

# The Messenger



Volume 21 No. 1

January 2021

The Newsletter of The United Church of Sandwich

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

Greetings & Happy New Year!

Wow! It's January 2021 already! 2020 has been a long year filled with stretches where time seemed to crawl and then fly by at other moments. We have traveled through an unusual Advent and have celebrated a different, but joyous Christmas. The gift-wrapping paper is bundled up and in the trash or recycling. Those presents are being used (such as my new ties and Star Wars mug). Some of the kids' toys may be needing their first replacement of batteries. And, you are beginning to think about packing up the decorations.



It is funny that no matter how carefully I wrap up the chain of lights into the box, it will often be tangled when I take it out the following year. I wonder how long it takes for those lights to become tangled inside that box. I am curious how and why and when it happens. It probably happens in the first few seconds as I move the box to storage. I could just leave the lights up all year and avoid the problem of them becoming tangled. That would probably not go over well with anyone in my house. I could throw the lights away each year, but that is extremely wasteful and costly. I could use a piece of cardboard or a special light strand, and that will help to control the chaos. It is not perfect, but would be better than nothing.

I am reminded of how these strands of lights remind me of our own lives. The lights brighten our homes and remind us of the arrival of Jesus. We find joy and celebration when we see them. The lights find purpose when plugged into an outlet and shining for everyone. They get tangled and worn when sitting in a dark box throughout the year. As we put away the physical Christmas lights, let's not put away the joy of being Christ's lights to the world.

We are all ready for a fresh start and a new year. Let us begin this year shining bright for Christ. One way we can continue to be the light of Christ into the new year is to re-dedicate our lives and hearts as servants of Jesus. On August 11, 1755, John Wesley celebrated, for the first time, a covenant renewal service with a group of Methodists. He gave what has become known as the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer. I wish to share this prayer with you that you may pray it and live into it as we begin 2021. Let your light shine bright. Stay plugged into the power of Christ. Keep firm from becoming tangled up in the darkness. Stay alert for new blessings and new opportunities.

"I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things  
to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

Pastor Tom Bourke

## Sermon Series & Sunday Scriptures for January

**January 3** Joshua 3:1-5 ~ Crossing into the New Year

**January 10** Mark 1:4-11 ~ Baptism of Christ  
(Guest Preacher-Derek Rogers)

**January 17** (Guest Preacher-Doug Reiners)

**Breakthrough (Stories of Radical Change)**

**January 24** John 21:7-17 ~ Forgiveness

**January 31** John 4:3-29 ~ Acceptance



**Children's Sunday School will resume at 9:00am Sunday mornings when in-person worship returns.**

**United Church of Sandwich will continue Drive-In Worship on January 3, 2021 (exception January 10, Online only with Derek Rogers) (Pending No Negative Community or Health Developments) (All Decisions Could/ Would Be Affected By State Mandates & Guidelines)**

Due to the rise of Covid infection in Region 1 of IL, additional restrictions have been mandated to help prevent the spread of the virus.

If you have any questions, please call or email the church.

### MISSION OF THE MONTH



In 1996, a 48,000sq ft processing/warehousing facility was constructed on the historic property at the Sager Brown Center in Baldwin, LA. Over 3,000 volunteers stay and work each year processing supplies for worldwide disaster relief and working in local outreach programs.

Thank you, The Missions Committee

### Bible Quiz

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.



Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)



Trustees Board will meet  
Tuesday, January 19th,  
at 6:30pm.

Finance Committee meets  
Thursday, January 21st at  
6:30pm.

**The U'Niter's and United Methodist Women**  
Groups will not meet in January.



**2021 Offering Envelopes.** Please pick up your 2021 offering envelopes and destroy your outdated 2020 envelopes.

**Extra Pledge Cards,**

**Annual Church Conference Packets,**

**Upper Room Booklets, Lost & Found Items**

**Pie of the Month/Membership Order Forms**

## PIE OF THE MONTH/MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

\$20.00 for the 'Pie of the Month'

\$55 for 3 Months. Pies offered Jan-Mar 2021

\$105 for 6 Months. Pies offered Jan-June 2021

The Membership gets you the pies at a reduced cost

These pies can be purchased baked or frozen (with baking instructions)

**\*\*All pies will have to be picked up at the Church-no shipping or delivery  
8AM-Noon on the Pickup date.**

Only preorders and prepayment-"Thanks!"

Check the UCS Website: [unitedchurchsandwich.org](http://unitedchurchsandwich.org) for further details.

Call the UCS Church office today to place your order!

815-786-9243



PIE SALE CHALLENGE A  
SUCCESS!!!

A Big Thank you to every-  
one that ordered pies in  
November and December!

The goal was 35!

With over 50 pies being sold, Pastor Tom,  
(being a Packers fan) has agreed to wear a  
Bears Jersey on Sunday, January 3, 2021!!!

Maybe, after he wears the Bears Jersey  
he will be converted! **GO BEARS!!**

## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY



**FEBRUARY 7th**

**12:00 ~ 2:00 PM**

**DRIVE THRU  
ONLY**

**FREE!**

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF SANDWICH**  
**LEADERSHIP TEAM for 2021-2023**  
*Nominations/Lay Leadership Committee Report*

**Administrative Council**

*Discipline, 244.1-3; 252.1-6*

Chairperson	Ken Young
Recording Secretary	Chris Bagwill
Lay Leader	Sarah Stevens
Staff/Parish Relations	Gwen Fox
Finance/Stewardship	Pam Nehring
Treasurer	Linda Duy
Payroll	Pam Nehring
Financial Secretary	Pat Hallaron
Memorials/Endowments	Carole Strock
Trustees Chair	Matt Olson
Missions/Evangelism	Phyllis Whitehead
Fair Stand Chairperson	Reid Heinekamp
Worship and Music	Deb Seymour
UMW President	Myrtie Warren
UMM President	
Lay Member AC	Bonnie Miller
Alt. LMAC	Vivian McMaster

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

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**Pastor-Staff / Parish Relations Committee**

2023: John Hallaron, Vivian McMaster  
2022: Gwen Fox, Jim Updike, Phil Tuggle  
2021: Ron Henrich, Bonnie Young  
*Ex Officio: Lay Leader, Sarah Stevens; LMAC, Bonnie Miller*

**Board of Trustees**

2023: \*\*Matt Olson, Jim Mitchell, Lynn Reeder  
2022: Harold Dannewitz, Bonnie Miller, Doug Reiners  
2021: Gary Anderson, Jim Bernhardt, Ken Young  
*On Call List for: Parsonage – Bonnie Miller;  
Outside/grounds – Gary Anderson;  
Supplies – Jim Mitchell; Inside building: Doug Reiners;  
Ex-Officio: Pastor*

**Finance / Stewardship Committee**

2023: Bill McMahan, Linda Alvarez  
2022: Judy Anderson, Debby Hill  
2021: Diane Salisbury, Marilyn Steenwyk  
Treasurer: Linda Duy; Payroll: \*\*Pam Nehring  
Financial Sec: Pat Hallaron  
*Ex-Officio: Pastor; Lay Leader Sarah Stevens;  
Ad.C. Chair Ken Young; LMAC, Bonnie Miller  
May also include: Trustee Rep; S/PRC Rep*

**Nominations/Lay Leadership Committee**

2023: Pam Nehring, Ron Henrich  
2022: Gwen Fox, Carole Strock  
2021: Judy Anderson, Jim Bernhardt  
\*\*Pastor is Chairperson. *Ex-officio: Lay Leader, Sarah Stevens*  
**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**

2023: \*\*Carole Strock, Bonnie Bernhardt  
2022: Etta Stahl, Nancy Brown, Kim Henrich  
2021: Phyllis Davis, Myrtie Warren, Judy Brandow,  
Eleanor Anderson  
*Ex-Officio: Pastor; Trustee Rep*

**Fair Stand Committee**

\*\*Reid Heinekamp

**Worship Committee**

2023: \*\*Deb Seymour, Betty Reiners, Phyllis Davis,  
Carole Strock  
2022: Melissa Reiners, Christine McMahon  
2021: Lori Updike, Diane Pearson, Connie Mitchell  
Music Staff: Kevin Duy, Choir; Carol Larson, Organist  
*Ex-Officio: Pastor*

**Missions Committee**

2023: Lynn Reeder, Connie Kirby  
2022: \*\*Phyllis Whitehead, Bonnie Bernhardt  
2021: Vivian McMaster, Earl Shaffer  
*Ex-Officio: Pastor*

**Prayer Ministry** – (for Nurture, Outreach and Witness, 252.2-e)

\*\*Diane Pearson, Myrtie Warren, Phyllis Davis,  
Pam Nehring, Sandy Whiteis, Pastor

***Prayer Group Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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...”

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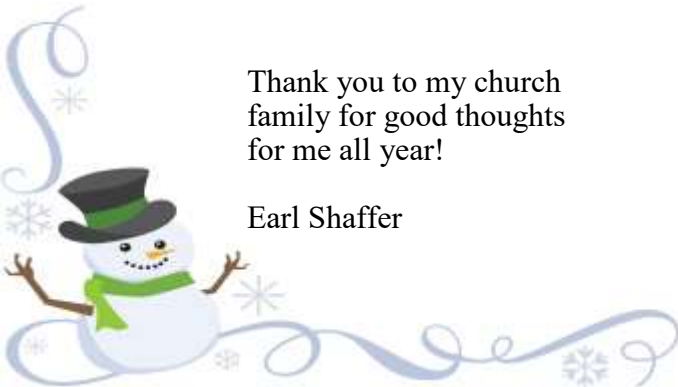


I would like to share my feelings about the United Church of Sandwich and 2020. I am so proud to be a part of this congregation because I have witnessed so many 'God Sightings' (as Pastor Tom calls it) each week inside & outside the walls of our Church at 512 Lions Rd. UCS has moved forward and outward to our congregation and to our community, instead of shrinking inward. 2020 has been a very difficult and different year but we have adapted. Pastor Tom has been very innovative, reaching out to our congregation in so many different ways. He has given his sermons online and outside in the heat, rain & cold so that we would remain safe & healthy. Members of our congregation have been so generous with their time, talents, and financial resources enabling us to be in ministry to others. None of this would be possible if it wasn't for God's Grace working in and through our Church. We will hope that 2021 will soon be better but we do not want to stop what we have started. Working alongside so many of our congregation and staff has been an honor and a pleasure for me. May God Bless the United Church of Sandwich!

With Love,  
Pam Nehring

Thank you to my church family for good thoughts for me all year!

Earl Shaffer



*To my church family,  
Thank you so much for the delicious turkey dinner. Your thoughts is so appreciated!*  
Dolores Lopez



*Dear Pam, Pastor Tom and other cooks at UCS,  
Many thanks to you for preparing and delivering the delicious Christmas Dinner last Wednesday. It was truly "DELICIOUS" & I certainly appreciate the beautiful hearts and souls at UCS.  
Sincerely, Sandy Hiller*



A  
**HEARTFELT  
THANK YOU!**

The generous gift from the UCS congregation was overwhelming and grateful!

**DONNA**

Did you know your purchases on Amazon can now help the United Church of Sandwich! All you need to do is login at <https://smile.amazon.com/> with your normal username and password. When prompted to choose a charity of your choice, type "The United Church of Sandwich" in the search box, it will automatically save as your charity of choice! It's that easy!!! Once a quarter, Amazon donates back to the church 0.55% of all your purchases. It may not sound like a lot, but when everyone does it together, we can add to our revenue. What a great time to tell your family and friends!

### 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://files.constantcontact.com/62925eb8001/c458dfc1-d3ad-496c-8b62-37c178f46739.pdf>



01/04	Danielle Bedford
01/05	Bryce Breon
01/06	Lori Updike
01/07	Judy Anderson
01/09	Mildred Morris
01/13	Mary Leach
01/14	Nancy Brown
	Blair Diemer
	Jason Heinekamp
01/16	Kevin Peterson
01/19	Amanda Anderson
	Scott Hallaron
01/25	Robert Henrich
01/26	James Mitchell
01/29	Phil Tuggle
01/31	Diane Pearson
01/14	<b>Ron &amp; Bonnie Miller</b>

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



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



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 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. Thank You!

# January 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					<p>1</p>  <p>New Year's Day</p>	2
<p>3</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Drive-In &amp; Online (Holy Communion)</p>	4	5	<p>6</p>  <p>EPIPHANY</p>	7	<p>8</p> <p>Pie Order Deadline</p> 	9
<p>10</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Drive-In &amp; Online</p>	11	<p>12</p> <p>Newsletter DEADLINE</p>	13	14	15	<p>16</p> <p>8-12 Pie P/U</p> 
<p>17</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Drive-In &amp; Online (Holy Communion)</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 Trustees Board Mtg</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 Finance Cmte Mtg</p>	22	23
<p>24</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Drive-In &amp; Online</p>	25	26	27	<p>28</p> <p>10:30 Newsletter Assembly</p>	29	30
31						

The United Church  
of Sandwich

512 E Lions Rd  
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE MESSENGER — JANUARY 2021



**The United Church of Sandwich**

512 E Lions Rd, Sandwich, IL 60548-2417  
Church: 815- 786-9243

Email: [ucssandwich@frontier.com](mailto:ucssandwich@frontier.com)

website: [www.unitedchurchsandwich.org](http://www.unitedchurchsandwich.org)

Sunday Schedule

Worship 10:00 am

Adult Sunday School 8:45 am

**Children's Sunday School 9:00 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](mailto: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

*Organist/Pianist:* Carol Larson

*Ministers and Missionaries:* All Members

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

Leadership Team 2021

Church Council Chair

Ken Young

Recording Secretary

Chris Bagwill

Treasurer

Linda Duy

Payroll

Pam Nehring

Financial Secretary

Pat Hallaron

Finance/Stewardship Chair

Pam Nehring

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations

Gwen Fox

Lay Leader

Sarah Stevens

**Trustee's Chair**

Matt Olson

Annual Conf. Delegate

Bonnie Miller

Missions/Evangelism Chair

Phyllis Whitehead

Memorial/Endowment Chair

Carole Strock

United Methodist Women

Myrtie Warren

United Methodist Men

Fair Stand Chair

Reid Heinekamp

Worship & Music Chair

Deb Seymour

**United Church of Sandwich's**

**New Website**

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

[www.unitedchurchsandwich.org](http://www.unitedchurchsandwich.org)