

# The Messenger

Volume 24 No 5

May 2024



The Newsletter of The United Church of Sandwich

*"Passionately united to feed all people — body, mind and spirit — to the glory of God!"*

## Greetings!

As we approach Mother's Day on May 12, we have an opportunity to reflect on the significance of this day within the context of our Christian faith and the United Methodist Church. Mother's Day holds a special place in our hearts as we honor and celebrate the important role that all women, and motherhood in general, play in our lives and in the life of the church. Mother's Day has its roots in the 19th century, initially conceived by Anna Jarvis in the United States as a day to honor the sacrifices mothers make for their children. The first Mother's Day service was held at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia, on May 10, 1908. From there, it gained popularity and eventually became a national holiday in our country.



In the United Methodist Church, Mother's Day is not only a time for expressing love and gratitude to our mothers but also an opportunity to reflect on the theological significance of motherhood. Motherhood serves as a profound symbol of God's nurturing and caregiving nature. Throughout the Bible, we encounter numerous examples of God expressed with motherhood imagery and the uplifting of the ideals of love and compassion. One of the most prominent examples is Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary's willingness to bear and raise the Son of God exemplifies sacrificial love and obedience to God's will. Her role in the life of Jesus is central to our Christian faith, and on Mother's Day, we honor her and all women who emulate her faithfulness, love, and devotion.

Also, Mother's Day provides an opportunity for us to recognize the diverse forms of motherhood within our congregation and community. We honor not only biological mothers but also adoptive mothers, foster mothers, spiritual mothers, and all those who have played a nurturing role in the lives of others. As we celebrate Mother's Day, let us remember to show appreciation to the mothers in our lives. Whether it's a simple gesture of love, a heartfelt card, or spending quality time together, let us express our gratitude for their love, guidance, and support.

Moreover, let us extend our love and compassion to those who may find Mother's Day difficult due to loss, infertility, or strained relationships. May we be a source of comfort and encouragement to all who are hurting on this day. As we gather together in worship and fellowship, let us give thanks for the blessings of maternal love and the enduring legacy of faith that mothers impart to us all.

God Bless,

Pastor Tom Bourke

## Sunday Scriptures & Sermons for May

### This Is Living!

May 5 Philippians 1:1-11 ~ Living in Partnership: Growing Up Together

May 12 Philippians 1:12-30 ~ Living with Perspective: Thriving in Life's Storms

May 19 Philippians 2:1-11 ~ Living in Unity: the Downward Path to Greatness

May 26 Philippians 2:12-18 ~ Living Towards Maturity: Working Out What God is Working In



United Kids After School is open for registration for the 2024/25 school year! April was UKAS month at United Church, and I am so thankful to Chris Martner, Pam Nehring, Gwen Fox, and Deb Heinekamp for their kind words about UKAS during church. You all represented our program beautifully. We are going to be completing our first full year of UKAS on May 30, and we consider it a great success! We couldn't have this program without our beloved volunteers. They have each formed such wonderful bonds with all of the kids. For the '24/'25 school year, we'd really love to have a few more regular volunteers join us! Requirements for becoming a volunteer: Must be over 18, background checked, and go through an approximate 2 hour online Safe Sanctuary course. UKAS will pay the fee for any new volunteers to go through the training. All are welcome and encouraged to come and visit the program before the end of the school year. Contact Kim for the best time to stop in. As you heard in church, we currently have 3 children receiving full scholarships to attend UKAS. My goal for next year is to give out at least 5 full scholarships or 10 half scholarships. If you would like to contribute to our new scholarship fund, you can scan the QR code with your camera phone, which will take you directly to Tithely, where you can choose the scholarship fund on the drop down menu. There is also a collection bin on the UKAS info board, where we can accept cash or checks. Your contribution goes directly to help a Sandwich family that has asked for financial assistance.

I've said many times this year, I'm so grateful to be a part of this program. I love my job, and I feel like we are doing something good for our community. I love that our church building is being put to use every single school day.

Thank you to all who support us with your time, talents, and gifts.

Kim Bourke, UKAS Director 630-746-6017

[ucs.unitedkids@gmail.com](mailto:ucs.unitedkids@gmail.com)





# MAY Activities



Missions Committee will meet Monday, May 6th, at 12:30pm.

Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, May 21st, 4:30pm.

Finance Committee will meet Thursday May 23rd, at 6:30pm

Administrative Council meets Tuesday, May 28th, at 6:30pm.

Council members please provide a report for your committees by May 19th.



**U'niters/United Women in Faith** meet Monday, May 6th, at 1:00pm.

All women of the church are welcome. The

meeting will take place in the Chapel where they will prepare May Baskets for their outreach project and discuss the upcoming Rummage & Bake Sale. June 7 & 8.

Drop off dates, May 19-31.

Items may be taken to the southeast room.

Sign up sheets for sorting, cashiering, baked goods donations, general help and clean-up may be found in the Narthex.

Be sure to check it out!



## MISSION OF THE MONTH



Sandra Kay Raasch

Sandra K. Raasch is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as Volunteers Coordinator. She formerly worked in mission finance in Honduras. She was commissioned as a missionary in 2005. At the time she said: **"God has been grooming me for this call all my life** by giving me a heart for people, an ability to receive a finance degree, and to participate in mission trips, and by leading me to a church home, where I found Christ and have been able to deepen my walk through Bible study, meeting brothers and sisters in Christ, and finding my **spiritual gifts of administration and hospitality."** Sandy was born in Cape Girardeau, Missouri and attended the University of Missouri in Columbia, earning her Bachelor of Science in business administration and finance in 1987. Before beginning her mission service, she owned and managed a business, worked for four different companies in Kansas in supervisory positions, and volunteered for numerous charitable organizations through her church. Sandy is a member of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. Her parents, Harold and Becky Raasch, live in Overland Park, Kansas, and also attend the same congregation.

Thank you, The Missions Committee

## 4th Weekend Drive

Thank you for your continued support of the 4th Weekend Drives. The request will continue to be **"Dessert Mixes"** for May 25 & 26. If you are able, please bring a variety of dessert mixes such as cakes, graham cracker crusts, pie fillings, etc.

Items may be placed in the blue bin located in the Narthex.

Thank you! The Missions Committee



## Pie of the Month Event



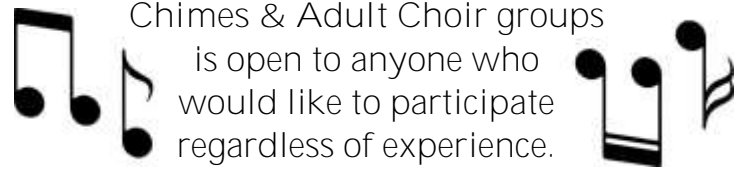
May: Pie-Peach  
Order Deadline-May 5  
Pickup Date-May 11

June: Pie-Strawberry-Rhubarb  
Order Deadline-June 9  
Pickup Date-June 15

Pies may be purchased baked or frozen (with baking instructions).

Pickup only — no delivery

The Church will be open from 9AM-11AM on the Pickup date. Please use south entrance  
Call the church office to purchase one or for details.



Chimes & Adult Choir groups

is open to anyone who would like to participate regardless of experience.

Practices are Wednesday evenings, 6:00pm and 7:00pm, respectively.

Both current and traditional selections are enjoyed.

Contact Kevin Duy or Pastor Tom for more information about joining.



Congratulations to Debby and Rick Hill and family on the birth of their granddaughter, Delaney Joy Hill, born April 18! Proud parents are Matthew and Meredith Hill. She is welcomed by big sister Cecily!



What two rivers that we still know today are named in the Creation account in Genesis 2?

- A. Nile
- B. Yangtze
- C. Jordan
- D. Tigris
- E. Ganges
- F. Euphrates



Answer: D & F (See Genesis 2:10-14)



Graduation Sunday will be on June 2. Contact the church office or Pastor Tom if you have or know a graduate of 8th grade, High School or College. There will be a time of honoring them during worship service.



*GRACE BENSON* Waubensee Community College  
Daughter of Joe & Susan Benson

*ELI BOURKE* Sandwich Middle School  
Son of Pastor Tom & Kim Bourke

*MORGAN GILLETTE* Yorkville High School  
Granddaughter of Sandy Gillette

*JOSH HEIMEN* University of Wisconsin-Platteville  
Grandson of Sandy Gillette

*AVERY NEHRING* Rock Valley College  
Granddaughter of Pam & Tom Nehring

*KYLE NEHRING* Ottawa Township High School  
Grandson of Pam & Tom Nehring

*JENNA OLIVER* Plano Middle School  
Niece of Deb & Brian Clason

*NICHOLAS SEYMOUR* University of Georgia  
Grandson of David Seymour

*ZOEANN RUTH STEENWYK* Milwaukee German Immersion School  
Granddaughter of Marilyn & Lou Steenwyk

*JOE VANHEIDEN* Ottawa Township High School  
Grandson of Pam & Tom Nehring



# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Liturgists

05/05 Chris Bagwill  
05/12 Bonnie Miller  
05/19 Marilyn Steenwyk  
05/26 John Hallaron

## Greeters/Ushers

05/05 Angie Miller & Pam Nehring  
05/12 Carole Strock & Earl Shaffer  
05/19 Ron & Kim Henrich  
05/26 Reid & Deb Heinekamp

## May Communion Minister

PLEASE CONTACT DEB CLASON OR  
PASTOR TOM IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
VOLUNTEER AS A LITURGIST, GREETER,  
USHER OR COMMUNION MINISTER.

### Northern Illinois Conference *Reporter*

United Church of Sandwich is a United Methodist Church and the connectional nature of our denomination is vital to our identity. Below is a link to the Northern IL Conference newspaper. Our Newsletter will begin to share the news of the UMC with you to give you the opportunity to learn and discover the events and opportunities of the UMC at large. Please contact Pastor Tom if you have any questions on any topic you read. He would be happy and honored to connect with you.

<https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/Reporter/Jan/Feb2024.pdf>



If you would like to be added to the church prayer list please contact the church office 815-786-9243 or Pastor Tom, 630-699-2474. We want to be in support for you and let you know that you are family and not alone.



05/02	Phyllis Davis
05/03	Delores Lies
05/05	Macie Chrestman
05/06	Renee Eipers Andrew Salisbury
05/07	Shirley Basler
05/09	Jim Bernhardt Betty Reiners
05/11	Tom Nehring
05/12	Sandy Gustafson
05/13	Darrell Lohmeier
05/15	Grace Benson
05/16	Gary Anderson
05/18	Linda Duy Lilly Heiman
05/19	Ron Henrich
05/26	Heath Dannewitz
05/27	Scott Richards
05/28	Dakota Heiman
05/29	Richard Hill
05/30	Sandy Gillette
05/29	Mindy & Josh Chrestman

**If anyone's birthday or anniversary has been missed please contact the church office. Thank You**

Please send any email, phone number, and address updates such as winter addresses to the church office.

Thank you!

**Darlene Seby**  
**8213 Woodview Ave**  
**Joliet, IL 60431**







# 2024

Sun

Mon






Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

 <p><b>Military Appreciation Month</b></p>			<p>1</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Indoors &amp; Online (Holy Communion)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:30 Missions Cmte Mtg 1:00 U'niters/UWFaith Mtg</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00 Pie Dough Making 7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:00 Pie Baking</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 ~ 11:00 Pie P/U</p> 
<p>12</p> <p><b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> 10:00 Worship ~ Indoors &amp; Online</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Indoors &amp; Online (Holy Communion)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 4:30 Board of Trustees Mtg</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 Finance Cmte Mtg 7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>4th Weekend Drive</p>  <p><b>DESSERT MIXES</b></p>
<p>26</p> <p>10:00 Worship ~ Indoors &amp; Online</p>	<p>27</p>  <p><b>MEMORIAL DAY</b></p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 Administrative Council Mtg</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:00 Chimes Practice 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon Mtg</p>	<p>31</p> <p><b>RUMMAGE SALE DROP OFF DEADLINE</b></p>	

The United Church  
of Sandwich

512 E Lions Rd  
Sandwich, IL 60548-2147



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE MESSENGER — MAY 2024

**The United Church of Sandwich**

512 E Lions Rd, Sandwich, IL 60548-2417

Church: 815- 786-9243

Email: [ucssandwich@frontier.com](mailto:ucssandwich@frontier.com)

website: [www.unitedchurchsandwich.org](http://www.unitedchurchsandwich.org)

Worship Schedule

Sunday, 10:00 am

**Children's Sunday School, 9:00 am**

Adult Bible Study, Tuesdays, 10:00 am

Church Office Hours

Monday — Friday, 9:00 am — 1:00 pm

*Pastor:* Rev. Tom Bourke

*Office Hours:* Monday–Thursday

9:00 am — 1:00 pm

or by appointment

*Email:* [tombourkejr@gmail.com](mailto:tombourkejr@gmail.com)

*Mobile:* 630-699-2474

Church Staff

*Secretary:* Donna Reiss

Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 am — 1:00 pm

*Choir and Chimes Director:* Kevin Duy

*Pianist:* Abi Mogge/*Organist:* Brad Haas

*Ministers and Missionaries:* All Members

We are passionately united to feed all people —  
body, mind and spirit — to the glory of God!

Leadership Team 2024

Church Council Chair	Sarah Stevens
Recording Secretary	Chris Bagwill
Treasurer	Linda Duy
Payroll	Pam Nehring
Financial Secretary	Pat Hallaron
Finance/Stewardship Chair	Pam Nehring
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations	Jerry Brown
Lay Leader	Jim Bernhardt
<b>Trustee's Chair</b>	Gary Anderson
Annual Conf. Delegate	Ken Young
Missions/Evangelism Chair	Phyllis Whitehead
	Bonnie Bernhardt
Memorial/Endowment Chair	Bonnie Miller
United Methodist Women	Marilyn Steenwyk
Fair Stand Chair	Reid Heinekamp
Worship & Music Chair	Deb Clason

United Church of Sandwich Website

We invite you to view the website for  
contact information and to learn more  
about United Church of Sandwich

[www.unitedchurchsandwich.org](http://www.unitedchurchsandwich.org)