

# The Spire

April 2024



## *A Message from Our Pastor, Pat Pluss ...*

Last week, I found myself in a doctor's office waiting room while Dave was in a treatment room undergoing a procedure. As I worked on my laptop computer, completing some pending tasks, I looked up and noticed a man sitting by himself in a wheelchair across from me. He was wearing a bright pair of yellow boots! I had never seen any like them before.

He was as neat as could be, with crisp jeans, a flannel shirt, and those distinctive boots. He appeared to be well cared for. While those boots caught my eye, it was something about his serene and kind facial expression that truly captivated me. I said to myself, "he must be a Christian."



I believe the look that seemed to radiate from him, came from some sort of inner strength he processed. I badly wanted to ask him if I could photograph him for our church newsletter... while something told me he would probably say – sure, the knowledge I have of HIPAA laws and patient privacy told me perhaps I should just sit still (that and I try not to have people think I am crazy).

I want the inner peace he seemed to possess and I want you to have it as well! As 2 Peter 1:3(The Message) says: *"Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God. The best invitation we ever received!"*

I believe that God provides us with all we need for life's journey, equipping us to be individuals of character who can confront any challenge with dignity and strength. Certainly, for whatever concern that man was sitting in a wheelchair waiting to be called by medical personal, it did not appear to have shaken him. I believe it is because he knew who holds his future and his day-to-day living.

May people around you notice the joy and peace you possess, not because of anything on the outside but because of a relationship on the inside. However, if you have a snazzy pair of boots why not put them on!

I hope you will join me for worship each week as we celebrate the God who gives us everything we need!

Blessings,  
Pat Pluss



# Confirmation

Confirmation class meets for the final time with their mentors on Wednesday, April 10, 6:00pm – 7:30pm.

On Sunday, April 21, 12:00pm – 2:00pm will be a fun day at the YMCA. Students will be able to use the pool, gym, and track. It should be a fun event for everyone.

Confirmation Sunday is Sunday, May 5, 9:00am. Students being confirmed (2<sup>nd</sup> year students) will attend a confirmation rehearsal on Saturday, May 4-9:00am -10:00am. On Confirmation Sunday, communion will be served to the 2<sup>nd</sup> year students as a class, and to the entire congregation as well.

I appreciate the support of the parents, mentors, and entire congregation for these students and this program!

## **Men’s Community Breakfast**

The men’s community breakfast will meet April 6th and May 4th, 8am -9am. A delicious meal will be shared as well as a time for fellowship and a brief devotion.



The community breakfast is not served during the summer months of June, July, or August. Saturday, September 7 will be our fall kick-off.

Be sure to mark your calendars and invite someone to join you!



## **Mission Committee**

The mission committee is so grateful for the wonderful support of our Lenten Heifer project.

The amount donated to the “Heifer Bee Mission” as of April 1<sup>st</sup> was \$2,607.23. It will go to purchase beehives that will help families in need.

Thank you so much for your tremendous support!



## **Swiss UCC Supports the New Glarus Bike Rodeo**

Two children's bicycles have been purchased for the New Glarus Bike Rodeo which will be held on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.



A special thank you to Tim Usher for assembling the bikes. It is the support of our congregation that allows us to purchase items such as these bikes, to bless others.

Thank you so much!



# HOLY WEEK AT SWISS UCC –



**Thank you for celebrating “Holy Week” at Swiss UCC!**

## Message from Consistory April 2024 --

Historic Preservation is defined as “the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions, while preserving those portions or features which convey it’s historical, cultural or architectural values”.

New Glarus has a history of preserving some of its historic buildings. Some buildings have been restored, and used as the original intent; such as the New Glarus Bakery, Puempel’s Tavern, Swiss UCC, & Toffler’s Restaurant.

Some buildings have been rehabbed, and morphed into other purposes: Klassy Feed Mill, New Glarus Lumber, Ruef’s Meat Market, Zweifel Jewelry, Willi Law Office, just to name a few. Some buildings have been demolished, and replaced with new structures; the two downtown corner gas stations, implement dealer, car dealership, etc. And, like the New Glarus Hotel, and the Old Town Hall, these structures are currently in the rehab phases.

There are varying opinions about restoring historic buildings. Individuals that have Swiss roots, family that originated from New Glarus, and those that have moved to New Glarus because of the Swiss culture and traditions may feel it’s important to preserve the past for historical reasons and for future generations. Others may look at preserving historic buildings as unimportant, or a waste of money; money that could be put to another use. Opinions are just that, opinions. There isn’t a right or wrong.

The congregation of the Swiss UCC will soon be asked for input regarding the future of the Zwingli House (Haus), and its future. At last year’s annual meeting, the congregation voted to not sell the Zwingli building & land, but to retain it as part of the Swiss Church campus, and decide it’s future at a later date.

Whatever the future may be for the Zwingli House, fundraising will be part of the equation, and a solution will need to be agreed on by the Congregation.

Some options that may be considered:

### Should the Zwingli House be restored?

- What would the function of this space be (office space, Sunday School, Youth Center, Community Room, museum...)?
- What would the cost be?

### Should Zwingli House be demolished?

- What would the empty space be (green space, park like area with trees, Reflection garden with walking paths . . .)?
- Should a new structure be constructed at some point?
- What would the function of this new building be?

### What are other options that you have?

- Are you willing to share your ideas?
- Are you willing to help fund raise?
- Are you willing to work together as a congregation to determine the solution?

This may be a very emotional subject for many, so working together and respecting everyone’s opinion should be the most important decision that everyone makes.

What an exciting time to be a member of Swiss Church! Whatever the fate of Zwingli House, let us make it something great for the future generations of Swiss Church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Kiesz, Swiss Church Consistory Member

# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p align="center"><b>Church Office Hours</b>  <b>Monday-Thursday – 10 am – 2 pm</b>  <b>Friday: Closed</b></p> <p><b>*Sunday School</b></p>						
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Lodge Service 10:00am	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Men's Community Breakfast 8am-9am
<b>7</b> 9:00 am Worship Service/Live Streamed <hr/> <i>New Glarus Home Service 10:30am</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Exec.Mtg. 6:30pm – Fellowship Hall <hr/> <b>Mission Comm. ZOOM- 7am</b> <hr/> <b>*** FINAL</b> <i>Confirmation Class-6pm- 7:30pm</i>	<b>11</b> Janesville COP required Clergy meeting- 9:30am- 11:30am	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00 am Worship Service/Live Streamed 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS* <hr/> <b>Hospitality Comm. Mtg. following worship</b> <hr/> <i>4-H mtg. 7pm in Fellowship Hall</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Required Clergy meeting 9am	<b>17</b> Property Committee Meeting – 6:00 PM - Fellowship Hall	<b>18</b> <b>Staff Meeting – 11:30am</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 am Worship Service/Live Streamed 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS* <b>Worship/Music Comm. following worship</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Consistory Meeting 6:30pm – Fellowship Hall	<b>25</b> Required Clergy Mtg. – 9:30am- 11:30am	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Association Meeting 9am- 2:30pm
<b>28</b> 9:00 am Worship Service/Live Streamed 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS* <b>Communion</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

**Grief Group – 6-week session to start Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**

This free service is provided by Sue Hall, a retired chaplain and bereavement specialist.  
Sessions run weekly on Tuesday mornings from 9:30am – 11:00am at 1802 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Monroe.

Please text or call Sue at 608-206-6916 to register. This group will provide education and support to those who are grieving.

# Swiss UCC Celebrations

## April Anniversaries

- 3 Chris & Angie Rear
- 7 Butch & Chris Kiesz
- 13 Jon & Aleta Martinson
- 22 Dale & Lori Arndt
- 23 Tom Betthausser & Elaine Grenzow
- 24 Bruce & Cheryl Bartle; Tom & Nancy Marty

## April Birthdays

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Kristina Ziltner, Grace Barnaby, Lana Swenson,<br>Amy Legler, Jody Hoesly | 14 Tatem Boatman, Nora Lea Hoesly         |
| 2 Marvin Schneider, Alexis Marty, Lance Brecklin                            | 15 Harrison Hubbard                       |
| 3 Pam Hauge   | 16 Ripley Swenson, Jane Ott               |
| 4 Nicole Burton   | 17 Sandy Nelson, Lori Arndt, Wayne Duerst |
| 5 Carl Marquart, Faun Phillipson  | 18 Greg Schieldt, Beau Rockett            |
| 6 Joy Freitag   | 20 Judy Adamson                           |
| 7 Jared Martinson, Jackie Hustad  | 22 Sally Lamp                             |
| 8 Gloria Bodenmann, Ruth Kundert  | 23 Evelyn Shea                            |
| 9 Kegan French  | 24 Jack Hubbard                           |
| 11 Kent Anderson, Ashley Rockett  | 26 Mark Thompson, Barb Hodgson            |
| 12 Heidi Mondloch   | 28 H. Gregg Smith                         |
|   | 30 Duane Hustad                           |

*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.*

### Swiss UCC Worship Services

**In-person Worship:** Every Sunday at 9:00 am, and open for all of the public to attend our church services.

**Online Worship:** Swiss Church sermons and the Children's Moment are recorded weekly and available on Facebook/Swiss Church or go to the Swiss UCC website at [www.swisschurch.org](http://www.swisschurch.org) to view.

### 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](http://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:** Pat Pluss at (608) 558-6063 (email [pat@swisschurch.org](mailto:pat@swisschurch.org)) or Ruth Anderegg at (608) 558-0776.



*Prayer Requests*

*Thank you*

We would like to "Thank" everyone for all the prayers, kind words and cards since the passing of our Dad. We deeply appreciate the kindness expressed from the Swiss Church Community.

God Bless ~ Julie and Rachel Tyler and The Family of Eugene Dahlk

"Many Thanks" to Swiss UCC family for the beautiful cards, candies and especially to Pat for reaching out to me with her visits.

Many Blessings ~ Ellen Beckwith



# 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, 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](http://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!**

## 2024 Consistory Members

<p><b>Kim Bright, President</b> (608)214-1962 (c); kimrbright@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Chris Kiesz, Vice President</b> (608)214-6853 (c) ckiesz@tds.net</p>
<p><b>Jon Ziltner, Treasurer</b> (608)438-5695 jziltner@wekz.net</p>	<p><b>Rachel Baker, Recording Secretary for Consistory Meetings</b> (608)417-9090 (h); (608)516-1959(c) rachelbbaker52@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>Jessica Swan, Recording Secretary Executive Meetings</b> (608)862-1750 (h); (608)214-1750 (c) jessica_e_swan@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b>Ron Legler</b> (608)214-6683 (c) ronlegler78@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>Heidi Mondloch</b> (608)527-4855 (h); (608)443-9701 (c) hesalzma@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>Gary Krahenbuhl</b> (608)527-2670 (h) garykrahenbuhl@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>Nicole Sidwell</b> (817)913-6221 nsidwell@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Steve Rossing</b> (608)558-8765 srossing57@gmail.com</p>

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR – (IF YOU ARE 60 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER) –

April 20th is the date for the next gathering of folks looking to share some time together.

Different names for these gatherings have been thrown around—Singles, Alpine Club. Nothing quite describes what we are about. We tried several times to get single folks interested in gathering together. A few people came & enjoyed the events, but we'd like more folks to join us.

For the gathering that will be held on April 20th at 12:30 pm we are looking for **FOLKS 60 YEARS OF AGE & OLDER —SINGLES, FRIENDS, COUPLES** to gather in Fellowship Hall for a light lunch and activities. Please call the church office (608)527-2119 by no later than April 17th to make your reservation for April 20th. We hope that you are able to join us!

# **Swiss United Church of Christ**

18 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, PO Box 97  
New Glarus, WI 53574

**Office Phone:** (608) 527-2119

**Website:** [www.swisschurch.org](http://www.swisschurch.org)

**Find us on Facebook!**

[www.Facebook.com/SwissChurch](http://www.Facebook.com/SwissChurch)

**Pat Pluss, Pastor**

**Email:** [pat@swisschurch.org](mailto:pat@swisschurch.org)

**Phone:** (608) 558-6063

**Diane Elmer, Admin/Communications**

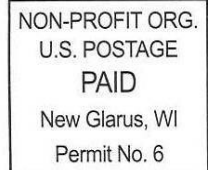
**E-mail:** [diane@swisschurch.org](mailto:diane@swisschurch.org)

**Marlis Silver, Financial Secretary**

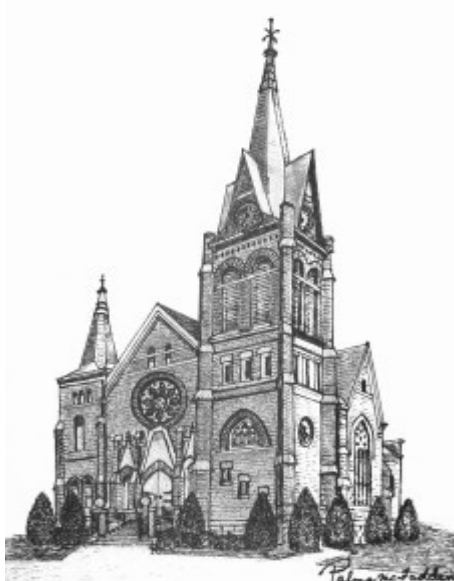
**Email:** [marlis@swisschurch.org](mailto:marlis@swisschurch.org)

*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, gender identity or gender expression.*

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



Return Service Requested



TO:

## **The Spire**

**April 2024**