

# 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 2021



Somers Community UCC

9918 - 12th Street

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**Administrative Associate**

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**Moderator**

Dennis Curnes

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Church Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday

9:00pm - 3:00 pm



One of my favorite stories in all of the Bible is the story of Moses and the Burning Bush in the third chapter of the book of Exodus. Moses is working as a shepherd for his father-in-law Jethro. While he was out “beyond the wilderness” in Horeb, where the mountain of God is the story tells us that **“There the angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire out of a bush; Moses looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said: ‘I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.’ When the Lord saw that Moses had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, ‘Moses, Moses! And Moses said, ‘Here I am.’ Then God said, ‘Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’”**

After Moses has turned aside, God tells Moses that he is being sent back to Egypt to free God’s people from slavery. God also tells Moses the Divine Name. God says to Moses: “I am who I am.”

Part of the reason that I love this story so much is the revelation of who God is. God is who God is. God is an abiding presence before God is anything or anyone else.

In his book of stories about stories in the Bible Does God Have a Big Toe? Marc Gellman tells this same story. The title of his story is “Watching the Burning Bush Burn”. Gellman concludes in his story that the burning bush was a test of patience, so that God could find a human being who was patient enough to lead the people. Gellman says: “God wanted somebody who would not give up, no matter how bad things looked, no matter how much the people complained, no matter how long it took to get to the land of Israel. God wanted a patient person to be the leader.


According to Gellman, Moses was the only one who had enough patience to stop and notice a burning bush that wasn’t burning up, a burning bush that wasn’t consumed and burnt to ash. Because Moses was the only one who had this sort of patience, Moses was the only one who had patience to lead God’s people to the promised land.

What a time for patience it has been! Thankfully, God—the Abiding Presence— has been with us during the journey through COVID 19. God is with us; we are not alone. Thanks be to God!



| October Birthdays     |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1                     | Jeff Rossi                    |
| 5                     | Karen McKenzie                |
| 23                    | Peggy Gallo                   |
| 27                    | Jennifer Rossi                |
| October Anniversaries |                               |
| 10                    | Brent & Stephanie Christenson |
| 14                    | Howie & Kathy Gloff           |
| 26                    | Donald & Patti Stolfi         |

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



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

| October Readings                                                 |                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>October 3</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>October 10</b>                                                | Job 23: 1-9, 16-17<br>Psalm 22: 1-15<br>Hebrews 4: 12-16<br>Mark 10:17-31          |
| <b>October 17</b>                                                | Job 38:1-7 (34-41)<br>Psalm 104: 1-9, 24, 35c<br>Hebrews 5: 1-10<br>Mark 10: 35-45 |
| <b>October 24</b>                                                | Job 42: 1-6, 10-17<br>Psalm 34: 1-8 (19-22)<br>Hebrews 7: 23-28<br>Mark 10: 46-52  |
| <b>October 31</b><br><i>Shalom Center</i>                        | Ruth 1: 1-18<br>Psalm 146<br>Hebrews 9: 11-14<br>Mark 12: 28-34                    |



| Sunday            |           |               |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------|
|                   | Liturgist | Altar Flowers |
| <b>October 3</b>  | NONE      | Swartz Family |
| <b>October 10</b> | NONE      | Judy Thomas   |
| <b>October 17</b> | NONE      | NONE          |
| <b>October 24</b> | NONE      | NONE          |
| <b>October 31</b> | NONE      | NONE          |



There are five Sundays in the month of October, Shalom Center would like us to come back to serve the evening meal on **Sunday, October 31st**. We need volunteers to make the soup ahead of time, to make sandwiches at the Center and serve the meal. If you have never participated in this mission opportunity, why not give it a try? Talk to someone who has and find out what's involved. Those who have served find it a meaningful experience. As always, there is a sign up sheet in the narthex.



Men's Breakfast for October will be cancelled at this time due to the pandemic.



### Diaper Ministry Update

Our diaper ministry started our fifth year on September 13th, we have supplied families with 46,957 diapers. Thank you for your support of this ministry.



### Breakfast & Books

The gathering for B& B for September was cancelled. Our last time together for 2021 will be Saturday, November 6th at 9:30 am in the Narthex. Coffee will be provided. We will be discussing the book **"Sara's Sacrifice"** by **Flo Parfitt**. Also on this day come prepared with a selection of books for us to choose for our next year's gathering. New people are always welcome. If you have any questions please contact Bonnie Curnes 262-654-1612.



*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 2022.*



### 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 support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy,

efforts, and direct service projects through grants. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

We will be collect the NIN offering on **Sunday, October 3rd** as part of World Communion Sunday observance.



| Sun                                                                                                          | Mon | Tue                                                                                | Wed | Thu | Fri                                                                                   | Sat                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Dates and times are subject to change, call the church or check the website for updates.</b></p>       |     |                                                                                    |     |     | 1                                                                                     | 2                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>3</b> <i>World Communion Sunday / Neighbor in Need</i><br/> <b>10:15 AM</b><br/>           Worship</p> | 4   | <p><b>5</b><br/><br/> <b>2:00 PM - 5:00 PM</b><br/>           Diaper Ministry</p>  | 6   | 7   | 8                                                                                     | 9                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>10</b><br/> <b>10:15 AM</b><br/>           Worship</p>                                                 | 11  | <p><b>12</b><br/><br/> <b>2:00 PM - 5:00 PM</b><br/>           Diaper Ministry</p> | 13  | 14  | 15                                                                                    | 16                                                                                                             |
| <p><b>17</b><br/> <b>10:15 AM</b><br/>           Worship</p>                                                 | 18  | <p><b>19</b><br/><br/> <b>2:00 PM - 5:00 PM</b><br/>           Diaper Ministry</p> | 20  | 21  | 22                                                                                    | <p><b>23 9:00 AM—12:00 PM</b><br/>           Southeast UCC Annual Meeting Part II—Christ Church UCC (Zoom)</p> |
| <p><b>24</b><br/> <b>10:15 AM</b><br/>           Worship</p>                                                 | 25  | <p><b>26</b><br/><br/> <b>2:00 PM - 5:00 PM</b><br/>           Diaper Ministry</p> | 27  | 28  | 29                                                                                    | 30                                                                                                             |
| <p><b>31</b><br/> <b>10:15 AM</b><br/>           Worship<br/><br/> <b>Shalom Center</b></p>                  |     |                                                                                    |     |     | <p><b>Service Team #2</b><br/> <b>Co-chairs Peggy Gallo &amp; Maureen Schauer</b></p> |                                                                                                                |