



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



OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Jesus said:

I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger; and whoever believes in me will never thirst.

John 6:35

SOME OF THE THINGS IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

- From the Pastor: Page 1 & 2
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- Lunch at Daycholah: Page 4
- Neighbors in Need: Page 6

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK PARTNERSHIP: FAITH AND WORKS

Before there was anything, there was God, a few angels, and a huge swirling glob of rocks and water with no place to go. The angels asked God, *"Why don't you clean up this mess?"* So, God collected rocks from the huge swirling glob and put them together in clumps and said, *"Some of these clumps will be rocks and planets, and some will be stars, and some of these rocks will be ... just rocks."*

Then God collected water from the huge swirling glob and put it together in pools of water and said, *"Some of these pools will be oceans, and some will become clouds, and some of this water will be ... just water."* Then the angels said, *"Well, God, it's neater now, but is it finished?"* And God answered ... **"NOPE!"**

On some of the rocks God placed growing things, and creeping things, and things that only God knows what they are, and when God had done all this, the angels asked God, *"Is the world finished now?"* And God answered: **"NOPE!"** God made a man and a woman from some of the water and dust and said to them, *"I am tired now. Please finish up the world for me ... really, it's almost done."* But the woman and the man said, *"We can't finish the world alone! You have the plans, and we are too little!"*

"You are big enough," God answered them. *"But I agree to this: If you keep trying to finish the world, I will be your partner."* The man and the woman asked, *"What's a partner?"* and God answered, *"A partner is someone you work with on a big thing that neither of you can do alone. If you have a partner, it means that you can never give up, because your partner is depending on you. On the days you think I am not doing enough and on the days I think you are not doing enough, even on those days we are still partners and we must not stop trying to finish the world. That's the deal."* And they all agreed to that deal.

Then the angels asked God, *"Is the world finished yet?"* And God answered, *"I don't know. Go ask my partners."*

Continued on next page...

This story by Marc Gellman reminds us that we are partners with God, active partners, whose faith in God is empty without Godly works, without participation in the divine task of building up the world in love, justice, and hope.

“... *faith by itself, without works, is dead ...*” writes the author of James. And I believe everyone in our congregation would agree. I believe we would say that if one were to go to church all the time but never act upon their faith, their faith would be dead on arrival. Or, as Paul puts, “*If I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*” At the same time, we would have to say that work without faith is equally dead. We can busy ourselves with all kinds of well-intentioned works, do good deeds from now until the end of time, but if we do not offer them up to God, if we do not do them for God’s purposes and to fulfill God’s goals, if we do not do them from the spirited center of our faith, we will accomplish nothing.

We must have both: faith and works. That’s at the heart of what it means to be Christian in this world.

Your friend and fellow partner with God,
Rev. Steve Savides

HEAR OUR PRAYERS, O LORD”

Of Healing and Comfort for:

- ✻ Emily Calabria
- ✻ Gaylord Hedtke
- ✻ John Pieper
- ✻ Jerene Managan on her battle with cancer
- ✻ The family & friends of Jim Card who passed away in September.



Of Celebration for:

- ✻ Wren Leona Welhouse, who was baptized here on September 10th. Wren’s parents are Jayce & Nicholas Welhouse.

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 Stosh Wandke and Chou Lee for beautifying the garden beds for the fall. It was a lot of work for only two people. Please consider volunteering in the spring to keep your church flower beds beautiful.

Do you have a thank you to offer? Please let Kathy know in the office for the next newsletter.

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 AUGUST - 63

GENERAL OPERATING INCOME TO DATE IN 2023: \$80,164.90

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES TO DATE IN 2023: \$91,504.35

NET INCOME: \$ - 11,339.45

END OF 3rd QUARTER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS

January 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023

Individual financial statements will be emailed out to those we have an email address for the first week of October. If you are not on our emailing list, please email Kathy at kathyphillips@ucnl.onmicrosoft.com to be on the list to receive your statements by email to save postage. Those that do not have an email, your statements will be mailed out. Any questions, please call Kathy at 982-3731, Monday, Wednesday's or Thursday's 8:15 a.m.-12:30 or email at kathyphillips@ucnl.onmicrosoft.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTING OCTOBER 1ST

Sunday school will be again like last year, held the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, October through April for grades K-6, from 10:00-11:00. The curriculum will be the "*Kids' Travel Guide to the Ten Commandments.*"

The dates will be: October 1, 15
November 5, 19
December 3 Intergenerational Advent Workshop
December 17
January 7, 21
February 4, 18
March 3, 17
April 7, 21



Those with children in kindergarten to 6th grade should have received a letter in September with a registration form. If you did not receive your letter and registration form, please contact the church office or there are registration forms on the round table in the narthex.

UCC CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 – 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order/Roll Call - Call to order at 6:10pm – Council Members Present: Pastor Steve Savides, Tina Clegg, Lois Cuff, Peter Lauer, Dave Thiel. Members and Staff Present: Billy Brandt
2. Opening Prayer - Led by Pastor Steve.
3. Approve Meeting Minutes from August 14, 2023 – Motion made by Lois to approve the minutes from August 14, 2023. Motion seconded by Tina. Motion passes unanimously.
4. Pastor's Reports – Pastor Steve provided the Council with a written report of the various activities he has been working on over the past month, as well as highlights from all of the activities that occurred in the Church over the past month. He also covered the following topics: Review of Summer Sermons on Faith Questions; Sermon Topics & Church Schedule for next 3 months; Upcoming Mission Moment Schedule; Confirmation; Adult Education; Stewardship; Personal Schedule which identifies when Pastor Kevin will be preaching.
5. Ministry Chairs' Reports – Tina mentioned that she will be ordering candy, updating the bulletin board and holding a Camp Scholarship meeting.
6. Financial Reports – Discussion regarding current financial position.
7. Line of Credit – Motion by Lois to renew the \$50,000 Line of Credit with the UCC Cornerstone Fund at a cost of \$500 for five years (2023-28). Motion seconded by Pete. Motion passes unanimously.
8. Bell Tower & Roof Repair Project – Motion by Dave to approve revised contract from ARC Construction to repair Bell Tower, which eliminated the carpentry work. We will hire UCC member Brady Peterson to complete that portion of the project. We will also solicit an additional bid(s) for the remaining building/roof projects that need to be done in the future. The bid from ARC Construction is from 2016. Motion seconded by Tina. Motion passes unanimously.
9. Council Member Replacement – Initial discussion regarding appointing a member to complete the term of the Operations Ministry position on the Council.
10. Church Constitution – Lois introduced a new policy that will be incorporated into the revised document when it is presented to the membership for approval.
11. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn made by Dave. Motion seconded by Tina. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.

CHURCH LADIES WHO LUNCH -

AND ANY MAN WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US!



That's right, the church ladies are including the men in our next outing, **Thursday, October 19**. We are going to Daycholah Center on Green Lake for lunch and to learn what this wonderful church camp has to offer the greater community. We will hear about programming, community events, and volunteer opportunities. Lunch will be made on site for a cost of \$16.75. We will carpool to Daycholah (approximately one hour) so we will need to know how many are coming. Reserve your spot no later than **October 11** by contacting **Wendy Dallman at church, sewfine126@gmail.com or 920-378-4037**. Listen for specifics when we know how many are attending.



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Travis Lehnherr & Payton Campbell with children Emersyn, Nash & Anderson

We have been members since our daughter was baptized in April 2017. We attend weekend worship and participate in any family events and church donations as we are available. We enjoy the churches' open arms and the welcoming sense of members you receive every time you attend.

Our outside interests and hobbies: We are an athletic family and coaching/full-time employed family who has a very healthy love for all things social, athletic, and family-friendly. We play and coach Volleyball as a family, we love trying new restaurants and crafty spots, exploring new states or adventures and making memories as a family.

Anything else you would like to share?: We are a funny, loud, and social family that is busy most of the time but we love to slow down and enjoy little moments in life too.

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

Now is the time to plan for this year's Christmas For Kids (C4K) program. However, the administration of this valuable service to our community is in need of new leadership. There are many volunteers in our church and community who will graciously help with this work, but a motivated and well-organized leader is necessary for this ongoing, mission outreach effort.

In past years, families have registered for the program in mid-October, so it is crucial for a leader to step forward as soon as possible. All C4K records and information will be passed on to the new coordinators and the past leader will be available in support of its implementation. Typically, the program schedule is organized in September and implemented in late November to early December.

Currently, the operation of the Christmas For Kids program falls under the First Congregational United Church of Christ 501c3 charitable organization status, and partners with First State Bank as the financial depository institution.

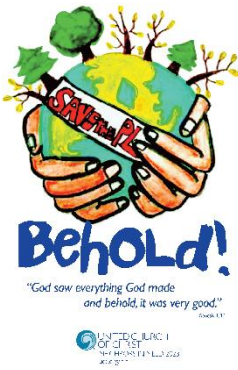
Thank you for your sincere consideration.

Any questions, please contact Karyl Hebel, 920-982-4596, dkhebel@gmail.com.

MUSIC CHANGE

The choir will now be rehearsing on Thursday's at 6:30 p.m. and the bells will be rehearsing on Wednesday's at 6:30 p.m.





NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive throughout October, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked multiple tribes and nations in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska.

Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S. **With your assistance, we together can help our Neighbors in Need. Please give generously.**

NIN envelopes are located on the round table in the narthex, or you may use your regular offering envelope, pew envelope, etc. Mark your check memo line NIN. Contributions to Neighbors in Need can also be made online at any time: ucc.org/nin. Questions? Ask Trudy Staskal 982-7695.

NEW SPACE FOR THE CUPBOARD

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

Thank you to all of you for supporting the Washington Center Community Cupboard. Because of everyone's generosity and support we were able to locate to a new space within the same building. More room and just a great feeling about the space. A big shout out to Lois Cuff and Dean Peterson for making this dream a reality. At the end of the day on September 13 we closed the doors on our old space for the last time. Over the next number of days, thanks to volunteers and a couple moving companies, we relocated everything in our new spot. One week later on September 20, we opened the doors at our new space. With the help of a number of people we never missed a Wednesday serving clients.

Thursday, September 28th, there will be a ribbon cutting at noon and then an open house from 12-2 and 4-6. We would love you all to stop by and look at our new space and ask any questions. Donations would be appreciated.

A few items we need are:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Soup | Manwich | Peanut Butter/Jelly |
| Macaroni & Cheese | Laundry Soap | Deodorant |

And anything and everything else you can think of. Thank you again for your continued support of the Cupboard. Without all of you, this wouldn't be a reality.

Rita, Mike and Michelle

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 - 920-810-4480

Custodian: Amy Hord

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

Facebook manager: Mary Schulz – mryschulz@yahoo.com

Christian Education:

Sunday School Facilitator: Wendy Dallman

Youth Group Coordinator: Dorea Brandt

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: 920-810-0865– davethiel56@gmail.com

Vice Moderator & Fellowship Chair: Lois Cuff: 920-359-0531 – cufflois@gmail.com

Education Ministry Chair: Tina Clegg: 920-982-7952 -tlclegg29@gmail.com

Mission Ministry Chair: Peter Lauer: 920-875-0195 – p.lauer@tractorpartsasap.com

Operations Ministry Chair:

Worship Ministry Chair: Dorea Brandt: 920-875-0197 - lauerdorea@gmail.com

Financial Liaison - Rita Thiel: 920-810-4480

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

Media Shout: Gary Henke, Wendy Dallman, Kris Drath, Chou Lee

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

Pastoral Support: Pastor Kevin Dembinski

OCTOBER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

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

8:00 a.m. -Adult Study

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

Communion will be on October 1



September 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

November 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		

First Congregational UCC

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>World Communion Sunday</i> 8:00 a.m. -Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Traditional Service/ Bell/Choir 10:00 a.m. – Sunday School Starts 10:00 a.m. -Fellowship	2 4:30 p.m. - Overeaters Anon.	3 7:30 a.m. - Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	4 6:30 p.m. -Spirit Bells	5 6:30 p.m. - Angeli Choir	6	7 10:00 a.m. - AA Fellowship Hall
8 8:00 a.m. -Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Praise Service 10:00 a.m. -Fellowship	9 4:30 p.m. - Overeaters Anon. 6:00 p.m. – Council Meeting	10 7:30 a.m. - Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	11 6:30 p.m. -Spirit Bells	12 6:30 p.m. - Angeli Choir	13	14 10:00 a.m. - AA in Fellowship Hall
15 8:00 a.m. -Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Traditional Service/ Choir 10:00 a.m. – Sunday School 10:00 a.m. -Fellowship	16 4:30 p.m. - Overeaters Anon.	17 7:30 a.m. - Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	18 6:30 p.m. -Spirit Bells	19 10:30 a.m.- Lunch at Daycholah 6:30 p.m.- Angeli Choir	20 4:00 p.m. - Youth Group at Cuff Farms; Pumpkin picking ride at 5:00 - RSVP	21 10:00 a.m. - AA in Fellowship Hall
22 8:00 a.m. -Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Praise Service 10:00 a.m. -Fellowship 11:30 a.m. -Fellowship Hall in use	23 4:30 p.m. - Overeaters Anon.	24 7:30 a.m. - Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	25 6:30 p.m. -Spirit Bells	26 6:30 p.m. - Angeli Choir	27	28 10:00 a.m. - AA in Fellowship Hall
29 8:00 a.m. -Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Traditional Service 10:00 a.m. -Fellowship	30 4:30 p.m. - Overeaters Anon.	31 7:30 a.m. - Contemplative Prayer on Zoom		<i>Neighbors In Need offering the month of October</i>		

October Worship Volunteers

Please sign up to fill the open dates.

	October 1, 2023 Traditional Service	October 8, 2023 Praise Service	October 15, 2023 Traditional Service	October 22, 2023 Praise Service	October 29, 2023 Traditional Service
Lay Reader	9:00 a.m.- Karen Henke	9:00 a.m.- Deb Calabria	9:00 a.m.- Mary Schulz	9:00 a.m.- Pat Toney	9:00 a.m.- Deb Calabria
Media Shout	9:00 a.m.- Gary Henke	9:00 a.m.- Kris Drath	9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman	9:00 a.m.- Chou Lee	9:00 a.m.- Kris Drath
Fellowship	10:00 a.m.- Jolene Mowrer	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.-Tina Clegg & Bobbye Allen

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

3-Robin Sternhagen	12-Wirt Holm
4-Dan Gould	13-Peggy Taylor, Hailey Bush
5-Marian Griebenow	15-Wyatt Lederhaus
6-Mike Foster	16- Joe Boelter, John Pieper, Tim Schulz
8-Daniel Heimbruch	21-Coleston Treague
10-Liz Wiesner	22-Sue Diehl
11-Barry Popke, Tony Techlin, Hunter Schlueter	26-Nicole Behling, Leon Krake

If your birthday or anniversary is missing, or incorrect, please contact Kathy at the church office.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

2-Rod & Sherie Bressler
 8-Gary & Karen Henke
 11-Brent & Heidi Dusek
 14-Nathan & Jenny Penn
 23-Patrick & Tara Korth
 24-Clair & Nancy Herzfeldt
 26-Eric & Erin Bobber
 28-Jim & Debi Williams
 31-Sam & Keena Krueger



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.