Madeleine L'Engle, author of *A Wrinkle in Time*, came to speak at Wheaton College when I was a student there in the mid-1980s. I had not then read any of her stories, biblical reflections, essays, memoirs, or poetry, but after listening to her talk, I resolved to begin. She has been a gracious, eccentric, discerning, and bold companion ever since. Though I never met her, she became my teacher. The Spirit hummed in her sentences, reaching out to reform and renew my faith.

Another author I admire, Diana Butler Bass, is also inspired by Madeleine L'Engle. Last month, she wrote and published reflections around L'Engle's Advent poems. In the poem "First Coming," L'Engle invites us to imagine that Jesus was born into a world much like our own. You can find Diana Butler Bass’ reflection on this poem at her blog: https://dianabutlerbass.substack.com/p/advent-3?r=45vbf&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR0tzBVnuHgjqG_HgMsPiqhueWZWg_nBas-PD03mEFj8AvqJKOUcv0U2_5A

**First Coming**  
He did not wait till the world was ready,  
till men and nations were at peace.  
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,  
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.  
He came when the need was deep and great.  
He dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure.  
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame  
he came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.

(Continued on next page)
Longtime member Barbara Meier passed away Dec 10th. Please keep John, Julia, Brian, Kristen, Bently, Sawyer and the rest of her family in our prayers in this most difficult time. Arrangements were not available at the time of printing.

"Happy New Year!" May your knots be loosed in 2021! Rejoice, the Lord is here!
Pastor Dave

We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice, for to share our grief, to touch our pain, He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Happy New Year! We would like to wish all a happy birthday or anniversary. If your birthday or anniversary was omitted or you would rather not have it published, please contact the church office.

No January Wedding Anniversaries

We would like to wish all a happy birthday or anniversary. If your birthday or anniversary was omitted or you would rather not have it published, please contact the church office.

January Birthdays
01/02 Sue Knuth
01/03 Alan Gear
01/04 Diana Hintz
01/04 Tammy Heinrich
01/04 Don Kloepfel
01/10 Teagan Janness-Jording
01/10 Sara Toeppler
01/14 Dave Peperkorn
01/15 Liz MacKelvie
01/18 Amy Kufahl
01/18 Jean McKnight
01/18 Tim Kellnhauser
01/19 Bailey K.
01/19 Dean Katzman
01/20 Adam Anderson
01/24 Kay Roberts
01/24 Wayne Gibson
01/24 Cory Hacker
01/25 Dan Burkett
01/26 Becky Nichols
01/28 Abram E.

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:
Hello 2021! What a welcomed year after a crazy 2020. This past year has been one filled with stress, anxiety, and many blessings. It was amazing how many people stepped up to the plate and helped make our live and out outdoor worship services possible! Thank you!

However, we are still dealing with the impact that happened in 2020. We are still having virtual services and sadly the choir hasn't sung together this year. But that doesn't mean we can't enjoy beautiful singing or music in general. As we head into this New Year, spread your amazing talents with us and play or sing a piece in one of our worship services. It would be an honor to have you join us, no matter your level. Just email me at smj190@yahoo.com and let me know if you would like to share your musical talents!

Spencer Jones

Sacred Music Histories. Every Thursday Spencer will have a new hymn. Check CUCCNM Facebook or website to see Spencer's weekly song.

Join Pastor Dave and Spencer on Sundays at 10:15 am for worship by going to Facebook
Click below to find our FB page
https://www.facebook.com/
CONGREGATIONALUCCNEENAH-MENASHA
It will be posted on the church website later in the day.
Www.cuccnm.org.

January 15th
Glad Tidings
Deadline

Returning of Ornaments that where donated to church Christmas tree.
At the time of printing a plan was not in place. Stay tuned
Ministry of Service

JANUARY SPECIAL OFFERING

Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Valley, Inc. is a 50-year-old, nonprofit, behavioral health agency. It is our mission to connect mind, body, and spirit so individuals, families, organizations and communities thrive. We do this by:

- Providing **mental health and substance abuse counseling** to more than 1,700 children, adults, and families, from four locations - Menasha, Oshkosh, New London and Kaukauna. Many of our clients (about 40%) need fee assistance to access services.
- Administering the **Connected Community Wellness Screen (suicide prevention)** to over 12,000 K-12 students at 50 school sites in 11 school districts in the same region.
- Educating and training hundreds of **professional and lay clergy** to identify mental health concerns and refer congregants to appropriate resources in the community.

During 2020 the pandemic has had a devastating impact on the nonprofit sector throughout the region, and Samaritan is no exception. Even as we saw our revenues decline this year, we worked hard to adapt our services to ensure that our clients continued to receive the services they needed virtually and safely. Our counselors have been doing teletherapy, and the screening program team is using Zoom and a new online software to screen students, do follow up interviews and connect with parents to get their students connected to necessary services.

While we are happy to have been able to not interrupt services, we have seen our revenues from counseling and fundraising lag. More than ever, your support to Samaritan through donations during the month of January will provide resources to ensure that our clients continue to receive the services they need. We know there will still be many challenges in 2021, and we thank you for joining us in continuing to make hope and healing accessible through Samaritan’s excellent programs.

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**2021 Economic Outlook and Charitable Giving Tools ZOOM Seminar**

Join us for a very informative 2021 Economic Outlook on **January 20, 2021**. This Zoom meeting will be presented by NorthStar Asset Management. NorthStar will also discuss some Charitable Giving tools. The Zoom meeting will be from 7:00-8:30PM. See below for the Zoom link.

**Join Zoom Meeting**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87899134064](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87899134064)
Meeting ID: 878 9913 4064

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**COMMUNITY TABLE  LET’S MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Free lunches are available at the Fox Valley Community Table (200 N Commercial St Neenah) Tuesdays and Saturdays from 11:30am -12:30pm in the church parking lot.

December 29th is our day to serve lunch. Each person to make 5 bag lunches. We are using Perfect Potluck online to sign up to help make lunches. [https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/POHI8671](https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/POHI8671)

Click on the link to sign up or call the church office if you need help in signing up.
**SPIRITUAL LIFE**

**Beer and the Bible - Bible Study - Discussion Group**

You see them listed every week or month, but you may not know what goes on with them. Read on and consider joining in on any or all of these programs.

**Beer and the Bible** (B&TB) is an adult discussion group that meets monthly to discuss current issues or topics related to faith. The topics are chosen by the members and, when possible, sent out ahead of time. **January 26th** will be our next discussion on Zoom. Please see newsletter for login information. There’s no need to sign up ahead of time but if you think you’ll be attending, let the church office know so we can provide you with advance reading material if available.

**Bible Study** is an adult lectionary Bible Study program that meets weekly on Tuesdays at 11:00 am on Zoom for right now. We spend time reading and discussing the weekly lectionary scripture readings. Starting in January we will be discussing the Book of Acts. This is a Zoom meeting share by listening or taking part, with or without video. See weekly newsletter for Zoom login information. No matter where you are in your journey with the Bible you are welcome to join.

Zoom log in information can be found on weekly emails or by emailing or calling the church office.

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**Ministry of Faith Development**

**SILENT AUCTION**

This year’s Silent Auction looked very different than years past. I want to give a big THANK YOU to Mary Janness and Connie Regazzi for putting the Silent Auction online to bid on all the wonderful things that were donated. This year we donated all the profits directly to UCCI (UCC church camps in Wisconsin). At this time, between private donations and the Silent Auction, we were able to donate $1,766. With a generous matching funds that UCCI had, our donation totaled $3,532!!!!!! Thank you everyone for making this happen. Without all your donations, Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach may not have made it through this pandemic.
Christmas Program - A Super Christmas by Vanessa Unti was aired on December 20th, it can still be viewed; just go to our website or Facebook page to find the link. The play was recorded via Zoom by Alanna Smith and turned into a play by Marilyn Kostrzak. Thank you to all the kids and families that took the time to make this year’s play an original! A big thanks to Marilyn for finding the play and making it possible!

**Confirmation Class**

January 7\textsuperscript{th}: 6:00 pm with Mentors will be with us.
January 14\textsuperscript{th}: 6:00 pm
January 21\textsuperscript{st}: 6:00 pm
January 28\textsuperscript{th} 5:15pm
All Meetings via Zoom

**Youth Group** Youth group has started up for 5th-8th graders and High Schoolers, please keep an eye out for emails about future dates. To be a part of Youth Group please make sure your child is registered for Sunday School. If you haven’t filled out the form yet, please do so here: https://pdf.ac/4O87Z

**GIVING TREE**

THANK YOU all so much!!!! Your generosity is overwhelming! We more than fulfilled this year’s wish list, making this a Christmas many families in Neenah and Menasha will remember with great joy! Our church surprises me with their big hearts and ability to adapt to change. This year’s Giving Tree look much different, being online, but you were still willing to help out our community! My office was pretty full, it made me smile every time I walked in it!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING JANUARY**

Sunday school will continue to be virtual via Zoom. If you would like your child to participate in Zoom Sunday School or Youth Group activities your child (ren) will need to be a registered Sunday School student, please follow this link: https://pdf.ac/4O87Z OR email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org to receive a Sunday School Registration form.

January 3\textsuperscript{rd}: No Sunday School
January 10\textsuperscript{th}: PreK-4\textsuperscript{th} 9:30am; Middle School and High School 11:30am
January 17\textsuperscript{th}: PreK-4\textsuperscript{th} 9:30am; Middle School 11:30am NO HIGH SCHOOL
January 24\textsuperscript{th}: PreK-4\textsuperscript{th} 9:30am; Middle School and High School 11:30am

**TAKE OUT CHURCH**

Once a month each family will receive a bag of activities for the youth or family to do during this COVID time. If you would like your family to receive this please fill out the Registration Form https://pdf.ac/4O87Z. If you would like to opt out of Take Out Church, please email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org.

**Sunday School Registration Forms**

This year we have gone virtual with our forms. All families who have completed the forms will automatically be on our email list for Virtual Sunday School, Youth Group activities and Take Out Church. If you would like your child to participate in any of our youth programs, please follow this link https://pdf.ac/4O87Z to fill out a form.
NOTE FROM STEWARDSHIP

Dear members and friends of CUCCNM,

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy as we tried to live our lives through the 2020 Pandemic.

Since we are still unable to worship together as a church family, I want to assure our congregation that your Stewardship Committee is working on the month-to-month finances and very diligently on the upcoming budget for 2021. Since having to prepare and submit this note in Mid-December for publication in January, details are still uncertain but very positive for a 3rd year of a balanced budget!!! I am proud to inform everyone that most all pledges have been submitted on time and the Stewardship Team would like to thank everyone for their continued annual pledges and what a blessing it was for so many to increase their commitments this year.

We are happy to announce an income surplus this year. Contributions are always difficult to estimate but we have come in quite a bit more than projected in last year’s budget. Plus, the success of LELC and their stipend to CUCCNM, has added to our building use income.

The Finance Committee will use our best estimate of income from your pledges and history of giving to propose a balanced budget for 2021. We are not projecting any major cuts into our committee’s budget requests or any missions, but please keep in mind if ever needed our Permanent Opportunity Fund policy allows us to propose a budget with a deficit up to $30,000, which would require approval with a 2/3 majority vote at our February annual meeting. Any such deficit will be taken from the principal of the Congregational Enrichment Fund, until the CEF is depleted. The Good Samaritan Fund will then be required for continued needed funds. It will be our goal to honor both the needs and desires of the current congregation as well as those who have generously endowed us with the financial resources for growing a fructuous future.

Since we anticipate still having to deal with social distancing during this continued pandemic, we are in the planning stages of holding an RSVP hybrid preliminary budget hearing via Zoom and or in Person on Sunday, January 17, 2021 after worship, and a second hearing on January 24th please watch your email and mail as we will have many details to follow. We hope you’ll attend, and we welcome your input and comments. Now, as for the Annual Meeting, we will be also planning a hybrid in person and/or Zoom meeting, will be looking to send out all necessary items that need to be voted on ahead of the meeting via mail and email, and require them to be sent back ahead of the meeting to keep the meeting length manageable. Again, this is just in the early planning stages for everyone’s safety so many more details to follow.

Your friend in Christ,  Kevin Katzman, Chair, Ministry of Stewardship

$300 - NEW 2020 CHARITABLE TAX DEDUCTION:

This year an additional $300 / person can be deducted in addition to the Standard Deduction for contributions to the church or other charitable entities.

Church Books Close December 31st

Church Books will close December 31st. Financial gifts to the church for the year 2020 must be received by financial secretary Thursday Dec 31st. Thank you, Melanie Nault
3 WAYS TO SEND IN YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHURCH:

1. Yes, the "Donate" button on the website goes through your credit card or PayPal. PayPal charges 2.2% plus $.30 a transaction. Credit cards vary in charges depending on what kind they use. If you feel the church should not absorb this cost, simply add the fee to your amount being sent to cover the fee.

2. To have the bank send a check you need to go to your bank website and set up a payment. You can do a onetime payment or reoccurring. These checks will go directly to the Church (Congregational UCC, 1511 Nicolet Blvd, Neenah, WI 54956). The church does not use a form for withdrawing, but rather individuals work with their bank to "push" a payment to the church.

3. You can mail the check yourself directly to the church.

Now more than ever, we have witnessed that the church is not just the building in which we gather on Sunday morning, but the church is the people who are called to Christ’s mission in the world!

Accountant’s Corner

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>November</th>
<th>Year to Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giving Income</td>
<td>$14,599</td>
<td>$190,559</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest + Rents</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>17,590</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$16,399</td>
<td>$208,199</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>15,941</td>
<td>185,242</td>
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| Difference        | $457     | $22,957      |

We are still in the BLACK for the year through November
Thank you to everyone who has contributed!
For anyone feeling overwhelmed and in need of professional help:
Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Cities
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!
SCHEDULE YOUR
TELEHEALTH APPOINTMENT
(920)886-9319
Tele-mental health sessions are proven to be as effective as in-person counseling.
All you need is access to the internet and a computer, tablet, or smart phone with audio and/or video capabilities.
You can meet with your counselor from the comfort of your own home.
We are taking new clients!
We are all in this together and will continue to meet your needs in the safest way!

BEER AND BIBLE
Zoom Beer & the Bible
January 26  6:00 pm
Contact Church office for login information.

Church Leadership
2020 Ministry Council
Moderator: Kathy Mahoney
Vice Moderator: Ann Pabst
Secretary: Mary Janness
Accountant: Dave Zernicke
Ministry of Faith Development
Bridget Balogh
Interim Ministry of Service:
Stephanie Vrabec
Ministry of Spiritual Life
Sherri Jischke
Ministry of Stewardship
Kevin Katzman
At Large:
Shirl Alix
Dan Jischke
Dave Kufahl
Church Historian:
Mowry Smith
Communication Coordinator
Marilyn Kostrzak
Time and Talent Coordinator:
Clo Shuman
Personnel Committee
Dan Jischke, Steve Stoll, Marilyn Kostrzak
Pastoral Relations Committee
Dan Balogh, Steve Ware, Gary Zurbuchen, Kerry Fox

HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

THANK YOU!

- Steve Stoll for his stewardship work, along with Marilyn Kostrzak and Kent Mosebach
- Kris Anderson for minute taking.
- Pam Zielinski for setting up zoom meeting for webinar and connections.
- Linda Stoll for her continued work with Lake Edge.

A LAUGH FOR YOU!

“I made a New Year’s resolution to eat broccoli. If I can’t stand it, I’ll give it up for Lent.”

“Wow, Mrs. Hoover — 40 years of teaching Sunday school. You were in it for the long haul!”

“Horace, what are we doing on the same cloud? Our vows said ‘till death do us part.’”

“Remind me never to ask the Youth Group to help fold the church bulletins again.”
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<td>NO Sunday Sch</td>
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<td>Horizon II AA</td>
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<td>10:15 am Worship</td>
<td>Staff Meeting</td>
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<td><strong>5th-8th &amp; H.S.S.S.</strong></td>
<td>Budget Hearing</td>
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Worship is on Facebook Sunday at 10:15 am

Later in the day it is posted on our website.
SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join Pastor Dave and Spencer on Sundays at 10:15 am for worship by going to Facebook

Click below to find our FB page
https://www.facebook.com/CONGREGATIONALUCCNEENAHMENASHA

It will be posted on the church website later in the day.

Www.cuccnm.org.