

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 2025



On the 23rd of this month, the United Church of Christ observes Amistad Sunday. The story of the slave ship—La Amistad—is a part of UCC history, because of the presence of a famous American who was a part of one of our parent denominations: The Congregational Church. That famous American was John Quincy Adams.

In February 1839, 53 people from Mendeland (present day Sierra Leone) were taken by force from their home and put on a ship to become slaves. While they were at sea, one of the shackled captives--Sengbe Pieh, also known as Joseph Cinque—managed to free himself. The ship's cook had taunted the captured Africans, telling them that they were to be killed and eaten when they got to their destination. Fearing for their lives, they killed the ship's captain and cook. The members of the crew that were still alive eventually anchored off Long Island to get supplies. They were discovered by a U.S. Naval Ship—brig Washington. The Africans were shackled once again and taken to Connecticut until the courts could decide what to do with them.

The case of the Mende people made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Abolitionists had raised money for their defense. Former President John Quincy Adams, who was 73 years old at the time and a member of the House of Representatives, argued the case before the Supreme Court on behalf of Cinque and the other Mende citizens.

In a lengthy argument beginning on February 24, 1841, Adams accused President Van Buren of abusing his executive powers and defended the Africans' right to fight for their freedom aboard the Amistad. At the heart of the case, Adams argued, was the willingness of the United States to stand up for the ideals upon which it was founded. "The moment you come to the Declaration of Independence, that every man has a right to life and liberty, an inalienable right, this case is decided," Adams said. "I ask nothing more on behalf of these unfortunate men, than this Declaration."

Although the majority of the Supreme Court Justices were themselves slave owners, they ruled 7-1 that Cinque and the other Mende people should be freed and allowed to return to their home. Stephen Spielberg tells the story in his movie Amistad, made in 1999, with Sir Anthony Hopkins playing the role of John Quincy Adams.

Somers Community UCC

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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



# MARCH

| March Birthdays |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 9               | Susan Goldsmith |
| 11              | Thomas Rossi    |
| 21              | Barbara Dinges  |
| 21              | Jack Swartz     |
| 25              | Dennis Curnes   |

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

| Sunday |                 |
|--------|-----------------|
|        | Altar Flowers   |
| Mar 2  | Susan Goldsmith |
| Mar 9  | LENT            |
| Mar 16 | LENT            |
| Mar 23 | LENT            |
| Mar 30 | LENT            |



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on Sunday, March 9th.

| Scripture Readings                                                        |                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mar 2</b><br><i>Communion</i>                                          | Exodus 34: 29-35<br>Psalm 99<br>2 Corinthians 3: 12- 4:2<br>Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a) |
| <b>Mar 9</b>                                                              | Deuteronomy 26: 1-11<br>Psalm 138<br>Romans 10: 8b-13<br>Luke 4: 1-13             |
| <b>Mar 16</b>                                                             | Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18<br>Psalm 27<br>Philippians 3: 17-4: 1<br>Luke 13: 31-35   |
| <b>Mar 23</b>                                                             | Isaiah 55: 1-9<br>Psalm 63: 1-8<br>1 Corinthians 10: 1-13<br>Luke 13: 1-9         |
| <b>Mar 30</b><br><i>Shalom Center</i><br><i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i> | Josh 5: 9-12<br>Psalm 32<br>2 Corinthians 5: 16-21<br>Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32        |



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.



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

## Announcements



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



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 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



The Men's Breakfast group will be meeting on **Saturday, February 15th 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)**

On **March 22nd at 9:30 am** in the Memorial Lounge the B & B will gather together to discuss "**THE WOMEN**" by **Kristin Hannah**. Bonnie Curnes will lead the discussion, and Debbie Radovanovic will furnish the pastry. Coffee will be provided. A signup sheet will be on the table beginning in March for you to sign if you will or will not be attending. Contact Bonnie (262-654-1612), if you have any questions about joining this group.



### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

**Sunday, March 30th**

**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 2025 One Great Hour of Sharing special offering is "**Be the light**".

# ANNUAL MEETING

## Somers Community United Church of Christ Annual Meeting February 2, 2025

Present: (\*not a member)

|                |          |            |            |
|----------------|----------|------------|------------|
| Stephanie C    | Gloria C | Norene C   | Doug C     |
| Bonnie C       | Dennis C | Jane F     | Rich G     |
| Pastor Kathy G | Char L   | Debbie R   | Barbara S* |
| Jennifer S     | Martha S | Patricia S | Richard S  |

The meeting was called to order by Dennis C., Moderator, at 11:00 AM. Pastor Kathy gave the opening prayer. Richard S. made a motion to approve the Agenda for the Annual Meeting. Rich G. seconded the motion and approved. Gloria C. made a motion to approve the slate of officers and committee members. Stephanie C. seconded the motion and approved. Richard S. made a motion to approve the February 4, 2024, Annual Meeting Minutes. Jane F. seconded the motion and approved.

**2025 Proposed Budget:** Dennis presented the 2025 budget. The questions concerned the budget amount for tuning the piano is low. Why the difference in Water Testing depends on what tests are needed each year. Pastor Kathy said the suggested amount for Pulpit Supply (Guest Pastor) is \$175. The reason why the Church Office budget was down was due to ordering offering envelopes every two years.

We discussed OCWM, last year we pledged \$4,250 and we only came up with \$3,417 so the difference was made up by the Pilgrim Heritage Fund. We will make a pledge for 2025 of \$4,000 and will revisit the OCWM amount next year. Rich G. made a motion to accept the 2025 budget of \$112,640.30. Char L. seconded the motion, and it was approved.

**2024 Annual Reports:** Bonnie thanks everyone who donated to the diaper/ food pantry. We have started our 8<sup>th</sup> year and have given out over 70,000 diapers.

**Old & New Business:** None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 AM followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted,  
Barbara Sherman, Clerk



## Easter Flowers

Thinking ahead we will be offering you the opportunity to purchase flowers to grace our altar for Easter Sunday (April 20th) which you can take home afterwards. The sign-up sheet will be available February 16th—March 2nd or contact Char Laba if interested.



| Sun                                                                                                                                                                             | Mon | Tue                                                  | Wed                                                                 | Thu | Fri | Sat                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p>Dates and times are subject to change, call the church or check the website for updates.</p> </div> |     |                                                      |                                                                     |     |     |                                                                    |
| <p>2 <i>Communion</i></p> <p>10:00 AM<br/>Worship</p>                                                                                                                           | 3   | <p>4</p> <p>2:00 PM—5:00 PM<br/>Diaper Ministry</p>  | <p>5 <i>Ash Wednesday</i></p> <p>5:30 PM<br/>Soup &amp; Service</p> | 6   | 7   | 8                                                                  |
| <p>9 <i>Turn Clocks Ahead!</i></p> <p>10:00 AM<br/>Worship</p>                                                                                                                  | 10  | <p>11</p> <p>2:00 PM—5:00 PM<br/>Diaper Ministry</p> | 12                                                                  | 13  | 14  | <p>15</p> <p>8:30 am<br/>Men's Breakfast at Phoenix Restaurant</p> |
| <p>16</p> <p>10:00 AM<br/>Worship</p>                                                                                                                                           | 17  | <p>18</p> <p>2:00 PM—5:00 PM<br/>Diaper Ministry</p> | 19                                                                  | 20  | 21  | <p>22</p> <p>9:30 AM<br/>Breakfast &amp; Books</p>                 |
| <p>23</p> <p>10:00 AM<br/>Worship</p>                                                                                                                                           | 24  | <p>25</p> <p>2:00 PM—5:00 PM<br/>Diaper Ministry</p> | 26                                                                  | 27  | 28  | 29                                                                 |
| <p>30 <i>One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)</i></p> <p>10:00 AM<br/>Worship</p> <p><i>Shalom Center</i></p>                                                                       | 31  |                                                      |                                                                     |     |     |                                                                    |