

# The Messenger



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

January – February, 2024

Volume 18, Number 5

## From the Pastor



### New Year's Greetings!

**A**s we begin the New Year, I wanted to share a scripture focusing on the first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet – “Alpha” and “Omega.”

As you know, Jesus refers to Himself as the Alpha and Omega in Revelation 22:13 (NKJV), “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

We must remember that regardless of what we will face in the upcoming year, Jesus Christ will be there in the beginning and at the end!

The events taking place all around the world are not a surprise to Jesus! He has already been to the future, and we can rest assured that if we follow Him all our days, we will be secure and safe in His loving arms.

Not only will he be at the beginning and end of the year, but He was also at the beginning of Creation and will be there when time is complete. All we are facing now may not be understood in totality by any of us, but if we know the “Alpha” and “Omega,” we can rest assured He will be exalted!

God is good all the time, and we can trust Him!

We continue to appreciate your faithful prayers and support for the ministry here at First Congregational as we forge ahead in faith this year!

Let us pray for our Nation and the World to experience the life changing liberation that comes from our God! I pray that our thirst and hunger for the things of God will only intensify as the days, weeks, and months of this New Year come and go.

May God richly bless you this year, and we appreciate you so much.

Blessings in Christ,  
Pastor Jim

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

262-309-5086

## OUR TOP STORY



**T**he official call-to-order for the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Genesee 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational, United Church of Christ will take place following the 10:30 AM worship service on Sunday, January 28. Our church government is one of the purest forms of representative democracy. The meeting is a great opportunity for everyone in the congregation to have a voice and make important contributions to the life of the church. Annual reports from the pastor moderator, secretary and church boards and committees will be reviewed. You will also have an opportunity to vote on the slate of officers who will represent your church in 2024. Perhaps you have a calling to fill one of the empty slots and serve your church! The all important 2024 Church Budget will also be reviewed.

Please highlight the date of **Sunday, January 28** on your personal calendar.

Those people with reports to submit need to get the reports in to the office by January 7.

Official call-to-order ...  
**181<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting**  
of the  
*Genesee 1<sup>st</sup>  
Congregational,  
United Church of Christ*  
**Sunday, January 28**  
*following the  
10:30 AM Worship*



**H**appy New Year! Welcome to the January-February, 2024 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**. This will change on Sunday, January 28 when the service time is moved to **10:30 AM**. 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.) On Sunday, January 28, Hartland's service time will move to 9 AM.

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## Your 2024 Pledge Card ...

... is due no later than Friday, January 5. If you are a member of Genesee church, you have received a stewardship letter and a 2024 Pledge Card. To those who have already submitted a Pledge Card, a **BIG THANK YOU!!!** At some point in the past, whether it be last month, or forty years ago, you became a member and you made a commitment to attend church on a "regular" basis, and support the ministry of our church, financially and otherwise. We expect that **EVERY** member will honor their commitment, give according to what they can and be a supportive member of the congregation. **NOW** is the time to make good on your commitment and return your pledge card. Thank you for your renewed or continuing stewardship!

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## Bible Study

**T**his 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 November and December, see the events calendar on page 3. The topic for discussion at each Bible Study is the sermon message for the following Sunday.

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## Building Rental available

**D**o 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.

## Church Budget Update:

**T**he most recent income and expense figures are shown below.

November Income	\$1,911.00
November Expenses	<u>\$4,329.11</u>
Net Total	<b>\$2,418.11</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!"

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## JANUARY – FEBRUARY USHERS

**T**he following teams / individuals are scheduled to usher on Sundays in January and February. Arrive by 8:30 AM (for the 9:00 AM service). On Sunday, January 28, and after, arrive by 10 AM (for the 10:30 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**.

January 7	Deacons
January 14	OPEN
January 21	OPEN
January 28	OPEN
February 4	Deacons
February 11	OPEN
February 18	OPEN
February 25	OPEN

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## Explore God's Word Daily

**C**opies of the devotional booklet: *"The Upper Room"* for January - February 2024 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.

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***"Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!"***

Psalms 47:1 (RSV)

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## 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**

## **Sunday School HELP needed in February**

**S**unday School help is needed on Sundays in February (4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>). Easy lesson plans that are easy to teach and easy to learn will be provided for each Sunday. Interested? I know you are! Contact Rhea Whiteley (**262-617-8512**) or Pastor Jim Langreder (**262-309-5086**).

## **HOPE CENTER**

### **MEAL SERVICE DATES FOR 2024.**

**O**ur church is one of 46 congregations, throughout Waukesha County, which serve the meals at Hope Center in Waukesha. The service dates are, every week except holidays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Meals are served at 5:30 PM – with volunteers asked to arrive by 5 PM. Our dates for 2024 are...

Wednesday, April 10  
 Friday, June 28  
 Friday, November 29

We are asked to have 6 – 8 volunteers present to serve, on average, 60 – 70 people. Trays of desserts: cookies, brownies, cake, etc. are also asked for and are always well appreciated. Hope Center is located at 502 N. East Av., in Waukesha.

## **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

### **Wake Up with God**

**Sunday, January 7,**  
 during the 9 AM worship time

### **Movie Night**

**Friday, January 19, 6 PM – Ed. Center**

## **Events Calendar**

### **JANUARY - FEBRUARY events**

**L**isted here are the dates of meetings, holidays and events in January and February. 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays - at the Ed. Center). On Sunday, January 28 our service time moves to 10:30 AM.

Bible Study continues on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 1:30 PM. The breakdown is as follows. Wednesdays, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>; February 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. NO Bible Study January 17<sup>th</sup> or February 21<sup>th</sup>.

Mindful Yoga continues on each Thursday at 9 AM: Thursdays, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>; February 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW** In addition, the Ed. Center is used for a Pilates class which meets 8:30 AM each Saturday. The breakdown is January 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>; February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **JANUARY, 2024**

**MO 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**WE 3** 1:30 PM: Bible Study

**TH 4** 9 AM: Mindful Yoga

**SA 6 EPIPHANY**

8:30 AM: Pilates

**SU 7** 9 AM service at the Ed. Center w/ communion

*Wake UP with God – during service time*

*Committee Reports due*

**MO 8** 2 PM: Executive Board

**WE 10** 1:30 PM: Bible Study

**TH 11** 9 AM: Mindful Yoga

**SA 13** 8:30 AM: Pilates

**SU 14** 9 AM service at church

**MO 15 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**

**WE 17** NO Bible Study

**TH 18** 9 AM: Mindful Yoga

**FR 19** *Movie Night* – 6 PM

**SA 20** 8:30 AM: Pilates

**SU 21** 9 AM service at church

*February special edition copy due*

**WE 24** 1:30 PM: Bible Study

**TH 25** 9 AM: Mindful Yoga

**SA 27** 8:30 AM: Pilates

**SU 28** 10:30 AM service at church

*181<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting – after the service*  
*Confirmation begins: 4:30 – 7 PM*

**WE 31** 1:30 PM: Bible Study

## FEBRUARY, 2024

- TH 1** 9 AM: Mindful Yoga  
**FR 2** **GROUNDHOG DAY**  
**SA 3** 8:30 AM: Pilates  
**SU 4** 10:30 AM service at the Ed. Center  
w/ communion  
**WE 7** 1:30 PM: Bible Study  
**TH 8** 9 AM: Mindful Yoga  
**SA 10** 8:30 AM: Pilates  
**SU 11** 10:30 AM service at church  
**TU 13** **MARDI GRAS**  
**WE 14** **VALENTINE'S DAY**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
1:30 PM: Bible Study  
**TH 15** 9 AM: Mindful Yoga  
**FR 16 – SU 18** Faith Formation Retreat  
– Daycholah Center  
**SA 17** 8:30 AM: Pilates  
**SU 18** 10:30 AM service at church  
*March- April edition copy due*  
**MO 19** **PRESIDENTS' DAY**  
**WE 21** NO Bible Study  
**TH 22** 9 AM: Mindful Yoga  
**SA 24** 8:30 AM: Pilates  
**SU 25** 10:30 AM service at church  
**WE 28** 1:30 PM: Bible Study  
**TH 29** **LEAP DAY**  
9 AM: Mindful Yoga

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*“So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”*

Psalms 90:12 (RSV)

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## Notes from a Library

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

2 Timothy 3:16 (RSV)

What a wonderful place a library is! Within its walls are shelf after shelf, of books on just about any subject imaginable: the collected knowledge of humanity. Today, I am at the Waukesha Public Library looking for books written by one of my favorite science writers, the late Isaac Asimov. In this age of the internet, much of the knowledge within these walls – and more – is ac-

cessible with a laptop computer and a few clicks of the mouse. That being said, I still get a sense of satisfaction from reading text and viewing illustrations on the pages of a good old printed and bound volume. Through the magic of the printed page, once living people from all cultures are able to reach out to us and tell their stories: accounts about the world they lived in and what they learned!

One special collection of these accounts has come down to us from our ancestors. It is a book that has many “books” within it, originally written down on scrolls over a 1,600 year period: a mini-library under one set of end covers. It is a book that many of us have a dusty version of somewhere on our shelves at home: The Bible.

The Bible is divided into two “testaments:” the “Old Testament” and the “New Testament.” The word “testament” means “covenant,” or “agreement.” The Old Testament is the covenant God made with humanity about his salvation before Christ came. The New Testament is the agreement God made with humanity about his salvation after Christ came. In the Old Testament we find a covenant of law; in the New Testament a covenant of grace – which came through Jesus Christ. Written down by some 40 authors, the 66 books of the Bible (Protestant versions) are the inspired word of God. (see: 2 Timothy 3:16). Compared to many modern novels, most books of the Bible are not very long. The shortest book, 3<sup>rd</sup> John, is much shorter than this article. The longest book, Psalms, could be read, in its entirety, during the length of a lazy summer afternoon.

It was on one such afternoon, over 30 years ago, that I stood in El Paso, Texas and looked across the Rio Grande River toward Juárez, México. On a hill above Juárez, someone has painted – in large white letters – the following message: “La Biblia es la verdad. Leela.” [ **“The Bible is the truth. Read it!”** ]

Scott W. Burdette - Summer of '93





**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

Rev. Margaret Towner served as one of our Parish Pastors from 1972 – 1989, during the time Genesee Church was part of the Kettle Moraine Parish.

**ADVENT 2023 SARASOTA  
TO OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES**

A year of celebrations: The Glenridge on Palmer Ranch was 20 years old on Nov. 18, 2023. We signed up 5 years before, thus we are recognized as Visionaries/Eagles. At a dedication ceremony that day a huge Eagle statue was unveiled at the north end of the central lake between the West and East Wings. Via several wonderful Zoom Events Marg celebrated the 67th year of her 1956 ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament. A Stole was designed depicting her leading all the clergywomen-Towner Stole and presentation of several to newly ordained or received by Peace River Presbytery.

A year of health challenges for both. A hospitalization followed by Physical Therapy for Barb. And Physical Therapy and an Epidural Injection for Marg for relief of hip pain.

Visits by Barb's nieces. So good her Grand Nephew's family are near by. Zoom visits with Marg's family are always a joy. We miss cousins who have graduated to eternal life. We enjoy weekly Zoom discussions with several of Marg's clergy daughters-who live in Sarasota, Syracuse, Milwaukee.

We do not celebrate the divisiveness, hateful language and actions toward all people, regardless of creed, sex orientation, race or nationality.

We pray that local, regional national and world councils will come to their senses and stop their stupid activity of banning books, acting to shut out people that are not white Anglo-Saxon origin.

As I was writing this, a bird was heard in Barb's Closet. No one knows how that small bird got in there. Security came, opened screen and it flew out a window. The day was for the birds.

In the words of a familiar hymn: "[Help Us Accept Each Other As Christ Accepted Us.](#)"  
May Peace, Hope, and Love Be With You All.

Barb Marg

**A FINAL NOTE** 🎵

The deadline for the February special edition is Sunday, January 21. The deadline for the March-April, 2024 edition is Sunday, February 18. 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 Changers

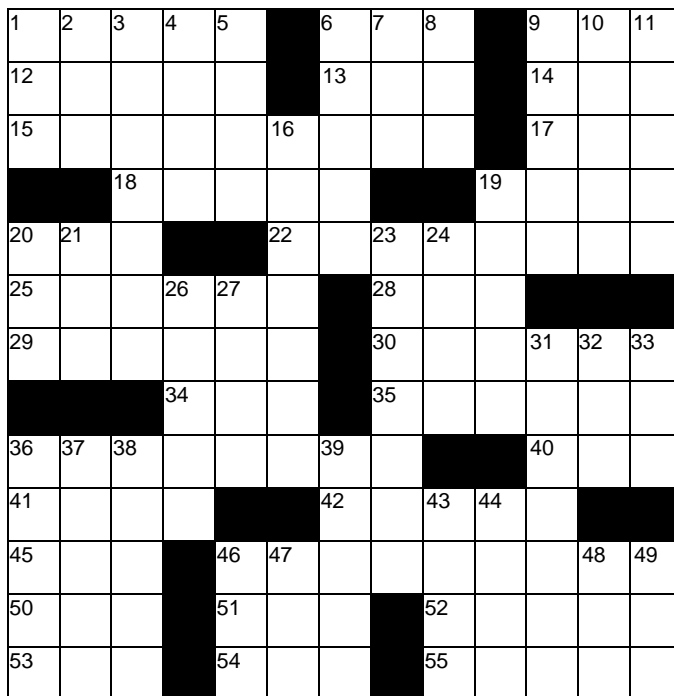
## Genesee Church Crossword Puzzle

### ACROSS

- 1 Use a broom
- 6 Quiet !
- 9 Fold away bed
- 12 Florida seaport
- 13 Cow's cry
- 14 Cigar residue
- 15 Mediate
- 17 Hockey surface
- 18 Pains
- 19 Nest eggs (abbr.)
- 20 Atop, poetically
- 22 President \_\_\_\_\_  
Roosevelt
- 25 Deny
- 28 Hewing tool
- 29 Fragrances
- 30 Spring, e.g.
- 34 Fall mo.
- 35 Mad
- 36 Sport with webbed  
rackets
- 40 Limb
- 41 Bait
- 42 Dandy's neckwear
- 45 Had a meal
- 46 Bruce springsteen, e.g.
- 50 Bossy stooge
- 51 Wayside hotel
- 52 Craze
- 53 Egyptian cobra
- 54 Acquired
- 55 Slumbered

### DOWN

- 1 Amtrak terminal (abbr.)
- 2 Conflict
- 3 Trade prohibition
- 4 Heroic
- 5 Garden walk
- 6 Hit show
- 7 Fiery
- 8 Gardening tool
- 9 Egypt's capital
- 10 Movie award
- 11 Not those
- 16 Quizzes again
- 19 Thoughts
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_ wing and a  
prayer (2 wds.)
- 21 Poet's always
- 23 Least difficult
- 24 Plow-pulling animals
- 26 Love, in Roma
- 27 Mexican dish
- 31 Soup cracker
- 32 \_\_\_\_\_ in a million
- 33 Not pos.
- 36 Peruvian animal
- 37 Detroit products
- 38 Crawl
- 39 Holy person
- 43 Picture takers, for short
- 44 Uttered
- 46 Band's booking
- 47 Numero \_\_\_\_\_
- 48 Small taste
- 49 Tit for \_\_\_\_\_



### Answers to previous puzzles in November-December Messenger

## LOST SHEEP – Mystery Word Search

The Parable of the Lost Sheep is found in Luke 15: 1-7. I have pulled the following list of words from that parable.

**ASTRAY, CARE, FOUND, GLORY, GOD, HOPE, LOST, LOVE, REJOICE, SEARCH, SHEEP, STRAYED, UNITY.**

These words are found in the Word Search puzzle below. Circle each letter in the words, as you find them. The remaining letters spell out the "mystery" word.

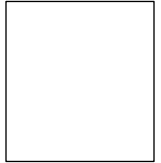
E	S	T	R	A	Y	E	D
C	Y	A	R	T	S	A	N
I	S	G	L	H	H	E	U
O	S	L	O	V	E	N	O
J	H	P	S	D	I	C	F
E	E	P	T	T	A	H	E
R	E	R	Y	R	O	L	G
D	P	S	E	A	R	C	H

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

**NUMBER CODE MESSAGE**  
THANK YOU JESUS! AMEN.

**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 JAN / FEB 2024  
TIME VALUE MAIL  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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**Sunday services**  
**at church**  
**EXCEPT**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month**  
**Sunday services**  
**at the Ed. Center**  
**with communion**  
**9 AM worship**  
**through and including**  
**Sunday, January 21**  
**10:30 AM worship, begins**  
**Sunday, January 28**