

SWISS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEW GLARUS | WI

The Spire

January 2024



*A
time
to
Remember*

~ at Swiss UCC



Important Events took place in 2023 at Swiss UCC and we look forward to Many New Memories in 2024! – Thank You!



*"Thank you"
for sharing your
Time and Talents!*



A Message from Our Pastor, Pat Pluss...

At four years old Akiane whispered to her mom, “today I met God”. Her mom – Foreli, asked, “What is God?” She had been raised as an atheist in Lithuania. Akiane’s family had never talked religion, gone to church, or owned a TV. You can imagine how shocked Foreli was! Around the same time Akiane claimed to have had visits with God she began to draw. Eventually her talk of God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, combined with her amazing artistic abilities led her family to faith.

What causes you to believe? Do you see God around you? Leanna Crawford has a beautiful song called “How Can You Not”. She sings of seeing God all around us, in the beauty of the world.

Miracles are everywhere in every little thing and every little moment.

Perhaps what we all need as a new year’s resolution is a refocusing is how we see things. Are we aware of the evidence of a miracle behind all of creation?

Make 2024 a time to refocus, look closer. Sometimes saying “God is here” is the best way to snap into an awareness that God dwells not just within you but alongside you in every moment, mundane or grand.

The Bible reminds us we see God in creation, in earthly gifts, and even in trials! We read in **1st Corinthians 10:26** “*for the earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it*”.



A good start for 2024 would be a prayer to be more aware of God in every little thing and every little moment!

May your new year be blessed!

Pat

Swiss UCC Worship Services – In-person Worship: Is held every Sunday at 9:00am in the Swiss UCC church sanctuary.

Online Worship: Swiss Church sermons and the Children’s Moment are recorded live at 9am each Sunday, and available on Facebook/Swiss Church or go to the Swiss UCC website at www.swisschurch.org to view.

New Glarus Home service: The NG Home church service is held the first Sunday of each month, at 10:30am, inside the New Glarus Home Chapel. All community members are invited to attend this service monthly.

New Glarus Glarner Lodge service: This church service is held the first Thursday of each month, at 10:00am at the Glarner Lodge. This service is also open to the public.

"Pack the Church"



Thank you so much to the members of the mission committee who had worked diligently all month long for the success of "Pack the church events" -- Denny and Rachel Baker, Cheryl Bartle, Christine Craven, Nora Lea Hoesly, Nancy Marty, Mary Usher, and Kristina Ziltner.

A special "Thanks" to Bev Hoesly for shopping and preparing food for our tailgate party, Ruth Anderegg for providing cheese, Mark Hoesly, Tom Marty, and Andy Craven for filling in and doing many extra jobs, the confirmation youth, and for each person who helped out any way they could.

I appreciate leading a church of people willing to bless others with their efforts!

Pat



Confirmation

The students did a great job working at the Pancake Breakfast on Dec. 17th! Well done, your help was appreciated.

In January we will be meeting two times, both include our mentors:

- **Wednesday, January 3, 6:00pm – 7:30pm** Supper & Class Students and Mentors
- **Sunday, January 28, 1:30pm – 4:30pm** Bowling at Albany Lanes – Students and Mentors! Meet at the church at 1:30pm (south side) Car pool to Albany Lanes, bowl from 2pm – 4pm (Church provided) then car pool back to the church by 4:30pm. More info coming – a fun event for students and mentors!

Mission Committee sends out "Thank You" --

The mission committee is very grateful for the support and success of their "Pack the Church" endeavor! Each Sunday in December was supported with great fellowship. The Blessing Bazaar was also a huge success.

The committee will meet on Wednesday, January 10th to establish the mission projects for 2024.

Thank you again for your support!

Worship Committee --

The worship committee was grateful for the sharing of talent at the "Sounds of the Season" event in December. Please be thinking ahead to December 2024 – perhaps you would like to share a musical gift? It is never too early to think ahead. The committee is always looking for special music to bless our services. Please let any worship committee member or Pat know of any suggestions you might have to enhance our worship services.

The Worship committee will meet on January 21st, following the service.

Hospitality Committee --

We are establishing a new hospitality committee! Our goal is to help guests feel welcomed and experience the love of God through our friendly and authentically gracious service. We will be meeting on February 11th, following worship. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please contact Nancy Galhouse or Pat.

Consistory Updates – January 2024 -- Embracing Change

Greetings! The Consistory wishes you all a blessed Christmas and New Year!

Change is hard! It's a cliché, but it's true. We all want stability, consistency.

I have a son who is so nostalgic, we can't move the coffee pot in our kitchen without hearing about it! I understand him, I'm nostalgic too!

I remember Swiss Church and New Glarus of the 1960s and 70s when I was growing up with fond memories. If we could go back to those times I think many of us probably would. But that's not realistic. And if we persistently think that way, we very likely will begin to behave in the sour way some of us remember our parents or grandparents behaving. As hard as it may be while watching the nightly news, to be happiest we need to embrace change and be optimistic about what our future brings.

That's also true of our Church. COVID will probably forever change what church going looks like. It forced us to embrace ways to deliver church into the home in order to stay connected to our members. And guess what, it has opened the door to an entirely new group of people from across the country and across the world, who regularly watch our live stream or recorded services each week. Because we embraced technology it provided an entirely new opportunity for growing Swiss Church. We are bringing Christ's teachings to so many new people we would never have been able to reach in our "old", exclusively in-person Church.

The embrace of technology I've touched on will help us "reach out" to an unlimited potential Swiss Church congregation, but the benefits don't end there. Our Swiss Church congregation knows better than most how difficult it is to transition from a departing pastor to a successor. America is facing a pastor shortage; the number of pastors who consider leaving the profession is growing while fewer and fewer young people consider it as a career. This environment makes it more difficult than ever to find the dynamic preacher who will embrace the small rural church. The charismatic Sunday morning pastor now often gravitates to the

large metro church where they can work less and earn more. The large metro church will often have a pastor for Visitation, Christian Ed, Mission, and the several other hats that the small rural church pastor typically has to wear.

We may no longer be limited by the decreasing number of new pastors, or the even fewer pastors willing to take on the challenge of the small rural church. The same technology that helps us at Swiss Church reach out to a broader audience, may also help to "bring in" the messages from the best Pastors in the country. With fewer people pursuing careers in the ministry, using technology may be the difference between survival of a small rural church and facing closure when an outstanding pastor becomes increasingly unaffordable. Even large, wealthy metro churches use technology to serve multiple venues within their own congregation. While two side by side venues share the sermon from a pastor who is live in one of the venues, the other components of the service can be adapted to suit different audiences. One venue may be traditional while the other may be contemporary and be more likely to engage younger members. The live pastor can alternate Sundays between the venues.

The possibilities are endless, but we are only at the dreaming or visionary stage. Embracing technology will only happen if our Congregation supports it and votes for it. And many of us are already committed to maintaining the beauty of our sanctuary as we consider how technology can help Swiss Church not just survive, but grow in the decades to come. Watch for more information on the use of technology, so we can have the most robust and thoughtful Congregational discussion possible. But, also be careful. Topics like new technology in church can trigger the rumor mill. If an idea didn't come directly from the Consistory through the Spire, ignore it until another update comes in a future Spire. Thanks for your understanding and support as the Consistory simply begins the discussion of how best to help Swiss Church survive and thrive for another 175 years.

Thank you,

Kim Bright – Consistory President

2023-24 Consistory Members – Currently as of Jan. 2024

Kim Bright, President (608)214-1962 (c); kimrbright@gmail.com	Nancy Galhouse, Vice President (608)527-2496 (h); nlgsmile1@hotmail.com
Shelly Johnson, Treasurer (608)852-5363 (c); sjohnson@commongroundhealthcare.org	Rachel Baker, Recording Sec.-Consistory Mtg. (608)417-9090 (h); (608)516-1959 (c) rachelbbaker52@gmail.com
Jessica Swan, Recording Sec.-Executive Mtg. (608)862-1750 (h); (608)214-1750 (c) Jessica_e_swan@hotmail.com	Ron Legler (608)214-6683 (c) Ronlegler78@gmail.com
Tabatha Barnaby (608)527-3564 (h); (608)513-2192 (c) juliagracesalon@yahoo.com	Gary Krahenbuhl (608)527-2670 (h) garykrahenbuhl@gmail.com
Heidi Mondloch (608)527-4855 (h); (608)443-9701 (c) hosalzma@yahoo.com	Chris Kiesz (608)214-6853 (c) ckiesz@tds.net


Kilby Weekend 2023 . . .



Please Note – from the SUCC church office -- All Annual Meeting articles are due to be submitted to the SUCC church office by January 10th. All articles, except the Consistory articles – which includes the Feb. update (article) after Jan. 24th Consistory meeting and the approved Budget materials that are scheduled to be approved at the Consistory meeting. The Consistory articles for Feb. and the Annual Meeting report are due by no later than 9am on Monday, January 29th. Thank you for your patience and understanding with meeting these very tight timelines. The Annual Report will be made available to the SUCC members by Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024, for pickup in the narthex of the church.

Thank you to everyone for sharing your Time and Talents at Swiss UCC – much appreciated!

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday – 10 am –2 pm Friday: Closed *SS=Sunday School - 9:15am-10am						
	1 New Year's Day -- SUCC Office closed today	2	3 Confirmation - Supper & Class Students & Mentors 6:00- 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall	4	5	6 Men's Prayer Breakfast – 8:00am- 9am – Please invite a friend
7 9:00 am Worship Service & live-streamed 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS*	8	9	10 ***** Deadline to submit the Annual Report articles – Today- except the Consistory articles are due <u>by 9am on</u> <u>Jan. 29th</u> *****	11	12	13
14 9:00 am Worship Service & live-streamed 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS*	15 Martin Luther King Day -- SUCC Office closed today	16	17	18	19	20 Care & Share “Singles Event” at SUCC fellowship hall at 12:30pm
21 9:00 am Worship Service & live-streamed 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS*	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 am Worship Service & live- streamed Communion today 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS* Confirmation Outing– Students and Mentors– Albany Bowling Lanes – 1:30-4:30pm	29 Consistory Articles are due by 9 am for the Feb. Spire and the Finalized approved Budget Info.	30	31			

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; check your email; and check the Swiss Church Facebook page.



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.

Swiss UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes November 29, 2023

Attending: Kim Bright, Chris Kiesz, Nancy Galhouse, Heidi Mondloch, Rachel Baker, Gary Krahenbuhl, Tabatha Barnaby, Shelly Johnson

Attending via Zoom: Ron Legler, Jessica Swan

Absent: Pat Pluss

Meeting called to order by Kim Bright at 6:31; Kim Bright led us in prayer.

Approval of Agenda

With the addition of new consistory members and approving Pat Pluss's contract, Tabatha Barnaby moved to approve the agenda as modified; Chris Kiesz seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of October Minutes

Kim Bright moved to approve the October Consistory Minutes with the correction of All Saint's Day date of November 5, not December 3. Heidi Mondloch seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report by Shelly Johnson

October was essentially a break-even month for the church. While donations to the General Fund were down again for October, overall giving including all of our restricted accounts was at an all-time high for the year. We remained in the black with a YTD Net Income of \$3,812, which still puts us ahead of our budget projections for the year.

Something to keep in mind as we evaluate various fundraising campaigns and mission projects moving forward, they do generally have a negative impact on giving to the general fund as our members redirect their giving, so we need to be careful to balance the funding requests to the congregation.

Kim Bright moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Heidi Mondloch seconded. Motion carried.

Shelly Johnson moved to approve the checks as presented by Marlis Silver; Nancy Galhouse seconded. Motion carried.

Pastoral Report

- Tues. Advent study 11/28 – 12/19
- Sun. 12/3 Service at NGH
- Wed. 12/6 Confirmation Students and Mentors 6pm-7:30pm
- Thurs. 12/7 Glarner Lodge service 10am
- Thurs. 12/14 Required Clergy meeting 9:30am -11:30am

• Sun. 12/17 Confirmation students are playing bingo at NGH – they will be providing the bingo prizes as well as preparing a dessert to be shared with the residents.

- Six new members will be joining Sunday, Dec. 3
- Each Sunday in worship, along with the Mission Committee, we are working to "Pack the Church." A postcard was mailed to 250 addresses. A letter was also given out in worship that folks can use as an invitation to give to others.
- 12/3 Tailgate party
- 12/10 Sounds of the Season
- 12/17 No Rehearsal Pageant/pancake breakfast with a free will offering supporting missions
- 12/24 Christmas Eve services
- 12/31 New Year's Eve party

During the month of December, I will be delivering "Christmas Packages" to our more isolated members.

I have requested vacation days of 12, 27, 28, 29, and 31 off. Worship Committee will assist in leading the service, with Ben Bedward offering a message. Ben will also prepare a devotion to share in case an emergency arises and I am unable to lead worship. (I will be giving Ben some ideas to help both with his sermon and the "emergency devotion.") Worship Committee will also help on any day I cannot lead service. It has been suggested the Consistory lead the service on future vacation days off.

Other Business

Kim Bright moved to have money currently existing in a restricted Cookie Walk Fund, from 2019 forward, transferred to the general Christian Ed account. Rachel Baker seconded. Motion carried. Heidi Mondloch abstained.

At the request of Christine Craven who manages the All God's Children Program for Swiss Church, Kim Bright moved to approve the transfer of \$17,680 in the All God's Children restricted account to the Swiss Church All God's Children liaison in Mexico; Heidi Mondloch seconded. Motion carried.

Heidi Mondloch moved to approve the proposal from Monona Plumbing for antifreeze replacement in the church sprinkler system. Tabatha Barnaby seconded. Motion carried.

Kim Bright moved to give \$250 each to the New Glarus Police Department, New Glarus Fire Department, and New Glarus Emergency Medical Services, \$600 from the Property account and \$150 from the General Fund; Rachel Baker seconded. Motion carried.

Heidi Mondloch moved to go into closed session; Kim Bright seconded. Motion carried.

Kim Bright moved to go into open session; Heidi Mondloch seconded. Motion carried.

Shelly Johnson moved to adjourn; Kim Bright seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Care and Share Committee – “Singles Event” planned for January 20th – 12:30 pm in Swiss UCC Fellowship Hall

There is currently a committee at Swiss Church that you might not be aware of. It is Care and Share which is made up of the following folks: Ruth Anderegg, Nancy Galhouse, Melva Genschaw, Becky Hauser, Nora Lea Hoesly, and Harriet Wells.

When this group meets, they write out and send cards to church members who are celebrating a significant birthday or wedding anniversary.

While working together the group arrived at the conclusion, that Fellowship Hall is a welcoming area in the building that should be used more often.

So, “Singles Group” was created. It was decided we would offer an event in which we can gather together four times a year, where an activity and light snack would be offered. If you are single, this may be the place to enjoy some fellowship with others.

The first event was held June 8th, where 5 guests enjoyed some local

trivia and snacks. October 21st was the date for the second gathering. No one showed up!

We discussed possibly changing the name of the group. At one time, there was such a group called “Alpine Club.” Could we use that name for our gatherings? Any thoughts or suggestions from you, would be welcomed.

One more attempt is planned for Saturday, January 20th. Care and Share will offer BINGO or cards, if that suits you better; along with a chili and cheese sandwich lunch.

This will start at 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a friend or two along with you to enjoy a couple hours together on a Saturday.

Please RSVP by calling the Church office (608)527-2119 by Wednesday, Jan. 17th, 2:00 pm.

Thank you for your time, and please don't forget to mark your calendar.

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!



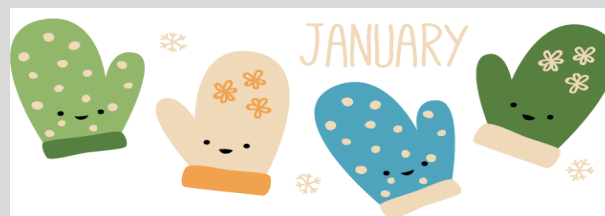
The Swiss Church congregation's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 18th, immediately following our 9am church service.

Please join us for this important meeting where we'll look at finances and discuss our 2024 projects and our plans for the future.

Look for more details in the Annual Report, which will be available to pick up (in the narthex) at the following church services: Feb. 4, Feb. 11th, and Feb. 18th. If you pick up your copy of the Annual Report before the Annual Meeting, please bring your booklet with you to the Annual Meeting on Feb. 18th.

Thank you!

2024 - New Year Celebrations



January Anniversaries

- 17 Chuck & Jane Phillipson
21 Bill & Jackie Hustad

January Birthdays

- 1 Paul Zimmerman
3 Shelly Johnson, Marilyn Tucker
4 Noelle Austin, Evan Hauge
5 Gail Beal
7 Hedy Anderegg, Denise Fenne
Bronna Lehmann, Ambria Joon-Hee
Ziemke- Matchett

- 8 Betty Gerber, Alaina Legler
9 Bryce Anderson
11 Jim Legler
12 Devon Boll, Carol Rufener
13 Linda Meier, Dwight Truttmann
14 Georgianna Lague
15 Sherry Bergum, Don Johnson
16 Tina Perkins



- 19 Tabatha Barnaby, Emma Martinson
Michael Schieldt, Dorene Disch-Severson
21 Luke Burton
23 Jamie Brecklin, Josh Eichelkraut
24 Gerry Ott



- 25 Malcolm Austin, Tara Foster, Stella Hauser
25 Rosalie Huntington
26 Karson Wenger
27 Bret Hoesly, Judy Klassy
28 Ken Fenne, Nancy Galhouse, Peggy Jeglum
29 Linda Marquart
30 Rachel Tyler, Cory Stamm
31 Judy Doyle, Marie Vetterli

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 (608)527-2119, so we are aware of your special day so we don't miss it next time.

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.



Swiss United Church of Christ

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Diane Elmer, Admin/Communications

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Find us on Facebook!

www.Facebook.com/SwissChurch

Pat Pluss, Pastor

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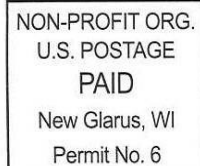
Phone: (608) 558-6063

Marlis Silver, Financial

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, gender identity or gender expression.

Swiss United Church of Christ
18 5th Avenue, PO Box 97
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Return Service Requested



TO:

The Spire
Jan. 2024