

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Well, it has happened, summer is over so to say. Kids are back in school and we are looking forward to calf show days. At the church we are looking forward to Sunday School starting on September 21<sup>st</sup> and Confirmation will be starting on Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup>. Vacations are over and it is time to back into our regular routines.

As we look to the book of Mark 1:40-45, where Jesus is reached out his hand and touched the man. In this case he was reaching out to help a man who had leprosy. This man who's shame perhaps was deeper than we can imagine. This disease made him unclean by Mosaic law, separating from everyone else around. The man's wounds were both physical as well as spiritual. This man came to Jesus begging, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." (Mark 1:40). Heal me, he was saying, but also remove my shame. Jesus responded with compassion. "I am willing," he said, "Be clean!". We as Christians have that opportunity to help other who feel that they are not deserving. We as a church do a great job of helping people not only in our church, but in our community and our county through our support of Neighbor Helping Neighbor. We do a great job of helping people out financially. Today I want to talk about how we can help people spiritually. There is a song out there on Christian radio right now that states, "that we have to be to walk the walk if we are going to talk the talk." There are so many people out there that are hurting emotionally. Saying good morning or how are you doing are good starters for a conversation, but where most of fall short is that we are not willing to listen to them if they happen to respond to our question with how things may be not going well for them. I have had to talk to a lot of people in our community as well as other communities. People who just need someone to talk to, we all have someone that we can go to and talk things out with. But there are some out there who do not. They maybe walking through life hiding what make them feel separate from other "normal" people. We need to invest our time in listening to them. Just like when we take time to listen to Jesus, we need to open our hearts and be willing to listen to others. May we be willing to let others know that as God's children, we're accepted and loved and that we are here to share that love with others whenever and wherever the opportunity arises.

Have a great September, I look forward to talking to you this month.

In God Love,

Pastor Kirk Manchester

## September Stewardship

This month we are learning about the third special mission offering of the UCC churches. We will collect donations for Neighbors in Need on October 5<sup>th</sup> this year.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States of America. Our donations to this program give 1/3 of the amount collected to the American Indian Ministries. The remaining 2/3 goes to UCC justice ministries.

In 2025 NIN supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who are engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. Some of those grants teach people to advocate for themselves in the problems of homelessness. They create speakers' bureaus to educate the homeless as well as those interested in helping the homeless. They learn about their needs. They understand the realities of homelessness. They motivate interested people to get more involved. They raise awareness.

A different grant helped establish and implemented a fall prevention program. Some efforts are small, others quite large! The object of each supported grant is a just world for all.

In a couple of short paragraphs, I could not explore all the things NIN supports. If you thirst for more knowledge, read the UCC general information and refer to giving opportunity.

This is a special way for us to contribute to needs larger than we could support on our own. It also helps us offer support beyond our home area into the larger UCC world. Pooling our resources helps smaller offerings do big things! Give generously to NIN on October 5<sup>th</sup>.



**The family of Leon Gosch**

**Worship Services will  
return to 10 am  
beginning on Sunday,  
September 7th.**



**“A person’s steps  
are made secure by  
the Lord when they  
delight in his way.  
Though they trip up,  
they won’t be thrown  
down, because the  
Lord holds their hand.”**

**PSALM 37:23-24**





# Minutes

July 23, 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, Jill Sedore. John Bahnsen and Seth Neubauer arrived later. Kirk Manchester, Tammy Neubauer, and Candice Bral were also present.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2025 meeting and 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 July bills. It was seconded. Motion carried.

## Committee Reports:

**CE:** Showed a movie (The Shack) July 13. Attendance was fair. Jessica has been working to get VBS help. The parents will be doing a meal prior to confirmation this year.

**CSFD:** Scholarship interviews were completed and as previously published, scholarships will be distributed July 27 during worship. CSF has purchased a new basketball hoop and balls and it has been installed. They also purchased the new parking lot signs.

**CSFI:** They met and reviewed investments.

**Property:** The concrete under the canopy has been removed and reinstalled with the correct slope to eliminate pooling. Wild flowers will be planted on the steep hill in the alley that can't be mowed. Grass will be seeded the end of August. A bid for cameras was received for \$5,594.29. This includes 5 cameras that will be placed outside on the church grounds. Leisha

moved and Josie seconded to approve the purchase of cameras with payment coming from the JAC funds. Motion carried.

**Spiritual Life:** They will meet July 28 to plan Laity Sunday on August 24.

**Missions & Outreach:** They will be collecting clothing and kleenex for the Schleswig School through August 24. The clothing can be new or gently used and will be available for children needing a change of clothing during the school day.

**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 psychological evaluation has been completed and results will be discussed with him in the near future. He continues on with his class.

## Old Business:

**Worship at the Pond:** There were about 50 people in attendance. Planning for next year will begin in March to allow time for ample notification of attendees.

**John Wulf Money:** John F. suggested the money not be used for repairs at the Morgan and Grant cemeteries. The Grant Cemetery board had agreed to accept the money from the Wulf funds. They will now be invited to submit a grant application this fall. Other ideas for the Wulf funds include distributing Calf Show ride tickets to the Schleswig School children again. Leisha will get numbers from the school so tickets can be purchased.

( Council Minutes continued)

Combine Missions/Spiritual Life: There was brief discussion about rewriting the by-laws for council approval and having them approved at a special congregational meeting this fall. Roberta will work on the wording for the new by-laws.

#### New Business:

Bank Statement reviews: The back log of bank statement reviews to be completed by a council member have been completed and returned to the office.

General Account Low Balance: Tammy addressed the council about the low balance in the General account and the timing of the investment dividends that are deposited. Worship attendance has been lower and giving follows those numbers.

Chicken Dinner: Nobody seems to know if the date for the chicken dinner was reserved last fall. Candice will contact Staley's to see. Someone is needed to head the preparations.

Communication: There was discussion about the lack of communication within the church. Poor communication has left staff feeling unaware of what they need to do. The calendar is largely blank. If meetings happen, they aren't getting on the calendar. This led to discussion about how we can revive and enliven the church. No conclusions were reached, but there was some good discussion.

The next meeting will be August 20 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

## July Financials



#### Income:

Weekly envelopes	\$	2233.00
Loose Offering	\$	167.25
Seasonal Offering	\$	3.00
Misc. Offerings	\$	0.00
Misc. Income	\$	350.73
Interest Income-Gen. Fund	\$	29.66
Investment Income	\$	0.00
Total Income:	\$	2783.64

#### Expenses:

Travel & Meetings	\$	0.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$	304.35
Janitor Supplies	\$	9.63
Misc. Expenses	\$	12.84
Music	\$	240.00
Office Expense	\$	505.31
Pastor Expenses	\$	5586.26
Repairs and Maintenance	\$	519.13
Supplies	\$	90.00
Support Staff Salaries	\$	3516.25
Utilities	\$	905.44
Total expense:	\$	11689.21

Net Ordinary Income      \$ - 8905.57

Jaxon Paulsen- WITCC

Gracie Outhouse- Iowa State University

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



## July Numbers for the Books

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Contributions</u>
July 6	38	\$ 544.00
July 13	31	\$ 799.00
July 20	32	\$ 637.25
July 27	42	\$ 278.00
<i>Total:</i>	143	\$ 2258.25
<i>Average:</i>	36	\$ 564.56



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 2025**

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

**All-church project**

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

## 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





- 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
- 22 Amelia Neubauer
- 23 Mark Sedore
- 26 June Jurgensen
- 26 Ed Neddermeyer
- 27 Nolan Wiebers
- 29 Jena McMinemee

### **September Acolytes**

September 7-

Jersey Bral & Journey Bral

September 14-

Hayden Fineran & Haxton Fineran

September 21-

Ryder Luth & Sophia Luth

September 28-

Jayton Bral & Brayton Johannsen

### **September Greeters**

September 7-

Jim & Cheri Streck

September 14-

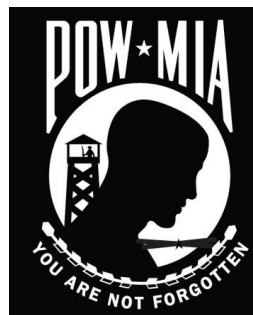
Paul Outhouse & Shannon Cose

September 21-

Zola Friedrichsen & Vicky Brown

September 28-

John & Arlis Bahnsen



Each year on the third Friday of September Detachment 250 commemorates National Prisoner of War/ Missing in Action Day. The entire day is dedicated to

honoring and remembering those men and women who have yet to return home. POW/ MIA day is an important way for us to ensure that our country's missing heroes are never forgotten.

Please see the flyers in the Narthex for more information.



We sure made a “splash” during this year’s Vacation Bible School. We had 25 kids registered! I was proud of our 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls that led the skit and were group leaders. Along with all of the other numerous volunteers we had, THANK YOU! The weather was perfect on the final night, our family night. We served roughly 60 people and they were able to enjoy the fellowship and the pool as well.

On August 24<sup>th</sup> we held our 3<sup>rd</sup> event of the summer. Since there had been poor attendance at our first two movie nights, we decided to hold a kick ball game and supper. The week of September 21<sup>st</sup> starts Sunday School and Confirmation. We will also be adding Youth Fellowship events to the calendar soon. Please help me in praying that our youth have a great and successful school year!





