

The Spire

May 2025



A Message from Our Pastor, Pat Pluss ...

My daughter-in-law sent me this picture. My five-year-old grandson is learning a good deal about Jesus. She told me they keep his small nativity set up year-round. They had been talking about Jesus and reading books about Him. He showed his parents how he set up his Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles – a popular children's toy based on the superhero film. His turtles are protecting the infant Jesus. He knows that Jesus grew to be our Savior. He doesn't understand all the details about what that means just yet. I don't believe any of us can fully comprehend the gift we received from Jesus at Easter.



And yet, even in the innocent heart of a child, there is a glimpse of something profound. My grandson understands, in his own five-year-old way, that Jesus is someone worth protecting- worth honoring. To him, Jesus is important enough to deserve the watchful guard of his favorite heroes. Isn't that the purest form of worship?

Easter reminds us that Jesus gave everything for us. The cross wasn't the end, it is the beginning of a love story deeper and stronger than any force we may know. And while we may not fully grasp the magnitude of that sacrifice God invites us to respond like children, honestly, simply, and whole heartedly.

It is no wonder the apostle Paul writes in **Philippians 2:10** *"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth."*

May all of us, like my grandson find ways to show our love for Jesus. Whether through words, actions, songs, may we kneel, alongside turtles, if need be, before the one who conquered death and gives us life eternal!

Please join me each week in worship as we celebrate our living Savior!

Blessings,
Pat



Confirmation

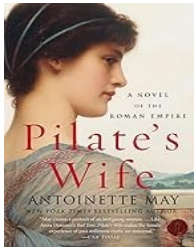
What a wonderful year it has been with our confirmation class! Our second-year students will be confirmed during the 9:00 AM service on Sunday, May 4th.

We'll hold a brief rehearsal on **Saturday, May 3rd, from 9:00 to 9:45 AM.**

Thank you all for your continued support of this meaningful program. If you have a student who would like to join the next confirmation class in the fall, please let us know.

May's Book Club!

May's book club is a historical fiction: Pilate's Wife by Antoinette May. **We will use our scripture as a lens as we read it.** I should have the books to pass out on Sunday, May 4th. Cost is \$10.00.



We will meet on Tuesdays for three weeks, from 9:30am -11am. We will meet at the church (either in fellowship hall or the narthex area-by the elevators).

Here is the schedule:

- Tuesday, May 13 - read up to and including chapter 3
- Tuesday, May 20 - read chapters 4, 5, & 6
- Tuesday, May 27 - read the book to the end

This should be a fun and interesting read.

➤ Let me (Pat) know if you would like a book!



Recognizing our Graduating Seniors – Class of 2025

Sunday, May 18th – 9 AM worship we would like our graduating seniors to come forward during worship so we might share your future plans and pray for you. Congratulations on your achievements and God's bless on your future!

Men's Community Breakfast

Saturday, May 4 will be the final breakfast until fall. The men will be preparing the breakfast this month! Eric Fink is in charge of the meal, and John Freitag will lead the discussion. All men of the community are encouraged to join us for the hour of food and fellowship! We hope you will attend this breakfast – everyone is welcome!



A Special "Thank You" to Bev Hoesly and Jane Elmer for preparing a delicious Easter breakfast for us!

Thank You



Swiss UCC – April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Church Office Hours Monday-Thursday – 10 am – 2 pm Friday: Closed</p> <p>*Sunday School</p>						
				<p>1 Glarner Lodge Service – 10am</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Men's Community Breakfast 8am-9am Confirmation Rehearsal – 9am</p>
<p>4 9:00 am Worship in person/Live Streamed</p> <hr/> <p>Confirmation Sunday and Communion</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Required Clergy meeting 9am</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Required Clergy meeting 9:30am</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 9:00 am Worship In person/Live Streamed - 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS*</p> <p>Mother's Day</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Book Club – 9:30am-11am</p>	<p>14 Mission Zoom Meeting – 7am</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 9:00 am Worship In person/Live Streamed 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS*</p> <p>Recognize Graduating Seniors in worship</p> <p><i>Worship Committee meets following worship service</i></p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Book Club – 9:30am-11am</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 9:00 am Worship Service/Live Streamed 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS*</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Book Club – 9:30am-11am</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>		

Please note – Communion for the month of May will be serviced on Sunday, May 4th

Swiss Church Celebrations – May 2025

Anniversaries -



5	Brian & Sally Jeglum	20	Ken & Denise Fenne
5	Charles & Jessica Goldthorpe	22	Ron & Amy Legler
10	Roy & Sue Kempfer	26	Mark & Kate Douma
11	Bret & Bev Hoesly	30	Melva & David Genschaw
18	Kelvin & Ann Klassy		

Birthdays –

Enjoy your Special Day – “Happy Birthday”

1	Kris Anderson, Avery Hauser, Jane Martinson	17	Lucy Pavek, Miriam Pavek, Ja’Kodey Strahm
3	Barbara Eichelkraut, Taylor Johnson	18	Jane Phillipson, Linda Smith
5	Evan Borchardt	19	Verlyn Adamson
6	Ryan Zimmerman	21	Leah Hauser, Phil Hanna
7	Ruth Anderegg, Brad Beal, Jamie Ott,	22	Rome Wieser
7	Chandler Siegenthaler	24	Melanie Hubbard, Kendra Wenger
8	Kris Kubly	26	Deb Foster-Truttman
11	Don Fjelstad, Melisa Mattmann	29	Tom Marty, Harriet Wells
12	Madeline Zuber	31	Michael Hanson
13	John Ott	31	Russell Reuter
14	Dorene Disch	31	Peggy Roth

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.

2025 Consistory Members

Kim Bright, President (608)214-1962 (c); kimrbright@gmail.com	Chris Kiesz, Vice President (608)214-6853 (c) ckiesz@tds.net
Jon Ziltner, Treasurer (608)438-5695 jonziltner@gmail.com - *Note: new email	Rachel Baker, Recording Secretary for Executive Meetings (608)417-9090 (h); (608)516-1959(c) rachelbbaker52@gmail.com
Jessica Swan, Recording Secretary Consistory Meetings (608)862-1750 (h); (608)214-1750 (c) jessica_e_swan@hotmail.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) garykrahenbuhl@gmail.com
Nicole Sidwell (817)913-6221 nsidwell@gmail.com	Steve Rossing (608)558-8765 srossing57@gmail.com

SUCC Volunteer Schedule – May 2025

The volunteer schedule below is for the month of May 2025. Please feel comfortable to schedule your own trade with another volunteer, if you are unable to volunteer on the week that you are assigned to be “greeters”. After you schedule a trade with another volunteer, please call the church office (608)527-2119, or notify Diane at diane@swisschurch.org, with the updates. Please schedule your own trade, (if need be) and then send an email – diane@swisschurch.org. Thank you!

There will be no coffee hour following our summer church services. We will once again offer “Cookies & Lemonade” again in the Narthex on your way out onto the courtyard. Please feel free to go outside onto the courtyard and sit on our beautiful benches and visit with your friends and neighbors.

The new volunteer schedule for our Greeters for the summer months (June-August) will be sent out in the next couple of weeks through our Realm application. Thank you for volunteering your time to be a SUCC Greeter – we appreciate you!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Volunteer – North Door – (facing pool)</u>	<u>Volunteer - South Door (upstairs)</u>	<u>Communion –</u>	<u>Coffee Hour – Wkly.</u>
May 4 th Confirmation Sunday & Communion	Brenda Keepers & John Mauermann	Tabatha Barnaby	Diane Elmer	Amy & Ron Legler
May 11 th Mother’s Day	Tricia, Jeff, Clara, & Connor Winden	Brenda Bright		Nancy Galhouse Jackie Hustad
May 18 th Graduating Seniors Recognition Day	Scott, Lindsay, & Myles Gruenenfelder	Kay Zimmerman		Barb Anderson & Cheryl Bartle
May 25 th <i>Last Sunday for Coffee hour in Fellowship hall until the Fall schedule</i>	Shelby & Ron Fritz	Denny & Diane Holcomb		Gloria Bodenmann, Nancy Galhouse, Shelly Johnson

Please let the Swiss UCC office (608)527-2119) know if you were not on the Volunteer Schedule from this past year and you would like to be added to the schedule – to sign up to “Greet” our guests and/or to be a host for Coffee hour. We would be very appreciative of any new members who would like to join our teams. Thank you!



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!

Swiss Church Worship Services

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

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, 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, you may **contact our prayer chain leader:** Ruth Anderegg – (608) 558-0776 or Pat Pluss – (608) 558-6063 or pat@swisschurch.org

Moving or Relocating?

If your address, phone number or email changes, please notify the office so we are up-to-date and you don't miss out on important church news! Also, if you plan to mail something to a church member, please do not use the Swiss Church Directory because some of those addresses have changed. Call the Church Office and we can help to make sure your letter is delivered to the correct address.

Swiss UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2025

Attending: Kim Bright, Chris Kiesz, Jon Ziltner, Rachel Baker, Ron Legler, Steve Rossing, Gary Krahenbuhl

Attending via Zoom: Pat Pluss

Absent: Nicole Sidwell, Heidi Mondloch, Jessica Swan

Kim Bright called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Pat Pluss led us in prayer.

Agenda

Jon Ziltner moved to approve the edited agenda; Gary Krahenbuhl seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda to approve the February minutes, Treasurer's report, and checks written was made by Kim Bright; seconded by Chris Kiesz. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report for Financial Statements ending February 28, 2025

Income for February was \$21,489 which included \$3,517 of interest from the CD redeemed. Expenses for February were \$19,308 leaving a net profit of \$2,182. Income year-to-date is \$46,627 and expenses were \$38,307 for a net profit of \$8,320 compared to 2024 profit of \$5,769 for the same time period.

The \$17,500 gift from Planned Giving to Property Fund for 2025 increased the Property Fund checking account balance to \$147,025.

Total expenses for January and February are \$38,307 compared to budgeted expenses of \$42,329, so everything is looking good so far!

Respectfully Submitted, Jon Ziltner

Jon Ziltner moved to transfer the excess cash from both the General and Property Funds to Vanguard money market accounts. Marlis Silver will be the primary person authorized to act on the account. Kim Bright, President of the Consistory, and Jon Ziltner, Treasurer of the Consistory, will also be authorized to act on the account. Steve Rossing seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Pastoral Report

- We will be moving out of the bank office 3/27
- Once we have the phone set up in the church basement - Diane and I will check it Mon-Friday for messages. The phone message will prompt callers to contact me if it is an emergency.
- Two bikes for the NG Bike rodeo will be purchased and displayed at church.
- I am taking Sunday, April 27 and Tuesday April 29 off. Rev. Mary Gafner will be preaching, and Dr. Jeff Eichelkraut will be the worship leader.
- Wed. April 2, 6pm -7:30pm Confirmation Pizza Party Students and Mentors
- Sat. April 5, 8am -9am Men's Community Breakfast
- Sunday, April 6, 10:30am Worship NGH
- Thursday, April 10, Required Clergy Meeting 9:30am-11am
- Palm Sunday, April 13
- Maundy Thursday April 17, 6pm complimentary supper, 7pm Worship -Communion
- Good Friday, April 18, 7pm Worship – Joint service with Shepherd of the Hills held at SUCC
- Easter Sunday, April 20, 7am Worship, 8am Easter Breakfast, 9am Worship, Children's Egg hunt following Worship

Old Business

- Phase 1 of the repairs to the pipes and sprinkler heads in Fellowship Hall has been completed.
- The lockbox in the bank foyer will be moved to the north side wall of the church. (Thank you, Steve Rossing)

- Kim Bright will contact Matt Streiff again regarding livestreaming the Easter service at the New Glarus Home. With good results, this practice could continue in the future, and a live service could possibly be scheduled during the week.
- Kim Bright noted that \$33,950 from the sale of the land to the Village of New Glarus has been transferred to the Property Fund, along with a gift from the realtor in the amount of the commission from the sale.
- Jon Ziltner reported the initial comments made by the architect after consistory members' meeting with him.
- The New Glarus Library Board will collect books and store them at Zwingli until the time of their annual sale.
- Kim Bright moved to form a committee to research the details involved in the remaining two options for offices, Sunday School, and storage: refurbishment of Zwingli or construction of a new building; Rachel Baker seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Rachel Baker moved to adjourn; Jon Ziltner, seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Baker

Consistory Update – May 2025

After a busy couple of months and with conclusions to reoccurring agenda items for cemetery transfer, land sale, the township building move question and the office move; this past month has been much quieter with a shorter consistory agenda. Adding, that the budget is in a good position, I can say I have not experienced the consistory agenda with so few pressing issues in my two consistory terms. Our last couple consistory meetings have been completed in our targeted time of less than an hour.

The sprinkler leak issue in the basement has been resolved for now and hopefully for the long term, so we can take this reoccurring issue off the monthly consistory agenda. After a couple of years just fixing the leaks, an effort was made to get to the source of the issue, which was caused by bacteria in the sprinkler water, causing the pipes to erode. Steps were taken to alleviate the issue causing the bacteria and in doing so, all the pipes and sprinklers in the basement were replaced. A huge thank you to all involved in resolving this issue.

Enhancing our technology for both in person and online services is an issue that makes the Consistory agenda, on occasion. Our online services have been very successful, and with technology constantly changing we can expect this

to continue to be added to the agenda, occasionally.

The future issue that will take center stage, will be the Zwingli house restoration/new build and subsequent building decisions; therefore, a committee is being formed to take the initial steps of gathering information and costs for both options.

I recently went online to do some study of historic building restoration, a subject which I had never researched until now. There are many resources available online for historic building rehab information, and I chose the Wisconsin Historical Society, as my main source. A couple of things I found interesting - The first is that those that have a connection to a particular historic building tend not to be the people that have interest in historic rehab, for that building. People that have no connection to the building tend to have more interest, if a rehab is proposed. Second, the cost of a rehab with historic preservations compared to a rehab without the historic preservations or simply refurbished to a usable state, can cost three to four times as much.

Thanks,
Gary Krahenbuhl
4/28/2025

2025 YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL SUMMARY

General Fund

	2025	2025	2024	2025	2025	2024	2025	BUDGET
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	NET	NET
	INCOME	INCOME	INCOME	EXPENSES	EXPENSES	EXPENSES	INCOME	INCOME
January	\$25,137	\$20,286	\$19,427	\$18,999	\$20,812	\$18,978	\$6,138	-\$526
February	\$21,389	\$23,759	\$25,888	\$19,308	\$21,517	\$20,567	\$2,082	\$2,242
March	\$24,394	\$24,000	\$30,268	\$18,167	\$21,156	\$18,274	\$6,228	\$2,844
April			\$15,460			\$17,664		
May			\$20,305			\$20,223		
June			\$18,039			\$17,854		
July			\$16,466			\$17,033		
August			\$14,418			\$20,908		
Sept.			\$17,756			\$19,408		
October			\$20,347			\$18,941		
Nov.			\$18,133			\$19,003		
Dec.			\$40,646			\$19,428		
YTD	\$70,921	\$68,045	\$257,153	\$56,473	\$63,485	\$228,281	\$14,448	\$4,560

BENEVOLENCE DONATIONS			OTHER FUND FINANCIAL SUMMARY			Balance as of 3/31/2025	
	OCWM	Non-OCWM	Net Income				
	Restricted	Restricted	Cemetery	Property	Endow	General	
January	\$1,127	\$5,599	-\$141,442	\$1,175	1st Qtr	Property	\$183,322
February	\$772	\$1,620	\$7	\$19,420	Income 3,419	Restricted	\$76,565
March	\$917	\$660		\$36,297	Sales 18,458	Cash Reserve	\$160,980
April						Cash Reserve CD	\$0
May						Cemetery Checking	\$0
June						Cem. Savings	\$0
July						Cem. Perpetual Care	\$0
August						Endowment Fund	\$671,276
Sept.						Debt Obligation	\$0
October						Current Liabilities	\$1,400
Nov.							
Dec.							
YTD	\$2,816	\$7,879	-\$141,435	\$56,892	-\$15,038		

Pledge	\$10,255						3:42 PM	4/7/25
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Swiss United Church of Christ

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

Pat Pluss, Pastor

Email: pat@swisschurch.org

Phone: (608) 558-6063

Diane Elmer, Admin/Communications

Email: diane@swisschurch.org

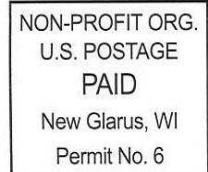
Marlis Silver, Financial

Email: marlis@swisschurch.org

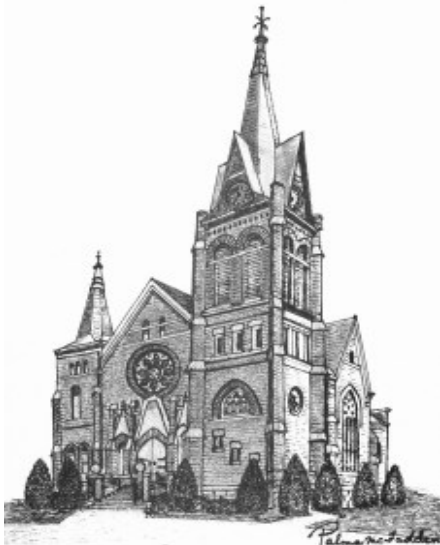
Mission...Our faith leads us to affirm all persons. We celebrate and share our common communion with all, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity or national origin, physical and developmental abilities, age, educational background, economic or social status, faith background, family structure or marital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

Swiss United Church of Christ

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



Return Service Requested



TO:

The Spire

May 2025