

# The Messenger

Volume 21 No. 5

May 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,

How do you know if someone is spiritually alive or spiritually dead? An artist was hired by a church to paint several pictures of dying churches. When he returned with his work. The first picture was of a stately building with a large towering steeple. There was a large crowd of lavishly dressed people entering the doors. In another painting he depicted the interior of a church as being expensively furnished with chandeliers costing thousands hanging from the ceiling. In the lobby there was a display of youth meeting, and a recreation room with kids playing games. He had another painting of a "fellowship hall" with tables of food and desserts and people sitting with their plates filled to capacity.



When the elders saw the paintings, they protested. "We asked you to paint pictures of dying churches. We expected to see a run-down building with weeds growing up all around and windows broken out. We expected to see an interior of drab, lifeless and unkempt rooms. We expected to see sanctuaries abandoned with no one inside the buildings.

The artist opened up a bible and turned to Revelations 3:1 and read the letter to the church at Sardis. "I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead." He concluded from reading what Jesus said about the church of Sardis: That a dying church would be dying a spiritual death. A dying church could have the outward appearance of life. Its building could be one of the prettiest buildings in town with its members clothed in the finest apparel. Its youth and children could be having fun and playing games. Its fellowship hall could be filled with food and desserts. But on the inside "A spiritual autopsy would reveal whether or not the church is Alive or if it's Dead."

Entering May, each day our community finds a little more normal. Surviving a pandemic, we must ask ourselves what a return to normal looks like in our church, our community and our lives. We may find ourselves more physically active, but we must discern our spiritual health. Our church is alive and well when our spirits are alive and well with God. This begins with an embrace of the notions of love, charity and forgiveness. Forgiveness is a salve, an ointment, a balm of healing. Instead of living in bitterness, we can learn to live in "betterness." Instead of living a life trapped by resentment, live a life of acceptance. This helps us accept a contented attitude over misery and complaint. It fills our hearts with love.

I ask for forgiveness and grace from you for the times I have made mistakes, or messed up. I offer my support and love to you as you walk in your faith. Being forgiven takes away the malice, mean spirited, uncaring, and selfish and gives us a life of being thankful, counting our blessings, being satisfied with what we have, being in unity and love, and peace. There are many things in this world that kill the spirit, but love and forgiveness is the medicine that restores and heals the spirit.

Methodists were made fun of for practicing their religion with such joy. Frontier Americans cracked jokes about the "shouting Methodists," but the Wesleyans wore that label as a badge of honor. They felt their own joy was one of the best advertisements for the truth of the message they preached.

Proverbs 17:22 says a cheerful heart is good medicine. To be cheerful means ready to welcome others. To speak a word of encouragement and be enthusiastic about your faith. To have a positive outlook on the future. One of the signs that you are spiritually alive is that you are expecting a victory, planning for a win, preparing for good. As we enter the summer months, we live into love, forgiveness and victory for our lives and our Church.

Pastor Tom Bourke

## Sunday Scriptures & Sermon Series for May

**James: A Faith That Works**

**May 1 & 2** James 2:1-9 ~ Favoritism

**May 8-9** James 3:1-12 ~ Influence

**May 15-16** James 4:1-10 ~ Pride

**May 22-23** James 5:13-20 ~ Community

**May 30** Luke 9:18-24 ~ The God of Summer



## Worship Schedule for the Summer

Saturday, 5:00pm worship will continue until May 22nd.

The Worship Team and leadership will evaluate and make decisions on Saturday worship for the upcoming Fall Calendar

**Sunday, May 30th worship will be outdoors.**

There will be outdoor worship on the last Sunday of months May, June, & July, weather permitting.

Please bring a lawn chair.



Laura Olson  
Aurora University ~ MBA ~ 4.0!!

Jenna Henrich  
Indiana Wesleyan University

Owen Bourke  
8th Grade

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

*Hesed House PADS*

Hesed House is a comprehensive homeless resource center working to end homelessness one person, one family, at a time. Hesed House equips ninety area churches to 1) provide food, shelter and services to its homeless neighbors, 2) to provide the opportunity to hope again (job training, mental health counseling, substance abuse counseling, legal services, veteran's services, etc.), and 3) to work for systemic and societal justice on behalf of the least of these. Several United Methodist Churches support both financially and with volunteers. [www.hesedhouse.org](http://www.hesedhouse.org)

Thank you, The Missions Committee



Acts 1:1 (NIV) reads: "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach." What "former book" did the author write to Theophilus?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John



Answer C (See Luke 1:1-4)



# MAY

## Activities



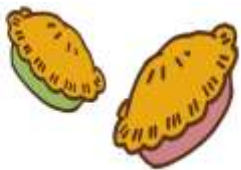
Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, May 18th, at 6:30pm.

Finance Committee meets Thursday, May 20th, at 6:30pm.

Administrative Council will meet in May. Watch for date to be scheduled.

United Methodist Women have a meeting on May 13th, 9:30am, in the chapel. All women are invited to attend.

### PIE OF THE MONTH EVENT



Mother's Day is just around the corner! Can't figure out what to get that special person who is hard to shop for.

How about a homemade pie baked by our expert pie bakers!

**Preorders and prepayment are required.**

May: Peach  
 Order deadline: Fri, April 30  
 Pickup date: Sat, May 8

June: Strawberry-Rhubarb  
 Order deadline: Fri, June 11  
 Pickup date: Sat, June 19

Any one month pie may be ordered for \$20.00, baked or frozen (with baking instructions).

\*All pies are pick up only at the Church no shipping or delivery. Please use south door.

Check the Website:

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

for further details or call the church office to order!



## Chimes & Choir Resumes

Adult Chimes & Choir groups are open to anyone who would like to participate regardless of experience. Both current and traditional selections are enjoyed. Chimes practice begins at 6:00 pm & Choir begins at 7:00pm. Social distancing will remain part of the practice procedures. For questions contact Kevin Duy or Pastor Tom.

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United Church of Sandwich  
 Pork Chop BBQ  
 Drive Thru

**Sunday, May 2, 2021**  
 4:00-6:30pm

Meal includes:  
 2 Pork Chops, Baked Beans,  
 Coleslaw, Applesauce, & Roll

UCS Master Grillers,  
 Matt Olson & Ron Henrich  
 will be grilling the  
 Delicious Pork Chops!

Tickets may be purchased from:

- ♦ UCS members
- ♦ Balloons Aloft, 704 E Church St,  
 815-786-6226

Your support is greatly appreciated!

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## *Rhubarb – Rhubarb – Rhubarb*

Our Pie-of-the-Month for June is Strawberry Rhubarb, so we will be needing some, yes, you got it, *Rhubarb!* If you have extra or know of anyone who has some and is willing to let the Church have it, please call the office. The Sandwich Fair Association is planning on having a Fair this year, if COVID is under control, so we will also be making Fair Pies.

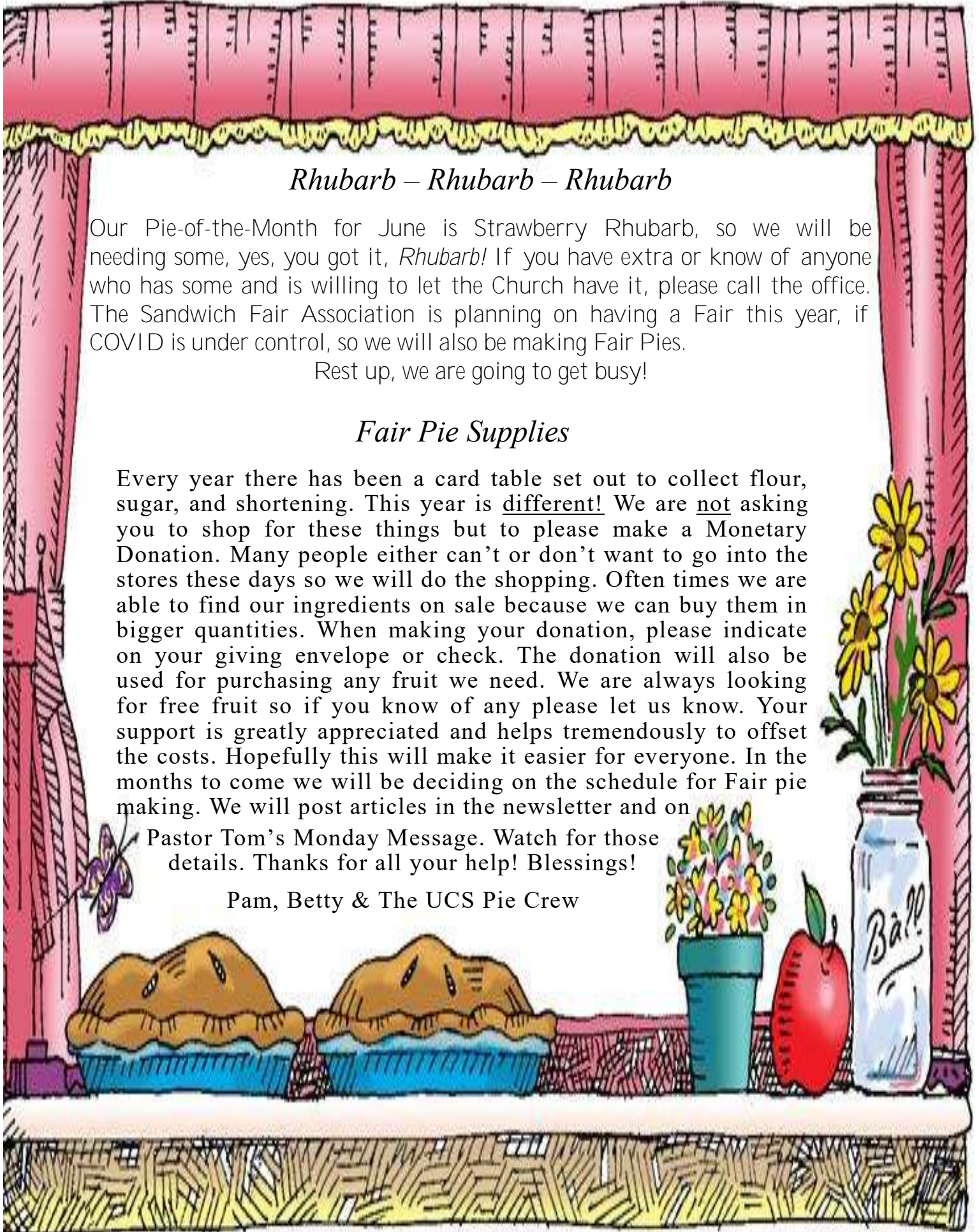
Rest up, we are going to get busy!

## *Fair Pie Supplies*

Every year there has been a card table set out to collect flour, sugar, and shortening. This year is different! We are not asking you to shop for these things but to please make a Monetary Donation. Many people either can't or don't want to go into the stores these days so we will do the shopping. Often times we are able to find our ingredients on sale because we can buy them in bigger quantities. When making your donation, please indicate on your giving envelope or check. The donation will also be used for purchasing any fruit we need. We are always looking for free fruit so if you know of any please let us know. Your support is greatly appreciated and helps tremendously to offset the costs. Hopefully this will make it easier for everyone. In the months to come we will be deciding on the schedule for Fair pie making. We will post articles in the newsletter and on

Pastor Tom's Monday Message. Watch for those details. Thanks for all your help! Blessings!

Pam, Betty & The UCS Pie Crew





HOT DOGS!

GET YOUR FREE HOT DOGS HERE!

UCS will host a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual, Drive-Thru, FREE Hot Dog Lunch Event. Served, by our Congregation, to our Community!

(11AM-1PM)

**Saturday, June 19**

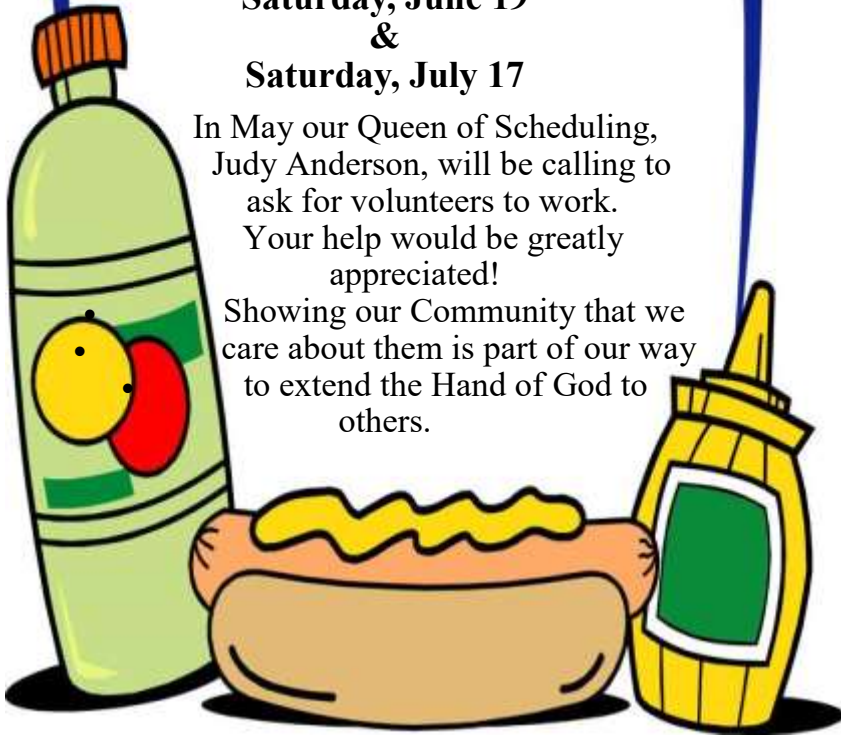
**&**

**Saturday, July 17**

In May our Queen of Scheduling, Judy Anderson, will be calling to ask for volunteers to work.

Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Showing our Community that we care about them is part of our way to extend the Hand of God to others.



### Heartfelt Thanks!

*Loved the many Birthday greetings sent—Only 4 of 96 were alike!*

*Peg, Ron and Tim had a party by the pool for 10 of my new friends.*

*Peg ordered cute cupcakes for us.*

*So that was my 90th. Best we could*

*do. Have Deb's, Jerry's and Pam's families coming next 2 months.*

*Just had my 2nd shot, so, feel good about that!*

*Glad you are back at church.*

*Hope U'Niter's can meet again after COVID.*

*Love to all ~ Mary Ann Olson*



### Historical Thoughts from Pastor Bob Dell



As baseball is under way again, here is a historical note: It may or may not surprise you to know (according to the Smithsonian) that the “First ever baseball game that you would recognize took place in Hoboken, New Jersey, on June 19, 1846, when the New York Knickerbockers played the more prosaically named New York Baseball Club.” This date is mentioned because it was only seven years later that: “On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1853, a few persons met at the home of W.W. Sedgwick, in the village of Little Rock, Kendall Co, Illinois, to make arrangements for organizing a Congregational Church Articles of Faith and a Church Covenant. They were presented and agreed upon as a basis of Christian union. On the Sabbath following, a Church was formally organized under the name of ‘The Congregational Church of Little Rock’



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://www.umcnic.org/media/files/Reporter/5-2021\\_web\\_reporter.pdf](https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/Reporter/5-2021_web_reporter.pdf)

**Paul & Diane Pearson**  
 115 Ashley Dr Apt B  
 Russellville, AR 72802

**Deb Seymour**  
 422 Deerfield Dr  
 Oswego, IL 60543



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

05/02	Phyllis Davis Richard Robinson
05/03	Delores Lies
05/05	Macie Chrestman
05/06	Renee Eipers Andrew Salisbury
05/07	Shirley Basler
05/09	James Bernhardt Betty Reiners
05/11	Thomas Nehring
05/12	Sandy Gustafson
05/13	Darrell Lohmeier Beverly Lowe
05/16	Gary Anderson
05/18	Linda Duy Lilly Heiman
05/19	Ron Henrich
05/26	Heath Dannewitz
05/27	Jane Heyer Vivian McMaster Scott Richards
05/28	Richard Banko 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



### 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 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!

# MAY

# 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 5:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion)
2 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion) 4-6:30 Pork Chop Drive Thru	3	4	5 6:30 Chimes Practice	6 	7	8 8-12 Pie P/U  5:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online
9 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online	10	11	12 6:30 Chimes Practice	13	14	15 5:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion)
16 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online (Holy Communion) 11:15 Worshiip Cmte Mtg	17	18  6:30 Board of Trustees Mtg	19 6:30 Chimes Practice	20 6:30 Finance Cmte Mtg	21	22 5:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online
23 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors & Online	24	25	26 6:30 Chimes Practice	27 10:30 Newsletter Assembly	28	29
30 10:00 Worship ~ Outdoors & Online						

The United Church  
of Sandwich

512 E Lions Rd  
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE MESSENGER — MAY 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)

Worship Schedule

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 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
<b>Trustee's Chair</b>	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)