

The Messenger

Volume 23 No. 11

November 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,

As we step into the month of November, I invite you to focus your heart and mind on the joy of Thanksgiving. Our hearts are often filled with gratitude this month for the many blessings that the Lord has bestowed upon us. This month we lean into the spirit of thanksgiving. We reflect on its immense importance and value in our faith journey, as individuals and as a community.



Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. I love family time, the food, the football, and pie! However, Thanksgiving is not merely a tradition or a holiday. It is a deeply important aspect of faith. It is important to express the notion of thanksgiving in our lives. In the Bible, we find numerous instances where thanksgiving is not just an act of gratitude towards God for His blessings but also a demonstration of unwavering trust and faith in His divine plan. When we **give thanks, we acknowledge God's Lordship over our lives, recognizing that every blessing, big or small, is a 'God sighting' of His love and grace.**

A heart filled with gratitude is a heart open to God's whispered voice. When we cultivate a spirit of thanksgiving, we become more attuned to the 'God sightings' around us, both in our personal lives and in our community. Gratitude fosters humility and strengthens our relationship with God. It is a strong reminder of His faithfulness. It encourages us to trust Him even in challenging times. In this season of thanksgiving, let us come together as a church community to share our gratitude. When we express our thanks and appreciation for one another, we strengthen the bonds of fellowship and love. Our shared thanksgiving deepens our sense of unity, helping to bring us together as part of God's larger family.

I invite you to use this month of thanksgiving to perform acts of kindness and generosity to people you encounter, whether they are family, or strangers. Our faith is one of action in response to love. We best express our gratitude to God through acts of love and service. Reach out to those in need, lend a helping hand, and be a source of comfort and support. **By doing so, we not only reflect God's love but also the attitude of thanksgiving and compassion. As we journey through November, may we not forget the importance and value of thanksgiving. Let us cultivate a heart of gratitude, not just for a season, but as a way of life. May our thankful hearts be a testimony to God's goodness and a beacon of hope to the world.**

God Bless & Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Tom Bourke

Sunday Scriptures & Sermon Series for November

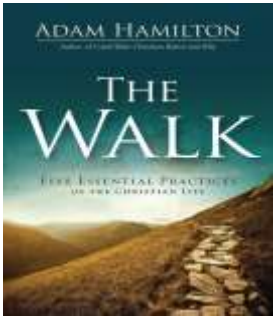
All Saint's Sunday ~ November 5 Hebrews 12:1-3 ~ Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus

Pain in the "But" (Excuses)

November 12 Psalm 51 ~ Lord, I am sorry, but...

Thanksgiving Sunday ~ November 19 Psalm 97:10-12, Mark 12:28-34 ~ Lord, I love you, but...

November 26 Matthew 16:21-28 ~ Lord, I will serve, but...



Adult Bible Study continues each Sunday at 8:45am and Tuesday at 10:00am through November 7.

In *The Walk*, Adam Hamilton focuses on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk

with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is intended as part of our daily walk with Christ while also being an essential part of growing together in the church.

In each chapter, Hamilton explores one of these practices, its New Testament foundation, and what it looks like to pursue this practice daily in our personal life and together in the life of the church.



Children's Sunday School begins at 9:00am each Sunday morning.

Mark your calendars for your children and grandchildren to attend.

All are welcome! Have them bring a friend!!

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Abounding Ministries



Abounding Ministries facilitates multi-generational worship experiences in our Methodist Churches each weekend, helping congregations reach out with family-friendly worship using traditional source materials and the creative use of Music. Rev. Rich Rubietta helps train local church musicians, making disciples of Jesus Christ through dynamic worship, workshops, retreats and writing. He circuit rides throughout the NIC to strengthen the spiritual life, mission and evangelism of congregations. Jane Rubietta partners with Rich as **an author and retreat leader focusing on women's** issues, spiritual formation and strengthening relationships between congregations and clergy families.

Thank you, The Missions Committee

Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank:
"Rejoice always, pray continually, give _____ in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

A. alms
B. praise
C. thanks
D. offerings

IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

Answer: C (See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV)



United Kids After School attendance is about 12 to 19 kids each day. In October, we received a generous \$5,000 grant for our program from the UMC of New Lenox. Along with the Finance Committee, we have decided to give families a free day on Oct 27, our Halloween party day. We're so happy that we'll also be able to give families of our program some more free days throughout the year. I have also been blessed with matching up church members with UKAS families who are struggling financially. If you are interested in helping a child attend our program by providing a partial or full scholarship, please see me. I continue to be thankful to our amazing church for your snack donations, monetary donations/scholarships, and the gift of your time and energy volunteering after school. There are God-sightings all over this after school program. Let Kim know if you'd like to come visit our program and see what we do! Also, check out the UKAS bulletin board in the narthex for info and an updated wish list. There are forms that may be filled out if you would like to volunteer as well. Be sure to "like" the United Kids After School Facebook page. Contact information for Kim: 630-699-2328 or ucs.unitedkids@gmail.com



November



ACTIVITIES



Nominating Committee will meet Thursday, November 9th, at 6:30pm

Worship Committee will meet Sunday, November 12th, following the service.

Administrative Council meets Tuesday, November 14th, at 6:30pm.

Finance Committee will meet Thursday, November 16th, at 5:30pm.

Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, November 21st, at 4:30pm.



U'Niter's will meet Monday, November 6th, 1:00pm in the Chapel.

Sandy Gillette is hostess.

ALL women of the church are welcome to attend.

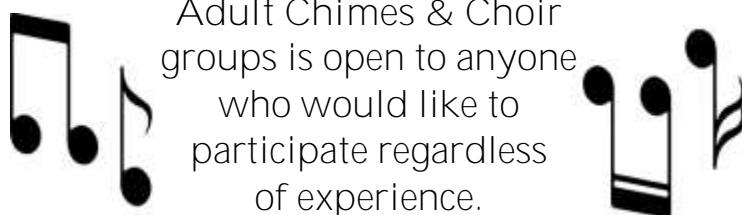


As a reminder, Thank offering boxes will be collected November 19th, Thanksgiving Sunday.

4th Weekend Drive

Thank you for your continued support of the 4th Weekend Drives. "Holiday Foods" is the request for November 25 & 26. If you are able, please bring accepted items such as, boxed stuffing, canned vegetables, sauce packets etc. Items may be placed in the blue bin located in the narthex. These items are donated to the Sharing Pantry.

Thank you! The Missions Committee



Adult Chimes & 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.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Please send any joys, concerns, photos, thoughts or informational articles to the church office by **November 21**
815-786-9243

SPRC HOSTS

COFFEE HOUR

NOVEMBER 26



Finance Corner



As we wrap up fall activities and winter preparation, let us stop and give thanks to God for whom all blessings flow! We experienced another record breaking year (gross sales) for the Log Cabin. The 6-day Fair and Craft show events netted profits (sales – expenses) for us of \$32,029.92. (See chart below) As you may recall from previous newsletters, the fairstand is its own fund in our financial records. Profits from 2023 will help the budget deficit in the 2024 budget. Below is a picture of the General Fund (GF) as of 9.30.23. Highlighted in gray is the remaining balance left from 2022 Fair profits. If you have questions or would like to learn more, please see Pam Nehring or Linda Duy.

	Sept 2023	YTD 2023
Income:		
Pork Chop Dinner	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,293.24
Pie of the Month (net)	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,531.84
Giving Income	\$ 7,702.98	\$ 111,989.36
Easter Offering	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,472.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 0.00	\$ 375.00
Total Income	\$ 7,702.98	\$ 122,661.44
Expenses:	\$ (14,368.40)	\$ (135,269.87)
Difference	\$ (6,665.42)	\$ (12,608.43)
Transfer to Trustees		\$ (13,773.76)
2022 Fairstand Transfer		\$ 32,000.00
Remainder 09.30.23		\$ 5,617.81
1.1.23 GF Balance		\$ 59,600.93
9.30.23 GF Balance		\$ 65,218.74

	Fair Stand Profits
2023	\$32,029.92
2022	\$32,260.30
2021	\$24,490.57
2020	\$ 3,202.31
2019	\$21,610.18
2018	\$19,546.53
2017	\$23,972.63



Due to newsletter deadline the Finance Corner is one month behind in reporting.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Liturgists

11/05 Sarah Stevens
11/12 Pam Nehring
11/19 Sandy Whiteis
11/26 Bonnie Miller

Greeters/Ushers

11/05 Gwen Fox & Chris Bagwill
11/12 Gary & Judy Anderson
11/19 Carole Strock & Earl Shaffer
11/26 Reid & Deb Heinekamp

November Communion Minister
Deb Seymour

PLEASE CONTACT DEB SEYMOUR 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. 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/Nov%2023%20Reporter%20web.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 are not alone.

PRAYER list...

November



Birthdays & Anniversaries

11/02 Bob Carpenter
Marilyn Steenwyk
Brooke Warpinski
11/08 Connie Kirby
11/09 Joyce Dell
Michael Jerabek
11/12 Josh Chrestman
11/15 Ginger Dannewitz
11/16 Brenda Gillispie
11/18 Bart Breon
11/21 Pam Nehring
11/22 David Scharenberg III
11/25 Carole Forman
11/26 Lynn Reeder
11/27 Angie Miller
11/28 Michael Cassell

11/11 Judy & Paul Brandow
11/27 Heather & Bart Breon

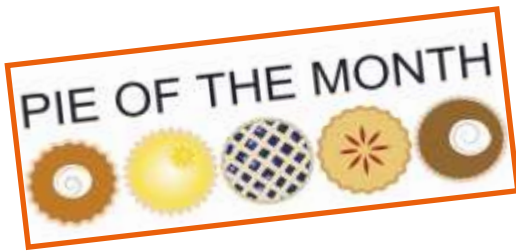
If anyone's birthday or anniversary has been missed please contact the church office. Thank You

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



Carole Cronin
601 Lutz Rd Apt 2207
Bloomington, IL 61704

PIE OF THE MONTH EVENT BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER



*Let us do your Holiday baking!
Our expert pie bakers will be gearing up
to bake some delicious pies just for you!*

Preorders and prepayment will be required.

Prices will be available November 1.

November: Pumpkin

Specialty Pies: Pecan & Grape

Order deadline: Nov 15

Pickup date: Wednesday, Nov 22

PIE OF THE MONTH MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

3 Month Membership for pies offered January-March or April-June 2024.

6 Month Membership is for all pies offered January-June 2024.

The Membership gets you the pies at a reduced cost.

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

****All pies will have to be picked up at the Church-no shipping or delivery.**

Please use the south entrance.

Only preorders and prepayment-“Thank You.”

Check the UCS Website: unitedchurchsandwich.org for further details.

Call the UCS Church office today to place your order ~ 815-786-9243

We appreciate your support and Happy Pie Eating!!



Thank You to those who donated to the Rummage Sale!
A special thank you to those who helped set up, take down, and were there during the sale. The profit was \$2,169.25.



The Board of Trustees would like to thank Ron Henrich and his crew for delivering and planting seven trees at the church. A Red Point Maple, Flowering Crab and a variety of fruit trees.



Bunches & bunches of thanks to Pam Nehring, Marilyn Steenwyk and Sarah Stevens for stepping in to help out in the office while I was on vacation! Donna Reiss



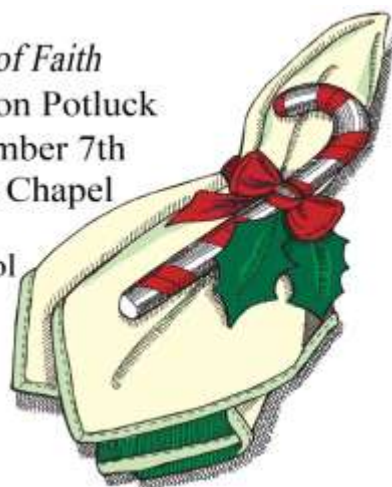
Community Thanksgiving
Evening Service @
St. John the Baptist
Catholic Church
November 19
with Father Kevin Butler



All are invited to help decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season Saturday, December 2nd. The lights will be put up, the trees decorated and Christmas cards will be sent to our shut in friends. Start time will be 8:30am.



Charge Conference
Mark your calendars for annual
Charge Conference,
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 7:00pm.
Report forms that need to be completed
will be available in the office.



United Women of Faith
Christmas Luncheon Potluck
Thursday, December 7th
11:30am, in the Chapel
Performance by the
Sandwich High School
Madrigal Choir
*All women of
the church are
invited to attend!*



Poinsettias will be ordered to decorate the sanctuary during the Christmas season. The choice of colors are red or white and come in a 6 1/2" pot, at a cost \$18.00 each. If you would like to place an order, please fill out the following form and place in the offering plate or return to the church office no later than November 28.

Name _____

Given (in memory of) or (in honor of) _____

My order is for _____ Red _____ White (\$18.00 each)

Total Cost: \$ _____ (enclosed)

Please make checks payable to The United Church of Sandwich.

ORDER MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE CHURCH OFFICE BY NOVEMBER 28.

November 2023



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>Daylight Saving Ends November 5</p>			<p>1 6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>2 6:00 Citizenship Class 7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 All Saints Sunday 8:45 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion)</p>	<p>6 1:00 U'Niters</p>	<p>7 10:00 Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>8 6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>9 6:00 Citizenship Class 6:30 Nominating Cmte Mtg 7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>VETERANS DAY</p>
<p>12 9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online 11:15 Worship & Music Cmte Mtg</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 6:30 Administrative Council Mtg</p>	<p>15 Holiday Pie Order Deadline 6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>16 5:30 Finance Cmte Mtg 6:00 Citizenship Class 7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 Thanksgiving Sunday 9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 4:30 Board of Trustees Mtg</p>	<p>22 9:00-11:00 Holiday Pie P/U 6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>Happy Thanksgiving Let us give thanks!</p>	<p>Office Will Be Closed</p>	<p>4th Weekend Food Drive</p>
<p>26 9:00 Children's Sunday School 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Poinsettia Orders Due</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 6:00 Citizenship Class 7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>		

The United Church
of Sandwich

512 E Lions Rd
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE MESSENGER — NOVEMBER 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