



March 2015

THE MESSENGER

March 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
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No Anniversaries this month.

World Day of Prayer 2015

Friday, March 6 is World Day of Prayer 2015. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer. The World Day of Prayer was founded on the idea that prayer and action are inseparable. Each year a different country's committee serves as the writers of the World Day of Prayer worship service. This year the women of WDP Bahamas give us an invitation to beauty and love in the name of the transformative and radical love that Jesus brings to us all. Please join in our community service, hosted by Women's Christian Fellowship at the First Congregational Church, Park Falls, WI, on March 6, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

Last month's hidden word
was: ministry

03/08	Alexander Fox
03/10	Chuck Michalski
03/11	Matthew Donner
03/13	Kennedi Kielpikowski
03/15	Kale Kielpikowski
03/15	Kim Smith
03/19	Lois Stuempges
03/20	Carol Hoppe
03/27	Alice Tucker
03/30	Amy Heizler
03/31	Pat Kinnear

See if you can find this month's word in
this word search of the 10
Commandments.

H	S	L	A	E	T	S	N
T	G	F	D	C	L	I	E
A	N	A	U	O	A	N	I
B	I	T	L	V	O	H	G
B	H	H	T	E	K	O	H
A	T	E	E	T	I	N	B
S	G	R	R	O	L	O	O
H	O	L	Y	D	L	R	R

Adultery, Covet, Father, Holy,
Honor, Kill, Lie, Neighbor, One,
Sabbath, Steal, Things, Vain

MARCH MINISTRIES

USHERS

<u>March 01</u>	Heisler/Smart
<u>March 08</u>	Young/Megna
<u>March 15</u>	Fox/Heizler
<u>March 22</u>	Gwinn
<u>March 29</u>	Corbett

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

COUNTERS

<u>March 01</u>	Kurt & DiAnn Brown
<u>March 08</u>	Renee Donner & Alice Megna
<u>March 15</u>	Arlene Morisson & Lois Gwinn
<u>March 22</u>	Jana Ferkovich & Heidi Peterson
<u>March 29</u>	Kurt & DiAnn Brown

Prayers for the following UCC Congregations

Union Congregational, Gary Gilbert (Bernice)
First Congregational, Tomah, Edwin Stigen (Cathy)
Saron, Sheboygan Falls, Dan Borchers (Lisa Jo)
Ebenezer, Sheboygan, Roger Mealiff (Penny)
and Lorri Steward (Cal)

CHANCEL CHOIR UPDATES



Practices are at 8:45am before services. Dates for March 2015 are the 8th and 22nd.
New members are always welcome. If you would like to join the choir, contact Mark Donner at 715-762-2808.

SCRIPTURE READERS

<u>March 01</u>	Rosie Slack
<u>March 08</u>	Jill Franck
<u>March 15</u>	Jim Ferkovich
<u>March 22</u>	Renee Donner
<u>March 29</u>	Terry Little

COMMUNION SERVERS

<u>March</u>	Corbett Family
<u>April</u>	Hennes Family
<u>May</u>	Jean Fischer/Terry Little

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.

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 Kunding

Lord's Cupboard

<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>10:00 a.m. – Noon</u>
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>10:00 a.m. - Noon</u>



February 8, 2015 Consistory Minutes

Present: Amy Heizler, Mark Donner, George Faltinosky, Kurt Brown, Jim Corbett, Laurie Fox

10:55 A.M.

January minutes were reviewed and approved.

Financial report was reviewed. Discussion as follows: Clarified that Pastor Emerson Coy would be paid for his services on Ash Wednesday, at the same rate as Sunday pulpit supply. This amount is \$150 plus mileage. George will be meeting with him to discuss his availability for the other Lenten Wednesday services we are hosting. Mark asked for clarification of actual church budget amounts for his service versus actual W-2 amounts. Jim suggested 2015 giving statements list all giving dates. The 2014 statements did not have these. Kurt made a motion to accept financial report as printed. Laurie second. Motion carried.

Old Business: Amy reported church laptop was found to have viruses, which is why it was having issues connecting with the internet. She has contacted someone who will clean it up at no cost. Also, the Park Falls Department is donating a used desktop computer to the church.

George reported he had spoken to Roger Strand at Pieper Electric concerning the re-wiring work that has been started- but not completed- above the sanctuary. It was suggested to George that he contact Tim Hilgart about the progress of the job.

Jim reported that Severson's has repaired the snow blower. Jerry Smart (our snow removal person) and Jim met with the repairman to get clear instructions on operating the snow blower to get the best results.

Congregation Caring Team-Jim requested and received a teaching/start-up packet from the UCC conference to assist in getting our local voluntary group trained. Jim said he will be planning a meeting for church members interested in being a part of this team.

Lenten Services- Feb. 25, Mar. 11 & 25 @Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, March 4, 18 @ our church. Offerings in envelopes will go to church and loose change will go to Lord's Cupboard food pantry. Cross Walk will be on Good Friday, April 3rd starting at Peace Lutheran.

New Business: Amy reported that Jean Fischer has agreed to take on the listening device search for our sanctuary.

George and Amy reported confirmation classes will start up again on April 8th, with confirmation on May 17th.

The Search Committee will meet with representatives from the Mellen UCC church on February 25th at our church. Rebecca Johnson, interim pastor for the conference, will also be attending. This will be the first meeting to begin a joint search with Mellen, for a shared pastor.

Amy shared that she spoke with Ann Weaver, our church employee who currently handles our payroll. We need to decide how to fill the current financial manager position. We can't seem to keep this filled, so we need to look into paying someone else, possibly Ann to do this.

Next consistory meeting will be March 8th after church.

12:10P.M. Amy motioned to adjourn. Mark second. Motion carried.

Circle of Faith

YOU ARE INVITED

You are cordially invited to a Palm Sunday Breakfast following worship service on March 29th. It is sponsored by The Circle of Faith. They will be serving egg bakes, fruit, muffins, sweet breads, milk, juice, coffee, and tea. Please join in for some great fellowship and food. We hope to see you there!

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>.

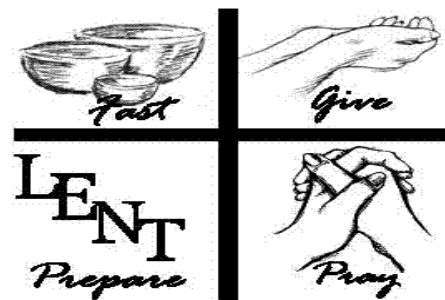
We look forward to seeing you in Nekoosa on April 11th.

"The Little Mermaid" Musical

Musical presented by the Chequamegon School District will be on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 20th through 22nd, 2015 in the Chequamegon High School Auditorium, Park Falls Campus. Please call the school for more information: 715-762-2474.

ATTENTION CONFIRMATIONS STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Confirmation, classes will start on Wednesday, April 8, 2015. 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. Contact Amy Heizler (715-661-0542) or George Faltinosky (715-762-3701) for further information.



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 noontday
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.***

Lenten Wednesdays

**Christ the Servant (CTS) and First
Congregational Church (UCC)**

Services will follow the theme "Jesus' Teachings on Forgiveness". When you are the host church your pastor or lay minister will preach on the Gospel lessons below.

2nd Wednesday, March 4th, at UCC,
(Matthew 6:7-15, Forgive as God Forgives)
3rd Wednesday, March 11th, at CTS,
(Matthew 5:21-26, Reconciliation)
4th Wednesday, March 18th, at UCC,
(Luke 15:11-32, Restoration)
5th Wednesday, March 25th at CTS
(Luke 23:32-43, Pardon)

Soup supper's at 5:30 pm – **The host church makes the soup and provides beverages. Visiting church brings desert. Worship service beginning at 6:30 pm.**

There will be an offering taken at the end of worship. Checks and envelopes will go to your respective church. Loose change and bills will be given to the Lord's Cupboard.

Any questions please call Pastor Gwen at 414-531-7924 (cell) or 715-769-3535 (home).

CAMPITAL CAMPAIGN

Letter from Fritz Rigert, WI Conference UCC Minister

"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!

Franz

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH ~ March 2015 ~ SAVE YOUR VISION MONTH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Service by Mark Donner and Laurie Fox	2 March Flower is the daffodil. 	3	4 Lenten Service @ UCC, 5:30 pm - soup supper provided by UCC, deserts by CTS Church Service – 6:30pm Bell Ringers Rehearsal @ 6:30 pm	5	6 World Day of Prayer 1:00 pm at UCC.	7 Spring Forward Before you go to bed tonight.
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins Consistory Meeting Reverend Bolin Choir	9 National Bubble Week Crochet Week	10	11Lenten service at CTS, 5:30 pm – soup provided by CTS, deserts by UCC Church Service – 6:30 pm Bell Ringers Rehearsal @ 6:30 pm	12 Girl Scout Day	13	14
15 Reverend Coy One Great Hour of Sharing Collection Rev. Ms. Doris Ruben will be installed as Pastor & Teacher at Peace UCC, 152 S 2 nd St, Dorchester, WI at 2:30 pm.	16 St. Urho's Day Finnish counterpart to St. Patrick. He drove the frogs out of Finland.	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Lenten Service @ UCC, 5:30 pm- soup supper provided by UCC, deserts by CTS Church Service – 6:30 pm Bell Ringers 6-7:30 pm	19 Early Release for school children. Teacher-in-service	20 Spring Begins No School Teacher – in- Service “The Little Mermaid” Musical	21 National Quilting Day “The Little Mermaid” Musical
22 Reverend Bolin Choir “The Little Mermaid” Musical	23	24	25Lenten service at CTS, 5:30 pm – soup provided by CTS, deserts by UCC Church Service – 6:30 pm Bell Ringers Rehearsal @ 5-7:30 pm	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday Reverend Coy Bell Ringers meet at 8:30 am 	30 Take a Walk in the Park Day	31	Bell Ringers: Jeannie Leland is in charge, phone 715-762-8505 if any questions. UCC is the First Congregation UCC, CTS is Christ the Servant *PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST ~ Circle of Faith will be serving a breakfast, following worship service on March 29th. Egg bakes, fruit, muffins, sweet breads, milk, juice, coffee and tea. An opportunity for great fellowship and food.			

