

The Messenger

Union Congregational United Church of Christ — Reinbeck, Iowa 50669



The church is in the midst of its **2022 Stewardship Campaign**. Our goal for pledges in 2022 is \$ 110,000. Our Stewardship Campaign will end on Sunday, December 12. We appreciate and need everyone's support whether you pledge or give without a pledge.

As of November 24, we have a total of 22 pledges for a total of \$68,944. For those persons who are continuing pledgers from 2021, their 2022 pledges have increased by almost 16%. We also have two new or returning pledgers thus far.

The theme for our 2022 Stewardship Campaign is *"Rooted in Love"* which is based on Psalm 1:3 which the psalmist says about the righteous "they are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season." In his sermon on Stewardship Sunday, Pastor Bob compared every person to a tree. Every person has roots which lead to that person's growth and maturity. Some of these roots are spiritual, and these spiritual roots of a person need to be watered and nourished just as a tree's roots need nourishment for the tree to grow.

On Stewardship Sunday, Dave Freeseaman spoke about being raised in another church, but by parents who made sure he was in church every Sunday. He credits them for nourishing his early spiritual development. He then married into Union Congregational UCC, when he married Denise. Since joining our church, he credits this church for nourishing him and his family. Dave is active in the church and serves on the Board of Trustees as a way showing gratitude for what God and the church has done for him, Steve McKinstry, also spoke that Sunday, Steve told us of growing up in the Episcopal tradition but straying from the church in early adulthood. In recent years he and wife, Melissa, found a spiritual home in our church. Steve said,

"This church, this building, this ministry was started more than 100 years ago. The support from those people and the many members in the following years meant that the church and this ministry was here when I came in some 10 years ago. And I found a church, a ministry, and a church community . . . even when I didn't know that I was looking for them. Our support now will mean that our church, ministry and faith community will be here when someone else walks in needing us."

Steve now serves as chair of our Board of Trustees.

How has this church been there for you and your family? How does it nourish your spiritual roots? What can you do to keep this church's ministry of love in Christ's name feeding the roots of people and families into the future?

Please support our 2022 Stewardship Campaign and keep our church *"Rooted in Love"*!

United Church of Christ Board Members

Moderator for 2021

Gary Thede

Staff

Pastor - Bob Fread
Administrator/Financial Secretary -
Roxanne Larson

Board of Trustees

Steve McKinstry (24)
Gary Thede (24)
Michele Cooper (24)
Dennis Graeber (23)
Allen Hansen (23)
Dave Freeseaman (22)
Gregg Moser (22)

Board of Deacons

Roxanne Larson (24)
Beverly Cornelius (24)
Diane Staker (23)
Nancy Lauterbach (23)
Shawna Jones (22)
Mary Lou Moser (22)
Nancy Jungling (22)
Barb Brandt (22)
Allen Hansen (22)

Children/youth ed. committee

Cindy Olson (24)
Kristie Giesking (23)
Cody Bystricky (22)
Jessie Blohm (22)
Gina Mathern (22)
Jill Lauterbach (22)

Finance/Stewardship Committee

Gregg Moser, Denise Freeseaman, and
Tracy Thede.

Staff Relations Committee

Gary Thede, Shawna Jones PR only,
Matt Wyatt, Steve Mckinstry PR only,
Dave Freeseaman.

Mission Committee

Barb Brandt, Shawna Jones, Diane Bark-
er, and Roxanne Larson.

United Church of Christ Newsletter:
Gregg Moser
319-823-0307
greggam@reinbeck.net



Union Congregational United Church of Christ

225 Broad Street Reinbeck, IA 50669

www.unioncongucc.org

Pastor : Rev. Bob Fread
Pastor Phone & Text: 319-830-2150
Pastor email UCUCCFread@mediacombb.net
Pastor Office Hours: M, T, TH 9:30 am to 1:30 pm
W 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
Church Administrator: Roxanne Larson
Church Office Phone: 319-788-6434
Church Office Email: reinucc@reinbeck.net
Church Office Hours: M – F 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

The United Church of Christ -

*United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace,
we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.*

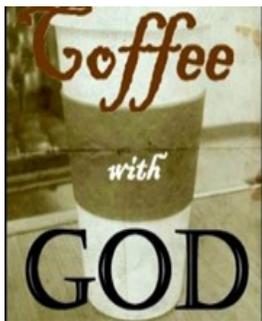


If you want announcements or information in the weekly announcements or in “*The weekly Messenger*” email, please have your information into the church by Wednesday at Noon. If you want information in the monthly “*The Messenger*” newsletter, please have your information into the church by the 20th of the month.

ALSO, if do are not receiving “*The weekly Messenger*” e-mail each Friday, please contact the church office to get your name on the e-mail list. Paper copies of “*The weekly Messenger*” are also available at the church each Sunday if you don’t use email.



We will celebrate the birth of Jesus with worship on **Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24 at 7 pm.** Worship will include Holy Communion and candle lighting. *“For unto us is born this day... Christ the Lord.”*



Our adult Bible study *“Coffee with God”* meets each Sunday at 9 am in the chapel. On Sundays, December 5 & 12 we will be looking at what the Gospels say about the birth of Jesus. Sunday, December 19 will be Christmas fun and games. *“Coffee with God”*

will be on a Christmas break on Sunday, December 26, but will resume on Sunday, January 2 with a final look at Jesus’ birth as we celebrate Epiphany.



Annual reports from church leaders that are included in the church’s Annual Report book will be due into the church office by Wednesday, January 12. Please submit reports to reinucc@reinbeck.net.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 30, 2022, following worship.



An important reminder there will be a . . .

special Congregational Meeting

on Sunday, December 12 following worship.

Information for that meeting, including the 2022 proposed budget, is enclosed on a separate sheet in this newsletter.

Birthdays

- Dec. 4 - Robert Schott
- Dec. 5 - Mahayla Olson
- Dec. 14 - Judy Nehring
- Dec. 21 - Dave Freeseaman
- Dec. 22 - Colton Henrichs
- Dec, 25 - Allen Schott
- Dec. 26 - Abby Jo Henrichs



Happy Anniversary



Anniversaries

- Dec. 19 - Steve and Melissa McKinstry
- Dec. 23 - Del and Nancy Jungling



If you would like someone added to the prayer list, please contact the church office, fill out a prayer card from the pew, or you can email us at reinucc@reinbeck.net. Thank you.

Prayer shawl Ministry



Will meet on **To Be Announced**

in the Dining of United Church of Christ



This year things look a little closer to normal. You can donate actual gifts at the church or in Grundy Center at Operation Threshold. We have our donation box put up in the upstairs and we have a Giving Tree with tags. Please get your donations to the church by Sunday, December 5.

Beside the tags on the tree, some of the following can also be donated: Arts & Craft sets (child/teen), big Barbie sets, big Play-Doh sets, binoculars/telescopes, Disney

princess dress up, farm sets & tractors, Fisher Price little people sets, games, Lego & Duplo sets, Knex/Magnetics/Snap circuits, Nerf toys, 18" dolls, science experiment kits, car kits, tool kits, \$ 25 gift cards for Scheels, Game Stop, Ulta or Old Navy.

Thank you for sharing the love of Christ by helping others this holiday season.



The annual **UCC Christmas Fund Offering** (for the Veterans of the Cross & the Emergency Fund) is an expression of appreciation and caring to those who serve our church. The Emergency Fund aids church employees, lay and clergy, who experience financial hardships. The fund also supplies Christmas gifts and pension supplements to those "veterans of the cross" who faithfully served our church and are now retired. During this holy time of year, the offering is a profound gift.

An offering envelope is enclosed in this newsletter, we will collect the offering in worship on Sunday, December 12, but you may return the envelope to the church any time before Sunday, December 19.



In October at a joint meeting of the Trustees and Diaconate it was decided to appoint a strategic planning committee to provide ideas and suggestions for the future financial, pastoral and governance of the church. This group will be 3 to 5 people including a deacon, a trustee and 1 to 3 members of the church. The group will begin work in January and plans to be finished by mid-April, reporting back to the boards and congregation. Pastor Bob will act as advisor to the group. If you are interested, please speak to either Shawna Jones, chair of Diaconate or Steve McKinstry, chair of Trustees.



In November our next Confirmation Class began which will continue through Easter, 2023. Our new Confirmation students are:

Kael Blohm (sponsor: Yvonne Blohm)

Wyatt Giesking (sponsor: David Giesking)

Trevor Mathern (sponsor: Gina Mathern)

Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their studies and seek to grow in faith.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">December</h1>						
5 Second Sunday in Advent Coffee with God 9 am Worship/SS 10 am	6	7 Diaconate Meeting 7 pm	8 Confirmation Class 6 pm	9	10	11
12 Third Sunday in Advent Coffee with God 9 am Worship/SS 10 am Congregational Meeting following	13	14 Trustees Meeting 7 pm	15	16	17	18 Food Pantry 9 am to 2:30 pm
19 Fourth Sunday in Advent Coffee with God 9 am Worship 10 am	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Worship 7 pm	25 Nativity of Our Lord <i>Merry Christmas</i>
26 First Sunday of Christmas Worship 10 am	27	28	29	30	31	

Union Congregational
United Church of Christ
225 Broad Street
Reinbeck, IA 50669
Phone: 319-788-6434

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #1
Reinbeck, IA 50669

www.unioncongucc.org

Rev. Bob Fread, Pastor
Roxanne Larson, Administrator/
Financial Secretary

DECEMBER 2021

Address Service Requested



Come Join Us . . . Adult Bible Study “Coffee with God” 9:00 to 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School starts at 10:00 a.m.