

*Happy
New
Year!*

*Keeping in
touch with the
heart of the
faith community
of
Gaylord
United
Church
of Christ*

*A Welcoming
Congregation*

Parish Paper

January 2014

Vol. 42, 1

Thank you to all the members and friends of Gaylord UCC for all you have done to support our ministries during the past year.

We have accomplished many positive things in 2013....

- * Food Shelf Fundraiser with “Beads on One String.”
- * Lenten Wednesday worship services at Oak Terrace.
- * Blessing of the Pets, during our August Worship service in the Park.
- * Hanging of the Greens service including members of New Ulm UCC.
- * Children’s Christmas Program, Birthday Party for Jesus and Piñata.
- * Joint worship services and events with the New Ulm UCC.
- * Annual Pie and Ice Cream Social.
- * Initiation of the Personal Energy Transportation (P.E.T.) mission project.
- * Al Batt Worship Service.
- * Ecumenical Worship Services in community.
- * Many other uplifting services and programs, including the MENDING Project Presentation, on December 11.
- * Decision to become a “4-x Permission Giving Church.”
- * Design of a new logo for the church.
- * Commitment to build a website to help with church communications to members, visitors, friends, guests, and potential new participants in our ministry.

The list goes on . . .

Please feel free to add and share your celebrations of the many, many wonderful things that blessed our congregation in 2013.

Ushers: Diane and Darrel Mosel
Greeters: Howard and Fran Armstrong
 1-5, 1-12
 Mark Pauly and Dylan Pauly
 1-19, 1-26
Acolyte: Brian Wagenius

Fellowship Hour—opportunities to serve:

January 5open
 January 12open
 January 19 Annual Meeting - Council
 January 26open

Lectionary Readings for January

Jan. 5, 2014: Second Sunday after Christmas
 Jer 31:7 - 14; Psalm 147:12-20; Eph. 1:3-14; John 1:10-18.

Jan. 12, 2014: Baptism of Christ
 Isa 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matt 3:13-17.

Jan. 19, 2014: Second Sunday after Epiphany
 Isa 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Cor. 1:1-9, John 1:29-42.

Jan. 26, 2014: Third Sunday after Epiphany
 Isa 9:1-4; Psalm 27; 1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matt 4:12-231.

Among those who were lifted up in prayer this past month: Fran Armstrong, Dayle Troidahl, Rueben Meyer, Brian Wagenius, others who have been ill or are home bound and those at Oak Terrace. Pray for Brit Keithahn, Alex Thoele, Mark Thoele, May and Raymond Ysasaga and others serving in the military.

Congratulations and best wishes to Mac and Christy Zachow on the birth of a baby girl, Collins Candyce Zachow, born December 3, 2013 weighing in at 8 lbs 10 oz. Collins is welcomed home by sisters Keeley (4) and Shea (3) and big brother Joe (9). **Proud Grandparents are Candy and Donnie Swenson.**

Thank You for your prayers.

A big thank you to our church family and friends for your thoughts, prayers, emails and cards during my stays in the hospital and recuperation at home. It was all very much appreciated. God's blessings to you all. Fran Armstrong

Thank you to Jean Feehan for her donation of a large print version of the Bible. You can find it in the church library.

Special Thanks to everyone who helped with the Children's Christmas Program, provided treats for the Birthday party for Jesus and Piñata, and provided special music.

Cancellation Reminder: UCC group meetings and events are canceled if schools are closed early or canceled that day. If church is cancelled you should receive a call from a Council member. Also listen to KNUJ.

Women's Fellowship will meet at **6:30 p.m.** on **Tuesday, January 14 to undecorate the church.** **Anyone interested in helping is welcome to come.**

Coffee will be served when we are finished.

Priscilla Circle will **not** meet in January. Come join us for our regular meeting on February 20 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Upcoming at UCC:

- Communion Sunday, January 5 at 9:00 a.m.
- Confirmation January 8 and 22 at 4:00 p.m.
- Undecorate the church Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m.
- Choir practice each Wednesday in January at 7:00 p.m.
- Church Council meeting, January 8 at 5:00 p.m.
- Scrapbooking at UCC Jan. 11 3-11 p.m.
- Annual Meeting Sun., Jan. 19 at 10:00 a.m.



Reminder:
*Change in
 Worship
 Time!*

Beginning Sunday, January 5, 2014

WORSHIP time in Gaylord begins at

9:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hour at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School will begin at 10:15 a.m.



Blessings and Peace to all as we cross over into a new year, 2014! Watching a calendar and marking our lives through time, helps us to focus and plan and prioritize the journey of our lives. What do we hope for in this new year to come? What resolutions will help us to achieve our various goals? Will we seek God’s will and help in guiding our paths? There is power in the gift of “the new” – a New Year, a new day, a new beginning, a new opportunity. Because of the gift of “the new” we can have hope! “In Christ we are a new creation.” 2 Corinthians 5:17. Thanks be to God!!

A heart-felt thanks to all, both young and old who gave of their time, talent and treasure in helping us celebrate Advent – Christmas at UCC whether in Worship, Fellowship or Service! THANKS also to Gaylord UCC and Church Council for a kind monetary Christmas gift.

I will be away on Sabbatical time from Feb. 3 to March 3, with a 2-part focus on mission service. In the first half I will be at the UCC’s Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi; and in the second half I will be at the New Ulm Dioceses’ San Lucas Mission in Guatemala. I am grateful for this opportunity to experience two very different ministry and cultural settings for how the Church is doing God’s work in our world. Pastoral coverage and Pulpit Supply is being finalized.

This year’s Annual meeting will be vital for setting priorities, decisions and action items. There is a fair amount of material to digest so please take the time to read your Annual Report as well as the articles from our President and Treasurer in this newsletter. Thank you for your faith and dedication in time, talent and treasure.

Blessings, Pastor Hank

UCC Happenings:

- ♦ **Sunday, January 12** , “*Kids Against Hunger*” Mission event, 1:00 at the Mankato “Kids Against Hunger” site. All are welcome! Please Sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall.
- ♦ **Sunday, January 19**, 7 p.m. at New Ulm UCC. Martin Luther King Event “Single Payer Health Coverage” sponsored by Mission Committee of New Ulm UCC. Laurel Gamm will be speaking on behalf of the national organization “Physicians for a National Health Plan” (PNHP). *All are welcome.*
- ♦ **Sunday, January 19**, Our UCC Annual Meeting as we plan and give thanks for our ministries in the New Year!

Sunday’s in January:

- 5th Epiphany “Season of Light - the Gospel to the whole world” and Communion.
- 12th Baptism of Jesus.
- 19th Annual Meeting beginning at 10:00 following Worship.

Pastor Hank’s usual office hours or visiting hours during the week are typically Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday afternoons as needed. If you need to reach him call the church office 237-2595 or his cell 507-217-9848.

No matter who you are or where you are in life’s journey, you are welcome here!

Council Presidents Report

Blessings and best wishes to everyone for a wonderful New Year! It's so hard to believe how quickly the time has gone by. We have accomplished so much in 2013, and I look forward to continuing our conversations as we continue to take action as a congregation.

A good portion of the council's December meeting was spent reviewing financial information about 2013 and budget work for 2014. We also discussed options for paying for and raising money for a new audio-visual system. As part of that discussion, UCC Treasurer, Phil Keithahn, did a great job of detailing where the financial assets of the church are sitting right now, and what his projections are for the future. See his article on page 6.

As we looked at fundraising for the A/V system, Pastor Hank spoke about also using that effort to raise money for specific mission projects supported by our church. For example, for every \$100 raised for the A/V system, we would raise \$20 or \$30 for the P.E.T. project. This idea will be discussed during the Annual Meeting on January 19th.

Council also looked at the new slate of officers and board/committee members for 2014. I am still looking for volunteers, but not for Vice-President. Thank you to Sue Keithahn for agreeing to work with me next year and take over as President in 2015! Board of Mission, Board of Education and the Congregational Care and Outreach Board all have 1 or 2 openings available. Please let me know on which board you are interested in serving.

The next church council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8th at 5:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Anyone is welcome to join us!

Pauline Marlinski, Council President



Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 19, 2014, our congregation will gather after our 9:00 a.m.

Worship to hold its Annual Meeting.

Besides discussing the 2014 budget and the slate of nominees for offices, boards and committees, the congregation will receive updates on the website, audio-visual system, Personal Energy Transportation (PET) project. Other topics being discussed will be listed in a complete agenda that will be available by January 10th.

Please plan to attend and be a part of the very important work of this church.

Boards and committees are reminded to have their reports turned in to the church office by Tuesday, January 7.



CC&O Update

CC&O is planning a Music From The Heart concert for Saturday 2/15/14 starting at 7:00 pm. Following the concert there will be coffee and desert available in the fellowship hall. There will be a separate free-will donation taken for each of these events. Donations from the concert and the deserts will be used to help pay for new audio/visual equipment for the church.

Kids Against Hunger Mission Event

We would like to invite everyone to join us in a Community Packaging Event.

Sunday, January 12 1:00 p.m. at the Mankato "Kids Against Hunger" site. 77 Pine Street Mankato, MN (507) 387-1390. Cost: \$20 donation per person.

Make checks out to: Kids Against Hunger

If you have any questions contact Pastor Hank. Sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall to participate.

Update from the Mission Board

The UCC Mission Board thanks the UCC Congregation for the past contributions to the various missions. Your contributions provided the less fortunate with hope and love.

The contribution to the Christmas Fund last month amounted to \$185.09 Thank you for your generous support.

The next From The Heart Offering will be taken January 12, 2014 for the Salvation Army.

The Mission Board members wish you a healthy and prosperous new year! Thanks again for your contributions to our various missions.

We need volunteers to provide Meals on Wheels in January. There is a signup sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider helping with this if you are available. Thank you.

Meals on Wheels Schedule for January 2013

Jan. 1 - 3	Ruby and Ewald Keller
Jan. 6 - 10	Aggie and Peter Schue
Jan. 13 - 17	Harriet and Dayle Troidahl
Jan. 20 - 24	Fran and Howard Armstrong
Jan. 27- 31	open



**Thank You to everyone, children to adults,
who helped make our Annual
Hanging of the Greens program a success.
It was a wonderful start to our Advent Season.**



MENding Project Presentation at UCC

An introduction to the MENding Project was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at Gaylord UCC. It featured Cara Bishop of Henderson speaking about the death of her daughter due to domestic violence. Bryce Ehrman, Assistant County Attorney, explained there is a great need for domestic abuse victims to have extra support when they leave a violent relationship. This can be achieved through individuals joining a committee, businesses providing services or getting financial resources together. "We want to be able to offer victims the tools to leave these relationships and to be empowered. We have the opportunity to save a person and their children."

Cara Bishop spoke about her daughter's relationship with a young man she met in college and provided details of how that relationship progressed from November of 2010 through July 8, 2011. She talked about the changes she saw and heard about from her daughter, Josselyn. Her boyfriend became controlling and he began stalking and harassing her. Soon Josselyn "feared for her life."

Josselyn told her mother that she was ending the relationship with the boyfriend and her mother said she appeared happier than she had seen her in months as she dropped her off and gave her a hug. That was the last time she saw her alive.

Domestic violence occurs in rural Minnesota. One in every three women is a victim of domestic violence. It is hoped that through the MENding Project, the word can be spread about what domestic violence does to a community and action can be taken to help the victims.

Cara Bishop said, "Through tragedy, you can find value." She told how five months after her daughter's death, a female police officer told her how she had knelt down by Josselyn at the scene and prayed with and for her. She went on to say that we all have a chance to take a stand and have a voice so that no family has to go through such an unthinkable ordeal.

A note from our Treasurer

As of Sunday, December 15, we have received more than \$50,000 in pledges for 2014. And I am still awaiting pledge forms from many people. Please contact me if you need another form. You can also send me an email with your pledge for 2014. Our annual budget is usually about \$108,000 – so we are almost one-half way to our goal for 2014!

2013 pledge payments continue to arrive at the church. We need another \$10-15,000 to arrive soon if we are to balance the budget for 2013. That's typically the amount we receive by the end of the year. So if you have not yet fulfilled your pledge for 2013, or if you would like to make a "Second Mile" gift, please mail a check to the Gaylord United Church of Christ, PO Box 385, Gaylord, MN 55334-0385 (Attn: Church Treasurer). You can also drop off a check in the offering plate during the next two Sundays.

Saving the best for last, we have had several members of our church already pledge or give \$10,000 to the church for the new audio/visual system. The gift is in the form of a "challenge grant!" This means that they will match, dollar for dollar, any gifts or pledges towards the audio/visual system. YOUR GIFT can have double the impact. Please consider sending a gift to the church for this new system, writing the words "Audio-Visual System" on the memo line to your check.

If we raise more than \$20,000 for the audio/visual system, then the excess funds will be available for replacing our sanctuary and fellowship hall lights in the future. And if we are able to move forward with the audio/visual system, then it should be ready for use by Easter Sunday 2014 (April 20).

You can also give assets where you have taxable appreciation (e.g., stocks or investments where the market value is greater than your purchase price) and receive a full tax-deduction from your gift. In this way, the taxes you would pay on your gain will be ZERO, which means the U.S. government is making an indirect donation to our church!

Thanks in advance for your continued generosity to the Gaylord United Church of Christ as we continue moving towards a "4-x, permission-giving, community-focused" church, which is to become a great church each and every year by having at least:

- 4 great worship services,
- 4 great musical concerts or events,
- 4 great community programs, and
- 4 great mission outreach projects.

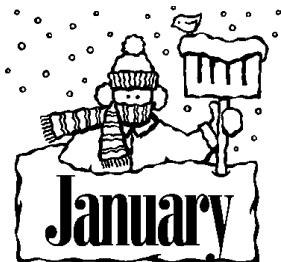
With Christ's Blessings to you and your family during this season in which we celebrate the birth of our savior and prepare for a new year, Thank you again for your support.

Phil Keithahn, Treasurer, Gaylord UCC



Working Together

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This newsletter is a monthly publication of the United Church of Christ, Gaylord. Articles and announcements are due the third Wednesday of the month.

Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m.

Coffee-Fellowship Hour - 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School - 10:15 a.m.

Communion is the 1st Sunday of the month

Pastor - Rev. Hank Campbell

Council President - Pauline Marlinski

Church Secretary - Cindy Johnson

January Birthdays

01..... Eunice Gasow
 01..... Megan Meyer
 02..... Liz Kuphal
 03..... Dale Johnson
 04..... Doug Walsh
 06..... Kati Klimmek Miller
 07..... Gary Wentzloff
 10 Ruby Keller
 11..... Bob Estenson
 13..... Dennis Mead
 15..... Liz Reishus
 15..... Fran Skarboe
 17..... Eric Thies
 22..... Sam Thies
 29 Michael Schultz
 30..... Helen Van Brunt