



Blessing our Community



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
110 E. Hancock Street, New London, Wisconsin 54961 - 920-982-3731

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Savides

Pastor@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com

Secretary: kathyphillips@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com

A Stephen Ministry Church

JUNE/JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER

In my preparations for Mother's Day worship this past year, I came across a wonderful column from humorist Erma Bombeck. That's a name that is familiar to those of my Baby Boomer generation and should be more familiar to those of younger generations. In her own way, she was a groundbreaker, sharing her unique perspective while celebrating all of us who toil over the everyday tasks of life while trying to be a better caregiver to the precious ones in our care. I thought this column would be a good one to carry us into summer when the pace of our lives perhaps slows a bit and provides us time to think more deeply.



"If I had my life to live over...

I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day.

I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.

I would have talked less and listened more.

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained, or the sofa faded.

I would have eaten the popcorn in the 'good' living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband.

I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television and more while watching life.

I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil, or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Continued on next page....

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner."

There would have been more "I love you's." More "I'm sorry's."

But mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute...look at it and really see it ... live it ... and never give it back. "

This column was written in 1979 after Erma found out that she was dying from cancer. Her words continue to challenge and bless us all.

Your friend and fellow minister,
Pastor Steve

HEAR OUR PRAYERS, O LORD”

Of Healing and Comfort for:

- ✿ Emily Calabria
- ✿ Gaylord Hedtke
- ✿ John Pieper
- ✿ Jerene Managan on her battle with cancer
- ✿ Milton Staskal
- ✿ Ann Schneider
- ✿ Maxine Cristy
- ✿ Liz Wiesner
- ✿ Katelyn Thyssen-Gunderson



Father God, we lift up all those who are facing illness today.

We ask that You would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies.

Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of Your love.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

If you would like to be listed in the prayers, please contact the office.

WE DON'T SAY THANK YOU ENOUGH

Maybe you have someone to thank for doing things, especially behind the scenes, to make things happen here at church. If you have a thank you to offer, please submit it in writing to Kathy in the church office, or by email.

- ♥ Thank you to all those that have volunteered on Sunday mornings.
- ♥ Thank you for your continuous support of First Congregational United Church of Christ.
- ♥ Thank you to Darlene Krake who helps record the offering.
- ♥ Thank you to our Media Shout volunteers: Wendy Dallman, Kris Drath, Gary Henke & Chou Lee.
- ♥ Thank you, Rev. Savides and the New London UCC family, for your generous donation to the Cabin Foundation Restoration Campaign at Moon Beach. The impact of your gift will be doubled! With deep gratitude and blessings, Rev. James Schleif, Executive Director.

Do you have a thank you to offer? Please let Kathy know in the office for the next newsletter.

Thank you for giving of your Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Our Church will use these precious resources to further our vision of "Blessing Our Communities." Together, the efforts of our church members, friends, guests, and visitors are changing lives.

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE FOR APRIL - 81

GENERAL OPERATING INCOME TO DATE IN 2024: \$74,482.50

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES TO DATE IN 2024: \$48,329.25

NET INCOME: \$26,153.25

END OF 2ND QUARTER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS – JUNE 30TH

I will be emailing individual financial statements out to those we have an email address for by July 8th. If you are not on our emailing list, please email Kathy at kathyphillips@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com to be on the list to receive your statements by email to save postage. Those that do not have an email, your statements will be mailed to you. Any questions, please call Kathy at 982-3731.

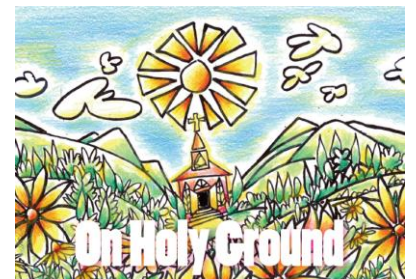
QUESTIONS OF FAITH SERMON SERIES, SUMMER 2024

This Summer we are again preaching on Questions of Faith submitted by our church members and friends. We were so pleased to receive many submissions. We won't be able to answer all of them, but here is the line-up for this Summer:

- June 2 "What Do Christians Have to Believe?"
- June 9 "Does God Have a Sense of Humor?"
- June 16 "What Is Faith?"
- June 23 "Is Anyone Ever Past Redemption?"
- June 30 "How Do We Handle Fear?"
- July 7 "How Can We Show Love to All People?"
- July 14 "Does Prayer Work?"
- July 21 "Should I Believe in Hell?"
- July 28 "Has God Decided Everything?"
- Aug. 4 "How Do We Deal with Doubts?"
- Aug. 11 "What's Up with the Book of Revelation?"
- Aug. 18 "How Do We Encourage Family Members to Embrace Church?"
- Aug. 25 "Who Will We Meet in Heaven?"
- Sept. 1 "When Is Jesus Coming Back?"

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

Thank you to all who so generously gave towards the Strengthen the Church offering. As of May 20th, we have collected \$6450.00. The Strengthen the Church Offering supports the work of our conference and the national United Church of Christ to become a multi-racial/multi-cultural church, accessible to all. The offering funds leadership development, youth and young adult ministries, and new and renewing congregations.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We completed another year of Sunday School using the curriculum *A Kid's Travel Guide to the Ten Commandments*. We talked about why God gave us laws (to keep us safe) and what each of those laws mean. A huge shout out to Avery Oudenhoven who was the most loyal participant!

Be on the lookout for information about Sunday School beginning next fall.

UCC SISTERHOOD

On Thursday, June 13th we will be going to Shamrock Heights Golf and Supper Club in New London. We will be eating at 11:30. That means anyone who needs a ride, will have to be at the Church by 11. We will need drivers!

Whether you are a “first timer” or a regular, come for the food, fun, and fellowship! Please let me know by the end of church on June 9th, so I can give them a “heads up” if you are able to join us.

See you there!

Blessings,

Sandy Conradt

920-538-4114

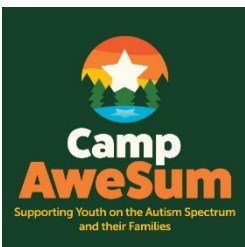
NEW AED

Our new AED is now registered and in place in the narthex. This new technology does not need maintenance or certified users. Anyone can use this device if you feel comfortable. No training is required, just open the door of the box, pull out the AED and push the ON button and a voice will direct you through the steps. The separate black zipper case contains some CPR accessories and a scissors to cut clothes.

To feel more comfortable, please go to YouTube and type into the search: **Heartsine 360P Defibrillator**.

This short video will walk you through an event that uses the 360P so you can be more familiar with the commands that are given. If you are a person that feels they could help in a health crisis, please make yourself more comfortable by watching the training video. Any questions should be directed to Lois Cuff. Again, a huge THANK YOU to Kerry and Marian Griebenow for their financial support of this new device.

CAMP AWESUM



MANY thanks to this generous congregation for all of the donations to Camp AweSum! We are delighted with your response to our needs, both item and monetary. Shopping has begun but there is always time to make a donation.

Another way to help out is to volunteer for a week (or two, or four!). Check your calendar and see if one of our weeks works into your busy summer schedule. You can register at ucci.org, Moon Beach link, Camp AweSum link.

WASHINGTON CENTER COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

Open every Wednesday 8 am to Noon and 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Thank you for the incredible response to the pantry Pastor Carwash Challenge. The winner is truly the people that use the pantry each week. Our donations generally consist of food items but there is a great need for laundry detergent, shampoo, dish soap and other household products.

Summer is approaching and that means school will soon be out. Lots of kids will not be getting their lunches at school anymore. Our challenge for the summer is kid noon meals. Peanut butter and jelly, individual size fruit cups, jello, pudding and cold cereal.

Last month 157 households used the pantry. They can come every other week. Each person receives on average 12 pounds of food per visit. As you can see, we go through a lot of food. Your support of this mission is truly needed and appreciated. Thank you. You are a blessing to our church and community.

Rita, Mike, Michelle and Jim

KEEP IT CLEAN IN THE BOOKS

And the results are in. The winner of the Keep It Clean Challenge is the Washington Center Community Cupboard. You gave a total of 249 items (no we did not count every roll of toilet paper or paper towel).

- Toilet Paper – 37 packs
- Paper Towels – 16 packs
- Laundry Soap – 80 bottles
- Dish Soap – 38 bottles
- Other – 78 items such as shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, spray cleaner, etc.



Unofficially Pastor Steve had 126 items and Pastor Kevin had 123. Yes only 3 items separating them. Steve has now stopped the reign of Kevin as the winner. He did seem very excited, even doing a happy dance in the parking lot.

Together the two of them (along with some other volunteers) washed the Cupboards truck. Fun and a lot of heckling was had by all.

Thank you again everyone for supporting the Washington Center Community Cupboard. Without all of you, it would be much harder to take care of our clients. Stay tuned for another challenge in the fall.

Michelle, Mike and Rita





Thank You!

To the members of
First Congregational UCC of New London

for being a **5 for 5 Congregation** of
the **United Church of Christ in WCUCC**.

5 for 5 Congregations support Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and the
Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, The Christmas Fund, and Strengthen
the Church Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ.

John C. Derhauer
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ

Frank R. Jett
Conference Minister

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC IS 5 FOR 5

First Congregational continues to be a 5 for 5 Congregation, giving to the United Church of Christ's four Special Mission Offerings as well as OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission).

- **OCWM:** Gifts from congregations like ours to OCWM Basic Support make it possible for the Wisconsin Conference to support and strengthen local churches. The Conference primarily does this by providing resources and guidance. But the Conference also connects us to the wider church, including our international partners. In 2023 First Congregational gave \$3,575.00 towards OCWM.
- **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** Gifts from OGHS channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response, administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources. In 2023 First Congregational gave \$2,049.05 towards OGHS.
- **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH:** Gifts from STC re-imagines and builds the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, Strengthen the Church largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the United Church of Christ does not have a strong presence. It also provides support for existing church's new initiatives. In 2023 First Congregational gave \$1,373.00 towards Strengthen the Church.
- **NEIGHBORS IN NEED:** Gifts from NIN supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Local Church Ministries. In 2023 First Congregational gave \$1,773.00 towards NIN.
- **THE CHRISTMAS FUND:** The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide 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 for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks. In 2023 First Congregational gave \$1,502.00 towards the Christmas Fund.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Savides
Pastor@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com
Church phone number- 920-982-3731

Secretary/Financial Secretary: Kathy Phillips (kathyphillips@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com)
Secretary's Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Bookkeeper: Bill Flease (billflease@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com)

Custodian: Amy Hord

Stephen Ministry Leader: Mary Schulz – mryschulz@yahoo.com

Facebook manager: Mary Schulz – mryschulz@yahoo.com

Christian Education:

Sunday School Facilitator: Wendy Dallman

Youth Group Coordinator: Dorea Brandt

Camp Scholarships: Tina Clegg

Music Coordinators:

Praise Connection Director & Organist: Lois Cuff – cufflois@gmail.com

Organist & Accompanist: Lu Ann Rupnow

Choir & Bell Choir Director: Billy Brandt-bilybrandtv@gmail.com

Check out our new website: firstcongouccnl.com



www.facebook.com/UCCNL



Leadership Teams:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Savides: 920-982-3731 – Pastor@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com

Church Council:

Moderator: Dave Thiel: 920-810-0865– davethiel56@gmail.com

Vice Moderator: Lois Cuff: 920-359-0531 – cufflois@gmail.com

Fellowship Chair: Sherie Bressler: 920-982-5798 – mrs.hbbressler@gmail.com

Education Ministry Chair: Tina Clegg: 920-982-7952 -tlclegg29@gmail.com

Mission Ministry Chair: Peter Lauer: 920-875-0195 – p.lauer@tractorpartsasap.com

Operations Ministry Chair: Lois Cuff: 920-359-0531 – cufflois@gmail.com

Worship Ministry Chair: Dorea Brandt: 920-875-0197 - lauerdorea@gmail.com

UCC Tech Team – Sound & Stream: Carl Sternhagen, Tim Schmidt, Billy Brandt

Media Shout: Gary Henke, Wendy Dallman, Kris Drath, Chou Lee

Ministry Support Team: Debi Williams, Bonnie Wandke, Rita Thiel, Gary Prost, and Pat Toney

Pastoral Support: Pastor Kevin Dembinski

JUNE & JULY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. -Adult Study

9:00 a.m. – Worship Service: in person and virtual

<https://m.facebook.com/UCCNL>

10:00 a.m.-Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall



Communion will be on June 2nd & July 7th



| May 2024 | | | | | | |
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| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

| July 2024 | | | | | | |
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| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

First Congregational UCC

June 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|-----------|--|-----------|---|
| | | | | | | 1 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall |
| 2 <i>Communion</i> 8:00 a.m.- Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Praise Service 10:00 a.m.- Fellowship | 3 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. | 4 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall |
| 9 8:00 a.m.- Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Traditional Service 10:00 a.m.- Fellowship | 10 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. 6:00 p.m. – Council Meeting | 11 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom | 12 | 13 11:30 a.m.- UCC Sisterhood at Shamrock Heights Golf and Supper Club | 14 | 15 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall |
| 16 8:00 a.m.- Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Praise Service 10:00 a.m.- Fellowship | 17 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. | 18 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall |
| 23 8:00 a.m.- Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Traditional Service 10:00 a.m.- Fellowship | 24 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. | 25 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| Kathy on vacation | | | | | | |
| 30 8:00 a.m.- Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Praise Service 10:00 a.m.- Fellowship | | | | | | |

June Worship Volunteers

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Please sign up to fill the open dates.</i> | June 2, 2024 | June 9, 2024 | June 16, 2024 | June 23, 2024 | June 30, 2024 | |
| | Praise Service | Traditional Service | Praise Service | Traditional Service | Praise Service | |
| | Lay Reader | 9:00 a.m.- Mary Schulz | 9:00 a.m.- Karen Henke | 9:00 a.m.- Deb Calabria | 9:00 a.m. – Pat Toney | 9:00 a.m. - |
| | Media Shout | 9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman | 9:00 a.m.- Gary Henke | 9:00 a.m.- Chou Lee | 9:00 a.m.-Kris Drath | 9:00 a.m. – Chou Lee |
| Fellowship | 10:00 a.m.- Manthe/Bressler | 10:00 a.m.- Thiel/Cuff | 10:00 a.m.- Manthe/Bressler | 10:00 a.m.- Mary & Jerry Schulz | 10:00 a.m.- Manthe/Bressler | |

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 3-Candi Schmitz | 12- Jessica Masephol |
| 4-Reid Oberstadt | 16-Danielle Drath, Glavin Lubinski |
| 5-Bill Calabria | 19-Emily Calabria, Kandice Nussbaumer |
| 6- Lois Cuff, Jerene Managan, Jenny Penn | 22-Payton Campbell |
| 8-Barbara Wiegele | 23-Tiffany Schulz |
| 10- Lexandra Behling | 27-Jim Williams |
| 11-Bob Allen | 29-Linda Huntley, Max Behling |

If your birthday or anniversary is missing, or incorrect, please contact Kathy at the church office.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 3-Dave & Rita Thiel
- 5-Milton & Trudy Staskal
- 9-Nathan & April Treague
- 12-David & Carol Gerlach
- 14-Kerry & Marian Griebenow
- 14-Jason & Nicole Behling
- 15-Steve & Joan Malliet
- 17-Rodney & Aimee Golla
- 18-Todd & Susan Moore
- 20-Darrin & April Postel
- 28-Tim & Tiffany Schulz



| June 2024 | | | | | | |
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| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

| August 2024 | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

First Congregational UCC

July 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|-----------|---|--|--|
| | 1 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. | 2 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom | 3 | 4 <i>Fourth of July – Office closed</i> | 5 | 6 |
| 7 <i>Communion</i> 8:00 a.m.-Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Traditional Service 10:00 a.m.-Fellowship | 8 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. 6:00 p.m. – Council Meeting | 9 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall |
| 14 8:00 a.m.-Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Praise Service 10:00 a.m.-Fellowship | 15 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. | 16 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom | 17 | 18 | 19 <i>August Newsletter Deadline</i> | 20 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall |
| 21 8:00 a.m.-Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Traditional Service 10:00 a.m.-Fellowship | 22 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. | 23 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall |
| 28 8:00 a.m.-Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Praise Service 10:00 a.m.-Fellowship | 29 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. | 30 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom | 31 | | | |

July Worship Volunteers

| <i>Please sign up to fill the open dates.</i> | July 7, 2024 Traditional Service | July 14, 2024 Praise Service | July 21, 2024 Traditional Service | July 28, 2024 Praise Service |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| Lay Reader | 9:00 a.m.- | 9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman | 9:00 a.m.- Karen Henke | 9:00 a.m. – |
| Media Shout | 9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman | 9:00 a.m.- | 9:00 a.m.- Gary Henke | 9:00 a.m.- Chou Lee |
| Fellowship | 10:00 a.m.- Krake/Marcks | 10:00 a.m.- Manthe/Bressler | 10:00 a.m.- Thiel/Cuff | 10:00 a.m.- Manthe/Bressler |

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7-Gary Henke
 9-Patrick Korth
 10-Erin Bobber, Briley Schulz
 11-Kiava Schlueter
 13-Jackie Cartwright
 15-Karen Henke, Kyle Lubinski
 17- Mickey Schmidt, David Asman
 18-Alassandra Nussbaumer

19-Myles Parker, Garret Clegg
 20- Jacob Darkow
 21-Sophia Doehling
 22-Bonnie Wandke
 25-Cole Penn
 26-Jim Knaack, Easton Thorpe
 28-Taylor Yaeger, Taelyn Lubinski
 29-Jenessa Oberstadt
 30-Kayden Kloehn

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

3-Tom & Kristie Randel
 18-Greg & Kathy Baumgart
 18-Pete & Kari Thorpe
 20-Mark & Jolene Mowrer
 25-Sandy & Lois Cuff
 27-Randy & Laurie Miller
 28-Billy & Dorea Brandt
 30-Tony & Missy Porath

If your birthday or anniversary is missing, or incorrect, please contact Kathy at the church office.

Online services can be seen at
<https://m.facebook.com/UCCNL>
 If you would like to get your offering in, you can mail it, drop it off at church on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings between 8:15 & noon, use Venmo or PayPal or set up automatic withdrawal through the office.

