

Sharing is Caring

Have you ever struggled with Jesus command to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)? I know I have. In fact, one of the hardest pieces of the Christian life, for me, is sharing my faith with other people. It seems like I can talk about almost anything with anyone, but when it comes to sharing my faith, I find it very difficult. I have all these thoughts that run through my head: “What if they ask a question I can’t answer?” “What if they stop talking to me because they are annoyed by my faith?” “What if they get mad at me?” “What should I even say?”

The list goes on and on. This is one area of the faith the continues to be a great burden in my spirit. I have heard people often say that they will preach their faith with their actions. Such as the quote that many (mistakenly) attribute to St. Francis of Assisi – “Preach the Gospel always, and when necessary use words.” This quote seems noble, pious and righteous. But what I find in practice is that it is often just a way that we Christians give ourselves a “get out of evangelism free” pass.

Let me ask a question that shakes me to my core: How many people have you led to Christ? In the entirety of your life, how many people have come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and thus escape the torment of eternal damnation, because of you? Or, in other words, how is wordless evangelism working out for you?

If you are anything like me, it hasn’t worked at all. I can’t point to a single person that came to trust Jesus because of my “action evangelism.” And honestly, we shouldn’t be surprised by that, because the Bible doesn’t say that our actions will lead people to Christ. Quite the opposite, the Bible says,

‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? (Romans 10:13-14)

It is precisely this reason that I am so excited for two new ministries in this church. The Good News Club at Clarendon which will be starting this Fall and the Street Evangelism Ministry Team led by Tim and Reyna Taggart. The goal and focus of both of these new ministries is to take the Good News about God’s love for us in Jesus Christ outside the church!

If you have ever struggled with the idea of sharing your faith with other people, if you are intimidated by the idea, or if you just feel like you have no idea what to say or do, NOW IS THE TIME. With both of these new ministries, you will receive training, guidance and support from people who have been sharing their faith for many years.

With the Good News Club, you will receive training from Child Evangelism Fellowship about how to talk to kids about Jesus and how to love them in ways that lead them to the Lord.

With the Street Evangelism Ministry Team, you will be able to serve side-by-side with and learn from seasoned evangelists who have been on the front lines of sharing the Gospel with others.

I would highly encourage you to pray about participating in these ministries. Step outside your comfort zone, and step into the promises and grace of God. Know that you are capable of much more than you believe, and trust that Jesus wants to work through you to save lives! Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” You are needed...will you answer the call?

In Christ,

Pastor Kevin

Ministers: The People of the Church † Pastor: Kevin Clark

Church Council / Staff

Moderator- Rae-Ellen Preuss262-594-2740
 Moderator Elect- Jim Schuett414-257-1860
 Treasurer-Claire Albrecht262-844-2603
 Secretary-Joanne Himebauch262-363-8144
 Budget & Finance-Prakash Mathew262-436-4025
 Property & Grounds-Bob Brandemuehl .262-662-3436
 Worship-Tom Rowntree262-534-5168
 Congregational Care-Cindy Wendlandt .262-441-7444
 Missions-Deb Maske262-378-3083
 Christian Education-Pat Parr262-806-2243

Staff

Organist/Choir Director-Marni Wiggins....262-521-1406
 Office Admin. - Judi Weyer262-363-7249

Pastor

Kevin Clark.....262-975-1026



August Birthdays

Mary Anne Dable 8/8
 Bonnie Geiser 8/9
 Cory Ballard 8/9
 Frank Rappold 8/10
 Lowell Burt 8/13
 Joan Stoecker 8/19
 Ashley Clark 8/21
 Isabelle Grace Clark 8/25
 Bruce Zalud 8/27
 Dorothy Chapman 8/28
 Ronald Webber 8/29

August Wedding Anniversaries

Jim & Florrie Schuett 8/1
 Russ & Janine Coley 8/5
 Scott & Jennifer Rowntree 8/15
 Jerry & Laurene Taylor 8/15
 Wil & Shirley Manion 8/21
 Allan & Linda Haeger 8/25
 TJ & Erin Tritz 8/28
 Larry & Chris Litwin 8/31

If you would like your birthday or wedding anniversary to be included here, please drop a note to the office.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Servant Schedule

Date	Refresh.	Ushers	Nursery	Liturgist	Sunday School
8/5		Group 1	Cindy W	Kay R	Naomi M
8/12		Group 2	Sally Z	Prakash M	Reyna T
8/19		Group 3			Joanne /Sue R
8/26	Church Picnic	Group 1			Jess B
9/2		Group 2			

Notice: Photographs taken at church events are included in the newsletter, on our website and our Facebook page. If you would prefer not to have your photo posted to any of these forums, please contact the church office.

Articles for the September Newsletter are due in the office by 8:00 am on Friday, August 31

Stewardship @ 8/3/18

	Income	Expenses	Over (Short)
Offering	74,520.12	69,656.96	4,863.16
Other Income	3,180.03		
Total	77,700.15	69,656.96	8,043.19
	7/15	7/22	7/29
Attendance	66	59	63

CONTACT US

First Congregational Church of Mukwonago

231 Roberts Drive
 Mukwonago, WI 53149
www.fccweb.net



Church Office 262-363-7249
office@fccweb.net

Pastor Kevin Clark..... 262-975-1026
rev.kevinclark@gmail.com

Marni Wiggins
 Organist/Choir Director..... marnilynn@mac.com

Prayer Chain prayer@fccweb.net

C.A.R.E. Ministry care@fccweb.net



Volunteers are needed to help park cars during the Maxwell Street events at Field Park. If you can help out please see the sign-up sheet on the connection table. Thank you!!

From the Moderator.....

Wow! Where has the summer gone? We're beginning August already....school begins again soon. Just a few things to remind you:

We have 2 more Maxwell days to park cars. August 18-19 and September 8-9. If you can help out, please watch for the sign up sheets on the Connection table.

August 26 is our Annual church picnic! There will be a sign up sheet for food to bring. Watch for that as well. It's always a fun time. So mark your calendar.

Our Consecration Sunday will be held on September 30th this year. This is a time to reflect on your blessings and what percentage of your income God is calling you to give. The catered dinner will be provided right after worship that day. Please pray about what God is calling you to pledge. Thank you!

We have a special concert coming up on Saturday, October 13th at 7:00 pm. Jerry Eisner, a lay minister from Faith Community Church, will be singing his "Love and Gospel" concert in our church. Jerry's ministry is to sing Elvis' Gospel songs and he does it in Elvis costume! Mark your calendar and plan to attend. This will be open to the public and is a fundraiser for Sue Roberts' medical expenses. There will be food afterwards for purchase as well. Watch for more information and ticket sales.

We have awesome news! The sign committee's proposal for a new church sign has been approved by the congregation. The committee is already moving forward with Digger's hotline and village permits! Badger Sign company assures us we will have a new sign before the snow flies! A big thank you to all who worked on this committee. This project will be paid for through the Memorial Fund and reserve money.

Our church has truly been blessed with ways to do the Lord's work. Just look at all the activities I wrote about. Let's keep it up!

See you in church,
Rae-Ellen Preuss
Moderator



Session 1 Training for the Good News Club – Saturday, August 18 from 2 – 5 here at church.

We're so excited we've been approved for our Good News Club at Clarendon Elementary! The club will be held on Thursday's from 3:30 to 5:15 starting October 4th and running through December 6th for the fall session. We're getting ready for training for those of you who had signed up as interested in being teachers, assistants, helpers, etc. We will be holding our Session 1 training on Saturday, August 18 from 2 – 5 p.m. at our church. If anyone did not sign up to become a part of our team but would like to, you are welcome to come to the training on that Saturday as well. If you have any questions about joining our team, please see either Karen Mathew or Linda Garasimowicz.

National Night Out – Tuesday, August 7th at Field Park from 6 – 9. We will be handing out water again this year and are looking to collect 500 bottles of water. If you'd like to volunteer to hand out water, anyone is welcome to help! If you have an FCC T-shirt, here is your opportunity to wear it! See signup sheet on connection table. Come join the fun! Volunteers should be at our station at 5:45 to help set up and be ready for the open at 6.

We will also be promoting our Good News Club while at National Night out as we hand out flyers for both our church and the club.

School supplies are on sale right now, so you can grab any school supply items you might want for your Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes at a lower cost and hold them for your boxes!

Linda Garasimowicz



Too often serving in the church nursery can seem like a thankless job. One of the key tasks for children's ministry leaders is to help volunteers understand their importance. With that in mind, here are a few reasons why serving in the church nursery is important.

Reason #4

When you serve in the nursery, you are being entrusted with the most important (and vulnerable) members of the church family. There is no greater treasure on this side of heaven than the little ones God has given us. You must be someone special to have a job that is so important.

Reason #5

Your service is essential for your own spiritual growth. You may have never looked at it this way, but a growing Christian is always a serving Christian. Jesus was known for putting others first, when you serve in the church nursery you are walking in his example.

Reason #6

The church nursery is the first contact young families will have with your church. Your friendly greeting and exceptional care for their children can make a great first impression for your church. If they don't feel like their children are safe, they will not return – and rightly so.

Reason #7

Your service in the church nursery is a powerful opportunity for prayer. If every nursery worker would spend several minutes praying over the children in their care, imagine how God might begin to change this coming generation. There is no better way to create an environment of spiritual nurture than to pray while you serve in the nursery.

(Written by Tony Kummer

<https://ministry-to-children.com/church-nursery/>

The Personnel Committee is pleased to announce that our custodial position is now filled. Erin Tritz (along with occasional help from TJ) will take over custodial duties beginning this week.

Also, a big thank you goes out to Sue and Tom Roberts for the excellent job they have done for us. We also owe thanks to those that have pitched in and helped with cleaning during the transition. Everyone's willingness to help was greatly appreciated!

Jim Schuett

A graphic with the words "Thank you" written in a large, elegant, black cursive font. The text is set against a background of light green, stylized leaves and branches.

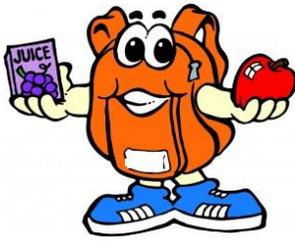
To all my dear friends at FCC ~ I send a huge THANK YOU for all the prayers and cards sent while I was recovering from hip surgery. It meant so much! It means a lot to me to have that love come from the people back home. Thank you for all the support.

Love in Christ,
Connie Mitchell



Thank you all for your prayers and cards recently when I was recovering from a hemorrhagic stroke. I KNOW God was with me on this one! It could have been much worse or even fatal. But, in just two months time, the bleed has completely resolved. I am grateful to my Lord and Savior and thankful for my caring church family.

In faith and love,
Jean Brocker



Backpack Program Help Needed

The Backpack Program is looking for volunteers to help with delivering backpacks once a month on a Thursday afternoon (before 4:30 p.m.) or Friday mornings (before 8:00 a.m.). We need at least one person and would like to have a backup if possible. Please let Janine Coley (262-363-4627) or Beth Petersen (262-662-4322) know if you would be interested in helping with this important Ministry for the 2018/2019 school calendar.

Thank you,
Beth Petersen



SAVE THE DATE: Join us on Sept 18th for a salad luncheon and White elephant sale.

Hope you enjoyed your summer! As we finish 2018 and are looking to the future we are hoping for a fresh start with YOUR wants and IDEAS. We would love to hear from you as to what would bring you to join our group. This is an informal gathering once a month, normally held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 12:30 pm. This can be changed to accommodate the needs of the majority of those who would like to participate. So please feel free to contact me at 262 933-6409 Or text me at 262 933-6409 with your ideas/wants/needs. We strive to be fun, exciting and most of all pleasing to God!

Your friend in Faith,
Sue



This year we will be featuring a Hot Dog Bar for our picnic. Be sure to sign up on the Communications table in the narthex to bring side dishes such as salads, bars or cookies for dessert, chips, or beverages. The Fellowship Team will be providing the hot dogs and all the fixings to make different style hot dogs. Please bring lawn chairs so that all of our members can enjoy the outdoor activities as well as the indoor activities! We will be providing several tents to shade our outdoor time.

Joanne Himebauch





FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH • MUKWONAGO

231 ROBERTS DRIVE
MUKWONAGO, WISCONSIN 53149-1129

August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 6:30 Council	3	4
5 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:00 Front Porch Movie Event	6 Pastor's Day Off 6:30 Scouts	7 8:00 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Made With Love	8 1:00 Book Study 5:00 Quilters	9	10	11
12 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:00 Front Porch	13 Pastor's Day Off	14	15 1:00 Book Study	16	17	18 Maxwell Street 2:00 Good News Club Training
19 Maxwell Street 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:00 Front Porch 1:00 Linden Ridge	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 10:00 Made With Love 6:30 Scouts Cmte	22 1:00 Book Study 6:30 Missions Team	23	24	25
26 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:00 Church Picnic	27 Pastor's Day Off	28 10:00 Made With Love	29	30	31 Articles Due	