

# The Messenger

A Newsletter for Members and Friends

**Union Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

305 S. Gage St., Somonauk, IL 60552

Phone: 815 498-2277

Email: [unioncongregchurch@aol.com](mailto:unioncongregchurch@aol.com)

Website: [somonaukucc.org](http://somonaukucc.org)

March 2017

Interim Pastor: Rev. Chuck Maney

Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.

Our Church office is staffed the following days:

Pastor: 9-3 Tuesday and Wednesday

3-5 Thursday

Secretary:

Monday 9-3

Tuesday 9-3

Wednesday 9-3

Friday 9-3


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## March Calendar of Events

- 1 6:00 p.m. Soup supper  
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship
- 3 9:15 a.m. Church Women United: at United Church of Sandwich
- 5 8:50 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10 a.m. Worship with Lord's Supper, Sunday School
- 8 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper  
7:00 p.m. Pastor Chuck's presentation about the Holy Land
- 12 8:00 a.m. Trustees meet, Deacons meet  
8:50 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10 a.m. Worship, Sunday School
- 13 7:00 p.m. Sunshine Band
- 14 6:30 p.m. Church Council
- 15 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Study
- 19 8:50 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10 a.m. Worship, Sunday School
- 22 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Study
- 26 8:50 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10 a.m. Worship-Mission Offering One Great Hour of Sharing  
Sunday School
- 28 4:30-6 We host 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Dinner
- 29 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Study



**Spring Ahead:** Daylight Savings Time starts Sunday 3/ 12 so set your clocks ahead Saturday 3/11 before going to sleep.

 **Moving?** notify the church with your new address/phone # .

**-Turn Down the heat/ air conditioning** If you're last to leave the building & also please make sure that all doors are locked. -

**-Reminder to officers & boards:** be sure to check & empty your office mailbox regularly



## *From our Pastor:*

Dear Friends,

On March 1, we begin Lent with the Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00. We will offer the imposition of ashes. This is ancient symbolic act of recognizing our limitations and our own accountability for the times in our lives that we have failed to live up to the best that we are capable of. It is a public act, that marks a spiritual openness to change.

That's right, change. We cannot ask forgiveness without being willing to do differently in the future. If we are going to be different, we are going to change.

So this Lent we will talk about good change and bad. We will talk about being our best selves, and how that makes for a better community. We will talk about being open to suggestions from the Holy Spirit, that might be heard in the voice of a friend, a neighbor, from the Board of Deacons, and certainly from the Search Committee.

This year I will be preaching on the twin themes of maintaining a posture of confession, and being ready to accept that change is a necessary and an integral part of being a Christian. In fact, it is at the heart of why there is a Lenten Season at all.

You see the clock is ticking for the time you and I have together. The Committee is busy with interviews and deliberating. A new chapter in the life of Union Congregational UCC Church is about to begin, and you are called to open your hearts to welcome new possibilities.

On March 8, the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday, we will have a soup supper and then look together at some of the pictures I took on my trip to the Holy Land. You will see the ancient walls, and see the caves associated with the lands of Abraham, David, and Jesus.

I will also share some of what I learned about the Occupation of the West Bank that is in evidence every day in this ancient and Holy Land. I will describe the Annexation of Jerusalem by Israel, that is not recognized by any other nation, and why that makes moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem a problem. I will help you to reflect on how the awareness of sin in others, should help us to recognize our own susceptibility to sin and rationalize ourselves out of recognizing our own failures.

My heart was heavy, as I recognized the justifications offered for the Occupation, sounded like the rhetoric of the new Administration in my own "free" country. And I was clear that what I saw was bad, and the vulnerability to the same disregard for others is apparent; in the USA, in Britain and in France, as Western Civilization faces the challenges of both terrorism, and loss of unearned privilege.

I look forward to walking the season of Lent with you in 2017, recognizing that Lent will and should change us.

*Pastor Chuck*

**Keep Us Informed:** If you or a family member is ill or hospitalized, we're not always aware of it. Please let the church know by calling the church office at 815 498 2277 or call Pastor Chuck directly at 815-433-3732. or 815-252-2792

**-Miss a Sunday?** You can read Pastor Chuck's sermon online. Go to <http://humsandwords.blogspot.com>

### **Remember in Prayer**

Gail's grandson Llewyn Burke

Duane Lackey

Ron Hawkins

Laureen Hash

Don Miller

Brad Kraus

Pam Morton

Sara Taylor

Nancy Nixon

Jim & Helen Wood

Tom Egan

Rev. Dave Bateman

\*For soldiers serving our country overseas or away from families: Peter Boecker, Kimberly Cole, Jacob Fisher, Troy Garlock, Jack Hinterlong, Brian Johnson, Gary Klemm, Noah Loveless, Eric Muelhausen, Katie Reiss

**Church Website:** our website is up and running at [somonaukucc.org](http://somonaukucc.org) to check it out

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** Trustees host in March, and volunteers are needed in April & May. There will be a sign up sheet for this.

**Adult Sunday school** meets each Sunday at 8:50 a.m. All adults are invited to attend.

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Congratulations:**

-We are thankful to learn that Shaun Walters, Bobi Smith's son has completed his deployment to Kuwait and he is now back home with his wife.

-We are thankful to everyone who donated to our special mission offering for Our Sharing Pantry on Super Bowl Sunday. We took in a little over \$127.00!

-Thanks to all who donated aluminum cans for our Angel Fund. Deb took all the cans this week and we received \$ 53.35.

**GOSPEL CONCERT AT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN:** The concert features Gloryway Quartet and will take place Sunday March 5 at 6:00 p.m. A free will offering for the musicians will be taken, and following the concert, dessert will be served.



**There will be many activities during the Lenten season.**

**-Ash Wednesday** is March 1. At 6 p.m. we will have a soup supper. The Ash Wednesday worship service begins at 7 p.m.

**-Wednesday March 8** will be a soup supper at 6 p.m., and afterward Pastor Chuck will give a presentation about his recent trip to the Holy Land.

-On the remaining Wednesdays in Lent there will be a Soup Supper each week at 6 p.m., followed by Lenten Study. For the suppers you can bring soup, some sort of bread, muffins, rolls, salad or dessert.

**-Lenten Breakfasts at the Federated Church:** Each Wednesday in Lent the Federated church hosts a continental breakfast and worship at 9:00 a.m. All are invited to attend these. A different area pastor gives the message each week. Here is the schedule for this year.

March 1	Joe MacDonald Emmanuel Church
March 8	Anne Hoflen of Somonauk United Presbyterian
March 15	Chuck Johnson
March 22	Wayne Derber of Salem Lutheran
March 29	Steven Mindrup of United Church of Sandwich
April 5	David Johnson of Somonauk Baptist

**Community Choir for Good Friday Service:** The Community Choir will rehearse on Sundays March 26 and April 2 at 11:45 a.m.; and Thursdays March 30 and April 6 at 6:30 p.m. All rehearsals will be here at Union Congregational.

**Church Women United** will meet at United Church of Sandwich for World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Registration begins at 9:15 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served, followed by the program.

**Newsletter Mailing:** It is not too late to get on the list to have yours emailed to you. If you're willing to receive it email and have not provided your email address please do so. The church email address is [unioncongchurch@aol.com](mailto:unioncongchurch@aol.com).

**Sunshine Band** will meet on Monday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. All women of the church are invited to join us. Devotions will be given by Deb Matthews. Hostesses will be Vanessa McInturf and Gigi Gesell.

March 6 Lions Club: Kitchen-Bev Anderson, Linda Zimmerlein  
Dining Room-Cindy Lackey, Rae Halford

**Musings of the Moderator will return soon.**

**We will host the March 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Fellowship Feast on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.** At the beginning of March we will have a sign up sheet out for those who can work at the dinner.

#### **Financial Report for January**

General Fund \$ 8662.68  
Benevolence \$ 353.00

**"EPIC Needs YOU!** Thank you to everyone who provided meals for 2016. As we cruise into 2017, we will continue to rotate monthly to each of the churches, meeting on Wednesday evenings from 6:00- 7:30 for a time of food, fellowship, games, and Bible study. We are in need of meals at this time, so if you would like to provide a meal for a Wednesday, please see the Meal Train website for details and to sign up (<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/150503>) OR contact Autumn Battaglia at 815-685-8448 or [BattagliaAN1@gmail.com](mailto:BattagliaAN1@gmail.com)"

**Epic will meet at the Federated Church in March.**

--On Friday, April 7 from 8 to 9:30 PM **EPIC will be going to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children.** This opportunity is open to EPIC youth and members of the congregations. If you would like to do this please contact Autumn: Autumn Battaglia, 815-685-8448, or email her at [battagliaAN1@gmail.com](mailto:battagliaAN1@gmail.com). They have 30 spots reserved as of now but if there are more wanting to go she needs to get the extra spots lined up soon.

# Union Congregational Church

Non-Profit Organization

P.O. Box 275

Somonauk, IL 60552

Return Service Requested



## March Birthdays

2 Shaun Walters, Morgan Murphy; 4 Rick Launius; 5 Jessica Gudmunson;  
6 Sandy Ledesma, Daulton Murphy; 7 Adam Burkhart; 8 Brian Tucker ;  
9 Matt Frantzen; 11 Sheryl Bee, Keygan Hake; 17 Amy Budvitis; 18 Ann Yoss;  
21 Mike Hash, Jim Kroening ,Brian Pfau; 24 Ann Murphy; 26 Elvira Knight;  
27 John Cain, Max Neidigh; 28 Brandon Ludwig; 29 Elliott & Everett Gerlick, Jackie Williams;  
31 George Smith

## Happy March Anniversary to:

6 Bill & Barb Van Norman  
22 Dan & Lisa Gudmunson  
23 Chris & Jarol Newlin  
25 Todd & Alicia Engleman

If you would like to be included in our birthday or anniversary lists, please give the information to the church office.

## Ongoing Missions here at Union Congregational Church

\*Alcoholics Anonymous meets here every Monday evening downstairs in the large Sunday School room.

\*Bring your empty aluminum cans here for recycling. All proceeds from recycling goes into our Angel Fund

\*You can also bring used printer cartridges for recycling . There's a bin in the church office. They are donated to Habitat for Humanity in DeKalb to help them raise funds.

\*Sunshine Band provides Fair Trade Coffee for Sale. We don't make any money on this, it's just to make this coffee available

**Address for Katie Reiss:** She is still stationed at the same base but is now living off base.

Kaitie Reiss  
5855 Valley Dr Unit 1078  
North Las Vegas, NV 89031







