

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

September 2021
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*

*Darwin Meyer 2005 Appletree Road Room 4
Howards Grove, WI 53083*

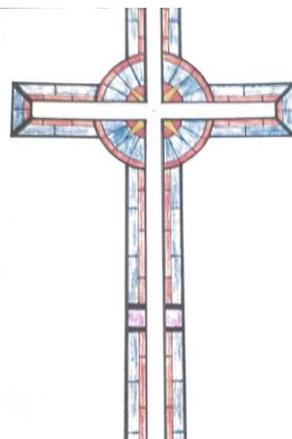
*Cleora Marx 110 S. Pershing Avenue
Howards Grove, WI 53083*

*Doris Hanke The Waterford
2586 Valley Rd
Plymouth, WI 53073*

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|----|----|---|
| <p>Food Pantry Items</p> <p>Canned Vegetables</p>  | | <p>IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER, SERVICES WILL BE HELD INDOORS</p> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <p>5</p> <p>10:00 Worship</p> <p>Outside and on Facebook</p> | <p>6</p> <p>Labor Day</p>  | <p>7</p> <p>Meal Prep for Salvation Army @12:30</p> | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| <p>12</p> <p>8:30 Consistory Meeting</p> <p>10:00 Worship/Communion – Outside and on Facebook</p> | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | <p>18</p> <p>3:00 Set up FITF Pot luck @Hembs to follow</p> |
| <p>19</p> <p>10:00-2:00 Faith in the Fall</p> <p>Scrip Orders Due</p> <p>Newsletter Articles Due</p> | 20 | <p>21</p> <p>Meal Prep for Salvation Army @12:30</p> | <p>22 Fall Begins</p>  | 23 | 24 | <p>25</p> <p>Our Shepherd Brat Fry @ Miesfeld's 8am-3pm</p> |
| <p>28</p> <p>8:30-9:45 Church School</p> <p>10:00 Worship – Outside and on Facebook</p> | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

September 2021

If the weather is appropriate, worship services will be happening outside for the next couple of weeks. In the case of cooler or wet weather, we will be gathering inside our church building. So, bring your favorite chair and enjoy God's creation!



September - May

Worship Service will be held at 10:00 a.m.

Consistory

Neal Henschel –President
Roger Sheahan - Secretary
Nancy Cherney
JoAnn Gadicke
Kyle Stowers
Ruthie Hering

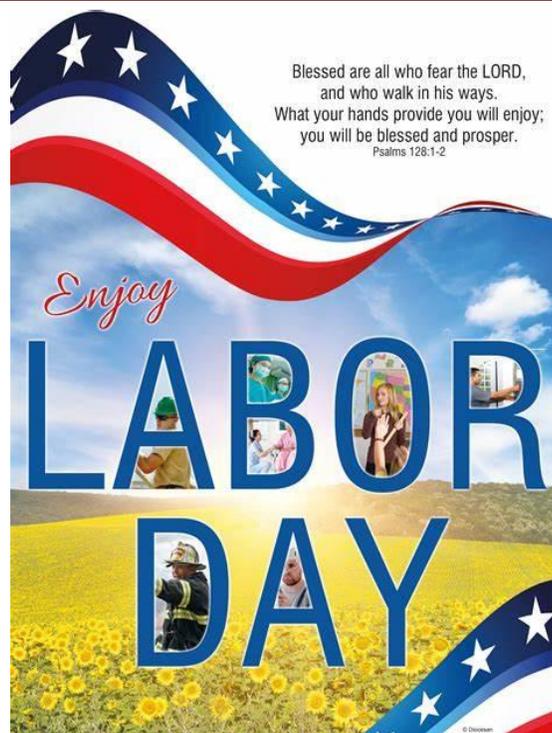
Pastoral Relations

Neal Henschel
Nicole Twohig-Sec
Nancy Henschel
Ann VanWyk

Officers

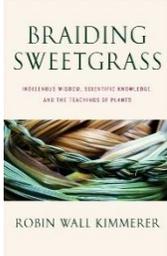
Mandi Grube-
Treasurer

Carla Hemb-
Church & Financial
Secretary



Pastor's Musings

If you are a gardener, you might be familiar with the term, 'the Three Sisters'. 'The Three Sisters' is a reference to the cooperative nature between corn, beans, and squash in a garden. Beans provide vital nutrients to corn, corn provides much needed shade for beans and squash, and the squash provide ground cover, reducing weed growth. The indigenous populations took advantage of this relationship since the beginning of time. This relationship is just one of the concepts that are highlighted in Robin Wall Kimmerer's book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Kimmerer is a biologist, a professor, and a member of the Potawatomi Nation. Through her writing we are offered the perspective of a professionally trained biologist with the eyes of an indigenous person. Her rich descriptions provide us glimpses of a world that emphasizes inter-cooperation and coexistence between all of creation.



We are living in a world in which it has become very apparent that our systems are interconnected. Altering one part of the system can easily affect other parts of the larger system. Some of those connections are things we have an understanding of and some connections come as a surprise. Kimmerer's writings highlight these connections and honor the reality that our indigenous populations have profoundly understood these interrelations for centuries.

Here at Our Shepherd, we are part of that creation. We are also members of the Northeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ. Just as we have relationships with the natural world surrounding us, we also have relationships with the balance of the Wisconsin Conference. We make annual contributions to the Conference activities and in turn we receive support in times of specific needs. At times it is easy for us to get focused on just our world here at Our Shepherd and we might have a tendency to forget the larger picture. We think we are simply Our Shepherd and not Our Shepherd, a member of an Association, that is a member of a Conference. In the interconnected world that we live in, neglecting these relationships can mean we might fall short of our ultimate potential. We now have an opportunity to strengthen our Conference connections while exploring the writing of Kimmerer thru a Conference wide great read of *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

Come join us for this read, join us for discussion and reflection, join us as we explore how these insights might inform our actions as we interact with the world we live in. We will be meeting at Our Shepherd on Thursday evenings at 6:30 starting on September 16th. Kimmerer's book *Braiding Sweetgrass* is readily available at most book retailers, if you are planning to join us, please obtain a copy prior to September 16th.

Covid updates

I am truly saddened by our recent Covid case counts. I think we all hoped that as we headed into the Fall of 2021, we would all be placing the entire pandemic into our historical memory. Unfortunately, across the entire nation we are finding ourselves once again heading in the wrong direction. From the beginning I have watched our local numbers closely and based our specific precautions on what is happening in Sheboygan County. As of this writing I do not believe we are in a crisis situation, but I do believe this can unfortunately change within a couple of days. I believe as long as we can worship outside, we are in a relatively safe position. We will plan on continuing in that manner for as long as possible into the fall. If and when the weather no longer makes outdoor worship possible, we may need to change our practices as we move inside. I am not suggesting we make changes now, because the conditions remain too fluid. Just know that I am monitoring the situation closely and we will adjust prudently. We may indeed need to move back to masking when we are inside, we may indeed need to pause our singing as a congregation. If those decision are made early, I will get word out as early as possible, but it might be prudent to keep a mask or two in your vehicle. As always, I assure you, our commitment to offering worship on-line will remain the same. I have said it before, I will say it again. If you are on the fence or know someone on the fence concerning vaccination, now is the time for action. If I can help you find answers to questions, please reach out. We have the tool needed to lower these numbers, but it won't happen without EVERYONE acting.

-Pastor Nathan

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.

Church School News

Items for the Food Pantry

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

Canned Vegetables

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 – Consider bringing in a birthday bag and add it to the basket in the office. (In a bag: box of cake mix, small bottle of oil, can of frosting, candles – eggs supplied by food pantry) Thank you to those that continue to supply items for birthday bags.



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.

Church school will resume in late September.

What does Sunday School look like this Fall?

We have a plan to **start Sunday School on September 26th**, our timing will remain the same, **8:30-9:45**, and our One Room Schoolhouse format will remain the same. Our method of meeting may vary. Right now, we will at the very least maintain the format we used last year with our on-line learning. We are trying hard to figure out how to pull this off both on-line and in-person, but today we are not there yet. First of all, we are not impressed at where our Covid numbers currently are and we are fearful of what the first couple of weeks of public school may do. Secondly, last year we learned a number of families really appreciated the on-line option when there were other plans Sunday morning and they could participate in Sunday School independently later in the week. This makes us want to maintain the on-line option even when we have in-person class. This will only be feasible if indeed it does not result in twice as much work for the Sunday School team. We are currently working on sorting this process out. If you are interested in helping to teach Sunday School, (no technology knowledge necessary, maybe one lesson per month), please let Renae Wunsch know as soon as possible.



The Upper Room



The September/October issue of the daily devotional "The Upper Room" is available in the Literature Rack.



At this time we are looking to restart the yoga program on Monday, September 13. Jessica is asking for people to be vaccinated, but will not check. Masks will depend on CDC and local ordinances. If you are not on the mailing list and are interested please contact me, so I can send you information as the date approaches. Due to COVID things are constantly changing. Questions, please contact Renae at

565-2785 or
rwunsch@hgsd.k12.wi.us

SHOP WITH SCRIP

Continuing in 2021, 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.
Thanks for supporting this program.

Consistory Meeting

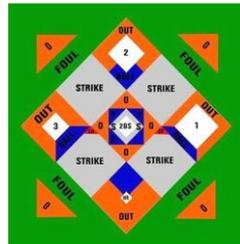
There was no Consistory meeting in the month of August. If something comes up that needs discussion a meeting will be called.

Need something to do on Tuesday evenings this Fall?

Consider playing Dartball with Our Shepherd UCC.

We are always looking for new players.

Contact Hoyt Heinemann or Shari Ver Straate
The season starts in early October



God's Blessings on your Birthday – September

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Karl Grube | 7 Jayme Thiel |
| 8 Jeff Wunsch | 8 Eric Ver Straate |
| 9 Debbie Haas | 14 Sue Schueler |
| 23 Tami Stoffregen | 24 Owynn Barber |
| 25 Olivia Knuth | 29 Jackie Grunewald |



The Falls Food Pantry serves the needy of Howards Grove, Kohler, Sheboygan Falls and Waldo. All donations are very much appreciated.



Facebook



A really simple and easy way to promote our church is through Facebook. When you are watching our service on Facebook it is really easy to first of all Like and comment on the post, but it is even better if you could share the service on your personal Facebook page. What an easy way to share with your Facebook friends what is happening in your church. The most effective way to have a church grow is for people to extend a personal invitation to others. Facebook is a really simple way to invite all of your friends to check out what your church is doing.



Talented trumpet player, Don Shire, shared his mission work from around the world with us on August 22. If you would like to know more about his mission work in India and Haiti, or make a contribution, please go to www.donshireministries.org. One hundred percent of your donation will go directly to the fund that you request.



Wonderful Flowers!

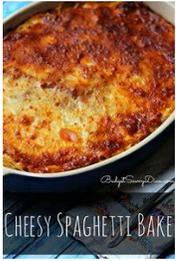
A number of individuals have commented over the last couple of weeks about how wonderful the flower bed looks around our sign. It does really look great!

Thank you to Ed and Jenn Aschenbach, Helen Harms, and Hoyt Heinemann for all of the hard work you put into making it look great.



Meals for Salvation Army

The Women's Fellowship will be making meals for Salvation Army on **Sept. 7 and 21**. We are asking for help in providing supplies for these meals. 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.



Cheesy Spaghetti Bake

Items Needed for Tues. Sept 7

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 2# Spaghetti | 3 Large Onions | 2 Large Green Peppers |
| 5 Cans Tomato Soup | 1# Carrots | 2 Cans Cream of |

Mushroom Soup

2 Large Heads Cabbage 1 Bunch Celery

1 -8 Cup Bag Sharp Cheddar Cheese Shredded 4 Loaves Italian Bread

Please let Char Gumm know what you are able to donate to this meal by Sunday August 29. Thank you for your support. Call Char at 467-6670.



Beef Noodle Soup

Items Needed for Tues. Sept. 21

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Bags Kluski Noodles | 3 Large Onions |
| 1 Bunch Celery | 5 pkg. Sliced Cheese |
| 4 Loaves Bread | 1 Box Saltines |
| 3 Large Bags Mixed Frozen Veggies | |
| 2 Large Cans Dice Tomatoes | |

Please Let Char Gumm know what you are able to donate by Sunday, Sept. 19. Call Char at 467-6670

If anyone is interested in making a meal on their own or donating to the Salvation Army <https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/sheboygan/el-volunteer-calendar> or you can contact CarryeJo Cony at 920-694-1271

FAITH IN THE FALL SET-UP-PLEASE JOIN US

When: Saturday, September 18 at 3:00

Where: Our Shepherd UCC

Bring: Dish to Pass, Drinks, Lawn Chairs

**We'll meet at church to set up for FITF and then picnic together on Todd and Carla's patio.*

Thank you, Todd and Carla!



FAITH IN THE FALL

RAFFLE and TORTE donations



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"Faith in the Fall" is Sunday, September 19 and we are in need of raffle items and torte donations for the music festival. Items need to be to Renae by Sunday, September 5, if you would like her to arrange them in a basket. (Thank you Renae!) Tortes may be brought to church between 3-5 p.m. on Saturday, September 18, or in the morning on Sunday, September 19. Please contact Kay S. if you have questions. (920) 889-0519. Thank you for all of the generous raffles and delicious tortes you have donated in the past!

Menu for Faith in the Fall

*Hot Dog Sandwich or Plate \$3/\$5

*Turkey Sandwich or Plate \$4/\$6

*Pulled Pork Sandwich or Plate \$4/\$6

*Plate = beans, chips, potato

salad or macaroni and cheese (NEW this year) and pickle spear

Torte - Donation

Soda - \$1.00

FREE COFFEE

Brats, Hamburgers, and Bakery

Brat Fry on September 25th

8am-3pm

Come support Our Shepherd at Miesfeld's



Please sign up to work at the Brat Fry and/or donate some baked goods

Thank You!

Thank You! A thank you goes out to Drexel Lumber in Kiel for their assistance in our building project here at Our Shepherd. Drexel promptly and efficiently provided us with our building supplies and extended a \$500.00 donation to our ministry. A special thanks goes to Allen Milbrath, who helped the right people get connected.

CROP Walk

Mark your Calendars! Our Shepherd will be participating in a CROP Walk here in Howards Grove on Sunday, October 10th. Last year this event raised over \$6000 dollars, addressing hunger concerns both locally and world-wide. Come join us for this great event!

We bless you,
God of Seed and Harvest
And we bless each other
That the beauty of this world
And the love that created it
Might be expressed though our lives
And be a blessing to others
Now and always



Faith in the Fall

Bring your friends and family and please join us for an entertaining and spirit filled day!

Sunday, September 19, 2021

10:00am - 2:00pm

Free Admission

Music Schedule:

10:00 Worship Service with

BELLA MUSIK

www.bellamusik.com

11:00 **PRAISEWORTHY**

from Our Shepherd UCC

11:45 **THE STILL SPEAKING
BAND**

From Ebenezer UCC

12:45 **VOX**

from Sheboygan, WI

Canned goods for the Sheboygan County Food Bank are welcome and proceeds from the 50/50 raffle will be donated to the Sheboygan County Food Bank.

Bring Lawn Chairs

Rain or Shine



Children's Raffle