

Dec. 11, 2020

# What's Happening

First Congregational Church of Mukwonago

## This Sunday's Worship Service

We will be worshipping in-person and via Zoom this Sunday at 10:00 am. Visit these links for important information:

[SONG LYRICS](#)

[ORDER OF WORSHIP](#)

To access Sunday's worship via Zoom, please use the information below:

[CLICK HERE FOR ZOOM WORSHIP](#)

Phone Number: (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 459 288 4444

Password: 2623637249

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Adult Bible Study will meet before church in the large classroom at 9:00. You can access the Bible study via Zoom as well:

[CLICK HERE FOR BIBLE STUDY](#)

Phone Number: (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 459 288 4444

Password: 2623637249

## Servant Schedule

Date	Liturgist
12/13	Linda G.
12/20	Open
12/27	Open
1/3	Open

## Devotions for Next Week

### Hebrews 13:17-19

- Why does Scripture command Christians to obey and submit to their leaders?
- How are church leaders supposed to act in their roles?
- The author earnestly urges the recipients of Hebrews to pray for his restoration to them. When you pray, do you expect results?

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### Birthdays this Week

Jerry Curtis.....	12/11
Trinity Luker .....	12/11
Karen Thomas.....	12/14
Kay Rowntree .....	12/16
Christine Litwin.....	12/17
Erin Tritz.....	12/17
Ruth Rappold .....	12/17
Harlan Petersen .....	12/18

**Articles & Announcements** for the next issue of "What's Happening" are due in the office by 8:00 am Friday Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.

## CHURCH CALENDAR



### Prayer Requests

- Larry L ~ health concerns
- Julia (from Diane W) health concerns
- Family of Marilyn (from Diane W) passed away
- JoAnn (from Beth P) health concerns
- Julie (from Beth P) health concerns
- Gary & Brandy (from Linda G) health concerns
- Cindy W (health concerns)
- Shawn (from Joanne H) health concerns
- Family of Jim (from Chris L) passed away
- Mary & grandson (from Karen T) health concerns
- Our Nation
- Our shut ins and those in ill health
- Our Church Leadership
- Those in Need
- Mission School of Hope & Clinic
- World Peace

### What's Happening



Needs ministry needs you and your needs! There may have been some confusion as we rolled out our needs ministry last month. We need you to sign up if you are willing to receive a list of needs. No blanket email will be sent out if you have not indicated that you are interested in receiving the email of needs. To date only

two people have indicated that they are even willing to receive an email of needs. And to date there have been no request for needs. So, please sign up by emailing [Needs@fccweb.net](mailto:Needs@fccweb.net) or text Jamie at (608) 352-5032.

As a reminder this also goes to the meal ministry if you would be willing to provide a meal to a family in need in the event of a death or mobility issue.



### Calling All Bakers!

The Backpack Team would like to include a container of Christmas cookies with the delivery of food on December 18<sup>th</sup>. We have a container for each family and just need to add the cookies. If you would be willing to donate a batch of your delicious cookies, they could be left at the church December 13-17 on the Backpack table in the narthex. You can also contact Karen (262-470-7538) or Janine (414-588-3879) for a cookie pick-up at your house. There are no peanut or nut allergies for any family. Thank you for sharing your kindness and talents!

### **Christmas Project 2020** The Giving Tree

Thank you dear members of FCC for helping to give our adopted family a very blessed Christmas! All gifts for our family are due back this Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to use the gift tag that was in your goodie bag, and attach it to the outside of your wrapped gift so that we know which gifts have been purchased. We'll make sure to get a picture of the tree with all the gifts underneath and put that picture into the next Weekly Update!

## Backpack Program

Thank you for continuing to support the Backpack program! I was at Wal-Mart this week and talked to a former student who works there. The conversation included the fact that she remembered receiving a backpack when she was at Clarendon. She said taking a bag of groceries home each week made her feel good about helping her family. She made me smile when she also confessed she really liked the ravioli!



In the delivery this week, a popcorn popper for each family was included from Judy and Jack Rudolph. Judy helped to provide a healthy snack and some time together for the families. Thank you for your kindness!

Comments from some of the families:

“Thank you so much! All the bags have been wonderful and we appreciate it all! God bless everyone that makes this program so special!”

“Thank you! We truly appreciate everything you have provided for us.”

“Thank you so much! Please tell her we said thank you, it really means a lot to us.”

“That is so thoughtful! Thank you so much!”

“Thank you very much, we appreciate it! Please say thank you from our family.”

### Needed for December

- Pancake mix & syrup
- Large cans of stew
- Cans of tuna & Tuna Helper
- 6 pk raisins
- Cans of vegetables

## Offering ~ Ways to Give

Offering Envelopes ~ If you would like offering envelopes for 2021 please let the office know. ([office@fccweb.net](mailto:office@fccweb.net) or 262-363-7249) They will be labeled and placed on a table in the narthex for you to pick up (Tues. or Friday mornings or Sunday before and after worship).

Bank Check ~ If your bank has Bill Pay you can have your offering automatically sent by check on a monthly basis. There usually isn't a fee for this service.

Website ~ You can also give through our website with a credit card or bank transfer. Click [here](#) for more info!

## Christmas Cards

Please join Women's Fellowship to send some Christmas cheer to our members who are living in Linden/Brolen Meadows. There are packs of 6 cards along with a list of the members you are writing to. Please sign and return by Dec. 16th. There will be gift bags with their names ~ please put cards in the appropriate bag.

**SHARE YOUR SPARE** ~ Do you have a few extra cards after you have finished your list? Well, there are plastic bags on the same table in Narthex. Each bag contains 3 names along with their current address. I am asking that you put a stamp on and either mail them or bring them back to church and leave on the table. Send someone a word of encouragement and a “How ya Doing?”. I'm sure it would be appreciated. Thank you!

## "What fun memories are being made for all of us."



The third candle in Advent represents joy, and Our Good News Club Christmas party was especially joyful this year. We had an impromptu Christmas pageant! With the blessing of Rae Ellen, we used the beautiful costumes that had been part of the children's ministry many years ago, and the Litwin's provided face shields so we were able to see all of the smiling faces. (For individual pictures, children were allowed to briefly remove their masks.)

Pastor Kevin was our narrator, reading directly the words of the Bible that tell of the incarnation. As the children's parts were read, they came forward and acted out their role. After a few times through, God was glorified mightily as the children told the story in their own words. A handful of children were not able to join us, so Tim took on the role of King Herod and Linda G was the lone shepherd with Karen M as a trusty sheep. Chris L, Lydia, & Maribeth volunteered as both photographers and audience to cheer on our cast.



Click [HERE](#) for more photos!

Thank you for your support for this ministry. God answered your prayers this semester as we had excellent weather for walking the children from Clarendon, all volunteers and children stayed healthy, and **EVERY child was able to recite Scripture they memorized this fall!** We are also thankful for the work of our fall missionary focus, Joni Eareckson Tada, and for the anonymous donation we received toward her wheelchair ministry.

We're off for the next couple of months, but if you'd like to serve with us for the spring semester, reach out to any of the GNC volunteers.

### Council News

The council has hired Tom & Sue Roberts to be our new custodians. Welcome!

### Employee Christmas Bonuses

For the past several years Employees of FCC other than the Pastor have received a Christmas bonus from the Church budget and an envelope has circulated in the Sanctuary for contributions for a Christmas gift to the Pastor. At its meeting on December 9, the Council decided that social distancing standards do not lend themselves to circulate an envelope. As a result, it was decided that all employees, **INCLUDING THE PASTOR**, would receive a bonus from the church budget roughly equivalent to the amount that they received last year.

## **COVID UPDATE**

With the increase in Covid 19 throughout the state and the nation, this seems to be a good time to review the Church's policy regarding covid tests. The policy was passed in August and some of the assumptions made at that time (particularly regarding testing and contact tracing) are not accurate today.

**The most important single precaution is that if you do not feel 100% healthy, please don't attend church activities including worship.**

If you are **exposed** directly to covid, if you have **symptoms** and are going to be tested for covid, or if you or someone in your household **tests positive** for covid **AND** you have had contact with members of the congregation either through attendance at worship, or working on a project, attending an in-person meeting or other contact connected to church, we ask you to contact our medical reporting e-mail: [medicalreporting@fccweb.net](mailto:medicalreporting@fccweb.net). If you do not have access to email, call Diane Williams at 608-274-5597.

This contact will notify others with whom you have had contact exactly what their own potential contact risk is. We are asking that you not wait until you have received a positive test result. The reasons are: Depending on the test that you receive, you may not receive your results for 3 to 6 days and if you are positive and infect someone else, they can pass on the disease while you are waiting for your test. The person you came in

contact with has the knowledge to know whether to go shopping or visit with an elderly friend in the next couple of days.

The notices that will go to those with whom you have had contact will say:

*This is to inform you that someone who worshipped with you on Sunday*

- a. Has been told that they have been exposed and/or has had direct contact with someone who tested positive for Covid*
- b. Is experiencing symptoms of Covid and is arranging to be tested*
- c. Or has had someone in their household test positive for covid.*

*Additional information will be forwarded to you as we receive it.*

If you report that you were exposed or that you are going to get a test, it is important to follow up with what happens. It is important to know when you test negative as well as when you test positive.

Recent surveys of people testing positive reported this week show that as many as 48% of those testing positive had no symptoms. It is also important to know that in Wisconsin 54% of those dying from covid were over 80. 74% are over 70. You may be taking precautions to protect others in our congregation and not yourselves.

Thank you for your help during the next few weeks or months.

## Covid Quick Reminders

**IF YOU DO NOT FEEL WELL, DO NOT ATTEND CHURCH ACTIVITIES.**

If you are exposed to someone who tests positive for covid or

If you experience covid symptoms and are arranging to be tested or

If you or someone in your household tests positive for covid

**AND**

You have had contact with someone from church in the last 5 days:

Please contact the covid reporting email:

[medicalreporting@fccweb.net](mailto:medicalreporting@fccweb.net)

If you do not have email, please call Diane Williams at **608-274-5597**.

If contact was not at worship tell us where the contact took place and with whom you had contact.

Please update us with test results whether you test positive or negative.

No one will know who is reporting possible exposure unless you choose to share that information.



During Advent, many of us enjoy singing Christmas carols, but prolonged singing in church is not a good idea during this time of Covid. But don't you just love singing Christmas Carols? So.... how about a **Zoom Christmas Caroling** event!

We will meet **via Zoom every Tuesday evening at 6:30** during Advent to carol together! The dates are:

Tuesday, December 15

Tuesday, December 22

Please mark your calendars!

We will run this similar to hymn sings that we have held in church in the past. Members on Zoom can call out a number of the Christmas Carol from the hymnal, and we will join together in singing it!

Please contact us if you need to have a hymnal dropped off at your home so that you can join us weekly for this very special Advent event!

Karen Mathew [kmathew5@zoho.com](mailto:kmathew5@zoho.com)

(262) 436 - 4025

Joanne Himebauch [jhimebau78@gmail.com](mailto:jhimebau78@gmail.com)

(262) 363 -8144)

[Click Here for Zoom Caroling](#) on the dates and time listed above!

[Click here](#) for a list of all the hymns along with their page numbers in the hymnal.

## Contact Us

**FIRST**  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH • MUKWONAGO  
231 Roberts Drive  
Mukwonago, WI 53149  
[www.fccweb.net](http://www.fccweb.net)

### Church Office

262-363-7249

[office@fccweb.net](mailto:office@fccweb.net)

### Pastor Kevin Clark

262-975-1026

[rev.kevinclark@gmail.com](mailto:rev.kevinclark@gmail.com)

### Marni Wiggins

Organist/Choir Director

[marnilynn@mac.com](mailto:marnilynn@mac.com)

### Prayer Chain

[prayer@fccweb.net](mailto:prayer@fccweb.net)

### Visitation Ministry

[care@fccweb.net](mailto:care@fccweb.net)

## Church Council

### Moderator- Prakash Mathew

262-436-4025

### Moderator Elect - Janine Coley

262-363-4627

### Treasurer-Jean Brocker

262-470-9949

### Secretary-Joanne Himebauch

262-363-8144

### Budget & Finance-Ryan Venema

262-749-8380

### Property & Grounds-Bob Brandemuehl

262-227-6629

### Worship-Jan Snavely

262-720-3018

### Congregational Care-Karen Jones

262.470.7538

### Missions-Diane Williams

608-274-5597

### Christian Education-Sue Roberts

262-378-4695

## This Week on the Mayflower

On December 16, explorations resumed. The shallop south along the cape. The shallop party consisted of seven colonists from Leiden, three from London and seven members of the crew. They were exploring in the area that is now Brewster, Chatham, Eastham, Harwich and Orleans. These were the areas inhabited by the Nauset people. They saw some people on the shore as they approached, but when they landed, discovered that the people had fled inland.

They discovered more mounds. Some contained food stores including acorns and were exhumed. Others were graves and they decided to leave alone.

The party remained ashore that evening. During the night they heard cries near the encampment. The following morning the Indians attacked the colonists, shooting at them with arrows. They retrieved their guns from the shallop and returned fire, then chased them into the woods but did not find them. After this, the colonists had no more contact with the natives for several months.

The native people had already had contact with English fishers and traders prior to the arrival of the Mayflower. In this area, the relations were poor following a visit several years earlier by Thomas Hunt. Hunt kidnapped 20 people from Patuxet (the site of Plymouth Colony) and seven more from Nausett which he then took to Europe and attempted to sell as slaves. One of the

slaves was Squanto who later became an ally of the Colony. Squanto escaped at some point and ended up in England, where he became a Christian. When he was able to return to Cape Cod, he discovered that most of his tribe had died from plague, another gift from the explorers.

After this encounter, they continued westward exploration. They encountered storms and the shallop's mast and rudder were broken by the storms and the sail was lost. They rowed for safety, encountering the harbor formed several barrier beaches and they actually landed in darkness. They stayed there for two days to recuperate and make repairs. The island was named Clark's Island for a Mayflower mate who was the first to step foot on the Island.

## **Did you know John Cotton...**

John Cotton, born on December, 4 1585, was a clergyman in England and the American colonies and, by most accounts, the preeminent minister and theologian of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

John studied five years at Trinity College, Cambridge, and later for nine years at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He built a reputation as a scholar and preacher in England, but later moved to New England. As a Puritan, he wanted to do away with the ceremony and vestments associated with the established Church of England and preach in a simpler manner. He felt that the English church needed significant reforms, but he was adamant about not separating from it; his preference was to change it from within.

John was highly sought as a minister in Massachusetts and was accepted as second pastor of the Boston church. He generated more religious conversions in the first six months than had been made the whole previous year. He wrote many letters and books on the governance of the New England churches, and it was he who called this form of church polity "Congregationalism."

Clergy and laity in New England regarded Cotton very highly for his scholarship. He became more conservative with age. He battled the separatist attitude of Roger Williams and advocated severe punishment for those whom he deemed heretics, such as Samuel Gorton and Obadiah Holmes. He was a scholar, an avid letter writer, and the author of many books, and was considered the "prime mover" among New England's ministers. He was grandfather of Cotton Mather. He died on December 23, 1652 at the age of 67, following a month-long illness.

## **...was a Congregationalist?**

Celebrating 400 Years of American Congregationalism  
Learn more about our Congregational History at [nacc.org](http://nacc.org)