



36821 SUNSET DRIVE, OCONOMOWOC, WI 53066
 PO BOX 216, DOUSMAN, WI 53118
 LEANNE ROSE, PASTOR 262-965-2429
 CHURCH OFFICE 262-965-4022



CLEANING THE CHURCH: Corrine Mayer

COFFEE HOUR COMMITTEE FOR JANUARY 11
 Julia Starbuck & ??? (PLEASE HELP JULIA!!)

	USHERS	SCRIPTURE READERS
4	Kristen Voskuil	Ann Carpenter
11	Laurie Buckett	Will Plautz, Steve Thompson, Heather Cathey
18	Connie Motelet	Jenny Mickle
25	Debbie Morgan	Lorna Marheine, Barbara Phelan, Jeannie Phelan



BIRTHDAYS

Jere Marheine	5	Bill Welch	13
Sherri Krantz	6	Gregg Jarrett	17
Pat Doering	13	Cas Thiele	29

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Carole & Dan Milos 19

ANNIVERSARIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Shirlene Hazelberg	27,	2008	18 years
Sherri & Bob Krantz	27,	2008	18 years
Melissa & Rick Rivera	27,	2008	18 years
Charlotte Voigt	27,	2008	18 years

The Messenger



January 4

John 1:35-51

prayers for Laurie & Buck Buckett
 and Ann & Bill Carpenter
 HOLY COMMUNION / FOOD
 PANTRY SUNDAY

Guest Worship Leaders Jeanne
 Phelan & Rev. Peter St. Martin

Tuesday: Bible Study at 10 AM and
 6 PM

January 11

John 2:1-11

prayers for Heather Cathey &
 family and Michael Clark
 M-F: Emmanuel delivers the
 Dousman Area Home Meals

Tuesday: Bible Study 10 AM; Ladies
 Fellowship meeting, 1 PM
 Thursday: Newsletter deadline

January 18

John 2:13-25

prayers for Kris & Dick Davidson
 and Pat & Mike Doering

Council meeting after Worship
 Tuesday: Bible Study 10 AM and 6
 PM

January 25

John 3:1-21

prayers for Mary Edwards and
 Nancy Edwards

Annual meeting of the
 congregation after Worship
 Tuesday: Bible Study 10 AM



Just before Christmas, I found myself in a conversation I didn't know I needed—one that connected deeply with thoughts and questions I have been carrying for what feels like months. We talked about spiritual practices: setting aside time, embracing silence, and living in community. These weren't new conversations, but they arrived at exactly the right moment.

Earlier this summer, scholar and theologian Trip Fuller posted a reflection on mainline liberal churches—us—and on our ongoing decline. He suggests that the challenge begins at the very beginning of liberal theology itself. Drawing on the work of Gary Dorrien, Fuller reminds us that liberal theology emerged as “a third way between orthodox overbelief and secular disbelief.” From the start, it sought to make Christianity credible to the modern world while preserving its spiritual essence. For a time, this mediating strategy worked remarkably well.

But as Fuller notes, without robust God-language, churches often offer little that secular progressivism does not already provide. Steven Webb captures this predicament with elegant precision: “Liberal theology is too secular for religious believers, too religious for secularists, and too academic for non-theologians.” In trying to speak to everyone, we sometimes find ourselves speaking clearly to almost no one.

That insight resonates with me. At different points in my life as a professional religious leader, my own experiences of the Divine—especially those from my youth—were explained away or even treated as liabilities. We have often leaned heavily into the academic and intellectual. We have turned miracle stories into metaphors and encounters with God into ideas to be analyzed rather than experiences to be lived.

So I find myself wondering: what might we hear, learn, or discover if we nurtured spiritual practices as intentionally as we cultivate our intellectual understanding? What might rise to the surface if we made space for silence and prayer? What might change if we truly centered our days around worship and attentiveness to God?

What if we lived as though we genuinely believed that the Incarnate Christ came into the world—and that this still matters? What if we trusted that God continues to transform individuals, communities, and the world, and allowed ourselves to slow down once or twice each day to notice where that transformation is already unfolding? What if our calendars and to-do lists no longer dictated our lives, but instead flowed from an ongoing relationship with the Creator of the universe—the One who binds all creation together, who became flesh and lived among us, and whose breath is life itself?

As we enter a new year, I invite you to join in exploring spiritual practices together. Whether through prayer, silence, worship, study, or shared community, may we make room to deepen our connection with God—not as an abstract idea, but as a living presence. Let us step into the coming year with curiosity, courage, and a renewed commitment to practices that ground us in faith and open us to transformation.

Here is a prayer that reflects the same tone and themes—thoughtful, honest, grounded in liberal theology yet reaching toward deeper spiritual practice and lived faith:

Holy and Living God,
Creator of all that is,
Breath of life moving through every corner of creation—

We come before you carrying full minds and busy hearts.
We bring our questions, our doubts, our careful thinking,
and also the longing we sometimes try to explain away.

You know how often we rely on words, ideas, and analysis,
how easily we fill every silence,
how quickly we move past mystery instead of dwelling within it.
Forgive us when our faith becomes only something we understand
and not something we practice, trust, or live.

Slow us down, O God.
Teach us again how to listen.

Create space within us for silence that is not empty,
but alive with your presence.

Help us to believe—really believe—
that you came among us in Jesus,
that incarnation still matters,
that love embodied changes how we live in the world.
Shape our days not only by what must be done,
but by our relationship with you.

Draw us into practices that deepen our awareness of your Spirit at work:
in prayer and worship,
in community and compassion,
in justice-seeking and quiet attention.
May we notice where you are already moving,
already healing,
already inviting us to join in.

As we step into a new year,
give us courage to try new rhythms,
grace to begin again when we falter,
and trust that transformation happens
not only in grand moments
but in daily, faithful practice.

Hold us, guide us, and renew us,
O God who is mystery and presence,
question and answer,
love made flesh.

Amen.



Social Concerns & Stewards

The Hope Center

Thank you for your generosity. We were able to donate 21 pairs of gloves, 53 pairs of handwarmers and 2 lined earflap hats. The Clothing Center at the Hope Center was grateful for them and immediately started to hand them out.

Holiday Giving

Veterans Bags

Once again, many items were donated to needy Veterans and delivered to Madison Veterans Hospital. Items included toiletries, gloves, socks, scarves, household cleaning supplies and gift cards. Thank you to Kristen Voskuil for delivering them.

Angel Tree Ornaments for Family Promise

Over 27 Walmart and Gas gift cards were delivered to Family Promise. They will be used throughout the year to give a boost for the needy families in their program.

Lake Country Free Clinic

Our Singing Bowl for January and February will be donated to Lake Country Free Clinic in

Oconomowoc. This organization is celebrating 25 years of service for those in need of medical, pharmaceutical and dental services and who don't have insurance. With very few staff, but 240 volunteers and partnerships with many organizations such as ProHealth Care and Aurora, they have touched the lives and provided care for 109,000 client visits this year. The clinic offers their services to adults in Waukesha County and children in Oconomowoc School District.

Thanks as always to a compassionate congregation.

PFLAG is no longer meeting at Aurora Summit. The January 7th meeting will be held in our church fellowship hall at 6:30 PM.



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.



We are FAMILY

- ♥ John Lui for shoveling the sidewalks in December.
- ♥ Our Advent Candle Lighters: Sue Stelling, Corrine Mayer, Julia Starbuck and Carol Pfalz.
- ♥ Heather Cathey for running the video system during Worship.
- ♥ Our December Meals drivers: Shirlene Hazelberg, Laurie Buckett, Nansi Hawkins, Kathy Bleecker-Piirto, Julia Starbuck, Kathy Zebrowski, Barb & John Wood, Jo Quaden, Sue Richer and Sue Stelling.
- ♥ December Ushers: Sue & Tom Stelling, Donna Newland, Kristen Voskuil and Shirlene Hazelberg.
- ♥ December Scripture Readers: Ann Carpenter, Steve Thompson, Heather Cathey, Jeannie Phelan and Barbara Phelan.
- ♥ Ann Carpenter for leading worship singing.
- ♥ Lorna Marheine for sending in our Sentry receipts so that we get our rebate!!
- ♥ John Lui for keeping us supplied in water for our dispenser.



- ♥ Cas Thiele
- ♥ Blue Thiele
- ♥ Jeannie Phelan.
- ♥ Fran Pike

♥ All of our dear shut-ins including Nancy Edwards and Betsy Welch.

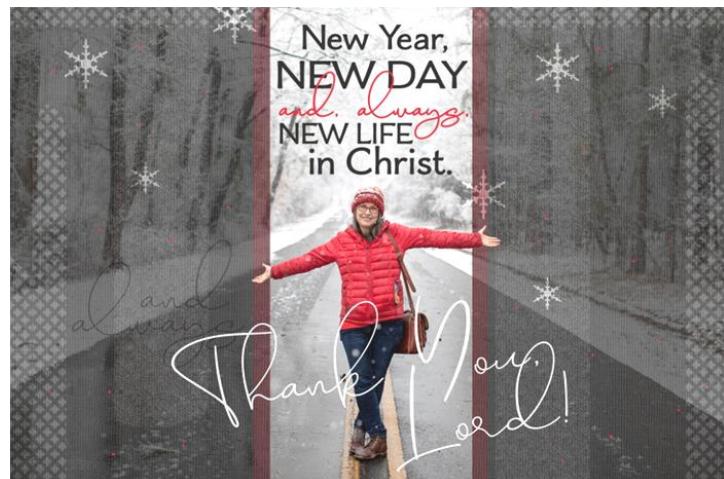


THANK YOU for your ongoing support!

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 so they do not get plowed away in case it snows.



YOUR BLOOD IS A *Lifeline*



NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

Tuesday
**January
6**

1:30PM - 6:00PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

877-232-4376



DOUSMAN COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

LOCATION

DOUSMAN COMMUNITY CENTER
235 N Main Street, Dousman



PROMOTION

As a thank you, all attempting donors with a valid email and code SPARK in their appointment notes will receive a \$25 e-gift card.

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED

Call 877.232.4376 or visit versiti.org/WI.

blood provider for Children's Hospital of Wisconsin



Treasurer's Report for November 2025

PLEDGED Income received

(November 2025)	\$5,075.00
(November 2024)	\$6,659.01
	Difference
	-\$1,584.01
NON-PLEDGES & PLATE Income Received	
(November 2025)	\$1,780.00
(November 2024)	\$6,446.75
	Difference
	-\$4,666.75
Total INCOME for (November 2025) *	\$9,220.20
Total INCOME for (November 2024)	\$14,152.42
	Difference
	-\$4,932.22
Total EXPENSE for (November 2025)	\$15,402.53
Total EXPENSE for (November 2024)	\$14,441.27
	Difference
	\$961.26

Checking Account Balance as of November 30, 2025	\$2,517.70
Checking Account Balance as of November 30, 2024	\$955.02
	Difference
	\$1,562.68

*TOTAL INCOME includes funds received for:

Singing Bowl	\$117.20
WI Conference offering income (OCWM, Christmas Fund, etc)	\$210.00
SCRIP sales	\$0.00
Fund Raiser	\$748.00

RBC Investment Account Growth for November 2025	\$1,560.07
TOTAL RBC BALANCE	\$182,928.11

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

Looking toward February...

Sun	1	Holy Communion Food Pantry Sunday
Tues	Each	Bible Study, 10 AM.
	3, 17	Bible Study, 6 PM
Wed	4	PFLAG meeting, 6:30 PM location TBA
Sun	8	Souper Bowl Sunday!! Coffee Hour after Worship
M-F	9-13	Emmanuel delivers the Dousman Area Home Meals
Tues	10	Ladies Fellowship 1-3 PM
Sun	15	Rev. Rachel Bauman, WI Conference Associate Minister, guest preacher Council meeting after Worship
Wed	18	Ash Wednesday

january

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESD	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																		
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