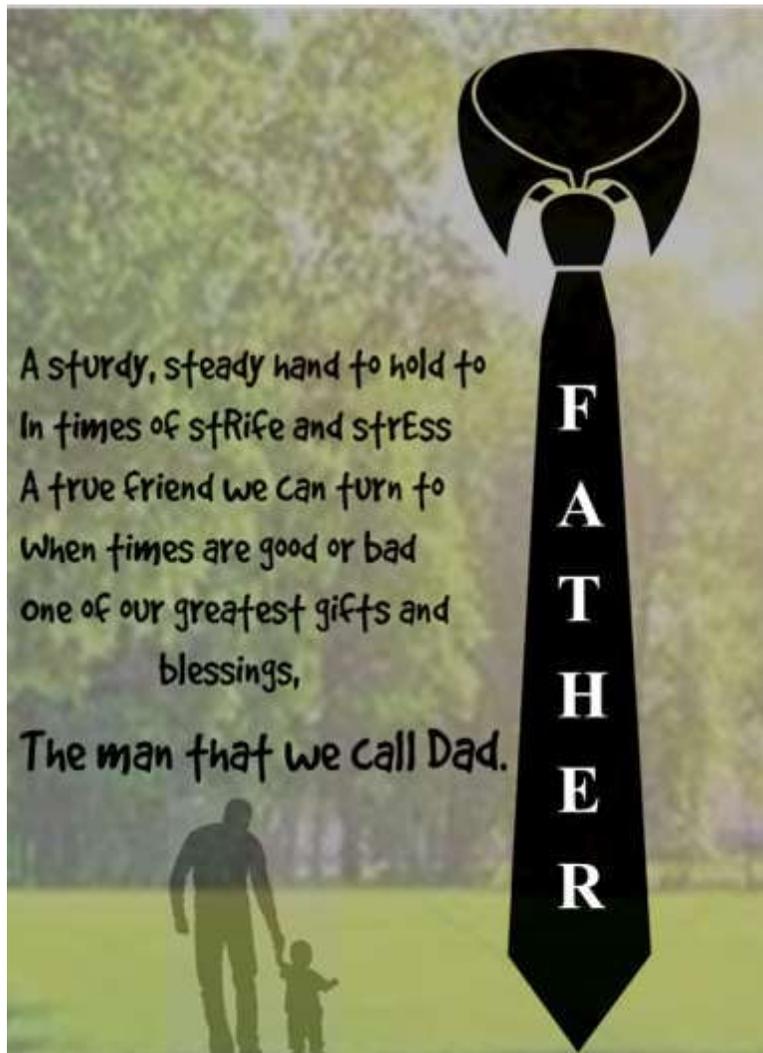


June / July 2022 Branches Newsletter



**The righteous who walks in his integrity -
blessed are his children after him!**

Proverbs 20:7



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
www.oconomowocucc.org

Phone: 262.567.4461
Fax: 262.567.5533
Email: uccoffice@oconomowocucc.org

Pastoral Ponderings . . .

I am upset!!!!

Has anybody offended you? The answer is, of course! But we protest: 'I was hurt!'. 'I've been insulted!'. 'They are unworthy of forgiveness!' Forgiveness is a tough concept to accept. Most of us struggle to forgive. It doesn't matter if you are 6 years old, or 60 years old. Even if you consider yourself easy-going, to forgive is very difficult. If we bristle at the thought of having been offended, remember that God is offended by our sins. When we feel that a person who hurt us is unworthy of our forgiveness, then we should reflect on our relationship to God and how He continually forgives us. Remember Jesus told us that ". . . *If you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses . . . You are of more value than many sparrows.*" Matthew 6:15; 10:31 [NRSV] Even if we cannot bring ourselves to unconditionally love those who offend us, let us lovingly forgive because God's loving grace has forgiven us. It is when our hearts are cold and rigid that we must let God's loving grace which flows from Him, pour from us. We can love because God loves. We can forgive because God forgives. Let us not forget that Jesus tells us we are worthy because God deems us to be worthy, therefore others are worthy because God deems them to be worthy. *May this be our prayer: Our Father, forgive us our sins, debts, wrongs, rudeness, and trespasses as we forgive those indebted to us, who have wronged us, been rude to us, trod over us, and hurt us. Jesus may your loving grace fill us as we work to forgive as we are forgiven. Amen.*



*submitted for your reflection
by Pastor Barry*

*My email is
barrywszymanski@sbglobal.net*

Rain
or Shine

5th Annual Bald Eagle Car Show



Saturday, June 18, 2022
10 am - 2 pm
First Congregational UCC Grounds
 815 S. Concord Rd, Oconomowoc
9 am cars & bikes arrive
Food • Beer • Music • Raffles

**Bikers
Welcome**





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

PREREGISTER BY June 11, 2022 TO GUARANTEE A DASH PLAQUE
 Registration: <https://forms.gle/z2yVtNChEmcNeXrt7>
CONTACT: Andy Meckl 262-720-1876
EMAIL TO: TheMeckls@gmail.com

Event Sponsors



OCONOMOWOC
REALTY LLC



Sobelman's
PUB
& GRILL



HOLZMOTORS
Wisconsin's Largest Selection of New Chevrolets

5th Annual Car Show . . .

Sign-up is available for donating your time, raffle and/or food tent items to support our youth mission experiences for high school students for years to come. [Click here!](#)

Do you have a car you want to show off? Please bring it out and join all the car enthusiasts on our beautiful grounds! [Register here](#)

This event is in memory of Rich Behling aka "The Bald Eagle" otherwise known as by the high school students. Rich was passionate about having fun, fellowship, and learning while serving those in need.

As many of you know, this idea came to fruition during the 2017 Canada youth mission trip. Rich and Easton Meckl shared a love for classic cars and thought this would be an awesome youth mission fundraising event. Rich said, "Let's make this happen", so Easton and I have made it happen and continue to do so along with his dad, Andy Meckl, Amy Drewa (Director of Youth Education), Rachel Zastrow (daughter of Rich), Rebecca Krueger (daughter of Rich), Mick & Pam Van Every (friends of Rich), and Jason Rheineck (church member).

If you are interested in learning more how you can assist with the car show, contact Rochelle Behling at rochelle.behling@gmail.com

Youth News

It's not too late. Join us for Vacation Bible School on Adventure Island

At Adventure Island VBS, children and youth 3 years old-4th grade will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible based good time on their quest for God's great light. They will become Explorers and discover how God's light shines on us and how we can reflect that light as we live each day. After a high-energy Opening Assembly time, the Explorers make their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons reveal Pathfinders to equip your Explorers for an active life with God. The students will expand on what they've discovered by making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring the wonders of God's creation at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station. Join us as we discover God's great light at Adventure Island where there is NO cost for all participants! Come for one, two or all sessions on June 12, July 10 and/or August 14 from 9 – 11 a.m. Spread the word and invite your friends and family. Scan the QR to register.



Come “serve” on Adventure Island during Vacation Bible School!

Adventure Island isn't just for 4th graders and younger! We are in need of volunteers to join us to see how God's light shines in all of us. Youth 5th grade and older are more than welcome to join and help on Adventure Island. But of course, we will also need plenty of adults. We are looking for lead explorers in our craft, science, and recreations areas. So please consider joining us on Adventure Island.

If you or your youth is interested in volunteering for any of the sessions, please contact Amy Drewa at amydrewa@oconomowocucc.org.

Confirmation

On June 4 our 2022 Confirmands will share their statements of faith with their families and enjoy a special dinner provided by our Education Ministry. On June 5 at 10 a.m. there will be a special service and to witness these wonderful young adults read their combined Faith Statement and reaffirm their baptismal vows through the Rite of Confirmation. We hope you will be able to join us to show your Christian love and support.



College and High School Graduates

Join us on **June 12** as we celebrate and recognize our 2022 graduates! We are very proud and excited to honor our high school and college graduates during the 10 a.m. worship. If you are or have a graduate (high school or college) please email a picture of you/them, where you/they are graduating from (high school or college) and what their future plans are to church office uccoffice@oconomowocucc.org by **June 6**.



Mission Trip

Please keep our 2022 Summer Youth Mission Team in your prayers as they travel to Vega Alta, Puerto Rico July 9-15. 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 17 for Mission Sunday to hear about their experiences.

Mission Trip Fundraiser

Our 2022 Summer Youth Mission Team will be working the Brat Haus at Piggly Wiggly in Oconomowoc on June 4. Stop by to visit them and enjoy a delicious brat, burger, or hotdog! Spread the word and invite your family and friends!

We Have So Many Volunteers!!

We can't thank you enough for giving of your time.

To the visual creators, visual runners, sound and tech members.

To the members who help during Sunday worship services.

To all those who teach and do activities with our youth.

To all who volunteer in our music programs.

To all chaperones who go on our mission trips.

To the volunteers who help with all our fundraisers.

To our church officers, ministries, committees, project groups, and coordinators of special events.

To the students and their schoolteachers who collect our donated food and take it to the food pantry.

To the Scrip volunteers and coordinator.

To all who set-up fellowship hall for blood drives, high school testing and many other events.

To all who help with meals, baking, transportation, sending cards, on the prayer chain.

To all who knit prayer shawls.

To all who take care of the gardens, lawns and memorial garden.

To those who take care of our building, i.e. light bulbs and much more.

To those who help in the church office.

And to so many more that give of their time you are not forgotten. Thank You!



Thank you, amazing Sunday School Teachers!

We are truly blessed for all those who bring their time, gifts and talents to our children and youth by teaching in some capacity! Thank you.

The following individuals were recognized during the May 22 9am worship service. Each have given greatly of their time and gifts to share God's word. Rochelle Behling, Deb Bursinger, Darla Corbe, Laura O'Connor-Eimon, Lois Jackson, Jason Rheineck, Melissa Rheineck, Jill Riemann, Barb Rux, Emily Steckbauer, Pam Van Every and Jenny Wallace. A special appreciation goes to Chris Mol for co-teacher of our Confirmation class.

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.

June’s Singing Collection is for Family Promise.

Family Promise of Waukesha County who serves homeless families and their children with overnight shelter, meals and support services with the goal of achieving permanent, independent housing. Family Promise works in partnership with faith-based communities and other groups to provide free room and board for up to 90 days and assist them to regain and retain their independence.

July’s Singing Collection is for Lake Area Free Clinic (LAFC) www.lakeareafreeclinic.org

The Lake Area Free Clinic is an amazing place where residents of Waukesha County who lack health insurance and the ability to pay can receive free medical care, medication and practical information needed to improve their and maintain their health. The Medical Clinic was started 21 years ago by concerned and compassionate health care professionals who saw a need to offer Primary Health Care to the poor and uninsured outside of the Hospital Emergency room. Since its beginning LAFC has served more than 8,000 patients; had more than 58,000 patient visits; had community volunteers contribute 119,000 hours of service; and secured more than \$4.1 million in free medications for patients. It is staffed by four full-time equivalent employees and more than 260 volunteers. ProHealth Care provides lab and x-ray services, and Advocate Aurora Health provides CT and MRI imaging services. Clinical rotations for health care students from Waukesha County Technical College, and other colleges and universities are also provided.

In late 2017, after identifying a glaring lack of access to preventive and basic dental services for low-income Waukesha County adults who were on BadgerCare or uninsured, LAFC opened its Dental Clinic. Since late 2017, the Dental Clinic has served more than 3,700 dental patients; had more than 20,000 dental visits; and provided dental services valued at more than \$8.4 million. These services are not free but are provided at a substantially reduced rate. Lake Area Free Clinic is funded by Donations and Grants. The primary paid staff is augmented with volunteers (volunteer opportunities exist for dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants). Clinical opportunities for dental students from WCTC and Marquette University are also available.

For an informative tour or if interested in volunteering: Contact Megan G. Welsh 262-569-4990 or 262-719-0785.

Volunteers Needed
June 25

Mission Ministry is looking for volunteers

Contact: Pam Van Every

June 19th
Plan to attend church when all Dads will be recognized in a special way.

Mission Ministry—Spring Project: Soles for Jesus Drive

During the month of May, we had a special Mission opportunity supporting Soles for Jesus. Our congregation supported this with enthusiasm and donations!

We collected 264 pairs of shoes and \$88!!

Thank you to all who donated shoes and money. Thank you also to the Sunday school classes who not only learned about the people in Africa and how we can be like Jesus to them, but also helped sort and pack the shoes to be sent to the Soles for Jesus headquarters in Milwaukee. We plan to be a permanent site for shoe donations, so keep them coming and tell your friends and family. The boxes are still in Fellowship Hall and by the Office. Thank you! Pam Van Every and Amy Drewa



New Hope for Leftover Rummage Clothes

On May 24th Don and Peg McCollum and Tracie Sella Kuehl took the clothes leftover from the rummage sale to New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Milwaukee. There were so many bags that we took a Uhaul truck which, after loading, was 3/4 full!

We had wonderful help loading up the U-Haul at the church. Volunteers were Melva and Dave Lupton, Rob and Mickey Kellner, Pam and Mick Van Every, Sue Durnford Zajac, and 3 young men from the high school class that meets at our church. Tracie drove the truck. (I call her Wonder Woman.) We were met at New Hope with a wonderful group of church members who quickly unloaded the truck. They will be sorting the clothes and taking them to various agencies who will distribute the clothes to those in need. We had a wonderful visit and met Nila, a beautiful 3 month old baby. Her smile made our day.

Thank you to all who helped and all who donated. Blessings, Peggy McCollum





June 5 October 2
 July 3 November 6
 August 7 December 4
 September 4

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

On 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.

Did you know ?

- Non-profit organization,
- Run by volunteers - no paid staff
- Receives no government subsidies
- 100% of your donations go to servicing those in need.

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

SCRIP - Help Wanted



To sell Scrip on Sunday mornings. Each Sunday a volunteer is needed to assist those persons who wish to purchase Scrip cards. It isn't difficult and only takes about 45 minutes of your time. Adding some new volunteers to the current team would be GREAT! Going forward there are still many Sundays when a volunteer is needed. The sign-up sheets are available at the "Scrip" table on Sundays and in the church office during the week.

Any questions? Please contact Cheryl Hoff clhoff4721@gmail.com 262.567.7471 or talk with the person selling Scrip on Sunday mornings.

THANK YOU for the Surprise Thank You

I would like to thank all those who were involved in the Surprise Thank You on Sunday, May 22. I know many thoughts, time and work went into the event. So, thank you to all those who were a part of it! I am honored to be able to plan activities and events for all our children and youth and to receive the support from so many! I also greatly appreciate the Christian love and support as other duties have been added to my plate while we are in the search process for a new pastor.

The beautiful hanging basket is a very attractive addition to our back patio. On behalf of all the other Sunday School volunteers the ice cream sundaes were greatly appreciated!!!!



Again, many thanks, Amy

First Congregational UCC of Oconomowoc

invites you to join us at the

2022 Annual Golf Outing

to benefit the ministry and mission of First Congregational UCC

Monday, August 15, 2022

Where:

Oconomowoc Golf Club
5621 Brown Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Check-In, Warm-Up, Box Lunch:

10:00-12:00 pm

Shotgun Start:

12:00 pm

Dinner:

6:00 pm

Entry Includes:

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

Google form sign up [CLICK HERE](#) or
to print and fill out registration form [CLICK HERE](#)



SUMMER OUTDOOR SERVICE

We look forward to worshipping and socializing more with our church family

SUNDAY, JUNE 26th 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
LIVE MUSIC 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

for your comfort, please be sure to bring your own blankets or lawn seating

 **POTLUCK AVAILABLE BEGINNING AT 5:00 pm**
(Last Name with A-L bring dessert; M-Z bring appetizer or salad, main entree provided)

 **PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES**
(Wine and Beer are fine - Water Provided)

 **FAMILY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES**

 **CONGREGATIONAL SINGING LED BY PRAISE TEAM**



This is a casual service so come in casual attire as well as bring lawn chairs if you'd like. There are picnic tables available as well. In the event of bad weather, we will still have the social hour/service, but it will be moved indoors.

Dinner will be potluck style. Church is supplying sloppy joe sandwiches and water.

Please, if your last name begins with: **A-L** bring a dessert item **M-Z** bring a salad/appetizer item



Questions: Contact Jean Vercauteren

1 pm only
In Person OR Zoom

Meeting ID: 894 1263 9679
Passcode: 382924

If you prefer to call: 1 312 626 6799
When prompted enter:
Meeting ID: 894 1263 9679#
Passcode: 382924#

Book club continues with 1 pm in-person or zoom meeting. **NO evening sessions.**

ALL are welcome to join any of the discussions on the third Thursday of the Month.

Upcoming Selections:

June 16:
Four Winds
Author: Kristen Hannah

July Book Club Movie Outing!
Stay tuned for further details.

August 18:
The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek
Author: Kim Michele Richardson

September 15:
The Only Plane in the Sky
Author: Garrett M. Graff

We are in desperate need of volunteer drivers to get individuals to our Sunday Worship Services



NEED A RIDE TO church?

Please contact the Church office with your availability

Pull Tabs Please continue to save your pull-tabs !



A big THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed pull tabs. Please continue to bring your pull tabs from beverage cans, soup cans, pet food cans etc.

FYI it takes approximately 1,128 tabs to make 1 pound and each pound generates about fifty cents (0.50) from the aluminum recycler. Each year the RMH earns an average of \$6,000 from pull tabs which all goes to providing services for the guests at the Ronald McDonald House.

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 end of July. There is a collection area in Fellowship Hall or drop them off with Jennifer in the Church office.

Community Garden
celebrating our 12th summer

The Garden is Open and Welcomes New Gardeners!

There are a few garden plot vacancies
For new gardeners, its on a first come, first serve basis.

Ten-foot square plots are available for \$25.00 each.

Water, access to a Garden Shed, Basic Tools, Marsh Hay, and Optional Roto-Tilling are included in the price. Gardeners are asked to practice organic methods without use of insecticides, herbicides or pesticides. In addition to growing fresh vegetables, Community Gardening offers opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and fellowship with each other while social distancing!!

To find out more, contact Tom or Shirley Depies at 262-567-7254 or email tvdepies@charter.net.

CREATING
A NEW GROUP

Creative Thinking Book Club

(started this new group last month)

Come see what knowledge, creativity and community is gained by reading books with friends instead of going it alone. To purchase a paperback book, the price is \$16. Valerie Jane Williams or Don McCollum between worship services on Sunday morning. We meet the last Wednesday of the month @ 6:30pm

June 29 **When Bad Things Happen to Good People** by Harold S. Kushner

The book argues for theistic finitism. Kushner proposes a finite God solution to the problem of evil. God is benevolent but not all-powerful to prevent evil



**Church Office will be closed
in observance of Memorial Day,
Monday, May 29**

Notice of Congregational Meeting on June 12, 2022

Our next Church meeting is coming up June 12, starting shortly after the worship service is over. The goal of these meetings is to facilitate communication with all members, our Pastors, Lay Leaders, and the various Ministries & Committees. We can also conduct Official Church business at these meetings assuming we have a quorum.

I invite you all to participate as this is YOUR church.

Reports from Leadership, Ministries & Committees & Auxiliary Organizations at this meeting will be presented verbally and will include time for your questions and comments. We do have some business to address at the meeting too.

- 2021 Financial Review report will be presented and voted on
- Installation and approval of Co-Treasurer; George Moeller
- Discuss the below proposed motion submitted by John Kyle

The congregation of First Congregational UCC recommends that the Leadership Team and Spirituality Ministry strongly consider going to one 9:00am service each Sunday morning starting in September of 2022. The general format of each service would be a blended service involving both contemporary and traditional aspects of Christian worship. Sunday School for youth would be held during this same time.



Hearts & Hands Preschool



For more information: e-mail: preschool@oconomowocucc.org
To schedule a private tour , contact Cindy Meckl 262-567-2558
or themeckls@gmail.com.

Registration is now open for our summer classes!

June Summer Fun runs from 9-11:30am on Tuesdays & Thursdays in June.
This class will take place outside and is open to all children ages 3&4.

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!

[Click here to register:](#)

More information
plus registration forms
can be found on our website
www.heartsandhandspreschool.org

Thank-you Thank-you Thank-you Thank-you Thank-you Thank-you

Thanks to Officer Nick (Austin's dad), from the Waukesha Police Dept. and Officer Dave, from the Oconomowoc Police Dept., for coming to class and talking to us about being a police officer! Officer Dave even brought his squad car for the kids to see. Officer Nick even demonstrated handcuffs on Mrs. Schmeling:)



Thanks to Lieutenant Dan, from the West Allis Fire Dept, for coming to class to talk to us about being a firefighter and fire safety!



Shannon, Oliver's mom, brought some cute baby chicks to class before the kids to see. Their family runs Faithful Farms out of Ixonia.



Class Offerings 2022-2023

Toilet Training not required to attend any of our programs

4 Year-old Class (3 days/week)

- M/W/F AM 9:00—11:30 am
- At least 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2022
- Maximum 11 children per class
- \$225/month

3 Year-old Class (2 OR 3 days/week)

M/W AM 9:00—11:30 am OR T/Th AM 9:00—11:30 am

- M/W/F AM 9:00—11:30 am OR T/Th/F AM 9:00—11:30 am
- At least 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2022
- Maximum 11 children per class
- \$170/month (2 days/week)
- \$225/month (3 days/week)

2 1/2 Year-old Class (1 OR 2 days/week)

- T OR Th 9—11 am OR T AND Th 9—11 am
- At least 2 1/2 years old to start class
- Maximum 6 children per class
- \$95/month (1 day/week)
- \$160/month (2 days/week)

Volunteer Assignments

If you are unable to fulfill your assignment, please swap with someone and let the office know the change. THANK YOU .

10:00 AM			
Date	Greeters	Welcome Center	Fellowship
5-Jun	Linda Davis	Lois Jackson	Confirmation Individuals
12-Jun	Connie Laufenberg	Kristi Staus	Kit Dailey Amy Hayes
19-Jun	Barb Marvin	Jean Vercauteren	Caryl Mulder Sue Zajac
26-Jun	Judy Schuyler		Mickey Kellner
3-Jul	Deb Groskopf	Fred & Heather Ziegenhagen	Sally Burdick & John Kyle
10-Jul	Elaine Ludwig	Barb Rux	Cindy & Andy Meckl
17-Jul	Peg Porter	Kim Caudill	Mick & Pam Van Every
24-Jul	David Schmocker		
31-Jul	Barb Bjur	Jeff & Lynn Van Dam	Barb & George Moeller
7-Aug	Bob Frick	Linda Davis	Lois Jackson & Connie Laufenberg
14-Aug	Jean Rosch	Amy Hayes	Jeff & Lynn Van Dam
21-Aug	Perschon Family	Peg & Don McCollum	Barb Rux & Fred Steinke
28-Aug	John Evans		

Outdoor Service @5pm

Outdoor Service @5pm

Outdoor Service @5pm

Welcome New Members...

Chris and Amber Anderson joined May 15, 2022

Chris, Amber and daughter, Alexandra (2 1/2) moved to the lake country area from Grafton to be closer to Chris' new job in Madison. He is a Machining Engineer. Amber works at Kohl's in Customer

Service and loves to read. Chris' favorite past time is riding his Harley!

Welcome to our church family!

Please look for new members' pictures and biographies on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall.



Staying Connected ...



Rev. Dr. Barry W. Szymanski, Interim Pastor bwslmp@gmail.com
Amy Drewa, Pastor, Dir. of Ed. & Youth amydrewa@oconomowocucc.org
Jennifer Arnold, Office Admin. jennifer@oconomowocucc.org
Cindy Meckl, Hearts & Hands Preschool themeckls@gmail.com