



JUNE/JULY 2026

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

Sunday Funday

Golf Outing

Parking Lot Paving

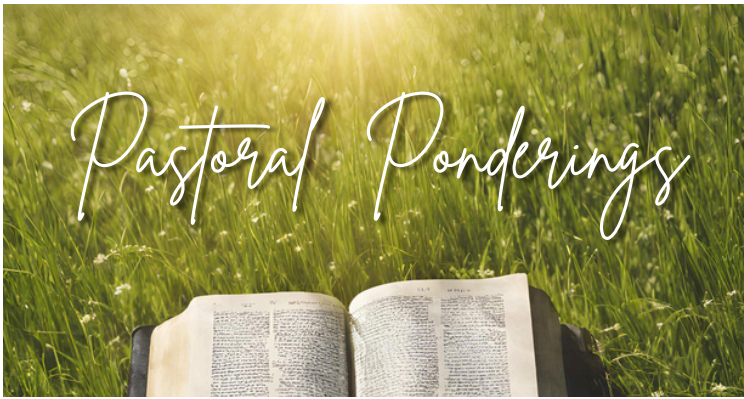
Father's Day Outdoor
Worship

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OCONOMOWOC**

📍 815 S. Concord Road

☎ 262-567-4461

✉ uccoffice@oconomowocucc.org



by Pastor Matt

A passage from the prophet Isaiah echoes in my head every time I look into the night sky:

*To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.*

Isaiah 40:25-26

I've said this before: gazing up into the dark night sky is one of the great moments in human life. Because, while your feet planted on this earth, spinning as it moves around the sun, your own physical eyes are seeing light that's traveled literally millions of years to get to them. There is nothing between your eyes and the star where that light began except some air, some dust, and DISTANCE. We can see, and calculate, but cannot begin to grasp the scale. It's breathtaking – pure wonder.

We humans lose the gift of wonder at our peril. But, in the moment we just don't see it. In the moment what we see is the next thing, the success that secures our self-esteem, or the human-scale goals we set for ourselves, or the hurdles framed by ourselves or others. The default setting for our vision is right-here-right-now, or this next three months, or if we're really looking ahead, the next five years.

Because that is what we ourselves can shape. It's how we make forward progress, one step at a time. But, micro-focus also brings problems, like 1) without regular drenching in awe, our vision of our place in the grand scheme of things withers. And more importantly 2) our sense of who God is shrinks.

Tish Harrison Watson writes, *"In our culture and discourse, God is [being] reduced to a sociological artifact that we fight about. It's like God is a corpse on a table that we debate about as medical examiners, instead of this living being we can know."*

When the wonder at God's works is shrunken down to a useful brand name or a partisan logo, something has gone seriously wrong. The effects of that brokenness are ultimately dark and widespread and very painful. One way to push back, to restore awe, is to notice the wonder of God around us, to open our eyes and hearts to all that God is doing, to the magisterial scale of the blessing that this life is – in this moment, and every single day.

Make time this summer to look up at the night sky – or down into the earth, or into the eyes of another. Bring into your prayerful moments scriptures that voice the wonder of God – Psalm 8, 19, 24, 29, 46, 90, 92, 104; Isaiah 40, and so many others. Give thanks for breath, and love, for forgiveness, and laughter, and for the God who both gives birth to stars AND loves humans, even you and me, so deeply as to be born into our skin to redeem all that has gone wrong on our watch.

To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Indeed.

Moderator Musings

by Deb Bursinger

“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:29-31.



As Wisconsinites, the anticipation of a warm and fun-filled summer after a cold winter and rainy spring, is something that we experience every year. The excitement and hope grows as we see signs of spring. We are refreshed and energized as the days grow longer and the temperature becomes warmer. We use that energy and passion to clean and prepare our homes and gardens for the good things to come in the summer.

As we are well aware, church congregations also experience seasons of darkness and of renewed energy and hope. Together, we experienced a challenging time in the life of this church with the pandemic and a long pastoral search. Through all of the difficulties, we anticipated better times and we were justly rewarded when Pastor Matt agreed to become our spiritual leader. We have felt renewed energy in the church under the leadership of Pastor Matt and Amy and our lay leaders.

But now is not the time to relax or sit on our hands. It's time to use our hands to “soar on wings like eagles” - to use our renewed energy to do good in our church and community. If you have the time and the energy, give it to the church. There are so many opportunities to lend a hand and it's more fun and productive if we work and play together! Our daily efforts and positive works are a direct expression of faith, bringing glory to God and benefiting people around us.

Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.



Next Branches articles are due

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15



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 9

(RSVP to Sue Zajac by Monday, 6/1)

Tuesday, June 23

(RSVP to Sue Zajac by Monday, 6/15)

Menu options will be shared on the narthex table once available.

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.

Caring Connection

Caring connection is a network of volunteers from our congregation who send cards, help out at funerals and give meals to those in need. We also participate in a confidential prayer chain, drive members to church, visit those at home or in a retirement community and take cards and plants at Christmas time to members who are homebound, bereaved or in a retirement community.

This month we are highlighting our transportation group.



This group is in need of volunteers to provide transportation to church members who are unable to participate in our church life due to not having rides to worship or church events. Please consider thoughtfully volunteering for this needed event.

Please contact Erica Kiser 630-639-8834 or Pam Van Every 262-424-6500

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 Singing Collection

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states and in more than 70 countries around the world. Habitat’s vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat works toward this vision by building and improving homes in partnership with individuals and families in need of a decent and affordable place to live.

They rely on equipment, supplies, and financial donations from various organizations, along with household, furniture, and other personal donations to their Restores.



Habitat for Humanity®

The profits from the Restores supplement the other expenses needed to execute on their vision. You would be amazed what you can find if doing any home projects to support your efforts!

We have been partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Washington & Dodge Counties. This past fall/winter we have been working on a house in Hartford laying cement and floating laminate floors in two of the bedrooms, as well as preparing for the Kewaskum house building wall frames in the warehouse on very cold Saturdays. No skill or experience is needed when volunteering with Habitat. They provide all the knowledge, training, equipment and supplies. The tasks they offer are based on your skill, interest and willingness to learn. We tend to book the fourth Saturday of the month. Come join us this Fall to get your hands dirty or financially support their vision during our June singing collection!

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 7 & July 5

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

Singing Collection - Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who has donated loose coins to the offering since the start of the New Year! The Singing Collections truly were "Singing" with all money going to help the people and wildlife of Waukesha County. Please continue to give generously as we enter the Summer months!

January: Helping Hands Fund \$362.41

February: Bethany Recovery Center \$363.03

March: Wildlife in Need \$559.09

April: Lake Area Free Clinic \$535.06

July Singing Collection

Our July Singing Collection will support **Church World Service (CWS)**, a global humanitarian organization dedicated to helping people in times of crisis. Founded in the aftermath of World War II, CWS provided millions of pounds of food, clothing, and medical supplies to war-torn communities across Europe and Asia.

Soon after, they began welcoming refugees to the United States, helping resettle more than 100,000 people in their first decade of service.

Today, more than 80 years later, the mission of CWS remains the same: to serve those who need help most. From responding to natural disasters and humanitarian crises to providing food, clean water, medical care, and refugee support, CWS works alongside local communities and international partners around the world to bring hope and healing. They are also the organization behind the well-known CROP Hunger Walks held across the United States.

For generations, whenever disaster or crisis has struck somewhere in the world, CWS has been there to help. Through your generous support of our July Singing Collection, we can continue to be part of that life-changing mission.



A New Member informational meeting for prospective members and others interested in learning more about our church will take place on **Sunday, August 9th at 11AM** in the church office conference room with the Membership Committee. Please let Pastor Matt know that you will be attending.

On **September 13th** New Member Sunday will be held during which time those interested in becoming members of our church family will be warmly welcomed into our membership. *Please contact the Church Office if you are interested in attending the September 13th meeting and/or in becoming a member.*



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.



Coffee with the Pastor

Tuesdays
1PM to 3PM

Join us at Roots Café. A time for conversation, connection, and community.

All are welcome!



SUPPORT THE OCONOMOWOC FOOD PANTRY

First Sunday of the month

Place donations of unexpired food and toiletries in the baskets.

Donations made during the month may be placed in the blue barrel by the coat rack in Fellowship Hall.



Thank you for thinking of your neighbors in need.



Rain or
Shine

9th Annual Bald Eagle Car Show



Saturday, June 20, 2026

10a.m. - 2 p.m.

First Congregational UCC Grounds
815 S. Concord Road, Oconomowoc

9 a.m. cars & bikes arrive

Food · Beer · Music · Raffles



Bikers Welcome



\$10 Show Car Registration Fee

DASH PLAQUE & GOODIE BAG

CONTACT: Andy Meckl 262-720-1876

EMAIL: 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



Gold Sponsors

Groskopf Construction

Oconomowoc Realty

First Congregational UCC of Oconomowoc

invites you to join us at the

2026 Annual Golf Outing

to benefit the ministry and mission of First Congregational UCC

Monday, August 10, 2026

Where:

Oconomowoc Golf Club
5621 Brown Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Check-In, Warm-Up, Box Lunch:

10:00-11:00 am

Shotgun Start:

11:00 am

Dinner:

6:00 pm

Check-In for Dinner Only as early as 3:30 pm.

Please join us for Contests and Fun!!

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
Scan Here 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, 10 raffle tickets, 1 drink ticket, 1 commemorative logo golf ball, 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 @ \$195 + _____ # 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 @ \$50 = Dinner Only Total \$ _____

Special Recognition will be made for all Sponsors

Deadline for sponsorship sign-ups and payment is July 27, 2026

Hole Sponsor	\$125	_____	Drink Ticket Sponsor	\$175	_____
Par Sponsor	\$250	_____	Cart Sponsor (your logo on the cart hangers)	\$500	_____
Birdie Sponsor	\$500	_____			
Eagle Sponsor	\$1000	_____			
Ace Sponsor	\$2000	_____			

(Includes foursome for golf and dinner, please add names above.
This does not include a Premium Package.)

Sponsor Name: _____ Contact Person: _____

Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Final deadline for all registrations and checks are due by July 20, 2026. 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.



Sunday

FUN DAY

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UCC OCONOMOWOC

Together, we'll
explore just how
amazing and
surprising God's
grace truly is.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

1PM – 5PM

Dinner following at 5PM

Event Highlights

**EXCITING GAMES & ACTIVITIES
CREATIVE CRAFTS
TASTY TREATS**



Register

**For ages 3
years old to
8th grade**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: AMYDREWA@OCONOMOWOCUCC.ORG

**SUNDAY FUNDAY IS MORE THAN AN EVENT, IT'S AN EXPERIENCE
YOUR KIDS WON'T WANT TO MISS!**

Youth News



College and High School Graduates

We are excited to celebrate an incredible milestone with our graduates, both high school and college! Join us on June 7 during the 9:30 a.m. service as we honor and recognize all they have accomplished. We are so proud of you and can't wait to celebrate this special moment together!



VBS

Summer is here and it's time to CELEBRATE!!!! Join us for a one day Sunday Funday Surprise Party Vacation Bible School, Sunday, August 16 from 1-5PM! Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of laughter, joy, and a few delightful surprises because when Jesus is involved, the unexpected is always part of the celebration! Together we will explore stories of how Jesus shows up at parties, sharing meals, and turning expectations upside down. His guest list isn't what people expect....it's better. Everyone is welcome, especially those who feel left out, overlooked, or unsure if they belong. And that's the good news we'll celebrate together: God's grace is for everyone. [Click here](#) to register today and invite your friends!!!

WANTED.....Vacation Bible School Volunteers

HEY ADULTS AND YOUTH..... this Sunday Funday Surprise Party isn't just for kids its for kids of all ages!! Come join this unforgettable Sunday Funday filled with joy, laughter, surprises, and God's amazing grace! We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help make this special day a success through games, crafts, snacks, Bible activities, decorating, set-up, clean-up, and more. Whether you love working behind the scenes or leading the fun, there's a place for everyone to serve! Come be part of sharing God's love, welcoming every child, and helping create a celebration they'll never forget. [Click here](#) to sign up or contact Amy Drewa at amydrewa@oconomowocucc.org.

Mission Trip-

Please keep our 2026 Summer International Youth Mission Team in your prayers as they prepare to travel to Parrita, Costa Rica, July 11–17! During their week of service, they will be the hands and feet of Jesus through meaningful masonry work, building relationships, and sharing Christ's love with everyone they meet.

Be sure to mark your calendars for **Mission Sunday** on **July 19 at 6 PM**, where the team will share stories, experiences, and the impact God made through this incredible journey. Thank you to everyone who has supported this mission through prayers, donations, and participation in our fundraisers. Your generosity and encouragement are helping make this life-changing experience possible for our youth and the community they will serve!

HEARTS & HANDS

Celebrating ALL of God's Children

Another successful school year has come and gone!
Now we look forward to returning for August Friday Fun and fall!



The kids had so much fun making these dande"lions"!

Fall 2026

Fall Registration is Open! We have classes for ages 25 months - 4K!
 August Friday Fun class "What's in My Garden" is open for registration!
 To sign up for any of our classes, see our website:

<https://www.heartsandhandspreschool.org/programs>

FYI: To register for any of our classes, you will need to download and sign up for our classroom app, Brightwheel.

Learn more here



AUGUST FRIDAY FUN 2026

WHAT IS IN MY GARDEN??

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN AGES 25 MONTHS - 4 YEARS OLD

Enjoy 3 Fridays full of garden fun!!



REGISTER

August 7, 14 & 21

9-11 AM



Cost: \$90



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Coffee with the Pastor: June 2 (1PM—3PM)
Graduation Sunday, Spring Congregational Meeting: June 7 (10:30AM)
Church Office & Parking Lot Closed for Paving: June 8 - June 13
Ladies Luncheon: June 9 (11:15AM)
Coffee with the Pastor: June 9 (1PM—3PM)
Centering Prayer: June 11 (6PM)
Bible Study on chapters 20-21: June 11 (6:30PM)
Work Saturday: June 13
Outdoor Worship with Dr. Martin Luther Church at Roosevelt Park: June 14 (10AM)
Coffee with the Pastor: June 16 (1PM—3PM)
Book Club: June 18 (1PM)
RISE Nature Arts & Crafts: June 18 (5:30PM)
Car Show: June 20 (10AM)
RISE at Whelans: June 20 (noon)
Father's Day Outdoor Worship: June 21 (9:30AM)
Ladies Luncheon: June 23 (11:15AM)
Coffee with the Pastor: June 23 (1PM—3PM)
Office Closed in Observance of Independence Day: July 3
Coffee with the Pastor: July 7 (1PM—3PM)
Work Saturday: July 11
Mission Trip: July 11 - 17
Ladies Luncheon: July 14 (11:15AM)
Coffee with the Pastor: July 14 (1PM—3PM)
Centering Prayer: July 16 (6PM)
Bible Study on chapters 22-23: July 16 (6:30PM)
RISE at Whelans: July 18 (noon)
Mission Sunday and Outdoor Worship: July 19 (6PM)
Coffee with the Pastor: July 21 (1PM—3PM)
Ladies Luncheon: July 28 (11:15AM)
Coffee with the Pastor: July 28 (1PM—3PM)

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT
WWW.OCONOMOWOCUCC.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