

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC**

31 W. Milwaukee Ave.  
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

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**Rev. Chris Buckingham-Taylor**

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**Rev. Chris' Home #:** (920) 568-8604

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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
31 W. MILWAUKEE AVE., FORT ATKINSON, WI 53538**

# The Pilgrim Broadcaster

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Week 2 Bi—Weekly Newsletter

“In November 1916, our church celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary. The toastmaster for the evening was Mr. A. J. Glover, Editor of the *Hoard's Dairyman*. He introduced Miss Mary Jones of Jones Dairy Farm. She said:

*As Mr. Glover has said, the reason why the committee asked me to speak is because we have a hole in our front yard...It is like this, about 30 feet east of the south wing of the house is a depression in the sod. It isn't an intaglio or anything that remotely resembles a lizard or any other beast. It is simply what is left of a hole, and that hole is all that is left of my Grandfather Jones' two room log cabin, where the First Congregational Church was organized October 9, 1841, 75 years ago.*

And so it was, one hundred years ago, that our church family celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary. This year, 2016, marks the 175th anniversary of our church family. Over the coming months, I'll be sharing stories (like the aforementioned) from a book written by one of our long-time members, William (Bill) Stark, entitled: *The Story Of Our Church 1841-1976*. We have a rich history and legacy to be celebrated, and we need to celebrate the blessings of our past, in order to embrace the hope of our future!

I was struck by Miss Jones' description of the place where our church was chartered, in her Grandfather Jones' two-room log cabin. She called it a “hole.” When our church was founded in that log cabin 175 years ago, it was done so because the pioneers, the early settlers of Fort Atkinson, believed that we had spiritual “holes” that cried out for change and transformation. Since, October 9, 1841, we have been in the business of transformation. That is our history! We have been in the business of transforming lives, filling in spiritual, emotional and even physical, “holes” in peoples lives, as we live out the gospel of Christ.

My prayer and hope, as we celebrate our 175th year as a family of faith, is that we would continue our legacy of noticing the “holes” in our lives and community, and then do the work

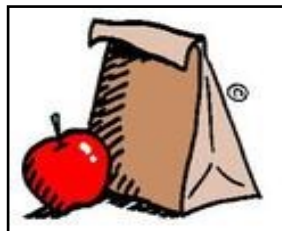
*(Continued on page 2)*

**\*\* Mark your calender—** The 'bring your own lunch' support group for people dealing with chronic illness or pain and/or their care providers will meet the **first Wednesday of the month at 12:00 pm**, in the Burr Oak Room. We will try to keep it to one hour so that people can come and go from work if needed. It will be informal so that you can drop in any month and not feel that you have 'missed'.

If you have any questions, please email me [kakruk@hotmail.com](mailto:kakruk@hotmail.com).

Hope to see you at our next one, February 3rd.

Kathy Kruk



to fill in those “depressions.” Because of our faith in Christ, these “holes” will no longer be “depressions,” but celebrations of how we continue to live out the Gospel of Christ. You see, we are a tale yet to be told, and it is an important and exciting story. Help us fill in the “holes” this year, as we celebrate and continue to be Christ's family at the First Congregational Church.

Remember, you are loved, and an important person in “our story.” Our story wouldn't exist without you!

We have many activities and items being planned in honor of our 175th anniversary, which will culminate with a special worship service and a catered meal in Plymouth Hall on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 20th, 2016. If you would like to help sponsor the meal with a donation, please do so by making out a check to First Congregational UCC, memo line “175th anniversary.”



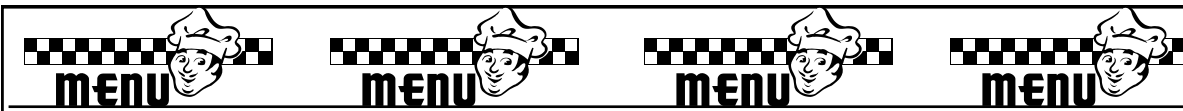
May we continue the story of “our church!”

Remember, you are loved.  
Pastor Chris

**We need help. Can You?**

- Wash inside of church windows?**
- Refinish table in the Werthmann room?**
- Clean Air Vents?**

**Contact Bob Rose, chairman Facilities. 563-8241**



**“OUR DAILY BREAD” NUTRITION CENTER  
January 19-21, 2016**

<b>Tuesday</b>	Lasagna, French Bread, Kidney Bean Salad, Fruit
<b>Wednesday</b>	Taco Casserole, Jell-O Salad, Ice Cream
<b>Thursday</b>	Boiled Ham Dinner, Fresh Bread, Pudding
<b>January 26-28, 2016</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Beef Chop Suey over Rice, Coleslaw, Cupcake
<b>Wednesday</b>	Pizza, Spinach Salad w/ Hot Bacon Dressing, Hot Fudge Mary Jane
<b>Thursday</b>	Hamburger/Potato/Tomato Casserole, Broccoli, Fresh bread, Angelfood Cake

All meals are served with coffee, tea or milk. Reservations must be made by 12:00 noon **one day in advance** by calling 563-4831 or 563-4802. Meals are served at 11:30 am, Tuesday through Thursday, except when announced otherwise. All adults over 55 are invited to attend. Carry Outs are available for individuals that are not able to attend the meal. Meals are suggested donation of \$4.25, Carry out—\$4.75.



**Our appeal for the Fort Atkinson Food Pantry during the month of January is:** Pudding, Potato Chips, Boxed or Canned Potatoes



**Attention Parents!**

During the Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 31, 2016 all of the children, from the very youngest to middle school aged, will meet in Plymouth Hall to make Valentines for our shut-ins. All kids are welcome whether they're enrolled in Sunday School or not. We look forward to making lots of Valentines for the shut-ins!

After the meeting your family can enjoy the soup and bread luncheon.

## VOLUNTEERS Needed for MEALS ON WHEELS from February 1 – 26, 2016 !!!

As you may know, “Meals on Wheels” is a community-supported program in Fort Atkinson that delivers a noon meal to elderly homebound residents or to those who may find it difficult to prepare meals. The meals are prepared by the kitchen staff of Fort Memorial Hospital, and then are delivered by volunteers from nine different churches that take turns throughout the year.

### How can you help?

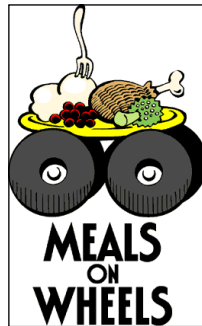
**February** is one of the months that our church provides volunteer drivers to deliver meals, **Monday through Friday at 11:00 a.m.**, with delivery taking about one hour. The meals are picked up from the Ambulatory Services Entrance of the hospital on McMillen Street. The schedule for each route is provided along with driving directions and a map. After delivery, the empty food carriers (hot and cold) are then returned to the same location at the hospital.

During the past few months, Meals on Wheels has delivered around 540 meals per month to our clients. Therefore, we currently are running two routes in the city. It is helpful to have two people for each route. If you can just drive, we can pair you up with someone who can do the extra walking.

### So, please, give it some thought!

We need **volunteers** from **February 1 – 26, 2016**. You will be richly rewarded as you participate in this outreach mission of our church that has been an on-going project for 35 years; our clients are most appreciative of this service and are grateful to you for donating your time to help them.

If you wish to volunteer, please call Mary Ellen Miller @ 563-9085 or the church office @ 563-4802. Thank you for your consideration to serve others.



## Annual Meeting

The 175th Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church, Fort Atkinson will be held immediately following the 10:00 Worship service on Sunday, January 31, 2016. We will again be having a soup & bread luncheon immediately following the meeting and children will be kept busy, with activities in Plymouth Hall, during the meeting.

**We need volunteers** on Sunday mornings at 8:30am during winter to help us put out “Parking Reserved for Elderly and Disabled” signs and to help salt walkways and provide assistance as needed. Please contact the Church office (563-4802) if you are interested in helping.



Our Deepest Sympathies to the family and friends of Martha Roahen. Martha passed away recently. Funeral services will be held here at the church on Saturday, January 16, 2016 with visitation at 10 am and the service at 11 am followed by a luncheon prepared by our Lend-a-Hand Ladies.



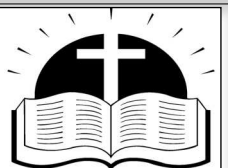
Debbie, the cook for the church's nutrition center, **Our Daily Bread**, is very grateful for the volunteers who help with setting tables, cleanup and various tasks around the kitchen and dining room. She could use additional volunteers on Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to noon. You could volunteer every week, once a month or every now and again. Interested? Please call Tammy in the office (563-4802).

### Scripture Readings:

**January 17**—Isa 62:1-5, Ps 36:5-10; 1 Cor 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

**January 24**—Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps 19; 1 Cor 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

**January 31**—Jer 1:4-10; Ps 71:1-6; 1 Cor 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30



Scripture Readings

## Fort Atkinson Preschool and Childcare News!



We made it through the holidays with much fun and excitement. The 4K classrooms and 3 year old classroom had Christmas parties. Both the Preschool & Infant Toddler Center put up a Giving Tree in which we asked families to donate hats & mittens for local young children who are in need. The items were donated to Jefferson County Head Start. Eddie the Elf came and told stories to the children and then gave every classroom a book. The teachers enjoyed some time off for the holidays and are feeling refreshed for the New Year. The Young Star program, which gives us our star rating, has kicked into full gear. Both programs are in the middle of preparing for the next formal rating. This will be a very busy time for both Directors and Teachers as we evaluate our program from classroom environments to our business practices. There have been three new teachers hired since the transition of Directors has occurred, and the new Directors are settling into their new positions. There are two new teachers at the preschool and one new teacher at the Infant/Toddler Center. We've been able to get outside to play in the snow a couple times. Children love to get pulled in the sleds and use shovels like "big people". As the weather drops we have been spending more time in the gym playing with the climber and plasma bikes.

# WOBERSHAW ASSISTANTS

Schedule	January 17	January 24	January 31	February 7	February 10 7 pm
<b>Announcements</b>	Loren Gray	Mary Ann Ehrike	Ann Olsen	Chris Reed	Not Needed
<b>Audio Operator</b>	Bob Buell	Kevin Becker	Rick Stegehuis	Steve Heitz	Kurt Wesemann
<b>Greeters</b>	Mary Ellen & John Miller	Joe & Eunice Ann Slaney	Don & Nancy Hoepfner	Julie Ankomeus	Heidi Siefkes
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Loren Gray	Eunice Ann Slaney	Jane Kraus	Chris Reed	? Volunteer Needed
<b>Ushers</b>	John Hershman, Tom Sehnert, Bob Rose	John Hershman, Tom Sehnert, Larry & Mary Narkis	Roger & Marsha Anderson, Gale Puerner	Roger & Marsha Anderson, Erv Forgy	Erv Forgy, Bob Rose

# THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

<b>Prayer Concerns of our Church Family of Faith</b>	<b>Prayer Concerns of our Extended Family &amp; Friends of Faith</b>
Tony Ehrike, Tasha Ehrike, Carol Maasz Ralph & Jackie Sanders, Chris Klatt, Emily Klatt Alyssa Haukom, Izayah Wirth, Tim Dunlap	Dorothy Schademann ( Ann Olsen's Mother) Paul Melchiorre (Friend of Karissa Patefield) Bonnie Dahnert (Friend of the Church)
Arvilla Schwartz, Melanie Dunkleberger, Bette Lueck, Cheryl Stedman, Jennifer Engelke, Martha Stewart, Carol Maasz Paul & Lana Wallace, Bob Abel	Eric Jung (Harley & Pat Jung's Son) Ron Hurt (Cindy Hershman's Brother) Perry Swenson (Martha Stewart's Son-in-Law) Christian Jursnick (Friend of the Stack-Vaughn Family)
Abigail Ehlers, Paul Hankowitz	<b>Those Serving in the Military and the families they have waiting at home.</b>

**Our Church Ministries (with examples of activities):**

**Evangelism** (greet new worshippers, new member classes)

**Facilities** (building upkeep, clean-up, landscaping)

**Nurture** (Fellowship, Prayer Quilts, Youth Activities)

**Outreach** (Family Promise, Food Pantry, Nutrition Center)

**Worship** (Communion, decorations, music, nursery, ushers)

If you need assistance or have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact the church office (563-4802).

<b>Prayer Discipline Week 1</b>	<b>Prayer Discipline Week 2</b>
Ron & Sharyl Hendriksen	Joan Holston
David, Cynthia, Jacqueline & Natalie Hershman	Scott, Tracy, Brandon, Jens & Gwen Housley
John Hershman	Joseph & Dianne Hrobsky
Roy, Karen & Michael Hetts	Barbara Huber
Betty Hevey	Dr. Fred & Fran Idtse
Don & Nancy Hoepfner	Virginia Ison
Agnes Hoffman	Sam, Alison & Max Jaeger

At the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2016 the Congregation will be asked to approve the 2016 Budget. The budget will show a deficit of about \$16,000.00 which means we will be budgeting \$16,000.00 more in expenses than we have known income. If you would like to help decrease that deficit and have not made a pledge for 2016, you can still do so. If you have made a pledge and would like to increase that pledge for 2016 that is also possible. Either way your help is greatly appreciated.

I would like to make a Pledge for 2016 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

I would like to increase my Pledge for 2016 by \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for contributing to your church!



**Following the Annual Meeting,  
January 31, 2016  
the Nurture Ministry will be  
hosting a "Soup Luncheon"**



Please sign up to bring a crockpot of soup,  
some bread, a dessert OR to help clean up.  
You are welcome to sign up for more than one thing!

The sign up sheet will be out in the Narthex.

**Thank you so much for helping us to make this  
an enjoyable and fantastic time together!!**

Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin and its emergency food pantry partners greatly appreciate your participation in last year's Million Pound Challenge!

And now it's time to sign up for 2016! When you join the Million Pound Challenge to exercise or to lose weight, your support for Second Harvest Foodbank or one of its emergency food pantry partners puts much needed food on the tables of your neighbors who struggle with hunger.

For every exercise hour or pound of weight loss, the Princeton Club will donate 10 pounds of food to your designated hunger-relief organization, up to 1 million pounds!

Register today at the Million Pound Challenge website as a Team or as an Individual!

Start reporting your exercise or weight loss weekly. The website will remain open through April 30 to record your results even if the 1 million pounds of food is distributed sooner. An awards ceremony for the Top Teams, based on results reported through April 30, will be held in May.

Please also spread the word to friends, family and associates and ask them to sign up (either as part of your team, their own team or an individual).

We appreciate your continued support! Together, we can end hunger in southwestern Wisconsin!

Second Harvest Foodbank



## “OH, WHAT LOVE” live tour by Watoto Children’s Choir is coming to

First Congregational UCC

**Date:** Tuesday, May 3, 2016

**Time:** 7pm



Join us for an evening of singing and dancing performed by the Watoto Children’s Choir from Uganda. A voice for the millions of orphans in Africa. More than just a choir, Watoto is a holistic care program that was initiated as a response to the overwhelming number of orphaned and vulnerable children and women in Africa, whose lives had been ravaged by war and disease. The mission of Watoto is to **RESCUE** the vulnerable, **RAISE** each one as a leader so that they in turn will **RE-BUILD** their nation.

We are in need of host families for the group. We need 9 host homes that would be willing to allow 2 kids (ages are 6-12) and 1 adult to stay overnight in their home following the concert and then be able to bring them back to the church the next morning.

So far I have had offers from Jane Winiarski, Rev. Chris, Joe Slaney, Kathy Kruk, Marv Olsen and Chad & Chris Klauer. **We are in need of just three (3) more families to come forward and open their homes.** If you would like more information on opening your home to these kids, please contact the church office 563-4802. **I would like to have the host homes locked in by no later than January 31st.**

Please consider being a part of bringing this wonderful group of kids to our church for an event you and our community may never forget! If you would like more information on Watoto Children’s Choir, please visit <https://vimeo.com/106574540> to see an exciting preview of the production or to see a short documentary about the work that Watoto is doing in Africa visit <https://vimeo.com/22382931>



The Worship Team is pleased to announce the addition of two new wireless microphones and receivers to our audio system. These were purchased with memorial funds given in memory of long time member Harry May, who passed away last summer. Many thanks and blessings to Linda May, Harry’s daughter, for allocating these funds to the Worship Team for the purpose of augmenting our audio capabilities. These new microphones have and will allow us to provide optimal audio coverage of church events, such as Fellowship Sounds Band performances, children’s choir and pageants, guest speakers, Plymouth Hall activities, concerts, etc. We would also like to thank Bob Rose for providing rechargeable batteries and a charging station for these new microphones.

# Schedule of Events

## Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>

- 1:30 pm Lend-a-Hand Mtg.
- 4:15-7 pm Toxic All Stars Practice

## Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

- 5:30 pm Toxic All Stars Practice

## Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

- 11 am Martha Roahen Funeral

## Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>

- 8 am Early Worship
- 8:30 am Sunday School
- 8:45 Adult Education Class
- 9:30 am Children's Choir
- 10 am Worship Service
- 11 am Fellowship Hour
- 11:15 am Confirmation Class

## Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

- 8 am Peanuts
- 6:30 pm Bridge Club

## Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>

- 6:30 pm Council Meeting
- 7:00 pm Dartball—First Congregational Church

## Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>

- 9 am Prayer Quilts
- 5:30 pm Band Rehearsal
- 7 pm Adult Choir Practice

## Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

- 5:30 pm Toxic All Stars Practice
- 6 pm Chapel Bells

## Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>

- 5:30 pm Toxic All Stars Practice

## Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>

- 1:30 F.A.C.T. Rehearsal

## Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

- 8 am Early Worship
- 8:30 am Sunday School
- 8:45 am Adult Education Class
- 9:30 am Children's Choir
- 10 am Worship Service
- 11 am Fellowship Hour
- 11:15 am Confirmation Class

## Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>

- 8 am Peanuts
- 5:30 pm Toxic All Stars Practice
- 6:30 pm Bridge Club

## Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>

- 7 pm Dartball - St. Lukes

## Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>

- 9 am Mail Broadcaster
- 5:30 pm Band Rehearsal
- 7 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>

- 5:30 pm Toxic All Stars Practice
- 6 pm Chapel Bells

## Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>

- 5:30 pm Toxic All Stars Practice

## Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

- 1:30 F.A.C.T. Rehearsal

## Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>

- 8 am Early Worship
- 8:30 am Sunday School
- 8:45 am Adult Education Class
- 9:30 am Children's Choir
- 10 am Worship Service
- 11 am Annual Meeting-Confirmands are to attend Annual Mtg.
- Soup Luncheon following Annual Mtg.

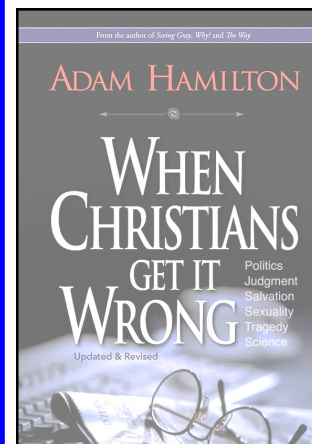
## Adult Bible Studies

**It's not too late to join us! Come as you are for one week or every week. There is something to gain from each weekly lesson!**

**Sunday Mornings at 8:45 am**

**Werthmann Room**

**January 3 - February 7, 2016**



A growing number of young adults today have opted out of Christianity and the church because they see condemning attitudes and actions coming from those who claim to be Christian. Outsiders are increasingly seeing Christians as people who judge others, condemn people of different faiths, reject science, mix politics and faith, as well as being people who are anti-homosexual. Adam Hamilton believes that following Jesus is much more about open doors than it is with locked gateways however. Adam will show you a different way of understanding the critical issues that are keeping people from Christianity, and help you develop strategies for being a compassionate, yet committed voice for the Gospel of Christ!

## LENT

**February 14 - March 20, 2016**

Jesus didn't come to start a religion. The rebel Jesus came with a renegade gospel to start a revolution. You and I are invited to be a part. In Renegade Gospel, pastor and author Mike Slaughter presents Jesus and his challenging message to inspire us during Lent, Easter, and through the year. Read the red letters and discover Jesus all over again. This six-session DVD features pastor and author Mike Slaughter bringing his edgy, powerful style to bear on this important topic.

