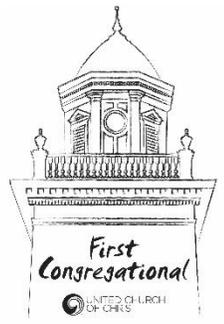




# Blessing our Community



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

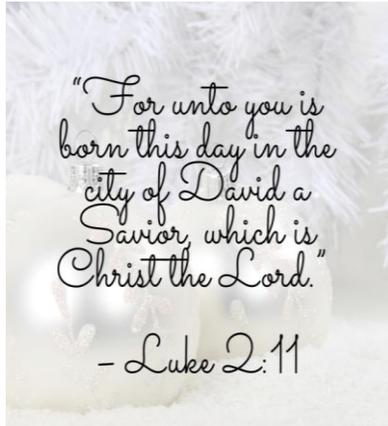
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Savides  
pastor@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com

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

## DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

### PASTOR'S COLUMN

#### The 11th Box



Pastor Bill Simpson tells the story of a Thanksgiving miracle:

*“What is your most memorable Thanksgiving? For me, it was on the eve of the day. The church had the names of 10 families scheduled to receive food baskets. A local merchant donated hams, and groceries were purchased from the food bank. As we packed the boxes in the fellowship hall, these families were excited over the food they were taking home. It would be the best meal many had enjoyed in months.*

*“As they were picking up their boxes, another family arrived. Father, mother and three children piled out of an old pickup truck and came inside the hall. This was a new family, not on our list. They had just heard there was food being distributed by a church.*

*“I explained that we did not have enough for an extra family. As I tried to assure them that I would do what I could, an amazing thing happened. With no prompting, a woman put down the box she was carrying and quickly found an empty box to place beside it. She began removing items from her box to share. Soon others followed her lead, and these poor people created an 11th box for the new family.”*

I find this simple story from Bill Simpson to be both inspiring and informative. We imagine that generosity is born out of having much more than we need. But those 10 families who shared their food with an 11<sup>th</sup> were not wealthy. They were living on the edge and had plenty of reason to hold tight to what they had. But still they were generous.

Generosity, it seems, emerges from an attitude of bounty, seeing the possibility of sharing whatever we have great or small. As your annual giving commitments come in for next year, I am humbled by the generosity of all our givers, who give because they have an attitude of bounty, that God’s good gifts and marvelous grace abounds. And those gifts, great or small, add together to support the ministry of this church, a place where an 11<sup>th</sup> box is always being prepared for the hungry and the hurting, the lonely and the lost, the homeless and the shunned; for those as far away as our Global Ministries can reach, and those as close as right next door.

Your friend and fellow giver,  
Rev. Steve Savides

#### SOME OF THE THINGS IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

- Prayers & Thank You's: Page 2
- Council Minutes: Page 4
- Advent Workshop: Page 5
- Sunday school: Page 6
- Christmas For Kids: Page 7
- UCC Ladies: Page 8

## HEAR OUR PRAYERS O LORD”

### Of Healing and Comfort for:

- ☀ Emily Calabria
- ☀ Ginny Pharr
- ☀ Gaylord Hedtke
- ☀ John Pieper
- ☀ Sandy Eithun
- ☀ Ardeen Hofberger
- ☀ Jerene Managan on her battle with cancer
- ☀ Gene Bruss
- ☀ Prudy Fletcher
- ☀ For the family of Bob Gralapp. Bob’s funeral was here on November 22<sup>nd</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 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 Gene Bruss for his hand carved angels for each of our confirmands.
- ♥ Thank you to those who purchased items from the Giving Tree for children in our area.
- ♥ Thank you for the lovely flowers on my birthday! Dee and I are so grateful for all the ways in which you have given us a loving welcome to this church. ~ *Pastor Steve*

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!**

You may notice a few changes in our worship order on Sunday mornings. As our worship team adds Pastor Steve as our worship leader, we are trying some things to make our service the most meaningful it can be. We appreciate your patience during this time and welcome your constructive feedback on our efforts. May God continue to bless our church's worship!

## DECORATING THE SANCTUARY WITH POINSETTIAS



If you would like to have a poinsettia plant placed around the Christmas tree in memory or honor of a loved one, any color and size are welcomed. Please have the plant to church after December 13<sup>th</sup>, clearly marked with your name and the name of the person/persons in whose honor or memory you are donating in. Please fill out the form below before December 13<sup>th</sup>, place it in offering plate or mail to the church, so we can get it in the bulletins on Christmas Eve. Please pick up your plant before January 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for helping us to beautify our Sanctuary.

-----  
 Yes, I plan on having a poinsettia plant at church for Christmas.

In memory/honor (please circle one) of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please drop off in offering plate or to the church office *by December 13<sup>th</sup>*.

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: 4:30 & 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>: 9:00 a.m.

### **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 OCTOBER 2022 - 73**

**GENERAL OPERATING INCOME JANUARY THRU OCTOBER 2022: \$97,472.37**

**GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES JANUARY THRU OCTOBER 2022: \$91,272.50**

**NET INCOME: \$6,199.87**

### 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.

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.

Every good  
and perfect gift  
is from above

James 1:17

# UCC CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

## FELLOWSHIP HALL – 6PM

1. Called to order at 6:05 pm. Council Members Present: Jerry Schulz, Tina Clegg, Jim Williams, Dorea Lauer, Lois Cuff, Pastor Steve Savides. Council Members Absent: Jamie Darkow, Dave Thiel. Friends Present: Billy Brandt
2. Opening prayer by Pastor Steve Savides
3. Minutes from October 10, 2022 were reviewed. Motion to approve by Schulz and, seconded by Cuff. Unanimous Approval.
4. Minutes from October 30, 2022, were reviewed. Motion to approve by Schulz and seconded by Williams. Unanimous Approval.
5. Pastor Report: Steve summarized his first 2 weeks on the job. He is keeping track of his hours and has gone beyond 25 hours each week but is working on organizing his time. Discussion on involving Kevin. He is meeting with new members. Will begin to plan for an Installation Sunday after the holiday season.
6. Request for membership removal by Mike and Jennifer Anklam & Konnor Kuppemus was reviewed. Motion to approve by Schulz and seconded by Clegg. Unanimous approval. Request for membership reinstatement for Colleen Berry was reviewed. Motion to approve by Schulz and seconded by Clegg. Unanimous approval.
7. Final "Call Agreement" was reviewed. As requested by Steve, changes were made as to how his money was distributed to help with his personal tax impact. \$1055.56 more was added to the final contract for SECA costs. Motion to approve by Schulz and seconded by Clegg. Unanimous approval.
8. A gesture of appreciation was discussed for Pastor Kevin's pulpit time with us. January 1, 2022, Kevin will be preaching, and a special fellowship of appreciation will follow the service. Tina Clegg will look into a gift for Kevin.
9. Discussion regarding Christmas holiday services resulted in: Christmas Eve 4:30 live nativity service followed by a 7:00 pm Communion Service and the next day, Christmas Sunday 9:00 am Service.
10. Consideration for the sound system upgrade was finalized to include the new digital sound board, digital stage box, effects rack, one ambient room mic, 2 condenser mics and stands along with the consultation and installation fees to equal \$5937.00 for the project. \$3000 would come from the Memorial Fund and \$3000 from the MACE fund. Motion to approve by Lauer and seconded by Schulz. Unanimous approval.
11. Discussion regarding a new leak in the flat roof of the church entryway. Our roof inspection company ARC has recommended a new PVC membrane to stop the leaking. It can be installed for \$5000.00. in the next few months. This money would be taken from the Church Improvement Fund. Motion to approve by Schulz and seconded by Clegg. Unanimous approval.
12. Discussion was held regarding starting a church website again. Billy Brandt has volunteered to research possible platforms and come back to the council with recommendations. Dorea Lauer has agreed to assist with the set up and Kathy and Steve would be placing information on the website to keep it current. More information will be presented at another meeting.
13. Ministry Chairs and Financial reports: Financial reports submitted were reviewed and accepted. The bell choir will be playing for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service at Trinity Lutheran Church. The bell choir will also be playing at the Badger State Girl Choir Concert in Neenah on December 16.
14. New Business:
  - The Stewardship letter to the congregation and the 2023 pledge card will be reworked and mailed soon.
  - Request was made to reinstate Mary Schulz as the monitor for the MACE Fund. Motion to approve by Lauer and seconded by Clegg. Unanimous approval.
15. Closed Session: none was needed
16. Motion to adjourn by Lauer and seconded by Clegg. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join us on Saturday, December 17th, 4:00 p.m. for Christmas Caroling. We will meet at church, then go caroling. After caroling, we will gather at the Cuff home at N2299 Ledge Hill Road in Hortonville. Bring a holiday snack to pass if you can. Come and be a part of an outreach experience taking the Christmas spirit out into our community.



### SECOND ADDITION: SANDY & LOIS CUFF GETTING TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We were married in July of 1986. We met in the White Heron Chorale now the NEW Voices, so music has been our common bond. We have one adopted daughter, Maggie, married to Alex Sudbrink with 4 incredible grand boys. We all reside and work together at Cuff Farms... a 5th generation family farm with pick your own strawberries and pumpkins along with pasture raised chicken and pork. Lois is retired from a 37-year career in public education as teacher, Principal and Superintendent.

Sandy was born and raised in this church. His early ancestors were founding members. Lois joined about 36 years ago when they married.

Sandy has served on past councils and vision groups. He also did the snow plowing for many years and helped with building maintenance. He has been a choir member, 4-the-Lord Quartet member, the funeral singer and now sings with the Praise Band. Lois has been part of the music making in this church from her joining.... Directing the choir, bell choir, children's choir, Cantata Choir, playing the organ and now directing and playing keyboard for the Praise Connection. She also served on 2 search committees and the council.

We love our church family.... So giving and supportive. This community is like family to us.

We love our farm and our country lifestyle. Our grandkids are living on the farm, so we have a present role in their lives. We love fishing in Canada and winter on the farm!

## ADVENT WORKSHOP

Come join us December 4 for an intergenerational Advent Workshop in Fellowship Hall from 10-11. There will be several activity stations to get us in the holiday spirit as we anticipate the coming of Jesus. This replaces our first Sunday of the month Sunday School class and will be an opportunity for several confirmands to provide service to our church. All are welcomed to participate.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is using the curriculum *The Kids' Travel Guide to the Beatitudes* this year. So far, we have an understanding of how Jesus gathered the disciples and began his teachings. Our Pathway Points have been 1) Jesus wants to be our friend, 2) We want to follow Jesus, and 3) Following Jesus' teachings changes our hearts for good. In each lesson we "travel" around the classroom learning, doing, and making a snack and a souvenir from our trip. This holiday season we are asking the children to create the Socks of Love project at home that they can donate to the Mission of Hope House homeless shelter or Harbor House, the domestic abuse shelter.

*Wendy Dallman*  
*Sunday School Coordinator*

**Dates for Sunday School (first and third Sundays of each month):**  
**December 4 – Advent multigenerational workshop after service**  
**December 18 – class as usual**

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Grab yourself some friends and/or family to form a team and coordinate the Christmas Day Dinner we offer to the community.

**Have Fun and Fellowship.**

### **Objectives of this Role**

To start the Traditional Christmas Dinner back up at church. It's been on pause the last several years due to Covid but prior to that we had 8 great years and served hundreds, yes hundreds of meals both at church, delivery and take out.

### **Skills**

Like to have fun and fellowship with lots of great people.  
A few skills in organization would be helpful.

### **Experience**

None required

Mike and Michelle Campbell and Candi and Bob Schmitz who have coordinated the dinner for years will help you get started and share any knowledge or experiences we can. If you have new ideas, go for it. There is no right or wrong way.

If you are interested in starting the dinner back up contact Lois Cuff at 920-359-0531. If you choose to take on this job, know there will be lots of tears of joy, heartwarming moments, laughs and, giggles and most of all, more memories than you can imagine.

## WASHINGTON CENTER COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanks to your generous donations to the Community Cupboard, we were able to supply potatoes, gravy and stuffing for the Thanksgiving dinner give away. We were able to purchase 120 of each item.

We appreciate your continued support. If you are looking to make a donation, we can use cereal, hamburger helper, manwich, crackers and soup as just a few ideas. Any and all donations are appreciated. The number of clients continues to grow. If you would like to make a monetary donation, we will do the shopping for you.

Thank you

*Rita, Mike and Michelle*



## CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

THANK YOU for your generosity!! All of our Giving Tree ornaments to bless children with Christmas gifts this year have been removed from the tree, and their gifts have been pouring in!! We are truly grateful.

By the time this newsletter reaches your hands, these gifts have been received, blessed, organized, and distributed (Dec 1<sup>st</sup>) to bless families with the gracious love and generosity from your heart to theirs. Thank you to Pastor Steve for the joyful prayer and blessing for these gifts, and for the families and children that will receive them!! For theirs is the Kingdom of God!

But the hard work continues. We are in need of **VOLUNTEERS** to help with the collection, organization and distribution of toys in our Toy Room! Many hands will allow this outreach to run smoothly, so please consider offering your precious time and serving hands in the spirit of Christmas giving. We ask that you sign up so we can rest knowing we have enough help, although we will welcome any drop-in help if you should find the time.

December 1st, 8:00am – 6:00pm

December 5th-6th, 8:00am – 4:00pm

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am – 6:00pm

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am – 12:00noon

We are grateful for each and every one of you!! Thank you for sharing your prayers, your time, your resources, and your hearts in serving our community and those in need this Christmas.

Blessings,

*Karyl & Gloria*

## UCC LADIES

Guess What?!? The ladies of UCC are going to have another luncheon date! On Friday, December 16th, we will be meeting at 11:30 am, down at the Waters Restaurant, 815 W. Wolf River Ave., New London. We will order off the menu and I hear they have a great salad bar also! If anyone would like to think of something special for a little Christmas extra--please let me know.

Update on our outing on Monday, November 14th--22 ladies met at the River Rail Bar and Grill, Shiocton, for their famous chicken special (p.s. not everyone had chicken 😊). A good time was had by all AND we had a special "drop in" guess--Pastor Kevin! Thank you to Pastor Kevin for taking the time out of his busy schedule to "check" on us.

Blessings,  
*Sandy Conradt*  
920-538-4114

## UCC SPIRIT BELLS

Thank you for considering a donation to the UCC Spirit Bells as we look to raise funds for our upcoming trip to the Baltics. We have been invited, as one of three ensembles from the United States, to perform at the Festival of Three in June 2023. Not only does this opportunity allow us to perform with some of the leading ensembles in the world, but we will also be world premiering a piece by the famous Estonian composer Part Uusberg. As the only bell choir in the festival's history to be invited we are beyond excited and cannot wait to represent the UCC and New London as a whole.

Thank you again for your support of our ringers and arborers of God's love and will for this congregation.

### **Partner (\$0-49)**

This tier unlocks the following perks:

- Personalized thank you card for your donation

### **Friend (\$50-99)**

This tier unlocks the following perks:

- All previous tiers ● Postcard from each city we perform in

### **Sponsor (\$100-199)**

This tier unlocks the following perks:

- All previous tiers
- Name on donors shirt that will be worn by all UCC Spirit Bell members

### **Leader (\$200-499)**

This tier unlocks the following perks:

- All previous tiers
- Signed conductor copy of commission by Part Uusberg

### **Honorary Member (\$500 and Up)**

This tier unlocks the following perks:

- All previous tiers
- Name engraved on a bell that travels with the bell choir throughout the tour

Donations Can Be Made To: **UCC-New London Spirit Bells** Please make sure any donations are marked with the Spirit Bells and your name to ensure accurate tracking

**Pastor: Reverend Dr. Stephen Savides**  
**pastor@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com**  
**Church phone number- 920-982-3731**

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

**Christian Education:**

Sunday School Facilitator: Wendy Dallman

Youth Group Coordinator: Dorea Lauer

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 – pastor@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com

### Church Council:

Moderator: Dave Thiel: 920-810-0865– davethiel56@gmail.com

Vice Moderator: Lois Cuff: 920-359-0531 – cufflois@gmail.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: 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

**Pastoral Support:** Pastor Kevin Dembinski

## DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

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

**10:00 a.m. – Sunday school and Adult Study (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's)**

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

*Communion will be on December 4<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Eve at the 7:00 p.m.*



| November 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 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

| January 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 December 2022

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|
|  |  |   |   | <b>1</b><br><b>8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.-</b><br>Gift distribution for<br>CFK<br><b>6:30 p.m.-Spirit Bells</b>   | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br><b>10:00 a.m.-</b> AA in<br>Fellowship Hall  |
| <b>4</b> <i>Communion</i><br><b>9:00 a.m.-</b> Praise Service<br><b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Sunday School<br><b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Fellowship<br>Time | <b>5</b><br><b>4:30 p.m.-</b><br>Overeaters Anon.<br><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">8-4 -Toy Room CFK</div> | <b>6</b> <b>7:30 a.m.-</b><br>Contemplative<br>Prayer on Zoom                                       | <b>7</b><br><b>10:00-4:00-</b><br>Organizing Toys<br>in Fellowship Hall | <b>8</b><br><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">10-6 Toy Room Distribution -CFK</div><br><b>6:30 p.m.-Spirit Bells</b> | <b>9</b><br><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">8-12<br/>Friday</div> | <b>10</b><br><b>10:00 a.m.-</b> AA in<br>Fellowship Hall   |
| <b>11</b><br><b>9:00 a.m.-</b> Traditional<br>Worship<br><b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Fellowship<br>Time   | <b>12</b><br><b>4:30 p.m.-</b><br>Overeaters Anon.<br><br><b>6:00 p.m.-</b> Council<br>in Fellowship Hall  | <b>13</b><br><b>7:30 a.m.-</b><br>Contemplative<br>Prayer on Zoom                                   | <b>14</b><br><br><b>6:30 p.m.-</b> Angeli<br>Choir                      | <b>15</b><br><b>10:00-1:00:</b><br>Communities of<br>Practice use of<br>Fellowship Hall  | <b>16</b><br><b>11:30 a.m.-</b><br>UCC Ladies<br>at The Waters  | <b>17</b><br><b>10:00 a.m.-</b> AA in<br>Fellowship Hall   |
| <b>18</b><br><b>9:00 a.m.-</b> Praise Worship<br><b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Sunday School<br><b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Fellowship<br>Time                 | <b>19</b><br><b>4:30 p.m.-</b><br>Overeaters Anon.   | <b>20</b><br><b>7:30 a.m.-</b><br>Contemplative<br>Prayer on Zoom<br><b>Newsletter<br/>Deadline</b> | <b>21</b><br><br><b>6:30 p.m.-</b> Angeli<br>Choir                      | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i><br><b>10:00 a.m.-</b> AA in<br>Fellowship Hall<br><b>4:30 p.m.-</b> Christmas Eve<br>Live Nativity<br><b>7:00 p.m.-</b> Christmas Eve<br>Service with communion |
| <b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i><br><b>9:00 a.m.-</b> Traditional<br>Worship – Choir   | <b>26</b><br><b>4:30 p.m.-</b><br>Overeaters Anon.   | <b>27</b><br><b>7:30 a.m.-</b><br>Contemplative<br>Prayer on Zoom                                   | <b>28</b>   | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>   | <b>31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i><br><b>10:00 a.m.-</b> AA in<br>Fellowship Hall   |

## December Worship Volunteers

| <i>Please sign up<br/>to fill the open<br/>dates.</i> | <b>December 4, 2022<br/>Praise Service</b> | <b>December 11, 2022<br/>Traditional Service</b> | <b>December 18, 2022<br/>Praise Service</b> | <b>December 24, 2022<br/>Christmas Eve</b>    | <b>December 25, 2022<br/>Traditional Service</b> |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Communion</b>                                      | 9:00 a.m.-                                 | ✘  | ✘   | 7:00 p.m.-                                    | ✘  |
| <b>Lay Reader</b>                                     | 9:00 a.m.- Deb Calabria                    | 9:00 a.m.- Deb Calabria                          | 9:00 a.m.- Pat Toney                        | 7:00 p.m.-                                    | 9:00 a.m.-                                       |
| <b>Media Shout</b>                                    | 9:00 a.m.- Gary Henke                      | 9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman                         | 9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman                    | 4:30 p.m.- Kris Drath<br>7:00 p.m.-Kris Drath | 9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman                         |
| <b>Usher's</b>  | 9:00 a.m.-                                 | 9:00 a.m.-                                       | 9:00 a.m.-                                  | 4:30 p.m.-<br>7:00 p.m.-                      | 9:00 a.m.-                                       |
| <b>Greeters</b>                                       | 9:00 a.m.-                                 | 9:00 a.m.-                                       | 9:00 a.m.-                                  | 4:30 p.m.-                                    | 9:00 a.m.-                                       |
| <b>Fellowship</b>                                     | 10:00 a.m.-Julie & Alan<br>Manthe          | 10:00 a.m.-Bill & Deb<br>Calabria                | 10:00 a.m.-Rita & Dave<br>Thiel             | ✘   | ✘  |

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1-Clair Herzfeldt  
 2-Nancy Herzfeldt  
 4-Jared Buschke  
 9-Tara Korth  
 10-Robert Selle, Brent Dusek  
 13-Sophia Techlin, Susan Weyenberg  
 14-Blair Schulz  
 15-Alan Manthe

16-Katalina Baumgart  
 20-Yvonne Burkot  
 22-Sheri Bressler  
 23-Kelly Parker  
 24-Gary Prost, Ian Oberstadt  
 27-Kaden Bethke  
 30-Bonnie Behling  
 31-Tristen Gulbrandsen

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

14-Bob & Candi Schmitz  
 27-Gary Prost & Gloria Kjer  
 30-Dean & Linda Peterson  
 31-Dan & Mary Gould

Christmas Fund offering envelopes will be on the round table in the Narthex. If using a check out, please make it out to First Congregational and in the memo-Christmas Fund.



## Year after Year, Your Gift Brings Joy

**T**he Advent season of waiting and watching is also a season of preparing. Our generosity prepares the way for hope, peace, justice, and community. United Church of Christ retired clergy, servants of the church, have spent lifetimes baptizing and blessing, teaching and preaching, marrying and burying, comforting and empowering God's people. Now, through the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross, we have the opportunity to sustain and empower them.

Our gifts of gratitude and love bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the sorrowful, and deep love to those who have ministered in God's love for so long. By giving generously to the Christmas Fund, we will help retired clergy, church staff, and their families to pay bills, maintain health insurance, and meet emergency needs. Year after year, our gifts make a difference, easing the anxiety of constant financial worries.

Last year, the Christmas Fund, administered by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, provided over \$1.6 million in pension and health benefits supplementation, emergency grants, and thank-you checks to retired servants of the church and their families. Every cent of that money came from the pockets of people like you. Please give as generously as you are able this year!

### In 2021, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 231 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,104,479)
- Health benefits supplementation for 87 retired clergy and lay employees (\$177,600)
- Emergency grants for 53 individuals and families (\$150,338)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 509 retired clergy and lay employees (\$254,000)

## The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund