



JUNE/JULY 2025

Branches Newsletter



Join us for Worship Sundays at 9:30AM

Engage and **Inspire** all generations to **Connect**
with God through love and service.

Newsletter Highlights

Car Show

Into to the Revelation
Bible Study

Soles for Jesus
Volunteering

End of Life -
A Conversation

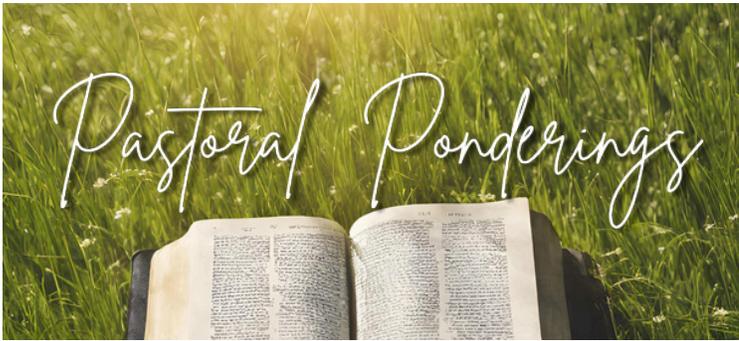
Fruits of the Spirit
Vacation Bible School

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OCONOMOWOC**

📍 815 S. Concord Road

☎ 262-567-4461

✉ uccoffice@oconomowocucc.org



by Pastor Matt

Summer Sermon Series: Your Questions?

We talk about God's "grace" all the time, but what does that really mean?

I am 89 years old, so how can I be a "child of God?"

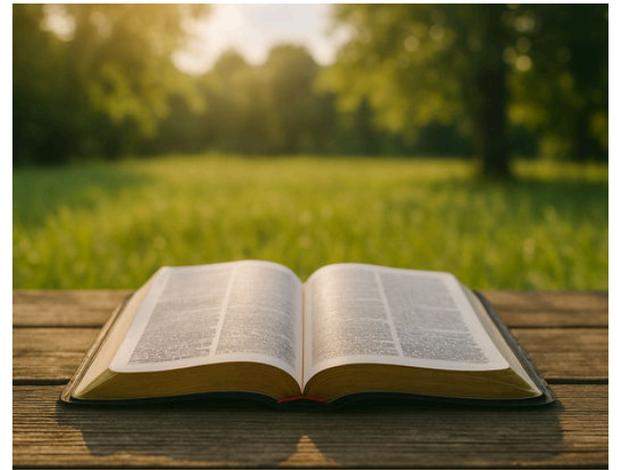
Should I come to church even if I am feeling really grumpy?



Maybe one of these connects in your gut, or maybe others gnaw at you. None of us live into Christian faith without questions. To paraphrase Frederick Beuchner, questions are the ants-in-the-pants of faith. As I prepare a sermon each week, I try to respond to the questions that grow out of the scriptures for that day. But, on my own, I cannot know your specific underlying questions, which may be very different from mine.

During July and August, our worship services will step away from the lectionary scripture readings, and I will be tackling your questions of faith. But, in order to do that effectively, I need to hear from you! What are those questions? What does not get enough attention in church, as you see it? What gets talked around in circles, but never addressed straight-up?

On the first three Sundays of June, you are invited to write down and put into the offering plates a question or two related to Christian faith and/or life, something (or things) that you think need more attention, that matter to your walk with Christ in this time and place. Look for the insert in your morning bulletin, write down your question(s), and pass them in. I have no idea exactly where this will lead us, but I'm looking forward to the journey!



Intro to Revelation Bible Study - 6:30pm Mondays June 2, 9, 16

It's not "lions and tigers and bears, oh my!" It's more like – "Spirits and lampstands and dragons and archangels and trumpets and seals and scrolls and plagues and... O my heavens!"

An amazing piece of late first-century apocalyptic writing, the Revelation has beguiled readers for nearly two millennia. Originally something that fed the hope of Christians experiencing the violent side of the Roman empire, the interpretation of its varied and dynamic symbols has shifted in the last two hundred years. But, what did Revelation mean for its first hearers? What was its purpose? Why the dramatic images? And, if it is not a coded agenda for the end of the world as we know it, what can it mean for us now? Join us for three very interesting sessions on the most enigmatic book of the Bible.

Moderator Musings

Time flies when you are having fun. It also seems to go faster when you get older. So it should not have been a surprise for me to realize that I have only 6-months left in my final term as your Moderator. That made me think of what do I want to accomplish in the waning days of my time in office. Two initiatives still need to be addressed and this is what I intend to concentrate on for the rest of the year.



- Capital Funds Drive - as was mentioned at our Spring Congregational Meeting the Stewardship Ministry is going to be working on putting together a capital funds drive to be presented for a vote in October. The purpose of the drive is to raise funds to repair the church and set it up for the next half century of service. Details of this drive will be shared as they are developed but I am excited to be working with some very gifted people on this project.

- Membership Drive - it has not gone unnoticed that our church membership has decreased over time. There are many reasons for this including changing demographics, the pandemic, and our own internal issues. Now that we have stabilized the pulpit (yeah, Matt) it is time to reexamine our community relationships and discover new ways to connect and encourage individuals to give our church a try. This is more than simple marketing. This is looking for ways to connect with the community on a one on one basis. The Leadership Team and the Membership Committee will be working over the next few months to come up with the "Next Big Ideas" to accomplish this. There will be opportunities for all congregation members to be a part of this process. Look forward to more information as it becomes available.

I (We) have a lot to do in the second half of 2025. Can we get it all done? Probably not but I firmly believe we can make a good start. Wasn't it an ancient Chinese proverb that stated that the longest trip begins with a single step? Let us together take some steps.

Yours in Christ,

Chris Mol

Moderator, First Congregational UCC

Summer Outdoor Worship Services

Join us for our Outdoor Summer Worship Services

June 15 at 9:30AM (*Father's Day*)

July 13 and August 25 at 6:00PM



All are invited to have lunch and socialize at Rockwell’s Restaurant (Shorehaven north Campus) The 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each Month Menu Options are \$15 each

Tuesday, June 10

(RSVP to Sue Zajac by Monday 6/2)

Chicken Parmesan Sandwich on a warm bun with Mozzarella cheese and Marinara sauce, served with fresh fruit and a banana pudding cup.

Turkey Caesar Salad with chopped Romaine, grape tomatoes, parmesan cheese, chopped turkey, Caesar dressing, homemade croutons, and a banana pudding cup.

Tuesday, June 24

(RSVP to Sue Zajac by Monday 6/16)

Ham & Swiss Wrap: Thin cut ham, Swiss cheese, mayo, lettuce, tomato and onion on a flour tortilla wrap, with fresh fruit and a caramel blondie bar.

Chopped Chicken Salad: Mixed greens, chopped chicken, tomatoes, carrots, cucumbers, blue cheese crumbles, bacon and candied pecans, with a side of Peppercorn ranch dressing and a caramel blondie bar.

Reserve your spot for a good time!

See Sue Zajac during Fellowship or call/text her at 414-698-3575. At each meal your cash will be collected by Sue Zajac (or designee) in order to make one payment for the group. Sorry no checks or credit cards—CASH ONLY.



Pentecost Sunday

June 8

Wear red on June 8 for Pentecost Sunday.

Mission and 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.

June’s Singing Collection

Milwaukee Women’s Center

Founded in 1980, the Milwaukee Women’s Center provides comprehensive services and treatment for women, men, and children whose lives have been affected by domestic violence, addiction, mental health issues, homelessness, and poverty.

In 2024, 2,165 individuals received services and support through the Milwaukee Womens Center Division. These services included a crisis line, family support emergency shelter, free clothing and job readiness assistance, alcohol and drug treatment, and domestic violence services.



MILWAUKEE WOMEN’S CENTER
A Division of Community Advocates
 Where Abuse Ends and Hope Begins

The Women’s Center is a place of empowerment and encouragement. For more information, contact the Milwaukee Women’s Center at 414-671-6140.

Their website is
<https://communityadvocates.net/what-we-do/milwaukee-womens-center/>

Food Pantry Sundays - First Sunday of Every Month (but welcome anytime)

The first Sunday of every month, you are invited to bring items for the Food Pantry and put them in the baskets at the entrance to the sanctuary. These donations are delivered to the Oconomowoc Food Pantry during the week.

Items that the Food Pantry accepts are:

- Non-perishables:** food items, Baby items - diapers, wipes, baby food, formula;
- Personal hygiene items:** soap, shampoo, tampons, sanitary pads, deodorant, toothpaste, laundry detergent, toilet paper.



June 1 & July 6

Please be sure before you donate that all perishable items are within their use dates and have not expired.

Mission and Outreach

July's Singing Collection

Church World Service



Our July Singing Collection will be going to Church World Service; an international service organization. Church World Service (CWS) was born in the aftermath of World War II. At that time, the organization mobilized 11 million pounds of food, clothing and medical supplies to war-torn Europe and Asia. Shortly after, they began to welcome refugees to the United States and resettled 100,000 people in the first 10 years. Eighty years later, CWS's mission stays the same: go to where they are needed most in the world and help.

They resettle tens of thousands of refugees a year. They work with everyone from local communities to the United Nations to provide food, clean water, supplies, medical care and social resources. The CROP walk, one of the best known walks for hunger in the US, is a CWS event. Historically, if you can think of any major humanitarian crisis in any part of the world, CWS was there. And, with our help, they will continue to be there.

Welcome new members, *Laura Slocum and Ken Young to First Congregational UCC!*



Laura Slocum



Ken Young



Barb Bleecker made these beautiful fidgets to distribute to dementia patients at Aurora Summit. They help patients keep their hands busy.

Thanks to Barb for all her hard work! If anyone else would be interested in making fidgets, please reach out to Linda Davis.



JOIN US

S.O.S. Mission Moment - Sort & Organize Shoes

**Saturday,
June 7**

9 a.m - 11 a.m.
(lunch afterwards)

8835 W. Heather Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53224

Calling all volunteers ages 11 and up!

Take a meaningful break from your routine and be part of something impactful. Join us for an intergenerational mission experience on Saturday, June 7, from 9:00–11:00 a.m., followed by a shared lunch as we reflect on the morning's service.

Together, we'll support the incredible mission of Soles for Jesus—an organization dedicated to providing shoes to those in need across Africa. For many, owning even one pair of shoes is a luxury we often take for granted. This is your chance to be part of the solution!

You'll participate in a S.O.S. (Sort & Organize Shoes) experience, learning firsthand how donated shoes are prepared for shipment to communities in need. Whether you prefer to sit or stay active, there's a role for everyone, regardless of physical ability.

We'll also be delivering over 255 pairs of shoes collected from our recent rummage sale and shoe drive! In addition, May's Singing Collection will help cover the shipping costs to get these shoes to Africa—because every step matters.

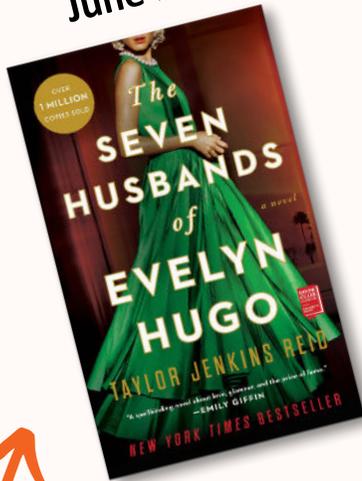
Let's serve together, grow together, and make a difference together.

To sign up, please contact Rochelle Behling at 262-352-0736 or rochelle.behling@gmail.com by Friday, May 30.

Soles For Jesus, Inc.
8835 W. Heather Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53224



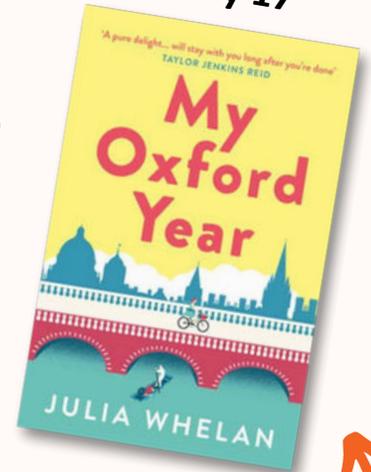
June 19



COME AND JOIN US AT OUR

BOOK CLUB

July 17



Socialize and form friendships by joining us for an immersive experience at Book Club. Book Club gives you a chance to get to know people you may never have had contact with otherwise! We enjoy reading and respectfully discussing a broad range of viewpoints as we seek to grow in our understanding of our Lord and one another. Join us to gain knowledge, creativity and community. Everyone in the Book Club gets a chance to pick a future book of the month. Come help us discover something new!

Join us at 1:00PM in person or Zoom next month. If you prefer Zoom please contact Jean Vercauteren for details.

All are welcome to join for any book and discussion.



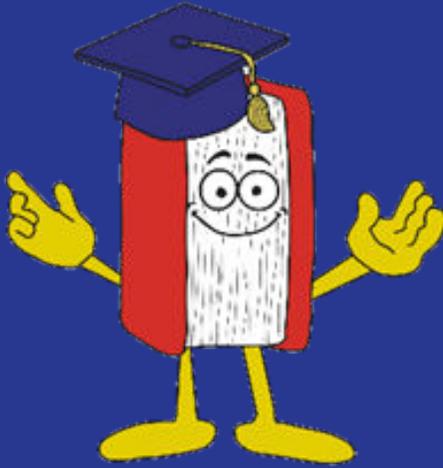
Intro to The Revelation

B I B L E S T U D Y

Mondays - June 2, 9, & 16 at 6:30PM

The Revelation to John is a vexing, obsession-sparking, and truly fascinating piece of 1st century writing that attracts both curious readers and passionate theorists. It was written for the purpose of strengthening the faith of people in seven churches spread across Asia Minor (mostly modern-day Turkey), in a time when the emperor was quietly blessing local harassment of non-compliant religious groups. We think the Revelation was written at the time of the emperor Domitian, sometime between 90 AD and 95 AD. These three sessions will explore the wider context for The Revelation, and the overall sweep of its message for its original hearers.





Book Ahead

Book Ahead provides free books to underserved children in Milwaukee and Waukesha County.

Volunteers Needed

Book Bags need to be filled with books for kids for a delivery in early June. Please join us on **June 5th at 10AM** for a fun couple of hours. We will carpool to the Book Ahead office.

Please contact Susan Steffens (steffens054@gmail.com) or call **262-227-9919** for more information or to sign up.



262-227-9919



steffens054@gmail.com

END OF LIFE A CONVERSATION

JUNE 12, 2025 AT 11:15AM

IN THE MUSIC ROOM
SPONSORED BY THE LEGACY COMMITTEE

Our guest D.J. Palmiter, a specialist from Pagenkopf Funeral Home, will be sharing information important to all of us regardless of our age or life circumstances. We will also hear from Pastor Matt and others during this hour session.

Lunch and casual conversation will follow. Please join the Legacy Committee as sponsor of this very special, informative and timely session.



Rain
or Shine

8th Annual Bald Eagle Car Show



Saturday, June 14, 2025

10 am - 2 pm

First Congregational UCC Grounds

9 am cars & bikes arrive

Food • Beer • Music • Raffles

Bikers Welcome



**GUARANTEE A DASH PLAQUE
PREREGISTER BY June 7, 2025**

CONTACT: Andy Meckl 262-720-1876

EMAIL TO: TheMeckls@gmail.com

First Congregational UCC of Oconomowoc

815 S. Concord Road, Ocon., WI 53066

www.oconomowocucc.org

*Fundraiser for
Youth Mission Trips
in memory of
Rich Behling
"The Bald Eagle"*

Platinum Sponsors



Click [here](#) to
Volunteer
or scan below



**sobelmann's
PUB
&
GRILL**



Gold Sponsors

Groskopf Construction
Oconomowoc Realty

FRUITS



of the Spirit



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

for children 3 years old -4th grade

July 8-10

1PM - 4PM

[Click here](#)



to register or scan
the QR code



Let us grow together with the Fruits of the Spirit through fun games, engaging activities, craft projects, music, worship, and snacks! Together we will grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control and learn how to share it with others!

SO.....

*Come and see
where God's Fruit Grows!*

First Congregational UCC
815 S. Concord Rd
Oconomowoc, WI 53066



First Congregational UCC of Oconomowoc

invites you to join us at the

2025 Annual Golf Outing

to benefit the ministry and mission of First Congregational UCC

Monday, August 11, 2025

Where:

Oconomowoc Golf Club
5621 Brown Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Check-In, Warm-Up, Box Lunch:

10:00-11:30 am

Shotgun Start:

11:30 am

Dinner:

6:00 pm

Entry Includes:

18 holes of golf on a private Donald Ross course
Practice range and green available before your round

Box Lunch
Golf Contests
Dinner

Silent Auction; Raffles Prizes and Live Auction

FELLOWSHIP



All are Welcome to join in the fun!

Invite family, friends, neighbors and coworkers to play.
No matter your group size or skill, we will match you up.



To register: visit us at
oconomowocucc.org or
Click [here](#) or scan to Register

Golf and Dinner Registration

Dinner Choices: French Pork Chop, Dill Sauce Salmon, Baseball Sirloin Steak

GOLF AND DINNER REGISTRATION

(Premium package includes 3 mulligans, 25 raffle tickets, 1 drink ticket, and entrance into the "Hole in One" Contest.)

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Entrée Choice: _____ Premium Package _____
Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Entrée Choice: _____ Premium Package _____
Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Entrée Choice: _____ Premium Package _____
Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Entrée Choice: _____ Premium Package _____

_____ # of Golf/Dinner Registrations @ \$210 + _____ # of Premium Packages @ \$25 = \$ _____

NON-GOLFER DINNER ONLY REGISTRATION

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Entrée Choice: _____
Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Entrée Choice: _____
Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Entrée Choice: _____
Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Entrée Choice: _____

_____ # of Dinner Registrations @ \$55 = Dinner Only Total \$ _____

Special Recognition will be made for all Sponsors

Deadline for sponsorship sign-ups and payment is August 1, 2024

Hole Sponsor	\$125	_____	Drink Ticket Sponsor	\$150	_____
Par Sponsor	\$250	_____	Cart Sponsor	\$500	_____
Birdie Sponsor	\$600	_____	(includes two dinners, please add name above)		
Eagle Sponsor	\$1200	_____	(includes one golfer and dinner, please add name above)		
Ace Sponsor	\$2200	_____	(includes foursome for golf and dinner, please add names above)		

Sponsor Name: _____ Contact Person: _____

Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Final deadline for all registrations and checks are due by July 21, 2025. Please make checks payable to: First Congregational UCC with "Golf Outing" in the memo and mail to 815 S. Concord Road, Oconomowoc, WI 53066. Or simply pay online at oconomowocucc.org and click on the "Give" button.

There is a 3.5% convenience fee if using a credit card.

Youth News

College & High School Graduates

Join us on **June 1** during the 9:30 worship service as we celebrate and recognize our 2025 graduates! As a church family let us come together with our excitement and well wishes to celebrate this milestone with them!

VBS

Summer is here and it's time to fill the schedule with some fun! Register today for Vacation Bible School, July 8-10 from 1-4PM! Come join us as we grow with the Fruits of the Spirit through fun games, engaging activities, craft projects, music, worship, and snacks! Together we will grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control and learn how to share it with others. This is open to all church members, friends and family in 3 years old-4th grade. Let us come together and see where God's fruit Grows! [Click here](#) to register.



WANTED... Vacation Bible School Volunteers

HEY ADULTS AND YOUTH.....

Come have some fun this summer at our Vacation Bible School as we help children learn and grow in the Fruits of the Spirit on our church grounds July 8-10! Please [click here](#) to see how you can help! This is a fun and great way to share the Fruits of the Spirit with our children in congregation and our community!!! If you have any questions, please contact Amy Drewa at amydrewa@oconomowocucc.org.



Fruits of our Labor Garden

Our children and youth garden is planted and growing strong! Come and join us as we work together, build community, learn how to garden, and enjoy the possibilities God provides us. All children and youth are invited to join us on the second Sunday of each month this summer during the 9:30 worship services. We look forward to growing with you this summer!

Mission Trip

Please keep our 2025 Summer Youth Mission Team in your prayers as they travel to La Center, Kentucky July 20-25. During their time there they will be the hands and feet of Jesus doing small work projects, building relationships, and spreading Christian love to those they encounter. Mark your calendars for July 27 for Mission Sunday to hear about their experiences. Thank you to everyone who has supported this group with prayers, monetary donations, and participation in our fundraisers. If it wasn't for all of you this trip wouldn't be possible!

HEARTS & HANDS

Celebrating ALL of God's Children

August Friday Fun

“Fly with Me”

Join us from **9-11 on August 1,8,15 & 22** for some butterfly fun! This class is open to ALL children ages 25 months - 4 years old. Cost is \$120 (\$96 for church members).

Fall Classes

Fall classes are filling fast so there are only a few spots available. We have classes from 1-3 times/week for ages 2.5 - 4K.

Registration information is available on our website: www.heartsandhandspreschool.org

Mrs. Schmeling is RETIRING after this school year!

Mrs. Schmeling is retiring after this school year after being a part of the Hearts & Hands Team for 16 glorious years!

We are so blessed to have had Teresa be a part of our team for all of these years! She will be missed although we are so excited for her to enter this next phase in her life.

We are hiring!

Due to Mrs. Schmeling retiring, we will be hiring her replacement for next year and if you know anybody looking for an amazing part-time position, send them our way!! We are looking for someone to work Tuesdays & Thursdays and most Fridays from 8:30-11:30. We follow the Oconomowoc school district calendar meaning you are off when your kids are (including summers)!



[CaringBridge page](#)
[Apparel shop](#)
[GoFundMe page](#)

Whatever prayers and support you can give this family is much appreciated!

Eleanor is off her ventilator and officially on the heart transplant list! She continues to amaze everyone at her determination and fight!



Joyce and Cindy:

We have worked together so long, we even dress alike!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Brian Hahn for trimming and mowing the playground!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Graduation Sunday: June 1

Intro to the Revelation - Bible Study: June 2 (6:30PM)

Book Ahead Bag Packing: June 5 (10:00AM)

Soles for Jesus Volunteer Event: June 7 (9:00AM - 11:00AM)

Music Sunday: June 8

Intro to the Revelation - Bible Study: June 9 (6:30PM)

Ladies Luncheon: June 10 (11:15AM)

End of Life - A Conversation: June 12 (11:15AM)

Car Show: June 14 (10:00AM - 2:00PM)

Outdoor Summer Worship: June 15 (9:30AM)

Intro to the Revelation - Bible Study: June 16 (6:30PM)

Book Club: June 19 (1:00PM)

Ladies Luncheon: June 24 (11:15AM)

Independence Day (Office Closed): July 4

Ladies Luncheon: July 8 (11:15AM)

Vacation Bible School: July 8 - 10

Work Saturday: July 12

Hymn Sing: July 13 (9:30AM)

Outdoor Summer Worship: July 13 (6:00PM)

Book Club: July 17 (1:00PM)

Mission Trip: July 20 - 26

Ladies Luncheon: July 22 (11:15AM)

Mission Sunday: July 27

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT
WWW.OCONOMOWOCCUCC.ORG

STAY CONNECTED AND FALL INTO CHURCH WITH US

Rev. Matt Schneider-Adams, Senior Pastor pastor@oconomowocucc.org

Amy Drewa, Director of Children & Youth amydrewa@oconomowocucc.org

Karl Kay, Music Director karlkay@execpc.com

Cindy Meckl, Hearts & Hands Preschool themeckls@gmail.com

August articles are due no later than **Tuesday, July 15** to natalie@oconomowocucc.org