

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## JUNE 2024

"Schools out for Summer", I think I remember hearing that in a song. Here we are its summer, the time we have all been waiting for. The sun is shining, the grass is green, and the birds are singing. We have had some great weather lately. But we have also had some devastating weather also. Let us not forget those who were hit by the tornado that went through. The communities of Omaha, Minden, and Harlan. Our prayers go out to them. It is great to see so many of you have stepped up and given to help them out. Thank you.

Most of you know that I am a big Kansas City Chiefs fan, but this last weekend, one of the chiefs was giving a commencement speech at Benedictine College and said some things that really offended a lot of people. He stated, that one of the "most important" titles a woman can hold is being a homemaker. He also made comments against abortion, Pride month and the Covid 19 lockdown measures. These comments have made quite the stir, and there is a petition to have him dropped from the team. Around 19,000 people have signed these petitions. This shows that what we say can be harmful towards others. I understand that each person has their right to say how they feel about things. In the book of Luke 6: 43-44 it says that, "Jesus said that our speech is a convincing indicator of whether our hearts are in tune with Him and His ways or not." "For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of" verse 45. Christ was pointing out that if we really want to change what's coming out of mouths, we first have to focus on changing our hearts as He helps us.

We all have at sometime in our lives said something that we wish we could take back. We have used inappropriate language or have said words that have been hurtful to someone or some group of people. We all have our own beliefs on how this world should be and what we should be doing to accomplish it. But have we really thought about what we would be saying, how it was going to affect people. The old saying of think before you speak come to mind here.

Just like being a Christian, what we do and say in general conversations lets people know how much of a Christian we really are. Do we act one way Monday thru Saturday and then act differently on Sundays. We need to invite the Holy Spirit to fill us with the love of Jesus Christ. Is this something that Jesus would be wanting us to say or do? Are we representing him in a positive way. He works within us to inspire and help us to continually offer thanks to God. How we speak and act tells a lot about us. So, what does our words and speech say about our hearts? How are we inviting the Holy Spirit to transform our speech and actions these days? Are we showing others the love that our Lord Jesus Christ shows us every day?

Dear Jesus, please help us speak words that honor you and lift up others. AMEN.

Pastor Kirk Manchester



We are ending our Sunday School year strong with great attendance, singing on Mother's Day in Church, and one last push for the children's offering that they decided to put towards Children's Hospital. We have reviewed the last 10 Sundays worth of lessons AND also discussed God making dirt, worms, and flowers while being good stewards of this world he left for us to take care of. The children painted and planted flowers in coffee mugs for their Moms and Grandmas for Mother's Day. We did postpone the Mystery Dinner and will get another date on the calendar.

As this Sunday School year comes to a close, I would like to repeat what Pastor included in last month's newsletter and give a big shout out to our volunteer Sunday School teachers. Without their help, having two separate age groups would not be possible. I would also like to thank our youth that have stepped up and helped with different Sunday School projects. With that being said, I need volunteers for our Vacation Bible School! Only a few have signed up and it is less than a month away. We need teachers for Science/Crafts, Story Telling, and Music. We need a few more group leaders and kitchen help as well. I know a lot of you may have "put in your time" but to keep everyone from getting burnt out like you maybe did, please reconsider and come share your love for Jesus and have fun with us. There will be more details coming but, we plan to have our agenda set up a little different than years past so your time commitment will not be as long.

Parents, thank you for making the effort to get your kids to class, I know schedules are more chaotic than ever. Please take the time to get them signed up for our Vacation Bible School. The link is [ucc.mycokesburyvbs.com](http://ucc.mycokesburyvbs.com) OR you can visit our Facebook page for more information. Even if they can make it only a day or two, you can still sign them up. Also, please share the information with other friends/family.

Have a great Summer!







## **Pilgrim Heights** **Summer Camp**

There are 2 camps available this summer:

Session 1 is for ages 6-11 years old and is July 14th - July 18th.

Session 2 is for ages 12-18 years old and is July 21st -July 25th.

The cost is \$400 per child. There is money available through CSFD to pay part of the cost of camp, if any kids would like to attend this summer.

***You must contact the office by July 1st to qualify for help from CSFD.***

**Congratulations to our  
2024 graduate,  
Gracie Outhouse**





## Hymns on the Chimes

**June 7-** 6:00 PM **"Mansion Over the Hilltop"** in memory of LeRoy Wonder from Bonnie Reynolds Wonder & Roger Wonder

**June 11-** 6:00 PM **"How Great Thou Art"** in honor of Al & Phyllis' Anniversary from Phyllis Sedore & family

**June 11-** 6:15 PM **"Rock of Ages"** in memory of Catherine Jensen from the Jensen family

**June 14-** 10:15 AM **"You're a Grand Old Flag"** in honor of Flag Day from the UCC

**June 18-** 5:00 PM **"How Great Thou Art"** in memory of Bud Obrecht from family

**June 26-** 5:00 PM **"On Eagles Wings"** in memory of LaJune Obrecht from family

**June 27-** 8:15 AM **"In the Garden"** in memory of Robert H.W. Reimer from family

**June 27-** 5:30 PM **"Onward Christian Soldiers"** in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Otto Evers & Mr. & Mrs. P.H. Claussen from Eddie & Leo-la Claussen

**June 28-** 5:15 PM **"This is the Day the Lord Has Made"** in memory of Matt, Minnie, Margaret, & Johannes Wilken from family and friends

**June 28-** 6:00 PM **"Amazing Grace"** in memory of Alan H. Sedore from Phyllis Sedore & family

**June 29-** 5:00 PM **"Just as I Am"** in memory of Edgar Krohnke from Edgar Krohnke family

**June 30-** 5:00 PM **"Old Rugged Cross"** in memory of Bruce Christie from Julie Christie



## JUNE Birthdays

June 1	-	Jeff Boelter
June 3	-	Scott Nemitz
June 5	-	Dustin McMinemee
June 6	-	Kirk Christie Katie Sharp
June 11	-	Hanna Outhouse
June 14	-	Carrie Landon
June 15	-	Kirk Lacey Roger Rusch
June 17	-	Leon Clausen
June 18	-	Austin Larson
June 21	-	Andrew Strandburg
June 22	-	Jade Jurgensen
June 23	-	John Cassens Jules Jurgensen
June 24	-	Roger Wonder
June 26	-	Greg Bumann Keith Larson
June 27	-	Cale Paulsen Carol Krohnke
June 28	-	Talsha Johannsen
June 29	-	Swen Berger
June 30	-	Ryder Luth

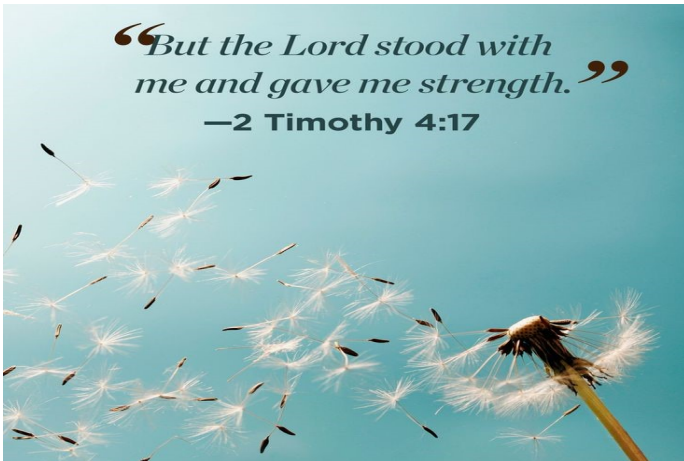
### **STEWARDSHIP JUNE 2024**

May was a busy month for stewardship! We collected for TAP, a special UCC offering, to help Christian Ed meet their goal, tornado relief, and our usual budget offerings. Add in graduations, Mother's Day, and other special events and are you feeling drained?

This month we have one special giving opportunity and that is Vacation Bible School. Can you give some food assistance, teach a session, lead a group, offer moral support, help decorate, get your kids and grandkids to attend, and pray for success? Not so hard on the pocketbook or wallet but a definite need. Give whatever assistance you can offer for the week or a day or an hour!

Every gift of time, talent, or treasure is appreciated and received with thanksgiving. A little from many can add up to a lot. Help spread the word about God's love and gifts to us.

*“But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength.”*  
—2 Timothy 4:17



### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Summer Worship Time will be at 9 am beginning on June 2nd and continuing until the end of August.**

### **Congratulations!**

**Congratulations to Cierra Kastner for being named to the Dean's List at Buena Vista University for the 2024 Spring Semester.**

**Congratulations to Trevor Nemitz for being named to the Dean's List at Buena Vista University for the 2024 Spring Semester.**

### **Worship at the Pond**

**Sunday, June 9th at 10 am at Judy's pond (2251 G Ave)  
Potluck meal following the service; Chicken will be provided,  
please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share  
Please bring your lawn chairs**





The Missions Committee made a donation to Compete for a Cure, a local non-profit for each participant that signed up to walk a mile or be

active for 30 minutes each day of May.

The Missions Committee wanted to encourage everyone to make the choice to be more active during the month of May to help support those facing brain cancer and support brain research.

Taylor and Amelia invited everyone to join them on a morning stroll on Sunday mornings at 9 am during the month of May.

How did you increase your activity in May to show your support?



Congratulations Trevor Nemitz on graduating from Buena Vista University with a degree in Business Education.



# VBS



Sunday, June 23 thru Wednesday June 26

Ages 3- 6th grade

Register online at :

[ucc.mycokesburyvbs.com](http://ucc.mycokesburyvbs.com)

June 26th is Family Fun Night. We invite all parents and grandparents to come with the children for a meal, music, and activity.

Mark your Calendar for the Community Picnic at our Church on Saturday, July 13th from 5-8 pm with a worship service following



## JUNE GREETERS

JUNE 2- Jim & Jolene Whiting

JUNE 9- Worship at Pond

JUNE 16- Larry & Pat Weibers

JUNE 23- Jeff & Jenny Boelter

JUNE 30- Paul Outhouse & Shannon Cose

## JUNE ACOLYTES

JUNE 2- Huntur Johannsen & Jayton Bral

JUNE 9- Worship at Pond

JUNE 16- Gracie Outhouse

& Taryn Johannsen

JUNE 23- Ella Anders & June Jurgensen

JUNE 30- Hayden Fineran & Haxton Fineran

## April Numbers for the Books

Date:	Attendance:	Contributions:
April 7	33	\$ 832.00
April 14	45	\$ 952.75
April 21	39	\$ 367.75
April 28	56	\$ 692.75
Total:	173	\$2845.25
Average:	43	\$ 711.31



## April Financials



### Income:

Weekly envelopes	\$ 2595.00
Loose Offering	\$ 207.25
Seasonal Offering	\$ 74.00
Misc. Offerings	\$ 339.00
Misc. Income	\$ 503.05
Interest Income-Gen. Fund	\$ 11.36
Total Income:	\$ 3729.66

### Expenses:

Association Dues	\$ 0.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$ 331.62
Janitor Supplies	\$ 56.19
Misc. Expenses	\$ 50.00
Music	\$ 360.00
Office Expense	\$ 1782.79
Pastor Expenses	\$ 5127.27
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 440.69
Supplies	\$ 395.20
Support Staff Salaries	\$ 3660.00
Utilities	\$ 1798.87
Total expense:	\$ 13952.63
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (-10,222.97)

***(Council minutes continued)***

Old Business:

New elevator contract with Schumacher Elevator Company has been signed and will take effect July 1st and contract with TKE will end on June 30th.

Spring Grant for the Sanctuary was discussed. A motion was made to give to the Sanctuary and was seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion on John Wulf money. With a lot of discussion it was decided to give to the VFW Auxiliary for the canvas banner being made, to the UCC annual church summer picnic and to buy ride tickets for the Schleswig TK - 8th grade students, Under the Son Daycare kids and the Preschool kids at Immanuel Lutheran Church, with each student only receiving 1 pkg. of tickets regardless of being involved any of the above groups. Josie and Leisha volunteer to get numbers needed and distribute them. A motion was made to approve money to be given to the above groups from the John Wulf money, seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Discussed the need of more than 1 person to sign at the Farm Service Agency. Sandy Lacey, John Cassens and Seth Neubauer are currently listed as signers. Need 2 new council members to sign. A motion was made to add John F. and John D. and remove Sandy Lacey and John Cassens from the signature card. Seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion on the organizing of the chicken dinner. Judy Strandburg, Cheri Streck and Marla Teut are those who were involved with Shannon last year. Cheri will talk with Judy and Marla about organizing this year's Chicken Dinner.


Boy Scout Plaque was approved last month. Due to the Schleswig Boy Scouts not in existence the check will be made out to D & S Sales of Denison.

Other new business: Kirk wanted to discuss the need of having a UCC Float in the parade this year. After discussion it was tabled and will talk more about it next month.

With no other discussion a motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leisha Kragel, Board Member



**Therefore encourage one  
another and build each other up,  
just as in fact you are doing.**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11





## Council Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2024

Abbie Gustafson arrived early to talk about the Sanctuary. Abbie had previously submitted a Spring Grant in regards to the Sanctuary which was tabled in March as we, the council, did not know much about the Sanctuary and wanted more information. After her presentation, information and questions answered, we thanked her for coming and presenting more details.

Vice President, John D. opened the meeting at 7:11 pm. Those in attendance were Seth, Leisha, John F., Josie & Pastor Kirk. Cheri and John B. both by phone.

Pastor Kirk opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made to approve the minutes from March 21st, seconded. Motion carried.

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

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

### **Committee Reports:**

**CE:** CE had mtg. on April 14th. Continue to work on updating the CE Director Job Description. Mystery Dinner will be May 13th from 5-7 pm for kids 3rd –Seniors, everyone is invited to bring a friend. Must RSVP by May 5th. Have graduation gift for Gracie. Looking at possible new lesson Plan Ideas and Goals. Jessica presented some options. Ideas for promoting learning with in CE committee, Council and Pastor. Vacation Bible School is in later June continue to prepare for it. We defiantly will need volunteers of all ages!! Children will be singing on Mother's Day, May 12th. Committee approved reimbursement to Jessica for supplies from Dollar Tree for church bags for children, bulletin board supplies and craft for Mother's Day (cups).

**CSFD:** No report

**CSFI:** No report

**Property:** Roof completed. Getting quotes to cut down, remove and grind stumps of the large trees on west side of church due to possible damage to (church & new roof) if they were to blow over due to rotting. Continue to look into bell tower repairs. New lamp posts have been ordered and will be installed when they arrive. Areas of lawn will need to be worked on from damage from heavy equipment during roof installation. Need to replace the old garage remote for the parsonage due to not working. Motion made to approve purchase of new garage remote, seconded.

**Spiritual Life:** Easter breakfast brought in \$400 free will donations. May 5th is Laity Sunday and they have everything covered for the service. Working on date with Missions & Outreach (probably July 13th) and details for the Church Picnic on church lawn.

**Missions & Outreach:** No report. They will be meeting with Spiritual Life on April 28th after church.

**Stewardship:** No report

**Pastor's Report:** Preached at Homestead, visited with Delores, Naomi and Jennetta. Had funeral for Joyce Petersen and delivered flowers from funeral to ladies and assisted living places in Denison. Met with several committees this past month. Did some marriage counseling, 4 youth confirmed and gave communion, planning for Mother's Day Service and met with Crawford County Ministerial Association. Will be doing calls to some members for another home visit.