

# The Messenger



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

June, 2022 – special edition

Volume 17, Number 1.5

## Pastoral Ponderings

There is an elementary school close to the condo where I live. I drive by its entrance every time that I drive to the church office. This morning I noticed a Waukesha Sheriff's patrol car at the entrance to the school. Obviously, the presence of the sheriff was a response to the shooting at the elementary school in Texas yesterday. My heart is broken for all of the children and the teachers who were shot and injured, and for all of the parents, families and administrators at the school. Shootings at our elementary schools, supermarkets and parades are becoming to common place. These are violent events and that scar the psyche and violently change the lives of people forever.

I read the email which was sent out from Rev. Franz Rigert, the conference minister for the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ. Franz shared a pastoral letter from the Rev. Phil Hodson, conference minister in the South-Central Conference of the United Church of Christ. I would like to share this letter with you and ask you to pray about what you are willing to do.

This article is taken from an article written on May 24<sup>th</sup>, entitled, "Waiting on a Miracle."

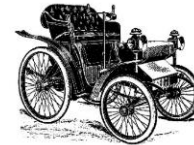
I have four sons. The oldest graduates from 4th grade this week, the next is finishing his second-grade year. Disney movies are a tradition in our family, watching one together is a fairly regular occurrence. They have been enamored of late by the film "Encanto," and there's a song from the film called "[Waiting on a Miracle](#)," that has been playing in my head tonight. I've been thinking about that song as I reflect on what happened today in Uvalde. As I write

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## Two Incredible Events

*Save the Dates!*

### 11<sup>TH</sup> Annual Genesee Church Car Show



Saturday, September 10  
8 AM – 2 PM

**Genesee Church Education Center**  
W306 S5075 Church St., Genesee, Wisconsin

Sponsored by: S/S Automotive  
Contact: [262-968-3324](tel:262-968-3324)  
[www.ssresearch.com](http://www.ssresearch.com)

### 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Pig Roast



4 – 7 PM,  
Saturday, October 8

**Genesee Church Education Center**  
W306 S5075 Church St., Genesee, Wisconsin

Welcome to the June, 2022 special 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

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

## Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Bible Study

This is your opportunity to learn about the Bible. The current study is on the book of 2 Thessalonians. 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

## The times, they are a changin'!

Until, and including, Sunday, July 10 we meet at 10:30 AM on Sunday morning. On, and after, July 17 we will meet at 9 AM for Sunday services. Don't be late for Sunday service!

## Church Budget Update:

The most recent income and expense figures (for April) are highlighted below.

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$228.82</b>
<b>Offering</b>	<b>\$2,984.00</b>
<b>from fundraisers</b>	<b>\$2,831.00</b>
<b>Ukraine</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Available Balance</b>	<b>\$6,068.82</b>
<b>Less Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,038.83</b>
<b>4-30-22 balance</b>	<b>\$30.99</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.

## JUNE – JULY USHERS

The following teams / individuals are scheduled to usher on Sundays in June and July. Arrive by 10:00 AM (for the 10:30 service); or by 8:30 AM for the 9 AM service (starts Sunday, July 17), 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](tel:262-968-3954).

June 5	Deacons
June 12	Tom & Donna Zivney
June 19	
June 26	

July 3
July 10
July 17
July 24
July 31

## Mother's Day Flower and Bake Sale – review

We give a big Thanks You to our Flower Sale coordinator: Sue Fleming. We would also like to thank our Marketing and Bake Sale coordinators: Mary Ann Ludtke and Rhea Whiteley. A special thank you to all the volunteers who helped unload and sort flower orders; and who helped with flower pick up on Friday and Saturday. Thank you to our volunteer bakers who helped us have an amazing Bake Sale.

The May 7 and May 8 event netted a total of \$2104.00. There was a pre order sale profit of \$1180.00, a Saturday sale profit of \$208.50 and a Bake Sale profit of \$715.50. We even had \$50 value of baked goods left on Sunday which were donated to the June House-Hebron Women's shelter in Waukesha.

We appreciate the support of everyone who bought flowers and bakery to continue the life and missions of our church.

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### Pastoral Ponderings – from Page 1

these words, it is being reported that 19 children and 2 teachers have lost their lives at the hands of an 18-year-old lone gunman in their classrooms at an elementary school. In the coming days, as you read these words, we may find those numbers change.

And I hear the cry of the Psalmist, "*How long, O Lord?*" How long will we continue to endure such horrific tragedy? We send thoughts and prayers, and as one who believes in the power of prayer, I recognize the import of it in ordinary things. But this is an extraordinary thing. A tragedy that happens just a week after another shooting in Buffalo, New York. A tragedy that is only overtaken by the school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in New Town, CT - almost exactly ten years ago - in the sheer number of lives lost. I remember being invited to lead a time of prayer and conversation at the local elementary school where I was serving a church in Oklahoma just days after that shooting happened. And I remember quoting a beautiful line that somebody else wrote to open what I said, "*The streets of heaven are too crowded with angels today...*" And here we are again.

This morning I was at my own sons' elementary school, watching my eldest give a speech on leadership as part of the awards ceremony for the 4th grade class. Yesterday I was there to hear my 8-year-old read an original poem he wrote for his own second-grade awards ceremony. Both times I simply walked in the door, signed a form, got a name-tag and proceeded to where I was supposed to be. And sat in an auditorium full of people I did not know - other parents and relatives - without a second glance. That's one of the gifts of living in a free society - the ability to go where we please without fear.

But tonight, as I write these words, there is fear. The fear I experienced this afternoon as I stood outside and waited for my sons' bus to arrive at the end of the driveway so that I could personally witness them coming back to me. Because my boys are the same ages as those 19 children who did not come home to their families tonight.

And crying out to God is not the answer. Because we only think we're waiting for God to do something.

### The reality is God is waiting for us to do something.

My son's speech on leadership centered around three qualities he believes make a good leader: Responsibility, Accountability, and Communication. It seems to me that we, the church, have a role to play in situations like these when they arise. When chaos happens and there are no clear answers and lives are lost for no good reason. We are called to help people grieve. To help in mourning. To journey with those who suffer and offer the love and compassion and grace that may witness to the fact that joy will, someday, come again into their lives. We are the witnesses to resurrection, to the worst thing never being the last thing. As followers of Jesus we are responsible to communicate that message, accountable to the Divine for our so doing.

So, tonight, as I write these words listening to my children sleep nearby, I sure wish our leaders would lead. In Texas. Nationally. We don't need their thoughts and prayers -- we, the church, will take care of that on their behalf. We need them to lead. We need to hold them responsible to common sense legislation that will protect our children. We need to hold them accountable to getting it done -- that's what elections are for. And we need to communicate that message with clarity and determination.

Because sometimes, when we're waiting on a miracle, we forget that the miracle is us. Let's do something.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Dave  
[pastordaveschnepf@gmail.com](mailto:pastordaveschnepf@gmail.com) (c) 618-402-2041

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## EXPLORE GOD'S WORD DAILY

Copies of the devotional booklet: "*The Upper Room*" for July – August, 2022 are available in the church entryway and the office. Call the office at 262-968-3849 to get yours. On every page is an inspirational reading and accompanying Bible verse for each day.

## STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

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.

On Sunday, June 5 we have the opportunity to support the Strengthen the Church offering. Please give an extra, special monetary gift that Sunday. Mark your check or cash envelope, "Strengthen the Church," or simply "STC." Thank you for your support.

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## Events Calendar

### JUNE – JULY events

Listed here are the dates of meetings, holidays and events in June and July. All dates are correct at the time of publication. All events are at the Ed. Center, unless otherwise noted. Sunday services are at 10:30 AM Sunday mornings through July 10. Services are 9 AM on and after, July 17. Virtual "Zoom" worship Services are 9 AM each Sunday morning – broadcast from Hartland UCC (10:30 AM on and after July 17) Lectionary Bible study (via "Zoom") is each Wednesday, 10 AM. For "zoom" LINKS see Page 2.

### JUNE

#### SU 5 **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

10:30 AM – service at the Ed. Center,  
w/ communion

*Strengthen the Church offering*

#### FR 10 – SU 12

Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting  
Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake

#### TU 14 **FLAG DAY**

#### SU 19 **FATHER'S DAY**

Newsletter copy for July-August edition due

**TU 21** 4:13 AM CDT: Summer Solstice  
– Summer begins

**SA 25** 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the U.C.C.

**TU 28** 5:30 PM: Executive Board

## JULY

**SU 3** 10:30 AM – service at the Ed. Center,  
w/ communion

#### MO 4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

#### SU 17 **9 AM service time begins**

Newsletter copy for August special edition due

**WE 27** 5:30 PM: Executive Board

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### Building Rental

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.

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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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### 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**.

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### A FINAL NOTE 🎵

The deadline for the July-August, 2022 edition is Sunday, June 19. The deadline for the August, 2022 special edition is Sunday, July 17. 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)

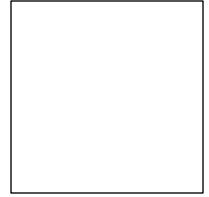
Articles submitted in person need to be typed or written legibly.

Scott W. Burdette

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**262-968-3849**  
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NEWSLETTER JUN 2022

TIME VALUE MAIL  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



**9 AM, Sunday**  
**Virtual Worship (10:30 AM on, and**  
**after, July 17) (Hartland, UCC)**  
(see Page 2 for LINK)  
**10:30 AM, Sunday**  
**(9 AM on, and after, July 17)**  
**– at church**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month –**  
**at the Ed. Center**

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