



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

May 2026
First Congregational UCC Broadcaster

The fields are being opened. The soil is being turned to smooth out rough patches in preparation for the seeds to be planted. "In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your hands be idle, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good." Ecclesiastes 11:6

God is always working to bring about new fresh life that is restored.

Wendell Berry is quoted as saying: "Whoever really has considered the lilies of the field or the birds of the air, and pondered the improbability of their existence in this warm world within the cold and empty stellar distances, will hardly balk at the turning of water into wine -- which was, after all, a very small miracle. We forget the greater and still continuing miracle by which water (with soil and sunlight) is turned into grapes."

The miracle of new life is happening all around us and even under our feet. May we take this awe of springtime and find amazement in all that God is doing.

In hope,

Pastor Sara



Save the Date- Outdoor Prairie Worship

Saturday June 3, 2026 @ 10am

Prairie Church: Experience worship outdoors with the beautiful wildflowers, pollinators and birds chirping with delight. This experience will bring us calm and deepen our spiritual connection to God.

The Glendon's Prairie
N5913 Zeibell Rd
Jefferson WI 53549



Council Highlights – March 2026

Summer Worship Time Change to 9:00 AM: The Council has approved the summer worship service time change from 8:30 AM to a bit later, at 9:00 AM. This change will start on Sunday, June 7, 2026.

Fort Atkinson Preschool and Childcare: The transition to close the Center on June 5 is going smoothly. Inventory of all items has been completed. We plan to honor all the teachers, students and parents at our worship service on June 7, 2026, to express our gratitude for 57 years of childcare in our community. Please contact Moderator, Linda Glendon with any questions.

“Pull Out the Stops” Organ Dedication Concert and Luncheon: We had a wonderful concert and celebration to dedicate our new organ on April 19. Many thanks to Dean Roskoe and our accompanists, Jayne, Lori and Emily. Many thanks also to Lynn Stedman, Nurture, Lend-a-Hand and helpers for hosting a delicious luncheon.

Jefferson County Human Services: Their event, “Authentically Us” will be held in Plymouth Hall on Saturday, May 2 from 8 AM – 2 PM.

Hygiene Donations Drive: Thank you to everyone who recently donated hygiene items to be given to Fort Atkinson High School students. We were able to assist 100 kids!

Church Access Changes: When the Childcare Center closes in June, there will be limitations in gaining access to the church. The Facilities Ministry is working on possible options. Stay tuned!

Next meeting is May 19, 2026.

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.

Covenant Conversations

The WI Conference UCC would like to know what's happening at First Congregational UCC in Fort Atkinson.

What is giving our congregation life and energy right now?

Where are we experiencing challenge, uncertainty, or transition?

How is our sense of mission taking shape in our community and what kinds of relationships, resources, or support would strengthen your congregation's long term sustainability.

With this information the WI Conference UCC will provide resources for local congregations. Please join us for this conversation May 3rd before worship, 8:45am in the Werthman Room. Refreshments will be served.



Ice Cream Social is Around the Corner



It's time again for us to plan for hosting the Ice Cream Social at the first Fort Atkinson Community Band Concert of the summer on Monday, June 15th. Bakers and volunteers will be needed to donate pies, bars and cookies, and to serve the goodies at the band concert that evening. This event is sponsored by your Church Relations Ministry, and proceeds will again benefit a local organization. Past recipients have included The Unity Project, the Fort Atkinson Homeless Coalition, and Habitat for Humanity of Jefferson and Waukesha Counties. Please mark your calendars for June 15th, and watch for sign-up sheets in the near future. Thank you!

Pastor Sara Summer Home Visit Opportunity

Summer days are approaching and time spent visiting is a unique opportunity and characteristic of the enjoyment of summertime. Pastor Sara is eagerly willing to visit the homes of church members during the summer months. Please call the church office or email Pastor Sara and she would enjoy visiting you in your home.

revsarafortucc@gmail.com

TACO BAR

Please join us for appetizers and tacos following worship on May 17. The Nurture Ministry will provide the fixings for tacos. Bring your favorite appetizer to share.



5 in 1 Special Mission Campaign

Nearly 1,590 UCC churches are 5 for 5 churches, and we are one of them!

This means our church fully supports Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) along with five special mission offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, Church World Service Blankets, and the Christmas Fund.

These offerings 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 these special missions.

From April 15th to May 5th, Outreach Ministry is asking for your support during the 5 in 1 campaign. Donations may be made in the 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 to support one specific mission. Although we highlight these special missions during the next few weeks, donations can be made at any time throughout the year.

However you choose to support these missions, your giving is greatly appreciated, no matter the amount. Thank you for being a blessing to others in their time of need!

Outreach Ministry

Wisconsin Conference UCC All Conference Read

A book study of *Nice Racism: How Progressive White People Perpetuate Racial Harm* by Robin DiAngelo

A 3-session conversation taking place Tuesday evenings: May 5, 12, and 19, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. via Zoom, facilitated by Wisconsin Conference Staff

Registration deadline is May 3, 2026

<https://onrealm.org/wcucc/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NGQxYWJjNDktYTc2ZC0oMjg3LTkxMGItYjQxZTAxNGY1NzYx>

(*I included the link to the sign up on the Broadcaster Email)

Preschool Closure Information

The Preschool is closing on June 5th. Our transition team has determined the following information on the sale of the items left.

The school district will come and get their items either June 5th, or June 8th. The staff will be invited on June 8th from 1 to 3 pm. Our members are welcome on June 11th from 9 to 12pm.

Finally, the public rummage will be announced at a later date. This will be a cash and carry event only.

There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex for volunteers for each date. We need at least 3 people per time to be present and collect the money.

The Preschool/daycare staff and families are welcome to attend our Church service on June 7th. We will honor them, and bring closure to this longstanding ministry, here at The Fort Atkinson First Congregational Church – United Church of Christ.

Earth Day and Wild Church from your Creation Care Team

In recognition of Earth Day, approximately 20 members and friends of Fort Atkinson's First Congregational UCC gathered to clean up a section of the Glacial River Trail in Fort Atkinson. Beautiful spring weather set the scene for an enjoyable evening even though the subject was thoughtlessly-discarded garbage.

Participants donned gloves, and some employed grabber tools, to fill their buckets and bags with plastic water bottles, aluminum cans, cellophane wrappers, cigarette butts, dog waste bags and much more.



The group scoured the trail between N. Main Street (behind Ace Hardware) south to a bit beyond the restored depot shelter where the trail crosses Janesville Avenue. Chris Spangler took photos and posted the event to the church's Facebook page.

Earth Day was established in 1970 by Wisconsin's own U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, and this was our church's second annual trail clean-up effort coordinated by the Creation Care Team.

Another opportunity to appreciate and honor God's marvelous creation will be FCC's Wild Church gathering planned for Saturday, June 6th, at 10:00 a.m. Jeff and Linda Glendon will host us at their prairie restoration near Jefferson. Pastor Sara will lead us in an exploratory and meditative worship experience. Watch for further details, directions, and carpool arrangements.

Helper Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support
May 3	Pat Jung	Patty & Tom Sehnert	Linda Glendon	Kevin Becker
May 10	Dave & Ann Lueder	Joe & Eunice Ann Slaney	Roy Hetts	Bob Buell
May 17	Larry & Mary Narkis	Roger & Marsha Anderson	Lynn Klug Stedman	Kurt Wesemann
May 24	Ann Williams	Barb & Gary Vorpahl	David Stedman	Kevin Becker
May 31	Bob & Jo Ann Rose	Sue & Bob Buell	Zach Finch	Bob Buell

The Food Pantry items needed:

Chilli

Canned Pears

Mac & Cheese

Mixed Vegetables



Sign up for June are posted and in need of spots filled!

May 3rd
Communion Team

Joe & Eunice Ann Slaney
And David & Lynn Klug Stedman

Summer Worship Hours

“NEW” Summer worship time will be

9 AM

Starting June 7th



Attention all members!!



We are celebrating the 25 th anniversary of Pastor Sara’s ordination, and her 5 th year as Pastor here, at our Fort Atkinson First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.



Please save the date of July 12 th for this very special service. We are blessed to have special guests, and refreshments after the service. You won’t want to miss it.

Fort Atkinson Preschool and Childcare

FAREWELL

Backyard Bash

Join us as we celebrate the roots that bind us one last time after 57 years of service to the community!



June 5, 2026 from 1-5 pm

Fort Preschool Gym & Sidewalk

Fun games - Storybook Walk - Snack

All families - past and current - are welcome to drop in on June 5th to celebrate the memories and say one last goodbye before the center closes its doors for good.

SAVE THE DATES

- May 3 Covenant Conversations 8:45-9:45 AM Werthman Room
May 9 Clean-Up Day starting at 9AM
May 14 Lend-A-Hand 1 PM
May 17 Nurture Taco Bar and Appetizer Sunday following Worship
May 21 Church Relations Meeting 10 AM
June 6 Prairie Church 10 AM @ the Glendon's
June 7 -Summer Worship Hours begin at 9AM



Our Organ Dedication "Pull - Out -The - Stops" dinner celebration was a huge success! A big thank you to Lynn Stedman, Heidi Siefkus, the Nurture Ministry, Lend A Hand, our fantastic bakers, and dedicated dishwashers! We also appreciate the help received from those who jumped in and helped when you saw a need. Thank you everyone!!

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET OUTING

The Nurture Ministry has planned an outing to see "The Million Dollar Quartet" at The Fireside on June 26. It is the story of how Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley came together for one of the greatest jam sessions of all time. Entree choices for this show include chicken cordon blue, red snapper, beef short rib, or vegetarian stuffed red peppers.

Cost for this event is \$84.50 per person. It includes the cost of the meal, gratuities, and the show. Please signup, pay, and fill out your menu choice on the forms in the Narthex by May 24. Invite your family and friends to join us!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

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Church's Website: www.fortfcc.org

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

