

The Shepherd's Word  
Our Shepherd UCC  
710 Ethan Allen Drive  
Howards Grove, WI 53083

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Our Shepherd UCC  
920-565-3376

February 2023  
Pastor Nathan Athorp  
[ourshepherducc.com](http://ourshepherducc.com)

Send newsletter articles to: [OurShepherdNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:OurShepherdNewsletter@gmail.com)

Pastor Contact information:

Pastor's Cell: 920-946-3585 Pastor's e-mail: [nathorp70@gmail.com](mailto:nathorp70@gmail.com)



### **Prayer Concerns...**

*Please keep those who are shut-in or ill in  
your prayers.*

*Kathleen Grube -Terrace Estates  
1231 Eisner Ave  
Sheboygan, WI 53083*

*Cleora Marx -110 S. Pershing Avenue  
Howards Grove, WI 53083*

*Doris Hanke - The Waterford  
2586 Valley Rd  
Plymouth, WI 53073*

## Newsletter via E-mail?



An easy way to help save Our Shepherd a little money and reduce some clutter in your house is to have your email address added to our newsletter emailing list. This will save the cost of postage and printing. Simply let Pastor Nathan or Shari know if you would like to receive our newsletter view email instead of have it sent in the mail.

## Vanco Automated Giving

In 2022 almost 20% of all financial contributions to Our Shepherd were completed using our Vanco on-line giving program, that is really impressive considering we have not been offering that option for very long! It is also really helpful in that it provides a consistent income stream all year long. When families establish on-line giving, they typically schedule the same amount to be given to Our Shepherd every month, regardless of how often the family is actually worshipping with us in person. Individuals have also shared that they appreciate this method of giving because it takes something off the list of things to remember on Sunday morning. You can schedule the contribution to happen just like paying a bill on-line and then both you and the church knows it will happen in a consistent manner. If you have questions or would like assistance in seeing how Vanco might work for your family, come talk to Pastor Nathan and we will make it happen.

**COFFEE BREAK  
OUR SHEPHERD, UCC  
710 Ethan Allen Drive  
Howards Grove**

**2<sup>ND</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00a.m.**

Our Shepherd, UCC will be hosting a Coffee Break on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Join us for a time of open conversation along with a cup of coffee and, perhaps a cookie or two.



We will meet in the church common area. Bring your ideas, bring a friend, bring a neighbor! Those attending do not need to be a member of Our Shepherd , UCC. ALL ARE WELCOME!!!







Tis the season when we would be wise to pay attention to the weather before heading out on Sunday mornings. If indeed Pastor Nathan believes we need to be canceling worship because of the weather, after consulting with the consistory, we will work hard at getting that word out. We will be posting it on our **Facebook** page and sending out a mass email in addition to posting on **Fox 6, WTMJ and Weather Watch 12.**

**The Back Pew - Jeff Larson**



Praise him north winds and snowy sky..  
praise him chilly air, and snow drifts high..  
praise him winter while spring is nigh. **Ps 148**  
**FTV (frozen tundra version)**

# February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>Food Pantry Items</b> <b>Paper Products</b> 			1	2	3	4
5 <b>8:30 Church School</b> <b>10:00 Worship - In person and on Facebook</b>  <b>1:00 – 3:00 Sheepshead at Bethlehem UCC</b>	6 11:00 Chair Yoga	7 Meal Prep for Salvation Army @12:30	8 9:00 Coffee Break 	9 Book Study 6:30 p.m.	10	11
12 <b>8:30 Church School</b> <b>8:30 Consistory meeting</b> <b>10:00 Worship – In person and on Facebook</b>  <b>Pancake Breakfast – following worship</b>	13 11:00 Chair Yoga	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> 	15	16	17	18
19 <b>8:30 Church School</b> <b>10:00 Worship – In person and on Facebook</b>  <b>Scrip Orders Due</b> <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>	20 11:00 Chair Yoga	21 Meal Prep for Salvation Army @12:30	22 9:00 Coffee Break 	23 Book Study 6:30 p.m.	24	25
26 <b>8:30 Church School</b> <b>10:00 Worship – In person and on Facebook</b>	27 11:00 Chair Yoga	28				

We will continue to gather inside our church building for worship. Face masks are optional. The Congregation is invited to sing all songs.

**September – May  
Worship Service will be held  
at 10:00 a.m.**



### Consistory

Roger Sheahan –President  
JoAnn Gadicke- Secretary  
Nancy Cherney  
Kyle Stowers  
Audrey Aardappel

### Pastoral Relations

Neal Henschel  
Nicole Twohig-Sec  
Nancy Henschel  
Ann VanWyk

### Officers

Mandi Grube-  
Treasurer  
  
Carla Hemb-  
Church & Financial  
Secretary

*The Falls Food Pantry serves the needs of Howards Grove, Kohler, Sheboygan Falls and Waldo. All donations are very much appreciated.*



### Food Pantry Needs

**We all are experiencing rising prices in the grocery stores and our food pantries are not immune to this. As you are doing your grocery shopping, if at all possible, consider purchasing just one extra item for our food pantry donation. Imagine what you would want to see if your kitchen pantry was empty. Look for something on sale, look for something nutritious, and remember those who are less fortunate.**

**SHOP WITH SCRIP** Continuing in 2023, card orders will be due the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month. Don't worry; we will have a stockpile of the cards purchased most often that you can buy any Sunday. It's best to get that order in on a monthly basis so you can plan for it in your budget.



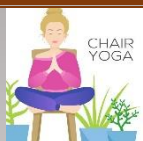
Any questions, talk to Shari Ver Straate, Renae Wunsch, Nancy Cherney or Char Gumm.



## **The Upper Room**



The January/February issue of the daily devotional "The Upper Room" is available in the Literature Rack.



The 11:00 am chair yoga is in session. The sessions run by number of Mondays in a month. A new session begins on the first Monday of a month. The sessions cost is \$7 per Monday, so 4 Mondays in a month the cost is \$28 etc. The \$10 drop in option is also available. The February session will begin on February 6th. There will be four Mondays in the month of February.

We are always looking for new friends to join our program.

Questions, please contact Renae at 920-565-2785 or [rkwunsch711@gmail.com](mailto:rkwunsch711@gmail.com).

## **Church School News**

Items for the Food Pantry

The month of **February** donations may be placed in the basket, located in the office area:

### **Paper Products**

**Change for Change Jar** – Money used to purchase items for food pantry

**Prayer Shawl/Blankets** – For those in our prayers, items can be found in the office area. If you know of someone in need of a shawl/blanket, please select an item to present to them.

**Beverage Tabs** for the Ronald McDonald House

**Birthday Bags** – Thank you to those that continue to provide birthday bags. If you would like to donate for a bag, bring: a box of cake mix, small bottle of oil, can of frosting, candles – the eggs supplied by food pantry. The bags to place the items in are located in the church office.



## **Church School News**

**B:** Be with God **L:** Love God & neighbor **U:** Understand yourself as a child of God **E:** Explore the Bible



Church school is offered to children age 3 to confirmation. The program runs from 8:30 to 9:45 weekly, followed by church services at 10:00.

February is a busy month for the church school. Each family was presented with a \$50 gift card to purchase food for the local food bank. **Thanks to your generosity at the children's program of \$381, and equal donations of \$70 from scrip, the church school and yoga we were able to buy cards from scrip for the Piggly Wiggly.** Items to be purchased may include food, baby products, paper products, or selfcare. **These items will be collected up to February 12<sup>th</sup>. All donations are welcome!!**



The Sheboygan Falls food pantry has sent us a wonderful thank you card acknowledging our many donations of food and birthday bags during the year of 2022.



## God's Blessings on your Birthday -February

4 Cecilia Munger	6 Millie Stowers
8 Nancy Cherney	12 Debby Henschel
12 Jordan Hemb	17 Josh Knuth
17 Lindsay Ver Straate	19 Melissa Munger
19 Adam Sheahan	22 Kathy Kalk



**We have Birthday Cards on the rack in church.**

**Consider giving a monetary donation to the Scholarship Fund in honor of someone's birthday.  
Your contribution will be applied to your annual giving.**

## **Rural Church Fellowship**

**Event:** Sheepshead Fun Day

**When:** Sunday, February 5, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Doors open at 12:30

Inclement weather date: February 19.

**To Benefit:** Immanuel U.C.C., Sheboygan Falls Pantry, St Peter's U.C.C.-Kiel, and United Ministries

**Entrance Fee:** Canned goods/Free will offering

Rules will be explained before Tournament begins.

All skill levels welcome

**Refreshments will be available**

**Child care will be supplied, games and movies for the kiddos**

Come one and all to play 3,4 or 5 handed sheepshead or learn to play



## **Bethlehem Chili Supper**

Wednesday, February 1, 2023                      3:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Drive Thru/ Pick Up Only

## **Who Likes Pancakes?!?!**

On February 12<sup>th</sup> the church school children will share a musical selection during the morning service.



THE PANCAKE BREAKFAST is back.  
Please join the church school after the morning worship for a breakfast of pancakes, sausages, and all the toppings!!  
This is a free will offering event.



## Meals for Salvation Army

The Women's Fellowship makes meals for Salvation Army twice a month. We are asking for help in providing supplies for these meals be either by **donating items that we need or by purchasing a gift card from Piggly Wiggly or Walmart**. Below is a list of items that we will need. We will be serving **30 people**. If you are able to make a dessert for one of the days, we would appreciate that. Thank you.

### February 7 - Hamburger Stroganoff with noodles, greens beans, and Jell-o

**Needed items:** 4 large onions 1 large container of sour cream  
4 cans cream of mushroom soup 4 bags of egg noodles

**Dessert – for 30 people, needed**

### February 21- Tomato Wild Rice Soup

**Needed items:** 4 large onions 4 green peppers 10# tomatoes

**Dessert – for 30 people, needed**

**Thank you to everyone who has donated supplies  
or made a dessert or helped make the meal.  
It is greatly appreciated.**

The Salvation Army Volunteers look forward to our meals. Anyone can also volunteer to make a meal and donate it. Every month they provide a calendar with a list of people or organizations that volunteer food for the homeless. If anyone is interested their website is:

<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/sheboygan/el-volunteer-calendar> or you can contact CarryeJo Cony at 920-694-1271

## Dates to Remember in February

Sunday, Feb 5	Communion Worship Service 12:30 – 3:00 Rural Church Fellowship Sheepshead tournament @ Bethlehem UCC
Sunday, Feb 12	8:30 a.m. Consistory Meeting <b>PANCAKE BREAKFAST FOLLOWING WORSHIP</b>
Wednesday, Feb 8	Coffee Hour – 9:00a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Thursday, Feb 9	6:30 p.m. Book Study
Wednesday, Feb 22	Coffee Hour — 9:00a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Thursday, Feb 23	6:30 p.m. Book Study



## Consistory Meeting, January 8, 2023

1. Sacraments- February 5
2. Annual meeting has been changed to January 29, 2023
3. Mandi's financial reports shows a negative of \$4000 for the end of 2022
4. Women's Fellowship is looking into new altar cloths
5. Consistory discussed starting conversation to look into becoming an Open and Affirming congregation
6. Quotes for painting the outside of our church building are being collected. 2 options – first - painter works alone, second - painter works with member volunteers
7. Three members have volunteered to serve on consistory

**Next Meeting: February 12 @ 8:30**

## Joys

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> Our Shepherd welcomed Stephanie and Rodney Wallace into our family as members. Their daughter Araya has been actively participating in our Sunday School program for much of 2022 already. Job transfers have brought them to Wisconsin from Louisiana. If you see them around, please introduce yourself, it is always nice when those who know the ropes offer assistance to those who are new.



### God's love is for you

God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure. (Ephesians 1:5)

### God's love is for sharing

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:12-13.

### God's love is for action

Show God's love by listening, show God's love with generosity, show God's love by encouraging, show God's love with acts of kindness, show God's love by praying for others.

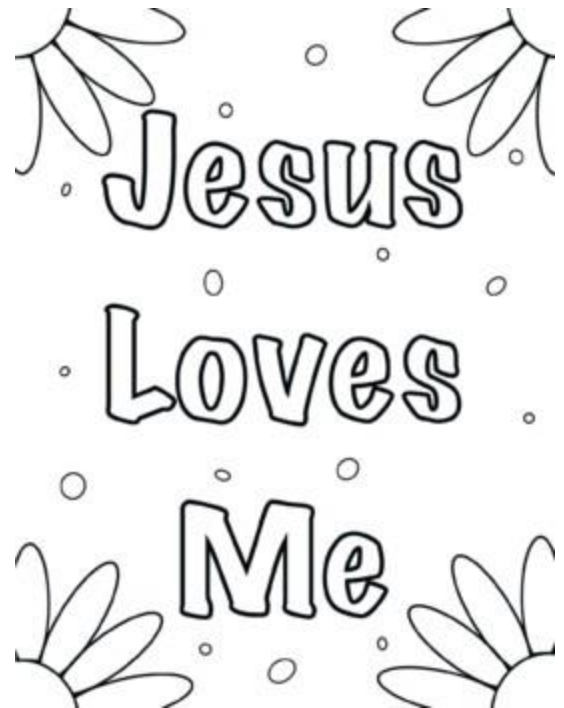
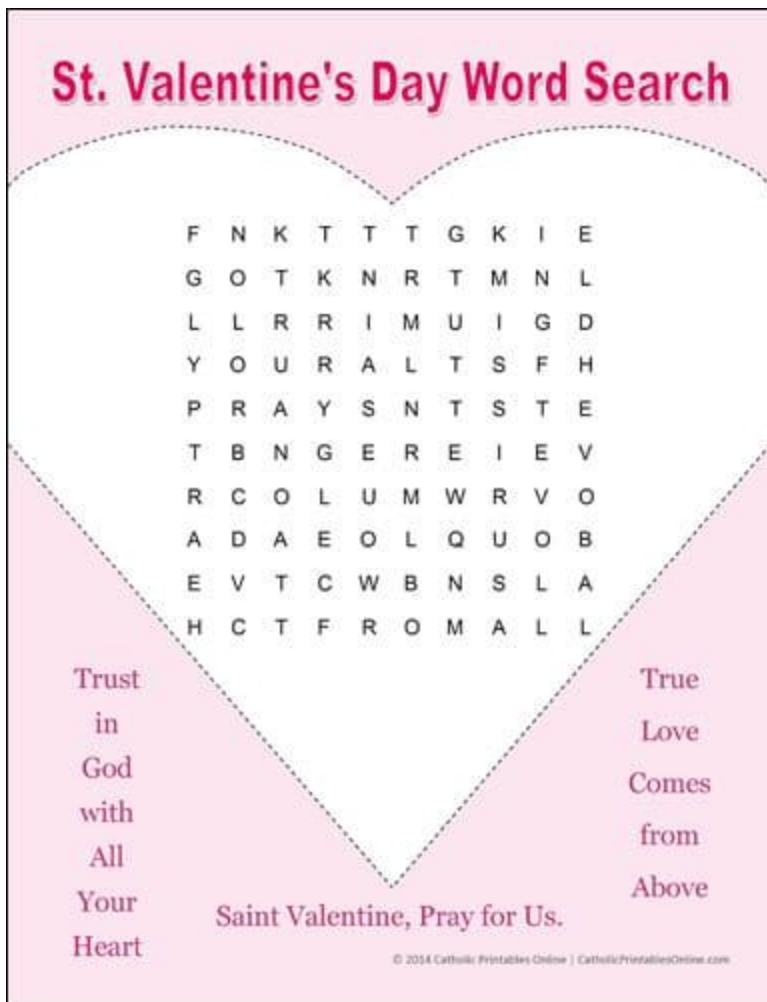
**It's Possible to Show God's Love to Everyone.**

## CHANGES IN OUTDOOR MINISTRY

Lots of exciting changes concerning our outdoor ministry program in Wisconsin. First of all, the Wisconsin Conference has made the decision to sell the Conference office in DeForest and move their headquarters to Daycholah Center on Green Lake. As part of this transition the Conference has strengthened their partnership with United Church Camps Inc. and the Conference now owns Daycholah Center and has invested heavily in the financial well-being of our outdoor ministry programs. United Church Camps Inc. has also named Rev. Jim Schleif as their executive director and has named Amanda Edwards as the new managing director of Daycholah Center. These are all really good things for our outdoor ministry program! Pastor Nathan would love to visit with you concerning these developments if you have further questions.







On January 24, the 5 Star Fire Explorers got a chance to see what a Sheboygan Rescue Task Force was all about. They provided themselves as victims in a mass casualty incident at Our Shepherd UCC for training purposes. Good job by all.

(taken from their Facebook page)



## Continuing To Show Our Love

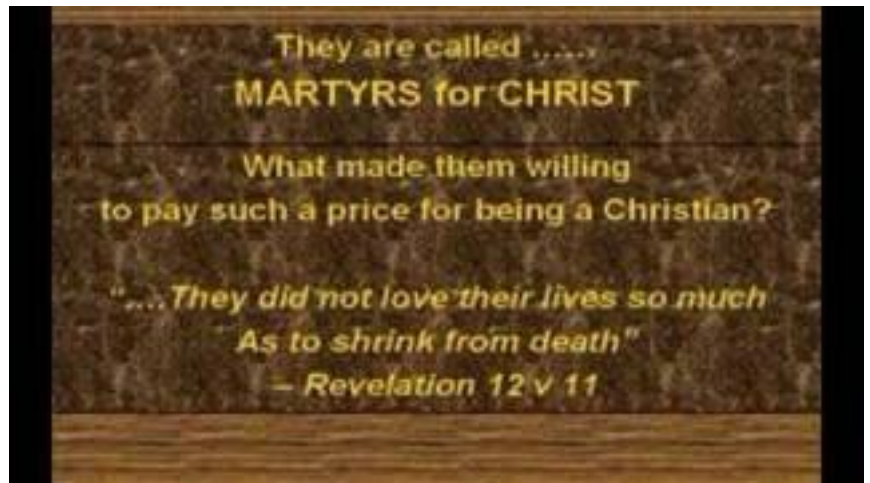
Moving into February and approaching Valentine's Day causes me to wonder how Jesus might react to this holiday. If we look back in history, this holiday does indeed have some Christian origins. The details are a little foggy and can be disputed, but it does seem it is safe to say there were a couple of individuals named Valentine perhaps as early as the third century of Christianity who were martyred after expressing love and care for a variety of individuals. The actions of these martyrs do seem to line up with Jesus' teachings and there is a theory of the Church declaring February 14<sup>th</sup> as being a day of remembrance for these martyred saints named Valentine. There are also theories of the holiday being tied to a Pagan fertility celebration and of course in our lifetime, businesses like florists and greeting cards have really done an aggressive job of marketing the holiday.

I think we could support an argument of Jesus endorsing a holiday that ultimately promotes the principles Jesus proclaimed in Mark 12:28-31, <sup>28</sup>... *He came over and asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"* <sup>29</sup> *Jesus replied, "The most important one is Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord,* <sup>30</sup> *and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* <sup>31</sup> *The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself.* <sup>32</sup> *No other commandment is greater than these."*

In other words, if indeed we take an opportunity at Valentine's Day to practice what Jesus declared, then I think we are moving in the right direction. As a community, we do this really well in many ways. Our constant support of the food pantry and the birthday cake kits we assemble for the pantry are a great example. Or the meals we are creating for the Salvation Army, or the projects our Sunday School students distribute, or the simple actions of providing a space and time for the sharing of a cup of coffee on a Wednesday morning are all ways we can live out Jesus' commandments and celebrate Valentine's Day not just one day out of the year but all of the time.

Valentine's Day is indeed a great opportunity to pause and be intentional about expressing our love to someone special in our lives, but it is also a great time to intentionally think about how we might be living out Jesus' Greatest Commandment every day out of the year.

-Peace, Pastor Nathan



## Memorial Committee

Our Shepherd is fortunate in our ability to memorialize those from our congregation who have entered life eternal with our Memorial fund. At this time, we are looking for a couple of individuals who would be willing to serve on a committee that will help us develop a list of suggested projects the memorial fund could be invested in. Please see Pastor Nathan or a consistory member if you would like to help with this project.