FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH • MUKWONAGO

NOVEMBER 6, 2026



Here's What's Happening at FCC



I came across a quote the other day, often attributed to Gandhi: "I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet." I love that image. The problem is, I've let plenty of people walk through my mind with dirty feet.

Somebody makes a comment that gets under my skin, and three hours later I am still thinking about it. I replay the conversation. I think about what I should have said. I come up with a much better response while driving home, which is helpful because the conversation ended four hours ago.

Or I read something online that irritates me, and suddenly some person I have never met is taking up space in my head while I'm eating dinner. I can give somebody fifteen seconds of my day and then let them have the next three hours for free. Tell me I'm not the only one.

There is another saying commonly attributed to Gandhi: "Nobody can hurt me without my permission." I struggle with that one. Because people can hurt us. Words hurt. Betrayal hurts. Rejection hurts. What somebody does to us can leave wounds we never asked for.

Jesus certainly knew that. He was betrayed by someone he loved. Abandoned by friends. Mocked. Rejected. Crucified. So no, I do not believe we get to choose whether something hurts. But I think we have some choice about what happens next.

Paul writes in Romans, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." That hits me differently than it used to. Because I know what it is like to let something get too much of me. A comment. A betrayal. Somebody's anger. Something unfair that happened years ago that I can still replay in embarrassing detail.

And if I am not careful, I start carrying it into places where it does not belong. I become a little more suspicious. A little quicker to assume the worst. A little more guarded with people who had nothing to do with what happened. That may be the part that bothers me most. One person hurts us, and before long somebody else is paying for it.

I have done that. I have carried old conversations into new ones. Old disappointments into new relationships. Old fears into places where nobody had earned my suspicion. And the person who hurt me may have moved on years ago.

Meanwhile, I am still giving them space. Maybe that is what "do not be overcome" means for me right now. Not pretending it did not hurt. Not pretending I am over it when I am not. Just refusing to let an old wound keep making decisions for me.
You hurt me. I will not pretend otherwise.

But you do not get to decide how I love the next person who walks through my door. And you do not get to live in my head forever. There's the door.

Grace and Peace
Pastor Mark



Please Keep These Loved Ones in Your Prayers

Those facing illness or health concerns:

- Bernie F
- Marty H
- Dorothy C.
- Sue P.
- Rae-Ellen
- Debbie
- Nancy
- Sue R's friend's son
- Jan
- Rick
- Brianna

Those needing ongoing love and support:

- Our shut-ins and all who live with chronic health challenges
- Our church leadership, as they serve and discern
- All who are struggling or in need—seen and unseen
- The Mission School of Hope & Clinic and the communities they care for

May God's healing, strength, and peace surround each one.

Need Prayer? Send your request to prayer@fccweb.net

Would you like to be part of our Prayer Chain?
Please email the church office at office@fccweb.net to let us know.

Sharing Our Abundance, One Gift at a Time



Thanksgiving is a time when we gather around tables, share meals, tell stories, and give thanks for the blessings in our lives. It is also a time to remember that not every table is full. Some of our neighbors are struggling to put food on theirs.

At FCC, we have a beautiful opportunity to turn our gratitude into something more than words. On November 8, 15, and 22, we invite you to bring nonperishable food items to worship and place them on the altar. The food we collect will be donated to the Mukwonago Food Bank to help individuals and families in our community.

There is something powerful about placing food on the altar. We usually think of the altar as a place where we bring our prayers, our joys, our worries, and our gratitude. This Thanksgiving season, we will also bring something that can make a difference in someone else's life.

A can of soup. A box of cereal. A jar of peanut butter. Insignificant things when we look at them individually. But together, they become a reminder of what happens when people care for one another. And isn't that what Thanksgiving should be about? We give thanks to God for what we have, and then we make room at the table for someone else.

You do not need to bring a grocery cart full of food. Bring what you can. Every gift matters, because behind every item is a person saying to a neighbor they may never meet, "You matter. We haven't forgotten you."

We hope that by Thanksgiving Sunday, our altar will be overflowing. Not simply with food, but with the generosity, compassion, and the love of a congregation that understands something important about gratitude.

The best way to give thanks for the blessings we have received is to make sure those blessings do not stop with us.

Let us fill the altar. And in doing so, help fill a few tables beyond our church doors.

HOPE CENTER
HELPING HANDS BUILDING HOPE

Hello, church ! This month we are donating toddler clothes and diapers for the Life Connection in Mukwonago and continuing this drive through November.

They said they have plenty of donations for newborns, but virtually nothing for older children. I will transport our donations to them when we have a carload. For those who wish to continue donating backpacks and small household appliances for The Hope Center, they would greatly appreciate it. I will transport those items to them as well. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Dear Supporting Congregation,

Formerly known as Cooperating Congregations of Waukesha County, Hope Center celebrates over 50 years of service to disadvantaged women, children, and men in Waukesha County. We are grateful for your continued support of our outreach and programming efforts to reduce the poverty-related risks that contribute to homelessness by providing the basic needs of food, clothing, hygiene items, and housewares, all free of charge.

To continue providing these services and items at no cost, we will be hosting our annual fundraising dinner on Thursday, November 19th, 2026, at the Brookfield Conference Center. This year's theme is "Gathering Hope," which focuses on the idea that we are stronger together. When we gather, we can strengthen our community and deepen our collective impact.

If you would, please share this exciting event with your congregation in the following ways:

- Encourage them to attend- Purchase tickets **HERE.**
- Make a gift basket for the silent auction.
- Become a sponsor.

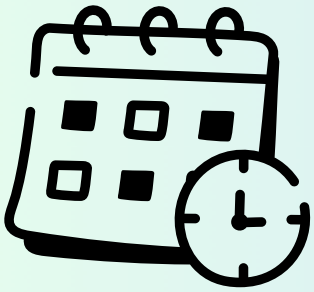
We have enclosed a **flyer** that can be posted on your information board, inserted into your weekly bulletin, or distributed to groups and individuals.

Additionally, if you plan to donate an auction item, please fill out the included **Auction Donation Factsheet** and return it to us with your item(s) no later than Friday, November 6th. We ask that all baskets be valued at a minimum of $100, as this is the most effective value and garners the highest bids. If the value is less than $100, we may combine it with another basket. You can also sponsor a basket by donating $100, and we will make the basket in your name.

If you have any questions, please contact Becky at (262)549-8726, or email at rarnold@hopecenterwi.org.

Thank you,

Becky Arnold
General Manager
Hope Center



Church Business Meeting

Sunday, November 15, 2026
After Worship

Meeting handouts are available on the communication table and online **HERE.**



The Fellowship Team requests that you mark your calendar for upcoming events.

Midnight Magic Christmas Parade



Join us at Gary & Joanne Himebauch's home, 100 Oakland Avenue on **Saturday, December 5th** for a front row spot at the Christmas Parade. Come any time after 2! The parade starts at 3 PM heading from Indianhead Beach up to Parkview MS. Bring a lawn chair, dress warmly, and enjoy treats and beverages inside the Himebauch home.

Baby Shower for Charli Zelekowski and Bryce Baumeister



Charli (granddaughter of Matt & Renee Kowalik) and Bryce are expecting a little girl, Dahlia, at the end of January. We are planning a luncheon and baby shower for them after worship on **Sunday, January 3rd**. Mark your calendars now. More details to follow. If you would like to help Joanne & Renee with the shower, please let us know.

Food for Families

Thank you for supporting Food for Families. For eight of the families, the plastic bag of food is placed in the student's locker to be taken home on Friday. The family then has food items to help with the weekend when there is no school. One family has asked to pick up the food.

For the month of November, we are asking for donations for the Thanksgiving meal for the families. Food donations include: instant mashed potatoes, canned gravy, can of yams, can of cranberry sauce, and box of stuffing mix. If you are interested in donating a turkey, see Joanne. We will be buying a turkey, vegetables, rolls, and a pumpkin pie.



Thank you!
Joanne and Janine



Worship This Weekend

We will be worshiping in-person and on YouTube.

Visit these links for important information:

YOUTUBE CHANNEL
SONG LYRICS
ORDER OF WORSHIP

Praise PLAYLIST

Sunday's Praise Song Sneak Peak
"Less Like Me" Zach Williams

CONTACT US

Church Office
262-363-7249
231 Roberts Drive
Mukwonago WI 53149
office@fccweb.net



It's Easy to Give to FCC.....

Because we are flexible! There are several ways:

1. The traditional way, by putting your offering in the collection plate during weekly church services. Offering envelopes are available in the church office. Contact us at office@fccweb.net.
2. Bill Pay through your bank account. You can talk to a teller or Customer Service if you have questions about it. If you like to use Bill Pay to pay your monthly bills, you can add FCC to your list of creditors. It's quick and easy.
3. Online. You can give through Tithe.ly or Paypal (HERE) and click the "Give" Button at the bottom of the page.
4. If you prefer to make lump sum offerings, you can make a Direct Charitable Distribution from your 401(k) or other retirement fund directly to FCC. There are no income taxes on this type of distribution because the money does not come to you; it goes directly to the "charity" of your choice, i.e., FCC. Talk to your financial advisor who can set up Direct Charitable Distributions as often as you wish—monthly, quarterly, annually etc. Making a Direct Charitable Distribution actually makes your money go farther!