



December 2024 Newsletter

Worship Service Start @ 10:45 am

Kids For Christ @ 9:30 am

Pastor Carly Gaeth's Contact Information – 414-640-3543

email carly.gaeth@gmail.com

Carly's Corner

Well, friends, here we are. We've reached the final month of 2024 and the final newsletter in which I will offer my reflections, thoughts, meditation practices, and self-care challenges. Our journey together is coming to a close and although I've had a few months to prepare for my departure from this place, I don't yet feel ready to finish this chapter. It has been a tremendous honor and a privilege for me to serve this congregation for the last 3+ years. You all took me on, fresh out of seminary, and trusted me to be your faith leader, come what may. And let me tell you, it has been a wild ride! Together we have grown and blossomed— through joys and celebrations, struggles and grief— and I am grateful for it all. I have learned so much about ministry from you; so much about community; so much about meeting people where they are; so much about drawing the circle wide and inviting other perspectives in; so much about myself, my faith, and my commitment to the life of the church. It hasn't always been easy; we've walked through so much and I, for one, am proud of the work we have done. I am proud of the ways we have leaned in to questions and doubts, proud of the outreach we have accomplished and the servant leadership we have provided, proud of the relationships we have built and fostered, proud of the faithful steps we have taken into an unknown future, and so much more. Serving you has been a blessing and a gift. Being able to return to the place of my baptism and to, once again, be part of the history of Faith UCC has been a profoundly sacred experience. I look forward to bearing witness to whatever happens next as our journeys unfold, together and apart.

Peace and blessings all,
Pastor Carly

Things I'm Going to Miss:

1. All of your bright, shining faces
2. The beautiful music from our choir, Rita, and our KFC kiddos
3. The ways in which you all rally around one another
4. All of your delicious treats (pies, specifically)
5. The cows and barn cats who greet me
6. Book club

Things I'm Less Sad to Leave Behind:

1. Summertime flies
2. The arctic feel of the sanctuary as we rehearse the Christmas pageant
3. The office printer

Meditation Practice

The month of December is a frenzied time of year! There's so much hustle and bustle— holiday shopping, cookie baking, tree adorning, house decorating, snow shoveling, and so much more! There's hardly any time for our everyday tasks, much less meditation and quiet stillness. So, the meditation practice for this month is one that is intentionally silent with hushed speaking, if you so choose. To begin, please sit or lay in whatever position is most comfortable for you. As you do so, close your eyes and clear your mind as best you can— as different thoughts and concerns arise, simply acknowledge them and thank them for their presence. If you find that you need another way to begin your meditation, you can focus on the movement of your breath and the ways in which your body responds to it. As you settle in and your mind begins to quiet, I want you to think of a word or small phrase that is grounding or affirming to you. It can be anything: "peace," "hope," "I am loved," "I am whole," etc. And as you keep your eyes closed and your mind vacant, I invite you to speak that word or phrase very quietly to yourself. Let it wash over you; live in its sound and its movement. Every time you encounter another thought or concern, idea or issue, return to your word or phrase. Let it speak to all of the goings on in your mind. Let it be your prayer.

Self-Care Challenge

Even though the skies begin to darken in the mid afternoon, there is something about December that brings restlessness to my life. As such, I find myself not getting enough restorative sleep to keep myself going through the long days and nights of advent and the holiday season. This month, I challenge us to make time for restful sleep; to create space in our busy schedules for respite and recuperation. This time of year requires so much physical, emotional, and spiritual energy— let's redirect our attention toward rest; if nothing else, it's a tool of resilience in all the festivities.

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-3879 Fond du Lac Dr. Richfield 53076

Don & Sandy Jackson— 6657 Weis St. Allenton 53022

Marilee Lehman— 1755 N Barker Rd Room #303

Brookfield WI 53045

Judy & Ruth Schowalter— W206 N16654 Blackberry Cr. Apt #3

Jackson 53037

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

Mission Committee News

Thank you to Faith’s wonderful generosity, 27 gifts were delivered by Karen Nehm to the Washington County Gingerbread House and 20 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 December 22 and sent to the UCC to provide direct financial assistance to need retired and active UCC authorized ministers, lay employees and surviving spouses, included pension and health premiums.



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 cards 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>



Special Dates

Children’s Christmas Program December 22

Christmas Eve Service @ 7:30pm

Christmas Day Service @ 10:45am

Annual Meeting Articles Due January 2 to Jeff Weiss

Newsletter Sent Out January 15

Annual Meeting January 19

Book Club @ New Hope UCC January 30

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 then January 12!

Jim Sachse & Christa Wendorf are once again gathering donations for our long living tradition of the Christmas Goodie Bags. Please if you would like to give a bag please get your donation and name to Christa no later then **December 15** so that there is time to shop and get things ready for the **December 22** Christmas Program. **Note that all the children in the KFC program receive a bag from the Church, we have never asked the Church for a contribution for this so your donations are key for this tradition to keep happening.**

Thank you! Thank you to EVERYONE who helped decorate the Church, this is no easy task and it always looks so beautiful when it’s all done!

Cemetery Committee Notes

The Old Section of Faith Cemetery- (formerly St John’s Evangelical & Reformed) Rex Melius has done a lot of work over this year. He will continue on in 2025 when the weather permits.

Reminder— Winter is close, if you can clean up flower debris from your loved ones gravesite. We appreciate the clean up.

National Wreaths Across America— The Allenton Legion Post #483 is participating in this National event. The Sponsorship letter and form will be in the narthex of the church. Please fill out the form along with your \$ and return it to-Allenton Legion Post 483 Attn: National Wreaths Across America PO Box 2 Allenton, WI 53002-002.

There will be a brief ceremony held on Saturday December 14 at 9:00am. It will be in the main entrance of the church with the laying of the wreaths on your veterans gravesite to follow.

Thank you—to every one for your help and support

Cemetery Committee:

Jim “JJ” Markewicz—President

Dan Newburg—Sec/Treasurer



Faith

Hello Faith Family,

From your Search Committee.

Some might say, well that was quick!

Searching for a Pastor can be an arduous and grueling process, said a two-time past Search Committee Member. They go on to say, after a seven year and five-year Pastor search process I did not think I would commit to the committee again. However, when the Church Consistory advised the goal was a 3–6-month search process, I felt God’s nudge. And that my previous experience would be valuable.

The Search Committee consists of six individuals. Three from Faith Church and three from New Hope Church. Our mission was to search for an experienced and ordained pastor who could grow and feed Faith and New Hope’s congregation.

You may have heard, the review of our search process during Faiths Congregational Meeting Dec 8, 2024. As well as the Search Committee’s recommendation, Steve Scharnell’s sermon. Followed by a congregational vote. This occurred at New Hope as well.

Steve has a bachelor’s degree in science and is a seminary trained ordained pastor with almost two decades of significant experience. Steve has a track record of growing a congregation with 12 people to 75 in worship and no children, to 12 children in Sunday School, VBS with 26 Children and a confirmation class, in less than one year. Steve says, “Of course, all glory goes to God! A desire and mission for the Holy Spirit to work through me to make Heaven more crowded.”

Steve brings energy, strong communication skills and a proven gift of explaining the Bible in an understandable way using analogies and humor.

Please help us to welcome Steve to Faith and New Hope effective December 23, 2024. Steve is ready to meet every congregation member, in and out of attendance, as well as shut ins. We hope that you feel Steve’s genuine and personable presence as much as we do.

Please reach out to a Search Committee Member with any questions.

Respectfully Given by,

The Faith United Church of Christ Search Committee



Kids for Christ Notes

“The Light of Heaven... Became the Light of the World ”

The Kids are getting so excited... December 22 is drawing near, they have been working so hard on lines, music and where to stand. They can't wait to show you all their hard work! Christmas Programs starts @ 10:45am. Tell family and friends to come watch it live or stream live on Facebook! We will be setting up for the Program this Sunday after church, stay if you can. Saturday December 21 is the only dress rehearsal. Kids should be at KFC that day at 9:30am to go through the program.

KFC will resume on January 5 with a new unit, John the Baptist.

We do have a list of Supplies that we could use in Fellowship Hall they are as followed:

Paper cups, paper towels, small bottled water, hand sanitizer, soap, tissue boxes, cotton balls, paper lunch bags



Consistory Notes

Thank you all so much for coming to worship on December 8 to meet Steve and have fellowship with him. Also thank you to everyone who was able to make it to the December Update Meeting, lots was discussed and plans are in affect.

We are so proud to show off our **NEW SIGN** as the Cutis Nehm Memorial in front of the Church. This is a great honor to have this be a new addition of our Church, Thank you so much to the Nehm Family for making this possible.

Thank You for your contributions to Faith UCC Church

We are excited to announce our new online giving platform [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.com). With this news [EasyTithe](https://easytithely.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 [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.com). [EasyTithe](https://easytithely.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 [Tith.ly](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

Readers/Communion Usher

Dec 15—Cheryl Asmus

Dec 24—Jeniffer Gordon

Dec 25—Christa Wendorf

Dec 29—Nancy Schilling-Genz

Jan 5—Cathy Schmidt

Jan 12—Karen Reinders

Jan 19—Mylie Wendorf

Jan 26—Ellen Dolnick

Shelly Mayer & Paul Gordon

Jeff Weiss & Sam Kuhaupt

Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Day Service

Take Down Christmas Decorations