



November

Life Line



A Season of Gratitude: Thanksgiving Reflections

As the crisp air of November settles in and golden leaves blanket the ground, we are reminded of the beauty of God's creation and the blessings that surround us. Thanksgiving is more than a holiday—it's a sacred opportunity to pause, reflect, and give thanks to the One from whom all blessings flow.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." This verse challenges us to cultivate gratitude not only when life is easy, but also in seasons of struggle. Gratitude is a spiritual discipline that opens our hearts to joy, peace, and deeper trust in God.

This year, as we gather around tables filled with food and fellowship, let us also gather in spirit—united in thankfulness for our church family, for the love of Christ, and for the hope we share. Whether you're celebrating with loved ones or spending the day quietly, know that you are part of a community that cherishes you.

May your Thanksgiving be filled with peace, joy, and the presence of the Lord. From Chris and I, we wish you a blessed and joyful Thanksgiving!





Worship Hours And Upcoming Events **Happening In the Months** **of November and the beginning of December**

Choir Practice is on **Thursdays at 6:00 pm.**

Please contact Vicki Will,
Choir Director, at 262-343-1326, if
you would like to join and sing or you
have any questions.

Sunday, November 2, 10:00 am Worship Hour. Sermon, Rev. Joe Hackett.
The Choir is singing.

Tuesday, November 4, 9:00 - 10:00 am Tai Chi

Sunday, November 9, **Communion Sunday** 10:00 am Worship Hour. Sermon, Rev. Joe Hackett.
Children's Sunday School. Special Music by Cindy Ovokaitys. (*Communion team: Joyce Gerard, Mary Krall, and Christine Gall*)
Following the service, we will meet downstairs for our **Annual Fall Meeting** with a Coffee Hour.

Sunday, November 9th - Sunday, November 16th - Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

Tuesday, November 11 - 9:00 - 10:00 am Tai Chi

Sunday, November 16, 10:00 am Worship Hour. Sermon, Rev. Joe Hackett. Choir is singing. Following the service the
Church Council will meet at 11:15 am.

Tuesday, November 18 - 9:00 - 10:00 am Tai Chi

Sunday, November 23, 10:00 am Worship Hour. Sermon, Rev. Joe Hackett.
Children's Sunday School. Special Music by Lora Gensler and Rose Seeger.
Following the service there will be a Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner. Join us for some great food and fellowship!
Please bring a dish to pass.

Monday, November 24 - 4:00 - 6:00 pm Love Inc. Meal serving.

Monday, November 24 - 6:30 - 8:00 pm Community Book Club

Thursday, November 27 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



Sunday, November 30, 10:00 am Worship Hour. Sermon, Rev. Joe Hackett. Special Music is the Jubilee Band.

Monday, December 1 - 4:00 - 5:00 pm Advent Bible Study at **Honey Creek Church.**

Tuesday, December 2 - 9:00 - 10:00 am Tai Chi

Tuesday, December 2 - 11:00 - 12:00 pm Advent Bible Study at **FCC Rochester, WI.**

Friday, December 5 - 6:00 pm The FCC of Rochester, WI Community Christmas Tree Lighting followed by the Madrigal
Singers. Join us afterwards for a Coffee Hour and refreshments.



You will find a "How Are We Doing?" survey on page 5 of this newsletter. We encourage you to fill
it out and return it to the church. There is a box in the rear of church for you to drop off the com-
pleted survey. We would like to have them returned by November 9th.

The responses received will be used by the congregation and Pastor Joe to plan for the future of
First Congregational Church Rochester.

**PLEASE SEE PAGES 4, 5 AND 6 FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE ADVENT BIBLE STUDY, SURVEY,
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, TAI CHI CLASSES, AND THE COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB.**

Prayers and Concerns



Victims of Terrorism

Victims and volunteers of natural disasters worldwide

God's Providence for Israel and the Middle East

Our Nation's Leaders

All military personnel and their families

Casa Bernabe Orphanage

Ashley Clark

Tom Eckert

Morton Zimmerman

Lori Haley - hospice

Morgan Haley

Daniel Hays

Oscar Jacobs

Elizabeth Joseph

Audrey Koeper

Tom and Lynn Koeper

Dan Medkalf

Stephanie Mutz

Matthew Olson

Julie Pagan

Torin Philips

Reid Shamus

Nancy

Viveca Persson, Agenta's sister

Rigmor Alexander, Agneta's sister

Lectionary Readings

11/2 *Isaiah 1:10-18; Psalm 32:1-7; (Hab 1:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144); 2 Thess 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10*

11/9 *Job 19:23-27; Psalm 17:1-9 (Haggai 1:15, 2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21:2 or Psalm 98); 2 Thess 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38*

11/16 *Mal 4:1-2; Isaiah 65:17-25; 2 Thess 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19*

11/23 *Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46; Luke 1:69-79; Col 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43*

11/30 *Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matt 24:36-44*



COUNCIL MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS (Next Church Council Meeting is Sunday, Nov. 16th.)



Pastor:

- Advent begins November 30. Trees will be brought in November 23 and decorated on the 29th at 10AM.
- Christmas Eve Service at FCC of Rochester will be at 7PM.
- A family has offered to donate new furniture for the parlor. .
- Events: Community Christmas tree lighting will take place Dec. 5 at 6:30.
- Education: Sunday school has 4-6 young people and 3 teachers each week. Classes cover books of the Bible and how to find scripture passages. The Advent study will be Come Thou Long Expected Jesus focusing for 4 weeks on spiritual pilgrimage that includes examination of the "thin places" where heaven and earth appear to touch.

Treasurer:

- We have \$2545 to split between donations to TLC and Love Inc.
- Music streaming license has been renewed.
- We will use memorial funds for the new GoPro and the new toilets. Communion linens, flags, and an AED can also be bought from memorial funds.

Worship:

- Special music has been arranged through December

Fellowship

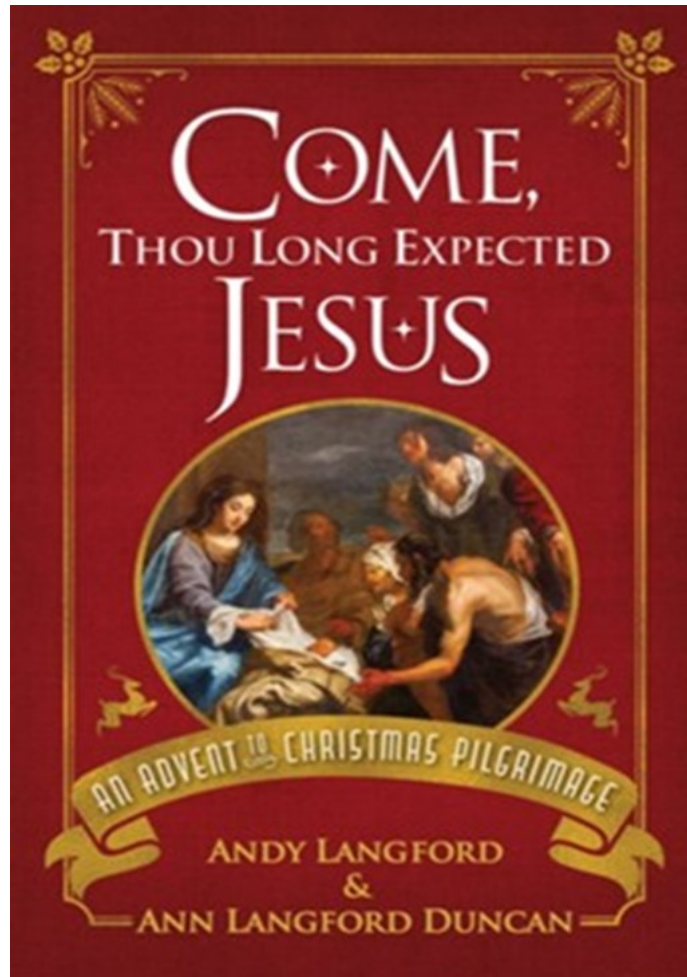
- There will be a coffee hour on Nov 9 for the fall meeting, on Dec 5 for madrigals, and on Dec 7
- Mary Kraal will handle cookie packing and women's luncheon

Missions

- Congregation boxes due Nov 9-16.
- Love Inc meal Nov 24.
- Adopt a family: requested 4 families, got 3 so far. Names will be ready Nov 9

New Business: Council meetings will move to Sundays after church beginning next month – Nov 16 @ 11:15 AM with Dec 21 to follow.





Join us for this 4-week study during Advent.

We will have two times and days for this journey.

Mondays from 4pm-5pm at Honey Creek Community Baptist Church

&

Tuesdays from 11am-Noon at First Congregational Church of Rochester

Mondays – December 1, 8, 15, 22

Tuesdays- December 2, 9, 16, 23

Cost is \$10.00 for the study book.

SURVEY

How Are We Doing?

Congregationalism is built on the idea that the members of the church build a place to worship together that reflects who they are as a body of Christ. The time has come to reinforce what works for us and to entertain ideas regarding how to change toward becoming what we want to be. This is your opportunity to weigh in. Please be specific.

Individual Life

Joe tells a story about something that happened to him as a child. His family was helping at an event during which participants each filled their car trunk with items to be transported to a charity and just as the work was done, another car rolled up and the driver got out looking disappointed. He was planning to help. "Unload our trunk into his," Joe's mother told him. When Joe asked why, his mother told him that when people come to help, they should be given the opportunity to do so.

1. Does the church provide sufficient and equitable opportunity for sharing your thoughts or efforts regarding issues you care about? If not, please elaborate.
2. What are your own gifts or talents that you would like to share for the betterment of the church?

Corporate/Spiritual Life

"Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity" - Hebrews 6:1 Whatever remains static will eventually stagnate. We do not want this to happen to us.

3. Does the church provide what you need for spiritual growth? If not, please elaborate.
3. How do you feel the church could better reach out to friends, family, or others?
3. What would you like to see us do that we are either not doing well or may not have thought of?

If you could make one improvement, what would it be?

Sunday School

The young people's Sunday School curriculum

On the designated Sundays (**see dates below**), we will gather in the lower level of the church at 10:00 am to explore the bible and foundational concepts to our faith.

We will share in the example Jesus taught us and engage in a service project – stay tuned for that.

All young people from 3rd grade through high school are welcome to join us. Bring a friend! Please bring your Bible, if you don't have one, come anyway as we have some to use. There is no cost for this class.

Please contact Chris Hackett, 414-416-9444 or chackett3913@outlook.com with questions.

Dates / Topics

November 9: 21 Letters - How can I grow in faith and discipleship by reading other people's mail?

November 23: Congregationalism - Who are we and What are we?

December 14: Advent and Why is Jesus our Christmas present?

December 28: NO CLASS



Tai Chi is here!

Staying in motion is a great way to block ailments, and Tai Chi is an excellent way to move! Join us and generate better balance and stronger lungs, lessen your pain, smile more and sleep better with a weekly practice of Tai Chi, ("motion breath") by matching movements with our own breathing.

I have been practicing for almost a decade, and plan to continue for the great experience of back pain relief and renewed agility and mobility.

We will meet every Tuesday from 9:00 - 10:00 am on the lower level of the church.

The class is free.

(An offering basket will be available)

Your Instructor is Hannah Gnas

If you have any questions or want to know more, please contact Sue Pope.

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

The dates and books for the Community Book Club are listed below.

The Book Club will meet in the church parlor at 6:30 pm.

Monday, November 24, 2025 Small Great Things by Jodi Piccoult

Monday, December 8, 2025 Christmas Book Exchange/Party Location TBD





**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ROCHESTER**

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Rochester, WI 53167

PH. (262) 534-6582

Email: pastor@fccrochesterwis.org

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name,
there I am in the midst of them."
Matthew 18:20*

www.fccrochesterwis.org

November 2025



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 10:00 am Church Choir is singing	3	4 9:00 Tai Chi	5	6 6:00 pm Choir Practice	7	8
9 10:00 am Church Communion Sunday/ Children's Sunday School/ Special Music, Cindy Ovokaitys	10	11 9:00 Tai Chi	12	13 6:00 pm Choir Practice	14	15
16 10:00 am Church Choir singing/ Church Council Meeting at 11:15 am	17	18 9:00 Tai Chi	19	20 6:00 pm Choir Practice	21	22
23 10:00 Church Chil- dren's Sunday school/ Special Music by Lora and Rose/Thanksgiving Potluck after the service. 30 10:00 am Church Special Music by Jubilee.	24 4:00 pm Love Inc. 6:30 pm Book Club	25 9:00 Tai Chi	26	27 6:00 pm Choir Practice	28	29