

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Council Meeting

November 17, 2022

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Lacey. Those present were Sandy, Pastor Kirk, Jeff, Patti, John, Cheri, Judy, and Seth.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Kirk opened with a prayer.

Under the Sun Daycare: Mike Goodin and Jayden Schug were present to discuss the daycare. Mike gave a financial update for the daycare—both income and expenses. Mike discussed the remaining debt of the childcare facility and fund raising for the future. Mike said, the daycare needs a loan of \$50,000 to meet future payrolls until March 1, 2023. There is money coming in from state and county grants, but these grants will not be in right away. Plus, when the church makes it's \$50,000 payment to the daycare, the note will be paid off on March 1, 2023. Mike will address the church congregation this Sunday (November 20th) to explain the facts. A motion was made and seconded to give Mike and Judy authorization to make advances to put money in the account for \$24,000 to cover loan advances. The church will secure the loan. The motion carried with two negatives votes.

Approval of minutes: The minutes were approved by a motion and seconded . The motion carried.

Approval of financial report: The financial report was approved by a motion and seconded. The motion carried.

Bills to be Paid: Bills to be paid with the addition of \$149.04 that was made to Cosgrove for candles was approved to be paid by a motion and seconded. The motion carried.

Committee Reports:

CE: They are working on the Christmas Program. They presented a budget of \$19,300 to the council. A motion was

made to accept the CE budget and seconded. The motion carried.

CSFD: Nothing to report. We will have to announce that the students need to see Pastor Kirk for their second check.

CSFI: Nothing to report.

Property: Nothing to report.

Spiritual Life: The bags are done and are sitting in the office.

Missions & Outreach: They did 37 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. They are getting ready for Santa Clause Day.

Stewardship: A report of modeling behavior was written for the newsletter.

Pastor's Report: Visitations & Confirmation are going well. Pastor has been very busy.

Old Business:

Streaming and Technology: Cheri talked to Ryan Ernst about direct wiring for the church.

Cash Rent Contracts: Sandy signed the contract with Chris and will sign Mike later.

Mission Committee & By-Law Change:

By Law Change:

Original By-Law

Our Church's Wider Mission Committee: The committee shall consist of one member of the Church Council, one representative from each of the following organizations: Women's Guild, Women's Evening Guild, Youth Fellowship, Christian Education, and four at large members of the congregation. Terms are for 1 year. The committee shall foster the benevolent concerns of the church, the conference to which it belongs and the denomination.

(Continued)

New By-Law (Suggestion)

Mission and Outreach Committee:

The committee shall consist of one member of the Church Council, the Pastor, and five at-large members of the congregation. Terms are for three years with a staggered vote for new members. A committee member may only serve two consecutive terms. The committee will meet at least once quarterly and keep a financial record of its earnings and expenditures kept by a committee secretary. A chairman, elected by the members, will call the meetings. The money will be kept in the church's clearing account. This committee shall foster the benevolent concerns of the church and its congregation. Judy made a motion and Cheri seconded to that we approve the amended by law. Motion carried. It will be voted on at the annual meeting.

New Business:

Christmas Schedules: The Christmas Program will be December 4th. Christmas Eve service will at 6:00 and no Christmas Day service will be held.

Christian Education Budget & Approval to Sell Tables: Budget was approved by an earlier motion and approval was given to sell or donate the tables.

Fund for Flowers and Cards: Pastor Kirk wants to start a courtesy fund. This will be for members of the church who have passed away. The church will give flowers at the funerals for these members. The council will put in \$300 to start from the Carstensen Account.

Gift Baskets: There's two gift baskets available. A Family Night basket and a Thanksgiving Meal for a family will be donated.

2023 Budget: The Stewardship Committee will get together to crunch numbers after the November numbers are in.

Christmas Sacks: 40 bags are needed. Cheri will pick up stuff on Sunday in Sioux City. We will need to get bags from Fareway.

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

Heifer International Project

The church children are beginning a new project. They have set a goal and need your help to reach it. They will use their weekly offering, have a bake sale fundraiser (following church on Sunday, January 8th), and will be collecting change from the congregation during children's time. Please consider helping our church children with this amazing project. For more information on Heifer International, you can visit their website at : heifer.org



HYMNS ON THE CHIMES

January 1st at 9:15 AM "*Auld Lang Syne*" From the UCC Church

January 7th at 10:15 AM. "*What A Friend We Have in Jesus*" in memory of Margaretha Carstensen from the UCC Church

January 7th at 6:15 PM "*Here I Am, Lord*" in memory of Don & Jo Meyer's Anniversary from the family.

January 9th at 6:00 PM "*God Will Take Care of You*" in memory of Rhonda Nemitz from Barry Nemitz and families.

January 21st at 7:00 PM "*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*" in memory of Ray & Esther Henningsen from David & Cathy Henningsen and family

January 26th at 1:00 PM "*Nearer My God to Thee*" in memory of Leonard & Edna Kastner from the Kastner family

January 28th at 10:15 AM "*Old Rugged Cross*" in memory of Johann Carstensen

JANUARY 2023 STEWARDSHIP

As we prepare to step into 2023, we enter a planning phase for the next year. Stewardship committee met and prepared the proposed general fund budget for the next year. Anyone who has paid their utility bill, filled a grocery cart, or arranged repairs and maintenance knows what is happening to prices. It is no different for our church. The numbers you see in the annual report will be higher. We are so fortunate that the JAC Farm account covers our major repairs and many bigger improvement investments. As you plan your personal budget, please try to give a little more cash for our operations. Our congregation's cash giving doesn't meet half of the proposed budget. Again, the balance is paid from the income from the Carstensen Brothers and General Endowment Fund dividends. Another reason we have to give thanks for those generous gifts that have grown over time.

What can you do to help us meet our obligations? As I mentioned above, you can increase your cash gifts. There are other ways to cut our expenditures and make us an active, involved church. Practice all the energy saving tips you do in your own home. Volunteer to help with any projects we have underway. It is wonderful when we pitch in on work day, bringing food for chicken dinner, funerals, and other activities. Keep your committees active and developing new ideas. Meet deadlines for the newsletter and other activities so you don't cause extra hours for our employees. Clean up after yourself if you have used the kitchen, other spaces, or tracked in mud. Take the responsibility to be present if you are to greet, help with the service, or light candles. Find a substitute if you are unavailable when you are scheduled. Say yes when asked to run for an office or committee or work on a special project. It takes all of us doing something to make our church an active and productive institution. Volunteer any special talents or gifts you possess. Being on the membership list and sitting in the pew occasionally, does not make you an active church member.

We have a beautiful church building and grounds and are gradually growing in attendance. We have much to be thankful for. Let each of us help growing in that direction.

Missions & Outreach Committee

We would like to say Thank You to everyone that donated toys, clothes, color books, colors/markers and paid for postage for Operation Christmas Child. And Wendy for delivery the boxes every year to receiving center. We filled 37 incredible boxes, which will put 37 smiles on 37 excited children!!!

Santa Claus Day was a huge success. The taverns were the best we've ever made, deserts and pies were so delicious. We admire the ladies of the church for always helping us by making yummy and scrumptious treats. Hamburger donations were also greatly appreciated and needed to make the taverns. Thank you to the 2 confirmation kids, plus their younger siblings for helping clean tables and clean trays and also to their wonderful moms for helping. It was a wonderful day filled with fun and laughter!!! We made \$851.50!!!



**Family of LaDonna Lalone
(Pat Weiber's mother)**

**Family of David Outhouse
(Paul Outhouse's father)**

January BIRTHDAYS

1 Austin McMinemee
 3 Gary Peters
 4 Patti Miller
 5 Christine Adkins
 5 Sheila Ferry
 6 Ashley Potts
 10 Renae Rusch
 10 Glenn Barker
 12 Taylor Neubauer
 15 Joyce Petersen
 16 Chelsea Whitenack
 16 Susan Boland
 17 Josie Krohnke
 18 Evelyn Grau
 20 Jett Paulsen
 22 Clinton Kragel
 22 April Stender
 27 Leon Gosch
 27 Gloria Ipsen
 29 Lois Jacobs
 30 Amber Grau
 30 James Streck
 31 Larry Wiebers

November Financials



Income:

Weekly Envelopes	\$5619.00
Loose Offering	\$147.30
Seasonal Offering	\$8.00
Misc. Offering	\$0.00
Misc. Income	\$75.59
Chicken Dinner Income/ Donations	\$0.00
Interest Income- General Fund	\$8.87
Investment Income	\$0.00
<u>Total Income:</u>	\$5858.76

Expenses:

Travel and Meetings	\$0.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$310.58
Janitor Supplies	\$71.70
Misc. Expenses	\$63.61
Music	\$200.00
Office Expense	\$1288.37
Pastor Expense	\$4614.30
Payroll Expenses	\$450.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$390.85
Supplies	\$149.04
Support Staff Salaries	\$2750.00
Utilities	\$1934.92
<u>Total Expense:</u>	\$12223.37
<u>Net Ordinary Income:</u>	- \$6364.61

January Greeters:

January 1: Gary & Beverly Peters
January 8: Sue Boland & Talsha Johannsen
January 15: Zola Friedrichsen & Vicky Brown
January 22: Marla Teut & Carol Krohnke
January 29: Paul Outhouse & Shannon Cose

January Acolytes:

January 1: Hayden Fineran & Sophie Luth
January 8: Colton Johannsen
& Huntur Johannsen
January 15: Jayton Bral & Ryder Luth
January 22: Cale Paulsen
& Brayton Johannsen
January 29: Jersey Bral & Gracie Outhouse

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Please contact the office if you would like an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be returned to the office no later than Friday, January 27th in order to be counted for the Annual Meeting.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH

WHEN:

- If your group or committee plans a meeting or event, so the date and time can be placed on the church calendar and the doors left unlocked.
- A member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so that visits can be made and the Pastor notified.
- Your phone number or email address changes, so that church records can be updated.
- You are planning a move, locally or out of town.
- A new baby arrives in your family or in the family of another church member or friend.
- A member of your family leaves home for college or establishes a new residence.
- A church member or friend dies and you think the church could be of assistance.

Numbers for the Books

Date:	Attendance:	Contribution:
November 6	50	\$1103.50
November 13	42	\$1236.00
November 20	62	\$551.25
November 27	58	\$2768.50
Total:	212	\$5659.25
Average:	53	\$1414.81

**Annual meeting is
Sunday, January 29th
following the worship
service**

**All Christmas decorations
and the Avenue of Trees will
be taken down following the
worship service on Sunday,
January 8th. Many hands
make for light work.**

Thank you Kirk Manchester and Mike Goodin for taking all our TAP donations to Denison. Our new month to collect donations for TAP will be May. They were very grateful for all our donations. Good job everyone!

**Thank you to everyone who
helped decorate the sanctuary
for Christmas. It is absolutely
beautiful! A big thank you to
those who decorated a tree for
the Avenue of Trees. The Spiritu-
al Life committee purchased new
decorations for the alter and
they are stunning!!!**

Movie Day

The CE committee has planned a movie day for **Sunday, January 22nd at 2 pm.** We will be showing Son of God in the Sanctuary for the adults and teenagers. We will be showing Prince of Egypt in the meeting room for the younger kids. We will have popcorn and goodies for everyone to enjoy. Please bring your own drink with a lid. We are looking forward to seeing you all there.



Our church children had their Christmas program during the worship service on Sunday, December 4th. We struggled with a lot of different illnesses leading up to the program. Parts in the program were being switched just days before the program and some didn't even get to practice their new part. I am so proud of all our kids. They all did such a good job and had great attitudes when it came to last minute changes. We are looking forward to getting back to our lessons in the new year.