

The Messenger



A Newsletter of the
Genesee 1st Congregational, United Church of Christ, Inc.

November – December, 2021

Volume 16, Number 4

Pastoral Ponderings

November is always a special month in the church year. In the middle of the month we take time to offer our thanks for the many, many blessings, which God has given to us. And toward the end of month our thoughts turn toward Advent and preparing our hearts to receive the Christ Child anew. November is filled with many wonderful opportunities for worship. Here are a few of the highlights listed below:

November 7– The sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered. (Remember that Day Light Saving Time ends and our clock will fall back one hour the night before.)

November 14– Stewardship Sunday - As part of our worship service we will celebrate our stewardship program “Rooted in Love” as we present our pledges to God for the upcoming year of 2022. Each family will be invited to come forward and to place their pledge card in the offering plate and to receive a short prayer of blessing with the pastor. This will be a service of dedicating ourselves to supporting the work of the church through offering our gifts of time, talent and treasure. The church cannot fulfill the ministries, which it is called by God to do, without your support.

November 21– Thanksgiving - This service of worship will focus upon thanksgiving. We will be offering our thanks to God for all of the many blessings, which we have received.

November 28– First Sunday of Advent – We will celebrate the beginning of Advent with a special service, “The Hanging of the Greens.” This service is new this year. Come and join us for a special multi-sensory service of worship.

November is truly a special time of the year. Come and join us as we celebrate the pledging of our gifts, offering our thanks to God for the gifts we have received and preparing our hearts to receive the most wonderful gift, the Christ Child.

- Pastor Dave

pastordaveschnepf@gmail.com

(c) 618-402-2041

Dear Members of the First Congregational Church of Genesee, UCC:

I want to thank everyone who volunteered to help with this year's pig roast. It was amazing to see how many people offered a helping hand. I also want to thank everyone who supported the Pig Roast with their generous food purchases and donations, as well as prize drawing purchases and donations. A lot of support was generated for our church and community. And, while the event is called a “fund raiser”, it is equally important to come together as a community and show God's love for another. That is why we call it “outreach”.

I think this year's event was particularly special as we were not able to hold a pig roast last year. I heard many people saying “I am so glad you're having this Pig Roast, we always look forward to it and we were sad when you didn't have one last year.” This community really enjoyed and needed our pig roast this year.

Lastly, I want to recognize a few individuals for extra special efforts. I know many, many people volunteered and helped out this year, and I deeply appreciate all of them. That said, I want to especially recognize our Outreach team: Tom, Donna and Gary Zivney for preparing our pork and chicken and many other dishes, Scott Burdette for putting signs out and helping out with other details. Thanks as well to Angie and Smoke for their help with the bar and sweet sales, as well as Ron Kingery who helped with the bar set up & help during the evening. Finally, I want to thank Maryann Ludtke and Rhea Whiteley for working many long hours organizing all our outreach meetings, getting volunteers organized, soliciting many of the donations, decorating the building and sending out lots of communications to our volunteers, our members and the community at large.

I also want to thank our Deacons and many of their friends and family who helped with a lot of the food preparation on Thursday, Friday (our prep parties were lots of fun!) and Saturday and also with serving during the event. Lastly, to our clean-up crew, thanks!

Blessings to you all for such a wonderful event. I believe we served God's will very well during this event.

(Continued on page 2)

182 Meals served
 Meal ticket sales: \$2254
 Desserts/Beverages: \$462.50
 Prize Drawing: \$1743
 Cash donations, leftover food/beverage sales, kid's games: \$653.20
 Food Costs: -\$434.89
 Profit = \$4677.81 - thanks to all of your donations of treasures, time and talents!

Michael Whiteley – Moderator

Welcome to the November-December, 2021 edition of the Messenger. Our (in-person) service time is Sunday at 9 AM, which runs through Sunday, January 9, 2022. On Sunday, January 16 our service time goes to 10:30 AM. We share Pastor Dave with the Hartland, UCC. As such, we have the early service six months and Hartland gets it the other six months. At 10:30 AM, a “zoom” service is broadcast from the Hartland UCC. For those of you unable to get to our 9 AM service, here is the link to that service.

To Join the group via Computer or tablet or smartphone, click on the following link or copy into your browser.
<https://zoom.us/j/396301165> Password = 365422

You may also join by going to <https://zoom.us> and click on the “JOIN A MEETING” heading at the top of the webpage.

- When prompted, enter:
- Meeting ID: 396 301 165
 - Password: 365422

- To join meeting by phone (Audio only)
- Call 1-312-626-6799
 - and enter when prompted:
 - o Meeting ID: 396 301 165
 - o Password: 365422

Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month

We have communion on the first Sunday of the month. The first Sunday service (communion service) will be at the Ed. Center. Once a month, come and enjoy the 9 AM service in a more open, handicap accessible venue.

Bible Study

This is your opportunity to learn about the Bible. The current study is on the book of Revelations. It is held every Wednesday, at 10 AM, at the Hartland UCC – (Capitol Dr. at Church St.) You may attend live by going to Hartland OR, like the “zoom” service, it is a “virtual” event for those in Genesee. To Join the group via Computer or tablet or smartphone, copy the following link into your browser.
<https://zoom.us/j/324446460>

You may also join by going to <https://zoom.us> and click on the “JOIN A MEETING” heading at the top of the webpage.

- When prompted, enter:
- Meeting ID: 324 446 460
 - Password: 789656

- To join meeting by phone (Audio only)
- Call 1-312-626-6799
 - and enter when prompted:
 - o Meeting ID: 324 446 460
 - o Password: 789656

Church Budget Update:

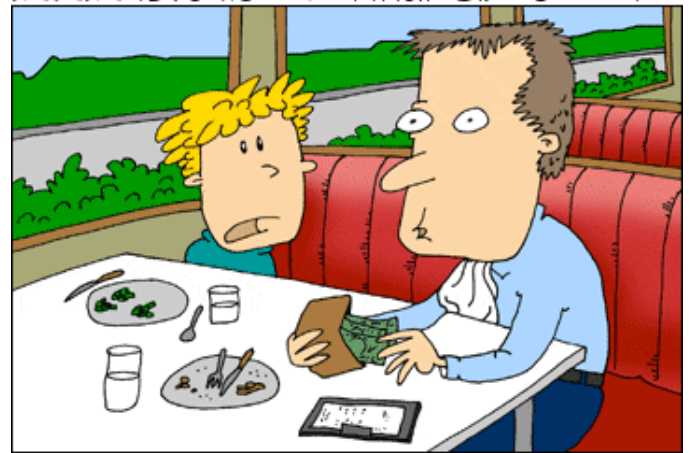
We thought it would be helpful to update everyone on our YTD (Year-To-Date) financial performance. Although we have returned to in-person services and fundraisers, we still are having a challenging year. YTD budget updates are highlighted below:

<u>As of September 30, 2021</u>	
YTD Offering	\$30,615.00
YTD Increase in Savings (fundraisers)	\$3,646.19
<u>Less YTD Expenses</u>	<u>-\$38,732.00</u>
Net Income	-\$4470.81

We continue to be grateful for all the gifts contributed by our members. We strongly encourage you all to be prayerful about stewardship as we enter our stewardship campaign this fall. We pray for God’s grace and blessings as we continue to navigate through these challenging times. We value your fellowship. Join us at our 9 AM Sunday service, enjoy the beauty of our church building, listen to the good word and say “hello!”

**Blessings,
 Michael Whiteley, Moderator**

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Shirley Ostrander 01-15-2004
HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

Join us for
“The Hanging of the Greens”
Sunday, November 28.

by Pastor Dave

The Hanging of the Greens occurs annually at the start of Advent and is a multisensory worship service designed for the entire church family. Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas and preparing ourselves for a new year living in the presence of God through our relationship with Christ.

As we prepare ourselves for the beginning of the Advent Season, we gather and place the decorations, which tell the story of Christ’s birth in their unique way. We will hear the timeless traditions behind these decorations and sing the beloved, favorite carols and listen anew to the stories of Christ’s birth as recorded in the gospels.

Mark this all-family worship day on your calendar; you won’t want to miss this.

Advent Wreath

Throughout the four Sundays in Advent and on Christmas Eve we will be lighting the candles on our Advent wreath. We need volunteers to help lead this important portion of our service of worship. The readings are prepared for you in advance. We need individuals, children and families who are willing to read. Please let Pastor Dave know if you are interested.

Christmas Play 2021:

RSVP by November 7th

by Rhea Whiteley

We would like to have a performance by our youth and teens during the [9 AM Sunday church service on December 19th.](#)

Please text, call, email Rhea Whiteley at: **262-617-8512**, rhea@mikewhiteley.com to keep this wonderful tradition and share the meaning of Christmas with our congregation.

Teens: wanted to be co-directors.

If anyone would like to sing a song or play an instrument --- we welcome you!

Adults & teens needed for Set crew: we will need help with our stage set up.

Thanks!

Christmas Eve Services

Mark your calendars now. Our Christmas Eve Service of worship will be held on December 24 at **6:30 PM** at First Congregational UCC in Hartland and at **8:00 PM** at First Congregational UCC in Genesee.

Christmas Giving to Children Opportunity- 3 ways to help

We will be supporting the CCC -Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha County again this year. There are 3 ways to participate from November 1st to December 5th.

1. Donate \$25 gift cards from Target and Walmart. Please give them to Sue Fleming or call to pick up (262) 470-6572. You can also drop them off at the Church Office (W306 S5075 Church St. / Genesee Village) (262) 968-3849 **Thank You!**
2. Donate any new unwrapped toys or books for children ages birth to 11 to church on Sundays Nov. 1st – Dec. 5th for the CCC Annual Toy Shop. (note: Children ages 12-18 who are not sponsored will receive gift cards in lieu of toys). Ideas from the CCC listed below:
 - Mittens and gloves (especially waterproof) and hats: ages birth to 11
 - New books: birth to 11, including Spanish or dual-language books
 - Licensed items: Disney, Star Wars
 - Infant and toddler toys: especially riding toys for toddlers
 - Sleeping bags and blankets
 - STEM-related craft item
3. Help make no-sew Fleece Blankets to donate to the CCC Annual Toy Shop. We have some fleece fabric donated, now we need some helping hands to make fleece blankets. Please contact Rhea Whiteley: 262-617-8512 if you are interested in getting together and we’ll agree on a time & day. Teens & youth: if there is interest, we can do an ‘after school’ or ‘weekend’ project. **Thanks!**



The Christmas Fund offering

A special THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering on World Communion Sunday, October 3, and throughout October.

Our next special offering is "The Christmas Fund." This fund helps the pensions board of the U.C.C. provide ministerial assistance to retired pastors in need. It's a way for them to bring hope to the "veterans of the Cross" who have faithfully and selflessly served. **Mark Sunday, December 7 on your calendar** and have your special offering ready for this great cause! The offering will also be accepted throughout the Sundays in December.

A Christmas Alphabet

**A Blessing Comes Down,
Eternal From God,
Here Is Jesus,
Kingly Love Manged Now.
Of Peace, Quiet Rest, Sing;
The Ultimate Victorious Word,
eXciting Your Zeal!**

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD DAILY

Copies of the devotional booklet: *"The Upper Room"* for November - December 2021 are available. Call the church office at **262-968-3849**, or come to worship service on Sunday morning, to get your copy. On every page is an inspirational reading and accompanying Bible verse for each day.

BUILDING RENTAL AVAILABLE

Do you have a large family gathering, wedding, birthday party, etc., but not enough room to host it? Both our Education Center and Church are available to responsible parties. Call the church office at **262-968-3849** for details and a rate schedule.

USHERS

Ushering is a wonderful way to get involved in the life of the church. When you join us at our 9 AM Sunday service, please help when asked to greet and hand out bulletins, collect offering, candle lighting, etc. If you know in advance there is a Sunday you/your family can usher, please contact Diane Sickels. **(262) 968-3954**

Events Calendar

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER events

Listed here are the dates of meetings, holidays and events in November, December and early January, 2022. All dates are correct at the time of publication. All events are at the Ed. Center, unless otherwise noted. Service time is Sundays, 9 AM – at church - (except 1st Sundays- see note under Communion – page 2) Lctionary Bible study (via "Zoom") is each Wednesday, 10 AM. For "zoom" LINKS see page 2.

NOVEMBER

- MO 1 ALL SAINTS DAY**
SU 7 9 AM – in-person service, w/ communion at the Ed. Center
Daylight Saving Time (DST) ends
 (set clocks, etc. back one hour)
TH 11 VETERANS DAY
SU 14 Stewardship Sunday
TU 16 Executive Board: 5:30 PM
SU 21 Thanksgiving Sunday
 Newsletter copy due for December special edition Messenger
TH 25 THANKSGIVING
FR 26 BLACK FRIDAY
SU 28 1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT - HOPE
Hanging of the Greens

DECEMBER

- SU 5 2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT - PEACE**
 9 AM – in-person service, w/ communion at the Ed. Center
 Christmas Fund offering
TU 7 PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY
SU 12 3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT - JOY
SU 19 4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT - LOVE
 Christmas Program – during the 9 AM service
 Newsletter copy due for January-February edition Messenger
FR 24 CHRISTMAS EVE - CHRIST
 Service at church: 8 PM
SA 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!
SU 26 9 AM service at church
FR 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

JANUARY, 2022

- SU 2** 9 AM – in-person service, w/ communion at the Ed. Center

“Never place a period where God has placed a comma.”
- Gracie Allen

God is still speaking.

Notes from Lone Tree Point

Our lives are noisy. Phones are ringing, children are yelling, babies are crying, and there is the screaming siren of a nearby ambulance answering a call. Even a “quiet” restaurant or the “sanctuary” of a Sunday morning service offer no guarantees of a quiet escape.

The United Church of Christ has adopted the above quote of Gracie Allen. Yes, “God is still speaking.” Are you listening? Rosalind Rinker, in her book *Prayer, Conversing with God*, describes prayer not as a one-way monologue from us to God, but as a two-way “dialogue.” In church, and in our everyday lives, we pray to a God who listens to our prayers and petitions. God hears you! Are you too busy talking that you do not hear God’s response to your prayers? God wants to speak to you. Above the din of everyday life, can you even hear the voice of God? How will God get your attention?

If God is our “Good Shepherd,” we are as sheep in His pasture. We sheep are often too busy to hear the master’s voice. We stray from the pasture and do not heed His cries of warning. Sometimes God gets our attention very dramatically. God got Moses’ attention using a burning bush that was not consumed (Exodus 3). God got Jonah’s attention by having a large fish swallow him – whole (Jonah 2). God got Saul’s attention with a blinding flash of lightning (Acts 9:3). Sometimes, to those willing to listen, God gets our attention very quietly. Elijah heard God not as a mighty wind, not in an earthquake, not in a roaring fire, but as a still, small voice (1 Kings 19: 11-12).

“Let go and let God!” Jesus often went away from the crowds to have a private conversation with his disciples and to speak with God. Follow his lead and seek out the quiet places. A few years ago, the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC had their annual meeting at Green Lake Center – located on the north shore of Green Lake. One of the assets of this campus is a land feature known as Lone Tree Point, a small peninsula that sticks out into Green Lake. I took a few minutes to walk out to this point: a time to reflect on the events of the day. To you, and to I, God is still speaking. Be still and listen!

Scott W. Burdette

How do I contribute my offering?

We are back to the use of collection plates in the church service. For those of you who absolutely, positively can’t make it to the Sunday services...make checks out to “Genesee 1st Congregational, United Church of Christ” OR, if you prefer, just “Genesee Church.” Send them to the church office – GENESEE CHURCH / W306 S5075 Church St. / Mukwonago, WI 53149-9732. Our treasurer, Angela, picks them up on a weekly basis. OR You can mail your check direct to Angela: Angela Williams / W956 Miramar Rd. / East Troy, WI. 53120.



ANNUAL MEETING DATES ANNOUNCED

The official call-to-order for the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Genesee 1st Congregational, United Church of Christ will take place following the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, January 30. Hartland’s Annual Meeting is a week earlier on Sunday, January 23. The meeting is a great opportunity for everyone in the congregation to have a voice and make important contributions to the life of the church. Annual reports from the pastor, moderator, secretary and church boards and committees will be reviewed. You will also have an opportunity to vote on the slate of officers who will represent your church in 2022. Perhaps you have a calling to fill one of the empty slots and serve your church! The all-important 2022 Church Budget will also be reviewed.

A FINAL NOTE 🎵

The deadline for the December special edition is Sunday, November 21. The deadline for the January-February, 2022 edition is Sunday, December 19. To submit an article, event information, or to receive your newsletter via e-mail, send e-mail to:

geneseechurch@wi.twcabc.com

Articles submitted in person need to be typed or written legibly.

Scott W. Burdette

Puzzle Challengers

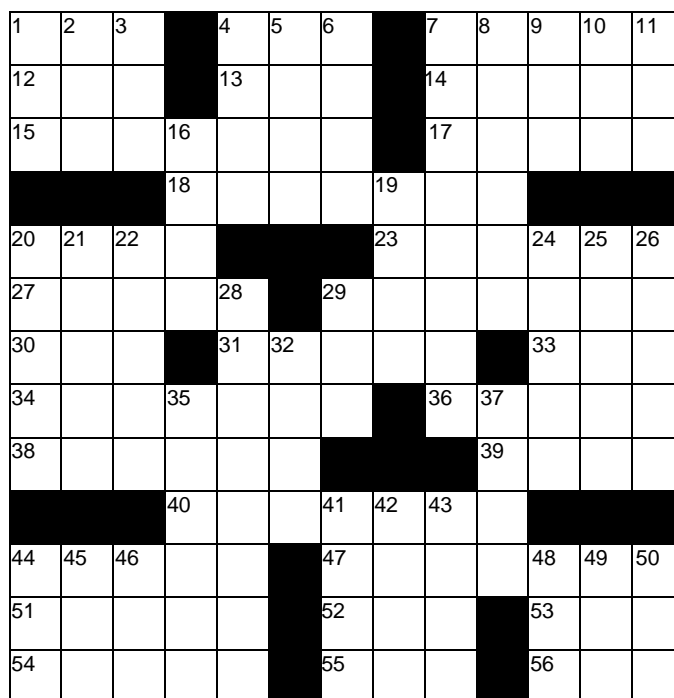
ACROSS

- 1 "Oh, give _____ home..."
(2 wds.)
4 Vane dir.
7 Debate topic
12 Upper limb
13 Ess follower
14 Pollute
15 Mount _____
(Seattle view)
17 Civic group (abbr.)
18 Difficult experiences
20 Portrayal
23 Nap
27 October gems
29 Without expression
30 Gallery exhibit
31 Immaculate
33 Prone
34 North African
36 Buying frenzy
38 "_____ something about
Mary"
39 Minus
40 Paraphrase
44 Pub mug
47 Pilot
51 Throw
52 Pro and _____
53 Horse food
54 Despised
55 Explosive letters
56 Before, in poems

DOWN

- 1 Disfigure
2 Historic period
3 French buddy
4 Mix
5 Poppy or sesame
6 "Wish You _____ Here"
7 Rome natives
8 Talked back
9 Family mem.
10 One (Sp.)
11 And so forth (abbr.)
16 Christmas word
19 Out of port
20 _____ beef
21 Actress _____ Winfrey
22 Wood spinner
24 Emergency tire
25 Cassettes
26 Stakes
28 Showed (a movie)
29 Cozy retreat
32 Highland miss
35 Reach a destination
37 Earnest request
41 Diplomacy
42 Bard of _____
43 Hue
44 Hush!
45 Earl Grey, e.g.
46 Gobble up
48 Definite article
49 Rowing device
50 Deli loaf

Genesee Church Crossword Puzzle



Answers to previous puzzles In September- October Messenger

P	A	R		R	A	P		C	O	A	S	T		
R	O	E		E	L	L		A	L	P	H	A		
E	R	R		C	L	U	S	T	E	R	E	D		
S	T	A	T	E	S	M	A	N						
S	A	N	E	S	T		N	I	C	O	L	E		
				A	S	A	P		P	L	A	I	N	
G	A	S	P		R	E	P		O	R	E	S		
A	D	I	O	S		P	I	E	S					
P	O	S	T	A	L		C	A	E	S	A	R		
						D	E	P	A	R	T	U	R	E
S	P	E	E	D	I	E	S	T			R	O	W	
O	H	A	R	E		A	S	H		E	S	E		
S	I	R	E	N		L	O	S		R	E	D		

PUMPKIN MATH

Adam's pumpkin weighs 42 pounds, Beth's weighs 65 pounds and Cindy's weighs 51 pounds.

Mr. Smith paid \$7.90 for all three pumpkins.

LOST SHEEP – Mystery Word Search

The parable of the Lost Sheep is found in Luke 15: 1-7. I have pulled the following list of words from that parable...

ASTRAY, CARE, FOUND, GLORY, GOD, HOPE, LOST, LOVE, REJOICE, SEARCH, SHEEP, STRAYED, UNITY.

These words are found in the Word Search puzzle below. Circle each letter in the words, as you find them. The remaining letters spell out the "mystery" word.

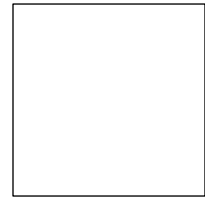
E	S	T	R	A	Y	E	D
C	Y	A	R	T	S	A	N
I	S	G	L	H	H	E	U
O	S	L	O	V	E	N	O
J	H	P	S	D	I	C	F
E	E	P	T	T	A	H	E
R	E	R	Y	R	O	L	G
D	P	S	E	A	R	C	H

Mystery Word: _____

GENESEE 1ST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC.
W306 S5075 CHURCH ST.
MUKWONAGO (GENESEE), WI 53149-9732
262-968-3849 www.geneseechurch.org

NEWSLETTER NOV / DEC 2021

TIME VALUE MAIL
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



9 AM, Sunday
In-person worship – at church
10:30 AM, Sunday
Virtual Worship (Hartland, UCC)
(see Page 2 for LINK)

IN THIS ISSUE

OUR TOP STORY

Pig Roast Update - Page 1

Pastoral Ponderings – Page 1
"Zoom" service LINK, Bible Study LINK,
communion – Page 2
Church Budget Update – Page 2

Hanging of the Greens, Advent Wreath,
Christmas Play 2021, Christmas Eve
service, Christmas Giving ... 3 ways to give
- Page 3

The Christmas Fund – Page 4
Events Calendar – Page 4
Notes from Lone Tree Point – Page 5
...and more!

Plus:
Puzzle Challenges – Page 6