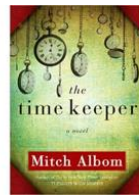
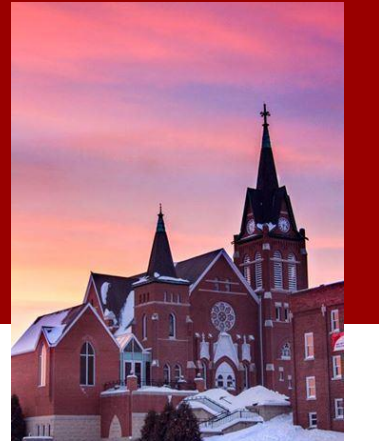




NEW GLARUS | WI

January 2022

Looking Back at 2021...



 **SWISS CHURCH**
Kilby "Express"
Take-out Dinner

Inside This Issue

Message Pat Pluss, Worship Services.....	2
Support/Prayers, Church Message Consistory, Consistory Needs You.....	3
Devotional from UCC, Joyful Hearts Mission.....	4
Thank you, Holiday Pictures.....	5
Friends&Fellowship, Feb. Book Club, Habitat Volunteers, North Stairway Closed	6
Confirmation, Consistory Members.....	7
January Calendar	8
A Thankful Heart, Wisconsin UCC, Annual Meeting	9
January Birthdays & Anniversaries, Building Fundraiser	10
Financial Summary.....	11

All Are Welcome!

SWISS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

18 5TH Ave., PO Box 97
New Glarus, WI 53574

www.swisschurch.org

Church Office: (608) 527-2119



A Message from Our Pastor, Pat Pluss ...



I love a new year because it represents a fresh start and a world of possibilities. I love my fresh clean calendar; I get to fill it with many activities and meetings of my choosing. I always start out keeping it clean and neat... I am not sure why but somewhere between the second and third week of January it starts to get messy. Appointment's change, things are cancelled, and the unexpected gets scheduled. I think it's because things can get so messy, that I yearn for that clean fresh start.

Luckily as a Christian, we don't have to wait for the calendar to change to be offered a fresh start, *Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, great is Your faithfulness!*"

Those words were spoken to people who had gone astray in a big way and they were facing the heartbreaking consequences. Despite all the messiness God offered compassion and mercy.

That is our promise each day. Each morning a fresh start, and what better place to have a fresh start than with a fresh New Year! Thanks be to God – we belong to Him, and we have this promise of a fresh start to live the life He intends for us, starting today!

Blessings,
Pastor Pat Pluss, Swiss UCC Church

The January Sermon Series, "Living the Best Version of Your Life!" Do you ever feel like life is going too fast and you are always playing catch up? Does watching the nightly news leave you unable to fall asleep? Do you feel like your home is overflowing with stuff? If you can relate to any of these questions, I hope you will join me for our January Sermon Series. What a great way to kick-off the first month of the New Year! I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Swiss Church Worship Services

In-person Worship: Every Sunday at 9:00 am. No pre-registration is required.

Online Worship: Swiss Church sermons and the Children's Moment are pre-recorded weekly and available on Facebook/Swiss Church or go to the Swiss UCC website at www.swisschurch.org to view.

Wednesday Warm-up & Weekly E-News: Each Wednesday, Pat Pluss provides a weekly "Wednesday Warm-up" to give a little mid-week boost in your faith. If you receive the Weekly E-News, you will receive the Wednesday Warm-up. If you'd like to be put on the mailing list, contact the church office Tuesday-Thursday at (608) 527-2119 or email Monica at monica@swisschurch.org

Scripture Reading and Listening

For those who want to spend quality time reading the Bible daily or maybe you want to listen to a Christian radio station go to 102.5 FM or 88.3 FM. A good website for scripture readings go to www.biblegateway.com.



Support & Prayers

The Swiss Church Prayer Team supports our church family, friends, and neighbors during difficult times. If you are experiencing illness, anxiety, grief, difficult relationships, financial issues, or are worried about other concerns, our prayer team is ready to pray for you. Information is kept confidential, unless you request it to be shared with the congregation. To begin a chain of prayers for yourself or your loved ones, **contact our prayer chain leader:** Pat Pluss at (608) 558-6063 (email pat@swisschurch.org) or Ruth Anderegg at (608) 558-0776.



Church Message

From Consistory President



Frohes Neues Jahr!

Amidst the craziness that can be the holidays, it seems delicious sweets keep our batteries charged. (I can almost hear my dietitian daughter's eyes roll). So while asking that you keep my secret safe, I admit an occasional stop at a favorite donut shop while running errands in Madison. Last week I was struck by a saying they had posted near their door – “as you wander through life, whatever your goal, keep your eye on the donut and not the hole.” As we start the new year, it reminds me it might be best to reflect with gratitude on the prior year, rather than setting unrealistic goals for the one approaching.

We are blessed to have a wonderful pastor who is genuine and inspiring. Our thanks to office staff who have taken on additional responsibilities this year. Members of our congregation have stepped up to do everything from cleaning the church, to painting, cutting down trees, organizing closets, and tending to the cemetery. All this comes during a couple of years that have left many of us tired of the insecurities in our lives. Add to that, the discussion concerning our cemetery and the future of Zwingli Haus, “incredible,” is all I can say. We at Swiss Church have certainly kept our eye on the donut but still maintain extreme gratitude for what we have and where we have been this year.

Additional thanks to Consistory who make the hard choices. Their dedication to our church home requires time, energy, and sometimes sleepless nights all the while working and tending to their jobs and families.

We have a lot to be thankful for. I can hear Rosalie telling us to turn to page 430, “count your blessing name them one by one,” and savor those sweets!

Blessings,
Bonnie Klassy

Mark your Calendar: Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 13th

Consistory Needs You in 2022

There are three openings in 2022 for new Consistory members. Your church needs you! Being on Consistory and helping with the behind the scene business of the church is fulfilling and important work that can be done by any congregational member. No experience necessary! In fact, if you've been on the Consistory before, consider volunteering again. The current Consistory members are available to help you. Consistory meets monthly. The Consistory is the governing body of the congregation and has oversight over everything we are going to do now and into the future. Follow your heart and volunteer! If you are interested, contact Bonnie Klassy by phone at (608) 558-0227 or mikbon@tds.net

Devotional from UCC

Dreaming

By Rachel Hackenberg | published on December 20, 2021

"When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream." – Psalm 126:1 (NRSV)

Am I the only person who reads Scripture and begins to hum a Broadway tune?

"We were like those who dream," pens the psalmist, and I start singing: "I dreamed a dream in times gone by, when hope was high and life worth living," in my most dramatic Fantine imitation (*Les Misérables*).

Dreams – aspirational, fantastical, and nightmarish alike – are something of a time warp experience. In a moment of dreaming, our minds trip across past, present, future, to create something new in a moment when it is intangible. A nightmare can interrupt the present with the past. A vision can give the present a hint of the future. A daydream can reimagine the present with an entirely different future.

"In the past when God restored the fortunes of Zion," describes the psalmist, "we were like those who had imagined such a future but couldn't believe it was at last their present reality." And then the psalmist prays: "Do that again, O God. Interrupt our present with future fortunes that we used to have. Speed the season between weeping and rejoicing, between planting and harvesting, so that we can reap goodness in the present to heal our past."

The psalmist's dreamy conflation of time reminds us – helpfully, thankfully – that God is not a linear God. God is not a time-bound God. A dream can heal the past. A prophesy can secure the future. A new awakening can change the present.

And who I am, how I am, is neither pre-determined by my past nor by my future nor by my present. It is still being dreamed by God.

Prayer

Miraculous God, unbound God, healing God – let me not lose hope that the past can be healed, let me not be afraid that the future is unknown, let me not believe that the present is without a harvest.



Joyful Hearts Mission

Thank you to everyone for the amazing support of our Food Pantry. We are open Wednesdays from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm and Saturdays from 8:00 am – 10:00 am.

Our mission event for the 1st quarter of 2022 (January 1 -March 31st) will be filling an "Ark" through Heifer International. If we collect \$5,000, our gift will support Heifer's entire mission. This is an opportunity to give a gift that would multiply for years. The gift of \$5,000 would buy: 2 cows, 2 oxen, 2 sheep, 2 pigs, 2 water buffalo, 2 beehives, 2 goats, 2 trios of rabbits, 2 trios of ducks, 2 trios of guinea pigs, 2 flocks of geese, 2 flocks of chicks, Community Animal Vet Kit, 2 alpacas, and 2 schools of fish!

Check it out at www.heifer.org/catalog

Please mark your donations Heifer Ark and watch in worship as our Ark is filled! Thank you for your support!!

Thank you!

During the season of Advent there were many who graciously gave their time and talent to ensure Worship Services were shared with all, musicians who gave us the wonderful melody of Christmas, decorating the church inside and out to give us and our community a festive feeling, our Christian Ed teachers who worked with our youth to make the interactive Christmas Pageant possible, and the many volunteers who helped make this a truly wonderful Christmas season!

Christmas Poinsettia During the Christmas season, several red poinsettias were purchased and donations given to the by members of Swiss Church. The poinsettias were distributed to the New Glarus Home and for church worship services in Loving Memory of loved one(s) and were printed in the December Spire. A monetary donation was received after print for the Church Campus Repair and Improvement Fund in Loving Memory of Roger Buesser, Alois & Louisa Buesser, and Frederick & June Weber by JoAnne Buesser & Family.

Other Mentions of Gratitude...

- The United Church of Christ gave thanks for the generous donation received of \$1,205 to support those impacted by the earthquake in Haiti.
- As appreciation of their support and dedication to our community, Swiss Church has given a gift of \$200 each to these service organizations: the New Glarus Fire, EMS, and Police Departments. Thank you for their commitment to our community!
- Thank you from Green Cares Food Pantry in Monticello for the donation of \$50, and
- The Green County Sheriff's Office thanked us for the stamped Christmas cards sent to inmates at the county jail. The inmates were very appreciative and felt the church was thoughtful for the gift.



Top L: Cards for Inmates. R: Cookie Walk

Bottom: L-Cookie Walk R-Children's Pageant



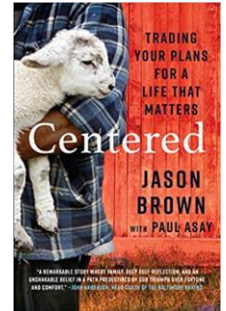
Friends and Fellowship

The next Friends and Fellowship event is planned for Wednesday, February 9th, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall at Swiss Church. Rachel Baker will be assisting Pat with the event. We would like two more people to volunteer in helping with the shopping, cooking, serving, and clean-up of the meal. Please contact either the church office at (608) 527-2119 (monica@swisschurch.org) or Pat Pluss at (608) 558-6063 (pat@swisschurch.org) if you would be willing to help.

February Book Club

This book is about NFL lineman Jason Brown who had everything in the world. He was the highest-paid center

in the game. He lived in luxury. Millions of people saw and admired him every week. Then in 2012, Jason heard a call from God that changed everything. Leaving behind an incredibly successful football career that paid millions, Jason turned toward a life he knew nothing about--farming. It was only the beginning of his journey. Through third-party mismanagement and a run of bad luck, Jason lost most of the money he'd saved from his NFL days—the same money he'd planned to use to start his new career and donate fresh produce to hungry kids. Only a miracle could save Jason's new dream. And that's exactly what happened.



The books will be available in early January, cost is \$14 a book. We will meet each Tuesday in February from 10:30 am – 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Contact Pat Pluss at pat@swisschurch.org if you would like to join us.



Habitat Needs Finishers and Laminate Floor Installers

For the remainder of 2021, the electrician, drywaller, etc. are doing their thing at the Habitat duplex being built in Monroe. The goal is to have the half of the duplex to be owned by Betsy Bond ready for occupancy by the end of February. Habitat plans to begin the finishing work the second week in January with the help of volunteers. On past builds Ken Zimmerman, or Ken and Ron Kittleson, took over at this point installing trim, cabinetry and hanging doors. This was an amazing commitment and wonderful donation to the organization. Habitat is now in need of finding others who have these skill sets. Laminate flooring will also need to be installed during January and February.

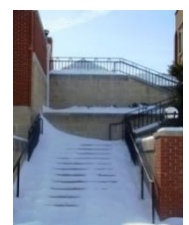
Volunteers normally work on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Volunteers can either call Carol Holmes at (608) 225-0341 or register online by going to the Habitat website at www.greencountyhabitat.org and scroll to the Volunteer site where individuals can sign up for the day(s) that they are available. The duplex is on Third Avenue in Monroe just north of the former Farm and Fleet store and the Moose Club.

It would be a great tribute to both Ken and Ron if Swiss Church can muster a crew of people with the carpentry skills to continue this work.

Submitted by Carol Holmes

North Stairway Closed

The outdoor steps leading up to the church from 4th Avenue will be CLOSED starting November 15th through April 15th. The stairwell is closed during the winter to protect the steps from damage caused by salt and to protect you from a potential injury. We ask that you do not bypass them. The church is closed for now but should it reopen we graciously ask that you adhere to this message. The entrances on the North and South side should be used when services resume.





Confirmation

Confirmation students meet with their mentors in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, January 5th from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Jaiden Sidwell will open the meeting with prayer. The Bartosch and Burton families will provide snacks for the evening.

On Wednesday, January 19th, students meet via ZOOM with Pastor Pat from 6:30 pm to 7:10 pm and with their mentors via ZOOM from 7:15 pm to – 7:30 pm.

On Sunday(s), January 2nd and 16th, students will meet briefly after church for a “Worship Discussion.” Thank you for your support!

SUNDAY SCHOOL will meet at 9:00 am on Sundays during worship. Children should sit with their parents and then go downstairs to the classrooms following Children’s Moment. Sunday school is for children 3-6th grade. Dates for Sunday School 2022: January 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27; March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3, 10, 17, 24; May 1, 8, and 15 (last day).

2021-2022 Consistory Members

Bonnie Klassy, President

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Shelly Johnson, Secretary

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juliagracesalon@yahoo.com

Diana Clark

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Amber Marty

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Kay Zimmerman

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Moving or Relocating?

If your address, phone number or email changes, please notify the office so we are up-to-date! Also, if you plan to mail something to a church member, please do not use the 2015 Swiss Church Directory because most of those addresses have changed. Call the church office and we can verify the address or give you the correct one. Lately, we’ve been receiving mail from forwarded addresses.



January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church Office Hours Monday: 12-3 pm Tuesday-Thursday: 9 am-3:00 pm Friday: Closed *SS=Sunday School						1 New Year's Day
2 9:00 am Worship Service & live-streamed Middle School Worship discussion following church.	3	4	5 6:00 pm-7 pm Confirmation in-person with mentors	6 Epiphany	7	8
9 9:00 am Worship Service & live-streamed 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS*	10	11	12 2:00 pm Glarner Lodge Church Service 6:30 pm Executive Mtg.	13	14 7:00 am Joyful Hearts Mission- ZOOM	15
16 9:00 am Worship Service & live-streamed 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS* Middle School Worship discussion following church.	17 Martin Luther King Day-Office Closed	18	19 6:30-7:30 pm Confirmation Students & Mentors-ZOOM 6:30 pm Property Committee	20	21	22
23 9:00 am Worship Service & live-streamed 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS*	24	25	26 6:30 pm Consistory Mtg.	27	28 Wedding Rehearsal 4:00 pm	29 Wedding at 1:00 pm
30 9:00 am Worship Service & live-streamed 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS* Communion	31	Swiss Church Food Pantry The Food Pantry Hours every: Wednesday, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Saturdays, 8:00 am – 10:00 am Located in Zwingli Haus, Waber Conference Room				

How will I know if Swiss Church Worship Services have been cancelled due to inclement weather? Listen to local radio stations WEKZ 1260 AM or 93.7 FM; watch Madison TV stations, channel(s) 3, 15 or 27; check your email; and check the Swiss Church Facebook page.

A THANKFUL HEART OVERFLOWS WITH *Generosity*

Here are a few different ways to give and support our ministry...

CHECK

Make a check payable to either Swiss United Church of Christ, Swiss UCC or Swiss Church. You may designate a specific fund such as General, Property, OCWM, Cemetery or a different fund on your memo line of the check.

DIRECT AUTOMATIC FROM BANK ACCOUNT

Please call the church office to complete an authorization form to authorize a monthly donation from your bank account and return to Financial Secretary with a voided check.

ONLINE

Click the GIVE button on our church website at swisschurch.org
Enter the amount you want to give, select a fund and enter your email address.
Click GIVE and enter your payment method to complete the transaction.

TEXT

Text SWISSCHURCH and the amount to 73256.
Click the link you receive in your text message response.
Select a fund, enter your email address and payment information to complete the transaction.

Thank you for your generous support of the work of our church!



Visit the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ website for Resources and Reading from COVID, Kairos Call to Action, Generosity, Justice Ministries, Programs & Education, and Events at www.wcucc.org

Visit the United Church of Christ at www.ucc.org Here are a few links to get you started from the UCC website.

The Swiss Church congregation's annual meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 13th**. Please join us for this important meeting where we'll look at finances and discuss our 2022 projects and our plans for the future. Look for more details in February Spire and Weekly E-News.



Becoming a Church Member?

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of Swiss Church, please contact the church office at (608) 527-2119 or email Pat Pluss at pat@swisschurch.org. We are always ready to welcome anyone who would like to be a part of our church family with open arms.

2022 - New Year Celebrations



January Anniversaries

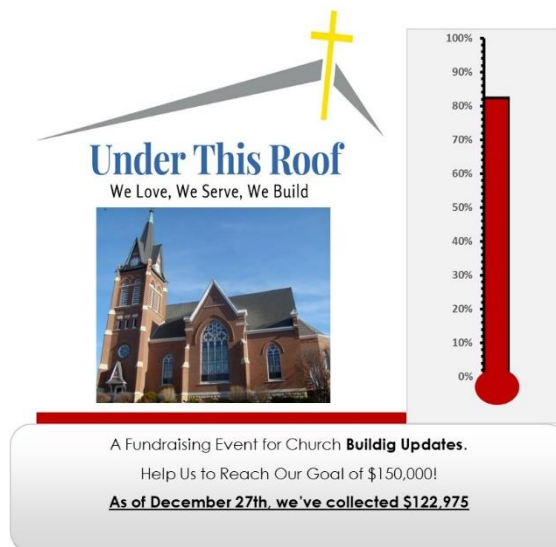
- 17 Chuck & Jane Phillipson
- 21 Bill & Jackie Hustad

January Birthdays

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Paul Zimmerman | 19 Tabatha Barnaby, Emma Martinson |
| 3 Shelly Johnson, Marilyn Tucker | Michael Schieldt, Dorene Disch Severson |
| 4 Noelle Austin, Helen Gmur, Evan Hauge | 21 Luke Burton |
| Steve Zweifel | 23 Jamie Brecklin, Josh Eichelkraut |
| 5 Gail Beal | Ben Luksys |
| 7 Hedy Anderegg, Denise Fenne | 24 Brock Lueschow, Gerry Ott |
| Bronna Lehmann, Ambia Matchett | 25 Malcolm Austin, Tara Foster, Stella Hauser |
| 8 Betty Gerber, Alaina Legler | Rosalie Huntington |
| 9 Bryce Anderson | 26 Ron Strahm, Karson Wenger |
| 11 Greyson Nevil Oppliger, Jim Legler | 27 Brett Hoesly |
| Jordan Vanden Wymelenberg | 28 Ken Fenne, Nancy Galhouse, Peggy Jeglum |
| 12 Devon Boll, Carol Rufener | Nancy Zweifel |
| 13 Linda Meier, Dwight Truttmann | 29 Linda Marquart |
| 14 Georgianna Lague | 30 Rachel Tyler |
| 15 Sherry Bergum, Don Johnson | 31 Judy Doyle, Brian Onsager, Marie Vetterli |
| 16 Tina Perkins | |



We are truly very sorry if we missed your anniversary or birthday. The information is taken from Realm. Your Birthday or Anniversary dates might not be entered in the database. Please contact the office so we are aware of your special day so we don't miss it next time.



2021 YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL SUMMARY

General Fund

	2021	2021	2020	2021	2021	2020	2021	BUDGET
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	NET	NET
	INCOME	INCOME	INCOME	EXPENSES	EXPENSES	EXPENSES	INCOME	INCOME
January	\$19,528	\$19,752	\$21,948	\$21,136	\$18,506	\$16,318	-\$1,608	\$1,246
February	\$22,954	\$21,583	\$19,701	\$21,921	\$22,609	\$24,464	\$1,033	-\$1,026
March	\$15,623	\$22,728	\$22,546	\$22,231	\$21,290	\$20,782	-\$6,609	\$1,438
April	\$19,684	\$25,753	\$23,289	\$21,630	\$20,156	\$18,121	-\$1,945	\$5,597
May	\$16,928	\$22,120	\$20,355	\$19,404	\$22,555	\$17,729	-\$2,476	-\$435
June	\$21,112	\$16,399	\$15,403	\$17,028	\$22,328	\$21,416	\$4,084	-\$5,929
July	\$19,936	\$19,433	\$17,296	\$17,041	\$18,756	\$17,258	\$2,895	\$676
August	\$22,046	\$18,536	\$16,415	\$15,651	\$20,153	\$19,009	\$6,395	-\$1,618
Sept.	\$17,861	\$15,994	\$12,597	\$16,163	\$20,032	\$17,863	\$1,698	-\$4,039
October	\$15,945	\$16,222	\$16,421	\$15,493	\$22,387	\$20,437	\$452	-\$6,166
Nov.	\$18,502	\$19,515	\$19,606	\$15,396	\$20,263	\$18,400	\$3,106	-\$748
Dec.			\$35,781			\$20,049		
YTD	\$210,119	\$218,034	\$241,358	\$203,094	\$229,035	\$231,844	\$7,025	-\$11,002

2019 BENEVOLENCE DONATIONS			OTHER FUND FINANCIAL SUMMARY			Balance as of 11/30/2021		
	OCWM	Non-OCWM	Net Income					
	Restricted	Restricted	Cemetery	Property	Endow	General		
January	\$964	\$4,508	\$1,152	-\$554		Property		\$39,108
February	\$849	\$2,065	\$2,281	\$972		Restricted		\$101,240
March	\$739	\$1,105	\$4,862	\$1,607	\$6,510	Cash Reserve		\$67,328
April	\$914	\$1,225	\$276	\$1,932		Cemetery		\$75,000
May	\$904	\$8,064	\$4,247	\$1,967		Cem. Savings		\$13,120
June	\$784	\$885	\$2,068	-\$11,519	\$3,807	Debt Obligation		\$6,831
July	\$809	\$1,130	\$1,131	\$3,392		Current Liabilities		\$0.00
August	\$829	\$3,774	-\$573	-\$9,784				\$2,036
Sept.	\$879	\$10,971	\$1,211	\$25,162	\$1,704			
October	\$674	\$12,135	\$911	\$7,189		PROPERTY FUND PROJECTS		
Nov.	\$784	\$5,624	\$795	\$12,104		Balance as of 11/30/21		\$101,240.32
Dec.						GOAL		\$150,000.00
YTD	\$9,129	\$51,485	\$18,360	\$32,466	\$12,022			
Pledge	\$10,000						2:39 PM	12/6/21

Swiss United Church of Christ

18 5th Avenue, PO Box 97
New Glarus, WI 53574

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Find us on Facebook!

www.Facebook.com/SwissChurch

Pat Pluss, Worship Leader

Email: Pat@SwissChurch.org

Phone: (608) 558-6063



Mission... Our faith leads us to affirm all persons. We celebrate and share our common communion with all, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity or national origin, physical and developmental abilities, age, educational background, economic or social status, faith background, family structure or marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

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Return Service Requested

Swiss United Church of Christ
18 5th Avenue, PO Box 97
New Glarus, WI 53574

TO:



The Spire

January 2022