



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

January 2025 First Congregational UCC Broadcaster

The poetry of our time.

There is a Hymn that we occasionally sing: In the Midst of New Dimensions. This tune was on my mind and I decided to take another look. Reading through the words of this hymn evokes the feeling that this is the poetry of our times. New dimensions, changing ways, yet it was God who sent the sign of the bow in the sky. It was God who sent the cloud by day and the fire by night to the people. Yet might we envision a wider dream for our lives and our world?

In the Midst of New Dimensions

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We, your people, ours the journey, now and ever, evermore.
Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?
As we stand a world divided by our own self-schemes,
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.
We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We, your people, ours the journey, now and ever, evermore.



With deep gratitude I give thanks that our community of faith has embraced each gift in creation. All persons created by God to lift the olive branches and light the flame of care. This gives new meaning to the living, changing faith in this dynamic world we call home.

Pastor Sara

Legacy Planning

Part Two: January 14, 2025

10:00-11:30 am

First Congregational Church UCC 31 W. Milwaukee Ave

officefortucc@gmail.com



Julie Nachtigal— Financial

Advisor from

Edward Jones will lead

participants through ideas for

Financial Planning

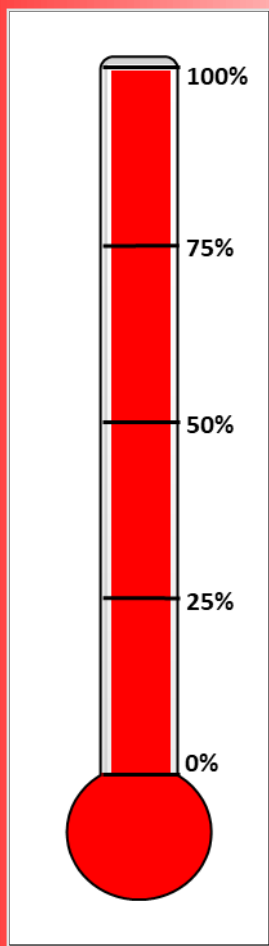


Nate Dunlap— Funeral Director from

END-OF-YEAR GENERAL INFORMATION from the FINANCIAL SECRETARY

2024 Contribution statements are available for pickup in the Narthex on January 12, 19 and 26. Those not picked up after January 26, 2025 will be mailed.

Blessings, Robert "Charlie" Knapp



2025 Stewardship Campaign *TOGETHER, WE DID IT!*

Goal: \$200,000

97 pledges received

Total pledged as of Dec 12, 2024:
\$203,092

Percent of goal achieved: 102%



Sunday, Dec. 15th, marked the drawing for First Congregational UCC's winter market raffle. Gift baskets donated by congregation members drew a lot of tickets, with the winners drawn after worship. Here are some photos of the drawing.

January Helper Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Reader	Tech Support
Jan. 12	Sandy Mittelstadt and Sandy Czech	Jeff & Linda Glendon	Terry Teipner	Kurt Wesemann
Jan. 19	Pam & Trent Topel	John & Holly Andrews	Sarah Brietzke	Kevin Becker
Jan. 26	Christine Spangler	Zach Finch and Pat Jung	Donna Abel	Bob Buell

Meeting Grounds

Wednesdays January 15th & 22nd

10-11:30 AM

Meet at Langhoff Coffee

Faith, Fellowship and Friends



Check out these “Ugly” Sweaters worn for a special day of worship.

Coffee Fellowship Volunteers:

Please check the bulletin board in the narthex and sign up for a date in January, February or March. Thank you for your participation in this rewarding and fun ministry of hospitality for your fellow congregants and visitors! Coffee Fellowship is coordinated by the Church Relations Ministry.



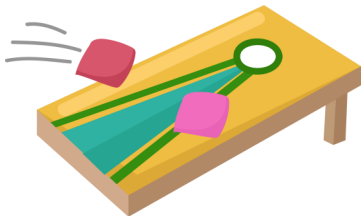
Fort Atkinson Food Pantry

Each year, the Fort Atkinson Food Pantry assist many families in need of food. In 2024, there have been **2785 families provided with food**.

Besides serving families, the Food Pantry also distributes **Smarty Packs** weekly to students in the Fort Atkinson School District who are facing food insecurity. During November, **773 students were served** by our Fort Atkinson Food Pantry Smartie Pack program. Five dollars can provide a Smartie Pack for a student for one week, while \$180 can support them for a year. All money donated to the Fort Atkinson Food Pantry goes to cover food for families in need and food for the Smarty Pack program.

From **January 5 to January 26, 2024**, Outreach is asking for monetary donations for the Fort Atkinson Food Pantry. Please make checks out to First Congregational UCC. Envelopes marked for the Food Pantry will be placed in the pews. Thank you as you lend uplifting support to our youth and families in the Fort Atkinson community!

New Member/Game Day/ Corn Hole/Soup Lunch in Plymouth Hall



Sunday January 19, 2025

Soup Luncheon to follow worship

Bring your deck or cards, or bean bags and play away!

The **Nurture Ministry** will host a soup luncheon for the **January 19** Game Sunday. Come and enjoy a variety of soups and stay for an afternoon of fellowship and games. Look for a signup sheet in the Narthex in January. We will need soups, desserts, and help with cleanup and washing dishes.

Chase away the Winter Blewz



Sunday January 11- February 9, 2025

Book, Magazine & Puzzle Exchange

Bring in puzzles or magazines (with your name on- if you want returned) to share and exchange. There will be a table in the narthex to pick, choose and bring back for exchange

The Food Pantry items needed:

Canned Carrots
Kidney Beans
Rice
Chicken Soup
Canned Pasta
Canned Pineapple



It's Winter in Wisconsin!



It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic for freshwater ecosystems!

Once salt is in the environment it doesn't go away. It ends up in our lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands. **Salt weakens the concrete, brick and stone that make up our homes, garages, bridges, and roads.** Road and sidewalk salt can irritate your pets' toes, feet, and skin. Problems can also arise if a dog eats salt or licks their paws after a walk. Salt can stress plants and animals that have adapted to freshwater environment.

You can keep sidewalks and driveways safe this winter while protecting our waters by following these simple steps:

1. Shovel: Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it will be.
2. Scatter: If you use salt, scatter it so that there is space between the grains. Believe it or not, a coffee mug of salt is enough to treat an entire 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares.
3. Switch: When pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees, salt won't work. Switch to sand for traction or a different ice melter that works at lower temperatures.
4. Select a Trained Contractor: Ask your contractor if they have already sent staff to a Smart Salting workshop. If not, encourage them to attend a class and to follow appropriate application rates.



Sweeping leftover salt reduces damage to concrete and protects local waterways. Dry salt can be reused if needed after a future storm event.

Small steps equal a big payoff for our environment. To discover more ways you can help Wisconsin, visit www.wisaltwise.com WI Salt Wise partnership: A coalition of organizations working together to reduce salt pollution in our lakes, streams, and drinking water.

Respectfully submitted by the Creation Care Team

Now days a large segment of our population buys drinking water in plastic bottles. Experts tell us that bottled water is no cleaner, or safer, or healthier than municipal tap water. In the interest of reducing the negative impact of plastics upon our environment, why not make the change back to environmentally friendly and safe tap water instead. Save a number of the plastic bottles you purchase. By keeping them properly cleaned, they can be re-filled with tap water and re-used many times before disposing of them for recycling. Furthermore, the money you save will begin to count up over a period of time

Council Highlights – December 2024

Annual Meeting 1/26/25: The budgets and reports will be assembled for our Annual Report in early January. The report will be ready for members to pick up on Sunday, 1/12/25 for review prior to the meeting.

Peanuts Project: We had a successful “peanuts year”! The net profit was \$8756.00. 204 bags were available to be sold at the Winter Market...they sold out by 11:00 AM! Many thanks to Charlie & Judy Knapp and all the volunteers who worked over 13 weeks for this success!

Safe Church Policy: For the safety of all of our members, visitors or volunteers, a policy has been written to address issues of incidents such as injury or abuse . This will ensure that a policy is in place to address any of these issues. More updates to come!

Pastor’s Report: We are growing! Pastor Sara announced that possibly 5 new members will be joining our church in early 2025. Welcome to all!

Pastor Sara reports Legacy Planning Part 2 will be held on 1/14/25 from 10:00-11:30 AM. The speakers will be Julie Nachtigal, Financial Advisor of Edward Jones and Nate Dunlap, Funeral Director of Dunlap Memorial Home.

Plastic Recycling: Plastic collection continues! Please bring in your clean, clear plastic and put in the labeled barrel. We are recycling this plastic along with other local groups and will be awarded a Trex bench after collecting 1000 pounds!

Holiday Winter Market-December 7th: The Winter Market was a great success! We sold Congregational peanuts, cheese, lunch and bakery items. Lend-a-Hand sold Jar Mixes, brooms and towels and we had our basket raffle. We made approximately \$4000.00 which will go to the mission of our church.

Complete Council Minutes are available in the church office.



Legacy Planning Part 2

January 14, 2025

10:00-11:30am



Join us for Part 2 of planning for end-of-life planning.

Julie Nachtigal- Financial Advisor from Edward Jones to lead us through Financial planning.

Nate Dunlap- Funeral Director from Dunlap Funeral Home will present options for funeral planning.

SAVE THE DATES



9th—Church Relations 1:30

Facilities 6:00 PM

12th—Magazine, Books, and Puzzle exchange

Worship Ministry Meeting after worship

14th—Legacy Planning Part 2 at 10 AM

15th—Meeting Grounds at Langhoff 10 AM

19th—Soup Luncheon Corn Hole and Games

22nd—Meeting Grounds at Langhoff 10 AM

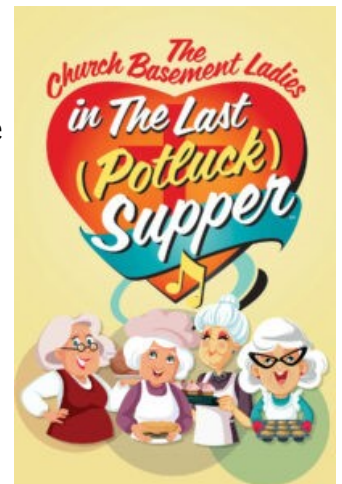
26th—Annual Meeting after Worship

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

Please let Henry know at
officefortucc@gmail.com

The Nurture Ministry has reserved a block of seats for the Fireside's production of The Church Basement Ladies in The Last Potluck Supper on July 10. The cost for the matinee show (main floor seats) meal, and gratuity will be \$85.95 per person.

For now, we need to do a **preliminary signup in the narthex** to be sure we have an adequate number of seats reserved for the show. There will be a final signup in May when final payment and menu choices will be required. The Fireside will accommodate dietary requirements such as gluten free, if the need is indicated on the final signup sheet.



Volunteers are needed at the Food Pantry for the month of January! 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!



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

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Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

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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**

