

Summit Congregational United Church of Christ

“SUMMIT SPARKS”

November, 2021

563-582-5661, Website: www.summitucc.org

Thanksgiving Inspiration and Fun



Throughout the month of November, I encourage us all to begin and end each day with giving thanks to God for at least one thing. The spiritual practice of gratitude can transform our outlook and perspective on how we see and live our lives.

For Fun – See how many words you can make from the letters in the words
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Summit Congregational United Church of Christ
2885 J. F. Kennedy Rd.
Dubuque, Iowa, 52002-1081

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 10am - All Saints Day 11am - Fellowship	1 9am - Pastor's Office Hours 10am - Diaconate 1:30pm - Bible/Book Study	2 7am - Election Poll Time 10:30am - Bible/Book Study 7pm - Barbershoppers	3 Pastor's Vacation 6:30pm - Wednesday Zoom	4 Pastor's Vacation	5 Pastor's Vacation	6 Pastor's Vacation
7 Pastor's Vacation 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	8 Pastor's Vacation	9 Pastor's Vacation 9am - All Church Cleaning 10:30am - Bible/Book Study 7pm - Barbershoppers	10 6:30pm - Wednesday Zoom	11	12	13
14 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	15 9am - Pastor's Office Hours 1:30pm - Bible Study (In-3pm - Trustees	16 10:30am - Bible/Book Study 7pm - Barbershoppers	17 6:30pm - Wednesday Zoom	18	19	20
21 10am - Food Pantry gifts 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	22 9am - Pastor's Office Hours 1:30pm - Bible Study (In-4pm - Council meeting	23 10:30am - Bible/Book Study 7pm - Barbershoppers	24 6:30pm - Wednesday Zoom	25 Thanksgiving	26 Sparks Articles Duel	27
28 10am - Worship 11am - Fellowship	29 9am - Pastor's Office Hours	30 10:30am - Bible/Book Study 7pm - Barbershoppers	1 6:30pm - Wednesday Zoom	2	3	4

Sweet Inspirations ...

Where has the time gone? It is hard to believe we are already entering into the last two months of 2021. November has a holiday that often gets overshadowed on the rush into the Christmas season and before I became a Pastor, I had a Pastor who made it his mission to save Thanksgiving which I much appreciated and I too feel it is important to not overlook this holiday and the significance to remember to give thanks to God, not just on Thanksgiving, but every day. This November, may we participate in the spiritual discipline of gratitude not only for one day but for the entire month of November, each day listing at least one thing for which to be grateful. As we begin to notice the bounty of blessings may it inspire us to share those blessings with others and lead us to praise God, from whom all blessings flow! As we practice gratitude, may we also find joy and hope in our lives.

It is important to have fun so I am including a word search puzzle on thankfulness for your enjoyment! You will find the answer key on a later page in the Sparks.

T	O	W	X	B	R	W	H	C	L	U	F	Y	O	J	<p>In the word search you will find each of the words in these two verses about Thanksgiving at least the number of times they are written. The answer key will be posted on a separate page in the Sparks.</p> <p>“I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving.” Psalm 69:30 NRS</p> <p>“Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.” Psalm 95:2 NRS</p>
K	R	T	H	E	G	I	T	O	A	H	C	L	L	O	
H	T	E	T	I	A	H	I	M	T	S	E	I	H	T	
V	H	L	I	O	M	D	W	E	R	E	L	E	G	Y	
I	A	S	W	H	E	O	F	M	A	K	L	N	O	E	
N	N	E	Q	U	L	G	S	A	E	R	I	O	P	L	
G	K	V	U	G	O	O	P	G	S	V	W	I	T	H	
U	S	O	L	P	N	S	O	R	I	E	K	S	L	E	
S	G	L	S	I	H	O	U	G	A	W	S	E	U	C	
W	I	N	G	R	A	P	S	O	R	I	E	R	F	N	
W	V	R	H	S	T	K	J	I	P	T	S	O	P	E	
T	I	T	O	L	N	A	O	F	R	H	T	E	Y	S	
R	N	N	A	A	A	M	A	K	E	N	H	I	O	E	
B	G	R	H	W	M	A	G	N	I	F	Y	O	J	R	
S	P	T	O	U	E	N	P	C	B	T	T	Y	N	P	

I also want to share with you this month a way to help you stay connected virtually with family and friends. This suggestion was brought to me by Merlin after Adina’s church allowed the Zoom meeting for Adina’s service to remain open for family members to just visit when the service had ended and he asked if there was a way we could offer this to our members using our Zoom link. You will see in the council Minutes that I brought this before the Council and by consensus they agreed this was a good thing for our church to offer. I will put in a box the information needed to sign-up for a time slot to use the Sunday Zoom Link for gatherings with family and friends. Be looking for those guidelines on another page in this newsletter.

Lastly, before we know it, Advent will be here. One of the things that came out of our Pastor Congregations Committee meetings was seeking an answer to this question, How can we make Advent more relevant? Advent is about the coming of God’s light into the world and how might we make it more than just lighting the Advent Wreath and reading Advent devotionals? The Diaconate is working with some ideas, but I welcome ideas from the greater congregation as well. How might we make worship more meaningful and how might we participate in bringing God’s light into the world in tangible ways? God is still speaking; let us share what we hear.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”
 Psalm 136:1 NRSV

Pastor Karen

Contributors: Rev. Karen Candee, Flora Brown (Clerk), Merlin Green (editor).

<u>November Birthdays</u>	13 th Connie Kitchen
2 nd Margaret Walser	19 th Sawyer Cox
3 rd Erich Deutsch	20 th Lisa Hansen
Gwendelyn Deutsch	Scott Kreimeyer
4 th Jarrett Herber	22 nd Kim Robinson
6 th Dick Wepking	30 th Bruce Watters
12 th Brandon Kelly	<u>November Anniversaries</u>
	None

Important Calendar Dates:

Tuesday, November 2	All day	Election Day, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, November 7	All Day	Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, November 21	10 am	Stewardship Sunday
Thurs, November 25	All Day	Thanksgiving
Friday, Dec 24	TBA	Christmas Eve Service

Scheduled Committee Meetings ALL committee and council meetings are open to the congregation.

Monday, Nov. 1	10 am	Diaconate meeting
Monday, Nov. 15	3 pm	Trustees meeting
Monday, Nov. 22	4 pm	Church Council

Stewardship Notes: (Merlin Green) **Because of your faithful giving we have been able to do the things that we need to do to maintain a vibrant ministry at Summit.**

November is the time for our annual Stewardship drive so I want to say a special thanks for your faithfulness in giving. Because of your stewardship, the work of the Trustees/Building and Grounds Committee has been fairly easy and mundane.

We are doing many things in different ways, sometimes painfully, and sometimes very successfully. As we have returned to in-person activities and worship, we continue to use ZOOM as needed or desired for both meetings and worship. For example, the use of ZOOM has allowed us to have meetings that we could not have done in person due to members travel and health situations! With your pledges and giving estimates, the Trustees look forward to building a faithful budget for 2022 that continues to grow Summit.

Speaking of Stewardship ... I apologize, I am going to get a bit blunt.

Over the past few years we have seen a substantial reduction in the returns of pledge cards (not of giving). As we have been fairly stable, the Trustees have routinely entered 'Same As Last Year' into our budgeting process if we didn't get a return pledge card.

That is no longer a safe assumption. It's obvious that our membership is declining and at the same time, we have seen some cost estimates for 2022 (like snow removal) that are substantially above the past numbers.

Therefore, we are imploring you to take the time to return the pledge card indicating your estimations for 2022. It's easy ... just put it into an envelope and drop it in the mail or our outside mailbox, or better yet ... the offering plate on Sunday.

Wondering "if we will survive financially" easily becomes a self-fulfilling prophesy!

The Trustees have NOT had that discussion! We have faith!



All Saints Day Memorials 2021

John R. "Rick" Kass - June 29, 1948 - November 14, 2020

Husband of Pam Kass

Henry R. Peppmeier - March 3, 1935 - December 14, 2020

Husband of Carrie Peppmeier

Nancy Duwe - November 21, 1935 - March 9, 2021

Mother-in-law of Rick Heinz

Dominick Barrett - February 15, 2005 - March 29, 2021

Grandson of Rick Heinz

Lori Jean Lindenberg - May 21, 1958 - July 6, 2021

Daughter of Jean Lindenberg

Jeanne Eugenia Marshall - November 30, 1929 - July 20, 2021

Cousin to Judy Trent & Jan Avenarius

Adina Kathleen Hatch - October 14, 1997 - September 13, 2021

Daughter of Merlin and Rev. Jo Green

Gordon S. Block - February 9, 1943 - September 29, 2021

Brother of Ann Herr

Denise Loudermilk - April 22, 1969 - September 30, 2021

Niece of Carrie Peppmeier

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 25, 2021 via Zoom

Present: Pastor Karen, Pat Kreimeyer, Merlin Green, Beth Boleyn, Carrie Peppmeier and Flora Brown
Pastor Karen opened the meeting with a prayer. The minutes from the October 4 meeting were reviewed, Pat motioned to accept the minutes as written, Merlin seconded and the motion carried.

B & G and Trustees:

The finances are on target with the exception of that the insurance premiums have gone up about \$1000. All the water/temp sensors are working. Merlin and Jim Dixon replaced all the bulbs in the sanctuary. The committee discussed that the furnaces will be getting regular maintenance checks. Also, had some discussion on how they are going to handle filling the Treasurer position—possibly using QuickBooks. No decision was made as of now. Summit received a bid from Kafer Snow Removal. Decided to go forward with this company, may have to update the budget for this. The Stewardship letter needs to be worked on. The committee would like to receive more pledges from members and/or notification if pledges may possibly be changing. A letter was received from the city concerning false alarms (which they send out every year). The committee has some old stuff laying around that they would like to get rid of. One of which is the letters left over from the old sign. If someone can use them, they will be donated. Also, with the replacement of the bulbs in the sanctuary, there is a good supply of light bulbs, plus all the CFL bulbs. It was suggested that they be set out for the congregation to take whatever they can use and go from there. Fellowship Hall will be used on Tuesday, November 2 for elections.

Diaconate:

The committee decided to have Communion on November 14 due to Pastor being on vacation. The veterans will also be recognized. A sign-up sheet for special music and readers for Sunday worship is being worked on. The All-Saints Day service will be this Sunday, October 31. Pastor will be taking vacation November 3 through November 9. While she is away, Rev. Lillian Daniel will be covering for pastoral care needs and Morgan Frazer will be filling in as pulpit supply that day. Terry Boleyn will be helping to lead worship. Advent books have been ordered. The Children's Christmas program will be on December 19. Council had some discussion about having the choir return. The committee will need to discuss this further with Ernie, as well as, the choir members.

Christian Ed.:

Pastor shared the idea of possibly doing a monthly program for the children of the church. There are still 2 open positions on this committee.

O/M/E:

The committee still needs to get a report on the Neighbors in Need campaign. There are three open positions on this committee. Council suggested possibly combining this committee with Christian Ed. We would need to look at the Bylaws and possibly do some more changes, they will revisit this after the first of the year.

Summit Fellowship:

\$1,157.11 was made from the Basket/Jewelry/Bakery Sale. There are still some baskets available for purchase.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Karen shared a detailed report of her duties for the past month. We continue to reevaluate what activities are taking place and how we will consider moving forward in a responsible manner for in person gatherings and she forwarded the Conference email concerning worship and gatherings at church to the church leadership. The Bible Study group that meets via Zoom on Tuesdays has resumed those studies and is currently studying Beatitudes for the Progressive Christian and will follow that with The Birth of Jesus for the Progressive Christian. The Tuesday group has decided to change their meeting time to 10:30 am. In person Bible Study is meeting Mondays at 1:30 pm. That group will be concluding the Book Study on November 1. The in-person group has chosen to study the lectionary texts beginning November 15 when

Pastor returns from vacation. The Pastor Congregation Relations Committee met on June 15 at 1:45 pm. Three more meetings were set in July at 1:00 on the 13, 20 and 26 via Zoom to discuss the book, "A Sure Foundation," which is a proactive way to be the church to prevent issues before they arise. Each week they will discuss two topics—July 13: Ethical Codes and Pastor Relations Committees; July 20: Assessment of Ministry and Social Media Guidelines; July 27: Sabbatical Leave and Ethical Departure Guidelines. The meeting on July 13 was canceled due to Lori's funeral and decided to do the first three topics on July 20 and the last three topics on July 27. We still need to meet one more time to go over the minutes of both sessions and determine what other action needs to take place.

CROP Walk celebration and educational outdoor activity was held on October 2, 2021 to help preserve that date and to give people a better understanding both of the work that CROP Walk does and what are some of the conditions people endure and allow those entities and individuals who usually support CROP to contribute at this event in October. The event was very poorly attended, however, there was some additional money left donated mostly by committee members at that event, which will be added to our current total for the year. Pastor is waiting to hear what that additional total is.

Our first all church clean-up day will be November 9 from 9 am-noon. People can still volunteer at other times for cleaning and clearing clutter and/or general maintenance inside and out but council felt it might help to set aside a time, the second Tuesday of every month from 9 am-noon, specifically for people to come together and help tend to the buildings and grounds and resources God has entrusted into our care so it can continue to be a place of welcoming hospitality and base camp for ministry. Pat has begun to go through the materials in the library and smile spot to unclutter and make the materials more user friendly.

Pastor has an El Assoc. Advisory Council Meeting on November 30 at 2 pm via Zoom. El Assoc. has returned back to Zoom monthly clergy luncheons on the fourth Tuesday of the month from noon to 1. As noted on the first page of the Pastor's Report, she had two non-member funerals and 1 non-member wedding this past month. 1 non-member funeral she was filling in for a pastor who was on vacation so that one was included in her hours worked but the other funeral and wedding were marked as outreach not included in hours worked. On November 17 Pastor has the All Saints Day Worship Service at Sunnycrest Manor. She will also be covering Pastoral Care duties for Lillian Daniel on November 15-26. Advent begins November 28 so we need to look at what that will look like for the church even beyond worship. Advent is about the coming of Christ's light into the world so how might we embody that as a church and not just make it about adding elements into worship. Megan Ruiz from the Presentation Lantern Center will be meeting with the Diaconate and anyone else who would like to attend that meeting at 10 am on November 1. If anyone would like to see the work they do before that meeting their website is <https://thelanterncenter.org/>.

Old Business:

There are still several open positions on the committees. If you would like to serve in any way please let Pastor Karen or a church council member know. Beth will be available to open the church for the cleaning day. Budget reports are due by November 15. A book shelf is still needed for the Smile Spot.

New Business:

Pastor Karen would like to set up a system for members of the congregation to use/set up Zoom for visits over the holidays and/or any other day they would like. The suggestion was made to use a spreadsheet with 2-hour slots available for people to sign up. Once this is set up you can call the church to set up a time. By consensus, Council agreed with this proposal. This will be on a first come, first serve basis. Sparks articles are due this Friday, October 29. Next meeting—Monday, November 22 at 4 pm via Zoom. Merlin motioned to adjourn the meeting, Carrie seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Flora Brown, Clerk

THANKSGIVING WORD SEARCH ANSWER KEY

T	O	W	X	B	R	W	H	C	L	U	F	Y	O	J
K	R	T	H	E	G	I	T	O	A	H	C	L	L	O
H	T	E	T	I	A	H	I	M	T	S	E	I	H	T
V	H	L	I	O	M	D	W	E	R	E	L	E	G	Y
I	A	S	W	H	E	O	F	M	A	K	L	N	O	E
N	N	E	Q	U	L	G	S	A	E	R	I	O	P	L
G	K	V	U	G	O	O	P	G	S	V	W	I	T	H
U	S	O	L	P	N	S	O	R	I	E	K	S	L	E
S	G	L	S	I	H	O	U	G	A	W	S	E	U	C
W	I	N	G	R	A	P	S	O	R	I	E	R	F	N
W	V	R	H	S	T	K	J	I	P	T	S	O	P	E
T	I	T	O	L	N	A	O	F	R	H	T	E	Y	S
R	N	N	A	A	A	M	A	K	E	N	H	I	O	E
B	G	R	H	W	M	A	G	N	I	F	Y	O	J	R
S	P	T	O	U	E	N	P	C	B	T	T	Y	N	P

FAMILY ZOOM GATHERING GUIDELINES

1. Church Meetings have priority
2. All times for use of Sunday Zoom Link for family gatherings must be reserved before using the link for gatherings not initiated by the church.
3. Reservations will be made on a first come, first serve basis.
4. Reservations can be made for up to a 2-hour time period.
5. You can reserve your time slot by calling and/or emailing the church.
6. After checking your request against the calendar to make sure there are no other reservations for that time and day you will be notified of approval to use the Sunday Zoom link for that gathering or if you will need to adjust time or day so as not to overlap with another Zoom Meeting,
7. Once approved you can send out the Sunday Zoom Link to those with whom you are gathering making sure to let them know of the specific date and time you are inviting them to gather.
8. When it is time for you to gather, just click on the Zoom link and you will be connected to your family.

*We are able to offer this opportunity because we don't require the host to start the meeting before others can gather. This is how we have been able to continue with Wednesday Zoom Fellowship even if Pastor or Merlin have not been able to be present or start the meeting.

**That is why it is vital to reserve time slots so that people are not interrupting a church meeting or intruding on another family's gathering