

# The Messenger



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

July – August, 2023

Volume 18, Number 2

## From the Pastor



**Faith: Noun. 1) complete trust or confidence in someone or something. 2) strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion.**

**B**eloved, the day we celebrated Pentecost we sang the hymn “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness.” As we sang each verse, I kept seeing visions of our church pews filled with people from all different backgrounds singing, laughing and crying together while saying “Spirit of gentleness blow through the wilderness, calling and free. Stir me from placidness wind on the sea.” Let it be so! May the Spirit of Pentecost, may the promised Holy Spirit move amongst each one of us and guide us to the future of this church. This hymn beautifully speaks to the rich stories of our faith’s past and then looks to where the Spirit will lead us. Let us reflect on the God who moved across the waters, called to the deep and coaxed up the mountains in the creation story. The same God who called people to begin this church’s mission 180 years ago. Calling to every living thing to “Awake from their slumber, and rise on God’s wings.” Yes Lord! Let it be so! Let this church awake from our content slumber and dream dreams and see visions like the final verse says. May we make bold new decisions working to bring God’s kingdom now, here in this community.

I have faith that we will be a catalyst for change. I have faith that we will see people’s lives, as well as our own, changed by living out God’s extravagant welcome. There are days when that faith is small, and discouragement comes with it, but if we remember the words in Matthew 17:20-21, “For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”

At the Annual Conference meeting a few weeks ago, Rev Franz Rigert said that following Jesus forward will necessitate a pronounced pivot from clinging to what we have so desperately tried to preserve, to embracing

what God is only beginning to reveal before us. God’s ways may not always be our ways, nor God’s thoughts our thoughts, and yet if we humbly tune into the Spirit, we surely can (and will) rise together in the direction and fulfillment of God’s sacred calling for the future of this beloved church.

So, let us keep the faith, invest in hope, flow the love from hearts whether whole, broken or bruised, and trust that God will make nothing impossible for our church as long as we have faith and believe!

Peace and Love: *Pastor Jim*

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

262-309-5086

---

## OUR TOP STORY

# Old Fashioned



# Ice Cream Social

Continuing our 180th Celebration with an  
Ice Cream Social ...

**J**oin us after worship on July 23, from 11:30 - 1:30 for an Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social. We will have a time to fellowship as kids of all ages can join in some fun activities. Rubber Duck Pool, Ping Pong Toss, Wheelbarrow Race, Egg and Spoon Race and other classic yard games. Enjoy hot dogs, chips, ice cream and other goodies to commemorate our 180th anniversary. A festive Barbershop Quartet will be performing from 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM. They are amazing. We promise you won’t want to miss this! Mark your calendars today and invite friends, family and neighbors!

Welcome to the July-August, 2023 edition of the Messenger. We share Pastor Jim with the Hartland, UCC. As such, we have the early service six months and Hartland gets it the other six months.

Our Sunday service is currently at 10:30 AM and will continue until Sunday, July 23. On Sunday, July 30 we go to a 9 AM worship time. This will continue throughout 2023. We meet in the church sanctuary every Sunday of the month – except when it’s a FIRST Sunday. On the first Sunday of the month we meet at the Ed. Center (that brick building next to the church) – and communion is served.

Currently, the Hartland service is at 9 AM and is livestreamed on the Genesee and Hartland Facebook page; and You-tube channel (First Congregational UCC, Hartland, WI.) On Sunday, July 30 that service will then be at 10:30 AM.

---

### Bible Study

This is your opportunity to learn about the Bible. It is held every 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, at 1:30 PM. For specific dates in July and August, see the events calendar on page 3. The topic for discussion at each Bible Study is the sermon message for the following Sunday.

---

### Church Budget Update:

The most recent income and expense figures are shown below.

May Income	\$3,616.00
May Expenses	<u>\$5,121.12</u>
Net Total	- \$1,505.12

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!”

---

### 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.

### How do I contribute my offering?

There will be circumstances – seen or unseen – in which we can’t make it to church on Sunday. 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.

---

### JULY – AUGUST USHERS

The following teams / individuals are scheduled to usher on Sundays in July and August. Arrive by 10:00 AM (for the 10:30 service); and on Sunday, July 30 – and after – arrive by 8:30 for the 9 AM service. Your job is to 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**.

July 2	Deacons
July 9	OPEN
July 16	OPEN
July 23	OPEN
July 30	OPEN
August 6	Deacons
August 13	OPEN
August 20	OPEN
August 27	OPEN

---

### Explore God’s Word Daily

Copies of the devotional booklet: “The Upper Room” for July - August 2023 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.

---

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



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

### Undy 500 a BIG success!!!

**N**atalie Wickman of Guest House of Milwaukee notes: "On behalf of Guest House of Milwaukee and the clients we serve, THANK YOU ALL for your participation in this year's Undy 500!! We truly appreciate the generosity from every Undy team and donor. **More than 2,000 individual items were collected** this year – each one of which will help meet the needs of those we serve by ensuring access to new, essential clothing in the months ahead.

The overall team champion for the 2023 Undy 500 is St. Elizabeth Ann Seton for our Faith Group Category! Taking First Place in the Workplace Category is Team Kapur! **First Runner Up in the Faith Group Category is First Congregational Churches of Hartland and Genesee!** Congratulations to this year's winners!

We have been sent a certificate of accomplishment. It is hanging on our bulletin board in the church sanctuary.

### Movie Night a BIG success!!

**O**n Friday, June 23, 6 PM, 25 persons (most of them children) saw the FREE movie "Sing" at the Ed. Center. We supplied popcorn and soda. Mary Ann Ludtke provided candy. It was great to see an event that drew in children from the neighborhood. Thanks to Pastor Jim for putting out the attractive yellow signs on the church lawn. Our next Movie Night is Friday, September 15, 6 PM

*"The mission of the church is missions."*  
- Oswald J. Smith

### Ordination Day for Pastor Jim

**S**unday, August 6 is the date, 2 PM is the time, Emmanuel UCC – Dousman is the place. Join your fellow and gal parishioners in an afternoon of ordination and fellowship. Emmanuel UCC needs to know how many are coming in order to plan for food and seating. There is a sign-up sheet at service this Sunday. Some of your neighbors have already signed up! Or you may simply call the office at **262-968-3849**, leave your name and a message and say "I'm coming."

### Coming Saturday, September 30

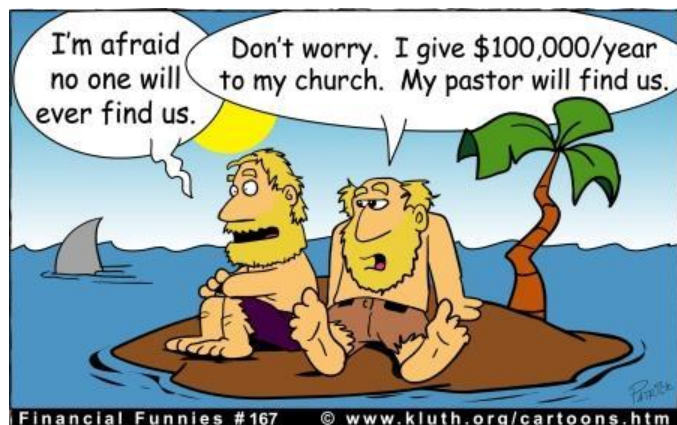
**Elvis & Oldies Fundraiser Show**  
**6 – 9 PM**  
**Starring Dakota Pongratz**  
**\$15 per ticket**  
**Money raised from show goes directly to the church.**

### OFFICE HOURS:

**I** (Scott Burdette) am usually in the church office from 2 – 4 PM on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The office phone number is **262-968-3849**.

In addition, below are the Rev. Jim Langreder's hours (during a typical week). In emergency, call Pastor Jim at **262-309-5086**.

- Monday: Genesee 8 AM – 2:30 PM**
- Tuesday: Hartland 8 AM – 2:30 PM**
- Wednesday: Hartland 8 AM – 12:30 PM**  
**Genesee 12:30 AM – 2:30 PM**
- Thursday: Genesee 8 AM – 12 PM**  
**Hartland 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM**



## Events Calendar

### JULY - AUGUST events

Listed here are the dates of meetings, holidays and events in July, August and early September, 2023. All dates are correct at the time of publication. All events are at the Ed. Center, unless otherwise noted. Service time is Sundays, 10:30 AM – at church - (except 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays- at the Ed. Center) 9 AM service on Sunday, July 30 – and following Sundays.

#### JULY

- SU 2** 10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center  
w/ communion
- TU 4** **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
- WE 5** 1:30 PM – Bible Study
- TH 6** 9 AM – Mindful Yoga
- FR 7 – FR 14** Pastor Jim on Vacation
- SU 9** 10:30 AM service at church  
Guest Pastor: Deacon Jacquie Billings
- WE 12** NO Bible Study
- TH 13** 9 AM – Mindful Yoga
- SU 16** 10:30 AM service at church
- MO 17** 2 PM - Executive Board
- WE 19** **NO Bible Study**
- TH 20** 9 AM – Mindful Yoga  
54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of first Moon walk
- SU 23** 10:30 AM Outdoor service  
11:30 AM -1:30 PM  
Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social.
- PARENT'S DAY**
- PASTOR'S BIRTHDAY**  
*August Special Edition newsletter copy due*
- WE 26** 1:30 PM – Bible Study
- TH 27** 9 AM – Mindful Yoga
- SU 30** 9 AM service at church  
**First 9 AM service**

#### AUGUST

- WE 2** 1:30 PM – Bible Study
- TH 3** 9 AM – Mindful Yoga
- SU 6** 9 AM service at the Ed. Center w/ communion  
2 PM – Pastor Jim's Ordination  
Emmanuel UCC / 36821 Sunset Dr.  
Dousman, WI
- WE 9** 1:30 PM – Bible Study
- TH 10** 9 AM – Mindful Yoga
- SU 13** 9 AM Outdoor service
- MO 14** 2 PM – Executive Board
- WE 16** NO Bible Study

- TH 17** 9 AM – Mindful Yoga
- SU 20** 9 AM service at church  
*September-October newsletter copy due*  
**EDITOR'S BIRTHDAY**
- WE 23** 1:30 PM – Bible Study
- TH 24** 9 AM – Mindful Yoga
- SU 27** 9 AM service at church
- WE 30** 1:30 PM – Bible Study
- TH 31** 9 AM – Mindful Yoga

#### SEPTEMBER

- SU 3** 9 AM service at the Ed. Center w/ communion
- MO 4** **LABOR DAY**
- WE 6** 1:30 PM – Bible Study
- TH 7** 9 AM – Mindful Yoga
- SA 9** *12<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show* – 8 AM – 2 PM
- SU 10** 9 AM service at church  
Blessing of the Backpacks

## 5 Take-a-ways from UCC Annual Meeting

The 2023 Annual meeting of the Wisconsin Conference, UCC was held from June 9 to 11 in Green Lake. Mike Whiteley and Pastor Jim attended that meeting and represented our church. Here are 5 important take-aways from that meeting.

### 1. We're on a journey to becoming 'the next expression of Christ in the world'

Conference Minister Franz Rigert drew on a metaphor from Stephanie Spellers' book "The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for the Beloved Community" in describing the state of the Wisconsin Conference. Although external forces like COVID-19 and racial and political tensions have produced cracks in the Church, Franz said, the Spirit of Pentecost will continue to "refashion and renew this Church . . . to transform us, to empower us to transcend all that limits us, and ultimately to transition us into the next expression of Christ in the world." A video of the address is available at [wcucc.org/annualmeeting](http://wcucc.org/annualmeeting)

### 2. We got WISEer

Delegates to the Annual Meeting on Saturday unanimously approved a resolution declaring the Wisconsin Conference Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged for Mental Health. The resolution followed a year



of discussion by a critical mass of Wisconsin UCC congregations. On Saturday evening, Vicki Harvey of the UCC Mental Health Network e-mailed Associate Conference Minister Lisa Hart with the news that Wisconsin is the fourth WISE conference in the denomination. WISE is an official designation awarded by the UCC Mental Health Network. "We are so impressed with the unprecedented effort you have made to get a large number of Wisconsin churches entering this process," Vicki wrote. "These churches are aflame with excitement over beginning their journey."

### 3. A window of opportunity for the UCC

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the decline of trust in institutions, including the church, yet it also accentuated individuals' appreciation for community as loneliness and mental health challenges proliferated, said keynoter Sarah B. Drummond, founding dean of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. That presents an opportunity for the UCC. "We learned that chronic loneliness is bad," she said. "The church has something to say about this. The idea that communities that check in on each other and provide spaces for moral meaning-making, I'm not sure how long that will last."

### 4. 'Make plans in faith but hold them loosely'

In her sermon at Saturday's closing worship, Damascus Project Director Stephanie Perdew preached about the importance to faith communities of "extraordinary, improvised plans" during uncertain times. "We can improvise our plans, excessively and abundantly, with courage and hope and not just the way we've always done it," Stephanie said. "We can plan and God may laugh, but only in order to ask us to expand our imaginations toward the flourishing God intends for all of us."

### 5. Through our budgets, we build a beloved community

The way the church spends money is a statement about how we are responding to God's call in this time and place "to create a beloved community wherein lives get transformed," said the Rev. Andrew Warner, development director for the Wisconsin Conference. "Through budgets we make decisions about how we will embody God's love in the world." Examples include the Conference's investments in leadership development and congregational development. Support from congregations through Our Church's Wider Mission makes most of this work possible. Beyond gifts to OCWM Basic Support, individuals in the Conference over the past year have donated generously to refugee relief in Ukraine, earthquake recovery in Syria and Turkey, and tornado recovery in Mississippi and Alabama.

## Notes from an Island



*"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

**Romans 12:2 – RSV**

In the cool of a mid-summer evening, I sat on a beach as I watched the sun slowly sink beneath the waves of Green Bay. (see photo above) As its reflection danced on the water, I began to reflect on why I had come here – to Washington Island (Wisconsin). Some people sail aimlessly until they find an island; some come for sanctuary – to get away from the cares of life; some come for relaxation and some come for adventure. Gilligan, very much lost, found his island. Napoleon went to Elba, escaping certain death, only to face imprisonment. The apostle Paul was sent to Patmos to receive a "revelation" from God. I went to Washington Island because it's there.

As I toured this large (35 square miles), but limited, island by car, driving the shore road and crisscrossing the interior, I became increasingly aware of a feeling of dependency. As long as I stayed on the island, I would be dependent on Mann's Store and the island restaurants to supply my needs and meals; I was dependent on the Townliner Motel for lodging; and, most of all, I was dependent on the ferry service to get me back to mainland Wisconsin.

For some, the church is like an Island. They come looking for sanctuary and depend on the church to be a place to get away from the storms of life. Jesus said: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) If that be their main purpose, many leave sanctified. Some see hunger, poverty, crime and injustice all around them. They follow in the footsteps of the prophet Amos and depend on the church to be an island of social justice. If that is their main purpose, they will leave fed and justified. Still others are reminded of the first part of Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to the world..." They believe "not being conformed" means to set their church aside, as an island is set apart from the world. They all leave unsatisfied! Why is that?

The truth is that, like putting the proverbial cart before the horse, we often become isolated – on our own island – because we put the "duties" of the church (really OUR duties) before the "purpose" of the church. Going to church, getting involved, worshipping is not about you!

It's not about me! **THE CHURCH IS NOT AN ISLAND!** It's about our real purpose. It's about **FIRST** coming before the maker of heaven and earth, the very one who gives us life and breath. It's about coming with awe and respectful devotion and worshipping Him!

Left to ourselves, we are most likely to do things in a worldly way. We're human. That's all we know! But, being "not conformed to the world" means not doing things our way. It's putting God first and depending on His way. To complete Romans 12:2, we are to be "...transformed by the renewal of our minds that we may prove to others what IS the will of God..." and live "what is good and acceptable and perfect."

WE are not an island. We are first, and foremost, the living body of God working in the world. We are God's hands, reaching out to those who seek sanctuary; we are the feet of God, leading others toward social justice; and we are the voice of God, sending the gospel message forth into the world. We ARE the people of God!

GET ON THE BOAT! It's time to leave the island.



Arni J. Richter Car Ferry

Scott W. Burdette, August, 2019

## A FINAL NOTE 🎵

The deadline for the August special edition is Sunday, July 23. The deadline for the September-October, 2023 edition is Sunday, August 20. 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

# Puzzle Challenggers

## Genesee Church Crossword Puzzle

### ACROSS

- 1 Hurt
- 5 Make a selection
- 8 Frank
- 12 Legal hold
- 13 Bad grade
- 14 Gambling city
- 15 School groups (abbr.)
- 16 Became more profound
- 18 That woman
- 19 River mouths
- 20 House locations
- 22 Large antelope
- 25 Washington D.C. time zone
- 26 Food allotment
- 28 Knife feature
- 31 Australian dog
- 32 Witty reply
- 34 Chaps
- 35 Poetic work
- 36 Big, hairy spider
- 41 India's mother \_\_\_\_\_
- 42 Pen point
- 43 Abnormally sensitive
- 46 Linger
- 47 Little piggies
- 48 Self
- 49 Broadcasts
- 50 Egg on
- 51 High explosive (abbr.)
- 52 Scottish loch

### DOWN

- 1 First Greek letter
- 2 Used foot notes
- 3 Listened to
- 4 Printer's measures
- 5 Most bizarre
- 6 Rinds
- 7 Wobble
- 8 Unrefined metals
- 9 Writing instrument
- 10 Compass direction (abbr.)
- 11 Drift off
- 17 Rose Bowl city
- 19 AWOL soldier
- 21 Make over
- 22 Card game
- 23 Yule drink
- 24 One, in Havana
- 27 Hue
- 28 Sis's sibling
- 29 Directed
- 30 Ingested
- 33 Archer's goal
- 34 Team symbol
- 37 Royal Rule
- 38 Loosen laces
- 39 Those who fib
- 40 Chasm
- 41 Try out
- 43 One \_\_\_\_\_ time (2 wds.)
- 44 Toss
- 45 Rebel general
- 46 \_\_\_\_\_ Juan

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16			17				
18				19								
20			21							22	23	24
			25				26		27			
28	29	30						31				
32					33		34					
35				36		37				38	39	40
			41							42		
43	44	45							46			
47					48				49			
50					51					52		

Answers to previous puzzles  
In May – June Messenger

A	D	D	S		B	E	S	T		S	N	L	
C	R	O	P		A	R	C	H		K	O	I	
T	O	O	L		R	A	R	E		Y	U	L	
S	P	R	I	N	G		U	R	G	E	N	T	
				T	E	A							
E	L	A	S	T	I	C				M	O	B	S
L	I	T		S	N	I	P	S		A	L	L	I
F	E	E	T										
					H	O	W			A	I	R	
S	P	H	E	R	E			S	T	I	C	K	S
I	R	E			D	A	T	A		G	O	N	E
P	A	R			E	V	E	N		I	D	E	A
S	T	D			R	E	N	T		N	E	W	S

### CROSS NUMBER PUZZLE

	1	8	4	3		2	1
1	4	9	2		1	0	0
2	0		8	6	4	0	0
5		8	7	3	4		0
5	3	1	5	3		1	0
6	6	6		6	8	5	0
6	0		2	0	2	3	

### MIND TICKLER

You are at a church Bake Sale. You have exactly \$3.10 on you. There are seven (7) kinds of items left for sale.

Cupcakes are 30 cents each.  
 Cookies are 40 cents each.  
 Donuts are 60 cents each.  
 Slices of cake are 70 cents each.  
 Berry clusters are 80 cents each.  
 Lemon crème pie is \$1.10 a slice.  
 and pumpkin pie is \$1.20 a slice.

You decide to buy four (4) items, one from each category. Which four choices will cost you exactly \$3.10. At least two possible answers are correct.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

NEWSLETTER JUL / AUG 2023  
TIME VALUE MAIL  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



**10:30 AM service**  
**Thru Sunday, July 23**

**9 AM service**  
**Starts Sunday, July 30**

**OUR TOP STORY**

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social- Page 1

From the Pastor- Page 1

Church Budget Update - Page 2

Ordination of Pastor Jim

Elvis & Oldies Fundraiser

Church Office hours

- Page 3

Events Calendar - Page 4

5 Take-a-ways from Annual Meeting

- Page 4

Notes from an Island - Page 5

...and more!

Plus:

Puzzle Challenges - Page 7