



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



THE LINK

76 South Wisconsin Street Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121

Office Hours: Mon. Tue. Fri. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Wed. 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Thurs. - Closed

E-mail: ElkhornUCC@gmail.com

Web: ElkhornUCC.org

Bridge Pastor: Rev. Kathleen Krostal

Phone: 262-723-3246

DECEMBER

Gifts at Christmas

The Gift

Be still, my soul, and steadfast.
Earth and heaven both are still watching
though time is draining from the clock
and your walk, that was confident and quick,
has become slow.

So, be slow if you must, but let
the heart still play its true part.
Love still as once you loved, deeply
and without patience. Let God and the world
know you are grateful.
That the gift has been given.

"The Gift" by Mary Oliver in *Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver*

During this season of Advent, Mary Oliver's poem is a reminder of gratitude and the capacity for love.

May we reflect on how we might continually expand our capacity for love, to share this love, and recognize it as a gift we can freely give no matter what state we find ourselves. May we reflect the gift of God we carry within us. And in a dynamic Christianity that seeks to help the world, may we also look for this same chip or spark of God within every person



we meet.

Prayer Gracious God, grant me a heart filled with ever-expanding love to share with those around me. Help me to recognize and be grateful for the gift that has been given.

In faith—
Barb



Celebrating Advent and Christmas

Since we are now in December, it is once again time to celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas! Join with us as we begin the season of Advent, lighting the Advent candles representing hope, peace, joy, and love on each of the four Sundays of Advent.

The third Sunday of Advent (December 15) will bring extra joy, as it will include the kids' Christmas program. This year, the kids will tell the story of Christmas using the book, *Christmas Love Letters from God* by Glenys Nellist.

We will be lighting the fifth candle on our Advent wreath during our Christmas Eve service, which will start at 5:00 p.m. As always, it will conclude with the singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight—a meaningful tradition for our church family.

Gift Cards For Hope Now, Inc. Families in Need

Thank you to everyone that purchased Thanksgiving gift cards for the Hope Now, Inc. families in need. We were able to give \$500.00 worth of gift cards from Aldi, Piggly Wiggly, and Walmart for the families.

We are collecting gift cards for the families for Christmas now. You may purchase gift cards on your own, OR you may choose to support Women's Fellowship sale of *RaiseRight* cards and order the cards in that manner. Cards for Christmas will allow families to purchase both food as well as gifts. *RaiseRight* card orders for our church will be due on Sunday, December 1st (this would be the date to order cards for Christmas for families in need!). This should allow enough time for the cards to be given to Hope Now for distribution. If you are ordering cards for donation, please mark your order, noting those cards that will be donated. We will see that they are given to Hope Now by their due date of December 8th.

There will be one additional *RaiseRight* card order due on December 15th should you need any additional cards just before Christmas.

Hope Now families could use Piggly Wiggly, Walmart, Kohls, and Target cards for Christmas.

Thank you in advance for supporting Hope Now, Inc. and the families, as well as Women's Fellowship by using *RaiseRight* for your gift cards!





Imagine Together - Stewardship

Thank you to everyone for being apart of our stewardship campaign!

Thank you for filling in your estimate of giving cards and time and talent sheets. This helped us to make our budget plan as well as letting us know what you like to do with your talents through the church.

Thank you to all of those that were able to attend our delicious potluck that was held on November 10 in fellowship hall.

We enjoyed a wonderful meal together as well as conversations and laughs.

Everyone commented on what a good time it was to share a meal together as a church family and that we should have another potluck soon.

Thank you to everyone that brought food and desserts.

And special thank you to the stewardship team for hosting this event.

If you have not filled out a time and talent sheet, you may still do so. The time and talent sheets are still available in the back of the sanctuary, and you may place your complete sheet in the offering plates.

Thanks again!

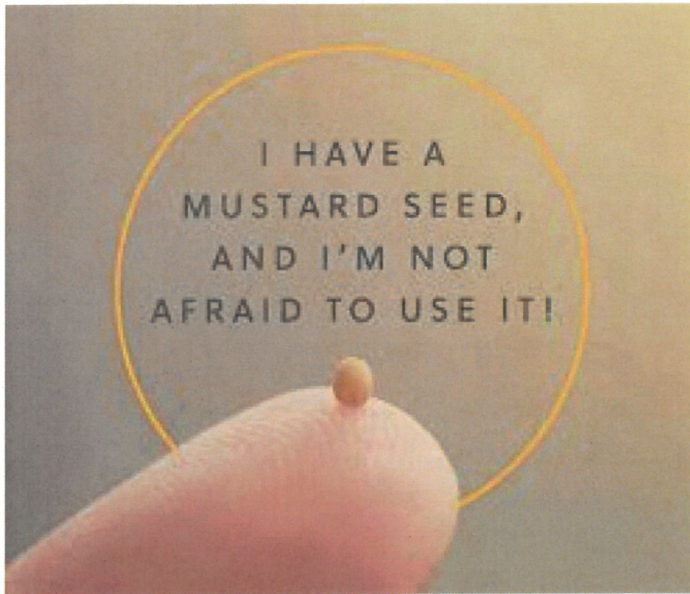
Sharing Our Blessings and Preparing a Meal

Women's Fellowship has decided to assist Spirit of Hope by preparing several meals for the men's shelter in Delavan. Spirit of Hope runs the shelter, which is located at Delavan United Methodist Church on South Second Street. They have asked area service organizations to help out by providing meals during their dates of operation (November 3, 2024 through April 24, 2025).

Our church has signed up to provide a meal on Saturday, December 14; Tuesday, January 14; and Wednesday, February 12. Teams will be needed to work together to donate prepared food that will be dropped off at the church on our assigned nights. In addition to the dinner meal and two gallons of milk, they are asking for other food items (lunchmeats, cheeses, juice, etc.) to cover other meals the following day. The shelter houses up to ten men at any given time, but we will be calling prior to each meal to determine how many to prepare for.

Please watch for the sign up sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary. We have been blessed with the necessities of food and home—time to share our blessings with those who may be struggling at this moment. Thank you for your willingness to help out in this project!





Mustard Seed

Two Advent Calendar Options

Advent calendars, popular at this time of year, come with the promise of a gift or trinket of some kind as the daily doors are opened.

Why not try a reverse Advent calendar this season? Add a food item to a box each day and then donate the box to the food pantry when it is full.

You can use the calendar printed [below / elsewhere in this newsletter](#) for box inclusions. Seems like a nice new twist on a traditional concept.

You might also consider “Advent Word” for a daily reflection this Advent season. This group offers a word a day during the Advent season. Go to www.AdventWord.org to sign up for the daily emails.

AdventWord

DECEMBER 1-25 **2024**

<p>1 HUMILITY</p> <p>2 ABOUND</p> <p>3 REDEMPTION</p> <p>4 SPROUT</p> <p>5 EARNESTLY</p> <p>6 FAITHFULNESS</p> <p>7 SAFETY</p> <p>8 SPLENDOR</p> <p>9 REFINE</p> <p>10 JOY</p> <p>11 PREPARE</p> <p>12 RIGHTEOUSNESS</p> <p>13 SALVATION</p>	<p>14 PROCLAIM</p> <p>15 REJOICE</p> <p>16 GENTLENESS</p> <p>17 TRUST</p> <p>18 GATHER</p> <p>19 HOME</p> <p>20 LOVE</p> <p>21 MERCY</p> <p>22 LIFTED</p> <p>23 SHINE</p> <p>24 COME</p> <p>25 FRUIT</p>
--	--

adventword.org

30th Annual Cookie Sale

It is cookie baking time and everyone should have received a note about the cookie sale by now and hope you have your recipes out and ready to go.

We will need workers on Friday, December 6th, at 1:00 P.M. for an hour or two to help with setting up tables and filling the cookie trays. You can bring your cookies in on Friday, December 6th from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. or on Saturday the 7th from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m.

Workers should report Saturday the 7th at 9:30 a.m. for assignment to refill trays, to be bag wrappers, weighing cookies and containers, making change, putting refilled trays out, and clean up. You may sign up to help work the cookie sale on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary or let us



know that you can help.

Please wear a Christmas sweater or shirt on Saturday. You may call Donna at 1-379-1722 or contact the church office if you have any questions.

And remember that our church is a great place to watch the Christmas parade from, after we sell out from the cookie sale!

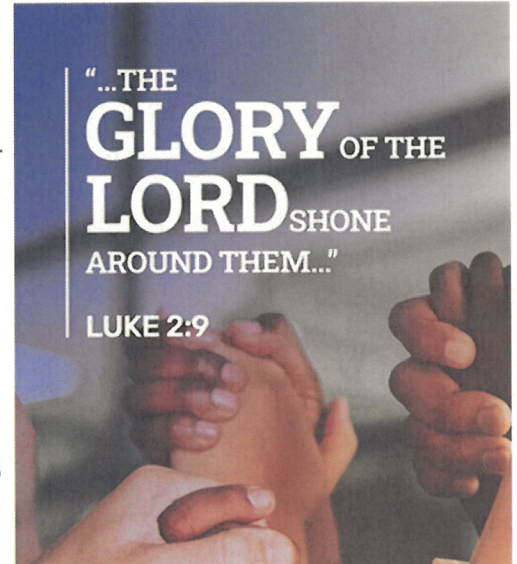
Thank you in advance for all of your cookie baking, your help with set up and taking down and all your helping hands at our cookie sale!

Christmas Fund

For over one hundred years, The Christmas Fund has provided direct financial assistance to United Church of Christ ministers, church workers, and their families. Last year, over 1,800 congregations joined together to secure the physical, financial, and spiritual health of those engaged in the life of the Church. Thank you to our community for your continued support!

This year's Christmas Fund theme is "The Glory of God shone around them..." from Luke 2:9.

Receiving The Christmas Fund this year ensures more ministers, church workers, and their families receive the loving support of the Church in their moment of deepest need.



Our church will have special envelopes available for your support on Sunday, December 22, 2024. You may place them in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.

Women's Fellowship News

Women's Fellowship met for their regular meeting in November. They discussed several items including the following:

Oktoberfest Pie Sale Once again, this was a successful event for us and we had quite a few returning customers looking to purchase pies. After several years of participating in this, we have a following! A grand total of \$741 was raised and given to the church. Thank you to all the bakers and workers who helped to make this possible.

Fellowship Hall Improvements Carol Prachl has replaced all the broken panes of glass in the basement windows and thinks she has found a product that will cover the plaster damage so the walls can be painted. Due to the upcoming cookie sale, we will wait until January to begin that work.

Cookie Sale Fellowship Hall is now festively decorated for Christmas and the cookie sale, which will be held on Saturday, December 7th. Cookies will be sold for \$12 a pound this year. This will be our 30th year of hosting this sale, which is pretty amazing!

Love Lite Trees Women's Fellowship will again be donating money to both the Aurora Love Lite Tree as well as our own Love Lite Tree. This money is being donated in memory of the many wonderful saints who were at one time members of our Women's Fellowship.

Spirit of Hope Shelter We picked several dates to provide meals for the Spirit of Hope Men's Shelter in Delavan. Look for an article elsewhere in The Link to learn of the details and find out how you can

help.

Upcoming Meetings While we will not hold a business meeting in December or January, we will meet to take down Christmas decorations on January 9th at 9:30 a.m. Our February 13th meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. at the Elk Restaurant. Mark your calendars!

Weather Cancellations

While we have had a gorgeous bout of fall weather, we know that winter, snow, and possibly ice will be here eventually.

If the weather is questionable on a Sunday morning, chances are we will be cancelling our Sunday services to keep everyone home and safe.

If that is the case, a group email will be sent from the church Gmail account by 8:00 a.m. that morning. A notice will also be posted on Facebook.

Should the weather make a turn for snowy or icy conditions, please check your email or Facebook before starting out to church!



Book Club - December

Beneath the Flames

The book chosen for December is *Beneath the Flames* by Gregory Lee Renz.

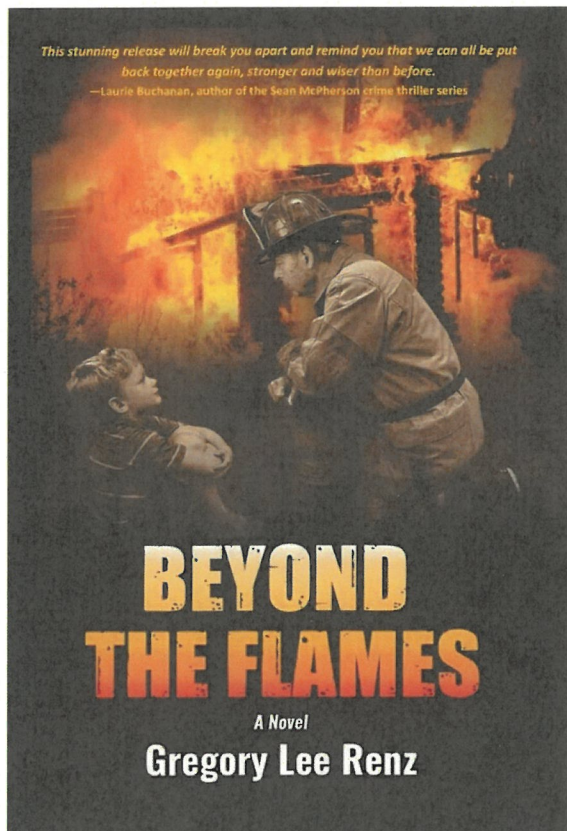
At the time of this printing, the book is being read.

Below you will find a brief description from "Google Books":

"BENEATH THE FLAMES is an intimate combination of love, race, and life as an urban firefighter.

A fire in a neighboring farmhouse has young farmer and volunteer firefighter, Mitch Garner, blaming himself for the tragic outcome. He loses all hope of forgiving himself. His only hope for redemption is to leave Jennie, the girl he's loved since high school, and journey from Wisconsin's lush farmland to the decaying inner city of Milwaukee to prove himself as a professional firefighter.

Mitch is assigned to the busiest firehouse in the heart of one of the most blighted areas of Milwaukee, the Core, where he's viciously hazed by senior firefighters. He struggles to hold it together at horrific scenes of violence and can't do anything right at fires. Within weeks, he's ready to give up and quit. His salvation comes in the form of a brash adolescent girl, Jasmine Richardson. Mitch is assigned to tutor her little sister through a department



mentoring program. Despite Jasmine's contempt toward Mitch, her courage and devotion to her little sister inspire Mitch to stay and dedicate himself to helping her and the neighboring children overcome the hopelessness of growing up in crushing poverty.

Trouble on the farm has Mitch torn between returning home to Jennie and staying in Milwaukee where he'll be forced to risk his life to protect Jasmine from the leader of the One-Niner street gang. "

The Book Club will be meeting at the home of Lorraine Norem, on Wednesday, December 11th, at 1:30 PM.
Bill Neis

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elkhorn, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom

November 19th, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Moderator Bobbi Rader. Those present were Barb Townsend, Cindy Waller, Tina Kruger, Patti Phillips, Tom Stepp and Dorothy Bever.

The **Opening Prayer** was given by Barb Townsend.

Additions to the agenda: Cindy Waller asked that Christmas Eve be discussed under New Business.

Approval of October 15, 2024 Council Minutes: Patti Phillips moved to approve the minutes from the October 15th, 2024 Council meeting as presented. Seconded by Bobbi Rader. The motion to approve the minutes was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Tina Kruger stated that other than the rent income change, the budget to date is pretty much the same as last month. Following slight discussion, Barb Townsend moved to approve the treasurer's report as submitted, seconded by Patti Phillips. The motion was carried unanimously.

Pastor's (Office) Moment: Cindy Waller stated that she has organized the scheduling for our local Salvation Army bell ringing season at Hansen's IGA. Our UCC church is scheduled to ring the bells November 27th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and again on December 24th from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Ministry Leaders' Reports/Updates: Reports were submitted from Faith Formation, Stewardship and Missions, Women's Fellowship and Congregational Care.

Old Business: Search Committee/Update: Barb Townsend stated the committee will be reviewing a submitted profile.

Pulpit/Bridge Pastor - Fill in, November 17: Cindy Waller stated that the guest Pastor from Sunday did a great job and will keep her in mind for the future.

Memorial Funds: Barb Townsend reported that the painting in the Geneva Street entry was completed and looks great. This was covered by the Ann Serpe memorial fund.

Church Insurance - Audit/Refund: Tina Kruger reported on the status. Tom Stepp added that he is continuing to work out the details with Acuity Insurance.

Stewardship: Ray Knutson submitted a report in his absence.

Hurricane Help-Monetary: Cindy Waller reported that \$1034.35 was collected.

Finance Team/Budget: Tina Kruger presented the proposed 2025 budget for review. Following discussion of the proposed budget, Tina stated that she would put together a proposed package for a budget that would include our finances now with Pastor Kathleen. A proposed budget that would include a budget with a part time pastor and a third that would include a budget with a full time pastor.

Also discussed was the increase in the music budget from \$9200 to \$9600 and pulpit supply to be increased to \$175. With this, Bobbi Rader moved to adjust pulpit supply subs from \$150 to \$175. Seconded by Tom Stepp. The motion was carried unanimously.

Bobbi Rader then made a motion that the three proposed budgets be available for the December 1st Annual meeting; 1) pulpit supply only, 2) part time funds for a part time pastor and 3) full time funds for a full time pastor. Barb Townsend seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. Tina will submit the 3 proposed budgets to be presented and voted on at the Annual meeting.

Annual Reports: Cindy stated that she is still waiting for a few more annual reports and thanked those Teams who have submitted them already.

Nominating Team: Bobbi Rader stated that we are still looking for a Moderator, and Vice Moderator.

New Business: Lift Ceiling Repair: Barb Townsend stated that the lift ceiling was water damaged and needs to be drywalled. Tom Stepp stated that he would follow up on the repairs.

Constitution Updates/Annual meeting Agenda: Barb Townsend presented 3 constitution changes to be shared at the upcoming annual meeting. The first change was actually approved at the annual meeting in 2023 but the constitution wording was overlooked. It allowed for Stewardship of Resources to be split into two positions: Stewardship of Financial Resources and Building/Grounds. The second change allows the office manager to sit in on council in lieu of a pastor when we are without one as we are now. This will help us to be connected, but also assist us in reaching the needed quorum for meetings. The third change concerns the frequency with which financial statements are automatically sent out to our members. Following discussion, Barb Townsend moved to approve these three changes to the constitution. Seconded by Bobbi Rader. The motion was carried unanimously.

Regarding the annual meeting agenda, the 3 budget proposals will be added and the changes to the constitution will be added. Also note that on behalf of council, Bobbi Rader and Dorothy Bever will host coffee fellowship on December 1st.

Other: Christmas Eve Service: Cindy Waller stated that there will be one Christmas Eve service to be held at 5:00 p.m. with James Letellier providing the music.

Closing Prayer: Bobbi Rader gave the closing prayer.

Adjournment: Barb Townsend moved to adjourn, seconded by Tom Stepp. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

The next Council meeting of the Church Council will be **December 17, 2024** at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dorothy Bever, Church Clerk

*Please note that final approval of the minutes will be made at the December Council meeting.





DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Congregational Annual Meeting</p> <p>RAISERIGHT DUE</p>	2	3	4	5	6 1:00 p.m. Set up for Cookie Sale	7 10:00 a.m. Cookie Sale 
<p>8 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON</p> <p>Hope Now Gift Cards Due</p>	9	10	11 1:30 p.m. Book Club	12	13	14 6:00 p.m. Spirit of Hope Meal
<p>15 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON</p> <p>Children's Program</p> <p>RAISERIGHT DUE</p>	16	17 7:00 p.m. Church Council	18	19	20	21
<p>22 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON</p>	23	<p>24 Church office closed</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service</p> 	<p>25 Church office closed</p> <p>Merry Christmas</p> 	26	27	28
<p>29 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON</p>	<p>30 MEALS ON WHEELS</p> <p>J LILE & L MCCORMICK</p>	<p>31 NO MEALS ON WHEELS</p>	<p>JAN 1 Church office closed</p> <p>NO MEALS ON WHEELS</p>	<p>2 MEALS ON WHEELS</p> <p>T & J STEPP</p>	<p>3 MEALS ON WHEELS</p> <p>B NEWMAN & D RIESE</p>	4

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM

Thank You

Thank you to all of the volunteers that have signed up to be snow angels for this winter.

Thank you to Carol Prchal for organizing the future snow removal plans with a great team!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mark McCabe	02
Rusty Newman	03
Luke Wilson	04
Larry Waller	05
Tyler Stohl	06
Shayna Morris	06
Michelle Mandell	08
Tina Uphill	10
Rebecca Prien	16
Peter Mol	17
Brett Ringhand	18
Jeff Whiteman	18
Kyle Stohl	21
David Remer	22
Steve Knutson	23
Denise Bigelow	25
Wayne Brandenburg	25
Joel Remer	26
Eleanor Vierck	26
Linda Bowey	28



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Lay Worship Leaders

Dec. 1	Cindy Waller
Dec. 8	Izzy Whiteman
Dec. 15	Mindy Brunswick
Dec. 22	Bobbi Rader
<u>Dec. 24</u>	Bobbi Rader
Dec. 29	Carol Prchal



Ushers

Dec. 1	Diane Riese & Bobbi Rader
Dec. 8	Jennifer & Bill Neis
Dec. 15	Becky & Buck Newman
Dec. 22	Katherine & Bart Turk
<u>Dec. 24</u>	Diane Riese
Dec. 29	Diane Licht & Julie Forster



**Coffee Fellowship
Time**

Hosting coffee fellowship is easy. Bring a treat, brew a small pot of coffee (coffee and pot provided) and sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

It is great to gather together after worship for conversation, coffee,

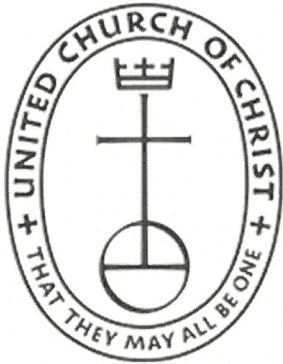


Coffee Fellowship

Dec. 1	Church Council
Dec. 8	_____
Dec. 15	_____
Dec. 22	Sunday School
Dec. 29	_____



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
United Church of Christ
76 South Wisconsin Street
Elkhorn, WI 53121
Phone: 262 723-3246

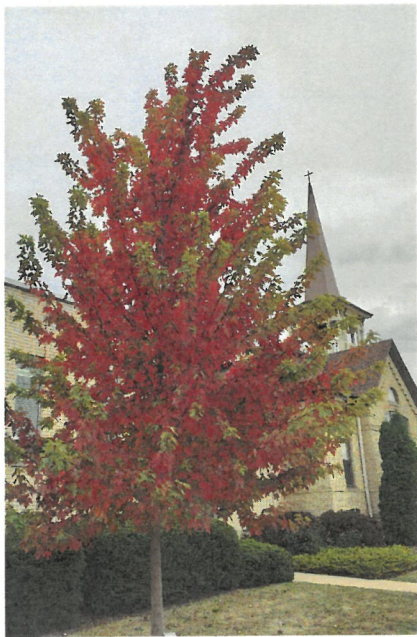


SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 a.m.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
5:00 p.m.

Join us as we come together to celebrate the joy of Christ's birth!
There will be only one candlelight service this year.
Bring your family on Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00 p.m.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



THE LINK

76 South Wisconsin Street Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121

Office Hours: Mon. Tue. Fri. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Wed. 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Thurs.- Closed

E-mail: ElkhornUCC@gmail.com

Web: ElkhornUCC.org

Bridge Pastor: Rev. Kathleen Krostal Phone: 262-723-3246

NOVEMBER

Be Thankful AND Healthier!

November—often a time of year when we put more of an effort into thinking about the many things for which we are thankful. In other words, you can't have "thanks" without a few "thinks". The two words are very closely related because thinking about these things leads us to thanking God for our blessings. But did you ever stop to think that the opposite is also true? Thanking can help us with thinking?

For quite a few years now, scholars from around the world have studied the benefits of gratitude. One of the leading researchers in this field is Dr. Robert Emmons from the University of California, Davis. He wrote an article in 2010 titled "Why Gratitude is Good" and some of the benefits identified by his research included the following for those who practiced expressing gratitude regularly:

1. Physical (stronger immune systems, less bothered by aches and pains, lower blood pressure, increased exercise, better care of health, sleep longer and feel more refreshed upon waking)
2. Psychological (higher levels of positive emotions, more alert/alive/awake, more joy and pleasure, more optimism and happiness)
3. Social (more helpful, generous, compassionate, forgiving, outgoing, feel less lonely and isolated)

In all things
GIVE thanks!



One would think those benefits ought to be enough to motivate us to be thankful, but there is an added bonus because gratitude might actually strengthen our brains. A study in 2022 found that higher levels of gratitude were positively associated with cognitive function among older adults.

As we read in Psalm 107:15, “Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.” Our gratitude is a fitting response to who God is—a God of steadfast love—and what God has done—wonderful works. Yet as we focus on God and express our thanks in prayer, we receive even more grace. Our brains are strengthened, as our thanks help us think!

In Faith—with thanks!

Barb



Imagine Together

By now you will have received letters from Pastor Kathleen and from the Stewardship Team about this year's giving campaign. Please prayerfully think about our church and how we will move forward in the future with your support.

What does our church look like in 2025 as we grow and serve in this community! Remember all we have done this year and how can we build on that for the future.

Be sure to join us for worship on Stewardship Sunday, November 10th. You may bring your estimate of giving card to lift up on this Sunday during worship, or you may mail it to the church if you can not be in attendance.

The Stewardship team will also be having a potluck after worship on Sunday, November 11th to continue our Stewardship celebration. Bring a dish to pass and sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary to let us know you are coming.

Looking forward to seeing all of you.

Thank you for being the blessings of this church.

Gift Card Opportunities to Share Our Abundance With Hope Now and Families in Need

When you stop to think about it, we really DO have an abundance of resources in many forms but the ability (and willingness) to share it is a blessing! As in past years, we have been given the opportunity to contribute gift cards to help those in need during the upcoming holiday season—something we can easily do!

We will again be partnering with Hope Now, Inc. to purchase gift cards for area families in need for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. You may purchase gift cards on your own, OR you may choose to support Women's Fellowship sale of *RaiseRight* cards and order the cards in that manner. If you have questions about ordering cards, feel free to ask about it! If you prefer to donate cash, we will place an order for the cards with Women's Fellowship, which will then be given to Hope Now,



Inc. for distribution.

Cards for Thanksgiving will allow families to purchase food. Cards for Christmas will allow families to purchase both food as well as gifts. *RaiseRight* card orders for our church will be due on Sunday, November 10th (this will be the only date to order Thanksgiving food cards for families in need!) and Sunday December 1st (this would be the date to order cards for Christmas for families in need!). This should allow enough time for the cards to be given to Hope Now for distribution. If you are ordering cards for donation, please mark your order, noting those cards that will be donated. We will see that they are given to Hope Now. There MAY be one additional *RaiseRight* card order due on December 15th should you need any additional cards just before Christmas.

Hope Now families could use Piggly Wiggly and Walmart cards for Thanksgiving, and Piggly Wiggly, Walmart, Kohls, and Target cards for Christmas.

Thank you for sharing your abundance AND for supporting Women's Fellowship!

Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 1st



Your presence is needed on Sunday, December 1, 2024, as this will be the day of our annual meeting.

We are hoping to present and pass three things: a slate of officers, a budget for 2025, and the wording for the constitutional changes approved at the annual meeting held back in December of 2022, to reflect the way things have been working in our church for the last couple years. (We neglected to have the wording ready on that day and sort of forgot about it...)

Please plan to attend because we need to have a majority of our members there to allow us to call the meeting to order and make the needed decisions.

Because it is the weekend of Thanksgiving, we anticipate this might not be as easy as it might have been had the dates fallen differently this year.

We really do need you—and especially on this Sunday!

Prayerfully Consider...

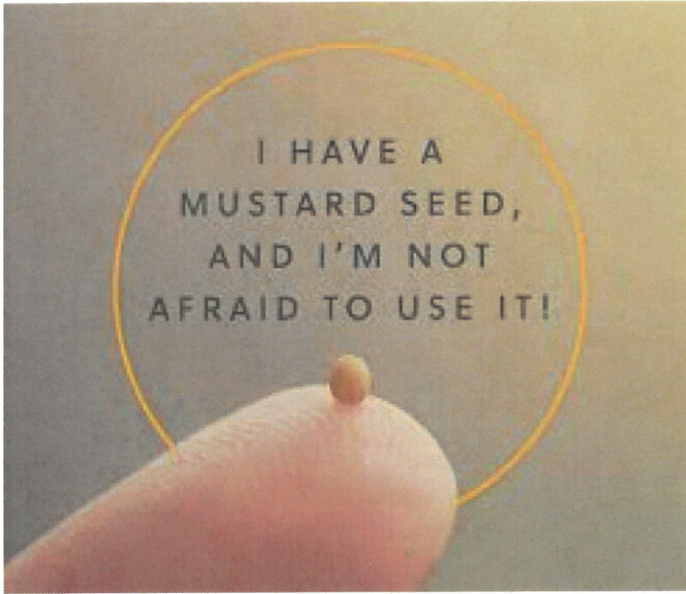
We have come to that time of year when we are working to fill a slate of officers for our church. For several years, our Vice-Moderator position has been empty. For well over a year, our Worship and Spirituality Ministry Leader duties (changing the altar cloths, setting up communion, scheduling worship readers, etc.) have been completed by several different people, but no one has volunteered to serve as coordinator in this position.

We would like to ask that you prayerfully consider whether or not you might be inspired to help our church family out by volunteering to serve this church on church council in one of the positions.

There are many people here who would assist you or answer questions you may have about any of the positions. All you need to do is ask. And consider saying, "yes"!

If you have any questions or are interested in stepping into an open position on council, please contact Bobbi Rader, Diane Riese, or Jennifer Neis.





Mustard Seed

The opening article of this month's Link discussed the benefits of being thankful. With that in mind, here are four ways to practice gratitude as suggested by pastor and author Traci Smith. Hope you find one of them motivating enough to actually use!

1. Gratitude Jar/List Write down the things you're grateful for each day. Keep a running list, or put slips of paper in a jar to read later.

2. Say Thank You Whether it's a small "thank you for everything" to your server or cashier or a handwritten note to those you love, expressing thanks is a gift to all.

3. Practice Mindfulness The water you drink, the air you breathe, the bed you sleep in—take a moment to notice each gift from God.

4. Act of Kindness Blessings multiply when they are shared. Put loose change in a bank at each meal, or give food to a food bank out of your gratitude for all you have been given.

GREAT WEATHER BIG SUCCESS GREAT VOLUNTEERS!

A beautiful day helped to make our Oktoberfest Pie Sale a big success. A total of forty-one pies were sold and a big Thank You to the thirteen pie bakers who made those wonderful pies; Barb Townsend, Diane Licht, Jaime Lile, Jean Lile, Mary Price, Merry Kay Opitz, Carole Kruse, Donna Riese, Katherine Turk, Tina Kruger, Jennifer Neis, Jennifer Stoltz, and Diane Riese.



None of this would have happened without the volunteers who helped to transport everything to park, set up and take down the booth, and work the pie sale.

A Huge Thank You to Diane Licht, Barb Townsend, Bobbi Rader, Jaime Lile, Mary Price, Jean Lile, Martha Behlman, Jennifer Neis, Diane Riese, Katherine Turk, Carol Prchal, Sally Schleiger, and Bob Schleiger.

With all these great people we were able to make a profit of \$711. Great job everyone! We look forward to doing this again next year at Oktoberfest 2025!

Book Club - November

ORPHANED AT 12

The book chosen for November is based upon a scandal involving the Tennessee Children's Home Orphan Society. This so-called orphanage was run by a woman named Georgia Tann,. The charity was basically engaged in a type of human trafficking only the humans were children. It was able to engage in its criminal enterprise for over twenty years, from the thirties to at least 1950. Without the cooperation of authorities, including elected officials and the police, it could not have operated for so long. Children, including infants, were essentially kidnapped, lied to about their actual parents, and then sold to wealthy individuals. A significant number died or disappeared. The center of this "enterprise" was in Memphis.

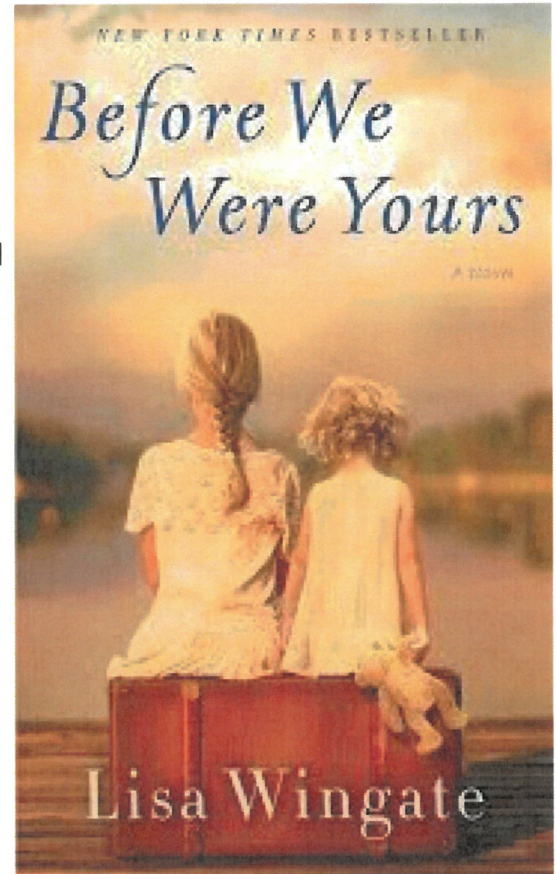
Before We Were Yours, by Lisa Wingate is constructed as a semi mystery. Since the flyleaf of the book tells us essentially what I recounted in the previous paragraph, we know the basics of the story we are going to read. Wingate's story revolves around five children who live with their parents Queenie and Briny on the Mississippi riverboat. When Queenie experiences severe trauma in the process of delivering twins while anchored on the river, she is rowed across the river to Memphis to deliver. While the parents are gone, police come and lie to the five children, Rill, Lark, Camellia, Fern, and Gabion. They range in age from 12, Rill, to about 2 or so Gabion. They are taken to the aforementioned "home" and never told what has happened to their parents.

Now Wingate shapes the novel by using a device which has become a popular structure for this type of novel. She alternates her chapters using two primary characters and two time periods. the present (the book was published in 2017) and the past, 1939. Avery Stafford, an attorney, narrates the present day chapters. She meets an elderly woman, May Crandall in a nursing home. Avery is also the daughter of a Senator from South Carolina. May approaches her, and after a brief encounter, seems to mistake Avery for someone else. Avery's long, curly, blond hair seem to be the trigger. May mentions a Fern, and Arcadia. Avery is also told that May was found in a small house near the river with her dead sister. May also insists that there is some connection between herself and Avery's grandmother, Judy Stafford. Avery feels compelled to investigate the connection and find out more about May.

The alternate chapters are narrated by Rill Foss. Rill is 12 in 1939 when she, along with her siblings, are abducted by the police, and brought to a house which is part of the illegal orphanage scheme being run by Tann. Rill recounts her experiences over the course of the alternate chapters. All of the children at the home are aware of the dangerous presence of a Mr. Riggs, the caretaker, of the property.. He clearly abuses the children by offering them peppermints and luring them to his room. The attending women, including Tann, certainly know of his behavior, but tolerate it. The engage in their own types of abuse.

Wingate lets us know quite early in the novel that May Stafford is indeed Rill Foss. Avery feels the need to discover May's past, but also she is compelled to find out what connection exists between May/Rill and her grandmother, Judy. A photo which includes May and Judy is one of the key elements of this puzzle.

Various subplots are introduced. Avery is engaged to Elliott; she becomes attracted to another during the course of the investigation, Trent Turner. Avery's senator father's reputation is being sullied by a nursing home scandal.



So, the plots and alternating storylines gradually merge. The truth about the Orphan Society and the years of abuse; the many mysterious disappearances which occurred from the enterprise, including the likely death of Camellia, Rill/May's sister. all need to be exposed.

We will meet at the home of Tom Bailey on November 13th, Thursday. 1:00 PM.
Bill Neis

News From Women's Fellowship



Women of the church met on October 10th and discussed the following:
Oktoberfest Pie Sale Final plans for the sale were made. We will be raising the price of our pies and experimenting with selling half pies and pieces if requested.
Fellowship Hall Carol Prchal is working on replacing the broken panes of glass in the windows. Windowpane trim and windowsills will be painted a light aqua color and the walls will be painted a cream color to compliment the brickwork.

Memorial Garden Pavers Diane Riese and her grandson, Zach Rader, have been trying to clean the pavers in the garden. The cleaning methods suggested are not working well—they are looking for additional suggestions.

Plants in the Sanctuary The Peace Lilies behind the altar are looking very sad these days. We will look for silk plants to replace them.

Cookie Sale This will be our 30th sale! Look for an article on this annual event elsewhere in the November Link.

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 9:30a.m in Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

30th Annual Cookie Sale Happening Soon!

Needless to say, our church now has a very long tradition for a well-loved and greatly anticipated Christmas cookie sale! Our 30th annual event will be held Saturday, December 7, starting at 10:00 a.m. We will sell cookies until they are gone—usually around noon, which allows us time to enjoy the Elkhorn Christmas Parade that same afternoon. Monies earned from the sale this year will be used for improvements in Fellowship Hall.

We couldn't do this sale without the support of all the wonderful bakers who supply our Christmas cookies! Notices will go out by November 20, 2024, asking all those who bake to make at least 8 dozen cookies (or more which is always greatly appreciated). Cookies for the sale can be brought to the church on Friday, December 6 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and/or on the day of the sale between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m.



Workers are needed on Friday, December 6 at 1:00 p.m when we will be setting up tables, filling the trays, and making Fellowship Hall smell wonderfully sweet! We will also need some "festively dressed elves" to assist with the sale (selling, weighing, collecting money, bagging cookies, washing trays, etc.) on the day of the event (Saturday, December 7) at 9:30 a.m. Watch for the sign up sheet at church.

Questions? Call Donna Riese at (262) 379-1722.

Bucket Brigade

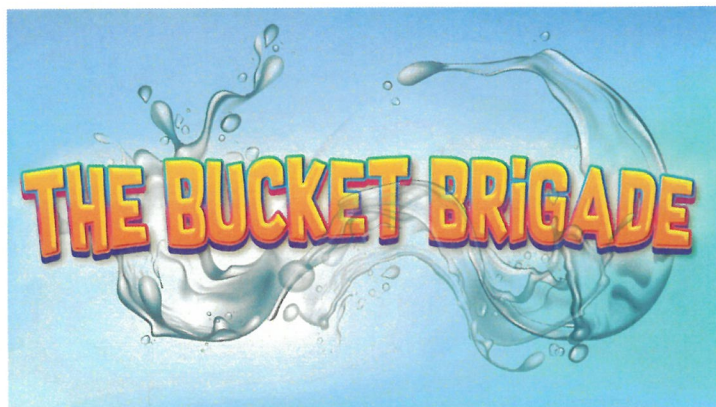
Our church had an opportunity to help those that were affected by hurricanes Helene and Milton. We received a letter from the UCC WI Conference asking for donations to assist those affected by the recent hurricanes. Congregations who raise \$250 or more may apply for a matching grant (of \$250) from UCC Global H.O.P.E. Pastor Kathleen volunteered to help with the grant, and the church council asked the congregation to donate their giving in a special "bucket brigade" to be passed during worship for two Sundays as well as sending an email, to let everyone know we were collecting.

Our church responded generously with a total of \$1,034.35! And we are continuing the process to get the grant for \$250.

Our funds are being sent to Pastor Bridget at New Horizon UCC in Kewaskum WI. Her congregation is purchasing all of the items needed to fill the cleaning buckets and hygiene kits. They will then fill a truck and drive it to the locations that need these items.

We are thankful for their help with assembling the kits and thankful for all of your generosity.

The New Horizon UCC will be sharing pictures and information with us, as they package and distribute the buckets!



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elkhorn, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom

October 15th, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was **called to order** at 7:07pm by Moderator, Bobbi Rader. Others present included Sara Gould, Tina Kruger, Ray Knutson, Tom Stepp, Cindy Waller, and Barb Townsend. Dorothy Bever, Patti Phillips, and Sally Schleiger were not able to attend.

Ray Knutson led the meeting with an **opening prayer**.

Additions to the agenda: Ray Knutson requested personnel recommendations be added to the agenda.

Minutes: Ray Knutson made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous September 17, 2024 Council meeting as presented, seconded by Bobbi Rader. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Sara Gould made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Ray Knutson. Motion carried unanimously.

Pastor's Moment (Office Moment): Cindy Waller informed the group that the church office has been busy with the upcoming pie sale for Oktoberfest and the start of the stewardship campaign. She is also anticipating end-of-year reports that will be due in about a month. She reminded Council that All Saints Day falls mid-week this year, giving us the option to mark the day on either October 27 or November 3. After discussion, a PowerPoint/movie will be created for presentation on November 3, 2024.

Ministry Leaders' Reports/Updates: Reports were available from Faith Formation and Women's Fellowship.

OLD BUSINESS

Search Committee/Update: Barb Townsend reported that the Search Committee continues the search, but has only received one applicant in the last month. The committee has also discussed the possibilities of considering a part-time position, as this would be better suited to our budget realities. This will be presented to the congregation at a later date.

Pulpit/Bridge Minister: Pastor Kathleen has requested to be gone on November 17, 2024. Council has approved this request and a pulpit supply pastor is already being sought.

Memorial Funds: There were no updates on this but Barb Townsend requested permission to spend some of the money to purchase silk plants for the back wall of the sanctuary. The current peace lilies need to be replaced as they have been there for quite some time and are showing their age. This would also help to cover the pipes in the northwest corner behind the altar. Council approved the idea.

Insurance Refund: The insurance refund promised by Acuity has not yet been received. Tom will check into this.

Stewardship: Ray Knutson reported that the stewardship campaign is underway with Commitment Sunday planned for November 10, 2024. His team will host a potluck meal following services on that day. It is hoped we have a great turnout.

Nominating Team: Bobbi Rader reported that Jennifer Neis and Diane Riese would be joining her on the nominating team. She informed the group that Patti Phillips would be leaving her position as Financial Secretary. When asked how current Council members felt about serving another term in their positions, Sara Gould stated she would need to step away. Barb Townsend would continue but no one else commented.

NEW BUSINESS

Hurricane Help—Monetary: Cindy Waller shared a letter from WI Conference UCC asking for donations to assist those affected by the recent hurricanes. Congregations who raise \$250 or more may apply for a matching grant from UCC Global H.O.P.E. Pastor Kathleen has volunteered to write this grant. After discussion, we will let our membership know about this giving opportunity to help those in need. A collection bucket will be passed during services but members will have the opportunity to drop off donations or contribute via PayPal. Bobbi will get a bucket for us to use. Barb Townsend made a motion that, in the case we do not raise \$250, budget mission money will be used to make up the difference. This was seconded by Bobbi Rader and passed unanimously.

Finance Team/Budget: Ray Knutson and Tina Kruger met to work on our budget. They presented two possible budgets—one that shows our current situation with a bridge pastor and one that shows the budget needed with a fulltime pastor. After discussion, a third budget will be created to reflect the needs of our church budget should we find and hire a part-time pastor. This is becoming more of a reality for us and this fact will be shared with the congregation at both the upcoming potluck on November 10, 2024 as well as at our annual meeting on December 1, 2024. Jennifer Neis and the search committee are considering this as a reality as well, and Jennifer is in contact with the conference to determine what this might look like.

Annual Reports—Due: After discussion, annual reports from ministry team leaders will be due to the office by November 13, 2024. Leaders are encouraged to get them in even earlier due to time constraints and the need to have the reports ready for the upcoming annual meeting.

Annual Meeting—December 1: The annual meeting will be December 1, 2024. We will discuss the possibilities of changing to a part-time pastor search at the meeting, but also hope to approve a full slate of officers, a budget for 2025, and constitutional change that reflects the structure we are currently working with—one that was approved in theory at the annual meeting last year but never completed with needed wording changes in the constitution. Barb Townsend is working on this.

Other—Personnel Recommendations: Ray Knutson explained the recommendations for office manager and worship musician suggested by the personnel team (Diane Riese and Stacy Whiteman). After discussion, Worship Musician job description will be changed from “up to 3 hymnals” to “up to 3 hymns”. In addition, the third Sunday of the month will be listed as a day “off” for Denise. He added that payment for substitute musician would be raised to \$100 per service starting in January of 2025. Ray Knutson moved to accept the recommendations. Seconded by Tom Stepp and passed unanimously.

Closing Prayer: Bobbi Rader led us in a closing prayer.

Adjournment: Ray Knutson moved to adjourn, seconded by Bobbi Rader. Adjourned at 8:15pm.

NEXT MEETING: November 19, 2024, at 7pm

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara L. Townsend



NOVEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON All Saints Sunday	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON 11:00 Stewardship Potluck RAISERIGHT DUE	11	12	13 1:00 p.m. Book Club	14 9:30 a.m. Women's Fellowship	15	16
17 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON	18	19 7:00 p.m. Church Council	20	21	22	23
24 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON	25 MEALS ON WHEELS J LILE & L MCCORMICK	26 Love lites Due B & C KRUSE	27 R KNUTSON & T BAILEY	28 Church office closed HAPPY  THANKSGIVING	29 Church office closed	30

Time to think about Love Lites! Below you will find the information about Love Lites for this year.. They will be forms available at church or you can use the one below.



Love Lite Trees!

During the Christmas Season, we often think of all the important people in our lives; family members and friends; and how much they mean to us.

We remember those we have lost through the years as well as those who are still with us and have touched our lives in some special way. This year our church will be sponsoring Love Lite's on a special tree. Our plan is to have a brief

service to remember and honor our loved ones and light the special tree. This will take place during our regular worship service on **December 1st**.

So, please take a moment to remember or honor your loved ones this season by sponsoring the lights on the tree. The lights will be available for you to sponsor for \$2.00 per person named – or more if you wish to make a larger donation. The forms will be in the Sunday bulletin or simply contact the church office and we'll make sure we get one to you. Please send or drop off the completed form at the church office along with your payment **by November 26th**. All proceeds will go to support the continuing ministry of our congregation.

LOVE-LITE BULB ORDER SHEET In HONOR of: (one name per line)

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____
7	_____
8	_____
9	_____
10	_____

Name of Donor _____

\$2.00 per Name TOTAL _____

LOVE-LITE BULB ORDER SHEET In MEMORY of: (one name per line)

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____
7	_____
8	_____
9	_____
10	_____

Name of Donor _____

\$2.00 per Name TOTAL _____

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jack Illgen	01
Thorin Forster	02
Ron Stevens	03
Patti Phillips	04
Mary Reed	10
Lori Opitz	11
Bob Kruger	14
John Mol	18
Paris Hay	18
Kathy Gould	19
Jake Nethery	19
Tyler Dillner	22
Sara Gould	23
Alice Hill	27
Chase Singleton	27
Eugene Bednarski	29
Jax Jutz	29
Tom Bailey	30

happy
birthday



**Coffee Fellowship
Time**

Hosting coffee fellowship is easy. Bring a treat, brew a small pot of coffee (coffee and pot provided) and sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

It is great to gather together after worship for conversation, coffee,



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Molly and Jason Vierck 04



Lay Worship Leaders

Nov. 3	Sara Gould
Nov. 10	Jennifer Neis
Nov. 17	_____
Nov. 24	_____

Ushers

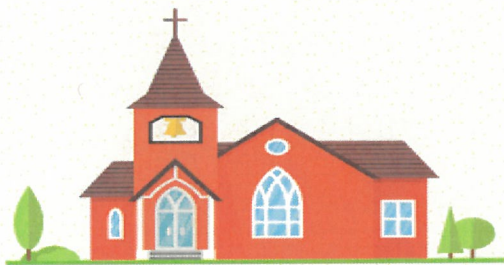
Nov. 3	Diane Riese & Cindy Waller
Nov. 10	Becky & Buck Newman
Nov. 17	Kruger Family
Nov. 24	Diane Riese & Bobbi Rader

Coffee Fellowship

Nov. 3	Cindy Waller
Nov. 10	Stewardship Potluck
Nov. 17	_____
Nov. 24	_____



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
United Church of Christ
76 South Wisconsin Street
Elkhorn, WI 53121
Phone: 262 723-3246



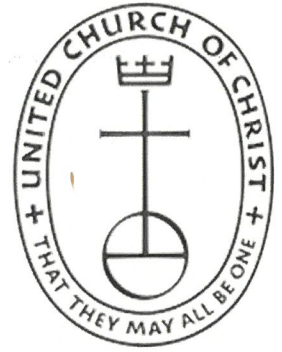
*SUNDAY
WORSHIP
10:00 a.m.*

Join us for worship
every Sunday in person
starting at 10:00 a.m.
Watch our recorded service
online on YouTube or
on our website: elkhornucc.org

Sunday School 10:00 a.m. September through May



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



THE LINK

76 South Wisconsin Street Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121

Office Hours: Mon. Tue. Fri. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Wed. 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Thurs.- Closed

E-mail: ElkhornUCC@gmail.com

Web: ElkhornUCC.org

Bridge Pastor: Rev. Kathleen Krostal

Phone: 262-723-3246

OCTOBER

Vote — With Love

Anyone watching TV or listening to the news knows that the elections are coming up quickly—November 5th is Election Day, but voting will start for some later this month. I am also thinking it is safe to say that many of us will be thrilled to enter the “election ad-free zone” that will follow on November 6th.

Do you realize that one of the biggest ways we demonstrate our faith is to participate in the elections and vote with love?

In 1 John 3:18 we read this: “let us not love with words or speech, but in action and in truth”. Voting with love means we are voting with love for creation, neighbors, peace, and repair of the brokenness of our world.



Bottom line, it is our duty to participate in the elections held in our communities and encourage all those around us to do the same. Are you registered to vote? If not, now is the time to register! To find out, go to My Vote Wisconsin (for those of you in the state) at the following web address: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/My-Voter-Info>. This site will not only let you know if you are registered, but it will also tell you where you can vote, what is on the ballot, how to apply for an absentee ballot, or how to vote absentee in person.



So be prepared for the upcoming elections held on November 5th. Care facility voting in Elkhorn will be held October 14-16. In person absentee voting will be held at the Elkhorn City Administration Offices October 22-25 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., October 26 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and October 28-November 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please vote with love and encourage all those around you to do the same!

In faith--Barb

Thoughts on Giving from Henri Nouwen

Henri Nouwen was a theologian, priest, and author. He had some ideas about giving to the church, feeling it to be an invitation into a spiritual journey—an opportunity for both the giver and receiver to participate in God’s work in a way that leads to transformation. As we enter our stewardship campaign, we ask that you consider the invitation this offers.

Nouwen feels we need to trust in God’s provisions and challenges us to let go of our fear—fear of not having enough, fear of rejection, fear of failure. We need to trust that God provides what we need in abundant measures. Further, he suggests that this invitation to give is part of something far greater than any one person’s gift. Together, as a church family, we reach our potential.

That said, please prayerfully consider how you might be able to help this stewardship season as we, in community, claim the spiritual power of this work to transform us all.

Our Stewardship season begins on Sunday, October 6th, with this years Stewardship Sunday being held on Sunday, November 10th

The Stewardship team is working on several things to share the theme of “Imagine Together” with our congregation. There will be letters sent, inserts in our Sunday bulletins and a special meal following worship on Stewardship Sunday November 10th.

Watch your emails and snail mail for more information and plan to attend worship and stay for the meal on November 10th. Looking forward to seeing all of you.

Thank you for being the blessings of this church.



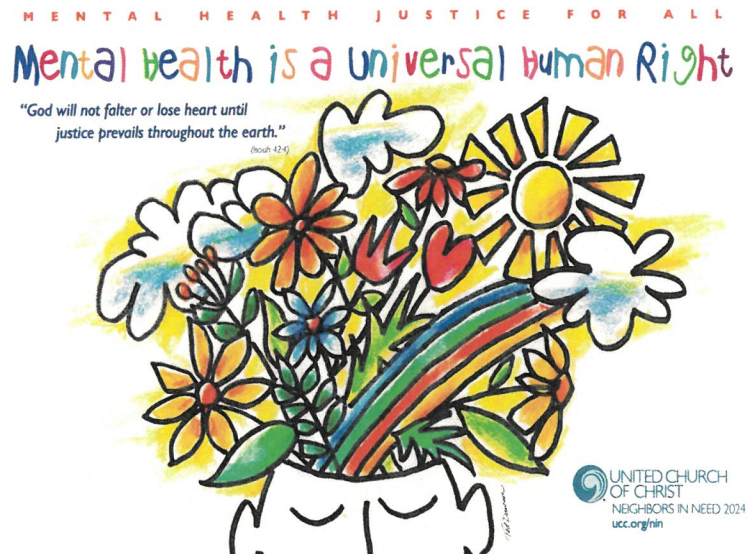
Mental health is a Universal Human right!

This year's Neighbors in Need theme "Mental Health Justice for All: Mental Health is a Universal Human Right" highlights our God-given right to mental health

Everyone is created in God's image, and everybody should receive quality mental health care.

In 2015, the General synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become **WISE** (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental Health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and wellbeing of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey.



Here are 12 key messages that are important to know:

1. Good mental health is a key part of overall health and wellbeing.
2. Good mental health helps us cope with challenges, connect with others, with God, and thrive throughout our lives.
3. Mental health is vital and deserves to be recognized and respected.
4. Everyone has the right to access quality treatment that meets our unique needs and respects our human rights throughout our lifetime.
5. Mental health challenges are a significant threat to the wellbeing of young people.
6. Depression is the leading cause of disability in the world.
7. We must break the silence about mental health challenges.
8. We must dismantle the stigma, shame, and discrimination surrounding mental health challenges.
9. We all have the right to live our lives free from the stigma and discrimination in church, school, and in the workplace.
10. Good, quality, affordable, and accessible community mental health services and supports are crucial for a just world for all.
11. Mental health is fundamental to enjoying a good and meaningful life.
12. Everyone's mind is beautiful, complex, unique, and made in God's image.

We invite you to be part of God's work of mental health justice, and support the Neighbors in Need offering that will be collected on Sunday, October 6th.

There will be special offering envelopes available on Sunday in your bulletin as well as inserts with more information about Neighbors in Need.

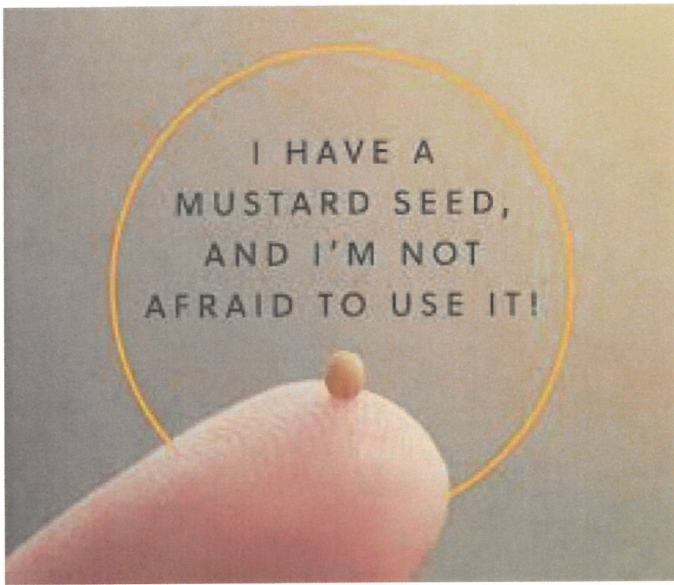
Thank for your support.

Did you Know ?

October 10th is World Mental Health Day.

For more information visit:

<https://wmhdofficial.com/>



Mustard Seed

Looking for a good book to read?

You might want to try *Sacred Self-Care: Daily Practices for Nurturing Our Whole Selves* by Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes.

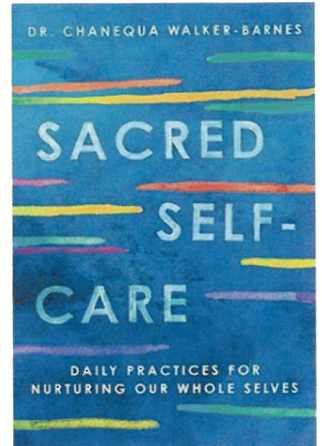
Life gets busy and often times, we take care of everything around us but forget the most important part of our lives—ourselves!

This book is designed to help you shift your behav-

iors, creating lifelong habits to care for ALL of you—mind, body, and soul. Putting self-care as the most important thing for us is something we will not regret—especially as we get older.

Give it a try and see what you think. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain!

The book is available on Amazon and your bookstores.



RaiseRight Order

The next *RaiseRight* (formerly Scrip) order will be due on Sunday, October 13th. Your orders accompanied by payment (checks made out to Women's Fellowship) can be turned in to the church office or given to Diane Riese.



Please consider buying cards you can use at the grocery store, gas station, big box stores, pharmacy, and fast food stores because the church benefits from these purchases.

There is a complete list of the retailers you can get cards from, available in the church office and on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

The gift cards also make great gifts so start thinking about shopping you might do as we get closer to the Christmas season!

Thank you for shopping with *RaiseRight* and us.

Book Club - October BAD

What constitutes acceptable interactions between men and women in our "modern" society? This question centers the novel read for October. In *The Whisper Network* by Chandler Baker the reader must think hard about this question. The title refers to the interactions which take place in the

fictional company of "Truviv". Four female corporate attorneys participate in gossipy type discussions about the behavior of their male colleagues, particularly the head of their division, Ames Garrett. A result of their discussions is a document, which is clandestinely distributed among female employees, called the BAD spreadsheet.

A male, whose name gets included in the document, is labeled as being something of a person to "watch out for". Female attorneys, Sloane, Ardie, and Grace are veteran corporate lawyers; they have welcomed a new employee, Katherine into their company. She is somewhat younger, and comes from a background where she was, in her telling, wrongly blamed for some incidents at her old employer and fired. She comes from Boston, and is now working in Dallas with the other women. The company, Truviv, seems to be modeled on companies like Nike, Adidas, and other sports apparel businesses. Competition underlays the entire structure of the novel.

Sloan has had a brief affair with Ames years ago, before she was engaged and married to her husband, Derek. Clearly, Sloan has continuing animosity toward Ames. The three veterans warn Katherine about Ames. Through Rosalita, a woman who cleans the offices at night, we see that Katherine is engaged in some way with Ames in his office one night after hours. Sloan eventually insists that Ames be included in the BAD list. Since Ames is also the most likely candidate to become the CEO of the company, Sloan then enlists the others, except Katherine, to file a harassment complaint against both Ames and the Company.

It is here that the novel ventures into more mysterious territory. Ames falls or was pushed from the 18th floor balcony to his death. All indications are that Ames has taken his own life. All of the ramifications of Ames behavior as well as the behavior Sloan, Ardie, and Grace, now come colliding together.

Chandler Baker works as a corporate attorney. Clearly, the novel is based upon her experiences in the competitive atmosphere of the world. Many of the chapters begin strangely with a third person narrator, who may or may not be one of the novel's characters commenting about the experiences of the women who work in this environment. This unnamed voice introduces some chapters and is meant to underscore the experience of functioning in this corporate environment.

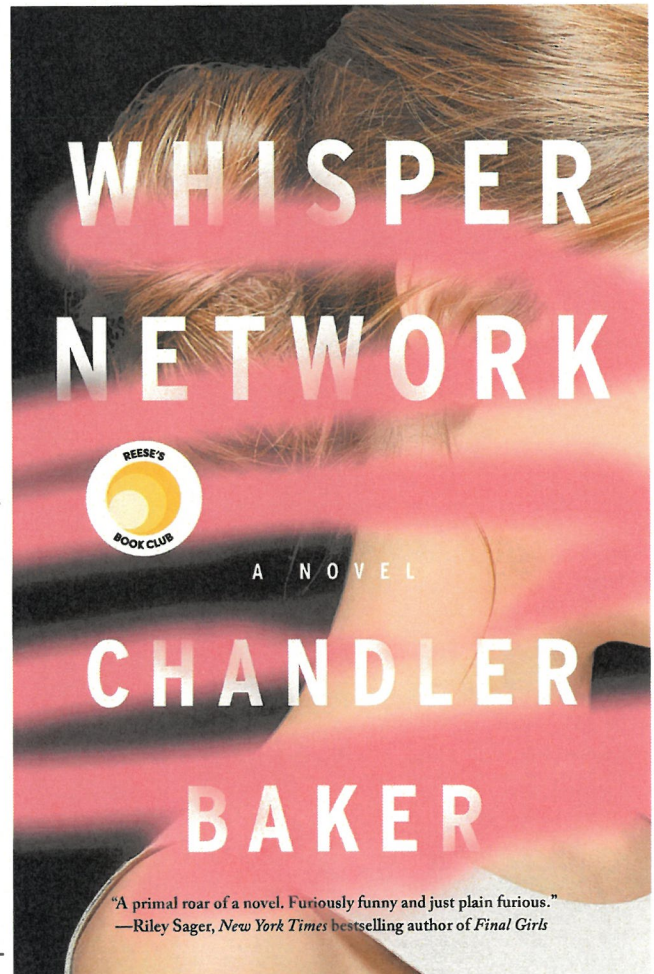
For example, Chapter 17 begins, "Inescapable lo-grade thought spirals that manifested in the at-least-once-a-week clammy feeling that spread out in our guts while we rode the elevator down to the lobby, the slow sense of dread building, that we'd left something undone, mishandled a situation, or ..." up royally."

Baker continually highlights the wealth and privilege which the women, and men, enjoy. She makes it clear through the exclusive brand name dropping which she does that they enjoy a valued lifestyle. They are not portrayed as "poor, little, rich girls" however. The fact that, on every level, their lives are dominated by competition, both spoken and unspoken, and that that competitiveness drives the relationships which they have with their male counterparts shows that not just simple sexism is at work.

The novel presents many interesting, and challenging ideas which should lead to a spirited and interesting discussion when we meet.

Barb Townsend will host on October 2, at 6:30 p.m.

Bill Neis



PIES, PIES, PIES, PIES PIES!

APPLE CHERRY PEACH PUMPKIN BLUEBERRY PECAN PEAR

OKTOBERFEST is October 19th and plans are set for our pie sale. You can sign up to bake pies as well as pick up your pie pans and containers starting September 29th. These supplies will be in the family room or the church office. Pies can be dropped off at the church on Friday October 18th between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. or on Saturday October 19th between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Our goal is to have 50 pies to sell so hope you can help us reach that goal.

We are doing something a little different with the pies this year. We will be selling whole fruit and pumpkin pies for \$15 each and a slice of pie for \$3. A whole pecan pie will sell for \$18 each and a slice for \$4.

We will also need VOLUNTEERS to get our booth set up and ready, work the booth, and take down the booth. The time schedules are below and hope you and or someone in your family will be able to help.



FRIDAY OCT. 18 TH	5:00pm - 5:45pm	PRE SET UP (supplies to park & canopy up)
SATURDAY OCT. 19 TH	8:00am - 9:00am	SET UP BOOTH (canopy, tables up, pies transported to park)
	8:00am - 11:00am	WORK BOOTH (selling pies)
	11:00am - sold out	WORK BOOTH (tables & chairs down)
	5:30pm - 6:00pm	TAKE DOWN (canopy down & all items to church)

IF YOU CAN HELP AT ANY OF THESE TIMES, OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, Please CALL DIANE RIESE 262-642-5547 OR CINDY IN THE CHURCH OFFICE 262-723-3246.

Women's Fellowship News

Women's Fellowship is pleased to announce that the personalized bricks for the Memorial Garden have arrived. Unfortunately, two of the bricks had spelling errors, but the company is correcting their mistake and we hope to have them soon. Kevin Kruger has graciously offered to add the bricks to our garden walkway as his schedule allows. In preparation for this, we are working on cleaning the mold from existing bricks so they will be looking better soon!

Since we acquired the round tables for Fellowship Hall, we are no longer in need of all the large rectangular tables in the basement. If anyone is interested in one of these tables, please contact Women's Fellowship. These will most likely be the heavier tables since they are so difficult to move. Good sturdy table for work areas.

The women spent time discussing the rummage sale we used to have, considering some possible changes that would perhaps take place if the sale were to return. Please look for the article about that elsewhere in this month's Link.

If you haven't baked pies in a bit, you might want to start practicing! We are sure people in your family would enjoy that and it will get you ready for the upcoming Oktoberfest Pie Sale on October 19th. We will again be selling pies at a tent in the square. Prices will be as follows: whole fruit or pumpkin pies \$15.00, slice \$3.00; whole pecan pies \$18.00, slice \$4.00. Stay tuned for details on picking up your pie tins and plastic covers.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 10th at 9:30am. Hope to see you there!

Rummage Sale: A Look Back and a Look Ahead

For years we had been known as the church with the rummage sale, but it has been quite some time since we have hosted this huge event. While there is talk of the sale returning (next summer during the Elkhorn City-Wide Rummage Sale on June 6th and 7th) some changes should perhaps be made. First, however, we need to take a look back to understand how it might look in the future.

A Look Back Our rummage sale was always held on the weekend of Elkhorn's Corn and Brat Days in August. Members would bring boxes of unwanted items to church starting in the early days of May and continuing through the days of the sale itself. In addition, it was not unusual for us to accept the "leftovers" from other rummage sales. Several dedicated women of the church would meet weekly all summer to sort through the rummage—pricing, organizing, and even throwing some of it away as it was not suitable for sale.

Awnings were put up in the church yard on the Thursday night before the sale and tables were hauled up from Fellowship Hall to be ready for the two-day event. Bright and early on Friday morning, a huge team was needed to move the numerous boxes from all corners of the Christian Education building rooms and hallways so the sale items could be spread out on the tables for shoppers to view. In addition, all the furniture that had accumulated for the sale was brought out for display on Geneva Street.

Why It Was Abandoned While the rummage sale was always profitable for us, we had to end it due to the extreme amount of work that was falling on the congregation, several of whom dedicated a morning a week during summer months to get ready for the sale. In addition, it seemed harder to get workers—especially for all the heavy lifting and carrying that was required on the days of the sale. Packing up was also a task—several trucks and trailers were required to haul away items that did not sell.

A Look Ahead The Women's Fellowship meeting in September had some good discussion on the topic of bringing back the sale. Considering the reasons the sale was finally abandoned; these are the changes we feel might make a difference:

- Anyone bringing in items will have to bring them in the week of the sale. No early boxes will be accepted. We are asking that these items be clean and suitable for resale—nothing stained, chipped, or broken. The items should be things you would consider purchasing if you were in the market for any given item—not just the junk you want to get rid of. Further, each person will be responsible for unpacking their items for display on tables in Fellowship Hall. You will also be encouraged to come to help with the pack-up of items remaining—and hopefully several of you will agree to pass the items on to other charities.
- Nothing will be priced. Customers will be asked to judge what they wish to donate for the items they purchase. We will accept whatever is offered and for a family in need, these items may make a huge difference.
- Large items will be discouraged unless you are able to provide the manpower to move the item in yourself AND move it out again if it does not sell.
- We will not accept the unsold items from other sales. There is a reason the items are still there and we don't want them, either!
- We need to have some discussion as to the inclusion of clothing, linens, towels, etc. in our sale. As mentioned previously, these may be the items greatly needed by some families, but anything brought in will NEED to be clean and not be in need of repair.

Share Your Thoughts Women's Fellowship asks that you share your thoughts about this idea for next year. In addition, please consider the following questions: Might you be willing to assist us the week before when people bring things in? (Someone would have to be here at various times that week so people can bring things in and set them on tables.) Would you be able to work the day of the sale? (We will need people to help with the sale on Friday and Saturday.) Please share your thoughts with someone from Women's Fellowship. We want your input!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elkhorn, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom

September 17th, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.



The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Moderator Bobbi Rader. Those present were Barb Townsend, Diane Riese, Cindy Waller, Ray Knutson, Tina Kruger, Patti Phillips, Sara Gould and Dorothy Bever.

The **Opening Prayer** was given by Moderator Bobbi Rader.

Additions to the agenda: None at this time.

Approval of July 23, 2024 Council Minutes: Barb Townsend moved to approve the minutes from the July 23, 2024 Council meeting as presented. Seconded by Bobbi Rader. The motion to approve the minutes was carried unanimously. Regarding the notes from the August 20th Council meeting, due to lack of a quorum for this meeting, there is no motion needed to approve the notes.

Treasurer's Report: Following slight discussion, Sara Gould moved to approve the July and August Treasurer's report, seconded by Patti Phillips. The motion was approved unanimously.

Pastor's (Office) Moment: Cindy Waller stated that We Energies has replaced the new gas meter in the Memorial Garden and removed the second unused gas meter. Cindy will be out of the office October 7-11th.

Ministry Leader's Reports/Updates: Reports were submitted from Faith Formation, Mission and Service Ministry, Women's Fellowship and Congregational Care (part of Hospitality and Care).

Old Business: Search Committee/Update: Barb Townsend gave an update on the search process. No new profiles have been received. Council discussed the Search Committee updates.

Pulpit/Bridge Pastor - July 24th knee surgery recovery/coverage for July 28 and August 4 and 11: Knee Manipulation Procedure/Coverage September 15 & 22: Cindy Waller stated that Pastor Kathleen is continuing to recover from knee surgery. She is planning on returning to the pulpit September 29th. Please continue to keep Pastor Kathleen in our prayers.

Memorial Funds: No report at this time.

Church Insurance - Audit/Refund: Tina stated there is nothing to report at this time.

New Business: LLS - Change: Cindy Waller stated that Lutheran Social Services have found a new location.

Personnel Update: Diane Riese presented an update followed by Council discussion. **Stewardship:** Ray Knutson stated that the Stewardship committee consists of himself, Jean Lile, Sara Gould, Katherine and Bart Turk. The UCC theme for 2024 is "Imagine Together". Commitment Sunday will be November 10th with a potluck following worship service being planned. More information to come.

Nominating Team: Bobbi Rader is asking for assistance in forming the nominating team.

Budget Request due October 1: Cindy Waller stated that all budget requests are due October 1st.

Grant: Council briefly discussed how grants are received.

Other: Nothing at this time.

Closing Prayer: Barb Townsend gave the closing prayer.

Adjournment: Ray Knutson moved to adjourn, seconded by Patti Phillips. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

The next Council meeting of the Church Council will be **October 15, 2024** at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dorothy Bever, Church Clerk

*Please note that final approval of the minutes will be made at the October Council meeting.



OCTOBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 a.m. Cleaning in Sanctuary	2 6:30 p.m. Book Club – Barb Townsend Home	3	4	5
6 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON NIN Sunday	7	8	9	10 9:30 a.m. Women's Fellowship	11	12
13 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON RAISERIGHT DUE	14	15 7:00 p.m. Church Council	16	17	18	19 Oktoberfest Pie Sale
20 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON	21 J LILE & L MCCORMICK	22 B & C KRUSE	23 R KNUTSON & T BAILEY	24 T & J STEPP	25 B NEWMAN & D RIESE	26
27 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON	28	29	30	31 Happy Halloween 	NOV 1	2

Hungry Hippo Jar

Just a reminder for everyone to remember the Hungry Hippo Jar that is on the table in the family room.

We are collecting donations for the Spirit of Hope Homeless Shelter for Men until the end of the year.

Thank you for your help and for all your donations.



Sunday Sundae!

Our church marked the start of our Sunday School season with a little Ice Cream Sundae!

Here is a picture from Sunday, September 8th. As this was our first day back to Sunday School, we celebrated with a special coffee fellowship after worship, by having ice cream Sundaes!

Thank you to Barb Townsend and the Sunday School helpers for providing the ice cream and toppings!

WE did enjoy the Sundae treat!

Thank You Again to all our Lawn and Garden Helpers!

We are still looking great around the church grounds!

Thank you to everyone that is helping to keep us trimmed, mowed and mulched.

We have a great group taking care of how we look!

Thanks Everyone! We are very thankful and grateful for your talents.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Maas	04
Catherine Whiteman	04
Rosalyn Skala	06
Suzie Reed	06
Malena Loch	06
Jason Morris	08
Tony Serpe	08
Chad Stoltz	09
Ann Johnson	09
Bryan Marty	10
Jennifer Ringhand	11
Bonita Breit	12
Carol Prchal	13
Donna Riese	16
Kevin Heckert	17
Melinda Morris	20
Keelin Kruger	20
Ashley Stoflet	21
Jacob Truesdale	21
Meghan Loch	22
Candace Kramer	24
Donovan Loch	30
Jena Barr	31



Coffee Fellowship Time

Hosting coffee fellowship is easy. Bring a treat, brew a small pot of coffee (coffee and pot provided) and sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

It is great to gather together after worship for conversation, coffee,



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Michelle and Tim Beine	05
Jean and Eugene Bednarski	14
Bobbie and Bob Rader	14
Jolene and Jon Singleton	18
Tina and Phil Uphill	19
Kathleen and Ed Krostal	20
Cheryl and Eric Truesdale	22
Mindy and Chip Brunswick	28
Donna and Bill Riese	29



Lay Worship Leaders

Oct. 6	Mindy Brunswick
Oct. 13	_____
Oct. 20	Carol Prchal
Oct. 27	Sally Schleiger



Ushers

Oct. 6	Jean Lile & Dorothy
Oct. 13	Diane Riese
Oct. 20	Bart & Katherine Turk
Oct. 27	_____



Coffee Fellowship

Oct. 6	Katherine Turk
Oct. 13	_____
Oct. 20	_____
Oct. 27	_____



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
United Church of Christ
76 South Wisconsin Street
Elkhorn, WI 53121
Phone: 262 723-3246



*SUNDAY
WORSHIP
10:00 a.m.*

Join us for worship
every Sunday in person
starting at 10:00 a.m.
Watch our recorded service
online on YouTube or
on our website: elkhornucc.org

Sunday School 10:00 a.m. September through May



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



THE LINK

76 South Wisconsin Street Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121

Office Hours: Mon. Tue. Fri. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Wed. 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Thurs.- Closed

E-mail: ElkhornUCC@gmail.com

Web: ElkhornUCC.org

Bridge Pastor: Rev. Kathleen Krostal Phone: 262-723-3246

SEPTEMBER

Spiritual Practices to Reduce Back-to-School Anxiety*

*(or any type of anxiety you may be feeling!)

Thoughts of “back to school” always come up at this time of the year. Knowing our congregation has been involved in the WISE community (learning about mental health concerns and resources that might be available), September can also bring some feelings of anxiety. Recently, I found an article about this and it suggested the following practices to reduce any anxiety that people may be experiencing. While not many of you reading this are of school age, the practices are solid and useable in any situation that brings about anxiety.

1. Naming Gratitude Promoting the habit of naming things for which we are grateful is a wonderful practice! Choosing a set time to share these conversations either daily or weekly will help to put emphasis on the positive things in our world. That will help to diminish stress we may otherwise feel in our day-to-day lives.

2. Classroom Supply Donation Involving ourselves in an act of service such as this can help us change the focus of our own anxieties to the needs of others. Acts of kindness allow us to reflect on God’s love in the world. Helping children learn about and practice this means of grace will obviously help others, but it will teach our youth to develop a sense of purpose and generosity so greatly needed in our society.

3. Breath Prayers Breath prayers are short prayers that are accomplished in one breath in and



out. They bid not only a sense of calmness to come over us, but also the presence of God in a moment of anxiety. They come in handy when we feel nervous and can help to bring a peaceful feeling to us. The article suggested trying these simple breath prayers but look elsewhere in this edition of The Link for additional breath prayers you might find helpful:



4. Practice Sabbath Set aside a day (or a few hours each week) as an intentional family time (or rest time) as this helps to foster a sense of balance and well-being. Planning walks or other activities allowing you to enjoy each other's company is a healthy practice.

5. Listen with Intent Become an active listener while members of your family tell you about the highs and lows of the day. This simple practice will allow family members to feel valued. It will also help to make stronger connections and provide emotional support. This will encourage more open communication as it helps family members to feel heard and understood.

These five spiritual practices will help you and your family by encouraging a home that is peaceful and connected. The focus they provide will help family members to concentrate on gratitude, service, prayer, rest, and active (intentional) listening—all of which are tools that can be used to help reduce the stress and anxiety that may exist. They will also help to deepen your family's spiritual journey as you connect with each other.

In faith—Barb

We're BAAAACK—Back to Sunday School, That Is!

September is here and this is our traditional Sunday School restart time. As in past years, our elementary and middle school youth will begin the worship service in the sanctuary with everyone else. Following the children's message, they will gather in their space on the second floor of the Christian Ed building for activities tailored more toward them.

The majority of Sundays will be spent studying the same scriptures shared with adults on that Sunday. We don't have a set curriculum, but have a variety of resources from which to choose, the newest of which comes from the "Picture the Bible" resources we were able to purchase with memorial money given in memory of Ann Serpe who was involved with Christian Education in our church for many years.

We look forward to Sunday, September 8th as the start to a great year of learning, growing, and sharing together! All Children are welcome to attend.



Sunday Sundae!

Sunday Sundae is Back too!

Join us for a special coffee fellowship on Sunday, September 8th. This is our first day back to Sunday School, and we will celebrate with a special coffee fellowship after worship, by having ice cream Sundaes!

Life is good and some days it is just fun to have dessert before eating lunch. Mark your calendars and we will see you then!

Thank you to Barb Townsend and the Sunday School helpers for providing the ice cream and toppings!



Still Looking for Some Cleaning Helpers?

As the fall is coming soon, we are still looking for volunteers to help spruce up the inside of our beautiful building.



We did not get the chance to do the usual spring “spruce-up” that we have done in past years and we know everyone has busy summer schedules, so we have decided to create a “list” of areas that need attention and are encouraging people to take on a job when they have the time to do so.

All you have to do is contact Cindy Waller or Barb Townsend to learn about the available jobs, then let us know the times you might be able to come in to complete that job. We can give you other details you might need to finish the job.

If we work to gather little by little, with a few people pitching in at a time, it will get us clean and sparkling in no time! Thank you for your help.

Thanks for helping us be clean and shiny!

Golf Cart Taxi and Wheel Chair Rental

Just a big **thank you** to our volunteers that helped with the golf cart taxi service and wheel chair rental booth at the Walworth County Fair this year.

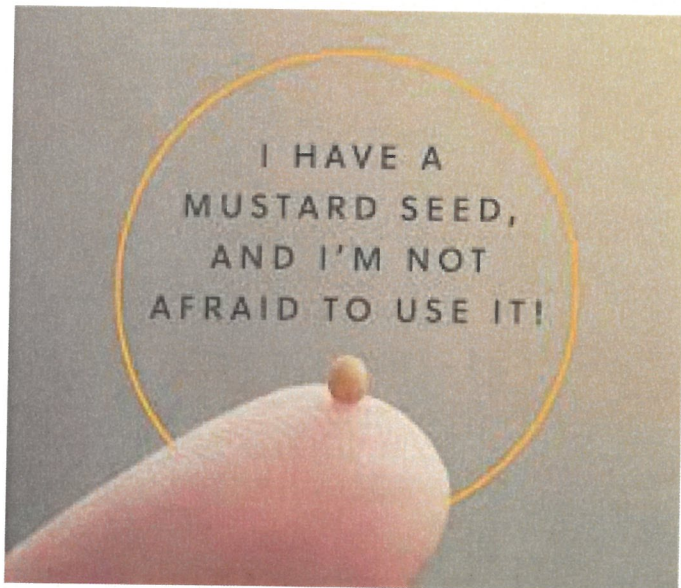
In 2017, our church was given the opportunity to drive the golf cart taxis on Monday (Labor Day), at the Walworth County Fair and we have continued this tradition for the following years. (only missing 2020 because of Covid).

This has been a fun opportunity for us to wear our church t-shirts while being out in the community and visiting with fairgoers, getting them around the one side of the fairgrounds. It is fun for all of us being at the fair.

Thank you again to the volunteers and to Sara Gould for helping to get everyone signed up.

Hope to see you all again next year!





Mustard Seed

Need a new devotional resource?

Try d365! This daily digital devotional for youth and adults follows the Revised Common Lectionary (the same one we use in our services) and guides participants through five steps: pause, listen, think, pray, and go.

The devotions include an opportunity for centering, scripture passages, meditations with reflection questions, prayer, and a practice to try.

The site also provides an option to listen to music while using the devotional. You can access it through their mobile app or a web browser. They even have an option for daily email reminders. Go to www.d365.org and sign up!

RaiseRight Order Due - September 8th

Our next *RaiseRight* order is due on September 8th. There are lots of sales going on right now for home goods, school, clothes, and outside items. Using *RaiseRight* gift cards would be an easy way to make your purchases for all of these items. Don't forget you can use them for your groceries, gas, pharmacies, and retail stores like Wal-Mart, Kohl's and Target.

RaiseRight cards might also be a good for you to use as a gift to give to a high school graduate that are going off to college at this time.

You can also order these cards online; call Patti Phillips and she will help walk you through how to order and give the church credit for your order.



Orders are due on Sunday, September 8th. There are order forms and a list of retailers on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Be sure to check it out.

You may turn your order in to the church office or give them to Diane Riese after worship on Sunday. Please make your check out to Women's Fellowship. Thank you.

Every card you order earns a percentage that goes back to the church, but you get the full value of your card. What a good way to earn a little extra for the church.

Thank you for your orders.

You may find a list of all participating retailers by going to RaiseRight.com

Book Club - September

ARCHETYPES

In a novel which I am now reading there is a line which applies directly to the novel chosen for September. The line is, "...the use of archetypes...a limited number of stories are available to us and it is up to us to make something original out of the components we've been given..." The novel chosen for September is *The Last Thing He Told Me*, Laura Dave. Ms. Dave makes use of a familiar archetype in constructing the plot of her novel. The unexpected and mysterious disappearance of a spouse, friend or some other person close to the protagonist should be quite familiar to anyone who reads (or even watches movies).

Here we have a story which begins with the protagonist, Hannah Hall, whose husband Owen suddenly disappears. The book's title refers to a cryptic note which he, Owen Michaels, has left for her. It reads only, "Protect her". It becomes quickly clear that the message refers to Bailey, Owen's sixteen-year-old daughter with his first wife, who passed away in an auto accident.

So, the plot is built around the questions which this poses. Why has Owen disappeared, why does Bailey need protecting, and consequently, how is Hannah supposed to protect her, and where is Owen? Protect Bailey from who or what?

Owen's disappearance seems certainly to be connected to the Federal investigation into the company which Owen works for. Its CEO is being accused of essentially operating a Ponzi scheme which has defrauded investors millions of dollars. Since Owen is essentially second in control of the company, it makes sense that he is likely a target of the Federal probe himself. Two important questions stand out. The CEO didn't flee, why did Owen. Bailey is theoretically not involved at all, so why the message?

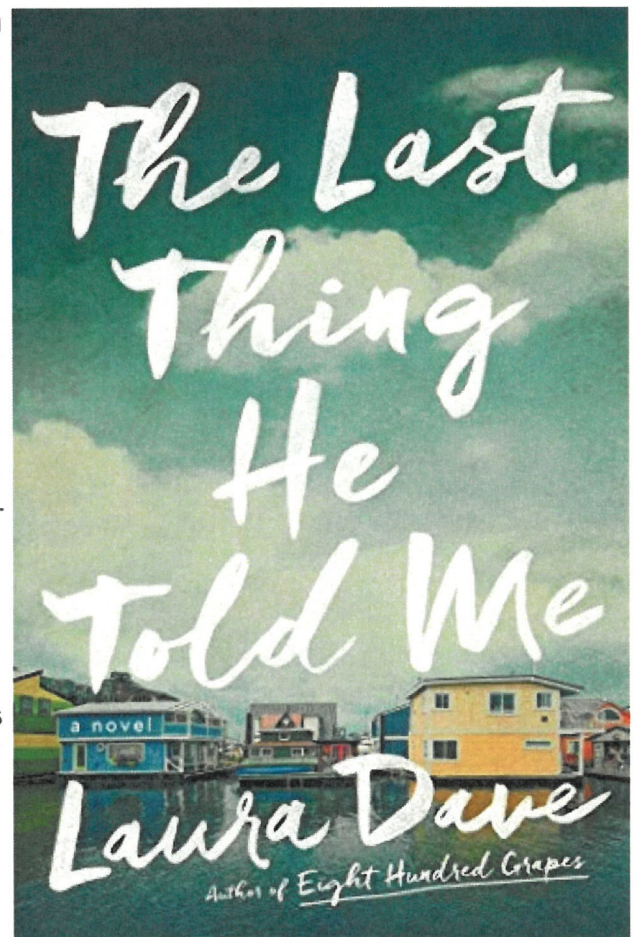
Ms. Dave employs another, if we are honest, overused subplot. The antagonism of the step-daughter toward her stepmother. Bailey is portrayed as the typical sullen, rebellious teenager, who is especially resentful of her relatively new mom. Honestly, while it is a fact that conflict is the root of plot, this overused trope doesn't really add anything important to the novel.

That said, the novel proceeds as a quest to discover the truth behind the disappearance of Owen. Hannah is aided by a friend who works for a newspaper, and by her ex fiancé, Jake, who is an attorney living in New York. Hannah and Bailey live in Sausalito, California. Jake has resources which can help with the quest, especially a crack investigator who is very good at ferreting out information about individuals who don't want to be found, or who have a shady past.

So, it is generally not a wise idea to delve into the plots of novels like this because the whole point is for the author to create twists and turns so that the archetypal framework stays fresh for the reader. Too much information by someone like me is not a good way to get people to want to read it.

We meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 11. Sybil Klug will be hosting.

Bill Neis



THINK PIES, PIES, PIES! THINK OKTOBERFEST!

Be sure to mark your calendars for **October 19th** and start thinking about Oktoberfest and Pies!

Women's Fellowship will be having a booth again this year at the Elkhorn Chamber of Commerce Oktoberfest on October 19th. We want you to start thinking about what kind of pie or pies you can make for us. What's your favorite?

We will also need volunteers to work the booth on the day of the pie sale. Would you be available to help set up, work the booth, or take down at the end of the day?

There will be Pie pans and covers available for you to pick up at the end of September. This will make all of our pies the basically the same size.

More information will follow in upcoming church emails and announcements. Think about volunteering and think PIES, PIES, and more fabulous PIES!



The Breath Prayer

Written by Sheridan Voysey

Lord God, fill me with your Holy Spirit

I receive your **love** & release my **insecurity**

I receive your **joy** & release my **unhappiness**

I receive your **peace** & release my **anxiety**

I receive your **patience** & release my **impulsiveness**

I receive your **kindness** & release my **indifference**

I receive your **goodness** & release my **ungodliness**

I receive your **faithfulness** & release my **disloyalty**

I receive your **gentleness** & release my **severity**

I receive your **self-control** & release my **self-indulgence**

Artwork by @jodie_wss

Women's Fellowship News

After taking the month of July off, Women's Fellowship once again resumed their monthly meetings on August 8th with five women attending the meeting.

We are happy to report that the new bricks for the Memorial Garden have been ordered and received. Kevin Kruger will be installing the new bricks in the garden walkway and we will consider holding a special service to bless the additions once they are added to the Memorial Garden. Details will be announced at a later time.

The women helped with the luncheon held in Fellowship Hall following the funeral for Janet Heckert on August 30th. While the meal was catered by the family, women of the church provided desserts and were there to assist in serving the guests. Janet had been an active member of our church for many years and we were honored to serve in this capacity.



The Oktoberfest Pie Sale is just around the corner. This year, we will be selling slices of pie in addition to whole pies but you will need to read the article about that elsewhere in The Link!

We now have more knives from Rada Manufacturing Company. The high quality knives are well worth the investment. Contact the church office if you wish to purchase one of these knives.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12th at 9:30am. Hope to see you there!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elkhorn, Wisconsin
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom
August 20th, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE **that due to a lack of quorum**, the August 20, 2024 Council meeting was not called to order however those present did discuss the agenda. No decisions were made.

Those present were Moderator Bobbi Rader, Barb Townsend, Cindy Waller, Ray Knutson, Tina Kruger and Dorothy Bever.

The **Opening Prayer** was given by Moderator Bobbi Rader.

Additions to the agenda: Bobbi asked to discuss removal of the bushes at the Geneva Street entrance.

Approval of May 21st, 2024 Council Minutes: Due to the lack of a quorum, the May 21, 2024 Council minutes will be approved at the September 17th, 2024 Council meeting.



at

Treasurer's Report: Due to the lack of a quorum, the July Treasurer's report will be approved at the September 17th, 2024 Council meeting.

Pastor's (Office) Moment: Cindy Waller stated that the church has received the rent check from the Tuesday night Al Anon group. She added that We Energies will be putting in a new gas meter. The first step has been completed. We Energies will be contacting the church for the second part of the installation.

Ministry Leader's Reports/Updates: Reports were submitted from Faith Formation/Christian Education, Women's Fellowship and Congregational Care and Hospitality. The pie sale will be held at Elkhorn's Octoberfest and Council was informed that the memorial bricks that were ordered were delivered to the church.

Old Business: Search Committee/Update: Barb Townsend gave an update on the search process. Several things about the search were discussed.

Pulpit/Bridge Pastor - July 24th knee surgery/coverage for July 28 and August 4 and 11: Cindy Waller stated that Pastor Kathleen is doing better.

Memorial Funds: No report at this time.

Church Insurance - Audit/Refund: No report at this time.

New Business: LLS -Change: Lutheran Social Services has grown to the point that they need a larger space. Their lease will be up at the end of September.

Other: Tina Kruger stated that the 2 bushes by the Geneva Street entrance will be removed. **Closing Prayer:** Barb Townsend gave the closing prayer.

The meeting concluded at 7:50 p.m.

Note that the next Council meeting will be **September 17, 2024** at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dorothy Bever, Church Clerk





SEPTEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON	2 Church Office Closed –Labor Day 8-2:30 p.m. Golf Cart Taxi/Wheel Chair Rental at WalCo Fair	3	4	5	6	7
8 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON START OF SUN- DAY SCHOOL RAISERIGHT DUE	9	10	11 6:30 p.m. Book Club – Sybil Klug’s Home	12 9:30 a.m. Women’s Fellowship	13	14
15 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON	16	17 7:00 p.m. Church Council	18	19	20	21
MEALS ON WHEELS						
	J LILE & L MCCORMICK	B & C KRUSE	R KNUTSON & T BAILEY	T & J STEPP	B NEWMAN & D RIESE	
22 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP ONLINE & IN PERSON	30	OCT 1	2	3	4	5

Hungry Hippo Jar

Just a reminder for everyone to remember the Hungry Hippo Jar that is on the table in the family room.

Our mission team is using this jar in hopes of collecting funds to support different organizations in our community.

At this time we are collecting for the Spirit of Hope Homeless Shelter for Men this coming fall.



The Spirit of Hope Shelter provides safe emergency shelter for men who are homeless from Walworth County. The shelter is provided during the months of November through April. They do need volunteers to help with making and serving meals during these months, but we can help at this time, by making a donation for them to get items they need for the men.

Drop in a dollar or two to help us support the Spirit of Hope Homeless Shelter.

We thank you in advance for all your help and all of your donations.

Thank You Again to all our Lawn and Garden Helpers!

We are still looking great around the church grounds!

Thank you to everyone that is helping to keep us trimmed, mowed and mulched.

We have a great group taking care of how we look!

Thanks Everyone! We are very thankful and grateful for your talents.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

David Opitz	01
Paul Brandenburg	03
Judy (Brandenburg) Shaffer	05
Laurie Fiegel	13
Tim Beine	14
Katie Godfrey Matter	16
Mike Breaman	17
Steve Reed	19
Gerry Stoflet	24
Joe Reed	24
Duane Newman	27
Mark Newman	27
Jacob Ringhand	27
Bill Trewyn	30



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Barb and Al Majkrzak	03
Anita and David Stohl	04
Julie and Jim Forster	08
Becky and Duane Newman	08
Patti and Ross Phillips	10
Joyce and Jeff Wilson	13
Cindy and Larry Waller	17
Stacey and Tim Forster	19
Sally and Bob Schleiger	19
Stacy and Jeff Whiteman	24



Lay Worship Leaders

Sep. 1	Carol Prchal
Sep. 8	Sara Gould
Sep. 15	Jean Lile
Sep. 22	Stacy Whiteman
Sep. 29	Cheryl Dillner



Coffee Fellowship



Sep. 1	Jean Lile & Cindy Waller
Sep. 8	_____
Sep. 15	_____
Sep. 22	_____
Sep. 29	_____

Ushers

Sep. 1	Jean Lile & Cindy Waller
Sep. 8	Bob & Carole Kruse
Sep. 15	Bob & Carole Kruse
Sep. 22	Whiteman Girls
Sep. 29	Diane Licht & Mary Price



Coffee Fellowship Time

Hosting coffee fellowship is easy. Bring a treat, brew a small pot of coffee (coffee and pot provided) and sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

It is great to gather together after worship for conversation, coffee, juice and a treat.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
United Church of Christ
76 South Wisconsin Street
Elkhorn, WI 53121
Phone: 262 723-3246



*SUNDAY
WORSHIP
10:00 a.m.*

Join us for worship
every Sunday in person
starting at 10:00 a.m.
Watch our recorded service
online on YouTube or
on our website: elkhornucc.org

Sunday School 10:00 a.m. September through May