

# The Spire

March 2026



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

### **Practicing Faith at Home During Lent -- (Without Adding One More Thing to Your To-Do List)**

Lent often arrives with the best of intentions: this will be the year we slow down, pray more, simplify, and grow closer to God. And then real life happens. The laundry multiplies, the dog eats something questionable, and suddenly it's 9 pm and you're wondering if "scrolling aimlessly" counts as a spiritual discipline.



The good news? Practicing faith at home doesn't have to be complicated. In fact, some of the most meaningful Lenten practices are simple, doable, and fit right into the rhythms you already have. Here are a few gentle ideas to help you weave faith into your days—no perfection required.

#### **1. A Weekly Scripture to Read**

Choose one short passage each week. Read it once in the morning, once in the evening, or whenever you remember - just listen for what stands out. There are a number of sites available which will text or email you a daily scripture lesson. Or consider joining our weekly ZOOM Bible study – a great way to share scripture together.

#### **2. A Moment to Reflect**

Ask yourself one question: *What might God be nudging me toward today?* It could be patience. It could be gratitude. A good idea is to keep a journal and write down the ways you felt God leading you the day before.

#### **3. A Small Act of Kindness**

Lent is a perfect time to practice compassion in tiny, everyday ways. These small acts shape our hearts more than we realize:

- Send a quick text of encouragement
- Hold the door for someone
- Let another driver merge (yes, even that one)
- Pick up a set or two of twin sheets to share with our mission project

#### **4. A Simple Prayer Practice**

Try a one-sentence prayer throughout the day: *"Lord, guide me."* *"Give me peace."* *"Help me not say the first thing that comes to mind."* Short prayers have a way of grounding us right where we are.

#### **5. A Way to Unplug**

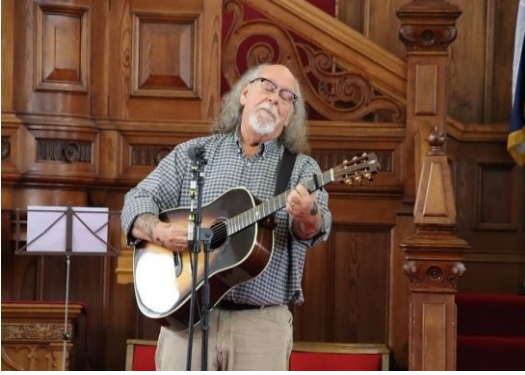
Choose one small thing to set aside for Lent—maybe not your entire phone, but perhaps the habit of checking it before you're even fully awake. Even a few minutes of quiet can open surprising space for God.

Lent isn't about achieving spiritual perfection. It's about turning our hearts, even in small ways, toward the One who walks with us. Whether you're praying with your family at the dinner table, reading Scripture between meetings, or whispering a prayer while waiting for the coffee to brew, God meets you right where you are!

I look forward to sharing worship with you as we journey through Lent.

Blessings,  
Pat

## Dan Holmes Leading Worship on Sunday, March 8!



Join us as we host Christian singer/songwriter Dan Holmes on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM worship. Dan's an "old school singer/songwriter" creating music about the presence of God in our world. His musical influences include Paul Simon, Dan Fogelberg, James Taylor and more. He has performed at over 150 churches in the US as well as touring England twice! Dan is a cancer survivor, and his message is one of hope and encouragement, sure to touch and inspire all. Please join us as we welcome Dan to New Glarus! For more information visit his website at: [www.danholmesmusic.com](http://www.danholmesmusic.com)



## Lenten Schedule

**Maundy Thursday – April 2** • 5:30 PM Sandwich Supper- build your own sandwich • 7:00 PM Service (Sanctuary) Communion served

**Good Friday – April 3** • 7:00 PM Joint Service with Shepherd of the Hills Church- held at The Shepherd of the Hills Church

**Easter Sunday – April 5** • 7:00 AM Service • 7:30 AM Breakfast • 9:00 AM Service • Children's Easter Egg Hunt following the 9:00 AM service



**NO KID SLEEPS  
ON THE FLOOR  
IN OUR TOWN!**

**Lenten Mission: Supporting  
"Sleep in Heavenly Peace"**

This Lent, our congregation is partnering with the **Madison, WI chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace**, an organization dedicated to building and delivering beds to children in our community who do not have one of their own. In 2025 alone, the Madison chapter provided **560 beds** to kids in need—a remarkable impact we are honored to support.

From now through **Easter Sunday**, we will be collecting:

- **Twin-size fitted sheet sets** (neutral colors preferred)
- **Twin-size blankets**
- **Pillows**
- **Monetary donations** to help fund bed-building materials

Bedding donations may be placed in the **altar area of the church** throughout the Lenten season.

Together, we can help ensure that every child has a warm, comfortable place to sleep. Thank you for giving generously and living out Christ's love in such a tangible way.

## **Men's Community Breakfast – Mark your calendar - March 7<sup>th</sup> – 8 AM**

This will be the final gathering for SUCC Men's Community Breakfast until the fall season. Please bring a friend. A delicious meal will be served, followed by a time of fellowship and a brief devotion. Please join us!

## Lenten Bible Study on Thursdays in March – via Zoom

Make space for spiritual renewal this Lent by joining our **Thursday lunchtime Bible study** on **March 5, 12, 19, and 26**. We'll meet **via Zoom from 12:10–12:50 p.m.**, a 40-minute pause designed to fit easily into your lunch hour.

No book is required. We'll be using ***Deep Dive* by Barry L. Davis** as our guide and following a simple, meaningful rhythm each week:

- **Read** – Engage the Scripture passage
- **Reflect** – Consider its meaning for our lives
- **Respond** – Share insights and questions
- **Request** – Close with prayer

All are welcome to this thoughtful Lenten practice. Let Pat know and she will send you the ZOOM invite. Join us!

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## Confirmation Schedule – (Confirmation Sunday – will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup> – 9 AM)

- ❖ **Wednesday, March 4 — 6:00–7:30 p.m.** Includes supper. Don't forget to bring your Bibles.
  - ❖ **Sunday, March 15 — 10:00–11:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)** - Donuts will be served. Feel free to bring your travel mug with a beverage.
  - ❖ **No Wednesday Class in April (Holy Week)**
  - ❖ **Thursday, April 2 — 5:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.**
    - **5:30 p.m.** Build-your-own sandwich supper in Fellowship Hall.
    - **7:00 p.m.** Worship in the Sanctuary.
      - **2nd-year students** will receive communion together.
      - All students are encouraged to attend, and we hope families can join as well.
  - ❖ **Sunday, April 19 — 10:00–11:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)** Donuts will be served. Travel mugs welcome.
  - ❖ **Wednesday, May 6 — 6:00–7:30 p.m. PIZZA PARTY!** (Final class of the year)
  - ❖ **Saturday, May 16 — 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Rehearsal** (For 2nd-year students only; mentors do not attend)
  - ❖ **Sunday, May 17 — 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Sunday** (2nd-year students only)
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## Committees or areas within SUCC where VOLUNTEERS are always welcomed --

- Consistory
- Care & Share
- Christian Education
- Historical
- Mission
- Planned Giving
- Property
- Worship and Music
- Hospitality and Outreach
- Church Wide Fundraising
- Greeters
- Readers
- Special Music
- Coffee Hour
- "Seasonal Flower" Pots

Please call the Swiss UCC church office (608)527-2119 for more information, regarding joining a Committee listed above.

We are always welcoming new members to join us!

**Thank you!**

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# El Salvador Update and shared photos --

Many of you had the chance to meet Oscar Rodriguez when he visited in August of 2025. Many more of you have contributed financially to Oscar's projects, which are located in the areas of Alegria and Talpetates. One of the areas of focus for Oscar's projects is helping local families grow vegetables for their own consumption or to sell at local markets to raise money for their families. He recently sent some photos so we can see the success they are having. On past trips to El Salvador, our groups have helped with the construction of greenhouses, digging water storage pits, etc.

		
<p>Families receive fertilizer to help crops grow</p>		<p>Planting seedlings</p>
		
<p>Harvesting vegetables</p>		<p>Beans, peppers, radishes</p>

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## A Letter of "Thanks" received from Premier Circle Smile Train

*Thank You*

Swiss UCC recently received a "Letter of Thanks" from PREMIER CIRCLE Smile Train (which is posted on our bulletin board) by the stairs leading to Fellowship Hall. Be sure to read the entire letter of "Thanks".

The letter expresses the gratitude of this organization (Smile Train) which has sponsored more than 2 million free cleft surgeries across 95+ countries – more than every other organization combined.

Swiss UCC sent 2 separate checks to benefit the cleft palate organization to help these young children in need of surgery. Both checks sent to Smile Train: dated 12/31/25 – amounts of \$4,348.25 and \$1,470.00. **"Thanks to everyone who supported this important Mission at Swiss UCC"!**

# More photos – Update from El Salvador

		
<p>Manually watering small plants</p>	<p>Inside greenhouse – translucent cover to protect small plants from sun</p>	<p>Surveying the plants</p>
		
<p>Oscar with peppers</p>	<p>Inside greenhouse – Swiss Church members and friends helped build this greenhouse in 2020</p>	<p>Harvesting peppers</p>

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I want to sincerely thank my Swiss Church Family and Friends for your prayers, thoughts, kind words and cards I received following my heart procedure in January.

I feel truly blessed having your support and prayers.

Thank you! – Peg Roth

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Dear Swiss Church-

Thank You to Swiss Church and Carter Stamm for delivering a Valentine's Day treat bag! That was very thoughtful!

God Bless,  
Naomi Meland



Confirmation students & friends make treat bags!

## Consistory Article – from Rachel Baker

Most of my research for this article came from the Barna Group which is a well-known American research firm that provides data-driven insights on faith, culture, leadership, and generational trends, primarily serving Christian churches, non-profits, and businesses with studies and resources to understand societal shifts.

Youth church attendance has long been a concern for Protestant congregations in the United States, with decades of declining trends among younger generations. However, recent data points to a notable shift, particularly among **Gen Z**, 14-29 years of age, and **Millennials**, 30-45. According to Barna Group's 2025 State of the Church research, younger adults are now driving a resurgence in church attendance, marking a historic reversal. This uptick is especially pronounced among young men.

Gen Z and Millennials often exhibit high levels of spiritual curiosity. Many are searching for meaning, purpose, and belonging in an uncertain world. Barna reports rising commitments to Jesus, increased Bible reading, and openness to faith among these groups. Young people show interest in studying Jesus, with nearly half of U.S. Gen Z saying they'd attend church if invited. Younger returnees seek real faith experiences, community, and answers to big questions.

Protestant leaders and congregants have a timely opportunity to build on this momentum. Here are practical strategies drawn from ministry experts and successful practices:

- **Foster authentic community and intergenerational connections** — Young adults crave genuine relationships

across generations. Create spaces where they feel seen and valued, not just utilized for church tasks. Mentorship programs pairing younger people with mature believers can build lasting ties.

- **Emphasize mission and service opportunities** — Gen Z and Millennials are mission-minded. Offer hands-on service projects, local outreach, or global initiatives that align with their desire for impact and purpose.
- **Develop targeted young adult ministries** — Establish dedicated groups for college students or young professionals, led by dedicated staff or volunteers. Include events focused on their life stage, such as career discussions integrated with faith.
- **Make worship and programs relevant and experiential** — Incorporate meaningful roles for youth in services, use modern elements like technology or contemporary music, and address real-life issues (mental health, identity, justice) through biblical teaching.
- **Leverage digital and invitation-based outreach** — Use social media to share the church's vision and invite peers. Encourage current attendees to personally invite friends—many young people say they'd come if asked.
- **Seek feedback and innovate regularly** — Ask young adults directly what would help them grow in faith. Introduce fresh elements monthly to combat stagnation, while maintaining core discipleship.
- **Create welcoming environments** — Focus on hospitality, especially for newcomers, and reduce barriers with online services for those hesitant to return in person.

If anyone has any ideas of how to attract younger people, please contact me (Rachel Baker) and I'd be happy to work with you and our Mission Committee to help grow Swiss Church.

## SUCC Volunteer Schedule – March – May 2026

Please go ahead to schedule your own trade with another volunteer, if you have a conflict with the schedule below. After you schedule a trade, please call the church office (608)527-2119, or notify Diane at [diane@swisschurch.org](mailto:diane@swisschurch.org) with the updates.




<b>Date</b> March-May 2026	<b>Volunteer – North Door –</b> <b>(facing pool)</b>	<b>Volunteer - South</b> <b>Door (upstairs)</b>	<b>Communion –</b> <b>(Served the 1<sup>st</sup></b> <b>Sunday of the</b> <b>month</b>	<b>Coffee Hour Fellowship</b> <b>To be held in Fellowship Hall</b> <b>immediately following the</b> <b>church service</b>
<b>March 1 -Communion</b>	Terry & Peg Roth	Roy & Sue Kempfer	Diane Elmer	Diane & Jim Elmer
<b>March 8</b>	Greg & Melanie, & Finley Hubbard	Madeline Zuber		Barb Anderson & Cheryl Bartle
<b>March 15</b>	Scott, Lindsey, & Myles Gruenenfelder	Dale Hustad		Diane & Denny Holcomb
<b>March 22</b>	Sandy & Guy Nelson	Barb Anderson		Sandy & Guy Nelson
<b>March 29</b>	Eric, Jesse, & Tyler Fink	Brenda Bright		Nancy & Tom Marty
<b>April 2 – Maundy</b> <b>Thursday-Communion</b>	_____	_____	Deb Kundert	_____
<b>April 3 – Good Friday-</b> <b>Joint service to be</b> <b>held AT Shepherd of</b> <b>the Hills Church 7:00</b> <b>pm</b>	_____	_____		_____
<b>April 5 –Easter Sunday</b> <b>7:00 am Service.</b> <b>Breakfast - 7:30am</b> <b>9:00 am Service</b>	Bob, Tara, Dane, Wade, & Hazel Schmitz	Brenda Keepers John Mauermann		<b>No coffee hour</b>
<b>April 12</b>	Cory & Kim, Avery, Carter, & Brycen Stamm	Tabatha Barnaby		Nora Lea & Mark Hoesly
<b>April 19</b>	Heinz & Charleen Mattmann	Bonnie Klassy Diana Lehnherr		Tabatha Barnaby and Brenda Bright
<b>April 26</b>	Kali & Kyle, & Preston Montgomery	Peggy Hartman		Judy & Jon Ziltner
<b>May 3</b> <b>Communion</b>	Tricia, Jeff, Clara, & Connor Winden	Kay Zimmerman	Rilla & Kegan French	Amy & Ron Legler
<b>May 10 -</b> <b>Mother's Day</b>	Tom & Nancy Marty	Rachel & Denny Baker		Rachel & Denny Baker Diane & Larry Powers
<b>May 17</b> <b>CONFIRMATION</b>	Denny & Diane Holcomb	Barb Bright Dean Stamm		Rilla & Kegan French Shelly Johnson
<b>May 24</b>	Shelby & Ron Fritz	Bill & Jackie Hustad		Gloria Bodenmann Nancy Galhouse
<b>May 31</b>	Nicole & Nate, Lucy & Jack Sidwell	Nancy Galhouse		Diane & Jim Elmer

Note: If you are scheduled with another SUCC member on this coffee hour rotation – please contact them ahead, to discuss your plan to host.

**Reminder – The Church provides coffee and water for coffee hour. If you choose to provide any other beverage (such as juice) the coffee hour host will need to be responsible for making this purchase and paying for the cost.** Also – If you know of someone new who would like to join our coffee hour team, please contact Diane Elmer in the SUCC church office – 608-527-2119 or email – [diane@swisschurch.org](mailto:diane@swisschurch.org) – Thank you!

**Thank you to All Volunteers – we appreciate you sharing your time and talents**

# March 2026 – Swiss UCC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>If you need to reach the SUCC Office Staff: please call (608)527-2119 and leave a message – we will return your phone call, as soon as possible.</b></p>			<p><b>Time Change:</b>  <b>SPRING FORWARD --</b>                       Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – 2 AM</p>			
<p><b>*Sunday School</b></p>						
<p><b>1</b>                      * 9:00 am- In person/online Worship SUCC                      * 9:15 am-10 am <b>Children's SS*</b>  <b>COMMUNION</b></p>			<p><b>4</b>  <b>CONFIRMATION</b>                      6:00-7:30 PM                      Meal included –                      Don't forget your Bibles</p>	<p><b>5</b>  <b>LODGE SERVICE</b>                      10 AM                      BIBLE Study  <b>ZOOM –</b>                      12:10-12:50 PM</p>		<p><b>7</b>  <b>Men's Community Prayer Breakfast</b>                      8 AM in Fellowship Hall</p>
<p><b>8</b> Daylight Saving time begins- at 2am                      * 9:00 am- In person/online Worship SUCC                      * 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS*  <b>Dan Holmes leading worship</b></p>				<p><b>12</b>                      BIBLE Study  <b>ZOOM –</b>                      12:10-12:50 PM</p>		
<p><b>15</b>                      * 9:00 am- In person/online Worship SUCC                      * 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS*  <b>CONFIRMATION –</b>                      10-11 AM in Sanctuary</p>				<p><b>19</b>                      BIBLE Study  <b>ZOOM –</b> 12:10-12:50 PM</p>		
<p><b>22</b> * 9:00 am- In person/online Worship SUCC                      * 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS*</p>				<p><b>26</b>                      BIBLE Study  <b>ZOOM –</b> 12:10-12:50 PM</p>		
<p><b>29</b> * 9:00 am- In person/online Worship SUCC                      * 9:15 am-10 am Children's SS*</p>						

**Swiss UCC – Receipt received: From GREEN CARES Food Pantry – Date: 12/31/2025  
 Amount Donated – \$35.00. Thank You for your donation to GREEN CARES!**

# Swiss UCC Celebrations

## March Anniversaries

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

## March Birthdays

1	Sydney Swan, Paige Swan	18	Keith Rockett, Kelsey Zimmerman
4	Harveda Knobel	18	Erin Bartosch, Naomi Meland, Tim Usher
5	Ryan Bright, Jack Douma	19	Lucy Sidwell
6	Chris Kiesz, Jane Elmer, Behr Vail	23	Samantha DesMarais
7	Dale Hustad, Jessica Goldthorpe, Josh Clark	24	Riggs Johnson
8	Mary Ott	27	Jan Hoesly
10	Steven Rossing	28	Dan Truttman
12	Kate Douma	30	Richard Yaun
13	Anna Oelke	31	Cheryl Bartle
14	Shirley Postler, Mary Jo Kilpatrick		

*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

### United Church of Christ - Ways to Give



#### In Person

Whether it's cash or check, we appreciate your kindness. Please place your donations in an offering envelope and drop them in the offering box at the back of church.



#### Online

Visit [www.swisschurch.org](http://www.swisschurch.org) and click the "Give" button to set up a one-time donation or to make a recurring payment.



#### QR CODE

Scan the QR code to visit our online giving page. Open your camera app and point it for 2 -3 seconds towards the QR code. Tap the notification to open the link.



#### Text

Text SWISSCHURCH to 73256 to set up a one-time or recurring donation. Make sure to have your payment information on hand.

**Thank you!**

## Swiss UCC Consistory Minutes December 10, 2025

**Present via Zoom:** Kim Bright, Pat Pluss, Chris Kiesz, Heidi Mondloch, Jon Ziltner, Jessica Swan, Rachel Baker, Nicole Sidwell, and Ron Legler, Jessie Fink joined from the Zwingli Committee

**Absent:** Gary Krahenbuhl, Steve Rossing

1. Call to order by Kim Bright at 6:30 PM.
2. Opening prayer was led by Pastor Pat Pluss
3. Approve agenda- Kim Bright moved to approve the edited agenda, seconded by Heidi Mondloch with additions for brief question by Jessica Swan and information provided by Chris Kiesz regard the transition to a new website provider.
4. Zwingli Committee Updates: Jessie Fink from the Zwingli Committee provided an update on the options that the committee is considering. Jessie Fink noted that there may be accessibility challenges with the current Zwingli building due to the different levels of the building. Consideration of a new building on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave or where Zwingli currently sits are being discussed. The committee has reviewed the master plan from 2001 that was completed as part of the study when the addition was added to the church. Jessie Fink mentioned the possibility of adding onto the current building using the elevator that is currently in the building. Rough blueprints were provided via share screen that provided a visual of where an additional expansion could be added, including a closer entrance to the street. It could be a one story or two story option that would include Sunday School and a nursery. An architect would need to be engaged to review codes and draw plans. The area that is currently being looked at is 1800 square feet. The last survey of the church property was completed in Sept 1989. The committee will need to talk with the village to understand where the property lines are. The committee feels that we can likely use the existing water and electric if we add onto the existing building. There is likely not need for a basement, which saves costs of excavation. Four possible options will be contemplated in regards to the Zwingli House. Chris Kiesz stated that a new survey of the church property would be helpful given the change in property lines and the possible need for a new driveway. Chris Kiesz made a motion to approve the costs of a survey of all Swiss UCC property in the amount of \$8,900.00. Heidi Mondloch seconded the motion, all voted to approve. This funding will come from the Property Committee budget.
5. Review and approve CONSENT agenda
  - a. Approval last month's minutes, Kim Bright moved to approve last month's minutes as edited, Rachel Baker seconded, all voted in favor.
  - b. Treasurer's report- Income is more than expected and expenses are lower than expected. OCWM pledge will be met. Rachel Baker moved to approve the treasurer's report, Chris Kiesz seconded, all voted in favor. Please see full report below:

### *Treasurer's Report for Financial Statements ending November 30, 2025*

Income for November was \$25,791 and expenses were \$21,785 for a net income of \$4,006. Year to date income is \$239,221 with expenses of \$204,993 leaving a YTD net income of \$34,228. Income for the year is \$22,817 over budget and expenses are \$16,433 under budget. Operating Reserve is \$214,292 and Property Reserve is \$140,975. OCWM is only \$228 short of reaching our 2025 goal of \$10,255. With one month left in 2025, Swiss Church should finish the year in a very positive financial position and ready to take on some of the challenges facing Swiss Church in 2026.

Respectfully Submitted, Jon Ziltner

- c. Approved checks- Kim inquired about Chamber Bucks purchase. Jon mentioned that the Rhyme bill is higher this month due to a pre-payment fixed fee plan to reduce the cost next year. We will start paying quarterly next year rather than monthly. The first invoice to Fusion Fly for church website services was received. Kim Bright motioned to approve the checks, Rachel Baker seconded, all voted in favor.

6. Spire article reminder- a new schedule will be developed.
7. Pastor's report submitted by Pastor Pat Pluss

### Jan 2026

· Our 2-fold (Smile Train & Keep WI Warm/Cool) Mission project is going very well.

- I have my 3<sup>rd</sup> funeral this month on Friday and a baptism on Dec. 21.
- I am meeting with the Ministry Team hopefully this week.
- Plans to make a holiday snack to deliver to our isolated folks with the help of Madeline Zuber.
- January has 2 Confirmation classes are scheduled, a service at the Lodge and NGH, a meeting with my Mentor, and a ZOOM mission committee meeting
- A weekly Bible study will be held on Wednesdays in January from 9:30am – 11am. Workbooks have been provided by Planned Giving. So far 14 participants have signed up.
- Men's community breakfast planned for 1/3
- I have Sunday, Dec. 28 off – with Rev. Ted Drewsen, Preaching

8. Consistory will provide an update to the congregation on December 28- Chris Kiesz will do this. Jon and Judy Ziltner will assist with leading the service on that day in Pat's absence.

#### 9. Property Committee report

a) Ahern/pipe update- no new information provided about the system that will be needed to eliminate the bacteria. Property will start pricing out options to put in a dry system that would reduce the bacteria, or a regular system with nitrogen to reduce the costs of partial fixes. Addressing the anti-freeze problem will only address a portion of the problem.

b) Acoustic tile cost for the fellowship hall is being looked into. This will help to reduce background noise and echoing that is occurring.

#### Old Business

10. Additional youth feedback on church performance- tabled until 2026. Jessica Swan, Heidi Mondloch and Nicole Sidwell will schedule a youth activity for teens and Sunday School/Confirmation alumni.

11. Sanctuary screen update- Kim Bright has no further updates at this time.

12. Consistory recruitment update-Rachel Baker, Steve Rossing, and Nicole Sidwell have one year left. Chris Kiesz, Jessica Swan and Heidi Mondloch will serve two more years. Three people are required to be recruited for a three-year term.

13. Chris Kiesz provided an update on transition to Fusion Fly and reported that they provided information to Kay Zimmerman (who volunteered to be trained on how to run the website) and Diane Elmer about the website development.

#### New Business

14. 2026 Budgets- Jon Ziltner made mention that there is still not information about the property insurance and an estimate is on the line item. The LPL account will remain for the next 6 months, with 3.5% interest. Pledges were reviewed and salary adjustments were reviewed with a 3% increase. Electric, sewer and water bills are currently nearly \$1,000/mo. Extra money was provided to the utility budget in case AC is added to the church. No other questions or concerns about the general fund were voiced. Reviewed property and planned giving budgets. No vote required at this time.

15. Cookie and Kilby net income were discussed. The 2024 Kilby money will be dedicated to purchase of screens for the sanctuary. Heidi Mondloch asked if the 2025 cookie money be provided to the Art Camp and for the Advent window hot cocoa and supplies. Planned Giving will be providing \$500 for this year's Art Camp.

16. Kim Bright proposed making funds available for a youth activity involving Sunday School and Confirmation. There is already money budgeted.

17. Jessica Swan made note of possible changes to laws regarding dual citizenship that may impact some in the congregation who retain Swiss citizenship.

18. Annual Meeting is set for after church on Sunday, February 15, 2026.

19. Move to adjourn, Chris Kiesz moved to adjourn at 7:36 PM, Rachel Baker seconded, all voted in favor.

#### **Please add this into the Spire as an addendum to the December minutes – (per Jessica Swan – Secretary)**

On December 15, 2025, Kim Bright moved that \$18,799 be removed from the All God's Children restricted account, and \$3,079 be removed from the El Salvador restricted account so it can be wired to El Salvador; Rachel Baker seconded. Motion carried via online vote.

Submitted by – Jessica Swan, Consistory Recording Secretary

*Thank You*

The Swiss UCC History Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in our 1st Annual Trivia Night fundraiser. Area organizations receiving proceeds from the event have expressed their gratitude for the donated money. We raised just over \$1,200! Thank you to everyone who made the event a huge success!

Bonnie, Barb, Amy, Ron, and Amber



**SUCC TRIVIA NIGHT** was a time for friendship, laughter and historical trivia - FUN times!



## 2026 Consistory Members (as of Feb. 25, 2026)

<b>Chris Kiesz, President</b> (608)214-6853 (c) <a href="mailto:ckiesz@tds.net">ckiesz@tds.net</a>	<b>Jessica Swan, Vice President</b> (608)862-1750 (h); (608)214-1750(c) <a href="mailto:jessica_e_swan@hotmail.com">jessica_e_swan@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Jon Ziltner, Treasurer</b> (608)438-5695 <a href="mailto:jjiltner@wekz.net">jjiltner@wekz.net</a>	<b>Rachel Baker, Secretary</b> (608)417-9090 (h); (608)516-1959(c) <a href="mailto:rachelbbaker52@gmail.com">rachelbbaker52@gmail.com</a>
<b>Nicole Sidwell</b> (817)913-6221 <a href="mailto:nsidwell@gmail.com">nsidwell@gmail.com</a>	<b>Heidi Mondloch</b> (608)527-4855 (h); (608)443-9701 (c) <a href="mailto:hesalzma@yahoo.com">hesalzma@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Nora Lea Hoesly</b> (608)469-6056 <a href="mailto:nlhoesly@icloud.com">nlhoesly@icloud.com</a>	<b>Steve Rossing</b> (608)558-8765 <a href="mailto:srossing57@gmail.com">srossing57@gmail.com</a>
<b>Bonnie Klassy</b> (608)558-0227 (c) <a href="mailto:mikbon@tds.net">mikbon@tds.net</a>	<b>Diane Powers</b> (608)212-1348 (c) <a href="mailto:evergreen@mhtc.net">evergreen@mhtc.net</a>

### **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](mailto:pat@swisschurch.org)) or Ruth Anderegg at (608) 558-0776.

### **Swiss UCC Medical Mart -- Equipment being Used --**

Swiss Church continues to collect and distribute new and gently used medical equipment. Items such as wheelchairs, canes, walkers, shower aids, etc. are accepted and loaned out. Thank you for your support and if you have a need, be sure to contact the SUCC church office – (608)527-2119 or Tom and Nancy Marty.

### **Memorials received recently at Swiss UCC**

- **In memory of Lila Saunders, memorials designated to the Property Fund.**

THE GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE THIS YEAR IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT THE SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS CHURCH ON FRIDAY, APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup> – 7 PM.

THE SHEPHERD CHURCH HAS INVITED ANYONE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHOIR FOR THAT SERVICE – TO ATTEND THE CHOIR PRACTICES SCHEDULED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES: SUNDAY, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup> – 6 PM AND SUNDAY, MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>– 6 PM AT SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS.

Ordering Deadline:  
**Monday, March 16th**

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, or the New Glarus Home Chapel with Easter Flowers.

The order form below should be completed with payment to either the church office mailbox or call the church office (608)527-2119 and leave a message and Diane Elmer will return your call by March 13, 2026. Extra forms will be available in the church narthex, also.

***Easter Flower Order Form or Donation in Memory of a loved one***

Name:	Phone or Email:
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Single Easter Lily - \$22	Double Easter Lily \$26 (shorter, double stem)
Hydrangea \$30 (6.5" pot)	Hyacinth \$18 (6" pot)
Tulips potted \$18 (6" pot)	Rieger Begonia \$20 (6" pot)
Jonquils/Daffodils \$20 (6" pot)	Dutch Garden in basket \$26 (6" pot with assorted bulbs)

Placement Preference:

<input type="checkbox"/> Swiss Church Sanctuary
<input type="checkbox"/> New Glarus Home Chapel

The reason for my donation ...

In Loving Honor of:	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 \$ _____
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*Thank you!*

# **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

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TO:

# **The Spire**

**March 2026**