

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## NEWSLETTER

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

### SPECIAL DATES THIS MONTH

**May 2-** May Baskets-10 am  
**May 3-** Senior Recognition during worship  
**May 13-** Women's Bible Study at 10:30 am & 7 pm  
**May 17-** Last day of Sunday School and Light Lounge  
**May 24-** Pentecost Sunday; Strengthen the Church Offering  
**May 27-** Women's Bible Study at 10:30 am & 7 pm  
**May 31-** Scholarship interviews prior to worship

As we look into May, we say goodbye to another Lenten season. The knowledge of knowing that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins. Knowing that "He Has Risen", as we had gotten on Easter Sunday.

Have you ever worked or know someone that has worked at a job where you worked with the public? It can be a thankless job at times, or it can be the most rewarding job, you could have ever done. The satisfaction that you receive is a reward in itself. Knowing that you have done what was right, your job?

Philippians 2: 3-8 "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness, and being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-even death on a cross."

Jesus didn't cling to His divinity and refuse to assist humanity. Though He was "in very nature God, He did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage" (Philippians 2:6). As a human, Christ was able to become our sin offering and sacrifice Himself for us. He saw our need for help and salvation, and He humbly laid down His life (v. 8) Paul wrote, "He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant" (v. 7) We're called to imitate Jesus' attitude and sacrificial ways in our relationships with others. As He helps us, let's humbly serve them no matter how lowly the job may seem. As Jesus has asked us to help our neighbors. Helping others is what we are to do. We need to invest in others, helping.

"In our relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2: 5). How can we reflect the attitude and ways of Jesus?

What will it look like for us to humbly serve someone today?

PRAYER:

Thank You, Jesus, for humbly giving yourself for my sin. Please show me how to sacrificially serve others. AMEN.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- May 3 - Tasha DeBode  
Shelby Neubauer
- May 4 - Lorene Reimer
- May 6 - Cory Wiebers
- May 7 - Linda Reimer
- May 8 - Kristy Clausen  
Kayla Kastner
- May 9 - Jeremy Paulsen
- May 11 - Sophia Luth
- May 12 - Naomi Friedrichsen  
Cheri Streck
- May 13 - William Lacey
- May 14 - Delores Nemitz  
Jolene Whiteing
- May 21 - Ina Mae Bliesmann  
Connie Boger
- May 23 - Candis Denker
- May 24 - Roberta Jepsen  
Robert Kastner
- May 25 - Sydney Krohnke
- May 27 - Reed Slater
- May 28 - J.J. Steuk
- May 30 - Gracie Outhouse  
Todd Meehan
- May 31 - David Sharp

**Newsletter articles are due  
May 22nd.  
Your June newsletter will  
be available Sunday, May  
31st.**

## Hymns on the Chimes



- May 1 – 5 P.M. “Sweet Hour of Prayer” from the UCC  
Women’s Guild
- May 3 – 6:15 P.M. “Here I Am Lord” in memory of  
Harlan & Barbara Buffum from their family and friends
- May 4 – 5:15 P.M. “Lift High on the Cross” in memory  
of Peter and Jane Pickel from Rubie Kastner
- May 5 – 11:00 A.M. “On Eagles Wings” in memory of  
Cheryl Wolterman from Jodi Ehlers
- May 6 – 5:15 P.M. “On Eagles Wings” in memory of  
Elmer Reimer from the Reimer Family
- May 6 – 6:00 P.M. “Beautiful Savior” in memory of  
Ruth Jess from the Reimer Family
- May 11 – 5 P.M. “O, Jesus I Have Promised” in memory  
of Lois Reimer from Gary & Linda Reimer & family
- May 19 – 6:00 P.M. “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”  
in memory of Emmogene Evers, Johannes & Anna;  
William & Frieda; LaVaughn & Robert and Bud  
Peterson from Charles, Sandy & Bob & family.
- May 20 – 6:30 P.M. “Just As I Am” in memory of  
Harvey Wellendorf & Ruth Wellendorf from family
- May 25 – 11:15 A.M. “God Bless America” in honor of  
Memorial Day
- May 26 – 6:00 P.M. – “Nearer My God to Thee” in  
memory of Clarence Reincke from his family

# March Financials



<b><u>Income:</u></b>	
Weekly Envelopes	\$9670.00
Loose Offering	\$157.35
Seasonal Offering	\$188.00
Misc. Offering	\$281.00
Misc. Income	\$0.00
Interest Income- General Fund	\$5.58
<b><u>Total Income:</u></b>	<b>\$10,301.93</b>
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>	
Insurance & Taxes	\$3249.50
Janitor Supplies	\$43.23
Misc. Expenses	\$0.00
Music	\$360.00
Office Expense	\$2327.44
Pastor Expense	\$5493.69
Payroll Expenses	\$0.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$365.68
Supplies	\$183.09
Support Staff Salaries	\$4039.50
Utilities	\$2063.62
<b><u>Total Expense:</u></b>	<b>\$18,125.75</b>
<b><u>Net Ordinary Income:</u></b>	<b>- \$7,823.82</b>

# May Greeters and Acolytes

**May Greeters:**

- May 3- Zola Friedrichsen & Vicky Brown
- May 10- Gary & Beverly Peters
- May 17- Cal Kastner & Kevin Neubauer
- May 24- Jim & Cheri Streck
- May 31- John & Arlis Bahnsen

**May Acolytes:**

- May 3- Jersey Bral & Averi Valentine
- May 10- Sophia Luth & Ella Anders
- May 17- Hayden Fineran & Haxton Fineran
- May 24- Brayton Johannsen & Ryder Luth
- May 31- June Jurgensen & Averi Valentine

# March Numbers for the Books

Date	Attendance	Contributions
March 1	39	\$496.00
March 8	39	\$5363.00
March 15	35	\$1104.00
March 22	53	\$2836.60
March 29	82	\$301.75
<b>Total:</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>\$10,101.35</b>
<b>Average:</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>\$2,020.27</b>



March 19, 2026

**Call to Order:** Council President, Seth Neubauer opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Council members in attendance were Roberta Jepsen, Leisha Kragel, Jill Sedore, Josie Krohnke, Linda Reimer, Josh Jurgensen and John Fineran. Kirk Manchester and Tammy Neubauer were also present.

**Opening Prayer:** Kirk opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of Consent Agenda Items:** It was noted John Fineran's name had been omitted from the minutes as absent. This change will be made in the minutes. A motion was made to approve the consent agenda items consisting of the February 19, 2026 meeting minutes, with the addition of John's name, and the financial reports. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

**Bills to be paid:** A motion was made to pay the February bills. Seconded. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**CE:** A VBS workshop was held to begin preparations on decorations for VBS. A bowling party is scheduled.

**CSFD:** They have helped with medical transportation costs for an individual.

**CSFI:** No meeting.

**Property:** Ken is collecting bids on church and parsonage lawn fertilizer programs for the summer. A new dryer has been installed in the parsonage. It was determined the electrical line to the sidewalk lamp post was damaged in the construction last summer. Repairs would involve tearing up the sidewalk. They are investigating the possibility of putting a solar lamp head on rather than repairing the electrical line.

**Outreach:** They will be showing the movie King of Kings March 22. They are organizing and hosting the Easter Breakfast. They have arranged to have the Noteables (a singing group) lead the worship service on April 12.

**Pastor's Report:** Council reviewed the report submitted, listing visiting elderly, giving communion, making calls to those ill, doing counseling and attending meetings. Bill Brockman has moved to a care facility. He did not meet with Phyllis Sedore as listed on his report. He continues to work on Lenten services and confirmation.

**Old Business:**

**John Wulf money:** Ideas were discussed for the John Wulf money. It was moved to apply \$5000 to the Day Care loan principal at the bank. Seconded and the motion carried. \$1400 will be retained to purchase Calf Show ride tickets this fall. Donating to the Preschool Fundraiser was discussed. Leisha will meet with CSFD to see if they will be making a donation to the fundraiser. If they are not making a donation, then funds from John Wulf will be designated.

**Easter/Holy week Plans:** Maundy Thursday service will be at 7 pm, in the sanctuary. The Easter service is at 7 am, followed by a breakfast hosted by the Outreach Committee.

**Worship at the Pond:** Kirk will contact Judy to secure a date for worship at the pond. Seth will ask Taylor Neubauer if she is interested in smoking pork again for the main course and the rest of the food would be pot luck.

**Summer Worship Time:** A motion was made and seconded to move summer worship to 9 AM. The motion was defeated. The time will remain 10 AM unless the congregation requests a vote of the congregation to decide the time.

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(MINUTES CONTINUED)

**Spring Grants:** Grants received and the amounts awarded are as follows:

American Legion/VFW- \$1200

Schleswig CSD Music Department- \$5000

Schleswig School Memory Wall Committee-\$2500

UCC Property Committee- No money was awarded at this time as the expenses for lawn care and snow removal are budgeted expenses. The expenses will be paid from the General Fund, and if funds are not available from the General Fund at the time the bills are received, JAC funds will be used to make the payment.

**Confirmation Concerns:** The lack of time allowed for confirmation class was discussed. Council agrees class time needs to be at least 1 hour long and a lesson plan needs to be developed and followed. With only 2 class periods left this spring, it was decided it was too late to make any changes, since the students have been given their final assignment according to Kirk. Council asked that Kirk work closely with Jessica and/or the CE Committee in developing a more substantial program, lesson plans and schedule for the fall classes. It was noted there has not been communication with parents the past year, only texting students or telling those in class of class times and changes. Kirk was instructed to create a group text including all students and parents for communication purposes and to refrain from texting individual students.

**Carstensen Plaque:** It was noted the Carstensen plaque in the Narthex has not been updated for years. Linda asked that it be updated with the major donations funded by the Carstensen money. John Fineran noted he has been facing some major health concerns that may lead to him stepping down from council. He has not made a decision at this time.

The next meeting will be April 15 at 6:30.

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

### March 16, 2026

Council met via group text message regarding a problem with the parsonage dryer. Repairs would exceed the value of the old dryer and Property Committee requested approval to purchase a new one. A motion was made to approve the purchase of a new dryer from Bonsall's at the cost of \$801.43 with tax-installed. Bonsall's will remove the old one. This would be paid from the JAC Farm account. The motion was seconded. The motion passed with responses from all council members except John Fineran.

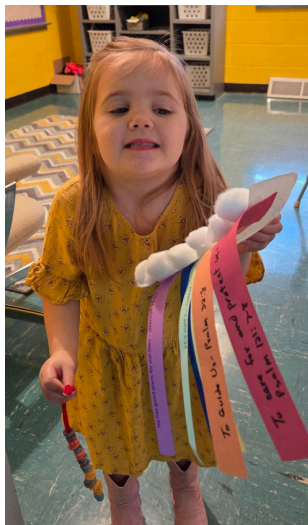
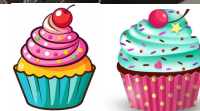
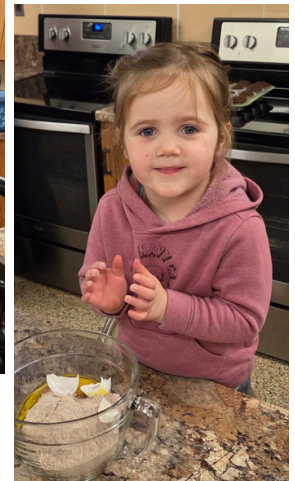
Tammy Neubauer,

Financial and Council Secretary

## Christian Education

This school year has been another great year of learning and growing in our faith. As it wraps up we will complete our alphabet lessons. In April we celebrated the true meaning of Easter, discussed how brave “Q”ueen Ester was, explored God’s promises and “R”ainbows, baked for our fundraiser, and completed our Youth Led Service. I appreciate those that have been able to step up with Sunday School and VBS preparations. A special thank you to Tammy for helping with chimes!

On Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> we have asked all of our youth and parents to help deliver May Day Baskets to members of our congregation. On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> is our Senior day, please say an extra prayer as they progress into their new adventures!



The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

**We will collect the Strengthen the Church offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2026.**

Our church is proud to support the Temporary Aid Program (TAP) throughout the month of May. As the school year ends, many local families face extra pressure to provide meals.

At this time, TAP is particularly in need of the following items:

Sugar, flour, soups, crackers, cooking oil, tuna, canned tomatoes, tomato juice, macaroni, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, hamburger helper, tuna helper, complete pancake mix and syrup, toilet paper, laundry soap, and personal hygiene products.

Donations can be dropped off in the Narthex during office hours (9 AM – 12 PM) or before Sunday services.



## Armor Up This Summer!

What: Women's Bible Study – *The Armor of God* by Priscilla Shirer

Who: Led by Rhonda Pankau

Why: Because life is a battle, and we weren't meant to fight it alone.

When: Join us twice a month:

2nd & 4th Wednesdays  
(even through summer)

Morning: 10:30 am

or

Evening: 7:00 pm

Where: Bible Study Room in the church basement



The family of Scott Lyman  
(Tracy Kastner's brother)



**Summer Worship  
time will remain  
at 10 am**

## MAY 2026 STEWARDSHIP

Where does our money come from? I am talking about the money that pays utilities, salaries, supplies, scholarships, mission projects, benevolent gifts, subscriptions and dues, pantry supplies, treats, and so much more. Well, there are myriad answers to that question. In the next few months, I would like to highlight some sources of that money. Long time members should be aware of these things, but I am betting many have forgotten or never knew the facts. New members should be interested in learning the facts. To know our history is to better understand our present!

The first source I will highlight is the Christian Service Fund. Before we talk about this Fund, I'd like to introduce you to Amanda "Date" Bumann. Amanda and her husband Jute were loyal, active, long-time members of this church. Date was a Sunday School teacher for 31 years, VBS superintendent for 35 years, Parish worker for 20 years, member of the Senior choir for 50 years, member of the Women's Guild for 40 years, and member of Dorcas Society for 32 years. Jute was a member of the Men's Brotherhood, church council, and other committees. The Brotherhood had an event with a speaker from Omaha – Warren Buffett. That is the Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway. Jute and Warren became friends, and Warren advised the Bumann's on investing when they sold their farm. That investment became a sizable estate. Jute predeceased Amanda by several years. When Amanda died in 1983, she gifted the major portion of their estate to the church for benevolent purposes.

The principal amount of this gift was \$674,043. The will had few directions and limitations about how the money could be spent. General guidelines for the Christian Service Fund were established by the Council and included in the Bylaws of the Schleswig United Church of Christ.

The money is administered by the Christian Service Fund-Disbursement committee. Some of those disbursements are our Scholarship program, assistance with community projects, support to individuals and families with needs for food, and financial assistance, special church needs (not budget).

What an example of the three arms of Stewardship—time, talent, and treasures. Few of us can give a gift of this magnitude but let it be an example to each of us. We can each give as our resources allow.

Senior Recognition during the worship service on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>



### IMPORTANT DATES FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

**MAY 31-**  
SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEWS

**AUGUST 1-**  
CHURCH WORK DAY

**AUGUST 2-**  
SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAY