

The Herald



Pastor's Corner



Psssttt... Have you heard? No? Really?! Let me elaborate...

The number of available pastors for churches is pretty low right now. Currently, for every available pastor, there is between two and three open pulpits throughout the United States. And... this is not just an issue for the United Church of Christ, but for almost all faith traditions; UCC, Lutheran, Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, and the list goes on. As disconcerting as it is not to have enough congregational members helping to do the work of the church, within the local churches, the problem becomes escalated when people refuse to consider a call to ministry.

Recently I've been asking people why they are not considering a call to ministry. Here are some of the answers shared with me:

I'm too old / I'm too young
I don't like sitting in a classroom, having to learn new stuff
Pastors don't make enough money
I'm not smart enough
Too much writing
I've never gone to college
I'm afraid of giving the wrong advice
I'm afraid of failing and letting a congregation down
It doesn't seem like I have any way of advancing my career
I don't like speaking in front of large groups
I have blemishes in my past

While not every person is called to the ordained ministry, many of us are called to service within the church in varying forms. For some, a call to 'the church' could look like a series of very small steps. For others, a call to ministry can be a dramatic and earth-shaking feeling. God speaks to us, God calls each of us in a multitude of varieties or ways. Consider what Jesus shares in Revelation 3:20, "Look! I have been standing at the door, and I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me." There is a door between us and God. Is anyone willing to open the door and let Jesus in?

Going back to the list of 'excuses' mentioned above. While each of them is worthy of conversation, rarely will any one of those be a 'STOP' button for moving forward for a call in serving 'the church'. There are many ways of gaining education, insight, and wisdom regarding ministry and ministry opportunities. The one-size-fits-all approach to ministry is a thing of the past.

If you have any sort of nudge, spiritual question, holy calling, or even a harmless inquiry about ministry, about life in 'the church,' let's talk. There's a seat waiting for you.



CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Mark your calendars! We will be decorating the church for Christmas on **Wednesday, December 3rd at 4:30 p.m.** If you are able to help, it is greatly appreciated.

Blue Christmas Services

Two services will be held locally this Christmas season to support those who are grieving or sad during the Christmas season: Bethlehem UCC (11608 Lax Chapel Rd) will host their



Blue Christmas service on

Thursday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. and St. John UCC in New Holstein will host on Monday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m.





Poinsettia Donations

If you would like to donate a poinsettia plant in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone you'd like acknowledged, please fill out a slip located on the table in the Narthex and place it in the Office Administrator's Inbox located on the wall by the bulletin board.

Please bring the plant(s) during regular business or service hours. You may also order your poinsettias from Lilybee's in New Holstein and they will deliver the plants for you to the church. Please pre-order to get your delivery here on time!

SECURITY MINISTRY

WEATHER NOTIFICATIONS

As we enter the winter season, we receive information regarding weather conditions from various news sources as well as the National Weather Service. What do the various weather alerts mean and how are they determined?



A Winter Storm Warning is issued that heavy snow of at least 6 inches in 12 hours, or at least 8 inches in 24 hours is expected. It can also be issued if sleet accumulation will be at least a half an inch.

An Ice Storm Warning indicates ice accumulation of least a quarter inch is expected.

A Blizzard Warning indicates that blizzard conditions (low visibility of less than a quarter mile due to falling and blowing snow, and winds at least 35 mph. or higher gusts) are expected for at least 3 hours. The warning is issued when conditions are expected in the next 12 to 18 hours.

A Winter Weather Advisory is issued for snow 3 to 5 inches in 12 hours or sleet accumulation up to a quarter inch or freezing rain in combination with sleet and or snow or blowing snow.

A Freezing Rain Advisory indicates that ice accumulation of up to a quarter inch is expected.

The criteria used by the National Weather Service for each of these advisories and warnings are quite extensive. The information provided is a brief overview.

During periods of extreme weather if travel conditions are hazardous, St. John UCC will provide closing information on WBAY television Green Bay.

ONLINE SHOPPING

Seasonal deals have started to appear on many websites. Consider whether the shopping sites you are using are legitimate sites. Fraudster's in some cases have set up webpages to look like the real site. Once they have your money or personal information, they close the site just as fast as they open it.

Stay safe and remember if you see something, say something!

Jim Sommers
Director – Security Ministry



Christmas Devotionals from "Our Daily Bread" are available on the table in the narthex.

Family Worship Sunday

November 2, 2025

On Family Worship Sunday the Sunday School children sang along to "This is the Day," with help from Veggie Tale characters Bob and Larry! "This is the Day" emphasizes the presence of God through a favorite opening verse of Pastor Dave's: "This is the Day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad" (Psalm 118:14). Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun and learning more about God!

Join us on December 7th for the next Family Worship Sunday and on December 14th for the Sunday School Christmas Program.
(Coffee Hour to follow.)



December Birthdays



12/3 Noah Reese

12/6 Tina Meier

12/16 Jayde Lisowe

12/30 Philip Vergowe

December Anniversaries

Roy and Kathleen Reese
12/12

Daniel and Wendy Boll
12/19



Food Drives at St. John



The St. John Women's Fellowship recently completed their annual Food Drive for the Salvation Army Bread of Life Center. Church members donated \$160 cash and 207 pounds of food and hygiene items. "We are so blessed that people came out full force to help," says Carol Balz, Women's Fellowship President. "Like the saying goes, 'Prayers go up and blessings come down.'"

While the Women's Fellowship Drive is specifically timed to coincide with the Thanksgiving season, St. John is continuing the momentum with "Pastor Kohls' Food Drive," focusing on non-perishable and unexpired food, hygiene items, and blankets. Donations can be dropped off at St. John. Together we can fight hunger and spread hope!

Pastor Kohl's **FOOD** **DRIVE**

Serving our neighbors with
love and generosity



**BLANKETS,
UNEXPIRED &
NON PERISHABLE
FOOD ONLY**

**Begins Sunday
Nov.16th**

DROP-OFF LOCATION

📍 St. John UCC

2111 Church Street, New Holstein



Please have annual reports ready by **Tuesday, December 16**. Plan meetings accordingly to allow enough time to create the reports and please have them turned in on time. Thank you!



For those that would like to make special end-of-year donations to the church, please have them in the offerings or to the office no later than **Sunday, December 28**. This way they can be properly counted and put into statements for the calendar year of 2025.

New Number

If you need to reach Pastor Dave, his new number is **920-313-0531**.



Help Wanted

Pastor is looking for a team of people that would be willing to visit our shut-ins on a rotating and regular basis. Sign-up with the church office.

*The December 3rd Wednesday Bible Study will be held at the usual time of 10:00 a.m. at **Lakehouse**.*



October Council Meeting Minutes

St. John United Church of Christ

Minutes of Council Meeting –

October 21, 2025 / 4:30 PM

Opening:

The regular monthly meeting of the council was called to order on October 21, 2025 at 4:30 PM by Jim Sommers, President. Pastor Kohls led us in the opening prayer.

Attendees List:

Penny Gieger, Derek Beyer, Garry Preder, Jim Sommers, Lynn Kind and Pastor Kohls.

Approval of Agenda:

Garry Preder made a motion to approve the agenda, Penny Gieger seconded the motion, motion carried.

Secretary Report:

Derek Beyer made a motion to approve the September 16, 2025 Secretary's Report, Garry Preder seconded the motion, motion carried.

Treasurer Report:

Beginning balance September 1, 2025 - \$7,773.37 - Ending balance September 30, 2025 - \$4,217.56. Lynn Kind made a motion to approve the July 2025 Financial Statement as submitted, Penny Gieger seconded the motion, motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Report reviewed and discussed with Council.

Committee Reports:

Buildings and Ground:

- Broken masonry below drop box was repaired by Derek's father-in-law for a cost of \$100.
 - Mannenbach Heating has our boilers scheduled to be serviced.
- Garry Preder made a motion to accept the committee reports as submitted, Derek Beyer seconded the motion, motion carried.

Old Business:

- Appleton sign company has given an estimate of approximately \$30,000 to replace the sign. Possible fundraiser in the future to help offset the cost.
- Brat fry will be October 26, 2025 – Derek Beyer to check with Donna Schneider to verify the Fire Station sign will advertise for that day. Yard signs out.
- 4 volunteers have reached out to help Michelle and Jena with Sunday School when needed and have been cleared.
- Rev. Andrew Werner to meet with the council on October 28, 2025 for a financial education meeting.
- Jim Sommers sent an email to thank the Cooley family for the generous donation of the artwork that is now on display in the lounge.
- Nancy Beckman from St. Martins, Malone, reached out to Derek Beyer informing him that their council reached out to families in their parish to make changes to the scholarship funds and will email us how they are proceeding.

New Business:

- Council would like to establish a greeting card program for members of the church who have had a significant event to include the death of a family member, wedding or birth. Lynn Kind made a motion to approve a greeting card program for church members, Garry Preder seconded the motion, motion carried.
- Jim Sommers gave an update on the current insurance situation. Current insurance underwriter Hub International Limited has advised they will no longer be representing our current insurance coverage provided by Hastings Mutual Insurance. Jim is currently working to obtain insurance quotes from other agencies. Current coverage expires 2/1/2026.

Derek Beyer made a motion for Council to go into executive session at 5:07pm, Penny Geiger seconded, motion carried. Garry Preder made a motion to return to regular session at 5:56 pm, Lynn Kind seconded, motion carried.

Derek Beyer made a motion to approve the amended questions for the congregational meeting on Nov. 9, 2025, Penny Geiger seconded the motion, motion carried.

Adjournment

- Garry Preder made a motion to adjourn, Penny Geiger seconded the motion, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 5:59PM. Pastor Kohls led us in a closing prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting

- Our next council meeting will be Tuesday November 11, 2025 at 4:30 pm.

C O N T A C T U S

2025 Council Members

Pastor Dave

rev_david_kohls@yahoo.com

Cell: 920-313-0531

Other Contacts

Administrative Assistant:

Mary Keran (920) 898-4259

sjucc.desk@outlook.com

Office Hours: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm,

Jim Sommers – Council President*(2-year term starting 2025)*Email: jimsommers2350@gmail.com

Home: 920-894-2350

Derek Beyer – Congregational President & Treasurer*(2nd 2-year term starting 2024)*Email: derekbeyer89@gmail.comderekjennieb@gmail.com

Cell: 920-979-2017

Home: 920-898-1777

Garry Preder – Vice-President*(2-year term starting 2025)*Email: gkpreder@frontier.com

Home: 920-838-0714

Lynn Kind – Secretary*(2nd 2-year term starting 2025)*Email: ljkind4@gmail.com

Cell: 920-378-2173

Penny Geiger – Trustee*(2nd 2-year term starting 2024)*Email: pennygeiger@gmail.com

Cell: 920-266-6324

Home: 920-827-2087

Tuesdays & Thursdays

Financial Secretary & Treasurer:

Jill Sippel (920) 418-1534

Director- Security Ministry:

Jim Sommers (920) 894-2350

(920) 215-2520 (cell)

Indoor Custodian:

Mike Kovach (920) 483-0406

Outdoor Custodian:

Kelly Sippel (920) 418-2534

Organist:

Gary Bieck

garybieck@gmail.com**Sunday School Superintendents:**

Michelle Krause (920) 418-4899

Jenna Bratz (920) 418-2049

Women's Fellowship President:

Carol Balz (920) 418-5259

Prayer Chain:

Donna Schneider (920) 898-5657

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Bible Study @10:00 a.m. Women's Fellowship (Lunch & Meeting @ Noon) Church Decorating @4:30 p.m.	4	5	6
7 Family Worship Service @ 10:15 am w/ Communion Bible Study @ EUCC 5:30 p.m.	8	9 Council Meeting @4:30 p.m.	10 Bible Study @10:00 a.m.	11 Supper w/Santa, 4-8pm at EUCC	12	13
14 Worship Service @ 10:15 am • Sunday School Christmas Program • Congregational Meeting Bible Study @ EUCC 5:30 p.m.	15	16 Annual Reports Due	17 Bible Study @10:00 a.m.	18	19	20
21 Worship Service @ 10:15 am	22 Blue Christmas Service @ 6:30 p.m.	23 Herald Articles Due	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7 p.m. w/ Communion	25 Christmas	26	27
28 Worship Service @ 10:15 am	29	30	31			



St John United Church of Christ | 2111 Church St | New Holstein, WI 53061-1300 US

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