

## August 2022 Branches Newsletter



**Summer Worship Service**  
**10:00 A.M.**

*Memorial Day - Labor Day*



## First Congregational United Church of Christ

*To engage and Inspire All Generations to Connect with God through Love and Service*

815 S. Concord Rd.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
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## Pastoral Ponderings . . .

### Fishing -- on land

I am not usually into poetry, but since poets strive for an emotional response [rather than an understanding of the mind] I found this one intriguing. James A Richards penned his poem focused on Matthew's Gospel 4:18: 25. In that passage we learn Jesus walks on the shore of the sea of Galilee and watches two brothers cast a net in the sea. He calls out to the fisherman, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men". Thereafter they walked with Him. This is the poem:

*I owned a little boat a while ago  
And sailed a Morning Sea without a fear,  
And whither any breeze might fairly blow  
I'd steer the little craft afar or near.  
Mine was the boat, and mine the air, and mine the Sea,  
not mine, a care . . .*

*One day there passed along the silent shore,  
While I my net was casting in the Sea,  
A man, who spoke as never man before;  
I followed him, -- new life begun in me.  
Mine was the boat, but His the voice, and His the call,  
yet mine, the choice . . .*

*Once from his boat He taught the curious throng,  
Then bade me let down nets out in the sea;  
I murmured, but obeyed, nor was it long  
Before the catch amazed and humbled me.  
His was the boat, and His the skill, and His the catch,  
and His, my will.*

I have wondered why I saved this. I realize that it continues to speak to me and, perhaps even now in 2022, for we are in times of crises where so many issues come to the forefront, seemingly as never before, without letup. What Jesus asked of those two brother sounds so simple. All he asked was, "Follow me". They did. Their life was never the same. Jesus asks you, "Follow me". If you obey your life will never be the same.

Simon Peter, Andrew, and the millions upon millions who have truly responded to Jesus and followed him away into people's lives where troubling problems cry out to be addressed have realized that it is Jesus' 'boat-world', and His the skill, and His the catch, and, we offer our will to Him. Then, amazed and humbled, we join as Jesus teaches us to cast the net Jesus wants us to cast.



-- Offered for your reflection by Pastor Barry





## Pastoral Church Committee update

There has been a dry spell in terms of candidate profiles coming our way. During this time, we're spending time re-evaluating our local church profile which was published nearly a year ago. It is a document that details important information about our church and congregation that is made available to prospective pastors who can then apply to move forward in the interview process with our church.

Although profiles must come to us through the conference, we're evaluating if there are any industry publications in which we could advertise our opening. We're also discussing consensus building and if we will ultimately require 100% consensus on our committee in order to present a candidate to the congregation and offer them the role of leading our congregation into the future.

Any questions or comments can be sent to Deb Bursinger (262-490-7902) or Jill Riemann (262-719-3823).

## Spirituality Ministry



Starting with Rally, Sunday, September 11, we will be going back to one worship service (at a still to be determined time). We are looking forward to services that include everyone who wants to participate. All of our talented musicians and speakers will be invited to share their gifts so that our services reflect our congregation as a community.

We at First Congregational UCC are a unique group; our very own unusual liturgical family. Spirituality Ministry's goal for our worship services is to look and sound like who we are and represent what is important to all of us.

While we are avoiding using labels to describe our worship for our website, Spirituality Ministry will be discussing a few ideas at our next meeting.

The following is the description of our worship that will be on the website:

"Our worship seeks to **ENGAGE, INSPIRE, and CONNECT** in a modern service that is rooted in our church's history. It reflects the deep richness of God's grace and good news, and always points us to service in the world and life in God's creation."

## Grief Workshop Part II September 20, 2022

Because of the summer plans of so many who attended the first part of the Grief Workshop, please 'Save the Date' for Part Two to September 20, 2022. I know this is many weeks away, but scheduling during the summer is difficult, and I want to make sure as many who wanted to attend the second part will be able to do so. If that day will work [97% it will], then Session One will be at 2:15pm to 3:45pm. Session Two [the same presentation] will be from 5:15pm to 6:16pm. I thank all those who attended the workshop for the sharing to make the sessions most meaningful to all.

## Youth News

### Last session of VBS at Adventure Island! August 14<sup>th</sup>

This summer we have explored Adventure Island to discover how God's light shines on each of us and how we can reflect that light as we live each day. Join us for our last session as we continue our quest for God's great light August 14 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. This is open to all children 3 years old through 4th grade. You didn't have to attend any of the previous sessions to join us for this one! Join us now and as explorers we will reveal the last pathfinder through fun and interactive activities which will equip you for an active life with God! Spread the word and invite all your friends and family. We can't wait to see you! Scan the QR to register or contact Amy Drewa at [amydrewa@oconomowocucc.org](mailto:amydrewa@oconomowocucc.org).



### Youth Group News!

"The Holy Spirit powers our faith! Our church is your launchpad, and here are the things which guide us as we soar..." Hey Youth 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.....mark your calendars and come "Launch your Faith" with us in Youth Group Sunday, September 18.

### Sunday School News!

As the stores are filling up with back to school supplies we are getting our Sunday School classrooms and lessons ready for the start of another wonderful Sunday school year! We can't wait for our halls and classrooms to be filled with laughter, engagement, and fun from God's greatest gifts!

This year we will continue to implement the Rotation model for our 2022/2023 Sunday School Year for children 3 years old through 4<sup>th</sup> grade! Each month we will focus on a specific Bible story while the children rotate weekly between the Art, Games, STEM, and Story room.

As for our Middle and High School youth they will "Connect" with one another, the bible, and their faith. They will explore biblical stories through engaging age-appropriate lessons and how it pertains to them and where they are at in life and their faith. The first Sunday of each month they will stay in worship and listen to the entire service and sermon. After the service they will meet in the Common Room for their Fellowship Time to discuss what they took away from the sermon that day.

Again, we are extremely excited to see our hallways filled with children and youth eager to grow in their faith. Watch your emails in the coming weeks for registration and other information. As always, if you have any questions, please email [amydrewa@oconomowocucc.org](mailto:amydrewa@oconomowocucc.org).

### Rally Day! Sunday, September 11

Mark your calendars to join us as we kick off the start of another great Sunday School Year! There will be a special service welcoming everyone back and per our tradition, all 3rd Graders will receive their bibles during worship. Join us after worship for a special fellowship celebration and an Open House of our Sunday School classrooms and to ask any questions.

## Confirmation

We are excited to kick off another class for young adults 9<sup>th</sup> grade and older who are looking to dive deeper and explore their faith through confirmation. In the coming weeks we will be sending out information to our rising confirmands who are going into 9<sup>th</sup> grade. We look forward to a faith filled journey with these individuals and can't wait to get started! If you have a youth who is in 9<sup>th</sup> grade or older who would like to participate in the program and hasn't been contacted by mid-August please contact Amy Drewa at [amydrewa@oconomowocucc.org](mailto:amydrewa@oconomowocucc.org).

## Oconomowoc Kids Fest

Come and visit our booth at the Oconomowoc Kids Fest August 9 from 9am -1pm at Fowler Park in Oconomowoc. Stop in and say hi and take a moment to "Climb in your Faith".

We look forward to seeing you and your friends! Games, performances, activities, inflatables, and lots of FREE fun for kids!



## 2022 Mission Trip

From July 9-15, twelve youth and six chaperones traveled to Puerto Rico where they worked in two small towns, Vega Alta and Vega Baja to be "God's Handiwork". There they worked with an extraordinary organization, Happy Givers. Happy Givers works in communities around the world to provide empowerment and resources to those recovering from natural disasters and economical challenges. While working with them our team cleaned houses, painted, did some landscaping, and built some amazing relationships. This trip was very impactful to our mission team and their experiences were shared during the worship service on July 17. These amazing young individuals and adults proudly and honorably represented our church and as a church family we all should be proud of them. They left the comforts of their every day lives to help a community and to be God's Handiwork. But this trip wouldn't have been possible without all your prayers and financial support. So, the 2022 Mission Team thanks all of you for that!

Even though this mission trip has come to an end the work and efforts of Happy Givers hasn't.

If you would like to continue to support this amazing organization and to purchase some attire, please visit: [www.thehappygivers.com](http://www.thehappygivers.com)





## Mission & Outreach



### Singing Collection

Every time we worship, loose coins in the offering are donated to a Mission Partner. The coins in the metal plates make a "joyful noise," so we call this our Singing Collection.

### August - Christmas Fund (formerly Veterans of the Cross)

August's Singing Collection will be given to The Christmas Fund (formerly Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund). The Christmas Fund is a special offering administered by the UCC that provides direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible to receive emergency grants, Christmas "Thank You" gift checks, or other financial support.

To learn more about the Christmas Fund, visit [https://www.ucc.org/ocwm\\_special-support/](https://www.ucc.org/ocwm_special-support/)

### Oconomowoc Community Choir Summer Concert August 14 at 3pm



Join the Oconomowoc Community Choir for their 2022 Summer Session Performance, "Sounds of Summer," including performances from our 2022 OCC Scholarship Recipients: Emily Fillingier, Hailey Hanson, & Elliana Olson!

You'll hear traditional choral favorites and sounds of summer fun: Do You Hear the People Sing from Les Miserables, Bridge Over Troubled Water, And So it Goes, and more, as well as some of the latest choral anthems from Sarah Quartel & Susan Brumfield!

Advance Ticket Sales: \$10      Tickets at the Door: \$12

### Piggly Wiggly Receipts



Please remember your Piggly Wiggly receipts. In order for us to receive monies, we need to collect and turn in receipts by the **end of July**. There is a collection area in Fellowship Hall or drop them off with Jennifer in the Church office.



### Food Pantry Collections

**Dates: 8/1, 9/4, 10/2, 11/6, 12/4**

Please remember your food donations for the Food Pantry. They can be placed in the barrel at the entrance to the sanctuary or dropped off at the Church office. Donations are delivered to the Oconomowoc Food Pantry.



The Rheineck "boys" starting the worship service ringing the church bell on Sunday morning with a grateful heart. LOVE their smiles and expressions; they look so excited to be bell ringers.

**"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. ~Elizabeth Andrew**

## July Outdoor Worship Service

Lots of work and helpers from shucking 60 ears of corn, to grilling hamburgers, brats and hotdogs, to slicing watermelon and dipping corn in butter setting up and cleaning up. Thank you to all for making it a memorable evening of community and worship.



**Get Ready for Back to School**



**Use SCRP Cards**


**Shop your favorite stores**  
(same prices, same service)





**Walmart+**

**Give to the Church Youth Mission Fund at the same time**



**1 pm only**  
*In Person or Zoom*

**August 18:**  
**The Women of Troublesome Creek**  
Author: Kim Michele Richardson

**September 8: DATE CHANGE!!**  
**The Only Plane in the Sky**  
Author: Garrett M. Graff





# 5th Annual Bald Eagle Car Show



**THANK YOU** to all the volunteers, businesses, and car owners who donated either their time, food/beverage, raffle items or financially!

**We had 5 sponsors, 75 volunteers, 14 businesses and 115 cars that supported our event!**

**All this support will keep the *Rich Behling aka Bald Eagle Experience* alive during every Sr. High School summer mission trip for years to come. I'm blessed to have such a supportive church family, along with my family and friends! Thank you for making this event another success! (I apologize if anyone was missed)**

Aiden Zimmer  
Amy Drewa  
Andy Meckl  
Annette Schilling  
Barb Moeller  
Barb Rux  
Becca Krueger  
Bob Johnson  
Bonnie Laugerman  
Brant Anderson  
Bryce Lau  
Charlie Lippert  
Cindy Meckl  
Dan Wiley  
Daphne (Pat Evans' daughter)  
Dave Evans  
Dave Schmidt  
Deb Bursinger  
Deb Groskopf  
Easton Meckl  
Gregg Behling  
Hadley Stronkirch  
Jackson Rheineck  
Jason Rheineck  
Jason Zellmer  
Jean Vercauteren  
Jeff Van Dam  
Jerry Lohr  
Jerry Zellmer  
Jason Sake  
Jim Sake  
Joe Leinen

John Evans  
Karen Lau  
Karl Kay  
Kathy Frey  
Kim Herro  
Kirsten Schmidt  
Kyle Zastrow  
Linda Davis  
Lisa Manthy  
Lisa Schmidt  
Lois Jackson  
Lori Pyter  
Madison Schubert  
Maggie Hollis  
Mandi Wiesner  
Marty Wiley  
Mason Buss  
Matthew Behling  
Mellissa Rheineck  
Mick Van Every  
Mickey Kellner  
Mike Herro  
Missy Garski  
Nadine Roddy  
Natalie Zellmer  
Nick Krueger  
Olivia Basile  
Pam Van Every  
Paula Lamp  
Pat Evans  
Rachel Zastrow  
Rochelle Behling  
Russell Frey

Savannah Wegner  
Steve Torretta  
Susan Perschon  
Tyler Zellmer  
Valerie Williams  
William Rheineck

## Business Donations

Ace Hardware  
American Family  
Ewald of Oconomowoc  
Dillelt Mechanical  
Great Lakes Auto  
Langer Roofing  
Picnic Basket  
Rallye Productions  
Resilient Sounds  
RockAuto.Com  
Rocky Rocco  
Rosatti's  
Tim's Auto Parts  
Uline

## Sponsors

Groskopf Construction  
Holz Motors Chevrolet  
Oconomowoc Realty  
Sobelman's Pub & Grill  
Two Tails Grooming Salon







## ***NEW MEMBER Sunday—This Fall a Celebration !***

A New Member Sunday and a New Member Brunch to celebrate those who have joined the church in 2020-2022 are being planned for October 2. There have been 31 new members since August 2020. This number includes those who joined as Profession of Faith, Transferees from other churches and those who have been confirmed since October 2020.

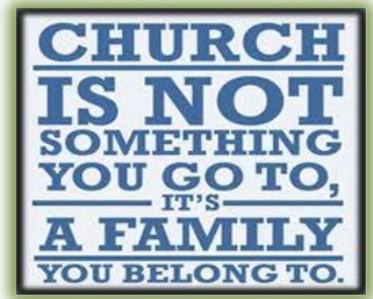
Following the October 2 worship service, our newest members and all who have joined our church are invited to attend a New Member Brunch during which time we will celebrate you being a part of our church family. Invitations will be sent closer to the brunch date.

If you are interested in becoming a part of our church family, would like to transfer their membership to First Congregational or become reinstated, please contact Linda Davis at [pldavis.pd@gmail.com](mailto:pldavis.pd@gmail.com) or 207-985-9186 to have your questions answered or to indicate your interest in joining our church. We look forward to hearing from you.

## ***Become a Sponsor for New Members***

The purpose of sponsors for new members of our church will be to ensure that they feel welcome.

Sponsors will join them as they become new members during a church service, and then take them to Fellowship and introduce them to other church members and accompany them during the fellowship hour. Sponsors will be available to answer questions they might have or direct them, if needed, to someone who can fully answer their questions or address any concerns. Sponsors will invite new members to attend church activities and events. The sponsors' role will be to serve as companions for the first six months following New Member Sunday to ensure that they feel welcome and that they are an important part of the congregation.



Please contact Linda Davis at [pldavis.pd@gmail.com](mailto:pldavis.pd@gmail.com) or 207-985-9186 to express interest in being a sponsor.



## ***It's August and Our Annual Golf Outing Planning is in Full Swing!***

### **Our Traditional Golf Outing is Ready to Tee Off!**

This year, our time-honored tradition of inviting non-golfing guests to join golfers for a social hour, dinner, live auctions, raffles, program, and fun is back since so many have loved it for years.

The golf committee has been meeting since February to ensure that this is a fun and fulfilling day for everyone. We are very fortunate to partner with the Oconomowoc Golf Club again this year. The course itself is a private course and was designed by one of the most famous golf architects of all time, Donald Ross. It is a challenging yet fun layout, and the best ball format ensures that golfers of all skill levels can enjoy a great round of golf. It doesn't matter whether you are a par golfer or have a handicap that is way up in the double digits you will enjoy this outstanding golf course. If you wish to golf, and don't have a foursome to play, please sign up; we will make it happen.

The early evening will feature a get together of both golfers and non golfers, beginning at 5:00 pm. Folks can mingle in the bar area or outside in the expanded patio and seating area. One of the great things about our church is the relationships that we have with each other and this evening provides a wonderful time to really enjoy catching up and spending time together.

Oconomowoc Golf Club is providing us with a truly outstanding dining experience. Dinner will again be served at your table; you have a choice of salmon, steak or the famous pork chop. The after dinner program will feature raffles, silent auctions, live auctions and just plain fun! All profits from the golf outing again this year will be used to further our mission to serve and strengthen our church.

Golf Outing Contests / Tees			
<b>MEN</b>			
Long Drive		Hole #	
Regular Members		#10	
Senior Members (over 65)		#11	
Closest to the Pin		# 4	
Closest to the Pin (over 65)		#12	
Long Putt		#14	
<b>WOMEN</b>			
Long Drive		# 1	
Long Drive		# 2	
Closest to the Pin		# 6	
Closest to the Pin		#17	
Long Putt		#15	
<b>TEES</b>			
#1	White/Gold	6165 yds	Male Members Under 50
#2	Gold	5946 yds	Male Members 50-75
#3	Red/Gold	5573 yds	Male Members Over 75
#4	Red	5146 yds	Female Members

**Thank you everyone for making this event a success!  
Great things happen when we gather together !**

We still have a few spots opening for this amazing day  
and evening full of fun and fellowship!

To register, visit us at [Oconomowocucc.org](https://oconomowocucc.org)  
Google form sign up [CLICK HERE](#) or  
to print and fill out registration form [CLICK HERE](#)

***We are so grateful for the businesses,  
organizations, and community members  
for their giving.***





## Hearts & Hands Preschool

**For more information:** e-mail: [preschool@oconomowocucc.org](mailto:preschool@oconomowocucc.org)

**To schedule a private tour, contact Cindy Meckl 262-567-2558 or [themeckls@gmail.com](mailto:themeckls@gmail.com).**



### **August Friday Fun** runs from 9-11am on Fridays in August.

This class is open to all children ages 2.5-4 years old

Toilet Training is NOT REQUIRED for any of our classes

Church members receive 20% off of their tuition!

More information  
plus registration forms  
can be found on our website

[www.heartsandhandspreschool.org](http://www.heartsandhandspreschool.org)

### **August Referral Contest**

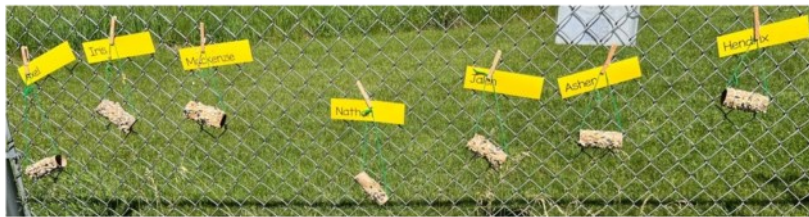
*Refer a family to our preschool during the month of August and you will receive a \$25 gas card plus a child-sized (4T or 5T) Hearts & Hands t-shirt! Help us spread the word!!*

### **June Summer Fun Class**

We had so much fun during our June class exploring and playing outside!

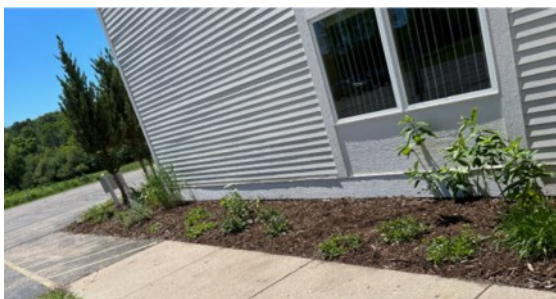
The weather cooperated beautifully and our grounds provided plenty of opportunities to explore, hike, play, enjoy, and soak in lots of nature.

Ann Corning came to talk about bees, we made nature suncatchers after a hike,



### **Thank-you Thank-you Thank-you**

A huge thank-you to Peg and Don McCollum, Sue Zajac, Kris Kyle, and John Kyle for helping weed, trim, divide, replant, and mulch the planting beds on the lower level. A cute little green frog even got in on the action. The gardens (including the Memorial Garden area) look great now—thanks to all of you! Cindy Meckl





The Church Office  
will be CLOSED  
**Monday September 5**

in observation of Labor Day.

Have a great & safe day.  
See you Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>

## Staying Connected ...

Rev. Dr. Barry W. Szymanski, Bridge Pastor [bws1mp@gmail.com](mailto:bws1mp@gmail.com)  
Amy Drewa, Pastor, Dir. of Ed. & Youth [amydrewa@oconomowocucc.org](mailto:amydrewa@oconomowocucc.org)  
Jennifer Arnold, Office Admin. [jennifer@oconomowocucc.org](mailto:jennifer@oconomowocucc.org)  
Cindy Meckl, Hearts & Hands Preschool [themeckls@gmail.com](mailto:themeckls@gmail.com)

### Upcoming

Sunday, August 7

Monday, August 8

Sunday, August 14

Monday, August 15

Thursday, August 18

Sunday, August 24

Wednesday, August 31

Sunday, September 4

Monday, September 5

Sunday, September 11

Thursday, September 8

Wednesday, September 28

Sunday, October 2

Thursday, October 20

Wednesday, October 26

Sunday, November 6

### Events

Worship with Holy Communion, Food Pantry Sunday

Red Cross Blood Drive

Vacation Bible School (VBS) 10am—12pm  
Oconomowoc Community Choir 3:00pm performance

UCC Golf Outing

Book Club 1pm in-person or Zoom

Hymn Sing Service @10am  
Outdoor Worship Services @ 5 pm

Creative Book Club 6pm

Worship with Holy Communion, Food Pantry Sunday

Observance of Labor Day, *office closed*

Rally Day

Book Club 1pm in-person or Zoom **DATE CHANGE**

Creative Book Club 6pm

New Member Sunday

Worship with Holy Communion, World Communion Day, Neighbors In Need Offering,  
Food Pantry Sunday

Book Club 1pm in-person or Zoom

Creative Book Club 6pm

Worship with Holy Communion, Food Pantry Sunday  
Daylight Saving Time ends