

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Well, hello February! I want to thank everyone for their attendance of the Annual Meeting. Wow was that a storm that we saw over this last weekend. How are you doing with those new Years Resolutions? Did any of us we lose our focus? We all can. Remember our intentions and continuing to try is an accompaniment.

Have you ever asked someone if they could pray for them? Or maybe someone asked if they could pray for you? What did you say? Has our prayer time every been interrupted? Have we have forgotten to pray entirely? We have all forgotten to pray at one time or another in our lives. We lost focus, we lost focus on God. Do we struggle with our prayer life? In Isaiah 26:3 reminds us that when we keep our minds focused on God, our healer and sustainer, we can then find peace: “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.” The prophet reminds us to place our “trust in” the one who is faithful and able to provide what we need (V. 4).

This passage from Isaiah pointed the Israelites to God’s promises during and after their exile. They would sing songs of praise to Him again as they clung to their faith and hope in what He would provide. And the prophet’s words also remind us that whatever pain we may endure, we too can find comfort as we focus on trusting in God and calling out to Him.

As we head into February lets focus more on God and less on our frantic lives. Can we turn our concerns into praise and prayers to God.

This month we start the Lenten services, I encourage all of you to join us on Wednesday February the 18<sup>th</sup>. Dinner begins at 6:00 and the Lenten service starts at 6:45.

Dear God, please remind me to keep my mind focused on you, regardless of what situations I face. AMEN.

Blessings,

Pastor Kirk Manchester

### The Fast Five Update

Each week, our staff receives the “Fast Five” update from the UCC Conference. In the January 26 edition, Reverend Roberto Ochoa shares a powerful reflection on his recent visit to Minnesota, where he witnessed a community’s resilient response to aggressive ICE enforcement and racial profiling. He calls on the church to move beyond politics through prayer, providing local refuge, and advocating for an immediate end to the violence; if you would like to read his full reflection, please contact the office for a printed copy or an emailed link.





## 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

## 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.



## 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

## December Financials



### Income:

Weekly Envelopes	\$4429.00
Loose Offering	\$285.66
Seasonal Offering	\$533.00
Misc. Offering (poinsettia fund)	\$796.00
Misc. Income	\$174.15
Chicken Dinner Income/ Donations	\$0.00

Interest Income- General Fund \$2.87

Investment Income \$20.55

**Total Income:** \$6,241.23

### Expenses:

Insurance & Taxes \$3413.33

Janitor Supplies \$43.23

Misc. Expenses \$80.36

Music \$240.00

Office Expense \$215.72

Pastor Expense \$7360.49

Payroll Expenses \$0.00

Repairs and Maintenance \$69.28

Supplies \$134.15

Support Staff Salaries \$3700.25

Utilities \$1958.10

**Total Expenses:** \$17,214.91

**Net Ordinary Income:** - \$10,973.68

## December Numbers for the Book

Date:	Attendance:	Contributions:
December 7	49	\$ 492.75
December 14	82	\$ 873.66
December 21	39	\$ 751.00
December 24	57	\$ 1323.25
December 28	21	\$ 1132.00
Total:	248	\$4572.66
Average:	50	\$1729.38

## February Acolytes

February 1- Hayden Fineran

& Haxton Fineran

February 8- Cale Paulsen

& Jett Paulsen

February 15- Taryn Johannsen

& June Jurgensen

February 23- Huntur Johannsen

& Brayton Johannsen

## February Greeters

February 1- Darrell Schmidt & Larry Kastner

February 8- Marla Teut & Carol Krohnke

February 15- Paul Outhouse & Shannon Cose

February 22- Sue Boland

& Talsha Johannsen



*In Christian Sympathy*

The family of Julie Christie

# Council Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2025

**Call to Order:** Council President, John Fineran opened the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Council members in attendance were Josie Krohnke, Roberta Jepsen, Leisha Kragel, Seth Neubauer and John Bahnsen. Tammy Neubauer was also present. Jill Sedore and Kirk Manchester were absent.

**Opening Prayer:** John F. opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

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

**Bills to be paid:** A motion was made to pay the December bills. It was seconded. Motion carried.

## Committee Reports:

**CE:** No report was given with Jill's absence, but it was noted the Christmas program was very nice. Jessica is working on a lock-in for the youth in January.

**CSFD:** They have helped needy families recently and also donated to the Emergency Winter Clothing Fund at the Schleswig School.

**CSFI:** No meeting.

**Property:** The electronic sign is not working again. They are waiting for repairs. John F. relayed that he was approached about snow being pushed into the drive after the parking lot was pushed. We need to refrain from having that happen.

**Outreach:** The meal at Santa Day raised just over \$400 for Outreach projects. The meal and trip to

Walk through Bethlehem that the committee organized was well attended and really enjoyed by those attending.

**Stewardship:** No report

**Endowment:** No report.

**Pastor's Report:** Council reviewed the report submitted, listing visiting elderly, giving communion and attending meetings. It also listed he will meet with the CCMA committee. The report listed he is looking at Lenten material as well as working on his annual meeting report and planning future confirmation classes. It was noted that he did not give communion as listed or attend the Walk through Bethlehem that was listed since he has been sick.

## Old Business:

**Christmas Eve Service:** Roberta, Leisha and John D. will be at Christmas Eve service to take care of council duties. Leisha will do tech. There may be special music.

**Plans for Lent:** A light meal will be served at 6 PM, followed by a service at 6:45. Council will serve on Ash Wednesday. Members are researching possible meal ideas with final menu plans being made at the January meeting.

## New Business:

**2026 Budget:** The proposed 2026 budget was reviewed. Seth made a motion to approve it, with John B. seconding. Motion approved. Tammy discussed a rough budget for the JAC Farm account that she had prepared. As the general budget increases each year, without a matching increase in the general fund income, it will likely be necessary to use more funds from the JAC account to meet expenses.

**Annual meeting organization:** John F. will conduct the 2025 annual meeting. Tammy will prepare an agenda for the meeting.

## ***(Council Minutes continued)***

**Farm Leases:** There was discussion about the current farm ground. It was noted that the trees need to be cut on both properties. As the leases state, this is the renters responsibility. Also as the lease states, the soil samples for the farm Hargens operate have not been turned in by the December 15 deadline. Seth will contact both renters once again about getting these things done. Correspondence from Farm Service Agency was received that the property farmed by Ullrich's has been sod busted and an extra 4.66 acres has been put into production. This was not reflected in the new lease that was just signed. Seth will discuss this with them and see if they plan to reseed the waterways. It was noted it is our duty to see that the ground is well cared for and the lease terms are observed.

**Consent Agenda:** Tammy discussed how a consent agenda works and the possibility of adding consent agenda items to the future agendas to reduce the length of meetings. It was explained this will ONLY work if each council member reviews their council packet prior to the meeting time. Council would like to give this a try, beginning with the February 2026 meeting.

The next meeting will be January 21, 2026 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

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2



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

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1st** will be installation of newly elected Council and Committee persons during the worship service.

We welcome Linda Reimer & Josh Jurgensen for a first term on the Church Council; Talsha Johannsen & Kellie Anders to the CE committee; Mike Goodin & Shelby Neubauer to the CSFD committee; Beverly Peters to the CSFI committee; Ken Boger & Huntur Johannsen to the Property Committee; Sue Boland, Roberta Jepsen, Kim Korwes, Janet Lafrentz, Tammy Neubauer & Taylor Neubauer to the Outreach committee. Thank you for your service to our Lord and congregation.

**Please be present at this service if you were elected at the Annual Meeting.**

## **Join us for a Skating Party**

**Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026**

**Time: 5:00-7:00 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!**





The Outreach Committee hosted a movie day, January 25. Eleven people watched "The Case for Christ" and munched on popcorn.

In this true story, atheist journalist Lee Strobel sets out to disprove his wife's Christian faith. His search for evidence leads him to experts across fields, but what he uncovers challenges everything he believes.

It was great to see everyone in attendance. We look forward to hosting another movie next month and hope to see even more people attend.

Watch for the next movie date and title.



## Election Results

Church Council:	Josh Jurgensen	(2030)
	Linda Reimer	(2030)
Christian Education	Talsha Johannsen	(2029)
	Kellie Anders	(2029)
CSFD Committee:	Mike Goodin	(2029)
	Shelby Neubauer	(2029)
CSFI Committee:	Beverly Peters	(2032)
Property Committee:	Huntur Johannsen	(2029)
	Ken Boger	(2029)
Outreach Committee:	Sue Boland	
	Roberta Jepsen	
	Kim Korwes	
	Janet Lafrentz	
	Tammy Neubauer	
	Taylor Neubauer	





Christian Education started the year with finalizing a lot of events through summer. There will be a lot of upcoming opportunities for not only our youth, but for our congregation and the community. The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will start working with the hand bells, the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders have started chime practice, and the Sunday School kids will sing in Church February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Other dates add to your calendars are:

February 15<sup>th</sup> – Annual Skate Palace Party – FREE and open to the community.

March 15<sup>th</sup> – Winter Jam – CE will pay for Youth Fellowship & friend's admission, along with any members of our congregation that would like to join. Please RSVP to Church Office or Jessica by March 5<sup>th</sup>.

March 21<sup>st</sup> – 1pm at Denison's Lucky Lanes Bowling Alley. CE will pay for shoe/lane rental of all members of our congregation. Please RSVP to Church Office or Jessica by March 10<sup>th</sup>.

August 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> – Vacation Bible School

On January 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, we had our much-anticipated Church Lock-In. A huge thank you to the volunteers that helped make this possible! Tammy led team building activities, Candice led "sardines" and "spoons", Kellie and Talsha graciously volunteered to help with the night shift. The Church was filled with laughter and fellowship all throughout the night and early morning. They awoke to pancakes, bacon, cinnamon rolls, and eggs from Josh. Sunday School children started their morning with pajama's, donuts, and "F"ish, as they learned what it meant to become Fishers of Men. The rest of the month we talked about being a Child of "G"od and "H"eaven.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the family of **Leon Gosch**. Their generous memorial gift was used to purchase additional chairs and a desk for our Sunday School classroom, creating a more welcoming space for our students to learn and grow.

