



January 2017

THE GREETER

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
133 SOUTH FRANKLIN STREET
WHITEWATER, WI 53190
262-473-4101

THINGS TO NOTE:

- *Poinsettias can be picked up anytime.
- *Dec. 29th = Office Closed
- *Dec. 30th = Office Closed
- *Worship Service – Happy New Year!!!
Sunday, Jan. 1st -10am
- *Blanket & Tool Offering-
Sunday, Jan. 1st
- *Jan. 2nd = Office Closed
- *De-Greening – Sunday,
Jan. 8th after worship.
- *ANNUAL MEETING –
SUNDAY, JAN. 22ND AFTER
WORSHIP SERVICE.
- *Rev. Blair Installation –
Sunday, Jan. 29th at 3pm.
- *Book Club- Tuesday, Jan.
31st at 6:30pm.



YOU ARE INVITED:

January 1st.

Rev. Blair is having an open house from 2pm – 5pm. If you need directions – please contact the office.

God rest ye merry, gentlemen
 Let nothing you dismay
 Remember, Christ, our Saviour
 Was born on Christmas day
 To save us all from Satan's power
 When we were gone astray
 O tidings of comfort and joy,
 Comfort and joy
 O tidings of comfort and joy

As we embark upon a new year I wonder if we can agree to do one new bold thing? We are in another season where we are hearing about change. Funny thing about change is we are all for it if it's our kind of change, but if it is not *our* kind of change, we are against it.

We are living in a time that is running faster than our imaginations can, well imagine. We read the paper and the next day there is more; more to absorb, more to be, more to do.

In my opinion, we in the church have something everyone wants. A place where we remember that Christ our savior was born to *save us all from Satan's power when we have gone astray*. To remember that we are called to be a community of *comfort and joy*. *But it's not that easy is it?*

Here we are in a community where we are loved by our amazing Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer GOD and loved regardless. Here in our savior's safe place we must welcome all people REGARDLESS of race, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, past mistakes, economic stability, mental or physical difficulties, education, gender or all of the above. For me, the bottom line of being a community is to not only a place where we are all welcome, but a place where we are all safe. I KNOW there are some places in this list where one might resist one or two items on this list, but I invite you to be bold.

We choose to be in this community because we believe in the One who constantly talks about love, peace, joy and yes, hope, and challenges us to do the same. But sometimes I think we love, not the Jesus who is calling us today, but the old Jesus from our childhood who we think was always going to be the same.

Nothing is really the same as it was before, not for Jesus and not for us. We have each lost and gained...money, relationships, understandings, commitments and all other kind of thing that makes us tick. And when this happens I invite you to look towards the Jesus who lives in us today...we look so nothing will dismay us, so we can feel loved and forgiven and live in a world where tidings and joy abound. But this doesn't come easily or naturally. It takes being bold to understand and receive glad tidings of great joy. But how might we do that?

I rarely get a day off to do this as much as I should (and it is one of my 2017 resolutions), but we really need to take time to reflect. It seems church always calls on me day or night - on the phone, email, text or in my head. It keeps me moving too fast. Instead we need to first look at where we are and then get moving. And to do that we need to reflect.

Bold. I am asking BOLDNESS from each of us. Be bold to take Jesus in your heart and leave the judgments and threats that we have learned alone. Step out of the shoulds, the burdens and fears of the past and try on something new. Stop judging yourself and others - accept love instead. And if you can't do that, at least learn to let it go and move forward.

Be BOLD. Do something that, with Jesus loving you in your heart, breathing in and out with you, that you can do. Pick one BOLD thing to do for you...maybe I need to find someone to play piano for me and sing those old jazz standards I love so well. Or maybe even finally learn to play piano myself. And secondly and as important pick I and we need to do one BOLD thing for our church.

As a church community we do lots of *things* that are wonderful and historic, comforting and lovely. We don't have to give most of them up, but maybe it is time to try some new, bolder things.

What would you do? What one bold thing would you do for yourself and what one bold thing would you do for the church?

Our Mission and Generosity Board officially decided to suspend the noisy offering until next September while we boldly study mission and find a new way to help you to study it with us.

Our Cabinet has boldly agreed to my request to re-imagine and rewrite our constitution. This could make some folks dig in their heels and others put on more comfortable shoes knowing we need to move forward with energy and health. Either way, it takes courage to look at who we were, who we are and to move ahead in a BOLD new way into the future.

And when you can't believe that this boldness is possible for you, or the church, then sit in silence and listen to the holy say to you, "**Do not be afraid**; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:" Luke 2:10

Amen and amen



In Our Prayers

Jill Freiermuth
Art VanderKoy
Marilyn and Carroll Olm
Lars and Barbara Larson
Jeff Radaj
Al Kromholtz
Gerry Wilcox
Mary Lou sister of Kay and Marsha.
Charles Brizius
Steve Garbe
Fred Bertolaet
Wally Robeson
Jim Follis
Dick Triebold recovering from accident
at Fairhaven.
Family and friends of Howard Nelson
who died.
JOYS:
Mary and Rod Dalee welcome a new
Grandson – Dean Metternich Kertscher
on 12/14.

REMINDERS

January Ushers

January 1st = Diaconate
January 8th = Rick Blucher, Marcia Yochum
Lu Gunther and Mel Lentz
January 15th = Kay Robers, Janet Morrow,
Bill and Heather Kehoe
January 22nd = Allen Grady, Dick Triebold,
Jim Caldwell and Corey Davis
January 29th = Rick & Margie Hammerl,
Jim Holtz and Chuck Taggart

January Fellowship Hour Schedule

January 1st = Marcia and David Yochum
January 8th = VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
January 15th = VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
January 22nd = Annual Meeting
January 29th = VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

January Nursery

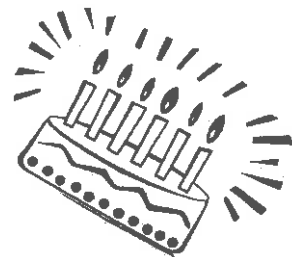
Cindy Robers

**Greater Deadline:
December 15, 2016**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January

1-Corey Bruns
3-Mara Lee Searing
4-Roy & Debbie Rockwell
5-Lee Stoneking
14-Jim Holtz
15-Susan Kidd
16-Liam Springer
18-Gwen Slocum
19-Larry Nelson
21-Keith & Kayleen Strait
23-Tom Egnoski
Randy & Pat Cruse
24-Jeff Knight
26-Dorothy Nelson
Hal Helming
28-Barb & Dick Kelly
29-Hailee Hammerl
David & Marcia Yochum
30-Carroll Olm
31-Kris Coleman
Mike Kaspar IV



AROUND THE CHURCH.....

MISSION AND STEWARDSHIP

Please feel free to “Remember the Food Pantry”.

We want to say a special ‘thanks’ to “Wilfred Roe” for taking the items every month to the food pantry.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday afternoon Bible Study at Church.
Come and join us at 2pm, Tuesday afternoons. Beginning January 3rd, we will begin our study of Acts. If you would like to have a book ordered, please contact the office. Please plan on joining us for any of these Tuesdays at Two.

CLOTHES CLOSET

IF you need a tax receipt - please contact Kay Robers. Thank you in advance!

PLEASE HELP US:

IF YOU ARE GOING INTO THE HOSPITAL OR KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS IN THE HOSPITAL – PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE. THE HOSPITALS DON’T LIKE GIVING OUT TOO MUCH INFORMATION (HIPA) ESPECIALLY IF THE “BOX” ISN’T MARKED FOR “RELIGION”. QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE

CHRISTIAN BOOK STUDY GROUP

Please Join Us!!! The Christian Book Club is reading What We Talk About When We Talk About God by Rob Bell as our first selection of 2017. Marcia Yochum will be leading the discussions on January 31st and February 28th at 6:30pm in the Church Office. Please join us for what will be a stimulation and thought provoking- discussion. If you have

any suggestions for the book club, please contact Mary Dalee or Kathy Ross.

MID-WEEK MEALS

The next MWM will be in February. Please consider hosting!!

CONGREGATOR’S CIRCLE

Congregator’s Circle will meet December 21st along with the Star Gleaners in the Oasis room of Fairhaven. All are welcome.

FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

1/1=Worship Service-10am

“Happy New Year”

NO Sunday school

1/5=Youth Group-6:30pm

1/8=De-Greening

Sunday School

Fairhaven

1/15= Sunday School

C.E Mting-11:30am

1/19=Youth Group-6:30pm

1/22= Sunday School

ANNUAL MEETING

1/29= Sunday School

Rev. Blair’s Installation – 3pm

THANK YOU TO THE FOLKS THAT RANG

BELLS FOR SALVATION ARMY:

ALL the children – Ashleigh and Maggie

David and Marcia Yochum

Rick and Margie Hammerl

Renea and Jacob Zuehlke

Dan and Tina Winger

Rick and Nancy Blucher

THANK YOU!!!

THANKS TO CHUCK TAGGART AND DICK TRIEBOLD FOR TAKING THE “LOVE BAGS” TO THE FOOD PANTRY!!

Thank You!

Dear Congregation of the United Church of Christ,
During this time between the joyful holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas, APF wants to take a moment to say a big THANK YOU for your financial support of our mission. Every day we help victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse right here in our county.
Last year APFV helped 309 survivors of sexual abuse, 75% of whom were children. We also helped 697 survivors of domestic violence. Your sent donation of \$84.06 from the noisy offering will be used to help meet the needs of recent victims.
Thank you for thinking of APFV. Together we are helping "victims" of violence transform to "survivors" who are on their path to healing.
Best to your,
Heidi Lloyd
APFV Director

If you purchased a poinsettia – it can be picked up.



CLOTHES CLOSET NEWS

The Month of December found us up to our EYEBALLS with donations!!! This was a result of our plea at the time of the FIRE at University Garden Apartments. People are so caring and compassionate about giving to HELP their neighbors. We literally had people bring as much as trailer loads. Not only clothing, friends were bringing kitchen wares as well as toys, sheets, towels, anything they could think of that would be of help... From St. Joseph Catholic School in Fort Atkinson the 3rd Grade Class collected money and sent a Set of Cook Ware and utensils to be given to a Family .This amazing generosity caused us to STOP accepting Donations until we can pass on the inventory we have. First time we have had to say NO THANKS!!! It is a good problem to have I guess. We are grateful that NEW volunteers have come forth. We had amazing help from a group of 8th Grade Girls Basketball players come in to give us several hours of efficient organizing!!

Thanks to all for your continued support in 2016. We are now in the process of starting a Diaper Program. This will be our first project of 2017. Right now we have several families evaluating the product. Stay tuned...

Thank you!!!

Dear Congregational Church,
Thank you so much for allowing Bethel House to use the building for the Rebuild Financial classes. The families all expressed how beneficial it was to take the class. Thank you for helping us make a difference! We are so grateful for your support!

-Kristy Weinberg

Whitewater Congregational UCC Unapproved Cabinet Minutes 12-15-16

The December meeting of the Cabinet was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Moderator Rick Blucher. Members present were Margie Hammerl, Rick Hammerl, Gary Kincaid, Kathy Kincaid, Sharon Knight, Charlotte Kuenning, Wally McDonell, Karen O'Connor, Zach Oster, Kathy Ross .

Pastor Blair was also present.

Pastor Blair began the meeting with a prayer.

Clerk:Sharon Knight- Membership is at 203. Minutes of the November 17, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved, after a motion from Rick Hammerl and a second from Rick Blucher.

Treasurer's Reports:Kathy Kincaid-The Treasurer's report for 1/1/2016- 12/6/2016, Balance sheet as of December 6, 2016, and Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual were distributed and reviewed. These reports were approved based on a motion by Sharon Knight and a second by Gary Kincaid.

New and On-Going (around the table) All Committee Chairmen are asked to submit their reports electronically by the Monday before each Cabinet meeting.

Music: No Report

Missions and Generosity: Margie Hammerl- 23 pledge cards have been received for 2017 totaling \$69, 946.00.

Christian Education: Zach Oster - The CE Board met on November 20 and reviewed an application from Danielle Jordon to serve as a second nursery/childcare worker, and voted unanimously to recommend hiring her once she passes background and reference checks. If hired, she will work with Cindy Robers to decide who will cover each Sunday or other event. We discussed plans for the Advent/Christmas season and for 2017.

Matthew Porter has agreed to help keep the church website and online calendar up-to-date. We haven't had anyone working on this for a while, so we are thankful for his help. We are starting to get more children in Sunday School, so we are planning to split Sunday School into two classes sometime in 2017. We will soon be asking for volunteers to "shadow" Maggie during Sunday School, which will help us prepare for this step. The idea is to have each person help with Sunday School maybe once per month, so it wouldn't be a long-term commitment.

The Sunday School Christmas program and the Christmas bake sale will both be on Sunday, Dec. 18. We are doing "Happy Birthday Jesus" cupcakes this year; Marsha McKinnon will bake (thanks, Marsha!) and the kids will decorate after rehearsal for the Christmas program. Thanks to all who donated gifts and money for the Giving Tree this year, and thanks to our youth (and to Ashleigh) for buying presents with the donated money! In recent years, the church has always given some extra money to support the Giving Tree. I (Zach) think we should consider making this a regular budget item, to make that support official.

The next CE meeting will be January 15, 2017. There is no December meeting. In 2017, we will be revising the CE portion of the constitution, updating and/or writing job descriptions, and working on some exciting new things!

Trustees: Rick Hammerl - Funds were transferred from the LPL Investment Reserve fund to Caring Fund (\$5,000.00) and to Improvements (\$5,000.00).

Diaconate: Charlotte Kuenning- Rick Blucher has agreed to be on Diaconate. The new lavalier microphone seems to be working.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Blair- There will be a new members class starting in February. The class will have 8 people in it and meet every Sunday in February.

Old Business:

Nominating Committee announced that Ellie Wilson has agreed to be appointed to a Cabinet Member at Large position and Carrie Oster has agreed to serve as Moderator. Carrie would like to continue to be a member of the Music Board. Wally led a discussion on the nomination committee report and other possible nominations for committees. There was also discussion on the idea of merging the Diaconate and Music committee.

New Business: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on January 19, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Sharon Knight, Clerk

**Income and expenses -
January thru November 2016**

Income: \$130,254.00

Expenses: \$145,857.00

Thanks to the following for adding to the beauty
of our Sanctuary during this Advent Christmas Season.

Poinsettias are given in Memory or Honor of:

Our Family
Leslie & Enola Gerner, Vicki Mau and Mike Gerner
Our Family
All
Memory of Bob Jennings
Family

From: Lyle and Dawn Hunter
From: The Gerner Family
From: Lein Family
From: Ricky Blucher
From: Gerry Jennings
From: Kim and Wally McDonell

*First Citizens State Bank donated a Poinsettia.

*Greens donated from the Kincaid Family (also thanks to Kim, and Gary for cutting them)

Your staff at the Whitewater Congregational United Church of Christ appreciates the many acts of kindness during the Holy Season. May you all have a blessed New Year and thanks again for all the good wishes.



Adrienne
Barnes

Renee
Harden-
Zweiser

Kathy
Kincaid

Rev. Fair Hill

Corne
Pellemore

Denise
Hof

Cindy
Roberts

Maggie Radaj

Ann
Reinhart
Debra V. V.

