



Lake City Union Church

February Newsletter

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lake City Union Church is to praise and uplift God in all that we do.

From Pastor Randy

From the Pastor

“In this is love; not that we loved God, but that God loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

(1 John 4:10)

This Is Love

February is the month we think about love an awful lot. There is even a holiday built around it, roughly in the middle. We often think of love as something we “fall into” or “find”. If we look at the passage above, it is pretty clear that we often view love, and how it begins, in the wrong way. We almost always approach it from our point of view.

In this part of John’s first letter, we read that the beginning of love is not that we loved God, but that God loved each of us enough to fill our deepest need through the giving of his Son. This might be the exact definition we very much need. Then we begin to see love from God’s perspective, beginning there and allowing the Lord to build outward through each of us.

The starting point isn’t how we love one another or the blessing of sharing this love. It needs to begin in our relationship with the One who has created, claimed, and blessed each of us. Then, and only then, do we begin to understand what is required of us through this love.

It so happens that this year Valentine’s Day falls on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the days of Lent. At the service on February 14th, we will acknowledge our brokenness and our need to be forgiven, cleansed, and freed from our sin. It will also be a time for us to be overwhelmed by the power of God’s love for each of us. Through the power of our Savior, Jesus the Christ we have been saved!

May God bless each of us in this family of faith as we love and serve the Lord and one another.

In Christ,
Randy

Lake City Union Church
Administrative Session
January 19, 2024

Session of Lake City Union Church was held in Union 215 at 7:00 pm. Meeting was called to order by Moderator Rev Randy Russom. Attendance: Rev Randy Russom, Kay Streeter Clerk, Mike Best, Erin Blair, Randy Kent, Becky O'Tool, Barry Stevens, Kendall Von Glan by cell phone Excused: Mary Reiter, Al Hight Absent: Barb Linn Also present new session members Brittany Krause and Kevin Berry and Janelle Nesbitt

Rev. Randy gave the opening prayer.

Session minutes of December 12, 2023, were reviewed. They were approved on December 17, 2023. There being no corrections, they stand as approved. The Minutes of the Called Meeting of December 17 and December 24 were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve. Approved

Report Clerk's: The Clerk's Report was reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Clerk's report. Approved The minutes of the Congregation Minutes December 14, 2023, and January 7, 2024, were passed out to review. They will be voted on by the congregation on January 28, 2024

Christian Education: Gathering and Reach began again last night with many youths attending.

Missions:

Parish Life:

Building and Grounds:

Support:

Memorial and Bequest:

Staff Pastor Parish:

Worship and Music:

A motion was made and seconded to approve all the committee reports. Approved

Treasurer's Report: We reviewed the report given to us. There is \$8361.81 in our account as of December 31, 2023. Full reports are in the office of the church.

Pastor's Report

Visits: 12-7-23 Denise Jess w/Elder Cathy Russom, 12-10-23 Larry Findley, 12-12-23 George Schaffer, 12-13-23 Opportunity Living, Didn't go to Accura in December because they were closed due to COVID, 12-28-23 Jake Janssen, 1-10-24 Opportunity Living, 1-11-24 Edna Maruska & Carol Eichhorn w/ Elder Rebecca Brown (2 communion) , 1-11-24 Jake Janssen

Books Read: Cabin at Singing River, The Power to Change, A Simple Christmas, The Art of Active Listening, An Unexpected Christmas, Jesus Calling, Open Season, Watch for the Light-Readings for Advent and Christmas

Funerals:

Committee Meetings: 12-06-23 Staff, Pastor, Parish, 12-07-23 Mission, 12-19-23 Worship and Music, 1-04-24 Christian Education

Denominational: 12-7-23 Lakeshore Center Board Meeting, 12-24-23 Preached at Trinity Presbyterian Church - Wall Lake, 1-8-24 Lakeshore Center Board Meeting

Action Items: Papers were passed around to sign up for Communion and Counter duties and also the opening and closing prayers.

Judy Panning ask to use the Fellowship Hall from 1-2pm on Mondays for music lessons. A motion was made and seconded to approve. Approved Kevin Berry requests to be baptized. A motion was made and seconded to approve this action. Approved. Presbytery Meeting in Sioux City on February 24. We need a Session member to attend with Reverend Randy. Mike Best volunteered. A motion was made and seconded to approve this action. Approved.

Reverend Randy gave the closing prayer. 8:00 pm

Next meeting will be February 15, 2024

Approved 1/21/2024

Kay Streeter, Clerk of Session

February Sermon Schedule

February 4th Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Communion
Old Testament: Isaiah 40:21-31
New Testament: Mark 1:29-39
Sermon Title: "Everyone Is At The Door!"

February 11th Transfiguration of The Lord Sunday
Old Testament: 2 Kings 2:1-12
New Testament: Mark 9:2-9
Sermon Title: "Stand In This Spot...."

February 14th Ash Wednesday
Old Testament: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
New Testament: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Sermon Title: "RETURN!"

February 18th First Sunday in Lent
Old Testament: Psalm 25:4-10
New Testament: Mark 1:9-15
Sermon Title: "Out Of The Wilderness"

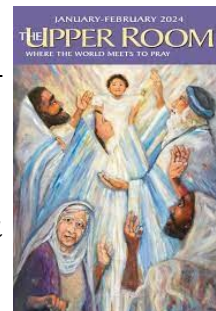
February 25th Second Sunday in Lent
Old Testament: Psalm 22:23-31
New Testament: Mark 8:31-38
Sermon Title: "Lay It Down, Take It Up!"

Daily Devotional—

The January / February Upper Room are available to all. These are located in the hallway across from the office.

You may donate toward cost — place \$1 in the display or in the church office.

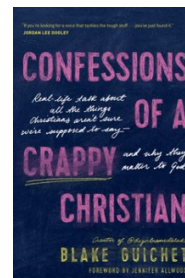
Note: Extra copies are available if you would like to give one to a neighbor or friend.



Book Study:

Erin and MaeLaan have scheduled a Book Study meets on Sunday evenings 8:00 pm at Union 215. Resourse is *Confessions of a Crappy Christian*.

All are welcome, even if you don't have a book.



Music for Kids

Children's Music School will begin for Sundays, starting January 14, 2024. This will run 9:00-9:30 a.m. in the choir room.



2024 Men's Lenten Breakfast

- February 24 Woodlawn Christian Church
- March 2 Lake City Union Church
- March 9 Lanesboro United Methodist Church
- March 16 Pilgrim Lutheran Church
- March 23 Knights of Columbus / St. Mary's Catholic

All breakfasts will be served at 7:30 a.m. and a freewill donation will be accepted.

Ash Wednesday Service — February 14, 2024 @ 6:30

ASH
WEDNESDAY



Remember that
You are dust, and to
dust You shall return.
Ecclesiastes 3:20

Mission

Socks and underwear

I traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border in November of 2023. I was part of a 12 member delegation of Iowa Presbyterians wanting to find out for ourselves just what goes on at the border. What impressed me most was seeing Christ's church in action. Christians from all denominations working side by side to meet humanitarian needs. There were a few paid staff, but most people working to staff shelters were volunteers. Shelters in Mexico are nothing like what you see on the U.S. side of the border. Shelters are simple, yet adequate.

One shelter we visited, Migrant Resource Center (MRC), was just inside the border crossing at Agua Prieta, Mexico. Migrants that find their way across the border wall and picked up by U.S. Border Patrol are put back into Mexico. MRC has a very strategic location. It is the first building migrants encounter once back in Mexico. Up to 14,000 migrants visit that shelter in a year's time. MRC is open to all during daylight hours every day of the year. Most migrants have not had a hot meal for several days if they have eaten at all. The only possessions they have is what is on their back.



Visiting with the staff, I was amazed MRC had a clothing pantry. Amazed because their building is smaller than our LCUC sanctuary. I asked the MRC staff, what their biggest need was for clothing items. They said, socks and underwear. I said I would see what I could do to help.

That is the story behind our LCUC mission committee drive for socks and underwear. We are gathering those items and they have to be new items, not used. Items are for all ages, men, women and children. I have been fortunate to be able share my experiences with other Presbyterian churches in the area. Odebolt, Auburn, Wall Lake, Wheatland, Westside, Vail and Denison churches are joining in with us on this effort.

The cutoff for our drive for socks and underwear is Sunday, February 11. I am curious to see what we can come up with if we all give a little.

One Great Hour of Sharing and UMCOR

Lent is only a couple weeks away. During lent, we at LCUC focus our mission attention on gathering monetary contributions for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) and UMCOR. Last year 25 preschool kids made coin banks to collect coins for OGHS/UMCOR. We asked adults to pick a kid and match their monetary contribution. Each kid last year averaged about \$20 in contributions. We are repeating that same drive again this year during lent. We will be looking forward to all of you joining in with the kids this year.

LCUC Mission Committee
Kendall Von Glan



Food Bank pick up is from 2:30 - 5:30 on the day listed below. If you are unable to make it on the scheduled day, you can pick up from 11:30 to 12:30 on the following Sunday.

The upcoming schedule is :

February 8 March 14 April 11

Thank You,

Mike and Kristi & Paige and Mary



LAKE CITY FOOD PANTRY

Please send \$ donations to:

**Lake City Food Pantry
200 N. Woodlawn Ave.
Lake City, IA 51449**

You may also drop items into the Food Pantry Grocery Cart located in the Narthex.

Thank you for your support!!

Malachi 3:10-12

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

UCW/Ruth Circle

The Union Church Women are starting another year in fulfilling our pledge to our faith and to this church. May we grow in knowledge of Jesus Christ and support the programs of our church.

Ruth Circle will meet Thursday, February 1st at 1:30. Our program will be presented by Kendall Von Glan. He went on a mission trip to our southern border. Everyone is invited to hear what the church is doing to help. JoAnn Samuelson is the hostess.

Miriam Hight and Kristi Jacobs will conduct services at Accura on February 7th at 1:30. We thank Katherine Meyer for playing the organ ever month.

Jeanne Devine, Chair



February 14 Ash Wednesday—March 31 Easter



Church Service
Church Attendance

January 7	98
January 14	Snow
January 21	85
January 28	91

Facebook/You Tube

Households viewing

January 7	NA
January 14	76
January 21	58
January 28	NA

\$\$\$ FINANCIAL NEWS \$\$\$

Offering- January 7, 2024	\$12,382.00
Offering - January 14, 2024	\$0
Offering - January 21, 2024	\$5,160.00
Offering- January 28, 2024	\$1,323.00
2023 Investment Income- 12/31/23	\$147,000.00
2023 Contribution Income-12/31/23	\$127,713.80
2023 Total Income thru - 12/31/23	\$274,713.80
2023 Expenses thru - 12/31/23	\$276,852.10

Tithe and offering options include the website for online donations. This utilizes PayPal, ABS with the QR code that takes you to the giving page, or using the weblink (below) as well as the traditional option of the offering plate on Sunday morning.

<https://lakecityunion.org/>



For February

Erin Blair
Becky O'Tool



The newsletter is sent by e-mail and available on LCUC Website. If you want a printed copy, please let the office know. Suggested donation of \$10 per year to help cover cost is appreciated.

Church Website: <https://lakecityunion.org/>



Church

Office Hours

- Mon. 7:30— 11:30**
- Tue. 7:30— 11:30**
- Wed. 7:30— 11:30**
- Thur. 8:00—11:00**

Youth / Gathering



YOUTH GROUP

Classes resumed on January 17 which was a one week delay due to inclement weather causing us to cancel the January 10th session.

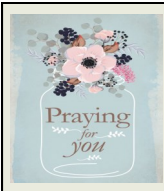
Gathering (K thru 3rd grades) studied per their grade/ developmental learning about ‘who’ Jesus was as a healer, teacher, our friend, along with reading a book about what the world was like prior to the birth of Jesus! The students were very interested and asked a lot of great questions!

Gathering (4th - 6th grades) were quick to get right into their scriptures that are posted on white board ahead of class. The teacher assistant that helps in the room prepares the class on reading prior to the teacher (me!) getting into the room. The students are excellent with look-ups and helping one another! We continued our lesson from Epiphany on the Magi with scripture and story boards. The students made beautiful stars for their crafts!

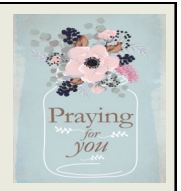
In REACH (7th thru 12th grades) were in Acts in the Bible studying Saul’s transformation on the road to Damascus, along with other scriptures from the Bible that talked about renewal with God’s help. During small group time the students and leaders chose a word/phrase for their 2024 renewal, along with sharing with others (if they chose to!) and ‘why’ they chose that word/phrase. This is a yearly traditional lesson that results in the students embracing their choices and enjoy taking their card home with them with ideas where they will be placed to remind them daily!

MaeLaan Magnani continues to build lessons weekly for Children’s Church for each church service weekly and is very grateful for the music teachings of Erin Blair - the children learn so much each week! Thank you to Erin Blair, Georgia Wiederin, and MaeLaan for teaching Children’s Church on alternating weeks! A great addition to our children’s Christian education!

Thank you to all who support the education of our children!
Janelle Nesbitt, Youth Coordinator



Prayer Page



Prayers for Healing / Recovery

Jim Potts

Cyndi Arnold

Edna Maruska

Nancy Janssen

Denise & Paul Jesse's son-in-law, Lane

George Shaeffer

Larry Findley

The family of Denise Jesse in the loss of her mother



May the Lord bless you and keep you, may he make his face shine upon you and give you peace. Now and forever...

Please pray for the people of Perry.

Please pray for world peace.

God makes wars to cease throughout the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the shields in the fire.

Psalm 46:9

Prayer

Almighty God, I pray for peace in our world, where there is often conflict & strife. Bring an end to violence and injustice. Thank you that no matter what we go through, you will always be there. Thank you that our comfort abounds through Christ. Nothing in the world can bring us the comfort and peace that you alone can offer. Through our own struggles and pain, help us to be your vessels to offer comfort and strength to others. In your almighty name, Amen.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

ACCURA RESIDENTS

Marj Baumann

Peggy Galletley

Eileen McCuen

Darlene Nicholson

Mary Ellen Seufferlein

GARDEN VIEW-CARROLL, IA

Carol Eichhorn

ADDINGTON PLACE-CARROLL, IA

Edna Maruska

AT HOME-PASADENA, MD

Daryl Crandall

ST. ANTHONY'S MEM.

CARE CENTER

Linda Yttredahl

NEW ADDRESS—Madrid, Iowa

Jan Schubert

AT HOME

Bev Lamberty

Sandra Staley

Bonnie Stone

February 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 1:30 pm Ruth Circle	2	3
4 9:00 am Noah's Ark Music School 9:15 am Brunch 9:30 am Choir 10:00 am Worship / Communion 11:00 am Fellowship 8:00 pm Book Study @ Union 215	5	6 7:30 pm Worship / Music @ Union 215	7 1:30 pm Accura - Ruth Circle Gather/REACH 5:45 pm Confirmation 7:00 Choir	8 2:30-5:30 pm Food Bank 	9	10
11 9:00 am Noah's Ark Music School 9:15 am Brunch 9:30 am Choir 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 11:30 am Food Bank 8:00 pm Book Study @ Union 215	12 8:00 am Session packet DEADLINE	13	14 10:00 am Op Liv—Randy Gather/REACH 5:45 pm Confir mati 6:30 pm Ash Wed Service	15 7:00 Session @ Union 215	16	17
18 9:00 am Noah's Ark Music School 9:15 am Brunch 9:30 am Choir 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 8:00 pm Book Study @ Union 215	19 8:00 am Newsletter DEADLINE	20 10:30 am Accura - Randy	21 Gather/REACH 5:45 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir	22	23	24 Presbytery Mtg @ Faith Pres Sioux City
25 9:00 am Noah's Ark Music School 9:15 am Brunch 9:30 am Choir 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 8:00 pm Book Study @ Union 215	26	27	28 1:30 pm Accura - Ruth Circle Gather/REACH 5:45 pm Confirmation NO Choir	29		

Lake City Union Church

206 West Main St.,
Lake City, Iowa 51449

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2024



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Lake City Union Church
206 W. Main St.
Lake City, IA 51449

Phone: 712-464-3221
Fax: 712-464-7272
Email:
unionch@iowatelecom.net
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
LakeCityUnionChurch/](http://www.facebook.com/LakeCityUnionChurch/)
Website:
<https://lakecityunion.org/>

