FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH • MUKWONAGO

NOVEMBER 13, 2026



Here's What's Happening at FCC



I've been thinking about advice lately. We get plenty of it. Some of it we ask for. Some of it arrives whether we asked for it or not. And there are people who seem to believe God has personally appointed them to tell the rest of us how to live. A lot of advice is well meant. But some of it is really just somebody else handing you the rules they think you ought to be following.

Do this. Never do that. Follow these five steps. Say these words. Avoid these people. And if life still falls apart, apparently you failed to follow the instructions correctly.

The book of Proverbs has a much warmer picture.

Proverbs 27:9 says:
"Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice."

I like that phrase: heartfelt advice. Because the advice that sticks usually comes from somebody who actually knows you. Not somebody who met you twelve minutes ago and has already diagnosed your entire life. A friend knows enough of the story to say, "You might want to rethink that." And if they're a really good friend, they may even wait until you finish your coffee.

I recently came across some pieces of advice people had carried with them for years.

- One grandmother told her granddaughter to clear a path to the door before going to bed. It started as fire-safety advice, but it became something bigger: don't let your life get so cluttered that you cannot find your way out.
- Another person was told: "Don't impress. Express." That came from a choir director before a competition. Stop worrying about whether everybody is impressed with you. Sing the song.
- Then there was the wedding officiant who told a couple: "When you're thirsty, get your spouse a drink." That may be better marriage advice than half the books in the marriage section. Pay attention. Notice the person beside you. If you're getting up anyway, bring back two glasses.
- And one father told his daughter: "Make your words soft and sweet, because someday you might have to eat them." I have personally had enough opportunities to test that theory to report that it is accurate.

What strikes me about all of these is that none of them are especially profound. Nobody needed a seminary degree. Nobody needed a twelve-week seminar. Nobody had to purchase the accompanying workbook for $19.95. They are simply words somebody picked up along the way and thought were worth passing on.

And maybe that is what I like about them. Nobody is trying to run somebody else's life. Nobody is saying, "If you were more like me, you would be doing better." Nobody is pretending there is one correct way to get through being human.

There is a lot of bad advice floating around disguised as wisdom. "Everything happens for a reason." "God never gives you more than you can handle." "Just stay positive." There are moments when I think the most Christian response to some of that might be to smile politely and change the subject.

Life is harder than a slogan. Grief does not care about your five-step plan. Relationships are messy. People disappoint us. We disappoint ourselves. We say things and almost immediately think, "Well, that was stupid."

And when life gets that real, the advice that matters usually gets a lot simpler. Clear a path. Sing the song. Bring two glasses. Watch your words. None of it promises to straighten out your whole life. It just gives you something useful to carry into the next part of it.

And maybe that is what Proverbs understood about heartfelt advice. Wisdom does not always arrive with a booming voice and a chapter-and-verse answer. Sometimes it sounds like somebody who knows you saying, "Here's something I learned the hard way. Maybe it'll save you the trouble." Preferably after you finish your coffee.

Blessings 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.

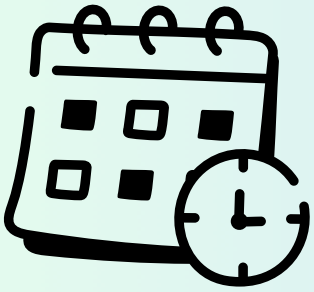
The best way to give thanks for the blessings we have received is to make sure those blessings do not stop with us.

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!



Church Business Meeting

Sunday, November 15, 2026
After Worship

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

The Drowsy Chaperone

Fellowship Event ~ November 22nd

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. Winner of five Tony Awards, including Best Book and Best Original Score, The Drowsy Chaperone is a loving send-up of the Golden Age musical, featuring one show-stopping song and dance number after another!

We will have lunch first at noon at Sol de Mexico. We will order off the menu and have separate checks. Around 1:30ish we will gather at the PAC.

We are planning to get a block of tickets and sit together so please sign up ASAP at the communication table in the narthex. General admission is $15. If you don't want to go to lunch, please indicate that when you sign up. Likewise, if you want to join us for lunch but not go to the play, indicate that on the sign-up sheet.

Questions? Contact Jean Brocker



Poinsettias can be ordered through the church Flower Committee for $8.00 for a 6 ½" potted plant. The plant color available this year is red. The deadline for ordering plants is Sunday Dec. 6. The flowers will be delivered on Dec. 18. Plants can be picked up after 10:00 am that day for gift giving, if needed. Questions? Call Rae-Ellen Preuss at 262-594-2740.



Click **HERE** to view the latest Mission School of Hope Newsletter.



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





Hello! I'm hosting a fundraiser for my next mission trip to the Dominican Republic in the summer of 2027. I have teamed up with Buchmann Bakeshop (a.k.a. my mom) to make festively decorated pretzels and sugar cookies. If you're interested, please use this **LINK** and complete the form online by Wednesday, November 18. All treats will be delivered on Sunday, December 6.

If you wish to help support my trip, but don't want any treats, you can use this form to let me know and I will connect with you.

Available Treats:
Set of 2 chocolate covered pretzel rods (milk, dark, or white chocolate) = $3
Set of 6 holiday themed sugar cookies = $18
Set of 6 Gluten Free holiday sugar cookies = $24
4-5 oz. Bag of Mini holiday sugar cookies = $15
4-5 oz Bag of Gluten Free Mini holiday sugar cookies = $19

Thank you for your continued support!
Lily Buchmann

Eight Bells ~ Adrienne Cozette

Adrienne Andrews Leslie Cozette ("Adie") was born May 18, 1934, in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a loving daughter, sister, mother, wife, aunt, teacher, mentor, and friend whose kindness and generosity touched many lives through her long life.

Daughter of Mark and Jane Andrews, and older sister to Mark ("Buzz") and William ("Wid"), Adie attended Henry Hough Elementary School in Oakland, Missouri and graduated from Kirkwood High School in 1952. She attended Columbia Bible College (Bible), Washington University St Louis (Art), and Wheaton College (Art) and graduated from Wheaton as an Art Major with High Honors in 1956. While there, she met and married Rev. Dr. William H. Leslie ("Bill") from Norwalk, Ohio. They had four beautiful children: Laurel, Lisa, Andy, and Mark.

Early years (1959-1992) were spent in Chicago, Illinois where Adrienne was an art teacher, acquired two Masters (Interdisciplinary Arts at DePaul University, Pastoral Studies at Loyola University), led workshops on art and spirituality, created an art exchange with artists in China, and taught art in the Chicago suburbs and at the Lincoln Park High School, Disney Magnet School, and The Latin School in Chicago, Illinois. She also supported her husband's ministry until his death in 1993.

She spent two years teaching at the Hong Kong International School in Hong Kong before marrying her second husband, Bernie Cozette. Together, they shared 15 grandchildren and were some of the earliest residents at Moorings Park.

Following Bernie's death, she found happiness with Milton ("Milt") Haeger. They were joined together on December 13, 2014, at the United Church of Christ in Naples, Florida. They have resided together at Moorings Park for the last 12 years and their enthusiasm, curiosity, Christian faith, and friendship have blessed many. They have traveled, sailed, played golf, served in different capacities at Moorings Park and the Naples Museum of Art, and sung with the choir at North Naples Church. They have also enjoyed immensely time with their children and 8 grandchildren. Adrienne described herself as "busier than ever as a person of purpose and faith".

Adrienne was an exceptional woman, beloved by her students and friends as well as participants of the many civic, college, and church groups for whom she led workshops or spoke. Her art was unique and celebrated nature. Her paintings have been exhibited in Chicago at the Illinois Art Education Traveling Show and Education Show at the Press Club, Alumni Show at 11 South Gallery in Chicago, Illinois Center, and Concordia College. While in Hong Kong, she taught art for a CBS-TIV affiliate in Hong Kong, for Beezwax, a weekly children's television program. She also hosted art shows at the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in Chongqing, China and the Shanghai Fine Arts Institute in Shanghai, China as well as in Naples, Florida.

In sharing her art and her faith, her hope was that "others may participate in the celebration of life that is changing, is sometimes painful, but continues to offer beautiful possibilities."

She died October 31, 2026. A service will be held at the Bower Chapel, Moorings Park, on January 9, 2027, at 11 am and will be livestreamed at https://bit.ly/AdrienneCozette by the Naples Studio.

2026
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

As we gather in this season of gratitude, we give praise to God for the faith that has carried generations of Congregationalists before us. We remember those who came seeking the freedom to worship according to conscience, and we honor the heritage they entrusted to us by living faithfully in our own time. With grateful hearts, we celebrate the blessings of Christian fellowship, the steadfastness of our churches, and the many ways God's grace is made known among us.

May this Thanksgiving draw our hearts toward one another and toward the One who is the source of all good. May we give thanks for those who strengthen our communities, for those who fill our spirits, and for the opportunities we are given to extend Christ's love to our neighbors. In gratitude for creation, may we renew our calling to care for the world God has placed in our hands.

Let our gratitude be more than words spoken for a season. May it shape the way we worship, the way we serve, and the way we welcome others. May thankfulness lead us to generosity, faithfulness, and compassion, and may the hope we have in Christ shine brightly through our lives and congregations.

This Thanksgiving, may we remember God's greatness, rejoice in the blessings we share, and go forth with gracious hearts – giving thanks in all circumstances and glorifying God in all that we do.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 107:1



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
"Come to the Table" Sidewalk Prophets

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!