

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

So, have you had enough of the snow yet? I know I have or at least my back has. But you know, we do live in Iowa and should be use to it. It doesn't make it any easier to shovel. In between the snows, we did have two funerals. One was Roy Johnson and the other was for Gloria Ipsen. In both of these I talked about how they had love for the other people in their lives and how important it is. So, with this being February, I thought it only fitting to continue to talk about we should be motivated to love one another.

In "Our Daily Bread" for February 14, it is titled "Motivated By Love". In 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians chapter 13 it starts out with, "If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." If we don't have someone to love and be with no will hear us. So we need to show our love to others as much and as often as we can. Then in verse 4 and 5 we see what is read at a lot of funerals, "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way." And in verse 7 states that, "Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance." These are the words that actually describes God's character. They are substantial description of the way God perfectly relates to us. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write, but without love it's like meaningless noise. "If I give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Paul goes on to say, "the greatest of these is love" (v13).

Have you ever shown that kind of love to someone. The kind of love that says no matter what is going on, I am going to be there for them. You spend every moment of every day with them. That is what is known as "agape" love, unconditional love. I know that there are some of you out there that have or still showing that kind of love. I thank God for your devotion and love that you are showing. That is the kind of love that God shows to us every day. He showed us that kind of love when he died on the cross for us.

So, for this month of love, let's show our love to everyone that we meet for the whole month not just on the 14<sup>th</sup>. But, please show the ones that you love the most (besides God) by doing something nice for them. Take them out for supper here at the church at 6:00 with Ash Wednesday services to follow, show you can show God love.

### PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for loving me. May my actions flow out of a loving heart today. **AMEN**

Have a blessed and loving month.

Pastor Kirk Manchester



## Hymns on the Chimes

- February 8<sup>th</sup> 5:45 PM **“Now Thank We All Our God”** in memory of Frank & Clara Jensen from Burdell & Orpha Jensen and family
  - February 10<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM **“I Love to Tell the Story”** from the Dorcas Society
  - February 14<sup>th</sup> 11:15 AM **“Love Lifted Me”** Valentine’s Day from UCC
  - February 19<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM **“How Great Thou Art”** in memory of Mr. & Mrs. D.C. Engelking from Dorene Hollander
  - February 24<sup>th</sup> 6:15 PM **“Blessed Assurance”** in memory of Charles Jessen from Dorothy Jessen
  - February 25<sup>th</sup> 7:15 PM **“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”** in memory of Arlo Jahn from Arlene & Kevin Jahn
- February 28<sup>th</sup> 10:15 AM **“Nearer My God to Thee”** in memory of Inge Carstensen from UCC



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb 1	Gaylen Bahnsen
	Jim Whiteing
	Pat Wiebers
Feb 5	Zola Friedrichsen
	Sheryl Gosch
	Michelle Raisch
Feb 7	Nathan Schumann
Feb 8	Craig Claussen
Feb 11	Duane Zimmer
	Janice Stern
Feb 15	Stefany Lopez
Feb 17	Jordan Stender
Feb 18	Dakota Miller
Feb 19	Jamie Rusch
Feb 22	Katie Slater
Feb 24	Mike Goodin
Feb 26	Taryn Johannsen
Feb 27	Gary Reimer
	Jerrod Johannsen

## **Congratulations!!**

Congratulations to Cierra Kastner for being named to the Dean’s List at Buena Vista University for the 2023 Fall Semester.

Congratulations to Trevor Nemitz for being named to the Dean’s List at Buena Vista University for the 2023 Fall Semester.

## December Financials



### Income:

Weekly Envelopes	\$6775.00
Loose Offering	\$350.00
Seasonal Offering	\$43.00
Misc. Offering	\$555.00
Misc. Income	\$123.56
Chicken Dinner Income/ Donations	\$0.00
Interest Income- General Fund	\$42.54
Investment Income	\$0.00
<u>Total Income:</u>	\$7889.10

### Expenses:

Association Dues	\$1096.77
Insurance & Taxes	\$2320.81
Janitor Supplies	\$9.63
Misc. Expenses	\$180.64
Music	\$160.00
Office Expense	\$387.60
Pastor Expense	\$4984.34
Payroll Expenses	\$0.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$647.99
Supplies	\$316.17
Support Staff Salaries	\$2985.00
Utilities	\$1649.62
<u>Total Expense:</u>	\$14738.57
<u>Net Ordinary Income:</u>	- \$6849.47

## December Numbers for the Book

Date:	Attendance:	Contributions:
December 3	84	\$ 800.00
December 10	63	\$ 1447.75
December 17	48	\$ 410.25
December 24	71	\$ 4923.00
December 31	46	Offering recorded in 2024
Total:	312	\$7581.00
Average:	62	\$1895.25

## February Acolytes

February 4- Huntur Johannsen & Jett Paulsen

February 11- Jersey Bral & Sophie Luth

February 18- Hayden Fineran

& Gracie Outhouse

February 25- Jayton Bral & Ryder Luth

## February Greeters

February 4- Talsha Johannsen

& Brayton Johannsen

February 11- Ken & Connie Boger

February 18- Jim & April Stender

February 25- John & Sarah Fineran

Ash Wednesday - February 14.

Meal at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall

Service at 6:30 pm in  
the Sanctuary.



# Church Council Meeting Minutes

**December 20, 2023**

Call to Order: President Sandy Lacey called the meeting to order. Those present were Seth, John B., John D., Leisha, Judy, Jeff, Pastor Kirk, and Sandy. Absent was Cheri.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Kirk opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes and seconded. The motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report: Tammy is having trouble with the Schwaab Account and no one has gotten ahold of her. A motion was made to approve the Financial Report and seconded. The motion carried.

Bills to be Paid: The bills to be paid had an addition of \$501.20. \$458.41 for Verlin's Plumbing for fixing the kitchenette sink and \$42.79 for another Christmas tree for the Avenue of Trees. There is still a discrepancy in the bill for TKE. They want to be paid for four visits and fixing the elevator, which took them two months to do. Seth is going to deal with this. We will not pay TKE this month. The new total for the bills to be paid is \$6,135.02 without the \$3,541.10 for TKE. The motion was made to pay the bills as listed and seconded. The motion carried.

Committee Reports:

CE: We had an applicant for the open director job. Jessica Jurgenson applied for the position. The classroom has been painted. The Christmas program went great. There is an upcoming skating party. Consequences were discussed for the boys in confirmation for not attending church, Sunday school, and confirmation classes.

CSFD: The committee met on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Scholarships are going to be awarded to three people in late December or early January. The committee awarded \$14,000 worth of donations and charitable giving at their meeting; plus, an additional amount of \$500 each was given to two needy families in our church.

CSFI: Nothing to Report

Property: They cut the trees on the farm for the renters. There are still holes that were drilled by the roofing company that need to be fixed.

Spiritual Life: Nothing to Report

Missions & Outreach: Santa Claus day was a success. However, numbers were down due to a shortage of vendors and other events going on in other area

Stewardship: The article is in. it contains a variety of things that this church has done.

Pastor's Report: Pastor was busy with a lot of things. He

preached at Homestead, visited with our members in assisted living and the nursing homes, helped with preparation of meals for Santa Claus day, met with committees, completed the Annual Report, and is preparing for Christmas service.

Old Business:

Claussen Agreement: Sandy is in contact with the conference

Day Care Update: Nothing new to Report

CE Director: Jessica Jurgenson has expressed interest and has questions about the CE director opening. We must edit and update the job description for the position. Jessica came prepared with notes. She is interested in helping our church. She interviewed for the position at the meeting. She would be available for the job for one-and-a-half to two years. She knows the responsibilities for doing the job. A motion was made to hire Jessica for the position of Christian Education Director and seconded. The motion carried.

Tech Advisor: The council decided to eliminate the \$200 monthly payment and pay by the hour (\$20.00) if needed for this position. A motion was made and seconded. The motion carried.

New Business:

Crawford County Auxiliary: The ladies get together once a month and do crafts. They are a non-profit group. The profits from their sales go to scholarships through Crawford County Memorial Hospital for medical students. They would like to use a room in our building to store totes and do crafts. The council decided that this would work.

Salaries for Employees: It was decided that Tammy and Candice will receive a raise . A motion was made and seconded. The motion carried. It was decided that Jolene will receive a raise. A motion was made and seconded. The motion carried. It was decided that Pastor Kirk will receive a raise. A motion was made and seconded . The motion carried.

2024 Budget: A motion was made to approve the budget and seconded. The motion carried. The council approved the budget for the 2024 year.

Annual Meeting Plans: The Annual Meeting will be the last Sunday in January.

Adjourn with Prayers, Concerns, Celebrations, & The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey A. Boelter

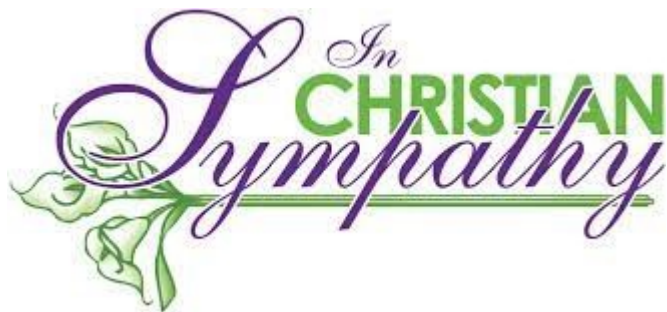
## Spring Grant Applications

### SPRING GRANT APPLICATION

DEADLINE IS MARCH 1ST

Reminder: Applications for grants from the Carstensen Family Memorial Trust are due in the church office by March 1st.

There is a limited amount for Spring Grants. Application forms are available online at [www.uccschleswig.org](http://www.uccschleswig.org) or the church office.



**The family of Roy Johnson  
and  
The family of Gloria Ipsen**

### LENTEN SERVICES

As we look ahead on the calendar, our Lenten Services begin on February 21st. There will be a meal at 6pm with the service beginning at 6:30 pm. If you or your group would like to plan and serve a meal, please call the church office (676-3917) or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

## Join us for a Skating Party

**Date:** Sunday, February 18, 2024

**Time:** 4:30-6:30 pm (admission is paid for by the UCC Christian Education Committee)

**Place:** Ida Grove Skate Palace

**Everyone is welcome! Bring your friends and family for an evening of fun!**



### PLUMBING ISSUES

We have had issues with plugged toilets. We have had to have the plumber several times to rectify the problem. We have some suggestions how the congregation can help.

1. If you flush and it is slow or plugged, try plunging!
2. There is a plunger in every bathroom in the church.
3. If that doesn't work, please inform someone on property committee or the office so they can intervene.
4. Use judicious amounts of toilet paper.
5. Flush halfway during your session if using lots of toilet paper.

Thank you for what you can do to alleviate the problem!

## STEWARDSHIP

Council has approved the proposed budget for 2024 and by the time you read this it will have hopefully been approved by the congregation at our annual meeting. It is up considerably from our 2023 budget. That is no surprise when you consider the increases in costs we cannot control. We did manage to end the year of 2023 without crisis!

The proposed budget is over \$167,500. That is more than \$657 per member. A member includes 14-year-old students, both parts of a married couple, people who have not darkened the door for years, people who don't remember they are members of this church, some who give nothing, college students, young married couples, elderly folks living on only social security checks, and hard-working sandwich generation people. We also have members who give much more than their share and how we appreciate them! We cover almost half the budget with all the income from the Carstensen Brothers brokerage account, chicken dinner proceeds, Carstensen Family Farm account pays any large property repair bills, and the general endowment income. The rest is covered by our gifts and tithes. You can see the need. Those of us who love our church and want to see it stay active and involved need to support it. Many have done above their share and we appreciate and thank them. Please continue to give as you can.

I will close with an Arabian proverb gleaned from the side panel of the Our Iowa magazine – "If you have much, give of your wealth, if you have little, give of your heart." You know a little means you give instead with the talent and time part of stewardship rather than large amounts of cash! I pray each will do what they can.

## 2024 Election Results

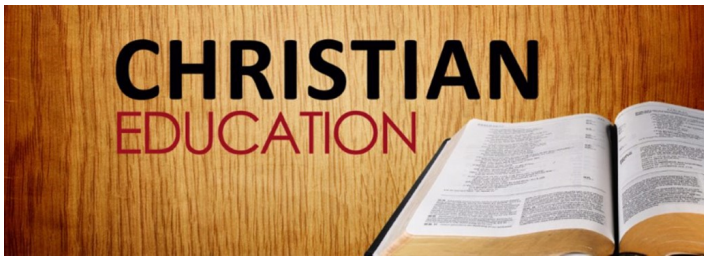
Church Council:	John Fineran	(2028)
	Josie Krohnke	(2028)
Christian Education:	Katie Sharp	(2027)
CSFD Committee:	Josie Krohnke	(2027)
CSI:	Sandy Lacey	(2030)
Property Committee:	Cal Kastner	(2027)
	Kevin Neubauer	(2027)
Missions & Outreach:	Janet Lafrentz	(2027)
Nominating:	Janet Lafrentz	(2026)
	Jenny Boelter	(2026)
	Candice Bral	(2026)
Spiritual Life:	Kim Korwes	(2027)
	Tammy Neubauer	(2027)

## **INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th** will be installation of newly elected Council and Committee persons during the worship service.

We welcome John Fineran & Josie Krohnke for a first term on the Church Council, Katie Sharp to Christian Education, Josie Krohnke to the CSFD committee, Sandy Lacey to Christian Service Investment, Cal Kastner and Kevin Neubauer to Property Committee, Janet Lafrentz to Missions and Outreach, Janet Lafrentz, Jenny Boelter, and Candice Bral to Nominating, and Kim Korwes and Tammy Neubauer to Spiritual Life. Thank you for your service to our Lord and congregation. **Please be present at this service if you were elected at the Annual Meeting.**





January has been a slow start to our year. We had a tremendous turn out for our Sunday School Kickoff, which included the movie "Lion of Judah" and breakfast pizza. The second Sunday of the month brought extreme cold and snow, which canceled Sunday School and postponed our Skate Palace fun. Please update your calendars and tell your families/friends that the Skate Palace is rescheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30. On the third Sunday, attendance was low but we finally dove back into our lessons. The children learned the importance of the New Testament and that both Testaments show God's word is true and complete.



Over the next few months, we look forward to encouraging friends and family to join in our Sunday School. We also plan to continue to have two classes, to split the age groups up. If anyone would like to volunteer a Sunday to teach, it would give our CE committee a break. I know most have "put in their time" but we could really use the help. Finally, Vacation Bible School is June 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Jessica Jurgensen  
712-269-8380  
CE Director

