



April 2015

THE MESSENGER

April 2015

A Newsletter for the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Park Falls, WI

279 North First Avenue, P.O. Box 258, Park Falls, WI 54552

Telephone: (715) 762-3220 ~ Worship: 9:30 AM ~ E-mail: parkfallsucc@pctcnet.net



Congregational Meeting, April 12, 2015

We are having a Congregational Meeting after church service on April 12 to vote on moving money from some accounts and consolidating accounts. The voting will be to put the two cash accounts (Reserve Checking Account and Capital Savings Account) into one saving account. Then to also vote on reinvesting the two CD funds into the Endowment (FNB) for better earning potential and to minimize record keeping. Based upon Jill Franck's recommendation, increasing the value of the Endowment provides us with an opportunity to develop a plan to optimize the monies to replenish funds in the Capital Savings on a schedule basis, and to safeguard the assets for the future of the church.

Word Search

**ANOINTS, BELONG, CHRISM, CONFIRM,
GIFTS, GRACE, LOVE, RESPECT,
UNITED, WISDOM, WONDER**

C	R	E	D	N	O	W	D
T	O	C	L	O	V	E	C
C	W	N	O	U	T	H	G
E	I	R	F	I	R	N	R
P	S	T	N	I	O	N	A
S	D	U	S	L	R	A	C
E	O	M	E	G	E	M	E
R	M	B	S	T	F	I	G

ATTENTION CONFIRMATIONS STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Confirmation, classes will start on Wednesday, April 8, 2015. They will be held in the lower level dining area. There will be six sessions, every Wednesday starting at 3:45 pm until 4:45 pm with the last session being Wednesday May 13th. Confirmation is scheduled for Sunday, May 17, 2015. At this time we have 7 confirmands attending. Many members of the congregation have voiced concerns about our youth and lack of presence in the church, so now is a chance for you to help. We are in need of additional persons to be present during these classes, not only to help, but to comply with being a Safe Church. Contact Amy Heizler (715-661-0542) or George Faltinosky (715-762-3701) if you are available to help on any of the Wednesday afternoons.

Church Office Hours

Our office is open from 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Wednesday and Friday.

Phone number: 715-762-3220

Please leave a message and your calls or emails will be answered during these times.
Church Secretary – Lynn Kundinger

Lord's Cupboard

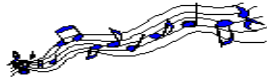
Wednesday 10:00 a.m. – Noon
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - Noon



Last month's hidden word was: God



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



04/02	Noah Peterson
04/05	Carson Schmitt
04/07	Ashley Brunell
04/07	Dorothy Wardensky
04/08	Shane Wakefield
04/10	Carolyn Young
04/12	Sara Bukachek
04/12	Terri Kaiser
04/17	Christie Sales
04/22	James Corbett
04/23	Jana Ferkovich
04/23	Dana Griesel
04/23	Kathy Lee
04/28	Kristin Palacek
04/30	Chris Ferkovich
04/30	Lois Gwinn



04/05 David & Erika Carden

04/09 Arnold & Alice Tucker

If you would like to share your anniversary date, please contact the office. Thank you.

April MINISTRIES

USHERS

<u>April 05</u>	Morrison Family
<u>April 12</u>	Morrison Family
<u>April 19</u>	Hennes Family
<u>April 26</u>	Heisler/Smart Families
<u>May 05</u>	Corbett Family

If you cannot usher, please call Jim Ferkovich at 715-762-2385.

COUNTERS

<u>April 05</u>	Renee Donner & Alice Megna
<u>April 12</u>	Arlene Morisson & Lois Gwinn
<u>April 19</u>	Jana Ferkovich & Heidi Peterson
<u>April 26</u>	Kurt & DiAnn Brown
<u>May 05</u>	Renee Donner & Alice Megna

SCRIPUTRE READERS

<u>April 05</u>	Jim Corbett
<u>April 12</u>	Edna Kroepel
<u>April 19</u>	Jana Ferkovich
<u>April 26</u>	Jean Fischer
<u>May 05</u>	Laurie Fox

COMMUNION SERVERS

<u>April</u>	Hennes Family
<u>May</u>	Jean Fischer/Terry Little
<u>June</u>	Heisler Family

If you are on any of these lists and cannot make it on your assigned day, please call someone else to change dates.

Thank you for volunteering.

Northwest Association Annual Meeting

April 11, 2015

The Executive Committee of the Northwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ invites all churches (pastors, lay delegates, youth, retired clergy, and visitors) to the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Association to be held at **Nekoosa United Church of Christ**, 205 Market Street, Nekoosa, WI 54457 on **Saturday, April 11th** from **9:30 am to 2:30 pm**.

We are honored to announce that the **Rev. Franz Rigert**, our newly selected Conference Minister, has graciously agreed to serve as our speaker. He will invite us to consider the prophetic text - "**A new heart I will give you and a new spirit I will put within you.**" (Ezekiel 36:26-27), as we talk about new hope and renewed faith for the future of the Northwest Association. We will be invited to RE-IMAGINE CHURCH and open our hearts and minds to new models of ministry. This will be particularly relevant at this time when we are seeking a pastoral leader to the Northwest, and accentuating our movement toward more intentional care and connection for clergy and congregations.

This year our business meeting and elections will occur in the morning, followed by a lunch to be served at 12:30. The keynote address and worship will take place in the afternoon. We are delighted that "The Wisconsin Gospellers," a gospel choir of the Wisconsin Conference UCC, will be a part of our worship service. They rejoice in promoting gospel music for the renewal of the worship of the church, and we feel sure they will bring even **greater** joy to our worship service.

We are recommending that you register early for this exciting event, and once again this year we will use electronic registration ([Online Registration](#)) for the meeting (offline alternative available; please stop in at your local church office for a registration blank.) The **cost is \$10 per person; \$5 per person for Confirmation Students and Youth**. The registration deadline is **Friday, April 3rd**. An Annual Report will be sent to churches before the annual meeting.

If you are planning on coming to Nekoosa on Friday evening you can find a listing of accommodations at <https://www.chamberofcommerce.com/nekoosa-wi>.

We look forward to seeing you in Nekoosa, April 11^h.

Wisconsin Conference UCC

53rd Annual Meeting

Courage in the Struggle

Job 12:22 God shines a spotlight into caves of darkness, hauls deepest darkness into the noonday sun. From The Message

Annual Meeting June 12-14

**Thursday Program: Gifts of the Dark Wood
Retreat June 11**

Both are events at the Green Lake Conference Center

Annual Meeting Keynotes:

- **Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.** Author, Senior Minister of Countryside Community Church (UCC), Omaha, NE, and Host of *Darkwood Brew*
- **Rev. J. Bennett Guess**, Executive Minister, UCC Local Church Ministries

Join us for a very energizing and uplifting experience at this year's Annual Meeting. **Rev. Eric Elnes**, well-known host of *Darkwood Brew*, will lead us through the weekend with thought-provoking presentations, worship and workshops. Rev. Elnes is Senior Minister at Countryside Community Church (UCC) in Omaha, Nebraska, and was lead author and editor of *The Phoenix Affirmations*.

In addition to Rev. Elnes' program and a **keynote address by Rev. Ben Guess**, more than **20 workshops** will enhance your life and ministry. There will be workshops by Rev. Elnes, jazz musician Chuck Marohnic, and Ben Guess. Dr. John Whitcomb will be back with his standing-room-only workshop on stewarding your health, while Rev Holly Whitcomb will help us face life's changes with courage. Rev. Winton Boyd will share Parker Palmer's teachings on discussing difficult topics. And so much more.

Other highlights:

- Opportunities to connect with friends and colleagues
- Worship to deepen our collective faith
- Participate in the business of the Conference
- Saturday night social event
- Gain respite in the the beautiful setting

***All are welcome to attend Annual Meeting.
Don't miss it!***

About Annual Meeting

This annual gathering of members of United Church of Christ congregations from throughout the state gives us a chance to explore a theme relevant to our work as followers of Jesus, to transact the official business of our conference and to spend time together forming new bonds of friendship and renewing existing bonds.

The annual meeting is held at Green Lake Conference Center. If you plan on attending the Annual Meeting, you may reserve your hotel room through Green Lake Conference Center. When making your reservation be sure to indicate that it is for the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting. Registration materials will be sent out to all congregations in April, so check with your local church for more details or contact the Conference office at (608) 846-7880.

Annual Meeting Schedule:

Annual Meeting registration opens at 9:00 a.m.

June 12

Lunch 11:30 – 1:00

Program begins with Opening Worship Friday at 1:00 pm

Program ends with Sunday Worship, June 14

(Park Falls UCC can have 2 delegates.

For information: www.wcucc.org/annualmeeting)

Come, explore new ideas, and enjoy the company of friends old and new in the Wisconsin UCC.

CAMPITAL CAMPAIGN

"Then shall all of the trees of the forest sing for joy." Psalm 96:12

One of my favorite childhood memories was hiking to Vesper Point at *Moon Beach Camp*. Family Camp kindled lifelong friendships and invited us to experience the sacred amidst the beauty of Mother Nature. In the years that followed, I attended Moon Beach's Junior High Camp, visiting the canteen daily, passing a grueling swimming test in order to jump off the raft, and playfully nicknaming my cabin counselor "Moses" (he was a bird lover who taught us many species). Those are precious memories.

Years later, I began leading Confirmation Retreats at *Pilgrim Center* - 24 hours of energetic, sugar heightened and relationally awkward 7th & 8th graders! Many of those confirmands still reminisce fondly about hiking in the woods, playing football

together, and feeling the depth of God's love for them.

Over the past six years, I've joyfully returned to our camps for leadership retreats where I have witnessed firsthand an extraordinary outdoor ministry that touches so many lives. Now, as Conference Minister, I confer with the Camp Board regularly and share, with so many of you, the conviction that these treasured "gems" ought to stir faith and nurture spirits for generations to come.

Here's the bottom line. Many of our UCC Conferences across the country have sold their camps. Why? Truth is - the most efficiently run camps generate only 85% of their operating and maintenance costs. That's a well-known statistic in the world of church camps. For years, the Wisconsin Conference has supplemented *Moon Beach* and *Pilgrim Center* in order to help close that annual gap. A year ago, members of both the Conference Board and the Camp Board came to the conclusion that it was time to address the long-term fiscal needs of our beloved Outdoor Ministries.

Our current **CAMPITAL CAMPAIGN** seeks to move us toward a day when *Moon Beach Camp* and *Pilgrim Center* can sustain themselves. Two things are imperative for sustainability - spacious, year-round programming and retreat centers (which will increase capacity) and endowment funds capable of producing sufficient dividends to supplement camping revenues. My family has already made a substantial 5 year commitment to this campaign, and I hope you will consider doing the same.

Last fall, when I was candidating to be your Conference Minister, I visited *Moon Beach* for a meet and greet session. Early on that Saturday morning, Glenn Svetnicka, Director of Outdoor Ministry, took me on a walk beyond Vesper Point . . . down along the boardwalk overlooking the bog. The view was breath taking - the glistening, golden Tamaracks displaying their autumnal brilliance. This, friends, is the entry point for many young people to the life of faith, and their invitation into Church.

Thank you for encouraging your congregations to commit generously to this **Campital Campaign**.

With hopes that our children's grandchildren will hear the forest sing for joy!

Letter from Fritz Rigert, WI Conference UCC Minister

PRAYERS FOR OTHER CONFERENCE CHURCHES

Sheboygan, First congregational UCC,
Reverends Jim and Julia Hollister and Kim
Anderson

Sheboygan, St. John's UCC,
Reverend Greg Shelton (Lisa)

Wausau, Grace UCC,
Reverend Wayne Drucek (Collen) and Reverend
Julie Goranson

Wausau, St. Paul's UCC,
Reverend Philip Schneider (Cathy) and Keane
Foster

Sheboygan St. Paul's UCC,
Interim, Mark Jaberg

Sturgeon Bay, Hope UCC,
Reverend Richard Feyen (Peg)

Wisconsin Rapids, First Congregational UCC,
Interim, Micah Schlohbohm, Susan Stein

Two Rivers, Grace Congregational UCC,
Reverend Kim Henning (Faye) and Reverend Colie
Bettivia (Tobin)

Waupun, Union Congregational UCC,
Interim, Jack Kraaz

Northland College

Our Camps:
Moon Beach, Glenn Svetnicka
Pilgrim Center, Mike Klemp-North

Conference Staff:
Franz Rigert (Trinn)
Joanne Thomson (Donald Hausch)
Lisa Hart (Chuck)
Tisha Brown
Rebecca Johnston (Joel Schuler)
Kent Ulery (Meg)



A recipe from 2015 World Day of Prayer

Junkanoo Chicken and Rice

Ingredients:

½ cup sliced fresh mushrooms
1 piece of celery, diced
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 onion sliced
1 ¼ cups chicken broth
½ teaspoon soy sauce
1 yellow or red sweet pepper cut into strips
2 zucchinis sliced
2 tablespoons cornstarch
½ teaspoons ginger (ground)
2 cups chicken breast (cooked and cubed)
2 packages Mahatma yellow rice

Direction:

Cook rice as directed, but substitute water with tomato juice, and add celery and peppers. In a large skillet, heat oil and sauté onions, zucchinis and mushrooms. In a separate bowl, whisk together chicken broth, soy sauce, ginger and cornstarch, then add to other ingredients in skillet. Cook over low heat until it comes to a boil and thickens, and stir frequently. Add chicken and gently stir until hot. Serve on a bed of rice.

<http://www.the-bahamas-islands.com>

CHANCEL CHOIR UPDATES



Practices are at 8:45am before services. Dates for April 2015 are the 5th, 19th, and the 26th. *New members are always welcome.* If you would like to join the choir, contact Mark Donner at 715-762-2808.

Easter Lily Care in the House From about.com

Keep your Easter Lilies blooming by taking a few easy precautions.

- **All lilies are extremely toxic to cats and can cause kidney failure. Don't bring lilies into a home with cats.**
- Display your plant in bright, but indirect sunlight.
- Protect your Easter Lily from drafts and heat sources, such as fireplaces, heaters and appliances.
- Remove the yellow anthers from the flower centers. This helps prolong the life of the blossoms and prevents the pollen on the anthers from staining the flowers, your hands, clothing, tablecloths, rugs and anything else it can find its way to.
- Cool daytime temperatures in the 60 - 65 degree F. range will prolong the life of the blooms. The temperature can be even cooler at night.
- Water the your Easter Lily only when the soil becomes dry to the touch and don't leave it dry for an extended period of time.
- If the lily's pot is in a decorative foil wrapper, be sure water is not accumulating under the pot. More plants die from over watering than under watering.
- Remove flowers has they fade and wither.

Transplanting and Re-Blooming Easter Lilies

It may be possible to plant your Easter Lily outdoors and have it bloom again for you, next season. The success rate will vary, as with all florist plants that have been forced into bloom. But it is possible and what have you got to loose?

- Wait until all the flowers have withered and been removed from the plant. Keep the plant watered and in indirect sunlight until it is ready to go outside.

- Wait until all danger of frost has passed and find a sunny, well draining spot in your garden.
- Amend the [soil with some organic matter](#), if needed. [Soil pH](#) should be a neutral 6.5 to 7.0.
- Plant the Easter Lily bulb to the same depth it was in the pot.
- Add an additional 2-inch [layer of organic mulch](#). Lilies like [full sun](#), but cool soil.
- The original leaves and stem will start to brown. When this begins to happen, cut the plant down to a healthy, green leaf. New growth should soon emerge from the base of the plant. Let the plant grow foliage the first year.
- The new growth will turn yellow in the fall and the lily plant can then be cut back to soil level.
- Top dress the soil with bulb fertilizer or blood meal. Work into surrounding soil, making sure not to disturb the lilies roots.
- Apply a few more inches of mulch to insulate the plant through the winter.
- Remove the mulch as the weather warms in the spring.
- [Begin applying a balanced fertilizer](#) as soon as new growth appears and monthly until the lily blooms.
- Be patient. It may take a couple of year's for your plant to build up enough resources to set flower buds. Easter Lilies naturally bloom in June/July, so don't look for flowers next Easter.
- If you've come this far successfully, keep your lily well watered the first year as it establishes itself and then treat it as you would any other lily.



Consistory Meeting Report

March 8, 2015

Present: George Faltinosky, Mark Donner, Jim Corbett, Amy Heizler, Laurie Fox, also present was Jill Franck

Old Business: Jill was at the meeting to give the consistory an update and summary of our church finances. She included some suggestions for how our church can move forward and make the most of our financial assets through savings and investments, in addition to what we already have.

We appreciated the information shared and the suggestions, backed by rationale, to assist us in decision making.

We plan to have a congregational meeting on April 12th to discuss and vote on consolidating our assets.

Jim Corbett reported that the "Call to Share", training kit he had ordered from the UCC did not meet his expectations. It was ordered for the purpose of assisting him in the newly organized group of church members who want to visit ill members and offer spiritual support. He will return it for a refund and move forward with the group and their goals.

On February 25th, members of the Mellen UCC and our church met in our fellowship hall. Rebecca Johnston, our interim association minister was also in attendance. the purpose was to discuss the possibility of working together to find a pastor for our churches to share. Amy shared the results of this discussion. Following are basic guidelines the group came up with: each church write a church profile, consider a \$70,000 total package to split 50/50 (each church spends \$35,000), written covenant to share pastor for duration pastor is here, and combined expenses for the pastor would include retirement, annuity, salary, life insurance, housing, and health insurance.

After much discussion and motion was made by Laurie to propose a \$70,000 total package for the pastor we will search for, to be split 50/50 between the Mellen church and the Park Falls UCC church, including a specified car allowance 50/50 instead of a flat mileage rate. George seconded, and motion was carried. Amy will pass this information on to the Mellen church.

Service times had also been discussed at the joint meeting with Mellen. The group had decided times

would be at 9:00AM and 11:00AM. the consistory discussed options for alternating times between the two churches. Mark made a motion that service times would alternate odd/even months. For example, we would have earlier time on the odd numbered months, and Mellen would have the earlier time on even numbered months. Also that when a pastor is hired, the initial service schedule between the churches would be decided by a coin toss. Jim seconded and motion was carried. Amy will pass this on to the Mellen church.

New Business: As a follow-up to Jill's presentation, we had a discussion about our current church investments with the Fiorio Brothers. Mark made a motion that he and Jim would begin to meet quarterly with the Investment Center to be more active with how our funds are doing. Jim seconded, motion carried.

George mentioned that the annual meeting in Green Lake is in June. He would like to attend, and asked if others would be interested.

George relayed to us that Jim Ferkovich has asked to be on the Equipping MAC as a "grounds" person. We appreciate his time to help our church.

George spoke to Tim Hilgart about finishing our church's electrical work. He said he will get back to working on it in April.

Pat Kinnear submitted a list of building concerns. This will be passed on to the equipping MAC.

12:30 PM Motion to adjourn by Mark, George seconded, motion carried.

Next meeting: April 12, 2015 after church.



Thank you to the Circle of Faith for providing the Palm Sunday Breakfast.