



The Messenger

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

August, 2023 special edition

Volume 18, Number 2.5

From the Pastor



We are approaching the end of our summer series, "I've Been Meaning to Ask" with our final question to reflect upon, "Where Do We Go From Here?" This final question is not meant to be the end of the journey; instead, it creates openness to explore together what is next. It is

contextual, designed for individuals, families, and this church to discern how to move forward into something new.

While stepping into the next chapter, my hope as your pastor, is that we keep cultivating curiosity, asking questions, having conversations, and seeking connection in order to humanize and care for each other. Ultimately, this final question invites us to foster hope and imagination. After the loss of loved ones disrupts their lives, Ruth and Naomi create a new covenant with each other, choosing to be in a relationship across their religious, cultural, and generational divides. As women, they build power together in a system where they have little power. Cornelius, a pious Roman centurion, and Peter are brought together through visions they each receive. Peter and Cornelius meet face-to-face and Peter says: "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another." Through their courageous conversation, their narrow perceptions of others expand, the Spirit descends upon them, and they share in community and hospitality.

In many ways, the first chapter of Ruth encompasses all of the sub-themes in our series: 1) Where are you from? (Bethlehem/Moab); 2] Where does it hurt? (Mara: "it hurts everywhere;" Naomi's identity has completely shifted); 3) What do you need? (Naomi wants to be alone but Ruth won't allow it); 4) Where do we go from here? (Ruth and Naomi leave the famine and arrive in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest, symbolizing their new beginning). Looking back at the series, how has our faith community embodied these sub-themes? What does it look like for us to step into a new beginning together, acknowledging the scars and the wounds that we carry?

Cornelius summons Peter simply to listen to him. He gathers an audience to amplify his message. He uses his privilege and power to extend radical hospitality to one he is forbidden to welcome. Without questioning or gatekeeping, Cornelius bows before Peter and simply asks him to share everything God has directed him to say.

In our faith community, how can we practice such openness, hospitality, and humility? May we continue to be open to the work of the Spirit.

Pastor Jim

teamlangreder@gmail.com

262-309-5086

Special Worship Event

Wednesday, August 9, 6:30 PM – Hartland UCC, lower level Social Room

You are invited to a special worship event in which we hope to move beyond small talk to practice curiosity, listening and connection. At this one hour event, people will gather, hear scripture, read, engage in thirty minutes of intentional and guided conversation with their neighbors as the sermon moment, and close with prayer and Holy Communion.

OUR TOP STORY

Ordination Day for Pastor Jim

Sunday, 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. Some of your neighbors have already signed up! The sign-up sheet has already been picked up. Fear not! Simply call the office at **262-968-3849**, leave your name and a message saying "I'm coming."

Flower Sale Update

A Mother’s Day Flower and Bake Sale was held with a pick-up date of Saturday, May 13 – just in time for Mother’s Day (Sunday, May 14). Our treasurer, Angela Williams, reports that \$2,435.25 profit was made on the Flower Sale!

Welcome to the August, 2023 special 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 9 AM and will continue until January, 2024. (On Sunday, July 30 we went to a 9 AM worship time.) 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 10:30 AM and is livestreamed on the Genesee and Hartland Facebook page; and You-tube channel (First Congregational UCC, Hartland, WI.)

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

Bible Study

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

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.

Church Budget Update:

The most recent income and expense figures are shown below (for June).

Beginning Balance	\$349.76
Offering	\$4,670.00
Strengthen the Church offering	\$50.00
Available Balance	\$5,069.76
June Expenses	\$4,358.46
Available 06-30-23	\$711.30

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?

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.

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.

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER USHERS

The following teams / individuals are scheduled to usher on Sundays in August and September. Arrive by 8:30 AM (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**. Also, call Diane to fill one of the OPEN positions.

August 6	Deacons
August 13	OPEN
August 20	OPEN
August 27	OPEN
September 3	Deacons
September 10	OPEN
September 17	OPEN
September 24	OPEN

Events Calendar

JULY - AUGUST events

Listed here are the dates of meetings, holidays and events in August and 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, 9 AM – at church - (except 1st Sundays- at the Ed. Center)

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
6:30 PM – Summer Series Gathering
(Hartland UCC)
- 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** *12th Annual Car Show* – 8 AM – 2 PM
- SU 10** **RALLY DAY**
9 AM service at church
Blessing of the Backpacks
- MO 11** **PATRIOT DAY**
- WE 13** 1:30 PM – Bible Study
- TH 14** 9 AM – Mindful Yoga
- FR 15** *Movie Night* – 6 PM
- SU 17** 9 AM service at church
October special edition copy due
- WE 20** NO Bible Study
- TH 21** 9 AM – Mindful Yoga
- SA 23** Autumnal Equinox – 1:49 AM CDT
Fall begins
- SU 24** 9 AM OUTDOOR WORSHIP
In church if inclement weather
- WE 27** 1:30 PM – Bible Study
- TH 28** 9 AM – Mindful Yoga
- SA 30** 6 – 9 PM - *Elvis Show*

OCTOBER

- SU 1** **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**
9 AM service at the Ed. Center w/ communion

COMING ATTRACTIONS

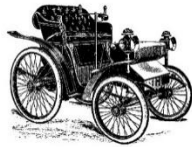
12th Annual Car Show
Saturday, September 9, 8 AM – 2 PM

Movie Night
Friday, September 15, 6 PM

Elvis & Oldies Show fundraiser
Saturday, September 30, 6 – 9 PM
Tickets = \$15

20th Annual Pig Roast
Saturday, October 7, 4 – 7 PM

12TH Annual Genesee Church Car Show



Saturday, September 9
8 AM – 2 PM

Sponsored by S/S Automotive

- Dash Plaque to first 100 cars
- Food and Beverages
- Music
- Prize Drawing at 1 PM

\$8 donation per car – proceeds go towards the community, church and Children’s Hospital

Free spectator admission!

For more information contact S/S Automotive
[262-968-3324](tel:262-968-3324) ssautomotive.pro

Movie Night

Friday, September 15, 6 PM



Family friendly,
Pizza,
Popcorn,
Candy

Coming Saturday, September 30

Elvis & Oldies Tribute Show

6 – 9 PM

Starring Dakota Pongratz

\$15 per ticket

Money raised from show goes directly to the church.

**Tickets available at the church office:
262-968-3849**

20th Annual Pig Roast



4 – 7 PM,
Saturday, October 7

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Pig Roast & Prize Drawing, Saturday, October 7th, 4 – 7 PM

Mark your calendar and tell your friends! Here’s a few things to keep in mind as we get closer to our event:

1. Advance ticket sales will begin at the end of August for take out and dine in orders
2. Donate prizes to our drawing.
3. Let us know if you’re interested in having a ‘salad prep party’ the day before the event like we did last year.
4. Join our ‘decorating and set-up party’ sometime in the 1st week of October. Let us know if you’re interested.
5. Sign up to work at the event: let us know if you can work for 1 hour during the event. There are tasks for people of all abilities, so please contact us.
6. Sign up to donate food/supplies: our sign-up-genius.com request will come to you at the end of August/beginning of September.

Help us open our doors and invite our family and friends to this wonderful fundraiser to support the life and missions of our church. Thanks! - Rhea Whiteley

*“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’”
Psalms 122: 1 (RSV)*

THE CHURCH BELL

It is with a great sense of gratitude – and relief - that I would like to thank B. J. Williams for getting the church bell ringing again. That also affords me an opportunity to talk about the history of the church bell.

(The following is from The History of Genesee Church, pages 33-34.)

The following information about the church tower and bell comes from the writings of Miss Letitia Mason in 1943. It was written for the Church Centennial Celebration. At that date, she had been a member for 76 years.

“In 1893 the church celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Immediately afterwards the people began working together, with Mrs. Delzell as their leader, to earn money for a church tower and bell.

The Village Temperance Hall provided a place for their social functions and it was here, on Valentine’s Day (February 14), 1893, that a basket social was held to start the fund. Many other events followed – a phonograph concert, young people’s concerts, an old folk’s concert, literary society debates, bazaars and more basket socials. For two years the people worked – and then, when the tower was nearing completion, enthusiasm ran high. Mr. Samuel Foster Paul, from New York City, still remembering the church in Genesee, offered to give the bell in memory of his mother: Harriet Foster Paul.

At last the dream was realized! We were to have a church bell! It arrived by freight on June 14, 1895; and was brought to the church on June 15. It stood on the porch over Sunday, June 16. On Thursday, June 20, it was placed in the tower and that same evening pealed forth, calling the villagers to their weekly prayer meeting.

On Sunday, June 23, 1895 it was dedicated. The text that day was from Psalm 98: 4 – “Make a Joyful noise unto the Lord all the earth, make a loud noise and rejoice and sing praise.”

For [128] years this bell, our church bell, has called God’s people together. For the 95th Anniversary celebration, Mr. Harry Torhorst composed “The Old Church Bell.” This beautiful song was later published.

\$150 was raised to purchase the church bell and tower. The bell tower costs \$172. The bell was donated by Samuel Foster Paul of New York. It weighs 821 pounds, costs \$142 and has a Bb tone.

The record we have for this momentous event comes from the Board of Trustees meeting for February 24, 1895. “W. E. Stevens in chair. The trustees voted to build a bell tower at the N. W. corner of the church. Board adopted a plan drawn by J. K. Kilbourn. A build-

ing committee was elected consisting of: Rev. J. K. Kilbourn, chairman, W. Dodge, William E. Stephens. Said committee to have the lettering of the contract for building of the tower. Meeting adjourned. – W. Dodge, clerk

EDITOR’S NOTE: In 1925, during remodeling and the turning of the church clockwise by 90 degrees, a new entrance and bell tower were erected (the very one we see today!) The bell was taken down during that reconstruction and then reinstalled in a new bell tower.

A FINAL NOTE

The deadline for the September-October edition is Sunday, August 20. The deadline for the October special edition is Sunday, September 17. 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



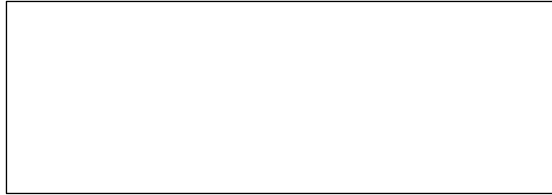
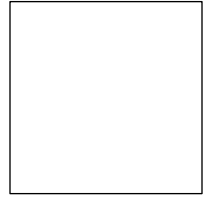
Page 1 Header Photo:

Wooden Cross on “Lone Tree Point,” American Baptist Assembly, Green Lake, Wisconsin

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

NEWSLETTER AUG 2023

TIME VALUE MAIL
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



IN THIS ISSUE

OUR TOP STORY

Pastor's ordination - Page 1

From the Pastor - Page 1
Church Budget Update - Page 2
Events Calendar - Page 3
Coming Attractions - Pages 3 - 4
The Church Bell - Page 5

and more!

**9 AM
Sunday service**