

February, 2018

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Lent...and not the kind you pick from your belly button.

Easter is such a wonderful time of year. It is a beautiful time as flowers begin to show signs of life. It is a comfortable time as temperatures rise and we can go outside without fear of frostbite. It is fun, happy and exciting time as we begin to anticipate summer, longer days, and easier travelling.

But more than any of these things, Easter is a solemnly holy and sacred time. Though every Sunday is a mini-Easter – this is the big one. Easter is the one day of the year when the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is firmly and solidly brought to the forefront of our minds. We sing joyfully and raise praises to the God who is stronger than death. Our hearts fill with love and adoration for the Lord of life. Jesus, who was executed as a common criminal, has been raised as the King of Creation. What an awesome day!

But it is also quite a paradox because the way we prepare ourselves for this amazing day of celebration and victory is through sacrifice, self-denial and facing our own mortality. And yet, this is exactly what Jesus teaches us.

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?  
(Mark 8:34-36).

Lent is the formal season of the Christian year where we are encouraged to really take to heart the meaning of Jesus teachings about true discipleship – the need for self-denial, self-sacrifice and confronting our own mortality. As we trace Jesus own steps to the cross, we realize the ground we tread is also our own. Anyone who wants to follow Jesus (truly follow Jesus!) will not live a life of indulgence and abundance, but a life of crosses and sacrifice.

This is the paradox of the Christian faith. To be first, we must be last. To be rulers of all, we must be servants of all. To follow the Lord of Glory, we must follow Him to the cross. Because only when we empty ourselves can we be filled with God. Only when we say “no” to our wicked desires can we say “yes” to God’s desires. Only when we follow the path to Good Friday, will we come to Easter Sunday. Only when we die to ourselves can we live for God.

May the Holy Spirit and the Word of God challenge you this Lent by bringing you to the cross with Christ, and may They comfort you this Lent by bringing you through to His empty tomb.

In Christ,

*Pastor Kevin*

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

FCC associates with sister churches in the Wis. Congregational Association & National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

## Church Council / Staff

Moderator- Rae-Ellen Preuss .....262-594-2740  
 Moderator Elect- Jim Schuett .....414-257-1860  
 Treasurer-Claire Albrecht .....262-844-2603  
 Secretary-Joanne Himebauch .....262-363-8144  
 Budget & Finance-Prakash Mathew .....262-436-4025  
 Property & Grounds-Bob Brandemuehl .262-662-3436  
 Worship-Tom Rowntree .....262-534-5168  
 Congregational Care-Cindy Wendlandt .262-441-7444  
 Missions-Deb Maske .....262-378-3083  
 Christian Education-Pat Parr .....262-806-2243

### Staff

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

### Pastor

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



### *Birthdays This Month*

Carolyn Connelly .....2/4  
 Bev Webber.....2/6  
 Ken Cutt .....2/8  
 Janet Syburg .....2/9  
 Dorothy Schrader .....2/11  
 Sebastian Ballard .....2/11  
 Al Haeger .....2/12  
 Glenn Kreinus.....2/19  
 Connie Mitchell.....2/20  
 Jess Ballard.....2/20  
 Jean Bocker .....2/23  
 Kelly Blevins .....2/24  
 Tom Rowntree.....2/27

### *Wedding Anniversaries This Month*

Jean Bocker & Bernie Fraser .....2/12  
 Greg & Linda Garasimowicz.....2/14  
 Tom & Sue Roberts.....2/14  
 Robert & Carol Bartholomew.....2/23  
 Tom & Kay Rowntree .....2/27

*Please drop a note to the church office to have your birthday or anniversary included here.*

## **Servant Schedule**

Date	Refresh.	Ushers	Nursery	Liturgist	Sunday School
2/4			Deb M	Prakash	Linda G Jan S
2/11	Jean & Bernie			Rae-Ellen	Claire A
2/18	Sweet Treats		Ashley C		Joanne H
2/25	Women's Fellowship				Linda G Jan S
3/4				Prakash	Claire A

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 March Newsletter are due in the office by 8:00 am on Friday, Feb. 23

### **Stewardship @ 1/26/18**

	Income	Expenses	Over (Short)
Offering	7,002.00	6,145.22	856.78
Other Income	300.00		
Total	7,302.00	6,145.22	1,156.78
	<b>1/7</b>	<b>1/14</b>	<b>1/21</b>
Attendance	64	77	83

## **CONTACT US**

### **First Congregational Church of 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)  
 C.A.R.E. Ministry ..... [care@fccweb.net](mailto:care@fccweb.net)



**Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!!!** We did not know the total for the Mission School of Hope in time to put in the January newsletter. But we know it now and it's pretty awesome! We raised a total of \$9,476.60! We added \$523.40 from the Missions Fund to make it an even \$10,000! Praise be to God for this wonderful blessing for the MSOH!

**From Charles Sagay:**

Wow! Wow! I am so speechless! This is really great news to us! Thank you so much and please extend our hearty thanks to all the folks in church. You have given us such a wonderful new year gift! Thank you all so much from the bottom of our hearts. Wow!!! We are so grateful. Happy new year to you all once again. We will keep you informed on when we begin the project.

Thank you so much for always being there for us. We will never be able to thank you enough for your deep concern and love for us and our Baka community.

Please extend our deep gratitude to the folks in church. We will be eternally grateful.

Thank you so much and please remember us in your prayers and continue to pray for Cameroon.

Blessings,  
Charles

**Life's Connection Diaper Donations**

We are supporting our local area as well! We had 56 packages of diapers that were delivered to Life's Connection in 2017. Thank you to all who continue to donate! They are so very grateful.

**CEF – Child Evangelism Fellowship – Information Session on February 25 after worship in Fellowship Hall.** We would love to start a chapter of the Good News Club at Clarendon Elementary sometime in the Fall. We passed out bag lunches on January 7<sup>th</sup> (with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches) and materials that explained a little bit about this program. We're now going to have an information session for those of you who might be interested in joining this awesome program, which takes the message of Jesus into our local school. Join us on February 25<sup>th</sup> after worship to learn more!

Linda Garasimowicz



**WE'RE BACK!**

January's meeting was canceled due to weather and funeral.

Join us February 20th at 12:30 in the lounge. We will be discussing plans for Easter. Bring your ideas!

Sue Roberts



To the FCC Women's Fellowship, and others who served, On behalf of the family of Marcia Kufalk, thank you for preparing and serving the luncheon for her funeral. We're very grateful to have had the opportunity to gather there following her service, and to know that you were there for us, even though our parents have been away from Mukwonago for the past few years. It meant so much to know that everything was taken care of, and familiar hands worked together for us, as we all returned to our "home" church. We appreciate each one of you. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Cheryl Miller and the Kufalk family



**Sunday, March 11**  
**after Worship**  
**Annual Reports are due in the church office by Feb. 20**

**New Church Directory Pages**

If you have a church directory binder, your new directory pages (for new members) are enclosed. If you have a directory, but if your new pages are not enclosed, please contact the church office.



Back by popular demand, we will be having our **Sweet Treats Fellowship** event on **Sunday, February 18** in honor of Valentine's Day right after worship. Sign up to bring something sweet (preferably with chocolate) and / or an appetizer to share.

Joanne Himebauch

### **Book Study opportunity!**

We will be holding a book study every other week for anyone who would like to join us starting on Thursday, February 1st at 2 PM. We will be meeting at Betty Martens' home (331 West Side Avenue, Unit 7 in Mukwonago).

The book we will be discussing is Present over Perfect by Shauna Niequist. The premise of the study is leaving behind frantic for a simpler, more soulful way of living. The author will walk a path with you away from frantic pushing and proving, moving toward your essential self, the one you were created to be before you began trying to prove and earn your worth.

The 5 sessions are: Pain Points (February 1), The Roles We Play (February 15), Yes, and No (March 1), Unflashy, Unspectacular, Good (March 15), and Living the Love (March 29).

The book costs \$13.50 and the Study Guide costs \$6.49 for a total cost of \$20. Both are recommended, since there is self-study between sessions in the study guide (besides reading the book).

Please let Joanne Himebauch know if you are interested in attending, so she can order materials. There will be a sign up on the Communications table, but if you can respond to Joanne at [jhimebau78@gmail.com](mailto:jhimebau78@gmail.com) or (262) 363 - 8144, she can try to order materials before the first session.

Joanne Himebauch

### **From the Moderator.....**

Thank you so much to everyone who attended the first Listening Session on January 14<sup>th</sup>. We had a good discussion and I hope all of your questions were answered.

Our next Listening Session is on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, right after worship. We will plan to gather again downstairs during Front Porch time. Our topic for this month's meeting is intentional savings/intentional giving.

Pastor Kevin will be presiding over this discussion. Please plan to attend.

Our three listening sessions are being offered so that we can make informed decisions about our finances at the March 11<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting. There will be one more session on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

It is my understanding that the long range planning committee will also have some thoughts to consider. This is a volunteer committee who for the most part have a history with our church. It is not a group elected by the congregation, however. I am

grateful for their willingness to offer ideas and suggestions. Many thanks to the men and women who make up this committee.

This is our church and we make our own decisions. It is Congregationalism at work. Your thoughts are welcome and appreciated. So plan to attend.

Rae-Ellen Preuss

### **Pulpit Exchange**

We are pleased to welcome Joel Boyd, pastor at St. Jacobi church in Richfield on February 11<sup>th</sup>. He is "exchanging pulpits" with Pastor Kevin that day.

LaBelle Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star in Mukwonago, is hosting a pot-luck for Joel and his family after church. LaBelle Chapter is a sponsor for Joel as he completes his Seminary training. Joel is part of Eastern Star's ESTARL program. This program will be explained during worship that morning.

The pot luck luncheon will be held at the Masonic Center at 206 Main Street.

Enter at the lower level on Hwy 83. You do not need to provide any food; come as our guest. But we would request that you sign up for lunch on the sheet on the Connection table so we have an accurate count. Hope to see many of you there!

### **FYI....**

Take a look at the new bulletin board right outside the office. It's filled with photos and information about all the Ministry teams here at First Congregational Church.

Interested in joining one? Just look over all the opportunities available. The team leader's photo is on the poster. Just contact that person and you'll be on the team!

Want to start your own Ministry team? Well you can do that too! Team forms are available in the church office. Fill it out and put it in the Moderator's mail box. The Council will vote and you can begin your ministry.

Any questions? Contact a Council member. We're glad to help.

Thank you to Beth Petersen for creating the posters and the Bulletin board. And thank you to Karen Mathew for the location idea.

We hope to be featuring the Ministry team opportunities in future newsletters.

Rae-Ellen Preuss

## Doors of the Bible

*Join us in walking through some important “doors” in the Bible that point to the person and work of Jesus Christ.*

**February 14** (Ash Wed) – The Tomb’s Door – Burlington UMC

**February 21** – The Heart’s Door – Community Baptist

**February 28** – The Ark Door – FCC Mukwonago

**March 7** – The Temple’s Inner Door – English Settlement UMC

**March 14** – The Narrow Door – FCC Rochester

**March 21** – The Sheep’s Door – FCC Mukwonago

**March 29** (Maundy Thursday) – The Passover Door – Community Baptist

**March 30** (Good Friday) – The Door the Leads to Life – FCC Rochester

### **Burlington UMC**

857 W. State St  
Burlington, WI 53105

### **Community Baptist Church, Honey Creek**

35512 Washington Ave  
Honey Creek, WI 53138

### **English Settlement UMC**

28215 Plank Rd  
Burlington, WI 53105

### **FCC Mukwonago**

231 Roberts Dr  
Mukwonago, WI 53149

### **FCC Rochester**

103 S. State St  
Rochester, WI 53167



We will be taking up an offering at each service to give to Life’s Connection in Mukwonago (307 S Rochester St., Mukwonago, WI 53149), which is a medical support and resource center designed to unite and empower anyone facing challenges relating to childbearing, relationships, life losses and crisis care.

Please stay for refreshments after each service (except Maundy Thursday and Good Friday)

**Each worship service will be at 7:00 PM**

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH • MUKWONAGO

231 ROBERTS DRIVE  
MUKWONAGO, WISCONSIN 53149-1129

## February, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00 IMOP Mtg.	2	3
4 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:00 Listening Session	5 Pastor's Day Off	6 8:00 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Made With Love 4:30 Conf. / Youth Grp. 6:30 Choir	7 6:30 Council	8	9	10
11 Pulpit Exchange 10:00 Worship 11:00 Front Porch	12 Pastor's Day Off 6:30 Scouts	13 4:30 Conf. / Youth Grp. 6:30 Choir	14 Ash Wednesday 6:30 Quilters 7:00 Lenten Service at Burlington 	15 7:00 Missions Team	16	17
18 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:00 Sweet Treats 11:00 Linden Ridge	19 Pastor's Day Off	20 10:00 Made With Love 12:30 Women's Fellow. 4:30 Conf. / Youth Grp. 6:30 Choir 6:30 Scouts Cmte.	21 7:00 Lenten Service at Comm. Baptist	22	23 Articles Due	24
25 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship 11:00 Front Porch	26 Pastor's Day Off 6:30 Scouts	27 10:00 Made With Love 4:30 Conf. / Youth Grp. 6:30 Choir	28 7:00 Lenten Service at FCC Mukwonago			