



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

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

UNITY AND THE GAMES

If you can (for the moment) give up watching the latest Cats-Playing-the-Piano video on YouTube, I want you to check out the hilarious 2012 recording of the parents of American Olympic gymnast Alexandra Raisman watching their daughter perform her floor routine during the Olympic Games held in London. (Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hv357oqlZ2I>) They twist and turn in their seats, grimacing sympathetically, blurting out words of advice and encouragement that obviously couldn't reach their daughter tumbling half a gymnasium away. Their behavior reminded us that the umbilical cord may have been cut long ago, but the connection between parents and daughter remained.

Part of my laughter at the Raisman's is a laughter of recognition. I can remember being on the sidelines watching one of our daughters playing soccer and sympathetically contorting myself so much that I fell to the ground. Most disturbing is the fact that, at first, I didn't even notice that I had fallen because I had never taken my eyes off my daughter.

Parents have such a deep sense of connection with their children. That's what we learn from the Raisman's, but that doesn't explain why so many of us will have our eyes glued to the Olympic Games in the days to come. Watching T.V., I will twist and turn for a fencer from Taiwan. I will clean and jerk with a female weightlifter from Turkey. The Olympics teach us that our connection runs deeper than simply family.

I can still remember grabbing my head sympathetically in 1988 when American Olympic diver Greg Louganis hit his head on the diving board in competition. Thirty minutes, one concussion, and five stitches later he climbed the stairs over the pool again and executed a perfect, gold-medal-winning dive. Like many around the world, I jumped to my feet. We are connected to one another as fellow humans on this planet, fellow children of God.

Isn't that what Jesus was hoping for when he prayed to God in John's Gospel that humanity "*may all be one, even as you and I are one*"? Isn't that the unity we hope to experience in the Olympic Games?

Continued on next page...

A few years ago at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the gun they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with the relish of running the race to the finish with hopes of winning; all, that is, except one boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and paused. Then they all turned around and went back - every one of them. One girl with Down's syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better." Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line.

Everyone in the stadium jumped to their feet, and their cheering went on for 10 solid minutes. They cheered as one people connected to one another as fellow children of God on this planet. May God be praised for unity!

Your friend and fellow minister,
Rev. Steve Savides

HEAR OUR PRAYERS, O LORD”

Of Healing and Comfort for:

- ☀ Emily Calabria
- ☀ Gaylord Hedtke
- ☀ John Pieper
- ☀ Milton Staskal
- ☀ Ann Schneider
- ☀ Katelyn Thyssen-Gunderson
- ☀ For the family of Maxine Cristy. Maxine’s funeral was here on May 30th.
- ☀ For the family of Liz Wiesner. Liz’s funeral was here on July 10th.
- ☀ For the family of Nick Thiel. Nick’s funeral was here on July 13th.



Father God, we lift up all those who are facing illness today. We ask that You would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of Your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Of Celebration for:

- ☀ Theodore Oscar Papenfuss, son of Joshua & Ashley Papenfuss. Theodore was baptized here on June 30th.

If you would like to be listed in the prayers, please contact the office.

HELPING HANDS FUND

On occasion, those with special emergency needs approach the church looking for help. Through the years, our Helping Hands fund has been used to provide food, gas cards, and limited rental assistance. That fund has been running low and would be blessed by some giving designated for that fund. Thank you for your generosity.



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 Wendy Dallman for her many years as Sunday School coordinator. Wendy put in countless volunteer hours each week preparing and teaching our Sunday school children.
- ♥ Dear UCC family, I can't thank you all enough for the kind messages, hugs, and overwhelming support that you have shown me...especially since my husband had his stroke in February. He is doing very well in the recovery process and now it will just take time to regain skills that were lost and to return to work. God Bless all of you. *Jolene Mowrer*
- ♥ Thank you all for your ongoing prayers and support with my cancer battle. I am considered "no evidence of disease" and will be continuing oral chemo for another year but am feeling great! I couldn't have gotten this far without all your prayers and words of encouragement. I am blessed to be a part of our UCC community. *Jerene Managan*

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 JUNE - 64

GENERAL OPERATING INCOME TO DATE IN 2024: \$92,828.77

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES TO DATE IN 2024: \$73,096.00

NET INCOME: \$19,732.77

QUESTIONS OF FAITH SERMON SERIES, SUMMER 2024

This Summer we are again preaching on Questions of Faith submitted by our church members and friends. We were so pleased to receive many submissions. Here is the line-up for the month of August and September 1st:

- Aug. 4 "How Do We Deal with Doubts?"
- Aug. 11 "What's Up with the Book of Revelation?"
- Aug. 18 "How Do We Encourage Family Members to Embrace Church?"
- Aug. 25 "Who Will We Meet in Heaven?"
- Sept. 1 "When Is Jesus Coming Back?"

UCC CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 8, 2024 – 6:00PM
COUNCIL MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 6:02pm/Roll Call – Council Members Present: Dorea Brandt, Pete Lauer, Sherie Bressler, Steve Savides, Lois Cuff, and Dave Thiel. Guests: Billy Brandt.
2. Opening Prayer by Pastor Steve Savides.
3. Approve Meeting Minutes from May 13, 2024 – Minutes from the May 13, 2024, meeting were not distributed and will be reviewed and approved at the August meeting.
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 covered the following topics: Worship Service Highlights; Worship Schedule for July & August; Community Outreach; Larger Church Outreach.
5. Financial Reports – Discussion regarding current financial reports.
6. Resignation of Sunday School Teacher – A special and grateful thank you goes out to Wendy Dallman for all of the time, effort and love she put into providing opportunities for our young people to receive religious education. She provided an important transition for our church after the pandemic, and we were very fortunate to have her skills and experience guiding this program. The Church Council is committed to providing our children with meaningful religious experiences and educational opportunities. Council member Dorea Brandt will lead a small committee that will put together a plan for moving forward.
7. Facility Repair & Upgrade Projects – Lois Cuff put together a packet of information detailing the various repair and upgrade projects that need to be addressed at the church. With the failure of one of the projectors used during services as well as the air conditioning in the offices and fellowship hall, the need to repair one of our very old boilers before wintertime and fix another leak in the roof, the Council has begun the process of putting together a 3-year capital plan which will address all of the numerous repair and upgrade projects that require our attention. The current church members are the stewards of this beautiful facility, as well as the congregation charged with continuing the long and rich history of First Congregational UCC New London (167 years and counting). Since many of the projects involve significantly more money than the \$10,000 the Church Council is authorized to approve without a Congregational meeting, we will put together a recommended plan of action and submit that to the Congregation for discussion and approval.
8. New Business – The Praise Band will be celebrating 25 years of providing music for UCC services with a recognition Sunday in September.
9. Adjournment – Motion by Lois Cuff to adjourn. Motion seconded by Pete Lauer. The meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 8:02 p.m.

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Operating Income & Specified Funds Revenue Statement
 January through June 2024

Jan - Jun 24

Income		
	Church Improvement Fund	5,515.00
	Operating Income	
	Donated Giving (Goods donated to the church)	362.28
	Initial Offering	68.00
	Pledged General Operating Fund	79,619.60
	Unpledged General Operating Fund	10,803.00
	Loose Offering	1,717.27
	Ash Wednesday Offering	669.00
	Easter Offering	355.00
	Building Rent <small>Donation received from AA & OA</small>	260.00
	Total Operating Income	93,854.15
	Specified Receipts	
	Moon Beach	2,500.00
	Mission of Hope House	75.00
	Shoes for Belize	8,355.00
	Miscellaneous Reimbursement (Cornerstone Reimbursement)	500.00
	Camp AweSum Supplies	675.00
	Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour	438.61
	Book Study	42.70
	Food Pantry	924.00
	Our Church's Wider Mission	4,550.00
	Miscellaneous Specified Receipt (donation received for Sanctuary computer)	809.40
	One Great Hour of Sharing	6,745.00
	Neighbors In Need	6,300.00
	Christmas Fund	6,300.00
	Strengthen the Church	6,475.00
	Bell Choir Income	52.00
	Bell Maintenance Fund	3,975.00
	Total Specified Receipts	48,716.71
	Memorial Fund	68.40
	Camp Receipts	
	Camp Fundraisers (Shamrock Club donation and aluminum cans)	185.10
	Candy Bars	793.00
	Total Camp Receipts	978.10
	Total Income	149,132.36

HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY PRAISE CONNECTION

Music has always been an enhancement tool for community worship and over hundreds of years the popular music of the times found its way into worship services. It is hard to believe that 25 years ago we began our journey of contemporary Christian music to enrich our worship services.

Time for some reminiscing.....August 8, 1999 was the first contemporary worship service at our church called Praise Connection.....we are 25 years old!! It is amazing we have been producing praise music consistently for all those years.

Just a few facts:

- Fall of 1997 planning began for contemporary worship
- Summer of 1998 a weeklong training in Minneapolis was attended
- Fall of 1998 equipment was purchased and some music arrangements were selected
- January 1999 band musicians began to rehearse with singers joining them in May
- August 8, 1999, was the first Praise Connection service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings
- June 4, 2000 PC moved to 6:30 p.m. Sunday rights
- May 6, 2001, PC moved to 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning alternating with traditional service
- September 9, 2001, PC was placed at 8:00 a.m. with traditional service at 10:10 a.m.
- March 15, 2020, final PC service due to COVID-19 shut down
- March 28, 2021, return to PC Service, 9:00 a.m. every other Sunday

We have been through many adjustments and changes in format, always adding new songs and new musicians and are still a vibrant part of Sunday worship 25 years later. We have had 2 keyboardists, 5 drummers, 6 bass players, one guitarist, one harmonica player, one sound tech and 42 different singers rotating through.

Starting with slides and projectors manually operated to our present media shout computerized program with automatic projection.....many equipment upgrades, sound system upgrades and designs.... technology has pushed us forward.

A BIG THANK YOU to all involved from sound board operators, slide projector and media shout operators, media shout song input assistants, tech assistants, instrumentalist and singers, all those who help with setup and tear down of the equipment....thank you all for keeping this effort alive and meaningful as a music option here at the UCC.

Feeling Grateful,

Lois Cuff
PC Music Director

Join us on Sunday, September 8, 9:00 a.m. service, to celebrate 25 years of our Praise Connection Band, Singers and Crew enhancing our service with contemporary praise and worship music.



On Friday, August 23rd we will be going to Shamrock Heights Golf and Supper Club in New London. We will be eating at 11:30. That means anyone who needs a ride, will have to be at the Church by 11:00. We will need drivers!

Whether you are a “first timer” or a regular, come for the food, fun, and fellowship! No meeting, no dues, no being put “on the spot!” Call someone you haven’t seen at church in a while, call a friend or neighbor! Please let me know by end of church on August 18th, so I can give them a “heads up” if you are able to join us.

See you there!
Blessings,
Sandy Conradt
920-538-4114

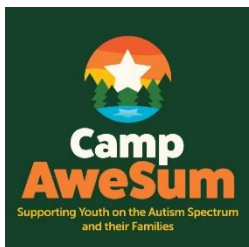


I wanted to take a moment in this newsletter to thank everyone for your support of the bells as we raised money to get our bells refurbished. Pastor Steve talks a lot about being a good steward and I feel a great sense of pride to be a steward of our bells and bell choir. For 40 years, our congregation has been enriched by this program...if only those bells could talk. So, thank you for helping make it possible for the bells to ring another 40 years!

Also, I wanted to take a moment and remind everyone of the Spirit Bells 40th Anniversary tour to England! The registration has opened, and I encourage you to follow the link below to learn more about the trip. Outside of our incredible performances, we will be visiting many historic sites including STONEHENGE! This is a once-in-a-lifetime trip and I sincerely hope you will consider joining us in making lifelong memories.

Link to register: <https://gcmtravel.ee/tour/england-tour-2025/>

Billy Brandt, UCC Bell Director



CAMP AWESUM - THANK YOU!

Camp AweSum is a 501(c)3 organization that provides week-long camping experiences for families affected by autism. 100% of our budget is from donations, as the registration fees families pay goes directly to Moon Beach for their space and services. The support you have shown Camp AweSum is vital to the continuation of our mission:

In support of Camp AweSum, this year the First Congregational UCC, New London family provided:	
1 golf team at Golf Fore Kids	11 filled volunteer slots
Craft supplies	6 rolls of painter’s tape
4 cases of hot dogs	\$75 from Souper Bowl Sunday
Over \$1,600 in personal donations	

YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE!!

WASHINGTON CENTER COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

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

The Cupboard continues to be busy both during the day and in the evening. We see new customers almost every week. Your continued support has helped to keep food and other items on our shelves. Here are some ideas of items we can use:

Soup
Cold cereal
Canned Pasta
Hamburger and Tuna Helper
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Shampoo
Body Wash
Bar Soap



Also a reminder to keep saving both paper and plastic bags as we can use them all the time.

Thank you for your generous support of The Washington Center Community Cupboard.

Mike, Rita and Michelle

MISSION OF HOPE - MEETS THE NEED!

At Mission of Hope, we are all about creating resilient and healthy communities in Waupaca County and rural Wisconsin, through experience, advocacy and evidence-based practices.

For our communities to be healthy and safe, various tangible items are needed which include, though not limited to:

Shampoo, conditioner and body wash
Washcloths, towels, pillows and pillowcases
Twin size bed sheets
Silverware
Laundry soap, hand soap, laundry baskets
Paper towels, toilet paper
Notebooks, planners and mini calendars
Garbage bags
Canned goods
Gift cards (Aldi, Walmart, Festival Foods, Dollar Tree and Dollar General, Kwik trip (fuel only))

When a crisis occurs, families and individuals seek resources. When MOH is supplied with tangible resources, we can offer that helping hand. We can "Meet the Need" in our community.

Our residents also benefit from the donated items for their basic needs besides the ongoing support, treatment and care for their recovery.

Thank you for all the gifts that are given to our mission.

Warmly,
Patricia Toney, President of MOH Board

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Savides
Pastor@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)

Custodian: Amy Hord

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

Facebook manager: Mary Schulz – mryschulz@yahoo.com

Christian Education:

Sunday School Facilitator:

Youth Group Coordinator: Dorea Brandt

Camp Scholarships: Tina Clegg

Music Coordinators:

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

Organist & Accompanist: Lu Ann Rupnow

Choir & Bell Choir Director: Billy Brandt-bilybrandtv@gmail.com

Check out our new website: firstcongouccnl.com



www.facebook.com/UCCNL



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

Fellowship Chair: Sherie Bressler: 920-982-5798 – mrs.hbbressler@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: Lois Cuff: 920-359-0531 – cufflois@gmail.com

Worship Ministry Chair: Dorea Brandt: 920-875-0197 - lauerdorea@gmail.com

UCC Tech Team – Sound & Stream: Carl Sternhagen, Tim Schmidt, Billy Brandt

Media Shout: Gary Henke, Wendy Dallman, Chou Lee

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

Pastoral Support: Pastor Kevin Dembinski

AUGUST SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. -Adult Study

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

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

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



Communion will be on August 4th



July 2024						
	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				

September 2024						
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

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall
4 <i>Communion</i> 5 8:00 a.m.- Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Traditional Service 10:00 a.m.- Fellowship	5 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon.	6 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	7	8	9	10 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall
11 8:00 a.m.- Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Praise Service 10:00 a.m.- Fellowship	12 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. 6:00 p.m. – Council Meeting	13 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	14	15	16	17 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall
18 8:00 a.m.- Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Traditional Service 10:00 a.m.- Fellowship	19 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon.	20 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	21	22	23 11:30 a.m.- UCC Sisterhood at Shamrock Heights	24 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall
25 8:00 a.m.- Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Praise Service 10:00 a.m.- Fellowship	26 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon.	27 7:30 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	28	29	30	31 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall

August Worship Volunteers

Please sign up to fill the open dates.	August 4, 2024 Traditional Service	August 11, 2024 Praise Service	August 18, 2024 Traditional Service	August 25, 2024 Praise Service
Lay Reader	9:00 a.m.- Pat Toney	9:00 a.m.- Deb Calabria	9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman	9:00 a.m. –
Media Shout	9:00 a.m.- Gary Henke	9:00 a.m.-	9:00 a.m.- Chou Lee	9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman
Fellowship	10:00 a.m.- Jim & Debi Williams	10:00 a.m.- Manthe/Bressler	10:00 a.m.- Thiel/Cuff	10:00 a.m.- Manthe/Bressler

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2- Missy Porath
4-Bobbye Allen, Amy Jordan, Tim Schmidt, Reed Schlueter
5-Dave Thiel, Micah Dusek
6-Michelle Campbell, Craig Jordan
7-Sue Gilbert, Robin Ernst
9- Aubree Peterson
11-Krystal Peterson, Erin Bozich
13-Dean Peterson
14- Jeff Weyenberg, Rod Bressler
16-Courtney Gross | 18-Gabe Wohlt
20-Stuart Klauer, Eryka Lauer
21-Kevin Taylor
22- Ben Porath
23-Taylor Meuller
25- Ruth Selle
26- Wendy Schmidt
27-Julia Techlin
29-Bob Schmitz
30- Jayce Welhouse
31- Kaylee Wiegele |
|---|---|

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 1- Tony & Brooke Techlin
- 3-Justin & Liz Doehling
- 4-Jerry & Mary Schulz
- 7-Mike & Michelle Campbell
- 10-Kevin & Tina Clegg
- 14-Stosh & Bonnie Wandke
- 14-Craig & Amy Jordan
- 19-Wayne & Alison Fontecchio
- 21-Robert & Ruth Selle
- 23-Jason & Kelly Parker
- 25-Austin & Randi Bush

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 the office.

