

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.



March 2023



Somers Community UCC

9918 - 12th Street

PO Box 183

Somers, WI 53171

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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



Last month, I attended a retreat for the UCC pastors in the Southeast and Southwest parts of Wisconsin. The topic of the retreat was "Finding Hope in the Post-COVID Church." Now that COVID is no longer an epidemic, many of us might be asking ourselves "How is my faith different than it was before the pandemic?" A great many of us may have felt less hope about our own future as individuals and less hope about our future as a church together.

During our first evening at our retreat, we were reminded that we cannot have hope for and in something that we do not love. If we have forgotten what it is that we love about the church, how can we have hope for it to serve God in this time and place?

We were each told in advance to bring some symbol representing something that we loved about the church. I brought two. I brought a refrigerator magnet that my friend Kathryn Kuhn gave me before she died. The magnet asks the ridiculous question "Does this pulpit make my butt look big?" When my colleagues saw it, we shared a hearty laugh. I also brought a handkerchief. "I love the church," I told them, "because it is a place where you can both laugh and cry."

For the rest of this Lenten journey, I encourage you to pick a symbol of your own of why you love the church. Once you have chosen it, put it someplace where you will see it often (the bathroom mirror or your refrigerator door?)

In closing, I share a poem that was shared with us at the retreat. The poem is called "**Belonging**":

*And if it's true we are alone, we are alone together,  
The way blades of grass are alone, but exist as a field.  
Sometimes I feel it, the green fuse that ignites us, the wild thrum that united us.  
The inner hum that reminds us of our shared humanity.  
Just as 35 billion red blood cells join in one body to become one blood.  
Just as 136,000 notes make up one symphony.  
Alone as we are, our small voices weave into the one big conversation.  
Our actions are essential to the one infinite story of what it is to be alive.  
When we feel alone, we belong to the grand communion  
of those who sometimes feel alone—We are the dust, the dust that hopes,  
a rising dust, a thrill of dust, the dust that dances in the light with all other dust,  
the dust that makes the world.*

**Rosemary Wahtola Trommer**



| March Birthdays     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 9                   | Susan Goldsmith       |
| 11                  | Thomas Rossi          |
| 21                  | Barbara Dinges        |
| 21                  | Jack Swartz           |
| 25                  | Dennis Curnes         |
| March Anniversaries |                       |
| 1                   | Lowell & Norne Charon |

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

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



Just a reminder, if the weather gets bad and it is dangerous to travel, there's a possibility church may be cancelled. You can find cancellation information on Channels 4,6 and 12.



**Spring Forward!**  
Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on **Sunday, March 12th.**

| March Readings                                                               |                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>March 5</b><br><i>Communion</i><br><b>WORSHIP</b><br><b>TIME 10:00 AM</b> | Genesis 12: 1-4a<br>Psalm 121<br>Romans 4: 1-5, 3-17<br>John 3: 1-12 / Matthew 17: 1-9 |
| <b>March 12</b><br><i>Turn Clocks Ahead</i>                                  | Exodus 17: 1-7<br>Psalm 95<br>Romans 5: 1-11<br>John 4: 5-42                           |
| <b>March 19</b><br><i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>                          | 1 Samuel 16: 1-13<br>Psalm 23<br>Ephesians 5: 8-14<br>John 9: 1-41                     |
| <b>March 26</b>                                                              | Ezekial 37: 1-14<br>Psalm 130<br>Romans 8: 6-11<br>John 11: 1-45                       |



| Sunday          |           |               |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------|
|                 | Liturgist | Altar Flowers |
| <b>March 5</b>  | NONE      | LENT          |
| <b>March 12</b> | NONE      | LENT          |
| <b>March 19</b> | NONE      | LENT          |
| <b>March 26</b> | NONE      | LENT          |



### Shalom Center Update

On Sunday, January 29th, our church served approximately 46 people at the Shalom Center Soup Kitchen. Stephanie Christenson made delicious soup (according to the residents). Jane Fahey, Jennifer Swartz, Stephanie Christenson, and Martha Swartz served. In addition, we contributed fruit for a fresh fruit salad and cookies. Thank you to all.



**NEW**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**SERVICE TIME**

**JOIN US!**

Starting Sunday,  
**March 5th**  
Worship will be at  
**10:00 AM**  
(year-round)



**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten offering supports the disaster,

refugee, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response and recovery networks, your contributions to OGHS put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. The theme for the 2023 One Great Hour of Sharing special offering is "It's time to share".

**One Great Hour of Sharing**  
**Sunday, March 19th**



## **Breakfast & Books**

Come and join us for the next B & B (Breakfast & Books) on **Saturday, March 25th** starting at **9:30 am** at the church. We will be discussing the book "**Wish You Were Here**" by **Jodi Picoult**. Jennifer Swartz will lead the discussion and Jane Fahey will furnish the pastry. Coffee will be provided. If you will be attending, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex (in March). If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Curnes at 262-654-1612.



## **Easter Flowers**

We are offering you the opportunity to purchase flowers to grace our altar for Easter Sunday which you can take home afterwards. We are offering the following 6 varieties of flowers: **Easter lily; yellow daffodil; hyacinth either pink or blue; regal geranium purple; lavender tulip; or pink tulip**. The cost is \$ 12 per plant. The signup sheet will be out in the narthex beginning **Sunday, February 12th** through **Sunday, March 5th**.

**Food Pantry**



Our Food Pantry / Diaper Ministry is in need of **TOILET PAPER** and **PAPER TOWELS**. Your donation will be greatly appreciated.

If you cannot shop nor do not want to shop just make a check payable to "**Somers United Church of Christ**" and mark on it "**Food Pantry**" and we will do the shopping for you.

*THANK YOU* Bonnie Curnes, Project Manager

# ANNUAL MEETING

## Somers Community United Church of Christ Annual Meeting February 5, 2023

### Present:

|                 |                 |                       |                    |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Lowell Charon   | Norene Charon   | Stephanie Christenson | Gloria Chubriilo   |
| Doug Coleman    | Bonnie Curnes   | Dennis Curnes         | Don Dinges         |
| Barbara Dinges  | Kent Duesing    | Rich Glasenapp        | Pastor Kathy Gloff |
| Caryl Krellwitz | Char Laba       | Shirley Mandernack    | Karen McKenzie     |
| Mary Rossi      | Maureen Schauer | Barbara Sherman       | Christine Straate  |
| Dino Sturino    | Martha Swartz   |                       |                    |

The meeting was called to order by Dennis Curnes, Moderator, at 11:03 AM. Pastor Kathy gave the opening prayer. Mary R. made a motion to approve the slate of officers and committee members with the correction under Spiritual Life - Martha Swartz should be 2025 not 2022. It was seconded by Doug C. and approved. Char L. made a motion to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes. Stephanie C. seconded the motion and approved.

**2023 Proposed Budget:** Dennis presented the 2023 budget. Doug C. made a motion to ask for a grant from the Pilgrim Heritage Fund to help pay for the lawn mowing. Char L. seconded the motion and approved. In 2022, we replaced three boilers. Busy Bees Day Care has made contributions towards utilities if we need them. Pastor Kathy is 3/4 time, and the salary will be \$12,000 for 2023. There is a change in the 2023 Promises, the amounts are General \$59,801; OCWM \$3,268; and Special Quarterly \$ 1,652. Kent D. made a motion to accept the 2023 budget. Bonnie C. seconded the motion, and it was approved.

**2022 Annual Reports:** Last year's meeting suggestions were asked about money from the July 4th Float and Youth Designated Fund Account, and it was put in the General Fund. Gloria C. made a motion to accept the 2022 Annual Reports. Maureen seconded the motion and approved.

**Committee Presentation:** The Spiritual Life Committee requested to change the worship service to 10:00 AM year-round starting on March 1st. The committee will start in March having us come forward for communion with individual cups and bread.

**Old Business:** We will go back to using the hymnals. We will have regular and large print bulletins.

**New Business:** Bonnie C. reported on the Diaper Ministry. We have given out 54,740 diapers since we started in September 2016. This year we had 13 new families and 8 new children. We have served 315 children since starting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 AM followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted,

Charlotte Laba & Barbara Sherman



# March



| Sun                                                                                                                                                                    | Mon | Tue                                                 | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------------------|
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Dates and times are subject to change, call the church or check the website for updates.         </div> |     |                                                     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4                                     |
| 5 <i>Communion</i><br><br>10:00 am<br>Worship (NOTE<br>TIME CHANGE)                                                                                                    | 6   | 7<br><br><br>2:00 pm—5:00<br>pm Diaper<br>Ministry  | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11                                    |
| 12 <i>Turn<br/>           Clocks Ahead</i><br>10:00 am<br>Worship                                                                                                      | 13  | 14<br><br><br>2:00 pm—5:00<br>pm Diaper<br>Ministry | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18                                    |
| 19 <i>One Great<br/>           Hour of Sharing</i><br>10:00 am<br>Worship                                                                                              | 20  | 21<br><br><br>2:00 pm—5:00<br>pm Diaper<br>Ministry | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25<br>9:30 am<br>Breakfast &<br>Books |
| 26<br>10:00 am<br>Worship                                                                                                                                              | 27  | 28<br><br><br>2:00 pm—5:00<br>pm Diaper<br>Ministry | 29  | 30  | 31  |                                       |