creation Care display in the narthex and have taken a moment to enjoy the beautiful pictures and ponder the messages about the importance of saving and protecting our environment.

What's next? We're looking at an activity for the fall. Watch for updates! Have ideas for improving our green practices? Want to help? Please contact a Creation Care member (Nancy Onufer, Sharon Wisch, Mary Narkis, Margaret Majors, or Carol Maasz) or call the Church office. Look for a meeting date listed in the bulletin and come check out what we're up to next!



### The Food Pantry items needed:

Chicken Soup

Pineapple

Tuna

Vegetable Beef Soup

Cheerios



## June Helper Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support
<b>June 1</b>	Robert & JoAnn Rose	Chad Klauer and Mary Narkis	Terry Teipner	Bob Buell
<b>June 8</b>	Tom & Patty Sehnert	David Stedman and Lynn Klug	Donna Abel	Kurt Wesemann
<b>June 15</b>	Joe & Eunice Ann Slaney	John & Jane Wilmet	Zach Finch	Kevin Becker
<b>June 22</b>	Dave Stedman and Lynn Klug	Robert & JoAnn Rose	Linda Glendon	Bob Buell
<b>June 29</b>	Judy Brown	Ruth Hammiller and Nancy Onufer	Ruth Hammiller	Kurt Wesemann

**Need Baked Goods and Volunteers!**



### June 8th Communion Team

Donna Abel, Judy Brown,  
Charlie Knapp, and Carol Maasz

Bakers and Volunteers Needed! Please sign up in the narthex to supply baked goods and/or volunteer to help at the first Community Band Concert of the summer. We'll once again be hosting the **Pie and Ice Cream Social on Monday, June 16th, at Barrie Park**. Funds raised will be donated in support of the Habitat for Humanity duplex to be built on Schumacher Way in Fort Atkinson. Thank you! Church Relations Ministry.

## 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**

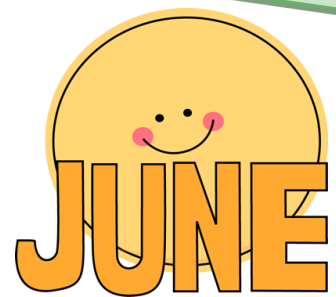
June 1st—10 AM Guest Pastor Larry Balleine

June 1-4—Pastor Sara is on Vacation

June 5-7—Pastor Sara, Carol Maasz, and Kathi Cauli at  
WI Conference Annual Meeting at Green Lake

**June 8th—Pentecost Communion**

**Return to 8:30 Service**



June 12—Lend-A-Hand Mission Strategies Meeting 1-3 PM

June 16—Ice Cream & Treats at FA Band Concert

June 19—9-11 AM Nurture Planning Meeting

12 AM Creation Care Team Meeting

June 24—6 PM Council Meeting

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

## **Volunteers NEEDED**

Volunteers are needed at the Food Pantry for the month of July! Sign up sheet is on the Outreach Bulletin Board in the Narthex for anyone who can volunteer or you can call Tom Sehnert (920) 397-0089. The time you give is helpful to so many. Thank you!

The WI Conference UCC has a ministry called

### **Aging in Grace.**

Click on the Link here to discover interesting spiritual resources for aging with grace.

<https://shorturl.at/u0ZhV>

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**

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**First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ**

