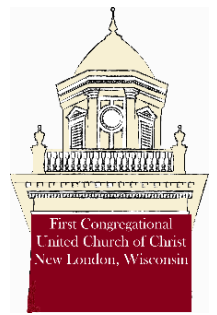




Blessing our Community



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

110 E. Hancock Street, New London, Wisconsin 54961 ~ 920-982-3731

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Savides - email: Pastor@uccnl.onmicrosoft.com

Secretary: newlondonucc@gmail.com

A Stephen Ministry Church



OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

TWO PRAYERS

According to Anne Lamott's friend, quoted in one of Lamott's *Salon* columns, there are really only two prayers: "*Help me, help me, help me!*" and "*Thank you, thank you, thank you!*" After three years ministering among you, I've offered both those prayers up to God time and time again.

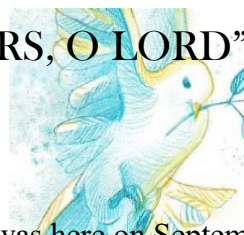
There is so much that I am thankful for: the kind words of compliment and support, the kindly offered words of guidance and helpful clarification ("*Steve, you might want to know...*"), the unexpected gifts, the humbling trust offered to me when folks have sought pastoral support, and the understanding when folks have encountered my limitations as a part-time pastor. Thank you so much for these and so many other graces. I am overwhelmed with the blessings God has offered me through this church and each of you. Loving God, *thank you, thank you, thank you!*

I've also had occasions to offer up that other prayer, "*Help me, help me help me!*" as I've sought to write meditations that speak meaningfully to our church community; as I've tried to shake off my own preconceptions and familiar patterns of ministry and open my eyes, ears, and heart to this congregation and the Spirit's movement; as I've dealt with the anxiety that grips all of our families in these difficult and changing times. Those prayers for help have been answered time and time again by your patient and loving support - which has led me back to the first prayer: "*Thank you, thank you, thank you!*"

May God continue to bless our ministry, hearing our prayers for help and moving us to offer thanks together.

Your friend and fellow minister,
Rev. Steve Savides

HEAR OUR PRAYERS, O LORD”



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 Healing and Comfort for:

- ☀ Emily Calabria
- ☀ Gaylord Hedtke
- ☀ The family of Rev. Milton Staskal, whose funeral was here on September on 20th.
- ☀ The family of Ann Schneider who has passed away. Ann's funeral will be on Tuesday, October 2nd at Borchardt & Moder Funeral home in Hortonville. Visitation from 9-11, service at 11:00 a.m.

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

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 for your continuous support of First Congregational United Church of Christ.
- ♥ Thank you to all those who helped at Milton Staskal's funeral.

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 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR JULY- 66

GENERAL OPERATING INCOME JANUARY - DECEMBER 2025: \$85,307.10

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES JANUARY – DECEMBER 2025: \$90,404.71

NET INCOME: \$ -5,097.61

END OF 3rd QUARTER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS

January 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025

Individual financial statements will be emailed out to those we have an email address for the first week of October. If you are not on our emailing list, please email Kathy at newlondonucc@gmail.com to be on the list to receive your statements by email to save postage. Those that do not have an email, your statements will be mailed out. Any questions, please call Kathy at 920-982-3731, Monday's or Thursday's 8:10 a.m.-12:30 or email at newlondonucc@gmail.com.

NEW MEMBER CLASS COMING SOON

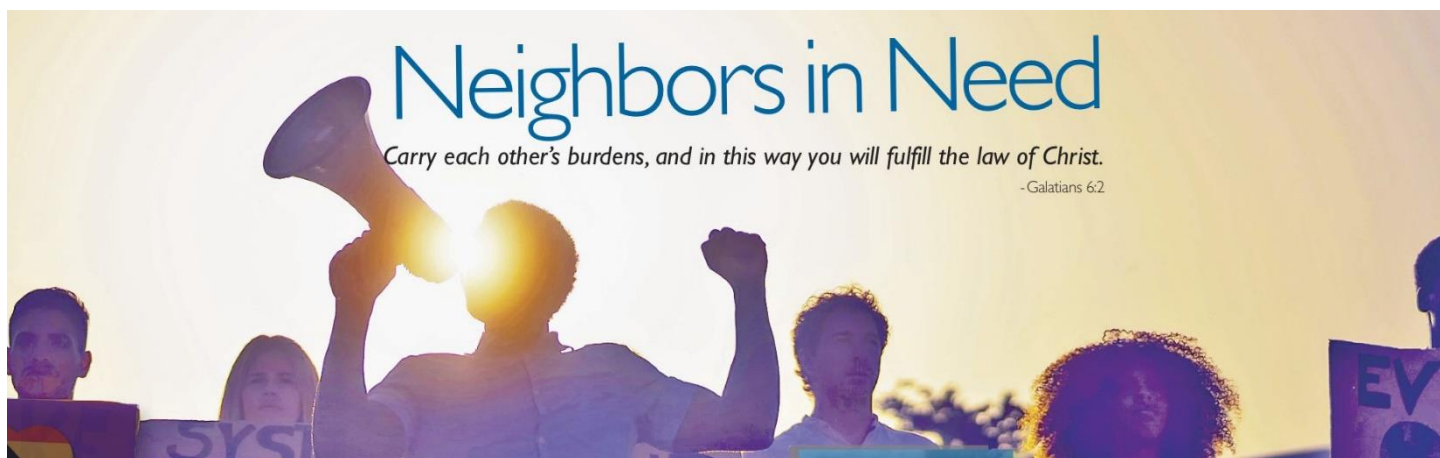
We have been blessed with several folks interested in joining our church. We will be scheduling a new member gathering in October. If you are interested in joining the church, please contact Kathy in the church office.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

As we celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 5th, we invite you to bring a loaf of bread to worship that represents your own family or ethnic tradition. We will share a part of that loaf in communion on Sunday and enjoy the rest of it during Coffee Fellowship. Due to concerns about allergies, please do not use nuts in your bread. In order to give our communion preparers adequate time, please drop your bread off in the kitchen 15 minutes prior to the service. Thank you!

JOHN BIBLE STUDY BEGINS NOVEMBER 5

John's Gospel brings us a word of power, a word of hope through Jesus Christ, the Word of God. As it says in the first chapter of John, we who follow Christ are given "*power to become children of God.*" Much of this upcoming worship year will focus on John's Gospel as we follow the Narrative Lectionary. So, our Adult Study Class will focus on John's Gospel with 12 sessions on this longest of the Gospels split between 6 weeks in fall (November 5-19 and December 3-17) and 6 weeks in Lent (February 18 – March 25). Each of the sessions will take place from noon -1:15 pm on Wednesdays over a soup and bread lunch. Each session will also be self-contained so please feel free to attend any or all of them. We will be using the Interpretation Bible Study on John by Mark A. Matson as our guide. A sign-up list in the narthex. If you would like us to order a book, the cost is \$15.00.



The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 5th, but will be collecting the whole month of October, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Our churches share compassion by not only providing for the basic needs of our neighbors but also asking deeper questions of why these inequalities exist in the first place. Our immediate call to alleviate the suffering of those around us is paired with a prophetic witness calling for systemic reform.

All congregations in the United Church of Christ are invited to take part in the Neighbors in Need offering to address just this. Two thirds of the offering support justice and witness ministries of the United Church of Christ with one third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Your gifts directly fund the Neighbors in Need grant program. This grant, for UCC congregations and partners, offers funding for both direct service and advocacy projects. You will find the Neighbors in Need offering envelopes on the round table in the narthex or use one of the pew envelopes and mark it NIN. Thank you for your generosity!

REV. DR. MILTON STASKAL (1938 – 2025)

Milton Staskal passed away on September 1st of this year and his life was celebrated in our sanctuary on September 20th. Milt was the pastor of our congregation from 1968 – 1975 and he and his wife Trudy rejoined our church as members when they moved back into New London in 2000.

While serving as our church's pastor, Milt started adult education classes, a confirmation program for grades 7 and 8, Youth Club, and offered midweek services during the summer months. The late 60's and early 70's were a time of great unrest and high unemployment, especially among the youth. Under Milt's leadership, this congregation worked to establish a community wide program called JOY, standing for Job Opportunities for Youth. Milt also organized the first licensed pre-school childcare program in New London, the New London Community Nursery School. For all the ways in which he served this church and community, Milt was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Lakeland College in 1971. Milt will be dearly missed. Our prayers are with Trudy, their children Jim, John, Phil, and Lynn, their whole family, and all of us who mourn Milt's passing.

Milt, who championed and practice good financial stewardship throughout his life, often cited this favorite quote from Jim Elliot: *"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose."* All of us in our church, our New London community, and the Wisconsin Conference UCC give thanks for Milt's life and celebrate his and Trudy's legacy of faithfulness and generosity.

FROM PASTOR KEVIN

To a wonderful, fun, loving, unforgettable congregation,

Wow! I am not even referring to United Methodists on this one but to a great First Congregational United Church of Christ in New London! Words cannot even express my gratitude to all of you for your love and support over these few years. While this move elsewhere comes as a surprise, even to me at first when I made the decision, I want you all to know how you will never be forgotten.

As most of you know, my last Sunday in worship with you will be Sunday, November 23, 2025. Beginning December 1, 2025, I will be transitioning to Stevens Point, WI to serve as a Licensed Funeral Director at Pisarski Funeral Home.

Transitions are never easy. Yet, as we know, God still calls us to new places even when we think we were meant to be in an area forever. The Bible is filled with these stories. I can think of Abraham being called to not only leave his hometown but also his country and even his religion to claim loyalty to an all-new God unknown to the people. Then I can think of Queen Esther upon hearing that the King was going to kill her own people out of existence. In great boldness, Esther stood up and responded to the call she heard: "And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Who knows? Is there a congregation that is looking for the leadership to give them another chance? While I and maybe you too are not certain what is ahead of us and the unknown of what lies ahead, we are people of faith. Not only faith but a living faith that follows a God who is still active in our world and still changing lives and still calling to new adventures.

I better stop there, or you will be caught in another 13-page sermon. But again, as my eyes are wet from grief and celebration, let us embrace one another in Christian love knowing the promise is true...this is not good-bye but see you later.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Kevin Dembinski

UCC CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

FELLOWSHIP HALL MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 6:09pm/Roll Call – Council Members Present: Tina Clegg, Lois Cuff, Pastor Steve Savides, Sherie Bressler, Dorea Brandt, Pete Lauer and Dave Thiel. Staff Members Present: Billy Brandt
2. Opening Prayer by Pastor Steve Savides.
3. Approve Meeting Minutes from August 11, 2025 – Motion by Lois Cuff to approve the minutes from August 11, 2025. Motion seconded by Tina Clegg. Motion carried 7-0.
4. Pastor's Report - Pastor Steve Savides discussed portions of his 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. The report covered the following topics: Worship Service Highlights for the past month; Scheduled Worship activities for September & October; Worship Plan for 2025-26; Other Church Activities; Mission & Larger Church Activities.
5. Financial Reports – Discussion regarding current status of the operating budget.
6. Church Secretary – Our long time Secretary/Financial Secretary for the past 28 years, Kathy Phillips, has submitted her resignation letter to the Church Council. Her final day will be December 31, 2025, unless a replacement is hired before that date. We will be recognizing Kathy's incredible dedication and service to UCC New London at an upcoming Sunday Service. Motion by Lois Cuff to accept the letter from Kathy Phillips resigning her position as Secretary/Financial Secretary for UCC New London. Motion seconded by Pete Lauer. Motion carried 7-0. The Church Council will immediately begin the search for our next Secretary/Financial Secretary.
7. Adult Choir Director – Dorea Lauer made a motion to hire Lu Ann Rupnow as the Adult Choir Director on a trial basis. Motion seconded by Sherie Bressler. Motion carried 7-0.
8. Sunday School Update – Sunday School will start on October 12, 2025, and will take place every other Sunday (on the Traditional Service Sundays).
9. Facility & Operations Report – Lois Cuff provided an update on the following projects: the installation of the new media wall system in the Sanctuary; the leak in the front entryway; the current total of contributions received for Project Revive, which help reduce the First State Bank loan amount borrowed (for the capital improvement projects, like the new media wall system).
10. New Business - Dorea Brandt announced that the Youth Group Nights schedule will soon be finalized and released for 2025-26. Dorea also mentioned that there will be group of volunteers from our church that will participate in the work camp at the Daycholah Center on the weekend of October 17-19, 2025.
11. Adjournment – Motion by Tina Clegg to adjourn. Motion seconded by Pete Lauer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

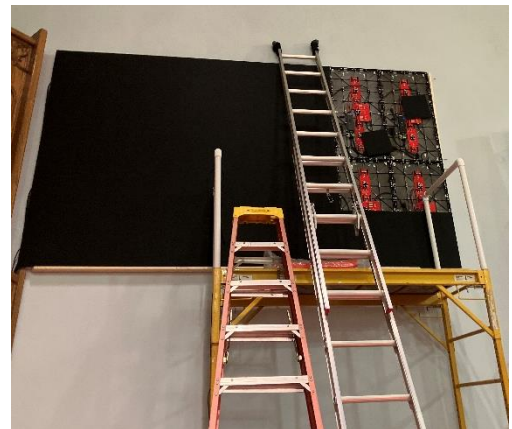
HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU! THE MEDIA WALL INSTALL

Our new media walls have surpassed our expectations! The clarity and exceptional color have enhanced our worship experience beyond words. They are so beautiful!

When the media walls became our best solution for moving our worship technology forward, we called upon the area's most experienced technology AV group. Their estimate for the equipment and installation was \$51,608.00. Shock and Awe was our reaction to that price tag! Not reachable considering all the other upgrades that were needed. We were confined to searching for other options and found a company out of California that was founded by a group of pastors looking for reasonable solutions to technology. Worship Productions sold us the equipment we needed with the promise to assist in our installation through their multimedia tutorials and tech advisors. We spent \$25,670.00. This was a savings of \$25,938.00 because we had congregational members willing to do the task and make this installation work.

Carl Sterhagen, Billy Brandt and Sandy Cuff worked on the technical part of the installation and Dean Peterson and Chuck Gorges worked on the construction side of the installation. These guys put the two media walls together without knowing if this would really work. We took a leap of faith and we are so grateful for their time and talents in making this a success. Please give them a BIG THANK YOU when you see them!

Please continue to give to our Project Revive Building Improvement Fund so we can lower our loan amount as we move forward and enjoy all the improvements made.



UPCOMING YOUTH PROGRAMS

Hello UCC members! The youth programming is alive and running and there are some events to keep in mind!

October 12th - Start of Sunday School

October 17-19 - Work Camp Weekend

October 24th - Youth/Family Night at Cuff Farms

November 22nd - Youth Night at the Herd Game!

December 19th - Christmas Youth Night

Be on the lookout for more events to come!

Please direct any questions to Dorea Brandt at lauerdorea@gmail.com



LADIES! LADIES! LADIES UCC SISTERHOOD

Here is what is up for the rest of the YEAR!! Mark your calendars!

- ♥ On **October 24th** we will be going to Hardtails, 302 W. Main St. Hortonville. This is a Friday, and we will meet at 11:30.
- ♥ On **November 21st** we will be going to the Palace Breakfast, 815 N. Shawano St. New London. This is a Friday, and we will meet at 11:30.
- ♥ On **December 12th** we will be going to Familiar Grounds, 206 N. Pearl St. New London. This is a Friday, and we will meet at 11:30.

As always, I NEED TO KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING BY NOON, THE MONDAY BEFORE. I need to let them know how many to expect! You've heard it before—call, shoot me a text, or throw a rock—contact me! As always, if you need a ride, let someone know—people are always willing to step up and help you!

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! The more the merrier! And it is a given, if you find you can come at the last minute—There is always room at the table!

See you there!
Blessings,

Sandy Conradt
920-538-4114

HONORING REV. DR MILTON K. STASKAL

There are people in this world who see a need outside of their own needs and want to make a difference. I would state that the Staskals are these kinds of people - giving of their time, their talents, and their financial treasures to help our community.

On behalf of Mission of Hope, I would like to extend deep gratitude for the contributions that both Milt and Trudy have given. The support, the encouragement, and the insight in creating the MOH Endowment are ways that the mission can be sustainable so that others will continue to benefit from the services.

Rest in eternal peace, Milt. Our community has been blessed, and we are deeply grateful for all you have done and will continue to do with the gestures of support that you have given.

Patricia Toney, former President of MOH Board

WASHINGTON CENTER COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

Open Wednesdays 8 to noon and 4:30 to 6 pm

WE NEED YOUR HELP

As many of you know we receive meats and various canned goods from TFAP or more commonly called Federal Commodities program. Over the course of this year this program has been significantly downsized. We currently get about 1/3 of the items we got just earlier this year. An example is we used to get several meat choices which could include items such as pork chops, hamburger, chicken, and various types of fish. Our last commodity delivery included one meat which was three cases of fish. That doesn't go very far considering the number of people using the Cupboard keeps increasing.

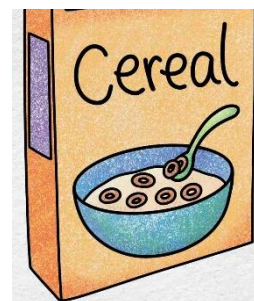
We desperately need your help as we have to buy more items for our shelves. Some items we have to buy regularly are:

- Cold Cereal
- Hot Cereal
- Tuna
- Hamburger/Tuna Helper
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup



Thank you again for your continued support of the Washington Center Community Cupboard.

Rita, Jim, Mike and Michelle



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

Secretary/Financial Secretary: Kathy Phillips (newlondonucc@gmail.com)

Secretary's Office Hours:

Monday & 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:

Youth Group Coordinator: Dorea Brandt

Camp Scholarships: Tina Clegg

Music Coordinators:

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

Organist/Choir Director: Lu Ann Rupnow – luann.rupnow@gmail.com

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

Check out our website: firstconougouccnl.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, Caleb Lauer

Media Shout: Gary Henke, Wendy Dallman, Rod Bressler, Lois Cuff

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

Pastoral Support: Pastor Kevin Dembinski

OCTOBER 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 October 5th

September 2025						
	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

October 2025

November 2025						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/ 30	24	25	26	27	28	29

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall
5 <i>Communion</i> 8:00 a.m.-Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Praise Service 10:00 a.m.-Fellowship	6 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon.	7 8:00 a.m.- Contemplative Prayer on Zoom	8 6:30 p.m.-Spirit Bells	9 6:30 p.m.-Choir	10	11 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall
12 8:00 a.m.-Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Traditional Service-Choir, Sunday school 10:00 a.m.-Fellowship	13 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon. 6:00 p.m. – Council Meeting	14	15 6:30 p.m.-Spirit Bells	16 6:30 p.m.-Choir	17 Youth Work Camp	18 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall
19 8:00 a.m.-Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Praise Service 10:00 a.m.-Fellowship	20 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon	21	22 6:30 p.m.-Spirit Bells	23 6:30 p.m.-Choir	24 11:30 a.m. – UCC Sisterhood at Hardtails in Hortonville 5:00 p.m.-Youth Group and congregation @ Cuff Farms. Pumpkin picking wagon, pizza supper and bonfire	25 10:00 a.m.- AA in Fellowship Hall
26 8:00 a.m.-Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Traditional Service-Spirit Bells, Sunday school 10:00 a.m.-Fellowship	27 4:30 p.m.- Overeaters Anon	28	29 6:30 p.m.-Spirit Bells	30 6:30 p.m.-Choir	31	

October Worship Volunteers

<i>Please sign up to fill the open dates.</i>	October 5, 2025 Praise Service	October 12, 2025 Traditional Service	October 19, 2025 Praise Service	October 26, 2025 Traditional Service
	Lay Reader	9:00 a.m.- Pat Toney	9:00 a.m.- Karen Henke	9:00 a.m. – Deb Calabria
	Media Shout	9:00 a.m.- Wendy Dallman	9:00 a.m.- Gary Henke	9:00 a.m.- Rod Bressler
	Fellowship	10:00 a.m.- Sherie Bressler/ Julie Manthe	10:00 a.m.- Rita & Dave Thiel/ Lois & Sandy Cuff	10:00 a.m.- Jim & Debi Williams

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

3-Robin Sternhagen	12-Wirt Holm
4-Dan Gould	13-Peggy Taylor, Hailey Bush
5-Marian Griebenow	15-Wyatt Lederhaus
6-Mike Foster	16- Joe Boelter, Tim Schulz
8-Daniel Heimbruch	21-Coleston Treague
11-Barry Popke	22-Sue Diehl
11-Tony Techlin, Hunter Schlueter	26-Nicole Behling, Leon Krake

If your birthday or anniversary is missing, or incorrect, please contact Kathy at the church office.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

2-Rod & Sherie Bressler
 7-Tyler & Jessica Masephol
 8-Gary & Karen Henke
 11-Brent & Heidi Dusek
 14-Nathan & Jenny Penn
 23-Patrick & Tara Korth
 24-Clair & Nancy Herzfeldt
 26-Eric & Erin Bobber
 28-Jim & Debi Williams
 31-Sam & Keena Krueger

