



TOWER NOTES

JULY/AUGUST 2011

First Congregational United Church of Christ
54 South Jackson Street, Janesville, Wisconsin 53548-3837
(608) 752-8716 firstcon@tds.net www.janesvilleucc.org



WORSHIP IN JULY -

*You are invited to read the Bible passage prior to coming to church each Sunday. Please remember, we do post an audio version of **BOTH** the entire worship service and sermon to the website each week.*

July 3, 2011: Theme: ***Mirror, Mirror on the Wall***
 Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:8-13
 Liturgist: Matthew Boelter
 Greeters: The Hartung Family & Matthew Boelter
 Fellowship: Linda Stehura

On this 4th of July weekend, we gather to worship with gusto. But alas, no pyrotechnics. We will finish our sermon series on 1 Corinthians by asking ourselves, how can you reflect God's presence in your life? Come and celebrate with your church family today.

July 10, 2011: Theme: ***Worship at the Hilltop Pavilion at Palmer Park, Holy Communion***
 Scripture: Matthew 13:13-21
 Liturgist: Shelley Bengtson
 Greeters: Pam Maxson & Linda Stehura
 Fellowship: Lemonade; crackers and cheese and chocolate provided!

We will gather at the Hilltop Pavilion on this Sunday to worship alongside the trees. We will center ourselves in the narrative of Jesus feeding the 5000 and celebrate communion. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on and join us for this special worship service.

July 17, 2011: Theme: ***Potters for Peace, Baptism of Kenneth Olson***
 Scripture: TBA
 Liturgist: *Your Name Here*
 Greeters: *Your Name Here*
 Fellowship: Brian & Jan Knutson

Today is a full day of being the church. We welcome **Jason Knutson** who will share with us about his trip in January 2011 to Nicaragua with his professor from Luther College. It was a life changing experience for Jason to learn about clean water. With the image of water and life changing experiences centering us, we will also baptize **Kenneth Olson** in the same sanctuary his father, Bryan was baptized as a child. We will also bless our Youth for their Mission Trip. Truly a sacred day.

July 24, 2011: Theme: ***Christmas in July?!***
 Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33
 Liturgist: *Your Name Here*
 Greeters: *Your Name Here*
 Fellowship: The Hartung Family

Christmas Carols cannot be contained to one season, so join us as we celebrate the in-breaking and incarnation of God in our lives in every season...not just in the winter. We will sing together and celebrate the good news of God's presence even in the humidity of July.

July 31, 2011: Theme: ***Hymn Sing and Healing Service***
 Scripture: TBA
 Liturgist: *Your Name Here*
 Greeters: Brandi Spooner
 Fellowship: *Your Name Here*

We worship today through song and poetry and an opportunity to center ourselves in prayer. Please join us.

Thank You to Our Ushers This Month: Jim & Janet Hay, Linda Stehura & Wayne & Lynda Olson

WORSHIP IN AUGUST-



August 7, 2011: Theme: *More than a Hero: Reflections on the Life of David*
 Scripture: 2 Samuel 23:13-17
 Liturgist: *Your Name Here*
 Greeters: *Your Name Here*
 Fellowship: *Your Name Here*

Today in celebration of our trip to the Fireside Theater, we will ground ourselves in the narrative of King David, who is one of the more well known figures in scripture. His life from being a shepherd to singing psalms to even making mistakes has much to teach us.

August 14, 2011: Theme: *Beginning the Journey*
 Scripture: Exodus 1:8-2:10
 Liturgist: *Your Name Here*
 Greeters: Pam Maxson
 Fellowship: Brandi Spooner

Today we begin a worship series of walking through the book of Exodus. Rich with themes of what it means to wander in the wilderness, complain, get lost, feel left behind, and other topics that speak deeply to our faith here and now. So, strap on your sandals and join us as we begin to walk through Exodus.

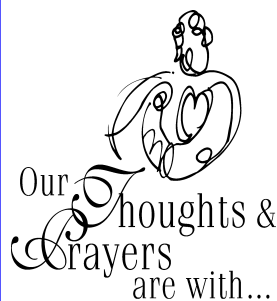
August 21, 2011: Theme: *Worship in the Park Part Two, with our Presbyterian friends*
 Scripture: TBA
 Liturgist: N/A
 Greeters: *Your Name Here*
 Fellowship: Potluck at Palmer Park

We join with our Presbyterian brothers and sisters at Palmer Park for worship today. Rev. Bruce Jones will preach and a potluck will follow the service. Please join in worship on this day.

August 28, 2011: Theme: *Encounters with the Divine*
 Scripture: Exodus 3:1-15
 Liturgist: *Your Name Here*
 Greeters: *Your Name Here*
 Fellowship: Gary & Karen Teubert

Today, we gather around the burning bush to remember God's call to Moses. We will also hear from our Youth Group as they tell us how they encountered God during their mission trip to the Quad Cities in July. We hope you will join us for this worship filled with spirit and hope and love.

Thank You to Our Ushers This Month: Pat Scott & Lyle Anderson



CHURCH FAMILY JOYS & CONCERNS: Diana Pike, Dorothy Babcock, Ruth Mittness, Max Mueller, Gloria Walker, Judy Vollrath, the People of Haiti, Rick Hartung, Evie Wanninger, Maurice Montgomery, Mary Jo Slama, Carole Kies, Lee Rathert, Helen Bond, Roberta Tucker's mother, the People of Japan, The Family of Alice Callison, Elton Broege & Family, Jamie Dieckhoff & Family, Karen Teubert & Family on the death of her brother, Chuck, Sarah Mathewson & Keith Stalker.

Many thanks to those volunteers who delivered Meals in May and June and to those who offered to substitute - Karel Cripe, coordinator

Bill Fitzgerald
Kats Neeno
Dave & Jean Schollmeier
Nancy Stabb
Dar Z

Doug Newton
Dottie Newton
Russ French
Jim Cripe
Diane Henrichs

Linda Stehura
Pastor Wes Bixby
Laura Boettcher
Lois Hough
Jim & Janet Hay

Carolyn Brandeen
Barb Cullen
Carole Kies
Nancy Restivo



Community Meal



This August will mark the first anniversary of success with the free monthly community meal. In addition to all of the volunteers, we are very thankful for the financial donations to support the meal. Since May 1st and the community meal mission moment in church, we have received \$1007, leaving a balance in the community meal fund of \$1547. Costs per meal average about \$76 depending on the menu and not counting the startup costs last summer. The number of guests has varied from 40 to 65. With the recent display of some new advertising signs, it is hoped that number will increase.

Menus vary each month depending on the inventory from Second Harvest. Among the items on the July 2nd community meal will be hotdogs, baked beans, coleslaw, fruit salad, ice cream and cookie, lemonade, coffee, and water. About two weeks before each month's meal is a clipboard in the Fireside Room for volunteers to sign up for committees for the meal. Most of the tasks at the meal take no more than one hour of your time, and all ages are welcome. Please give of your time to continue the success of the community meal. If you have menu suggestions, let Janet Hay, Joan Kalweit, or Brandi Spooner know, or you could join the planning committee.

In May and June ECHO representatives Gary Teubert and Mary Hunt delivered 62 pounds of food donations to ECHO - Thank you to everyone who continues to donate, it is greatly appreciated! Thank you to those from First Congregational who help set-up at the Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings as well.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR ECHO



Crayons (8, 16 & 24 pack)
Glue & Glue Sticks
Scissors
Pencils (#2 & colored)
Pens (Black, Blue & Red)
Erasable Pens
Markers & Highlighters
Black Sharpie Markers
Rulers
Supply Box
Pencil Carrying Case
Zippered Lunch Tote for supplies
Erasers (pink & pencil top)

Pencil Sharpener with cover
Water Colors
3 Ring Binders
Spiral Notebooks
(wide & college ruled)
Notebook Paper
(wide & college ruled)
5 Subject Notebooks
Pocket folders
(plain & with brads)
Backpack
Sponge with rough scrub side
Kleenex



Getting Back to the Bible

Our Wednesday morning Bible study will resume on **August 24th at 10:00 am**. Throughout late summer into early fall, we will focus on the book of Exodus. This corresponds to the worship series at the same time. Gathering around the Bible study table is an excellent way to deepen your connection *with scripture* and helps guide you to worship on Sunday. Bible study is a chance to connect *with others* in a meaningful way. Please remember that Bible study is not about what you know, rather your willingness to listen and offer your response. **There will be a weekly devotional available in August on the book of Exodus for those who cannot attend Bible Study.** Please see your bulletin or contact the church office. There is always plenty of room at the Bible study table and a chair for you!



Narrative Lectionary 2011-12

What is the Bible about? That question might leave some of us scratching our heads and searching for words. It is in response to that question that beginning in October 2011 we will be following a Narrative Lectionary developed by Luther Seminary. Rather than jumping around, we will seek to go sequentially through scripture touching down in several key places. Each Sunday is connected to the previous and points to what is coming. Listed below is the pathway we will follow through Pentecost. This will serve as our road map to dive and delve deeply in scripture. ***I am passionate about you opening your Bible at church and at home; reading; questioning; listening; and talking to each other.*** I pray that this will help each of us become more comfortable with scripture and hearing that there is an overarching narrative to God's unfolding story in scripture.

Narrative Lectionary 2011-12

August 14	Exodus 1:8-2:10	January 1	Mark 1:1-20
August 21	<i>Worship with 1st Pres.</i>	January 8	Mark 2:1-22
August 28	Exodus 3:1-15	January 15	Mark 4:1-34
September 4	Exodus 12:1-14	January 22	Mark 5:1-20
September 11	Exodus 14:19-31	January 29	Mark 5:21-43
September 18	Exodus 16:2-15	February 5	Mark 6:1-29
September 25	Exodus 17:1-7	February 12	Mark 8:27-9:13
October 2	<i>Pastor Wes away</i>	February 19	Mark 9:30-50
October 9	Exodus 20, selected verses	February 26	Mark 10:17-31
October 16	Exodus 32:1-14	March 4	Mark 12:1-12
October 23	Exodus 33:12-23	March 11	Mark 12:28-34
October 30	Ruth 1:1-22	March 18	Mark 12:38-44
November 6	1 Kings 5, selected verses	March 25	Mark 13:1-12
November 13	1 Kings 19:1-18	April 1	Mark 11:1-10
November 20	Isaiah 1:12-20; 2:1-6	April 8	Mark 16:1-8
November 27	Jeremiah 18:1-11	April 15	Acts 3:1-23
December 4	Habakkuk, selected verses	April 22	Acts 11:19-27, 13:1-3
December 11	Daniel 3:1-30	April 29	Acts 14:8-18
December 18	Malachi 3:1-7; 4:1-5	May 6	1 Thess. 1:1-10
December 24	Luke 2:1-20	May 13	Galatians
December 25	Matthew 1:18-25	May 20	1 Corinthians 1:10-18
		May 27	Romans 8



Shawl Ministry

Knitters Needed! Our church has been blessed over the years by our prayer shawl ministry. This offers people who are going through a difficult time to be wrapped in a mantle of our love. Prayer shawls offer a tangible gift of God's love. Our needs are year-round. Currently we are in need of people willing to keep this ministry going so that it can continue as many of our knitters have moved out of the Janesville area.

Plus, this is an activity you can do at home. No meetings required, just your willing hands to share God's love through you. If you would like to learn how to knit or crochet let Janet Hay (752-3373) or Karen Teubert (756-0973) know.

Adult Education



On **September 21st**, you are invited to participate in an adult education forum. Over the last 30 years, the Gallop organization has researched and interviewed people to help us understand ourselves, each other, and our communities better. The result of that work has been Strengths-based development. The idea is rather than focusing on our "growing edges" or things that we just don't do well; we should focus on our strengths, the things we do well and enjoy. To be sure, we are made in the image of God and reflect God's fingerprints. But we cannot be all things to all people or be completely perfect. Rather than focusing on what is 'wrong' with us, this process seeks to identify what is 'right' and build upon it. I am inviting you to join me in discovering how this impacts your life and especially your faith. So, here are the steps:

1. Put September 21st on your calendar from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Child care provided.
2. Order the book, *Living Your Strengths: Discover Your God-given Talents and Inspire Your Community* through the church office by **August 14th**.
3. Take the Strength-builders inventory using the special code that is inside your book. This is an on-line inventory, so those who would like to participate but don't have internet access can talk to Pastor Wes.
4. Come and share your strengths and how this can bless our church here and now.

That's it. One night, two hours, and my prayer is that this will leave a lasting impression upon you and your faith. If you have questions, please see me. Blessings, Pastor Wes

Vacation

Pastor Wes will be away on vacation July 31st - August 6th & August 15th - August 21st. On August 21st we will worship with our Presbyterian friends at Palmer Park (see article in this month's Tower Notes). If you have pastoral concerns, please contact Carrie in the church office. May God's presence grant rest and renewal and fun for Pastor Wes and his family.

In observance of Independence Day the church office will be closed on Monday, July 4th.



In observance of Labor Day the church office will be closed on Monday, September 5th.



Gospel Choir Tour to Germany - Do you want to sing gospel music, travel to Germany, enjoy choir fellowship? Then join the Wisconsin Conference Gospel Choir Tour to Germany in August of 2012. From August 7-22 The Gospellers, a gospel choir made up of singers from UCC churches across Wisconsin, will travel to the Berlin-Brandenburg area of Germany for a tour.

To prepare we will attend two overnight retreats at Pilgrim Center in Green Lake, rehearse once a month from October through June in venues across the state (twice in Tomah and Stevens Point, twice in a location nearer to your home) and sing at the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Conference (tentative)

In Germany we will stay in homes, perform 8-10 times, sing with German gospel choirs and tour cultural and historical sites. The cost is \$2,950.00 per person. Two-thirds of the spots have been filled for this tour. Sign up soon. For more information click on "German Gospel Tour: under "Events" on the homepage of the Wisconsin Conference website (wcucc.org)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH GOLF OUTING ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

AT CECILIA'S GOLF COURSE, EMERALD GROVE, ROUTE 14 (5 MILES EAST OF JANESVILLE)



Registration: 7:30 a.m.

Tee Off: 8:00 a.m.

Cost: \$20.00 to walk; \$25 to ride (includes cart)

Includes: Coffee and Donuts, Lunch, Pop (church ladies favorite goodies, salad) Each registrant may choose a brat or a burger

Format: 9 hole play, Best Ball (each person gets to hit, play is from the best shot or closest to the pin)

All proceeds go to continue to do the Lords work through charitable giving.

For more information, contact: Greg Roy, Chairman at 201-9912 or the church office at 752-8716

Hole Prizes! 50/50 Raffles! Silent Auction! Buy Mulligans! No One Goes Home Empty Handed!

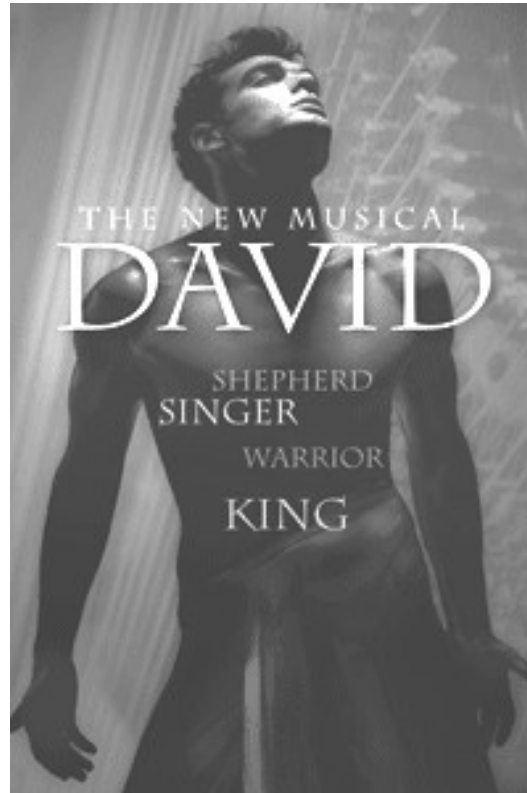
Book Picks from the Library

For Adults: Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and How They Can Be Restored by Marcus J Borg (225 Bor).

This highly readable "Christian primer", as the author refers to the book, deals with the variety of Christian understandings of words translated from the Greek texts, which have lost their meanings. In delving into the sources and studying the usage in the First Century; clearing away much of modern literalism associated with many Christian terms, Borg clarifies what he feels the Gospel writers and Paul were really saying to their early Christian readers. (I am currently reading The Case for God by Karen Armstrong, who has also arrived at the same understanding of terms such as "believe", which give many contemporary Christians trouble.) Borg climaxes his book with a study of the Creeds, the doctrine of the Trinity, and the words of the Lord's Prayers, pointing to their metaphorical and poetic nature. The last chapter is a mini sermon, dealing with how the meanings of Christian words can help us live as the texts want us to, as God wants us to. This is a book well worth reading!

Mary Hunt, Church Librarian

The
Fire  **side**
Dinner Theatre



You are invited to an afternoon of food and fun.
Join us at the **Fireside** for **dinner** and **“David”**
on Sunday, August 7, 2011.

Written by the team of Hamilton & Richardson (authors of "The Rock & The Rabbi," "The Witnesses" and "The Child") the new musical DAVID is a hit for the whole family! The show tells the story of the young man David -- how he grows from shepherd to singer to warrior to King of Israel. One of history's most engaging characters, David lived a life filled with danger, romance, music, laughter and faith. It is said that David was "a man after God's own heart." The new musical DAVID traces this young man's life from his epic battle with the giant Goliath all the way to his coronation as King. Presented with a combination of storytelling and live, acoustic music, DAVID is a feast for the eyes and ears. You'll enjoy some of the nation's finest talent onstage in this thrilling original musical. The soundtrack includes the hit songs, "The Bigger They Are," "It Takes A Woman!" and "With All Of My Heart." One of those rare theatrical works that is truly engaging for all ages, DAVID is a fast-paced, funny, and exciting must-see musical.

Fireside's Featured Menu

Orchard Salad

Strawberries, Flame Grapes, Golden Pineapple, Grapefruit, and Mandarin Oranges over Spinach Leaves, Belgium Endive, and Romaine Lettuce, glazed with Poppy Seed Dressing.
Freshly Baked Breads from The Fireside Ovens

Chicken Vienna

Skinless Breast of Chicken, dipped in Egg Batter, rolled in Seasoned Bread Crumbs, sautéed to a golden brown, topped with Jones Cherry Wood Smoked Ham, French Boursin Cheese, and presented on a Madeira Wine Sauce. Served with Sweet Potato Soufflé with a Pecan Crust, and Fresh Asparagus Spears with Sweet Red Pepper Ribbons.

Lemon Chess Tart

Garnished with Diced Strawberry Coulis

Coffee, Tea and Milk

*Thirty spots have been reserved. Cost per person is \$65.00. **Reservations and payment deadlines are Sunday, July 10th**. Make your check out to First Congregational Church.*

We will gather at the Southwest corner of the K-Mart parking lot on August 7th and leave for Fort Atkinson at 1:45 p.m. Dinner begins at 3:00 p.m. and the show is at 5:00 p.m.

You can mail your reservation and payment to First Congregational Church, 54 South Jackson Street, Janesville, WI 53548, drop it in the offering plate on Sunday, or leave it in the church office during the week - Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. & Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Name: _____ Number of Tickets _____


Address: _____

Phone: _____

I am willing to drive _____

I can take _____ extra people in my car

JULY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Pastor Wes on Vacation 9:50 AM Worship (Rev. Neil Deupree preaching)	27 4:00 PM Membership Ministry	28 7:00 PM Education Ministry	29	30 9:00 AM Tower Notes Assembly	1	2 4:00 PM Community Meal
3 9:50 AM Worship	4  Church Office Closed Today	5	6	7	8	9 Nesler/Duchenne Wedding
10 10:00 AM Worship at Palmer Park	11 7:00 PM Program Ministry	12	13 12:00 PM Parish Care Meeting 12:15 PM Shared Ministry 6:00 PM Consistory Potluck & Meeting at Mike Rundle's Home	14	15	16
17 Youth Mission Trip 9:50 AM Worship 2:00 PM Beloit Snappers Game	18 Youth Mission Trip	19 Youth Mission Trip	20 Youth Mission Trip	21 Youth Mission Trip	22 Youth Mission Trip	23 Raebel/Robinson Wedding
24 9:50 AM Worship (Christmas in July)	25	26 1:00 PM Linus Blanket "Tie-In" (Janet Hay's Home -- 1801 Royal Oaks) 7:00 PM Stewardship Meeting	27	28	29	30 <u>July 31st on Next Page</u>

AUGUST 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Pastor Wes on Vacation 9:50 AM Worship (Hymn Sing & Healing Service)	1 Pastor Wes on Vacation 6:30 PM Finance Ministry	2 Pastor Wes on Vacation	3 Pastor Wes on Vacation	4 Pastor Wes on Vacation	5 Pastor Wes on Vacation	6 Pastor Wes on Vacation 4:00 PM Community Meal
7 Fireside Outing Today 9:50 AM Worship	8 7:00 PM Program Ministry	9 7:00 PM Consistory	10	11	12	13
14 9:50 AM Worship	15 Pastor Wes on Vacation	16 Pastor Wes on Vacation	17 Pastor Wes on Vacation	18 Pastor Wes on Vacation Tower Notes Due	19 Pastor Wes on Vacation	20 Pastor Wes on Vacation
21 Pastor Wes on Vacation 10:00 AM Worship with First Presbyterian at Palmer Park (Rev. Bruce Jones preaching)	22 4:00 PM Membership Ministry	23 1:00 PM Linus Blanket "Tie-In" (Janet Hay's Home -- 1801 Royal Oaks) 5:30 PM Janesville Presents! Meeting 7:00 PM Education Ministry	24 10:00 AM Bible Study	25 9:00 AM Tower Notes Assembly	26	27
28 9:50 AM Worship	29	30	31 10:00 AM Bible Study	1	2	3 Kelm/Lynn Wedding 4:00 PM Community Meal

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Income and Expense Statement
May 2011

	<u>Current Period</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>YTD Prior Year</u>
Pledges & Offerings	22,070.37	92,414.45	232,000.00	91,272.07
Missions	370.00	4,278.05	0.00	5,741.00
Property - Rent	2,604.38	7,204.38	14,280.00	6,894.00
<i>Total Income</i>	\$25,044.75	\$104,147.35	\$250,280.00	\$105,476.40
Denominational Expenses	103.00	8,193.72	19,140.00	7,843.56
Membership Expenses	225.89	627.84	950.00	427.74
Program Expenses	14.00	860.68	3,600.00	1,232.30
Education Expenses	335.12	2,080.68	4,850.00	2,815.63
Personnel Expenses	10,510.46	67,657.18	156,053.00	65,557.66
Administrative Expenses	255.88	2,596.24	6,650.00	3,891.06
Church Facility Expenses	5,351.96	28,853.05	60,050.00	30,150.00
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$16,796.31	\$114,475.82	\$254,693.00	\$117,285.74
<i>Excess Income/Expenses</i>	\$8,248.44	-\$10,328.47	\$4,413.00	-\$7,963.59

**REMEMBER
YOUR PLEDGE
— THIS —
SUMMER**



NewsLetter DEADLINE

September Tower Notes Articles Due
on August 18, 2011
Assembly on August 25, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.
Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated!!!



Return Service Requested

First Congregational Church
54 South Jackson Street
Janesville, WI 53548-3837

Deliver No Later Than July 5, 2011

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