

# The Messenger



A Newsletter of the  
Genesee 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational, United Church of Christ, Inc.

May – June, 2022

Volume 17, Number 1

## Pastoral Ponderings

Dear Friends,

Lately I have been wondering how do we welcome back those “prodigals” who have wandered away from church due to Covid? How do we welcome them back to demonstrate that their presence is important in the life of the church. I came across this article written by Dr. Craig Bailey from a past issue of Journey Christian news. This article has a few simple, highly important reminders for us to consider.

Pastor Dave

### Welcoming the Prodigals Back to Church

The message popped in on my Facebook page from a young man I had not heard from in years. He recounted the story of how he came to Christ as a youth in a church I served as pastor 20 years ago. But, he had fallen away. Thankfully, that was not the end of the story.

After a time of confusion, rebellion, drugs and despair, he came to his senses and returned to the church. What he found was a family of God with their arms open to love and restore him. Today he is completing a theological education, serving as that same church’s student minister and looking forward to becoming a pastor one day.

How do we treat the prodigals when they come home? During this critical time our actions may speak louder than words. If they are to make it, we must be the people of God who love them through repentance and restoration back into full fellowship with the body of Christ.

In a May 2015 blog, Thom Rainer gave some simple pointers of how we should treat new people in our churches. “Seven Things Members Should Say to Guests in a Worship Service” spoke to me so simply that I made copies and passed them out at my church! Read the entire post at [www.thomrainer.com](http://www.thomrainer.com) and pass it along.

See Pastoral Ponderings – Page 3

## FLOWER AND BAKE SALE – PICK-UP INSTRUCTIONS

### Pick up your order Saturday, May 7, 9 AM – 12 PM

Mother’s Day Flower and Bake Sale Fundraiser orders will be ready! Drive up to the Church Education Center from 9 AM – 12 PM. We’ll load your order in your car for you! More Bakery, flowers and vouchers for sale on Saturday! 1st come, 1st serve! Questions about your order or pick up times? Sue Fleming is happy to help!  
[262-470-6572](tel:262-470-6572)

### Missed the pre-order for the Flower and Bake Sale Fundraiser?

\$25 Flower vouchers available for sale at the 10:30 AM worship service on Sunday, May 1.

- Vouchers good at Shady Lane Nurseries in Menomonee Falls until June 30, 2022. All profits go towards our fundraiser.

### SALE on Saturday, May 7 and Sunday, May 8 after worship – 1st come, 1st serve!

- Saturday, May 7th, 9 AM -12 PM and Sunday after the 10:30 AM worship service

### Delicious homemade bakery:

- Cookies, muffins, mini sweet breads, brownies, cupcakes, etc.

### Flowers:

- Annuals-Partial flats: (6 to 12 plants each) Marigolds, Blue Salvia, Impatiens, White Alyssum, Zinnias, etc.
- Annuals-4.5” pots: Sweet Potato Vines, Dracaena Spikes, Million Bells, Geraniums, etc.
- Porch Pots- a few select pots available for sale on Saturday!
- Questions? Leave a message for Mary Ann: [414-828-1234](tel:414-828-1234) or Rhea: [262-617-8512](tel:262-617-8512).

### \$25 Flower Vouchers:

for Shady Lane Nurseries in Menomonee Falls. Shop everything they have to offer! Valid until June 30, 2022.

Welcome to the May-June, 2022 edition of the Messenger. On Sunday, January 16 our service time went to 10:30 AM. (It stays at 10:30 AM to – and including – Sunday, July 10.) 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

Beginning Sunday, April 3, our 10:30 AM Sunday services are back in the church sanctuary. The exception to the rule is that starting in May (May 1) our monthly communion service will be at the Ed. Center. Having monthly communion at the Ed. Center allows for handicap accessibility.

At 9 AM, a “zoom” service is broadcast from the Hartland UCC. For those of you unable to get to our 10:30 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

## Bible Study

This is your opportunity to learn about the Bible. The current study is on the book of Philippians. 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:

- Meeting ID: 324 446 460
- Password: 789656

## Church Budget Update:

The most recent income and expense figures are highlighted below.

<b>March Income</b>	<b>\$3,750.00</b>
<b>March Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,768.74</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>- \$1,018.74</b>

We continue to be grateful for all the gifts contributed by our members. 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 Sunday service, enjoy the beauty of our church building, listen to the good word and say “hello!”

## How do I contribute my offering?

Not only are our services back in the sanctuary (except once a month at the Ed. Center for communion), but we are back to having ushers take the collection. 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.

## MAY – JUNE USHERS

The following teams / individuals are scheduled to usher on Sundays in May and June. Arrive by 10:00 AM (for the 10:30 service), greet people, hand out bulletins, light candles and take collection. For the latest update, or if you are unable to fulfill your commitment, please notify Diane Sickels at **262-968-3954**.

May 1	Deacons
May 8	Kris Kingery
May 15	Mike & Rhea Whiteley
May 22	Kim Sussek
May 29	Scott Burdette
June 5	Deacons
June 12	Tom & Donna Zivney
June 19	
June 26	

## Pastoral Ponderings – From Page 1

The “seven things” included:

- Thank you for being here
- Let me help you with that
- Please take my seat
- Here is my email address if I can help you in any way
- Let me introduce you to \_\_\_\_\_
- Can I show you where you need to go?
- Could we take you to lunch?

These are just first steps, but they open the door to the person who may be a newcomer, guest or the prodigal ready to find his or her way back to God. Follow up is not a letter or a post card but a chance at a new, positive relationship.

Remember how the father reacted when the prodigal son came home? “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then bring the fattened calf and slaughter it, and let’s celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ So they began to celebrate.” (Luke 15:22-24, HCSB)

Step up and celebrate the prodigals. Turn their brokenness into blessing and their sorrow into joy. Let them see the power of the unconditional love of Christ demonstrated in us. Give them the most powerful of reasons to stay home with the Lord!

*Sincerely, Pastor Dave*

[pastordaveschnepf@gmail.com](mailto:pastordaveschnepf@gmail.com)

(c) **618-402-2041**

## Explore God’s word daily

Copies of the devotional booklet: “The Upper Room” for May – June, 2022 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 a daily inspirational reading and Bible verse.

## 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.

## Congratulations Graduates

Dillon Sickels, Grandson of Diane Sickels:  
Mukwonago High School

Tyler Carlson, Grandson of Betty Geller:  
Waukesha West High School

Clarissa “Issa” Suarez, Granddaughter of Jim & Sue Fleming: U. W. Oshkosh -majored in Kinesiology<sup>1</sup>

Spenser Fleming, Grandson of Jim & Sue Fleming:  
Kettle Moraine High School – going to Northern Michigan to major in DNR

If we have missed anyone, let us know. **262-968-3849**. We’ll report them in the June, 2021 special edition of the Messenger. Thank you!

## Church Office Hours

I (Scott Burdette) am usually in the church office from 2 – 4 PM on Wednesdays and Thursdays. In addition, Rev. Dave Schnepf is usually in the church office from 2 – 4 PM on Wednesday and 9 AM – 4 PM on Thursdays. In emergency, call Pastor Dave at **618-402-2041**.

## Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering – Sunday, June 5 (Pentecost Sunday)

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.**

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. **Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 5 and give generously to this special offering.**

<sup>1</sup> Kinesiology: the science or study of human muscular movements, esp. as applied in physical education.

## The Ultimate Egg Hunt!

### NOTES FROM A PYSANKA (EASTER EGG)

Some years ago, I was on the way back from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. That morning, I stopped in Vegreville, about an hour's drive east. The Oconomowoc-size city is the home of the "World's Largest Easter Egg (Pysanka)." Stopping at a local gas station, I inquired: "Where is the BIG egg?" After directions, a customer warned: "Just watch out for the chicken that laid it!" I proceeded to the edge of town and saw this really, REALLY HUGH Easter egg!

In 1974, to celebrate the centennial of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, grants were offered for appropriate community projects. The area is home to many generations of Ukrainians and their tradition of "pysankis:" brightly painted and decorated Easter eggs. Alderman McKenzie proposed the construction of a large Easter egg. It was designed by Dale Resch from the University of Utah; and, ultimately, built by an engineering firm headquartered in Denver.



WORLD'S LARGEST PYSANKA, VEGREVILLE, ALBERTA, CANADA Photo: © Emily J. Smith, Vegreville, Alta.

The egg is HUGE! It was far too tall to measure, but a brochure notes that it is 25.7 feet long, 18.3 feet wide; and held together by 3,000 pounds of internal steel ribs. Made of 3,000 pounds of anodized aluminum, there are 2,208 triangular and 524 three-pointed star shaped tiles covering the egg. They are painted gold, silver and bronze. The whole structure is mounted on a pedestal. A person can actually walk under this egg!

The egg is an appropriate symbol for Easter. The egg is metaphor for the new life we receive because of the resurrection. It is also a symbol of the possibilities the season of Easter presents to us, we can go beyond what we are and actualize a vision of what we can become. When Alderman McKenzie first proposed building the egg, there were loud roars of laughter in the boardroom. But, if you have a vision and have the determination, discipline – and resources – to get a job done, anything is possible.

Scott W. Burdette

Vegreville, Alberta - 1997

## An Urgent Appeal from Rev. Franz Rigert: Wisconsin Conference Minister

Dear First Congregational UCC,

The scenes of destruction from Russia's invasion of Ukraine weigh on my heart. My spirit aches over the loss of life, the plight of people seeking safety, and the threat to a democracy. As I prayed about Ukraine, I heard a line from scripture: "The Lord has need of it."

The phrase comes from Bible story for Palm Sunday. The disciples requisition a donkey for Jesus to ride into Jerusalem. They tell the owner of the donkey, "The Lord has need of it." I've always wondered what the owner of the donkey thought. But now I hear a similar voice.

The refugee crisis caused by this war – millions on the move – makes me think about my own resources. What of these can I use to help others? What can I put to the Lord's use?

Normally at this time of year, I'm writing to you with a request for funding of the conference. The Wisconsin Conference does need your generosity. But our mission is also larger than our budget. I think God calls us to give what we can to help refugees of the War in Ukraine.

All that we receive at the Wisconsin Conference will go directly to providing food, shelter, and care to refugees of the war in Ukraine.

Making your gift through the Wisconsin Conference allows us to say together: We unite in hearing God's call to help refugees. And, in a state often divided by politics, it matters for us to find ways to make a common public witness to our shared values.

Please join me in making a gift to support relief efforts for Ukrainian refugees. The Lord has need of our generosity.

Thank you for your support,

Give online at [wcucc.org/Ukraine](http://wcucc.org/Ukraine) OR

Make your check out to Genesee, 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational, UCC and designate "Ukrainian Refugees" in the memo. Thank you!

## MAY

- SU 1** 10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center  
w/ communion  
**MAY DAY**
- TU 3** Executive Board: 5:30 PM
- TH 5** **CINCO de MAYO**
- SA 7** *Southeast Association Annual Meeting:*  
*8 AM – 1:30 PM*  
*Brookfield Congregational, UCC*

Pick up Flower orders and Bakery  
9 AM – 12 PM (noon)  
Ed. Center

- SU 8** **MOTHER'S DAY**  
10:30 AM service at church
- SU 15** 10:30 AM service at church
- SU 22** 10:30 AM service at church  
*Newsletter copy due for June special edition*
- SU 29** 10:30 AM service at church
- MO 30** **MEMORIAL DAY**

## JUNE

- SU 5** **PENTECOST SUNDAY**  
10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center  
w/ communion  
*Strengthen the Church offering*
- TU 7** Executive Board: 5:30 PM
- FR 10** *Wisconsin Conference, UCC Annual Meeting*  
- **SU 12** *Green Lake Center, Green Lake, WI*
- SU 12** **TRINITY SUNDAY**  
10:30 AM service at church
- TU 14** **FLAG DAY**
- SU 19** 10:30 AM service at church  
*Newsletter copy due for July–August edition*
- TU 21** **SUMMER SOLSTICE**  
*Summer Begins at 4:13 AM CDT*
- SA 25** 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Church of Christ
- SU 26** 10:30 AM service at church

## JULY

- SU 3** 10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center  
w/ communion
- MO 4** **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

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### Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting

Friday-Sunday, June 10-12, 2022  
Green Lake Center, Green Lake, WI

Every church (under 500 members) is allowed two delegates at this meeting (for voting purposes). Others may attend as visitors. We would like two people to attend the meeting. If you are available, call the church office **262-968-3849** and talk with Scott. Thank you!

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### Messenger Available via E-mail

If you are not receiving your newsletter via e-mail, and you have an e-mail address, send an e-mail to: [geneseechurch@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:geneseechurch@wi.twcbc.com) and the secretary will get you on the e-mail list. Also, let us know if your e-mail address changes by sending an e-mail using your new e-mail address. Thank you for helping us save mailing costs.

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### A FINAL NOTE 🎵

The deadline for the June special edition is Sunday, May 22. The deadline for the July-August, 2022 edition is Sunday, June 19. To submit an article, event information, or to receive your newsletter via e-mail, send e-mail to:

[geneseechurch@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:geneseechurch@wi.twcbc.com)

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

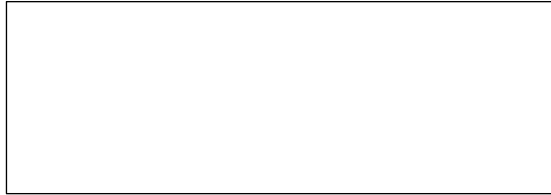
Scott W. Burdette





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262-968-3849    www.geneseechurch.org

NEWSLETTER    MAY / JUN 2022  
  
TIME VALUE MAIL  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



**9 AM, Sunday**  
**Virtual Worship** (Hartland, UCC)  
(see Page 2 for LINK)  
**10:30 AM, Sunday**  
**In Person Worship – at church**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month –**  
**at the Ed. Center**

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