

The Messenger



Volume 23 No. 5

May 2023

The Newsletter of The United Church of Sandwich

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

Greetings,

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, had a significant experience on the evening of May 24, 1738. This experience is now known as his Aldersgate experience. This experience was a vital and transformative moment in Wesley's faith and had a profound impact on the Methodist movement. What happened that May night that would change the course of Wesley's life and the direction of the church?



During the evening of May 24, 1738, Wesley was invited to attend a meeting on Aldersgate Street in London. He went reluctantly. He had recently returned from the Georgia colony after a great failure in ministry. He was struggling in his faith. The group was reading from Martin Luther's commentary on the book of Romans, and as Wesley listened, he felt his heart "strangely warmed."

He wrote these words in his journal following the experience. "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

John Wesley had a term for this type of experience. It is justified grace. It is the grace from God that comes when we accept God's unconditional love and God's complete forgiveness. It solidified his commitment to Christ and emboldened him to embark on a ministry across England to spread the Gospel message of God's grace. This ministry expanded to the American colonies where he sent Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke across the Atlantic Ocean. Wesley started breaking norms by preaching outdoors and in non-traditional places. In doing so, he started reaching people who had been ignored by the church. He went where the people were, whether it was at a mine, a town square, or a shipyard. Under Wesley's leadership the Methodist movement grew to have a significant impact on the Church, leading to a revival of spiritual fervor and an emphasis on social justice. This all started with an experience at a simple Bible study one night in May.

The Aldersgate experience is not just a historical story. It serves as a reminder that the Christian faith is not just about following rules and regulations but about experiencing the grace and love of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Wesley's experience was a reminder that God's grace is always there for anyone who seeks it, regardless of the past.

As we enter May let's let the Aldersgate experience remind us of the core of the Christian Faith. We are called to let God 'strangely warm our heart'. Then let it convict us to go beyond the walls of the church and reach out to those who are hurting, marginalized, and overlooked. We are reminded that the Church is not just a building but a community of believers. We continue to take steps forward together with each other, following the path of Christ. His love sustains us, and His love fuels the connection we will make with the people around us.

God Bless!

Pastor Tom Bourke

Sunday Scriptures & Sermon Series for May

“Life Lessons from Superheroes”

May 7 Ephesians 4:25-32 ~ The Incredible Hulk — Controlling Our Anger

May 14 Ruth 1:16-17, Joshua 24:15 ~ Wonder Woman — Be Intentional

May 21 Galatians 3:23-29 ~ Uncanny X-Men — Dealing with Discrimination & Diversity

May 28 Matthew 22:15-22 ~ Captain America - Serving God & Country

PIONEERS

MISSION OF THE MONTH

SOUTHEAST ASIA PIONEERS

Founded in 1979, by former businessman Ted Fletcher and wife, Peggy, Pioneers partners with local churches to make disciples and initiate church-planting movements among unreached peoples. The unreached are cultural and ethnic groups without a self-sustaining witness to the gospel in their own cultures. From business and education to healthcare, agriculture, the arts, and more, 3,000+ global members use their diverse gifts and experience to serve in needy communities. As they do, they see God transform lives across cultures and people groups everywhere. Whether in sprawling cities or rural villages, teams make their homes in unreached contexts and learn new languages. They use innovative and creative means to build relationships and make disciples. They introduce people to the Bible and share the gospel in culturally understandable ways. Thank you, The Missions Committee



June 11th will be Graduation Sunday. Contact the church office or Pastor Tom if you have or know a graduate of 8th grade,

High School or College. They will be honored during worship service.

Bible Quiz

A few Bible books have only one chapter. Which of the following is not among them?

- A. Obadiah
- B. Philemon
- C. 1 John
- D. 2 John
- E. 3 John
- F. Jude

Answer: C



Children's Sunday School,

9:00am,

Sunday mornings.

Check out the UCS website:

unitedchurchsandwich.org

for a link to Children's Activity Bulletins.

Age appropriate worksheets may be found.

MAY ACTIVITIES

Finance Corner



The first quarter of the year has come and gone and we are well into the 2nd quarter of the year. Below is a snapshot of where our finances stand at the end of March. If you have questions or would like to learn more, please see Pam Nehring or Linda Duy



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

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee will meet Tuesday, May 16th, 6:30pm.

Worship Committee will meet Sunday, May 21st, following the service.

Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, May 23rd, at 4:30pm.

Finance Committee meets May 25th, at 6:30pm.



United Women in Faith & U'Niter's meet Monday, May 1st, at 1:00pm in the chapel.

Chimes & Adult Choir groups is open to anyone who would like to participate regardless of experience.

Practices are Wednesday evenings, 6:00pm and 7:00pm, respectively. Both current and traditional selections are enjoyed. If you would like to join contact Kevin Duy or Pastor Tom.

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



General Fund

	March 2023	YTD 2023
Pie of the Month (net)	440.00	520.00
Giving Income	11,085.65	32,613.34
Christmas Offering	0.00	375.00
Expenses	\$ (14,790.97)	\$ (46,589.28)
Difference	\$ (3,265.32)	\$ (13,080.94)
2022 Fairstand Transfer		\$ 32,000.00
Balance 03.31.23		\$ 18,919.06

PIE OF THE MONTH EVENT

Our expert pie bakers have been busy baking delicious pies for you! The last two months are here!! Preorders and prepayment are required.



May: Peach Pie
Order Deadline-May 5
Pickup Date-May 13

June: Strawberry Rhubarb Pie
Order Deadline-June 9
Pickup Date-June 17

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. Use south entrance

UCS website: unitedchurchsandwich.org



Outdoor Worship Schedule

There will be outdoor worship this summer on the last Sunday of each month. This is an opportunity to worship under the sun, in good weather and be surrounded by God's creation.

For inclement weather, worship will be indoors. Please bring a lawn/camping chair with you and join us in our Summer outdoor worship!

Outdoor Worship will be on Sundays at 10:00am:

5/28/23

6/25/23

7/30/23

184th Northern Illinois Annual Conference **Fill the Truck** Mission Challenge Collection Drive

Midwest Mission is one of seven cooperating depots in the UMCOR relief supply network. Midwest Mission is not funded or run by UMCOR but receives, assembles, and stores all UMCOR Kits and disburses them upon request during disasters in the United States.

MIDWEST MISSION CURRENTLY HAS URGENT NEEDS FOR:

- Liquid Laundry Detergent ~ 100-105 oz.
- Liquid Household Cleaner ~ 54-80 oz. (No Spray Bottles)
- Liquid Dish Soap ~ 42-64 oz.
- Shampoo ~ 12-19 oz.
- Hand Towels or other Personal Dignity Kit Item
- Rulers (12" long with metric) or other School Kit Item
- 24 Heavy Duty Trash Bags (33 - 45 gal) or other Tornado Kit Item
- Receiving Blankets ~ 28" x 28" to 32" x 32" or other Birthing Kit Item

Find more information in the narthex along with the bins to place donated items to be taken by those attending the annual conference in June.



After School Program Update:

The Administrative Council has approved of starting an after-school program for the 2023-2024 school calendar year. The plan was developed within several committees of the church, including Finance, Trustees, and the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee. During the April meeting of the Administrative Council, the updated plan was discussed and approved. In the near future the SPRC will begin to search for a candidate for the after-school director position. (Included in the May Newsletter is the job description for the position.) The church will also begin to advertise the program to potential families in the area and begin the registration process. Many have signed up to be volunteers. We will be having 2 orientation meetings for those who are interested in volunteering and helping out. Both meetings will be the same. Anyone interested will only need to attend one meeting. There will be sign-ups for both meetings shortly. Also, the full after-school plan is available to any member who wishes to have a copy. Contact Pastor Tom to request one or ask any questions.

The first orientation is on Sunday, June 4th at 11:00am.

The second orientation is on Monday, June 12th at 6:30pm.



Memorial Day *Remember Those Who Gave Their Lives*

“In Flanders Fields”

by John McCrae, May 1915

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

Memorial Day commemorates the men and women who **died** while in the military service of their country. Traditionally, people visit cemeteries and memorials, and volunteers often place American flags on each grave site at national cemeteries. A national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time.

In 1971, Memorial Day became a national holiday by an act of Congress; it is now observed annually the last Monday in May.

In the war-torn battlefields of Europe, the common red field poppy was one of the first plants to reappear. Its seeds scattered in the wind and sat dormant in the ground, only germinating when the ground was disturbed—as it was by the very brutal fighting of World War 1. John McCrae, a Canadian soldier and physician, witnessed the war first hand and was inspired to write the now-famous poem “In Flanders Fields” in 1915. He saw the poppies scattered throughout the battlefield surrounding his artillery position in Belgium.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Liturgists

05/07 Pam Nehring
05/14 Bonnie Miller
05/21 Chris Bagwill
05/28 Marilyn Steenwyk

Greeters/Ushers

05/07 John & Pat Hallaron
05/14 Angie Miller & Jeff Larson
05/21 Carole Strock & Earl Shaffer
05/28 Ron & Kim Henrich

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, 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 that you read.

https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/Reporter/2023-05_reporter_web.pdf



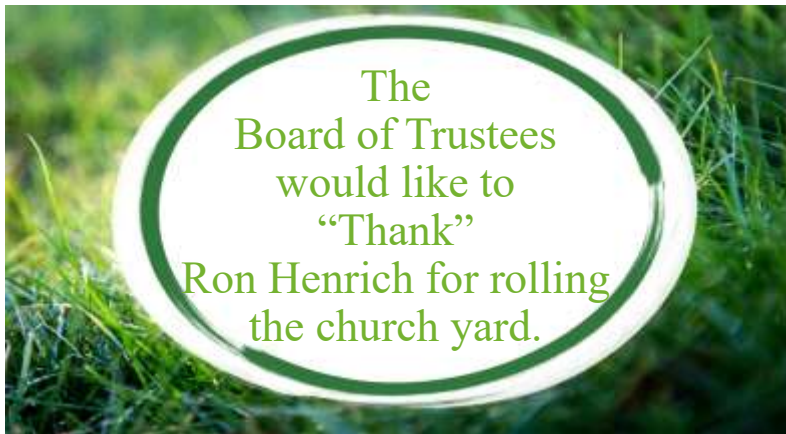
Birthdays & Anniversaries

05/02	Phyllis Davis
05/03	Delores Lies
05/05	Macie Chrestman
05/06	Renee Eipers Andrew Salisbury
05/07	Shirley Basler
05/09	Jim Bernhardt Betty Reiners
05/11	Tom Nehring
05/12	Sandy Gustafson
05/13	Darrell Lohmeier Bev Lowe
05/15	Grace Benson
05/16	Gary Anderson
05/18	Linda Duy Lilly Heiman
05/19	Ron Henrich
05/26	Heath Dannewitz
05/27	Scott Richards
05/28	Dakota Heiman
05/29	Richard Hill
05/30	Sandy Gillette

05/29 Mindy & Josh Chrestman

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

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



Prayer List



If you would like to be added to the church email prayer list please contact the church office or Pastor Tom. If you are unable or uncomfortable leaving your home we have church members who are able to make necessary trips to pick up basic home and food staples. We want to be in support for you and let you know that you are family and are not alone. If you are one that is able to make short shopping trips for members, please let Pastor Tom know and you will be added to the resource list of people to call.



2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

 <p>1 May Day</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>National Day of PRAYER 7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Nurses Day</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1:00 United Women in Faith/ U'Niter's Mtg</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 Adult Bible Study 6:30 Administrative Council Mtg</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00 Pie Dough Making 7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:00 Pie Baking</p>  <p>9:00-11:00 Peach Pie P/U</p>
<p>14 MOTHER'S DAY</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online</p>	<p>15</p>	 <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 SPRC Mtg</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>ASCENSION DAY 7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>19</p> <p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion)</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4:30 Board of Trustees Mtg</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30 Finance Cmte Mtg 7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>26</p> <p>27 4th Weekend Drive</p>  <p>Fill the Truck</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Worship ~ Outdoors & Online</p>	 <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>Military Appreciation MONTH</p> 	

The United Church
of Sandwich

512 E Lions Rd
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE MESSENGER — MAY 2023

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: tombourkej@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

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 Seymour

United Church of Sandwich's

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

www.unitedchurchsandwich.org

Skills/Qualifications

- Extensive Experience working with grade school aged children.
 - Good communication and interpersonal skills required when talking with parents, perspective families, schools, and volunteers.
 - Skills in creating diverse activities for the children of the program.
 - Must have a servant's heart and adopt the mission and vision of this program.
 - Ability to use typical business software and office equipment.
- Must have strong leadership skills, be self-motivated and possess knowledge of group work.

Work Environment & Physical Demands

Physical Mobility: walking, climbing, stairs, standing, kneeling, bending, leaning, stooping and sitting for extended periods of time.

Physical Dexterity: ability to use telephone, computer, electronic equipment, office equipment (fax, copier, stapler, etc.), tools and machinery as needed.

Visual and auditory ability to respond to critical situations and physical ability to act swiftly in an emergency.

Education/Experience

- Must have High School Diploma/GED
College degree preferred but not required.

Reports to the Pastor and the Staff/ Pastor Parish Relations Committee.

Job Type: Part Time, 20 hours/week, Monday-Friday (On District 430 School Days)

Salary:

Hourly Pay:

\$20 an hour

Up to 4 hours a day. 20 Hours a Week.

Hours Extended on weeks with a half school day will be compensated at \$20 an hour.



Job Description:

Grace After School Director Position

United Church has the vision, opportunity, and means to offer an after-school program to the children of the community. Our church is focused on connecting with the community to offer meaningful support and resources. One need in the community is for qualified and effective care of elementary aged children during the hours of 3-6pm. Our church is also uniquely positioned to provide this to two community schools. We are the only church within walking distance of a K-3rd grade school and a 4th-5th grade school. We are focused on it as an outreach. Our goal is to create relationships with families in the community in ways that provide positive connection and impact.

This position is to run and oversee an after-school program in the church for the community. The director will be responsible for managing a team of volunteers as well as administrative duties.

Responsibilities

Work hours from 2-6pm.

Half day hours from 11-6pm or 12:30-6:00pm (Depending on the closing bell of the school.)

Communicate with parents. Coordinate registration and attendance with parents of days the children will participate.

Provide an attendance list to the school daily.

Walk children or delegate volunteers daily from meeting place on school grounds to the church.

Always present during the program and making sure children are safe.

Advertise and grow the program, by creating flyers, attending community events, and running social media presence (i.e. Sandwich Fair, Taste of Sandwich, Homecoming Parade, Facebook page etc) when time permits.

Create daily schedule for the children with activities.

Maintain all files for daily attendance, medical forms and/or other information required for program participants.

Work with pastor on creating Volunteer Schedule and coordinate volunteers on which days they would participate.

Lead volunteers in the program, delegating duties for the volunteers.

Follow all guidelines for Safe Sanctuaries and make sure all adult volunteers are following Safe Sanctuaries policies.

Supervise and mentor support staff.

Ensure zero tolerance for abuse and actively participate in the protection of youth and teens.

Become/Maintain CPR Certification.

Perform all other duties as assigned.