

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

As we are putting an end to a cold few days in January. Let's move forward into February, a month to do things you are passionate about. Enjoy being with your love ones, family and friends. Read a great book: (Mostly What God Does) (has been a very interesting read and book study), appreciate nature, do good deeds for others, learn a new recipe to share with others. Have fun this February, keeping in mind serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For most people the Christmas holiday season is over, but is it? I don't believe that it should be. We as Christians should never stop looking for opportunities to help others. No matter what that might be: food, shelter, utility bills, and clothing. These include the three topics the Jesus' mentions as the things that we need to sustain life. We as a church helped out with these needs around the area, with Christmas spirit. Why stop there, as we mentioned in church a couple of weeks ago that TAP is in need of food and hygiene items and we have someone who will even take care of the delivery. It's time for us to step up and help others who are in need.

As I was reading, I came across Ephesians Chapter 4, verse 1-13, which talks about Unity and Maturity in the body of Christ. Peter was writing this to the Ephesians.

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.” He ascended, means except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe. So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

So as we enter into February let us enjoy and be thankful for our families, friends, and Christian brothers and sister that we can enjoy life with. But do not let us forget to celebrate with the lord we need to give to those who are hurting in our communities, in our state, in our country, and in our world. We need to pray for all of them no matter who they are, what color they are, or what religious affiliation they belong to. They are all God's children. There are so many ways that we/you can help. Let us find out what this would look like and pursue it this.

Thank You,

Pastor Kirk



Hymns on the Chimes

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

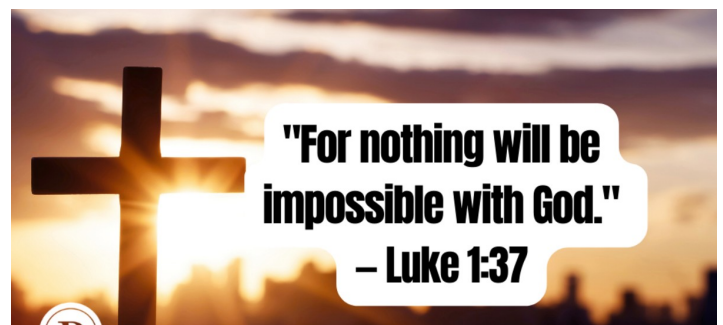
Spring Grant Applications

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 or the church office.



December Financials



Income:

Weekly Envelopes	\$6291.00
Loose Offering	\$325.27
Seasonal Offering	\$1745.00
Misc. Offering (poinsettia fund)	\$615.00
Misc. Income	\$6531.76
Chicken Dinner Income/ Donations	\$0.00
Interest Income- General Fund	\$5.14

Investment Income \$0.00

Total Income: \$15,513.17

Expenses:

Association Dues	\$0.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$3495.96
Janitor Supplies	\$45.32
Misc. Expenses	\$634.94
Music	\$160.00
Office Expense	\$1990.78
Pastor Expense	\$5207.21
Payroll Expenses	\$6000.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$0.00
Supplies	\$285.09
Support Staff Salaries	\$3759.00
Utilities	\$1647.90

Total Expenses: \$23,226.20

Net Ordinary Income: - \$7,713.03

December Numbers for the Book

Date:	Attendance:	Contributions:
December 1	96	\$ 765.02
December 8	60	\$ 1967.00
December 15	32	\$ 959.00
December 22	35	\$ 1690.00
December 24	96	\$ 1740.00
December 29	49	\$ 3255.25
Total:	368	\$10376.27
Average:	61	\$1729.38

February Acolytes

February 2- Jayton Bral & Ryder Luth

February 9- Huntur Johannsen

& Jett Paulsen

February 16- Ella Anders

& June Jurgensen

February 23- Haxton Fineran

& Hayden Fineran

February Greeters

February 2- Gary & Linda Reimer

February 9- Jim & April Stender

February 16- Gary & Beverly Peters

February 23- Sue Boland

& Talsha Johannsen



Council Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2024

Call to Order: Council Vice-President, John Dorfler, opened the meeting.

Council members in attendance were, John Fineran, Josie Krohnke, Leisha Kragel, Seth Neubauer, John Bahnsen and by telephone, Cheri Streck. Kirk Manchester and Tammy Neubauer (Financial Secretary) were also present.

Opening Prayer: Kirk opened with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the last meeting, seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report: A motion was made to approve the financial report and seconded. Motion carried.

Bills to be Paid: A motion was made to pay the December bills and was seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

CE: Christmas program went well and was well attended. Committee has been reviewing curriculum, looking for a date for VBS later in the summer and talking about other possible activities for the youth.

CSFD: They met to decide on year end distributions to help others. Scholarship checks are ready for recipients.

CSFI: No report

Property: Seth reported the property insurance has increased dramatically for 2025, due to hail claims and industry standards.

Spiritual Life: Planning the book review.

Missions & Outreach: Santa Day had lower attendance. Lunch for the day cleared over \$500. Good participation in supporting the Christmas Crusade from the congregation.

Stewardship: No report

Pastor's Report: Council reviewed the report submitted, listing visiting elderly, a funeral and attending committee meetings. No new communication with the Westside UCC.

Old Business:

A. Hurricane Relief: A motion was made and seconded to give \$5,500 from the JAC account to Global Hope to help with hurricane relief. Motion carried.

B. Westside Church: There has been no contact. Kirk emailed Jeff Hagerman at the Tri-Conference to see if he has any updates on what is happening here. No reply yet.

C. Teacher Appreciation: After discussion, a motion was made and seconded that a \$50 gift card at Mike's Bar and Grill be purchased for each staff member at the Schleswig Community School, Immanuel Preschool and Under the Son

Daycare, using John Wulf money. Josie will get the number for the school, Seth the number for the preschool and Kirk the day care.

New Business:

A. Organist wages: Council discussed organist wages have not been changed in over 10 years. A motion was made and seconded that organist wages per service will be raised from \$40 to \$60 beginning with services on or after January 1. Motion carried.

B. Ministry Opportunity: A virtual 8-week clergy coaching program is being offered through the conference. It is advertised as Ministry Renewal, but after investigation it was revealed it's on family counseling, at a cost of \$600. Kirk felt he would not get \$600 worth of good from it, so will not register.

C. Signs for parking lot: Tabled until closer to spring.

D. Outdoor Maintenance: Dalton Miller will do snow removal from the sidewalks and Ryan Jepsen will do the parking lot. Murlin is no longer able to do the leaf removal. Need to find someone to remove/blow leaves.

E. Annual Meeting: John F. will lead the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025. Council will need to meet prior to the February council meeting to reorganize with the new members. John D. read suggested committee assignments for council representatives. Each member will consider their placement and final assignments be made at reorganizational meeting.

F. Bad Weather protocol: Kevin Neubauer will work with Kirk and any others deemed necessary to make cancellation decisions by 7:30 on Sunday mornings. KDSN radio will be notified of cancellations. It will also be posted on Facebook.

G. OCWM: Tammy discussed with council the need to consider donating to OCWM as it is not a budgeted expense anymore. It's been approximately seven years since a substantial donation has been given. Support was stopped when poor conference support for our church became evident. There have been substantial changes made by the Interim Conference Minister to reduce staff and eliminate unnecessary expenses, perhaps lending to better use of the funds given to OCWM. No decision was made at this time, but will be revisited.

With no further discussion, the Lord's Prayer was recited and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Neubauer, Financial Secretary

HAPPY 50th WEDDING
anniversary

Jim and Jolene Whiteing celebrate their 50th Anniversary on February 14th, 2025. Please help them celebrate on Sunday, February 16th with a come and go party at Mike's Bar and Grill in Schleswig from 2-4 pm.



Hymnal
Decorations
Workshop

Come help us make new decorations out of the old blue hymnals for the big Christmas tree on Sunday, February 23 following worship. We will have a light lunch and then get to work.

Everyone is welcome!

Join us for a Skating Party

Date: Sunday, February 16, 2025

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!



UCC Investment

An update on the Carstensen Brothers endowment which is now the investment in the stock market.

Research has found Carstensen Brothers Equities Fund is first mentioned in the 2010 annual report.

The Carstensen Brother left the church close to \$1,000,000.

At that time the interest rate on CD's was extremely low and the council agreed to invest 2/3 of the endowment in the stock market and 1/3 in a CD. The council had the dividends generated by the stock to go into the Carstensen Brothers Account. The council stated "this money may then be used for non-everyday expenses ie: non budget. If necessary, money from this account may be used to defray some budget items. At some point, a decision was made to use the dividend to support the UCC annual budget.

The Balance sheet as of December 31, 2010 stated the Carstensen Brothers Memorial Account had a balance of \$4,434.92 and the Carstensen Equities a total of \$656,047.92. A total of \$660,483. Growing the fund from \$660,400 to the total today of about \$3,500,000 makes sense if you know where the stock market value was in 2009-2010.

As of December 31, 2024 the fund value had grown to \$3,445,036.

When the bill for construction of the parking lot is due this spring a total of \$421,000 will be deducted from the stock account.

The total stock fund value will still be at or near \$3,000,000 and the dividend income for 2025 will be nearly \$90,000.

The fund continues to be managed by Roberta Jepsen, Paul Outhouse and Mike Goodin. The committee continues to follow the intent as set up by Al Sedore.

“Light Lounge”

Join us on Sunday mornings in the church meeting room to watch a short video where we will focus in on the image of Jesus throughout the scriptures. We will also have a short discussion afterwards.

The videos are from:

reviveschool.org

Copies of the teaching notes from previous weeks are available on the table in the Narthex.



ANNUAL MEETING VOTING RESULTS

Verbiage of Financial Check

Results: 45 YES 1 NO

"Cast all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you." – 1 Peter 5:7

Election Results

Church Council:	Roberta Jepsen	(2029)
	Jill Sedore	(2029)
CSFD Committee:	Tracy Kastner	2028)
	Leisha Kragel	(2028)
Property Committee:	Derek Johannsen	(2028)
	Darrell Schmidt	(2028)
Missions & Outreach:	Connie Boger	(2028)
	Roberta Jepsen	(2028)
Spiritual Life:	Sue Boland	(2028)

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd will be installation of newly elected Council and Committee persons during the worship service.

We welcome Roberta Jepsen & Jill Sedore for a first term on the Church Council, Tracy Kastner and Leisha Kragel to the CSFD committee, Derek Johannsen and Darrell Schmidt to Property Committee, Connie Boger and Roberta Jepsen to Missions and Outreach, and Sue Boland 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.**



Hello New Year! I am excited for all of the great things we have lined up for this year. All of the Sunday School children will continue to work through different Parable lessons. The older class will continue to work on memorizing the Apostles Creed and the Books of the Old Testament. They will also start working with the hand bells with Tammy Neubauer. Thank you Tammy for your time! The younger class will continue to work on the Lord’s Prayer. On February 16th the Sunday School class will be singing in Church. Thank you Janet Lafrentz for helping with the music again! Remember that there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex asking for volunteers to help with Sunday School classes, please consider signing up for a Sunday. Over the next few months, we look forward to encouraging friends and family to join in our Sunday School program. Children are always welcome to bring a friend on Sunday mornings!

Outside of Sunday School class, we have a few new things scheduled. “Light Lounge” will continue in the Church’s meeting room every Sunday at 9:00am. My goal is to provide a relaxing place for parents, grandparents, and other members of the congregation to go while kids are in Sunday school and get to know each other, have a devotional reading, and watch a half hour video that will show us where Jesus is prophesied as the Messiah eventually through all 66 books. We are still in a discovery phase of learning what you prefer to have, so if you have any suggestions/concerns, please let me know.

Other dates to add to your calendars:

February 16th – Annual Skate Palace Party in Ida Grove from 4:30-6:30pm. All are welcome to participate or watch, invite your friends and families! Skating is free.

March 21st – Winter Jam in Council Bluffs. The CE committee is paying admission for our Youth Fellowship kids, but all are welcome to attend. More details to come. Please get RSVPS to the Church office or Jessica.

March 30th – Youth Sunday. The children will be leading Church service.

August 3rd-6th - Vacation Bible School

