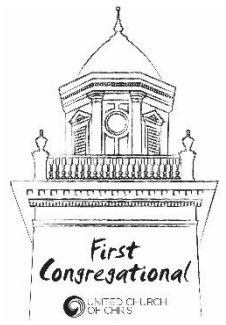




# Blessing our Community

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



Secretary: [kathyphillips@ucn1.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:kathyphillips@ucn1.onmicrosoft.com)  
A Stephen Ministry Church

## JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

### Matthew 2:11

And going into the house they saw  
the child with Mary his mother,  
and they fell down and worshipped him.  
Then, opening their treasures,  
they offered him gifts,  
gold and frankincense and myrrh.

### THE GREATEST GIFT I EVER RECEIVED:

During this Christmas Season, have you ever pondered over what to give one of your loved ones? And then, did you ever think back over the best gift you have ever received?

It may be hard for you to pick out the best one because there were so many!

We live in a time and place that blessings and gifts of all kinds have been poured out to us. It is hard to pick just one that changed our lives forever. So, as I sit here thinking about past Christmases, I remember Mom and Dad always having surprises for me and my sisters that we loved, because they knew what we wanted and sometimes had asked for many times.

But the gift that really meant the most to me was the love they showed to me, especially when I had made a big mistake, and there were a lot of those. They would always forgive me even though there may have been a consequence that helped me change for the better. I'd be willing to bet that you remember some of the "consequences" that you received.

Now at Christmas time, what do you think was the best gift you have ever received from your *Heavenly Father*? Was it the Baby Jesus? Or was it an answer to a prayer? Or was it health and happiness? Or when you really think about it, could it be God's forgiveness of our sins. That gift was bought and paid for by our Savior. When we receive and open up that package, we find Eternal Life.

To me, this is the best gift I have ever received.

And I know that my Lord and Savior wants me to ask for forgiveness and even more importantly give forgiveness to all my family, friends, and enemies.

### Ephesians 4:32

*"Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."*

*Your Brother in Christ, Jim Williams*

*Merry Christmas! And a Blessed New Year*

## HEAR OUR PRAYERS O LORD”

### Of Healing and Comfort for:

- ☀ Ginny Pharr
- ☀ Bill Calabria
- ☀ Gaylord & Dorothy Hedtke
- ☀ Kip Morton
- ☀ John Pieper
- ☀ Emily Calabria
- ☀ Judy Borgwardt
- ☀ Judith Campbell, on the loss of her husband Howard (Ace) Campbell.



## 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 in writing to Kathy in the church office, or by email.

- ♥ Thank you to all those that have volunteered on Sunday mornings to get the service online and in person.
- ♥ Thank you for your continuous support of First Congregational United Church of Christ.
- ♥ Thank you to Deb Calabria and family for decorating the Sanctuary this Christmas.
- ♥ Thank you to Bill & Deb Calabria and family for sharing their animals in the Live Nativity Service.
- ♥ Thank you to all who donated towards Christmas for Kids.
- ♥ Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with lighting the Advent candles.
- ♥ Thank you to those who donated to the Christmas Fund.
- ♥ Thank you to Milton & Trudy Staskal who donated the new sign on the corner of Mill & Hancock Streets. And also to Milton and his son for installing the new sign.

### **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 NOVEMBER 2021 - 47**

**INCOME YEAR TO DATE (January-November): \$140,836.15**

**EXPENSES YEAR TO DATE (January-November): \$136,386.12  
(surplus) \$4,450.03**

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2022 offering envelopes are available for you to pick up. Your name will be on the box and will be located under the coat rack by the front doors in alphabetical order. Office hours are Monday and Thursday 8:15-12:45. 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. Thank you!

*Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

## YEAR END INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS

You will be receiving your year-end financial statements in the mail by January 15<sup>th</sup>. Please keep these for your tax records. Any questions, please contact Kathy in the office on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday from 8:15 – 12:45.

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 & 12:30, use Venmo or PayPal or set up automatic withdrawal through Kathy.

### VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

Everyone is invited to join us on zoom for a virtual coffee hour each Sunday morning. Whether church is open or not, virtual coffee hour will continue. We begin roughly at 8:30 (sometimes a little earlier) and end just before worship begins. We hope you'll join us at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81165093227?pwd=N1JpYXBtWjJFRWR6aUtIMS9lUzBiUT09>

Meeting ID: 811 6509 3227

Password: 346394

If you want the link emailed to you so you can just click on it for either worship or coffee hour, please contact Kathy in the church office and she can send it to you.

### 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=MjBJUGxJdnFzZzNIIdy80YnI1OHRqdz09>

Meeting ID: 895 3428 9854

Passcode: 822698

### SERRV SALE

Individual orders can still be placed online through a new "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](https://serrv.org?a=firstucc1). Please note that with the new ordering process your items will be mailed directly to your house (shipping charges will apply). **You may order all year long.** Please contact Amy Jordan with questions.

### 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](mailto:KathyPhillips@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com). Any questions about PayPal or Venmo please call or email Gary Prost, [gprost25@outlook.com](mailto:gprost25@outlook.com) – 920-841-0607.

### VENMO

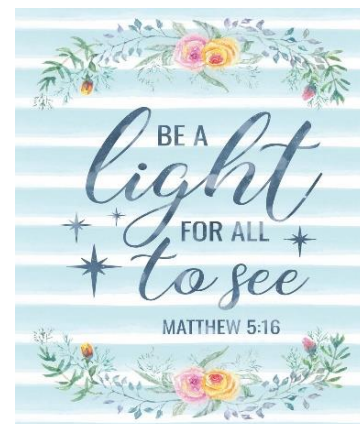
You can send money to friends and family without needing cash or checks. How does it work? Follow these steps to use Venmo:

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](mailto:KathyPhillips@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com).

Or you can search using @UCC-NEWLONDON



# MINUTES OF THE UCC CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

Roll Call: Dave Thiel, Jim Williams, Jerry Schulz, Dorea Lauer, Kaylene Kloehn-Pluger and Tina Clegg. Jamie Darkow excused. Guest: Billy Brandt

1. Opening Prayer from Dorea
2. Minutes of 11/22/21 were approved
3. Christmas Holiday services were discussed. There will be a live animal 4:30 PM service and a virtual recorded 7:00 PM service. More details will be in the newsletter.
4. Keyboardist position has been filled. LuAnn Rupnow will start in 2022 and play for the traditional services, help out with choir, and fill in for Lois at Contemporary services as needed.
5. Staff Communication has been addressed and will be followed up weekly with Dave.
6. Pulpit Supply has started with Rev. Kevin Dembinski. He will be available for all Sunday services. Rev. Nancy Micke will be available as a backup for Kevin.
7. Communion will be introduced as a hybrid of intinction and use of the elements in the small containers that we are currently using. More information will be coming from the Worship Committee.
8. Fellowship Hour is still looking for individuals, families or a committee to prepare, serve, and cleanup Coffee Hour after the worship service.
9. Sunday School is open and welcoming children and parents to come and enjoy learning and playing with other children.
10. Fundraising for Camp Scholarships is continuing with candy bar sales. More ideas and help are needed.
11. Maintenance on roof repair continues.
12. Budget for 2022 has been developed and will be presented to the congregation at the next annual meeting.
13. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully,  
Church Council

## COMMUNITY CUPBOARD NEWS

The need at the pantry seems to grow every month. In talking with the people in social services, I am finding out that there is a need for other items besides food. One such item is socks. Both adult and children socks.



There were lots of food drives during the holiday season and we thank everyone that donated. Let's have a sock campaign for January and February!! Of course, you can still donate food items too.

Items always in need: juice, hamburger & tuna helper, white rice, egg noodles, laundry detergent and dish soap.

Thank you for supporting the food pantry mission.

*Rita, Mike and Michelle*

## FACEBOOK

I have volunteered to be a contact for our Facebook page. I will post anything that involves the whole church or just a part of it - concerning a group such as camp scholarships. (I know we all contribute to that!). If you have news or articles that you would like posted please contact me and I will post it to Facebook so that it can reach a wider audience and it would be immediate! Personal things that do not involve the church would not be appropriate, such as pictures of your new grandchild, even though we all love to see pictures of new babies! With any news you have please contact me at [mryschulz@yahoo.com](mailto:mryschulz@yahoo.com). You could also give me a call at 920-585-6434.

*Mary Schulz*

## CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS



**Christmas For Kids**

As I write, Christmas is a week from today. As you are reading this (in the January newsletter) our work of helping families with Christmas is done. There is still some “book work” to be completed, and many a “Thank You” to be expressed.

We are grateful for the support of our church family in this endeavor: so thank *you* for your support of our church—keeping the building and staff in place, so that we can be seen in the community, and have a location from which to deliver our services.

We hope to be functioning in “reality” next Christmas, as opposed to “virtually”! We’re planning Christmas for Kids 2022 to be similar to years past. If you’re interested in helping, please let us know. After Thanksgiving and in the first week of Christmas many hands are needed to help with the delivery of gifts which have been donated. This takes place mainly during the day. If you might have time available then, and would like to help, please let us know.

*Submitted by: Gloria Kjer & Karyl Hebel*

# January Newsletter

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope you all had a great holiday break.

**This month we will be talking about Moses.**

**January Schedule:**

**2nd- No Sunday School (enjoy your winter break)**

**9th- The Burning Bush**

**16th- The 10 Plagues**

**23rd- The Red Sea**

**30th- The 10 Commandments**

I have also attached a photo release form for you to fill out. I would like to start sharing more about what we are doing in Sunday School with the church community in hope we can have more people join us. Please fill out the form attached and return it. Thank you.

**This Month Bible Verse:**

“With God all things are possible”

Matthew 19:26

**If you have any questions, concerns or comments feel free to reach out.**

**Katelyn Schmidt**

**(920) - 359 - 0050**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We want to start to share more about Sunday School with our Church Community in hopes to reach more families and other kids. I would like to take pictures and videos and share what we have been doing within our program. Please fill the form out below letting me know if you wish to have your child in photos or not. Thank you so much.

## Photo Consent and Posting Form

- I \_\_\_\_\_ give Katelyn Schmidt (Christan Educator Director) permission to take photos of my child / children and use them as she sees fit.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ do not give Katelyn Schmidt (Christan Educator Director) permission to take photos of my child / children and use them as she sees fit.

My Child/ Childrens Name(s):

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**Interim Minister:  
Church phone number- 920-982-3731**

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

**Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:15 a.m. - 12:45 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: Katelyn Schmidt - katelyn.schmidt98@gmail.com

Kid's Connection: Katelyn Schmidt

Camp Scholarships: Tina Clegg

**Music Coordinators:**

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

Organist: Lu Ann Rupnow

Choir Director: Billy Brandt-bilybrandtv@gmail.com

Men's Choir Director: Lois Cuff

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



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

**CHECK US OUT!**

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## Leadership Teams:

**Interim Minister –**

### **Church Council:**

Moderator: Dave Thiel: 920-810-0165– davethiel56@gmail.com

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

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

Mission Ministry Chair: Jim Williams: 920-878-0655 – jrwilliams5792@gmail.com

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

Worship Ministry Chair: Dorea Lauer: lauerdorea@gmail.com

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

**Financial Liaison -** Rita Thiel: 920-810-4480

### **UCC Tech Team -**

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

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

## JANUARY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**8:00 a.m. – Faith Formation (Sunday school)**

**8:30 a.m.-Coffee Hour on Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81165093227?pwd=NIJpYXBTWjJFRWR6aUtIMS9IUzBiUT09>

Meeting ID: 811 6509 3227      Password: 346394

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

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

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

*Communion will be on January 2nd*





December 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	

# First Congregational UCC January 2022

February 2022						
		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					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Online services:  <a href="https://m.facebook.com/UCCNL">https://m.facebook.com/UCCNL</a> </div>		<b>7:30 a.m.-</b> Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	<b>6:33 p.m.-</b> Choir			<b>1</b> <b>10:00 a.m.- AA</b> in Fellowship Hall
<b>2 Communion</b> <b>8:30 a.m.-</b> Virtual Coffee Hour <b>9:00 a.m.-</b> Praise Worship <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>7:30 a.m.-</b> Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	<b>5</b> <b>6:33 p.m.-</b> Choir	<b>6</b> <b>6:00 p.m.-</b> TBI Tram (April Postel group)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>10:00 a.m.- AA</b> in Fellowship Hall
<b>9</b> <b>8:00 a.m.-</b> Faith Formation <b>8:30 a.m.-</b> Virtual Coffee Hour <b>9:00 a.m.-</b> Traditional Worship <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall	<b>10</b> <b>6:00 p.m.-</b> Council in Fellowship Hall	<b>11</b> <b>7:30 a.m.-</b> Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	<b>12</b> <b>6:33 p.m.-</b> Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>10:00 a.m.- AA</b> in Fellowship Hall <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
<b>16</b> <b>8:00 a.m.-</b> Faith Formation <b>8:30 a.m.-</b> Virtual Coffee Hour <b>9:00 a.m.-</b> Praise Worship <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>7:30 a.m.-</b> Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	<b>19</b> <b>6:33 p.m.-</b> Choir	<b>20</b> <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Communities of Practice use of Fellowship Hall	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>10:00 a.m.- AA</b> in Fellowship Hall
<b>23</b> <b>8:00 a.m.-</b> Faith Formation <b>8:30 a.m.-</b> Virtual Coffee Hour <b>9:00 a.m.-</b> Traditional Worship <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>7:30 a.m.-</b> Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	<b>26</b> <b>6:33 p.m.-</b> Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>10:00 a.m.- AA</b> in Fellowship Hall
<b>30</b> <b>8:00 a.m.-</b> Faith Formation <b>8:30 a.m.-</b> Virtual Coffee Hour <b>9:00 a.m.-</b> Praise Worship <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall	<b>31</b>					

# January Worship Volunteers

<i>Please sign up to fill the open dates.</i>	<b>January 2, 2022 Praise Service</b>	<b>January 9, 2022 Traditional Service</b>	<b>January 16, 2022 Praise Service</b>	<b>January 23, 2022 Traditional Service</b>	<b>January 30, 2022 Praise Service</b>
<b>Communion</b>	9:00 a.m.- Michelle Campbell	✘	✘	✘	✘
<b>Lay Reader</b>	9:00 a.m.- Michelle Campbell	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-
<b>Media Shout</b>	9:00 a.m.-Kris Drath	9:00 a.m.- Jack Baumgart	9:00 a.m.- Gary Henke	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman
<b>Usher's</b>	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-
<b>Greeters</b>	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-
<b>Fellowship</b>	10:00 a.m.-	10:00 a.m.-	10:00 a.m.-	10:00 a.m.-	10:00 a.m.-
<b>Kid's Chat</b>	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1-Gaylord Hedtke, Benton Merten  
 6-Dan Dallman  
 7 -Brian Olmsted  
 9-Sydney Randel  
 11-Jordan Bethke  
 12-Trudy Staskal, Linda Peterson, Jamie Buschke  
 13-Tava Cottrill-Behling, Bryan Sheets  
 14-Mary Beth Hill, Keena Bressler  
 15-Nancy Blank, Becki Lederhaus, Wendy Lauer,  
 15- Brett Krause  
 16-Shelbie Cottrill

18-Mary Gould  
 19-Abe Rathsack, Lisa Howard  
 20-Mary Marcks, Raina Merten, Anne Ferge  
 21-Mavis Knaack, Kevin Gross, Trent Behling  
 22-Sam Porath  
 23-Maren Golla, Laurie Miller  
 25-Paul Rasor  
 26-Wendy Dallman  
 27-Gerald Wood  
 29- Lila Meagher  
 31-Ron Drath, Tayden Waterstradt

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

19-Clif & Connie Morton  
 23-Tim & Wendy Schmidt