

Here's What's Happening at FCC



There is a story about a young wife and mother of three named Linda who was living with cancer. Linda made it clear from the beginning that cancer was inconvenient, annoying, and absolutely unwelcome, but she was not going to let it make every decision for her.

Her family had been planning a trip to the Cayman Islands, and all of them had been taking scuba lessons together to get ready. Linda intended to go. More than that, she intended to participate. The day before the trip, her blood count was so low that traveling looked questionable. She checked herself into the hospital, spent the night receiving what she needed through an IV, and the next day she went with her family.

Once they reached the islands, Linda rested while the others went diving. She watched them head out each day to explore the reef. But watching was not enough. She wanted to participate, not just observe. There was a problem. Her spine had become too fragile to carry the weight of an oxygen tank. The diving instructors could have said, "I'm sorry. We wish there were something we could do." They could have told Linda that scuba diving simply was not possible anymore.

Instead, they started figuring it out. They fitted her with a mask and mouthpiece. They floated the oxygen tank above her on a piece of foam. They carefully adjusted the weights until Linda, the divers, and the tank could slip beneath the surface together. And for nearly an hour, Linda explored the reef with her family.

Later, her husband tried to pay the instructors for all the extra time and work. They refused. They told him they had seen that reef hundreds of times. They knew the rocks, the coral, even many of the fish. But that day, they said, they saw it differently because they had seen it through Linda's eyes.

I love that story. Linda could not get into the water the usual way. But the people around her did not decide that meant she simply had to miss out. They found another way. Every time I think about that, I think about a story in Mark's Gospel.

Jesus is teaching inside a house, and the place is packed. Standing room only. People at the door. People around the windows. Everybody wanting to see Jesus. Then four people arrive carrying a friend who cannot walk. They try to get him inside, but there is no way through the crowd. The house is full. The door is blocked.

His friends look at the situation and decide, the door is not the only way into a house. They climb onto the roof. They start pulling the thing apart. Which, depending on whether you are the man on the mat or the homeowner standing underneath falling chunks of ceiling, is either a beautiful act of faith or a very bad afternoon.

Eventually they make an opening large enough to lower their friend right down in front of Jesus. And this is where I think we have to be careful. Mark says that when Jesus saw their faith, he spoke to the man. Later, the man was healed. But I do not think these four friends somehow had enough faith to make a miracle happen. Faith is not a lever we pull to make God heal somebody. Linda had people who loved her deeply. They found a way to get her into the water. But Linda still had cancer. Those diving instructors did not save her life. They gave her something else. They refused to let what was happening to her decide that she had to sit on the shore and watch everybody else live.

And maybe that is where these two stories meet. The four friends in Mark could not heal their friend either. What they could do was carry him. They could refuse to leave him outside. They looked at a blocked doorway and said, "We will find another way in."

That is what faith looks like. Not believing hard enough to make suffering disappear. Sometimes faith is simply loving somebody enough to carry them through it.

And I wonder if this is what church is supposed to look like at its best. Not a room full of people admiring Jesus while somebody else cannot get through the door. A bunch of people looking around and saying, "There has to be another way. Hand me that corner of the mat."

Because sooner or later, every one of us will need carrying. There will be days when we are strong enough to carry somebody else. There will be days when we are the ones figuring out how to get the oxygen tank into the water. And there will be days when we are flat on the mat and do not have the strength, the faith, or the energy to get ourselves anywhere.

That is why we need one another. We cannot fix everything for each other. Those diving instructors could not take Linda's cancer away. The four friends in Mark could not heal the man they carried. There are things love cannot fix, no matter how badly we want it to.

But love can still do something. It can pick up a corner of the mat. It can look at the obstacle and say, "There has to be another way." It can refuse to accept that somebody we love simply has to sit this one out.

And this may be what I love most about Linda's story. Those instructors thought they were helping Linda see the reef. But afterward they told her family that Linda had helped them see it differently. They had been diving there every day. They knew every rock, every piece of coral, practically every fish. But somehow, through Linda's eyes, they saw again what had become ordinary to them.

Maybe church works that way too. We think we are making room for somebody else. We think we are helping them get through the door. And then, if we are paying attention, we discover they have given something to us too. They have helped us see differently. Maybe even helped us see Jesus differently.

When somebody cannot get through the door, I hope we will not be the people who simply explain why the door is there. I hope somebody reaches down, grabs a corner of the mat, and says, "There has to be another way."

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mark



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

Those facing illness or health concerns:

- Dorothy C.
- Sue P.
- Rae-Ellen

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"

2026 Giving Program

"The Shared Table"
Giving Sunday Focus for 2026

**Here is our program
for this year's giving focus.**

Theme: "The Shared Table"

A healthy church operates exactly like a great potluck: everyone has a seat, and everyone brings their unique measure of Time, Talents, Presence, Prayer, and Finances to the mix.

The 3-Week Sermon Series

- **September 6, 2026:** Pulling Up a Chair (Presence & Prayer)

The gift of making space, showing up, and holding the community in prayer.

- **September 13, 2026:** Passing the Plate (Time & Talents)

Using our 168 hours a week to serve one another and pass what we have to our neighbors.

- **September 20, 2026:** Staying Late & Clearing the Table (Finances & The Full Measure)

Pooling our resources, giving what we have, not what we don't have, to keep the lights on and the doors open. **Sunday Potluck**



Please sign up on the Communications Table in the Narthex for the Giving Sunday potluck on Sunday, September 20th. We encourage you to bring a dish from the recipes you submitted for the FCC Sharing Table Cookbook, but that is not a requirement. We also encourage you to sign up to set up and clean up. We hope to see you there!



Help Wanted: Maxwell Street Days Parking Fundraiser! September 12-13

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.

Alzheimer's Walk

This year I'll be walking again in the Alzheimer's Walk in Walworth County on Saturday morning, September 19th. The walk takes place in Lake Geneva, along the lake front, for a total of 3 miles. There is also a shorter walk through the historic district of 1 mile.

The walk itself starts at 10 am, but the ceremony starts at 9:40.

I would love for you to join my team and walk with me that day! I'll be walking the lake front route of 3 miles, but if you choose to do the shorter walk, that's fine. We will plan on going to lunch somewhere afterwards.

Another thing you could do is to support my walk by donating to it. Currently, I am a Grand Champion for having raised over \$1,000. My goal is to once again join the Elite Grand Champions club by raising over \$2,500. I'm a little more than \$1,000 from that goal. You can donate to my page and/or join my team by going to my page: [Joanne's Alzheimer's Walk](#) or by grabbing one of the donation sheets on the table in the Narthex. Or... you could just hand me a donation before September 19th.



Hello, church ! This month we are switching over to 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!

Hope Center Meal October 2nd

We will be serving the meal at the Hope Center on Friday October 2nd. Volunteers and Donations of milk and desserts are needed. Please see the signup sheet in the narthex. Thank you!!

Women's Agape Group Special Event



On Saturday, December 12th at 7:00pm, Grace Notes Orchestra will present a free concert entitled A Journey to Bethlehem Christmas. It, too, will be held at the PAC. Please join us! This is a great way to start off your Christmas season!



Fellowship Ministry and Women's Agape Group is teaming up for a matinee show at the Greenwald Foundation Performing Arts Center on Sunday, November 22nd. The Drowsy Chaperone is being presented by the High School drama department at 2:00pm. We will have lunch first and then gather at the PAC. We are planning to get a block of tickets and sit together. More information to follow.

Painting Day October 3rd



Women's Agape Group is asking members of the congregation to help them paint the railings in both stairwells on Saturday October 3rd at 10am. Please bring your own 2-inch paintbrush, small rollers, and trays if you have them. Please sign up at the Communication Table.

FOOD FOR FAMILIES



Missions is asking for help with providing items for the Food for Families program. The Church provides groceries to families at Clarendon Avenue School who qualify for free or reduced lunches. Bags of food items are given to the families for a student to take home.

There is a list of needed items for the program next to the bulletin board in the narthex. While family sized or bulk items might be more cost effective when shopping at Costco or Sam's Club, it is difficult for a young student to carry large items. It is also difficult to pack loose items for the students to carry.

There will also be a featured "Food of the Month." For the month of September, we are asking for canned chicken, tuna, or Spam.

The list will help with finding food items that are on sale. Check the expiration dates! Check the size of the package! Check off on your grocery list 1-2 items that could be donated to Food for Families!

Thank you!
Joanne and Janine

Church Directory



Would you like to be in the Church Directory? You can fill out the directory form [HERE](#). If you would like to include a photo please email them to office@fccweb.net.

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
["Way Maker"](#) by Leeland

CONTACT US

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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!