



First Congregational United Church of Christ

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November

The Link

2011

The First Thanksgiving...

The following passages are from Nathaniel Philbrick's excellent book, *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community and War*. As we move toward Thanksgiving I share with you some insights into the "real" story.

We do not know the exact date of the celebration we now call the First Thanksgiving, but it was probably in late September or early October [1621], soon after their crop of corn, squash, beans, barley, and peas had been harvested. It was also a time during which Plymouth Harbor played host to a tremendous number of migrating birds, particularly ducks and geese, and [William] Bradford ordered four men to go out "fowling." It took only a few hours for Plymouth's hunters to kill enough ducks and geese to feed the settlement for a week.

The term Thanksgiving, first applied in the 19th Century, was not used by the Pilgrims themselves. For the Pilgrims a thanksgiving was a time of spiritual devotion. Since just about everything the Pilgrims did had religious overtones, there was certainly much about the gathering in the fall of 1621 that would have made it a proper Puritan thanksgiving. But... there was also much about the gathering that was similar to a traditional English harvest festival—a secular celebration that dated back to the Middle Ages in which villagers ate, drank and played games.

Countless Victorian-era engravings notwithstanding, the Pilgrims did not spend the day sitting around a long table draped with a white linen cloth, clasping each other's hands in prayer as a few curious Indians looked on. Instead of an English affair, the First Thanksgiving soon became an overwhelmingly Native celebration when Massasoit and a hundred Pokanokets (more than twice the entire English population of Plymouth) arrived at the settlement with five freshly killed deer. Even if all the Pilgrims' furniture was brought out into the sunshine, most of the celebrants stood, squatted, or sat on the ground as they clustered around outdoor fires, where the deer and birds turned on wooden spits and where pottages— stews into which varieties of meats and vegetables were thrown— simmered invitingly.

In addition to ducks and deer, there was, according to Bradford, a "good store of wild turkeys" in the fall of 1621. Turkeys were by no means a novelty to the Pilgrims. [Conquistadors had brought some back into Spain a 100 years earlier.] By 1575, the domesticated Central American turkey had become a fixture at English Christmases. The wild turkeys of New England were bigger and much faster than the birds the Pilgrims had known in Europe and were often pursued in winter when they could be tracked in the snow.

The Pilgrims may have also added fish to their meal of birds and deer. In fall, striped bass, bluefish, and cod were abundant. Perhaps most important to the Pilgrims was that with a recently harvested barley crop, it was now possible to brew beer. Alas, the Pilgrims were without pumpkin pies or cranberry sauce. There were also no forks, which did not appear at Plymouth until the last decades of the 17th Century. The Pilgrims ate with their fingers and their knives.

The First Thanksgiving marked the conclusion of a remarkable year. Eleven months earlier the Pilgrims had arrived at the tip of Cape Cod, fearful and uninformed. They had spent the next month alienating and angering every Native American they happened to come across. By all rights, none of the Pilgrims should have emerged from the first winter alive. Like the French sailors before them, they all might have been either killed or taken captive by the Indians.

That it had worked out differently was a testament not only to the Pilgrims' grit, resolve and faith, but to their ability to take advantage of an extraordinary opportunity. During the winter of 1621, the survival of the English settlement had been in the balance. Massasoit's decision to offer them assistance had saved the Pilgrim's lives in the short term, but there had already been several instances in which the sachem's generosity could all have gone for naught. Placing their faith in God, the Pilgrims might have insisted on a policy of arrogant isolationism. [Instead they became active participants with the Native Americans in the region.]

In 1620, New England was far from being a paradise of abundance and peace. Indeed the New World was, in many ways, much like the Old— a place where the fertility of the soil was a constant concern, a place where disease and war were omnipresent threats. There were profound differences between the Pilgrims and the Pokanokets— but in these early years, when the mutual challenge of survival dominated all other concerns, the two peoples had more in common than is generally appreciated today. For the Pilgrims, some of whom had slept in a wigwam and all of whom had enjoyed eating and drinking with the Indians during that First Thanksgiving, these were not a despicable pack of barbarians (even if some of their habits, such as their refusal to wear clothes, struck them as "savage"); these were human beings, much like themselves— "very trust [worth]y, quick of apprehension, ripe witted, and just," according to [those first Pilgrims].

Again, these words come to you as an excerpt from the wonderful book, *Mayflower*, by Nathaniel Philbrick. It really is a fascinating account of the Pilgrims' journey and the first 50 years of peaceful coexistence with the Native American peoples already present.

I pray that you all have a wonderful and truly thankful, Thanksgiving.

Peace,

Pastor Scott

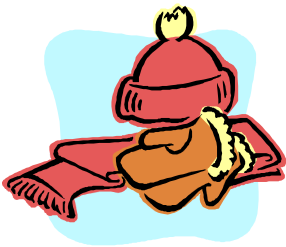
Special Worship for All-Saints Sunday November 6th

Please join us for a very special Communion Worship service on November 6, 2011. During worship we will be remembering those members, friends and family who passed away during the previous year. Part of our understanding of Communion is that as we receive the elements of bread and cup we join together with the whole church in the receiving of Christ's gifts. This "wholeness" is beyond a simple unity of those who happen to receive the bread and cup physically next to us in our row, but a union with those across the globe and across the barriers of time itself. The Apostle Paul spoke of the "great cloud of witnesses" who had come before us and commune with us even now.

All-Saints Sunday is a time to give thanks for the gifts we have received from those who have died even as we continue to mourn their passing. It is a time to gather in the comfort of Christ's church and know that none of us is "left to ourselves, alone" for we have friends around us and we have a God who will never abandon us.

We believe this very special worship will be made even more meaningful this year by having the ability to project pictures of the people who we have held in our prayers over these past weeks and months. Family and friends were contacted in order





to have one or two pictures of each of our Saints as we lift them in prayer during worship. This will be the first time we use our new video system— what an eloquent way to put the new technology to use.

Mitten Tree Sighting: A Sure Signs That Winter is Approaching!

A cold wind is blowing from the west, the county is stockpiling sand and salt and the Mitten Tree is up in the cry room! Please contribute mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. These items will be distributed to needy students in Elkhorn Public Schools. This winter is predicted to be cold and snowy – Please think of helping everyone keep warm. The tree will remain through the month of November and donations will be distributed early December. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Ordination in the United Church of Christ

“An Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ is one of its members who has been called by God and ordained to preach and teach the gospel, to administer the sacraments and rites of the church, and to exercise pastoral care and leadership.” – from The UCC Manual on Ministry

Eliza Stoddard-Leatherbury, who preached at our church one summer Sunday in 2010, will be ordained into ministry on 11/05/11 at First Congregational Church, Oconomowoc. As I was blessed to be her advisor while she traveled her journey through seminary, I wouldn't miss this very sacred, very special event and I'd be happy to have a couple of passengers if anyone would like to go along to witness the service of Ordination into the Ministry of the UCC. A bonus would be the opportunity to see another UCC and what they have done with audio-visual technology. The Service of Ordination begins at 2:00 p.m. Please feel free to contact me if you'd like further information.

--Carolyn Morris

Strengthening Our Ministry and Mission Stewardship Sunday November 13, 2011

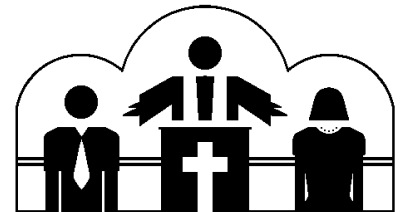
This year we have all been invited to dream big! To dream a dream in which our stewardship is so extravagantly generous that our beloved church not only has enough money to pay all of its bill, but money to support new ministry and local charitable efforts. It is a dream that includes Women's Fellowship using the money they raise at the salad luncheon, rummage sale and

cookie sale for special projects and ministry beyond our

church, instead of taking care of routine church expenses.

A dream in which our members and friends can worship God in Christ every Sunday and never hear a guilt inducing word about how we really need some financial help this month to “get us through”. A dream that we won't have to have emergency financial meetings; dreaming there will be no need to borrow from the Trust Fund; no need to have a dozen small fund-raisers just to keep the lights on.

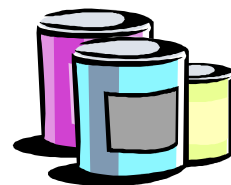
The Stewardship and Mission Committee believes this dream can come true— for God is calling us to extravagant generosity! Our stewardship theme this year is



“**Strengthening our Mission and Ministry**” and we have already heard from Larry Waller and Jamie Stepp about the way our church’s ministry has made an impact on their lives and on their faith. This coming Sunday, Hank Mol will talk about how our church ministers to the community in which we live. There have been different scripture-based devotions sent by email, and available for pick-up here at church, encouraging all of us to consider our use of God’s gifts and the ways we help provide ministry through our church.

This month we urge everyone to be present in worship on **Sunday, November 6th** as we celebrate Communion, All-Saints Sunday, the “Mission: 1” food drive, and the dedication of our new video projection system. And, of course, we will be sending out “Estimate of Giving” cards to each household with the request that they be returned to church on **Stewardship Sunday, November 13th** during worship. We need wide participation and generosity of spirit if our dreams are to become a reality!!

Even with difficult financial obstacles our church has continued to minister and to serve our members, friends and the wider community. As we move toward **Stewardship Sunday, November 13, 2011** we will be asking our members and friends to reflect, pray and dream about the future and present ministry of our church. We hope God’s extravagant generosity towards us will inspire our dreams for 2012.



Mission 1: Drive to Support the Food Pantry

As you know, the Elkhorn Food Pantry has moved in next door! In celebration of this the Stewardship & Mission Committee invited the church to participate in a unique drive to help them stock the shelves.

The UCC has a new campaign called **Mission 1** to commemorate all the “one’s” on the calendar this month. Their campaign is from **11/1/11** to **11/11/11**, making up 11 days. In our own creative way we translated those eleven days to eleven Sundays and as you will note by the large pile of canned goods in the church, we have been collecting one particular food or household item each Sunday for the past two-plus months. Ray Knutson contacted the Food Pantry back in August and obtained a list of the **top 11 non-perishable items** they needed. In keeping with the Mission 1 theme, we are hoping to donate **1,111 items**. At this time, we are right on target!!

Our first Sunday was back on August 28 with donations of canned pasta and we received 112 cans that day. The weekly count and list of items is below. If you missed any of the items there is still time to “catch up” (and “ketchup” is on the list too!). Bring one or several of each, as your heart and budget allow! Items can be brought to the Sunday service through 11/6/11 (the last Sunday before 11/11/11).

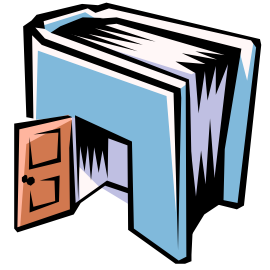
In addition to the items collected, we are asking that each of us set aside \$1 for each of those 11 weeks (\$11 total) so we can make a cash contribution to the Food Pantry, as well. You guessed it, the goal is \$1,111! You can make your \$1 contribution each week in a separate envelope or mark your regular envelope with an extra dollar to go to Mission 1 Drive. That can be done week-to-week or all at once on 11/6/11. There will be special envelopes passed out by our ushers for your food pantry financial donations.

Here’s what we have so far! # Collected

8/28/11	Canned Pasta	112
9/4/11	Chicken Noodle Soup	84
9/11/11	Instant Potatoes	151
9/18/11	Ketchup	90
9/25/11	Laundry Detergent	94
10/2/11	Mandarin oranges	60
10/9/11	Pancake Mix	85
10/16/11	Paper Towels	50
10/23/11	Syrup	<u>120</u>
Total so far:		896



Book Club: A Novel of Perception, Self-Interest, Truth, Reality



Barbara Kingsolver's novel, *The Lacuna*, centers around the protagonist, Harrison Shepherd. His Mexican mother is estranged from his American father. The opening section of the novel takes place on the island of Isla Pixol Mexico, in 1929, where she is living as the mistress of a wealthy planter/oilman. Here Ms. Kingsolver introduces three symbolic images which are developed through the novel. First are the howlers, the howling monkeys who bray all night and frighten Harrison. The howlers become symbolic of the press who mirror the cacophony of monkey sounds in their supposed reporting of "the truth." Second, is the Lacuna itself. It is a hole, or opening through which one can pass, and, in doing so will enter from one reality into another. Harrison passes through an opening in the reef where he swims by learning to hold his breath and use the strong tide of the full moon to allow him to get him through safely. Third, is the image of a school of fish moving in consort. "The rule of fishes is the same as the rule of people: if the shark comes, they will all escape and leave you to be eaten." These three combined images present the primary theme of the book: Self-interest profoundly colors our perception, of reality making the "truth" whatever conforms to our somewhat self-serving needs.

The novel weaves authentic historical events into the fictional fabric of Harrison Shepherd's life. Most of it is written as either entries from notebooks, or as letters written by Shepherd or addressed to him. It moves from 1929 when he is 13 to 1951 when he "dies." About half the story takes place in Mexico and half in the United States. For much of the story Shepherd acts as an observer and commenter on the people and events which he experiences. Kingsolver has him record his observations with a great deal of irony. Her writing is magnificently tuned to the folly and increasingly tragic events which she has Shepherd experience and recount. Sometimes, her writing is ironically funny and at others ironically sad; sometimes both at the same time.

I was drawn to the novel because Kingsolver has Harrison become an assistant first to the Mexican muralist Diego Rivera, and later the confidant of his wife, the painter Frida Kahlo. As artists, they search for, and present the "truth" from an admittedly self-centered point of view. Rivera was an avowed Communist and created murals which unabashedly portrayed his sympathies. Frida's paintings often reflected the real physical and emotional pain she experienced from her childhood polio and the bus accident which almost took her life. Rivera's sponsorship of Leon Trotsky which allowed Trotsky to gain admittance to Mexico when he was being targeted by Stalin, brings Shepherd into contact with Trotsky as well. Gradually, she begins to serve as Trotsky's secretary. Upon, Trotsky's assassination in 1940 Shepherd leaves for the United States.

Shepherd's interest in the history of Mexico allows him to write two novels which become very successful. He comes to live and work in Asheville, N.C. Here the story has a new character enter, Violet Brown. She is hired as Shepherd's secretary. Much of the novel begins to reflect Brown's point of view as she sympathetically recounts the events which begin to swirl around Shepherd in the post WW II period. The "school of fish" image presented in the opening becomes more and more vivid as the "sharks" begin to circle.

I must leave with some passages to show the intelligence of Kingsolver's ironic style. Here Shepherd recounts a visit to a Mexico City cathedral. "The cathedral is immense...The black Christ of the Venom hangs there dead in his back skirt, surrounded by little balconies, maybe for the angels to land on when they get tired. It was such a monument of accusation, even Mother had to bow her head a little as she crept past it, sins dripping from her shoes as we walked around the nave, leaving invisible puddles on the clean tiles."

In a letter to Diego, commenting on the press and radio, " 'Dance for the Crowd' is the new order, with newsmen leading the politicians like bears on a leash. Real convictions would be a hindrance. The radio is the root of the evil, their rule is: *No silence, ever.* .. Falsehood and inanity are preferable to silence."

After parking a car in a small Mexican village and attracting a crowd, "The tallest boy introduced himself, and demanded pay for having guarded the vehicle during our absence. 'From whom?' we asked. ..He pointed to the gang of small thugs he claimed would have damaged or even dismantled it. 'They are very crafty,' he said in English. His payment, a handful of coins, he instantly distributed among all the vandals, their

alliance thus perfected. Even morality is a business of supply and demand.”

This is a book filled with interesting characters, both actual and fictional, compelling events, mostly actual, and really good writing. It explores important ideas and should lead to an interesting discussion, which anyone can join simply by showing up.

We meet on Wednesday, Nov. 2 at the home of Dr. Mol in Whitewater at 6:30.

Bill Neis



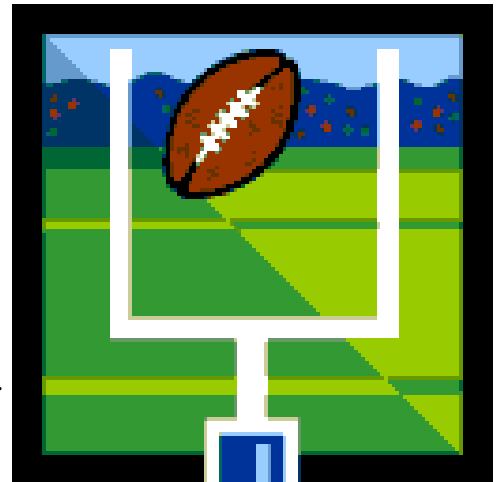
How to Adopt a Family for Food Baskets at Thanksgiving

To adopt a family for HOPE NOW, Inc. Thanksgiving or Christmas food baskets call Eleanor at 723-4711 or Kris at 723-5565, ext. 10. (If you leave a message your call will be returned ASAP.) Each food basket (laundry hamper or large box) should include a week's worth of basic foods and a grocery store voucher for perishable items. Suggested items are:

- Boxes of Cereal
- Lg Jar of Peanut Butter
- Cans of Vegetables
- Lg Jars of Spaghetti Sauce
- Boxes of Mac & Cheese
- Granola/Breakfast Bars
- Cans of Soup or Stew
- 4 or 5 lb. Bag of Granulated Sugar and/or Flour
- Box Meals (Tuna/Chicken/Hamburger Helper type)
- Lg Box/Bag of Rice
- Lg Jar of Jelly/Jam
- Cans of Fruit
- Lg Box/Bag of Pasta
- Brownie or Cake Mix
- Pudding/Gelatin
- Cans of Tuna/Chicken

Completed Baskets for Thanksgiving

Baskets need to be dropped off at the Elkhorn Area Middle School cafeteria on Sat., Nov. 19 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM; or Sun., Nov. 20 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. Basket pick-up by families begins at Noon on Sun., and everything needs to be ready by that time.



VIP Services Ultimate Indoor Tailgate Party Fun for the whole family!

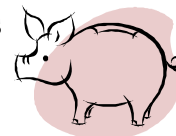
VIP Services is a 503c nonprofit organization serving adults with disabilities since 1970 with a mission to empower them to explore and experience endless possibilities. Their Ultimate Indoor Tailgate Party has become a popular fundraiser each fall and is scheduled this year for Sunday, November 20, 2011, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at VIP Services, 811 E Geneva Street, Elkhorn. Tickets include not only a Chili Cook-Off and Big Screen TV's to watch the Packers /Tampa Bay game, but also brats, burgers, hot dogs, snacks, desserts, soda, water, coffee and a chance to win door prizes. Advance sale ticket prices are \$15 Adults/\$10 Children 6-15; at-the-door prices will be \$18 Adults/\$13 Children 6-15.

Additionally, there will be a cash bar serving beer and wine coolers, chili samples, cash raffle, silent auction, meat raffle and games & prizes. Supervised games and activities for children will be provided while adults watch the game.

If you are interested in advance tickets, please call 723-4043 ext 105 or contact Carolyn or Harold Morris or Carol Prchal.

Women's Fellowship

Octoberfest Fall Festival Raffle went well. We raised \$256.00 for the church. Winners of the raffle were: **Cookie Jar**—Crispin Waller; **Rug Hooking**—Nancy Haak; **3 lbs Christmas Cookie Sale**—Rosalyne Skala; **Dessert-a-month for a year**—Barbara Lane



BLOOD BANK-- November 4th at the Four Lakes Athletic Club -- Our church will be hosting the canteen for the blood drive. Here are the persons working or making cookies: 10:00 Mary Reed and Joyce Myers --- 12:30 Ruth Maltby --- 3:30 Ardelle Baur. Making cookies: Jamie Stilling-Stepp, Mary Godfrey, Nan Christensen, Mary McCabe. You may bring your cookies anytime after 10:00 a.m. to FLAC.

COOKIE SALE -- Women's Fellowship will hold their 18th Annual Christmas Cookie Sale. It doesn't seem it is that time of the year already. The date is Saturday, December 3rd from 10:00 a.m. until sold out, which is around noon.

We will also be having some raffle tickets to sell and posters to be put up with your help. These will be available for you on November 6th

All ladies in the church will be getting a call and/or handed a card by November 14th asking them to please make at least 8 dozen Christmas Cookies for the sale

You may bring your cookies Thursday, December 1st from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon -- Friday, December 2nd between 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. We will be setting up tables and filling trays up with cookies from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Otherwise you can bring your cookies Saturday, December 3rd between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m.

If you can help on one and/or both days for any amount of time, please let the person who contacted you know or all the church office.



- Help is needed Friday, December 2nd from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. setting up tables and filling the trays with cookies
- Saturday, December 3rd, from 10:00 a.m. until sold out, which is around noon
- Help Saturday is needed selling, packaging, restocking cookie plates, and clean up

We will wear Christmas sweaters or shirts on Saturday, December 3rd.

Next Meeting --- Thursday, November 17th at 6:30 p.m. --- We will be decorating fellowship hall.

Refreshments --- Ardelle Baur

Devotions ----- Carolyn Morris

Christian Ed

Hope all the children have brought their banks back for the Heifer Mission Project. The children will be picking the animals that they wish to purchase the first of this month.

The Elementary Youth Group (grades kindergarten thru 5th) have set some dates to get together. The youth are welcome to bring a friend along with them.

Discussed the Christmas Pageant and set December 18th for the pageant. Notes may come home with the Sunday School Children during the month with pageant information.

If your child has a Bulletin Cover drawing to do, it can be turned in to the office or brought to Sunday School anytime.

Next Meeting --- November 13th, 2011 after church



It's Fruit Time — Again!!!

Boy ! -- I had a CRAZY dream the other night. It was the day that the fruit material arrived from Texas, and maybe I had something strange to eat. Anyway I dreamt that EVERYONE in our church agreed to sell fruit ! Each would buy their own favorite fruit, and then sell fruit to a relative, a neighbor, a friend at work or at a club they belonged to. Maybe it was to give to the mail man or the paper boy. WOW !! We sold over 500 boxes !!! That's a record for us. When I woke up I didn't immediately call Texas for more material, but it was one of my better dreams ! We have sold as many as 450 in the past. Last year the number was only 238. It is a GOOD product so you don't have to be embarrassed to approach anyone. Please join in the "fun" !!

We will be handing out material the end of October and will be selling the juice oranges, the navel oranges, and the pink grapefruit until the Friday after Thanksgiving. We will call the order in on the following Monday. The fruit will be delivered AFTER the BIG Cookie sale - probably towards the end of the next week. There should be plenty of time to deliver the fruit before Christmas.

This continues to be as great way to help a local charity AND to give our church a significant boost. Remember (dream about it) -- THINK FRUIT !!

Hank Mol

LET'S RING CHIMES

The music committee needs your input. The committee is entertaining and exploring the possibility of purchasing a set of handchimes to be played in church. In case you are not familiar with these chimes, they are handheld chimes, similar to, but less expensive than, handbells. The money that would be used would come from the Fletcher Opitz Memorial Fund. This money was donated with the intention that it be used for the music ministry of the church. But, we don't want to spend the money on chimes if they won't be played. So we would like to know if you have an interest in ringing in a chimes choir. Each person in the chime choir would play one or two (or possibly more) chimes, depending on the number of participants. No musical experience is necessary to join in. We are not looking for a commitment; we just want to find out the level of interest.

Please sign up on the clipboard that is passed in church. Or, contact any member of the music committee to express your interest or to get more information. "Please let us know of your interest by November 14, 2011."

Mary Godfrey: 262-723-8432 Carol Prchal: 262-495-8502, muttlover@centurytel.net

A Meaningful Expression Of the Christmas Spirit

During the Christmas Season, we often think of all the important people in our lives; family members and friends; and how much they mean to us. We remember those we have lost through the years as well as those who are still with us and have touched our lives in some special way. This year our church is once again sponsoring four "Love Lite" trees in our Memorial Garden. We will be lighting the trees on the First Sunday of Advent—November 27th and the trees will remain lit for the remainder of the season. Many people mentioned how beautiful the Garden looked last winter with a blanket of white and the four pretty trees all lit. We would like to invite you to remember or honor your loved ones this season by sponsoring the lights on the trees. There will be 2 trees with colored lights and 2 trees with white lights. The lights will be available for you to sponsor for \$2.00 per person named— or more if you wish to make a larger donation. Below you will find the form to be used or you may pick up a form at the church office, or call and we can mail forms to you. Please send or drop off the completed form at the church office along with your payment. All proceeds will go to support the continuing ministry of the church. We are starting early so as to include those of you who are going to warmer regions for the winter.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, ELKHORN
Meeting of Church Council
October 18, 2011
Elkhorn, Wisconsin

Moderator Harold Morris called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Others present were Pastor Scott McLeod, Bob Burton, Ray Knutson, Jean Lile, Patti Phillips, Ross Phillips, Donna Riese, Ann Serpe, Bill Trewyn, and Barb Townsend. Pastor Scott opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES September meeting minutes were presented. Donna moved to accept, seconded by Ann. Carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT Bill presented the treasurer's report. Bob made a motion to accept the report as presented. Seconded by Ross and passed unanimously. In a related item, Ann asked that when Stewards and Missions designs giving cards for the coming year that they not offer weekly electronic giving as an option due to the additional entries it causes. Only two giving units had opted for that this past year and changing them to monthly would make it easier.

COMMITTEE REPORTS Committee reports (Christian Ed, Diaconate, and Stewardship and Missions) were presented. Moved by Barb and seconded by Bill to accept as presented. Carried unanimously.

PASTOR'S MOMENT Pastor Scott reported he has the Salvation Army letter ready to go out soliciting groups to ring the bell this holiday season. Last year, a little over \$6,500 was raised in Elkhorn. County wide, that total was \$63,000 in bucket collections. About \$70,000 was needed this past year, which is more than it has been in past years. The need is great!

OLD BUSINESS

RAISE: Remodel And Improve to Serve Everyone/Construction Larry was not able to attend tonight's meeting but Scott reported that everything continues to go extremely well! To this point, the project is a good deal under budget. Steve Kramer is also very pleased with progress and workmanship of all involved. He has requested that Council give him the permission to grant bonuses to some of the people involved in the project. After some discussion, Ann made a motion to allow Steve to give bonuses for extra effort and quality work done in a timely manner, and coming in under budget! This is to be in an amount not to exceed \$2,500 as suggested by Steve. Seconded by Ross and passed unanimously. Steve also asked that Council consider purchase of a defibrillator for our church, funding it through this remodeling project. Steve was able to find one for a very reasonable price—about \$1,300. While members of Council felt it to be an item worthy of consideration for purchase, they did not feel it was appropriate to grant this without going to the membership first. That could be a vote taken at the annual meeting. Ann also reported that money continues to come in for the building project as people are keeping up with their financial commitments.

Food Pantry Ann reported that the city felt the street was not an appropriate place for handicapped parking as it does not meet state requirements. They suggested we create a spot in the current parking lot instead. Ann will check into this as well as the parking bumpers needed to keep cars from parking over the sidewalk on the south side of the lot.

Turnaround Church and Five Practices Scott reported that the all-church retreat at the American Baptist Church in Delavan on Saturday, Sept. 24th was not as well-attended as they had hoped, but busy fall schedules held conflicts for many. Those attending saw an excellent multi-media display highlighting how the projection system is used in that church. We look forward to upcoming presentation in our services!

Conceal and Carry Law Bob reported that after speaking with two lawyers, our building may fall under the "Gun-Free School Zone" because of New Chance being a youth gathering place. Both men felt it would be in our best interest to get legal opinion in the form of a letter for this. Bob will continue to pursue this question, reporting back to Council when he has an answer.

Fund Raisers--Octoberfest. Donna reported that the raffle tickets, card, bell, and bake sale items raised \$253 for our church. Larry is allowing us to keep the bells that were not sold for the upcoming cookie sale.

Fund Raisers—Scripts Donna will bring this information to the next meeting. (The "Scripts" program makes gift cards for area businesses available for sale, a percentage of the cards going back to the church.)

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Ross reported that calls will be made. (Say yes if he calls you!)

Finance Committee Finance Committee needs to get together to create the budget for next year. Committee chairs are reminded to get budget requests to budget committee. They also need to submit committee reports for 2011 by the November meeting!

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Next meeting: November 15th, 2011 at 7pm. **Please remember to get committee reports in on time!**

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara L. Townsend



November

- Janet Heckert 01
- Jack Illgen 01
- Thorin Forster 02
- Ron Stevens 03
- Patti Phillips 04
- Mary Reed 10
- Lori Opitz 11
- John Mol 18
- Paris Hay 18
- Jake Nethery 19
- Lea Connolly 21
- Adolph Piek 23
- Sara Gould 23
- Tom Bailey 30



November Altar Flowers 2011

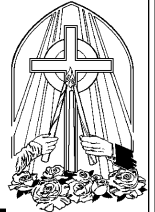
- Nov. 6, Rosalyn Skala
- Nov. 13, Ray Knutson
- Nov. 20, Diane Flitcroft
- Nov. 27, Tom Stepp



Dec. 4, _____

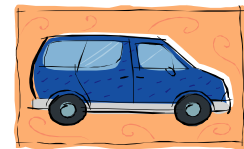
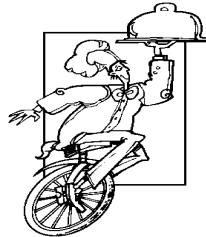
Happy Anniversary

Diane and Ray Knutson—November 4th



Meals On Wheels

- Nov. 7, Mon. Ardelle Baur-Donna Riese
- Nov. 8, Tues. Pastor Scott—Hank Mol
- Nov. 9, Wed. Bill—Jennifer Neis
- Nov. 10, Thurs. Sharon Jabs—Betty Gaiser
- Nov. 11, Fri. Merry Kay Opitz
Kathy Thies



Childcare Sponsor's Month of November

- Larry and Sharon Jabs Nov. 06
- Larry and Sharon Jabs Nov. 13
- Merry Kay Opitz Nov. 20
- Merry Kay Opitz Nov. 27



Sunday Coffee Hosts November

- Nov. 6, Donna Baker & Rosalyn Skala
- Nov. 13, Ann Serpe
- Nov. 20, Church Council
- Nov. 27—Your name here!
- Dec. 04,- Denise Bigelow



Sunday Bulletin Sponsors For the month of November

Ross and Patti Phillips





November 2011



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		<p>1</p>  <p>All Saints' Day</p>	<p>2</p> <p>BOOK CLUB H.R. MOL HOME 6:30 PM</p>	<p>3</p> <p>CONFIRMA- TION CLASS 6:00 P.M.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>MEN'S BREAKFAST 8 A.M. CALABRIA</p> 
<p>6</p> <p>ALL-SAINTS SUNDAY COMMUNION "MISSION 1"</p> <p>BAKER SKALA</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>FINANCE COMMIT- TEE 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>TRUSTEES 6:00 P.M.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>DIACONATE 6:00 P.M.</p> <p>5 PRAC- TICES GROUP 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> 	<p>12</p> 
<p>13</p> <p>STEWAR- SHIP SUNDAY</p> <p>C.E. COMM 11:45 AM</p> <p>SERPE</p> 	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>CONFIRMA- TION CLASS 6:00 P.M.</p> <p>WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 6:30 P.M.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> 
<p>20</p> <p>THANKSGIV- ING SUNDAY</p> <p>CHURCH</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>26</p> 
<p>27</p> <p>FIRST SUN- DAY OF ADVENT</p> 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>ELEMEN- TARY YOUTH GROUP 6—7 P.M.</p>	<p>30</p> 	<p>DEC. 1</p>	<p>DEC. 2</p>	<p>DEC.3</p> <p>COOKIE SALE</p> 

The LINK NEWSLETTER

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
76 S. Wisconsin St.
Elkhorn, WI 53121



All Saints' Day

Duties for November 2011

DEACONS: JEAN LILE AND JOANNE KRAMER

*If you are unable to usher on your assigned Sunday, please call the Deacons with the name of your replacement in order that we may cover the responsibilities. Ushers are requested to be present 30 to 45 minutes before the start of church (Worship is 10:30am), on the Sunday they are assigned. Duties involve handing out programs showing people to the pews and helping at the Offering. Thank you for your participation.

	Nov. 6, 2011 Comm./All-Saints	Nov. 13, 2011 Stewardship Sun.	Nov. 20, 2011 Thanksgiving Sun.	Nov. 27, 2011 First Sun of Advent	December 4, 2011 Communion
Worship Leader	<u>BILL NEIS</u>	<u>ANN SERPE</u>	<u>MERRY K. OPITZ</u>	<u>BRIDGET TREWYN</u>	<u>JEAN LILE</u>
Greeters	<u>DAVE BAKER</u> <u>DONNA BAKER</u>	<u>JOHN MALTBY</u> <u>RUTH MALTBY</u>	<u>CAROL PRCHAL</u> <u>TOM AND PAT BAILEY</u>	<u>PETE HARVEY</u> <u>SARAH HARVEY</u>	<u>KEN HECKERT</u> <u>JANET HECKERT</u>
Ushers	<u>BROOKE LILE</u> <u>MARY MC CABE</u>	<u>DAN & VINCE WEDIGE</u>	<u>CAYLA KALDENBERGER</u> <u>TOM BAILEY</u>	<u>SHARON JABS</u> <u>RUTH MC LEOD</u>	<u>BILL NEIS</u> <u>JENNIVER NEIS</u>
Acolytes	<u>JOSEPH AND DANIEL STILLING</u>	<u>NICK HARVEY</u> <u>NICK BROWN</u>	<u>JENA BARR</u> <u>EMMA WEDIGE</u>	<u>ETHAN HAY</u> <u>NICK HARVEY</u>	<u>CRISPIN WALLER</u> <u>HENRY MC LEOD</u>
Childcare	<u>CAROL BURTON</u> <u>RUTH MC LEOD</u>	<u>CAROL BURTON</u> <u>RUTH MC LEOD</u>	<u>CAROL BURTON</u> <u>RUTH MC LEOD</u>	<u>CAROL BURTON</u> <u>RUTH MC LEOD</u>	<u>CAROL BURTON</u> <u>RUTH MC LEOD</u>
9:00 a.m. Sunday School Music	<u>CD</u>	<u>RAY KNUTSON</u>	<u>CD</u>	<u>RAY KNUTSON</u>	<u>CD</u>