

Journeying With Jeannie

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Dear Members and Friends,

There has been some talk about how we might get people to come to church. This is not a question just for St. Luke's UCC, this is a question for churches all over the country. It seems church attendance everywhere is declining and those who do attend church regularly are stumped on how to get others to attend. Well there really are several ways to have higher attendance in church.

First, we all need to ask our friends to come to church with us. How many of us can really work up the nerve to ask someone to come to church with us? We seem to be afraid because of what others might think of us or of our church. The reality is people are truly looking for something beyond themselves. Church is that something. Relationship with God is that something. Why not get up the nerve and just ask one person to come to church with you.

Secondly, that brings me to another idea. How does your life, beyond the church walls, reflect your relationship with God? Do you come to church and then believe you have done your "church thing" for the week, or do you continue to live your beliefs throughout the week? Does your language reflect your love of God or do you "fit it" by speaking slang or demeaning words?

Like I said earlier, people are looking for something beyond themselves. When they see you, do they see your glow which is actually the love of God shining through? Do they see something they might want? It's pretty amazing what happens when you live your life for God. You become more approachable. You realize you have a focus. You become the person everyone likes to have around.

Getting people to come to church takes work. We cannot expect people to walk through our church doors without us working hard at being a church that welcomes everyone with open arms. We cannot expect people to know we are welcoming unless we are living lives of welcoming people. We cannot expect people to embrace us unless we embrace others fully.

Yes we would like to have more people in church on Sunday mornings; however, it is our responsibility to invite our friends, our neighbors and our family members. It is our responsibility to teach others what it means to have a loving relationship with God. It is our responsibility to live out our beliefs.

My prayer is we continue to learn what it means to be a welcoming church, continuing to embrace one another in God's love, and to believe God is calling this church to great things in this community.

May God bless each of us and those we all know and love.

Blessing to all,
Pastor Jeannie

March Schedule

MARCH 1ST

GREETERS
USHERS
USHERS
LITURGIST
ALTAR FLOWERS
ALTAR GUILD

WORSHIP

Ron & Julie Borth
Ron & Julie Borth
Ron & Jill Petrus
Bunny Scudder

MARCH 8th

GREETERS
USHERS
USHERS
LITURGIST
ALTAR FLOWERS

WORSHIP

Tony & Pam Regalia
Tony & Pam Regalia
Steven & Denise Sell
Wendy Rendflesh

MARCH 15TH

GREETERS
USHERS
USHERS
LITURGIST
ALTAR FLOWERS

WORSHIP

Audrey Olbrantz & Janet Gouge'
Audrey Olbrantz & Janet Gouge'
Ethel Navarro & Arleen Chrapla
Veronica Shea

MARCH 22ND

GREETERS
USHERS
USHERS
LITURGIST
ALTAR FLOWERS
BULLETINS

WORSHIP

Steve Plumb & Joan Weller
Steve Plumb & Joan Weller
Dale & Jodi Pelczynski
Rita Rodriguez
Veronica Shea
Brad & Michelle Uelmen

MARCH 29th

GREETERS
USHERS
USHERS
LITURGIST
ALTAR FLOWERS

WORSHIP

Tom & Michelle Smith
Tom & Michelle Smith
Tom & Elsie Parr
Jill Unglaub

APRIL 5th

GREETERS
USHERS
USHERS
LITURGIST
ALTAR FLOWERS
BULLETINS
ALTAR GUILD

WORSHIP

Bob & Lana Greene
Bob & Lana Greene
Erwin & Judy Lackner
Kaye Povlich
Ethel Navarro
Ethel Navarro
Keith Switalski

If you can not meet your scheduled Sunday, call the church office at 762-8260 before that Wednesday.
Thank you.

Sunday School & Christian Education Notes

Hello everyone. Spring is finally springing and birds are chirping and singing. What a wonderful time of year.

Lenten boxes were distributed to Sunday school children on February 22nd. Please remember to add to them when you can and bring them back to church by Easter Sunday.

The Sunday school students will be participating in some Easter skits to prepare for Easter Sunday. These skits will take place during Children's Time and will address some of the symbols we associate with Easter. I will talk with the kids during Sunday school about their parts and will let parents know if their child will be involved and when.

Our 30 Hour Famine will be over by the time you are reading this newsletter. If you are interested in how it turned out, please see me or any of the children that participated.

As the weather warms and we prepare for Lent and look forward to Easter, be sure to take time to thank God for all the beauty he has given us. Then take some time to enjoy it!

God Bless,

Amy

Weekly Scripture Readings for February

	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>
Mar 1	Psalm 25: 1-10	Mark 1:9-15
Mar 8	Psalm 22:23-31	Mark 8:31-38
Mar 15	Psalm 19	John 2:13-33
Mar 22	Psalm 107	John 3:14-21
Mar 29	Jeremiah 31:31-34	John 12:20-33
Apr 5	Psalm 31:9-16	Mark 11:1-11

Synopsis of February Minutes

Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Brad Uelmen. Worship moment was read by Brad Uelmen. A prayer was said by Rev. Jeannie. A motion was made by Veronica Shea to approve minutes as printed; seconded by Bob Greene. Motion approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes for March 22 were given to Kathy Immel.
- Confirmation will be April 5.
- A new printer was purchased for the pastor after the old one stopped working.
- Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m., Maundy Thursday with Communion at 7:00 p.m., Good Friday will be a joint service with 1st Congregational UCC. Time to be determined.
- We will have a pot luck lunch after service on March 1 and watch the movie Chocolat. We will then have discussions about the movie on the Wednesdays during Lent. The first discussion will be March 4 at 7:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT: We received 92% of money pledged YTD. 54% of what was needed to cover monthly expenses was received in January. A motion was made by Bob Scudder to approve the Financial Report; seconded by Kathy Immel; report approved.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT: February 28 will be the 30 Hour Famine fasting program for the youth. Many activities will be planned. Pizza will be served for the kids after church the next day. Lenten boxes were distributed. Amy Wheelock-Brodzik will be talking with Rev. Jeannie about a possible Easter program for the kids.

MUSIC & WORSHIP/BUILDING & GROUNDS: The board recommends bringing to the congregation in a special meeting to proceed to fix the entire roof in the spring of 2009 for an approximate cost of \$70,000. We recommend having multiple fundraisers to offset the costs. What isn't raised, we'll seek congregational approval to take from the endowment fund. Motion was made by Veronica Shea to approve;

seconded by Kathy Immel; motion approved. This is the second consecutive board meeting that this motion was passed. Once we have a firm bid, we will proceed with a congregational meeting.

EVANGELISM: Bob Greene would like to update the membership rolls and nametags. He will put a committee together.

OLD BUSINESS: Keith Switalski attended the meeting to discuss the needed upgrade to the security system. He received quotes from Brinks and ADT. ADT was the cheaper quote and the one that Keith recommended. Amy Wheel-Brodzik made a motion to proceed the Option 1 from ADT (\$4,337.37) with half of the money coming from the Building & Grounds fund and half coming from the Memorial fund. Veronica Shea seconded the motion; motion carried. Keith also reported that a boiler inspection needs to be scheduled. Amy Wheelock-Brodzik reported on the documentation and procedures committee. She has a few people willing to help. The policy will be on file in the church office.

NEW BUSINESS: A discussion was held about attracting new members to St. Luke's. We talked about how to promote ourselves throughout the community. We need to promote the programs we have. The website was a good step and is a good vehicle to promote our programs.

ANYTHING ELSE: Bob Greene volunteered for next month's worship moment. Next regular meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Brad Uelmen closed the meeting at 8:20 p.m.; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brad Uelmen
Church Corporate Board President

Those Hospitalized or were Hospitalized
and Those In Need Of Our Thoughts and
Prayers

Lois Brosowsky is home recovering from cataract surgery.

Administration Facilitator's Notes

Music & Worship: It's hard to believe Ash Wed. has come and gone and Lent is upon us! Our Bible Study for Lent is called "Chocolat for Lent" and is based on the movie Chocolat. For anyone who is not familiar with the movie, we will show the movie and have a potluck lunch after church on Sunday, March 1st. Our first bible study will be on Wednesday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Stewardship & Finance: To date, 72 pledges cards have been turned in. 83 families have still not turned in pledge cards. The Stewardship Team may partner with the Evangelism Team to address the attendance and giving issues of our church. Members of the congregation who have not turned in pledge cards or are not actively participating in the life of our church will be hearing from members of one or both of these teams. It is very important that we all support our church with time, talent and treasure.

One Great Hour of Sharing's special offering is set for Sunday, March 22nd. One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes real the love of Christ for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disasters, conflict or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. These offerings are used to help people make vital basic improvement in their lives.

The "Souper Bowl" Sunday offering raised \$185.05. This money will be divided equally and donated to local charitable organizations. Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2009 "Souper Bowl" a success!

Building and Grounds: The existing alarm system is outdated and no longer as efficient as it should be. Estimates have been gathered. The system will be upgraded soon.

The boiler is in need of an inspection and cleaning. The cost is approximately \$100. This will be scheduled for fall 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Immel
Administration Facilitator

Remember Our Shut-ins This Easter

This Easter, let's show our shut-ins that we're thinking of them by sending them an Easter Card. I'm sure they would appreciate the thoughtfulness.

Beth & Linda Ahlhaus
703 Madison Ave. So. Milw. 53172

Kiva Hayen
2416 14th Ave. So. Milw. 53172

Mary Hughes
2230 W Layton Ave #106 Milw. 53221

Susanna Hull
Heritage Memory Community
3585 S 147th St. #215 New Berlin 53151

Ardith Martin
2500 10th Ave #206 So. Milw. 53172

Joanne Nagy & Antionette Stulginskis
Cameo Care Center
5790 S 27th St. Milw. 53221

Charles Plotz
810 Manistique Ave So. Milw. 53172

Mildred Vogl
3803 E Fitzsimmons Rd. Oak Creek 53154

Easter Plants

Due to the dwindling response and the increased cost of delivery if a \$300 order is not met, we will not be placing an order for Easter plants this year from Milaeger's.

As at Christmas time, we are asking those that would like to help decorate the altar with a plant to bring one in. Blank adhesive labels will be in the Narthex for you to put your name on the plant. Plants may be taken home after the 9:30 service on Easter Sunday.

Summer Camp

Information about the 2009 Summer Camp Schedules at Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach Camp is now available online at www.ucci.org.

Summer camp brochures are also available in the church office. Stop in and pick up a copy.

Help Offered Dial 211

211 Impact is a 24-hour referral service intended to help with your questions about food, housing and medical concerns.

Southeast Association

Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 25

9:00 – 3:00 pm

Hosted by: Evangelical & Reformed UCC,
Waukesha

Registration opens at 8:30 am. This year's meeting will have an emphasis on Global Partnerships and Mission, and also breakout sessions on Conference restructuring (bring your ideas!). Keynote speaker will be Dr. Elizar Fernandez from United Theological Seminary in Minnesota. Clergy, delegates and visitors encouraged to attend and participate.

Day Light Savings Time Starts Sunday, March 8th!

Don't forget to set your clocks 1 hour ahead on Saturday, March 7th before you go to bed.

Get Connected with the Wisconsin Conference

Join the WCUCS Online Mailing List for up to date information from the conference level, including Annual Meeting Updates.

Receive the conference monthly newsletter, *Wisconsin Conference Life* to read Wisconsin Conference UCC news, events and spiritual messages. Visit the Conference online at: www.wcucc.org – enter your email address in the lower right hand corner or email Lisa Analore at: lanalore@wcucc.org

For Your Information Task Force on Family Violence and Sojourner Truth House Merge

The Task Force on Family Violence and Sojourner Truth House announced on January 28, 2009 that they have merged into a single organization, the Sojourner Family Peace Center. The agencies will merge effective February 1, 2009 to more effectively and efficiently deliver domestic violence victims a greater range of resources and services. The Sojourner Family Peace Center provides education, advocacy and resources to keep people safe. It operates a 37 bed shelter that has provided safety and support services to thousands of women and children.

A Thank You From The Wisconsin Conference

In 2008 the UCC churches in Wisconsin contributed \$2,122,375 toward Our Churches Wider Mission. This is slightly in excess of the expected \$2,100,000 the Conference Budget had been based on.

Thanks to all who make the mission work an important part of our Stewardship each year.