

# 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.



## May 2026



Thomas Merton was an American Trappist monk, writer, poet, and social activist whose spiritual and literary contributions profoundly influenced 20th-century Catholicism and interfaith dialogue. Merton was born in France in 1915 and died in Bangkok, Thailand 1968. For most of his adult life, he lived in a monastery in Kentucky. This is prayer entitled "Centering":

***If you want to identify me, ask me not where I live, or what I like to eat, or how I comb my hair, but ask me what I am living for, in detail, ask me what I think is keeping me from living fully, for the thing I want to live for.***

This past week, I was asked in two different settings what I understood myself to be living for. I gave the same answer both times: "I want to be living as a reflection of the light and love of Jesus Christ." In the first setting, I was with my Community of Practice Group. Once a month, we meet together to talk about ministry, to support each other, and to reflect upon the issues that seem to be affection our local congregations in this time and place. There are six of us who serve in congregations in this part of the state. We also have a seventh person in our group —our facilitator, Sandy—who is a retired pastor and therapist. She helps us to reflect deeply, to listen carefully, and to pay attention fully.

My sisters in ministry in my Community of Practice group helped me to think about what is helping me to actively live as I want to...and what is getting in the way. We had a very fruitful discussion.

In the second group where we were talking about what we were living for, the question was framed in a slightly different way. This meeting was a retreat for Congregations United to Serve Humanity (CUSH). In that context the question was this: "How do you determine and live out your self-interest?" In that context, we talked about why we feel compelled to stand up for the rights and the needs of others? What keeps us showing up for meetings in the evening when it has already been a very long day? Where do you find the bravery to speak your beliefs to people in power when you are given the opportunity? In that context, the conversation is about how you understand and use your own personal power.

How do I more fully reflect the light and love of Jesus Christ regularly in my life? How do I find the power to show up and speak up (or shut up) when that is what's appropriate? The answer to both of those questions for me is prayer. I am in good company, for that is where Merton found his reason for living too. May your prayers bring you power and purpose as well. I am praying for you all...

Somers Community UCC

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And on Facebook

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**Pastor Kathleen Gloff**

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**Administrative Associate**

Barbara Sherman

**Moderator**

Dennis Curnes

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Church Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday

9:00pm - 3:00 pm





| May Birthdays     |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 2                 | Doug Coleman             |
| 3                 | Lynette Ingham           |
| 8                 | Brynn Rossi              |
| 11                | Timothy Rossi            |
| 23                | Kristin Armstrong        |
| 26                | Deborah Radovanovic      |
| 27                | Joseph Laba              |
| 28                | Richard Glasenapp        |
| 29                | Martha Swartz            |
| May Anniversaries |                          |
| 4                 | Todd & Kristin Armstrong |

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

| Sunday |               |
|--------|---------------|
|        | Altar Flowers |
| May 3  | None          |
| May 10 | None          |
| May 17 | Swartz Family |
| May 24 | None          |
| May 31 | None          |



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

| Scripture Readings                                                |                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>May 3</b><br><i>Communion</i>                                  | Acts 7:55-60<br>Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16<br>1 Peter 2: 2-10<br>John 14: 1-14            |
| <b>May 10</b><br><i>Mother's Day</i><br><i>CWS Blanket Sunday</i> | Acts 17: 22-31<br>Psalm 66: 8-20<br>1 Peter 3: 13-22<br>John 14: 15-21              |
| <b>May 17</b>                                                     | Acts 1: 6-14<br>Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35<br>1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11<br>John 17: 1-11  |
| <b>May 24</b><br><i>Pentecost</i><br><i>Strengthen the Church</i> | Acts 2: 1-21<br>Psalms 104: 24-34, 35b<br>1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13<br>John 20: 19-23 |
| <b>May 31</b>                                                     | Genesis 1: 1-2:4a<br>Psalm 8<br>2 Corinthians 13: 11-13<br>Matthew 28: 16-20        |

Always PRAY  
 to have eyes  
 that see the best in people,  
 a heart  
 that forgives the worst,  
 mind that forgets the bad  
 and a soul  
 that never loses faith in God!



There are five Sundays in the month of May, which means we will be serving the evening meal at the Shalom Center on **Sunday, May 31st**. 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, May 16th 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 **May 16th at 9:00 am** the B & B (Breakfast & Books) group will meet in the Memorial Lounge to discuss the book "**Theo of Golden**" by **Allen Levi**. Norene Charon will lead our discussion, and Pastor Kathy will furnish the pastry. Sign up on the sheet that will be in the Narthex beginning on April 26th. Any questions please see Bonnie.



### **CWS (Church World Service) Blankets: Sunday, May 10th**

#### ***"Blanket the World with Love"***

In 2025, CWS provided 17,317 blankets to families impacted by hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other crises (including homelessness and poverty). You can show God's love and provide hope to your neighbors in need. On **May 10th (Mother's Day)**, we will be collecting funds to support Church World Services (CWS) blankets to those in need. Each blanket costs \$10, but can be a vital resource for someone needing a little support, warmth and encouragement. Share this love by providing CWS Blankets to those in need. *"And when we take your gifts to those in need of them, they will thank God." (2 Corinthians 9: 11)*



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 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



## Shalom Center Update

On Sunday, March 29th, our church served approximately 63 people (including 1 child) at the Shalom Center Soup Kitchen. Stephanie Christenson made delicious minestrone soup. We provided sandwiches, garden salad, fruit salad, chip, and cookies along with monetary donation of \$10. Guests had a hearty meal of pork chops, potatoes, green beans with ham hocks, garden salad, fruit salad, soup, sandwiches, rolls, and coffee or water. The following helped serve the meal: Stephanie Christenson, Pastor Kathleen Gloff, Caryl Krellwitz, Steve Litin, Terra Newhouse, Jennifer Swartz, and Martha Swartz. Thank you to all. Our next date to serve is Sunday, May 31st.



Do you have any **Graduates** in your family that you would like to recognize? If so, please give their names to the Church Office by May 15th, and we will print their names here in the newsletter next month. Traditionally we print the names of anyone graduating from day care up through PhD!!!



## DIAPER MINISTRY

We are putting out a plea to **anyone** who would like to donate money or purchase diapers (size 5 & 6) which is the size that we go through the most. If you can donate money please specify that it is for the **Diaper Ministry**. If you have questions, let us know. Thank you for all your help.

-Bonnie Curnes, Project Manager



## Strengthen the Church

### Sunday, May 24th

The Strengthen the Church (STC) offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. The 2026 theme for STC is "Sent Forth in Love." As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.



# May



| Sun                                                                                             | Mon                    | Tue                                                 | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dates and times are subject to change, call the church or check the website for updates.</b> |                        |                                                     |     |     | 1   | 2                                                                                                 |
| <b>3 Communion</b><br><br><b>10:00 am</b><br>Worship                                            | 4                      | 5<br><br><b>2:00 pm—5:00 pm</b><br>Diaper Ministry  | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9                                                                                                 |
| <b>10 Mother's Day</b><br><b>CWS Blanket Sunday</b><br><br><b>10:00 am</b><br>Worship           | 11                     | 12<br><br><b>2:00 pm—5:00 pm</b><br>Diaper Ministry | 13  | 14  | 15  | <b>16 8:30 am</b><br>Men's Breakfast at Phoenix Restaurant<br><b>9:00 AM</b><br>Breakfast & Books |
| 17<br><b>10:00 am</b><br>Worship                                                                | 18                     | 19<br><br><b>2:00 pm—5:00 pm</b><br>Diaper Ministry | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23                                                                                                |
| <b>24 Pentecost Sunday / Strengthen the Church</b><br><b>10:00 am</b><br>Worship                | <b>25 Memorial Day</b> | 26<br><br><b>2:00 pm—5:00 pm</b><br>Diaper Ministry | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30                                                                                                |
| 31<br><b>10:00 am</b><br>Worship<br><br><b>Shalom Center</b>                                    |                        |                                                     |     |     |     |                                                                                                   |