

# The Spire

May 2026



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

May is a month full of milestones. We watch students step forward in Confirmation, seniors prepare to graduate, and families begin to shift into the rhythms of summer. It is a season that reminds us life is always moving, always becoming something new.

The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 1:6, *“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”* This is a powerful reminder that God is not finished with any of us yet. We are all still growing, still being shaped, still becoming who God has called us to be.

In scripture, we’re often reminded that faith is not a destination but a journey. The disciples didn’t arrive at understanding all at once. They grew, questioned, followed, and sometimes struggled. And yet, through it all, Christ remained with them. That same truth holds for us.

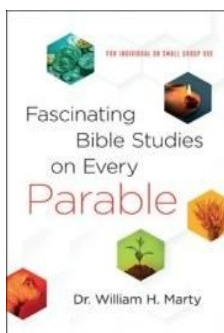
This month, as we celebrate those being confirmed and those graduating, we are witnessing something sacred—not perfection, but growth. Not completion, but continuation. Each student is taking a next step, just as each of us is called to do in our own lives of faith.

As a church, we have the privilege and responsibility to walk alongside them. A kind word, a note of encouragement, a simple “we’re praying for you” can mean more than we realize. These moments of recognition are not just ceremonies—they are reminders that none of us walks this journey alone.

May also invites each of us to reflect: Where is God calling me to grow? What is my next step? Whether it’s deepening prayer, reconnecting with worship, or reaching out in service, this is a season to move forward in faith.

I look forward to sharing worship with you, as we enter into the fullness of spring. May we be reminded that God is always at work – bringing new life, new beginnings, and new possibilities!

Blessings,  
Pat



### **Book Club**

We are offering a Wednesday morning book club featuring the book Fascinating Bible Studies on Every Parable by Dr. William H. Marty.

The class will meet 9:30 AM-11 AM for the months of May and June, starting on May 6<sup>th</sup> through June 24<sup>th</sup>.

The book is provided by the church! Each week someone from the group will be invited to choose a parable they would like to discuss and lead the class. If you would like a book - let Pat know!



# Confirmation

Our final Confirmation class for of the school year will be held on Wednesday, May 6, from 6 – 7:30 PM. The church will be providing a pizza supper.

**Confirmation Sunday, is scheduled for Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.** We have two students being confirmed - please be sure to greet them in fellowship hall following worship, where a cake reception will be held in their honor.

It has been a meaningful year for everyone involved with the class, a special thank you to the parents, and mentors for your support!



## Recognizing our Graduating Seniors

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> will also be a day of recognizing our graduating high school seniors!** Their busy schedules didn't allow a separate Sunday, but we are grateful to honor both our confirmation students and our seniors as they mark these important milestones in their journeys! Our June Spire will share the future plans of graduates.



A Special  
**Thank You**



to Bev Hoesly  
and Jane Elmer -- for once again

preparing a delicious Easter breakfast for us!

## Hospitality and Outreach Committee

The Hospitality Committee has been working on improvements to the south entrance. They are hopeful that **Buehler Interiors of Monroe** will soon begin work to enhance the appearance of the space and ensure that the area is safe and welcoming.

The committee will also be scheduling several **“Friends and Fellowship”** events for the summer.

Watch for more details, and plan to join us for these fun opportunities to gather and connect.

**“THANK YOU” for your faithful support of the Important MISSION work at Swiss Church!**



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

We were honored to welcome **Casey Klock** to worship on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. During the service, we presented him with a check for **\$1,760.50** along with a truckload of new bedding in support of **Sleep in Heavenly Peace** in the Madison area. With funds from our Mission account, the church has also supported the **New Glarus Bike Rodeo** with a gift of **\$250.00**, and **\$1,000.00** to the **New Glarus Swimming Pool Fund** to help provide lessons and pool passes for children who otherwise would not have access.

We will now hold a **monthly collection for Green Cares Food Pantry** on the **second Sunday of every month**. A consistent need (and our suggested items for donation) includes: pork and beans, vegetable soup, complete pancake mix (add only water), paper towels, and toilet paper. The grocery cart will be located near the sanctuary on the designated Sunday of each month and on the other weeks, it will be kept in Fellowship Hall.

**SUCC team works together to fill Casey Klock's truck with SHP items!**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>If you need to reach someone in the Swiss Church office, please call 608-527-2119 and leave a message and we will return your call. Thank you!</p> <p>* Sunday School</p>						
					1	2
<p><b>3</b> 9:00 am Worship In person/Live <u>Streamed</u> - 9:15 am-10 am <u>Children's SS*</u></p> <p><b>COMMUNION TODAY</b></p>	4	5	<p><b>6</b> Glarner Lodge service 10 AM Book Club – 9:30-11 am</p> <p><b>Final Confirmation Class- Students &amp; Mentors 6-7:30 PM</b></p>	7	8	9
<p><b>10</b> 9:00 am Worship In person/Live <u>Streamed</u> - 9:15 am-10 am <u>Children's SS*</u></p> <p><b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> Green Cares Food Pantry Collection <b>TODAY – It will be held on the Second Sunday of each Month from this point forward</b></p>	11	12	<p><b>13</b> ZOOM Mission Committee 7 AM</p> <p>Book Club – 9:30-11 am</p>	14	15	<p><b>16</b> Confirmation Rehearsal 9 AM</p>
<p><b>17</b> 9:00 am Worship In person/Live <u>Streamed</u> - 9:15 am-10 am <u>Children's SS*</u></p> <p><b>CONFIRMATION TODAY</b> Recognize Graduating Seniors in worship today</p>	18	19	<p><b>20</b> Book Club – 9:30-11 am</p>	21	22	23
<p><b>24</b> 9:00 am Worship Service/Live <u>Streamed</u> - 9:15 am-10 am <u>Children's SS*</u></p>	25	26	<p><b>27</b> Book Club – 9:30-11 am</p> <p><b>Joint Executive &amp; Consistory Mtg. – 6 PM</b></p>	28	29	30

### 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](http://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](mailto:pat@swisschurch.org)

# Swiss Church Celebrations – May 2026

## 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, Bella Bright	21	Leah Hauser, Phil Hanna
7	Ruth Anderegg, Brad Beal, Jamie Ott,	22	Rome Wieser
8	Kris Kubly	24	Melanie Hubbard, Kendra Wenger
10	Huck Roth	26	Deb Foster-Truttmann
11	Don Fjelstad, Melisa Mattmann	29	Tom Marty, Harriet Wells
12	Madeline Zuber	31	Michael Hanson, Peggy Roth
13	John Ott		
14	Dorene Disch		

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.

**So sorry -- we missed an April Birthday that was celebrated by Lorelei Bright – she turned 1 year old on April 21<sup>st</sup>. We hope your Birthday was a very SPECIAL day– God Bless you little one!**

## 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!**

## Nora Lea Hoesly (from our SUCC Consistory) shares a message --

Hello Friends,

Mark & I always look forward to Spring, in fact it is our favorite season of the four.

The simple pleasures of watching the bluebirds return, waiting for the first spring bulb to bloom and knowing the asparagus & rhubarb are quick to follow.

Just as spring brings plants back to life, the Resurrection offers us a daily, constant opportunity for a “fresh start” with God.

Spring is a perfect time to invite each and every one of you to help strengthen our Swiss UCC church community. I encourage you to reach out and offer your gifts, talents, friendship and knowledge to build a stronger community.

*Community: A social unit, often defined by shared values, culture, or identity, that fosters interaction and a sense of fellowship among its members.*

There is so much that goes into building such a strong & caring community and we sure see this at Swiss Church! Our foundation is strong and our fellowship even stronger and we need to keep the momentum going.

Enjoy swinging a hammer, “Mr. Fix-it” happens to be your nick name...Property committee is calling your name! Have a favorite family recipe, cooking or baking is your comfort zone, volunteer for Coffee Hour or help with Men’s Breakfast or enjoy the excitement of the Cookie Walk. Love to read...you do not want to miss trying a Book Club! I like to think of it as book club with a soul. Passionate in helping and serving others, Missions would love to hear your ideas! Maybe you enjoy writing inspirational messages, Care & Share has a wonderful selection of cards waiting to be sent. Do you have experience and/or knowledge with the ins & outs of charitable giving, Planned Giving would welcome your input. Do you prefer telling stories, socializing or singing...oh my! Lectors, Greeters & Bell Choir are the place to be! And let me tell you about Worship, Hospitality & Sunday School.... there is a niche everywhere for everybody!

The true gift is the fellowship and camaraderie gained with working with one another and as a community. It is so inspiring what you learn about and from each other and at the same time, form long lasting friendships.

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith, if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Romans 12:6-8*

If you would like to know more about or who to contact about the committees, please feel free to reach out to myself or any one of the Consistory members and we will have you singing a song while you swing a hammer or whipping of a batch of cookies while you ponder the next mission project! There is a place for everyone and we are excited to have you join and share your talents.

I invite you to take a moment and prayerfully consider where it is God might be calling you to share your gifts.

Grace and Peace,

Nora Lea Hoesly

Consistory member

## Swiss UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes March 11, 2026

**Attending in Person:** Chris Kiesz, Jessica Swan, Rachel Baker, Nicole Sidwell, Steve Rossing, Nora Lea Hoesly, Diane Powers

**Attending via Zoom:** Jon Ziltner, Pat Pluss

**Absent:** Bonnie Klassy, Heidi Mondloch  
Chris Kiesz called the meeting to order at 6:32. Pat led us in prayer.

### **Approval of Agenda**

With the addition of keys for the south entry door, fence easement contract from the Village of New Glarus, and approval of blanket recommendations, Rachel moved to approve the agenda as edited; Nicole seconded. Motion carried.

### **Approval of February Minutes**

Rachel moved to approve February minutes; Nicole seconded. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer's Report for Financial Statements ending Feb. 28, 2026**

Income for February was \$24,168 and expenses were \$20,768 for a net income of \$3,400. Income year to date is \$45,740 compared to \$46,550 for 2025. Net income YTD is \$4,710 compared to 2025 net income of \$6,333. The first 2 months of income is \$2,700 over budget

and expenses are right in line with budgeted expenses.

Respectfully Submitted, Jon Ziltner

Jess moved to approve the treasurer's report; Rachel seconded. Motion carried.

Chris moved to approve checks written as presented; Nora Lea seconded. Motion carried.

Blanket Requisitions are for ongoing expenditures and for one-time annual expenditures. Jessica moved to approve the blanket recommendations spreadsheet for 2026 as presented from Marlis Silver; Nicole seconded. Motion carried. Thank you, Marlis, for a very comprehensive worksheet!

### **Spire Reminder**

Jessica will write the Spire report for April. The topic of this month's article will be placed on the agenda for next month.

### **Pastoral Report**

- I will be taking care packages on my March visits to isolated members (St. Patrick's or Easter theme)
- Offering a noon-time ZOOM Bible study in March
- Barb Bright and Gloria Bodenmann will head up the Maundy Thursday supper April 2. Communion will be served
- Good Friday service will be shared with Shepherd of the Hills
- Easter: Service 7AM, Breakfast 7:30AM, Service 9AM, Bev Hoesly and Jane Elmer will head up the Easter Breakfast
- Our Sleep in Heavenly Peace Mission ends on Easter Sunday
- The Newspaper will share our Holy Week opportunities
- I am taking a vacation day on Sunday, April 12 – Rev. Jim Ihloff will be preaching

### **Old Business**

**Hooper Proposal:** The Hooper Fire Protection Service proposal of \$1,734 for two ECS ejector automatic air vents for the wet fire sprinkler system has been signed and returned. Work should begin shortly.

**Keys:** Nicole will ask Tom Marty and the Property Committee to research best options and costs for key entry to the door on the south side of the church.

**Village Easement:** The Village of New Glarus is seeking a signed agreement for the fence/landscaping easement of three feet to be signed by the president of the Swiss Church Consistory, president of the Village, and Amy Barns, the Village Clerk. It is our understanding that all the paperwork for this easement was completed last year. Chris and Steve will contact Jessica Fink to learn if the current survey being completed by Talarczyk Surveying can include this in the new campus survey. If not, Consistory recommends no additional costs for the survey be incurred by Swiss Church.

### **Consistory Start Time**

Starting time for Consistory meetings will be revisited next month.

### **Background Checks**

One Confirmation mentor has still not completed the annual background check for anyone working with children at the church. Chris will contact the person to have them complete it.

Rachel moved to adjourn; Jessica seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

## SWISS UCC is collecting much needed items -

*Swiss UCC Mission Committee has designated the second Sunday of every month for a monthly collection for GREEN CARES FOOD PANTRY.*

### Requested items at this time:

- Pork and beans
- Vegetable soup
- Complete pancake mix (add only water)
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper

*A cart will be available in the Church, on the 2nd Sunday, (every month) for dropping off your donations. Thank you in advance for your generosity!*



## 2026 YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### General Fund

	2026	2026	2025	2026	2026	2025	2026	BUDGET
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	NET	NET
	INCOME	INCOME	INCOME	EXPENSES	EXPENSES	EXPENSES	INCOME	INCOME
January	\$21,572	\$26,344	\$25,137	\$20,262	\$20,420	\$18,999	\$1,310	\$5,924
February	\$24,128	\$16,690	\$21,413	\$20,768	\$20,719	\$21,218	\$3,360	-\$4,028
March	\$26,658	\$25,776	\$24,394	\$22,668	\$20,429	\$18,007	\$3,990	\$5,347
April			\$21,865			\$17,273		
May			\$16,691			\$21,108		
June			\$16,753			\$17,178		
July			\$17,394			\$16,903		
August			\$35,843			\$16,509		
Sept.			\$17,435			\$18,786		
October			\$16,504			\$17,227		
Nov.			\$25,791			\$21,785		
Dec.			\$46,863			\$19,643		
<b>YTD</b>	<b>\$72,358</b>	<b>\$68,811</b>	<b>\$286,084</b>	<b>\$63,698</b>	<b>\$61,568</b>	<b>\$224,636</b>	<b>\$8,660</b>	<b>\$7,242</b>

BENEVOLENCE DONATIONS		OTHER FUND FINANCIAL SUMMARY			Balance as of 3/31/2026	
	OCWM	Non-OCWM	Net Income			
	Restricted	Restricted	Property	Endow	General	
					Property	\$37,824
January	\$852	\$2,820	\$3,289	1st Qtr	Property	\$33,999
February	\$1,262	\$1,505	\$26,286	Income3,698	Restricted	\$91,459
March	\$817	\$3,160	-\$7,771	Sales35,000	Operating Reserve - LP	\$251,881
April					Property - LPL	\$182,771
May					Endowment Fund	\$751,458
June					Debt Obligation	\$0
July					Current Liabilities	\$1,458
August						
Sept.						
October						
Nov.						
Dec.						
<b>YTD</b>	<b>\$2,931</b>	<b>\$7,485</b>	<b>\$21,804</b>	<b>-\$31,302</b>		
Pledge	\$10,255					

3:16 PM

4/6/26

### **DONATION RECEIVED --**

➤ In Memory of Fred Mueller – Designated to SUCC Property Improvements

# **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**

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

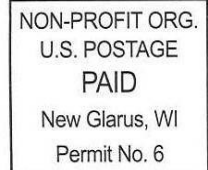
**Marlis Silver, Financial**

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

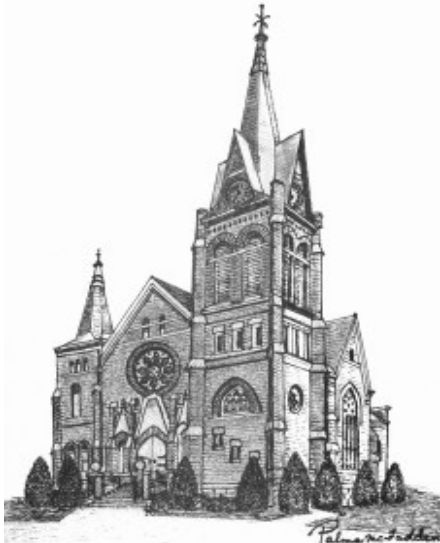
*Mission...Our faith leads us to affirm all persons. We celebrate and share our common communion with all, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity or national origin, physical and developmental abilities, age, educational background, economic or social status, faith background, family structure or marital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

**May 2026**