

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 2024 Newsletter

We have survived the first round of storms this summer. It is glad to see so many of you stepping up and helping with some of the individuals that have been affected by these storms. We thank God for our safety and we pray for all those who have been affected.

David wrote in the Psalms (133:1) He wrote, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" I just got off the phone a little while ago from talking to the UCC church in Minden, some of the committee's have helped with the people of that area. She was telling me of all the destruction that has taken place. Some businesses and as well as homes were destroyed and just now getting the OK from the insurance companies to get started on re building their houses or businesses. She also told me the church will need a new roof because of the storm. They are still able to meet and have church, but they are going to need a new roof and chimney. I believe that this would be another great way of showing God's loving in helping our neighbors. Remember what God said in Matthew 18:20, "for where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them." Jesus is with us in everything that we do, as long as we are doing his will. Doing things for our community nearby as well as around the world. When we do it together with others it pleases Him.

As we look to July and the celebrations that are coming the first couple of celebrations the first two weekend of the month. The first weekend we will be celebrating the 4th of July, where we celebrate the freedoms that we have as individuals in this great country. The next weekend is our celebration with the community of Schleswig. We invite everyone in our community to come join us outside of the church for a picnic and entertainment. We want to celebrate with the town of Schleswig and all of the resident. We want to tell them thank you, and provide a place where they can meet and fellowship in Christian love. All that we ask of the citizens is to bring a lawn chair, so that they can sit and enjoy the food and entertainment that will be provided.

Again, in Psalms 133:1, when David was talking about unity, he was talking about "Harmony," is the sharing a unified FAITH in God. Rather than divided by doctrines or politics, we are one. The concept may feel elusive, yet it blesses all, it's a beautiful goal for believers to show concern and love for one another – especially in our town where the love of God is needed.

Nobody is better than anyone else in the eyes of God. Just like not one religion is better than another. We all believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and savior.

Father, please help (me/us), with the power of your Holy Spirit to work for the Unity in our Church, our Community and our World.

God Bless all of Us

Pastor Kirk Manchester

WHEN YOU GO
THROUGH DEEP
WATERS, I WILL
BE WITH YOU.

Isaiah 43:2

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

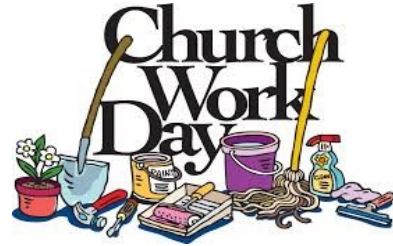
July 18 -5:00 PM "How Great Thou Art" in memory of Milroy Groth from Marlene Groth

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



Church Work Day will be on Saturday, July 27th. We will be completing various projects around our church. Please be at the church by 8:00 am to lend a hand.

July Greeters

July 7- Kelli Rupert & Colin Neddermeyer

July 14- No church service

July 21- Ken & Connie Boger

July 28- Mike & Jackie Goodin

July Acolytes

July 7- Sophia Luth & Ryder Luth

July 14- No church service

July 21- Gracie Outhouse & Sophia Luth

July 28- Brayton Johannsen & Jayton Bral



Scholarship Sunday is scheduled for July 28th during the 9:00 am worship service. All scholarship recipients are asked to attend this service so they can be recognized.



Council Minutes

May 16, 2024

Call to Order—The meeting was called to order by President Cheri Streck. Those present were Cheri, Leisha, John D., Jeff, John B. (phone) and Pastor Kirk. Those absent were Seth, Josie, and John F.

Pastor Kirk opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of the Minutes: Approval of the minutes was motioned and was seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of the Financial Report: The motion for approval of the financial report was made and seconded.

Bills to be Paid: A total of \$6,320.19 was agreed upon for the bills to be paid. The motion was made and seconded.

Committee Reports:

CE: The children sang at church on Sunday. Their next meeting is this Sunday; they will discuss VBS plans. Gracie received her graduation gift.

CSFD: The committee met by phone and are making final plans for giving money to the people who suffered Tornado damage in Minden. The committee will meet on June 8th.

CSFI: They are trying to get things done with the CDs to make things simpler.

Property: The property committee received bids for tree and stump removal behind the church. Lansink Tree Service had the winning bid for \$5,980.00. They will backfill the area when the trees are gone. A motion to approve the bid was made and seconded. They did jobs around the church and the parsonage, such as removing dandelions and spraying.

Spiritual Life: They are helping with the picnic in the parking lot.

Missions & Outreach: They are planning the picnic in the parking lot. They served a spaghetti dinner after Laity Sunday.

Stewardship: Nothing to Report

Pastor's Report: Pastor has been asked to help with the VFW service on Memorial Day. Church service will be on the 13th during the picnic, because of this there will be no church service on the 14th.

Old Business:

Farm Service Agency letter was sent and received. This allows John F. and John D. and Seth N. to sign checks.

New Business:

Float for Calf Show Days: banners have been found for the float and ideas are being decided on for the float. The church needs a hayrack for the parade. A motion to give \$500 for the float and candy was made and seconded.

Worship at the Pond: Pastor talked with Judy for Worship at the Pond. It will June 9 at 10:00. Judy will have the farm ready for us, but we have to decorate. Chicken will be served. Bottled water will need to be purchased.

Memorial Flowers: Jeff will buy the flowers and Leisha will take the flowers out to the cemetery.

Cookies for Under the Awning on Sundays: The council will set chairs out for people who cannot stand very long. People have signed up for cookies. We have multiple groups that have donated for Memorial Weekend and through June.

Chicken Dinner Organizers: Judy, Cheri, and Marla will organize the Chicken Dinner. The date of the Chicken Dinner will be in October.

New Flag: There is a new flag in the office. It will be put up before Memorial Day. Property Committee will take care of this.

The Annual Meeting is in Omaha on September 27 and 28.

Pastor has been approached to move service time from 10:00 to 9:00 for the summer. A motion to move the service to 9:00 AM with exception of June 9 because of Church at the Pond was made and seconded.

Pastor was approached by Kendie Miller from the Conference with the possibility of helping out another church (Westside). Pastor will check into this to bring more details to the Council.

The Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July	1	-	Lance Clausen
July	2	-	Josie McMinemee
July	6	-	Mindi Sieren
July	7	-	Carrie Johnson
July	8	-	Darrell Brodersen Laurie Hansen
July	9	-	Kim Brockman
July	11	-	Haxton Fineran
July	15	-	Delbert Schmidt Skylar Bielenberg
July	18	-	Ryan Woodward
July	19	-	Trevor Nemitz Evelynn Sharp
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

A huge THANK YOU to all my UCC friends for the prayers, calls, visits, cards and food! Also Janet and Evening Guild for the JOY box and Kirk and Ericka for taking on my Sunday cookie obligation. You have all been so thoughtful and caring. I am up and moving although not too speedy! I hope to see you all in church in the near future! God bless you all!!

- Julie Christie

May Numbers for the Books

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Contributions:</u>
May 5	61	\$849.46
May 12	51	\$438.00
May 19	41	\$688.00
May 26	50	\$713.25
Total:	203	\$2688.71
Average:	51	\$672.18

Church Community Picnic

July 13th from 5pm-8pm

w/ outdoor church

service at 8:15 pm

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

May

Financials



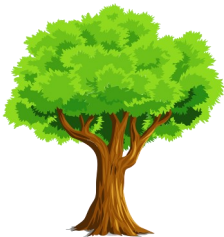
Income:

Weekly envelopes	\$ 3705.00
Loose Offering	\$ 225.71
Seasonal Offering	\$ 3.00
Misc. Offerings	\$ 0.00
Misc. Income	\$ 202.43
Interest Income-Gen. Fund	\$ 10.85
<i>Total Income:</i>	\$ 4146.99

Expenses:

Insurance & Taxes	\$ 344.12
Janitor Supplies	\$ 55.63
Misc. Expenses	\$ 0.00
Music	\$ 883.00
Office Expense	\$ 1191.26
Pastor Expenses	\$ 5127.27
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 2070.25
Supplies	\$ 71.44
Support Staff Salaries	\$ 3814.00
Utilities	\$ 693.96
<i>Total Expenses:</i>	\$ 14250.93

Net Ordinary Income **\$ (-10,103.94)**



The property committee has made the decision the trees on the west side of the church will need to be taken down. They are very old and showing signs of decay. The recent winds

brought down a branch that caused minor damage to the shed roof. Sadly the rest of them will be removed in the near future.



This month we are going to do some review of previous articles and suggestions. Time

marches on and our circumstances change!

If you are retired and have an IRA or 401 K account and have reached the age you must make MRDs (Minimum Required Disbursements) or draw on those funds for living expense talk to your accountant about giving all or a part of that MRD directly to the church. If set up correctly, the disbursement will not be taxable and may save you a small amount of federal income taxes. Your accountant will be knowledgeable about the proper way this can be accomplished. The church receives the same amount it would if you were writing personal checks from your bank account but you have missed a small (or maybe large!) decrease of declared income.

As church members, modeling good behavior and membership is commendable. We have about 12 elementary and younger children regularly attending our services. Their parents let them contribute to the morning offering – a quarter, dime, nickel, penny, or sometimes a piece of paper they drew on. It does slow down the collection but what a good way to learn about regular giving. Those of us who give sporadically or in some automatic withdrawal method can pick up a voucher from the table in the Narthex and put it in the collection plate during the morning offering. It does not identify you, or say what amount you gave and we do recycle the vouchers, but it models giving for our youngsters. Such a simple act but believe me the kids notice!

These are two easy acts that can model Christian giving and no cost to you.



Vacation Bible School was a huge success! We had 27 to 28 kids every night come to our “camp”. They learned the bible stories of how Jesus found his way to the temple as a 12 year old, how Jesus calmed the waters of the storm, went on a scavenger hunt around the church, and many other things. Their memory verse they all successfully memorized was “Whenever I’m afraid, I put my trust in you. Psalm 56:3”. We surpassed our goal of \$150 to donate to Heifer International’s water treatment project. Which help brings clean water to several different communities around the world. We celebrated with a water gun fight and soaking our “Camp Counselor”.

I appreciate those that stepped up and volunteered, THANK YOU!! That being said, we need a lot more of you next year. I pray all of you will be able to enjoy the rest of your summer.

Jessica Jurgensen
CE Director







**"Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you."
Psalm 56:3**