



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

**March 2025 First Congregational
UCC Broadcaster**

Things that are put on a bottom.

Have you ever noticed that everything has a “Fresh Scent” these days. Perfumed toilet paper, wet wipes and ointment... all the labels with the words “New Fresh Scent”. This can cause irritation for those who have sensitive skin and have to be careful of perfumes in products. “New Fresh Scent” These are things we put on a Butt!! Who is going to be smelling these scents anyway?!



These are my profoundest thoughts on Lent this year. We live in a day in age where everything has to smell good. Everything has to look good. Everything has to be good. We never had such things as scented sanitary napkins before. But we do now. Why are we so afraid to be real with our human situation? There are times when life stinks. We aim to cover it up and deny that we have dirt or grime about ourselves. Jesus is the one who takes our soiled lives and loves us. Jesus takes what smells in our filth and says, “You are loved.” Christ’s love was show in the moments of crucifixion when he said, “Forgive them for they know not what they are doing.” Don’t be afraid of admitting we need the protection of God’s love from time to time. Boldly as believers of the Risen Christ we proclaim a new life, and even in that life all is not rosy, but it is life.

Thanks be to God,

Pastor Sara

Shrove Sunday

Members and guests of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fort Atkinson observed "Shrove Sunday" on March 2. Calling the faithful on Transfiguration Sunday before the solemn season of Lent, the worship service was followed by attendees enjoying a charcuterie table set up in the Bur Oak Room.

Many thanks to Heidi Siefkes, Sandy Czech and Connie Czech and other volunteers for setting up and providing the wonderful spread!

Sunday also was the first service of the month, which means communion was held. During the children's sermon, Pastor Sara Rabe shared the transfiguration story with youngsters, as well as showed them the grape juice and bread served during the Eucharist.



The Food Pantry items needed:

- Kidney beans
- Sauerkraut
- Mandarin Oranges
- Chicken soup
- Oats and Honey cereal
- granola bars for backpacks



March Helper Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support
Mar. 9	Ann Williams	Tom & Patty Sehnert	Jo Ann Rose	Bob Buell
Mar. 16	Robert & Susan Buell	Joe & Eunice Ann Slaney	Eunice Ann Slaney	Kurt Wesemann
Mar. 23	Roger and Marsha Anderson	Heidi Siefkes and Christine Spangler	Chris Reed	Kevin Becker
Mar. 30	Amy Elvekrog	David & Sharon Wisch	Bob Rose	Bob Buell

Filling the Vice Moderator Position

At the Annual Meeting, Chris Reed and Holly Andrews were introduced as new members for the 2025 Council. It was also noted that the Vice Moderator position was left vacant as neither of the two new members nor any of the existing council members were interested. After the meeting, Linda Glendon said she would be willing to serve as the Vice Moderator if that would help. According to the church By-Laws, Article II Section 2.03 "The Council, by appointment, shall fill any vacancies for unexpired terms, both as to Council vacancies and Ministry Vacancies." Holly Andrews graciously agreed to postpone her council position. At the February 18th Council meeting Linda Glendon was appointed to fill this position. Linda also agreed at that time to fill the Vice Moderator position.

Thank you.

Rich Frame, Moderator

Treasurer Wanted

After 20 years, our longstanding treasurer, Loren Grey, has let us know that he plans a well-deserved retirement from this position in August 2025. This is an important position at The First Congregational United Church of Christ. It will take a special person to fill Loren's shoes. The most important characteristics are honesty, attention to detail and an interest in working with numbers and preparing reports. If you or someone you know fits this description, let the Moderator Group; Rich Frame, Sandy Czech or Linda Glendon, as well as Loren, know. We will share the details of the position. Accounting background is not necessary, but would be helpful. Loren will mentor the new treasurer. The hours vary weekly, approximately 2-4 hours per week. There is compensation for this position.

Creation Care Team News

This month the Creation Care Team would like to share with the congregation some updates on what we have accomplished since we started:

- We have recycling receptacles in the back of the church to encourage plastic and paper recycling.
- We now have a 2nd recycling bin on wheels outside on Grant St., GFL delivered it on 2/5/25 free of charge.
- We now have recycling bins in the kitchen, in Plymouth Hall, and in Pastor Sara's and Henry's offices.
- We have a dual recycling/trash bin in Burr Oak Room.

We would like to thank Facilities for purchasing some of these new recycling containers. We appreciate their support of our mission!

- We have collected enough plastic bags to reach our goal of 1,000 lbs and are now able to get a new bench made from recycled materials for the front of the church! This was done through the Lions Club and facilitated by Nancy Onufer for our church. She will be ordering the bench very soon. We will continue to collect plastic as now we will be "paying it forward" to help other local organizations reach their goal of 1,000 lbs in order to get a bench. Keep up the great work everyone!!

Be on the lookout for more information about Creation Care and things we can do to help look after our one and only Earth.

Respectfully,
Creation Care Team



Tip of the Month

When driving on an interstate highway, do you think 75mph is going too slow? How about 80mph? Consider this: the faster you drive over the speed limit, the worse your fuel economy gets. Experts estimate that dropping your highway speed by 10mph can save about 10% in fuel. That may not seem like much, but the average driver can save several hundred dollars in fuel over the course of a year. This also means fewer emissions and less environmental impact. Bonus tip: using cruise control can help you maintain a steady speed, which can also improve fuel economy. But let's give it a try this month—for our happiness, and for our environment.

Council Highlights – February 2025

New Church/Council Year! New Moderator, Rich Frame for 2025 introduced new Council members. Chris Reed has been a member of our church for many years. He was the Moderator in 2009 and will serve as a Council member. Linda Glendon has accepted the position of Vice-Moderator. She and her husband, Jeff, have been church members for a few years. She is a retired dental hygienist and is happy to join Council. In addition to Chris Reed, the other Council members are Chris Spangler, Matt Eske, and Jeff Woods. Sandy Czech serves as Past-Moderator with Linda Glendon as Vice-Moderator and Rich Frame as Moderator. The Council is looking forward to a great year.

Treasurer Position: Loren Gray has tenured his resignation as our Treasurer as of August 2025. Loren has served as our Treasurer for over 20 years! He will remain close, and will be a resource as an adviser, both with technical issues and treasurer responsibilities. The Council will be searching for a replacement very soon. We thank Loren for all his years of dedicated service to our church.

Special Worship Service Time Change: Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday worship times have been changed from 7:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Christmas Eve service will remain at 5:00 PM. Please note these changes.

Immigration Enforcement: The church and Childcare Center have created a “Policy and Procedure in Case of Immigration Enforcement Action”. This has been created after research and applicable resource reviews for the safety of our church members, friends and the Childcare Center.

Creation Care: This team is working on updating the recycling efforts in our church. The Trex bench has been ordered after working together with city organizations to attain 1000 pounds of plastic. The bench should be here soon! In addition, you will see new recycling bins located around our church. Please help us “go green!”

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.



16—St. Patrick's Day—Baked Potato Bar
19—Quilt Ministry 9-11 AM

If you would like to have an event or
announcement added to the list

Please let Henry know at officefortucc@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES



1—Easter Flower Orders Due
13—Palm Sunday
17—Maundy Thursday 6 PM
20—Easter Sunday

Outreach Thank You!

Outreach deeply appreciates your monetary donations in the month of January. Families and students are ensured food to eat with your generous donations. Listed below is information on how to continue to support the Smartie Pack program:

A gift of \$5 can provide a Smartie Pack for a student for one week and \$180 can support them for a year. Please consider giving to help our youth feed their bodies and minds. To donate, send a check to:

Fort Atkinson Food Pantry, PO Box 275, Fort Atkinson WI 53538 or contact info@fortatkinsonfoodpantry.org.

New Bible Study!

A six-week, adult bible study will begin on Sunday March 9 that will explore Jesus's crucifixion through the eyes of witnesses who were at the Cross. Developed by Amy-Jill Levine, each week we will read and discuss the gospel accounts of the passion of Christ with a focus on the diverse groups of people who were at Jesus's side during this time. These lessons aim to deepen our understanding of Jesus's life and death and to consider how it applies to our own experiences in the world today. Group discussions will begin at 8:45 and run until 9:45 each Sunday until April 13th.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

31 W. Milwaukee Ave.

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Church Office: (920) 563-4802

Church Email: officefortucc@gmail.com

Moderator(Rich Frame): framkeen@ticon.net

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

Church's Website: www.fortfcc.org

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

