

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
1405 State Road 67
P.O. Box 438
Plymouth, WI 53073

Phone: 920.893.3411
FAX: 920.893.5045

Website:
www.1congoucc.org

September— May
Worship Schedule
Learning Community 9 a.m.
Confirmation 1 & 2 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.

June — August
Worship Schedule
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

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**February
2010**

The JoyLine

First Congregational Church Founded 1855 Incorporated 1903

***Our Mission Statement:** "To be a visible witness and an active presence of God's radical and all-inclusive welcome"*

Lenten Worship Begins Feb. 17



Our Lenten schedule begins with Ash Wednesday worship at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17. The Chancel Choir will sing and Pew Communion will be served.

We will continue our 7 p.m. Lenten worship on Wednesdays throughout Lent using the Iona/Taize style with prayers, congregational singing, scripture, a brief meditation and weekly communion.

Dates for Lenten worship are:

February 24	March 3
March 10	March 17
March 24	March 31

A Simple Meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. preceding Lenten worship. Persons willing to host a Simple Meal are encouraged to sign up at the kiosk.

Traditionally, Lent has been a time for "giving up" or "taking on" an activity as a reminder of the sacrificial nature of the season. Special offerings have traditionally been a part of the Lenten discipline. This year, you are asked to use our regular offering envelopes for this Lenten offering.

Many of us have our special mission interests and here is a chance for you to direct your giving. Suggestions for you to designate your giving to are: Haiti Relief, Plymouth Food Pantry, Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization, Bridgeway, Rainbow Kids, St. Ben's, Ventures in People [VIP] and Our Church's Wider Mission. The church will pass on your offering to the mission effort that you indicate.

Please use the OTHER line on the offering envelope and indicate LENT and where your offering is to be directed. Be sure to include your name and envelope number as well as check number.

Extra offering envelopes are available at the church or contact the church office at 920-893-3411 to have offering envelopes sent to you.

Special Congregational Meeting – February 28

Budget Hearing

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 7 p.m. at the church for all members of the congregation. The Church Council will hear all suggestions for the 2010 budget. If you are unable to attend, you may send your signed suggestions to the church office for consideration.

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 28, 2010, following the 10:15 a.m. worship service to consider the 2010 budget.

The proposed 2010 budget is found in the Annual Report or contact the church office for a copy of the budget.

**Congregational
Life**

Ministry Area
Coordinator:
Lora Jacoby

Bazaar Notes

We didn't get people together after the Bazaar to evaluate and offer ideas, so if anyone has something to suggest, please see Betty Nicodemus, Lora Jacoby, or Connie Wittkopp.

We would like to see more services offered for the Silent Auction.

Examples for you to consider are two-three hours of:

- Lawn work
- Handy-man jobs
- Painting
- Hair cutting/setting
- Oil change
- Snow removal
- Electrical
- Moving furniture
- Sewing, mending, altering
- Pet sitting/walking

What are you good at? Please consider offering your services for the Silent Auction.

From the Kitchen

Thank You to Kitchen Workers

Thank you to all who helped to clean the kitchen on Monday, January 18. We accomplished a lot!

We do plan to set up another time to finish up some details in the kitchen. Watch for information on the date and time.

Please Return Tablecloths

We are still waiting for the round tablecloths to be returned. If you have one and haven't brought it back because it needs ironing, please return it and we will get it ironed.



All prayer requests should be directed to either the church office, 893-3411, during office hours or to Rev. Bill, 627-1976, at other times.

**UCC Equal Exchange
Coffee Cart**

Check out the selection of coffee, tea, and chocolate on the Coffee Cart in the foyer. Please fill out an order form if you would like items that we do not stock.

Equal Exchange is a democratically organized worker-owned cooperative founded in 1986. Purchases of fairly traded products develop more environmentally sound business practices, provide high quality food products, and support sustainable farming practices for farmers in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Dorcas Chapter

By: Ruth Haucke

The next Dorcas Chapter meeting will be on Monday, March 1.

Dorcas members also plan to attend the Lenten Breakfast at Salem UCC on Wednesday, March 10 at 9 a.m.

February Birthdays

Cathy Azzalino	February 6
Kim Jasso	February 6
Denise Mohr	February 8
Randy Beebe	February 10
Cassandra Reilly	February 10
Travis Schaub	February 12
Nancy Schmidt	February 12
Matt Schaub	February 13
Nicole Reilly	February 14
Jordan Klock	February 14
Michael Falk	February 14
Ryan Beebe	February 19
Glendale DeBruine	February 22

February Wedding Anniversaries

Tom & Ruth Casadonte February 8

Note: If your birthday or anniversary has not been included in the *Joyline* or is incorrect, please notify the church office at 893-3411.

Women's Potluck Fellowship, February 8

The February Women's Potluck Fellowship will be held on **Monday, February 8, at 6 p.m.** at the church.

All women are invited to attend. Please sign up at the kiosk to let us know if you are planning to come or call the church office at 893-3411.

First Friday, February 5

First Friday will be held on **Friday, February 5 at 7 p.m.** Fun and games for all ages – bring a friend.

Congregational Life is hosting this fellowship opportunity to be held in the Meeting Hall.

Intergenerational Learning Community

Thank you to everyone who brought in new mittens and hats in November and December.

Here is the *Thank You* note that the church received from Head Start:

Thank you for the scarves, hats, and mittens. They are much appreciated. We have between seventeen 4 & 5 year-olds; someone is always missing a mitten or hat. So it's wonderful to have some warm winter wear in reserve!

*Thank you,
Your Head Start Friends*

Children's Learning Community

In January, **Kelly Haefs, Kris Struve, Jenny Klemme** and **Cindy Munson** were the Lead Teachers for the Children's Learning Community.

The February Lead Teachers are **Mari Falk, Debbie Zimmerman, Julie Luedtke,** and **Penny Gosse.**

Thank you to everyone for your time and the inspirational spirit that you give to our children. Each session is liturgical based and all are welcomed, even if they cannot make every Sunday.

Adult Learning Community

Starting Sunday, February 7, Bev Schellhaass will be leading an interesting class on the New Testament in the Fireside Room from 9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. each

Education

Ministry Area
Coordinator:
Bev Schellhaass

Sunday.
We will take a bird's eye view of the books in the New Testament, delving into various books, always seeking out what the participants want to know. Bring your own Bible or use the ones that will be available. Come join me - your input is important.

Mission

Ministry Area
Coordinator:
Diane Knoener

Our Offering for Haiti

The United Church of Christ has rushed aid to Haiti through our offering to The One Great Hour of Sharing. Because the need is beyond the resources of the funds available, a plea has been sent to UCC churches for special donations.

On Sunday, January 17, we began receiving this special offering for Haiti. A total of \$1,278 was received to aid in the Haiti relief effort.

This is an ongoing offering and monies are sent through our United Church of Christ as they are received. You are a generous people! 100% of the monies donated go directly to our people working in Haiti. If you haven't made a donation, please do so now. If you have already donated, consider another small donation. Invite your family, friends and co-workers to donate through you or another trusted organization.

The UCC has had an active ministry in Haiti for many years and has schools and health clinics staffed with workers there now. Relief funds are being used to help with basic needs: shelter, food, health assistance, water, and sanitation.

To contribute to Haiti, use your regular offering envelope and in the OTHER line, enter the amount of your contribution, and write: "To be used for" **HAITI**. If you need envelopes, they are available from the Ushers as you enter the Meeting Hall and they are also available by the Guest Book table in the narthex or from the church office.

Baby & Hygiene Kits Team

Three or four individuals are needed to organize an effort to make up Baby & Hygiene Kits to be sent through Church World Service to Haiti.

Time commitment includes a planning meeting, publicity effort, collecting the donations, overseeing their packing and mailing them out. Church World Service has issued an urgent call for Baby & Hygiene Kits.

If you are interested in being part of this Team, contact Letha Haucke or Diane Knoener.

For more information on the UCC Haiti Relief effort, please go to www.ucc.org or www.wcucc.org.

Mosquito Netting Offering

The Advent, Christmas, Epiphany offering designated for mosquito bed netting totals \$460.00 at this time.


Each \$10.00 donation can save a life by protecting people in the countries of Africa, most often children, from malaria.

Thank you to those who participated.

One Great Hour of Sharing, March 28

The date for First Church to celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is Palm Sunday, March 28th. The OGHS envelopes will be included in a special Giving Report mailing in early March.

For more information on OGHS, go to www.ucc.org. More information will also appear in the March JOYLINE.



The Welcome Table Meal

A free meal is served every Tuesday, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Plymouth (next to the Post Office).

First Church will be responsible for preparing and delivering the meals this year on:

Tuesday, April 13

Tuesday, June 22

Tuesday, August 10

Tuesday, October 12

Tuesday, December 7

If you want to learn more or would be willing to help with food donations, preparing food, transporting the meal, greeting guests, or serving in the kitchen or dining room, please contact Diane Knoener, Mission - Ministry Area Coordinator, at knoenerd@lakeland.edu.

Eggert Room Volunteers

For the month of February our volunteers are:

Diane Knoener

Pam Wilhelmsen

The Eggert Room was established to provide temporary emergency shelter to individuals in need. Our on-call volunteers check to see that the Eggert Room is clean and ready for occupancy. After the room has been used they are responsible for washing the linens and re-stocking the food and supplies.

During the month of January, the Eggert Room was used one night. Thank you to **Betty Nicodemus** for serving as the host and cleaning the room after it was used.

If you would like to help with this ministry of the church, please contact the church office.



Rainbow Kids Facilitator Training

Rainbow Kids will be offering peer support to children aged four through high school age and to adults who are grieving a loss due to a death, divorce, separation, or abandonment. Two 14-week sessions will be offered this winter/spring:

St. Mark Lutheran – Sheboygan
Tuesdays, February 2, 2010 –
May 4, 2010
6:15 – 7:15 p.m.,

St. Clement Catholic – Sheboygan
Thursdays, February 4, 2010 –
May 13, 2010
6:15 – 7:15 p.m.,

There is no fee. Please register for one of the sites by calling the Rainbow Kids office at 452-2838. Additional information will be sent to registrants.



In case of inclement winter weather on Sunday mornings, please listen to News radio 620AM WTMJ, 94.5 FM LAKE, or TODAY'S TMJ4 (Channel 4 TV) for cancellation of the worship service or Learning Community. The cancellation decision will be made by 6 a.m. and will be called in to the radio and TV stations before 7 a.m.

Always use your best judgment when deciding to venture to worship during snow/ice conditions.

Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization

Bridgeway Meal Hosts

First Congregational UCC, Plymouth is scheduled to serve the meal at Bridgeway on the **second day of each month.**

Please call Bonnie Wassell at 457-7272, ext. 15, the day before you are scheduled to serve as a meal host, to confirm that you are needed.

SCIO Needs

Aluminum foil
Garbage bags – 30 gal.
Applesauce
Canned fruit
Cream soups
Snow blower
Snow shovels

Volunteer Needs

- Drivers for our Transportation Program.
- Volunteer Daycare help during lunchtime.
- Volunteers for Building and Grounds Committee.

Needed this month for Bridgeway and Beyond:

- Paper products (toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, garbage bags, plastic storage bags, plastic wrap and aluminum foil.)

Winter Farmers Market

First Congregational Church
310 Bluff Avenue, Sheboygan
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
February 13 & 27, 2010
March 13 & 27, 2010
April 10 & 24, 2010

Nourish – A New Program of SCIO

Nourish enables collaboration between local farmers and volunteers to bring meals inspired by fresh, locally grown ingredients to struggling families that deserve to eat well.

Nourish is a three-fold experience in which groups go to a local farm

to harvest the vegetables, prepare these vegetables with homeless guests and then share a meal together.

To learn more about Nourish call 920-918-0251 or e-mail: nourishfarms@att.net or go to www.noursihfarms.org.

Transportation Program

SCIO's Transportation Program is looking for volunteers to help provide transportation to people who need rides within Sheboygan County as well as outside the county. Please contact Judy at 457-7275, ext. 11 if you can help.

Thank you Notes

Dear Members of First Congregational,

The Plymouth Food Pantry would like to thank you for your recent donation of \$502.50 from your November Thanksgiving offering, and \$132.00 from your December Thanksgiving offering. We appreciate your continuing support.

Plymouth Food Pantry, Inc.
2225 Eastern Avenue, Plymouth

* * *

[A Thank You note from Glenda Ames after the Surprise Recognition of her ministry to the church as our organist on Sunday, January 17.]

To My Family, Church Family and Friends:

I don't know what to say! I am speechless! I am dumbstruck! How you pulled this off without me having a clue is beyond me.

Words cannot express my gratitude and appreciation for all you have done for me. I never thought my tenure would last 23 years or that I would be named organist emeritus. Your generosity is overwhelming.

Yesterday is a day I will never forget. Thank you for your part in making this time in my life so memorable. God bless each of you.

With gratitude,
Glenda

Thank You To Our Volunteers

Thank you to: **Ayleene Grabow & Betty Nicodemus** for putting together a special mailing on December 18.

Thank you to: **Ayleene Grabow, Betty Nicodemus, & Ruth Haucke** for assembling the year-end mailing on January 14.

Thank you again for your help.

News From the Pews

LaVerne Schultz's brother, *LeRoy Gosse*, died at Rocky Knoll.

Sue Tenpas's sister, *Carol Hall* died at her home in Florida.

Mason Rishel fractured his right wrist while snowboarding.

Stanley Thayer is recuperating at Morningside Nursing Home, 3431 N. 13th Street, Room 305, Sheboygan, WI 53081, after heart catherization.

Julia Farnum, infant daughter of *Jill & Jamie Farnum*, is scheduled for surgery on March 8 to repair her skull which is not closing after birth.

Gary Hueppchen fell on the ice while walking his dog and broke his hip bone. He is at home recovering.

Tyler Bein had a small stroke on January 24 due to a badly non-functioning shunt. He had surgery and should be coming home soon. **Tyler's** great-grandmother, *Marie Peter*, to whom he and his mother **Connie** and sister **Amber** were very close to passed away at a nursing home on January 25.

Also keep in your daily prayers:

Tyler Bein
Shar Karnitz
Elaine Jung
Glenda Ames
Pam Wilhelmsen
Linda Suemnicht
Evelyn Hofschield
Peg Stahlman
Tracy Reichert
Glendale DeBruine
David Reichardt
Carl Cihlar
Lori Knoener

Keep in your prayers our homebound members:

Wes TenHaken
Floyd Payne

To Contact Rev. Bill

Phone 920-627-1976

E-mail: brishel@excel.net

Salem UCC Lenten Breakfast, March 10

Salem UCC Naomi Circle will host a Lenten Breakfast on Wednesday, **March 10th at 9 a.m.**

Rev. Tom Fleischmann will speak about his Health Care Ministry for Sheboygan County.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by Monday, March 1 to 920-892-7456. Salem UCC is located at 217 Salem Drive in Plymouth.

New Member Classes



If you are interested in becoming a member of First Congregational Church, please speak to Rev. Bill on Sunday or contact the church office at 893-3411.

You will be notified when a date for New Member Orientation is scheduled.

Notify the church when hospitalized

Please contact the church office at 920-893-3411 or Rev. Rishel at 920-627-1976 if you want the church to be informed that you or a family member is hospitalized.

SCRIP NOTES: From: Pam Wilhelmsen

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!!!

The Scrip program passed \$9,000 to the First Congregational General Fund in 2009. Although the budget was to pass \$10,000, we are making huge progress. What do you think? \$10,000 passed to the General Fund in 2010!!

Scrip Shopping On-Line

We have an opportunity to do on-line Scrip shopping. The Great Lakes Scrip program offers Shop With Scrip. The process is ready to go and we encourage you to consider this option for shopping.

Your choices are from the full list of GLSC retailers and includes our local retailers. Orders placed before Sunday afternoon, will be in the church office on Tuesday or Wednesday. A payment process called PrestoPay is

used to debit the bank account of your choice, plus a service charge of 39 cents. Check it out at shopwithscrip.com. If you decide to register you will need our enrollment code:
59LLDFDDE4746.

There is information on the program in the office. I have done one-on-one training with a few members. I would be happy to work with any of you. Please contact me either via email: pwilhelmsen@wi.rr.com or phone 892-6615.

Note from Jami Scott

Sheboygan Monument & Stone Works offers customers who purchase a memorial under the Community Care Program, a pledge to donate 5% off the stone material costs to First Congregational Church, Plymouth.

Please see Jami Scott for details.

Shop the Scrip Desk on Sunday

The Scrip desk is open prior to and after Sunday church services. Scrip is also available in the church office, during regular office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.).

We welcome each of you to participate in the Scrip program. All profits are accumulated and passed to the First Congregational UCC General Fund. Our Scrip desk volunteers, Pam Wilhelmsen, or Renee Panzer (Administrative Assistant) will be happy to answer your questions and get you started.

Thank you for your support.

Important Income Tax Information

Are you over age 70 1/2?

Do you no longer itemize deductions on your income tax return? So, you do not have the income tax benefit of a deduction for church contributions.

Do you own an IRA?

You may have an income tax benefit by making direct deposits to a charitable organization (i.e., First Congregational UCC) from your IRA.

Part of the IRS code is as follows: "Qualified Charitable Distributions. A Qualified charitable distribution is nontaxable distribution made directly by the trustee of your IRA to an organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions."

Please contact your income tax consultant to see if this IRS regulation is a benefit for you.

**Administration
Ministry Area Coordinator**

Pam Wilhelmsen

Administration Teams:

Gary Haucke	Building & Grounds
Kay Magnus	Finance
Sarah Erickson	Memorials
	Personnel
Pam Wilhelmsen	SCRIP



Annual Meeting Report

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, January 24, 2010 following worship.

Motion to accept the Annual Reports. **Passed**

Motion to amend the Constitution to elect two persons to the Church Council for a three-year term instead of one person for a five-year term. **Passed**

Election of Church Officers was held as follows:

Letha Haucke – Moderator
[Term ending in 2011]

Mary Arenberg – Council
[Term ending in 2013]

Gary Hueppchen will fill a one year Council position.
[Term ending in 2011]

Jami Scott - Delegate to NEA and Conference Annual Meetings
[Term ending in 2011]

Betty Nicodemus - Delegate to NEA and Conference Annual Meetings
[Term ending in 2013]

One Council position to be appointed by the Council.

Budget Vote

The 2010 proposed budget failed to pass; 21 in favor
23 opposed
9 abstentions

Budget Hearing in February

A budget hearing is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 7 p.m.** for all members of the congregation but especially for those voting against the proposed budget to bring alternative suggestions.

The Council will hear all suggestions and bring a proposed budget to a Special Congregational Meeting on February 28.

If a member is unable to make the budget hearing on February 2nd, you may send your signed suggestions to the church office and it will be taken into consideration.

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 28, 2010 following worship to consider the 2010 proposed Budget.

A quorum of 50 active members is necessary for a quorum.

The proposed budget is found in the Annual Report or contact the church office for a copy.

Church Council:

Moderator	Letha Haucke
2011	Gary Hueppchen
2011	Alan Ambrosius
2012	Laurie Volkomener
2012	Steve Klock
2013	Mary Arenberg
2013	Open

Ministry Area Coordinators

Administration	Pam Wilhelmsen
Congregational Life	Lora Jacoby
Education	Bev Shellhaass
Mission	Diane Knoener
Worship	Connie Wittkopp

Meeting Minutes Available in the Church Office

The full report of all Church Council or Administration Team meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the church office.



February Time Stewardship

Sunday, February 7 Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Worship..... 10:15 a.m.

- Pew Communion
- Chancel Choir sings
- Plymouth Food Pantry Collection

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)	Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11

Liturgist: Lora Jacoby

Ushers: Team 1 – Gary Hueppchen, Scott Haefs, Julie & Kyle Luedtke

Greeters: Janice Hueppchen & Elaine Jung

Screen Tech: Mason Rishel

Nursery:

Communion Servers: Team 8 –

* Keith & Mari Falk

Laurie & Dan Volkomener

Sunday Tellers: Jami Scott & Barbara Grier

SCRIP Desk: Pam Wilhelmsen

Sunday, February 14

Last Sunday After Epiphany/Transfiguration

Worship..... 10:15 a.m.

- “Broken Chains” sings

Lectionary Readings

Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Liturgist: Ron Knoener

Ushers: Team 2 – Gary, Jim, & Michael Haucke, Terry Schram

Greeters:

Screen Tech: Mason Rishel

Nursery:

Sunday Tellers: Dan & Laurie Volkomener

SCRIP Desk: Tammy Michaels

* Indicates you are responsible for Communion set-up and clean-up, and getting the Communion bread.

Ash Wednesday, February 17

Worship 7 p.m.

- Pew Communion
- Chancel Choir sings

Lectionary Readings

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	OR	Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17		2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21		

Ushers: Team 3 – Penny Gosse, Waitman, Nancy & Lane Slaughter

Screen Tech: Mason Rishel

Communion Servers: Team 9

* Brett & Pam Wilhelmsen

Alan & Carla Ambrosius

Sunday, February 21

First Sunday in Lent

Worship 10:15 a.m.

- Chancel Choir sings

Lectionary Readings

Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13

Liturgist: Kay Magnus

Ushers: Team 4 – Dennis & Sandy Doebert, Steve Klock, Nick Erickson

Greeters:

Screen Tech: Mason Rishel

Nursery:

Sunday Tellers: Candy Durdin & Diane Knoener

SCRIP Desk: Deb Klock

Sunday, February 28

Second Sunday in Lent

Worship 10:15 a.m.

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

Liturgist: Betty Nicodemus

Ushers: Team 5 – Diane Gahagan Families

Greeters: Janice Hueppchen & Elaine Jung

Screen Tech: Mason Rishel

Nursery:

Sunday Tellers: Steve Klock & Sue Hellmer

SCRIP Desk: Diane Knoener

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 Web Site Address: www.1congoucc.org
 Church Office E-Mail: congoucc@excel.net
 Financial Administrator E-Mail:
congouccfinance@excel.net

Church Staff

Rev. Bill Rishel, pastor
 Letha Haucke, moderator
 Renee Panzer, administrative assistant
 Denise Mohr, financial administrator
 Keith Falk, director of music
 Gordon Wieck, custodian
 Linda Suemnicht, housekeeper

The deadline for submitting articles for the
 newsletter is the second Sunday of each
 month.

Events in February

First Friday	February 5
Plymouth Food Pantry Collection	February 7
Women's Potluck Fellowship	February 8
LaLeche League Meeting	February 9
Greek Orthodox Chapel	February 15
Ash Wednesday Worship	February 17
Dead Sea Scrolls Trip	February 21
Simple Meal & Lenten Worship	February 24

Meetings in February

Stewardship	February 2
Budget Hearing	February 2
Church Council	February 9
Special Congregational Meeting	February 28

Joyline deadline

Sunday, February 14

Please submit your articles for the newsletter to the
 church office or e-mail: congoucc@excel.net.