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| “Following God through Jesus in work and word”  Immanuel United Church of Christ  Plymouth, WI 53073  920-565-3554  [immanuel@tds.net](mailto:immanuel@tds.net)  www.immanuelchurch.org |

January/February 2025

Teetering

Definition: Teeter – to stand uncertainly on the brink or edge of something

We have…perhaps less inclusive, I have. I have a tendency to teeter on the edge of things, and it has little to do with my age. Long before teetering on legs that have grown older, as one would have it – I teetered way before I tottered. Take for instance standing on the brink of a New Year, I teeter! It seems overwhelming to start in on a New Year when so many things were left undone last year. I won’t bore you with that litany of events. I only want to share with you some things on teetering.

Teetering in relationship to a contract would be like one person agreeing to his part of the contract while the teeterer says; “maybe I will and maybe I won’t”. So, what has teetering to do with our faith? Well, have you ever read about or heard about a leap of faith? We take that leap when we come to an impasse regarding an unknown answer to an issue of faith. We simply take a leap instead of teetering on the edge of something. For instance, if everything is created, who created God? Our leap of faith declares that God was not created. The Almighty One simply but profoundly declared: “I am who I am.” Exodus 3:14. “I am Being in relationship to all beings” animate or inanimate – to people, to rocks, to the stars. We take a leap of faith to believe, to trust in the Lord God of all who at our best or at our worst is a presence within us in the form of a soul. A soul that relies on a faith to believe, a truth to set us free, and a love that never let’s go.

We enter the New Year with a leap of faith that does no assure us that it will be great. We take the leap because we want to be a part of something new, something worth celebrating, something worth a sharing of hope, love and joy.

There’s no assurance these things will come to pass. The one thing required of us is to take the leap of faith, and with trust in God’s grace and love, we enter a new world in the New Year.

We set teetering aside and behold- we come to believe in Christmas, of starting a New Year. We believe in the church as Christ’s Kingdom on earth. We attend services not teetering on the edge but believing in His Word, and trusting in His care. This leap of faith takes teetering on the edge of something away from that which can defeat us into something renewable, something wonderful, something grand. It enables us to reach out and at times, to touch the face of God.

Happy New Year to you and yours in the name of Christ our Lord.

Ernie Huntzinger

Immanuel United Church of Christ

December 11, 2024

Dear Member of our Congregation

Our church leaders have been having preliminary conversations with three neighboring churches to explore ways we might collaborate on mission and ministry opportunities to strengthen our presence in the community, share resources and build relationships between our congregations. The congregations involved are:

Bethel United Church of Christ

Immanuel United Church of Christ

St. John’s United Church of Christ (Schwarzwald)

St Paul’s United Church of Christ (Malone)

At this stage, we want to emphasize that these are entirely exploratory conversations, with no decisions being made.

Our collective goal is to understand how we might work together more effectively to serve our community. We are seeking two interested members from our congregation to join a collaborative exploration team with representatives from other three churches. This is an opportunity to:

‣ Share insights

‣ Understand potential joint initiatives

‣ Represent our congregation’s perspective

No commitments will be made without full congregational input and approval. We are simply opening a dialogue about potential future cooperation. If you are interested in being part of this exploration team, please contact our church office by Friday, December 20, 2024.

Faithfully

Immanuel UCC Consistory

**Library News**

. *God's Promises: For Your Every Need* is a quick and easy-to-use Scripture reference guide. The book is a collection of hundreds of Bible verses for all of your circumstances, whether you're seeking God's promises and answers for your own life or for a friend.

The book provides Scriptures to comfort in times of worry, offer direction in times of crisis, and reassure you of God's love in times of discouragement. No matter what season of life you are in, you need reassurance of God's promises and reminders that God is with you. He is ready to meet your needs with His love, provision, and direction.

This book is filled with scriptures that are categorized into subjects making it easy to find God's promises and responses on issues you might be having.

The 9 subjects are:

1. Jesus is Your… (Savior, Lord, Love +13 additional topics)
2. The Bible is Your… (Infallible Authority, Guide for Life + 3 additional topics)
3. What To Do When You Feel… (Discouraged, Lonely + 8 additional topics)
4. What To Do When You Are… (Experiencing Fear, In Need of Courage + 6 additional topics)
5. What To Do When… (You Need Confidence, Troubles Hit Your Life + 6 additional topics)
6. What The Bible Has to Say About… (Faith, Love, Eternity + 12 additional topics)
7. Truth From the Bible About…  (Forgiving Others, Christian Fellowship + 12 additional topics)
8. What You Can Do To…  (Grow Spiritually, Change the World + 2 additional topics)
9. God’s Plan of Salvation…

This little book is a perfect guide for when you crave a word of encouragement or you need biblical direction. When you live with God's promises in your life, you will be blessed beyond your wildest imagination. It is a great book to share with others who may need God’s encouragement, strength and be made aware of God’s promises. You can locate this book with the call number of 248.4 GOD.

You are encouraged to use the library; the only request is that you sign the card in the back of the book and place the card in the file box under your last name. There is no time limit for returning the book. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions about any of the books in the Church Library you can contact Vanessa Thieleke.

Submitted by Vanessa Thieleke

**Rural Church Fellowship** is planning a Sheepshead event for February 16th at Bethlehem UCC.  More info to come.  If you have any questions- ask Karl & Carol Knoener

**Chili Supper**

SAVE THE DATE!  Our annual chili supper will be held on Wednesday, February 12th from 4:00-6:00 p.m., drive thru only.

We have a chili supper donation tree in church that has items needed for our chili supper, including examples of ingredient sizes we need to make the chili.  Please select an ornament on the tree, purchase the items on the ornament, and bring them back to church to place in the box with the ornament.  Thank you in advance for your generosity and supporting our church's tradition in doing this each year.  As a reminder, the chili supper will be held on Wednesday, February 12th from 4:00-6:00 p.m., drive thru only.

**Mission trip opportunity**

A group of people from a few area churches are planning a mission trip to Mayfield KY for March 16- 22.  There is opportunity for projects for people with all talents and abilities. This is the same place we went to last year. There is still much work to do to repair flood & tornado damage. Contact Karl & Carol Knoener for more information.

Consistory Meeting Agenda: October 14, 2024

1. Call meeting to order: Attendance: *Rodney T., Brett K., Keri K., Mark T., Chris B., Jen M. and Ed Karsteadt*

2. Opening prayer *Rodney T.*

3. Review secretary’s minutes from last meeting (September 9, 2024) *Accept minutes with changes made first. Motion: Jen – Seconded - Brett*

4. Treasurer’s report—Submitted by phone and email by Joya Cox accountant *Joya- nothing is out of the ordinary- everything looks good. Rodney will drop off the bills tomorrow. Check was sent out to Badger Restoration – Joya stated yes.*

5. Search committee report—Edgar Karsteadt and Jennifer Marten - *Ed Karsteadt and Jennifer Marten shared.*

6. Pastor’ report—Worship planning—Church events a. Sunday October 20---Rev. Huntzinger will return to conduct the service *and available Wed. afternoon.*

b. Pastor’s schedule—November 3, Rev. Henning—November 10, Rev. Huntzinger—November 17, Rev. Huntzinger—November 24, Pam Hodgson—November 27, Thanksgiving Eve with communion, Undetermined *Schedule is correct*.

c. Plans for Thanksgiving Eve service—Should we, have it? —Include communion as planned, if so, we would need an ordained minister to serve *Yes. If we can NOT find an ordained minister to serve communion – we should still have a Service.*

d. Looking ahead to Christmas season—Advent event December 1---Do we proceed as in the past with Christmas tree and decorations—Christmas Eve, Tuesday December 24, do we plan on having a service, if so, how do we proceed—Donna Bauer suggested a Christmas program on Sunday December 15—Who will participate, practices will be needed *Nov. 30th – decorate church for Christmas. Mark will tell Donna B. that she can plan a program for Christmas.*

7. Old business: a. Disposition of water damage to basement--$2000.00 check from Improvement Fund sent to Badger State Restoration as a down payment and to secure agreement for them to repair the damage— Insurance settlement check from Acuity for $3077.01 was received—Deductible of $500.00 applies

b. Annual United Church Men and Women banquet on October 24 at St. Johns UCC 1248 Lincoln Ave. Sheboygan—Tickets still available--$20.00—Rev. Franz Rigert, conference minister, to speak *Rodney and 2 others are going.*

c. Parsonage septic tank inspection—Results, any needed repairs? Are we compliant? *Parsonage PASSED inspection; good for next 3 years.*

d. Report on timber harvest in our woods—Equipment moved into the woods on October 1--Per contract, $2,000.00 has been received upon equipment entry—Final cut volumes will be determined by Lakeshore and Kim Destree, and a final check issued

8. New business: a. Compensation guidelines for 2025 suggest $200.00/service for pulpit supply—If we continue with our current system, do we increase our payment? *Increase - Yes. Motion – Mark; Second - Brett*

b. Looking forward, Rev. Huntzinger will retire at the end of December—How do we proceed to replace him if a more permanent solution is not reached *Consistory member/members can do one Sunday; possibly Donna B & Liz from the Education Committee; and ask Rev. Kesting/ and Rev. Bonnie?*

c. Time of the year to think about the 2025 budget and nominees for officers *Mark – New Officer’s for Mark T. & Chris B – anyone have an idea who can fill their spots…please put in ‘New’s Letter’ for people to see.*

*--Chris would like to hire someone to fix the outside light east of church in parking lot. Voted Yes. Motion to accept – Jen; Second - Mark*

9. Next meeting November11, 2024

10. Adjourn with The Lord’s Prayer *Motion to adjourn: Jen; Second - Brett*

Agenda: Consistory Meeting November 11, 2024

1. Call meeting to order. In Attendance: *Rev. Ernie, Tracy Kracht, Ed Karsteadt, Rodney T, Ed P, Mark T, Chris B, Brett K, Keri K, and Jen M.*

2. Opening prayer. *Rev. Ernie*

3. Secretary’s minutes from the last meeting (October 14, 2024*). Accepted. Motion - Jen M; 2nd – Ed P*

4. Treasurer’s report—Submitted by phone and email by Joya Cox accountant. *Tracy & Joya will be working together for end of year statements. Too much money was taken from Benevolence and placed into Food Pantry – Joya asked if money can be switched back to Benevolence. Motion – Ed P; 2nd – Mark T*

a. Letter from Wisconsin Conference UCC asking for OCWM Basic Support goal of $4244.34 to be included in our budget for year2025. *Will need to be voted on at Annual Meeting; then placed into budget for 2025 - if approved.*

b. Review the parsonage rent payments—Why are payments less than $1200? *Brett – Misunderstandings – renter did much needed improvements without asking – no communication with some of the Parsonage Committee. Going forward – needs approval before improvements are made. Mark – stating the Parsonage Committee should create annual report with improvements listed. Brett will do the report.*

5. Search Committee: *Ed Karstedt and Jen Marten updated committee.*

6. Pastor’s report—Worship planning—Church events a. Pastor’s schedule—December 1, Rev. Henning (1st Sunday in Advent, Communion served, light 1st advent candle)—December 8, Rev. Huntzinger (Light 2nd advent candle)—December 15, Rev. Huntzinger (Play produced by Donna Bauer and Elizabeth Depies, light 3rd advent candle—pink candle)—December 22, Pam Hodgson (Light the 4th advent candle)—December 24, Christmas Eve at 7:00pm, Rev. Huntzinger (Light the middle Christmas candle)—December 29, Rev. Huntzinger. *ALL CORRECT*.

b. November 27, 7:00pm, Thanksgiving Eve service with communion, Rev. Huntzinger. *Mark – what type of communion? Rev Ernie stated – passing out communion – how we normally do it.*

c. Saturday November 30, put up Christmas tree, set up nativity scene outside, bring out the ornaments and other stuff for Christmas season church decorating*. Meet @ 8:00 AM*

d. Sunday December 1st, an advent event after church: tree is decorating and getting church prepared for Christmas. *Serving Chili – light luncheon right after church – then decorating.*

e. Remove Sandra Kuhfuss from membership due to death. *With sympathies and regret. Also Remove: Kristine Casey (Burkhardt) and Nicole Ernst (Hennig) Motion – Jen M; 2nd – Ed P*

7. Old business

a. Timber harvest continues with removal of trees - nothing new to report.

b. Repair on water damage in basement—Nothing new to report—Nothing further heard from Badger State Restoration—Need to assume they will repair the damage when the needed materials are available and when they have time. *Rodney will reach out*.

d. Konz Electric repaired the outside night light south of the volleyball court. *Rodney taking bill to Joya tomorrow to be paid*.

e. Review budget for year 2025—Propose any salary or hourly rate increases for people working for the church? — *Salaries and budget topics discussed. Motion – Brett; 2nd – Jen M*

f. Recognition of Rev. Huntzinger’s service to our church to be held on December 15 following church services—How do we proceed? —Present a gift? —Reception in back Sunday School room? ---Suggestion to have a dinner with ham or sloppy Joe’s etc. *December meeting – discussion on what to serve.*

g. Letter from the United Church Men and Women—Three scholarships of $3000.00 each were awarded—A “thank you” to all contributors.

8. New business

Lynn Marten – sent email to Rodney – Do we want partnership with German friends - *Rodney will email Lynn.*

a. Tom Salzman, the organ man, called me and came to tune the organ on Friday November 8—I gave him permission without consulting the consistory*. Motion passed*.

b. Church fire extinguishers have been checked and brought up to date for another year. *Done*.

9. Next meeting December 9, 2024---Dinner meeting or social gathering at a restaurant on a different evening? —Everyone pays for their own. *Date on calendar: Dec. 11 @ 5:30 pm @ Log Cabin – put on calendars. Consistory and pastors / and significant others invited*.

10. Adjourn with The Lord’s Prayer *Motion – Keri; 2nd - Brett*

