

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 2023 Newsletter

As June is coming to an end and July is ready start, I thought that it would be a good thing to take a look at what is coming up for our church.

We are looking at having/had a worship service at Judy's Pond on the 25th of June. I hope that you were able to attend the service and the fellowship that happened afterwards.

Then that night we will start VBS, "HERO HOTLINE". We would like to thank all that helped to make this a success again. A special thank you to Candice for all the planning and organizing this.

Then we are into July, man has the first half of the year gone by fast. When July comes everyone is thinking of the 4th of July celebrations: cookouts, family time, fireworks and for some an extended weekend. We pray that all will have a safe and fun time with family and friends.

After that, we will be having the "Picnic in the Park-ing Lot. This will be held on July 8th. We will be serving food from 4-7, which includes hot dogs, pork loin, beans, chips, watermelon, and brownies. We will be having entertainment during this time from local talent. There will be games for the kids, that includes a Bouncy House. We are asking for your help with donations of bars and potato chips. We pray that the weather will be good for all of these events that OUR church is sponsoring. We do these things in Jesus's name. Because that is what he has asked us to do.

We have a new District Deacon, and his name is Brice Hughes, he is a retired pastor and lives in Burlington for the time being. He will be moving to Grinnell in the near future. I have had a couple of conversations with him. One was a phone call and one was a zoom meeting where I was meeting with three other pastors from the area in a cluster meeting. I feel that he will be a great asset to our church, when we have questions that pertain to our church. In my conversation with him on the 13th, he commented on how the picnic would be a great way to show outreach in our community or any community. God has asked us over and over again to help take of our neighbors. He, also asked if we could take pictures of these event and send them into the district office to be printed in the Tri-conference Weekly or monthly newsletter that is sent out to every church in the Tri-state area. This is Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. To show other churches what we are doing or more importantly, maybe give them an idea of how they can help or give back to their community.

In the book of Mark 10: 45 it says, "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." I feel that this is the attitude that we should have, being servant of God, and the community around us.

My God Bless you and keep you in his arms.

Pastor Kirk

Hymns on the Chimes



July 3- 5:00 PM "Battle Hymn of the Republic" in memory of Palmer & Verline Peters from the Peters family

July 4- 4:00 PM "God Bless America" in honor of Independence Day from the UCC

July 4- 4:00 PM "Battle Hymn of the Republic" in honor of Independence Day from the UCC

July 4- 4:00 PM "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" in honor of Independence Day from the UCC

July 4- 4:00 PM "Army Goes Rolling Along" in honor of Independence Day from the UCC

July 15- 9 AM "God Will Take Care of You" from Bill & Joyce Petersen in memory of their parents

July 18 -5:00 PM "How Great Thou Art" in memory of Milroy Groth from Marlene Groth

July 18- 6:45 PM "It is No Secret" in memory of Ralph Miller from the Ralph Miller family

July 19- 6:15 PM "Home on the Range" in memory of Dale Lacey from Sandy Lacey and family

July 19- 7:00 PM "America the Beautiful" in memory of Edward W. Claussen from Craig Claussen

July 25- 12:00 PM "How Great Thou Art" in memory of Rawlo Kastner from Rubie Kastner

July Greeters

July 2- Gary and Linda Reimer

July 9- No church service

July 16- Steve and Roberta Jepsen

July 23- Wayne and Ina Mae Bliesmann

July 30- Mike and Jackie Goodin

July Acolytes

July 2- Jayton Bral & Jersey Bral

July 9- No church service

July 16- Journey Bral & Gracie Outhouse

July 23- Hayden Fineran & Brayton Johannsen

July 30- Sophie Luth & Taryn Johannsen



Scholarship Sunday is scheduled for July 30th during the 10:00 am worship service. All scholarship recipients are asked to attend this service so they can be recognized.

Council Minutes

May 18, 2023 @ 7:30 P.M.

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

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

Approval of Minutes: No corrections were necessary. The minutes from the last meeting were approved by a motion and seconded. Motion Carried.

Approval of Financial Report: The financial minutes were approved by a motion and seconded. Motion carried.

Bills to be Paid: The bills to be paid were approved by a motion and seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

CE: They discussed VBS and getting people to sign up for VBS as volunteers. They need more supplies for VBS. They set up their next meeting.

CSFD: In two weeks they meet with the scholarship recipients on June 12th for interviews.

CSFI: CD reinvestment is happening. They have 5 CDs coming due.

Property: The roof was totaled by hail. Elevate came and measured. There is a \$2500 deductible.

Spiritual Life: Joint meeting with Missions and Outreach

Missions and Outreach: Joint meeting with Spiritual Life. The topic of the meeting was the picnic in the parking lot. A motion was made by John to rent a bouncy house for the picnic. Leisha seconded the motion. Motion carried. The picnic will be July 8th.

Stewardship: Chances for Stewardship in the month of June.

Pastor's Report: Pastor did the following things: preached at Reed Place, met with every committee, had a service for our graduates, and planning a service for new members. Pastor is re-

starting his class this fall, and he reached out to the new deacon. Kirk also contacted the UCC pastor in Whiting. They are going to get together with other pastors and meet.

Old Business:

Streaming and Technology Update: Tabled

John Wulf Money: a motion was made to spend the John Wulf money as listed below. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Picnic Budget--\$5,000

Christmas Cheer--\$4,000

Daycare Bonuses--\$5,000

Courtesy Fund—\$207.50

Kiddie Bags--\$207.50

Spring Grants: Tabled until next month.

New Business:

Garage Sale: The council is proud of Zola for taking this under her wing.

Memorial Accounts: Tabled until next month.

Worship at the Pond: The decision needs to be made about when the service will be.

Picnic in the Parking Lot (Church that Night or Sunday?): A motion was made and seconded that the service will be July 8th after we are done with the picnic meal. The motion carried. There will be no service on July 9th.

Memorial Flowers for Carstensen's and Date: Jeff will drive through and pick up a variety of flowers from Bomgaars next week on Thursday.

Summer Church Time: The time will stay the same.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Boelter



July	1	-	Lance Clausen
July	2	-	Josie McMinemee
July	6	-	Mindi Sieren
July	7	-	Carrie Johnson
July	8	-	Darrell Brodersen
July	9	-	Kim Brockman
			Roy Johnson
July	11	-	Haxton Fineran
July	15	-	Delbert Schmidt
			Skylar Bielenberg
July	18	-	Ryan Woodward
July	19	-	Trevor Nemitz
July	20	-	Carissa Barker
			Kinley South
July	21	-	Brinkley Thies
July	22	-	Colton Johannsen
July	24	-	Cierra Kastner
July	25	-	Roger Baer
July	28	-	Avery Sieren
			Dennis Bumann
July	29	-	Kim Waldemar
			Jamison Tressler
July	30	-	Dylan Krohnke
July	31	-	Sean Krohnke

May Numbers for the Books

Date:	<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Contributions:</u>
May 7	68	\$784.50
May 14	48	\$898.25
May 21	43	\$123.00
May 28	40	\$381.00
Total:	199	\$2186.75
Average:	50	\$546.69

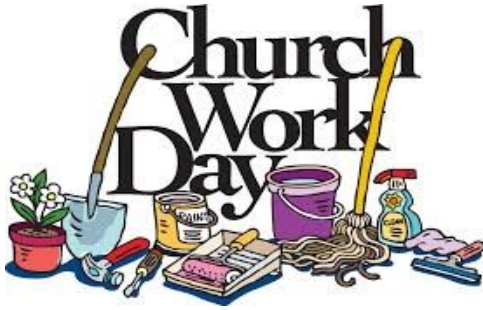
From Your Council President

I hope most of you have noticed the absence of your council president recently. I was diagnosed with a serious life altering illness and have been dealing with treatment. I am making very, very slow progress toward a more normal life.

I have many thank you's to share:

1. To my church family, friends, and acquaintances for the prayers for recovery
2. To the rest of our church council for stepping up and getting things done
3. To my attentive and concerned family members
4. For the great skill of doctors and nurses with their knowledge, research, medications, and treatments.
5. For Home Health services that have allowed me to recover in my home.
6. For the patience God has given me to temper my "got to get it done nature"
7. For phone calls, cards, and messages that help me stay positive.

Hope to see you all soon!



Church Work Day will be on Saturday, July 29th. We will be completing various projects around our church. Please be at the church by 8 am to lend a hand.

Worship at the Pond

Thank you to Judy Strandburg for hosting worship at her pond again this year. Unfortunately it was too windy to be by the beautiful pond, but it was a gorgeous day with great company. Thanks go out to the church council for planning and organizing this event. Thank you to Leisha Kragel for picking up the chicken, Seth Neubauer for providing big picnic tables, and to everyone who enjoyed the day and brought food to share. Praise and thanks to all involved.

FREE Community Picnic

July 8th 4pm-7pm

with outdoor church service at 7:15

United Church of Christ Lawn

**Serving: Pork loin sandwich, hot dogs,
chips, beans, watermelon, and bars**

Entertainment for the whole family

Bring your lawn chairs

EVERYONE WELCOME

**Sponsored by the UCC Missions & Spiritual Life
Committees and John Wulf Estate**

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



May Financials



Income:

Weekly envelopes	\$ 2234.00
Loose Offering	\$ 95.35
Seasonal Offering	\$ 29.00
Misc. Offerings	\$ 0.00
Misc. Income	\$ 164.57
Interest Income-Gen. Fund	\$ 16.62
Total Income:	\$ 2539.54

Expenses:

Association Dues	\$ 0.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$ 290.33
Janitor Supplies	\$ 9.63
Misc. Expenses	\$ 0.00
Music	\$ 929.00
Office Expense	\$ 1077.53
Pastor Expenses	\$ 4950.34
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 2282.28
Supplies	\$ 308.15
Support Staff Salaries	\$ 2905.00
Utilities	\$ 1961.79
Total Expenses:	\$ 14714.05
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (-12174.51)



WHAT IS A GIFT?

When you give a gift, you bestow that thing to another.

You no longer own it or control it. You might have put some guidelines in place to suggest the use, but it is no longer yours. If it wears out or is broken, our committees or council can decide its disposal. We try very hard to stick to any directives and rarely, if ever have we had an issue. I make that statement to remind you we certainly work for agreement and good relationships.

When John Wulf passed, he designated 10% of the income from his estate to our church for the next ten years. We received the second installment a few months ago and council has made our decisions. The only guideline we received for use of the money is that it is to benefit the people and town of Schleswig.

Our share of the money this year was \$14,415. We used \$5000 to pay bonuses to each of the employees at the Under the Son Childcare, \$4000 to the Christmas Cheer committee to continue growing Schleswig's Christmas decorations and celebrations, and \$5000 will fund Picnic in the Parking Lot for the entire community on July 8th. The remaining amount will fund improvements in our kiddie care room and the busy bags for worship services. When Marvel and Sheryl cleaned the Kiddie Care room, they found some toys dirty, broken, and past their prime, so they will be replaced. We don't currently use the room during services but it is a spot for kids while their mothers attend committee meetings and are at other tasks at church. It is definitely used.

We hope you can enthusiastically support each of those gifts to make our community a better place to live and grow!

Vacation Bible School 2023



The Christian Education Committee has been busy planning Bible School, which was held Sunday, June 25th through Wednesday, June 28th. We ended with Family Fun

Night on Wednesday. We would like to thank everyone who helped make VBS a success.

Thank you to all the station leaders: Cierra Kastner and Trevor Nemitz led the music station, Tammy Neubauer and Jersey Bral led the craft/science station, Shannon Cose led the recreation station, and Cheri Streck led the storytelling station. Our station leaders did a great job and are very appreciated!

We had great group leaders too: Jayton Bral, Gracie Outhouse, and Ryder Luth.

Our kitchen crew was fantastic! Thank you to Leisha for organizing the meals for VBS and recruiting help from Taylor Neubauer, Beverly Peters, Janet Lafrentz, Rhonda Pankau, and Pam Gronau. Thank you to everyone who donated food or made cash donations!

Thank you to Katie Sharp for being our puppet, Super Meer. The kids absolutely love the puppets we use for VBS.

Thank you to Sue Boland for running registration. Thank you to Shelby Neubauer for taking all the great pictures. Make sure to check out our website and our Facebook page for more pictures.

It really takes a lot of people to pull off VBS. It was exciting that we had a lot of new volunteers this year. CE appreciates everyone that has helped us create another successful VBS experience for the children in our community.

I would like to thank my Christian education committee: Jessica Jurgensen, Talsha Johannsen, and Jill Sedore for stepping in each night where ever needed. And a special thank you to our Council Representative Leisha Kragel who took care of all the planning and preparation for the VBS meals.

In the craft/science station, the kids decorated capes and masks; experimented with soap, baking soda, and vinegar; made a marble painting, and will complete a string art cross with parents and grandparents on the last night. They sang and danced their hearts out each night. They heard a Bible story each night and played lots of games outside.

This year, we chose to donate our offering to the Carolyn Scott Rainbow House, which is a 56 room guest house for out of town families who have children at Children's Hospital in Omaha.

If we reach our goal of \$250.00 by the end of Family Fun Night, Candice and Kirk have agreed to get a pie in the face. Watch our Facebook page to see if we reach our goal.

There will also be a slideshow of all VBS pictures playing on Sunday, July 2nd before church.

Thank you again to everyone!





“So let’s strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up.”
Romans 14:19