

# CHURCH CHAT

It is the mission and purpose of Somers Community United Church of Christ to study and seek the will of God and to transform our understanding into action.



October 2024



Last month, I received a letter from the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ office. I wanted to share parts of that letter with you, because it applies to the ministry that we have here at Somers UCC. It addresses the question about how small churches do ministry and mission in our current time and place. Here is a part of that letter:

*Linda Kuhn and David King have retired from church consulting. But some years ago, while still running Sand Bur Consulting, they created a resource called "Smaller for a Purpose." The opening paragraph explored a common perception that "churches who fall below denominational or national averages (in membership, budget, worship, and church school attendance, pastoral salary) are something of a drain on the rest of the church. It was assumed these churches were smaller for a reason—because something had gone wrong—and they were not growing."*

*Kuhn and King suggested a different narrative. What if some churches are small for a purpose? "Healthy small churches have distinct advantages in this age of post Christendom," they wrote. "They can communicate rapidly and effectively; their relationships are deep and strong; they can be nimble in response to changing circumstances; they have a rich experience of trusting God to lead and support them in difficult times; they know and understand the resources (even if limited that God has placed at their disposal; they often have a history of strong lay leadership; and, they tend to act without waiting for permission if the need requires."*

*...Many of our congregations in the Wisconsin Conference fit this description: Smaller for a purpose. If you are a member, lay leader or preacher in a church that worships 25 or fewer on average, this is an invitation exclusively for you. With the support of the Wisconsin Conference, a working group has been created to explore and share the experience of ministry in small congregations...I share my optimism and excitement for this gathering and hope you will join.*

I have joined in the conversation with our sister churches in the Wisconsin Conference UCC that are Smaller for a Purpose...or as others have suggested—small, but mighty. I hope that we can continue to celebrate together the work that we do together. I hope that you will understand that we have not "failed" but are instead doing what God has put us here to do. Glory to the God of all things...big and small!

Somers Community UCC

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Somers, WI 53171

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Visit us on the web at:

somerschurch.org

And on Facebook

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Pastor Kathleen Gloff

Ph: 920-418-1600

Administrative  
Associate

Barbara Sherman

Moderator

Dennis Curnes

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Church Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday

9:00pm - 3:00 pm






| October Birthdays     |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1                     | Jeff Rossi                    |
| 5                     | Karen McKenzie                |
| 23                    | Peggy Gallo                   |
| 27                    | Jennifer Rossi                |
| October Anniversaries |                               |
| 10                    | Brent & Stephanie Christenson |
| 24                    | Dino & Christine Sturino      |
| 26                    | Donald & Patti Stolfi         |

*NOTE: If we are missing your birthday or anniversary, please let the church office know.*


| Scripture Readings                                           |                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Oct 6</b><br><i>Communion</i><br><i>Neighbors in Need</i> | Job 1: 1, 2: 1-10<br>Psalm 26<br>Hebrews 1:1-4, 2: 5-12<br>Mark 10: 2-16    |
| <b>Oct 13</b>                                                | Job 23: 1-9, 16-17<br>Psalm 22: 1-15<br>Hebrews 4: 12-16<br>Mark 10: 17-31  |
| <b>Oct 20</b>                                                | Job 38: 1-7<br>Psalm 104: 1-9, 24, 35c<br>Hebrews 5: 1-10<br>Mark 10: 35-45 |
| <b>Oct 27</b>                                                | Job 42: 1-6, 10-17<br>Psalm 34: 1-8<br>Hebrews 7: 23-28<br>Mark 10: 46—52   |

| Sunday        |               |
|---------------|---------------|
|               | Altar Flowers |
| <b>Oct 6</b>  | Swartz Family |
| <b>Oct 13</b> | NONE          |
| <b>Oct 20</b> | NONE          |
| <b>Oct 27</b> | NONE          |




**Remember Your Offerings** If you would like to mail your offering:  
Somers United Church of Christ  
PO Box 183  
Somers WI 53171

**Thank You!**



Phyllis Borger called to let us know she would like to thank everyone for the cards. She appreciates you thinking of her.



*Just a reminder that our annual Stewardship Sunday will be here soon. Please take a little time to reflect on how you are able to best share your particular gifts in 2025.*



We are always in need of **KID'S CEREAL, TOILET PAPER, and PAPER TOWELS.** In the past few months, we have seen more food being given to families and even some senior citizens at our food pantry. \$\$\$ money donations are always welcome, and yes, we will do the shopping for you. Just send or put a check in the offering plate and mark on it "**Food Pantry**". Thank you for your help.  
Bonnie Curnes, Project Manager



The Men's Breakfast group will be meeting on **Saturday, October 19th at 8:30 am**. They will gather at the **Phoenix Restaurant, 12440 75th St, Kenosha** located west of I-94 on the north side of Hwy 50 at the West Frontage Road Intersection. Hope you will join us.



### **Breakfast & Books (B & B)**

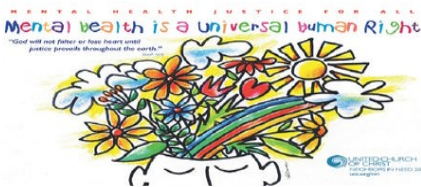
Our last book club gathering for 2024 will take place on **November 2nd** in the Memorial Lounge. We will meet at **9:30 am** to discuss the book **"A Christmas Memory"** by **Richard Paul Evans**. Bonnie Curnes will lead the discussion and Judy Desotell will furnish the pastry. Also, on this day we will be choosing 6 book selections for 2025, so bring some suggestions with you. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex the middle of October so PLEASE sign up if you will/ will not be attendings. Coffee will be provided. Any questions contact Bonnie Curnes at 262-654-1612.

### **School Supplies Update**

Members of the Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who donated school supplies these past few weeks. The items were taken to the Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha, and they were very grateful to receive them.

Here is what was collected:

- Back bags —1
- Spiral notebooks—13
- Folders — 21
- Loose leaf paper — 10 packages
- Composition Books—4
- Erasers—4
- Colored pencils — 7 packages of 12
- Glue Bottles —9
- Glue sticks—20
- Crayons — 14 packages
- Pencils — 72
- Highlighters—8
- Markers—13 packages (broadline or fine line)
- Rulers — 3
- Pens—40 pens (blue, red, & black)



### **NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

The **Neighbors in Need Offering (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ (UCC) 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 the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy, efforts, and direct service projects through grants. This year's theme is **"Mental Health Justice For All!"**. A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey.

We will be collecting the NIN offering on **Sunday, October 6th** as part of World Communion Sunday observance.



# OCTOBER



| Sun                                                     | Mon | Tue                                       | Wed | Thu | Fri                                                                                                                                                                    | Sat                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                         |     | 1<br><br>2:00 pm—5:00 pm Diaper Ministry  | 2   | 3   | 4                                                                                                                                                                      | 5                                                            |
| 6 Communion<br>Neighbors in Need<br>10:00 AM<br>Worship | 7   | 8<br><br>2:00 pm—5:00 pm Diaper Ministry  | 9   | 10  | 11                                                                                                                                                                     | 12                                                           |
| 13<br>10:00 AM<br>Worship                               | 14  | 15<br><br>2:00 pm—5:00 pm Diaper Ministry | 16  | 17  | 18                                                                                                                                                                     | 19<br>8:30 am Men's<br>Breakfast at<br>Phoenix<br>Restaurant |
| 20<br>10:00 AM<br>Worship                               | 21  | 22<br><br>2:00 pm—5:00 pm Diaper Ministry | 23  | 24  | 25                                                                                                                                                                     | 26                                                           |
| 27<br>10:00 AM<br>Worship                               | 28  | 29<br><br>2:00 pm—5:00 pm Diaper Ministry | 30  | 31  | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Dates and times are subject to change, call the church or check the website for updates.</div> |                                                              |
|                                                         |     |                                           |     |     |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                              |