



Pastor's Corner



The Lord's Prayer. We read about this story in Matthew. The Disciples begged Jesus, 'teach us how to pray'. Virtually every Christian / Catholic denomination embraces this prayer as special and is used as a teaching moment. Within our denominational roots, the Lord's Prayer holds deep significance in theology and worship. It's not just a set of words to mindlessly recite—it's a model for how believers are taught to approach God in prayer, reflecting key theological principles of the Reformed, the Evangelical, the Congregational, and Christian traditions (which is now called the United Church of Christ). Various Catechisms describe the Lord's Prayer as "the special rule of direction", which Jesus gave to guide believers in prayer. Martin Luther, arguably the principle founder of the Reformation, held the Lord's Prayer in exceptionally high regard, viewing it as a model for all Christian prayer and a vital part of spiritual life. His interpretation is most clearly laid out in his *Small Catechism* and *Large Catechism*, where he breaks the prayer into distinct parts—each with deep theological meaning and practical application.

As we pray the Lord's Prayer each week in worship and during meetings / events, do we really know what we are praying or are we mindlessly reciting words, while thinking about something else? I would like to believe that something this important is worthy of thoughtful reflection.

Our Father in heaven

Holy be your name

Your kingdom come

Your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven

Give us this day, our daily bread

Forgive us, as we forgive others

Don't lead us into temptation

But, deliver us from the evil one

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forevermore

Amen.

As we look at each line (or petition) of this prayer, what's something that might jump out at you? For me, it's an efficient prayer, exactly what we need – no more, no less. We profess God's holiness and God's power. We pray for God's will to be done, even when it might be in conflict with our own wants, needs, and desires. There's no line (or petition) for asking God to make us rich and powerful, but to provide for us what we need to survive today. We ask God to forgive us, just like how we forgive others... (think about that for a moment). We draw the prayer towards conclusion by asking God to keep us away from temptation and evil, while recognizing again the power and kingship of God. But perhaps the one word that scares me the most is "Amen". The word "Amen", which means, "Let it be so!" How comfortable are we, at the conclusion of our own prayers, to put an exclamation point at the end of it, by saying, "Let It Be So!" As we continue to pray the Lord's Prayer, let us put more thought into the prayer itself.

Pastor's Corner – Part 2

One more thing to ponder on... I have been hearing some of the concerns regarding the length of time it's taking to find a settled pastor – that it's too hard to move the congregation forward without a settled pastor. I'd like to answer that concern, if I may. If we think that waiting for a new settled pastor will 'fix' everything, allow me to suggest that those thoughts are somewhat misguided. Churches I have had recent experience with, have been without a settled pastor between two and six years. It was incumbent on the congregations themselves to step up and make the best out of a less-than-ideal-situation. The most recent success story comes from a church in our own backyard. They have been without a settled pastor for about two years. And during this time, they have rallied together as a congregational family and

worked both individually and collectively with other local churches. The result, during their time of not having a settled pastor they have gained about a dozen new members. They did this by getting out into the community, determining and establishing goals / objectives for their congregational family, maintaining a positive attitude, and realizing that we are accountable to each other (like Rev Franz said during his message on Sunday the 14th). Are we capable and willing to work together? Who's taking the lead? Or, do we bow our heads, bemoaning our less than ideal circumstances? The choice is again ours! We know what our past was like. We learned when and where we were successful. In this case, let's let history repeat itself and thrive.



DRIVE-THRU BRAT FRY



Sunday, October 26

11:00am - 2:00pm

St. John UCC



*2111 Church St.
New Holstein*

HELP!

The Ladies Fellowship is again doing their Food Drive which will start in October till November. The date will be in the Herald next month. I did ask if there are certain items which they need... "Our greatest need are hygiene supplies. Food is a constant need, but our hygiene supplies are almost close to being empty." This is a message I got from John Kost, Director.



Here is the list, and extra copies are on the table.

I'm leaving you with this thought, "It is better to give with your whole heart."

President Carol Balz,
St. John Women's Fellowship

FOOD

- Boxed meals
 - Rice-A-Roni
 - Hamburger Helper
 - flavored noodles/rice, etc.
- Canned meals
 - Chef Boyardee
 - Chili, Spaghetti O's, etc.
- Rice & Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Soups
- Canned Stews
- Baking Supplies
 - Flour
 - Sugar
 - Baking Soda
 - Baking Powder
 - Salt
 - Cake/Muffin/Bread/Pancake Mixes

HYGIENE

(Very much needed)

- Adult Body Wash
- Baby Body Wash
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Mouth Wash
- Body Lotion
- Liquid Dish Soap
- Liquid Laundry Detergent
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels



Neighbors
in Need

On Sunday, October 5th, St. John will receive offerings for Neighbors in Need (NIN), a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.



NATIONAL CHURCH SECURITY MONTH

It is unknown when this month was created. In past years we did not have to be concerned about a shooter entering our churches and causing harm. But this has been a reality that we have seen far too often in our sanctuaries today. The purpose of this month's recognition is to highlight safety concerns impacting both our church members and staff. The month is observed every October as a reminder to review the safety and security of our churches.

We have taken a proactive approach to our safety and security. Following Federal, church security organizations and law enforcement directives, we strive to provide the best possible safety and security for our members and staff. Churches must be aware of mass shooters and other terrorist activities and be prepared to manage these threats.

During this month every church member, staff and leader should review the safety and security measures in place. If you see an area of concern, please share your concerns with the security team.

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION FALL TAKE BACK DAY



The U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, Diversion Control Division, has announced October 25th as the 29th bi-annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. This is a time to remove unused, unwanted medications and turn them into a local collection agency. Watch for updates about local collection sites in your community.

SECURITY TEAM RECRUITMENT

Have you thought about becoming a member of our security team? We are actively looking for members to join us in providing safety and security for our church. If you are interested, please sign the sheet provided in the church foyer. Questions will be gladly answered.

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

Jim Sommers
Director – Security Ministry

Conference Minister Visits St. John

St. John UCC hosted the Rev. Rigert, Wisconsin Conference Minister, at September 14 Sunday Worship. Thank you to everyone who joined in welcoming Rev. Franz and assisted with the coffee hour!



Joseph & Linda Wagner
10/03

Tammy Riesterer
10/10

Sara Feider
10/22

John & Susan Hawk
10/23





Kathryn Kovach	10/02
Amy Bender	10/04
Holly Feucht	10/06
Janice Vergowe	10/06
Kim Winkel	10/15
Daniel Boll	10/24
Jarrod Kind	10/25
Mary Kolb	10/25
Betty Nett	10/25

Upcoming Visitors to St. John



Tuesday, October 28

Rev. Andrew Warner

President of the Wisconsin Foundation

Reverend Warner, CFRE, serves as President of the Wisconsin Foundation UCC. He leads the fundraising efforts of the conference, supports the planned giving and effective philanthropy of congregations, and leads a

foundation based on a community foundation model for the endowments of the conference and congregations.



Sunday, November 16 (tentative)

Rev. Jane Anderson

Associate Conference Minister

Reverend Anderson serves as the staff resource for Church and Ministry in the eastern region, and provides pastoral care for pastors and churches with congregations in transition and helps them transform conflict. Jane also helps

churches with search and call. Prior to her call as Associate Conference Minister, Jane had been in ministry in the local church for 30 years.



There will be a **Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 9**. Mark your calendars to attend this important meeting. An agenda will be forthcoming.

August Council Meeting Minutes

St. John United Church of Christ

Minutes of Council Meeting –

August 19, 2025 / 4:30 PM

Opening:

The regular monthly meeting of the council was called to order on August 19, 2025 at 4:30 PM by Jim Sommers, President. Pastor Kohls led us in the opening prayer.

Attendees List:

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

Approval of Agenda:

Derek Beyer made a motion to approve the agenda, Penny Gieger seconded the motion, motion carried.

Secretary Report:

Derek Beyer made a motion to approve the July 15, 2025 Secretary's Report, Garry Preder seconded the motion, motion carried.

Treasurer Report:

Beginning balance July 1, 2025 - \$267.63 - Ending balance July 31, 2025 - \$11,078.56. Lynn Kind made a motion to approve the July 2025 Financial Statement as submitted, Garry Preder seconded the motion, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Buildings and Ground: Mike Kovach will reach out to Mannenbach Heating to have the boiler serviced. He would also like to remove the wallpaper in the Pastors office and replace some ceiling tiles in the restroom. Handicap buttons on both doors not completely functional as well as the lock to Pastor Kohl's office. Masonry breaking up on ground below deposit box, Derek to speak with Kelly regarding how to maintain that area.

Pastor's Report: Report reviewed with Council.

Garry Preder made a motion to accept the committee reports as submitted, Penny Geiger seconded the motion, motion carried.

Old Business:

- Derek Beyer received another quote for the sign from Steward Sign Co. Quote came in at \$17,495.
- Jim Sommers has finalized the copier agreement lowering our monthly payment

for the next 3 years.

- Pastor Kohl's office chair has been replaced.
- Few volunteers have reached out to help Michelle and Jena with Sunday School when needed.
- Special Giving letters were mailed to members.
- Jim Sommers and Kelly Sippel discussing possible dates for a brat fry. Oct. 19 or 26 are possible options. Derek Beyer to reach out to Mike Kovach and Donna Schneider and may ask Sunday School to be involved.

New Business:

- Heather Cooley has generously donated a hand-lettered calligraphy of the Lord's Prayer in German which was done by her great-great-grandfather. The artwork is displayed in the lounge.
- Lynn Kind received an email from Eric Jens regarding the Iverson Scholarship. Pastor Kohls to follow up with him regarding the addition of vocational scholarships.
- As part of our community outreach, Jim has been working with Michelle Jens from the Calumet County ADRC and the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging. Jim will be meeting with Michelle on September 9th at 1:30 p.m. to discuss facility requirements. Program will run once a week for six weeks starting in September. They would like to meet prior to the start of the program with small church groups to explain the program. This is a chronic pain clinic.

Jim Sommers made a motion for Council to go into executive session at 5:20 pm, Derek Beyer seconded, motion carried. Lynn Kind made a motion to return to regular session at 5:36 pm, Garry Preder seconded, motion carried.

Derek Beyer made a motion to table any further action regarding a temporary reduced joint ministry agreement with St. John UCC and Ebenezer, Penny Geiger seconded the motion, motion carried.

Adjournment

- Garry Preder made a motion to adjourn, Penny Gieger seconded the motion, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM. Jim Sommers led us in the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting

- Our next council meeting will be Tuesday September 16, 2025 at 4:30 pm.



2025 Council Members

Pastor Dave

rev_david_kohls@yahoo.com

Cell: 920- 522-2565

Jim Sommers – Council President

(2-year term starting 2025)

Email: *jimsommers2350@gmail.com*

Other Contacts

Administrative Assistant:

Mary Keran (920) 898-4259

sjucc.desk@outlook.com

Office Hours: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm,
Tuesdays & Thursdays

Financial Secretary & Treasurer:

Home: 920-894-2350

Derek Beyer – Congregational President & Treasurer

(2nd 2-year term starting 2024)

Email: derekbeyer89@gmail.com

derekjennieb@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

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Penny Geiger – Trustee

(2nd 2-year term starting 2024)

Email: pennygeiger@gmail.com

Cell: 920-266-6324

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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

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study @10:00 a.m.	2	3	4
5 Family Worship Service @ 10:15 am w/ Communion • Neighbors in Need Bible Study @ EUCC 5:30 p.m.	6	7	8 Bible Study @10:00 a.m. Women's Fellowship 2:00 p.m.@Lakehouse	9	10	11
12 Worship Service @ 10:15 am • Sunday School (Pastor @ Conference) Bible Study @ EUCC 5:30 p.m.	13	14	15 Bible Study @10:00 a.m.	16	17	18
19 Worship Service @ 10:15 am • Sunday School	20	21 Council Meeting 4:30 p.m.	22 Bible Study @10:00 a.m.	23 Herald Articles Due	24	25
26 Worship Service @ 10:15 am • Sunday School Drive-Thru Brat Fry 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Bible Study @ EUCC 5:30 p.m.	27	28	29 Bible Study @10:00 a.m.	30	31	



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

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