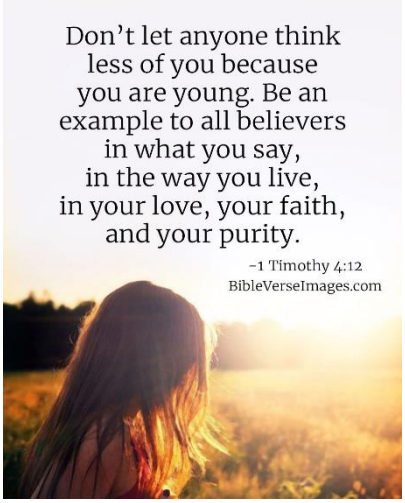
Blessing our Community

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

Secretary: kathyphillips@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com
A Stephen Ministry Church

SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



SOME OF THE THINGS IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

- Prayers: Page 2
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- Community Cupboard: Page 7
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MEMBERSHIP AUDIT IS NOW COMPLETE

Where is everybody? I haven't seen them in such a long time? I heard they moved away? Are they attending another church? All these questions have been filling our hearts for the past year. It was time to do a membership audit as the last one was completed in 2006. We paid conference dues for 436 members in 2021. With covid turning the worship world upside down an updated membership list was necessary.

We learned very early on, a membership audit is like nailing jello to the wall, ever changing and almost impossible. We sent 220 letters with return postcards out to members/friends in March, 2022. Most of those represented households with more than one member. Phone calls were made to those households that did not return the postcard. Another letter was sent on May 25, 2022, to the 120 that still did not respond to the post card or phone call message.

At the June and July Church Council meetings, official action was taken to remove 154 members from our membership list at this time. We now have paid conference dues for 254 members. We do know that at least 22 may still not be active but we are giving more time to assure their response.

The new membership count of 254 will be used by the Church Council to move on a number of initiatives. With less membership, our financial pledges and unpledged giving is less than the past. Our challenge moving forward will include living within our means to assure our congregation can walk with strength into the unknown future.

A big thank you goes to Kathy Phillips, Jim Williams and Lois Cuff for all the work that was put into this membership audit.

Dave Thiel
Council Moderator

HEAR OUR PRAYERS O LORD"

Of Healing and Comfort for:

- Emily Calabria
- Ginny Pharr
- Gaylord Hedtke
- John Pieper
- Sandy Eithun
- Lois Cuff

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 Stosh & Bonnie Wandke for your time in weeding the flower beds, giving beauty to the flower beds around the church.

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 JULY 2022 - 44

GENERAL OPERATING INCOME JANUARY THRU JULY 2022: $74,997.85

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES JANUARY THRU JULY 2022: $65,939.38
NET INCOME: $9,058.47

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

The Church Coordinator is looking for a few good, passionate people to help facilitate action teams:

Funeral Team
Home Visit Team
Sunday Fellowship Team
Confirmation Team
Knitted Comfort Shawl Team
Sunday Service Team

Any interested people wanting to assist our congregation to thrive as we move forward, please call Lois Cuff at 920-359-0531

NOTICE
To schedule any of the events listed below, please call Lois Cuff, Church Coordinator at 920-359-0531
Baptism,
Wedding
Funeral
Home Visit
Hospital Visit
Communion Delivery
Home Phone Call
End of Life Intervention
Request Pastor Kevin's Time

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 Wednesday or Thursday mornings between 8:15 & noon, use Venmo or PayPal or set up automatic withdrawal through Kathy.

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=MjBJUGxJdnFxZzNIdy80YnI1OHRqdz09
Meeting ID: 895 3428 9854 Passcode: 822698

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.

CONFIRMATION COMING TO THE UCC

This fall we will offer a confirmation program for the youth of our congregation in grades 7 through 12.

We are using the National UCC confirmation curriculum called "Confirm Not Conform."(CnC)
We will focus on a 10-session program which includes the following topics:

Where do you stand: Discerning what we believe and why.
Scripture: What is the Bible? What's in it? How is it used?
Teach us to pray: Prayers, and the ways we pray and worship.
Tradition: Church history and how the church draws from tradition. Faith in action: What can we do to serve others.

Confirm not Conform is focused on helping young people ask tough questions and search out the answers. Through innovative sessions, field trips, mentor relationships, actions of their faith and the challenge to do more than just learn a few facts, CnC lets youth take real responsibility for understanding their faith and its power. They begin to see the church and faith as something that truly belongs to them.

Each confirmand will invite an adult mentor to enrich their confirmation experience. This mentor will listen to questions, share stories, and help youth discover the true power of Christian community through a relationship of care, concern and love. There will be a confirmation ceremony scheduled in the spring.

All eligible youth and parents will receive a phone call regarding this confirmation program in the weeks to come. We will be selecting the dates of the 10 sessions and getting familiar with the CnC materials. Lois Cuff, Wendy Dallman, Pastor Kevin and other volunteers will be facilitating this confirmation program. If you are a parent with a student in grades 7-12 and have not received a preview phone call, please contact Lois Cuff at 920-359-0531.

Katelyn Schmidt has resigned from the Christian Education position. We are so excited to announce Katelyn has a new job. She will be a teacher of the 3 years old's CAP program for the Clintonville School district. We want to thank Katelyn for all her work with our Christian Education programing and wish her the best in her new adventure.

At the time of this printing, Sunday school and youth nights are taking a break, a pause, as the church council discusses new and creative options of moving forward.

UCC CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - AUGUST 8, 2022
FELLOWSHIP HALL - 6PM

Council Members Present: Tina Clegg, Dave Thiel, Jerry Schulz, Kaylene Kloehn-Pluger, Jamie Darkow, Jim Williams: Members, Staff & Friends Present: Katelyn Schmidt, Lois Cuff

1. Call to order at 6:05 PM
2. Opening Prayer by Council member Kloehn-Pluger.
3. Minutes from July 11, 2022, were reviewed. Motion to approve by Schulz and seconded by Kloehn-Pluger. Unanimous Approval.
4. Motion by Kloehn-Pluger to remove Ron Peterson from the UCC New London membership list (at his request). Motion seconded by Clegg. Unanimous Approval.
5. Motion by Kloehn-Pluger to approve transfer of membership request by Kathy Baumgart & Family from UCC-Fremont to UCC-New London. Motion seconded by Schulz. Unanimous approval.
6. Financial reports were reviewed with no questions or comments. Darkow reported on roof leaks and will be looking for a mason contractor to assess the problem and provide solutions. Clegg reported that more children are showing interest in attending Sunday School and/or Friday Youth Events.
7. The Council went into closed session to discuss employee compensation. Motion by Schulz to switch the Christian Education Director position from salary to hourly with no cap on the amount of hours worked. Motion seconded by Darkow. Motion carried 5-1. Motion by Clegg to adopt the following hourly rates for the following positions beginning with the August 8, 2022, pay period.
   Secretary - $21/hour
   Bookkeeper - $18/hour
   Christian Education Director - $18/hour
   Custodian 15/hour
   Motion seconded by Schulz. Motion carried 5-1.
8. Cuff reported that a lesson plan is being finalized for re-starting confirmation classes this Fall. Tentatively, there will be 10 sessions for participants that cover the 7th through 12th grades. There are currently four volunteers that have offered to lead this process. The curriculum was purchased by UCC-New London from the UCC WI Conference. The September Church Newsletter will include more details, schedules, and application forms.

Motion to adjourn by Clegg. Motion seconded by Kloehn-Pluger. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

UPDATE FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Since October of 2021, the search committee has previewed the professional profiles of 14 candidates. In February of 2022 they interviewed a candidate, brought that candidate in for a visit, presented an offer and the candidate chose another church. The pool of potential candidates is very small and shallow, just as we are experiencing in many professions. So, the challenge for many churches searching is the reality that a single candidate could have many offers. At this time Kaylene Kloehn-Pluger and Andrea Rathsack have resigned from the search committee. Our deep appreciation goes out to both, who have worked so diligently on this task. Dave Thiel and Lois Cuff are now joining the remaining 6 active members to continue the commission of our search. The profile will be realigned to reflect the membership changes and the financial challenges we now face as we rekindle our congregation. It is our hope to continue our search and with the grace of God and the strength of the Holy Spirit we will find the best candidate for our faithful members. Please keep praying in our direction.

UCC-Choirs!

Greetings Fellow Congregation Members,

The time is coming near for wonderful music to start filling the sanctuary again! I wanted to give you some information for those of you who would like to join us in making a joyful noise for the Lord:

Angeli Choir (Vocal Ensemble)

The Angeli Choir meets every Wednesday from 6:33-7:33pm. This group of singers work on a variety of different music and sing in every traditional service (twice monthly). Singing experience is not required!

Spirit Bells (Handbell Ensemble)

The Spirit Bells meet every Thursday from 6:30-7:30pm. This group of ringers work both to enrich the congregation, but also the community at large. The bells ring one traditional service per month, but this year the Spirit Bells will also perform concerts with the Badger State Girl Choir as well as travel to the Batlic's for the Festival of Three. Previous ringing experience is not required.

Rehearsals start Wednesday Sept. 7th for Angeli Choir and Thursday Sept. 8th for Spirit Bells

This is going to be an exciting year of music here at UCC and I can't wait to see you all soon!

Many Thanks,
~Billy Brandt

WASHINGTON CENTER COMMUNITY CUPBOARD
THANK YOU

We wanted to take a moment and say **Thank You** for your continued support and generosity to the New London Community Cupboard. In August we went shopping with some of the funds that have been donated by you and bought a lot of items for the shelves. Some of the items you may wonder about, but the reactions were worth the dollars.

Something as simple as a jar of mayonnaise brought a big smile to the face of a young child because they missed it so much on their sandwich, but mom had said she just couldn't justify the price at the store. That smile was worth every dollar.

Items purchased were:

Ketchup, mustard, miracle whip/mayonnaise, chicken noodle soup (yes we were out of it), cereal, toilet paper, laundry soap, shampoo, men/women deodorant, body wash and saltines.

These are all items that people ask for on a regular basis and I'm glad we can supply them thru your generosity. As for what is needed in the future, well **EVERYTHING**. Donations have been done a lot over the summer and also our allotment of items from federal commodities. Our shelves are looking quite bare, but we are happy that we can put items on them thru your donations. If you want to give cash we will shop, if you want to donate non-perishables here are a few ideas but anything is welcome.

Soup, Juice, condiments, cereal (let's make it fun for the kids), canned tomatoes, canned peas or green beans. These are just a few items. Anything and everything is appreciated.

Thank you again for your continued generosity and support of the New London Community Cupboard.
Rita, Mike and Michelle

FIRST ANNUAL HOPE AWARDS –
TO BENEFIT THE MISSION OF HOPE ORGANIZATION

The Mission of Hope House is pleased to announce our First Annual Hope Awards event on Wednesday October 12, 2022 at Crystal Falls here in New London.

The unique, engaging, and educational evening will honor those in our community who have made a difference in the lives of others, as well as offering an evening to share what the mission is doing, how our community can help, and offer a vision to what we need to continue to do.

There will be cocktails and appetizers beginning at 5pm, Food Stations will open at 5:30pm and the program honoring our special recipients will begin at 6pm. The community is being asked to nominate those individuals, organizations, businesses, students, and other community resources who are making a difference.

Nominations and ticket purchases will be available on our website at www.missionofhopehouse.org and questions can be directed to our Shelter Office at 920-249-4553. Sponsorships for this event are also being sought from our community. Our time, talent and financial gifts make a difference in making New London known as a giving community

Warmly,
Patricia Toney, Board Member/Ambassador

WAUPACA COUNTY DRIVER TRANSPORTATION

The Waupaca County Volunteer Driver Transportation Program provides safe, affordable, non-emergency medical transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities. They transport individuals all over the state of Wisconsin, so they have access to the medical they need. You are asked to give three business days' notice in advance of the requested trip. Call Janna at 715-258-6279. In town-$2.25; In county-$5.00; Out of county under 100 miles-$10.00; Out of county 100-200 miles-$15.00; Out of county 200+ miles-$55.00.

Supply Pastor: Rev. Kevin Dembinski
Church phone number- 920-982-3731

Secretary/Financial Secretary: Kathy Phillips (kathyphillips@)uccnl.onmicrosoft.com)
Secretary's In Office Hours:
Wednesday & Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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

Custodian: Amy Hord

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

Christian Education:

Christian Education Coordinator:

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

Men's Choir Director: Lois Cuff

www.facebook.com/UCCNL

CHECK US OUT!

Leadership Teams:

Church Coordinator: Lois Cuff -920-359-0531

Church Council:

Moderator: Dave Thiel: 920-810-0865– davethiel56@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:
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: 920-875-0197 - lauerdorea@gmail.com
Education Ministry Chair: Tina Clegg: 920-982-7952 -tlclegg29@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
Ministry Support Team: Debi Williams, Bonnie Wandke, Rita Thiel, Gary Prost and Pat Toney
Search Committee: Bobbye Allen, Kris Drath, Gary Henke, Peter Lauer, Katelyn Schmidt, Ted Williams, Dave Thiel and Lois Cuff

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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 September 4th

August 2022

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

First Congregational UCC
September 2022

October 2022

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	**2**	**3** **10:00 a.m.-** AA in Fellowship Hall
4 *Communion* **9:00 a.m**.- Traditional Worship **10:00 a.m.-**Fellowship Time	**5**	**6** **7:30 a.m.-** Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	**7** **6:30 p.m.-**Angeli Choir	**8** **6:30 p.m.-**Spirit Bells	**9**	**10** **10:00 a.m.-** AA in Fellowship Hall
11 **9:00 a.m**.- Praise Worship **10:00 a.m.-**Fellowship Time	**12** **6:00 p.m.-**Council in Fellowship Hall	**13** **7:30 a.m.-** Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	**14** **6:30 p.m.-**Angeli Choir	**15** **6:30 p.m.-**Spirit Bells	**16**	**17** **10:00 a.m.-** AA in Fellowship Hall **10:00 a.m.-** **2:00 p.m.–** Church Carnival
18 **9:00 a.m**.- Traditional Worship **10:00 a.m.-**Fellowship Time	**19**	**20** **7:30 a.m.-** Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	**21** **6:30 p.m.-**Angeli Choir	**22** **6:30 p.m.-**Spirit Bells	**23** **4:00 p.m.-** Youth Night	**24** **10:00 a.m.-** AA in Fellowship Hall
25 **9:00 a.m**.- Praise Worship **10:00 a.m.-**Fellowship Time	**26**	**27** **7:30 a.m.-** Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	**28** **6:00 p.m.-** **7:30 p.m.-** Confirmation Class **6:30 p.m.-**Angeli Choir	**29** **6:30 p.m.-**Spirit Bells	**30**	

September Worship Volunteers

Please sign up to fill the open dates.	**September 4, 2022 Traditional Service**	**September 11, 2022 Praise Service**	**September 18, 2022 Traditional Service**	**September 25, 2022 Praise Service**
Communion	9:00 a.m.-	✖	✖	✖
Lay Reader	9:00 a.m.- Deb Calabria	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.- Deb Calabria	9:00 a.m.-
Media Shout	9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman	9:00 a.m.- Gary Henke	9:00 a.m.- Kris Drath	9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman
Usher's	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-
Greeters	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.-
Fellowship	10:00 a.m.-Julie & Alan Manthe	10:00 a.m.-Bill & Deb Calabria	10:00 a.m.-Rita & Dave Thiel	10:00 a.m.-Darlene Krake & Mary Marcks

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2-Billie Jean Allen
4- Cayden Bozich
7-Kay Boelter,
10-Abigail Kent
11- Lisa Watzlawick
12-Maxine Cristy
13-Linda Heimbruch
15-Maddie Schmidt
16-Justin Buschke, Randy Miller
20-Debbie Fabisiak
21-Mattie Gould
21-Nash Lehnherr, Anderson Lehnherr
23-Brooklyn Treague
24-Mary Schulz
25-Karie Thorpe, Leah Porath
26-Brooke Techlin
27-Debi Williams, Susan Moore
29-April Treague, Liz Doehling, Samuel Krueger
30-Sacia Williams

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1-Ron & Kris Drath
3-Wally & Mickey Schmidt
4-Kyle & Jen Lubinski
12-Larry & Karen Laedtke
14-LaWayne & Nancy Zirbel
26-Kevin & Peggy Taylor
14-Donn & Lisa Howard
17-Kevin & Courtney Gross
18-Don & Karyl Hebel
20-Joe & Kay Boelter
22-Mike & Kathy Foster
25– Jim & Mavis Knaack
29-Bill & Deb Calabria