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 2026



Somers Community UCC

9918 - 12th Street

PO Box 183

Somers, WI 53171

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Visit us on the web at:

somerschurch.org

And on Facebook

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Pastor Kathleen Gloff

Phone: 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



I have taken several trainings in mental health in that last several years. One training is the Certified Peer Specialist Training. The other is training in Mental Health First Aid. The United Church of Christ offers a designation to congregations that complete a process to become WISE, which stands for Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged. Those congregations focus on how that can make Mental Wellness a part of their congregational life.

I say all of this because the CDC—Center for Disease Control—has declared loneliness to be a national epidemic, affecting the old and the young and those in between too. The holidays can be a difficult time for some because of loneliness and grief. I want to share a prayer with you that would be appropriate for a Blue Christmas Service or Longest Night Service. Blue Christmas and Longest Night Services are sometimes offered to help those who are having a difficult time coping with the holiday season. They remind us that God is near to the brokenhearted and that our faith can sustain us even in loneliness and grief.

I am going to take up two pages of the December Newsletter—this page with a prayer for those needing comfort and the next page, where you will find a Candle Lighting Liturgy for a special Advent Wreath that you can make at home for your own use. You will find out more about that project when you turn to the next page.

For now…here is a prayer for comfort amid loneliness and grief:

Comforting God, wrap me/us in your presence in this time of remembrance. With the candles that we light this season, help us to find your light—a light that will guide us day by day and step by step as we try to live life fully and wholly. We cherish the special ways in which we have been touched by our loved ones. We thank you for the gift their lives have been to us. Now comfort us. Encourage us. Empower us. Amen.
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Candle Lighting Liturgy

Advent Wreath of Honoring Loved Ones

This Candle Lighting Liturgy can be used at home. Create an Advent Wreath somewhere in your holiday decorations this year. All you really need is a circle of four candles (battery operated ones will work if you have small children or pets nearby) and a taller candle in the middle of the circle. Each Sunday, light one of the candles on your wreath at home sometime during that day.

Candle Lighting:

Week #1—The Grief Candle

As this candle is lit today/tonight, we are free to deal with our grief. We own the pain of losing loved ones, of dreams that go unfulfilled, and of hopes that evaporate into thin air. (Silence)

God of all mercies…heal us as we lay our grief before you. Amen.

Week #2—The Courage Candle

As this candle is lit today/tonight, it symbolizes the courage to confront our sorrow, to comfort each other, to share our feelings honestly and openly with each other, and to dare to hope in the midst of pain. (Silence)

God of all mercies…heal us as we call upon your gift of courage. Amen.

Week #3—The Memory Candle

As this candle is lit today/tonight, it represents our memories. We know that the memories of the times we laughed together, cried together, were angry with each other, and were overjoyed with each other are all gifts of our time together. May our memories burn brightly in our hearts and minds. (Silence)

God of all mercies…heal us as we remember the gifts of shared love and your comforting presence in times of need. Amen.

Week #4—The Love Candle

As this candle is lit today/tonight, it teaches us that love is the greatest gift and that love never ends. We give thanks for love in all its forms: the love we have given and received, the love that has remained unacknowledged and unfelt until now, and the love that has been shared in times of joy and sorrow. Amen.

Christmas Eve or Christmas Day—The Christ Candle

In the center of this circle, we light the Christ Candle, remembering that Jesus Christ is always in the center of our lives. He hears our cries, he knows our hearts, and—in the midst of all our thoughts and emotions—he offers us hope and healing.

God of all mercies…heal us with the knowledge that Christ our Savior is the best gift of all. We give you thanks and praise for his presence in our lives. Amen.



December Birthdays	
2	Phyllis Borger
23	Christine Sturino
24	Steve Ingham
25	Joseph Rossi
December Anniversary	
1	Mary & Randall Rossi

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

Sunday	Altar Flowers
Dec 6	NONE
Dec 13	NONE
Dec 20	Poinsettias
Dec 27	Poinsettias

If you would like to mail your offering:



Somers United Church of Christ
PO Box 183
Somers WI 53171

Scripture Readings	
Dec 6 ***Communion***	Isaiah 40: 1-11 Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3: 8-15a Mark 1: 1-8
Dec 13	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 John 1: 6-8, 19-28
Dec 20 ***Christmas Fund***	2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26 Romans 16: 25-27 Luke 1: 26-38
Dec 24 ***Christmas Eve***	Isaiah 62: 6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3: 4-7 Luke 2: (1-7), 8-20
Dec 27	Isaiah 61: 10- 62: 3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 22-40



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.



2027 Committee Budgets are due to Dennis Curnes by **Sunday, December 13th.**

2027 Offering Envelopes



2027 Offering Envelopes will be available to pick up in December. If you don't find one for you, please let the church office know.



If you have any reports for the 2026 Annual Report booklet, get them to the church office by **Sunday, January 3rd**.



Thursday, December 24th 4:00 PM

Lessons, carols, communion & candlelight



ATTENTION:

The Property Committee is looking for someone to become the church custodian. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please contact Dennis Curnes at 262-654-1612 pertaining to hours, salary, and any other questions one might have.





Planning for the month of December, we will be collecting 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.

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 6th**. Any questions contact Dennis at 262-914-4523.



Breakfast & Books (B & B)

On **Saturday, January 23rd** at **9:30 am** we begin our 23rd year of B & B (bad weather we will meet on the 30th). The group of women have chosen to discuss ***"WEST WITH GIRAFFES"*** by **Lynda Rutledge**. Pastor Kathy will lead the discussion; Martha S. will furnish the goodies and coffee will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex the first part of January so let us know if you will or will not be coming. Any questions see Bonnie C.



The **Men's Breakfast** group will be meeting on **Saturday, December 19th** 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.



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

Phyllis Borger
Willow Brook
3508 Washington Rd Apt 119
Kenosha WI 53144

Barbara Dinges
PO Box 33
Somers WI 53171

Kent Duesing
2851 Fitchrona Rd Apt 345
Fitchburg WI 53719

Karen McKenzie
6410 12th St
Kenosha WI 53144

Judith Thomas
Waterford Senior Living
301 S 6th St Apt 400
Waterford WI 53185

Eleanor & Eugene Thompson
Kenosha Place
5060 Green Bay Rd #143
Kenosha WI 53144



Chris and Kelly Curnes have turned in their resignation for being our custodians for the past 26 years.

We would like to take this opportunity to let them know how much we appreciated them and give them a huge ***THANK YOU*** for their dedication in keeping our beautiful building clean for this number of years.

FOOD PANTRY

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



We are so grateful for your support of our diaper ministry. Your kindness helps the families in our community, and we are so thankful to you.

If you would like to help with this project you can donate $ and we will do the shopping (just put $ in the offering plate or mail it to the church). For your information at this time, we are very well stocked in all sizes, with the exception of **DIAPERS ONLY SIZE 5 OR 6.**

-Bonnie Curnes

The Christmas Fund

Sunday, December 20th

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 low-income retirees. The Christmas Fund for the Veterans for 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 20th.



DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dates and times are subject to change, call the church or check the website for updates.		*1* **2:00 pm – 5:00 pm** Diaper Ministry	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
6 ***Communion*** **Scrip DUE!** **10:00 am** Worship	*7*	*8* **2:00 pm – 5:00 pm** Diaper Ministry	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*
13 **2027 Budgets DUE!** **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 ***Christmas Fund Offering*** **10:00 am** Worship	*21*	*22* **2:00 pm – 5:00 pm** Diaper Ministry	*23*	*24* **4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service**	*25* ***Merry Christmas!***	*26*
27 **10:00 am** Worship	*28*	*29* **2:00 pm – 5:00 pm** Diaper Ministry	*30*	*31*		