



Annual Report 2023

First Congregational Church of Rochester

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January 28, 2024

First Congregational Church of Rochester
2024 Officers, Commission and Committee Members with Vacancies for 2024-25.

Church Officers:

Moderator:	Ruth Frost	(2 yr. Term)
Vice Moderator:	Rose Seeger	(2 yr. Term)
Secretary (Clerk)	Joanne Potter	(1 yr. Term)
Treasurer:	Mark Dahms	(1 yr. Term)

Church Council Members: (3 yr. Term)

Kelly Ball Steve Dolphin Joyce Gerard Brian Mingus Bev Jensen

Commissions:

Worship and Liturgy (5 members) (3 yr. Term)

*Rose Seeger
Lora Gensler
*Bev Jensen
Vicki Will

Finance (5 members) (3 yr. Term)

****Mark Dahms (Treasurer)**
Christine Gall
Mary Krall
Pat Parr
*Rose Seeger

Fellowship (5 members) (2 yr. Term)

*Joyce Gerard
Karen Kaldor
*Kelly Ball
Kimberly Ball

Mission/Social Action (3 members) (2 yr. Term)

*Sue Beach
Mary Krall
Rose Seeger

Education (3 members) (2 yr. Term)

Steve Manske

Pastoral Care 3 members) (2 yr. Term)

All of the Congregation.

Committees:

Nominating (4 members) (3 yr. Term)

Sue Beach
Mary Krall

Pastoral & Personnel Relations (2 members) (3 yr. Term)

Auditing (3 members) (3 yr. Term)

Wayne Ball
Melanie Mingus

Stewardship (3 members) (3 yr. Term)

Kim Ball
*Steve Dolphin

IT/Tech Committee

**Mark Dahms
Tom Beach
*Brian Mingus

Buildings and Grounds (6 members) (3 yr. Term)

Tom Beach	* Donald Ketterhagen
*Steve Dolphin	*Brian Mingus
Bill Gerard (associate)	_____

Note: (*) Council Representative

(**) Treasurer is ex-officio member of Finance Commission.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ROCHESTER, WI
JANUARY 28, 2024

- **Call Meeting to Order-Establish a Quorum** **Ruth Frost, Moderator**
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Minutes of February 5, 2023 Annual Meeting** **JoAnne Potter, Clerk**
- **Minutes of November 5, 2023 Fall Meeting** **JoAnne Potter, Clerk**
- **Clerk's Report** **JoAnne Potter, Clerk**
- **Treasurer's Report** **Mark Dahms**
- **Budget Approval for 2023** **Mark Dahms**
- **Financial Secretary's Report** **Mark Dahms**
- **Pastor's Report** **Reverend Ray**

- **Committee and Commission Reports for Congregational Approval**
 - **Fellowship Commission**
 - **Mission Commission**
 - **Worship Committee**
 - **Education Commission**
 - **Building and Grounds Committee**
 - **IT and Marketing**

Old Business

New Business

Adjourn with Benediction and Blessing

**The Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the
First Congregational Church of Rochester, Wisconsin
Sunday, February 5, 2023
(rescheduled from January 29th due to weather)**

Moderator Ruth Frost presided.

Copies of the Annual Report 2022 were distributed to Church Members.

Reverend Paul Ray gave the opening prayer.

November 6, 2022, Congregational Meeting minutes were printed and reviewed. Sue Beach moved to approve the minutes as printed. Glen Richmond seconded the motion. Motion passed.

January 30, 2022, Annual Meeting minutes were printed and reviewed. Joyce Gerard moved to approve the minutes as printed. Kelly Ball seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Clerk's Report – Aga Dahms

Treasurer's Report – Mark Dahms

It was another good year. The church came out ahead again and used its reserve to fund several major capital expenditures including new basement flooring, new carpet on the main floor, and exterior painting. The church also gave \$6,825 to its missions.

Our mission income was \$5,584. This was raised by our missions.

Still waiting on \$12,000 tax refund from 2020.

Budget for 2023 was presented and voted approval. Joyce Gerard moved to approve.

Sue Beach seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mark Dahms recognized the Finance Committee (Rose Seeger, Mary Krall, Christine Gall and Pat Parr) and praised them for their efforts and help. The Congregation was very appreciative of Mark Dahms and for all the work he does.

Pastor's Report - Reverend Ray

Pastor Ray expressed gratitude for all the help and support he received during his recovery.

Pastor Ray praised and expressed appreciation for our special music and for Vicki Will our new Choir Director who has done a wonderful job.

Pastor Ray praised Jessica for leading Sunday School on second and fourth Sundays.

The Reports for the Financial Secretary, Pastor's Report, Fellowship Commission, Worship Commission, Education Commission, Mission Commission and Building and Grounds Committee were reviewed as printed.

Fellowship Committee

Joyce Gerard thanked Pastor Ray and Agneta for helping with the decorations for Christmas and other occasions.

Ruth Frost thanked Joyce Gerard for all the work she does. (Phone calls, preparing for special events, etc.)

Mission Committee

Pastor Ray acknowledging Aga Dahms for heading up the Missions.

Wayne Ball acknowledged Edwin Ela for cleaning the church.

Building and Grounds

Don Ketterhagen reviewed the long list of projects completed in 2022 as we continue to maintain an old building.

Glen Richmond moved to approve the commission and committee reports. Joyce Gerard seconded the motion. The motion approved.

No Old Business

No New Business

Glenn Richmond moved to adjourn Annual Meeting. Joyce Gerard seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Meeting was adjourned and Rev. Ray lead the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aga Dahms, Secretary

**The Minutes of the Fall Business Meeting
First Congregational Church
Rochester, WI
Sunday, November 5, 2023**

Moderator Ruth Frost presided.

Meeting called to order with a quorum established.

Reverend Paul Ray gave the opening prayer.

Minutes from May 7, 2023, Spring Meeting were printed and reviewed. Sue Beach moved to approve the minutes as printed. Joyce Gerard seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Mark Dahms

Church finances continue to be in a good position. Through September, the church had income of \$52,895 and expenses of \$53,486 for a modest loss of \$590. The church spent \$9,915 on capital improvements and gave \$6,230 to Missions. **Missions:** rummage sales, offerings from Lenten services, member donations for Love Inc. Back to School Program and member donations for victims of the Maui fires. **Capital Improvements:** new stair lift, and a down payment on the upcoming refurbishment of the exterior front double doors and archways. Mark Dahms thanked the Finance Commission, Christine Gall, Mary Krall, Pat Parr, and Rose Seeger for all their hard work.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Paul Ray

Rev. Ray is planning a short vacation on the week of Thanksgiving. November 21st-26th.

The Madrigals will be performing at the church on Friday, December 1st.

Advent begins on Sunday, December 3.

Pastor Ray is enjoying his series of Esther.

Communion is the 2nd Sunday of Advent.

Worship Committee:

Three new Choir members.

Fellowship Committee: Joyce Gerard

Planning Thanksgiving Potluck.

The Madrigals will perform on Friday, December 1st.

Missions Commission: Sue Beach

We are busy with Love Inc. Meals.

Finishing up the Operation Christmas Boxes and Adopt a Family.

Building and Grounds: Steve Dolphin

We are working well together. Getting all our projects done.

IT/Marketing Committee: Mark Dahms

Everything is updated.

Old business: None

New Business: Election of Church Officers and Council Representatives.

Church officers: JoAnne Potter, Secretary (Clerk)

Commissions: Mission/Social Action, Rose Seeger

Nominating Commission: Mary Krall

Education: Steve Manske

Kelly Ball motioned to accept the nominees; Steve Ball seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Sue Beach motioned to approve the minutes. Joyce Gerard seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer

Report of the Church Clerk for 2023

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED IN 2023

Sue Pope

Amanda Busateri (Dolphin)

Perry Busateri

Francheska Gorn (Wallace)

Derek Gorn

Joanne Potter

Ann Gorski

Jon Ludke

Jean Ludke

DEATHS:

Jean Moyer

Doris Shaefer

BAPTISMS:

Gabriella Busateri

MARRIAGES:

Amanda Dolphin to Perry Busateri

Francheska Wallace to Derek Gorn

MEETINGS:

Eleven Church Council Mtgs.

Two Congregational Mtgs. (Spring and Fall)

One Annual Mtg. (January)

Prepared by Pastor Ray in cooperation with Joanne Potter, (Clerk pro tem)

First Congregational Church of Rochester, Wisconsin
Treasurer's Report for the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024

2023 Annual Report

The church had a **great** financial year – covering its operating expenses by **\$4,040**, using cash reserves from prior year surplus income to fund **\$9,915** of capital expenditures, and generously giving **\$6,470** to its supported Missions near and far.

Profit and Loss

Income of \$78,338 consisted of:

- Pledges and Offerings of \$70,451
- Fundraising of \$5,569 (see below for more information)
- Memorials of \$1,000 (Jean Moyer)
- Miscellaneous income of \$1,088 with interest from the IRS (\$903) for the delay in refunding tax withheld in error in 2020 and a dividend from Church Mutual (\$185)

Expenses of \$74,298 were \$92 below budget after \$900 of one-time year-end bonuses. Expenses above budget were Worship & Liturgy (bonuses); Building & Grounds (new tree), and office supplies (copier toner).

Fundraising

Fundraising activities generated **\$5,569** of income against \$1,266 of expenses, a net of **\$4,303**. The Memorial Day Luncheon raised \$1,027 (new record), the Music in the Park Ice Cream Social raised \$1,418 (new record), Day in the Country raised \$3,110 (excluding the rummage sale that benefited Missions), and cookbook sales raised \$15.

Missions

The Mission Commission raised **\$5,498** and gave **\$6,470** including: \$1,700 to Love Inc (Burlington), \$1,500 to Transitional Living Center (Burlington), \$1,500 to Casa Bernabe (Guatemala), \$1,620 to Samaritan's Purse (national) and \$150 to Life's Connection (Mukwonago).

Capital Improvements

Separate from the operating expenses noted above, capital expenditures for the year totaled \$9,915 and covered the new chair lift (\$5,915) and 50% down on refurbishment of the front doors and archways (\$4,000) with \$4,000 due upon completion in early 2024.

Banking and Investments

At the end of the year, the church had **\$137,805** in its bank accounts and investments. This is up \$21,766 from the end of last year due to the operating surplus, collection of the IRS tax refund, and investment gains of 16% or \$15,560 that offset the capital expenditures.

Attendance

In-person attendance averaged 34 for the year, 4 more than last year.

First Congregational Church of Rochester, Wisconsin
Treasurer's Report for the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024

**Profit & Loss Statement
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Pledges & Offerings	\$60,000	\$70,451
Fundraising	5,100	5,569
Memorials, Weddings, Interest, Miscellaneous	<u>510</u>	<u>2,317</u>
Total Income	65,610	78,338
<u>Expenses</u>		
Salaries & Benefits	37,641	37,488
Worship & Liturgy	12,201	12,360
Utilities	10,041	9,628
Insurance	6,047	5,943
Building & Grounds	2,600	3,027
Fundraising Expenses	1,500	1,266
Office/General/Admin	1,335	1,934
All Other Expenses	<u>3,025</u>	<u>2,657</u>
Total Expenses	74,390	74,298
Net Operating Profit or (Loss)	(8,781)	4,040
Missions Income	0	5,498
Missions Expense	0	6,470
Investment Income	0	4,512

Balance Sheet Comparison

	<u>12/31/2022</u>	<u>12/31/2023</u>
Daily Checking	13,234	19,732
Restricted – Missions	79	107
Restricted – Memorials	819	1,487
Restricted – Landscaping	1,977	977
Restricted – Youth Ministries	4,021	4,032
Rainy Day Savings	0	0
a Total Bank Accounts	20,130	26,335
b Total Investments	95,910	111,470
Total Bank Accounts and Investments	120,881	137,805

(a) The church has local bank accounts with Community State Bank. The Daily Checking account is used for regular, unrestricted income, expenses, and capital expenditures. Other bank accounts are restricted for missions, memorials, landscaping, and youth ministries.

(b) The church has a long-term investment account with the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches' *Congregational Investment Trust* or "CIT". The CIT is a single portfolio managed on behalf of more than 30 NACCC member churches, including ours. As of October 31, 2023, it had a total market value of \$24.3 million on net returns of 13.4% (1-year), 4.6% (5-years) and 5.9% (10-years).

First Congregational Church of Rochester, Wisconsin
Treasurer's Report for the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024

2024 Budget Proposal

The Finance Commission recommends the following budget for the year ending December 31, 2024. The small net operating loss (\$1,335), if realized, would be funded from the church's reserves in daily checking or the investment account, as needed.

**Profit & Loss Statement
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<u>2023</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2024</u> <u>Budget</u>
Income			
Pledges & Offerings	\$60,000	\$70,451	\$65,000
Fundraising	5,100	5,569	5,500
Memorials	200	1,000	0
Weddings	0	0	0
Interest	25	37	25
Miscellaneous	<u>285</u>	<u>1,280</u>	<u>3,285</u>
Total Income	65,610	78,338	73,810
Expenses			
Salaries & Benefits	37,641	37,484	37,449
Worship & Liturgy	12,201	12,360	12,939
Utilities	10,041	9,628	9,156
Insurance	6,047	5,943	6,153
Building & Grounds	2,600	3,027	3,350
Fundraising Expenses	1,500	1,266	1,300
Office/General/Admin	1,335	1,934	1,688
All Other Expenses	<u>3,025</u>	<u>2,657</u>	<u>3,110</u>
Total Expenses	74,391	74,298	75,145
Net Operating Profit or (Loss)	(\$8,781)	\$4,040	(\$1,335)

Income is difficult to budget due to the uncertainty of funding sources. Over the past 5 years, income from all sources averaged \$74,873 with a high of \$78,338 in 2023 and a low of \$70,683 in 2021. With that in mind, Miscellaneous Income includes \$3,000 as a placeholder rather than budget for Memorials or assume Pledges & Offerings will match the record high of 2023.

Expenses are budgeted to increase just 1.1% or \$847 in 2024. This follows an increase of 8.6% or \$5,884 in 2023. Inflation is expected at something closer to 3%. Helping to offset inflation are savings of nearly \$1,200 from changes to outdoor lighting (\$240), internet and phone provider (\$684) and accounting software plans (\$270). On top of that, Rev. Ray offered to keep his salary at the current rate.

Expense details follow on the next 3 pages.

First Congregational Church of Rochester, Wisconsin
Treasurer's Report for the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024

EXPENSE DETAILS

Salaries & Benefits

	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
Pastor's Salary	28,178	30,165	30,165	30,330
Pastor's Bonus	0	500	0	0
Pastor's Health Insurance	4,615	4,692	5,151	4,922
Secretary	1,900	1,976	2,160	2,040
Employer Payroll Taxes	145	151	165	156
Total	34,838	37,484	37,641	37,449

After a one-time bonus of \$500 in 2023, Pastor's salary will remain at \$30,330 when his contract renews on February 1, 2024. His contract continues to provide for reimbursement of up to \$5,200 for health insurance premiums and deductibles. The secretary's hourly rate is unchanged at \$12; the budget is based on 170 hours -- the average of the last 4 years (2020 – 2023).

Utilities

	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
Gas & Electric - Church	4,783	4,596	5,131	4,535
Gas & Electric - Parsonage	1,898	1,983	2,028	2,058
Internet & Phone	1,324	1,582	1,349	1,086
Sewer	1,032	1,032	1,094	1,032
Garbage Removal	378	390	397	400
Storm Water	43	46	43	45
Total	9,459	9,628	10,041	9,156

Utilities are down 4.9% with We Energy rate increases (4.9% gas, 3.1% electricity) offset by disconnecting the outdoor light (saves \$240 annually) and switching from TDS to Spectrum for internet and phone (saves \$684 in year one and \$324 each year after that).

Worship & Liturgy

	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
Pianist	7,758	8,601	8,301	8,638
Choir Director	800	2,065	1,976	2,126
Music Copyright License	307	487	575	575
Church Decorations	591	428	550	500
Church Programs	541	516	500	550
Camera Streaming License	50	54	0	50
Special Music	100	200	300	200
Printed Music	0	0	0	300
Total	10,148	12,360	12,201	12,939

After one-time bonuses in 2023, contracted rates for the Pianist and Choir Director are budgeted to increase 3.5% when they renew on February 1, 2024. In 2024, Special Music and Printed Music may be funded by Jean Moyer Memorials.

First Congregational Church of Rochester, Wisconsin
Treasurer's Report for the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024

Insurance

	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
Regular	5,018	5,369	5,447	5,553
Workers' Comp	544	574	600	600
Total	5,562	5,943	6,047	6,047

All insurance is through Church Mutual. The regular policy premium increased 3.7% in September 2023 and is budgeted to increase another 3% when it renews in September 2024.

Building & Grounds

	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
Building Maintenance	1,874	1,760	500	2,000
Grounds Maintenance	929	63	500	500
Parsonage Maintenance	341	113	1,000	250
Landscaping	500	1,000	500	500
Licenses, Permits, Fees	90	91	100	100
Total	3,734	3,027	2,600	3,350

Building and Grounds expenses are for routine upkeep and do not include significant repairs or refurbishment considered capital in nature. Landscaping in 2023 (\$1,000) was a new 12' evergreen planted on the north lawn after the diseased tree was removed.

Fundraising Expense

	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
Memorial Day	365	298	400	300
Music in the Park	389	375	400	400
Day in the Country	460	593	700	600
Total	1,359	1,266	1,500	1,300

Most fundraising expenses for food and supplies are covered by in-kind donations from our generous members. Musicians who play at Music in the Park are each given a \$25 gift card in appreciation for their time.

First Congregational Church of Rochester, Wisconsin
Treasurer's Report for the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024

Office/General/Admin

	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
Accounting Systems	463	568	590	320
Computer	280	324	300	398
Supplies	253	862	275	800
Postage	0	9	25	25
Website	145	145	145	145
Total	1,161	1,934	1,335	1,688

Accounting Systems are QuickBooks Online for bookkeeping and Yearli for quarterly and annual filing of federal employer tax forms. In November 2023, the QuickBooks subscription was downgraded to the Simple Start plan, saving \$270 a year. Computer expenses are for Microsoft 365 licenses (4 accounts as of November 2023) and Microsoft Office desktop (2 licenses). Supplies in 2023 was for copier toner; we have now switched to high-yield cartridges.

All Other Expenses

	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2023
Voluntary Donation – NACCC	850	850	850	850
Voluntary Donation – WCA	100	100	100	100
Auto Mileage	377	394	300	400
Christian Education	0	0	300	100
Continuing Education	175	175	200	0
Equipment	221	337	400	400
Instrument Maintenance	350	350	375	400
Kitchen Supplies	0	0	100	0
Pulpit Supply	0	0	200	0
Advertising	57	60	100	60
Conferences & Seminars	0	435	0	500
Miscellaneous	24	131	100	300
Total	2,153	2,657	3,025	3,110

Notes on prior years:

- Voluntary donations to the NACCC and WCA will be reviewed in December 2024. If the church is in a surplus, donations will be increased to \$1,000 and \$250, respectively.
- Conferences and Seminars – in 2023 Rev. Ray and Ruth Frost participated in the NACCC national meeting after learning it would be held locally in Brookfield, WI. The church paid for Rev. Ray's registration; Ruth paid for hers.

Pastor's Report for the Year – 2023

Last November 19th was a day when I noted that I had completed seventeen years - as your Interim for about two years, and since then, as settled Pastor. They have been good years for Agneta and me, and I hope for you as a congregation. You are a wonderful and gracious congregation, and I am blessed and honored to serve you - for the sake of Christ our Lord.

I have to say that 2023 saw some measures of improvement, but the disease still lingers in hybrid strains, which we hope will lessen the severity. We have seen progress in our church. We have received new members, observed baptisms, hosted the Madrigals, and more than held our own in most areas of our activities. Our mission activities have been very successful under the leadership of Aga Dahms and now Sue Beach. Well over seven thousand dollars has been sent to worthy causes of need. Any church is always stronger and blessed when it looks beyond itself.

Choir came back strong under the Leadership of Vickie Will. Vickie and Bev Jensen have finished going through our entire library of music and sorting out unusable anthems, while incorporating new pieces. A BIG task – well done! The loss of Jessica as teacher was a bump in the road, but Steve Manske volunteered and has been doing well with a small class of eager and bright students which meet the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Their participation in the Christmas season had to do with singing of carols for the congregation.

We have some very good and competent lay leadership that has come to the fore during these times, and it is a pleasure to work and cooperate with them in our many activities. For a small congregation we are, in my estimation, doing very well. I shall ever be grateful for your love and care for me and Agneta, during and following my heart surgery at the end of 2022. You have gone more than the 'extra mile' again and again. I reassumed the pulpit in February, and we began the practice of Lay Preaching during the months when there is a fifth Sunday.

On the financial level, I am simply amazed at how faithful and generous our people are. The budget was indicating a likely short fall of eight thousand dollars, and without any pressures put upon you by me or anyone else we ended the year - not with a deficit but with a sizable surplus.

I officiated at three memorial service this year (two were family related) and the other was for Jean Moyer, an active member for many years as Church Clerk during a tumultuous time for the congregation. She also was a member of our choir and loved the music program of the congregation.

In the summer and early fall we have, for the past three years, held our worship services out of doors (When possible). Thanks to the many who have help in preparation before and after.

We have been blessed with great special music that has enhanced our experience throughout the year. Jubilee Band and Joy Trio have been a joy to hear. Lora and Rose have made most arrangements for the music, and I thank them.

More and more I am becoming aware of the value of the IT presence, and of the far-reaching effects of using the broadcasting of our services and other activities. Zooming has enabled us to do inclusive things that enable communication with boards and individuals that have great benefits for us. Thank you to those who make these cameras and streaming opportunities work.

I would be remiss not to mention how you have all entered into the various special events that the church has undertaken, such as: Fund raising for missions, Christmas giftings, Day in the Country, Love Inc. donations and dinners, rummage sales, potlucks, decorating for the seasons, and social gatherings, and much more. God bless you everyone! Let us press on to the goal that is set before us – to be like Christ - to one another, and to our community and world.

Affectionately, *Pastor Paul Ray*



Fellowship Commission Annual Report 2023

First Congregational Church of Rochester, Wisconsin

2023 was a busy year for our Fellowship Commission. Here is a summary of our activities:

We had potlucks in January, February, August, November and December. The January and December potlucks were followed by playing “robber’s bingo”.

We had many coffee hours throughout the year. A few were for our annual meeting and quarterly meetings. Others happened to honor Sunday School start-up, new members, graduates, Mark and Aga on their last Sunday before moving east, and the 60th anniversary for Pastor Paul and Agneta.

On March 29th we served refreshments following our Lenten service.

On September 26th we served refreshments after the memorial service for our dear friend, Jean Moyer.

On December 1st we served refreshments after the Madrigal performance.

We also helped with our church’s other activities, including: the Memorial Day rummage sale and luncheon, April kitchen and yard clean-up, Music in the Park Ice Cream Social, Day in the Country, and cookie baking and packing for shut-ins and others.

We thank everyone who helped us with cooking, baking, serving, cleaning up, etc. We couldn’t do it without you. May God bless you all.

Your Fellowship Commission: Kelly Ball, Kim Ball, Karen Kaldor, Jill Hillner, Joyce Gerard, and (honorary member Ruth Frost)

Mission Commissions Report for 2023

Members of the Mission Commission in 2023 are Aga Dahms (Jan.-Sept.), Sue Beach, Rose Seeger, Mary Krall and Anne Gorski (2024)

Mission Commission activities in 2023:

- * Spring and Fall Rummage Sales collected \$4577.00. \$1500.00 went to each of our missions (Love Inc., TLC and Casa Bernabe).
- * Church members donated 53 gift filled shoeboxes for "Operation Christmas Child," as well as \$240.00 towards shipping costs for these shoeboxes.
- * Church members helped pack other shoeboxes at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Burlington, and again in Aurora, Illinois at the Samaritan Purse Warehouse. Our shoeboxes were shipped November 22nd to Chile, South America.
- * We served meals 5 times at Love Inc. during 2023 with the help of some fabulous volunteers, who provided their time and special dishes for the meals. Each time we served approximately 25-34 people. Love Inc. continues to serve meals on Mondays and Wednesdays in person only. They discontinued carry out meals.
- * We continued to "Adopt A Family," with Love Inc. this Christmas season. We blessed 3 local families with gifts to make their family Christmas very special. We also received a \$250.00 Thrivent gift card to be used for extra gifts if needed and groceries for Love Inc.'s Food Pantry.
- * The church donated \$1380.00 to the Samaritan's Purse disaster relief fund in support of Maui during the horrific wildfires.
- * We contributed \$150.00 to Life's Connections from Lenten Services.
- * We donated \$200.00 for Love Inc.'s "Back to School" program.
- * We collected food items for Love Inc.'s Food Pantry throughout the year.

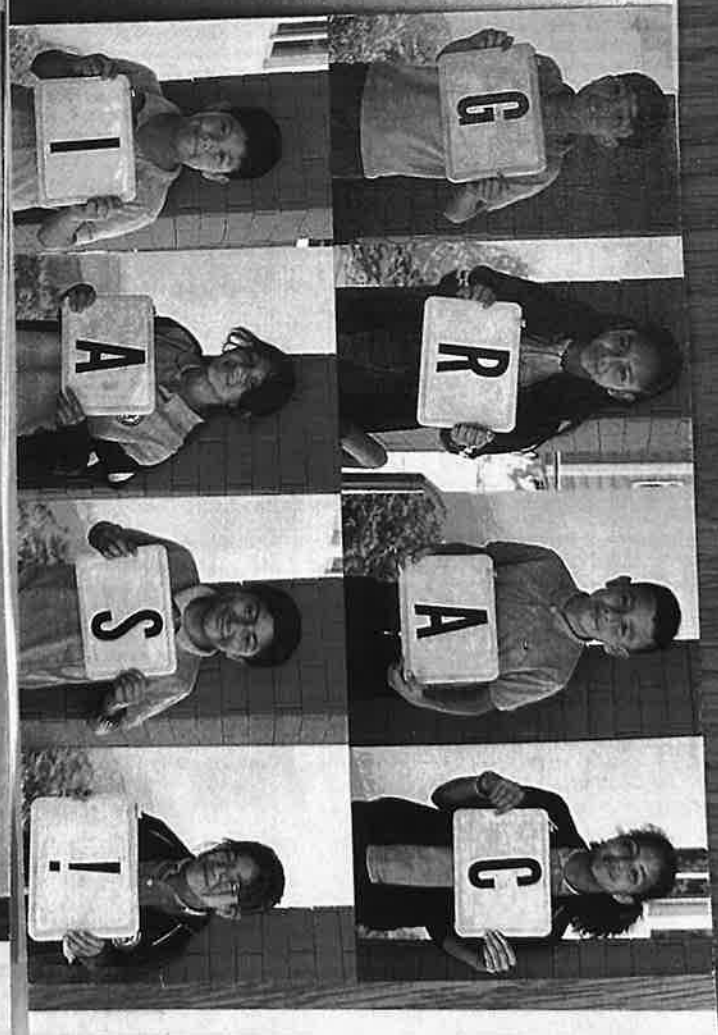
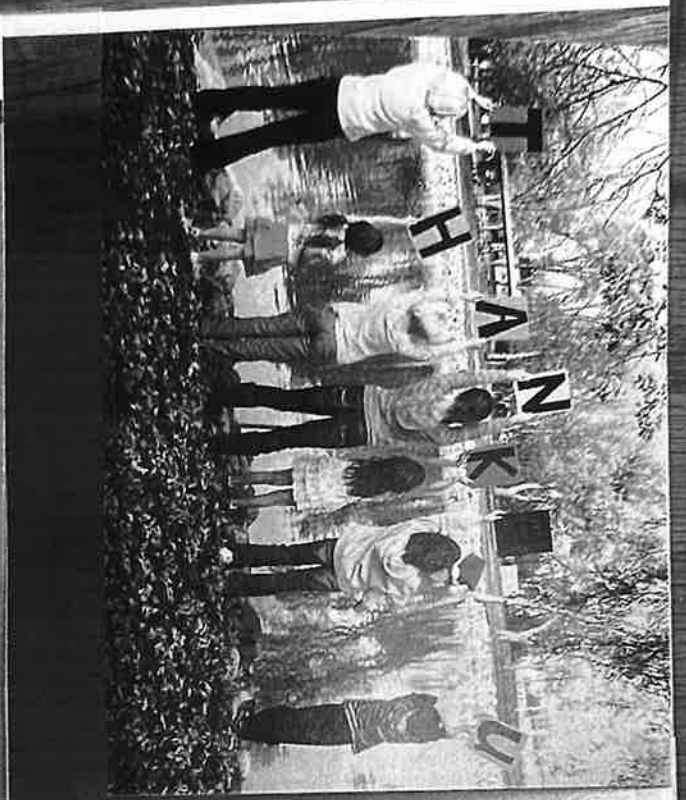
Total Missions giving for 2023 \$6,470 + \$250 (Thrivent Card) = \$6720

Detailed information about supported mission activities can be found on the church website and on the Mission bulletin board in the entryway. The Mission activities are also posted on the church's Facebook page.

Thank you to Aga Dahms for your role as Council Representative for Mission Commission and Clerk during most of 2023. Sue Beach takes on the role as Council Representative for Mission Commission as of October 2023.

Huge "Thank You" to everyone for supporting the mission events during the 2023 year. You donated time, treasures and gifts to make our Missions such as great success.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Beach
Mission Commission Representative



Dear 1st Congregational, November 2023
 The board of TLC would like to thank you for your generous donations of money. Gifts from churches across the province helped to carry out the mission. Do a hand number of our decisions every day. The families of 1st Congregational! Thank you, 1st Congregational! In your service, your friend, Timothy King

Dear First Congregational Church of Rochester,
 I wanted to personally reach out on behalf of the staff at FOCE and Casa Bernabe to thank you for your partnership with our ministry. We cannot do what we do in caring for the children God has placed in our care without you! It means so much that you would have the desire to support this ministry in the way that you do. We are so grateful to the Lord for you and pray that He will bless you, and keep you and give you peace (Numbers 6:24-26).
 Blessings,
 Julia Shyng
 Board Treasurer
 Friends of Children Everywhere/
 Casa Bernabe

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Item-of- the-Month: Guide to Year-Round Collecting

January Hats/scarves/gloves Christmas Cards	February Accessories: Socks Hair bows Headbands	March Personal Hygiene Items: Soap Hairbrush/comb Toothbrush Washcloth Nail clippers	April Stuffed Animals Post-Easter sales basket toys/stuffed bunnies, etc. (NO FOOD items)
May Quality Craft Items: Fishing Sewing Beading Crochet/knitting Cross-stitch	June Toys: Cars Barbie Doll Soccer ball WITH Pump & Needle	July School Supplies: Markers Crayons Pens Pencils Paper/notebooks Scissors Ruler Erasers	August Clothing Shoes Eating utensils (Back- to-school sales)
September Games Puzzles	October Letter/photo *Review your inventory of items*	November \$10 shipping cost Filler items: Play-doh Marbles	December Prayers Set goal for next year! Look for after- Christmas sales on toys/cards/gift items

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ROCHESTER

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

January 28, 2024

The Worship Committee continues to provide special music for Sunday services.

Sunday special music is scheduled through March.

Christmas Eve service was filled with music from the choir, Jubilee, Lissa Jensen and the congregation.

Funds were given to the church from Jean Moyer's memorial. It was asked that these funds be used to support the music in our church. To date, a much-needed light has been purchased for the piano. A plaque will be attached in memory of Jean.

Our church is blessed with an outstanding pianist and choir director as well as many musically talented church members who are willing to share their talents with our church community. To each of you, THANK YOU!

Rose Seeger

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

The year began with Jessica Frailing as our Sunday School teacher, who was very successful in her creativeness and rapport with the children. However, Jessica moved to Beloit after the end of the school year.

In September Steve Manske volunteered to take over the class and has done a commendable job. The class is small, but bright and full of life. They meet every second and fourth Sunday of the month. Due to the lack of numbers the participation in the Christmas season was the singing of Christmas carols for the congregation on Christmas Sunday.

Steve and His wife, Emily, were able to secure funds from Thrivent Insurance to assist in supplying the needs for Sunday School, and for helping with the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes.

Thanks to Hope Mingus for helping Steve with the class meetings.

Adult Christian Education has been on hiatus this year primarily due to Pastor's health situation following heart surgery at the end of 2022. I hope to begin again this coming Spring. And continue the forum on Genesis that had begun before.

Pastor Paul

Building and grounds 2023 report

Accomplishments for 2023

Church boiler had it's annual cleaning, and 2 zone valves replaced
Cleaned gutters
Old pine tree was cut down and replaced
Christmas decorations were put up
Grounds Spring clean-up
Taking care of our grass cutting
Snow clean-up
Rewired lights on the trailer our temporary stage is stored on

Projects for 2024

Tree stump removal
New dryer for Parsonage
Finish fire pit Spring clean-up
Continue to add mulch to areas that need it
Hook up Ice Maker in Fridge in Parsonage
Steeple repair

I would like to thank everyone for their help this year. Everyone came together in the time of need to get things done. Looking forward to working with everyone in this 2024 year. As all ways all help is appreciated, whether it is only an hour, or all day.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Ketterhagen, Jr.
Building and Grounds

First Congregational Church of Rochester, Wisconsin
IT and Marketing Annual Report for 2023

Marketing

We are busy keeping Facebook and the website up-to-date.

Videos of Sunday services are available for viewing live or later on Facebook. The Facebook account now has 107 followers (up from 92 at the end of October!). The highest reaching post was the ad for the December 1st tree lighting and Madrigals rehearsal that reached 1,098 people. Other popular posts include when we served dinner at Love Inc and potluck dinners.

The website is updated weekly with the latest bulletin, monthly with the latest newsletter, and annually with the annual meeting handout. A photo gallery was added to the website in December to capture many of the great moments from 2023. In the past year, the website had 1,394 visitors.

In May, we got reusable banners to advertise Memorial Day activities and reusable yard signs for spring and fall rummage sales.

IT Report

Except for summer, we stream weekly worship hour services live on Facebook and a direct email to those who prefer email over Facebook (if you want to be added to the list, contact Mark at mdahms1@wi.rr.com).

In November, we added a Microsoft 365 licensed account for use by the Missions Commission for more secure emails, file storage and to keep church and personal business separate.

In December, we changed providers for internet and phone to save money. We were able to keep the same phone number and the new service with Spectrum is as good if not better than with TDS.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Dahms

Church Website: www.FCCRochesterWis.org

Church Facebook: www.facebook.com/FCCrochester.wisconsin