

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JUNE 2025

So, where has May gone? It just seemed like a couple weeks ago it was Easter. We had a wedding at the church and then it was Mother's Day. Then the graduations have started, High School and College kids celebrating with their families and friends. Now they will be figuring out their future plans. College or off to work, what is the right move for them? As, loving Christians we need to be there for them and support them in whatever decision they make.

It is such a honor for these students. Were they thinking about this day when they were back in elementary school? Were they thinking about Christ? I know what you are thinking, where is he going with this?

Well, I have a story that is heart-warming and without this person's knowledge was bringing the word of God into peoples lives. There was an elementary teacher who during her daily routine of taking her/his class to gym, music, library or art. She asked her class to line up as she always did. Students would be moving around in line to be by their friends and those who always were trying to get that spot at the front of the line. One day, the teacher surprised their class by having everyone turn around and led them from what had been just seconds before the end of the line. The students were shocked and said what are doing?

Does this remind you of any Bible verse? How about Matthew 20: 16, it states, "So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Jesus observed similar jockeying around for position at a dinner table, he responded by telling a parable that undoubtedly surprised His fellow guests. Using a story about a wedding feast, he instructed them to "not take the place of honor" but instead "take the lowest place" (Luke 14: 8-10). Christ confounded their social norms by saying that "all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted".

This Kingdom principle can be a difficult one to adopt, especially because our human temptation will be to still focus on "winning." Somehow choosing the last position now so we'll be first later. Jesus urges us to follow His example and look to Him for help in reorienting our thinking to see being humble, last, and lowly as truly being in the place of honor. Do we struggle to surrender your own place of honor?

In this competitive world that we live in right now, we were taught and trained that we need to win or finish first in everything we do. This scripture can be a challenge for us to accomplish in this world. Jesus says that we are to be humble in everything that we do.

It's not difficult to let someone go in front of you while waiting in line. Maybe you have let someone go in front of you at a buffet or even at a church dinner or you have opened a door for someone and let them go in before you. Men that even means when you open the door for your wife or special friend. These are just a few examples of ways that we do things for others and did not even think about it. That is just how we were raised. We need to be humble in our interactions with others and be humbled in presence of Jesus.

Enjoy the month of June with your family and friends. Remember school is out, so there will be running and playing all over, so keep an extra eye out for the children as you are driving around.

Have a blessed day, week and month of June.

God Bless,
Pastor Kirk

Old Business:

Kirk's Contract: Roberta has been working on a new contract and has asked council for more input. She will meet with other sub-committee members, Josie and Seth to put this together. John Fineran told the committee he will be available to bounce ideas off of.

Council Lenten Meal: They feel the meal went over well, although attendance wasn't very good. \$108 was deposited in the general account from the donations.

John Wulf Money: Still working on ideas. \$1500 was designated to go to Missions for the Community Picnic expenses. A donation for pickle ball courts was discussed, but it was decided a fall grant from the JAC account would be more helpful for that.

Renters fertilizer reports and leases: John Bahnsen will be talking to both renters about getting the fertilizer reports they are required to supply to the church turned in. Reports have not been turned in for two years. This is the final year of their leases. Further discussion on this later.

New Business:

Summer worship time: Candice said congregants have asked to be able to vote on the time set for summer worship. Voting will take place in worship on May 11, with options of 9 or 10 am.

Combining committees: Discussion was held about combining some committees. Some people are on multiple committees and are getting burned out. It is increasingly difficult to find enough accountable people to run for committees. Council asked that Spiritual Life and Missions Committees meet together to discuss combining the two committees. Once the committees have spoken, council will decide if a by-laws change should be proposed at the annual meeting.

Memorial Flowers: Leisha will purchase memorial flowers for Date Bumann's grave, and the two Carstensen graves and take them to the cemetery. Motion moved and seconded to give \$100 to the Easter Flower Fund in memory of the Carstensen.

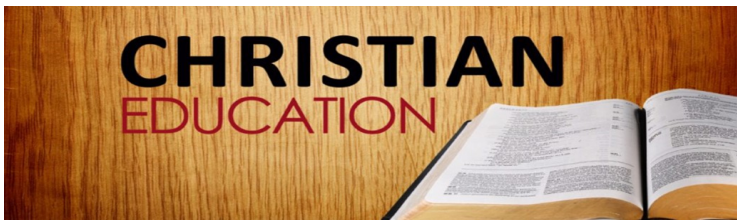
The next meeting will be May 21 at 6:30.

With no further discussion, a motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The Lord's Prayer was recited and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Neubauer

Financial and Council Secretary



What a blessing this school year has been! I have had a great time getting to know your children better and helping them grow their love for God and our Church. This last month we finished our Parable lessons, talked about different ways to pray and the importance of prayer, and helped our Youth Fellowship kids with a bake sale. Our goal was to reach \$250.00 in Sunday School offerings/fundraising this year to go towards helping Heifer International provide safe water. Our bake sale alone brought in just over \$250! Thank you for helping with our cause.

Light Lounge attendees decided to resume lessons after the summer. Other activities to add to your summer calendar are:

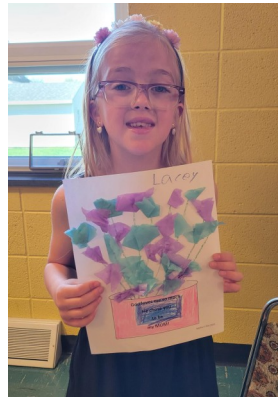
June 14th at 4:30pm Movie #1 (of 3) with child care and light supper. These movies will be a secret, with a two-word description. Perfect for any age group middle school and above. I will have the younger kids watch a short movie, do a craft, and maybe a trip to the park. The first movie is "orphans" and "fishing".

July 13th at 4:30pm Movie #2 "child loss" and "angry at God" with child care and light supper.

July 20th-26th Pilgrim Heights Summer camp. Please get RSVPs into the Church office.

August 3rd-6th Vacation Bible School's Waves of Wonder

August 24th at 4:30pm Movie #3 "football" and "loss of a loved one" with child care and light supper.



OFFICE HOURS



**During the summer months,
Candice will only be in the
office from 9 am-2 pm on Mon-
days, Wednesdays and Fridays.
The office will still be open on
Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

Pilgrim Heights Summer Camp

There are 2 camps available this summer:

Session 1 is for ages 6-11 years old and is July 13th- July 19th.

Session 2 is for ages 12-18 years old and is July 20th-July 26th.

Registration is \$400 per child, plus \$11.60 for tax. 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.***

STEWARDSHIP JUNE 2025

I have shared before that the General United Church of Christ has selected five special offerings that are scheduled throughout the year.

The special offering scheduled for June 8th is Strengthen the Church. This is also Pentecost Sunday. This offering is split 50/50 with the general synod and the state and area Conferences. This means there is money to spend on global efforts and an equal amount to support Conference concerns and needs.

The Strengthen the Church mission is to support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovations in existing congregations. Some possible uses are supporting education efforts of ministerial candidates as well as well as lay workers in church positions. Formation and development of a new church can receive assistance. Perhaps it will fund a youth event on a national or conference level. Congregations that are exploring innovative ways to spread the gospel, grow their membership and involvement, and exciting new ideas for programs could receive financial assistance. The world is changing and we must explore ways we can change and still serve God and grow Christianity.

By your generosity to this effort, you can build up the Body of Christ in several different ways.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Summer Worship Time
will be at 9 am beginning
on June 1st and continuing
until August 31st.**



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 26	-	Greg Bumann
		Keith Larson
June 27	-	Cale Paulsen
		Carol Krohnke
June 28	-	Talsha Johannsen
June 29	-	Swen Berger
June 30	-	Ryder Luth



JUNE GREETERS

JUNE 1- Darrell Schmidt & Larry Kastner

JUNE 8- Jim & Jolene Whiteing

JUNE 15- Ron and Rhonda Pankau

JUNE 22- Cal Kastner & Kevin Neubauer

JUNE 29- Julie Christie & Sandy Lacey

JUNE ACOLYTES

JUNE 1- Hayden Fineran & Haxton Fineran

JUNE 8- Jayton Bral & Journey Bral

JUNE 15- Jett Paulsen & Cale Paulsen

JUNE 22- Taryn Johannsen

& Brayton Johannsen

JUNE 29- Averi Valentine & June Jurgensen

April Numbers for the Books

Date:	Attendance:	Contributions:
April 6	48	\$ 914.01
April 13	62	\$ 1552.25
April 20	76	\$ 1600.25
April 27	43	\$ 174.50
Total:	229	\$ 4241.01
Average:	57	\$ 1060.25

**Congratulations to Kambrie
Dau-Reimer on completing
her Master's degree**

April Financials



Income:

Weekly envelopes	\$ 2796.00
Loose Offering	\$ 340.01
Seasonal Offering	\$ 294.00
Misc. Offerings	\$ 1057.00
Misc. Income	\$ 496.32
Interest Income-Gen. Fund	\$ 6.30
Total Income:	\$ 4989.63

Expenses:

Association Dues	\$ 0.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$ 357.41
Janitor Supplies	\$ 20.80
Misc. Expenses	\$ 0.00
Music	\$ 1179.00
Office Expense	\$ 1018.48
Pastor Expenses	\$ 5436.26
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 263.22
Supplies	\$ 135.00
Support Staff Salaries	\$ 3947.50
Utilities	\$ 1501.69
Total expense:	\$ 13859.36
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (-8869.73)



Council Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2025

Call to Order: Council President, John Fineran, opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Council members in attendance were John Dorfler, Josie Krohnke, Leisha Kragel, Roberta Jepsen, John Bahn-sen and by telephone, Seth Neubauer. Kirk Manchester, Tammy Neubauer (Financial Secretary) and Candice Bral (secretary), were also present. Jill Sedore was absent.

Opening Prayer: Kirk opened with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2025 meeting, and the text meeting on March 24, 2025. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Report: A motion was made to approve the financial report with updates to the General Account details page to reflect the correct date. It was seconded. Motion carried.

Bills to be paid: A motion was made to pay the April bills with the addition of \$759 for organ tuning and service. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

CE: No report.

CSFD: They have given gas cards to some experiencing difficult times. No scholarship applications were turned in this year.

CSFI: No report.

Property: The elevator was damaged in the last blizzard with the power outage/surges. They are still trying to diagnose the problem and find the repairs. The age of the elevator makes it hard to find parts. A surge protector will be installed once repairs are completed.

Spiritual Life: Tammy ordered new altar flowers for the Easter/spring season. Some committee members and congregational volunteers will be serving the Easter breakfast.

Missions & Outreach: They will be doing an Easter egg hunt for the kids following worship on Easter, while final preparations are done for the Easter breakfast. They will be hosting the community picnic in July once again.

Stewardship: No report

Endowment: No report.

Pastor's Report: Council reviewed the report submitted, listing visiting elderly and giving communion. He has attended committee meetings, done wedding counseling with a couple, done two funerals and confirmation. He will be attending NW Iowa Annual Meeting on April 26. Council asked that instead of buying Mother's Day gifts for all mothers, that they be given to those ladies who are in the care facilities.