

The Messenger



Volume 20 No. 12

December 2020

The Newsletter of The United Church of Sandwich

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

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.*

*And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6



December is an interesting month. We are a few weeks away from the New Year. Yet we are preoccupied fully with the current. We are beginning the church calendar with Advent, the time of preparation for the birth of Christ. However, it is a time in which we are drawn to traditions of the past. As we enter Advent we are called to hold dear to tradition, but to embrace the ability of God to transform those traditions into new and amazing ways. One of my favorite traditions is lighting the advent wreath each week in worship. This year, I am holding onto that tradition, but now embracing the ritual in my own home. I am reminded that the power of the lighting of the Advent wreath is now in repeating the patterns and customs of previous years, but in letting the power of the Spiritual work on making new my relationship with Christ in the rituals.

Christmas means so much more for me than just remembering and celebrating the birth of Jesus. It is embracing the oldest concept in the universe, predating even time itself. Christmas is holding dear to the notion that God's love is perfect, full and eternal. However, Christmas changed our understanding of God's love forever. The birth of Jesus is God in human form relating to us in the most personal way possible He became us. Christmas is about God's sacrificial love.

As we approach Christmas where are you seeing God's sacrificial love in your life? Where are you allowing God to use you so that another may know his sacrificial love? In so much uncertainty and struggle, this attitude can be your plumb line for Christmas and the New Year. What is a plumb line? It is a line with a plumb attached to it, used for determining the vertical on an upright surface. Basically, this means the plumb line helped people know that the construction was not crooked or off kilter. The right Christmas attitude will help you to travel through this difficult Holiday season without falling out of balance with God and the world around you. Every time you act as a vessel for the sacrificial love of Christ you are connecting to the oldest tradition of all. You also are creating things anew in the world in amazing ways. That is the joy of Christmas in 2020!

God Bless & *Merry Christmas,*

Rev. Tom Bourke

**We will resume Drive-In Worship
at United Church of Sandwich on
December 6, 2020
(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.



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

Thank you to all those who attended while the weather outside permitted!



MISSION OF THE MONTH

Angel Tree



In the narthex is the Angel Tree with ornaments of children's names from the local school district. Thank you to those that selected a name from the tree and shopped for the requested items. The tree has many wonderful gifts under it in hopes to brighten the holiday spirits of many children.

Thank you, The Missions Committee

Bible Quiz

Which of the four Gospels name(s) Bethlehem as the place of Jesus' birth?

- A. Only Luke
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Mark and John
- D. All four



Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:1-7.)

DECEMBER Activities



Finance Committee
& Trustees Board
will not meet in
December.

There will not be meetings in December or
January for
U'Niter's or United Methodist Women



Charge Conference December 8 ~ On ZOOM

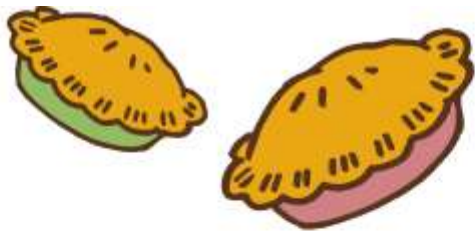
Mark your calendars for Annual Charge Conference
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 7:00pm, by ZOOM.
Information for participating will be sent out to the
congregation closer to the meeting date.

Staff//Parish Relations Committee will meet at
6:00pm before.

Pledge cards that were mailed out for 2021 may be returned to the church office.
Extra cards are available in the narthex

Be sure to pick up the 2021 Offering Envelopes set out on the table in the narthex.

Pie Sale



Challenge



*Do you want to see Pastor
Tom in a Bears Jersey?*

*We're getting close to the
total of 35 pies needing to
be ordered for Pastor Tom
to wear a Bears Jersey on
Sunday, January 3, 2021!!
Place your order by calling
the church office and help
get the word out to the
community. We want to sell
way more than 35 pies!
Maybe, if he wears the
Bears Jersey he will be
converted!*

Go Bears!!

The Pie Committee



PIE OF THE MONTH EVENT

*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.*

December: Apple Crumb
Order deadline: Dec. 17th
Pickup date: Thursday, Dec. 24th

\$20.00 for the 'Pie of the Month'
\$24.00 for specialty pies, Dec. only,
Pecan, Mincemeat & Raisin

PIE OF THE MONTH MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

Can't figure out what to get Grandma & Grandpa or Mom & Dad for
Christmas!

What about a 'Pie of the Month' Membership?

3 Month or 6 Month Memberships.

The 3 Month is for pies offered January-March 2021.

The 6 Month is for January-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.

Only preorders and prepayment-"Thanks!"

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

Call the UCS Church office today to place your order!

815-786-9243



Mary Ann Olson will be 90 years Beautiful on
December 13!

She will be traveling to Illinois to celebrate, but
due to Covid, it will be a smaller family event. She
would love to hear from all of you!

Cards can be mailed to either:

Pam Anderson 526 Pineridge Dr N Oswego, IL 60543 or
Mary Ann Olson 9285 Lake Park Dr # 102 Ft Myers, FL 33919
She would also Love phone calls at 815-258-5969



The first virtual NIC Annual Conference was held November 14, with 630 members viewing and voting. The Annual Conference approved the consent calendar, antiracism training for clergy, a \$4.4 million budget,

and a redistricting plan reducing the number of districts from 6 to 5. There were many videos shown during the day that highlighted ministries of the Methodist Church and uplifted our spirits with song and prayer. Thank you to our Sandwich Church for participating in the Mission Appeal of disaster relief items. They were taken to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center near Springfield. The UCS also gave monetary donations to the Bishop's Appeal for the secondary school being built in Tanzania. This school's leader Pastor Kim, is from the Northern Illinois Conference.

Submitted by Lay Member AC Bonnie Miller



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 \$16.00 each. If you would like to place an order, please fill out the following form and place in the offering plate or turn in to the church office no later than **December 9**.

Name _____

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

My order is for _____ Red _____ White (\$16.00 each)

Total Cost: \$ _____ (enclosed)

Please make checks payable to The United Church of Sandwich.

ORDER MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE CHURCH OFFICE BY DECEMBER 9.

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>



TO EVERYONE THAT HAS HELPED IN THE OFFICE IN ANY WAY THIS YEAR! IT SURELY HAS BEEN A CHALLENGING YEAR FOR ALL OF US! SINCERELY, DONNA

DECEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/01	Briggs Mager Harper Mager
12/02	Jennifer Hallaron
12/03	Hannah Schlapp
12/04	Mischelle Reiners
12/06	Melanie Hallaron
12/08	Debbie Heinekamp
12/09	Diane Salisbury
12/10	Barb Diemer
12/14	David Schlapp
12/15	Chloe Heiman
12/17	Ed Heyer
12/18	Jeanne McNish
12/19	Todd Hallaron Greg Nehring
12/21	Bonnie Young
12/26	Connie Mitchell
12/27	Nicholas Schlapp Tami Wig Lindsay Young
12/28	Conway Mitchell
12/02 12/27	Al & Myrtie Warren Phil & Carole Tuggle

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



Please send any joys or concerns, photos, 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!

A BIG THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT HELPED MAKE THE UCS 2020 TRUNK OR TREAT A WONDERFUL EVENT FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED!



The United Church
of Sandwich

512 E Lions Rd
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE MESSENGER — DECEMBER 2020



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

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

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 2020

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
CYM: Joint Youth Coop Rep.	Joanna Olson

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 at:

www.unitedchurchsandwich.org