

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

October 2017

Rev. Ted Engelsdorfer

Email: unioncongregation@aol.com

Website: somonaukucc.org

Sunday: Worship 10:00 a.m.

Our Church office is staffed the following days:

Pastor: Monday 9-3

Tuesday 4-8

Wednesday 9-3

Thursday 8-noon

Secretary:

Monday 9-3

Tuesday 9-3


Wednesday 9-3

Friday 9-3

October Calendar of Events

- 1 8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 10 a.m.. Worship with the Lord's Supper
Sunday School
- 2:00 p.m. CROP Hunger Walk at St. Paul's UCC in Hinckley
- 8 8:00 a.m. Trustees meet
- 8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 10 a.m. Worship,. Neighbors in Need Offering
Sunday School
- 9 7:00 p.m. Sunshine Band meets
- 15 8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 10 a.m. Worship-special offering for Foods Resource Bank
Sunday School
- 21 10 a.m. Foods Resource Bank Harvest Celebration
- 22 8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 10 a.m. Worship-Laity Sunday
Sunday School
- 24 4:30 p.m. 4th Tuesday Dinner at Federated Church
- 29 8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 10 a.m. Worship, Sunday School



 **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

Laity Sunday will be Sunday, October 22nd. During the service we invite church members to take part in the service. If you're willing to read announcements, lead the call to worship and other parts of the service, or, provide music see the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Coffee Hour Hosts: Deacons. in October and Choir hosts in November

Miss a Sunday? You can read Pastor Ted's sermons online at pstrtd.blogspot.com

Church Website: our website is up and running at somonaukucc.org to check it out

From Our Pastor: What is the Mission of the Church?

One of the chapters in the book, "Rich Church – Poor Church", that we are studying in Adult Sunday School talks about the mission of the church. One of the questions in the book is if all the members know the mission statement of the church? Do you know it? The book says it's important for members to know the mission statement, so that they can work together to help the church accomplish it's mission. Makes sense, right?

The book uses the example of a MASH unit in Iraq as it sought to realize it's mission. First, every member of that unit had been taught, to put the mission first, to never accept defeat, to never quit, and to never leave anyone behind. Wow! What focus!! I wonder how our churches would be doing, if each and every one of our members had this attitude toward the church.

And second, when command met to review its plans for achieving the mission, the supply officer would report on supplies, the sergeant would report on the personnel, the chaplain on the morale of the troops and etc. In short, if someone brought up something that wasn't a part of the mission, it was dismissed. Wow again! What if being a part of the church wasn't about meeting our personal desires, but about being enabled to participate in Christ's mission to the world?

Now there are a variety of church mission statements, but the book we are studying suggests this one – go forth and make disciples of all people, teaching them to obey all that Jesus taught us. In my 25 years of ministry, I have always emphasized that our discipleship in Christ calls us to do more than just care for ourselves, but to call others to Christ and welcome them into the church. This isn't just the pastor's mission, it is the mission of every member of the church!

How can you do this?? First of all, participate in the worship, fellowship, and mission of your church. Your participation is the most important thing you can do for Christ's church! Second of all, share the good news of what the church is doing for others when they ask you how you are and what you are doing? Third, invite them not just to worship, but to join us for fellowship, mission and ministry. We all know about the mission of the church, but outsiders don't, help them to find a way to connect to our church! Fourth, call the pastor about those who are hurting and in need of spiritual care, not just our members, but people in the community you know who don't have a spiritual advisor or church home.

Remember, put the mission first, never accept defeat, never quit, never leave anyone behind! This simple change in spirit and attitude can make all the difference in the world, for the future of Union Congregational Church!

Rev. Ted Engelsdorfer

Remember in Prayer

Gail's grandson Llewyn Burke	Tom Egan
Laureen Hash	Pam Morton
Brad Kraus	Sara Taylor
Nancy Nixon	Helen Wood

*Prayers for the Family and friends of James Wood who passed away September 26. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date.

* Prayers for the family and friends of Leslie Sunnen who passed away in September. Leslie was Steven Sunnen's father.

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

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 you can call Pastor Ted at 618 972 3875.

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 unioncongregation@aol.com.

The 4th Tuesday Fellowship Feast for October will be Tuesday October 24 at the Federated Church. This free dinner is served from 4:30-6 p.m. Our church is to provide bread and butter. There will be a sign up sheet downstairs to provide that.

Adult Sunday School: Rich Church, Poor Church

When Dr. David Russell visited our church in June for a Stewardship Sunday, he offered us a variety of resources. One of those resources was the book "Rich Church, Poor Church". Chapter by Chapter, it contrasts the ways that thriving churches differ from struggling churches. The book is not just about finances, it talks about clarifying the mission of the church, advertising the church, thankfulness, asking for donations, expectations, and spiritual growth. Each chapter is short, easy to read, and ends with a series of questions for discussion.

Adult Sunday School meets at 8:45 am on Sunday mornings. We invite all the members of the congregation to join us.

Financial Report for September

General Fund	\$ 5850.71
Benevolence	\$ 1020.00

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Congratulations

*We are very thankful to all who donated to our Hurricane Relief special offering in September in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. On fairly short notice we received \$650.00! Some of the money was used to purchase supplies for clean up buckets which were assembled here at church and Pastor Ted delivered them to a Church World Service collection point in Elgin. They were taken to TX within a few days after that. The rest of the money was sent to the UCC disaster relief fund.

2017 CROP WALK will be on Sunday, October 1. It will be hosted by St. Paul's UCC in Hinckley (corner of McKinley & N. View St.) Registration begins at 1:15 and the walk steps off at 2 p.m. Ginny has the sign up information if you would like to be a walker, and if you can't walk there will be people from our church walking who would love to have a donation from you. Stop in or call the church office for more information. 75% of money raised on the walk goes to Church World Services. They use the funds in several ways: They help underdeveloped nations obtain fresh water, and teach them better farming techniques. CWS also is a presence at natural disaster scenes all around the world, providing tools, blankets and food to those displaced by the disaster. The other 25% of funds raised on this walk will be divided evenly between Our Sharing Pantry and the Hinckley Food Pantry. Please support this worthy cause in any way you can.

Foods Resource Bank Harvest Celebration will be held Saturday October 21 at the Dolder Farm, 11625 Countyline Rd, Somonauk. The worship service is at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served and there are many activities until mid-afternoon. If you've never attended one before, plan to go this year. It is very inspiring and worthwhile. As always there will be a pie auction so we will need several pies from our congregation. This is always a great fundraiser for this cause. We also need to provide 6 dozen cookies for the lunch. There will be a sign up sheet in fellowship hall for those willing to provide cookies or pies. Our special offering for this local growing project will be October 15th.

Musings from the Moderator: Wow! Has anyone noticed that summer and the Fair are over? Things are in full swing now—"Full Steam Ahead!"

If you missed Rally Day, you missed seeing Pastor Ted interact with the children (young and old alike!), and even falling down onto the floor! It was fun. There are some pictures up in the display case in the Fellowship Hall.

Next was Pastor's Installation service. It was a very nice service with 12+ clergy present, friends from Pastor's church in Peru, and, I am happy to report, many from our church there also. Hats off to Madeline and the Sunshine Band for handling the reception. Very nice job ladies!

Oh, and I almost forgot about the 4th Tuesday Feast, which we hosted this month. (actually I did forget it on that day)... Sorry). Thank you to all who helped with that community outreach project! Your help is appreciated very much.

Now for October. What will it bring? (Hopefully relief from the heat and humidity). October is busy also. CROP Walk, Laity Sunday, help with another 4th Tuesday feast at another local church, and I am sure I have missed something.

I hope you can take time in your busy schedule to pause for a moment and appreciate and thank God for something—anything.

Writing that made me pause and reflect on another loss we have suffered with the passing of a dear friend and respected gentleman of our community—Jim Wood. He was another one of our "secret Angels" who worked on the Endowment Fund, our tax situation several years ago and who knows what else here at church. He was also one of the BEST school principals I have ever known or worked with. We will miss you Jim! You and Duane Lackey can "talk" about your Cardinals and Cubs in Heaven!

I am thankful for my friends from this church. How about you? *Deb*

Prayer Chain: At the deacon's meeting, Pastor suggested a plan for creating a prayer chain at Union Congregational. This was a request of a number of people in the church.

1. Have a sign up list for people who want to participate.
2. If there is a prayer concern, CONTACT the pastor, so that he might make sure it is OK with the person being prayed for to be on the list. We do not want to violate anyone's privacy!
3. Pastor will start the list and call the next person. If they are not there, he will call the next, and so on, until he gets someone.
4. Each person will be given a list and they will do the same.
5. The last person on the list will call the pastor to let him know that the chain has been completed.

The purpose of the prayer chain is not to be a gossip line! It is for us to pray for those in need, because PRAYER does work! Pastor will write and send prayers to people to help those who do not know how to pray for others. Several academic studies have indicated that prayer makes a significant difference in people's lives and in their healing. God HEARS our prayers! We will have a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall, please consider being a part of our prayer chain!

Sunshine Band meets Monday, October 9 at 7 p.m. Devotions will be given by Cindy Lackey. Hostesses are Madeline Bagwill and Linda Zimmerlein. All women of the church are invited to attend our meetings.

October 2 Lions Dinner: Kitchen-Madeline Bagwill, Rae Halford
Dining Room Ginny Kroening, Vanessa McInturf

"**EPIC Youth** Has started up again. In October they will meet Wednesday nights from 5:30-7 at the United Church of Sandwich. **WE NEED YOU!** We need meals for our Wednesday EPIC meetings Those meetings include dinner and we're looking for volunteers to cook for us! Last year, we were blessed with so many meals, from homemade to take-out to monetary contributions. Anything you're willing and able to do, we're willing to eat! Please consider supporting EPIC Youth in this way. You can sign up to take a meal on our meal-share website (<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/150503>) or by contacting Autumn Battaglia (BattagliaAN1@gmail.com) or 815-685-8448)"

We are going to be walking in the CROP Walk as a group and we're looking to raise money to support the group's effort in walking. The CROP Walk (I think all the churches have participated before or are familiar with the walk) is October 1, so anyone who would like to help sponsor the group/give a donation, that would be great! Money can be given to any of the youth (they've been instructed to give it to me), given to myself or Steve, or left in the church offices and we will pick it up. Any amount will help!

Ways to memorialize loved ones and friends: Just a reminder that you can give donations to the church in memory or honor of someone in several different ways. You can make a donation to our Memorial Fund, give to our Endowment Fund, or lately we have had several memorial donations given to our church "Angel Fund". If you have questions about any of this please contact the church office for more information. If giving a memorial donation, please write on your check or include a note with a cash donation, which of these funds it should go to as they are all separate bank accounts.

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 middle 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





October Birthdays:

2	Braeden Budvitis
4	Hannah Herzog
5	Debbie Matthews
8	John Todd Engleman
9	Mark Gillen
10	Gail Thompson
11	Alexis Coultrip
15	Donna Reiss;
23	Carl Wilson, Jack Peterson
25	Emily Zimmerlein
28	Andrew Huss
29	Lisa Hake

October Anniversaries:

1	George & Bobi Smith
4	Carl & Linda Wilson

If you'd like your birthdays or anniversaries included, please give the information to the church office.

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

Around Our Communities

- United Church of Sandwich holds a "Brat Fest" Wednesday October 11 from 5-7 p.m. This is a drive-thru dinner. Tickets are \$10 for 2 brats, cole slaw, sauerkraut, baked beans & cookie, or \$5 for hot dog, chips, apple, and cookie.
- United Church of Sandwich holds a rummage sale and bake sale October 20 & 21. Hours on Friday are 9-4 and Saturday 9-noon.
- Fox Valley YMCA holds a "Trick or Trunk" event on Sunday, October 22nd at the YMCA in Sandwich. Kids are invited to come in costume from 1-2 p.m.
- Somonauk Lions Club holds a drive thru BBQ at the St. John the Baptist parish center parking lot on Monday October 23 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Union Congregational Church

Non-Profit Organization

P.O. Box 275

Somonauk, IL 60552

