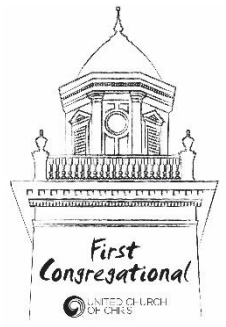




Blessing our Community



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
110 E. Hancock Street, New London, Wisconsin 54961 ~ 920-982-3731

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Savides

PastorSteveSavides@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com

Secretary: kathyphillips@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com

A Stephen Ministry Church

MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"Living for Two"

An ad was placed in the New York Times a few years ago. It had a picture of Jesus and the following caption: *"How can you worship a homeless man on Sunday and ignore one on Monday?"* I sometimes wonder if we think that Easter is a time to celebrate but not a time to rededicate our lives; that the cross is exclusively a place of divine transaction rather than human inspiration; and that Jesus is a savior to be admired but not to be followed.

In 1912, a young boy was involved in a shooting accident. Trying to imitate a military rifle drill, as the young boy twirled the gun it accidentally went off and killed a young girl, a friend of his sister's. The dead girl's mother faced the situation with a courage that was remarkable. In her own grief she sensed that the experience would be devastating to the sensitive and exceedingly conscientious boy. She told the young man that he mustn't blame himself, but the young boy carried something very important from that experience. He carried a sense of purpose.

It wasn't until 40 years later, in 1952, that this incident became public knowledge. William Glasgow of *Time* magazine was researching a cover story and came across the 1912 newspaper report about the accidental killing. And so, he asked Adlai Stevenson about this incident from his youth. *"You know,"* Stevenson said, *"you are the first person who has ever asked me about that since the day it happened."*

What effect did the incident have on the life of Adlai Stevenson? One can't say for sure, but it can be observed that Stevenson was a self-deprecating man, often expressing self-doubts and a sense of his own unworthiness. And it can be observed that Stevenson received such wounding blows as his own divorce and two crushing defeats in presidential elections with incredible calm. And it can be observed that he was intensely interested in the lives and careers of young people. Perhaps the best clue to its effect on his life can be found in a letter he wrote in 1955 to a woman he did not know, whose son had been involved in a similar accident.

"Tell him," Stevenson wrote, *"that now he must live for two."*

Jesus Christ has died for us. Our faith declares that this one event has shaken hell to its foundations and opened up the portals of heaven for those of us on earth. It has changed everything. Has it changed you?

Your friend and fellow minister,
Rev. Steve Savides

JESUS Said,

"TRULY, TRULY, I SAY
TO YOU, WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN ME WILL
ALSO DO THE WORKS
THAT I DO; AND
GREATER WORKS THAN
THESE WILL HE DO,
BECAUSE I AM GOING
TO THE FATHER.
JOHN 14:12

SOME OF THE THINGS IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

- Prayers: Page 2
- Council Minutes: Page 3
- Church Family: Page 4
- Strengthen the Church: Page 4
- Pancake Wrap-Up: Page 5
- UCC Sisterhood: Page 6

HEAR OUR PRAYERS, O LORD”

Of Healing and Comfort for:

- ☀ Emily Calabria
- ☀ Ginny Pharr
- ☀ Gaylord Hedtke
- ☀ John Pieper
- ☀ Sandy Eithun
- ☀ Jerene Managan on her battle with cancer
- ☀ Yvonne Burkot



WE DON'T SAY THANK YOU ENOUGH

Maybe you have someone to thank for doing things, especially behind the scenes, to make things happen here at church. If you have a thank you to offer, please submit it in writing to Kathy in the church office, or by email.

- ♥ Thank you to all those that have volunteered on Sunday mornings.
- ♥ Thank you for your continuous support of First Congregational United Church of Christ.
- ♥ Thank you to all who helped with the Palm Sunday breakfast fellowship.
- ♥ Thank you to Wendy Dallman for volunteering her time and talents to prepare and teach Sunday School.
- ♥ Thank you to Mary Schulz for making the beautiful confirmation stoles with the confirmands name and Bible verse on it.
- ♥ Thank you to Wendy Dallman for the beautiful stain glass hearts that were given to the confirmands.
- ♥ Thank you to Sandy Cuff and Cuff Farm for donating all the meat that was served on Palm Sunday.

Thank you for giving of your Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Our Church will use these precious resources to further our vision of "Blessing Our Communities." Together, the efforts of our church members, friends, guests, and visitors are changing lives.

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH 2023 - 80

GENERAL OPERATING INCOME JANUARY THRU DECEMBER 2023: \$34,496.99

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES JAN. THRU DECEMBER 2023: \$37,538.22

NET INCOME: \$ - 3,041.23

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS REMINDER

Per Camp Scholarship Guidelines, campers **MUST BE** registered for camp by May 1st to receive Camp Scholarship funds. Please visit ucci.org to register, if you have not already done so. If anyone needs help signing up for camp, please call Tina Clegg at _____ to arrange a time that Tina can help. Also, please have all your Candy Bar money turned in by May 1. Camp scholarships will be handed out May 14th at the 9:00 a.m. service.

UCC CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – APRIL 10, 2023

FELLOWSHIP HALL – 6PM

1. Call to Order/Roll Call - Call to order at 6:05pm - Attendees: Pete Lauer, Dave Thiel, Rev. Steve Savides, Lois Cuff, Jamie Darkow, Dorea Lauer, and Tina Clegg. Non-Council Attendee: Billy Brandt
2. Opening Prayer - Led by Pastor Steve.
3. Welcome New Member (Pete Lauer) Pete had questions and concerns regarding the Constitution and his responsibilities. The council will make a "Mission List" to discover all of the things we truly find to be missions, along with who is involved in them and who leads them.
4. Approve Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2023 – Motion made by Lois, seconded by Tina. Motion passes unanimously.
5. Approve Transfer of Bell Choir Funds - Motion made by Dorea and seconded by Lois for original sending of funds to the Baltics. No discussion and all approve. The council has made a plan for paying the next invoice for the Bells in the Baltics. Dave Thiel will handle the specifics for the transfer. Motion made by Lois to transfer the remaining funds raised by the Bell Choir for the Baltics and is seconded by Pete. Motion approved by a unanimous vote.
6. Approve New First State Bank Signees & Remove Current Signees – Motion by Lois to remove Rita Thiel and Kaylene Kloehn-Pluger as signees for all UCC bank accounts held at First State Bank, and appoint Dave Thiel, Lois Cuff, and Rev. Steve Savides as the new signees. Motion seconded by Pete. Motion passes with unanimous vote.
7. Pastor's Reports – Pastor Steve's hours have increased with the additional hours spent on more services and Bible study. Average attendance has increased as well over last year and even last month! Discussions on recent events and groups that have been meeting.
8. Ministry Chairs' Reports – Tina had updates regarding camp scholarships.
9. Financial Reports – Discussion regarding current financial position.
10. Roof Repair – There are a few spots of extreme concern. The Bell Tower is our primary concern, but we will also need to take care of the tuck pointing along the SE corner of the church. There will be a congregational meeting to request approval once the final quotes are totaled. Motion to finalize the quotes for the Bell Tower & tuck pointing, and then to call a congregational meeting is made by Dave and seconded by Tina. Motion carries unanimously.
11. Parking Lot Striping – Lois has contacted a few contractors. There will be more updates about who may do this work for us.
12. Church Constitution - We are all going to review the current constitution and come back with suggestions for changes to be discussed at the May Council meeting.
13. New Business - We all need to remember to turn off all lights when people leave the church.
14. Adjournment Motion made by Dorea and seconded by Tina. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Reminder: Sunday School meets the first and third Sundays of each month. We have lots of activities as we travel through the Beatitudes. We discovered how Jesus called his disciples and how the crowds followed him. We know those who are poor, sad, gentle, fair and merciful are blessed by God. Come with us to discover what comes next! Last Sunday school is **May 7**.



ANOTHER FAMILY TO GET TO KNOW STOSH & BONNIE WANDKE

We have been members of this church for over 45 years. In these years we have both taught Sunday School. Stosh has organized Super Bowl Sunday, served on the council, and helped maintain the gardens on the church property. We both participated in many events over the years.

Bonnie has been on the Ministry Support Team for years. She has sung in the choir, been active in book study and led Kid's Connection for many years in the past.

What we have enjoyed about our church are the pastors we have had over the years. We like our interaction with other church members and the variety of activities to help our church grow.

Stosh's interests are birding, golfing, gardening and the grandkids.

Bonnie's interests include time with our grandkids, reading, swimming, traveling and our annual two weeks with our kids in Door County every summer.



WASHINGTON CENTER COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

Open every Wednesday 8 am to Noon and 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

The new pantry area is coming along nicely. It is still located at the Washington Center but in a much larger, sunny space. The walls are painted, and the new floor has been installed.

The walk-in freezer is coming soon. So exciting to see this happening.

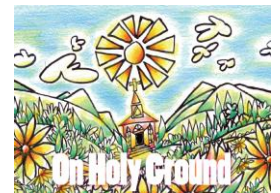
We are seeing around 70 families each week. The cost of groceries is putting a strain on family budgets. Thank goodness our community has a food pantry where these families can get help. No one in America should go hungry.

Summer is coming soon, and school will be out. Kids will no longer have access to noon meals at school. Therefore, we are going to do a COLD CEREAL CHALLENGE. Pastor Kevin and Pastor Steve will be leading this challenge. Stay tuned!!!!

Items always in need: canned pasta, tuna, soup, crackers, pork'n beans and black beans.

Thank you for your continued support of this mission.

Rita, Mike, Michelle and Jim



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Envelopes will be available on the round table in the narthex, use a pew envelope and mark it STC (Strengthen the Church), or on your check in the memo put STC.

Good morning: Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There probably is no better way to build a relationship with our God than to ask for God's help as we work together and engage in serving our fellow men & women.

From the council meeting in January where Pastor Steve "suggested" that the men of our church provide and serve a Pancake Breakfast on Ash Wednesday, and right up to the last dishes being washed and put away on Palm Sunday, God has been by our side as we made plans and altered those plans many times.

As a result, we saw our "fellowship hour after the worship service" on Palm Sunday filled with God's children, young and old. **We served 82.**

The smiles and thanks that our team received from all those in attendance brought joy into all of our hearts. What a Blessing!

So how can I thank the team enough for all that they did? Perhaps, and I hope we will, sit around in the weeks and months to come and reflect on how Jerry Schulz, Steve Toney, Jamie Darkow, Rod Bressler, Sherie Bressler, Stosh Wandke and Dave Thiel flipped pancakes, made batter, separated bacon and sausage, washed dishes for hours on end; and how Armin Conradt, Wally Schmidt, and Bob Schmitz dished out the pancakes, bacon, sausage, and eggs; and how John Wiesner, Leon Krake, Dean Peterson, and Sandy Cuff did all other duties as assigned and as time permitted. We won't forget how the power supply shortage was fixed, windows opened, and fellowship hall returned to normal.

So, what did I learn? And where did I see God in all that happened with this event?

- When you need help, personally and individually ask for it.
- Sherie Bressler, Julie Manthe, and Lois Cuff have been called on many times and they refuse to fail. They get it done!
- Men and women love to be asked to help, especially when they get to use their God Given talent.
- I saw God working with every one of you.
- I saw God's abundant generosity that was given to you in time, talent and treasure being given back by you to others, all to God's Glory!

Thank You!!!
Jim Williams

CAMP AWESUM

A huge thank you to the people who donated to Camp AweSum already this year. There are still plenty of supplies needed for this year, so check out the list in the box in the narthex, or see Wendy Dallman.

Camp AweSum is in dire need of volunteers for the June family camp weeks, CAF I is June 11-17 and CAF II is June 18-24. Right now, we only have three people signed up for CAF I. Please help, if you can. There is plenty of time to enjoy yourself and everything Moon Beach has to offer in the afternoons, so it is like a mini vacation.



UCC SISTERHOOD SHAKE UP!!

The time has come to “shake” things up a bit! On Thursday, May 18th, we will be meeting at Zero’s Diner (the Old Bucky’s). We will meet at 9:30! Bring your breakfast appetite and get ready to start the day with friends, food, fun, family, and frivolous fellowship!

Zero’s is new in town, so let’s support them. We gave them a try and the food and service was great.

I am still trying for “30”!! I need to let them know on the 15th of May how many are coming, so they can have enough staff.

HOPE YOU AND A FRIEND OR TWO CAN JOIN US!

See you there!

Blessings,

CHANGE is OPPORTUNITY! MISSION OF HOPE HOUSE

Some people cringe when the norm changes and something new develops. They have become comfortable with their routine and see no reason why something could change and be different. Others embrace change and look at it as a great opportunity. Sometimes the new ideas, the new perception, the solutions that sound absolutely impossible are exactly the steps that are needed to become even better.

We can see changes and reactions to these changes in any organization, business, church congregation, family or community. Actually we see change in the seasons as Winter turns to Spring, Spring turns to Summer and Summer into Autumn. Change is all around us.

Although we all must adapt to change, the transition for someone to find themselves homeless, hungry, lonely and unsure of their future certainly can be overwhelming and chaotic. The goodness of a community makes a difference and we at MOHH are truly grateful for the compassion of this church community.

MOHH is no different than many organizations and businesses that have a "Hiring Now" sign up and are looking for volunteers. If you are interested and want to be more involved in the mission of our organization, please feel free to reach out to me at prtoney@gmail.com

Warmly,

Patricia Toney, MOHH Board President

GOLF FORE KIDS



Golf Fore Kids, based in Appleton, holds one golf outing each year to raise money for Camp AweSum. Camp AweSum cannot operate without these funds. This year’s outing is June 1 at Ridgeway Golf Club, Neenah. There are raffles and silent auctions, games on the course, and plenty of fun. Meals are provided. Not a golfer? Golf Fore Kids is always looking for donations of raffle and silent auction items or cash. See the poster on the bulletin board for more information or see Wendy Dallman to donate.

Pastor: Reverend Dr. Stephen Savides
PastorSteveSavides@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com
Church phone number- 920-982-3731

Secretary/Financial Secretary: Kathy Phillips (kathyphillips@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com)
Secretary's Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Bookkeeper: Bill Flease (billflease@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com)

Financial Liaison: Rita Thiel

Custodian: Amy Hord

Stephen Ministry Leader: Mary Schulz – mryschulz@yahoo.com

Christian Education:

Sunday School Facilitator: Wendy Dallman

Youth Group Coordinator: Dorea Lauer

Camp Scholarships: Tina Clegg

Music Coordinators:

Praise Connection Director & Organist: Lois Cuff – cufflois@gmail.com

Organist & Accompanist: LuAnn Rupnow

Choir & Bell Choir Director: Billy Brandt-bilybrandtv@gmail.com



www.facebook.com/UCCNL

CHECK US OUT!



Leadership Teams:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Savides: 920-982-3731 – PastorSteveSavides@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com

Church Council:

Moderator: Dave Thiel

Vice Moderator & Fellowship Chair:

Education Ministry Chair: Tina Clegg:

Mission Ministry Chair: Peter Lauer:

Operations Ministry Chair: Jamie Darkow:

Worship Ministry Chair: Dorea Lauer:

Financial Liaison - Rita Thiel:

UCC Tech Team – Sound & Stream: Carl Sternhagen, Tim Schmidt, Billy Brandt

Media Shout: Gary Henke, Wendy Dallman, Kris Drath

Ministry Support Team: Debi Williams, Bonnie Wandke, Rita Thiel, Gary Prost, and Pat Toney

Pastoral Support: Pastor Kevin Dembinski

MAY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. – Worship Service – virtual and in person

<https://m.facebook.com/UCCNL>

8:00 a.m. -Adult Study

10:00 a.m. – Sunday school May 7th

10:00 a.m.-Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall

Communion will be on May 7th



| April 2023 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23/ 30 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

First Congregational UCC

May 2023

| June 2023 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---|-----------|--|
| <i>Strengthen the Church offering the month of May.</i> | 1 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. | 2 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom | 3 6:30 p.m.- Angeli Choir | 4 6:30 p.m.- Spirit Bells | 5 | 6 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall |
| 7 Communion 8:00 a.m.- Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Praise Service 10:00 a.m.- Sunday School 10:00 a.m.- Fellowship | 8 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. 6:00 p.m.- Council in Fellowship Hall | 9 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom | 10 6:30 p.m.- Angeli Choir | 11 6:30 p.m.- Spirit Bells | 12 | 13 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall |
| 14 Camp Scholarship Sunday 8:00 a.m.- Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Traditional Service Choir/Bells 10:00 a.m.- Fellowship | 15 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. | 16 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom | 17 | 18 10:00-1:00: Communities of Practice use of Fellowship Hall | 19 | 20 10:00 a.m.- AA Fellowship Hall Newsletter Deadline |
| 21 8:00 a.m.- Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Traditional Service 10:00 a.m.- Fellowship | 22 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. | 23 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall |
| 28 8:00 a.m.- Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Traditional Service 10:00 a.m.- Fellowship | 29 Memorial Day <i>Office Closed</i> 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. | 30 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom | 31 | | | |

May Worship Volunteers

Please sign up to fill the open dates.

| | May 7, 2023 Praise Service | May 14, 2023 Traditional Service | May 21, 2023 Traditional Service | May 28, 2023 Traditional Service |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Lay Reader | 9:00 a.m.- Karen Henke | 9:00 a.m.- Pat Toney | 9:00 a.m.- Deb Calabria | 9:00 a.m.- Kaden Bethke |
| Media Shout | 9:00 a.m.- Gary Henke | 9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman | 9:00 a.m.- Gary Henke | 9:00 a.m.- Kris Drath |
| Fellowship | 10:00 a.m.- Manthe's & Bressler's | 10:00 a.m.- Thiel's & Cuff's | 10:00 a.m.- Manthe's & Bressler's | 10:00 a.m.- Rob Simerson & Kristen Spreeman |

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1-Jerry Schulz
- 3- Will Wohlt
- 4-Sandy Conradt, Jim Thorpe
- 4-Dorea Lauer
- 5-Terri Allen
- 6-Ann Vander Geest-Fenske, Greg Baumgart
- 7-Tony Porath
- 13-Rita Thiel, Sandy Cuff, Caleb Lauer
- 13-Dalton Kent, Joel Schlueter
- 14-Carol Gerlach

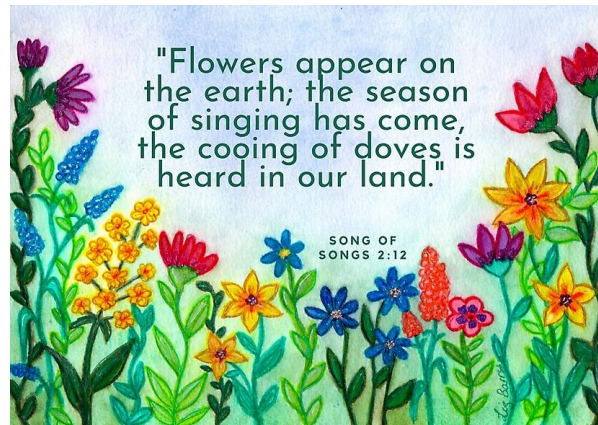
- 17- Ben Malliet
- 18-Peter Lauer, Alex Huntley, Kayla Gulbrandsen
- 19-Kandi Schlueter
- 20-Alex Weyenberg
- 21- Hayden Thorpe
- 22- Aimee Golla
- 25-Shannon Wepner
- 27-Bonnie Popke, Emersyn Lehnerr
- 30-Mike Campbell
- 31-Nathan Treague

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3-Peter & Wendy Lauer
- 7-Jamie & Connie Darkow
- 11-Alan & Julie Manthe
- 19-Joel & Kandi Schlueter
- 21-Leon & Darlene Krake
- 22-Bob & Bobbye Allen
- 23-Jason & Taylor Mueller

Online services can be seen at <https://m.facebook.com/UCCNL>

If you would like to get your offering in, you can mail it, drop it off at church on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings between 8:15 & noon, use Venmo or PayPal or set up automatic withdrawal through Kathy.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2023 offering envelopes are available for you to pick up. Your name will be on the box and will be located in the office in alphabetical order. If you do not see your envelope box, please leave Kathy a note in the office and she will get you your offering envelopes. If you prefer to do Automatic Giving, there will be sheets on the table by the offering envelopes. Thank you!