

**GRACE CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2801 GARFIELD ST.
TWO RIVERS**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP:
8:00 & 10:30 AM**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 AM ~
ADULT STUDY 9:30 AM
920-553-1222
WWW.GRACEUCC.ORG**

unitedchurchofchristgrace@gmail.com
Pastor Kim khenning1956@gmail.com
Pastor Colie pastorcolie@gmail.com

**CHRISTMAS
Candle Light Worship Services
4:00 ---6:30----10:30**



JANUARY 2019

Reflecting Together

Kim M. Henning

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services: 4:00; 6:30; and 10:30 p.m.
Worship on **December 30** will feature the reading of letters from Members of Old
Snow Skiing at Ski Brule: Friday, January 18 (Registration Forms at Church)

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Gracious God, we live in a real world with its real life experiences. We know friends who have lost their battle to cancer. We know children who are bullied at school. We know personally the temptation of wanting to spend money we don't have. We know the stress of community and the heartache of death.

As you well know, O God, this world is not kind or safe for many. We think of our poor who often live at the mercy of the rich. We are mindful of those who wrestle with mental health, and the alienation they experience from the rest of us. We are aware our elders and those with disabilities who struggle to persevere against great odds.

Life is hard, God. We see suffering everywhere. We pray for the lonely. We pray for the angry. We pray for those who live with scars from the past, pain they cannot escape. We pray for those who worry. And we pray, O God, for those long-suffering ones who wait, and refuse to give up on those they love.

At this time of Christmas, we are grateful beyond measure that you, God, have chosen to come to us in this Holy Child in Bethlehem. The joy of Christ's coming is immeasurable. Our need for Emmanuel is immense. How hopeful to know of his presence. How comforting to know of his dependable mercy. How powerful to comprehend that peace which surpasses human understanding.

In Jesus Christ, our Earth has been wonderfully blessed. Because of Christ, we observe practices of hospitality and compassion. Because of Christ's example, we have been inspired to put-aside pretense and to practice humility. Because of Christ's mercy, we have seen the poor fed, the homeless cared for, and the down and out lifted up.

Thank you, O God, for shining your presence into our dark existence here on earth. You bless the poor in spirit and those who mourn. You bless the meek and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. You bless the pure in heart and the peacemakers.

In humble adoration, we bow before you, forever and eternally grateful. We offer this prayer in the name of our crucified and resurrected Lord. Amen.

O Holy Night

(words and lyrics by Placide Cappeau de Roquemaure in 1847)

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new glorious morn
Fall on your knees, O hear the angels' voices
O night divine. O night when Christ was born
O night divine, O night, O night divine

10th ANNUAL

Two Rivers Area Christmas Day Dinner.

Celebrate the Birth of Jesus by sharing a meal and fellowship with friends.

A community buffet style dinner will be served on **Christmas Day, December 25, 2018** at **ST. PETER THE FISHERMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**, 3201 Mishicot Rd Two Rivers, Wisconsin 54241. Guests are invited to partake in the meal at no personal expense.

Doors will open at **11:00 AM**. A buffet meal will be served from **11:30 AM to 1:30 PM**.

Guest Reservations are necessary.

Meal delivery is available for Two Rivers residents who are unable to travel to the site.

Transportation within the City of Two Rivers is also available.

Carry-out meals may be available after all reservations have been accommodated.

GUEST RESERVATIONS ... must be made no later than December 20

Call **920-793-4043** (Marilyn)

- To make dinner reservations (indicate the number of people).
- To request transportation from and to a Two Rivers address.
- To have meals delivered to a Two Rivers address.



The event is jointly sponsored by the members and generous benefactors of St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church, Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.



****90 Gifts** were purchased by members and friends of Grace Congregational Church for clients at Ascend (former Holiday House) and the guests at Two Rivers Ecumenical Food Pantry. Your generosity is beautiful to behold.

****About 40** of you spent an afternoon Christmas carolling on December 9th. Thank you for sharing the joy and hope of our faith during a season of the year that can be lonely for some.

****The Women of Grace** purchased a commercial-sized refrigerator for our church's kitchen. The Women of Grace work hard to earn money, and our church is very grateful for this new appliance in our kitchen.

****The Members of your Memorial Fund** agreed to purchase a new Clavinova for our church's music ministry. We are grateful to scores of individuals who have designated Grace Congregational Church as the recipient of Memorial gifts.

****Thank you to the Flower Committee** for the festive atmosphere throughout our church building. Your creativity and devotion to detail is much appreciated!

****The Nominating Committee** extends it thanks to individuals who said 'yes' when they were contacted and invited to serve our church's leadership team. We have approximately 80 individuals who are need to fill all the positions in our church's structure. Thank you for enabling us to be a "congregational" church, in the best sense of the word.

****Thank you to the volunteers** who set-up the outdoor Crèche along with the beautiful lighting.

****Thank you to those** kind individuals who baked cookies and then distributed them to members of our church (and beyond!). Bless your hearts!

PASTOR COLIE'S CORNER

What I've learned in trying new things

As you probably know, throughout the month of December – the season of Advent – I created an Advent Devotional series in the form of video reflections. While in some ways I have really enjoyed this process, in other ways it has been a struggle. Anyone who has watched or listened to recordings of themselves may know a little bit about what I mean. I don't think I've ever talked with someone who enjoys that experience!

But on the other hand, there are many times along the way where I have enjoyed making these videos. The research is interesting, the writing is fun. And I also love playing around with the editing and the graphic design program I use to create the backdrop and some of the photos. And I know that watching myself speak (sometimes over and over and over again) has made me aware of myself more, of my voice inflections and facial expressions, and it has all come together to make me a better presenter – and a better preacher. When I look back at the early part of the series from the previous year, I can see the changes that have happened within myself.

One of the classes I took this semester in my doctoral program was about developing leadership skills. We read a book called “The Practice of Adaptive Leadership: Tools and Tactics for Changing your Organization and the World”. It's a huge textbook on leadership, but it was the most interesting and engaging textbook I've ever had to read. One of the things I learned was the difference between what they call “technical change” and “adaptive change”. Technical change is when something is broken, so you fix it. The church fridge died? Let's get some people together to find a new one. The windows are leaking? Get it repaired.

Adaptive change is different though, because when adaptive problems happen, we *don't know* how to fix them. And churches face adaptive challenges all the time. From how to build relationships between members, to how to involve children (or young adults, or elderly, or _____) better in ministry, to how to engage in deeper faith formation, to questions about how to serve our neighbors and our communities better..... Much of church work are these types of adaptive challenges. We can't just “solve” or fix these concerns. We might have some ideas on how to tackle them, but it takes time, it takes conversation, and most especially, it takes *working together* across all levels of involvement (clergy, staff, lay leaders, members, etc) for any kind of meaningful progress to happen.

One of the keys to making progress on these types of issues is this: That we are not afraid to try potential solutions, and sometimes even fail. And for me, that is a big part of the risk of my Advent series – and the risks that many of us take (or at least worry about) in our jobs, in our lives, in our community involvement. Should I put myself out there? What if they don't like my ideas? What if I end up looking silly? Which I think all boils down to one big fear: What if they don't like me?

There are places and times to hold back. But then there are places and times to take risks, to put an idea on the table, to show a truer and deeper side of your personality and your personhood, and to see what happens. Because I do believe that God's Spirit gives gifts to each one of us – and that those gifts become stronger and even more beautiful when we bring them together in the community of the church.

So thank you, member of the church who is reading this letter, for allowing me to take some risks in my leadership among you..... for allowing one another to take some risks together..... and for allowing yourself some space and some grace to take risks too.

May God bless you, this day and always. Pastor Colie

CONFIRMATION UPDATES

January 2: NO CLASS

January 9: THE LORD'S PRAYER – Teach us to Pray &

The 1st Petition: Hallowed by thy name

Before class, read: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11 & Isaiah 6:1-8

January 16: **MENTOR NIGHT.** THE LORD'S PRAYER – The 2nd & 3rd Petition: Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Before class, read: John 18:33-38 & Genesis 17:15-17, 18:1-15 and 21:1-7

January 23: THE LORD'S PRAYER – The 4th Petition: Give us this day our daily bread

Before class, read: John 2:1-11

January 30: THE LORD'S PRAYER – The 5th Petition: Forgive us our sins....

Before class, read: Matthew 18:15-22

Friday, January 18—Church Ski Trip!
We leave early in the morning and will be back Friday evening. Friends invited!



CONFIRMATION THANK YOU

Thank you to all the friends, family, and church members who have supported our youth so far this year. The chocolate sale and the pizza night at Port Sandy Bay were both successful fundraisers (and for anyone else wondering, yes we do plan to continue the spaghetti dinner nights at TR Family Restaurant also!) But even more than that, I want to thank you for the way you emotionally and personally support our youth. For most of them, it takes a great deal of courage to stand in front and read, or even go up front to light candles. I know many adults who would refuse the jobs! And yet, our youth do them as part of their class requirements. So thank you for encouraging them to be courageous. Thank you for chatting with them to help them grow their faith. Thank you for building relationships and for, even in small and simple ways, showing them that they are welcome here and are a valuable part of our church community.

GENERATION G UPDATE

Permission slips for our pilgrim center retreat January 4-6 were due with money to Nicole **by December 12th.** There will be no Generation G December 19 or 26th— but we will see you again January 2! Blessings to you and your families this Christmas!
Nicole



MISSION AND OUTREACH OF GRACE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(served by these members of our church: Hal Lexow, Debbie Rhein, Jim Miller, Doug Charles, Anne Kleman, Wendy Smith, Randy Ammerman, Joe DeGroot, Connie Steffen and Donny Heinsohn)
Your Mission and Outreach Board provide you with two opportunities to share your gifts of compassion and love during the Christmas Season. The What If? Foundation supports the work of the church in Haiti. And the Christmas Fund supports retired and low income clergy and laity who serve the church.

Suzanne Alberga is the director of the What If? Foundation. Shortly after Thanksgiving, Suzanne sent our church the following letter:

Dear Grace Congregational Church,

I hope you had a nice Thanksgiving. Thank you so much for your continued support of the children in Ti Plas Kazo. Here are the latest numbers regarding the What If? Foundation in 2018:

The food program serves over 5,000 meals each week to the students and staff at the Father Jeri School, to the children who eat at the recently built community cafeteria and to dozens of families who visit the food pantry.

There are 450 children enrolled in the Father Jeri School, grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

There are 35 students who do not attend the Father Jeri School and receive scholarships to attend other schools because they live too far from the Ti Plas Kazo neighborhood to be able to attend every day.

There are about 275 students in the after school program. This number changes quite a bit depending on the time of year. As exams get closer, the enrollment goes up because students like to take advantage of the academic tutoring.

650 children attend camp each summer.

We are so deeply grateful for your continued commitment to the What If? Foundation and the children that are a part of these life-changing programs.

With gratitude, Suzanne

(An Envelope for the What If? Foundation was in your last newsletter.)

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

By Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The Work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers (and sisters) To make music in the heart.

CHURCH CABINET

Moderator, Don DeBruyn **Treasurer**, Linda Justema **Clerk**, Rein Elias
Financial Sec., Chris Blimel **Trustee Chair**, Todd Moolenaar
Diaconate Chair, Brian VanElls
Board of Christian Ed Chair, Kelly Ruhbusch
Mission & Outreach Chair, Doug Charles
Pastor Kim-Pastor/Parish Chair, Jeff Harding
Pastor Colie-Pastor/Parish Chair, Jim Miller

Stewardship Corner for Grace Congregational United Church of Christ:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Total 2018 Expected Expenses for Grace Congregational UCC: | \$409,385 |
| Amount of pledged income needed each month to balance our budget: | \$32,221 |
| Pledged Income Received in November: | \$34,579 |

Please Note: Our constitution prohibits us from using any proceeds from our Endowment Fund to support our day to day ministry at Grace Congregational Church. It is our church's expectation that our members are responsible for the support of this church's ministry as an act of faithfulness to God.

DECEMBER EXPENDITURES:

\$3689---Manitowoc Heating (HVAC Upgrade)
\$2641---Church Mutual (Commercial Multi-Peril, ½ of 2019)
\$533.50---Cokesbury for Daily Bible Study
\$431---Wisconsin Public Service
\$426---Badger Office Supply, Copier
\$350---Church Mutual, Umbrella Policy
\$223----Tri City Glass and Door, Replacement of weather stripping

United Church Camps, Incorporated CAMPital Campaign

Grace Congregational Church has been invited to contribute \$300,000 towards a major capital fund campaign for the upkeep and improvement of our two church camps, Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center. We are grateful to individuals who voluntarily contribute to this campaign. Through December of 2018, our records show that individuals have made contributions totaling \$72,490.

Contributions Made in Through October, 2018: \$11,368

Contributions made in November: \$630

Contributions made directly to the Wisconsin Conference: \$6,000

Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your support of our church's local budget, its outreach to the wider church (Our Church's Wider Mission) and the Campital Fund. At its meeting on December 11, the Trustees looked at financial figures that seem to point to a potential budget shortfall for 2018. In an effort to control that deficit, they approved a motion to pay a reasonable portion of the amount budgeted for the Campital Fund. This decision reflects a prior understanding to support the Campital Campaign at a level that our budget can reasonably afford. We are grateful that a number of you indicated support for the Campital Campaign on your pledge forms.

Thank you.

Cordially,

Grace Congregational Church's Trustees:

Mickey Veleke, Chad Bauknecht, Todd Moolenaar, Scott DeRosier, Nick Mueller, Renee Anderson

2ND PLEDGES RECEIVED AS OF 11/27/18

MATT & HEATHER ANDERSON
CHAD & MINDY BAUKNECHT
KEN & ROBIN BERGMAN
TOBIN & COLIE BETTIVIA
BRIANNA & ABBY BRIXIUS
GARY BURNSTAD
DOUG & NANCY CHARLES
KEITH & SUSAN DIEDRICH
RON & DIANE EGGERS
RICHARD & HELEN ERTMAN
SUE GEROSO
CHERYL JASPER
WADE & MICHELE JUZA
JUDY LANGO
TAYLOR LECHLER & CAL MACAULEY
SCOTT & LANA LINZMEIER
JEAN MACHUT
DORIS MATTE
BILL & SANDY MONKA
MIKE & PEGGY MUELLER
NICK & REBEKAH MUELLER
LILLIAN PASEK
VIRGINIA POSNY
MARK & DEBBIE RHEIN
TOM & LYNN RYSTICKEN
CHRIS & MARY SAYESKI
SANDY SCHEER
MARK SCHMITT
SARA SCHUETTE
JERRY & AMY SISEL
ALAN SPEARBRAKER
DEBBIE SPINDLER
CONNIE STEFFEN
ROBERT STEPHENS
JEFF & ROBIN BRYANT-STOEGER
LAURA HAYES-STOEGER
JEAN SUTTER
JAMES TAYLOR
KATHY TOLKSDORF
LORI WANIGER
MIKE & DONNA WEIER



CONTINUING ELECTRONIC PLEDGES PLEDGE CARDS NOT RETURNED

BETTY AMUZU
JON & STACY BACKUS
MARY BERGENE
CHELCEA BOESIGER
JIM & SHELBY BOHMAN
RON & HOPE BOUDNIK
TOM & MEGAN CHRISTENSEN
JOE & COLLEEN COLLINS
MELISSA DUPKE
SHAWN & SANDY ENGLEMAN
DAVID & SARAH GALLAGHER
TERESA HAAG
RICK & COLLEEN INMAN
TIM & ANN KLEIN
KARL & KATHRYN KUHN
CHRIS & ERICA MAINWARING
JOYCE MARCELLE
RANDY & MARY KAY MEISSNER
MARV & JOYLYN MOORE
AMY PETERS
ANTON & HOLLY PIETENPOL
CASEY & LYNN RENNERT
GINA ROHR
JEFF & CAREY SCHMID
ERC & JOY SCHRAMM
HAROLD SMITH
CHAD & LAUREL STODOLA
BRUCE & THERESA TERP
MIKE & DEBBIE TIMM
KEITH & PAM VAN ESS

PASTOR/PARISH COMMITTEE

The Pastor/Parish committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Pastor Kim and Pastor Colie for all they do for our Church and members. Thank you also to all staff and members who work so hard to make Grace Congregational Church such a wonderful place to be! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!



NAME

GIVEN IN HONOR OR MEMORY

Pat & Bonnie Wichlacz
Paul & Joan Schmid
Clare Schuette
Sue, Roberta, Lucy
Tracy Smith
Chris Blimel

Memory of our parents
In Honor & Memory of our parents
Memory of our son –Rob
Memory of Jenny Van Bramer
Nancy & Dave Smidle
Memory of Mom Shirley Anderson, Brother George
Anderson

John & Mary Wallace
Ed Rappe
Jeanne, Bill, & Donny Heinsohn
Chris & Frank Bauknecht

Memory of our parents
Memory of my parents
Memory of parents & grandparents
Memory of our parents, Floyd & Betty Bauknecht, Bob
& Barb Smith, and sister Marcia Bergene

Pat and Patricia Day
Lori, David, Eric & Deanna Waniger
Lori, David, Eric & Deanna Waniger
Jen, Kelly, Kathryn & Garrett Ruhbush
Jeff & Laura Jasper
Ray & Fran Ozanne
Gina Rohr

Memory of Pat & Alice Day
Memory of Randy Waniger
Memory of Rod Malfroid
Memory of loved ones who we miss...
Memory of Daniel & Rose Meissner & Donald Jasper
Memory of Bob Ozanne
Memory of Lynn Ashenbrenner, Lucille Raab, Tom
Rohr, Adam Rosen

Lloyd & Aleda Clarksen, Lynne & Ron Krizek
Scott & Lana Linzmeier
Greg Moreau
Ginny Matthews
Amy & Alex LeGreve

Memory of Lois & Henry Freed, Lowell & Lee Clarksen
Memory of Mary Moreau
Memory of Ed & Barbara Bottger
Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Vincent LeGreve, Robert
Henrickson, Mindy Marie LeGreve

Sue Brull
Capt. Al & Diane Nelson
Randy, Lynn, Jeff, Kimberly, Kurt
Marsha Heuer

Memory of Marion Peters
Memory of Randy Waniger
Memory of Randy Waniger
In Thankfulness for the elderly of our church who
provide such great leadership.

Nancy & Doug Charles
Al & Deb Augustine

Memory of our parents
Memory of Milton & Lucille Augustine, and
Dolores VanEss

Sandy & Bill Monka
Lori Waniger

Memory of Doug Monka and Dora Sommers
In Honor of Adrian P, Mickey V, Barb H.,
Jen Backus family, Betty B.

Gary & Patty Heise

Memory of Ralph & Betty Ammerman, and
Ralph & Betty Heise

Gale Trenholm

Memory of my dog Biscuit

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

With Christmas and the end of the year fast approaching the church's elves have been busy. I want to focus on some of the "behind the scenes" activity that does not often make it into the newsletter or Sunday bulletin.

Our Stewardship campaign is completed and our Financial Secretary, Chris Blimel, has been tallying the pledge commitments for 2019 and providing analysis to our Trustees. Thanks to all who have made a financial commitment to the church for the coming year. Your sacrificial giving is a testimony to your faith and makes ministry possible.

Our Treasurer, Linda Justema, has tallied projected income and expenses for 2018 and 2019 and provided this information to the Trustees who have made difficult decisions about allocation of funds for the rest of this year and for the budget for 2019. Linda has also been working with Debbie and Jean in the office to learn and trial Power Church software to help automate our accounting, record keeping and mailing operations.

Our Nominating Committee has been contacting members to serve in leadership positions to bring to the congregation for **elections at the Annual Meeting on January 27, 2019**. Thanks to those who have agreed to serve, and also to those who are completing terms of service. And thanks to Maren Slickman, Linda Langman, Patty Komoroski, and Frank and Chris Bauknecht for serving on the Nominating Committee.

The Endowment Board has met to allocate distributions from the investment income to several worthy causes. They also have reviewed and proposed revisions in Article 15 of the constitution describing their operation.

The Earth Care Ministry has provided materials on creation care for our church library. You can find the shelf containing these on the upper left side as you face the information desk. They are also learning about solar electricity systems for churches from installers and from other churches which have them.

A committee continues to work on revising our church constitution and has been receiving input from our church boards and from other churches for consideration. We hope to have a draft to you in the coming months. Your Moderator Don DeBruyn



The Earth Care Ministry is making plans for our second Earth Care Festival. The League of Women Voters is planning to join us this year and a tentative date of May 11 has been reserved at UWGB Manitowoc. We have spoken to the campus Dean and she is very excited about holding the event there. This change of location and adding the assistance of a community organization will reach a wider audience with our message of protecting and saving our environment.

At our meeting on Dec. 17, we heard a presentation on solar systems from Keith Conway from Sheboygan. We had heard from Jim Funk of Energize, LLC from Winneconne in a previous meeting. He gave us an hour and a half presentation along with his wife about their ideas. Estimates are pending and no decisions are imminent, but we are excited to find that several other UCC churches have joined the march to minimize fossil fuels. We wish to find a perfect solution for us as well.

EQUAL EXCHANGE THANK YOU

Thank you goes out to all of you who purchased Equal Exchange items this Christmas Season

WOMEN OF GRACE HIGHLIGHTS

The Women Of Grace held their third annual Christmas Cookies and Socks Exchange party on December 8th. Twenty one women attended and did we have fun! Lots of laughter filled the room as we exchanged our socks and saw the gifts that were filled with them.! The homemade cookies were an extra treat to bring home to our families! Three new women attended and they all said that they are coming back next year because they enjoyed the fellowship of friends that we have become! After the party, several women attended the Wonder of Nativity on Reed Avenue in Manitowoc.

We voted on giving the Grace Congregational Church staff Christmas gifts as it is our tradition to do so. We also voted on our newest idea of Food For Friends submitted by Mickey Veleke at our November meeting. We just have to work out the details and then we will tell the congregation about our newest concept.

No meeting in January. We all need some rest and relaxation as we have worked so hard the past few months.

Next meeting: **Saturday, February 2nd @ 9am in the Fellowship Hall.** After the meeting, we will have a Painting On Canvas party led by Donna Weier. The cost will be \$20 per person which includes a canvas and all painting supplies that you will need. Please bring a snack to pass and refreshments will be provided by Women Of Grace. This is such a fun event and you don't have to be artsy to participate! All women, family members and friends are invited to this event. Please sign up at the Information desk if you plan on attending! Hope to see you there!

Remember, all women of Grace Church are members of Women Of Grace! Please come to our meetings... you are always welcome!!

May you all have a most wonderful New Year filled with Peace and Love!

Sincerely, Amy LeGreve

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS



Mark is a retired educator who recently relocated back to the Manitowoc area. If you were a student athlete or the parent of a student athlete you may fondly remember the rousing performances that he directed at Roncalli High School. I was a student when Mark and his wife taught at Roncalli and I can recall people coming to sporting events just to hear the Pep Band fire up! ! Mark went on to become a Principal in Southern WI where he and his wife Sue raised their daughter Margaret. Margaret is now a senior at Roncalli. Music is what drew Mark to our Church and I know he is anxious to get involved with Grace Music Ministry! Help us Anton & Holly Pietenpol Welcome Mark!

I have the pleasure of introducing our newest members Joe and Lisa Stodola. Joe, hailing from the tiny hamlet of Mishicot met the love of his life, Lisa in the thriving metropolis of Manitowoc. They are returning to us from Red Wing, Minnesota where Joe worked in the nuclear plant. Joe, like his brother Chad, now works at the Point Beach Nuclear plant. While his job is demanding, it does not compare to the excellent job Lisa is doing as a stay at home mother for their beautiful children Landon and Arianna. Joe, Bohemian by heritage and not-so much in lifestyle, compliments his German bride quite well, but share the frequent marital arguments over trivialities that I share with my wife - Dutch & mutt (me). They also share our love for Grace Congregational UCC Church: From the kind people, children's programs, and our pastors - Grace has become their church home. Please, join me in welcoming Joe, Lisa, Landon, and Arianna Stodola to Grace Congregational.





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Kayla Johnson
- 2 - Derek Slickman
Parker Reif

- Christopher Drew
- 3 - Chris Bauknecht
Tammy Ricks
Jordan Baeckman
Kevin Gulseth
- 4 - Addisyn Schanilec
- 5 - Ty Wichlacz
Ben Handl
Craig Rysticken
- 6 - Jeff Jasper
- 7 - Nancy Charles
- 8 - Max Onderbeke
Brian Van Ells
Susan Crowley
- 9 - Aaron Schanilec
Sara Schuette
- 10 - Peggy Mueller
Amber Bohman
Allison Bergman
- 11 - Kevin Wargin
- 12 - Kristy Sherrod
- 13 - Hannah Juza
- 15 - Judy Lango
Michele Juza
Lincoln Bettivia
David Waniger
Lori Waniger
- 17 – Ron Boudnik

- Kay Olker
- Mickey Veleke
- 18 - Tim Hirvela
Karen Tadych
Karen Loritz
- 19 - Karl Kahlenberg, Sr.
Logan Novitski
- 21 - Frank Bauknecht
Ron Krizek
Rich Langman
- 22 – Alaina Novitski
- 23 - Douglas Albright
Dominick Springstube
Carson Kintgen
Autumn Buchholz
- 24 - Jason Duvall
Keenie Evenson
- 25 – Diane Kieffer
- 26 - Jean Gunzel
- 30 - Paul Schmid
Kathy Peterson
Ashton Stein



- 16 – Michael and Heather Krueger
- 27 - Bill and Sandy Monka
- 29 - Richard and Roberta Ott
Keith and Sarah Coenen



1209 South 41st, Manitowoc • (920) 683-8466 • www.manitowochabitat.org

Manitowoc County Habitat Volunteers are Needed.
Can you help?

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ReSTORE OPENING

Manitowoc County Habitat for Humanity has opened its new resale facility at 1209 S. 41st Street in Manitowoc (between Custer and Calumet Avenues). The Restore will be open from 10 am to 6 pm Thursdays and Fridays for sales and will accept donated items on Wednesdays. If you are interested in volunteering to help staff the facility, call Jean Wakefield at 683-8466 or email

director@manitowochabitat.org

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

HOSPITALIZED

Barbara Davidson was a patient at Aurora Medical Center.

Richard Dewey had surgery at Aurora Bay Care in Green Bay.

Connie Bruse is a patient at Bellin Hospital in Green Bay,

Doug Charles is a patient at Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh.

Mel Erickson was a patient at Aurora Bay Care in Green Bay

Marilyn Henrickson has been released from the care of Aurora Medical Center and is again at her home.

OUR SYMPATHY

We offer our sympathy to the Stodola family as they grieve the death of Kelly Stodola Reszczyński. Kelly died on November 17. A memorial service will be held at Sepia Chapel, 1820 Jefferson Street on Sunday, December 30 at 11:30 a.m.

We offer our sympathy to Heidi and Aaron Springstube and their family as they grieve the death of Heidi's father, Roger Knutson. Roger died on Wednesday, December 5. A funeral service will be held at Grace Congregational United Church of Christ on Monday, December 10th at 2:30 p.m.

We offer our sympathy to Theo Lynn Hoffmann as she grieves the death of her mother, Margaret Mansfield. Margaret died on Sunday, December 2. A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Manitowoc on Saturday, January 5 at 11 a.m.

BAPTISMS

Arianna Eileen daughter of Joseph and Lisa Stodola was baptized December 16th. Arianna has a brother Landon, and her grandparents are Bonnie & Steve Griesbach and Joseph & Dorothy Stodola. Chosen as godparents for Arianna are Jerry and Sarah Stodola.

Joseph Landon son of Joseph and Lisa Stodola was baptized December 16th. Landon has a sister Arianna, and his grandparents are Bonnie & Steve Griesbach and Joseph & Dorothy Stodola. Chad and Laurel Stodola were chosen as godparents for Landon.

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S TREAT BAG

THANK YOU'S

A very special thank you to the Monday Adult Bible Class for your most generous gifts of treats for the children. And a special thank you to the Elves who helped fill 100 bags in a record amount of time. I'm sure Santa was good to you. The smiles on the children's faces are priceless. God Bless you all.



Hope House The **next host week is January 27th to February 3rd**. The White board is up. Looking for generous volunteers to help. Let me Thank You in advance for your continued dedication to this project.

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON GROUP

We would like to invite **ALL** women of the church to our Women's Luncheon Group.

Announcements are usually in the bulletin and in the newsletter. If you need a ride we can usually provide it. **January 8th we are going to be Lighthouse Inn Two Rivers at 11:30 a.m.** Contact Chris Blimel at 793-2204 or Sandy Monka at 553-2047 if you will be going.

God is still speaking,
WISCONSIN CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

General Synod 32 Volunteering

June 21-25, 2019



YOUR HELP IS KEY to the success of the Wisconsin Conference hosting the 32nd General Synod of the UCC at [the Wisconsin Center](#) in Milwaukee. Over 3000 people are expected to attend. We need 300 to 400 volunteers to assist over this 5-day event. Here is an opportunity to experience the wider United Church of Christ and to learn the many ministries we are engaged in on behalf of Jesus Christ. Here are ways you can volunteer:

Extravagant Hospitality and Welcome: Welcome and direct attendees at Mitchell Airport, the Intermodal Station downtown and in designated hotels.

Registration Table: Assist with the check-in process at the Wisconsin Center.

Guides and Greeters: Welcome and provide directions to attendees in the Wisconsin Center.

Childcare and Children's Ministry: Provide supervision and program leadership for age-appropriate child care and children's activities for infants through age 12. All volunteers in this area will have a background check. **Worship Ushers:** Usher during worship services of Synod.

Outdoor Festival: Direct and assist attendees at the Sunday Festival at Frank Zeidler Square Park. *All members of the Wisconsin Conference are invited!*

For more information check out wcucc.org/synodvolunteer. In January, Volunteer registration will be available online through the Wisconsin Conference website page for General Synod. Information with the link will also be emailed to congregations. All registrations for Volunteering will be done electronically including indicating the positions available and the dates/times volunteers are needed.

After registering as a volunteer, Volunteers must register with the General Synod site and pay a reduced fee of \$60. *DO NOT Register on the Synod website until you have been confirmed and received the volunteer code.*

We hope you consider volunteering at General Synod 32 in Milwaukee June 21-25, 2019! We want you to help give an extravagant welcome to the United Church of Christ in Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Conference.

General Synod 32 Coordinators

Bonnie Andrews, Debbie Payden, Tom Payden, Tim Perkins