



December 2025 Newsletter

Worship Service Start @ 10:45 am
Kids for Christ & Youth for Christ @ 9:30 am

Pastor Steve Scharnell

Contact Information-

Church Phone- 262-644-7901

Email- pastorstevefaithucc@gmail.com

Office Hours- Tuesdays 3:00pm-5:00pm

Thursdays 10:00am-2:00pm

Other Days & Times by Appointment

Special Dates

Dec 21 Christmas Program @ 10:45am

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service @ 7:30 pm

Dec 25 Christmas Day Service @ 10:45 am

Jan 4 Take Down Christmas Decorations

Jan 15 Newsletter Sent Out

Jan 18 Annual Congregational Meeting

"Rev's" Review!

Merry Christmas! I'm writing this article on November 24, trying to get a jump on things. This time of year, I try to work ahead as much as possible. By the way, I've been listening to Christmas music for a week now. Yes, I'm one of those people. Christmas is by far my favorite celebration. I'm thrilled that both churches put their Christmas decorations up on November 23! Thank you to all who helped! I would have my Christmas decorations up at home already, but I agreed to wait until after Thanksgiving. Guess what I did the day after?

I'd like to talk a little bit about some of the symbolic decorations. There is debate every year about Christmas originally being a pagan holiday. While it is true that Pagans had a holiday on December 25, it is not our holiday. The early Christians put the dates of our holidays on the same day as pagan holidays. Easter is another example. The early church did this in order to make conversion to Christianity easier. It gave some familiarity to the converts. Here are some traditional decorations and their meanings.

1. The modern Christmas tree began in 16th-century Germany. In Protestant homes, families decorated evergreens on Christmas Eve — the feast day of Adam and Eve — to remember The Tree of Paradise (Genesis) and The Tree of Life (Revelation).

Early decorations included:

Candles → Christ as the Light of the World

Apples → the fruit from Eden

Wafers → the bread of communion

When apples were scarce, glassblowers in Lauscha, Germany, began crafting shiny glass apples in the 1800s. These became the first Christmas ornaments — practical, not pagan. The tree tradition spread to England through Prince Albert, then to America in the 1800s.

2. Star of Bethlehem: Placed atop Christmas trees, the Star of Bethlehem symbolizes the star that guided the Wise Men to Jesus. It represents guidance, hope, and the divine nature of Jesus' birth.

3. Wreath: The circular shape of the Christmas wreath symbolizes eternity and unity, representing God's infinite love. Made from evergreen branches, it signifies endurance and renewal during the winter season.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,

"Rev" Steve Scharnell

Consistory Notes

Glad tidings, the consistory is very much looking forward to another Christmas season at Faith, Advent started off with the wonderful tradition of Hanging of the Greens which the children look forward to participating in every year and it is so great seeing the kids take place in this event. The Christmas program held on December 21 showcasing the talents of our youth in the church is next to nothing, music, singing and telling the wonderful story of our Saviors Birth. In the new year we are looking forward to Faith United Church of Christ Annual Meeting held on

Sunday January 18 after worship.

There are many important thing to be discussed and voted on so please mark your calendars for this date.

More information to be given in next months newsletter!

Special Notes

Please if there is any information that you would like to be in the next newsletter contact Christa Wendorf @ tcwendorf@yahoo.com No Later than January 12!!!

Something New for members to enjoy is Bible Study happening every 2nd & 4th Monday of the month held at New Hope UCC @ 6pm, led by Paster Steve all are welcome!

Thank you to everyone who decorated the church for the Christmas Season, it looks absolutely stunning, many handy make light work. Please note that on January 4 the decorations need to come down, please again if you can help with this task that would be wonderful, Thank you! Our Christmas Float made it to both the Hartford and West Bend Christmas Parades. Thank You to ALL who were involved to make this happen & a huge Thank You to Beth Miller to organize the new float for the church! Tis the season, Jim Sachse & Christa Wendorf are getting ready to take donations for one of Faith's longest traditions, the Christmas Goodie Bags, if you are interested in donating towards this please see Christa or Jim, they will answer any questions that you have! It is a Great Tradition and it is something that is always looked forward to, December 14 donations are due!

The Goodie Bags will be handed out during the Christmas Program December 21!

The Joint Book Club will resume on January 29, look for the flyer in the narthex!

Cemetery Committee Notes

Dan, due to his health, is again asking for a church member to take over the secretary/treasure position of the Cemetery Committee. He is willing to work with the new person to make the transition run smooth. PLEASE CONTACT Dan, JJ or a consistory member if your are interested in this position!

Wreaths Across America was Saturday December 13

a brief ceremony took place by Gib Selle and his Family @ 9am to remember the fallen, honor those who serve & teach our children the value of our Freedom! This year there was 695 wreaths placed at 18 cemeteries in the Allenton & Slinger area to honor our fallen veterans in our local community. This was done Nationwide!

Thank you to everyone involved in the snow removal, parking lots and path ways to the church. Events can't happen without your help!

Contributions can be made at all year long. We appreciate the donations for the lawn cutting & upkeep for both cemeteries! Please make your check payable to **Faith UCC Cemetery Fund**.

Cemetery Committee:

Jim "JJ" Markewicz—President
Dan Newburg—Sec/Treasurer



Readers/Communion Usher

Dec 14—Cheryl Asmus

Dec 21

Dec 24—Jenni Gordon

Dec 25—Christa Wendorf

Alter

Paul Gordon & Jeff Weiss

Dec 28—Nancey Schilling-Genz

Jan 4—Cathey Schmidt

Dwight Meyer & Sam Kuhaupt

Jan 11—Karen Reinders

Jan 18—Mylie Wendorf

Jan 25—Wesley Gordon

Script

The Gift Cards that gives back to the church are still here! Jennifer Gordon will be present before & after the 1st Sunday of each month with Gift Cards for sale, you can buy and take right away! You can also special order gift cars we don't have "IN-STOCK" at the church. Let Jennifer Gordon know which you would like. Typical cards in stock include, Culver's, Walmart, Walgreens, Subway, Piggly Wiggly, Meijer, Kwik Trip & NEW Mayer's Beef Farms! We will carry more if there are common stores in your special orders. Help us fundraise, do most of your shopping with gift cards that you purchase from us or buy them ad gifts for others! If you have any questions contact Jennifer Gordon. Here is the link,

<https://www.raiseright.com/c/Shop/Product/BrandAlphabeticalList>



Children's Christmas Pageant
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day

Epiphany

Kids for Christ & Youth for Christ Notes

“Wise Men Still Seek Him”

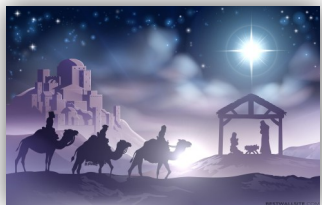
We have had a Blast learning and growing with your children through Jesus Christ and the stories in the bible!

The kids have been learning about the story of Jesus’s birth through the wise men’s eyes. It is always fun to teach this unit, seeing the kids learn and tell the story in ways we as adults could never comprehend. There will be no KFC or YFC December 28, it will resume on January 4. The new we will be working on is learning about Jacob and his coat of many colors!

The Christmas Program will be on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21 during Worship @ 10:45 am

There are only a few more practices left before the big day, we are meeting Tuesday December 16 only big kids, Saturday 20 as a dress rehearsal along with Sunday meeting at 9:30 to run through everything one last time, we will also be meeting with Ms. Rita to run through any music this Sunday December 14, and she will also be there on Saturday December 20 to run through music and the whole play. Please make sure that you are ready for these last few rehearsals .

Please let family members know of this special event.



Home Bound

This is the updated list for all of our members that are home bound-

Joyce Herther—Cedar Community The Willows @ Cedar Lake Assisted Living 5577 Home Dr Apt #1522 West Bend 53095

Jean Happel-Aspen @ Cedar Lake
5555 Cedar Bay Dr. West Ben WI 53095

Don & Sandy Jackson— 6657 Weis St. Allenton 53022

Marilee Lehman— 1755 N Barker Rd Room #303
Brookfield WI 53045

Darlene Endres- 1202 Ease Sumner St.
Hartford WI 53027

Please if you know of any of our other members that are “Stuck at Home” Please contact Pastor Steve or Elaine Burg Thank you!

Mission Committee News

Thanks to Faith’s wonderful generosity! 19 gifts were delivered by Karen Nehm to the Washington County Gingerbread House and 23 boxes were filled for the Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child. Collections envelopes for the United Church of Christ Christmas Fund will be in the narthex by the Bulletins. This donation will be collected by Dec 21 and sent to the UCC authorized ministers, lay employees and surviving spouses, included pension and health premiums. The coin tower proceeds will be given to St. Vincent de Paul-Slinger for their use in helping local families!



Thank You for your contributions to Faith UCC Church

We are excited to announce our new online giving platform [Tithely](https://tithely.com). With this news [EasyTithe](https://tithely.com) will be going away at the end of the month. Please turn off your recurring giving by the end of December and switch over to [Tithely](https://tithely.com). [EasyTithe](https://tithely.com) Fees are going through the roof, so we found a platform that is much cheaper. The switch will be easy, go to <https://tithely.com/give?c=6471448> and a window will appear to set up your giving and your account information. You will get 3 emails when you set yourself up for the first time. A welcome to [Tithely](https://tithely.com) email. An account set up email to confirm your email address. And finally a thank you for your donation email. Inside the widget at the above link you can even set yourself up for recurring donations! Also please consider covering the fees with your donation. This will help the church use your giving more efficiently.

(if you need assistance, let Paul Gordon know. Once your account is established it’s easy!)

Mail your check to Faith UCC Church P.O Box 396, Slinger, WI 53086