

The Messenger



A Newsletter of the
Genesee 1st Congregational, United Church of Christ, Inc.

April, 2025 - special edition

Volume 19, Number 6.5

From the Pastor



As we celebrate the glory of Easter and the arrival of spring, we are reminded that this is a season of renewal, rebirth, and transformation. The resurrection of Jesus Christ stands as the ultimate symbol of hope, proving that even in the darkest moments, God is at work, bringing new life and purpose.

Much like the earth sheds its winter coat and bursts forth with new life, we too are invited to leave behind old burdens, doubts, and fears. The resurrection calls us to step into a life of renewal, to embrace the fresh opportunities God offers us each day. Just as the flowers bloom after the cold, we are called to bloom in the light of Christ's love, growing stronger, wiser, and more faithful in our journey.

As the days grow longer and the world around us awakens, may we also experience a personal resurrection—a rebirth in our hearts. Let us open ourselves to God's transformative power, allowing God to renew our spirits and challenge us to live with greater purpose, joy, and commitment.

This Easter season, let us not only celebrate the victory of life over death, but also commit to being renewed in our faith. Just as Jesus rose from the grave, we too can rise to new beginnings, to new opportunities for growth, service, and love. The promise of resurrection is not just a future hope, but a present reality that calls us to live boldly, passionately, and with renewed hearts.

May this season of rebirth inspire us all to embrace the new life God offers, and to become the people we are called to be.

Peace and Love!

Pastor Jim

teamlangreder@gmail.com 262-309-5086

Holy Week events

Maunder Thursday service April 17 – at 6 PM

The Genesee UCC church hosts a potluck and worship with the Lord's Supper – in our Church Community Center. Bring a dish to share.

Good Friday service April 18 – at 6:30 PM

We remember the depth of God's love for us through song and scripture in an interactive service held at the Hartland church. (Capitol Dr. at Church St., in Hartland)

Easter Sunday worship service April 20 – at 10:30 AM

Celebrate the foundational event of our faith: the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Sing hymns of praise amid colorful spring flowers and listen once more to the amazing story of God's triumph over the powers of this world – as we move from grief to hope!

Before worship we'll have an Easter Egg hunt for the children on the church lawn! (10:15 AM). (In case of rain, the hunt will be in the Church Community Center) Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Egg Hunt helpers needed!

Empty Easter eggs will be available for people to take home and bring back to church filled with candy. Please return them to the church office by April 18 for our Egg Hunt on Easter, April 20. Thank you!



Welcome to the April, 2025 special edition of the Messenger. We share Pastor Jim with the Hartland, UCC. As such, we have a 10:30 AM service for six months and a 9 AM service the other six months.

Our Sunday service is currently at 10:30 AM and will continue until Sunday, July 27, 2025. We are currently meeting for Sunday service in the Church Community Center (CCC), that brick building just south of the church. We will meet there through, and including, Sunday April 6. Meeting in the CCC saves us heating costs and its more handicap accessible. Communion is served on the FIRST Sunday of every month. On Sunday, April 13 join us for a Palm Sunday service in the church sanctuary.

We have Sunday School for youngsters from Nursery through Junior-High age. They meet at the same time and place as the adults, and after the "Time With Our Young Disciples" follow their teacher(s) to class.

Currently, the Hartland service is at 9 AM and is livestreamed on the Genesee and Hartland Facebook page; and You-tube channel (First Congregational UCC, Hartland, WI.)

POST WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP

We want to emphasize the importance of togetherness and community in this church. The **FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH** immediately after worship we will have a gathering for snacks, coffee, juice in the Community Center (formerly Education Building).

Stay after, chat, eat and catch up with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Grab 'n Go is a no-no 😊. Stay and connect!

DINNER CHURCH

Join Pastor Jim for dinner at Sideliners at 5:30 PM on Thursday, April 3rd. This is a wonderful opportunity for community and fellowship. Dinner church will occur the First Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM.

OFFICE HOURS:

I (Scott Burdette) am usually in the church office from 2 – 4 PM on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The office phone number is **262-968-3849**.

In addition, below are the Rev. Jim Langreder's hours (during a typical week). In emergency, call Pastor Jim at **262-309-5086**.

Monday: Genesee 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Tuesday: Hartland 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Wednesday: Hartland 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Thursday: Genesee 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Please call ahead. The Pastor (Jim) will also be visiting and/or having meetings during those hours as well.

CHURCH BUDGET UPDATE

Beginning Balance	\$1,118.09
Offering	\$2,108.00
Trans from Savings	\$900.00
Available Balance	\$4,126.09
Less Expenses	<u>\$4,086.64</u>
Balance as of 2/28/25	\$39.45

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study meets on Thursdays, at 1 PM. For the study we will be looking at the next Sunday's bible lesson – and learning more from that study.

Verse of the month

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23 (RSV)

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD DAILY

Copies of the devotional booklet: ***"The Upper Room"*** for May – June, 2025 are here. Call the church office at **262-968-3849**, or come to worship service on Sunday morning, to get your copy. On every page is an inspirational reading and accompanying Bible verse for each day.

BOOK CLUB

Meets on the first Thursday of the month at 11 AM On Thursday, April 3 we will have a discussion of The Handmaid's Tale, by Margaret Atwood. Future books include:

May 1: Antique Hunter's Guide to Murder, by C. L. Miller

June 5: Love Wins, by Rob Bell

PILATES

...is at 8:30 AM every Saturday, unless otherwise designated.

HEIFER PROJECT

A special thank-you to everyone who has contributed their loose change for a very special offering. The Sunday School has made it their 2024-2025 mission project to buy three animals for the Heifer Project. 1 Honey Bee will cost \$30, 2 Flocks of Chicks will Cost \$40, and 1 Goat will cost \$120. The way this works is that we raise the money and Heifer Project International uses the funds to buy the animals and give them to where the need is. The total amount (goal) for all three is \$190. The goal has been reached. Upon reaching the goal, an unanimous doner has agreed to match our giving!

Our treasurer, Angela Williams, has been busy counting the proceeds. On Sunday, April 6, during the 10:30 AM worship service, the students present will announce the final total and thank you for your support.

From April, through Sundays in July, the “singing bowl” loose offering will go to the Mukwonago Food Pantry.

HOPE CENTER

MEAL SERVICE DATES FOR 2025.

Our church is one of 46 congregations, throughout Waukesha County, which serve the meals at Hope Center in Waukesha. The service dates are, every week except holidays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Meals are served at 5:30 PM – with volunteers asked to arrive by 5 PM.

We are asked to have 6 – 8 volunteers present to serve, on average, 60 – 70 people. Trays of desserts: cookies, brownies, cake, etc. are also asked for and are always well appreciated. **NEW!** Hope Center is now located at 101 W Broadway, in Waukesha.

Service dates for Genesee church in 2025 include:

Wednesday, April 9th, 2025

Friday, June 27th, 2025

Friday, November 28th, 2025

Make a note on your calendar to cover these dates.

BUILDING RENTAL AVAILABLE

Do you have a large family gathering, wedding, birthday party, etc., but not enough room to host it? Both our Ed. Center and Church are available to responsible parties. Call the church office at **262-968-3849** for details and a rate schedule.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING DATES

Monday, April 14, 1:30 PM

Monday, May 12, 1:30 PM

TOUCH BASE TUESDAY

Join Pastor Jim for lunch, drinks and conversation about whatever is on your mind and heart.

EVERY TUESDAY 11 AM – 1 PM

Phoenix Restaurant, 129 Cottonwood Av. in Hartland

Margery Christiansen

celebrates her 100th birthday!

Let's join in the celebration and inundate Margery with cards for her birthday (April 8). Let her know she is loved and how amazing it must be to have graced this earth for one full century.

Margery Christiansen
2501 Summit Av., Apt. 214
Waukesha, Wi 53188

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

Special Offering – Sunday, March 30

Beginning Sunday, March 30, and throughout April you have an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of people. Your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes an investment in communities worldwide, providing education to boys and girls, empowering communities through vocational training, giving families the skills to support themselves and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all. Please bring in an extra, special monetary gift any Sunday in April. Contribution envelopes will be on the table where you pick up your Sunday bulletin. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING – June 6 – 7

Two delegates are needed to represent our congregation, to discuss and vote on major resolutions to dissolve our four Wisconsin geographical Associations. The meeting will be held at the beautiful Green Lake Conference Center. Please see Pastor Jim for more information.

PUZZLING (some assembly required)

“The Lord’s Supper” puzzle is complete! Special thanks to Rosemary Booth, Dori Brown, Scott Burdette and Becky Young for completing the puzzle. The completed puzzle is framed and hanging on the north wall of the CCC fellowship hall.

CALLING ALL BAKERS: Sign-up to Donate Bakery Treats for our Spring Flower and Bake Sale Fundraiser 2025

- We are looking for volunteers to bake some of their favorite baked goods to donate to our Mother's Day Flower and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 10th from 9:00 AM -12:00 PM.
- You can sign up on our signupgenius.com link that will be sent out via Pastor Jim's weekly updates or you can call Mary Ann or Rhea (numbers below) or leave a message at the church office.
- *When we know in advance what some of bakery donations will be, we can let others know so they'll come to the sale!*
- We will send out reminders for you to bake and bring your goodies to the Church Community Center on Friday, May 9th.
- If you have any questions, please call Mary Ann Ludtke: **414-828-1234** or Rhea Whiteley: **262-617-8512**. We're happy to help!

Mother's Day Flower and Bake Sale Fundraiser

We're taking pre-orders and payment now thru Wednesday, April 23th.

Gift it, share it and treat yourself! – Beautiful hanging baskets, patio pots, annuals, perennials ***and*** delicious homemade bakery will make great Mother's Day gifts, thank you gifts, a special treat for a friend, neighbor, relative and yourself!

New! *1 quart sun and shade Perennial plants added to the order form*

\$25 Nursery Vouchers – Valid through June 30, 2025. Shop in person at Shady Lane Nurseries in Menomonee Falls for even more variety!

Buy fresh homemade Bakery and pick up flower orders on Saturday, May 10th - 9:00 AM-12:00 PM at the Church Community Center. In time for Sunday's Mother's Day celebrations!

Flower order forms have been sent by email & in this April Newsletter. Paper copies available at the exterior of the Church Community Center door anytime or contact Mary Ann Ludtke: **414-828-1234**.

Drop off orders and payment by April 23rd at 10:30 Sunday worship, the church office (black drop box outside), or by mail. *Questions? Contact Mary Ann:* **414-828-1234** or Rhea: **262-617-8512**.

Share this with others & let them know Spring Is Here at Genesee Church!

100% of all proceeds earned from your generous order will go to the life and missions of our wonderful community church.

Thank you for your support!

A FINAL NOTE 🎵

The deadline for the May-June edition is Sunday, April 20. The deadline for the June, 2025 special edition is Sunday, May 18. To submit an article, event information, or to receive your newsletter via e-mail, send e-mail to:

geneseechurch@wi.twcbc.com

Articles submitted in person need to be typed or written legibly.

Scott W. Burdette

Mother's Day Flower(& Bake Sale) Fundraiser 2025

for 1st Congregational Church of Genesee, UCC

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Orders & payment due Wednesday, April 23rd

Pick up Flower Orders & Bakery on Saturday, May 10th, 9:00am-12:00pm

12" Porch Pots, \$30 each				10" Hanging Baskets, \$30 each			
Type:	Color:	Quantity	Total \$:	Type:	Color:	Quantity	Total \$:
Begonia, Dragon's Wing	Pink			Fuschia, shade	Assorted		
<i>Long blooming-sun to shade</i>	Red			Ivy Geraniums, sun	Red		
Coleus- sun to shade	Assorted			Ivy Geraniums, sun	Pink		
Dahlias- sun -1 color per pot	Growers choice			Ivy Geraniums, sun	Lavender		
Geraniums - sun	Red			Impatiens, shade	Mixed colors		
Lantana – sun	Mixed			Million Bells, part-sun to sun	Mixed colors		
Scaveola- Sun-trailing habit	Blue			Wave Petunia, Patriotic -sun	Red,White,Blue		
Sunpatiens, sun to shade	Assorted			Garden Basket, part-sun	Assorted		
Zinnia, sun-1 color per pot	Growers choice			Portulaca(Moss Rose), sun	Mixed colors		
Specialty Planters & Baskets:	prices below				TOTALS =		
12" Patio Planter, sun (Geranium, spike,vinca vine)	Red - \$42 ea			\$25.00 Vouchers for Sale – Valid until June 30, 2025 <i>Great option for those who would like to go to Shady Lane Greenhouses and shop! Good on Regular priced merchandise & services only. Sales tax not included. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts.</i> Address: W1727388 Shady Lane, Menomonee Falls, WI			
12" Patio Planter, sun (Geranium, spike,vinca vine)	Pink - \$42 ea						
12" Herb Planter, sun- <i>Five assorted Culinary Herbs</i>	Assorted-\$27 ea						
24" Long Flower Pouch- Impatiens, Shade	Assorted-\$27ea						
12" Hanging Mixed Garden Baskets, assorted Annuals	SUN - \$37 ea OR			Shady Lane Nursery Vouchers	\$25 each	Quantity:	Total:
	Shade - \$37 ea						
	TOTALS =						

Direct from the grower to you! Great gifts for Mother's Day, family & friends

Annual Flowers-40 plants/flat <i>Sold in Full Flats</i>	\$22.00 per Flat		\$22 per Flat		4 ½" Potted Annuals-10 per tray <i>Sold in Full Trays only</i>	\$52.00 per Tray		\$52.00 per Tray
Type:	Color:	Qty:	Total:		Type:	Color:	Qty:	Total:
Ageratum, sun	Blue				Dracaena Spike, sun or shade	Green		
Alyssum, sun	White				Vinca Vines, sun or shade	Variegated		
Begonia, shade/part sun	Red-green leaf				Potato Vines, full to part sun	Assorted		
Begonia, shade/part sun	White-green leaf				Coleus, full to part sun	Assorted		
Begonia, shade/part sun	Pink-green leaf				Dahlietta, full sun	Assorted		
Coleus, shade/part sun	Assorted				Dragon Wing Begonias,sun/shade	Assorted		
Dusty Miller, sun	Silver				Lantana, full sun	Assorted		
Impatiens, shade	Red				Million Bells, part to full sun	Assorted		
Impatiens, shade	White				Wave Petunia, sun	Pink		
Impatiens, shade	Pink				Wave Petunia, sun	Purple		
Impatiens, shade	Mixed				Geraniums, sun	Red		
Lobelia, semi-shade	Blue				Geraniums, sun	White		
Marigold(Tall), sun	Yellow				Geraniums, sun	Pink		
Marigold(Tall), sun	Orange				New Guinea Impatiens	Red		
Marigold(Dwarf), sun	Mixed colors				Part Sun to Shade	White		
Petunia, sun	Red					Pink		
Petunia, sun	Mixed colors					Orange		
Portulaca (Moss Rose), sun	Mixed colors					TOTALS:		
Salvia, Sun	Red							
Salvia, Sun	Blue							
Snapdragons(Tall), sun	Mixed colors							
Snapdragons(Dwarf), sun	Mixed colors							
Profusion Zinnia(Dwarf), sun	Mixed Colors							
Dreamland Zinnia(Dwarf), sun	Mixed Colors							
	TOTAL FLATS:							

Note: The varieties of baskets, pots & flats of flowers are what the growers at Shady Lane Nursery

are offering for fundraising this year. Looking for something else?

Buy a Voucher & shop at their Nursery in person! They have amazing varieties of flowers, plants, etc.

Full Sun to Part Sun Perennials

1 Quart pots for \$8.00 each

Type:	Color:	Qty:	Total:
**Allium – sun, 10"-15" tall	Rosy-purple		
**Coreopsis-sun, 18"-24" tall	Yellow		
Balloon Flower-sun, 8" compact	Sky-blue		
**Butterfly Bush-sun, 30" tall	Magenta or Purple		
Echinacea-sun, 24-30" tall	Yellow, Orange or Red		
Gaillardia-sun, 6-12" tall	Orange-Red		
**Lavender-sun, 12-24" tall <i>Variety is grower's choice</i>	Lavender		
Phlox-sun, 30-36" tall	Lavender-pink		
**Salvia-sun, 10" tall, blue-grey foliage	Bright blue		
Shasta Daisy-sun, 15-18" tall	White		
**Deer & Rabbit Resistant			
	TOTALS:		

Shade Perennials

1 Quart pots for \$8.00 each

Type:	Color:	Qty:	Total:
**Bergenia-shade, 10-15" tall spring blooming	Pink w/shiny leaves		
Chelone-shade, 24" tall	Pink		
Heuchera-shade, 10-18" tall spring blooming	White to Pink		
Hosta-shade, 10-18 tall Variegated foliage	Lavender		
**Deer & Rabbit Resistant			
	TOTAL:		

Grand Total Cost = \$ _____

Pay by Cash or Check Payable to: 1st Congregational Church of Genesee, UCC (memo: flowers)

Orders due Wednesday, April 23rd.

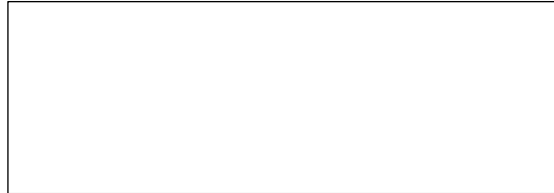
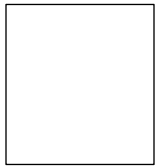
Pick up Saturday, May 10th, 9:00am-12:00pm and shop our Bake Sale

In time for Mother's Day on Sunday, May 11th!

Thank you for supporting our fundraiser!

GENESEE 1ST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC.
W306 S5075 CHURCH ST.
MUKWONAGO (GENESEE), WI 53149-9732
262-968-3849 www.geneseechurch.org

NEWSLETTER APR 2025
TIME VALUE MAIL
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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...and more!

Flower Sale Order Forms attached

Sunday services
10:30 AM at the
Church Community Center
Beginning Sunday, April 13
Sunday services at church
EXCEPT
1st Sunday of the month
Sunday services
at the CCC
with communion