

The Spire

March 2023



A Message from Our Pastor, Pat Pluss ...



Greetings,

When my son Taylor was 5 years old, he was eating breakfast one day while I was in my bedroom getting ready for work. He called out to me "Mom, where do you want to live – in Heaven or Hell?" I went out into the kitchen and said "Taylor, why of course I want to live in heaven, how about you?" He took another bite of cereal and said, "I believe I will stay where there is daily bread!" I asked him what he was talking about. He said, "You know, the prayer we always



pray – give us this "stay" our daily bread!"

I smile when I remember his thoughts. Lent is a time for Christians to take a serious look at their own lives and the choices they make. It is a time of reflection and making the changes needed to have a closer walk with Christ. It is a time of repentance and seeking God's will in our lives.

Lent is a time of choices. As Joshua said in Joshua 24:15 "*As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord*". May you choose this Lenten season to grow in your faith and draw nearer to the one whose life and resurrection we will celebrate on Easter Sunday.

During the month of March, I will be preaching a sermon series on "The Lord is my Shepherd". Each week I will have a theme discussing the power, peace, presence, and promise of our Lord!

I hope you will plan ahead to share worship with me each week, as we look into God's holy word, grow in our faith, and celebrate the greatness of our God!



Men's Community Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, March 4 will be the final Men's Community Prayer Breakfast--until the Fall, (we plan to start up again in October). We hope you will join us from 8am -9am.

A very special **"Thank you"** to the women who join together to provide, prepare, serve, and clean-up the breakfast! With the free-will offerings collected the Women's team hopes to eventually purchase new tables for the fellowship hall.

Please invite someone to join you and attend the delicious Men's Community Prayer Breakfast!

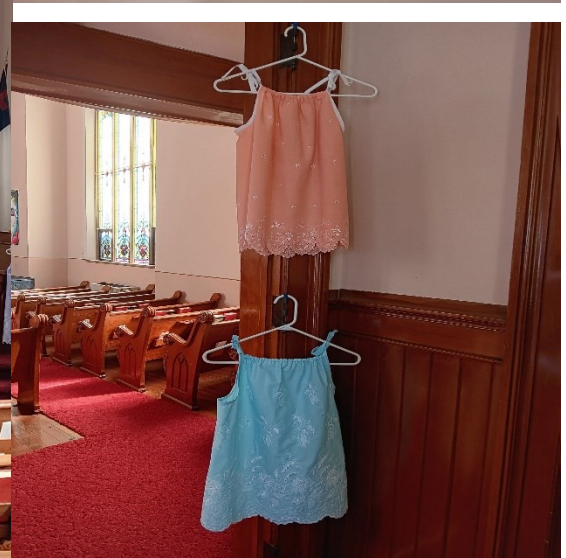
Joyful Hearts Mission Committee --



Thank you to everyone who helped with our “Dresses for Africa” project.

What a wonderful blessing to create such adorable dresses!

Forty-eight dresses were created and will be mailed off.



UPCOMING MISSION PROJECT . . .

Starting March 1st and running up until Easter Sunday we will be collecting for **Porchlight** in Madison WI. Porchlight strives to reduce homelessness in Dane County by collaborating with the community to provide shelter, affordable housing and supportive services – including Safe Haven a day shelter for adults with mental illness). We will be collecting items to be used in their “Home Baskets” given to formerly homeless folks who will be moving into stable housing. The baskets will include such items as: dish soap, sponges, mops, brooms, bleach, and other general cleaning supplies. We will collect the items near the altar area. Thank you for your support!

Food Pantry --

The Food Pantry continues to serve folks in our area. It is open every Wednesday from 5pm-6pm. We will no longer be offering grocery vouchers, but now hope to offer some fresh items such as milk, egg, butter, cheese, etc... We continue to appreciate food offerings which may be left in the shopping cart in our fellowship hall and monetary donations are always appreciated.

Thank you to those who staff our pantry!

March 1 – Nora Lea and Mark
March 8 – Pat and Dave
March 15 – Mary and Kristina

March 22 – Cheryl and Bruce
March 29 – Leah and Keith
April 5 – Rachel and Denny

SUCC “Water Walk” Day – May 20th --

Mark your calendars -- May 20 will be **Swiss UCC “Water Walk” day!** Mark your calendar! We will be working with World Vision – helping to provide clean drinking water for those in need.

❖ You can register online and will receive a T-shirt.

Here is how you register:

- Log in to: global6k.worldvision.org
- Under join the 6k select “Sign Up for 2023”
- Enter your name, email address and set up a password
- Next page Select either Adult 6k or Youth 18 and under
- Role: select join a team
- Search and select Swiss United Church of Christ
- Next page Enter all information including T-shirt size.

Please note: The fundraising goal is your individual goal. You can enter 0 or any amount you hope to raise. Making a donation on the site, is not the same as registering – if you would like a T-shirt, you need to register. However, you may also walk with us without registering on the World Vision Website.

Mark your calendar and join with us as we walk to raise funds so we may provide a well in areas needing clean water!



Confirmation

We will have class in March: **Wednesday, March 15 -6:00pm - 7:30pm.** Supper will be provided. A special thank you to Jane Martinson who has been blessing our suppers with dessert. Also thank you to Diana Clark, and Jessica Swan for overseeing January's class. It truly takes a village! Please remember students are expected to attend weekly church services.

Thank you for your support!

Coffee Hour Schedule

Barb Anderson has volunteered to create a "coffee hour" schedule of folks willing to provide refreshments following worship. The church provides coffee/creamers/juice and paper products. We ask volunteers to provide some type of refreshments along with that. Since COVID we have had a difficult time filling this schedule. It offers a wonderful time of fellowship for our church members as well as hospitality to any guests in worship!



She is looking for additional folks to add to her list. If you are willing to be a part of this schedule and offer this service once a quarter - please respond to Barb Anderson at: grammybarb@tds.net

Thank you!

thank you

From Barb Eichelkraut - To the Confirmation class - "Thanks" for the Smiles, Sweets and Cheer brought to me for Valentine's Day! Jesus Loves You and I do too!

From Ellen Beckwith - Many "Thanks" to the Confirmation class for the special treats that you delivered to me at Christmas and for Valentine's Day.

From Janet Austin - A big "Thank you" to Swiss UCC for the thoughtful gifts that were delivered by the Confirmation group this winter. Each treat was appreciated and enjoyed. Thanks to all those who made these deliveries possible. God Bless!

A Message from Our SUCC Consistory Co-Presidents . . .



Grutzi,

As I listen to the sleet hitting the window and the wind howling, I am thinking that nature has a way of making us feel small. Days before, with broadcasts predicting the worst, some of us begin to feel anxious about what may come our way. We sleep lightly. We watch updates on TV. We discuss the coming weather with others. We let our worry for others in less fortunate situations overtake rational thought.

Yet, we are not being ignored by God. He sees “every hair on our head”. He is aware of our anxieties. He is there to lead us when our troubles seem too much to bear. He is watching.

Sunday’s Annual Meeting provided us direction for our coming year. The vote to keep Zwingli Haus will require new challenges; but, at least, we are clear regarding our direction. Those that feel most passionate about keeping Zwingli can now step forward and provide the leadership our church needs to take us forward.

Nancy Galhouse and I will co-president this coming year. We are still in need of a vice-president in leadership. Shelly Johnson will become treasurer and Jessica Swan our new secretary. Our By-Laws require a minimum of 9 members on Consistory, but we would certainly entertain anyone who would like to join us.

We awaited clarification from our attorney (after the Annual meeting) concerning the following:

1. Should cemetery information be removed from our website?
2. Can individuals sell plots to each other without the church being involved?

We will do our best to keep you all updated as we move through this process. Unfortunately, it will likely move at glacier speed, and we must be patient. “God will be leading you. He will be with you, and He’ll never fail you or abandon you. So, don’t be afraid.” -Deuteronomy 31:8.

Always forward,
Bonnie and Nancy

Cemetery Update --

After consulting with our attorney two items discussed at the Annual Meeting may be clarified.

1. Information concerning the cemetery should be removed from our website. Any questions can still be addressed by office staff, however.
2. Plots/deeds can be sold and transferred by individuals. Please note: the church should be notified of any transfers to maintain accurate records.

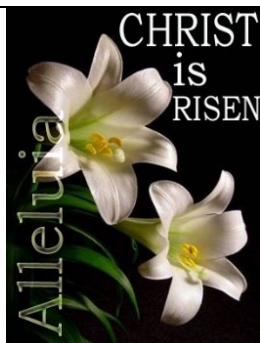
When we know, you will know. Updates will be announced in church or noted in The Spire.

Thank you,
Swiss UCC Consistory

EASTER FLOWERS

Ordering Deadline:
Tuesday, March 14th

Choose to purchase a plant in memory of a loved one, or simply just because you'd like others to enjoy them during the Easter season.

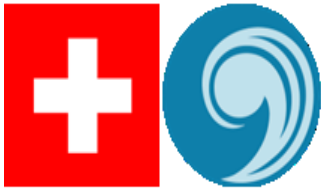


Join us in celebrating the joy of Easter by decorating the Swiss Church Sanctuary, the New Glarus Home Chapel or the Glarner Lodge with Easter Flowers.

The order form below should be completed with payment to either the church office mailbox or mail to Swiss Church at 18 5th Ave., PO Box 97, New Glarus. Extra forms will be available in the narthex at the Church.

Easter Flower Order Form

Name:		Phone or Email:	
Plant Type (check one):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Double Easter Lily - \$26 (shorter, double stem)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dutch Garden Basket - \$26		
<input type="checkbox"/> Jonquils/Daffodils - \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Potted Tulips--\$18		
Placement Preference:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Swiss Church Sanctuary			
<input type="checkbox"/> New Glarus Home Chapel			
<input type="checkbox"/> Glarner Lodge			
The reason for my donation ...			
<input type="checkbox"/> In Loving Honor of:		<input type="checkbox"/> In Loving Memory of:	
List Names Given by:			
Enclosed is a Check, payable to Swiss Church in the amount of \$ _____		Enclosed is cash in the amount of \$ _____	
Thank you!			



SWISS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

We are a family of faith committed to the teachings of Christ, to social justice, and to mission at home and abroad. We strive to be a welcoming church that includes everyone wherever they are on life's journey.

(Pg. 1 of Jan. 25, 2023 Consistory Meeting -- Approved minutes)

**Swiss UCC Consistory Meeting
January 25, 2023
Via Zoom**

(Minutes Approved at Consistory Meeting on Feb. 21, 2023)

Attending: Bonnie Klassy, Guy Nelson, Shelly Johnson, Pam Venden, Nancy Galhouse, Rachel Baker, Tim Usher

Absent: Diana Clark, Tabatha Barnaby, Pat Pluss

Meeting called to order by Bonnie Klassy at 6:36 pm following a shared holiday dinner.

Approval of Agenda

Bonnie requested the following agenda additions – alter area updates and inclusion of Pat's pastoral report. Nancy Galhouse motioned to approve the updated agenda; second by Tim Usher. Motion carried.

Approval of Last Month's Minutes

Bonnie requested a revision to the minutes regarding the reporting radon level. It should be 6 (not 8 as stated). Shelly will adjust the minutes to reflect that correction. Motion by Nancy Galhouse to approve the December 14, 2022 meeting minutes with the noted correction; second by Rachel Baker. Motion carried.

Financial Report

- Guy Nelson presented the checks for approval. As there weren't any questions, a motion to approve was made by Shelly Johnson; second by Tim Usher. Motion carried.
- The Spire Report reviewed by Guy Nelson. CY 2022 Net Income was \$36,366. General fund balance after approved checks of \$93,822 and property fund balance of \$87,468. The variation of budget to actual was minimal (1.4% for income and just 1% for expenses).
- Offerings:
 - 1/15/2023 – \$1,890 (\$1,755 General, \$135 Restricted)
 - 1/22/2023 - \$3,380 (\$2,080 General, \$1,000 Property, \$300 Restricted)
- We discussed the potential of moving a portion of our \$75,000 cash reserve into a CD so that we can earn some interest. Given our strong operating funds and the fact that we have not had to dip into our emergency fund for several years, we agreed to move some of our money around in order to earn some interest income. A motion was made by Shelly Johnson to move

\$30,000 from our general fund into the cash reserve, leaving \$63,822 in the general fund. Then we would move \$50,000 from the cash reserve account and place it into a 1-year CD, leaving \$55,000 in the cash reserve. And finally, we would change the cash reserve account to a money market account; second by Bonnie Klassy. Motion carried.

- A question was also raised regarding the cemetery accounts. Guy Nelson clarified that the money in the cemetery savings comes from the sale of plots and burial fees; whereas the money in the cemetery checking account includes any cemetery designated donations along with the interest from our perpetual fund.

Committee Reports

Property Committee:

- Balcony & Narthex Repairs: Bonnie Klassy reported that the work is underway and that we received a bid from Mitch Rindy for \$1,050 to complete the painting after repairs are completed. The group discussed and the Property Committee agrees that it makes good sense to move forward with this bid as Rindy is already onsite doing the drywall and plaster work and has the equipment needed to complete the work. We further agreed that we should advise Rindy to move forward with the same colors as current. Motion by Nancy Galhouse to approve bid; second by Tim Usher. Motion carried.
- Radon Remediation: Bonnie Klassy reported that the remediation work continues. They're moving ahead with digging a larger/deeper hole, which they hope will bring the levels down from 6 to the desired 4 or less. There are continuous monitors placed in Fellowship Hall that will continue to monitor the radon levels over the next 3-4 months.
- Sprinkler & Alarm Repairs: Bonnie Klassy reported that Best Defense (monitors and alarms) and Monona Plumbing (sprinklers) will both be onsite tomorrow to complete their work.
- Altar Area Updates: Bonnie Klassy reported that the Property Committee has selected 3 wood flooring options for consideration. They are currently laying in the altar area at the front of the church if anyone would like to take a look and share their thoughts/preferences.

Pastoral Report (Pat Pluss)

While Pat was still off on vacation, she submitted the following written pastoral report.

- A men's prayer breakfast scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 4 8am.
- Sunday, Feb. 5 following worship I plan on having the confirmation kids prepare and deliver Valentine bags to our more isolated members.
- I have a lodge service scheduled for Feb 9-10am.
- Lead Mission committee on Feb. 10 - we will be looking at 2023 missions.
- Meeting with my Conference Mentor Feb. 15 - 9am
- Confirmation Class students and mentors Feb. 15 - 6pm -7:30pm
- Annual meeting Feb. 19
- Ash Wed. Services Feb. 22 - Lodge 10am, Home 10:45 am, Swiss 7pm
- Confirmation Class leading Ash Wed supper Feb. 22
- Staff meeting Feb. 23 - 9am
- ZOOM meeting with Rachel Bauman 10:30am
- Lenten Book Club - 10am -11am

Also - please note our Swiss UCC Food Pantry is now having our guests choose their items from two large cupboards located near our entrance doors. Those using the pantry are also given a food voucher. We will continue to accept food items, as well as monetary donations. The shopping cart, used to collect donations, will be located in our Fellowship Hall. Our Ash Wednesday meal will be a fundraiser for the El Salvador student that the confirmation class sponsors and to help support the Ukrainian family in New Glarus.

Miscellaneous

- Confirmed candidates for Consistory: Jessica Swan, Ron Legler, Gary Krahenbuhl, Heidi Mondloch, and Bonnie Klassy (serving 1 additional year to help mentor new Consistory President).
- Annual Meeting details: We did not have time to address this topic due to the amount of time we spent talking with the attorney about the cemetery.
 - Outgoing recognition
 - Incoming introductions

Cemetery Discussion (Note – Nathan Russell from Russell Law Offices joined us via Zoom.)

- There was a brief introduction of attorney Russell who has been retained to assist us with the cemetery abandonment. Attorney Russell started by acknowledging that he received all of the information we provided and our list of questions, which he is prepared to discuss, but that he likely won't have answers for everything at this time. He indicated that the statutes on this topic are somewhat vague, and there is essentially no relevant case law.
- Please refer to the attached Q & A document for his responses.

2023 Budget

- Guy Nelson presented the proposed 2023 church budget. If anyone has questions or concerns, please reach out to him within the next week so he can be prepared for the upcoming Annual Meeting on 2/19/2023.

Motion to adjourn at 8:13 pm by Guy Nelson; seconded by Bonnie Klassy. Motion carried.

Swiss UCC Worship Services

In-person Worship: Every Sunday at 9:00 am. No pre-registration 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'd like to be put on the mailing list, contact the church office at (608) 527-2119. The Wednesday Warm-up and Weekly E-News will not be available the week the Spire is published (last week of the month).

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:** Pat Pluss at (608) 558-6063 (email pat@swisschurch.org) or Ruth Anderegg at (608) 558-0776



March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church Office Hours-- Monday-Thurs. 10 am – 2 pm Friday: Closed *Sunday School			Food Pantry Hours Wednesdays: 5-6 pm Located inside SUCC – Northside entrance door (across from the park)			
			1 Food Pantry – 5-6 pm	2	3	4 Men's Prayer Breakfast – 8-9 am
5 * 9:00 am- In person/online Worship SUCC * 9:15 am-10 am <u>Children's SS*</u>	6	7 <u>Book Club-</u> Bank Conference Room – 10-11 am	8 Food Pantry – 5-6 pm Joyful Hearts Mission Mtg. – ZOOM – 7:00 am	9 Glarner Lodge Service – 10 am	10	11
12 * 9:00 am- In person/online Worship SUCC * 9:15 am-10 am <u>Children's SS*</u>	13	14 Easter Flower Orders due by Noon today <u>Book Club-</u> Bank Conference Room – 10-11 am	15 Food Pantry – 5-6 pm <hr/> CONFIRMATION CLASS Students & Mentors – 6:00-7:30 pm <hr/>	16	17	18
19 * 9:00 am- In person/online Worship SUCC * 9:15 am-10 am <u>Children's SS*</u>	20	21 <u>Book Club-</u> Bank Conference Room –10-11 am	22 Food Pantry – 5-6 pm	23 Glarner Lodge Service – 10 am NG Home Service – 10:45 am	24	25
26 * 9:00 am- In person/online Worship SUCC * 9:15 am-10 am <u>Children's SS*</u>	27	28 <u>Book Club-</u> Bank Conference Room –10-11 am	29 Food Pantry – 5-6 pm	30	31	

Time Change:



SPRING FORWARD

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March, 12th

Swiss UCC Celebrations

March Anniversaries

2	Warren & Linda Baker	
17	Mark & Nora Lea Hoesly	
19	Joe & Heidi Mondloch	20 – Mike & Judy Doyle
23	Richard & Roxanne Klossner	
25	Rudy & Betty Gerber	
27	Dwight & Dianna Truttmann	
30	John & Hedy Anderegg	



March Birthdays

1	Sydney Swan, Paige Swan	19	Lucy Sidwell
5	Ryan Bright, Jack Douma	21	Jeanette Rupnow
6	Chris Kiesz, Jane Elmer, Behr Vail	23	Samantha DesMarais
7	Dale Hustad, Jessica Goldthorpe, Josh Clark	24	Michelle Barnett
8	Mary Ott	27	Jan Hoesly, Deanne Von Arx
10	Evonne Strahm	28	Dan Truttmann
11	Jerry Stein	30	Richard Yaun
12	Kate Douma	31	Cheryl Bartle
13	Anna Oelke		
14	Shirley Postler, Mary Jo Kilpatrick		
18	Erin Bartosch, Naomi Meland, Tim Usher		
18	Keith Rockett, Kelsey Zimmerman		



We are truly very sorry if we missed your anniversary or birthday. Please contact the office so we are aware of your special day, so we don't miss it next time.

Winter Weather Reminder --To determine whether Swiss UCC Church worship services and Sunday school classes are cancelled, check:

- Radio: WEKZ: AM 1260, FM 93.7, 95.5 (based out of Monroe)
- Facebook Page (Facebook.com/SwissChurch)



Moving or Relocating?

If your address, phone number or email changes, please notify the office so we are up-to-date! Call the church office and we can verify the address or give you the correct one if you are not sure.



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 new members to our church family!

AmazonSmile -- (update)

Supporting Swiss UCC while shopping on Amazon ended on February 20, 2023. After just a few months of shopping with AmazonSmile with Amazon donating 0.5% back to Swiss UCC, they have decided to wind down the program. Amazon has decided to invest and pursue other ways to make meaningful change.

Thank you for all who shopped with AmazonSmile.

2023-2024 Consistory Members

Nancy Galhouse, Co-President (608)527-2496 (h); Nlgsmile1@hotmail.com	Bonnie Klassy, Co-President (608) 558-0227 (c); mikbon@tds.net
Vice-President (Still in need of leadership at this time)	Shelly Johnson, Treasurer (608) 852-5363 (h); smjohnson.ngwi@gmail.com
Jessica Swan, Secretary (608)862-1750 (h); (608)214-1750	Rachel Baker (608) 417-9090 (h); (608) 516-1959 (c) Rachelb.baker52@gmail.com
Tabatha Barnaby (608) 527-3564 (h); (608) 513-2192 (c) juliagracesalon@yahoo.com	Ron Legler (608)214-6683 (c) ronlegler78@gmail.com
Heidi Mondloch (608)527-4855 (h); (608)443-9701 (c) hesalzma@yahoo.com	Gary Krahenbuhl (608)527-2670 (h) gkrahenb@wekz.net

**Past/Present Consistory Members:
Thank You and Welcome to our newest Members!**

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](https://www.swisschurch.org) and the amount to [73256](https://www.swisschurch.org).
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!

2023 YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL SUMMARY

General Fund

	2023	2023	2022	2023	2023	2022	2023	BUDGET
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	NET	NET
	INCOME	INCOME	INCOME	EXPENSES	EXPENSES	EXPENSES	INCOME	INCOME
January	\$14,898	\$15,105	\$17,158	\$18,404	\$18,874	\$16,147	-\$3,506	-\$3,769
February			\$22,409			\$20,326		
March			\$20,984			\$18,375		
April			\$20,708			\$17,195		
May			\$19,207			\$17,147		
June			\$13,366			\$16,018		
July			\$17,765			\$17,046		
August			\$15,623			\$17,255		
Sept.			\$20,071			\$19,279		
October			\$22,284			\$17,809		
Nov.			\$17,460			\$16,523		
Dec.			\$43,305			\$20,855		
YTD	\$14,898	\$15,105	\$250,339	\$18,404	\$18,874	\$213,973	-\$3,506	-\$3,769

BENEVOLENCE DONATIONS			OTHER FUND FINANCIAL SUMMARY			Balance as of 1/31/2023		
	OCWM	Non-OCWM	Net Income					
	Restricted	Restricted	Cemetery	Property	Endow	General		\$91,936
January	\$707	\$425	-\$649	\$1,570		Property		\$89,038
February						Restricted		\$49,580
March						Cash Reserve		\$75,000
April						Cemetery		\$13,476
May						Cem. Savings		\$10,290
June						Cem. Perpetual Care		\$57,997
July						Endowment Fund		\$619,178
August						Debt Obligation		\$0
Sept.						Current Liabilities		\$1,823
October								
Nov.								
Dec.								
YTD	\$707	\$425	-\$372	\$1,570				
Pledge							2:20 PM	2/3/23

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

Office Phone: (608) 527-2119

Website: www.swisschurch.org

Find us on Facebook!

[www.Facebook.com/SwissChurch](https://www.facebook.com/SwissChurch)

Pat Pluss, Pastor

Email: pat@swisschurch.org

Phone: (608) 558-6063

Diane Elmer, Admin/Communications

E-mail: diane@swisschurch.org

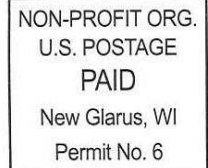
Marlis Silver, Financial Secretary

Email: marlis@swisschurch.org



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, or gender expression.

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



Return Service Requested



TO:

The Spire

March 2023