



# Blessing our Community

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

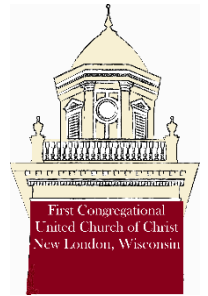
110 E. Hancock Street, New London, Wisconsin 54961 - 920-982-3731

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Savides

PastorSteveSavides@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com

Secretary: kathyphillips@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com

A Stephen Ministry Church



## NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

#### Because of YOU Our Church Changes Lives

Soren Kierkegaard tells this parable:

A man was talking down the street and saw a beautiful sign proudly displayed in a shop window. *"Pants Pressed Here,"* the sign said. So, the man walked into the shop, walked up to the counter, took off his trousers and handed them to the clerk.

*"Why did you give me your pants?"* the clerk asked.

*"I want them pressed,"* the man explained.

*"Oh, we don't press pants,"* the clerk told him. *"We sell signs."*

As Christians and as a Christian Church, I know what we say we are. I know what we advertise ourselves to be. But who are we really? And that's not a matter of advertising; that's a matter of action.

A mentor of mine once put it simply. He said, *"If you want to know what someone believes in, look at two things: their calendar and their check book."* Simplistically put, yes, but that really is just another way of saying that our actions speak louder than our words.

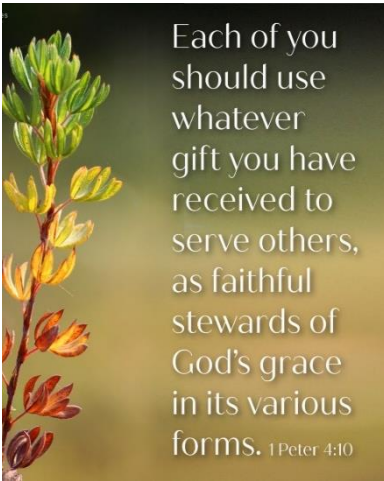
That's what every day, not just Stewardship Sunday, is all about for us. When we lift up our Christian stewardship on Sunday, November 12, we will be reminded of the fact that we are not what we **say** we are but what we **do**.

- If you're an American citizen, then you vote.
- If you're a mother or a father, then you care for your children.
- If you're a neighbor, then you get your leaves raked up before they all blow into someone else's yard.
- If you're a Christian, then you give, give as best you are able, give generously, and give joyously.

And our giving makes a real difference. That's why our Stewardship theme this year is "Because of YOU Our Church Changes Lives."

I invite you to join me on November 12 in faithfully giving and rededicating our church to touching hearts, meeting needs, and changing lives.

Your friend and fellow minister,  
*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
- ✿ For the family of Gary Talady whose funeral was here October 28<sup>th</sup>.

## 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 Cathy Baumgart for mowing the lawn during the summer.
- ♥ Thank you to Dean Peterson who fixed the fence around the garbage bins and the bathroom doorknob.
- ♥ Thank you to Wendy Schmidt for leading Christmas for Kids this year and thank you to Gloria Kjer & Karyl Hebel who have led Christmas for Kids in previous years.
- ♥ Dear UCC, thank you for providing our OA Group with a safe, warm place to have our Monday 4:30 meetings at your church. We are very grateful. ~ Ruth, OA Leader
- ♥ Thank you so much for the opportunity to meet in your church. It is a privilege to share the hopes and strengths we all share here. Thank you, ~Todd, AA Leader

*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 SEPTEMBER - 81**

**GENERAL OPERATING INCOME TO DATE IN 2023: \$87,434.63**

**GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES TO DATE IN 2023: \$103,988.16**

**NET INCOME: \$ -16,553.53**

### You Are Invited

#### Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 22, 2023, 6:30 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church - 1513 Pinewood Lane

Participating churches:

St John's Episcopal Church

United Methodist Church

Trinity Lutheran Church

First Congregational United Church of Christ

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Thank you to all who so generously gave towards Neighbors in Need. We collected \$1,653.00.

## COMMITMENT SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00 a.m. service we will be having a dedication of pledge cards. The week of October 30<sup>th</sup>, you should receive a letter from the council along with a pledge card. We ask that you bring your pledge card for dedication on Commitment Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> or mail your pledge card to church. Because of you, our church changes lives!

## FALL BIBLE STUDY – 1 AND 2 PETER

Wednesdays noon – 1 p.m.

November 8 – December 13

We will be gathering over a soup lunch on 6 Wednesdays from November 8 – December 13 in the Fellowship Hall to study together the First and Second Letters of Peter in the New Testament. Catherine Gunsalus Gonzalez describes First Peter as a *“little jewel of Christian teaching”* and writes, *“It is brief, to the point, and gentle in its advice, with a clear sense of the difficulty Christians have in being part of the society in which God has placed them and at the same time being part of the new creation that challenges so much of that society’s assumptions.”* Sign up in the narthex or by calling the church office so that we can get a count for our food preparations and handouts. Bring a Bible, a friend, an open mind, and an open spirit as we are blessed to study scripture together!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

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: November 5, 19  
December 3 Intergenerational Advent Workshop  
December 17  
January 7, 21  
February 4, 18  
March 3, 17  
April 7, 21



Registration forms are on the round table in the narthex or contact the church office.

## SERRV SALE

Individual orders can still be placed online through the "SERRV and Earn" program. When you use the following web address to order, our church's Camp Scholarship program will receive 20% of your total: [serrv.org?a=firstucc1](http://serrv.org?a=firstucc1). Please note that with the ordering process your items will be mailed directly to your house (shipping charges will apply). **You may order all year long.**

## UCC CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – OCTOBER 9, 2023 – 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order/Roll Call - Call to order at 6:10pm – Council Members Present: Pastor Steve Savides, Lois Cuff, Peter Lauer, Dave Thiel. Members and Staff Present: Billy Brandt
2. Opening Prayer - Led by Pastor Steve.
3. Approve Meeting Minutes from September 11, 2023 – Motion made by Lois to approve the minutes from September 11, 2023. Motion seconded by Peter. 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: Worship Schedule for October/November; Upcoming Mission Moment Schedule; Confirmation; Adult Education; Stewardship; Visitation Ministry; Community Outreach; Larger Church Outreach.
5. Ministry Chairs’ Reports – Discussion regarding Fall Maintenance Schedule.
6. Financial Reports – Discussion regarding current financial position. Dave will prepare draft 2024 budget for the November Council meeting.
7. Bell Tower & Roof Repair Project – ARC Construction on schedule to have the tower deck repaired by the end of November. Brady & Dean Peterson are working on waterproofing and fixing the louvres, as well as replacing the deck door.
9. Council Member Replacement – Continued discussion regarding appointing a member to complete the term of the Operations Ministry position on the Council.
10. Church Constitution – Final edits will be made, along with preparation of a narrative to discuss the proposed changes before a date is set for a Congregational meeting to approve the revised document.
11. New Business - None
12. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn made by Lois. Motion seconded by Peter. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND!! UCC SISTERHOOD IS MEETING

J T’s on 96

W8899 Highway 96

Hortonville, WI (We all know it is in Medina, but that is their mailing address)

920-779-6634 (if you have questions of them)

I know this is early in the month, but things are going on this month--Hunting, Closing campers, Thanksgiving, etc.!

I will need to know by Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> if you are planning on attending. I have checked and they have 20 “normal height” chairs and—if we need more, there are always the “bar height” chairs. We will be meeting there at 11:30. Those needing a ride will need to be at the church by 11 (so we will know how many people to get cars for).

Hope to see you there! Bring your girlfriends, relatives, or neighbors—all are welcome! It’s a good time to call someone you haven’t seen in church for a while. See visitors? --invite them.

See you then!

Blessings,

Sandy Conradt

[sandy.armin@yahoo.com](mailto:sandy.armin@yahoo.com) 920-538-4114

## NEW LONDON CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Our Christmas programs will be back again for the holiday season. Our church helps the community in many ways over the holiday season. Here are some of the programs we support and how you can help.

**Christmas for Kids-** This program assists students in the NL School District that are under the age of 18. We look for people/groups to sponsor the children. We then provide you with a detailed wish list for each child that you can shop from. The gifts are returned to church wrapped for us to distribute.

**Giving Tree-** This program supports children from the Hortonville/Dale food pantry. You pick a child off of our giving tree, purchase gifts and return them to us unwrapped for us to distribute.

**Toy Room-** We collect new toys throughout the holiday season and set up a “Toy Room” for parents who did not receive other services to come and shop for their children. You can purchase new, unwrapped toys and deliver them to church on “Toy room Drop Off days” and we will use them to fill our toy room.

Another option would be to support financially by writing a check to FCUCC-NL with note, “Giving Tree”, “Christmas for Kids” or “Toy Room” either by mail, drop off, or in the offering collection plate. You can also donate through PayPal or Venmo as well. Again, please note, “Giving Tree”, “Christmas for Kids” or “Toy Room”. We will also need many volunteers in the next few weeks. Please watch for sign-ups at church. If you would like more information on any of these services, please contact Wendy Schmidt at [christmasforkidsnewlondon@gmail.com](mailto:christmasforkidsnewlondon@gmail.com).

## MISSION OF HOPE HOUSE

### Our Expanding Reach

With any organization or initiative to make a difference in a community, the true needs of that community must be heard, listened to and then acted upon! The three strategies of Mission of Hope House have been to change the perception, increase the impact and expand the reach of the mission and values of the organization.

Our Resiliency Center has changed the perception - the Center is a 12-bed peer supported living environment that offers programs and services designed to help our clients break free from poverty, substance abuse disorder and homelessness. Identifying the basis of homelessness is the key to truly making a difference.

The Bridge Thrift Store is our resale store that offers a variety of treasures for everyone, with all proceeds from the sales going to the Mission of Hope House's mission of creating a healthier and sustainable Waupaca County where all can thrive. This is making an impact!

Our Meet the Need program has truly expanded our reach. This program is designed to meet anyone where they are at, to provide the necessities to anyone in the community. Examples include bedding, hygiene products, clothing, vouchers to the Bridge Thrift store.

Your contributions in time, talent and financial support are truly appreciated. And as more programs and initiatives are expanded, stay tuned for more exciting actions to make our community a healthy, thriving, loving environment for all. You can contribute to Mission of Hope House by going on their website, [mohwi.org](http://mohwi.org) and click on give. From September 21<sup>st</sup> until October 31<sup>st</sup>, Milt and Trudy Staskal have offered to generously double match all donations made to the endowment fund. That means your \$10.00 becomes \$30.00, your \$100.00 becomes \$300.00 or your \$1000.00 becomes \$3000.00. From November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, all donations will be matched dollar for dollar.

Thank you.

Patricia Toney, MOHH Board President

# WASHINGTON CENTER COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

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

We are so excited to be in our new pantry home at the Washington Center. If you missed our open house, feel free to stop in during our open hours. Wednesdays 8 am to noon and then again Wednesday evening 4:30 to 6 pm, or during our stocking shelves time on Tuesdays 8 to 10 am.

We are teaming up with the Methodist Church to provide a Thanksgiving meal package for our clients. They are providing the turkey and pie, we are responsible for the stuffing, potatoes and gravy and vegetable. Please bring your donations before November 8th.

Always in need: **cold cereal, canned pastas, crackers, tuna, laundry detergent and dish soap.**

Thank you for your support of this mission.

Rita, Mike and Michelle



## THANK YOU FROM WASHINGTON CENTER COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

Dear First Congregational United Church of Christ,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of 381 lbs. of food to The Washington Center- Community Cupboard! We appreciate your generosity!

With support from individuals and companies like yours, the Community Cupboard is addressing the hunger crisis in our community. So many of our neighbors are struggling to meet basic needs and facing hunger on a daily basis. Children and the elderly are especially vulnerable.

We are so grateful for your partnership in helping those in need to access food in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. Your gift makes a real difference in the lives of hungry families and helps them gather around their tables for a wholesome meal.

We are excited to announce that due to our partnership with The Washington Center, we are now a 501c3 organization which allows donations to be tax deductible. We are excited to be able to offer morning and evening hours at the pantry.

We are honored to count you as a partner in our effort to feed our neighbors in need and end hunger in our community.

With deep appreciation,

The Washington Center Community Cupboard

**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



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**[www.facebook.com/UCCNL](http://www.facebook.com/UCCNL)**

**CHECK US OUT!**

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## 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

## NOVEMBER 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. – Sunday school 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's**

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

*Communion will be on November 5*





October 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	31				

December 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
31						

# First Congregational UCC

## November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Daylight Saving Time ends: Turn clocks back before bed on the 4<sup>th</sup>.</i>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>11:30 a.m.-</b> Sisterhood at JT's <b>6:30 p.m.-</b> Angeli Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> AA Fellowship Hall
<b>5 Communion</b> <b>8:00 a.m.-</b> Adult Bible Study <b>9:00 a.m.-</b> Praise Service <b>10:00 a.m. –</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Fellowship	<b>6</b> <b>4:30 p.m.-</b> Overeaters Anon.	<b>7</b> <b>7:30 a.m.-</b> Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	<b>8</b> <b>12:00 p.m.-</b> Bible Study <b>6:30 p.m. -</b> Spirit Bells	<b>9</b> <b>6:30 p.m.-</b> Angeli Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> AA in Fellowship Hall
<b>12 Stewardship Sunday</b> <b>8:00 a.m.-</b> Adult Bible Study <b>9:00 a.m.-</b> Traditional Service/Choir/Bells <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Fellowship	<b>13</b> <b>4:30 p.m.-</b> Overeaters Anon.  <b>6:00 p.m. –</b> Council Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>7:30 a.m.-</b> Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	<b>15</b> <b>12:00 p.m.-</b> Bible Study  <b>6:30 p.m. -</b> Spirit Bells	<b>16</b> <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Fellowship Hall in use <b>6:30 p.m.-</b> Angeli Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> AA in Fellowship Hall
<b>19 Thanksgiving Sunday</b> <b>8:00 a.m.-</b> Adult Bible Study <b>9:00 a.m.-</b> Praise Service <b>10:00 a.m. –</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Fellowship	<b>20</b> <b>4:30 p.m.-</b> Overeaters Anon.	<b>21</b> <b>7:30 a.m.-</b> Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	<b>22</b> <b>12:00 p.m.-</b> Bible Study  <b>6:30 p.m.-</b> Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service at St. John's	<b>23</b> Thanksgiving Day Office Closed 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> AA in Fellowship Hall
<b>26 Reign of Christ</b> <b>8:00 a.m.-</b> Adult Bible Study <b>9:00 a.m.-</b> Traditional Service/choir <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Fellowship	<b>27</b> <b>4:30 p.m.-</b> Overeaters Anon.	<b>28</b> <b>7:30 a.m.-</b> Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	<b>29</b> <b>12:00 p.m.-</b> Bible Study <b>6:30 p.m. -</b> Spirit Bells	<b>30</b> <b>6:30 p.m.-</b> Angeli Choir		

# November Worship Volunteers

<i>Please sign up to fill the open dates.</i>	<b>November 5, 2023 Praise Service</b>	<b>November 12, 2023 Traditional Service</b>	<b>November 19, 2023 Praise Service</b>	<b>November 26, 2023 Traditional Service</b>
<b>Lay Reader</b>	9:00 a.m.- Deb Calabria	9:00 a.m.- Pat Toney	9:00 a.m.- Deb Calabria	9:00 a.m.-
<b>Media Shout</b>	9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman	9:00 a.m.- Gary Henke	9:00 a.m.- Kris Drath	9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman
<b>Fellowship</b>	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.-Jerene Managan

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1- Gianna Bobber                    | 21-William Moore                    |
| 3-Jolene Mowrer, Deb Calabria       | 23-Andrea Rathsack                  |
| 4-Kristie Randel                    | 24-Wally Schmidt                    |
| 5-Karyl Hebel, Steve Toney          | 25- Kathy Foster                    |
| 11-Nathan Penn                      | 26-Laura Buschke, Ashley Nussbaumer |
| 17- Alyssa Bozich                   | 27-Jazmin Jerusalem                 |
| 18-Bill Fabisiak                    | 28-Jason Parker                     |
| 19- Katie Buschke, Scott Cartwright | 29-Tina Clegg, Tom Randel           |
| 20-Jamie Darkow                     | 30- Gerney Krueger                  |

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1-Dan & Wendy Dallman
- 2-Bill & Debbie Fabisiak
- 5-Wirt & Carol Holm

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

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.

