

Here's What's Happening at FCC



Have you ever had your life changed in a moment? One ordinary moment when somebody says the right thing at the right time, and suddenly you find yourself saying, "Well, I'll be. Maybe I'm not who I thought I was."

There is an old story about a man who said his life began that way. He had been born just a few miles from the little mountain church where the story took place. His mother was not married to his father, and in those days, people did not let a child forget something like that.

They may not have said much out loud. Church people are often too polite for that. We prefer our cruelty with a casserole and a concerned look. But he knew.

He knew by the way people looked at him. He knew by the way they looked at his mother. They treated him like he had done something wrong just by being born. And everywhere he went, one question seemed to follow him "Who is his father?"

At school, the other children made sure he knew he was different. At lunch, he learned to sit alone. At recess, he learned how to disappear. When he walked into town with his mother, he could feel the eyes. He could hear the whispers

When he was in his early teens, he started slipping into a little church back in the mountains called Laurel Springs Christian Church. The preacher there was the kind of man you noticed. Strong face. Heavy beard. Deep voice. The kind of preacher who could probably say "Good morning" and make you feel like you needed to repent for something.

The boy was drawn to him. He did not know why exactly. Maybe it was the preaching. Maybe it was the music. Maybe it was the strange hope that somewhere in that little church there might be a place where the whispering stopped. But he was afraid. He was afraid someone would look at him and say, "What is a boy like you doing in church?"

So, he came late. Just in time for the sermon. And he left early. Before anybody could ask questions. That was his routine. Slip in. Sit down. Listen. Slip out. But one Sunday, he did not get out fast enough. The sermon ended, and before he could make his escape, the aisle filled with people. He was trapped. People in front of him. People behind him. Nowhere to go.

And then he felt it. A hand on his shoulder. A heavy hand. He looked out of the corner of his eye and saw the beard. The chin. The preacher. And the boy froze. Because he knew what was coming. The preacher looked at him for a long moment, studying his face. And the boy thought, "Here it comes. He is trying to figure out who my father is."

The preacher looked at him and said, "Well, boy, you're a child of..." And then he paused. The boy braced himself. He was ready to be wounded one more time. But then the preacher said, "Boy, you're a child of God. I see a striking resemblance." Then the preacher swatted him on the backside and said, "Now, you go claim your inheritance."

And that man said, "I left the building a different person. In fact, that was really the beginning of my life."

The Gospel is the good news that before the world ever got a chance to name you by your shame, God already named you beloved. Before people reduced you to your circumstances, God saw the family resemblance.

The preacher did not explain the boy's pain away. He simply gave the boy a better name. Child of God.

And I cannot hear that without thinking about Jesus looking at Simon and calling him Peter. Simon was not exactly in a place where anyone would nominate him for "The Church Leader of the Year Award." He was impulsive. Loud. Brave one minute and scared the next. He had a way of putting his foot in mouth over and over.

But Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Peter." Rock. Simon did not look like a rock yet. He looked like a man who still had some work to do. But Jesus saw something deeper than Simon's rough edges. Jesus did not name him by his worst moments. Jesus named him by what grace could make possible.

That is what happened to that boy in the church aisle. He walked in carrying the question everyone else had put on him: "Who is your father?" And he walked out with an answer, God is.

And maybe that is the word some of us are still waiting to hear. You are not the worst thing people whispered about you. You are a child of God, and grace still sees the family resemblance.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mark



**Please Keep These Loved Ones
in Your Prayers**

Those facing illness or health concerns:

- Kathy W.
- Dorothy C.
- Sue P.
- Carol B.

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.



**The Shared Table:
Recipes and Reflections from FCC**

Pastor Mark asked the Women's Agape Group for our help to put together a special "cookbook" from the members of our congregation. But this won't be just a standard cookbook. He wants it to reflect the people who make up the First Congregational Church of Mukwonago community!

The cookbook must be ready in time to distribute it at the potluck dinner on Giving Sunday in September, so we need to "get cookin"! All everyone (yes, guys too!) needs to do is:

- Send us a recipe that makes your family smile.
- Include a short sentence telling what "ingredient" you love bringing to the FCC community.
- Include a short sentence relating a special memory of being at FCC. Example from Pastor Mark: Recipe for meatballs.... "I love our Sunday morning Bible studies. My first time seeing the sanctuary, the person showing me around said, 'We are glad you are here today'."
- Send your recipe, community ingredient, and memory to jlbrocker@yahoo.com. Or, drop a physical copy into the recipe box on the communication table.

We can't wait to compile your submissions and share the final book with you! Thanks in advance for bringing your unique flavor to First Congregational Church of Mukwonago!





Help Wanted: Maxwell Street Days Parking Fundraiser!

August 15-16

Friday Setup: We need a small crew to handle setup on the Friday before, starting at 3:00 PM.

Available Saturday Shifts:

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Sunday Take Down: We need help packing everything up on Sunday at 3:00 PM.

Please see the sign-up sheet on the communication table.



Backpacks Needed

Hello, church! We have received a special donation request from the Waukesha Hope Center. They need backpacks.

Many of their homeless patrons, especially men, carry their belongings in back packs. Like the household appliances, they are used by patrons as soon as they hit the shelves.

Used back packs in good condition are fine. Nancy and I found three back packs on Facebook Marketplace for \$5 each.

If you'd like to purchase a new back pack to donate, Walmart has them on sale for as low as \$5 a piece. We will collecting back packs in the same corner of the lobby as the household appliances.

Thank you so much for your generosity. The coordinator at the Center was overjoyed at the car load of appliances I delivered to them the Friday before last!



Hello, church! We have a need that we hope you will be able to fill. The Hope Center in Waukesha is asking for household appliances such as toasters, microwave ovens, and clothing irons. They said that single moms cannot afford these items, so they come into the Center looking for them.

If you have a household appliance you were planning to replace, or would like to buy a new item, please drop it off at the church office and I will make sure it gets to the Center. Thank you!.



The Missions team invites you to take a Kindness tracker chart, located below the Missions Kindness bulletin board in the Narthex.

This will be a visual reminder to you to pay attention to your good deeds. Smile & say hello to someone you pass. Share kind words. Lend a hand. Check in on someone. Donate what you can. The act of kindness can be as simple or as elaborate as you want to make them!

Catch someone else performing an act of kindness. The project will continue primarily through the summer, but we hope you continue to track your acts of kindness throughout the rest of the year and beyond!

Worship This Weekend

We will be worshipping in-person and via Zoom this Sunday at 10:00 am. Visit these links for important information:

[SONG LYRICS](#)

[ORDER OF WORSHIP](#)

To access worship via Zoom, please use the information below:

[CLICK HERE FOR ZOOM WORSHIP](#)

Phone Number: (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 459 288 4444

Password: 2623637249

Adult Bible Study will meet before church in the large classroom at 9:00. You can access the Bible study via Zoom as well:

[CLICK HERE FOR ZOOM BIBLE STUDY](#)

Phone Number: (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 459 288 4444

Password: 2623637249



Sunday's Praise Song Sneak Peak

[God So Loved](#)

We the Kingdom

CONTACT US

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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!