

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School- 9 am
Light Lounge -9 am
Worship service- 10 am

LENTEN SERVICES

Every Wednesday evening
Meal at 6 pm
Service at 6:45 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS THIS MONTH

Winter Jam - March 15
Youth Fellowship Bowling- March 21
King of Kings Movie at 4 pm-March 22
Palm Sunday- March 29

We have now entered into the Lenton Season, in hope of what this season brings to us. Each of us hope and pray for the promises of what Jesus Christ has done for us. To the brutal death he endured for us, to his resurrection, that we celebrate. The love that Jesus Christ showed for all of us when he died on that cross for our sins. We need to remember that God is LOVE. In 1 John 3: 1-3, it talks of Living as Children of God. "See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure"

Can we be like Jesus? Becoming like Jesus is a transformational process—a metamorphosis—of God growing His character in us as we yield to His ways. Paul wrote that believers in Jesus "are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18). John marvels at how hard this is for us to understand—much less achieve: "Now as children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

As believers, our self-worth comes from the fact that God loves us and calls us his children. We are his children now, not just sometime in the distant future. Knowing that we are God's children should encourage us to live as Jesus did. Believing in Christ begins the process of becoming more and more like him (Romans 8: 29). This process continues until we see Christ face-to-face. We don't know exactly how we'll be like him, but we do know that we will have eternal, resurrected bodies. We will be free from sin and pain, and we will have much more understanding that we do now on earth. Knowing our ultimate destiny motivates us to keep morally pure and free from the corruption of sin. It also gives us hope as we struggle with sin because we know that one day we will be totally sinless like Jesus. God purifies us, but we must also take steps to remain pure. Every time we resist a temptation or turn from sin, we become more like Jesus.

So, just how do we act like Jesus? To each of us it is a little different, but it all starts with Love. The love that Jesus showed to everyone that he met. The love that he shows to each one of us every day.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me with such long-suffering love. Teach me, please, to do the same. Amen.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 2 Madeline Grau
- 4 Cara Preul
- 9 John Fineran
- 11 Dee Lyon
- 17 Dalton Miller
Larry Kastner
- 19 Wilma McClellan
- 20 Janet Lafrentz
Verdell Kastner
- 21 Kelli Rupert
Janet Whiteing
- 22 Scott Clausen
Abigail Slater
- 23 Emily Bahnsen
Wayne Bliesmann
- 27 Allie Bahnsen
Cal Kastner
Darrell Schmidt
- 28 Trudi Andernacht
Ericka Manchester
- 29 Lonnie Kastner
- 30 Wade Miller
Tammy Neubauer
- 31 John Bahnsen



Information for all UCC youth members planning on accessing the CSF for secondary education tuition grants:

The deadline for scholarship applications to be in the church office is April 1. Applications received after April 1 will be severely reduced.

The awarding of tuition assistance is based on participation in church activities and regular attendance.

Assisting with lighting candles, bible school, Sunday school teaching and helping the CE director, helping on work days, etc. Make sure to sign the attendance book in the narthex.

Be available for the pre-scholarship interview and receive your check for tuition offset on Scholarship Sunday. CSFD looks forward to assisting with your secondary education.

MARCH HYMNS ON THE CHIMES



- March 2nd 1:15 pm "In the Garden" in loving memory of Gary Schultz from his family
- March 6th 5:00 pm "Holy, Holy, Holy" in memory of Date Bumann from CSF Committee
- March 6th 5:15 pm "Jesus Loves the Little Children" in memory of Date Bumann from CSF
- March 9th 1:00 pm "On Eagles Wings" in memory of Amelia Miller from her family
- March 9th 5:15 pm "Lift High the Cross" in memory of Malinda Evers from her family
- March 24th 4:00 pm "Shall We Gather at the River" in memory of Mary Ann Reimer from her family
- March 31st 6:00 pm "You Are My Sunshine" in memory of Hans Jess from his family



CHRISTIAN SERVICE FUND SCHOLARSHIP FORMS are available to college students and high school seniors. Applications are on the church website: www.uccschleswig.org or you can pick one up in the office. All applications are due back in the church office by **Wednesday, APRIL 1st.**

Easter Service and Easter Breakfast

Everyone is invited to the Easter Breakfast following worship on Easter morning. The Outreach Committee will be organizing the breakfast once again, serving egg bakes, rolls/breads, coffee and juice. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for donations of hot baked egg-bakes and rolls/breads. Donations will need to be baked and dropped at the kitchen by 6:45 a.m. We will keep them warm in the ovens, so will not be able to bake casseroles. If you sign up for rolls/breads, each line on the sheet is expected to bring 1 dozen servings. If you plan to bring more than that, please sign more than one line. Clean up help is always welcome! Thank you in advance for your help in making this a joyful fellowship time!

January Financials



<u>Income:</u>	
Weekly Envelopes	\$6626.00
Loose Offering	\$150.50
Seasonal Offering	\$21.00
Misc. Offering	\$26.00
Misc. Income	\$302.02
Interest Income- General Fund	\$3.55
<u>Total Income:</u>	\$7129.07
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Insurance & Taxes	\$347.61
Janitor Supplies	\$136.34
Misc. Expenses	\$231.26
Music	\$300.00
Office Expense	\$443.05
Pastor Expense	\$5493.69
Repairs and Maintenance	\$3502.80
Supplies	\$142.50
Support Staff Salaries	\$3826.75
Utilities	\$3184.62
<u>Total Expense:</u>	\$17608.62
<u>Net Ordinary Income:</u>	- \$10479.55

March Greeters

March 1- Colin Neddermeyer & Kelli Rupert
 March 8- Conner & Kambrie Reimer
 March 15- Mark & Katie Sharp
 March 22- Kim Korwes & Tracy Kastner
 March 29- Jim & April Stender

March Acolytes

March 1- Jersey Bral & Jayton Bral
 March 8- Ryder Luth & Sophia Luth
 March 15- Averri Valentine & Ella Anders
 March 22- Hayden Fineran & Cale Paulsen
 March 29 - Taryn Johannsen & Journey Bral

Help us keep our records updated!
 Have you moved or changed your phone number recently? Please contact the office by email at uccoffice@wiaw.net or by phone at 676-3917 so we can keep in touch.

January Numbers for the Books

Date	Attendance	Contributions
Jan. 4	45	\$1893.25
Jan. 11	56	\$302.00
Jan. 18	32	\$4145.75
Jan. 25	45	\$311.50
Total:	178	\$6652.50
Average:	45	\$1663.13



Council Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2026

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

Council members in attendance were Roberta Jepsen, Leisha Kragel, Seth Neubauer, John Dorfler and via telephone, John Bahnsen. Tammy Neubauer, Kirk Manchester and Jessica Jurgensen were also present. Josie Krohnke and Jill Sedore were absent.

Opening Prayer: Kirk opened the meeting with a prayer.

Jessica was present to address any questions council had about the survey she sent out. The survey revealed the need for some changes to ensure a future for the church family. CE continues to need more volunteer help during Sunday School to have a safe environment for all children. She is working with the high school age kids to organize an outdoor youth event with them. Roberta suggested when the new council is in position in February, that a reorganization effort begin, with solid goals and plans to reach those goals to create longevity for the church.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2025 meeting. It was seconded. Motion carried.

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

Bills to be paid: A motion was made to pay the December bills. It was seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

CE: The lock-in was a huge success. CE continues to need help with Sunday School. A skating party is scheduled for February 8.

CSFD: They will have a reorganization meeting Monday, January 26.

CSFI: No meeting.

Property: They are waiting for warmer weather to fix the electronic sign. Elevate has repaired the leaking downspout on the canopy. A water leak in the kitchen has been repaired.

Outreach: The movie that was schedule for January 18 was rescheduled to January 25, due to Julie's visitation on the 18th.

Stewardship: No report

Endowment: No report.

Pastor's Report: Council reviewed the report submitted, listing visiting elderly, giving communion and attending meetings. He noted he did not meet with some of the people listed for visitation and communion due to Julie's funeral. It also listed he will meet with the CCMA committee to discuss becoming a licensed minister. The report stated he is still looking at Lenten material as well as planning future confirmation classes.

Old Business:

Farm leases: Seth spoke with Chris Ullrich and asked him to put the big waterway back in and to remove the trees as the lease states. Mike Hargens has also been told to remove the trees on that land, and to turn in his soil samples and fertilizer records as his lease states.

Plans for Lent: Council will serve "breakfast" for the meal on Ash Wednesday, serving sausage, pancakes, scrambled eggs, toast, orange juice and coffee.

Christian Education

This month the Sunday School children have started a Lenten Bible verse chain. Each day they have the opportunity to read a bible verse with their family as we continue our Lenten journey. The first verse on Ash Wednesday was Isaiah 61:3. Please let me know if you would like a copy of the verses to follow along with. Throughout the month we have shared stories, crafts and games surrounding “I”saac, “J”erusalem, and the “K”ings of the Bible. There have been a few responses to our pen pal letters, along with preparing letters for the rest of our list. Once completed, we will have reached out to over 40 members! There is still time to be added to our list if you would like.

We had an excellent turn out for our Annual Skate Palace Party. Please RSVP for the following dates so we can plan accordingly:

March 15th – Winter Jam – CE will pay for Youth Fellowship & friend’s admission, along with any members of our congregation that would like to join. Please RSVP to Church Office or Jessica by March 5th.

March 21st – 1pm at Denison’s Lucky Lanes Bowling Alley. CE will pay for shoe/lane rental of all members of our congregation. Please RSVP to Church Office or Jessica by March 10th.

March 29th – The Sunday School Children will sing in Church on Palm Sunday.

On March 18th from 5:00pm until 6:00pm, we will have a Vacation Bible School preparation hour. I know August seems a long way away, but anyone wanting to help create a few decorations/crafts, it would be greatly appreciated.



Council Meeting Minutes (CONTINUED)

Organization for Annual Meeting: Roberta will secure three counters to count the ballots for the meeting. Tammy will prepare the agenda and get it to John F. for the meeting.

New Business:

Reorganization meeting: Council will hold a reorganization meeting following the annual meeting. At this time Roberta has agreed to be the Vice President.

Fellowship cookies: Jersey will not be making fellowship cookies after the end of April, due to her graduation. If nobody wants to take over the job, we will go back to only having cookies when volunteers sign up to bring them.

Memorial Account: Tammy spoke with the council about the balance in the memorial account and made them aware that those funds are available for special projects, if anyone has any ideas.

As this was John Dorfler's last meeting, he thanked the council for the opportunity to work with them and the council thanked him for volunteering to serve. John Bahnsen was also thanked.

A meeting date was not determined for the next meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Neubauer
Financial and Council Secretary

Easter Sunday Service
Sunday, April 5th at 7 am

Easter Fund

We appreciate donations of any amount in memory or in honor of loved ones. There will be an insert in the Easter service bulletin, like previous years. Please use the form below or pick one up on the table in the Narthex.

Effort to be better stewards of our resources

Starting next month, your monthly newsletters will be placed in your church mailbox rather than mailed through the post office.

If you prefer to continue receiving a paper copy through the mail, you must contact the church office by phone or email to specifically request it.

We also invite you to join us in this effort by opting to receive your updates via email, which ensures you get the latest news instantly while helping us direct more funds toward our ministries.

Please be sure the office has your correct mailing address, as well as, correct email address. Send a quick email to Candice at uccoffice@wiaw.net

2026 Easter Fund

DONATION AMOUNT: \$ _____

SAME MESSAGE AS THE PREVIOUS YEAR: YES NO

In memory of or in honor of:

Given by: _____

PLEASE PLACE IN THE OFFERING PLATE, THE MAILBOX BY THE CHURCH OFFICE, THE OUTDOOR DROPBOX, OR DROP OFF AT CHURCH OFFICE DURING BUSINESS HOURS BY MARCH 31st. THANK YOU.