

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

We can definitely tell that it is October, with the temperatures having dipped and we are seeing farmers getting all their equipment ready for harvest. Fall sports have been under-way for a couple weeks, keeping parents and grandparents lives revolving around these schedules. This is truly a very busy time for everyone.

Here at the church things have felt the change also, with Sunday School and confirmation starting up. All of our lives are affected with the above mentioned activities, and many other things. Let us not forget that we have our annual Chicken Dinner approaching on Sunday the 19th. Remember that we will be having Church on Saturday the 18th at 5:30 p.m. There will be no Sunday School or confirmation that night or Sunday morning, the confirmation kids will be working the Chicken Dinner taking orders and the delivering of the food to the cars.

As we navigate our busy lives, finding a balance becomes crucial. The Bible instructs us to manage our time wisely, helping us to juggle work, family, and our spiritual commitments. It's vital for us to recognize that we can do good things while ensuring they don't lead us away from our purpose. God doesn't want us to be overwhelmed; He calls us to prioritize and make time for Him. In the book of Ecclesiastes 3:1 it states, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the Heavens." In Colossians 3:23 it says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

In our busy and frantic lives, we often find it hard to find time to speak (pray) and listen for God's gentle whispers amid all of this chaos. We need to find (make) time to slow down, drop the distractions, and communicate with God our Father. By doing so, we open our hearts to His guidance and peace, making our busy lives much more manageable.

We need not forget who we are and who's we are and the one who is responsible for making everything possible in our lives!

God Bless and have a great October

Pastor Kirk Manchester



STEWARDSHIP OCTOBER 2025

Let's talk about stewardship opportunities in October. The first opportunity is October 5th when we will have special emphasis on Neighbors in Need offering. Last month I shared some of the things that offering supports. Now it is time to give what you can!

October 19th is another great opportunity for giving. That is our chicken dinner which helps support our church budget. Whether you serve on a committee for prep work, dish up to-go boxes or prepare servings of desserts and salads, donate desserts, money, or ingredients, deliver meals, work the parking lot, feed your family and harvest crew, clean up during and after, invite friends and neighbors to come get meals, or any of the myriad tasks that make it happen, you are contributing. Let each of us do more than one of the above-mentioned jobs.

Then there is the regular Sunday morning collection. If you read the council minutes, you know that our general fund is running low and gifting is short of our needs. I personally don't think we should use the gifts of our loyal deceased members to support the budget. Let's use the money they gifted us for bigger and better missions to serve God.

The final thought for this month is a **huge thank** you to our very active property committee. Talk about giving of their time, talent, and treasures. They always work hard but the parking lot project (such a few words for such a big !! project) saw them spend many hours planning, supervising, and working on this huge improvement. When you don't have to walk through a large icy accumulation of snow and ice in the parking lot this winter, send up some special prayers of thanks for these men.

August Numbers for the Books

Date:	Attendance:	Offering:
August 3	42	\$633.00
August 10	32	\$876.00
August 17	30	\$2578.00
August 24	37	\$279.00
August 31	38	\$212.00
Total:	179	\$4578.00
Average:	36	\$915.60



Kaylen Jordan
Reimer was born on
September 5, 2025.
She weighed 6
pounds 12 ounces
and was 20 inches
long.

Congratulations to Conner and Kambrie
Reimer; grandparents Jennifer Fink & Kevin
Dau and Jerrod Reimer and Lisa Otto; great
grandparents Cathy Fink, Glen Dau, Gary &
Linda Reimer, and Grace Schechinger.



August Financials



Income:

Weekly envelopes	\$	4420.00
Loose Offering	\$	209.00
Seasonal Offering	\$	9.00
Misc. Offerings	\$	0.00
Misc. Income	\$	73.47
Interest Income-Gen. Fund	\$	28.95
Investment Income	\$	0.00
Total Income:	\$	4740.42

Expenses:

Travel & meetings	\$	0.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$	369.52
Janitor Supplies	\$	59.63
Misc. Expenses	\$	0.00
Music	\$	240.00
Office Expense	\$	326.93
Pastor Expenses	\$	5586.26
Repairs and Maintenance	\$	4329.25
Supplies	\$	97.50
Support Staff Salaries	\$	3895.75
Utilities	\$	1070.60
Total expense:	\$	15975.44

Net Ordinary Income \$ (-11,235.02)



October	1	Jenny Boelter
		Brady Thies
October	8	Ginny Larson
October	9	Dennis Reimer
		Jackie Kragel
October	10	Hayden Fineran
October	13	Madison Bielenberg
October	15	Dalton Rupert
October	18	Jackie Goodin
October	19	Brooke McDonald
October	20	Shae Hansen
October	21	Nora Strandburg
October	22	Brayton Johannsen
		Colin Neddermeyer
October	23	Jim Stender
October	25	Shannon Cose
		Lacey Neubauer
October	26	Owen Pratt
October	28	Jagger Ipsen
		Mason Kragel
October	29	Charlie Anders





HYMNS ON THE CHIMES

- October 4th 10:15 am **“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”** in honor of Rev. A.F. Rinne from UCC
- October 6th 12:15 pm **“How Great Thou Art”** in memory of Ella Schroeder from family & friends
- October 7th 5:00 pm **“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”** in memory of William C. Wonder from family
- October 9th 10:15 am **“Rock of Ages”** in memory of Carsten Carstensen
- October 20th 12:15 pm **“He Lives”** in memory of Dr. Warren Tyler and Alpha Searcy from Betty Tyler
- October 22nd 5:00 pm **“Shall We Gather at the River”** in memory of Gladys Bendixen from Ray Bendixen
- October 29th 7:00 pm **“What a Day That Will Be”** in memory of Marcia Brodersen from her family
- October 31st 6:30 pm **“Amazing Grace”** in memory of Merle Bielenberg from family



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE CHICKEN DINNER

*** CALL THE OFFICE OR MARLA ***

Saturday, October 18th church service will be at 5:30 pm.

No Sunday School, Confirmation or church service before the chicken dinner on Sunday, October 19th.

The Nominating Committee will be meeting in the next month to find candidates for committee openings. If you're interested in serving on a committee next year, please contact the office or a current committee member.



The family of LaWayne Gronau

The Neighbors in Need Offering will be collected on

Sunday, October 5th during worship.

Gifts to Neighbors in Need support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds of the offering support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, and grants. Neighbors in Need grants are annually awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.





Council Meeting Minutes

August 20, 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 Bahnsen and Seth Neubauer arrived later. Tammy Neubauer, financial secretary and Abbie Gustafson, guest, were also present. Jill Sedore and Kirk Manchester were absent.

Opening Prayer: Abbie Gustafson opened the meeting with a prayer.

Abbie Gustafson addressed the council concerning her mission work with "Time to Revive" ministries. She explained how they work through a USA city at a time, praying and transforming lives through the Holy Spirit. She explained how this is funded and what her part is in raising those funds. Abbie left the meeting following her presentation.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the July 23, 2025 meeting and 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 August bills and seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

CE: VBS went well, numbers were down slightly.

Jessica is planning a family kickball event to close out summer activities on August 24.

CSFD: No meeting.

CSFI: No meeting.

Property: Lawn seeding will happen soon. The parking lot cameras have been installed. A termination notice was received from Chris Ullrich for the farm ground he has been farming. Seth just received the soil samples from this property and will be reviewing them.

Spiritual Life: They have Laity Sunday planned and all volunteers secured for August 24.

Missions & Outreach: They have been collecting clothing and kleenex for the Schleswig School. In addition \$142 cash was received to purchase additional items to take to the school.

Stewardship: No report

Endowment: No report.

Pastor's Report: Council reviewed the report submitted, listing visiting elderly and giving communion, preaching at Homestead once a month and other pastoral duties. His report stated his psychological evaluation for his class has been reviewed and he continues on with his class.

Old Business:

Chicken Dinner Plans: There has not been anyone come forward to lead the dinner planning. Roberta has talked with Taylor Neubauer about heading it along with the Missions committee. Roberta will talk to Taylor and make further plans.



(Council Minutes continued)

Propane: Council discussed contracting propane and having the tanks checked for leaks, as it continues to smell like propane around the tanks. A motion was made and seconded to have Seth follow up on the bids he received earlier and use his best judgment to contract propane for the 2025/2026 heating season and to have the tanks checked. Motion carried.

New Business:

Lord's Prayer during worship: It was suggested the Lord's Prayer not be said twice on communion days. This is a decision for the lay leader to make, but John F. will talk with Kirk about it.

John Wulf Money: Leisha will get the enrollment numbers from the school, now that registration has been completed. Calf Show ride tickets will be purchased for each child in the school, day care and pre-school.

Giving money to the Morgan and Grant cemeteries was once again discussed. A motion was made and seconded to give \$2,000 each, to the Morgan and Grant cemeteries for headstone restoration. Motion carried.

By-Law Proposal/Special Congregational meeting:

There was discussion about the proposed by-laws change to combine the Missions and Spiritual Life committees. A motion was made and seconded that the two committees would be asked to meet together to discuss the changes necessary to the number of people on the committee and the proposed change to the by-laws wording. The Special Congregational

meeting will be held on Nov. 2 following worship.

Financial Review: Tammy asked if she should move forward with scheduling the financial review. Unanimous approval to do so.

The next meeting will be September 17 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

Outreach Committee News

The Missions Committee and the Spiritual Life committee met together in September to discuss a merger of the two committees. They have been working through the council to get approval to merge the two committees, since it is a continued struggle to get enough people to actively fill the positions.

The committees agreed upon a new merged name of "Outreach Committee". They will still address all the duties of the previous 2 committees, but do it together, with fewer members. Look for an upcoming special congregational meeting in November, seeking approval of this change to our by-laws.

While it can be disheartening to see dwindling numbers in our congregation, we hope we can be stronger together. There were lots of good ideas shared at the meeting for upcoming projects to work on. Be on the lookout for how you can participate!



Greeters:

Oct. 5- Jim & April Stender
Oct. 12- Kim Korwes & Tracy Kastner
Oct. 18 (Sat.) - Scott & Kristy Clausen
Oct. 26- Jeff & Jenny Boelter

Acolytes:

Oct. 5- Jett Paulsen & Cale Paulsen
Oct. 12- Huntur Johannsen & Ryder Luth
Oct. 18 (Sat.) - Hayden Fineran
 & Haxton Fineran
Oct. 26- Taryn Johannsen
 & Brayton Johannsen



UCC Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 26th from 12-2 pm

If you are interested in having a decorated trunk (car, pickup, suv, golf cart, etc) or have questions, please contact

Jessica (CE Director) at 269-8380

Everyone is welcome!

The Property Committee has spent numerous hours preparing the lawn for seeding and many hours watering it since it's been seeded.



United Church of Christ
FALL
CHICKEN
DINNER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19
11 AM-12:30 PM

CATERED BY STALEY'S
Drive thru only- in town deliveries available

\$15 MEAL INCLUDES 2
PIECES OF CHICKEN,
MASHED POTATOES &
GRAVY, GREEN BEANS,
PASTA SALAD, ROLL, AND
DESSERT

TO ORDER CALL THE CHURCH AT
676-3917
PICK UP AT PARKING LOT DRIVE THRU

