

The Messenger



A Newsletter of the
Genesee 1st Congregational, United Church of Christ, Inc.

April, 2024 special edition

Volume 19, Number 0.5

From the Pastor



Life can be challenging, but God is always good!

We often hear people say they would like a little “peace and quiet.” I think we can all say a hearty “amen” to that, especially with all that is taking place in our world right now. Yet, I wanted to

take a few moments to encourage you today on this thought of “peace.”

At times, perhaps we have wrongly concluded that peace is simply the absence of conflict of any kind, yet we forget that Jesus came into a world that was filled with political and moral turmoil. Yet, He was, and IS the Prince of Peace!

As Jesus walked the dusty roads, followed by his disciples, everywhere he went benefitted from the peace he brought into the situation.

Political and religious leaders may have struggled with having a sense of peace because He came to restore hope and dignity to society's downtrodden and forgotten. As He did this, the religious leaders felt their control of the people slipping away.

Yet, all this time, Jesus knew a day would come that He would be taken out of this world, and His mission would be left in the hands of the disciples.

He gave some comforting words to them at the time, and I believe these words still apply to us today. John 14:27 says, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

The peace that the world gives is temporary and governed by the events surrounding us, yet the peace that Jesus gives is one that comes from our innermost being because of His presence.

Here is a beautiful story that illustrates the kind of peace Christ gives:

Two painters were asked to paint a picture illustrating peace. The first painted a beautiful evening scene in the foreground of a lake, its surface calm and unruffled. Trees surrounded it; meadows stretched away to the distant cattle gently browsing; a little cottage, the setting sun—all spoke of perfect rest. The second painter drew a wild, stormy scene. Heavy black clouds hung overhead; in the center of the picture, an immense waterfall poured forth vast volumes of water covered with foam. One could almost hear its unceasing roar, yet perhaps the first thing to strike the eye was a small bird, perched in a cleft of a huge rock, absolutely sheltered from all danger, pouring forth its sweet notes of joy. It is the second painter who could describe the peace that passes all understanding, which is the Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God in the heart of the redeemed. One can only have peace with himself if he has peace with God.

Remember that the circumstances around you don't have to dictate your peace. HE is our peace!

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Jim

teamlangreder@gmail.com 262-309-5086

OFFICE HOURS:

■ (Scott Burdette) am usually in the church office from 2 – 4 PM on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The office phone number is **262-968-3849**.

In addition, below are the Rev. Jim Langreder's hours (during a typical week). In emergency, call Pastor Jim at **262-309-5086**.

Monday: Genesee 8 AM – 2:30 PM

Tuesday: Hartland 8 AM – 2:30 PM

Wednesday: Hartland 8 AM – 12:30 PM

Genesee 12:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Thursday: Genesee 8 AM – 12 PM

Hartland 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Welcome to the April, 2024 special edition of the Messenger. We share Pastor Jim with the Hartland, UCC. As such, we have the early service six months and Hartland gets it the other six months.

Our Sunday service is currently at **10:30 AM**. On the first Sundays of the month we meet at the Ed. Center (that brick building next to the church) – and communion is served. The other Sundays of the month we meet in the church sanctuary.

We have Sunday School for youngsters from Nursery through Junior-High age. They meet at the same time and place as the adults, and after the “Time With Our Young Disciples” follow their teacher(s) to class.

Currently, the Hartland service is at 9 AM and is livestreamed on the Genesee and Hartland Facebook page; and You-tube channel (First Congregational UCC, Hartland, WI.)

Bible Study

This is your opportunity to learn about the Bible. It is held every 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday, at 1:30 PM. For specific dates in April and May see the events calendar on page 4. The topic for discussion at each Bible Study is the sermon message for the following Sunday.

Explore God’s Word Daily

Due to high demand, copies of the devotional booklet: “**The Upper Room**” for March – April, 2024 are out of stock. The Upper Room for May / June has arrived. Call the church office at **262-968-3849**, or come to worship service on Sunday morning, to get your copy. On every page is an inspirational reading and accompanying Bible verse for each day.

Book Club

meets on Thursdays, at the Mercantile Coffee Shop (first driveway to the left – on Hwy 83, north of the Hwys. 59 and 83 roundabout), at 10 PM. As of the printing of this newsletter they are reading A Year of Biblical womanhood.

Pilates

meets at the Ed. Center at 8:30 AM each Saturday morning.

Verse of the month

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.”

Psalm 19:1 (NIV)

Church Budget Update:

The most recent income and expense figures are shown below.

February Income	\$4,321.00
February Expenses	<u>\$4,532.03</u>
Net Total	-\$211.03

We continue to be grateful for all the gifts contributed by our members. We value your fellowship. Join us at our Sunday service, enjoy the beauty of our church building, listen to the good word and say “hello!”

APRIL – MAY USHERS

The following teams / individuals are scheduled to usher on Sundays in April and May. Arrive by 10 AM (for the 10:30 AM service). Your job is to greet people, and hand out bulletins. For the latest update, or if you are unable to fulfill your commitment, please notify Diane Sickels at **262-968-3954**.

April 7	Deacons
April 14	OPEN
April 21	OPEN
April 28	OPEN

May 5	Deacons
May 12	OPEN
May 19	OPEN
May 26	OPEN

HOPE CENTER

MEAL SERVICE DATES FOR 2024.
NEW LOCATION!

Our church is one of 46 congregations, throughout Waukesha County, which serve the meals at Hope Center in Waukesha. The service dates are, every week except holidays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Meals are served at 5:30 PM – with volunteers asked to arrive by 5 PM. Our dates for 2024 are...

Wednesday, April 10
Friday, June 28
Friday, November 29

We are asked to have 6 – 8 volunteers present to serve, on average, 60 – 70 people. Trays of desserts: cookies, brownies, cake, etc. are also asked for and are always well appreciated. A sign-up sheet is located in the church entrance, on the table where you get your Sunday bulletin. OR, call the office at **262-968-3849** to volunteer. **NEW!** Hope Center is now located at 101 W Broadway, in Waukesha.

TOUCH BASE TUESDAY

Join Pastor Jim for lunch, drinks and conversation about whatever is on your mind and heart.

EVERY TUESDAY 11 AM – 1 PM

Phoenix Restaurant, 129 Cottonwood Av. in Hartland.

MOVIE NIGHT

6 PM, Friday, April 19

Genesee Church Ed. Center

PROM ! *Enchanted Forest*

Saturday, April 20, 6 – 10 PM

Hartland, UCC, Capitol Dr. at Church St., Hartland

Tickets purchased by March 30 are \$20.00; \$30.00 at the door. Join us for an evening of music, dancing, food and laughter with friends! RSVP. For more information please email: darcy.sobczak@gmail.com

MOMENT FOR ME

- MIRRORING SPRING'S REBIRTH

Saturday, April 20, 10 AM – Noon

(Note the revised date)

Community Room at Genesee Church Ed. Center

The cost is \$15. We are coming out of winter's journey and have enjoyed its invitations of slowness, simplicity and silence. Now its time to allow the stirrings of spring to shape our path forward. Come learn what nature teaches us from this in-between season using the example of plants and take home tools to use in your life! If we choose to mirror spring's rebirth, we will be transformed! Please bring what you need for Me Time (journal, yoga mat, earbuds, colored pens / pencils, etc.)

For more information contact: Sue at SUE.WISDOMWITHIN@GMAIL.COM or visit WWW.WISDOMWITHIN-BECAUSEYOUKNOW.COM



**GO
BREWERS**

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY and potluck lunch
by Rhea Whiteley

Sunday, April 21,
after the 10:30 AM worship service.

Please join us! We need you!

Let's take care of our beloved church building and Education Center!

- Bring your indoor/outdoor tools, gloves and cleaning supplies – whatever you like to use
- We will have our cleaning task lists at every room so you can pick a task and check it off when it's complete.

When we're done, we'll enjoy a potluck lunch.

- You bring a dish to pass – sign up sheet at Sunday services. Don't cook? Bring chips & dip. Main dish, sides & desserts would be awesome!
- the Church will supply the beverages, plates, etc.

Please join us!!!! We need you!!! There is something to do for people of all abilities.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Angie Williams: **262-391-1141** or Rhea **262-617-8512**.

We'll see you Sunday, April 21st after worship for spring cleaning and lunch!

Southeast Association Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 27, 9 AM – 2 PM

First Congregational, UCC, 815 S. Concord Rd., Oconomowoc

Registration Costs: \$25 for Adults – Clergy, Laity, Visitors

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Sandhya Jha, Minister Activist and Author. Sandhya Jha is an anti-oppression Consultant who is working on their PhD 2023-2027. Sandhya is the founder and former executive director of the Oakland Peace Center and a multifaith community organizer. An ordained pastor with a master's in public policy, Sandhya is comfortable in the pulpit, on the picket line, or hanging out with friends and friends-to-be over a good cup of tea and a good story.

Her most recent book, [Rebels, Despots and Saints: The Ancestors Who Free Us and The Ancestors We Need to Free](#), is available from Chalice Press for 20% off. At check out, use promo code **Rebels20%**.

Events Calendar

APRIL - MAY events

Listed here are the dates of meetings, holidays and events in March and April. All dates are correct at the time of publication. All events are at the Ed. Center, unless otherwise noted.

Service time is Sundays, 10:30 AM – at church. First Sundays of a month, the service is at the Ed. Center – and we will have communion.

Bible Study continues on the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays of the month at 1:30 PM. There is NO Bible Study if the date is a 3rd Wednesday.

Book Club meets every Thursday at 11 AM. The location is the Mercantile Coffee Shop. (first driveway to the left – on Hwy 83 - north of the Hwys. 59 and 83 roundabout)

In addition, the Ed. Center is used for a Pilates class which meets 8:30 AM each Saturday.

APRIL, 2024

- MO 1** **APRIL FOOLS' DAY**
- TU 2** **Primary Election Day** **Vote!**
- WE 3** NO Bible Study
- TH 4** 11 AM: Book Club
- SA 6** 8:30 AM: Pilates
- SU 7** 10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center
w/ communion
- MO 8** 2 PM: Executive Board
- WE 10** 1:30 PM: Bible Study
5 PM: Serve meal at Hope Center
- TH 11** 11 AM: Book Club
- SA 13** 8:30 AM: Pilates
- SU 14** 10:30 AM service at church
- MO 15** **NATIONAL TAX DAY**
- WE 17** NO Bible Study
- TH 18** 11 AM: Book Club
- FR 19** 6 PM: Movie Night
- SA 20** 8:30 AM: Pilates
10 AM – NOON: Moment for Me
- SU 21** 10:30 AM service at church
Spring Clean-up and potluck lunch
-after the 10:30 AM service
May – June edition copy due
- MO 22** **EARTH DAY**
- WE 24** 1:30 PM: Bible Study
- TH 25** 11 AM: Book Club
- FR 26** **ARBOR DAY**
- SA 27** 8:30 AM: Pilates
9 AM – 2 PM: Southeast Ass'n Meeting
Oconomowoc, UCC
- SU 28** 10:30 AM service at church
Deadline for flower-order forms

MAY, 2024

- WE 1** **MAY DAY**
1:30 PM: Bible Study
Deadline for pre-order and payment for flowers and bakery.
- TH 2** 11 AM: Book Club
- SA 4** 8:30 AM: Pilates
- SU 5** 10:30 AM service at the Ed, Center
w/ communion
CINCO de MAYO
- WE 8** 1:30 PM: Bible Study
- TH 9** 11 AM: Book Club
- SA 11** 8:30 AM: Pilates
- SU 12** **MOTHER'S DAY**
10:30 AM service at church
- WE 15** NO Bible Study
- TH 16** 11 AM: Book Club
- SA 18** 8:30 AM: Pilates
9 AM – NOON: Pick-up flowers
- SU 19** **PENTECOST**
10:30 AM service at church
June special edition copy due
- MO 20** 2 PM: Executive Board
- TU 21** 1:30 PM: Outreach
- WE 22** 1:30 PM: Bible Study
- TH 23** 11 AM: Book Club
- SA 25** 8:30 AM: Pilates
- SU 26** 10:30 AM service at church
- MO 27** **MEMORIAL DAY**
- WE 29** 1:30 PM: Bible Study
- TH 30** 11 AM: Book Club

JUNE, 2024

- SA 1** 8:30 AM: Pilates

GRADUATING? LET US KNOW!

Are you graduating from High School, college, etc. in May or June? Do you know of someone who is? Let us know. Call the office at **262-968-3849**. Graduated will be published in the May-June issue.

BUILDING RENTAL AVAILABLE

Do you have a large family gathering, wedding, birthday party, etc., but not enough room to host it? Both our Ed. Center and Church are available to responsible parties. Call the church office at **262-968-3849** for details and a rate schedule.

**SPRING FLOWER AND BAKE SALE
FUNDRAISER** by Rhea Whiteley

Pre-order and payment for flowers and bakery accepted now thru Wednesday, May 1st.

Note the new Pick up Date: Saturday, May 18th 9 AM - 12 PM at the church Education Center

We have a fabulous assortment of annual flowers for planting, hanging baskets and pots for sale.

Delicious homemade bakery available for pre-order too!

Request order forms for flowers: call Mary Ann Ludtke **414-828-1235** or the church office: **262-968-3849**. or email geneseechurch@wi.twcbc.com.

Our signuptiongenius.com link to pre-order Bakery will be available soon in the weekly updates and Sunday worship services.

Pre-orders & payment for Flowers & Bakery due Wednesday, May 1st.

Call Rhea Whiteley **262-617-8512** or Mary Ann Ludtke **414-828-1235** to arrange a drop off or pick up
Call the church office: **262-968-3489** for additional drop off times.

Check for updated information on our Facebook page: 1st Congregational Church of Genesee, UCC.

All proceeds go to continuing the life and missions of the 1st Congregational Church of Genesee, UCC.

Thank you for supporting your local church community!

Spring Flower (and Bake Sale) order form on Pages 6 – 7.

**Congratulations to
PASTOR MIKE Whiteley!**

by Pastor Jim Langreder

Our very own Mike Whiteley has accepted a call from First Congregational church in East Troy to be their settled pastor! This is such great news not only for Mike, but for the congregation members in East Troy. Mike will be (and is) an amazing pastor and will serve the community of East Troy well.

As you recall, Mike started as a licensed pastor for East Troy in September and has built relationships with church members and has flourished at developing his pastoral skills.

We are so proud of all the hard work Mike has put in over the past few years to become an ordained minister within the United Church of Christ. His journey will continue as he finishes up his studies. When the time comes, we in Genesee will host his Ecclesiastical Council and ultimately his Ordination service.

THINK RUMMAGE by Rhea Whiteley

We will have a Church Rummage Sale the 1st week of August. Start thinking of items you wish to donate! More information to come soon!

A FINAL NOTE 🎵

The deadline for the May-June edition is Sunday, April 21. The deadline for the June, 2024 special edition is Sunday, May 19. To submit an article, event information, or to receive your newsletter via e-mail, send e-mail to:

geneseechurch@wi.twcbc.com

Articles submitted in person need to be typed or written legibly.

Scott W. Burdette

Spring Flower (and Bake Sale) Fundraiser 2024

Address:
Phone:
Email:

Photos of plants available for viewing on our facebook page: 1st Congregational Church of Genesee

12" Porch Pots \$29.00			
Type	Color	Quantity	Total
Begonias -Grower's Choice(<i>what's ready at time of delivery</i>)			
	Pink		
Dragon's Wing or Whopper (circle 1st choice)	Red		
Coleus	Assorted		
Dahlias-one color per pot-Grower sends best	Assorted		
Color preference? Add here & we'll send to grower>>>			
Geraniums	Red		
	Pink		
Lantana	Mixed		
Potunia	Assorted		
Scaveola	Blue		
Sunpatiens	Assorted		
Zinnia	Mixed		
Totals =			

Planters-prices below		Quantity	Total
12" Patio Planter-Sun(Geranium/Spike/Vinca)	Red \$42		
12" Patio Planter-Sun(Geranium/Spike/Vinca)	Pink \$42		
12" Herb Planter-Sun	Asst. Herbs \$28		
Totals =			

1st Congregational Church of Genesee

Orders & payment due Wednesday, May 1st

Pick up flowers & bakery on Sat. May 18th 9:00am-12:00pm

Orders taken for Homemade baked goods on our link at Signupgenius.com or call Mary Ann Ludtke: 414-828-1234

Flower Sale Questions? Call Rhea Whiteley 262-617-8512

Bake Sale Questions? Call Mary Ann Ludtke: 414-828-1234

10" Hanging Baskets \$29.00 - Flowers make a great gift!			
Type	Color	Quantity	Total
Fuchsia	Assorted		
Geraniums, Ivy	Red		
	Pink		
	Lavender		
Impatiens, Shade	red		
	pink		
	mixed		
New Guinea Impatiens, Sun	Red		
	Pink		
	Lavender		
Million Bells	Red		
	Pink		
	Mixed		
Garden Basket 10"	Mixed		
Portulaca (Moss Rose)	Assorted		
Wave Petunia	Patriotic -Red/White/Blue		
Totals =			

Think Spring! Pick up your order on Saturday, May 18th 9:00-12:00pm

"Flowers are like friends; They bring color to your world." – Unknown

Annuals Sold in full flats only = \$22.00 each		
48 per flat unless noted below		
<i>Share a flat with family, friends, neighbors!</i>		
Alyssum	White	
	Purple	
Begonia with Green Leaf	Red	
Shade-Sun. 40 per flat	White	
	Pink	
Begonia with Bronze Leaf	Red	
Shade-Sun 40 per flat	White	
Coleus - shade to part sun	assorted	
Dusty Miller -sun	sliver foliage	
Impatiens - shade	Red	
	White	
	Pink	
	Mixed	
Lobelia - part shade	blue	
Marigold -Tall -sun 40 per flat	Yellow	
	Orange	
Marigold -Dwarf -sun	Yellow	
	Mixed	
Pansy - part shade	mixed	
Petunia -sun	Red	
	White	
	Pink	
	Blue	
	Mixed	
Portulaca(Moss Rose) -sun	Mixed	
Salvia -sun	Red	
Salvia -sun	Blue	
Snapdragons (Tall)-sun	Mixed	
Snapdragons (Dwarf)-sun	Mixed	
Profusion Zina (Dwarf)-sun 40 per flat	Mix	
Dreamland Zinnia-Dwarf 40 per flat	Mix	
Totals =		

4 1/2" Potted Annuals	Sold as full trays only-	<i>Share a tray with family & friends!</i>	
10 per tray	\$52 each	Quantity	Total
Dracaena Spikes	green foliage; sun or shade		
Potato Vine - assorted colors	full to part sun		
Coleus - assorted colors	full to part sun		
Dragon Wing Begonias-assorted colors	full sun,/full shade, bushy, long bloomer		
Million Bells - assorted colors	part to full sun heavy flowering		
Geraniums - Red	sun		
Geraniums - White	sun		
Geraniums - Pink	sun		
Geraniums - Rose	sun		
Geraniums - Salmon	sun		
Totals =			

	Quantity	Total
\$25 Vouchers for Sale		

- Voucher are valid until June 30, 2024

Great option for those who would like to go to Shady Lane Greenhouses & shop!

Good on regular priced merchandise & services only. Sales tax not included. Not valid with other coupons & discounts.

Address: W172N7388 Shady Lane, Menomonee Falls, WI

Grand Total Cost (Flowers & Vouchers) =

Payment by Cash or Checks payable to: 1st Congregational Church of Genesee

Order forms and payment due by Wednesday, May 1st

Drop off at any Sunday Church Service
 Weekdays: during office hours. Call: 262-968-3489
 Mail to church office: W306 S5075 Chrch St. Mukwonago, WI 53149
 Or contact Mary Ann or Rhea (phone #'s below)

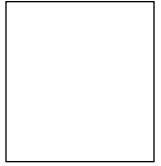
Don't forget to order your Bakery Treats! Visit our Signup genius (the link is on our Weekly Update emails),
 Order at Sunday worship services or call: Mary Ann 414-828-1234 or Rhea 262-617-8512

Pick up flowers and Bakery on Saturday, May 18th, 9:00am-12:00pm. Thank you for supporting our fundraiser!

**GENESEE 1ST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC.
W306 S5075 CHURCH ST.
MUKWONAGO (GENESEE), WI 53149-9732
262-968-3849 www.geneseechurch.org**

NEWSLETTER APR 2024

TIME VALUE MAIL
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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Sunday services
10:30 AM - at church
EXCEPT
1st Sunday of the month
Sunday services
at the Ed. Center
with communion