

## Happy St. Patrick's Day!

As we enter the month of March, we approach this great holiday. What an amazing day to celebrate drinking, partying, wearing green, kissing leprechauns and eating corned-beef and cabbage. But, as you may have guessed, this is not the original purpose of this holiday. Instead, St. Patrick's Day was originally celebrated to honor the life and ministry of St. Patrick to the nation of Ireland – March 17<sup>th</sup> being the traditional date of his death.

St. Patrick is the man credited with bringing Christianity to the nation of Ireland in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries. Originally born in Northeast England, at the age of 16 he was captured by Irish pirates and enslaved as a shepherd for six years. Though his family had deep Christian roots (his grandfather was a priest), St. Patrick did not put his faith in Jesus Christ until his time in captivity. In addition to learning the language, customs and ways of the Irish "barbarians," he also learned about the grace, love and forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ.

When St. Patrick returned to England in his early 20's he was a changed man, and he began a life of Christian service. But at the age of 48, he had a dream that he was supposed to return to the Irish and share Christ with them. So, he did return to them, with a small team of fellow Christians, and he shared the Gospel with them. Through 30 years of doing this, St. Patrick and his team made a massive impact – one so large that many credit him with converting an entire nation!

Legend says that one of St. Patrick's most-effective evangelism tools was the shamrock. Not the four-leaf, but the three-leaf. St. Patrick used the three-leaf clover as a way of demonstrating the reality of the Trinity to the native Irish. He showed them that the Shamrock was one plant, with three leaves. And although each leaf was separate and distinct from the others, they were all still a part of the same plant.

The story of St. Patrick is amazing to me for three reasons:

- 1) St. Patrick didn't undertake his mission to the Irish until he was already well-past his life expectancy! People weren't expected to live very long in those days. 48 then would be like 88 now. And yet, instead of enjoying a cushy, easy, comfortable, care-free retirement, St. Patrick devoted his waning years to sharing the love of Christ with others. How can you use the time God has given you to share Christ with others?
- 2) St. Patrick came up with very creative and profound ways to share the Gospel. This is a challenge that I would put to each of us. The Gospel of God's love for us, demonstrated through Jesus Christ is the central meaning and purpose of the life of every Christian. It should be something that we are each ready to share with others (ref. 1 Peter 3:15). And yet, it is not a boring creed or a rote repetition of a prayer. It is living, active and creative news! Jesus shared this Good News through stories and parables. How can you use your story to creatively share Christ with someone else?
- 3) St. Patrick chose to spend his time with "sinners." The church in St. Patrick's day looked down on the Irish "barbarians" as being too uncivilized and ignorant to receive the Gospel and put their faith in Christ. St. Patrick, himself, was likely ridiculed by the church for his commitment to these "sinners." And yet, this commitment perfectly modeled Jesus own ministry. As Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2:17). How can you be intentional about spending time with people who need to hear how much Jesus loves them?

May these questions give you an alternative something to drink in as you celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year!

In Christ,  
*Pastor Kevin*

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

## 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



Linda Haeger.....3/8  
 David H. Beilfuss .....3/9  
 Jamie Brandemuehl .....3/13  
 Janine Coley.....3/14  
 Ryley Urban.....3/20  
 Gabrielle Beilfuss .....3/23  
 Kemp Wilson .....3/31

### Anniversaries

Kevin & Ashley Clark.....3/9

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



**Sunday, March 11  
 after Worship**

## **Servant Schedule**

| Date | Refresh.           | Ushers | Nursery | Liturgist | Sunday School       |
|------|--------------------|--------|---------|-----------|---------------------|
| 3/4  |                    |        |         | Prakash M | Claire A            |
| 3/11 | Annual Meeting     |        |         |           | Joanne H<br>Sue R   |
| 3/18 | Scouts             |        |         |           | Linda G<br>Jan S    |
| 3/25 | Women's Fellowship |        |         |           | Claire A            |
| 4/1  | Easter             |        |         |           | Joanne H<br>Diane W |

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

| <b>Stewardship @ 2/23/18</b> |                  |                  |               |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
|                              | Income           | Expenses         | Over (Short)  |
| Offering                     | 16,517.52        | 16,875.99        | (358.47)      |
| Other Income                 | 645.18           |                  |               |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>17,162.70</b> | <b>16,875.99</b> | <b>286.71</b> |
|                              | <b>2/4</b>       | <b>2/11</b>      | <b>2/18</b>   |
| Attendance                   | 38               | 63               | 81            |

## **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)



**March 11**

**Our Easter Offering this year will be going to Life's Connection in Mukwonago.**

The Wednesday evening Lenten service offerings are also going to Life's Connection. This will help them greatly, as they are working on a matching grant to offer miscarriage services to help minister to families who have lost their babies.

**ProHealthCare ParkWalk for Cancer – Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Come walk with Us!**

We are once again putting together a team from FCC. We'd love to have you on our team!

We're bringing this to you early so that you have time to sign up for the Early Bird Registration by March 21<sup>st</sup>. After March 21<sup>st</sup> the registration fee will go up \$5 whether you sign up online or by mail. Let's see how big we can make our team! If you do not want to walk, you can help support us by prayer and by donating. Checks can be made out to FCC, and we will then make out one check to send in. All donations will stay in our area.

**Just a heads up! We will be serving a meal at the Hope Center in Waukesha on Fri., April 13<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 p.m.**

If you have thought about joining us as we serve, mark this date on your calendar and sign up for serving! We will again be looking for donations of desserts and milk. See sign-up sheet on the information table.

**Children's Evangelical Fellowship** -- We ask for your continued prayers and support in our effort to bring a Good News Club to Clarendon Elementary to help bring Jesus into young children's lives.

Linda Garasimowicz

**Furnishings Ministry**

The Furnishings Ministry is responsible for carrying out the terms and conditions accompanying any bestowment of furnishings presented to the Church (or Parsonage in some cases). Furnishings shall include but not be limited to church fixtures and moveable property (i.e. furniture, books, artwork, etc.). With the advice of the Pastor and Council, the Furnishings Ministry may reject any such gift if it shall be deemed inappropriate or if the terms or conditions accompanying such gift is in conflict with the objective, polity, and doctrines of this Church. The Furnishings Ministry shall plan, select, replace and add to the furnishings of the Church (and Parsonage if items are owned by the church) and will consult with the Memorial Committee concerning financial outlays and submit a proposed budget for the Memorial Committee to get approval by Council. If you are interested in being a part of

this Ministry, please contact Beth Petersen at [hbpetersen@live.com](mailto:hbpetersen@live.com)

**From the Moderator....**

We are almost finished with our three listening sessions. Thank you to all who attended. I appreciate your enthusiasm and your questions. Our last session is Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> right after worship, downstairs.

We will be focusing on the Koeffler fund. This fund could potentially impact our decision to pay off our energy debt or not.

Please plan to stay on the 4<sup>th</sup>; a vote regarding the future of these funds will be on the Annual Meeting agenda. Speaking of that...our Annual Business meeting is one week later on March 11<sup>th</sup>, again, right after worship. The meeting will be held in our sanctuary. Historically, the business meetings were held in the "meeting house".....the same place they worshipped.

Look for the business meeting annual reports in the Narthex. This is a compilation of yearly reports from 2017 from the people who were leaders of different committees and teams. You have two weeks to review; then bring any questions or comments to the business meeting. And please plan to bring your copy of the annual report to our March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Lenten services at our church are on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 and again on March 21<sup>st</sup>. If you can help with refreshments, please talk to Joanne Himebauch. She is leading the team for the February service. Sue Roberts has volunteered to lead the hosting team for March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Watch for the annual Easter breakfast sign up, hosted by the Flower committee. Breakfast begins at 8:30am.

Also, the Flower committee is trying a new source for Easter lilies. Watch for ordering envelopes on the Connections table very soon.

Rae-Ellen Preuss

**Easter Egg Hunt**

Just a reminder that there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children of the church on Easter Sunday. If you have family or are inviting families with children to worship on Easter Sunday, please let Erin Tritz or Diane Williams know, so that we have enough treats.



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH • MUKWONAGO

231 ROBERTS DRIVE  
MUKWONAGO, WISCONSIN 53149-1129



March, 2018



| Sunday  | Monday                                | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|----------|
|   |                                       |   |  | 1   | 2<br>6:30 Council   | 3        |
| 4<br>9:00 Bible Study<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Listening Session                                       | 5<br>Pastor's Day Off                 | 6<br>8:00 Men's Breakfast<br>10:00 Made With Love<br>4:30 Conf. / Youth Grp.<br>6:30 Choir                        | 7<br>7:00 Lenten Service<br>at UMC                             | 8   | 9   | 10       |
| 11<br>9:00 Bible Study<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Annual Meeting   | 12<br>Pastor's Day Off<br>6:30 Scouts | 13<br>4:30 Conf. / Youth Grp.<br>6:30 Choir   | 14<br>5:00 Quilters<br>7:00 Lenten Service<br>at FCC Rochester | 15<br>6:00 IMOP Mtg.  | 16  | 17       |
| 18 <b>Charter Sunday</b><br>9:00 Bible Study<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Front Porch<br>1:00 Linden Ridge | 19<br>Pastor's Day Off                | 20<br>10:00 Made With Love<br>12:30 Women's Fellow.<br>4:30 Conf. / Youth Grp.<br>6:30 Choir<br>6:30 Scouts Cmte. | 21<br>7:00 Lenten Service<br>at FCC Mukwonago                  | 22  | 23 <b>Articles Due</b>                                    | 24       |
| 25 <b>Pam Sunday</b><br>9:00 Bible Study<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:00 Front Porch                          | 26<br>Pastor's Day Off<br>6:30 Scouts | 27<br>10:00 Made With Love<br>6:30 Choir  | 28   | 29 <b>Maundy Thursday</b><br>7:00 Service<br>at Comm. Baptist | 30 <b>Good Friday</b><br>7:00 Service<br>at FCC Rochester | 31       |