

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.



December 2024



I suppose I should warn you; this is going to be a “Cat’s in The Cradle” December newsletter article. Do you remember the song Cat’s in the Cradle? It is the Harry Chapin song about a young father who is too busy with his work commitments to spend much time with his son. At the end of the song, the father has inadvertently taught his now adult son the wrong lesson...for his son is now too busy to catch up with dear old dad. The father finally has found the time to enjoy his son’s company, but the son has carried his father’s example of distance and distraction into his own adult scheduling. In the first few verses, the son is idolizing his dad and saying: “I’m going to be like him.” In the last verse, the father has been talking to his son on the phone—briefly—and he concludes: “And as I hung up the phone, it occurred to me, he’d grown up just like me...my boy was just like me.”

I was talking with a friend the other day, and we were reminiscing about Christmas presents that we had gotten in the past. I remember my first Easy Bake Oven and my first Lite Brite. I also remember numerous record albums and calendars, and in 1976 I received a Bicentennial alarm clock that was red, white, and blue. It woke me up for school a great many years before it finally quit working.

More important than the gifts that have appeared under the tree or in the stockings though, were the gifts of time. I have vivid memories of finding the perfect tree at the Christmas Tree Farm on the Friday after Thanksgiving. After my oldest brother Jeff died in 1986, we started a new family tradition that year of cutting Christmas trees. Chili and Thanksgiving leftovers were waiting for us for lunch when we got back to mom and dad’s house.

Howie had spent many a Christmas alone after his mother died. When we were married, I always set up my mother’s ceramic village on our fireplace mantle. We spent many nights after he came home from work with just the village lights shining. It became a reassurance for him that he could replace some of those lonely yuletides with more precious ones.

My friend Linda and I used to bake dozens upon dozens of Christmas cookies for our families for many Christmases. It was a tradition of time spent that she shared with her nieces after they were old enough to join in. What I am trying to help you remember is that time together is the greatest gift...may you be truly gifted this holiday season. Have the most blessed Christmas yet.

Somers Community UCC

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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



# DECEMBER

| December Birthdays     |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 3                      | Phyllis Borger       |
| 5                      | Michael Burbach      |
| 23                     | Christine Sturino    |
| 24                     | Steve Ingham         |
| 25                     | Joseph Rossi         |
| December Anniversaries |                      |
| 1                      | Mary & Randall Rossi |

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

| Sunday |               |
|--------|---------------|
|        | Altar Flowers |
| Dec 1  | Mary Rossi    |
| Dec 8  | NONE          |
| Dec 15 | NONE          |
| Dec 22 | Poinsettias   |
| Dec 29 | Poinsettias   |



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

**WE'RE CLOSED  
Due to Weather**

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.

| Scripture Readings                     |                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dec 1</b><br><i>Communion</i>       | Jeremiah 33: 14-16<br>Psalm 25: 1-10<br>1 Thessalonians 3:9-13<br>Luke 21: 25-36             |
| <b>Dec 8</b>                           | Baruch 5: 1-9 or Malachi 3: 1-4<br>Luke 1: 68-79<br>Philippians 1: 3-11<br>Luke 3: 1-6       |
| <b>Dec 15</b>                          | Zephaniah 3: 14-20<br>Isaiah 12: 2-6<br>Philippians 4: 4-7<br>Luke 3: 7-18                   |
| <b>Dec 22</b><br><i>Christmas Fund</i> | Micah 5: 2-5a<br>Luke 1: 46b-55 / Psalm 80: 1-7<br>Hebrews 10: 5-10<br>Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55) |
| <b>Dec 29</b><br><i>Shalom Center</i>  | 1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26<br>Psalm 148<br>Colossians 3: 12-17<br>Luke 2: 41-52                   |

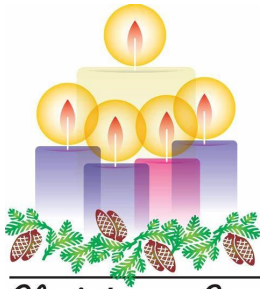
## Holiday Shopping

Here is one way our church can benefit from your holiday giving:

♦ **Buy Scrip** - The church has a variety of scrip available for different vendors. On the cart in the Narthex is a sheet that lists companies that scrip cards are available from. **If you do want Scrip Cards for Christmas gifts, please get your order to Dennis Curnes by Sunday, December 8th.** Any questions see Dennis or call him at 262-914-4523.

**2025 COMMITTEE BUDGETS** are due to Dennis Curnes by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH.**

**Announcements**



*Christmas Eve*

*Tuesday,  
December 24th*

*4:00 pm*

*Lessons & Carols  
communion, &  
candlelight*



During the month of **December**, we will be collecting for our annual Giving Tree. Please bring in **mittens, gloves, hats, earmuffs, scarves, socks, underwear, undershirts, and sweatshirts for women, men, and children in all sizes** to place on the tree in the back of the sanctuary of our church. Articles will be donated to a local mission group.



**Shalom Center**

There are five Sundays in the month of December, which means we will be serving the evening meal at the Shalom Center on **Sunday, December 29th**. 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 will be meeting on **Saturday, December 21st 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.



If you have any reports for the 2024 Annual Report booklet, get them to the church office by **Sunday, January 5th**.



**2025 Offering Envelopes**

2025 Offering Envelopes will be available to pick up in December. If you don't find one for you, please let the church office know.

**The Christmas Fund  
Sunday, December 22nd**

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is one of the UCC's special mission offerings. This fund is managed by the Pension Boards. We will be taking the offering on **Sunday, December 22nd**.



## ANNOUNCEMENT



Here is a list of our homebound members/friends, if you would like to remember them with a card this holiday season:

- **Phyllis Borger**  
Villa Ciera  
1940 27th Ave Apt 203  
Kenosha WI 53182
- **Barbara Dinges**  
PO Box 33  
Somers WI 53171
- **Shirley Mandernack**  
4733 4th St  
Kenosha WI 53144
- **Karen McKenzie**  
6410 12th St  
Kenosha WI 53144
- **Judy Thomas**  
Waterford Senior Living  
301 S 6th St Apt 400  
Waterford WI 53185
- **Eugene & Eleanor Thompson**  
1451 Pheasant Run Unit 101  
Mount Pleasant WI 53406-5750



In the midst of the holiday season we remember those members or friends who have died this past year and we hold their families in our prayers:

**Lowell Charon**

**Donald Dinges**

**Joyce Duesing**

To these families and others who have lost loved ones, we pray for comfort and peace.

*Be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.*



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

**B & B (Breakfast and Books)** next get together will be on **January 25th at 9:30 am (If the weather is bad we will meet February 1st)**. Pastor Kathy will lead the discussion the book **"Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker"** by **Jennifer Chiaverini**. Pastry will be furnished by Judy Desotell and coffee will be provided. Contact Bonnie Curnes (262-654-1612), if you have any questions about joining this group.



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 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



# DECEMBER



| Sun                                                                 | Mon | Tue                                                                                                       | Wed                        | Thu | Fri | Sat                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1 Communion</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b><br>Worship                    | 2   | <b>2:00 PM—5:00 PM</b><br><b>PM Diaper Ministry</b>                                                       | 4                          | 5   | 6   | 7                                                                          |
| <b>8 2025 Budgets Due</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b><br>Worship             | 9   | <b>2:00 PM—5:00 PM</b><br><b>PM Diaper Ministry</b>                                                       | 11                         | 12  | 13  | 14                                                                         |
| <b>15</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b><br>Worship                             | 16  | <b>2:00 PM—5:00 PM</b><br><b>PM Diaper Ministry</b>                                                       | 18                         | 19  | 20  | <b>21</b><br><b>8:30 am</b> Men's<br>Breakfast at<br>Phoenix<br>Restaurant |
| <b>22 Christmas Fund</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b><br>Worship              | 23  | <b>24 Christmas Eve</b><br><u><b>NO DIAPER MINISTRY</b></u><br><b>4:00 AM</b><br>Christmas Eve<br>Service | <b>25 Merry Christmas!</b> | 26  | 27  | 28                                                                         |
| <b>29</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b><br>Worship<br><br><b>Shalom Center</b> | 30  | <b>31</b><br><br><b>2:00 PM—5:00 PM</b><br><b>PM Diaper Ministry</b>                                      |                            |     |     |                                                                            |

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