

July 2024 Eagle

From: Ebenezer UCC (admin@ebenezerucc.ccsend.com)

To: melissa.moehn@yahoo.com

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The Eagle

July 2024



Pastor's Corner



When I say the word 'change', what is the first emotion that goes through your heart, soul, and being? I'm guessing for many people that it's more like feelings of fear, trepidation, angst, uneasiness. And, the older we get, the more those feelings of fear, trepidation, angst, and uneasiness grow. I get it. I really do. I hear people question: "Why can't things just remain the way they use to be?" – or – "Things are going just fine. Why do I have to change?" And the fact is that whether we realize it or not, things are always changing, right here before our very eyes. Night is gone and a new day is here. Spring is over and summer is upon us. Pastor Mike has retired and I am here to provide some guidance until your next settled pastor is called. Change is everywhere and happens all the time. I realize that change in the third-person is always easier than change in the first-person. 'Their changing is good.' Versus... 'My changing scares the stuffings out of me.'

My July 7th message will introduce my theme for us moving forward. It's called, "Our Future Is Now". You are going to hear that we cannot wait for tomorrow to begin moving forward. Many churches are either in decline or stagnant. How will we engage the opportunity to move the church of God forward? How will we honor the decisions of our parent denomination by becoming a more open and inclusive church? How will we be willing to change ourselves and how we 'do church', to become a place where people come to develop a meaningful relationship with the Divine – realizing that those coming in our doors will likely not look like us or act like us? How are your feelings of fear, trepidation, angst, and uneasiness now!? Or do these opportunities bring forth excitement, anticipation, readiness, and willingness.

Doing church today is nothing like how we did church 20 years ago, ten years ago, or even five years ago. Our music has changed and evolved. How we pray has become more broad. Meaningful worship is different for those in their teens, 20's and 30's, 40's and 50's. A one-size-fits-all approach is likely not to gain much traction. So where does that leave us? In the next few months, I'll be looking towards seeing how each of you views our future.

Changing subjects...

The Wisconsin Conference of the UCC held its annual meeting June 7th, 8th, & 9th. It was pretty well attended. Today, I would like to share a few highlights in this article. First, our Conference Minister Franz Rigert highlighted that the church today has unique opportunities, given that many are "...longing for belonging". And he went on to say that "We in the Church are really good at building community. The time is ripe. What's more, the Church can provide safe spaces for relationships in which we can hold diverging perspectives and honor each other in the process." Franz next took a little time to mention that even as we here in our local churches are looking at change, the Conference is also looking at changes through restructuring and reorganization that will help make Conference and Association resources more efficient and accessible. Another key point in his message was the shortage of pastors. While this is not a problem that will have a 'today' solution, there is a challenge place before us to "tap 20 new pastoral recruits in the coming two years..."

There were many other good speakers and presentations. I will place the link for the Conference Newsletter at the end of my article.

In closing, I give thanks to God for the joy of being your pastor for a while. I'm looking forward to planning and collaborating with you on what our future will look like. As an Intentional Interim Pastor, I hope

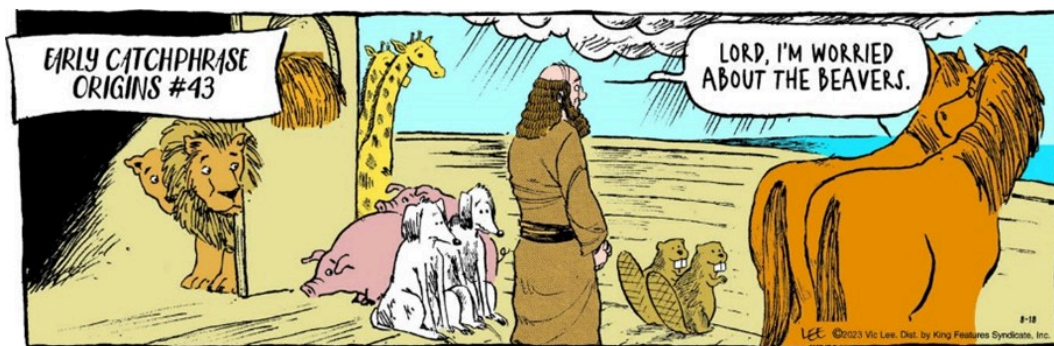
that we will take time to give thanks for all your past pastors and appropriately honor each of them. And after we have taken some time to reflect, pray, and possibly grieve, we begin the journey of moving forward and engaging with our future. I also look forward toward using all the tools on my professional toolbelt in bringing ideas, thoughts, and plans forward.

Remember that God loves each of you – and – so do I.

Dave

[Link to Conference Newsletter](#)

Pastor's Light-hearted Corner



Don't judge someone because they sin differently than you!

If you see someone falling behind, slow your steps.

If God is your co-pilot, switch seats!



Happy   
 Birthday 

2 Caleb Wiegert
4 Cole Woelfel
6 Skylar Alten
7 Jordan Kress
9 Bea Pingel
10 Tyler See
16 Terra Head

17 Owen Brown
18 Vern Gasch
18 Don Pagel
21 Gabriel Sabish
23 Chris Stenz
27 Judy Mattes
27 Emily Wagner



*Arlene ~ Audra ~ Audrey
Cassie ~ De' Monique
Da' Nisha ~ Diana
Elisha ~ Eugene ~ Gail
Jeff S. ~ Rod ~ Sandra
Sharon ~ Tod ~ Tony*



LET'S PRAY

Notes from the Music Corner...

THANK YOU to all who submitted a list of their favorite songs. We hope to be able to sing all of them either in the pre-service (8:30) sing alongs or during the worship services beginning July 14 and continuing through July 28. The list is a wonderful range of selections, including some Sunday School songs of old!!!

THANK YOU to Ann Arbuckle for filling in as organist on July 7.

Elaine





SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER

Even though we are taking a break from Sunday School classes, there is still a lot going on. We closed out our mission project for St. Jude and raised a total of \$1,395.45! This is amazing! Thank you again to everyone that donated to this cause. I will be announcing our next mission project at the start of the next Sunday School year.

We are working on renovating the basement to brighten up our Sunday School area. The asbestos has been removed from the floors and we are in the process of putting new flooring down and painting. We hope to have this done in time for Sunday School to start by the middle of September. I will announce the official Sunday School start date once we have a more solidified schedule for the basement remodel.

I'm excited to announce that Ebenezer will be hosting a Family Day celebration on September 21st from 10:00AM to 2:00PM to raise money for our Sunday School program and basement remodel project. This event is going to be fun for the whole family! We have a magic show at 10:30AM and will have a petting farm, bounce house, balloon animals, face painting, Houdini's Paninis food truck, cotton candy and yard games. I'm really excited to see everyone on what is sure to be a fun day for the whole family.

I am looking for a couple of volunteers to help the day of the event collecting tickets and handling a couple of the stations. If you are interested in volunteering or if you have any yard games or other donations that you would like to make to this event, please contact Melissa Kuhn at 920-242-7240. All proceeds from this event will go towards the Sunday School program and basement remodel project. I will continue to update you on the plans for our next Sunday School session throughout the summer and am excited for what is to come!

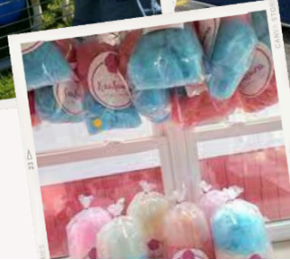
Melissa Kuhn



EBENEZER

FAMILY DAY

September 21st



USHERS' SCHEDULE

- July 7: Council
- July 14: Shirley
- July 21: Zach
- July 28: Ralph

COMMUNITY EVENTS

PICNIC IN THE PARK



Hosted by St. Peter's UCC

Serving grilled chicken breasts, brats, hamburgers, German potato salad, baked beans, and strawberry shortcakes at Kiel City Park, Wednesday, July 3

from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Patriotic Concert from the Kiel Municipal Band begins at 7:00 p.m.

JULY 3



Hilbert Fourth of July Family Festival & Parade

One of the largest 4th of July parades in WI starts at 11am & goes down Main Street. Family picnic at Civic Park after. Entertainment starts after the 11am parade. Fireworks at approximately 9:30pm.

JULY 4



New Holstein Firefighters Picnic

At Civic Park in New Holstein. Live music Friday night, live music & large fireworks display Saturday night, & parade at 11am Sunday followed by grilled chicken dinner & live music. All weekend carnival rides, food & beverages.

JULY 12-14



Stockbridge Picnic & Parade

Saturday 4 pm mass in the park, Live band Saturday Night, Kickball Tournament Friday, Saturday and Sunday. 100% Payout. Parade 11:00 am Sunday. Barbecue Chicken Dinner with homemade dressing and all the fixings starting at 11 am. Ladies Legion Auxiliary with homemade desserts on Sunday. Live band Sunday afternoon and a Raffle drawing.



Airport Day at New Holstein Municipal Airport

Fly-in breakfast (7:00-11:00am) followed by a full variety food court (11:00am-3:00pm). Barrel train rides, kid activities, SuperCub short takeoff/landing competition and entertainment (1:30pm). FREE airplane rides & certification for kids (age 8-17) from 8:30am-Noon.

JULY 20-21

JULY 21



June Council Meeting Minutes

Ebenezer UCC Church Council Minutes June 16, 2024

Members present: Mark Rusch, Don Pingel, Karen Cmejla, Brian Adamietz, Judy Mattes, Nick Kuhn and Amy Kuhn

Meeting was called to order by President Mark Rusch at 8:00 AM in the church lounge.

Prayer was led by Don Pingel.

Nick Kuhn made a motion to approve the May minutes and today's agenda. Don Pingel seconded it. Motion carried.

Brian Adamietz presented the May treasurers report:

Income: \$15,133.19 (On 5/8/24 \$7360.00 was transferred from the Memorial Fund to cover the final payment on the basement asbestos removal project. The check for this cleared on 5/13/24. April offerings were 7298.19 which was deposited on 5/01/24).

Expenses: **(\$13,162.51)**

Checking Account Balance: \$91,099.49

Money Market Account Balance: \$202,745.11 (\$303.36 gained in interest)

Total Equity: \$293,844.60

Minus Special Giving Acct \$179,714.87 \$114,129.73

Cambridge Investments: \$70,020.72

Don Pingel questioned the entry for purchase of communion cups which mistakenly got entered to "Janitor Supplies". It was decided to move that entry to "Misc. Expense".

Nick Kuhn made a motion to accept the May treasurers report and approve the Bills List and Amy Kuhn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: None as Pastor Kohls is still not considered our interim until July 1st.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Education:

Melissa Kuhn was present and stated she is trying to add an Easter Program to the Sunday School curriculum along with the usual Christmas program. She said Shirley Lisowe has volunteered to help her out with this. Melissa also presented to the council her ideas and plans to hold a "Family Fun Day" event on September 21st at the church which will hopefully replace our fundraising that we normally had from the ice cream social. She also stated the next Sunday School year will start on September 15th.

Karen Cmejla made a motion to accept her ideas on the "Family Fun Day" event and Judy Mattes seconded it. Motion carried.

Evangelism Committee:

On June 8th, 19 flower planters were distributed throughout the community by Vern, Adam and Ann Gasch which has been well received.

Property Committee: The project of removal of Asbestos in floor tiles of the basement floor is complete. Final payment was made. Nick Kuhn received some estimates of styles to replace the flooring, but this was tabled for a special meeting to be held next Sunday as we ran out of time this week. Ideas for painting the basement walls will also be discussed next week.

Ken Lisowe will be replacing the insulation on the basement pipes.

Search Committee:

No new updates.

There were no other committee reports.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- Mark has contacted the company who gave us an estimate, which we approved, to get on their schedule to repair the stained glass windows in the balcony and altar areas. We are on their schedule and will let us know when they might be in our area again to work on the project.
- Karen will take pics of the metal folding chairs in the basement and post on Marketplace to see if we get any takers to purchase them. We will keep 20 of the desk combo chairs.
- The Ice Cream Social fund raiser has unfortunately been cancelled with the intention of it being replaced by the "Family Fun Day" event.
- Membership roll will be tabled until next month when Rev. Kohls is able to give us better input on this.

There was no other old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Supply Pastors are covering services well until Rev Kohls arrives on July 1st. Rev. Dan Borchers from Cleveland is scheduled on June 23rd and 30th with Karen Darneck from Darboy on June 16th as supply Pastors.
- Mark Rusch mentioned the steps to follow to change the controlled computer timing on the church entrance doors are located in his mailbox in the office.
- Discussion about renting out the parsonage was tabled until next weeks special meeting.
- Pastor Mike had given a monetary gift of \$500 upon his retirement and designated it be used for the kids.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Ken Lisowe entered the meeting and presented the fact we need a new dehumidifier for the basement and will get some estimates for us by next month's meeting.
- There was discussion about the "gaps" in the kitchen flooring at the Parsonage and decided to leave as is for the time being while we rent out the house.

There was no other business.

Don Pingel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 and Nick Kuhn seconded it. Motion carried, followed with the Lord's Prayer.

A special council meeting will be held on June 23rd at 7:20 AM in the lounge to continue business from this meeting, which we didn't have time for.

Next month's council meeting will be on July 21st at 7:30 AM in the lounge.

Respectfully submitted,
Council Secretary,

Karen Cmejla

**...Continued Council Meeting from June 16th
June 23, 2024**

Members Present: Mark Rusch, Don Pingel, Brian Adamietz, Karen Cmejla, Judy Mattes, Nick Kuhn and Amy Kuhn. Also present was Melissa Kuhn.

Missing: Kristi Schnell

Meeting was call to order by President Mark Rusch at 7:45. Don Pingel led us in prayer.

Other Old Business:

- Nick Kuhn presented the council with estimates and samples of epoxy to replace the basement flooring. He said estimates for tile was much higher and the epoxy will hold up better. After discussion, Karen Cmejla made a motion to accept the multicolored black and gray speckled sample and bid from Rob Dorn upon

approval of a special congregational meeting to be held on July 7th. Nick Kuhn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Then there was discussion about certain repairs needed on the basement walls before painting them. We decided to tear out the paneling as it is deteriorating on the bottom from moisture and water damage coming into the basement, which would be easier to do now before the flooring gets done. We will start painting the main Sunday School rooms before tackling the hallways.

Other New Business:

- There was discussion on Payroll Distribution for Pastor Kohls and other employees. Mark will check with Mary Keran and Reinl Accounting about making some changes with this.

- Mark, Nick and Don will do a “walk-through” at the parsonage after church service today to see what might have to be done before we’re able to rent it out. There was no other new business

Nick Kuhn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 and Amy Kuhn seconded it. Motion carried followed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
 Council Secretary,
Karen Cmejla

July Calendar of Events



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				Independence Day		
7 Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. • Communion	8	9	10	11 Men's Breakfast Group Meeting at 7 Angels @ 8:30 a.m.	12	13
14 Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m.	15	16	17	18 Women's Guild Meeting at 7 Angels @ 9:00 a.m.	19	20
21 Council Meeting @ 7:30 a.m. Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m.	22	23 Eagle Articles Due	24	25	26	27
28 Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m.	29	30	31			

**Click to view larger image of calendar*



Administrative Assistant: Mary Keran (920) 849-4331 ebenezeroffice@yahoo.com

Council President: Mark Rusch (920) 213-5557

Council VP: Don Pingel (920) 849-2062

Council Secretary: Karen Cmejla (920) 375-0244

Council Treasurer: Brian Adamietz (920) 645-8699

Kristi Schnell (920) 464-1060

Judy Mattes (920) 853-7109

Amy Kuhn (920) 418-0929

Nick Kuhn (920) 378-0204



Ebenezer UCC | 44 W. Washington St. | Chilton, WI 53014 US

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