



# Life Line

## Pastor's ponderings....

The past three months have seemed like a whirl wind. This congregation has had many things going on -annual meetings, parsonage upgrade, steeple project, oh, and calling a new pastor. Chris and I accepted the direction the Holy Spirit was moving us towards which came with a move, selling a house, settling into a new routine and space. All these things are changes, some unexpected, some well-planned out and other decisions that need to be made to move forward.

April brings us to a time of change and moving forward. We have journeyed the dark but hope-filled road of Lent. We will soon be celebrating the time that defines us as Christ followers, Holy Week and Easter Sunday. This time of the church year can bring us some discomfort and get us to pause, and remember what was happening to Jesus and his followers. There were going to be major changes and things that needed to happen to move faith forward. Jesus knew that these uncomfortable times needed to happen to push forward His mission and ministries on Earth, no matter how uncomfortable they were for his followers.

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter are times for us to recenter our faith journey and look at the direction we are headed. Will we make changes or directional corrections? Will we remove those things that hinder us from going forward? Or will we just stay stagnant and comfortable where we are?

The point is that changes are going to happen in our lives, families, communities and congregations. It is how we prepare for them that will make all the difference. Our lead is to look at the Disciples after Easter morning. They didn't disband or stay stuck in their grief. They gathered to move ahead no matter how uncomfortable it might be because the mission and ministry of Christ was not finished. They had work to do.

April is also a season of new growth and rebirth as the warmer weather comes to Rochester. We are people of growth as followers of Jesus, we have great examples to look at in the Bible. Our challenge is how we embrace a change, a new path or a new opportunity.



## SUNDAY WORSHIP AND LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesday, April 2 - Lenten Service at 7:00 pm. The First Congregational Church of Mukwonago. Reverend Stanton Blockwoldt will be the Speaker. Church address: 231 Roberts Dr., Mukwonago, WI.

Sunday, April 6 - Fifth Sunday in Lent, Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Choir is singing.

Wednesday, April 9 - Lenten Service at 7:00 pm. The Plymouth UCC. Reverend Joe Hackett will be the Speaker. Church address 124 W. Washington Street, Burlington, WI.

Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday - Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Children's Sunday School. Special Music by Joni.



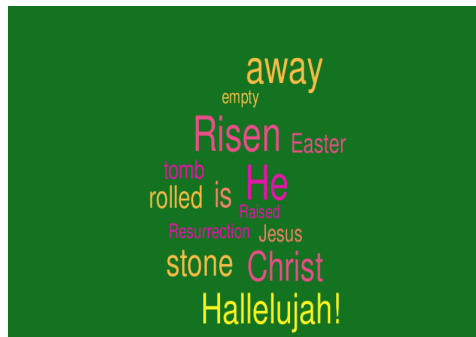
Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday, Service at 5:00 pm. Communion will be offered during the service.

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday, Service at 1:00 pm.



Sunday, April 20 - Easter Sunday, Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Choir singing.

Sunday, April 27 - Second Sunday of Easter, Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Children's Sunday School. Special Music Harry Tufford.



## Lectionary Readings

4/6 *Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4-14; John 12:1-8.*

4/13 *Isaiah 50: 4-9; Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50: 4-9; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56.*

4/20 *Acts 10:34-43; Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18; Luke 24:1-12.*

4/27 *Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; Hohn 20:19-31.*



# Prayers and Concerns



Victims of Terrorism	Oscar Jacobs
Victims and volunteers of natural disasters worldwide	Cindy Ovokaitys
God's Providence for Israel and the Middle East	Elizabeth Joseph
Our Nation's Leaders	Rev. Stu Merkel
All military personnel and their families	Stephanie Mutz
Casa Bernabe Orphanage	Matthew Olson
Rigmor Alexander, Agneta's sister	Julie Pagan
Tom Eckert	Viveca Persson, Agneta's sister
Lori Haley - hospice	Torin Philips
Morgan Haley	Reid Shamus
Daniel Hays	Bill and Jean Thompson
	Nancy
	Morton Zimmerman

FOR GOD  
SO LOVED  
**THE**  
WORLD  
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON,  
THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM  
SHALL  
**NOT**  
PERISH  
**BUT**  
HAVE  
ETERNAL  
**LIFE.**  
JOHN  
**3:16**



***The next Church Council Meeting is  
Monday, April 21 at 6:30 PM***

**Children's Sunday School**  
*Sunday School will meet every 2nd and 4th  
Sunday of each month.*

**EASTER LILIES**  
*Easter Lily orders are due by Monday, April 14th.*  
Please see the Easter Lilies form on page 5.

**Choir Practice Schedule**  
*Thursday nights @ 7:00 pm.*  
*Please contact Vicki Will, Choir Director,*  
*at 262-343-1326, if you would like to join and*  
*sing or if you have any questions.*

**Coming soon!!! After Easter TBA! The Community Book Club!**  
*The first book will be "Stars Over Clear Lake" By Loretta Ellsworth*  
*Mesmerizing and romantic, Stars Over Clear Lake transports readers to the Surf Ballroom,*  
*where musical acts became legends in the 1940s and which holds the key to one woman's deepest secret.*  
The first meeting we will vote on the future books. And if you have book selections or questions please contact Chris Hackett (Pastor's wife). Phone: 414-416-9444 or Email: chackett3913@outlook.com  
**PLEASE SEE THE FLYER ON PAGE 10**



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF ROCHESTER**


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Pastor PH. 508-837- 4611

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

[www.fccrochesterwis.org](http://www.fccrochesterwis.org)

# APRIL 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <i>Lenten Service at 7:00 pm. The First Congregational Church of Mukwonago</i>	3 7:00 PM <i>Choir Practice</i>	4	5
6 10:00 am Church <i>Choir singing</i>	7	8	9 <i>Lenten Service at 7:00 pm. The Plymouth UCC</i>	10 7:00 PM <i>Choir Practice</i>	11	12
13 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 10:00 am Church Children's Sunday School <i>Special Music by Joni</i>	14	15	16	17 <i>Maundy Thursday (FCC of Rochester)</i> Service at 5:00 pm.	18 <i>Good Friday (FCC of Rochester)</i> Service at 1:00 pm	19
20 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 10:00 am Church <i>Choir singing</i> 	21	22	23	24 7:00 PM <i>Choir Practice</i>	25	26
27 10:00 am Church Children's Sunday <i>Special Music by Harry Tufford</i>	28	29	30	<b>Pastor Joe will be attending the NACCC Ministers Convocation from April 28th to May 1st.</b>		

## Easter Lilies Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Easter Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

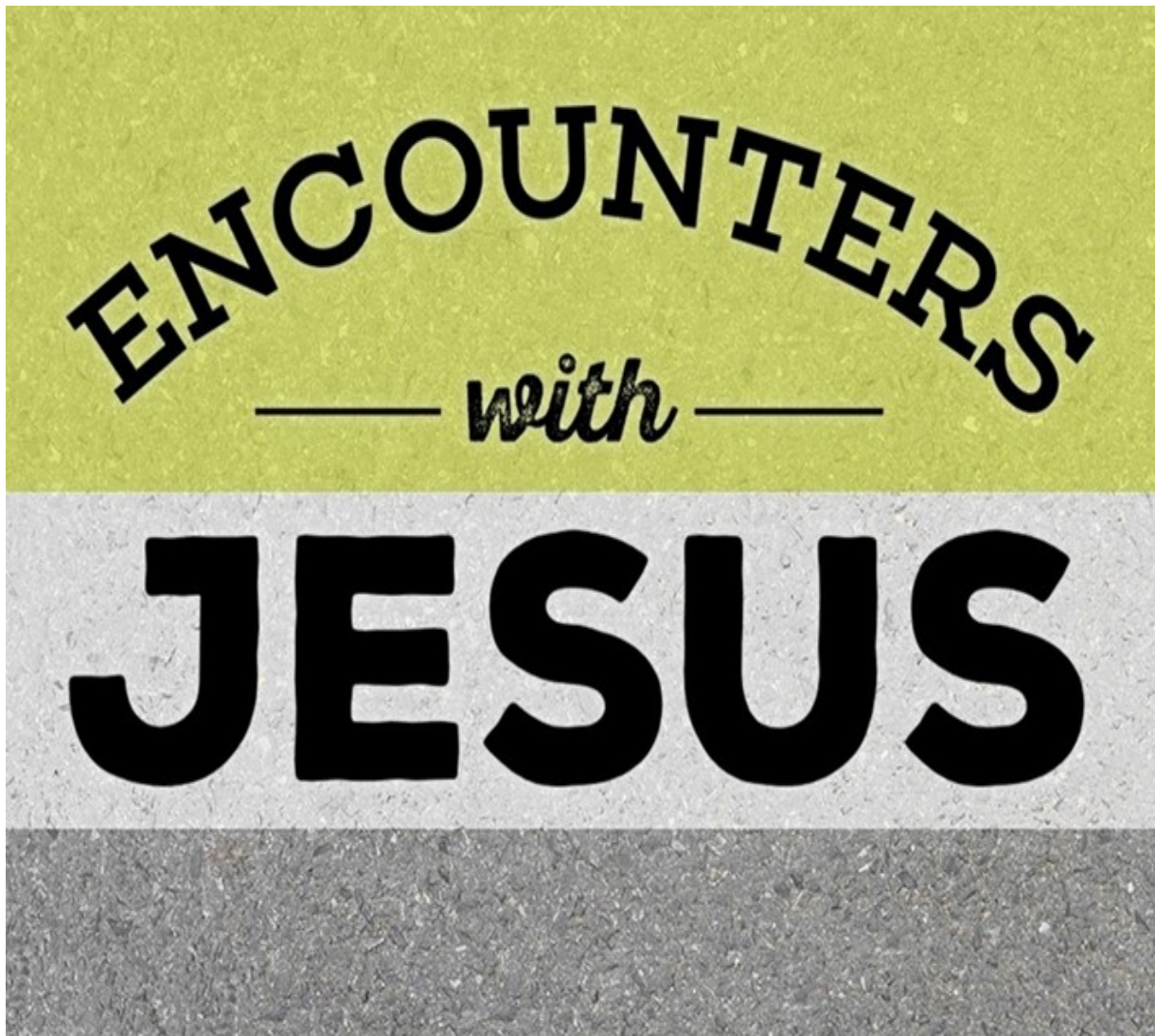
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church of Rochester.  
Orders are due by Monday, April 14, 2025, and may be placed in the collection plates  
or forwarded to the church office.*







Thank You to everyone that attended this year's  
Ecumenical Lenten series.

We have two more Wednesdays.

April 2 @ 7pm at First Congregational Mukwonago.

April 9 @ 7pm at Plymouth UCC Burlington  
Pastor Joe has the message.



Are you interested in becoming a member of the  
First Congregational Church of Rochester?

Membership is the primary way our church is able to fulfill its mission.  
It unites everyone under one covenant and affirms  
a shared, basic Christian faith.

Please reach out to Pastor Joe for more information.

We are planning on receiving new members  
on Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> at the 10:00 am service.



## *What is Congregationalism?*

We are more than just Pilgrim people.

Join us on Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm in the lower level.

We will be hosting a Congregationalism 101 program.

Please let Pastor Joe know if you will be attending  
so we have enough handouts.



A dark blue rectangular graphic with a subtle, light blue grid pattern. The text "CHURCH COUNCIL" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, the word "MEETING" is written in large, red-outlined, sans-serif capital letters.

**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING**

**Monday April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm**

**We are returning to our Monday Night meetings.**

**Please have any reports ready to be shared.**

# **Community Book Club**

## *First Congregational Church of Rochester*

Join us on **Monday, April 28, 2025 at 6:30 pm**

in the parlor (room off the main church) at  
First Congregational Church in Rochester (103 S State Street)  
for our first book club discussion.

**Bring a Friend! Everyone is welcome!**

We will select the books to be read and the next meeting dates. Please send any potential selections to Chris Hackett at [lhackett3913@outlook.com](mailto:lhackett3913@outlook.com) or call 414-416-9444.



**The first selection will be: *Stars over Clear Lake* by Loretta Ellsworth**

Mesmerizing and romantic, *Stars Over Clear Lake*  
transports readers to the Surf Ballroom,  
where musical acts became  
legends in the 1940s and which holds  
the key to one woman's deepest secret.



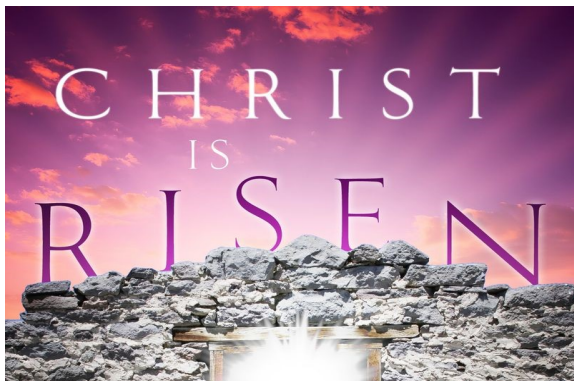
# HOLY WEEK

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**Thursday, April 17**  
**Maundy Thursday**  
Service at 5:00 pm  
We will have Communion  
during the service.

**Sunday, April 20**  
**Easter Sunday**  
Please join us for our Easter Service at 10:00 am



**Sunday, April 13**  
**Palm Sunday**  
Worship Hour at 10:00 am.



**Friday, April 18**  
**Good Friday**  
Service at 1:00 pm

