

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

The Shepherd's Word
Our Shepherd UCC
710 Ethan Allen Drive
920-565-3376

October 2026
Pastor Nathan Athorp
Howards Grove, WI 53083
ourshepherducc.com

Send newsletter articles to: OurShepherdNewsletter@gmail.com

Pastor's Cell Number: 920-946-3585

Pastor's e-mail: nathorp70@gmail.com



Our congregation is fully LGBTQ+ Open and Affirming. While some members of our congregation may hold different views, we as a community hold that being LGBTQ+ is fully compatible with being a Christian and is not sinful. LGBTQ+ people are welcome to participate fully in our community and sacraments and take on leadership positions within our community.

Prayer Concerns...

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

*Jane Kesting – 909 Ethan Allen Dr
Howards Grove, WI 53083*

*Fritz & Jackie Grunewald - 749 Audubon
Howards Grove, WI 53083*

*Roy Gadick – 403 South Wisconsin Drive
Howards Grove, WI 53083*

Sunday	Monday	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
October 2026 At this time, we are recording worship and posting it to both our YouTube Channel and our Facebook page after our worship service has concluded.	Pantry Item Cereal			1	2	3
4 10:00 a.m. Worship/Sacraments Greeters: Lee & Nancy Henschel	5 11:00 Yoga	6 <i>Meal Prep for Salvation Army @ 12:00</i> <i>7:00 Dartball</i>	7 <i>Coffee Break 9:00 a.m.</i> 5:30 Confirmation @ Bethel	8	9	10
11 8:30 Consistory Meeting 8:30 - 9:45 Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Greeters: Mike & Cindy Mair	12 11:00 Yoga	13 <i>7:00 Dartball</i>	14 5:30 Confirmation @ Bethel	15	16	17
18 8:30 - 9:45 Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Raiseright Orders Due Newsletter Articles Due 6:30 Book Study Greeters: Josh & Ana Knuth Family	19 11:00 Yoga	20 <i>Meal Prep for Salvation Army @ 12:00</i> <i>7:00 Dartball</i>	21 Chili Supper @OSUCC 4-6 Confirmation - help at Chili Supper	22	23	24
25 8:30 - 9:45 Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Greeters: Neal Henschel & Daryl Gabsch	26 11:00 Yoga	27 6:00 RCCC Meeting @ Bethel <i>7:00 Dartball</i>	28 5:30 Confirmation @ Bethel	29	30	31 Happy Halloween 



Newsletter via E-mail?

Simply let Pastor Nathan or Shari know if you would like to receive our newsletter via e-mail instead of having it sent in the mail.

Vanco Giving

Currently about 30% of our giving flows in via Vanco. As you make your travel plans maybe you would like to consider utilizing Vanco for your giving practices. See Pastor Nathan for details.



Coffee Break
Our Shepherd UCC
710 Ethan Allen Drive

2nd and 4th Wednesday of Each Month
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Howards Grove

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

Bring your ideas, friends and neighbors! ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

Fall/Winter Worship – September -April

Church School – 8:30 – 9:45

Worship service time 10:00 a.m.

Worship Livestream update

We have changed our worship videoing process. We have found the Facebook Livestream option to be too unstable. At this time, we are recording worship and posting it to both our YouTube Channel and our Facebook page after our worship service has concluded.



Consistory

Rich Van Wyk – President
Lloyd Athorp
Lee Henschel
Carol Mae Milbrath
Stephanie Wallace
Alicia Thede

Pastoral Relations

Nicole Twohig – Sec.
Carol Mae Milbrath
Ann VanWyk
Sandy Vollbrecht

Officers

Mandi Grube –
Treasurer
Carla Hemb –
Church Secretary
and
Financial Secretary



The Falls Food Pantry serves the needs of Howards Grove, Kohler, Sheboygan Falls and Waldo. All donations are very much appreciated.
As you do your grocery shopping, consider purchasing a couple extra items for our food pantry donation

God's Blessings on your Birthday - October

2 Lincoln Lightle	3 Daryl Gabsch	
3 Alicia Thede	7 Taylor Jacobs	
14 Isaac Mair	16 Neal Henschel	
19 Kyle Stowers	20 Phil Walkenhorst	23 Ed Aschenbach
24 Anora Barber	27 Mandi Grube	27 Matthew Jacobs
27 Mark Vollbrecht	28 Kay Sheahan	30 Megan Schueler



Dates to Remember in October

Sunday, October 4	10:00 a.m. Worship/Sacraments
Sunday, October 11, 18, 25	10:00 a.m. Worship
Sunday, October 4, 18	6:30 Book Study
Sunday, October 11	8:30 a.m. Consistory meeting
Wednesday, October 7, 14, 28	5:30 Confirmation @ Bethel
Monday, October 5, 12, 19, 26	11:00 Yoga
Tuesday, October 6, 20	12:00 Meal prep for Salvation Army
Wednesday, October 7	9-11:00 a.m. Coffee Break
Sunday, October 18	Raiseright Order & Newsletter Articles Due
Tuesday, October 27	RCCC Meeting @ Bethel

Consistory Meeting – September 13

Next meeting: October 11 @ 8:30

Mandi reported that the carpeting has been paid for. We have a shortfall of about \$12,000, but Mandi feels that this will work itself out as the year comes to an end.

Pastor

- Confirmation will include 3 students from Bethel and 8 from Our Shepherd
- Window and flooring project is complete, except for blinds
- There is surplus furniture in the garage that will be placed on Facebook Marketplace to be sold

See the bulletin board for full meeting minutes

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER See what is happening around the state at:
<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Wisconsin-Conference-this-Week.html?soid=1102675987700&aid=5AK9lQ7cUfY>

Raiseright Program

Members can order gift cards in church through Shari every 3rd Sunday or order online. E-cards and Reloadables are available for some of the cards, they are labeled on the Raiseright Order Form with and "E" or "R". Physical cards would be available when church order is placed.

To order online, go to [http://www. Raiseright.com/enroll](http://www.Raiseright.com/enroll)

Set up your account and enter our enrollment code: 92164F3732736 to have your purchase apply to Our Shepherd UCC.

We earned \$113.12 for the month of September

Running late and you need to get supper on the table?

Let local businesses help you with a fast and delicious meal. Log Cabin is offering 5% per dollar.

Watch for monthly Bonus Specials!!!



MANO TO MANO UPDATE

Thanks to Diane and Keith Weiland for delivering all the donated medical supplies and equipment to Mano a Mano International in St. Paul, MN at the end of August. They had a full load. They were happy to receive our donations from the four area churches, including Our Shepherd, Bethel, Immanuel, and St. John's. Nice work everybody!

News from Immanuel UCC

For the last 20 years, Immanuel UCC and the Evangelical and Reformed Church of Langenholzhausen Germany have had a sister Church relationship, with members of both Churches visiting one another at fairly regular intervals. This relationship is based on the fact that the Langenholzhausen Church was the original home of the Lippe Pilgrims who came to Wisconsin and founded both Immanuel and the Mission House/Lakeland University.

On Sunday the 18th of October we will be welcoming our German friends once again. We will have a **special Sunday service at 10:00 AM (anyone is welcome to attend), and then at 12:00 PM/noon we will be having a potluck cookout** (outside if possible, but in the fellowship hall if the weather necessitates). Our visit planning team will be handling the main dishes (similar to our Ice Cream Socials in the summer) and drinks, **but we would appreciate it if folks could bring a side, a salad, or a desert** - we'd like our German friends to get a real taste of the Midwest. No RSVP required. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Immanuel at immanuelucc3694@gmail.com.



We'd love to have as many folks as possible help us welcome and meet our friends from Germany!

YOGA has resumed for the 2026/27 year. The group meets Mondays, at 11:00 a.m. in the church worship area.

The cost if you pay for the four Mondays of October is \$28.

If you can only make it **once and a while the drop-in fee of \$10** may work for you. This program is open to men and women, and need not be a member of Our Shepherd. For more information contact Renae at 920-565-2785.



Meals for Salvation Army

We are in need of gift cards from Walmart, Piggly Wiggly and Aldi

Anyone who is interested in helping to prepare these meals is welcome.

We meet at church, every other Tuesday, at 12:00, to prepare the meals.

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped by contributing food or gift cards to make these meals possible; your support is greatly appreciated.

WE ARE IN NEED OF BANQUET SIZE FOIL PANS (18in x10in)

October 6 - Pulled Pork Sandwiches with Mac and Cheese and Coleslaw

Items needed: We have all the ingredients for this meal

We need a dessert for 40 for this meal



October 20 - Stuffed Pepper Soup

Items needed: We have all the ingredients for this meal

We need a dessert for 40 for this meal



Thank you to everyone that has donated time, money for food, or anything else to help make these meals happen.

The Salvation Army volunteers look forward to serving our meals. Anyone can volunteer to prepare a meal to donate at any time by contacting Carryejo Cony at 920-694-1271 or going to their website: <http://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/sheboygan/el-vo>

SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

The United Church Men and Women will be holding their 89th annual scholarship banquet on October 29th at 6:00pm at St. Peter's UCC in Kiel. For almost 90 years this group has supported individuals striving to lead our congregations. Come show your support and enjoy an evening with your neighboring UCC churches! See Pastor Nathan for tickets at \$20.00 each.

Rural Church Collaborative Committee Representatives are:

Immanuel – Pastor Sean Cornell, Rodney Thieleke, Kristy Pahl

St. John's – Diane Weiland, Ross Bender, Kathy Aulik

Bethel – Pastor Diane Cayemberg, Lisa Grubisic

Our Shepherd – Pastor Nathan Athorp, Jaimie Simon, Shari Ver Straate

Next Meeting - October 27 @ Bethel at 6:00 p.m. and January 6, 2027 @ 6:00 @ Immanuel

1. We will plan another joint outdoor worship for the summer of 2027. Our mission project will be clean-up buckets.
2. Tentatively, Thanksgiving Eve worship will be at Bethel.
3. On Oct 18, Immanuel will host German guests at a 10:00 worship service with a potluck lunch to follow.
4. The idea for a midweek dinner worship was discussed and will be finalized within the next couple of meetings.
5. Each congregation will ask its members to contribute ideas for projects that our four congregations can work on together.



Church Recycling

One of the ways in which Our Shepherd cares for creation is through our multiple recycling/reusing efforts.

Can tabs – Ronald McDonald House

Egg cartons - to be used for food pantries

Plastic bottle caps

Prescription bottles – to be reused for veterinary medication

Used American flags, ready for disposal

Plastic bags - to be used to make benches

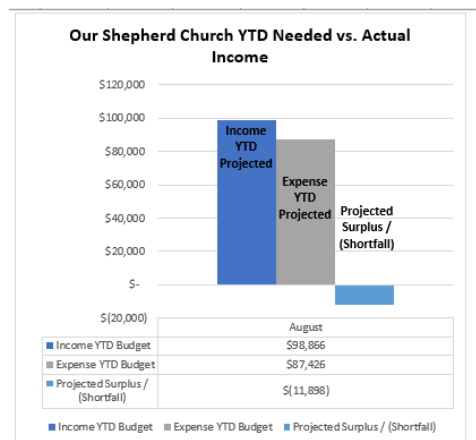
All items MUST be clean, dry and empty. Please leave items in the church office.

Plastic bags can be placed in the container in the choir room. Thank you.

Some of these items are being saved for other church communities that are doing their part for God's creation. If you are collecting any items, please let us know.

To date our continued collection of plastic has saved 1, 225.75 pounds from being put in landfills. Your efforts to be stewards of the earth are commendable.

Financial income and expenses through August 2026



ACTUAL TOTALS	
Actual Income YTD:	\$ 78,484.00
Actual Expense YTD:	\$ 90,382.00
Net Surplus / (Shortfall)	\$ (11,898.00)

Church School News



Items for the Food Pantry: **October - Cereal**

Donations may be placed in the basket, located in the church entryway

Beverage Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House

Birthday Bags - The sign-up sheet for birthday bags is in the binder. Help brighten birthdays for those facing food challenges at this time. To complete a bag, you would donate: a cake mix, a small bottle of oil, frosting, and candles. Eggs are provided by the food pantry. There are large Ziplock bags located in the office for the cake supplies.



Church school is offered to children age 3 to confirmation. Confirmation students are support for our younger members. The program runs from **8:30 to 9:45**

Sunday, October 11, at 8:30 a.m. the church school program will be greeting students for another fun year exploring the stories of the Bible. Stories, songs, crafts, games are just a few of the ways the teachers will help the youth explore the lesson. Tracy is busy preparing fun projects to do; the first project is in November. Mark your calendars and

plan on having your children join us weekly for the fun!!

Church School Updates:

Sunday, October 18th the following students will be presented with their new bibles **during the church worship service: Millie Stowers and Lucy Lightle.**

Sunday, October 18th will be **installation** for the church school teachers and support staff.

Sunday, October 18th the church school will be providing a **social after the morning worship.**

Sundays, October 25th, November 1st and 8th the congregation is invited to help with **donating Thanksgiving food items** for the local food banks. Please consider helping those that are facing food insecurity at this time.



The church school is preparing songs and parts for December 20th when the children will be sharing the **Christmas story**. Please let Renae know if your children will be attending the practices and program so parts may be planned for each child.

Children's Room



Please consider taking a Sunday to cover the children's room. There is a sign-up sheet in the binder. This room is for children that can independently be with another adult up to first grade. When an adult is available the room is covered from after children's time until the end of the service.

CONFIRMATION - In **October** confirmation classes will meet at **Bethel on Wednesdays at 5:30. EXCEPT for October 21st**, on that Wednesday the students will be meeting at Our Shepherd to assist with the chili dinner.

INNER LIGHT

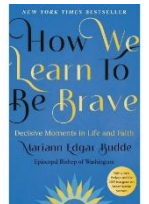
A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. – 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6 NIV

BOOK STUDY

Book Study will be meeting on Sunday October 4th and 18th at 6:30. We will continue our exploration of 'How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith' by Mariann Edgar Budde copyright 2023. Feel free to invite others who you think might enjoy our time together.



The Upper Room” devotional for September /October is located in the Literature Rack



On August 30th we celebrated the baptism of Cheyenne Margret Twohig, daughter of Jason & Nicole, sister to Oliver.
Welcome to the Our Shepherd family.

Crop Walk

Our Crop Walk this year will again be held at St. Peters U.C.C. in Kiel next to the city park. It will be held **on Sunday October 11th with registration at 11:30 and the walk to begin at 12:00.** There will be refreshments available and hot dogs and s'mores to toast when you get back. We walk to partner with and support 1,000 local food banks and soup kitchens. In addition, we globally show solidarity with the millions who walk miles every day in search of food and water. We support individuals impacted by poverty and disaster through CWS. There are 500 walks with 107,000 hunger fighters all with one goal, to build a world where there is enough for all. If you are not able to walk you can contribute money. You can ask friends and family to support CWS through our church. Some of the money raised will support our local community. **You can also give money to Shari or JoAnn before or on October 11th for Crop Walk. If you are donating with a check please make it out to CWS (Church World Service).**



Bible verses about Fall

Genesis 8:22 “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

Leviticus 23:39 “So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the Lord for seven days; the first day is a day of sabbath rest, and the eighth day also is a day of sabbath rest.”

Psalms 104:19 “He made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down.”

James 5:7 “Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.”

Joel 2:23 “Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before.”

Matthew 9:37-38 “Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”

Galatians 6:9 “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Mark 4:29 “As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

Our Shepherd Chili Supper

October 21, 2026

4-6 pm (or when the chili runs out)

\$10 per ticket

Includes: Chili, crackers, bread, cheese and torte



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

In last month's newsletter I reflected on a couple of stewardship ideas, noting stewardship is so much more than simply what we put in an offering plate on Sunday morning. Stewardship is the care and management of all the resources God has laid before us. That certainly includes our finances, but there is so much more, from our buildings, to the natural world around us, and our time and talents. None of those resources are unlimited, therefore we need to be making choices as to how they are utilized. As a faith community I believe it is also valuable to look at our clergy as a resource. Sure, our clergy are autonomous individuals, but as individuals who have been educated and hired to lead our faith communities, they truly are one of the community's resources. Perhaps in another article we can unpack that idea more broadly, but this month I want to make sure you are aware of one specific wonderful way you can support the clergy in our area.



United
Church of
Christ

The United Church Men and Women Scholarship organization has existed in some way, shape or form for over 90 years. Since 1937, the church members of Sheboygan County have recognized the need to financially support individuals who show interest in leading our congregations. This group focuses on collecting donations and then using 100% of those donations to award financial scholarships to individuals studying for ministry. In 2025 the organization officially obtained a non-profit 501(c)(3) status with the IRS. This status clears the way for even greater scholarship potential moving forward. All individuals serving in licensed or ordained roles in UCC churches are eligible for scholarship, with preferences given to the UCC churches of Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Calumet and Fond du Lac counties. Over the past 90 years, the group has distributed over \$125,000 dollars in scholarships. During my studies for ministry, I received two different scholarships from this organization.

Everyone has the potential to support our clergy through the efforts of this organization. The organization has just a few meetings annually and then scholarships are awarded at an annual banquet. This year's banquet is Thursday October 29th at St. Peter's UCC in Kiel. The evening will include wonderful food, entertainment, great fellowship, and potentially record-breaking scholarships. Pastor Nathan has tickets available for this banquet at \$20.00. It would be great if Our Shepherd could fill a table at the banquet. If you are interested in a great evening, supporting our clergy, practicing stewardship, and having fun, come see me!

-In Christ's Love, *Pastor Nathan*

Neighboring congregations,

Please announce and post the included poster to your congregation.

Thank you from Our Shepherd UCC, Howards Grove