

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.



July / August 2023



Somers Community UCC
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somerschurch.org

And on Facebook

~ ~

Pastor Kathleen Gloff

Ph: 920-418-1600

Administrative Associate

Barbara Sherman

Moderator

Dennis Curnes

~ ~

Church Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday

9:00pm - 3:00 pm



On the 12th of June, I celebrated 29 years as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Actually, I didn't celebrate it... Monday June 12, 2023 just came and went like most of the rest of the days of my life; maybe your life is like that too. The days seem to roll by without major events or insights to separate one from the next. But when I sat down to write this page, it dawned on me that I have been an ordained minister exactly half of my life, for I am currently

58.

Although it happened so many years ago, I still remember parts of my ecclesiastical council. The ecclesiastical council is the last step before ordination; it is an oral exam, in which pastors and church folks ask questions of the candidate. The pastor of the church through which I was ordained—First Congregational UCC in Watertown, WI—was Bob Tully, and he was newly retired at the time of my ecclesiastical council, but he was there for support and encouragement. I remember him saying something to the affect of "I don't know if I would be able to cope with all of the issues that new ministers face from the very beginning in this day and age."

He mentioned things like ministering to people with AIDS and reaching out to families that seemed to be too busy to worship on Sunday mornings. First Congregational UCC had just been rebuilt on a new site when I had my council and then my ordination. "We have a brand-new building," Bob seemed to be saying. "How are future generations of ministers and church folks going to gather in this space and fill it?"

Well, I have ministered to a few people with AIDS in my years of ministry, including my first boyfriend from high school, whose funeral I officiated in 1997 when he was only 30 years old. At that time, AIDS was still a death sentence; now people lead mostly normal lives while treating the virus with medication therapy. What neither Bob nor I saw coming was the perfect storm of COVID 19, The Opioid Epidemic, Surging Increases in Mental Illness (which were only made worse by the isolation of COVID and a lack of counselors), a consistent rise in Mass Shootings, Racial Violence, and Hyper-partisanship. During COVID our church buildings were not filled at all, and most churches—and service organizations and clubs—are finding people returning more slowly than expected.

In his farewell address, our first president—George Washington—proclaimed that our democracy would not survive if we forgot that we were dependent on each other for all of us to live out the ideals of our constitution. We need connection to each other now more than ever before; we need connection to God most of all. May we celebrate our freedom this year by realizing that we are bound together. After all, the motto of the United Church of Christ is "that they may all be one."




July Birthdays	
1	Shirley Mandernack
11	Todd Armstrong
21	Joyce Duesing
27	Barbara Flocker
July Anniversaries	
2	James & Carol Bishop
5	Dennis & Bonnie Curnes
13	Steve & Lynette Ingham
28	Jack & Jennifer Swartz

August Birthdays	
1	Don Stolfi
8	Kent Duesing
17	Eugene Thompson
25	Judy Thomas
28	Randall Rossi
August Anniversaries	
7	Kent & Joyce Duesing
29	Eugene & Eleanor Thompson

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

Sunday - Altar Flowers	
July 2	NONE
August 6	Pastor Kathy Gloff



Remember Your Offerings

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

Scripture Readings	
July 2 <i>Communion</i>	Genesis 22: 1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6: 12-23 Matthew 10: 40-42
July 9	Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45: 10-17 Romans 7: 15-25a Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30
July 16	Genesis 25: 19-34 Psalm 119: 105-112 Romans 8: 1-11 Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23
July 23	Genesis 28: 10-19a Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24 Romans 8: 12-25 Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
July 30 <i>Shalom Center</i>	Genesis 29: 15-28 Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b Romans 8: 26-39 Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52
August 6 <i>Communion</i>	Genesis 32: 22-31 Psalm 17: 1-7, 15 Romans 9: 1-5 Matthew 14: 13-21
August 13	Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b Romans 10: 5-15 Matthew 14: 22-33
August 20	Genesis 45: 1-15 Psalm 133 Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
August 27	Exodus 1: 8-2:10 Psalm 124 Romans 12: 1-8 Matthew 16: 13-20



There are five Sundays in the month of July, which means we will be serving the evening meal at the Shalom Center on

Sunday, July 30th. 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. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex during the month.



The Men's Breakfast group has started back and will be meeting on **Saturday, July 15th, at 8:30 am.** They will

gather at the **Phoenix Restaurant, 12440 75th St, Kenosha** located west of I94 on the north side of Hwy 50 at the West Frontage Road intersection.

In August, we will meet on **Saturday, August 19th at 8:30 am.**



Breakfast & Books (B & B)

Breakfast & Books (B & B) will meet on **Saturday, July 22nd,**

at 9:30 am in the Pavilion. If raining, we will meet inside the church. We will be discussing the **"The Dream Daughter"** by **Diane Chamberlain.** Pauline Lorenz will lead the discussion and Susan Goldsmith will furnish the pastry. Coffee will be provided.

LOOKING AHEAD... our September B & B gathering will be held at 9:30 am on **September 23rd** discussing the book **"The World According to Mister Rogers"** by **Fred Rogers.** Susan Goldsmith will lead the discussion and Bonnie Curnes will furnish the pastry. Coffee will be provided. Any questions in regard to B & B see Bonnie Curnes.

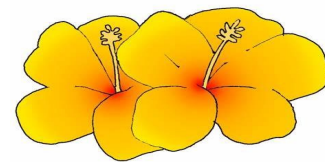
SCHOOL SUPPLIES



For the month of July and August, we will start collecting school supplies

to be donated to the Shalom Center. Suggested school supply items to donate include: Spiral notebooks, loose-leaf paper, 2-pocket folders, pencils, pens, erasers, glue/glue sticks, crayons, colored pencils, markers, and backpacks.

Thank you for helping the students get a great start.



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

If you cannot shop or 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

BUY A BRICK
FOR SOMEONE
SPECIAL

Bricks

If you would like to purchase a brick for the memorial walkway that goes into the pavilion now is the time to place your order. The cost for a small brick (4x8) is \$50 and for a large brick (8x8) is \$100. See Dennis Curnes or call him at 262-914-4523 for any questions and to get an order form. Thank you.



Our Administrative Associate, Barbara, will be out the office from July 7th to July 23rd. If you need any assistance, please call Dennis Curnes or Pastor Kathy.



Welcoming
Inclusive
Supportive
Engaged

Wisconsin UCC got WISEer

The Wisconsin Conference UCC voted at their annual meeting to become a W.I.S.E. Conference, the 4th conference in the UCC (United Church of Christ) to do so.

W.I.S.E. stands for **Welcoming Inclusive Supported Engaged** in regards to mental health. For an individual church to become W.I.S.E., there is a ten step process of learning and discussion. If you are interested in Somers UCC becoming a W.I.S.E. Congregation, speak to Pastor Kathy.

Summer Prayer

Creator of all, thank You for Summer! Thank You for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation. Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season.

Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence, and light my path with Your Word and Counsel. As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You. Amen.



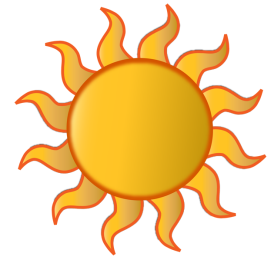


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2:00 pm Wedding—Bev McGill & Tom Giles
2 Communion 10:00 am Worship	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i> NO DIAPER MINISTRY	5	6	7	8
9 10:00 am Worship	10	11 2:00 pm—5:00 pm Diaper Ministry	12	13	14	15 8:30 am Men's Breakfast at Phoenix Restaurant
16 10:00 am Worship	17	18 2:00 pm—5:00 pm Diaper Ministry	19	20	21	22 9:30 am Breakfast & Books
23 10:00 am Worship	24	25 2:00 pm—5:00 pm Diaper	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 am Worship Shalom Center	31					

Dates and times are subject to change, call the church or check the website for updates.



AUGUST



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 2:00 pm—5:00 pm Diaper Ministry	2	3	4	5
6 Communion 10:00 am Worship	7	8 2:00 pm—5:00 pm Diaper Ministry	9	10	11	12
13 10:00 am Worship	14	15 2:00 pm—5:00 pm Diaper Ministry	16	17	18	19 8:30 am Men's Breakfast at Phoenix Restaurant
20 10:00 am Worship	21	22 2:00 pm—5:00 pm Diaper Ministry	23	24	25	26
27 10:00 am Worship	28	29 2:00 pm—5:00 pm Diaper Ministry	30	31	Dates and times are subject to change, call the church or check the website for updates.	