

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School- 9 am
Light Lounge -9 am
Worship service- 10 am

SPECIAL SERVICES THIS MONTH

April 2- Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm
April 5- Easter Sunday Service at 7 am
with breakfast following
April 12- The Noteables during worship
April 19- Youth Led Service with bake sale

SPECIAL EVENTS THIS MONTH

April 18- Youth baking at
5 pm with light supper

Saying good-bye to March and we are looking forward to celebrating Easter, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and savior. The day that Jesus walked out of the grave, Hallelujah! Jesus Christ is Risen Today! Now, that is something that I would say is worth celebrating.

As we enter into the spring season, the farmer's will soon be entering the fields, getting ready for spring planting. Families will be starting to come outside with the warmer weather.

There was a man from the Midwest who was farmer and also worked at the factory in town, but he wasn't a handyman. Sometimes when his tractor, furnace, or plumbing failed, a neighbor or friend would fix it. The man offered to pay even though he new he couldn't afford as much as they deserved. They wouldn't accept anything; they just loved to help their neighbors. "Thanks", he'd say, until your better paid. I'm still not sure what he meant. Maybe he or someone else did something for them later.

Believers in Jesus who serves others because of their love for Him will only be rewarded. Perhaps that's a form of, "until you're better paid." Jesus told His followers to step up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:20). Doing good for others may one way to store up some of those "treasures." He said we shouldn't announce it "with trumpets"; if we do, that's all the rewards we'll get. We can be confident that He sees us. The book of Hebrew reinforces this idea: "God will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."

We don't serve for rewards but rather because Jesus loves us, and response we express our love and praise for Him. What a blessing it will be to hear God say, "well done, good and faithful servant!" So, what treasures have we stored up? What gifts has given us to share with others? Now, how do we plan on using them to help others?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, I long to help others the way You want me to. Please help me point them to you and lead me live for your pleasure. AMEN.

HAVE A BLESSED EASTER,

Pastor Kirk Manchester

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- April 3 - Jim Steuk
 Kyleigh Schultz
- April 5 - Alexis Moore
- April 6 - Marla Teut
- April 7 - Craig Johannsen
- April 8 - Roslyn Velasquez
- April 9 - John Dorfler
- April 10 - Jayton Bral
- April 11 - Nick Bahnsen
 Trey Kline
 Anthony Larson
- April 13- Neil Kragel
- April 14 - Brian Wellendorf
 Kailee Jorgensen
 Kelsey Jorgensen
 Kimberlynn Beeler
- April 22 - Jacob Boelter
 Ryan Bumann
 Joan Cassens
- April 23 - Hayden Gronau
- April 24 - Huntur Johannsen
- April 25 - Kim Kragel
- April 26 - Caleb Denker
- April 28 - Tracy Kastner
- April 29 - Kristine Kastner
 Lydia Wiebers

Hymns on the Chimes



- April 5th 5:00 P.M.** “Jesus Loves Me” in honor of their children from Gordon & Pam Hoyt
- April 7th 6:00 P.M.** “On Eagle’s Wings” in memory of Alvera Reincke from her family
- April 14th 6:15 P.M.** “How Great Thou Art” in memory of Amy Meyer from her family
- April 14th 6:15 P.M.** “His Eye is on the Sparrow” in memory of Amy Meyer from her family
- April 15th 5:00 P.M.** “In the Garden” in memory of Jennifer Claire Jess and Jacqueline Jess Powell from Harwin & Dorothy Jess
- April 21st 10:15 A.M.** “In the Garden” in memory of Lena Dorothea Carstensen from UCC
- April 21st 5:00 P.M.** “He Leadeth Me” in memory of Lena, Johann, Hans Carstensen and Anna Harder from UCC
- April 28th 10:15 A.M.** “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” in memory of Jens Carstensen from UCC
- April 29th 5:30 P.M.** “On Eagle’s Wings” in memory of Cole Schneider from the UCC Choir

**Newsletter articles are due
April 23rd.
Your May newsletter will
be available Sunday, April
26th.**



February Financials



<u>Income:</u>	
Weekly Envelopes	\$7847.00
Loose Offering	\$303.75
Seasonal Offering	\$74.00
Misc. Offering	\$100.00
Misc. Income	\$76.33
Interest Income- General Fund	\$5.10
<u>Total Income:</u>	\$8406.18
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Insurance & Taxes	\$347.23
Janitor Supplies	\$9.63
Misc. Expenses	\$0.00
Music	\$240.00
Office Expense	\$966.70
Pastor Expense	\$5493.69
Payroll Expenses	\$16.60
Repairs and Maintenance	\$175.55
Supplies	\$120.00
Support Staff Salaries	\$4016.50
Utilities	\$2098.44
<u>Total Expense:</u>	\$13534.34
<u>Net Ordinary Income:</u>	- \$5,128.16

April Greeters

April 5- Pam Gronau & Janet Lafrentz
 April 12- Mike & Jackie Goodin
 April 19- Wayne & Ina Mae Bliesmann
 April 26- Ron & Rhonda Pankau

April Acolytes

April 5- Jett Paulsen & Brayton Johannsen
 April 12- Jayton Bral & Jersey Bral
 April 19- Ryder Luth & Haxton Fineran
 April 26- June Jurgensen & Huntur Johannsen



February Numbers for the Books

Date	Attendance	Contributions
Feb. 1	43	\$851.75
Feb. 8	61	\$993.00
Feb. 15	49	\$583.00
Feb. 22	58	\$5708.00
Total:	211	\$8135.75
Average:	53	\$2033.94



Council Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2026

Call to Order: Council President, Seth Neubauer opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Council members in attendance were Roberta Jepsen, Leisha Kragel, Jill Sedore, Josie Krohnke, Linda Reimer and Josh Jurgensen. Tammy Neubauer was also present. Kirk and John were absent.

Opening Prayer: Tammy opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items: A motion was made to approve the consent agenda items consisting of the January 21, 2026 meeting minutes and the financial reports. It was seconded. Motion carried.

Bills to be paid: A motion was made to pay the February bills, with the addition of Bomgaars-\$47.16 and Avery Brothers-\$736.13. Seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

CE: Jessica is working on an outdoor event for the high school aged youth. Kirk has confirmation kids attending Wednesday services as their class time and not meeting on Sunday mornings during Lent. This was not fully communicated to the parents. Jessica has again stated communication needs improvement between CE and Kirk. Sunday School youth will be singing in church soon and confirmation girls are working on learning chimes. The skating party was well attended and fun.

CSFD: They will be delivering 5 meals in February and 5 in March to elderly people in the community.

CSFI: No meeting.

Property: The furnace has been repaired, the phone in the elevator has been repaired, Avery repaired the electronic sign, Daryl Schmidt has been working on repairing the scratches on the pews and they will be meeting with a company about caring for the lawn and parsonage lawns.

Outreach: They will be showing the movie Soul on Fire this Sunday, and King of Kings March 22. They will prepare a Lenten meal, will be organizing and hosting the Easter Breakfast, and are working with Jessica to host a church picnic in conjunction with VBS this summer.

Pastor's Report: Council reviewed the report submitted, listing visiting elderly, giving communion and attending meetings. He attended the skating party and the January movie. Continues to work on Lenten services and confirmation.

Old Business:

Fellowship cookies: One volunteer has come forward to make cookies on occasion, but not weekly. A sign-up sheet will be put out asking for volunteers to make treats.

New Business:

New signature cards: Old signature cards will be updated at Bank Iowa for the JAC, Clearing, Memorial, Endowment and General accounts. Linda moved and Roberta seconded to remove all old names from the signature cards and to have Tammy Neubauer, Josie Krohnke, Leisha Kragel and Linda Reimer put on the new signature cards for the JAC, Clearing, Memorial, Endowment and General Accounts. Motion carried.

Recording church attendance: Candice has created a new recording sheet for the weekly attendance to keep members, guests and children present, recorded separately. This should make it easier to know what number creates a quorum for congregational meetings. Council liked the new sheet.

 Council Meeting Minutes (CONTINUED)

John Wulf Money: The money from the John Wulf Trust has arrived for this year. The amount is \$15,900.96.

Church Goals: There was lots of discussion about future goals for the church and plans and strategies to reach the goals. It was decided a meeting will be set to work on just those goals, separate from the regular council meeting.

Newsletter costs and distribution: Council agreed to have Candice create an article in the newsletter about how the letters are received. They would like to see the mailboxes in the back of the church used for members to pick up their newsletter. If there is no response to the article as requested, from those receiving mailed newsletters, they will be taken off the mailing list. Name plates will be ordered for those without boxes currently.

Criteria for grants: There will be more discussion about criteria to receive grants before the fall grants.

Easter Service: A motion and second to have Easter Service at 7 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on March 19 at 6:30.

With no further discussion, a motion was made to adjourn and was seconded. The Lord's Prayer was recited and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Neubauer
Financial and Council Secretary

Council met via group text on March 2, 2026. A motion was made to write the 2026 check to Under the Son Childcare for the annual pledged donation of \$50,000 and seconded. The motion carried with all council members responding, except John Fineran.

Tammy Neubauer,
Financial and Council Secretary



The Noteables, a men's singing group, will be joining us for a special performance during our worship service on **Sunday, April 12th**. Join us for a morning of uplifting music and fellowship. Invite your friends and family. We look forward to seeing you there!

Christian Education

We had a great month studying throughout Lent. The children had the opportunity to read daily Bible verses throughout the entire month with their family. We enjoyed a “Last Supper” and took part in Palm Sunday. The congregation has done a fantastic job with returning pin pal letters! The children are learning a lot about the members of our Church – from favorite colors to Bible verses and stories. We stayed busy and were able to send most of our first and second letters out this month. On May 2nd the children and parents will have the opportunity to deliver “May Day” baskets put together by our students as a way to continue to get to know each other. We will be doing some fundraising with a bake sale to make this possible. The Sunday School children also continued through the alphabet with “M”oses, “N”oah. “O”lives, and “P”alms. A huge shout out to those that have been helping in the classroom – Candice, Talsha, and Taylor. I also appreciate those coming in after Light Lounge. Unfortunately, due to the blizzard we were unable to go to Winter Jam. Those that participated at our bowling event had a great time. Other events coming up are:

April 18th – At 5:00pm all youth can bake cookies, cupcakes, etc with light supper

April 19th – Youth led Sunday service with bake sale following

May 2nd – At 10:00am deliver May Day baskets

