



January 2025 Newsletter

Worship Service Start @ 10:45 am

Kids For Christ @ 9:30 am

Pastor Steve Scharnell Contact Information-

Email- pastorstevefaithucc@gmail.com

Happy New Year!

What a great opportunity to introduce myself. For those of you who don't know me, I'm your new pastor. My name is Steve Scharnell. I was born and raised just down the road from you in Hustisford, WI, a typical, very small, German, southeast WI village. It is there I was born in a six-bedroom hospital and raised through high school. I went to college at UW-Platteville where I received my degree in Industrial Technology Management. I married Angie whom I met working at the same restaurant. We were married in 1993. We moved back to Hustisford where we bought and operated a full-service bar and grill which included a four-lane bowling alley. We also owned a small coffee/sandwich/ice cream/candy shop. It was during this time that our children were born. Jon, who is now 28 and Sarah, who is 25. We sold our businesses in 2002 and moved to Oconomowoc where we now live. In Oconomowoc we owned a deli and a catering business. It was during this time that I felt a call into the ministry. I attended seminary in Ft. Wayne Indiana and was ordained in 2014 if I'm not mistaken.

I am an avid reader, non-fiction for the most part. I love riding my motorcycle during the few months that I am able to in Wisconsin. I love to cook as well as treasure hunt in thrift stores, flea markets, and garage sales.

The reason I became a pastor is to help. I have a heart for the fringes of society, those who aren't understood, those who aren't heard, those who think they have no hope, those who are abused, oppressed and unrightly judged. This is what attracted me to the UCC. I love the welcoming atmosphere. I love the call to serve the community. I love the fact that all are welcome to hear the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you for calling me. I look to the future with great hope and optimism.

Pastor Steve Scharnell

"Rev"





"Your talent is God's gift to you.

What you do with it is your gift back to God."

~ Leo Buscaglia

Thank you to all the members of Faith United Church of Christ ,

2024 was a year of transition for this family and we handled it with grace and love. Your continued participation and love of this church is inspiring and I am in awe of all of you. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve as your president over the past two years and look forward to worshipping with you every time I am at church. I know my children enjoy this space and the people that surround them as well. The smiles on their faces tell me all I need to know that we are in the right place. We have an incredible family at Faith United Church of Christ.

Some (thankful) highlights of 2024

- Thank you to the Search Committee that was able to make find an amazing candidate as our new pastor and make sure we had no gap in pastoral care for our Faith family.
- Thank you and welcome to Pastor Steve Scharnell for being an amazing addition to our Faith Family!
- Additionally, Thank you to Pastor Carly Gaeth for serving our congregation for the past 3 years and for being graceful in our transition time.
- Thank you to Rita and the choir for the beautiful music.
- Thank you to the Sunday school program and the wonderful teachers helping teach the next generation of youth.
- Thank you to the parents who are committed to fostering Christian education and have their children enrolled in our Sunday School Program.
- Thank you to anyone that has been involved in church maintenance and landscaping. Our church is a beautiful space because of your work
- Thank you to those who write and provide communication outreach for our church.
- Thank you to all the hands that keep records, organize files, sort mail, write checks, track our financials, and communicate with our great faith community. The time is now to help build this congregation. Invite your friends, invite your family, invite friends that might have stopped attending. Talk about the great things we are doing here at Faith and talk about the excitement all of us are feeling at this tiny corner in the country. This is where God intended us to work together and serve His people.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Gordon January 12, 2025

Faith

A note of gratitude:

As this term on the Faith United Church of Christ consistory ends, gratitude, humility, and hope fill my heart. The past six years have been a profound journey, both challenging and fulfilling, as the church worked together to navigate its needs and serve God with steadfast faith.

Special thanks go to fellow consistory members, Sam, Jeff, Linda, Barb, Paul, and Karen. Their unwavering leadership, dedication, and deep love for the church community have been an inspiration. Each one brought unique gifts to the table, blessing the congregation with wisdom, kindness, and a willingness to serve. Their commitment to the mission of Faith UCC has been a source of strength and encouragement.

Heartfelt appreciation is extended to the many servant leaders who quietly and diligently work for the good of all. Through teaching, hospitality, caregiving, and tending to the behind-the-scenes tasks that sustain the church, your efforts make Christ's love visible in the community. Your tireless service and dedication do not go unnoticed and are deeply valued.

Looking forward, I am excited about our future at Faith UCC, inspired by the enduring spirit of the congregation. A challenge is extended to all to continue cultivating a culture of kindness, forgiveness, and encouragement. Speaking words that build up, extending grace, and championing the gifts and contributions of others sets a powerful example for future generations. This demonstrates how to care for and love one another as Christ calls His followers to do.

While the future cannot be controlled, it remains in God's capable hands. What can be shaped is the culture of the congregation—a culture radiating love, hospitality, and hope. Commitment to creating a welcoming and supportive community draws others to the joy and peace found in Christ. Setting this tone strengthens the church today and builds a legacy that will endure for years to come.

I have learned a great deal from my time on the consistory and am grateful. Though this role on the consistory concludes, my commitment to Faith UCC and all that God is doing within this church remains strong. The seeds sown together will continue to bear fruit, and there is anticipation for how God will lead in the days ahead.

Serving alongside this congregation has been one of the greatest honors, and the privilege of witnessing its faith in action is deeply cherished. May our church continue to walk in faith, trust in God's promises, and share His boundless love with all.

In gratitude and faith,



Shelly Mayer

Special Dates

Annual Meeting January 19

Book Club @ New Hope UCC January 30

KFC/Youth Tubing Outing @ Sunburst February 2

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 Steve or Elaine Burg Thank you!

Consistory Notes

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.

Please Join us... The Annual Meeting is January 19 following worship service. All voices are welcome!



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 February 12!

If you are interested in joining a committee please see one of the consistory members, we always need extra help!

Also we are looking for readers for Worship Service please talk to Karen Reinders if you are interested.

Thank you! Thank you to EVERYONE who helped take down our Christmas Decorations and a special thank you to Bryan Hearther for making everything look so wonderful for the church!

Cemetery Committee Notes

Happy New Year!

The 2024 Annual Report has been submitted at the end of December. Please see the copies in the Annual Report for the Cemetery Committee.

Dan is asking for someone to take over the Secretary/Treasurer position due to his health. There is an overview sheet with the job discription available. Dan is willing to work with the new appointed person for the transition. We will be continuing with the projects in 2025 at both the Faith UCC Church and Ackerville Cemeteries. Again working with Rex Melius. We appreciate all of Rex's work on the old gravestones dating back to the early 1800's.

Contributions can be made at any time of the year. Please make your check payable to **Faith UCC Cemetery Fund**.

Cemetery Committee:

Jim “JJ” Markewicz—President

Dan Newburg—Sec/Treasurer

Readers/Communion Usher

Jan 19—Mylie Wendorf

Jan 26—Ellen Dolnick

Kids for Christ Notes

“We Love Because HE First Loved Us ‘John 4:19’”

WOW... The kids were AMAZING, Great Job! The Christmas Programs was a success! Thank you to everyone who was a part of it! We could not have done it with out ALL of you! A Special Thank You to Rita Melius, the music was wonderful. Thank you to Jennifer Gordon for all the Extra work and to Pastor Carly for all the extra input as well. Thank you to Landon Wendorf for working the sound system, and to everyone who got the kids where they needed to be. Thank you parents for having such AMAZING Kids to work with!

This unit we are working on John The Baptist, next unit we are working on Danial and the Lion’s Den

February 2 we are having a fun outing of Tubing at Sunburst , if you are interested in attending please see Jenni Gordon for all the information, we are having lunch at the church in Fellowship Hall after worship service then it’s off to the Hill!

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, snacks are always welcome as well

Script

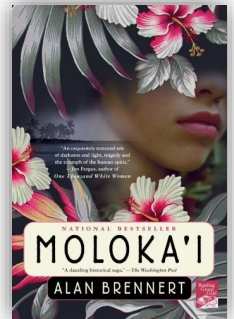
The Gift Cards that gives back to the church are still here! Jennifer Gordon will be present before & after the 1st Sunday of each month with Gift Cards for sale, you can buy and take right away! You can also special order gift cars we don’t have “IN-STOCK” at the church. Let Jennifer Gordon know which 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>



Shared Book Club with New Hope UCC

Thursday January 30 @ New Hope UCC Chruuch

Rachel Kalama, a spirited seven year old Hawaiian girl, dreams of visiting far off lands like her father, a merchant seaman. Then one day a rose-colored mark appears on her skin, and those dreams are stolen from her. Taken from her home and family, Rachel is sent to Kalaupapa, the quarantined leprosy settlement on the island of Molokai. Here her life is supposed to end—but instead she discovers it is only just beginning. This richly imagined novel, set in Hawaii more than a century ago, is an extraordinary epic of a little-known time island place—and a deeply moving testament to the resilience of the human spirit.



Mission Committee News

There will NOT be a Spring Helping Hands Fish Fry. Please feel free to contact our committee or the consistory if you have any suggestions for mission activities. Thank You!

Thank You for your contributions to Faith UCC Church

We are excited to announce our new online giving platform [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly), With this news [EasyTithe](https://tithe.ly) 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://tithe.ly). EasyTithe Fees are going through the roof, so we found a platform that is much cheaper. The switch will be easy, go to <https://tithe.ly/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://tithe.ly) 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