

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

As I sit down to write this month's article, I started thinking about everything that has happened in the two years that I have been here now. I just want to say, thank you to everyone who has helped me in this journey. It is true when they say, God is good, all the time. I feel that I have been blessed so much to be here. God put me here for a reason, for he knew the plan for which he had for me.

I want to share my appreciation to all of you. From the first conversation with Sandy to the "get to know you meeting" with sixteen or so people from the church. I don't know, but it kind of felt like an interview.

Candice was a big help when I started, considering that she was starting herself. A thank you goes to Leisha for helping make the transition easier. In **1Thessalonians 5:16-18** "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." My favorite bible verse is in this reading, pray without ceasing. And I want to express my appreciation to everyone at this church and the community that has made me feel welcome.

All too often we do not recognize and appreciate the hard work or extra time one does to make this church and this world a better place. At times the criticism is heard but what about the appreciation for people? We as Christians need to focus more on appreciating one another and thanking each other for a job well done as it says in the above scripture.

We are blessed here at this church with all the people that are willing to help with food at funerals. A big thank you goes out to the ladies that take care of the arrangements for them. The calling of people to work and bake deserts and making of salads. I do appreciate all that you do ladies. It makes the planning of funerals so much easier on me during that time. And again, a big thank you to all that helped with the Picnic in the Parking Lot, (especially the Missions Committee) without all your help events like this are not able to happen. I am still hearing from people on how they thought that was a great thing we did for the community. Including from some other Pastors who said that they are thinking of doing something like that in their communities. That is the highest compliment that you can hear. That does not happen without all of you.

VBS would not be as successful as it is without your help. Candice and the Christian Education committee work hard and spend a lot of time planning and setting everything up, so that it can make it a great time for the kids and a learning experience about our Lord and savior. The amount of money that was raised for the Children's Hospital was outstanding. The pies in Candice's and my faces, was a great way to end the week. I still can't put whip cream on anything I eat.

Now going into September, we will be into a new School year, confirmation starting, and Sunday School. As well as Calf Days the 15th -17th. We need to start thinking of a float idea for next years, 125th celebration. So, let's make this a great start to new things and be appreciative of all the blessings we have.

Numbers 6: 24-26,

I think it says it all:

"The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace."

God Bless,

Pastor Kirk



Council Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2023

President Sandy Lacey opened the meeting. Those in attendance were Sandy, Cheri, Judy, Jeff, Seth, Leisha, Pastor Kirk and John B. (by phone).

Pastor Kirk opened with prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made to approve minute and seconded. Motion carried.

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

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

Committee Reports:

CE: Bible school was a success again this year. Had a normal turn out missing a few on different nights due to ball games. Great turn out on family night. Rally day will be on September 10th. Planning to do some sort of theme with outside activities. Discussion of the 7th & 8th grade come on Sunday morning and Pastor doing a brief discussion of what that Sunday's scripture.

CSFD: 3 recipients to receive their scholarships on Sunday, July 30th.

CSFI: No report

Property: Work day at church on July 29th at 8:00 am. Working with the insurance company about the damage to church and parsonage property. No quotes yet. Discussion of curtains in the sanctuary may need to be replaced.

Spiritual Life: No report

Missions & Outreach: Picnic at church was very suc-

cessful and the committee did a great job. Had a good turn out. Music provide was wonderful and food very tasty. Thank you to all who helped.

Stewardship: Working on article for newsletter "Pay It Forward"

Pastor's Report: Did visitations at care centers' Had 1 graveside service on July 14th, worked at the Junior tournament on July 17th, Acceptance Sunday of new members will be on August 13th and will be meeting with the Crawford County ministerial association on August 9th. Also will be taking vacation August 13th – 21st.

Old Business:

Worship at the Pond - 50 people attended, weather did not cooperate as it was very windy and cool, so service was held inside. Many thanks goes out to Judy and her family for all their work in getting everything ready. Fellowship was terrific. Thank you Leisha for ordering and picking up the chicken.

The picnic at church was wonderful with a great turn out and the weather was nice too. Shannon Cose has agreed to head up the Chicken Dinner this fall and will be mentoring someone to be in charge next year.

New Business:

Motion made to approve the revised charges for use of the Church Property. Carried. Work day set for July 29th and Scholarship Sunday the following day on the 30th. Thank you from those who received grant money were read and will be placed on table in the Narthex for members to read. New member Sunday will be on August 13th.

With no other business a motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded. Carried

Meeting ended with Pastor Kirk leading the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leisha Kragel (recreating for Jeff Boelter)

Cierra Kastner- Buena Vista University
Trevor Nemitz- Buena Vista University
Jaxon Paulsen- DMACC

We wish these young people a successful year, both in academics and socially - making new friends and memories to last a lifetime.



HYMNS ON THE CHIMES

September 5th 8:15 A.M. "Ave Maria" in memory of Dr. Robert H.W. Reimer from his family



September 5th 2:15 P.M.

"Because He Lives" in memory of Edwin Rusch from Gladys & family

September 10th 5:00 P.M. "Whispering Hope" in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary 1996, from LeRoy & Dorene Wonder

September 11th 8:45 A.M. "God Bless America" in memory of the NYC terrorist attack

September 11th 8:45 A.M. "America" in memory of the NYC terrorist attack

September 11th 8:45 A.M. "Stars & Stripes Forever" in memory of the NYC terrorist attack

September 11th 8:45 A.M. "Star Spangled Banner" in memory of the NYC terrorist attack

September 11th 8:45 A.M. "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again" in memory of the NYC terrorist attack

September 16th 6:15 P.M. "You'll Never Walk Alone" in memory of Kevin Lafrentz from family

September 17th 7:15 P.M. "Amazing Grace" in memory of Dorothy Jessen from the UCC Choir

September 18th 5:15 P.M. "Now is the Hour" in memory of Bob Bumann from his family

September 28th 6:15 P.M. "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" in memory of Marcella Gronau from her family

September 30th 1:15 P.M. "Lord, Speak to Me" in honor of our teachers and leaders

September 30th 6:00 P.M. "I Need Thee Every Hour" in memory of Harwin & Dorothy Jess from family



**Thank you ladies for assembling more
JOY Boxes**



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 2023

**Save the date for this major
budget fundraiser**

All-church project

**Please donate food or money, plan to
work, and feed your family!**



- 3 Bill Brockman
- 3 Cathy Henningsen
- 3 Amy Paulsen
- 3 Quent Strandburg
- 3 Kallen Hipnar
- 4 Olivia Novak
- 5 Samuel Novak
- 7 Connor Paulsen
- 8 Josh Boelter
- 10 Derek Krohnke
- 12 Malia Potts
- 14 Renae Barker
- 15 Rhonda Steuk
- 16 Regan Krohnke
- 16 Derek Bielenberg
- 17 Lisa Holloway
- 17 Tayten Kline
- 17 Shelby Meehan
- 18 Marlyn Kastner
- 22 Arlo Schwanz
- 22 Brett McDonald
- 23 Mark Sedore
- 26 June Jurgensen
- 26 Ed Neddermeyer
- 26 Jhoan Carlo Velasquez
- 27 Nolan Wiebers
- 29 Jena McMinemee

September Acolytes

September 3-

Hyden Fineran & Sophie Luth

September 10-

Ryder Luth & Huntur Johannsen

September 17-

Ella Anders & Gracie Outhouse

September 24-

June Jurgensen & Taryn Johannsen

September Greeters

September 3-

Verdell & Marlyn Kastner

September 10-

Gary & Beverly Peters

September 17-

Sue Boland & Talsha Johannsen

September 24-

Zola Friedrichsen & Vicky Brown



**Schleswig's Fall
Garage Sale is
scheduled for
October 5th-
October 7th.**

Anyone interested in participating, needs to contact Lila Bubke (676-3606) before September 25th. The cost is \$15 per location.

July Numbers for the Books

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Contributions</u>
July 2	44	\$ 380.00
July 9	No Church	\$ 380.00
July 16	46	\$ 447.56
July 23	46	\$ 1051.50
July 30	55	\$ 535.30
<i>Total:</i>	191	\$ 2794.36
<i>Average:</i>	48	\$ 558.87



On August 13th, we welcomed new members: Kirk Manchester, Connie Boger, Ken Boger, Laurie Hansen, Katie Sharp, and Mark Sharp.

Christian Education

The CE committee has been busy planning Rally Day and getting curriculum ready for Sunday School and Confirmation.

We would like to invite everyone to watch or participate in Rally Day on Sunday, September 10th. Games will be from 9-9:45 in the church lawn. Feel free to bring a lawn chair to sit back in and watch the kids play carnival themed games. CE invites everyone to join in fellowship hall after church for lunch (walking tacos).

Let's start off our Sunday School year with lots of FUN and FELLOWSHIP!

Important Dates:

Sept. 6--Confirmation begins 5:30-7 pm

Sept. 10--Rally Day at 9-9:45 am

Sept. 17--Sunday School begins

Looking ahead:

CE is planning Trunk or Treat for either October 22 or October 29th. Would any committee like to work with us in planning this community event? Please let the church office or any CE member know.

COME ONE, COME ALL!



UCC RALLY
DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

GAMES-9:00-9:45 AM

CHURCH 10-11 AM

LUNCH AFTER CHURCH

ADMIT ONE

FUN, GAMES, AND FOOD

RALLY DAY

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

409 MAPLE AVE

SCHLESWIG, IA



The year is drawing near to the end. Council will soon be formulating a budget for 2024 and we will know our needs to operate the church. Ex-

pect to hear our appeal for financial support in the coming months. This month I will address some of the talent and treasure needs to keep our church operating.

The nominating committee will soon be calling to get people to run for council and the various committees of the church. This is not an easy job and they make many contacts. Consider what you can do to fill these positions. I know it easiest to continue with your little group of known members and a job you have done for years and are very familiar with. I would like to ask you to consider a different position and learn some new skills.

Two of the council members are completing six consecutive years on the council. We need to start moving some new people into these positions. We need to have more people familiar with the finances and governing of the church. It is a wonderful learning experience. Council is **not** in charge of all committees and activities as some people think. Those activities are the responsibilities of the various committees. Council as well as most committees only meet once a month except for rare occasions. Many of the committees are meeting following church on Sunday mornings. With a little give and take meeting times can be adjusted to fit the schedules of the individual members. A blend of experienced members and newer people learning the operation of the council and the committees is the ideal combination.

Consider this a challenge to take your expertise to a new area or start to learn about the workings of the church. Let God guide you to say yes to a new challenge when the nominating committee calls your name. Every member has something to give or to learn. Step up to the challenge!

July Financials



Income:

Weekly envelopes	\$ 2666.00
Loose Offering	\$ 264.36
Seasonal Offering	\$ 9.00
Misc. Offerings	\$ 0.00
Misc. Income	\$ 335.08
Interest Income-Gen. Fund	\$ 13.06
Investment Income	\$ 0.00
Total Income:	\$ 3287.50

Expenses:

Association Dues	\$ 0.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$ 361.47
Janitor Supplies	\$ 41.73
Misc. Expenses	\$ 0.00
Music	\$ 120.00
Office Expense	\$ 238.91
Pastor Expenses	\$ 5100.34
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 0.00
Supplies	\$ 21.48
Support Staff Salaries	\$ 3005.00
Utilities	\$ 847.23
Total expense:	\$ 9736.16

Net Ordinary Income \$ - 6448.66

