



Blessing our Community



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
110 E. Hancock Street, New London, Wisconsin 54961 ~ 920-982-3731
Interim Pastor: Jeannie Douglas -jeannedouglas@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com
Secretary: kathyphillips@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com
A Stephen Ministry Church

JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Journeying With Jeannie

Dear Members and Friends,

Lately, I've been thinking and reading a lot about prayer. What is prayer? Why do we pray? What happens when we pray?

Abraham Heschel wrote *"The purpose of prayer is not the same as the purpose of speech. The purpose of speech is to inform; the purpose of prayer is to partake."*

But if we are not praying but are only listening to a prayer, how do we partake? Every Sunday, we have the opportunity to share our prayer request. We have three options on how to share: fill out a prayer card, raise your hand and share, or share through Facebook. It's wonderful we are able to be honest and share. But, sometimes, I think, we hesitate to request a prayer. There are so many reasons for this, and I understand. That is why, on our prayer cards, there is a box to check if you want prayer but don't want it mentioned in service. Sometimes we feel we need a little confidentiality. Just know that if you do need prayer, I am more than happy to pray with/for you.

So back to that question: how do we partake in prayer? I know how hard it is to pray and especially if you are asked to pray out loud. When I was a young adult and was suddenly asked to pray a prayer, without any notice, I always felt inadequate. I felt like I was stumbling around and there was no way I could sound as eloquent as others who prayed. To be honest, I hated praying out loud. But I did it, and I stumbled, and in my mind, I thought sounded dumb. The question always was: will I be good enough? But as a minister, I'm called on to pray at any given moment, and now I just jump right in and pray.

What about you? What makes you hesitant to pray, either out load or just silently to yourself?

Have you ever sat in church beside someone who mumbles, under their breath, "amen" at the end of a prayer? Do you know what that means? The easiest and most accepted answer is that "amen" means "So be it!" It can also have a larger meaning: "So be it! May God indeed be praised for bestowing the gifts God's people need." So, when we *partake* of prayer, we listen, then we affirm.

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I began this letter with three questions, so here's the simple response to each of those questions: What is prayer? Prayer is your communication with God. God does not care if we stumble, mumble, or fumble, or even if we get off track. God wants to have communication with you. Next: Why do we pray? We pray to be in relationship with God. We pray for others: God knows we care. We pray for ourselves: God know we respect ourselves and have our own concerns. God wants to be in relationship with you. Finally: What happens when we pray? That one's a little harder, because sometimes when we pray, we want results. The truth of the matter is, when we pray, we begin to change. Yes, God *sometimes* answers prayer the way we want, but when that doesn't happen, we might get frustrated and even think God is not listening. But look into your own heart and see what's happening. If we are open to the power of prayer, we may be amazed at the results. We may realize what we were asking for, may not have been the right thing, but God knows what we really need and answers us in surprising ways.

I would like to end this rambling on about prayer with a quote from Terry McMillan: "*It takes me forever to say my prayers these days, but I don't care because this time-around I want to make sure God doesn't have to do any guesswork.*"

As children of God, we know whatever happens, God is always walking alongside us and listening. Even if we feel we are mumbling and fumbling.

Many Blessings on all of us,
Jeannie

HEAR OUR PRAYERS O LORD"

Of Healing and Comfort for:

- ☀ Ken Diehl
- ☀ Gaylord & Dorothy Hedtke
- ☀ Kip Morton
- ☀ John Pieper
- ☀ Emily Calabria
- ☀ Judy Borgwardt



Congratulations for:

- ☀ The baptisms of Anderson Jon Lehnerr & Nash Jameson Lehnerr, children of Travis Lehnerr & Payton Campbell.

Prayer request cards are located in the Narthex on the round table. Simply fill out the card and hand it to an usher or Pastor before the service. You can also call Pastor Jeannie or the church office.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER ON ZOOM

On Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m., you can join us for contemplative prayer on Zoom. Here is the link if you would like to join us.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89534289854?pwd=MjBJUGxJdnFzZzNIYy80YnI1OHRqdz09>

Meeting ID: 895 3428 9854

Passcode: 822698

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 May 2021 - 33

INCOME YEAR TO DATE (January-May): \$ 85,748.67

**EXPENSES YEAR TO DATE (January-May): \$ 58,740.09
(Surplus) \$ 27,008.58**

VENMO

You can send money to friends and family without needing cash or checks. How does it work? Follow these steps to use Venmo:

1. Set up your Venmo account.
2. Choose a funding source by linking a credit card, bank account, or using your Venmo balance.
3. Request money or pay others with your Venmo account.
4. Add a recipient, a balance, and a note.
5. Send to recipient.
6. Transfer funds to your bank account or keep in your Venmo account for future purchases.
7. The first time you wish to send money Venmo may ask you to confirm recipient by asking for the last 4 numbers of their telephone number. These are 3321

Please use this reference as the email address KathyPhillips@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com.

Or you can search using @UCC-NEWLONDON

PAYPAL

We have a PayPal account for those interested in using their PayPal account to donate to the church. If you donate through PayPal, please note that PayPal keeps a percentage of your donation. To get to our donation account, use the churches email address of KathyPhillips@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com. Any questions about PayPal or Venmo please call or email Gary Prost, gprost25@outlook.com – 920-841-0607.

END OF 2ND QUARTER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS – JUNE 30TH

I will be emailing end of second quarter individual financial statements out to those we have an email address by July 5th. If you are not on our emailing list, please email Kathy at kathyphillips@uccnl.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 to you. Any questions, please call Kathy at 982-3731.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2021 offering envelopes are available for you to pick up. Your name is on the box and will be located under the coat rack by the front doors in alphabetical order. Please pick up your envelope, family members and friends. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8-12:30. When using your envelopes, please put your name on the outside. If you do not see your envelope box, please leave Kathy a note in the office and she will get you your offering envelope. If you prefer to do Automatic Giving, there will be sheets on the table by the offering envelopes.



SEARCH COMMITTEE CORNER

Blessings from your Search Committee! Thank you for your prayers, your responses to our surveys and for attending our cottage meetings. We are diligently working on the church's profile which is the document we send to our UCC Association. The Association will then check our profile over and either ask for more information or approve the profile. After this step, the Association will then send our committee profiles of pastors and our committee will read through and review these profiles. The next step will be interviews and second interviews. Then we will schedule a neutral pulpit invitation and our committee members will listen to them give a sermon.

Finally, the committee will choose a candidate to recommend to our congregation. Please remember this takes time and our committee is instructed to keep most of our information confidential. We will continue to update the congregation on our progress and ask for your prayers to help us and help our future pastor. Our committee members are all willing to talk with anyone who has questions although, please remember our commitment to confidentiality.

Joshua 1:9 "This is my command-be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Respectfully submitted by,
Kris Drath

MINUTES OF THE UCC CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING VIA EMAIL TUESDAY, JUNE 8 & WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021

UCC Council Members Present: Kaylene Kloehn, Jim Williams, Jerry Schulz, Tina Clegg and Dave Thiel.
Others Present: Pastor Jeannie

- 1. Call Meeting To Order:** Vice Moderator Kloehn called the meeting to order at 8:23am on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.
- 2. Will we allow other groups to use our parking lot for events and fundraisers?:** The Traumatic Brain Injury group wants to use our parking lot for a rummage sale to benefit solely their group. In the past the church has not allowed this unless all proceeds are going to the church, or a church sponsored group (such as camp scholarships). There is also a liability question at hand in regard to if someone gets hurt. Thiel made a motion that UCC New London does not change its policy regarding outside groups using our church facilities and property for events and fundraising. Motion seconded by Williams. Motion carried.
- 3. Adjournment:** Motion by Thiel to adjourn. Motion seconded by Williams. Meeting adjourned at 11:13am on Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Thiel

WASHINGTON CENTER COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

It's summer vacation and that means kids are home from school. The focus for the pantry this month is food items that kids can make for their lunch. Think of things that you would pack in their lunchbox. Here are some ideas that I came up with. I'm sure you can think of more.

Jelly, individual servings of applesauce and fruits, graham crackers, fruit rollups.
Thank you for your generosity in supporting the food pantry mission.
Rita, Mike, and Michelle



OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

A Message from a Pastor

Dear Friends,

Some wonder about the future of Christianity. Some wonder at the future of the church. Some wonder about the structure of the family. Our United Church of Christ camps give us an answer. It is one of resounding hope and promise.

I was the Director of the Mom and Me camp at Pilgrim Center, a three-day event that hosts Mom's and their kindergarten through second-grade child. I was able to observe and behold the Christian community in action.

I saw counselors watching for the "outcast" Tenderfoot camper, placing them in the center of acceptance. I heard songs of thanksgiving for bounty and goodness sung by 140 people of all ages at meal times. I observed vespers of the Junior-highs around the fire pit, where curling smoke was a veritable sign of prayers going forth into the world and into the heart of God. I saw the grace of Senior High campers dance an interpretation to the glory of God's word and deed. And I watched with thanksgiving as they encouraged and applauded our first grade violinist as she shared her gift of music for the mealtime prayer. I was overjoyed with the heartfelt dialogue of 14 Moms as they talked of their own faith, their struggles and hopes for their children and families. I heard of the importance of their faith journey. And I heard love for their Savior, Jesus Christ.

One of the greatest gifts I received from this week of camp, was from the "Me's." After a full day of activity and camaraderie we gathered, children in their pajamas, Mom's in their tiredness, to listen to a story and share a bedtime prayer. I asked the children if they would like to offer their familiar bedtime prayers. What indescribable, heart-tugging joy filled us grown-ups! In very deep and abiding reverence, they enfolded to their small chests assorted stuffed animals, folded their hands and lifted their prayers. One at a time in variety and similarity: "Now I lay me down to sleep Our Father, who art in Heaven If I should die before I wakeGod bless Mommy, Daddy, my sister and my brother Thy love to guard me through the night and God please bless all those people we don't know"

There is much to concern us over the future of the church. I know that. But this week, I was assured that the church is alive and well. It is tended and nurtured by those gathered at Pilgrim Center. It is the example of the gathered community who shares, learns, loves and does what it can in the name of the One who loves them most. Jesus Christ. What an indescribable gift that is!

May you be filled with the same Spirit!

Peace and blessings,

Mary Gafner

Pastor, Washington Reformation United Church of Christ, Monticello



Interim Minister: Pastor Jeannie Douglas – 262-993-9623
email – jeannedouglas@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: 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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

Custodian: Kim Olmsted

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

Christian Education:

Christian Education Coordinator:

Kid's Connection:

Camp Scholarships: Tina Clegg and Karyl Hebel

Music Coordinators:

Director of Music: Sandy Eithun – sandraeithun@gmail.com

Organist, Pianist, Choir Accompanist & Spirit Bell Choir Director: Sandy Eithun

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

Choir Director:

Men's Choir Director: Lois Cuff

Heavenly Metal Bell Choir Director: Tim Schmidt -tim.r.schmidt@gmail.com



www.facebook.com/UCCNL

CHECK US OUT!



Leadership Teams:

Minister – Pastor Jeannie Douglas: 262-993-9623 -jeannedouglas@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com

Church Council:

Moderator:

Vice Moderator: Kaylene Kloehn: 920-538-2499 – k.kloehn@yahoo.com

Operations Ministry Chair: Jamie Darkow: 920-982-7541 – Jamie.darkow@pieperpower.com

Mission Ministry Chair: Jim Williams: 920-982-6055 – jrwilliams5792@gmail.com

Fellowship Ministry Chair: Jerry Schulz: 920-841-2523 – Gschulz22459@gmail.com

Worship Ministry Chair: Dave Thiel: 920-982-7381 – wcedc@charter.net

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

Financial Liaison - Rita Thiel: 920-982-7381

UCC Tech Team - Scott Eithun

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

Search Committee: Bobbye Allen, Kris Drath, Gary Henke; Kaylene Kloehn, Peter Lauer, Andrea Rathsack, Katelyn Schmidt, and Ted Williams

JULY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m.-Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall; 8:30 a.m.-Coffee Hour on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81165093227?pwd=NIJpYXBtWjJFRWR6aUtIMS9lUzBiUT09>

Meeting ID: 811 6509 3227 Password: 346394

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

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

Communion will be on July 4th



June 2021						
		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

July 2021

August 2021						
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				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Online services: https://m.facebook.com/UCCNL</p>				<p>1 6:00 p.m.-TBI Tram (April Postel)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>4 Communion 8:00 a.m.-Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall 8:30 a.m.-Virtual Coffee Hour 9:00 a.m.- Praise Worship – virtual and in person</p>	<p>5 11:00 a.m.- Reflections with Pastor Jeannie on Facebook</p>	<p>6 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p>7 11:00 a.m.- Reflections with Pastor Jeannie on Facebook</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>11 8:00 a.m.-Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall 8:30 a.m.-Virtual Coffee Hour 9:00 a.m.- Traditional Worship – virtual and in person</p>	<p>12 11:00 a.m.- Reflections with Pastor Jeannie on Facebook</p> <p>6:00 p.m.- Council in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>13 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p>14 11:00 a.m.- Reflections with Pastor Jeannie on Facebook</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>18 8:00 a.m.-Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall 8:30 a.m.-Virtual Coffee Hour 9:00 a.m.- Praise Worship – virtual and in person</p>	<p>19 11:00 a.m.- Reflections with Pastor Jeannie on Facebook</p>	<p>20 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p>21 11:00 a.m.- Reflections with Pastor Jeannie on Facebook</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>25 8:00 a.m.-Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall 8:30 a.m.-Virtual Coffee Hour 9:00 a.m.- Traditional Worship – virtual and in person</p>	<p>26 11:00 a.m.- Reflections with Pastor Jeannie on Facebook</p>	<p>27 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom</p>	<p>28 11:00 a.m.- Reflections with Pastor Jeannie on Facebook</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall</p>

July Worship Volunteers

<i>Please sign up to fill the open dates.</i>	July 4, 2021 Praise Service	July 11, 2021 Traditional Service	July 18, 2021 Praise Service	July 25, 2021 Traditional Service
Communion	9:00 a.m.-Michelle Campbell	✘	✘	✘
Lay Reader	9:00 a.m.-Michelle Campbell	9:00 a.m.-Mary Schulz	9:00 a.m.- Pat Toney	9:00 a.m.- Deb Calabria
Projector/ Sound board	9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman	9:00 a.m.- Jack Baumgart & Gary Prost	9:00 a.m.- Gary Henke	9:00 a.m.- Kris Drath & Lois Cuff
Usher's	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.- Bill & Deb Calabria
Greeters	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-Bill & Deb Calabria
Fellowship	8:00 a.m.-	8:00 a.m.-	8:00 a.m.-	8:00 a.m.-

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1- Teri Huntley, Alicia Meagher
 2-Allysun Euhardy
 3-Abigail Rutzinski
 7-Gary Henke, Travis Martin
 9-Patrick Korth
 10-Erin Bobber, Briley Schulz
 11-Kiava Schlueter, Tayson Seavecki
 13-Jackie Cartwright
 15-Karen Henke, Bobby Hebel, Kyle Lubinski
 16- Alex Wepner
 17- Mickey Schmidt, David Asman
 18-Alassandra Nussbaumer

19-Myles Parker, Garret Clegg
 20-Angie Voit, Jacob Darkow, Ardeen Hofberger
 21-Sophia Doehling, Ryker Danke
 22-Bonnie Wandke, Margaret Westphal
 23-Bob Croke
 25-Tyler Geske, Wayne Poppy, Cole Penn, Kayson Ferge
 26-Jim Knaack, Easton Thorpe
 28-Taylor Yaeger, Taelyn Lubinski
 29-Jenessa Oberstadt
 30-Kayden Kloehn
 31-Tommy Fields, Kris Gleisner

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

3-Tom & Kristie Randel
 10-Kyle & Amanda Laedtke
 15-Brandon & Shaunna Ferge
 18-Pete & Kari Thorpe
 20-Mark & Jolene Mowrer
 21-John & Patti Rutzinski
 22-Travis & Janell Martin
 23-Dan & Barbara J. Peterson
 24-Brandon & Amber Blank
 25-Sandy & Lois Cuff
 27-Randy & Laurie Miller
 30-Tony & Missy Porath

June Anniversaries inadvertently left out last month:
 June 9-Nathan & April Treague
 June 12-Mike & Shannon Van Groll