



## June 2021 Bell Tower

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
*We Are Open and Affirming*  
1111 North Chicago Avenue,  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172



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Like us on Facebook: First Congregational United Church of Christ South Milwaukee

Dear Church,

We're greeting you in-person for worship if you are ready or via live stream beginning **Sunday, June 6**. While the CDC and other safety guidelines have changed, we'll continue to follow what's listed here to keep consistent with our prior guidelines. We'll continue to mask up to love our neighbors and protect the most vulnerable (those with compromised immune systems, children not yet able to be vaccinated, etc.) Please contact me if you have questions or concerns. Everyone's safety at church is paramount.

### **Regathering for Worship Covenant** *From the Regathering for Worship Team*

**Upon regathering for in-person worship, as First Congregational UCC in South Milwaukee:**

#### ***I promise to...Love My Neighbor***

- I will **wear my mask** over my mouth & nose (*as required for age 5+*) to protect others & myself.
- I will refrain from assuming another person's readiness to be near/touch is the same as mine.  
(*Check first to see and/or **refrain from close contact/hugs/handshaking** for now.*)
- I will **respect everyone's decision** whether to worship in-person or at home via live streaming.

#### ***I promise to...Remain Hopeful***

- I will **practice at-home communion** for a while until it is safer to resume eating in person.  
(*Eating requires masks down, so on Communion Sundays as Pastor Beth initiates communion, I will follow up by partaking at home.*)
- I will **worship God through special music** for now and will make a joyful noise singing with the congregation at a later time. (*Singing is a superspreader.*)
- I will **continue to grieve** all that's been lost and **give thanks to God** for all that's been gained.

#### ***I promise to...Practice Patience***

- I will **sit socially distanced** (*with my household, if applicable*) in the pews knowing seats will be limited at first and that the nursery will not be available.
- I will **expect worship to feel different** than it was this past year or over a year ago.
- I will **expect bumps, mistakes, and learning curves** as my church regathers in-person.

#### ***I promise to...Be the Church***

- I will **sign up to attend worship**, but I will stay home if I am sick (*or others at home are sick*).
- I will **wait to congregate until after worship** when I can be outdoors (& socially distance).

I will continue to **support our ministries** with my gifts, participation and love for God & others.

God's peace, *Rev. Beth Abbott*

## 3 Worship Options!

1. **Worship in-person** (9:30a in summer)
2. **Worship at home 'in real time' via livestream** on youtube: FirstCongSMUCC 'Subscribe' or see our weekly email, website, facebook
3. **Worship via recordings** available as soon as possible after worship ends  
*Access all recordings, anytime on our youtube channel*

### 9:30a Sunday Worship in June (Season of Pentecost):

- June 6**      **Regathering...for the 'First Time'** *Communion initiated; follow up at home*
- We'll hear the familiar refrain "Holy, holy, holy" in [Isaiah 6:1-8](#) & hear of the Spirit interceding when we're all beginners (*again*) [Romans 8:22-27](#)
- June 13**      **Flourishing**
- NY Times article 'Languishing' aptly describes the common emotion in the pandemic & aftermath; How, then, is 'flourishing' possible? Might the mustard seed parable [Mark 4:26-34](#) & shouts for joy [Psalm 20](#) help?
- June 20**      **Calm Amid the Storms of Life**
- "The voice of the Lord is powerful" [Psalm 29](#) calls out as Jesus calms the storm [Mark 4:35-41](#). How do you center when life brews storms?
- June 27**      **Open & Affirming Sunday**
- Jesus touches the woman hemorrhaging & heals the sick child [Mark 5:21-43](#) & teaches us to continue to welcome, include & let our hearts be opened to all people, especially our LGBTQIA+ community.
- July 4**      **Prayers for our Country**
- On this national holiday, we'll hold our country in prayer and hear its echoes in [2 Corinthians 6:1-13](#) & [Psalm 48](#)



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## **Trials & Smiles Prayer List**

[Trials & Smiles](#) is our ongoing prayer list of concerns/joys. Put anyone on the list if you have their permission (or offer prayers for yourself, any place, etc.) or call the church office and leave a message and your prayer will be added.

Our listed prayers will not be shared in worship (additional privacy concerns), but we trust you'll be praying and caring for one another.

### **Greeters, Ushers, Lay Readers:**

*Updated, Easy Duties to Assist Our COVID Protocols*

#### **Greeters (1-2)**

1 Greets outdoors (*weather permitting, no handshakes/hugs for now*): Pine St/Pkg Lot entrance where all now enter; 1 in APL School directing worshippers thru to 'center' stairs to sanctuary *If only 1--stand outside & offer instructions for inside*

#### **Ushers (2)**

Help people find seats (every other pew as marked); Welcome everyone but refrain from handshakes/hugs for now; Light altar candles just before worship (no acolytes right now; use snuffer, not blowing to extinguish); Help dismiss at end (Pastor Beth to initiate); *Bulletins & Offerings at self-serve worship stations (no need to do anything with those)*

#### **Lay Reader**

Sit up front; remove mask to speak/read; Parts emailed prior for practicing; 'Day of' bulletin will be waiting for you at the lectern

#### **What About Acolytes?**

Out of an abundance of caution, youth Acolytes will resume in the fall. For the summer months, ushers should light altar candles just prior to worship.



## A Rainbow of Compassion: Teaching Kindness & Inclusion from Jesus' Actions & Children's Books Summer 2021 DiT

Drop off your Disciples-in-Training (4 y/o & up) at Pine St/Parking Lot entrance & for the full worship time each Sunday (besides 1st: communion) to engage fun, active lessons outdoors.

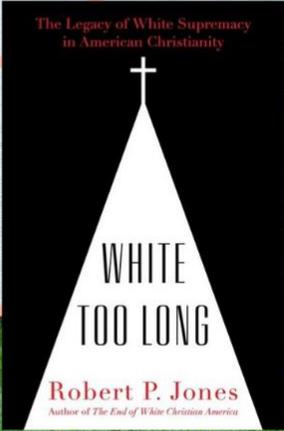
Apply sunscreen prior; bring water bottle & running shoes.

*2 Adults each week serve as Group Leaders. Contact Kelly Hansen to help!*

<b>June 13</b>	<b>Summer DiT kicks off w/ a Parachute!</b> <u><a href="#">The Big Umbrella</a></u> imagines <b>God's love</b> as big enough for <b>everyone</b> . Ask Disciples-in-Training: Is there anyone God doesn't love? Besides an umbrella/parachute, how else do you picture God's love?
<b>June 20</b>	<u><a href="#">Because Nothing Looks Like God</a></u> will have our Disciples-in-Training <b>seeing themselves as the hands/feet of God</b> . Ask them: How are you God's helper (so 'like God')? Where else do you see or find God?
<b>June 27</b>	<u><a href="#">Chrysanthemum</a></u> highlights the specialness of <b>names</b> & reminds us to <b>treat others' names with care</b> . Ask Disciples-in-Training: What is the story of your name? What names do we use for God?
<b>July 11</b>	<u><a href="#">If You Plant a Seed</a></u> shows what <b>Jesus' teaching of kindness &amp; compassion</b> (not selfishness) can do. Ask Disciples-in-Training: What does it mean to be 'compassionate'? How were you kind today?
<b>July 18</b>	Jesus teaches us to <b>embrace differences, be kind &amp; speak up</b> . <u><a href="#">One</a></u> examines bullying. Ask Disciples-in-Training: What does it mean to be "the One"? List 3 safe people to tell if you are bullied.
<b>July 25</b>	<u><a href="#">One of a Kind Like Me</a></u> celebrates what we know: <b>God created you &amp; you are wonderful!</b> Ask Disciples-in-Training: Tell me about the story today. Then, in our family, what is different about each of us? What's the same?
<b>Aug. 8</b>	God wants us to care for & <b>love our (elderly) neighbors</b> & <u><a href="#">Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge</a></u> shows that can be joy-filled. With Disciples-in-Training: Brainstorm ways to connect with senior adults (draw pictures for older church members, facetime with grandparents, make homemade cards for local nursing home, etc.)
<b>Aug. 15</b>	<u><a href="#">The Cool Bean</a></u> shows us it's 'cool' to care about/love others as <b>Jesus teaches</b> . With Disciples-in-Training: create a family "Love Jar" (peanut butter can, etc.) & everyone fills it with coins when they do loving things (helping, sharing, etc.) With money, buy food for Human Concerns to continue to spread the love!
<b>Aug. 22</b>	Jesus teaches us to <b>love others as they are</b> & <u><a href="#">Neither</a></u> shows how <b>our uniqueness is special</b> . With Disciples-in-Training, come up with a love list. What do you love about yourself? Then we can learn to love others!
<b>Aug 29</b>	<b>Jesus calls us to be kind &amp; <u><a href="#">Be Kind</a></u> reminds us to show kindness to everyone.</b> Ask Disciples-in-Training: What can we do this week as a family to be kind to each other? Make a list & put it where all can see it.

'NOT-QUITE-A-SUMMER-READ'

# SUMMER BOOK CLUB



6P OUTSIDE @ CHURCH \* BRING CHAIR  
WEDNESDAYS 7/14 \* 7/28 \* 8/11

For Wed 7/14, read Chapters 1-2

Wed 7/28: Chapters 3-4

Wed 8/11: Chapters 5-7

All sessions include a study of a related scripture (*printed for you or bring your Bible*)

# 'BOX' OUT HUNGER

**DONATE BOXED MEALS**

- ★ **MAC 'N CHEESE**
- ★ **PRE-MADE RICE**
- ★ **CANNED RAVIOLI**
- ★ **TUNA HELPER ETC.**

**SUN. JULY 18 - FOR HUMAN CONCERNS**



## Moment for Mission

It's June already! That means it's time a portion of our Benevolence giving to go toward support of the **Sojourner Family Peace Center**. This organization has been Wisconsin's largest provider of domestic violence prevention and intervention services for nearly fifty years. Sojourner Family Peace Center has served as a place for hundreds of thousands of families to seek safety, advocacy and healing services, addressing the needs of survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

Sojourner Family Peace Center operates collaboratively with a wide range of other agencies to offer services and support under one roof. This model helps to prevent long waits for intervention, minimizes transportation issues, and reduces the trauma clients experience when required to tell their story repeatedly to multiple providers. Carmen Pitre, the president and chief executive officer of Sojourner Family Peace Center, reports that "violence is more intense, unpredictable and severe than ever." Indeed, data shows that since the pandemic began last year, Milwaukee County has experienced a significant rise in cases of domestic violence, including a 79% increase in domestic violence-related deaths. Sadly, "home" is not always a safe place. Domestic violence affects people of all races, genders, areas of residence and economic statuses. Ms. Pitre believes her organization can "transform whole communities, one family at a time, by working with other agencies and organizations to provide a comprehensive network of support."

Send in your Benevolence contribution today so that we might be missionaries in this valiant fight to address domestic violence within our community.

### **Need a Prayer Shawl? Want to 'Cover' a Loved One in Prayer?**

We have prayer shawls of all sizes and colors—  
all blessed and ready for you to pick up from the lounge.

Feel free to give a prayer shawl to anyone you believe could benefit from it.

### **Directory Updates in Bold**

HANSEN, \*Steve & \*Kelly  
**3609 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

HALDEMANN Fred  
**701 E Puetz Rd Apt 216**  
Oak Creek, WI 53154

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching & fellowship,  
to the breaking of bread & the prayers.” -Acts 2:42*

## **Guidelines for Live Streaming & Digitally Sharing Worship<sup>1</sup>**

*First Congregational UCC, South Milwaukee*

**Purpose:** To share worship with anyone who desires a message of God’s love, hope & comfort

**Intended Viewers:** Anyone! Especially any who cannot or do not prefer to leave their homes for worship as well as those who are traveling, living away, working remotely, etc.

**Copyright:** We will maintain our CCLI license as an act of social justice for musicians/artists.

**Signage:** Website, bulletin, Bell Tower, sanctuary place notices (*see pic on right*) informing all who enter the sanctuary that we live worship



entrances; we will  
stream/record

**Yellow Zone:** Designated area for those who to be on camera (*for any reason; no questions* direct guests to area as needed and maps also posted

cannot/prefer not  
asked); ushers  
highlighting area

**Youngest Disciples:** Video Team will exercise particular care to avoid direct views of minors’ faces (focusing on the activity instead) and we’ll continue to have parents/guardians give consent (as we have before) to use their children in any video or image. *Nearly every organization/school has parents/guardians requesting similar authorization.*

**Prayer Time:** Any sharing during prayer time in worship is public. However, given how much more quickly and widely sensitive news, personal requests, and health updates can travel online, we will turn off the camera for Prayers of the People. Those worshipping remotely will have the opportunity to pray on their own and/or consult our Trials & Smiles prayer list.

**Permission to Not Record:** There may be unforeseen circumstances that arise, albeit rare, when the Pastor, a Church Leader, or Video Team requests to stop live streaming or not “air” the recording. A medical emergency, a sensitive situation, or even concerns not apparent to those in the pews may arise making continuing to live stream or uploading the recording afterward an unsafe, insensitive, or inappropriate choice.

**Permission to Learn:** We will continue to grow in our best practices for live streaming and sharing our services. We will make mistakes and have plans not work. What we learn and how we will adjust will be what matters most. We will promise to live God’s grace with one another.

*Approved April 2021*

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from: [guideone.com/safety-resources/be-safe-not-sorry-when-live-streaming-your-worship-services](https://guideone.com/safety-resources/be-safe-not-sorry-when-live-streaming-your-worship-services)

## Treasurers Report - Ending April 30, 2021

<u>Operating Account</u>		<u>Payroll Protection Program Loan</u>		<u>Benevolence Account</u>	
Beginning Bal.	\$ 16,340.99	Beginning Bal.	\$ 3,802.04	Beginning Bal.	\$ 0.00
Receipts	\$ 9,546.33	Receipts	\$ 0.00	Receipts	\$ 2,095.32
Expenses	<u>\$ 7,363.92</u>	Expenses	<u>\$ 3,802.04</u>	Expenses	<u>\$ 2,095.32</u>
Ending Bal.	\$ 18,523.40	Ending Bal.	\$ 0.00	Ending Bal.	\$ 0.00

The Operating Account balance is higher than usual because of the PPP Loan (see center column). We used the balance of the PPP funds in April. This will help us very much to meet our obligations throughout the summer.

### We are thankful for your faith-filled giving!

*Whether large and small, your giving enables us to God's calling for us "Beloved, Love."  
Thank you for all the ways you give! Further suggestions for supporting our faith community:*

- **Switch to E-giving;** visit [firstconguccsm.com](http://firstconguccsm.com) to sign up with VANCO
- **Mail a check** (1111 N. Chicago Ave. South Milwaukee, WI 53172) or drop your offering in the secure, **parking lot mail slot**
- **"Bill pay" your offering** through your bank as you might with other bills
- **Use PayPal** via [firstconguccsm.com](http://firstconguccsm.com)

*Whichever way(s) you support our ministries, **we are thankful** for your generosity and your deep passion for our church.*

### Alternative Methods of Giving

Do you wonder about alternative methods of giving to the church (e.g. stock dividends, IRA disbursements, adding the church to your will, etc.)?

Contact Treasurer Rochelle or a Member of Trustees for more information

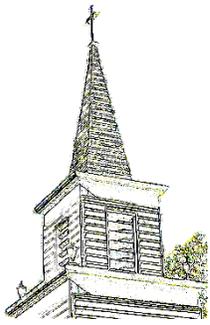
### From the UCC's Mental Health Network

*Trained professionals are available to assist in crisis:*

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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