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The Messenger

December 2021



FROM
PASTOR LEANNE



Resist Racism

When I was growing up I had no idea the amount of things I knew nothing about. I'm sure I thought I was pretty smart. There were worlds that I didn't even know existed beyond the roads my parents drove us on. There would be moments and places that my world was expanded just a little with books, narrative stories from far off time and long ago places. It wasn't clear to me that these stories had anything to do with the world I lived in. I had a nice, safe, childhood, filled with ease and certainty about the whole world. I had much to learn as I grew up.

I didn't understand that some people's experiences weren't anything like mine, that People of Color might not be safe in a town that felt so secure, that there are studies on the treatment of black kids in schools that revealed they are punished more quickly and severely than their white counterparts. I didn't know generational trauma and laws that kept people of color in "undesirable" neighborhoods, indigenous people on "undesirable" land, and pushed native Hawaiians from their desirable beaches and islands. I didn't know that my words, spoken casually and without knowledge, could be painful and perpetuate racist ideas.

But I learned, asked for forgiveness and reconciled where I could, and

tried to do better. I learned more and the process continues. It was uncomfortable, it was a struggle, sometimes it was painful--that is how we learn and grow.

To be the church we resist racism. Resisting in ourselves by learning and growing. Resisting around us in stopping racist jokes or comments--saying it's ok. Resist racism by teaching our children and grandchildren that people are different and difference is ok. Resisting racism by teaching our children and grandchildren that being uncomfortable is where we grow and learn. Resisting racism by being honest and not hoping it will go away. If we don't resist and don't teach resistance, our children will learn from someone else.

Pastor Leanne

BE THE CHURCH

*Protect the environment.
Care for the poor.*

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.

9:30 AM Worship
(live streamed on Facebook)

December 5

*prayers for Frieda Goetsch
and Nancie & Dick Gryske*

Ezekiel 37:1-14

HOLY COMMUNION * FOOD PANTRY

ORDER SCRIP * PLEDGE SUNDAY *

APPRECIATION LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP

ALL CHURCH VISIONING PART 2

Tuesday: 10 AM Bible Study

December 12

*prayers for Leanne Harmann and the
Pete/Peggy Hazelbergs*

Isaiah 55:1-13

**4-7 PM Confirmation Class in the Youth
Room**

Tuesday: Bible Study at 10 AM

December 19

*prayers for Shirlene & Bob Hazelberg
and Sandie Horne*

John 1:1-18

**After Worship: the Jondle family invites
you to enjoy birthday cake in honor of
Mary Ellen's 100th!!**

Council Meeting after Worship

**Monday - Wednesday: Emmanuel
delivers Dousman Area Meals**

Monday: Trustees meeting 4 PM

Tuesday: Bible Study at 10 AM

**Wednesday: Deadline for January
newsletter articles**

December 21

**6 PM Blue Christmas Service
at 1st Congregational UCC
Oconomowoc**

December 24

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship

December 26

*prayers for Sandy & Gregg Jarrett and
the Jondle family*

John 1:19-34

Lessons & Carols Service

Tuesday: NO BIBLE STUDY



**Mary Ellen Jondle turns 100 on December 22nd!!
In celebration, join us for cake after Worship on the 19th!!**

BIRTHDAYS

Belle Langreder	1	Michael Phelps	20
Jan McGraw	5	Mary Ellen Jondle	22
Michael Clark	6	Jim McGraw	22
Charlotte Voigt	13	Dan Milos	22
Jan Wilson	13	Sandy Jarrett	23
Karen Quaden	14	Adam Langreder	26
Dick Davidson	17	Maebinn Stack-Vaughn	30

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

Sue Pakula	4,	2005	16 yrs
Nancie Gryske	8,	2013	8 yrs
Debbie Morgan	9,	1979	42 yrs
Lorna & Jere Marheine	12,	1982	39 yrs
Linda Berlin	18,	2016	5 yrs
Leanne Harmann	21,	1997	24 yrs



CLEANING THE CHURCH

Kristen Voskuil, Michele & Andrew Smith & Laurie Buckett

	USHERS	SCRIPTURE READERS
5	Shirlene Hazelberg	Mary Branson
12	Carol Pfalz	Jeannie Phelan
19	Laurie Buckett	Steve Thompson
24		Jim Langreder
26	Kristen Voskuil	Sarah Erickson-Bhatt



Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2022 pledge drive. The theme of this year's campaign, "Rooted in Love" highlighted the generosity of our congregation. We use our talents in so many ways to help others.

Hopefully you have received your pledge letter. If not, please contact the church office, 262-964-4022 or office@seeyouonsunday.org.

Pledge cards should be turned in by **DECEMBER 2ND**. We will share a brunch sponsored by the Board of Stewards after Worship on December 5th. Be sure to join us!

The Board of Stewards

The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross



The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years. It provides emergency grants, supplementation of small pensions or salaries and health premiums as well as Christmas "Thank You" checks each December for our lower income retirees.

During Worship on December 12th we will be showing a short video of how the Christmas Fund affects and helps those in need. The video is available by going to the UCC website (ucc.org) and searching for The Christmas Fund.

The video reminds me of my situation as a young teenager. Many of you are aware that my father was a Lutheran Minister and he served in small rural communities. The Lutheran Church, as has the UCC, recognized that some congregations were not able to adequately compensate their pastors and church staff because of financial stress in the community. The wider Lutheran church set up a fund very much like what the UCC Board of Pensions has done through The Christmas Fund. Because of this action, my parents were able to have adequate funds available to them when they retired as well as supplementing my dad's salary when he was forced to work only part-time due to his heart condition. The people of the Church, whether Lutheran, United Church of Christ or other religious groups are generous and care for their clergy and lay staff.

Please continue with your generosity to our clergy and lay staff that are in need with this special Christmas Fund offering. The offering will be taken on Sunday, December 19th. Please mark your check "The Christmas Fund."

Thank you, Steve Thompson, Board of Stewards

From Our Board of Social Concerns

Thank you to everyone who has donated their loose change and more to our Singing Bowl to help Afghanistan refugees who are being temporarily housed at Fort McCoy until they can be resettled. Four hundred or more families will be resettled in Wisconsin and a thousand more will be settled someplace in the U.S. The refugees escaped with very few possessions. It is wonderful we can be part of welcoming them to our country. So far we have collected \$ 536.77.



Veteran Bags

Choose a **gift bag** from under the Angel Tree in the Gathering Area and fill it with items for some of our homeless, lonely, and disabled Veterans.

There will be a list of possible items on each bag that are very much needed such as toiletries, laundromat supplies, gloves, etc. Please mark on the tag whether for Male or Female and please no items are to contain alcohol. Return to church by December 12, when they will be delivered to the Chaplain at Zablocki Veterans Center.

Angel Tree

The "Angel Tree" in the Gathering Area is filled with gift tags. There will be several ways you can make this Christmas a little brighter for someone.

Our church will lend a hand to families in our community that need our help during these trying economic times by purchasing gift cards for groceries, gas and department stores. Choose a **gift envelope** from the tree, insert gift cards, and bring back to church and deposit them in the box that is located by the tree. Remember there will be a Scrip order on December 5 and you can order gift cards and the church receives a percentage. It is an important fundraiser for our church. You will have your gift cards at church by December 12.

Also, you can choose a **gift tag** from the tree with an item requested for a child or parent. We will sponsor two families this year. Please bring unwrapped gifts, attach angel tree tag to the gift and put under Christmas tree before December 19 so that we can make this Christmas a little brighter for some families that would appreciate help.



Thanks for your generosity.
The Board of Social Concerns



POINSETTIAS

We are returning to our tradition of decorating the Sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas Eve, but we need your help.

If you are able, please purchase a poinsettia plant and bring it to church on December 19th. Robert Zondag is graciously serving on our Sanctuary decorating team and is requesting that we decorate with primarily WHITE poinsettias this year. Of course, we will not turn away other colors if you so choose.



December 21 - 6pm First Congregational UCC Oconomowoc Blue Christmas

The Christmas Holidays are a time of joy and celebration. Right? But sometimes they are not. Maybe you have an empty chair at your table for the first time this year, or it has been empty for years. Maybe you'll be spending Christmas alone, maybe you'll be surrounded by family, maybe Christmas is bittersweet. Maybe you are remembering past Christmases and know this year won't be the same.

Blue Christmas is a chance to hold all mixed emotions, the grief and sorrow into our season. We will remember and reflect, offer prayers and sing songs, and be in community so you'll know you're not alone.

This service is joint with First Congregational Church in Oconomowoc with Pastor Leanne participating. First Congregational is located at 815 S Concord Rd, Oconomowoc, WI 53066

December 26 Sunday Morning Service

It's the day after Christmas and what should we do? Come to church and sing Christmas hymns in your pajamas! Come to church in your Christmas pajamas (or comfy clothes) as we celebrate the season of Christmas with lessons and carols!



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES!
Join us as we travel through the stories of the Bible and discuss commentary and share fellowship time! 10-11 AM in the library.



Who are we? Where are we going? What are the next steps? These are questions that every organization asks from time to time, and most have been asking over the past 2 years in the midst of COVID. These are important questions for the church as well. During our first Visioning on November 7th we identified gifts and assets within our church and church family. Our next all-church gathering will be during the Stewardship Appreciation Luncheon after Worship on December 5th. Each table will have a set of questions and conversation will be shared among those at your table.



Their Future Begins at Home" is the theme of the year-end fundraising campaign for Family Promise. The goal is to raise \$100,000. These funds will be used to support our shelter programs, prevention program, Day Center and case management.

Day Center and case management.

Did you know those children experiencing the trauma of homelessness are more likely to drop out of school, be exposed to violence and suffer from depression and anxiety? 75% of homeless children perform below grade level. With the help of Family Promise of Waukesha County, homelessness for some families is being prevented by assisting with rent, mortgage, utility bills and car repairs. **Please consider making a donation to the end-of-the-year campaign.** You can donate by going to familypromisewaukeshawi.org. or send a check to Family Promise of Waukesha County, PO Box 66, Waukesha, WI 53187.

During 2021 our Family Promise affiliate has helped 49 families to remain in their homes. This includes 73 children. We have also sheltered 11 households/families and provided 44 meals. Throughout the year, the 26 churches that support Family Promise, have continued assisting where needed. **Emmanuel will be providing meals to the shelter families starting the week of December 5. If you are able to provide a meal for about 10 people, please call Sue Stelling or Charlotte Voigt.** (Details will be provided as we get closer to that week.) We are also buying a few Christmas gifts for one of our Family Promise families. Gift ideas can be found on the Angel Tree in the Gathering Area.

Thank you for the many ways Family Promise has benefitted from your generosity.



Kettle Moraine Food Pantry

December 5th

The bin for collecting donations for the Kettle Moraine Food Pantry is in the foyer as you enter the church. The first Sunday of the month is our designated donation day.

PLEASE NOTE: We will need to check the expiration dates on our donations. All donations must have expiration dates that are at least **6 months** away. The earliest expiration date for December donations will be June 2022.

Kris Davidson and Laurie Buckett will be taking our donations to the Pantry...THANK YOU!



December 5th

This is a great opportunity to get gift cards for the upcoming Christmas gift-giving season AND for Emmanuel's Angel Tree families.

Cards will be delivered to you

on December 12th.

Order forms will be on the table next to Donna's office the first of each month. You can pick up your cards the following Sunday.

If you are able, Pastor Leanne could use additional \$25 gift cards from gas stations and grocery stores for our Congregational Care Ministry.

Thank you Mary Branson and Laurie Buckett for coordinating this ongoing fundraiser.

We appreciate your ongoing support. Donations may be sent to our P.O. Box address: Emmanuel UCC, P.O. Box 216, Dousman 53118. THANK YOU!!



THANK YOU for your ongoing support!

Congregational Meeting



**Sunday, December 12
following Worship**

The Trustees and Council have been busy working on the proposed Operating Budget for 2022.

After Worship on Sunday, December 12, a special meeting of the congregation will be held to review and discuss the budget, and ultimately vote on approving it.

We invite everyone to attend and offer their thoughts. Voting will be by members only.

This n That...



- ♥ our November Scripture Readers: Sarah Leuwerke, Robert Zondag, and Ann Carpenter.
- ♥ our Dousman Meals drivers for November: Nansi Hawkins, Jo Quaden, Sue Stelling, Charlotte Voigt, Barb & John Wood and Kathy Zebrowski.
- ♥ Sherri Krantz, Francine Langlais & Ron Blaschuk and Sue & Tom Stelling for cleaning the church in November.
- ♥ EVERYONE who helped with our October 31st clean-up of the church grounds and Hwy. 18.
- ♥ Laurie Buckett for taking our donations to the Food Pantry AND Mary Branson for being our Scrip Program Coordinator.
- ♥ Jim Langreder for recording music for our Sunday worship hymns, Charlotte Voigt for operating the keyboard and Ann Carpenter and Melanie Laur for leading the singing.
- ♥ Everyone who stayed to help us get ready for Advent/Christmas on November 14th. We had a great team!



- ♥ Buck & Laurie Buckett, as Buck was in the ER and hospital the week of November 14.
- ♥ Charlotte Voigt's friend, Mary

who is scheduled to have surgery for liver cancer on November 30.

- ♥ John Quaden, who is in rehab again after suffering multiple falls a day.
- ♥ Christy Lui's mother, Marilee who is recovering from a fall that caused broken ribs.
- ♥ Frieda Goetsch who is improving, but still dealing with the effects of Polymyalgia rheumatica.
- ♥ Those dealing with cancer treatment or recovery: Fran Pike, John Quaden, Sr., Gregg Jarrett, Jeannie Phelan's sister Barbara and cousins John Patrick and Bob.
- ♥ Sandie Home's sister, Gail.
- ♥ Those healing or seeking diagnosis: Steve Thompson's niece Julie and sister-in-law Charlie, Corrine Mayer's grandson Jack, Ron Blaschuk's sister Joan and Mary Branson's niece Jessica who has Guillain-Barre Syndrome.
- ♥ Our shut-ins, Judy Stanek, Sharon Logemann and Jan Wilson.



Mary and Nancy Edwards' brother, Bert Williams passed away on October 28th. Our love and prayers go out to them as they mourn their loss.

Thank you to everyone who reached out to me and offered prayers for the death of my nephew, Jimmy. It meant so much to me and my family.

Corrine Mayer



**Sunday, December 12th
4 – 7 PM
Youth Room**

RESULTS FOR OUR SUPPORT OF NEIGHBORS IN NEED

In October we asked you to support the National UCC NEIGHBORS IN NEED FUND. We are pleased to announce \$325 was given by our congregation. 2/3 of this fund is used as grants to UCC churches that have active ministries working for justice and compassion. 1/3 of this fund supports The Council for American Indian Ministry.

Thank you for your generous donation helping others who are helping our neighbors in need.

Stewards Board
Charlotte Voigt, Sue Stelling, Steve Thomson, Francine Langlais



REMINDER we collect aluminum cans and other precious metals (brass, copper) in the garage. Please leave bags in front of the garage service door AND thank you to Tom Stelling and Ron Blaschuk for taking the metals into for recycling. Their most recent trip to the recycling center brought in \$208 for the



WE NEED OFFICERS!

Our Church Council is headed up by the Moderator and Assistant Moderator. As 2021 draws to a close, we are seeking candidates for these positions. Both are vital to the health of our Church Council, so please prayerfully consider serving!

Moderator:

Chairs Church Council monthly meetings and all congregational meetings.

Create an agenda for each meeting: Council and congregational (with the input of the Pastor, Boards and the Congregation).

Be aware of the congregation's needs, problems, and opportunities and to share knowledge of these with the Church Council and Pastor.

Assistant-Moderator.

Attends monthly Council meetings.

Serves in the absence of the moderator.

Serve on and chair the Memorial, Nominating & Personnel Committees.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE. convenes annually at least 3 months prior to the annual meeting to select nominees whose names shall be presented at the time of the annual meeting. The committee shall be comprised of the Assistant Moderator, who shall serve as Chair, and the chairpersons of the boards. Additional nominations shall be accepted from the floor.

THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE shall meet only when necessary to consider proposed projects that would be funded through the Memorial Fund (money donated in memory of people who have passed away). The committee consists of: Assistant Moderator, who shall serve as Chair; and a representative from each Board as well as a congregational member at large.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE initiates the annual performance appraisal process, conduct an annual Market Survey, and establish the merit pay guidelines for staff members. The Personnel Committee shall be comprised of the Assistant Moderator, who shall serve as Chair, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, and one member of the congregation at large. Confidentiality is required.

Should the Moderator be unable to fulfill his/her term, the Assistant-Moderator shall assume that office.

Serves as Moderator the following year.

Sundays	Each	9:30 AM Worship. Live-streamed on Facebook.
Tuesdays	Each	Bible Study, 10 AM in the library.
Sunday	2	Holy Communion / Covenant Renewal Service
Sunday	16	Food Pantry / order Scrip Council meeting after Worship
M-F	17-21	Emmanuel delivers the Dousman area meals
Sunday	30	Tentative date for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

...Jim & Alex Langreder donated their electronic keyboard to the church!!

...Debbie Morgan experienced a vacuum cleaner failure while cleaning in October & went out and purchased a new one for the church!!

...Sandy Jarrett made BEAUTIFUL cards for our All Saints Remembrance day to give to the families who have experienced a loss...and provided postage for mailing when needed!!

...Kathy Zebrowski, Tom Stelling, Ron Blaschuk, Ken Pike, Gary Phelps & John Lui who came for a mini work day on Nov. 13 (very cold & windy) and finished up with the fall chores outside.

THANK YOU ALL!!

Inching our way toward 'normal'

- The hymnals are back! If you've missed having the notes to sing Sunday hymns, this is for you! (They are located on the shelves under the Sanctuary chairs)
- Hospitality Coffee & Cookies in the Gathering Area returns. We invite you to stick around after Worship, have a cookie and a cup of coffee and chat a while. We will need donations of store-bought cookies to keep this going (no nuts or peanuts please).
- No more little 'coffee creamer' Communion Cups! On December 5th, we'll have bread and little cups of juice, just like the 'olden days!' Pastor Leanne and others will safely hand you the elements as you come forward. If you prefer the prepackaged cups or are unable to easily come forward, no worries! We'll take care of you.

Treasurer's Report for October 2021

PLEDGED Income received

(October 2021)	\$6,480.00
(October 2020)	\$6,925.00
Difference	-\$445.00

NON-PLEDGES & PLATE Income Received

(October 2021)	\$368.00
(October 2020)	\$1,455.00
Difference	-\$1,087.00

Total INCOME for (October 2021) *	\$9,255.85
Total INCOME for (October 2020)	\$11,619.23
Difference	-\$2,363.38

Total EXPENSE for (October 2021)	\$14,732.91
Total EXPENSE for (October 2020)	\$10,194.69
Difference	\$4,538.22

Checking Account Balance as of October 31, 2021	\$1,398.62
Checking Account Balance as of October 31, 2020	\$16,242.84
Difference	-\$14,844.22

*TOTAL INCOME includes funds received for:

Singing Bowl	\$156.18
WI Conference offering income (OCWM, Christmas Fund, etc)	\$1,250.00
SCRIP sales	\$650.00
Fund Raiser	\$81.67

RBC Investment Account Growth for October 2021	\$9,387.78
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Capital Funds Campaign	\$10,911.92
Income	\$ 120.00
Expenses	-
Interest	\$ 0.26
TOTAL	\$11,032.18

Oct. income of \$5,427.34 was not deposited until Nov. 3 and does not appear here.

Please direct questions or comments to Kathy Zebrowski (262-646-8882) or
Jeannie Phelan (414-940-4464)



9:30 AM WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY
(also live-streamed on Facebook)