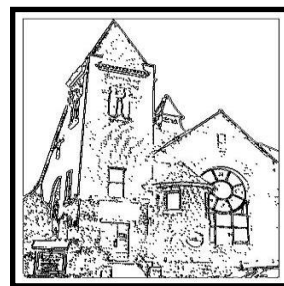


First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
420 Wilson Ave.  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
(715) 235-5838

e-mail: [office@menomonieucc.org](mailto:office@menomonieucc.org)  
website: [menomonieucc.org](http://menomonieucc.org)

# The Bell

September 2025



## September Activities

**Sunday Services: September 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>**  
8:30am Contemplative Service (No Service on 14<sup>th</sup>)  
10am Traditional Service (in-person & livestream)

**Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup> - "Rally Around" Sunday**

**Tuesdays, September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>**  
5:30-8pm Revival Roundtable, FH

**Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
5:30 Chancel Choir rehearsals start

**Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**  
9:30-11am Tour of Homes Crafts, R1

**Thursdays, September 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**  
6-8pm GROWW, R1

**Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**  
3:30pm Executive Committee, R1

**Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**  
6pm Jonah Board, R1

**Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**  
11:30am Church Council, R1

**Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**  
9-11am Thursday's Table Board meeting, R1

**Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Brave Angels Workshops:  
10am-12pm, First Congregational UCC, FH  
10-11:30am, United Methodist Church

**Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
4pm Early Service Planning, R1

### Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm; Friday – closed  
September 1<sup>st</sup>, Labor Day - closed

### Thursday's Table:

Community take-out meal each Thursday 5-6:00pm

### Community Meetings:

AA Meetings, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 6:30am  
Al-Anon Meetings, Mondays, 6:00pm  
NA Meetings, Tuesdays, 7:00pm; Fridays, 7:15pm

## 4th Annual Park for a Purpose



Play it  
Forward

Fundraising for  
good causes @



E7115 1058th Ave  
Wheeler, WI (Otter Creek)

**SATURDAY,  
SEPT 6TH, 2025**

**12-4 pm**

**CAR SHOW-CRAFT SHOW-THE CUTAWAYS  
FOOD-DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT  
HIKING-YARD GAMES- BONFIRE  
SILENT AUCTION (12-3 pm)**

Benefitting:



Grass parking  
**CAR GATES OPEN 12:00 pm  
SHOW 12-4 pm**

**1st 50 Cars: DASH PLAQUES  
Prizes drawn throughout the day**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**Gourmet hot dogs, nachos, desserts  
soft drinks/beer/wine for purchase**

**Stay Late for More Musio: Mojo Lemon Blues Band 6-9pm**

Questions? Contact WoodWind Park @ 715-658-7275 or  
[info@woodwindpark.com](mailto:info@woodwindpark.com)

6/10/25

# From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Beloved Children of God:

"A New Season" is upon us... summer is winding down with Labor Day on the horizon and school about to start. Fall sports have started and the Packers season is almost here. For baseball fans, the pennant race is ON! I'm anxiously waiting for college hockey to begin. The chill of fall will soon be in the air which is why our collection for winter gear for school age children has begun!

Other signs here in church: starting of choir and bell choir practices. Kids Club will start in October to allow families transition time into the new school year. I feel like so much has happened this past year in my life that there are days (or when waking up in the middle of the night) that I forget what month or season it is!

We continue living into this new season with me as your Settled Ordained Minister (SOM). Remember, I've only been here since March! As the council had a short retreat in August, I shared with them, and now all of you, 3 "S"s on which to focus:

*Sustain, Stabilize, Strengthen.*

There is much already happening here at First Congregational UCC! Much that the dedicated staff and members made sure continued during the time without a SOM. You proved it could be done!! You did it! The essential things got done and others waited until the SOM was called. Now there is much being picked up, refocused, transitioned as we continue making our way in this new season with staff and leadership.

We certainly want to sustain the work as we live out our mission. How do we sustain it into the future? Are there some pieces that need to be stabilized, as we've made do, but perhaps not for the long term? Then, what needs to be strengthened? Things that perhaps have begun that we want to do more or better.

As someone who has ideas, I can also become overwhelmed by too much, especially in the midst of learning. At this point, much of the administrative part of my SOM role is to sustain, stabilize, strengthen, and support (1 more "S"!) what is currently happening and to get up to speed the things that have been put on hold in the interim.

Many things are happening here. Perhaps things you do not even know. Please come to "Rally Around" Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> to see the people making so much happen and consider ways to get involved! THANK YOU to the many already involved in so much! Perhaps consider trying something else or branching out. There are short and long term opportunities to help, to share your talents and skills, to live into this community of faith making much happen as we love God and love and care for one another.

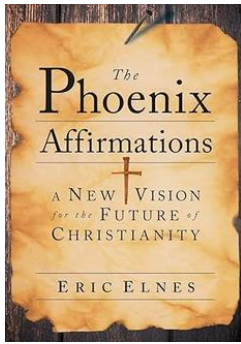
Looking forward to seeing you around! Prayers and blessings for you~

*Pastor René*

# From the Director of Faith Formation

*Karen Miller*

*Greetings, Boozhoo, Quina Monthe!*



**Affirmation Two: Listening for God's Word, which comes through daily prayer and meditation, studying the ancient testimonies which we call Scripture, and attending to God's present activity in the world.**

The first half of Affirmation Two tells us we affirm the Path of Jesus when we engage in daily prayer and meditation, and in personal and community study and interpretation of Scripture. According to the authors, prayer outranks studying Scripture if what we are seeking is direct contact with God. Even Jesus had incomplete knowledge of God's will for him. The Gospels give at least 25 explicit instances where Jesus is engaged in prayer. For those of you into Bible metrics, that's 9 in Matthew, 8 in Mark, 15 in Luke, and 4 in John.

Most biblical scholars believe this an underestimate of the frequency of Jesus' prayer life because the Gospel writers often alluded to Jesus' habit of praying without providing any details. Luke 5:15-16 is a good example: *"But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray."* And Mark 1:35: *"In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed."*

Prayer was not an occasional activity Jesus engaged in; prayer was more a state of being – a continuous dialogue with God that shaped his actions, decisions, and relationships. Prayer was Jesus' primary spiritual practice. Sometimes Jesus engaged in short episodes of prayer; for example, at the raising of Lazarus (John 11:41-42), and in teaching his disciples The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

Jesus also engaged in extended periods of prayer. In Luke 6:12-13, Jesus went to the mountain to pray *"and he spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles."* In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus returned to his disciples and found them sleeping: *"So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?"* Jesus and the disciples would repeat this scene two more times before Jesus is arrested.

Imagine, Jesus, the Son of God, needing to spend his life in ongoing, continuous dialogue with God! Well, the Phoenix Affirmation authors suggest that for you and I to have a *"true, ongoing relationship with God,"* we "need to spend thirty minutes each day in prayer." But only if we hope to or want to affirm the Path of Jesus.

Peace and Blessings,

*Karen*

Scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version Red Letter Bible 1989.

# Prayer And Meditation – Thirty Minutes Every Day?!

The Phoenix Affirmation authors anticipated readers might have “good” reasons to explain why it is impossible to engage in thirty minutes of daily prayer – reasons like, *“I can’t possibly fit another thing into my schedule!”*

But we all know that thirty minutes goes by quickly when we are doing something we love. In fact, you and I will find thirty minutes, no matter how busy we are, to do that thing we love. Some of us can be downright fervently religious about consuming the sports section, binge watching a Netflix series or movie, playing our favorite online game on laptop or smartphone, or [add your thing here].

Would you believe me if I told you prayer is more important than television and is as interesting and endlessly creative as sex? No? Good. I would never make such a claim.



The authors do make that claim (see page 27), even though prayer can, on some days, feel like a chore where nothing happens. Sometimes prayer does offer an immediate response. But if what we are looking for is a true, ongoing relationship with God, we will probably need to do less talking and more listening than we are used to doing – for more than one day.

[T]he basic stance in prayer is that of deep listening, and there may not be a lot of action on God’s part that is immediately perceptible. The experience may be more like the sound of falling snow. You do not hear directly the sound of falling snow. What you hear, if you are paying attention, is the change of acoustics in your surroundings. God’s voice is not something we often perceive directly. Rather, we perceive it by noticing how our perception of everything else changes in response. (p.27)

I will share information about various prayer techniques I have tried and/or currently use during the month of September. Look for the [links](#) to this information in the e-News and Sunday bulletins. I would be interested in hearing your experiences with prayer, so feel free to share them with me and with others.

Blessings,

*Karen*

# September Worship Volunteers

|                            | Flowers     | Coffee Servers                   | Readers              |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| September 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Deb Wesolek | Naomi Cummings and<br>Ron Welsch | Melisa and Aly Kluge |
| September 14 <sup>th</sup> | Kid's Club  | Rally Sunday Potluck             | Ellen Ochs           |
| September 21 <sup>st</sup> |             | Dee Bymenski                     |                      |
| September 28 <sup>nd</sup> | Doris Win   | Nancy Jackson                    |                      |

*Signup sheets are by the west entrance & near the coat closet*

## Announcements



[Visit Our Braver Angels Website](#)

[View Our YouTube Page](#)

[View Our Documentary on YouTube](#)

Spirited, partisan political dialogue is nothing new in our country. Nor are constructive differences of opinion about issues, policies, values, and election outcomes. But things are devolving as of late. Normal political competition has, too often, degraded into acts of demonizing and dehumanizing our opponents. We're witnessing a real-time, rapidly widening Red-Blue fracture.

**Braver Angels doesn't accept a divided, combative, and self-destructive nation as our destiny. And we've come together in the cause of reversing this troubling trend. We work tirelessly to transform the attitudes and discourse of our nation's citizens... one person and community at a time. We seek not to force compromise surrounding existing, deeply held views in life. Instead, we strive to find lasting common ground in our shared humanity and dialogue.**

Braver Angels Live Bravely Brochure

The Wisconsin and Minnesota Chapters of Braver Angels will conduct three workshops at two Menomonie churches on Saturday mornings this September and October. Workshops are free and open to the anyone with a genuine interest in contributing to depolarization by learning and practicing better communication strategies.

- Registration is required.
- Participants may register for one, two, or three workshops.

- Light snack and beverage provided.
- Childcare available upon request.

|                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Workshop 1</b>                                                                                       | <p align="center"> <b>Christian Response to Political Polarization</b><br/> <b>Saturday, September 20, 2025   10 a.m. to Noon</b><br/>         First Congregational United Church of Christ<br/>         420 Wilson Avenue, Menomonie WI 54751<br/> <b>Register:</b> <a href="https://signup.zone/4x2TGoPxZfiiA5EwB">https://signup.zone/4x2TGoPxZfiiA5EwB</a> </p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Workshop 2</b><br>  | <p align="center"> <b>Depolarizing Ourselves</b><br/> <b>Saturday, September 27, 2025   10 to 11:30 a.m.</b><br/>         United Methodist Church<br/>         2703 Bongey Drive, Menomonie WI 54751<br/> <b>Register:</b> <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/depolarizing-ourselves-first-congregational-ucc-menomonie-umc-registration-1506054663039?aff=oddttdtcreator&amp;discount=BRAVER">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/depolarizing-ourselves-first-congregational-ucc-menomonie-umc-registration-1506054663039?aff=oddttdtcreator&amp;discount=BRAVER</a> </p>                                        |
| <b>Workshop 3</b><br> | <p align="center"> <b>Skills for Disagreeing Better</b><br/> <b>Saturday, October 4, 2025   10 to 11:30 a.m.</b><br/>         First Congregational United Church of Christ<br/>         420 Wilson Avenue, Menomonie WI 54751<br/> <b>Register:</b> <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skills-for-disagreeing-better-first-congregational-ucc-menomonie-umc-registration-1505962828359?aff=oddttdtcreator&amp;discount=BRAVER">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skills-for-disagreeing-better-first-congregational-ucc-menomonie-umc-registration-1505962828359?aff=oddttdtcreator&amp;discount=BRAVER</a> </p> |

***Open to all faiths...open to all political leanings...open to all who want to engage in civil discourse on issues***

Contact Karen to learn more: [dirfaithform@menomonieucc.org](mailto:dirfaithform@menomonieucc.org) | 715.235.5838



### IT'S TIME FOR THE SCHOOL AGE WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE!

Collecting new or gently used:  
winter jackets; snow pants; boots;  
hats; gloves; and mittens.

or  
sweatpants and leggings

Collecting new:  
socks and underwear.

Collection dates:  
August 17th to September 21st

Collection Bin Located in the Hallway



### WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

for school age children has started on **August 17th.**

We will be collecting new or gently used: winter coats; snow pants; boots; mittens; hats; sweat pants; and leggings. We will also be collecting new socks and underwear.

A bin will be in the hallway on the way to the Fellowship Hall for you to place the items in.

Let's make it a winter where children can enjoy winter because they are warm.

- Care Ministries Committee



## 2025 TOUR OF HOMES INFORMATION

The Tour Planning Committee has made the following decisions:

- DATE: Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>  
TIME: 10am – 2pm  
VENUES: Dunn County Historical Society / Rassbach Museum Wakanda Wonderland Event, antiques-filled private home, and First Congregational UCC  
THEME: “‘N’ Old-Fashioned Christmas” with a Christmas tree logo  
ADMISSION: Free (Donations accepted)

Women’s Fellowship, in partnership with DCHS/Rassbach Museum, will be celebrating and displaying information, decorations and craft items from the past 60+ years of the Tour of Homes.

**We need your help** – sign-up sheets will be available for you to select where, when, and how you can help.

Also, we need church members or others who may have tree decorations or craft items from the past that they would be willing to loan for display only. Please check your ‘Christmas stash’ for items that would be labeled, displayed, and returned. Contact Judy Fry: 715-235-5846

## RALLY AROUND: A TIME FOR GATHERING AND SHARING!

Sunday, September 14, we’ll have pot luck and our new and revised Rally Around! event. While everyone is filling their plates and eating, the deacons will be up front sharing all the reasons why you should stop by their table to learn more about what Stewardship encompasses within our church community and the ways in which you can volunteer your time and talent to the projects the committees will be sharing. Plus, there are some tables that will have fun treats!

Not only will you be brought up to date on our church committees and their projects, but there’s good food, conversation, and yes, a prize or two to say thank you for participating! Upon entering the church, when you receive your bulletin, you will receive a card with listings of all the different tables you can visit. When you stop by, be sure to ask the representative to initial your card to show you’ve been there. When you’ve checked all the boxes, write your name, and drop it in the marked container for the drawing.

There will also be refrigerator magnets to take home that will have significant church events on them. Plan to attend and learn more about the ways you can share your talents and help with the services provided by and for our church family. There are so many opportunities to support our church. Maybe you’ll find the perfect fit at Rally Around: A time for gathering and sharing.

## BECOMING A CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH

At the July meeting, the Church Council approved a request from the Mission for Peace and Justice Committee to proceed with steps to become a UCC Creation Justice Church. Creation Justice is one of 8 Just World Covenant programs of the UCC. 1st Congo already has two of these designations: Just Peace and Open and Affirming.

On Sunday, September 14 at the Rally Around event, the MPJC will have information at their table explaining this initiative and next steps. Please come by, pick up some information, talk to us, and sign up!! We will be asking for volunteers to join our “green team” and our committee.

We may even have some rewards for those who do!!

The MPJC will keep everyone informed of plans and events that will be coming up. We hope to have congregational approval of the covenant at our April annual meeting.

**LINK TO THE FULL CHURCH CALENDAR:** <https://www.menomonieucc.org/monthlycalendar>

# Dear Church family, It's time for a New Directory!



*Celebrating faith.  
Connecting families.  
Sharing hope.*

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families, and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

*Directory Committee*

## Connections Event

*Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.*

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply go online and follow the instructions below. If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

**Set your appointment with Universal today!**

*Gathering families,  
Connecting generations.*



**Please be included in our New Pictorial Directory! It won't be the same without YOU!**

**Our Photo Dates are: Thursday - Saturday, October 23 - 25**

**Schedule your photography appointment online!** Just scan the QR code to the right → → →

Or - go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com) & click the "Photography Session Sign-Up" button.

The "Church Code" is **wi438** The "Church Password" is **photos**

Online signup may not be available on Saturday & Sunday so we can have paper sign-ups at church on the weekends.

You will receive a free 8x10 portrait and a free copy of our directory just for coming in for a portrait!

Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule soon to get the best time that works for you!





# Thank You

If you have noticed that the gardens around the church look particularly lovely this summer it is due to the following volunteers who spent anywhere from 1 to many hours helping with the landscaping.

Workers in the Memorial Garden: Lori Anda, Alan and Deb Benoit, Nita Fitzgerald, Barb Flom, Ron Fry, Diane and Andrew Mercil, Jim Naglar, Linda Olson, Jeanne Rothaupt and Deb and John Wesolek.

Workers in the Courtyard: Alan and Deb Benoit, Diane Mercil, Linda Hamm, Karen Levandoski, Gail Skamfer and Deb and John Wesolek.

Wilson Street gardens: Lori Anda, Rick Nagler, Lee Nicholls, Linda Olson, Gail Skamfer, Lee Theorin.

5th St. Peony Garden: Doris Win and Emily Win.

West Stairs: Lee Nicholls

If you would like to help with the gardens at church contact Deb Wesolek (715-235-9360) or sign up on "Rally Around"!

Minutes of Church Council Meeting  
First Congregational UCC, Menomonie, WI  
July 15, 2025

Role Call: Luci Black (Membership/Fellowship), Kathy Colvin (Worship), Sherry Galetka (Stewardship), Melissa Kluge (Christian Education), René Mehlberg (Pastor), Rick Nagler (Vice Moderator), Jeanne Rothaupt (Moderator), Tom Schmelzle (Treasurer), Deanna Schultz (Music), Lee Theorin (Property) and Agnes Welsch (Mission). Andrew Mercil (Past Moderator), Jill Schwebs (Clerk) and Margi Stauss (Care Ministries) were not present. Also attending: Karen Miller (Director of Faith Formation).

The Council was called to order at 11:35 a.m. by moderator, Jeanne Rothaupt.

Sherry moved to approve the Council Agenda. Luci seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Agnes led the group in prayer.

1. The consent agenda, including June 1 minutes, July Treasurer's report and deacon reports, was approved. (Motion by Kathy, Rick seconded)
2. Pastor René presented a Personnel Committee request to add an IT committee that would assess the church technology and ongoing support needed, including personnel. Pastor René will coordinate committee membership, with the Council vice-moderator as a member. The request was approved (Motion by Tom, Kathy seconded).
3. Agnes presented a request from the Mission, Peace and Justice Committee for our church to become a "Creation Justice Church." This is a UCC designation with a focus on addressing issues related to environmental degradation and the social impact. Our church is already doing many of the things needed to meet this designation. This would require approval at a congregational meeting, after which we could apply for grants.

A motion was made by Kathy, seconded by Sherry, for the committee to pursue the application and determine when it could go before the congregation for approval. The motion was approved.

4. Jeanne requested that an auditing committee be formed, with Lavonne Solem and Kim Blomquist as its members (both volunteered). The request was approved (Motion by Agnes, Luci seconded).
5. Luci led a discussion about the August 5 pie social and what time to set up. That is the same night as National Night Out which will be in Wilson Park from 5:30-7:30pm. Consensus of the Council was that set-up occur early, beginning at 5:00pm at the church and a sign with the start time for serving be posted at the shelter.

Additional help will be needed and there are sign-up sheets by the West entrance.

Lee will ask the Building and Grounds committee if someone could provide a truck to transport things from church to the park.

For this and other events, Luci will seek environmentally friendly options for serving dishes and utensils.

6. Council discussed a Costco membership and how to coordinate its usage. Membership card must be in a person's name, someone representing the organization, and that person has to be there when purchases are made. Karen Miller has a card for First Congregational that is tax-exempt; anyone who wants to shop there must contact Karen and she'll arrange to go shopping with them. Everyone on Council should have a tax-exempt card for any purchases they might make for the church, or there is one in the office.
7. Jeanne requested approval to move forward with the "Together for Tomorrow" Planned Giving Initiative. A copy of the plan was provided to the Council. The goal is to build the endowment for the church. The

initiative will have a participation goal rather than a dollar amount. Kick-off will be Rally Sunday. The request was approved (Motion by Sherry, Deanna seconded).

8. Sherry asked the Council if they could meet another day to start planning the Fall kickoff/Rally Sunday (September 14). The Council will meet on Tuesday, July 29 at 11:30am in Room 1 for that planning meeting.
9. Melissa provided an update on the Kids Camp scheduled for August 13-15 from 1:00-4:00pm. Additional helpers are needed. There will be/are sign up sheets.

Jeanne reminded everyone of the following upcoming events

- Blood Drive Wed. July 30, 9:00-3:00
- Retreat: Strategic Planning Sun. August 3, 11:30-2:30 Room 1  
Vision for our church Rev. Michael Jones facilitating  
Identify Goals/Committees that goals go under  
Activities/Action items to achieve goal
- Pie Social Tues. August 5
- Outdoor Service Sun. August 10
- Kids Camp; Wed August 13-Fri. August 15 from 1-4pm
- Work on the Behavioral Covenant (Rick and Pastor René)
- Wall Dog Update (for June 25-28, 2026)
- Next council meeting Tues. August 19, 11:30-1:00

Kathy reminded everyone to sign up for communion servers using the SignUp app that Nita and Jeanne emailed to everyone. Kathy will send an email reminder to everyone with the link.

In the future, it could be added to the church web page in a password protected portion.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Deanna Schultz for Jill Schwebs, Clerk

Draft Minutes of Church Council Meeting  
First Congregational UCC, Menomonie, WI  
August 19, 2025

Roll Call: Luci Black (Membership/Fellowship), Kathy Colvin (Worship), Melissa Kluge (Christian Education), René Mehlberg (Pastor), Andrew Mercil (Past Moderator), Rick Nagler (Vice Moderator), Jeanne Rothaupt (Moderator), Tom Schmelzle (Treasurer), Jill Schwebs (Clerk), Deanna Schultz (Music), Margi Stauss (Care Ministries), and Lee Theorin (Property). Sherry Galetka (Stewardship) and Agnes Welsch (Mission) were not present.

The Council was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by moderator, Jeanne Rothaupt.

Deanna led the group in prayer.

1. The consent agenda, including the July 15<sup>th</sup> minutes, the August Treasurer's Report and Deacon Reports, was approved. (Motion by Andrew, and seconded by Deanna.)
2. Action Items
  - a. Lee discussed the need for replacement of one of the air conditioners. Lee moved that the purchase for \$7,555 be approved and Cathy seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

- b. Rene talked about doing an updated picture directory. We would need to form a team to do this. If we do it by December 6<sup>th</sup>, photos would be available for Christmas gifts. Jeanne and Andrew will take responsibility for putting a team together. The Council voted to go forward.
- c. Rally Around Sunday was discussed briefly.
- d. A congregational photo will be on September 7<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary.
- e. Deanna reported that the piano and organ need work. Her committee will be meeting to discuss the issues and the need for funding to cover the costs.
- f. Andrew and Lucy have been working on a refrigerator magnet for major dates in the church year. It should be ready in September.
- g. There was discussion about conflicts between Bridge Sunday and the choir. Deanne moved that after September, Bridge Sunday be moved to the second Sunday of each month. Luci seconded the motion and it was passed
- h. The Funeral Memorial Form needs to be updated. Fees need to be adjusted. A need for bulletin fee and a dishwasher fee. The fee for the minister and janitor needs to be adjusted if there is no funeral director. The new form will be presented in September.
- i. There was a discussion of the retreat. Melissa will be discussing this with the ED Comm. Jeanne liked that idea and suggested bringing the goals up at all the committee meetings. Deanna suggested having copies available on Rally Sunday and inviting the Congregation to share their ideas.

### 3. Follow-up

- a. There were seven children at Kid's Camp. Melissa reported that adult help and donated food was abundant. The whole set up was amazing and Sara Nagler did a fantastic job. The kids are growing and maturing. Information will be shared with the congregation.
- b. An IT committee is being developed and there will be a report soon.
- c. The church audit has been completed for the past two years. All five checkbooks were audited. An Audit Guide from the Conference was very helpful. The overall report was very positive, The report will go to the Executive Committee.
- d. Luci reported on the pie social. We cleared \$2,840.40. Notes have been made in anticipation of next year.
- e. A card will be in the office for Council Members to sign for Andrew Warner following the death of his mother.
- f. Jeanne would like to promote 100% participation in a Planned Giving and support of the church. More will be coming.
- g. Reminders: Coffee servers are scheduled through September. We need communion servers.

The next meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. on September 16, 2025.

Andrew moved that the meeting be adjourned. Margi seconded the motion, and it was approved.

The Doxology was sung.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Schwebs, Clerk