



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

**September 2025 First
Congregational UCC Broadcaster**

The cost and joy of discipleship.

John 13:34-35

A new commandment from Jesus is to "love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another". This mutual love serves as a clear mark by which others will know who His true disciples are.

When we hear the word cost we think of the value of an item that we want to purchase. Other meanings of the word cost are alluded to phrases such as, "not giving in at all cost"

How about \$4,000? That is how much 69,000 Dum Dum suckers cost. A mom found that out a few years ago when her young son ordered several cases of suckers when she let him play on her phone.

Sometimes the cost is high. We evaluate the best way to meander through a low-cost life, but the cost of discipleship is high. Love one another. Love as Christ loves. In that challenge there is opportunity for great blessing. Mistakes will be made, and moving through the healing to new growth and awareness about ourselves will allow us to find greater calm and ease about the way things are.

What would you do with 69,000 suckers? This would inspire creative ways to be generous and form connections. There in lies the blessing. Blessings and Challenges, that is the dum sum of life.

I wish you many more of God's blessings

Pastor Sara



Pastor Sara

Council Highlights – August 2025

Organ Update: As you know, the organ is here and awaiting installation! The organ company, Allen Organ, will be contacting us soon to set up the large task of installation. We hope to hear beautiful music coming from it soon!

Peanuts Project: The peanuts project starts again this year on August 25. Orders will be taken on Sunday mornings or by calling Henry at the church office. There are times designated for picking up your order. Volunteers are always welcome! The “peanuts team” are looking forward to another great year!

Treasurer: Our new Treasurer, Kim Lutes, has begun her duties, replacing Loren Gray. She continues to train and learn the “ropes” with Loren. Thank you to both Loren and Kim for your dedication to our church

Stewardship: Linda Glendon, our next Moderator, is working with Henry and Charlie on preparing for our upcoming Stewardship campaign. Look for a letter in your mailbox soon! Please consider how you can support your church financially and through your time and talents. Thank you!

Creation Care: We will be hosting the WI UCC Creation Care regional meetings on Saturday, September 6. Rev. John Helt will return to our church and preach on Sunday, September 7.

Worship Time: Just a reminder! Worship time returns to 10:00 AM beginning September 7!

Next meeting is September 16, 2024.

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.

Meals on Wheels

September ... is also the month **we need volunteers** for “**Meals on Wheels!**” It is our church’s turn to deliver noon meals to elderly homebound residents and to those who may find it difficult to go shopping and prepare meals. The delivery dates are from **September 2 – 26**.

Meals are picked up at the hospital at 10:50, Monday through Friday, with delivery taking about one hour. There are two routes in the city, and it is helpful to have two people per route.

If you wish to volunteer or have questions, please call Mary Ellen Miller @920-563-9085 or the church office @920-563-4802.

This is a wonderful **Outreach Ministry** of our church, and the folks we deliver to are so appreciative of your willingness to serve others.

Sunday School Beginnings

Sunday School will begin during the 10am Worship on Sunday September 14th. The children will go to class during the sermon time of worship and will return to their families in the sanctuary after class is finished.

Children bring life and energy to our midst. We are glad they are here.

Prayer Quilt Ministry

Fall is here and we will be beginning another year of our Prayer Quilt Ministry. Prayer quilts meet every month from September through May on the third Wednesday of the month. We meet from 9 to 11 at the church. We sew the tops of the quilts, layer them for quilting, sew the bindings, and finish them with ties for our prayers. Our first quilt day will be September 17th from 9 to 11. For more information contact Marsha Anderson at 920-650-6066.

Coffee Fellowship Volunteers

The sign-up sheet to host Coffee Fellowship is posted on a bulletin board in the narthex hallway. Please check your calendar and sign up for a date to host this fun and rewarding fellowship opportunity. You may choose to bring a treat, or to simply make, serve and clean-up the coffee after worship. Any member of the Church Relations Ministry can help if you need orientation to the coffee makers and supplies. Thank you!

Creation Care

Rev. John Helt will lead us in worship, assisted by Rev. Sara Rabe, on Sunday, Sept. 7. Communion will be part of our worship that morning, and coffee fellowship hour, hosted by the Creation Care Team, will follow the service.

Our beautiful Earth and how we can care for God's creation will be the theme of the morning, so feel free to wear your favorite nature or camp-themed t-shirt or attire.

Remember that worship returns to the 10:00 a.m. start time on Sept. 7th!

Extra Nurture Supplies

Check out the cabinet labeled "For General Use" in Plymouth Hall if you need paper plates, napkins, or plasticware for your group. When the members of Nurture cleaned house in July, they discovered plates and napkins leftover from their events—not enough for a large group, but perfect for smaller numbers. Please remember that the church always has cups available for hot and cold beverages.

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 11, 6:00-6:45 P.M. and continue each Thursday thereafter. 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

Helper Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support
Sept. 7	Robert & Donna Abel	Sandy Mittelstadt and Heidi Siefkes	Sharon Wisch	Kevin Becker
Sept. 14	Dave & Ann Lueder	Larry & Mary Narkis	David Stedman	Bob Buell
Sept. 21	Jeff & Susan Woods	John & Jane Wilmet	Heidi Siefkes	Kurt Wesemann
Sept. 28	Robert & Susan Buell	John and Holly Andrews	Sharyl Beranek	Kevin Becker

The Food Pantry items needed:

Hamburger Helper
Beef stew
Corn
Raisin bran
Carrots



Sept. 7 Communion Team

Susan & Jeff Woods, and
Judy Brown, and Pat Jung

ABC's of Ushering and Serving Communion

Are you willing to learn a little bit about the nuts and bolts of ushering and serving communion? Are you interested in helping during our worship services but are unsure about what to do? We have just the event for you! Following worship services on September 7 and September 21 there will be a brief training on what tasks go into ushering and serving communion.

Outreach Thank You!

In the month of July, 255 families were served at the Fort Atkinson Food Pantry. These families consisted of 690 individuals, young and old, who received food. Among those 255 families were 17 new families to the food pantry. A big thank you goes to the 25 food pantry volunteers, who gave of their time and assisted in so many ways. Your dedication and kindness are a blessing to all.

SAVE THE DATES

Sept 4—Church Relations Meeting

Sept 6 & 7—Creation Care Regional Meeting

Sept 7—Rev. John Helt will be leading worship. New Member Orientation in Werthman Room after worship

Sept 14—Rally Sunday, and Nurture Potluck. It is a time to get reacquainted and shake off the summer dust. Sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Sept 16—Council Meeting 6 PM

Sept 18—Creation Care Meeting 11 AM

Sept 21—New Members in Worship

Sept 26-28—Congregational Retreat at Daycholah

Sept 8—Luke Buchar will be leading worship

Oct 12—Rev. Anne Audert leading worship for Pulpit Sunday

Oct 19—Polka Sunday!

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

31 W. Milwaukee Ave.

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Church Office: (920) 563-4802

Church Email: officefortucc@gmail.com

Moderator: Sandy Czech 2czechs.sc@gmail.com

Rev.Dr. Sara Rabe: revsarafortucc@gmail.com

Church's Website: www.fortfcc.org

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

