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As we enter the season of Advent, we are invited into a sacred space of waiting, watching, and anticipating. It's a time when our hearts are stirred with longing—not only for the celebration of Christ's first coming, but also for His promised return. This year, as we prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child, we reflect on how Advent invites us to dream, to see visions, and to hold on to hope in the midst of life's uncertainties.

#### Dreams and Visions in Advent

This Advent season of anticipation and expectation, is a time when we recall the dreams and visions that shaped the story of Jesus' birth. In the visions of the prophets and to the angelic announcements to Mary and the shepherds, God's plan for the world unfolded in extraordinary ways through dreams and visions.

These dreams and visions remind us that God is always at work in our lives, revealing plans in ways we might not expect. Advent is a time to reflect on what dreams and visions God is stirring in us, and how we can respond in faith, just as Mary and the prophets did.

Advent invites us to dream with God—asking what God might be calling us to in this season. Just as God gave vision that altered the course of Mary's life, God continues to call each of us to a higher purpose and a greater vision. Maybe it's a dream of reconciliation, a vision of justice, or a calling to love your neighbor in a new way. Advent asks us to seek God's direction, to listen to God's still, small voice, and to be open to the dreams God plants in our hearts.

We are also invited to see the world through God's eyes. Advent helps us look at the world with renewed

vision, seeing both the brokenness and the beauty, the pain and the hope, and understanding that Christ has come to heal and restore. The light of Advent illuminates the places in our lives that need transformation, and as we wait for the fullness of God's kingdom, we are called to bring glimpses of His kingdom here on earth through acts of love, kindness, and justice.

#### Ways to Engage with Dreams, Visions, and Hope This Advent

- **Reflect on God's Visions:** Take time each week to meditate on a vision from scripture that speaks to you. How does God's vision for the world challenge or inspire your own? Ask God to give you a fresh vision for how you can be His hands and feet in the world today.
- **Hold onto Hope:** In a season that can feel stressful or overwhelming, focus on holding onto hope. Consider starting an Advent tradition of writing down what you are hopeful for each week, praying over those hopes, and seeing how God works in your life as you wait in expectation.
- **Dream Big:** Allow yourself to dream with God. What does it look like for you to live fully in His purpose for your life? How might He be calling you to step out in faith this Advent? Take time to journal, pray, or talk with a trusted friend about the dreams God is placing in your heart.
- **Share the Light:** Advent reminds us that the hope of Christ is for the world. Look for ways to share that hope with others—whether it's through acts of kindness, words of encouragement, or simple prayers for those who are struggling.

May your Advent be filled with new dreams, renewed visions, and an unshakable hope in the One who has come, who is coming again, and who is with us even now.

Pastor Leanne

## The Messenger

# DECEMBER 2024

#### December 1 Daniel 6:6-27

*prayers for the Stack-Vaughn family and Charlotte Voigt*

First Sunday in Advent

Guest Worship Leaders: Jeannie Phelan and Peter St. Martin

HOLY COMMUNION / FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY / PLACE SCRIP ORDERS!!

Congregational Meeting after Worship to discuss and vote on the 2025 budget

Monday: Open & Safe Community Conversation, 5:30 PM

Tuesday: Bible Study at 10 AM

Wednesday: Mahjong at 1 PM

Thursday: Peer-to-Peer Disabilities & Chronic Illness Group, 5:30 PM

Saturday: Advent Family Craft Day, 9 AM – noon in fellowship hall

#### December 8 Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

*prayers for Kristen Voskuil & Adam Brandes and Betsy & Bill Welch*

Angel Tree Gifts Due...Coffee Hour after Worship

CPR Training session w/Western Lakes at 11 AM

Monday: Trustees meeting, 6 PM

Tuesday: Bible Study 10 AM; Ladies Fellowship Christmas Potluck at 12 noon

Wednesday: Mahjong at 1 PM

Friday Night Fun! 6 PM

#### December 15 Isaiah 61:1-11

*prayers for Kathy Zebrowski and Craig Berentsen & Michael Grant*

Vet Bags Due...Sunday School Christmas Pageant!

Council meeting after Worship  
Deadline for January newsletter articles

M-F: Emmanuel delivers the Dousman Area Home Meals

Tuesday: Bible Study 10 AM

Wednesday: Mahjong at 1 PM / Blue Christmas Service at 6 PM

Saturday: Kids' Storytime at 11:30 AM

#### December 22 Luke 1:26-45 [46-56]

*prayers for Francine Langlais & Ron Blaschuk and Don Boychuk & Robert Zondag*

Special offering for The Christmas Fund

#### CHRISTMAS EVE December 24 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] 5 PM Worship

#### December 29 Luke 2:21-38

*prayers for Mary Branson and Jessie & John Brinkmann*



# December Happenings



**Saturday, December 7, 9 AM – noon in fellowship hall...**Join us to start the season with crafts and cookies for all ages!



Christmas Ch-a-raoke and Sing-Along  
**Friday December 13, 6pm**  
Come for the Christmas songs, stay for the company!



**Blue Christmas**  
December 18 at 6 PM

Sometimes the seasons are expected to be so happy and joyful, and sometimes the season is full of mixed feelings, grief, or pain. Join us as we name the feelings and things that make this season of Christmas difficult, and in naming them in community, may they continue we continue to heal.

Sometimes the seasons are expected to be so happy and joyful, and sometimes the season is full of



**Christmas Eve Worship**  
**5:00 PM**



**CLEANING THE CHURCH: Kristen Voskuil...any other volunteers to help Kristen out?**

**COFFEE HOUR COMMITTEE FOR DECEMBER 8: Julia Starbuck, Corrine Mayer & Donna Newland**

	USHERS	SCRIPTURE READERS	ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS
1	Carol Pfalz	Heather Cathey	Carol Pfalz
8	Donna Newland	Lorna Marheine	Molly Mayer
15	Sue & Tom Stelling	Mary Branson	Julia Starbuck
22	Kristen Voskuil	Steve Thompson	Julia Starbuck
24		Jeannie Phelan	Corrine Mayer
29	Shirlene Hazelberg	Ann Carpenter	

## BIRTHDAYS

Heather Cathey	2	Dan Milos	22
Michael Clark	6	Sandy Jarrett	23
Michele Smith	6	Craig Berentsen	28
Charlotte Voigt	13	Harry Mayer	30
Dick Davidson	17	Maebinn Stack-Vaughn	30
Michael Phelps	20		

## ANNIVERSARIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Debbie Morgan	9,	1979	46 years
Lorna & Jere Marheine	12,	1982	43 years

## THE CHRISTMAS FUND 2024 SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

They came when we needed them. They answered the phone when we called. They baptized and married and buried our loved ones. They gave up weekend after weekend to care for our spirit, lead us in worship, and point to God in our midst.

Some of them did it for less money than they could easily live on. They did this because of what they believe who God is, and what they believe about who we are.

For all the sacrifices that clergy and lay church workers have made in our congregations the UCC Pension Board created the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund, to help support them in retirement and during times of emergency need.

The Christmas Fund provides Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks for retirees and those facing unforeseen financial hardship.

For over 100 years, The Christmas Fund has provided direct this financial assistance to the healers in our lives: retired and active UCC ministers, church workers, and their families. In 2023, over 1,800 congregations joined together to secure the physical, financial, and spiritual health of those engaged in the life of the church.

Join with others in the UCC family to ensure loving support to those ministers and church workers that need the loving financial support of the Church in their moment of deepest need. The Christmas Fund is here for them.

You may donate to this special fund at any time during December although December 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the designated day to receive your gifts. Special offering envelopes will be located next to the offering plate in the rear of the Sanctuary. If you are not using an envelope, please mark your check "The Christmas Fund."

THANK YOU!





On Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> some of our members helped Family Promise celebrate 10 years of providing support to families experiencing homelessness. It was a fun night of trivia games, reminiscing, and

meeting old friends. The highlight of the evening was hearing a testimonial from one of our guests, Michelle. She and her daughter had lost their home in 2018 and found their way to Family Promise. Thanks to the help that she received from Family Promise, Michelle now has her own home, a college degree and her own catering business.



This winter (December 16 – February 15) Family Promise plans to reopen the Emergency Overflow Center in Waukesha, which is owned by the Housing Action Coalition. The shelter will be open overnight from 7 PM to 7 AM and Hebron Housing Services will provide the overnight staff. During the day, single adults will be transported to the Hope Center and families to the Family Promise Day Center. Volunteers are needed to offer support and care during day at the Center.

Volunteers are needed to provide a meal either at the EOS facility or the Day Center at 5:30 PM. The meal will be of your choosing and provided whenever available. Volunteers are also needed to provide transportation using the transit van at approximately 7 AM and 5:30 PM. Please contact Sue Stelling if you are able to volunteer for any of these needs. Thank you!



**Lake Country Caring...** In October and November, our Singing Bowl donations have been dedicated to Lake Country Caring in Hartland. This organization provides donated clothing, hygiene

products, furniture, appliances, infant and household items to those in need. These items and community resource referral are provided to an average of 350 people each month who live in Waukesha, Washington, Dodge or Jefferson County.

**UCC Disaster Relief Fund...** For December and January, the Singing Bowl donations will be collected for the UCC Disaster Relief Fund. Some of the areas our donations will be to support needs such as:

**Hawaii Wildfires --** When natural disasters and other crises upend lives locally or forcibly displace people from their homes, the fund aids local relief efforts and bridges the gaps in existing resources for long-term community revitalization.

**Ukraine --** Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as other citizens of more than 125 countries living in Ukraine.

**Middle East Support ---** With ecumenical partners, [the UCC has offered a public witness that has been unequivocal](#): Condemnation of the violence of Hamas and Israel's use of force against Palestinians in Gaza— A call for a cease-fire — The allowance of the provision of humanitarian aid for Palestinians and an end to collective punishment -- The guarantee of and respect for safe spaces for people to find shelter and — Support for robust diplomatic efforts to resolve the core issues.

**USA Weather Emergencies/Hurricane Relief --** The National Ministries of the United Church of Christ has a long history of supporting communities as they recover from disaster and their plight fades from the headlines. Your support of this appeal will ensure that communities are supported and accompanied for years as they rebuild. Uniting in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion. There are many humanitarian concerns in the world today so please help by contributing to our Singing Bowl if you can.

### Holiday Giving Opportunities

We will be supporting Family Promise families with our Angel Tree again this year for the Christmas season. Often our sponsored families can use gift cards and those may be ordered with Scrip, through Mary Branson on December 1. Using the SCRIP program will also benefit our Church as a fundraiser.



We also have Veterans Bags for you to fill for our Homeless Vets with needed toiletries, socks, laundry supplies, scarves, and gloves. Each gift bag will contain a list of appropriate items.



The deadline for the Angel Tree gifts to be back at church is December 8<sup>th</sup> and the Vet Bags will be Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your generosity!!



We appreciate your ongoing support. Donations may be sent to our P.O. Box address: Emmanuel UCC, P.O. Box 216, Dousman 53118...OR scan our Paypal QR code if you prefer.



THANK YOU for donating your aluminum cans to our Precious Metals project. Monies received from recycling the cans and other metals benefits Emmanuel's operating budget. During the winter months, please place your bags of cans to the left of the garage service door so they do not get plowed away when the snows come!



Get to know what is important to the members of our congregation. November 3, we had a sharing session during service in which we talked about causes we felt were worthy of our time, talent and/or monetary gifts. Here is a summary of that exercise.

We support: Emmanuel because we feel safe and loved here. We are inspired by the word that is preached, the acceptance that is practiced and the works the congregation supports.

We support: Organizations that provide food, clothing and shelter. These are basic needs to which all should have access.

We support: Groups that provide both physical and mental health so that there is less suffering and more healing.

We support: Veterans groups, thanking them for all they have done for their country and our freedom.

We support: Nature and animals because they need our help to survive.

We support: LGBTQ+ because all are God's children and need to be included and feel safe to be who they are.

We support: Groups that educate and help youth to find their strengths and their place in this world.

We support: The arts where one can express themselves and share their talents.

We support: Those who have been treated unfairly because all are equal in God's eyes.

**We are a small but generous congregation.** When asked, we give of our talents, time and gifts. This proved true as we held our yearly pledge drive. Although we had five fewer pledges turned in at the time of this writing, \$5,350 more has been pledged for 2025 than for 2024. To celebrate this out pouring of support, a pot-luck was held after service, November 10.

Thank you for all that you do to make Emmanuel a wonderful church and the outreach you do on your own.

The Board of Stewards

Francine Langlais Sue Stelling Steve Thompson  
Charlotte Voigt



photography credit to Blue Cathey-Thiele...THANK YOU!

## Mystery of the Christmas Star



The Howitz-DeRemer Planetarium in Waukesha has added a wonderful Christmas program to their collection. The presentation is wonderful for all ages and all shows will be followed with a live star talk from one of their experienced planetarium educators.

"Mystery of the Christmas Star" is a journey back 2000 years to

Bethlehem seeking to discover a scientific explanation for the Star the wise men followed to find the baby Jesus. They will investigate possible dates for the birth of Christ, and look at recorded sightings of significant astronomical events during this time frame, trying to determine which of these signs in the sky could have been remarkable enough to cause the wise men to travel across the desert from Babylon to Bethlehem just to see a newborn King.

"Mystery of the Christmas Star" is already a part of their public show schedule for Saturday, December 7th, 14th and 21st at 1 PM and Wednesday, December 18 at 11 AM. Tickets are needed, but their cost is minimal.

If these are not convenient dates, they are willing to schedule a private showing for a group Monday - Saturday during the month of December.

Feel free to reach out to them with any questions you may have:

<https://sdw.waukesha.k12.wi.us/o/planetarium> or <https://www.facebook.com/SDWplanetarium/> or on X and Instagram: @hdplanetarium and lastly, phone 262-970-4139.

Feel free to view the trailer from the show here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tIjCYN7WzAw>

We received this communication came from Lisa Swaney, Planetarium Director.



December 1<sup>st</sup>

we will be taking orders for gift cards under the SCRIP fundraising program!

You pay the face value of the card and Emmanuel benefits a percentage of its value.

This is a GREAT way to help out your church AND get some holiday shopping checked off your list...also remember gift cards for the Angel Tree!



## We are FAMILY!

- ♥ Sandy Jarrett for furnishing her beautiful hand-made cards for our All Saints Remembrance Service.
- ♥ Heather Cathey & Melissa Rivera for running the video system during Worship.
- ♥ Jeannie Phelan and Erika Weiss for helping Pastor Leanne select hymns for our Sunday worship.
- ♥ Our November Meals drivers: Kristen Kramer, Sue Stelling, Shirlene Hazelberg, Lorna & Jere Marheine, Julia Starbuck, Jo Quaden, Barb & John Wood, Laurie Buckett and Kathy Bleecker-Piirto.
- ♥ Novemberr Ushers: Laurie Buckett, Connie Motelet, Lorna & Jere Marheine, and Debbie Morgan.
- ♥ November Scripture Readers: Mary Branson, Jeannie Phelan, Steve Thompson, and Ann Carpenter.
- ♥ Ann Carpenter and Blue Cathey-Thiele for leading worship singing.
- ♥ Lorna Marheine for sending in our Sentry receipts so that we get our rebate!!
- ♥ Sue & Tom Stelling for covering the cost of our new U.S. flag.



- ♥ Rick Rivera
- ♥ Jenny & Todd Mickle
- ♥ Dick Hawkins
- ♥ Kathy Zebrowski
- ♥ Blue Thiele
- ♥ Jeannie Phelan.
- ♥ Michael Clark
- ♥ Fran Pike and her sister, Frieda.
- ♥ Gregg Jarrett
- ♥ Hurricane victims
- ♥ All of our dear shut-ins including Nancy Edwards, Vera Ortmann and Betsy & Bill Welch.



Lorna and Jere Marheine's sister-in-law, Beverly Rush passed away on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Please keep them in your prayers.



Jenny and Todd Mickle wish to thank everybody for your love and prayers, cards, calls, and meals following their accident. "They mean so much to us."



Join Melissa Rivera, Mary Branson and Heather Cathey on the Tech Team...learn to operate the camera system and the computer that controls our streamed services!

The first Sunday of each month is designated as Food Pantry Sunday. Non-perishable donations may be placed in the labeled



bin in the foyer. Please remember to check expiration dates...anything with a date within 6 months must be discarded! Donations are normally given to the Kettle Moraine Food Pantry located just south of Wales.

## Continuing Opportunities...

### TUESDAY MORNINGS

Bible Study 10-11 AM in the library  
Each week the Scripture for the following Sunday is discussed.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> TUESDAYS

Ladies Fellowship meets for coffee, dessert & lively conversation!

### 4<sup>th</sup> TUESDAYS

Poetry/Writers Group, 6:30 PM

### WEDNESDAYS

Mahjong games at 1 PM

### 1<sup>st</sup> THURSDAYS

Peer-to-Peer Disabilities & Chronic Illness Group, 5:30 PM

### 3<sup>rd</sup> SATURDAYS

Kid's Storytime AT 11:30 AM



Thurs	2	Peer-to-Peer Disabilities & Chronic Illness Group 5:30 PM
Sun	5	Holy Communion Food Pantry Sunday
Tues	Each	Bible Study, 10 AM.
Mon	6	Open & Safe Community Conversation 5:30 PM
Wed	8, 15, 22, 29	Mahjong, 1 PM in fellowship hall
Sun	12	Coffee Hour after Worship
Mon	13	Trustees meeting 6 PM
M-F	13-17	Emmanuel delivers the Dousman Area Home Meals
Tues	14	Ladies Fellowship 1-3 PM
Sat	18	Kids Story Time 11:30 AM
Sun	19	Council meeting after Worship
Tues	28	Poetry / Writers Group 6:30 PM

## Treasurer's Report for October 2024

### PLEDGED Income received

(October 2024)	\$8,760.00
(October 2023)	\$9,995.00
Difference	<b>-\$1,235.00</b>

### NON-PLEDGES & PLATE Income Received

(October 2024)	\$3,671.00
(October 2023)	\$172.50
Difference	<b>\$3,498.50</b>

Total INCOME for (October 2024) *	\$13,347.37
Total INCOME for (October 2023)	\$11,767.74
Difference	<b>\$1,579.63</b>

Total EXPENSE for (October 2024)	\$13,020.89
Total EXPENSE for (October 2023)	\$26,686.09
Difference	<b>-\$13,665.20</b>

Checking Account Balance as of October 31, 2024	\$330.59
Checking Account Balance as of October 31, 2023	\$3,416.36
Difference	<b>-\$3,085.77</b>

\*TOTAL INCOME includes funds received for:

Singing Bowl	\$101.37
WI Conference offering income (OCWM, Christmas Fund, etc)	\$650.00
SCRIP sales	\$0.00
Fund Raiser	\$165.00

RBC Investment Account Growth for October 2024	-\$1,230.83
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Please direct questions or comments to Jeannie Phelan (414-940-4464)

*Thank you!!*

*To everyone who brings their precious metals to church...Tom Stelling & Ron Blaschuk took the load in for recycling recently and brought back \$207!! Thank you Tom & Ron!!*

*Judy St. Martin is going to be busy baking cookies...she is providing our after-Worship cookies each of the Sundays of Advent!! Thank you Judy!!*

# DECEMBER

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																			
<b>1</b> Guest Worship Leaders Jeannie Phelan & Peter St. Martin Holy Communion Food Pantry Sunday <b>ORDER SCRIP</b> Congregational Meeting after Worship to discuss and approve the 2025 budget	<b>2</b>  5:30 PM Conversation Cafe	<b>3</b> 10 AM Bible Study	<b>4</b> 1 PM Mahjong gaming in fellowship hall  6:30 PM PFLAG meets at Aurora Summit	<b>5</b> 5:30 PM Peer-to-Peer Disabilities & Chronic Illness Group	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  Advent Family Fun Crafts Saturday, December 7 9 AM - Noon in fellowship hall																																																																																			
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<b>8</b> Angel Tree Gifts Due  Coffee Hour  11 AM CPR Training with Western Lakes	<b>9</b> 6 PM Trustees meeting	<b>10</b> 10 AM Bible Study  12 NOON Ladies Fellowship Christmas Potluck & Party	<b>11</b> 1 PM Mahjong gaming in fellowship hall	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Friday Fun Night! Let's sing Christmas Songs! 6 PM	<b>14</b>																																																																																			
<b>15</b> Sunday School Christmas Pageant Vet Bags Due Council meeting after Worship Newsletter Deadline	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10 AM Bible Study	<b>18</b> 1 PM Mahjong gaming in fellowship hall	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 11:30 AM Kids' Storytime																																																																																			
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<b>22</b> Special Mission Offering for The Christmas Fund	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> NO Bible Study 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>																																																																																			
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