

The Messenger

Volume 24 No 1

January 2024

The Newsletter of The United Church of Sandwich

"Passionately united to feed all people — body, mind and spirit — to the glory of God!"



Greetings!

As we cross over into the threshold of a brand-new year, it is with great joy and anticipation that we share warm greetings to each and every one of you. January marks not only the beginning of a new calendar year but also an opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth. In the tapestry of our faith, this month is a canvas upon which we begin to paint the promises of God's grace and God's plans for us. There are endless possibilities that lie ahead.



In the book of Isaiah, we are reminded that God is always at work, bringing forth new things in our lives. "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19, NIV). As we embark on this journey into 2024, let us open our hearts and minds to the new beginnings that God is orchestrating in our midst. Whether it be in our personal lives, relationships, or the life of our church family, God is weaving a tapestry of grace, mercy, and love.

The turning of the calendar pages provides us with a symbolic opportunity to recommit ourselves to a deeper walk with God. Let us reflect on the past year with gratitude for the lessons learned, the challenges overcome, and the blessings received. With renewed faith, let us embrace the promise of a new year, trusting that God's plans for us are filled with hope and prosperity. People often set new year's resolutions at this time of the year. In the spirit of new beginnings, consider setting some spiritual resolutions for the year ahead. Whether it's dedicating more time to prayer, engaging in regular scripture study, or actively participating in one of the ministries of our church, let us commit to growing in our relationship with God and with one another.

As we stand on the threshold of this new year, let us remember the words of the psalmist: "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105, NIV). May the light of God's word guide us, inspire us, and illuminate the path of new beginnings that lies before us. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyous January filled with the promise of new beginnings.

God Bless,

Pastor Tom Bourke



Sunday Scriptures & Sermons for January

The Romans Journey:

January 7 Romans 6:1-4 ~ Law & Grace

January 14 Romans 7:15-20, 8:31-39 ~ Nothing Can Separate Us

January 21 Romans 11:1-2, 13-24 ~ Branches Grafted On

January 28 Romans 12:9-21 ~ The Renewed Creation



AS WE BID FAREWELL TO THIS YEAR
AND WELCOME THE NEW YEAR,
LET'S JOIN OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER
FOR OUR BELOVED CHILDREN AND
THEIR FAMILIES. MAY THE COMING YEAR
BRING ABUNDANT BLESSINGS, HEALTH
AND JOY TO EACH ONE OF THEM.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MISSION OF THE MONTH



Hesed House PADS

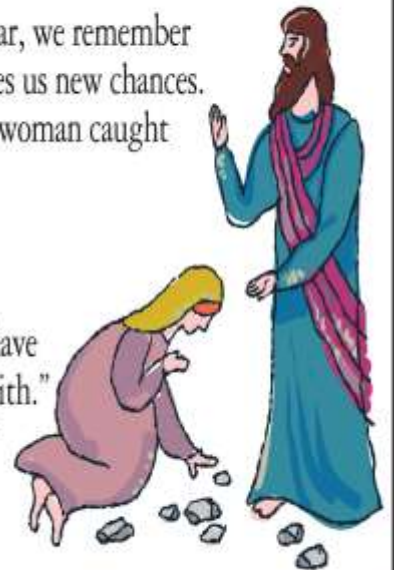
A national model for ending homelessness – one person, one family at a time. The second-largest homeless shelter in the State of Illinois, and the largest shelter outside of the city of Chicago. The culmination of over four decades of strategic evolution. Typically, more than 7,500+ volunteers serve at Hesed House each year. Representing over 90 area churches, businesses, and service organizations. They help provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and they share hope for those **experiencing homelessness every year.** “We are grateful to the many groups and individuals who continue to support us through food and financial donations.”

Thank you, The Missions Committee

Bible Quiz

At the start of a new year, we remember that God continually gives us new chances. What does Jesus say to a woman caught in adultery?

- A. “Go, and from now on sin no more.”
- B. “Not even in Israel have I found such great faith.”
- C. “Peace be with you.”
- D. “Tell no one what I have done for you.”



Answer: A (See John 8:11.)

January Activities




Administrative Council meets Tuesday, January 9th, at 6:30pm.

Council members please provide a report for your committees by January 5th.

Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, January 16th, 4:30pm.

Finance Committee will meet Thursday January 18th, at 6:30pm.

Pledge Cards may still be placed in the offering plate or turned into the office door mailbox.

Giving envelopes for 2024 are in the narthex. If you wish to have envelopes and there is not a box with your name, please let Pat Hallaron or the office know and one will be provided. PLEASE, destroy all old envelopes and only use those assigned to you for 2024. Thank You!

U'Niter's do not meet in January or February.



United Women in Faith meet Thursday, January 11th at 9:30am in the Chapel. All women of the church are invited to attend.

4th Weekend Drive

Thank you for your continued support of the 4th Weekend Drives. The request will be for a **"Diaper Drive"** January 27 & 28. If you are able, please bring diapers any size or brand. These donated items will be taken to Sandwich Church of the Nazarene for distribution. Follow Basics DeKalb County for more information. Thank you! The Missions Committee

PIE OF THE MONTH EVENT

January: Pie-Blueberry Order Deadline-January 14 Pickup Date-January 20	April: Pie-Apple (2 crust) Order Deadline-April 14 Pickup Date-April 20
February: Pie-Cherry Order Deadline-February 11 Pickup Date-February 17	May: Pie-Peach Order Deadline-May 5 Pickup Date-May 11
March: Pie-Triple Berry or French Silk Order Deadline-March 24 Pickup Date-March 30	June: Pie-Strawberry-Rhubarb Order Deadline-June 9 Pickup Date-June 15

PIE OF THE MONTH MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

3 Month Membership - \$60.00 for pies offered January-March or April-June 2023.

6 Month Membership - \$110.00 for all pies January-June 2024.

The Membership gets you the pies at a reduced cost.

Memberships are not required to purchase any pie of the month.

Pies may be purchased baked or frozen (with baking instructions).

Pickup only — no delivery

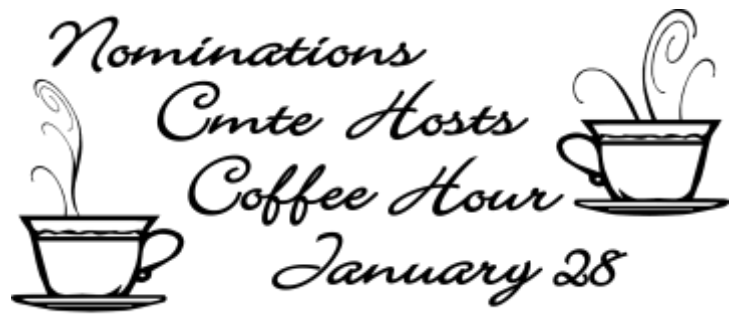
The Church will be open from 9AM-11AM on the Pickup date.

Please use the south entrance.

Checkout the UCS website:
unitedchurchsandwich.org

or

Call the UCS office to place an order.



**Newsletter
Deadline**
January 23
Please send any joys, concerns, photos, thoughts or informational articles to the church office. 815-786-9243



United Kids After School is still going strong! We had a fun December - kids and volunteers alike. We have been able to gift our families with 3 free UKAS days. The first one was December 15. All kids were invited to attend, and we had a

Christmas movie day with special snacks and we invited 4 high schoolers from the National Honor Society to help and get to know our kids. We had 17 kids attend for free on the 15. Parents get to choose their other 2 free days the first week back after winter break. Parents were all extremely thankful for the free days. The last day before break was an early release day from school for the kids. We made this a special day as well. Carole Strock brought sugar cookies to decorate and we made Christmas crafts and played fun games. Once school was done, and kids were on break, we had a Christmas party at the parsonage for all UKAS volunteers. It was a blessing to have almost all of our volunteers together in fellowship, laughing, chatting, praying for each other and for our UKAS kids. We are so grateful for all of our volunteers! Each and every one has a special bond with our kids. Our friend, Ms. Pam gets a special shout out for bringing us a Christmas tree and securing and delivering a donation of a nice large rug from Cooper's in Plano. The kids love it! And they spent December making crafts to decorate the tree. The kids also spent 2 weeks making 40 Christmas cards to give to Willowcrest residents. We have been busy in the best way possible, and I'm incredibly thankful for this program and those that support it.

In the fall, we had some church members step up and decide to support the program by giving scholarships to families in our program who were in need of financial assistance. To those anonymous donors, your gift is so generous and so appreciated. Thank you. If anyone is interested in helping by providing a UKAS full or partial scholarship, please see Kim. Thank you all for your prayers, time, and donations to support UKAS!

Kim Bourke 630.699.2328 ucs.unitedkids@gmail.com

THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANDWICH
Leadership Team for 2024 - 2026
Nominations/Lay Leadership Committee Report

Administrative Council

Discipline, 244.1-3; 252.1-6

Chairperson	Sarah Stevens
Recording Secretary	Chris Bagwill
Lay Leader	Jim Bernhardt
Staff/Parish Relations	Jerry Brown
Finance/Stewardship	Pam Nehring
Treasurer	Linda Duy
Payroll	Pam Nehring
Financial Secretary	Pat Hallaron
Memorials/Endowments	Bonnie Miller
Trustees Chair	Gary Anderson
Missions/Evangelism	Phyllis Whitehead/Bonnie Bernhardt
Fair Stand Chairperson	Reid Heinekamp
Worship and Music	Deb Clason
UMW President	Marilyn Steenwyk
UMM President	
Lay Member AC	Ken Young
Alt. LMAC	Sarah Stevens

**** Asterisks preceding a name indicate the Chairperson:**

Pastor-Staff / Parish Relations Committee

2026: John Hallaron, Jim Updike, Ed Reeder
2025: Gwen Fox, Reid Heinekamp, Christine McMahon
2024: Carole Strock, Marilyn Steenwyk, **Jerry Brown
Ex Officio: Lay Leader, Jim Bernhardt; LMAC Ken Young

Board of Trustees

2026: Matt Olson, Lynn Reeder, Chris Martner
2025: Connie Mitchell
2024: **Gary Anderson, John Jerabek
On Call List for: Parsonage
Outside/grounds, Gary Anderson; Supplies
Inside building, John Jerabek, Lynn Reeder;
Ex-Officio: Pastor

Finance / Stewardship Committee

2026: Bill McMahon,
2025: Judy Anderson, Debby Hill
2024: Angie Miller, Sandy Gustafson
Treasurer: Linda Duy; Payroll: **Pam Nehring
Financial Secretary: Pat Hallaron
Ex-Officio: Pastor; Lay Leader, Jim Bernhardt
Ad.C. Chair Sarah Stevens
LMAC Ken Young, may also include Trustee Rep; S/PRC Rep

Nominations/Lay Leadership Committee

2026: Pam Nehring, Ron Henrich
2025: Jim Bernhardt, Gwen Fox
2024: Sarah Stevens, Judy Anderson
**Pastor is Chairperson.

Ex-officio: Lay Leader Jim Bernhardt

Elections to Nominations can be "from the floor of Charge Conference or through the recommendation of Nominations" (247.7; 249; 258.1, 259.1d).

Memorials & Endowments

2026: Carole Strock, Bonnie Bernhardt
2025: **Bonnie Miller, Etta Stahl, Nancy Brown
2024: Kim Henrich, Chris Bagwill
Ex-Officio: Pastor; Trustee Rep

Fair Stand Committee

**Reid Heinekamp, Pam Nehring, Sarah Stevens,
Jim Bernhardt, Judy Anderson, Gary Anderson
Tom Bourke

Worship Committee

2026: Deb Seymour, Betty Reiners,
2025: **Deb Clason, Susan Benson,
2024: Diane Johnson, Deb Heinekamp, Connie Mitchell,
Sandy Gillette
Music Staff: Kevin Duy, Choir
Ex-Officio: Pastor

Missions Committee

2026: Ginger Dannewitz, Lori Updike
2025: **Phyllis Whitehead, **Bonnie Bernhardt
2024: Myrtie Warren, Phyllis Davis, Judy Brandow
Ex-Officio: Pastor

Prayer Ministry

– (for *Nurture, Outreach and Witness, 252.2-e*)
**Myrtie Warren, Phyllis Davis, Pam Nehring,
Sandy Whiteis, Pastor

Prayer Group Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Our purpose, according to the *Discipline, 252.2-e* is to encourage: "(1) the election of a Prayer Coordinator to promote prayer and mobilize the church to pray; (2) the establishment of a prayer room or designated place for prayer; and (3) encourage intentional prayer for the pastoral leadership..."



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Liturgists

01/07 Pam Nehring
01/14 John Hallaron
01/21 Marilyn Steenwyk
01/28 Sandy Whiteis

Greeters/Ushers

01/07 John & Pat Hallaron
01/14 Gary & Judy Anderson
01/21 Carole Strock & Earl Shaffer
01/28 Deb Clason & Susan Benson

January Communion Minister
Diane Johnson

PLEASE CONTACT DEB CLASON OR PASTOR TOM IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER AS A LITURGIST, GREETER, USHER OR COMMUNION MINISTER.

Northern Illinois Conference *Reporter*

United Church of Sandwich is a United Methodist Church and the connectional nature of our denomination is vital to our identity. Below is a link to the Northern IL Conference newspaper. Our Newsletter will begin to share the news of the UMC with you to give you the opportunity to learn and discover the events and opportunities of the UMC at large. Please contact Pastor Tom if you have any questions on any topic you read. He would be happy and honored to connect with you.

<https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/Reporter/DecJan2023.pdf>



If you would like to be added to the church prayer list please contact the church office 815-786-9243 or Pastor Tom, 630-699-2474. We want to be in support for you and let you know that you are family and not alone.

January

Birthdays & Anniversaries

01/04	Danielle Bedford
01/05	Bryce Breon
01/06	Lori Updike
01/07	Judy Anderson
01/14	Nancy Brown Jason Heinekamp
01/19	Amanda Anderson Scott Hallaron
01/25	Robert Henrich
01/26	James Mitchell
01/29	Phil Tuggle
01/31	Diane Pearson

01/03	Joe & Susan Benson
01/14	Ron & Bonnie Miller

If anyone's birthday or anniversary has been missed please contact the church office. Thank You



I'm touched by the generous holiday gift given by the UCS congregation!
You are so thoughtful to think of me!!
Donna

Please send any email, phone number, and address updates such as winter addresses to the church office.

Thank you!



January 2024



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4 7:00 Al-Anon Mtg	5	6  EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
7 9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion) 11:15 Take Down Decorations	8	9 6:30 Administrative Council Mtg	10	11 9:30 United Women in Faith Mtg 7:00 Al-Anon Mtg	12	13 9:00 PEO Meet in the Chapel
14 9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online 11:15 Worship Cmte Mtg	15 	16 4:30 Board of Trustees Mtg 6:30 SPRC Mtg	17	18 6:30 Finance Cmte Mtg 7:00 Al-Anon Mtg	19	20 9:00 ~ 11:00 Pie P/U 
21 9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion)	22	23  Newsletter Deadline	24	25 7:00 Al-Anon Mtg	26	27  THE DIAPER CLOSET 4th Weekend Drive
28 9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online 11:15 Coffee Hr Hosts Nominations Cmte	29	30	31			

The United Church
of Sandwich

512 E Lions Rd
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE MESSENGER — JANUARY 2024



The United Church of Sandwich

512 E Lions Rd, Sandwich, IL 60548-2417

Church: 815- 786-9243

Email: ucssandwich@frontier.com

website: www.unitedchurchsandwich.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday, 10:00 am

Children's Sunday School, 9:00 am

Adult Bible Study, Tuesdays, 10:00 am

Church Office Hours

Monday — Friday, 9:00 am — 1:00 pm

Pastor: Rev. Tom Bourke

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday

9:00 am — 1:00 pm

or by appointment

Email: tombourkejr@gmail.com

Mobile: 630-699-2474

Church Staff

Secretary: Donna Reiss

Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 am — 1:00 pm

Choir and Chimes Director: Kevin Duy

Pianist: Abi Mogge/*Organist:* Brad Haas

Ministers and Missionaries: All Members

We are passionately united to feed all people —
body, mind and spirit — to the glory of God!

Leadership Team 2023

Church Council Chair	Sarah Stevens
Recording Secretary	Chris Bagwill
Treasurer	Linda Duy
Payroll	Pam Nehring
Financial Secretary	Pat Hallaron
Finance/Stewardship Chair	Pam Nehring
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations	Jerry Brown
Lay Leader	Jim Bernhardt
Trustee's Chair	Gary Anderson
Annual Conf. Delegate	Ken Young
Missions/Evangelism Chair	Phyllis Whitehead
	Bonnie Bernhardt
Memorial/Endowment Chair	Bonnie Miller
United Methodist Women	Marilyn Steenwyk
Fair Stand Chair	Reid Heinekamp
Worship & Music Chair	Deb Clason

United Church of Sandwich Website

We invite you to view the website for
contact information and to learn more
about United Church of Sandwich

www.unitedchurchsandwich.org