



January 2024 Newsletter

Worship Service Start @ 10:45 am

Kids For Christ @ 9:30 am

Pastor Carly Gaeth's Contact Information – 414-640-3543

email carly.gaeth@gmail.com

Carly's Corner

I'm not usually one for New Year's resolutions. More often than not, I try to follow these words from Anne Frank: "how wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." What I mean is that when I feel inspired to alter something in my life or start something new or different, I don't wait for a specific date. I don't wait for it to be a convenient time or for some grand, ceremonial ushering-in. I just do it. I jump in, head first— usually without much forethought or preparation, consideration or analysis. Trial by fire, so to speak. But, despite my own personal practice and beliefs surrounding resolutions at the new year, I find myself feeling curious about them nonetheless, and even more curious about all of you. I wonder about your thoughts and ideas regarding new beginnings and the things which weigh heavily on your mind as we change our calendars and welcome the unknown of the next twelve months.

So, in the spirit of embracing what is new and unfamiliar, and in case some of you are looking for inspiration for your own self-reflection, I thought of some things I'd like to lean into in the coming year—

- 1.) Do things without needing to be reminded
- 2.) Be more present
- 3.) Step away from technology: write letters, talk with people in person not just via email, etc.
- 4.) Take time to rest
- 5.) Give others the benefit of the doubt; assume good intentions
- 6.) Voice my gratitude more freely
- 7.) Play/listen to more music
- 8.) Let go of things that are toxic to my wellbeing or no longer serve me
- 9.) Share more
- 10.) Create

If these resolutions— I'm going to call them opportunities— speak to you, I invite you to join me in them. If these opportunities feel too overwhelming for where you are right now, and you can't even fathom taking them on, that's fine too. If one or two of these opportunities resonate with you, lean in and see what happens. This is just the beginning of a new chapter in the ever-unfolding mystery of life.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Carly

Meditation Practice

Having just experienced the joyful chaos of Christmas and the holiday season, I find myself feeling wound up and unsettled. And although my body is exhausted from all of the running around and now-complete to-do lists, my mind is still racing and refuses to rest. This isn't necessarily unfamiliar to me— my neuro-divergent mind is never really still— but it feels more draining this time around. And so I find myself in a position where I feel inspired to meditate but when I try to do so, it's near impossible.

So, rather than trying to quiet the noise and clear my mind, I've decided to dig in to it. As a result, I find myself asking these questions of my thoughts: 1.) what thought is the loudest? 2.) what does it want from me? 3.) am I able to fulfill that task right now? 4.) what does it mean?

I know it seems silly to literally address the noise in your head but I've found that, by doing so, I take away some of the power this noise has over me. I'm able to meet my needs more easily and to find moments of focus and clarity along the way. If you find yourself in the same mental/emotional space as me, give it a try.

Self-Care Challenge

I don't know about you, but the holiday season feels like a weird, liminal space where there are no rules, there is no structure, and where time is not real. Christmas cookies and cream-cheese based dips are the staple of my diet and there is no rhyme or reason to my sleep schedule. I feel dysregulated and like I need some smelling salts or a swift kick in the hiney to pull me out of it. I need some semblance of routine or I will truly make my full descent into madness.

And I find that the most helpful thing to do when faced with this reality is to listen more attentively to my body— to follow the internal rhythms of my mind, body, and spirit. I make a point of eating when I feel hungry (not when I feel bored or anxious or when I feel it's somehow appropriate), moving my body if and when it feels right, and resting when I feel tired. And I do this, even if it goes against the schedule that is expected. It's the only way meet myself where I am and to regulate the systems of my body on their own terms. I know it's hard, but I hope you'll consider it as our self-care challenge this month. Who knows— it may change your life for the better.

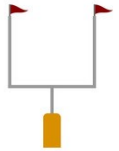
Special Dates

Annual Meeting January 21 2024 After Worship Service

"Souper" Bowl Fund Raiser for Landon Wendorf Ends February 11

Ash Wednesday February 14 Service Information TBA

February Newsletter Sent Out February 15



Kids for Christ Notes

"He Counts the Stars and Calls Them All by Name" Psalm 147:4

We are BACK! The KFC kids are starting to learn a new unit, Abraham, Hagar & Ishmael. These people are more Super Hero's of the Bible, they are very eager to learn new people that helped God spread the Good News! Next unit we will

be starting the 10 Commandments! WOW the kids are learning so much this year and we love teaching all these special things to them and love seeing them grow in Faith. A HUGE Thank You to EVERYONE who helped during the Christmas Season, Pastor Carly for choosing the PERFECT Christmas Program, to Rita Melius for working her MUSIC MAGIC with the kids, and to the parents for helping with lines and traveling to Church for rehearsal! We could not

have pulled this off with out all your help! THANK YOU! Your KFC Teachers— Jenni, Beth, Melanie & Christa

We would like to once again plan a date for Snow Tubing this year, more information to come soon!

Also the kids do plan on singing in Worship this spring, again more information to come soon!

Special Notes

Please if there is any information that you would like to be in the next newsletter contact Christa Wendorf @

tcwendorf@yahoo.com

No later then February 12!

Thank you to everyone who helped take down all the decorations from the Christmas Season, you are all very appreciated. Also Thank you to everyone who helped with all the Christmas Services!

Landon Wendorf our Confirmand this year has decided to do a Can Drive for the Slinger Food Pantry, this will take place from January 1 until Super Bowl Sunday February 11 2024! Please help Landon out and bring a can or 2 of

Soup to the Church during this time!

This is his Community Service Project for Confirmation and would love all of your support!

Mission Committee News

Please watch the Future Newsletters for
Information on the Helping Hands Fish Fry Dates

Thank You for a Great 2023!



Consistory President Note

Thank you to all the members of Faith United Church of Christ, without you our beautiful church would not be the place it is today. We enjoy such a special place in this small slice of the world and together we can revel in its beauty and enjoy each other's company.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve as your president over the past year, and look forward to worshipping with you every time I am at church. I know my children enjoy this space and the people that surround them as well. The smiles on their faces tell me all I need to know that we are in the right place.

In the last year we have prayed for one another, rejoiced over individual achievements, helped each other through losses and challenges, and we have celebrated some of life's biggest moments. We have an incredible family at Faith United Church of Christ. Some (thankful) highlights of 2023

- Thank you to every individual who made a donation of your time or talents to this great congregation
- Thank you to Pastor Carly Gaeth for your talents and writing beautiful words for our congregation every Sunday
- Thank you to Rita and the choir for the beautiful music. And how Rita has worked with our Children this year
- Thank you to the KFC Teachers and how you show your love of this church and the children who are in your care
- Thank you to those who have gone above and beyond on church maintenance and landscaping. We have a well-kept, clean and beautiful sanctuary.
- Thank you to those who write and provide communication outreach for our church.
- Thank you to all the hands that keep records, organize files, sort mail, write checks, track our finances, and communicate with our great faith community.
- Thank you to each of you for remaining faithful and steadfast in your love for Faith United Church of Christ.

With the help of God we can do anything. Our cause as Christians is ever ongoing. During 2024, I hope to see more love from you, the members. Our love for people and the world is what we all have to give. And the more we show it, the better we will be as people and as Christians. Show love and you will be alright. Go and Make God happy. Respectfully submitted,



Paul Gordon January 10, 2024

Thank You for your contributions to Faith UCC Church

We are excited to announce our new online giving platform [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly). With this news [EasyTithe](https://easytithe.ly) will be going away at the end of the month. Please turn off your recurring giving by the end of December and switch over to [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly). [EasyTithe](https://easytithe.ly) Fees are going through the roof, so we found a platform that is much cheaper. The switch will be easy, go to <https://tithe.ly/give?c=6471448> and a window will appear to set up your giving and your account information. You will get 3 emails when you set yourself up for the first time. A welcome to [Tith.ly](https://tithe.ly) email. An account set up email to confirm your email address. And finally a thank you for your donation email. Inside the widget at the above link you can even set yourself up for recurring donations! Also please consider covering the fees with your donation. This will help the church use your giving more efficiently.

(if you need assistance, let Paul Gordon know. Once your account is established it's easy!)

Mail your check to Faith UCC Church P.O Box 396, Slinger, WI 53086

Script

The Gift Cards that gives back to the church are still here! Jennifer Gordon will be present before & after the 1st Sunday of each month with Gift Cards for sale, you can buy and take right away! You can also special order gift cars we don't have "IN-STOCK" at the church. Let Jennifer Gordon know which you would like. Typical cards in stock include, Culver's, Walmart, Walgreens, Subway, Piggly Wiggly, Meijer, Kwik Trip & NEW Mayer's Beef Farms! We will carry more if there are common stores in your special orders. Help us fundraise, do most of your shopping with gift cards that you purchase from us or buy them ad gifts for others! If you have any questions contact Jennifer Gordon. Here is the [complete list](#).



Cemetery Committee Notes

We appreciate the work that has been done at both the Ackerville and Faith UCC Cemeteries this past year. Rex Melius, the community groups, and those from our congregation who have worked on the cleanup. The work will CONTINUE into the New Year 2024 at BOTH Cemeteries!

Cemetery Committee:

Jim "JJ" Markewicz—President

Readers/Communion Usher

Jan 21—Christa Wendorf

Jan 28—Marilyn Nadelhoffer

The new list will be sent out as soon as we get a new year set. Thank You all for reading.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

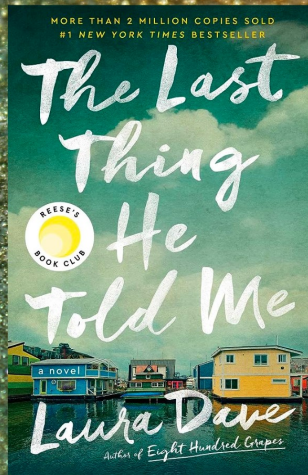
a shared project by New Hope UCC and Faith UCC

Book for January

"The Last Thing
He Told Me"
by Laura Dave

General info

When: January 25th @7 pm
Where: New Hope UCC
All Are Welcome!



Before Owen Michaels disappears, he smuggles a note to his beloved wife of one year: *Protect her*. Despite her confusion and fear, Hannah Hall knows exactly to whom the note refers—Owen's sixteen-year-old daughter, Bailey. Bailey, who lost her mother tragically as a child. Bailey, who wants absolutely nothing to do with her new stepmother.

As Hannah's increasingly desperate calls to Owen go unanswered, as the FBI arrests Owen's boss, as a US marshal and federal agents arrive at her Sausalito home unannounced, Hannah quickly realizes her husband isn't who he said he was. And that Bailey just may hold the key to figuring out Owen's true identity—and why he really disappeared.

Hannah and Bailey set out to discover the truth. But as they start putting together the pieces of Owen's past, they soon realize they're also building a new future—one neither of them could have anticipated.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Pastor Carly-- carly.gaeth@gmail.com

Home Bound

This is the updated list for all of our members that are home bound-

Joyce Herther—Cedar Community

The Willows @ Cedar Lake Assisted Living 5577 Home Dr Apt #1522
West Bend 53095

Jean Happel-3879 Fond du Lac Dr. Richfield 53076

Don & Sandy Jackson— 6657 Weis St. Allenton 53022

Marilee Lehman— 2130 Continental Dr. Apt # 404
West Bend 53095

Judy & Ruth Schowalter— W206 N16654 Blackberry Cr. Apt #3
Jackson 53037

Please if you know of any of our other members that are "Stuck at Home" Please contact Pastor Carly or Elaine Burg Thank you!