

The Eagle



September 2015

Ebenezer
United Church of Christ
44 W. Washington Street
Chilton WI 53014
(920) 849-4331

Website:
www.ebenezerchilton
.org

Rev. Michael
Safford-Kennedy
Email: pastormike79@
hotmail.com

Office Email:
ebenezeroffice@
yahoo.com

“Ebenezer UCC Chilton”

&



“Ebenezer United Church
of Christ Chilton”



Mission Statement of this Church

Ebenezer United Church of Christ is a vibrant faith community that strives to...

- ◇ Serve the spiritual needs of our neighbors.
- ◇ Transform by walking in Jesus' footsteps.
- ◇ Openly reach out for opportunities to share God's word at home and abroad.
- ◇ Nurture our relationships with God and each other.
- ◇ Empower and embrace faith, hope, and love in God!



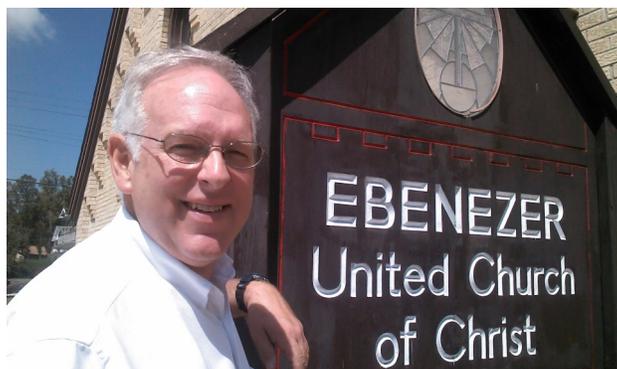
PASTOR'S CORNER

When was the last time you walked into church with your eyes open? Yes, of course everyone has their eyes open but when was the last time you walked into church as if it were the first time, as if you were a visitor? I had a few opportunities the past few weeks as the church hosted a wedding and the Sharon Bethel Quartet singers here.

First, I believe I was asked about the location of the restrooms about 4 times before the wedding and twice when the singers first arrived. Most people can find the church office and everyone has been able to find the sanctuary but the location of the restrooms is a mystery to more than a few people.

What can we do to make it easier for people to find the restrooms?

Cont. on pg. 2



Cont. from pg. 1

The second time I had my eyes opened was last week when I turned over the service over to the singers and then took a seat in a pew. I looked around hoping to get a new perspective of the sanctuary. Part of what I saw disappointed me. The pew Bibles must be several decades old and they are in bad shape. Seeing the Bibles in such bad shape would give a visitor a poor first impression of the church.

Finally, a few months ago I received an e-mail from a visitor who had attended the church a couple of weeks prior. She wrote of her hurt that when she arrived no one greeted her with a “Hello” or acknowledged that she was in the Narthex. When she entered the sanctuary the greeters didn’t greet her, they continued their own conversation. When she attempted to sit in a pew one of our members gave her such a stare that she moved to a different pew. Finally, one of our members came to her and warmly greeted her.

We cannot let the above be the normal course of events in our church. We can make the church more welcoming in its appearance and we can make ourselves more welcoming. This will be just a pair of the tasks awaiting the Evangelism Team. The Team can’t change things by themselves, we’ll need to help them in every way we can.

I have been with you for 2+ years and during that time I have been blessed to discover many of the gifts given to you by God. The people of Ebenezer are wonderful. You are filled with love and grace. I know that we can move ahead together and make this church, our church, a place that welcomes people so warmly we will become known as the church that cares and loves its members, visitors, and the community.



It’s a tall order to do these things but we don’t have to do them overnight nor are we alone in our efforts. We have God on our side encouraging us to use the gifts given to us make our church home into everyone’s church home.

Peace and grace,

Pastor Mike

Council President's Note

Oh where, oh where has the summer gone? It seems each year the time just flies by faster and faster. How can that be? We usually think of January 1st as being the start of a new year, but a lot of times it feels like when the kids start their first day of school, that seems like the start of the new year. All the Fall activities are just around the corner and things are gearing up into full swing again. School starts, fall harvest for the farmers begin, cooler weather, shorter days, apple picking, Sunday School, and then, my favorite... Handbells start up again, (well, I guess for me, that never really stopped, but it will be fun to get the group together again), and so much more happening.

Speaking of starting new, wouldn't it be great to start up the choir again? I don't know about you, but to me, church just doesn't seem to be the same without a vocal choir. Just as it wouldn't seem right not to have the organ playing music during services. (Although, that WILL be a reality next year as we wait for the organ to be repaired). I really miss the vocal choir. Our very own talented, Gail Dederling, who is a music teacher, has graciously offered her directorship if we can get ten people together. I would like to think that we could find 10 willing and abled bodies to make this small commitment to enrich our services with some vocal music. I know when we had Bethels' *Divinity Dudes* over the other week, they were well received by everyone! One could just feel the electricity penetrate through everybody in the church during that service. It was SOOOO exciting!!!

I remember growing up here as a child, the choir loft was filled with many of our "matured" adults we now have sitting in the pews. I still hear their beautiful voices but they've done their time and it's now time to bring in a new group. I remember the men's quartet and how wonderful they sounded. Oh, how I yearn for something like this again. Most of you have heard a little of my voice as I've helped Elaine lead the "gathering music" before service these past few weeks. (Why she picked me, I still don't know, but I always have a hard time saying "NO"). I apologize!!! I've always said in my next life I would like to come back with a beautiful voice and dancing capabilities. I love and appreciate music so much, but I just can't sing it! I love what one of my handbell peer ringers always states after signing her name all the time and that is "*After silence, that which comes closest to expressing the inexpressible is music.*" So just a thought..... if **ANY** of you out there feel the same as I do about enriching our Sunday services with vocal music, PLEASE let Gail, Elaine, or me know. It's just a MINOR commitment. We need more variety than just the handbells, organ and piano all the time. It doesn't have to be much....only ten people!!! AND NOTHING OUT OF YOUR POCKET! IT DOESN'T COST A THING!!!



EBENEZER UCC WISH LIST

As of August 30, 2015

AIR CONDITIONING UNIT (Already paid for through donations)		\$3,000
AED UNIT (AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR)	 	\$1,414
WEST FELLOWSHIP HALL ENTRANCE DOORS		\$12,760
IT/AUDIO SOUND SYSTEM (Have already received \$1800 of GRANT Money & \$2000 Memorial \$DONATION toward this)	  	\$20-30,000
ORGAN REPAIR (Already paid for through donations)		\$27,914
YOUTH/ADULT CAMP FUND (Already have \$500 donated toward fund)	 	\$1,500
MINISTER'S COMPUTER (Pastor Mike is occasionally using his own personal laptop computer right now)		\$500-\$750
COMMUNION BREAD SERVING TRAYS		\$300
ELECTRONIC ADVERTISING SIGNAGE (We also have approx. \$5500 in "NYSE Stock Donation" to be used toward either Fellowship Hall Entrance doors or the IT system)		\$10,000+

YOU'RE INVITED

By now you may have heard about the fire that damaged Kimberlee, Sean and Jennifer Pringle's home. (daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter of Don and Donna Pingel) The fire took place several weeks ago, but they just recently found out that the house is a total loss. They have been living in hotels until their recent move in with Don and Donna. They lost most everything in the fire and are in need of some help. Oh, and did I mention that there is also a new baby on the way before the end of the year?

Ebenezer wants to throw a household and baby shower for them to help replace everything that they lost. They will need furniture, linens, towels, kitchenware, toys for Jennifer (now age 4) and everything for baby. Gently used items are welcome, as well as brand new.

Kimberlee is in the process of making up a list of things they'll need. We'll get that posted as soon as possible. We don't have a date set for our "shower" yet. Until they have a home of their own to move into they don't have room to store anything. We'll also let everyone know when we have a date picked. Please start looking through your drawers, cupboards and closets for anything that you have which they could possibly use. If you plan a shopping day, keep them in mind and pick up an extra thing or two for their family. Let's turn this tragedy into something good for the Pringles.



Council Meeting- August 12, 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m. Members present: Karen Cmejla, Steve Stenz, Kelly Kress, Stephanie Adamietz, and Andrea DuWell. Members not present: Pastor Mike, Tiffany Knoespel, and Nicole Moore.

Kelly made a motion to approve the agenda for today and last month's minutes. Steve seconded. Motion carried.

Finances Report:

Our July Revenue is \$10,726.

Our July Expenditures are \$6,182.

Our General Fund Balance as of July 30st is \$63,854.

Our Current Balance is \$260,275.

Andrea made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay the bills. Kelly seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Ed/Sunday School: No new news, looking at a possible new curriculum

Mission: Ice Cream Social went well on July 8th. A total of \$1,870 was raised and will be put in the Women's Guild account.

Property: No new news.

Old Business:

Karen filled us in about what has been happening with the search committee. The committee has received a number of profiles recently and are in the process of sorting through them.

Nursery- Still in need of a changing table.

A chart was made up for the Wish List items along with what monies are needed. The items are listed in order of priority. If anyone wishes to donate towards any of the items, please let any council members know. See attached spreadsheet. A large poster is being made for all of congregation to see.

Giving statements were mailed out in July. Please let the office know if you had not received your statement and if there are any discrepancies.

PayPal account is still being worked on.

Cont. on pg 7

Cont. from pg. 6

New Business:

Pastor's new contract was resigned.

Karen stated she's getting a couple of estimates from various companies for the new IT/ Sound System. Anyone with any kind of IT knowledge would certainly be welcomed to be involved with this project. Please let any council member or Pastor Mike know.

Pastor requested a dry-erase board to be put in his office for confirmation classes.

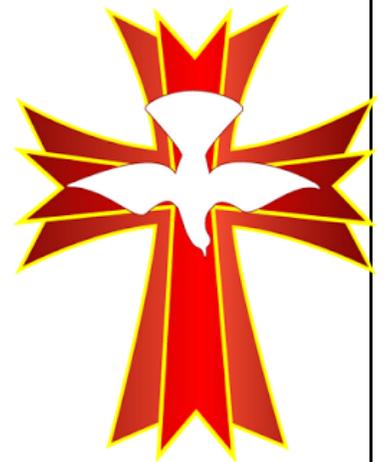
Stephanie made a motion for Heather to purchase one which they have selected through the office supply company. Andrea seconded. Motion carried.

Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Kelly. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm. The next council meeting will be Sunday, September 13th after church services.

Council Secretary, Andrea DuWell

Confirmation Class

How do you take the Sunday school lessons that taught you about people and happenings in the Bible and bring them along with you as you grow up, no longer a little kid but not quite a full adult? What do you bring with you as you grow and what do you leave behind? What do those Bible stories mean to you as a teenager? Those coloring pages were great for many years but now they aren't adult enough. The Bible still seems pretty tough to read and understand. If this sounds a little bit like you then you will fit right in during Confirmation Class.



I invite our former 6th graders to stop by the church before service on Sunday, September 13th to find out about Confirmation Class. I'll have some information for you and I'll answer every question you have about Confirmation! I promise.

Peace and grace,
Pastor Mike

As sad as we are to see summer come to an end, it's time to start thinking about settling back into our fall schedule. Sunday School, confirmation and family fun nights are right around the corner. Ebenezer's Sunday School program will kick off on September 13th at 8:30 am. We're asking the kids to bring their parents so everyone can get registered that day and learn about what's planned for the year ahead. Pastor Mike will also be meeting with the confirmands and their parents at that time.



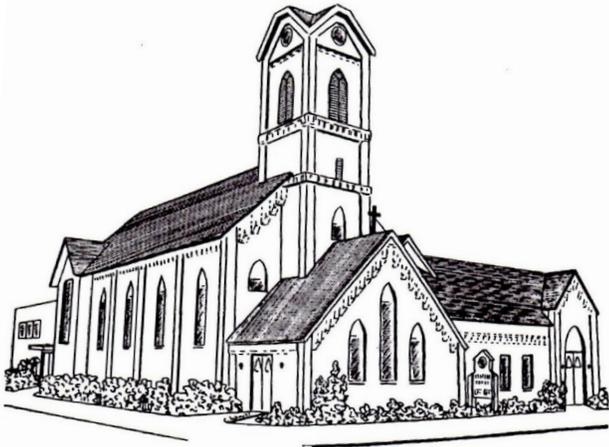
We at Ebenezer did not have a Vacation Bible School this summer, although a few of our students joined the VBS-ers from St. Paul's Church in Malone and took part in their program. In lieu of VBS here, several students got together throughout the month of August to practice for a play, which we'll be presenting to the congregation on September 13. Shirley originally saw this presented at the Windsor UCC where her grandkids were performing, and thought, "We could do this!" And we did. It's been so much fun doing this with the kids and we hope you'll come to see how they teach us three of Jesus' parable in a fun and meaningful way. Thanks to Tammy Greuel, Kelly Brown and Kristi Schnell for their help.

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC CORNER...

The handbells have been refurbished, handles that were cracked have been replaced and the gloves have been laundered so all is ready for a year of ringing. Bell practice will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 6:30. We're looking forward to returning ringers and new ringers. Anyone interested in trying them can come for some preliminary practice at 6:00. No musical background is required. As of now, the bell choir will participate in worship on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

Thank you to the Sharon Bethel Quartet from Kalona, Iowa for adding their vocal talents to the August 23 worship. The sing-a-long sessions that preceded the August worship services also added dynamics. It certainly proved we have some wonderful vocal talent among us that could comprise a Chancel Choir! Please notify Pastor or Elaine if you're interested in singing in a choir, at least for Christmas or special occasions. It is always beneficial to get 'feedback' comments that helps to enhance the musical aspect of worship.





Newsletter Articles

Please get your articles to Heather by the 3rd Tuesday of the month so she can get the Eagle published before the start of the next month. That means the deadline for the October 2015 Eagle is Tuesday, September 15. Weekly bulletin announcements are due each Tuesday morning.

Thank You

Thank you to Elaine and Karen for their time in preparation and leading us in the sing-a-longs before the services during August. It has been a pleasure singing people's favorites and hearing some of the comments that have come along with the selection of the hymn.



SEPTEMBER USHERS



2: Church Council

13: Joe & Judy Mastracola, Mark Rusch,
Ralph Schmid

20: Kelly & Wayne Kress, Tiffany & Kurt
Knoespel

27: Don & Diane Sattler, Don & Donna
Pingel

Office Hours

MONDAYS

TUESDAYS

WEDNESDAYS

THURSDAYS



11 AM to 4 PM

September Birthdays

Alice McNeely	01	Cory Pingel	25
Wayne Pagel	03	Casey Sattler	27
Shirley Lisowe	04	Elizabeth Van Oss	27
Kayla Lisowe	06	Gerri Van Oss	27
William Elliott	08	<i>If your birthday was missed, please let the office know so we can get it right next time.</i>	
Brett Popp	11		
Jodie Ausloos	13		
Kathryn Larson	15		
Emily Roehrig	23		
Alice Kinley	24		



Come and "Like" us on Facebook!

Just search for "Ebenezer UCC Chilton". We also have a new Facebook location page. To find it, search for "Ebenezer United Church of Christ Chilton" and "Like" us!

REMINDER:



Copies of the daily devotional guide, "The Upper Room", are in the church narthex book rack. It is available in both regular and enlarged print.

If you are interested in donating flowers to be displayed in the front of church, please write your name next to the date you would like to donate on the sign-up sheet located on the wall in the Narthex hallway. Also, please notify Heather as to what the special occasion is for so she may include this in the bulletin.



Directories have arrived! Please pick yours up in the church office at your earliest convenience! And please cross your name off the list that is with them.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Ruth Aebischer upon her retirement of working 46 years at the Manitowoc County Extension office. She has been a dedicated employee and volunteer for all those years.

We wish her many years of well-deserved retirement beginning Sept. 1.



THE PURPOSE STATEMENT OF THIS CHURCH

Loving, living, and serving faithfully – uniting God and our neighbors.

Rod Jane Joan Louise Sharon
David Sheri John Mark Pat
Pam David
Marlene Larry

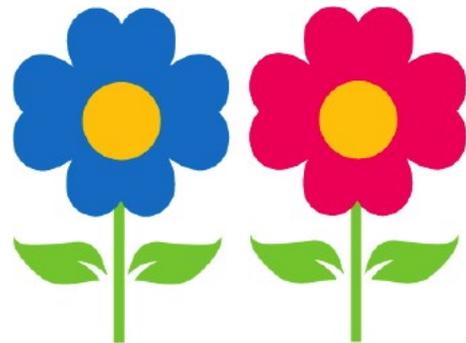
Due to privacy laws, we can no longer list last names of members of our congregation on the prayer list above because our Eagle goes on the church website which can be viewed by anyone on the internet. Thank you.



Youth Sermons

The youth sermons return to the worship time beginning

October 11.



Scrip

Please keep in mind to buy scrip if you plan on making a shopping trip, gassing the car, or having dinner out!! It helps our church meet our goals!

United Community

We have partnered with United Community to help raise funds needed to help our church. We are using the funds towards our OCWM contributions and the General Fund. Many of you have been using your United Community Card at the partnered businesses and we thank you for doing that. If you do not have a United Community card and would like more information on how to obtain one, please contact the church office at 849-4331.

September

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 Church office open 11-4	2 Church office open 11-4	3 Church office open 11-4	4 Office Closed	5
6 9:30 am Worship (Communion)  Spanish Ministry 3 PM	7 Church of- fice open 11-4	8 Church office open 11-4	9 Church office open 11-4 Handbell Prac- tice 6:30PM Extra Help 6PM	10 Church office open 11-4 8:30 am Men's Brkfst @ 7 Angels	11 Office Closed	12
13 Sunday School 8:30 AM Children's Presentation during service 9:30 am Worship Rally Day (First Day of Sunday School) Council Mtg after service Spanish Ministry 3 PM	14 Church of- fice open 11-4	15 Church office open 11-4 Eagle Articles Due 	16 Church office open 11-4 Handbell Prac- tice 6:30PM Extra Help 6PM	17 Church office open 11-4 Women's Guild 1pm @ 7 Angels	18 Office Closed	19
20 Sunday School 8:30 AM 9:30 am Worship Spanish Ministry 3 PM	21 Church of- fice open 11-4	22 Church office open 11-4	23 Church office open 11-4 Handbell Prac- tice 6:30PM Extra Help 6PM	24 Church office open 11-4	25 Office Closed	26
27 Sunday School 8:30 AM 9:30 am Worship Spanish Ministry 3 PM <i>Eagle Published</i>	28 Church of- fice open 11-4	29 Church office open 11-4	30 Church office open 11-4 Handbell Prac- tice 6:30PM Extra Help 6PM			