

Newsletter of the First Congregational Church
Rochester, Wisconsin

June, 2026

Contents this month:

Calendar, Lectionary
Pastor's Ponderings; Congregationalism,
Council/Committee Reports; Other News
Devotional: Being Blind Bart

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 WCA Workshop, 8 - 4
7 Sunday Service 10AM	8	9 Tai Chi 9AM	10	11	12 OCC Crafting 10-2	13
14 Sunday Service 10AM Joe out of town this week	15	16 Tai Chi 9AM	17	18 Love Inc Meal	19	20
21 Sunday Service 10AM Fathers' Day Council Meeting after church	22 Book Club 6:30 Parlor	23 Tai Chi 9AM	24	25	26 OCC Crafting 10-2	27
28 Sunday Service 10AM	29	30 Tai Chi 9AM				

Next month's Newsletter deadline: email JoAnne, mrspotts51@hotmail.com, by June 24

June Lectionary

June 7: Hosea 5:15–6:6, Rom. 4:13–25, Matt. 9:9–13 **June 14:** Ex. 19:2–8, Rom. 5:6–15, Matt. 9:35–10:8 (9–20) **June 21:** Jer. 20:7–13, Rom. 6:12–23, Matt. 10:5a, 21–33 **June 28:** Jer. 28:5–9, Rom. 7:1–13, Matt. 10:34–4

Pastor's Ponderings

Summer invites us to slow down just enough to notice God's goodness all around us—in long evenings, blooming gardens, children's laughter, and moments of much-needed rest. In a season when routines often shift, we are reminded that God's presence does not. The same Lord who walks with us through the busyness of spring and the demands of winter also meets us in these warmer, quieter days with grace that is steady and new every morning.



Whether you are traveling, gathering with family, tending a garden, or simply enjoying a different pace, I encourage you to make room for prayer, worship, and quiet gratitude. Summer can be a season not only of recreation, but of renewal—a time to lift our eyes to the beauty of creation and remember the faithfulness of the Creator. May these weeks refresh your body, renew your spirit, and draw you ever closer to Christ, who is with us in every season and in every step of the journey.

Blessings,

Pastor Joe

The Congregationalist Church and Conscience

Editor's Note (again): This is a crucial understanding, particularly for those who are new to Congregationalism. We might be tempted to think we worship in an environment that allows just about everything. In reality, we are bound by and held together by the dictates of conscience as follows:

Congregationalist Christians believe deeply in God, in Jesus Christ, in the guiding Spirit of God, in prayer, in the worth of worship, in the value of the sacraments, and in the power of God to triumph over all that is evil.



We do not accept any formal statement of faith as binding on all members. This is not because we think creeds don't matter, but because we believe that authenticity of conviction demands intellectual freedom and personal relationship with God.

A common requirement for membership is sincere Christian conviction and honest desire to live in fellowship as a follower of Jesus Christ.

June Birthdays!

Brought to you by your Pastoral Care Commission:

Desire Mingus June 18

Let us know if we're missing you!



Council Meeting Report,

First Congregational Church of Rochester, WI

Minutes of Council Meeting, May 17, 2026

Meeting called to order with the following present: Pastor Joe Hackett, Ruth Frost, Brian Mingus, Rose Seeger, Bev Jensen, Mark Dahms, Kelly Ball, Joyce Gerard, Steve Dolphin, JoAnne Potter, Sue Beach



The meeting opened with prayer at 11:10AM

Approval of the minutes from the last meeting were postponed because they were not available.

Pastor's Report – Joe Hackett

- The WCA Meeting went well, we are waiting for official feedback. 11 Churches attended.
- Joe will be on vacation June 14-20. A Harpist will present a meditation on Sunday, June 14.
- Joe will do the invocation and cemetery service on Memorial Day.
- Communion will be next week on Pentecost.

Education Report – Joe Hackett

- Still working on VBS
- Camp applications starting to come in.

Treasurer's Report – Mark Dahms

- Report attached
- We had a good April
- Cash for Memorial Day will be handled by Rose and Sue
- Pastor's contract will be settled by October

Marketing – Mark Dahms

- All ads have been submitted for Memorial Day weekend

Worship Committee – Rose Seeger

- Jubilee will play on Memorial Day weekend
- We will also have communion and an honor guard
- Special music is scheduled through the first week in July

Fellowship Committee – Joyce Gerard

- Held coffees on April 26 and May 3 and served food for the WCA on May 2.
- Memorial Day pies will increase to \$3 per slice
- Tables should be put outside on Memorial Day to accommodate those who want to eat there.
- Porta potties coming on Friday
- Charlie Mingus is graduating on May 30. We will acknowledge her
- There will be a Fathers Day coffee hour
- Consider outside coffee hour for the summer

Missions Committee – Sue Beach

- Rummage sale Saturday
- Love Inc meal June 18. Looking for servers
- Looking for donations for OCC shoeboxes

Building and Grounds – Steve Dolphin

- Well pump and tank replaced
- New tree planted in back garden

New Business

RE: Risk management insurance policy:

- No roof inspection needed yet, but can be done via drone in the future
- Joe developed a Youth Protection Policy with background checks and training. He will forward it to the insurance company and will review at the fall meeting.

There will be no June meeting, Next meeting July 19

Adjourned with prayer at 11:50. Moved by Kelly, seconded by Rose.

Council Vacancy 2027

JoAnne Potter has completed more than 2 terms on the council as Clerk and will be rotating off to take up the newsletter and become more involved in Love Inc. This position should have candidates before October so that the new council member can be elected at the Fall Meeting. Council Clerk candidates should fill the following requirements:

- Be an active member of the church
- Commit to attending monthly council meetings and take notes
- Maintain the roll of members and keep track of significant sacramental community celebrations like funerals, weddings, baptisms, and confirmations.
- Have enough digital expertise to generate online minutes and distribute them by email
- The Clerk has a one year term and is eligible for reelection.

Anyone interested should approach JoAnne or any council member.

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

DATE	TABLE SETUP	TABLE SETUP	BREAD/ JUICE
May 2, WCA Workshop	Rose Seeger	Sue Beach	Ruth Frost
May 24, Pentecost Sunday	Lisa Hilgenberg	Sue Pope	Greta Frost
21-Jun	Brian Mingus	Kim Mingus	Melanie Mingus
12-Jul	Lisa Hilgenberg	Greta Frost	Sue Pope
9-Aug	Cher Fritchen		Chris Hackett
13-Sep	Christine Gall	Joyce Gerard	Chris Hackett
Oct 4 Worldwide Communion	Sue Beach	Tom Beach	Ruth Frost
8-Nov	Anne Gorski	Cher Fritchen	JoAnne Potter
13-Dec	Lisa Hilgenberg	Greta Frost	Chris Hackett
10-Jan	Brian Mingus	Kim Mingus	Melanie Mingus
14-Feb	Sue Pope	Lisa Hilgenberg	Greta Frost
March 25 Maundy Thursday	Sue Beach	Tom Beach	Ruth Frost
11-Apr	Christine Gall	Joyce Gerard	JoAnne Potter
May 16 Pentecost Sunday	Sue Beach	Tom Beach	Ruth Frost

Spring in the Churchyard

In case you haven't noticed, there's a new tree in the rear garden behind the church. Provided by an anonymous donor, Rustic Road Landscaping installed the feathery-leaved Gold Dawn Redwood on a sunny sixth of May. Of course, they needed capable supervision, so Joe and Steve were glad to oblige.



Pomp and Circumstance

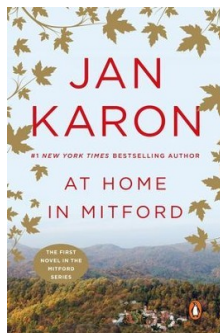
Congratulations to Charlie Mingus! She will be taking that long walk across the stage of Waterford High School and flipping her tassel with her classmates as she graduates this year. And further congratulations on her acceptance to UWMadison in September. You're off and running, girl! Well done!

Community Book Club

At Home in Mitford – Jan Karon

Some of you may be familiar with this one. Revisit an old favorite with us!

Monday, June 22, 6:30 PM
Church parlor



Le Mutt in June!

Hi again folks, LeMutt here! Hope you all are enjoying Spring? Well last month we celebrated Mothers Day and this month it's Dad's special day! Of course you have all heard Dad jokes, mostly groaning instead of laughing! There are so many to pick from, so I picked the ones I groaned the loudest at!

Who were the greenest Presidents in US history? The bushes
Which days are the strongest? Saturday and Sunday. The rest are weekdays.
Where do pirates get their hooks? Second hand stores.
I found a wooden shoe in my toilet today. It was clogged.
Have you heard about the restaurant on the moon? Great food no atmosphere .
I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon. I'll let you know which comes first.

And here's my thought for this month:

One of the mysteries of life is how the boy who wasn't good enough to marry your daughter can be the father of the smartest grandchild in the 🌍



Claudia Named the Newsletter!

The Vine. I liked it right away. Rich in imagery and in Biblical example. Hope you do, too.

I am the vine and you are the branches – John 15:5

May we all be entwined.

Thoughts – Being Blind Bart

Mark 10:51: Jesus asked, “What do you want me to do for you?”

Good old Blind Bart, persistent Blind Bart, annoying Blind Bart. I like him. There he crouched, in the middle of a pressing crowd, yelling at the top of his lungs to get Jesus’ attention. People around him told him to shut up and he wouldn’t. And what did Jesus do? He stopped dead and looked around, telling his disciples to bring this loudmouth closer and when Bart got there, Jesus looked at this blind beggar and asked him a question. “What do you want me to do for you?” SERIOUSLY? Here’s this guy, blind, ragged, and dirty, and Jesus doesn’t know what he wants?



Of course He does. But He wants Bart to know it, too. He wants Bart to say it. And, predictably, Bart says, “I want to see”. Ironically, that’s what Jesus wants for him, too. In fact, that’s what Jesus wants for all of us. To see. He wants us to see Him. He wants us to see ourselves through His eyes. He wants us to understand what we’re asking for when we pray and to look deeper than our latest catastrophe. He wants us to acknowledge what we desire and more importantly, why we desire it.

When Jesus asks us “What do you want me to do for you?” it may be that the best answer is for Him to make us holy.