

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

November 2022
Pastor Nathan Athorp
ourshepherducc.com

Send newsletter articles to: OurShepherdNewsletter@gmail.com

Pastor Contact information:

Pastor's Cell: 920-946-3585 Pastor's e-mail: nathorp70@gmail.com



Prayer Concerns...

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

*Stella Miller – 326 Isabelle Court
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
Cell: 920-889-8366*

*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 having it sent in the mail.

Options, Options, Options

Our congregation is making a real difference in the world and you have the ability to be a part of this! We are feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, gee that is the kind of stuff Jesus was calling for! All of this ministry does indeed require financial support, ministry does require funding in our world. The good news is there are multiple ways you can be part of this ministry.

- We offer a space during our worship services where you can physically deposit your contribution, or
- You can use your bank's online bill paying service to automatically mail a check to Our Shepherd, or
- You can go to our website and follow the link in order to establish automated giving or use the following link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YHE5/home>

Fall Giving

Summer has come and gone. Now is the time to make up the financial opportunities missed over the summer months. One of the great ways of remembering these obligations is to participate in our on-line giving through Vanco. Follow the link on our website to customize your giving in a way that meets your personal needs and fulfills your obligation to our financial commitments.

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




2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
9:00 a.m. - 11:00a.m.

Our Shepherd, UCC will be hosting a Coffee Break on the 2nd and 4th 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!!!

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Food Pantry Items Canned Meat 		1	2	3	4	 5 Turn Your Clocks Back
6 8:30 Church School 10:00 Worship – Communion In person and on Facebook	7 11:00 Chair Yoga	8 Meal Prep for Salvation Army @12:30	9 9:00 Coffee Break 	10	11 Veterans Day 	12
13 8:30 Church School 10:00 Worship - In person and on Facebook Special Guest - Allen Nohl	14 11:00 Chair Yoga	15	16	17	18	19
20 8:30 Consistory Meeting 8:30 Church School 10:00 Worship – In person and on Facebook Scrip Orders Due Newsletter Articles Due	21 11:00 Chair Yoga	22 Meal Prep for Salvation Army @12:30	23 6:30 Thanksgiving Eve Pie Service	24 Thanks-giving Day 	25	26
27 1st Sunday in Advent 8:30 Church School 10:00 Worship – In person and on Facebook Decorate Church for Christmas after Service	28 11:00 Chair Yoga	29	30			

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
Dale Cherney

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 2022, card orders will be due the 3rd 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 November/December issue of the daily devotional “The Upper Room” is available in the Literature Rack.

YOGA



The 11:00 am chair yoga is back 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. Our instructor requires attendees to be vaccinated and masks are optional.

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

Questions, please contact Renae at 920-565-2785 or

rkwunsch711@gmail.com.

Church School News

Items for the Food Pantry

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



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.



Watch for a sign-up sheet in the near future

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. Church



school is back in session. The theme is ‘Communities Worship’. The children are learning about the memory verse Joshua 1:9 “The Lord is with you wherever you go.”

Sunday, October 23rd the children did their Fall project

Sunday, November 6th and 13th – Thanksgiving Food Collection

Sunday, November 13th – Heart to Heart Tree will be available

Sunday, November 20th Music Sunday with Dave and the children will share a song during worship

Sunday, November 27th Christmas project and begin Christmas program practice

Sundays during December are Christmas program practices

Sunday, December 5th – Heart to Heart Tree items need to be returned

Sunday, December 18th – Children’s Christmas Program (Cash collected from the program will be used by the youth to shop for the food pantry)

God's Blessings on your Birthday - November

4 Austin Eisentraut

10 Helen Harms

13 Carla Hemb

15 Jim Vasconi

8 Hoyt Heinemann

11 Heidi Widder

14 Avery Wiegand

20 Corey Munger



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.

Opportunities to Serve!

Tis the time of year when Our Shepherd is recruiting individuals who are looking for an opportunity to serve their church. Boy, do we have opportunities for you! We are looking for three individuals to serve on consistory, 2 positions are 3-year terms and 1 is for a 2-year term. Talk to Pastor Nathan or a consistory member if you are interested or have questions.

We are also looking for a couple of individuals who would be willing to help audit our financial books. This is not a huge task; it involves meeting twice a year. Our treasurer does a great job of keeping things in order, so the process is usually straight forward. This doesn't imply the task is unimportant. Whenever finances are involved, it is important to keep checks and balances in place for everyone's benefit. If you are comfortable with numbers, (you do not need to be a CPA by any means) please talk to Pastor Nathan.

Children's Room - Just a reminder that the children's room is for youth that are in **1st grade or younger**. We are always looking for adults to help cover this time of the church service. If you have interest, please sign the date in the church binder.

Bible/Installation Sunday



On October 16th we had the pleasure of presenting bibles to seven youth of the church school program. We are so proud of these youth and how they are beginning to locate information in a bible. Those receiving bibles were: Haley Simon, Henry Grube, Owyen Barber, Olivia Knuth, Isaac Mair, and Logan Breher. Not pictured: Araya Wallace.



Those working with the church school program were also acknowledged. In the group are teachers, those that take care of special events, support staff, and confirmation youth that are helpers. We are so blessed to have the strong support of a large group willing to share their times and talents: Sarah Breher, Darlene Meyers, Nicole Twohig, Victoria Eisentraut, David Aardappel, Kay Sheahan and Renae Wunsch. Not pictured: Heidi Widder, Jaimie Simon, Amanda Eisentraut, Tracy Sommer, Eleanor Mair and Lindsey Stoffregen.



Honoring Our Veterans



On Sunday, November, 13th, Our Shepherd will be celebrating Veterans Day. During worship, local veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Allen Nohl, will be sharing his Vietnam experiences with us. Allen is a sole survivor of a mid-air helicopter crash during the Vietnam war. His story reminds us all how precious life is and that each day is a bonus. We invite you, your family, and friends to attend worship this day dressed in patriotic colors (red, white, and blue) to honor all our veterans whether they are deceased, had served, or are still serving. After worship, there will be a social time with treats.

Veterans have fought and continue to fight for our freedoms by risking their lives for each one of us. Without the service of our veterans, we would not have the many freedoms that we take for granted every day. Thank a Veteran to show them that you support and care about them.



FOOD COLLECTION: November 6th and the 13th the church school will be sponsoring a Thanksgiving food drive for the local food pantry. Items that might be used for a Thanksgiving meal: canned cranberry, pumpkin, vegetables, boxed potatoes, stuffing, mac and cheese, or soup are just a few ideas. Bring the items to church on November 6th or the 13th and share the bounty of the season.



The Heart-to-Heart Christmas tags should be available on November 13th. There will be two tags per item to be purchased. Sign your name on one tag and place it in the basket. The second tag is for you to take with the information you will need for shopping. The items need to be returned by December 5th. The Salvation Army does have a few requests.



1. Label each gift with the recipient's name and family number.
2. Please do not wrap so parents can see gifts purchased, and know what they may still want to buy. You may include wrapping supplies.
3. Please do not include food items.

Our Shepherd UCC Chili Supper

Thanks to all who helped make the Chili supper a great success.
We made \$2140 and sold out by 6:30!

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.

November 1 - German Potato Salad, Baked Beans and Sloppy Joes.

No Items needed

November 15 – Chili

This is the list of items that we will need:

4 Cans tomato soup	4 cans chili beans	4 cans tomato paste
2 Boxes Elbow Spaghetti	2 large onions	1 stalk celery
1 box saltines	4# sliced cheese	

We also need a desert for this meal

Thanks for your generosity

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

It's time to think about ordering Poinsettias for decorating our sanctuary for the Christmas Holiday. Watch the bulletin for more details.



Church decorating

Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat. Well, to be honest, I have no idea how the goose is doing, but I do know that we have four weeks of Advent to journey through before we reach Christmas, and we need to redecorate the sanctuary as part of that journey. We will be making the redecorating happen on Sunday **November 27th**, (the first Sunday of Advent), directly after worship. If you have a few minutes you can spare, many hands make light work. Stick around **after worship** and help us transform our worship space, moving us closer to our destination in Bethlehem.

Crop Walk

Area churches walked to raise money for hunger relief on October 2nd.

More information will follow in the December newsletter.



Our Shepherd Dartball

The dartball team is always looking for new players. It's a great way to meet new people from the area churches or get reacquainted with old friends. Games are on Tuesday evenings starting in October. It's lots of fun, even if you have never played before.

If interested contact

Hoyt Heinemann (920-565-3211, 920-980-7417) or

Shari Ver Straate (920-565-3737, 920-912-8952)



Consistory Meeting, October 16, 2022

1. Offering has been steady according to Mandi Grube
2. Pastor report - Rev Mealiff will be conducting the service on Nov. 6, Allen Nohl will share his story on Nov 13, there will be a Pie Worship on Nov 23 @ 6:30, Advent begins on Nov 27.
3. Pastor's health insurance cost will be increasing – discussion needed.
4. There will be 3 openings for consistory
5. Scholarship and Pastoral Relations Committees will be meeting soon

Next Meeting: November 13 @ 8:30

Joys and Sympathies

Deric and Beth Lightle welcomed Lincoln James into their family on October 2, 2022. He joins sisters Lucille and Elaina.

We extend our sympathies to the families of Michael Henschel and Dale Cherney.

Michael entered life eternal on Monday October 17, 2022. With Michael's gift of organ donation at least 5 individuals now have hope for their own future.

Dale Cherney entered life eternal on Saturday October 22, 2022, funeral service for Dale was held at Our Shepherd on Saturday October 29th.

The United Church Men & Women 85th Annual Scholarship & Grant Presentation Scholarship Banquet

On Thursday October 20th Our Shepherd hosted the 85th annual United Church Men and Women scholarship banquet.

This organization offers scholarships and grants to individuals who are pursuing a role as a church leader, both ordained and lay leadership.

This year they awarded a total of over \$7,000 scholarships to 7 different individuals. Participation in the organization is open to anyone from our congregations, it is a fun and rewarding group to be involved in. Pastor Nathan has received two different scholarships from them in the past and currently serves as their vice-president. If you are interested in joining in their important work, come see Pastor Nathan.



Why is veteran day on the 11th?

Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

We will be gathering around the table once again for a Thanksgiving Eve worship service. We will gather at 6:30 on Wednesday, November 23rd for a time of fellowship and worship. This year we will enjoy a slice of pie and perhaps some ice cream as we pause in all the busyness of our lives to reflect upon all that we might be thankful for. Please join us, and what a great opportunity to invite a friend to experience your church!

Dates to Remember in November

November 6 & 13 – Thanksgiving Food Collection for Church School Project, Rev Roger Mealiff

November 13 – Heart to Heart Tree will be available, Allen Nohl shares his story during worship

November 20 - Music Sunday with Dave and the children will share a song during worship

November 23 – Thanksgiving Eve Service – 6:30, pie and ice cream

November 27 – Church School Christmas program practice – First Sunday of advent – Decorate church for Christmas after church service

Be grateful and give thanks to the Lord. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:16: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."



Our Shepherd U.C.C. Scholarship



During the month of November, we are promoting donations to our Scholarship Fund. We have set a goal of raising \$1,500 during the month. Last year we were able to give out one scholarship.

Our Shepherd is once again offering scholarships to persons in higher education who have successfully completed at least one semester of post high education. The requirements for the scholarship are listed on the application.

Applications are available on the rack at church or in a pdf or Word format on the church website. Letters of recommendation can be e-mailed to jgadicke@tds.net if that is easier for the candidates.

All applications are due by December 31st, 2022. Scholarship monies will be given out in January. We encourage all eligible members of our church family to apply.

If you have any questions, you can ask members of the committee who include JoAnn Gadicke, Ruth Hering, Sandra Vollbrecht, or Pastor Nathan.

What is the main message of Advent?

The Advent Season is all about **reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today.** It is a time for faith communities and families to remember, through prayer, reflections, special music, and good deeds what the true meaning of Jesus' birth is.



Being the Church

We know summer has changed to fall because the weather is cooler, the days are shorter, and the trees are changing colors, but we also know fall has arrived because the activities in the church are getting busier. Sunday School is in full swing, confirmation classes have resumed, and in the last couple of weeks we have put together our chili dinner and a scholarship banquet. Yes, that

all certainly adds to our schedules and responsibilities, but it is also really good to see, and hear, and witness the church being the church. In the past couple of weeks there have been multiple times when I have been working in my office and there are others doing lots of other things in the building. We are making chili, cutting tortes, creating meals, and leading children on their faith journeys. In other words, doing the work of the church.

In the midst of all of that work, I know there are also conversations occurring. I know there is laughter shared and honestly some genuine tears shared in some tender moments. That is all part of the work of the church also. It is important to share with others both our laughter and our tears, it is what affirms our humanity and honestly a large part of what gives us hope for tomorrow. This sharing allows us to help carry one another's burdens and to recognize what we personally are experiencing is really not that different than the rest of humanity. Over the past two years, when the pandemic kept us apart, I believe this is a large part of what we were missing in our lives. The ability to look each other in the eye as we are laughing and crying.

I believe isolation may indeed be necessary when we have an illness running rapid, but I also believe we need to recognize that this isolation comes at a cost. I believe we should also recognize the significant value of something we do without even being intentional about it. We are intentional about gathering and performing the official work, but let's also celebrate the ministry that we are performing in the laughter and in the tears that are a by-product of our work. So, the next time you are part of a crew preparing a meal, or setting up for an event, or whatever else needs to happen; take the time to check in with each other. Share the laughter and the concern, acknowledge our shared humanity.

-Peace, *Pastor Nathan*

Pastoral Relations committee

If members of the congregation could take a minute to fill out the Pastor Evaluation Form found in this month's newsletter to help the Pastoral Relations Committee evaluate Pastor Nathan's performance as our pastor. Please return your completed form to church and place it in the labeled basket or mail back to church by November 13th so the Pastoral Relations Committee can review them and provide feedback to Pastor Nathan.



Our Shepherd UCC Pastor Evaluation Form

Name: _____ Please provide your name to allow follow up on your comments. Your name will be kept confidential.

1. *Is an effective and inspiring preacher*

1

2

3

4

5

Very Poor

Very Well

Don't
Know

2. *Plans effective and meaningful services*

1

2

3

4

5

Very Poor

Very Well

Don't
Know

3. *Encourages and enhances spiritual growth in members*

1

2

3

4

5

Very Poor

Very Well

Don't
Know

4. *Works well and listens to members of the congregation*

1

2

3

4

5

Very Poor

Very Well

Don't
Know

5. *Visits and demonstrates concern for members*

1

2

3

4

5

Very Poor

Very Well

Don't
Know

6. *Actively supports Christian education for all age groups*

1

2

3

4

5

Very Poor

Very Well

Don't
Know

7. *Contributes to determining the goals and aspirations of the church*

1

2

3

4

5

Very Poor

Very Well

Don't
Know

8. *Helps the congregation grow in number*

1

2

3

4

5

Very Poor

Very Well

Don't
Know

9. *Includes rest and relaxation as part of care for him/herself*

1

2

3

4

5

Very Poor

Very Well

Don't
Know

10. *Works well with other staff, council and lay leaders*

1

2

3

4

5

Very Poor

Very Well

Don't
Know

over

*Please provide any additional comments or thoughts about
Rev. Nathan Athorp and his role as our pastor below.*

Please indicate committees and activities you are involved in.

Thank you for your input.