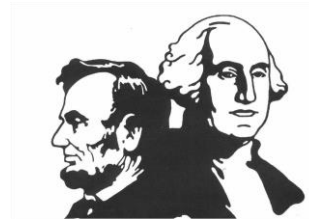


The Messenger



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

February, 2023 - special edition

Volume 17, Number 5.5

Pastoral Ponderings

Dear Friends and members of Genesee church,

My time with you is quickly drawing to a close. Your pastoral search committee has worked diligently in their assigned task to discern which individual will be offered a pastoral call to serve as your next settled pastor. The pastoral search committee is hoping that after a vote of affirmation that this new individual will begin to serve on Sunday March 12.

Once a call to a new pastor is confirmed, there are a few things you can do to prepare to follow your new spiritual leader:

- **Pray for your new pastor.** In most of the churches I know, members pray for the Pastor Search Team throughout the search process, and they pray for the pastor even before they know the identity of their new minister. And they pray for their new pastor in the pastor's first days of ministry. However, I suggest making a commitment to pray daily for your pastor throughout the duration of his or her ministry. Once the honeymoon period is over, and the daily grind of ministry begins, praying for your pastor will strengthen your pastor's ministry and will fortify your bond with your pastor.
- **Send your pastor a welcome note or email.** Be careful not to make this correspondence a lengthy epistle and certainly don't make it a diatribe itemizing your personal expectations or agenda. Just offer a brief note, introducing yourself and/or family, and offering a heartfelt welcome.
- **Mention your name on your first several encounters with your new pastor.** Once your new pastor arrives, make sure to offer your name in each greeting for the first few weeks. Learning names is important for pastors. And be sure not to embarrass the pastor by quizzing, "Do you remember my name?" Give your pastor the opportunity to learn your name, and over time, to learn a part of your life story.



It's unanimous!

The vote (at Genesee) was 28 – 0!

Since Pastor Dave joined us as our interim minister, some two years ago, the Search and Call committee of Genesee and Hartland UCC have reviewed over 50 pastor profiles and interviewed many candidates. A well-attended "meet and greet" occurred on Saturday, January 21 (Noon – 2 PM at Genesee). On Sunday, January 22, the Rev. James Langreder led us in worship. After service a congregational vote was taken on the candidate. The result – a unanimous 28 – 0!

Rev. James Langreder will start, with us, on Sunday, March 12. We are all very excited to have Pastor Jim join us.

The final service with Pastor Dave will be February 26. He was called as our Interim pastor and we will all miss him, but he did his job of helping our churches transition to a new minister. We thank him for all his work in preparing us to move on. In conjunction with our sister church in Hartland, we will hold a celebration for him on his last Sunday. Please watch for further details.

We extend a special thank you to all the members of the Search Committee who worked hard for the past two years preparing for this. They are, from Genesee, Dave Baumann, Scott Burdette, Bob Christiansen, Mary Ann Ludtke, Lindsay Sayles, Ali Schmidt, Kim Sussek, Mike Whiteley, Rhea Whiteley and Angela Williams.

Turn the page for an introduction to Rev. James A. Langreder.



Introducing

Rev. James A. Langreder

Jim grew up in our community attending Kettle Moraine Highschool. He has attended churches in our community since he was a child. He has served a number of different churches in our community since his youth, doing everything from leading music programs and teaching Sunday School to being a Youth Minister and Choir Director.

He was a music buyer and store manager at The Giving Tree Christian Book Store from 1993 until 2003. He loves music and books! He has owned his own business since 2003. His company, Little Prince Home Services, provides home cleaning, shopping and decorating services to a large number of residences throughout lake country and our communities.

Jim has been a member of Emmanuel United Church of Christ, in Dousman, since 2004. For nearly twenty years Jim has served Emmanuel faithfully in a variety of roles, including youth minister, Sunday School Teacher, Music Minister, Choir Director and Pulpit Supply. He deeply loves his church and congregation in Dousman and is spoken of highly by their members.

Jim's pastoral training includes a variety of courses in Faith Formation, Pastoral Care, Polity and Boundary training through the Damascus Project of the Wisconsin and Minnesota conferences of the United Church of Christ. He has been a part of the Damascus Project from 2019 until today. Jim also served a Chaplaincy at Advocate Sherman Hospital in Elgin, IL from 2021 to 2022. Since January of 2022 Jim has served the First Congregational Church of East Troy, UCC. He has been serving the UCC church in East Troy as a Member in Discernment with the SE Association of the UCC and as a Licensed Minister of the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC. He also serves as the Vice-Moderator of the SE Association of the UCC.

In Jim's profile, he describes his skills for ministry in the following way:

Excellent liturgy planning. Compassionate. Thoughtful. Considerate. Reliable. Hard-Working. Responsible. Trustworthy. Lead by example through my gentle character. People have always been comfortable talking with me. I am open, honest and caring.

Today Jim lives in Delafield with his husband Alex who is the Owner of the ElleBelle Salon in Wales. Jim and Alex have three adopted children all of whom attend school in the KM School district.

Pastoral Ponderings – From Page 1

- **Embrace the uniqueness of your pastor.** Your pastor has a distinct personality, a unique set of spiritual gifts, and a diverse set of experiences. When the Spirit leads a church to a new pastor, the Spirit seldom leads a church or committee to a person just like the previous pastor or the beloved pastor from the church's history. To compare your new pastor to any other is to disrespect the Spirit's role in guiding you to your new pastor in the first place.
- **Be prepared to follow.** A pastor who is worth his or her salt must lead in both optimal and challenging situations. And the kingdom of God is enriched when we as a congregation follow our pastor and embrace our mission with enthusiasm. The vast majority of pastors I know provide proactive leadership that is Spirit-led and mission focused. Don't be a backseat driver. Serve with your best gifts.
- **Give your pastor permission to fail.** The best pastors don't succeed 100% of the time. Don't hold your pastor to a standard of perfection that is impossible to maintain. Allow your minister room to make mistakes.
- **Speak positively about your pastor publicly and privately.** One of the ways we bring out the best in our ministers is to speak well of them publicly and privately. With most pastors, it is easy to find something to criticize, because every minister has weaknesses. However, every pastor has more strengths than weaknesses. A healthy pastoral tenure is nurtured when we magnify around our pastor's strengths, and then minimize and compensate for our pastor's weaknesses.

A few last thoughts...

First thank you for the many ways in which you have helped me serve as your interim pastor. These days are bittersweet. I am filled with joy that you have found a candidate to serve as your new pastor. He or she is fortunate. However, I have truly enjoyed my time with you, and I will miss seeing all of you.

I appreciated your friendship and support especially the time of my challenges with my health. I am confident that each of your prayers made a real difference toward my recovery. I appreciated your patience in allowing me to heal before jumping back into the saddle at work.

My last Sunday with you will be February 26. You will have a quest speaker on March 5 and then your new pastor will begin to serve on March 12. Due to professional boundaries I and my family will need to step away for the benefit of the congregation and myself. At this point in time, I am not certain where I will begin to serve, but I re

main confident that God will have a place for me to continue.

I wish for you grace, love, and strength as you continue to serve your neighbors and communities.

Pastor Dave

pastordaveschnepf@gmail.com (c) 618-402-2041

Upcoming Events

Leadership Dinner

**Please Join Us at 6:00 pm,
February 21, 2023 at Hartland UCC**

We will be hosting an important dinner with Rev. Andrew Warner from the Wisconsin Conference at Hartland UCC at 6 pm on Wednesday, February 21st. Please join us. Below is a short note about the meeting from Rev. Andrew Warner.

Recognizing the importance of good leaders for our congregations and the opportunity to equip our leaders for creative ministry, the Wisconsin Conference is launching the Leadership Forward Campaign. This campaign will strengthen leaders through the Damascus Project, expand the Catalyst grants available to congregations, and care for clergy in every stage of their pastoral career. The campaign will strengthen the leadership of our local congregations.

We hope you will join us in a gathering to learn more about this campaign. We will be gathering at First Congregational UCC in Hartland, 111 Church St, Hartland, WI 53029 on February 21, 2022, at 6pm for dinner and discussion.

We appreciate your consideration of this campaign. Together, we can make a difference in strengthening the UCC in Wisconsin because Leadership Matters.

Faithfully, Rev. Andrew Warner

Please RSVP to the Church office as to whether or not you can attend (and how many will come with you to the meeting). We want to make sure we have enough food for everyone. You can also RSVP by replying to this email. A sign-up sheet is located on the table where you pick up your Sunday bulletin.

Blessings,

Sharon Kraklow and Mike Whiteley

“When God Left the Building”

Coming Sunday, February 12, following the 10:30 AM service. Lunch provided by Tom Zivney.

This 2014 documentary is a story that parallels two declining American institutions – Kodak and the church. One church implodes after infighting and a faith crisis. Another struggles with a member’s plan to open an outreach in a pub. It is not just an essential movie to watch about the current state of American faith; it is a life-changing film which can bring hope and new life to congregations. (Video: 1 hour and 19 minutes)

Please RSVP to the Church office as to whether or not you can attend (and how many will come with you to the meeting). We want to make sure we have enough food for everyone. You can also RSVP by replying to this email. A sign-up sheet is located on the table where you pick up your Sunday bulletin.

Ash Wednesday service

Join us at Hartland UCC on Wednesday, February 22 (Ash Wednesday) for a 7 PM Ash Wednesday service. Hartland UCC is located on the corner of Capitol Dr. and Church St. in Hartland.

Bible Study

This is your opportunity to learn about the Bible. It is held Wednesdays, at 10 a.m., at the Hartland UCC – (Capitol Dr. at Church St.) **UPDATE: Bible Study will meet on February 1 and 8. There is no study on February 15. The FINAL class is February 22.** 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

Welcome to the February, 2023 special edition of the Messenger. We share our pastor with the Hartland, UCC. As such, we have the early service six months and Hartland gets it the other six months. Our current service time is 10:30 AM.

Our services are currently at the Ed. Center, and will remain so through, and including, Sunday, April 9 (Easter Sunday). On Sunday, April 16, we will go back to the church sanctuary for our services. This is with the exception of the first Sundays of the month, which will be at the Ed. Center and will have communion served.

By meeting in the Ed. Center, we will (1) be able to conserve on heat – the church still remaining at a 50⁰ minimum and (2) provide a more handicap accessible space during potentially inclement weather. The church steps, landing and parking spaces will continue to be shoveled / plowed during this time.

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

FEBRUARY – MARCH USHERS

The following teams / individuals are scheduled to usher on Sundays in February and March. Arrive by 10 AM. (for the 10:30 AM service), greet people, hand out bulletins, light candles and take collection. Contact Diane to help fill one of the open slots. 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).

February 5	Deacons
February 12	OPEN
February 19	OPEN
February 26	OPEN

March 5	Deacons
March 12	OPEN
March 19	OPEN
March 26	OPEN

Events Calendar

FEBRUARY - MARCH events

Listed here are the dates of meetings, holidays and events in February and March 2023. All dates are correct at the time of publication. All events are at the Ed. Center, unless otherwise noted. First Sunday services are at the Ed. Center with communion.

FEBRUARY

TH 2 **GROUNDHOG DAY**

SU 5 10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center w/ communion

SU 12 10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center

Video: “When God Left the Building”
Lunch Provided by Tom Zivney

TU 14 **VALENTINE'S DAY**

WE 15 2 PM: Executive Board

SU 19 10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center

Newsletter Copy due for
March-April Messenger

MO 20 **PRESIDENTS' DAY**

TU 21 **MARDI GRAS**

Leadership Dinner: 6 PM
– Hartland UCC

TU 22 **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Ash Wednesday service: 7 PM
– Hartland UCC

SU 26 10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center
Last Sunday with Pastor Schnepf

MARCH

SU 5 10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center w/ communion
Substitute Pastor

SU 12 10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center
1st Sunday with Pastor Jim
Daylight Saving Time Starts
“Spring Ahead” One Hour

WE 15 2 PM: Executive Board

FR 17 **ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

SU 19 10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center

Newsletter Copy due for
April special edition

MO 20 Spring Equinox: 4:24 AM CDT
Spring begins

SU 26 10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center

The most recent income and expense figures are listed below.

December Income	\$4,231
December Expenses	\$5,250
Net Total	- \$1,019

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. Listen to the good word and say “hello!”

How do I contribute my offering?

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.

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.

Serving at Hope Center

We are one of 46 congregations, throughout Waukesha County, who volunteer to serve the meals at Hope Center, in Waukesha. A special “Thank-you” to those who served at Hope Center on Wednesday evening, October 12. Our service dates for 2023 are Wednesday, April 12 and Friday, June 30. Please note these dates on your 2023 calendar. To volunteer to help call the office at 262-968-3849. We arrive at 5 PM, with the meal service being at 5:30 PM. We are usually done with the clean-up by 6:30 PM. Hope Center is located at 502 N. East Avenue.

“All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16

Ground Hog Day “facts”

Groundhog Day originates from an ancient celebration of the midway point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox—the day right in the middle of astronomical winter. According to superstition, sunny skies that day signify a stormy and cold second half of winter while cloudy skies indicate the arrival of warm weather.

It is a holiday on February 2. It is usually celebrated in North America. It marks about six weeks before the end of winter. It began in the year 1886. This holiday celebrates “Punxsutawney Phil”, a groundhog who can supposedly forecast the weather.

Groundhogs are famous for predicting Spring. According to legend, if the groundhog comes out of his burrow on February 2 and does not see his shadow then, Spring will come early. If the groundhog sees a shadow, than it goes back into its burrow and Winter will last six more weeks.

Source: https://digg.com/2016/groundhog - day - origin

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 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.

A FINAL NOTE 🎵

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

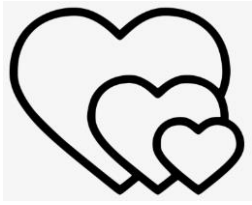
geneseechurch@wi.twcbc.com

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

Scott W. Burdette

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

NEWSLETTER FEB 2023
TIME VALUE MAIL
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



10:30 AM, Sunday at church
9 AM, Sunday
Virtual Worship (Hartland, UCC)
(see Page 4 for ZOOM LINK)
**All Sunday Worship is at the Ed.
Center through Easter (April 9)**

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...and more!