



Ebenezer UCC <ebenezeroffice-yahoo.com@shared1.ccsend.com>
To: melissa.moehn@yahoo.com

Dec 30, 2025 at 5:00 PM



The Eagle

January 2025



Pastor's Corner

As I sit back and count my blessings for 2025, I personally have been very blessed by the Holy. I have witnessed signs of growth. I have witnessed new relationships. I said "I do" to a wonderful and caring person. I have witnessed people coming together and working through tough times. It reminds me that God has provided much wealth, in abundance, and I have the responsibility to share that wealth with others.

I also realize that God continually keeps me grounded and humble. When I think too highly of myself or I get too far ahead of myself, I am given a dose of reality. I am reminded that we all are called to work together for the good of the community.

I'd like to share the lyrics of the last song we sang together in 2025. This song, sung to the tune Auld Land Syne, is used every year at a previous church I pastored. It provides a little different meaning to the secular words of the traditional song. It reminds me of all the Holy's goodness and reasons to be thankful.

Christmas Auld Lang Syne

**When mistletoe and tinsel glow paint a Yuletide Valentine,
Back home I go to those I know for a Christmas Auld Lang Syne.**

**And as we gather 'round the tree, our voices all combine
In sweet accord to thank the Lord for a Christmas Auld Lang Syne.**

**When sleigh bells ring and children sing and the children's faces shine,
With each new toy we share their joy with a Christmas Auld Lang Syne.**

**We sing His praise this day of days and pray next year this time,
We'll all be near to share the cheer of a Christmas Auld Lang Syne.**

I pray for each person, peace, joy, and perseverance, with an extra helping of peace.

Sunday School Corner

December was a busy month for Sunday School! We had Children's Worship on December 8th. Thank you to Abigail Kuhn for being our student reader this month. I'm looking forward to each of our 4th – 6th grade students taking a turn as a student reader during Children's Worship.

We held our Christmas Program on December 21st. The students presented the true meaning of the 12 Days of Christmas. Thank you for helping the students prepare for their performance, they all did an amazing job! A very special thank you to Shirley Lisowe for writing and directing the program again this year! We are excited for our Easter Program in the Spring!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the students' Christmas treat bags, the students look forward to these each Christmas and really enjoyed all the special items that were included.

We will not have Sunday School on December 28th and will see everyone back for Children's Worship on January 4th!

Thank you for your support of our Sunday School program! I'm excited for our second half of the Sunday School year after the holiday break.

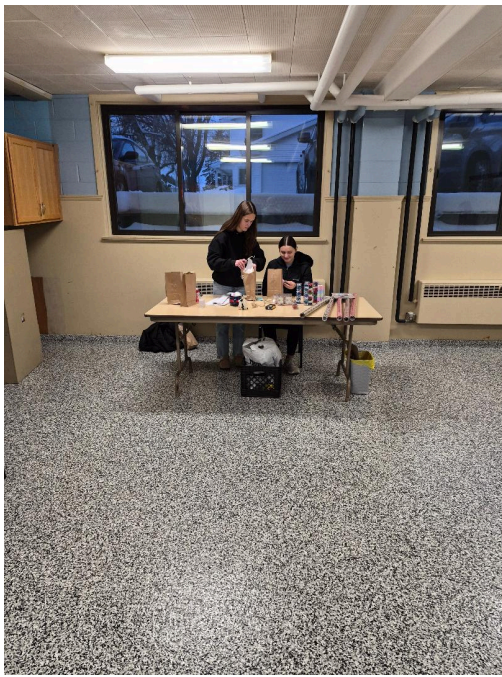
Melissa Kuhn





Supper with Santa
December 11, 2025





Christmas Cookie/Candy Bake Sale Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that helped to make the Bake Sale a success at Supper With Santa on December 11th. People sometimes had a hard time selecting what they wanted to purchase because there was such a nice variety of items to pick from. It was so exciting to walk into the kitchen Wednesday, December 10th at noon and see all the containers of cookies and candy that everyone made. It was really gratifying that some baked more than one kind of cookie or candy too. Thank you!



Any bakery left from that evening was put out in the Narthex for additional purchases on Sundays--December 14th and 21st where all of the containers were purchased. Thank you to everyone who made those purchases.

Proceeds from the Sale will be split between the Mission Committee (Our Church's Wider Mission--OCWM), Women's Guild, and Supper With Santa expenses. The total amount raised was \$582.00 which resulted in each receiving \$194.00.

So thank you, again, everyone that took the time out of their busy schedules to support the Bake Sale by baking and purchasing bakery. It helped to add to the success of Supper With Santa and provided support for OCWM, Guild, and Supper With Santa.

Have a Merry Christmas!

*Mission Committee
Women's Guild
Supper With Santa Event*

Welcome, Kinsley!

We welcomed Kinsley Mary Kurcz into our church family on Sunday, November 16 through the Sacrament of Baptism. Kinsley is pictured with her parents, Marissa Hinz and Dylan Kurcz, along with Pastor Dave and the Sunday School kids.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



2 Denton Aebischer
6 Linda Dorn
6 Carolyn Platner
13 Stacey Freund
22 Tiffany Porsche
23 Herb Woelfel
30 Claude Kolbe
31 Claudia Brown
31 Natalie Adamietz



Alex ~ Cassie ~ Colleen ~
Da'Monique ~ David ~ Diana
~ Elizabeth ~ Gail ~ Jim ~ Joan ~
Julie ~ Pat ~ Rachel ~ Raelynn ~ Rod
~ Sandi ~ Sandra ~ Sherry ~ Stevie ~
Tony

Christmas Mission Project Reminder

Just a note to remind everyone of the Mission Committee's Christmas Project this year which is supplying the Salvation Army with hygiene products for families in Calumet County.

Here are the items most needed:

- Shampoo
- Combs
- Bar Soap
- Body Wash



The drive will run from December 1, 2025 - January 5, 2026. You can drop off your donation(s) during this time frame and place them under the Christmas Mission tree in the Narthex. The Mission Committee members will deliver them to the Salvation Army after January 5.

Monetary donations are also acceptable and can be dropped off in the church office on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Checks can be made payable to Ebenezer UCC/December Mission Project.

- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Mouthwash
- Deodorant (Men & Women)
- Toilet Paper
- Detergent

If you have any questions on our Christmas Mission Project, feel free to contact a Mission Committee member--phone numbers are listed below.

Thank you for your support and have a Happy New Year!!

Mission Committee

Ruth Aebischer, 920-849-9427

Janet Andrews, 920-849-4295

Karen Cmejla, 920-375-0244

Jeanne Keuler, Chairperson, 920-849-9882

Thank You



Church decorating can be quite a challenge and this year was no exception. Karen and Ruth are always happy to see the lights work when they start decorating. All swags with lights are tried before they get hung. Over the years we've been pretty lucky but this year one swag, that hangs from the balcony, didn't work. Karen figured out a solution but got surprised when she came back into church, after looking for an extension cord downstairs, and the lights were on. You can't imagine how excited that made her feel when she walked back into church and that part of the swag was lit again. She was elated! God sure works in mysterious ways!

Karen and Ruth would like to thank Don Pingel for helping us decorate church for Christmas. He has a lot of patience and goes the extra mile to help us find and use something that will help us finish a project. Thank you Don!

Credit is also due to Steve and Jeanne Keuler for decorating the Mission tree in the Narthex. It's no easy task getting the tree up from the basement but they always manage to get it done. Decorating seems easy and goes quickly once they get the tree set up and the lights working. They did a wonderful job on it again this year and you can't help but admire it when you walk through the Narthex. Thank you Steve and Jeanne!

And also a thank you to the Men's Breakfast Group for decorating the Christmas tree inside the sanctuary. They also have the difficult job of getting it up from the basement but always manage to get it done too. Once decorated with lights and ornaments, it becomes a lovely focal point in church. Thank you to the Men's Breakfast Group!

We'd also like to thank the Dexter Sattler Family for the poinsettias they continue to donate each year. They certainly add to the beauty of the church, as well, with their bright colors and fullness. If anyone would like a poinsettia(s) to take home after Christmas, they are welcome to do so.

We hope everyone has a chance to attend church to see what we're talking about and that it brightens the holidays for family and friends!



Merry Christmas everyone!
Karen & Ruth

Ushers:

January 4: Council,
Sunday School
January 11: Ralph, Mike
January 18: Zach, Mark
January 25: Dino, Ellie



Readers:

January 4: Jordan,
Sunday School
January 11: Mark
January 18: Kristi
January 25: Ann

December Council Meeting Minutes

Ebenezer UCC Council Meeting Minutes

December 21, 2025

Nick Kuhn called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM

In attendance: Judy Mattes, Andy Hofmeister, Kristi Schnell, Nick Kuhn, Pastor Dave

Pastor Dave led us in the opening prayer

Kristi Schnell made a motion to approve the agenda. Judy Mattes seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved.

Pastor Dave gave the pastoral report

- Urged the council to communicate with the congregation about his role

- Pastor Dave has been settled by St. John's, but will remain Ebenezer's interim pastor until 1 of 4 things happen:
 - We find a different interim
 - Jane Anderson finds someone else to suit our church
 - We find a settled pastor
 - The council decides he should no longer serve as interim pastor

Pastor Dave also communicated that we should urge the congregation to come to the council with any thoughts or questions they may have.

He also wanted it to be known that families of confirmands can be reimbursed for fees

Kristi Schnell made a motion to approve last month's minutes. Judy Mattes seconded the motion, and the minutes for November were approved.

The treasurer's report for November was reviewed by the council.

Income: \$17,020.00

Expenses: (\$22,071.92)

Checking Account Balance: \$111,242.29

Money Market Account: \$105,562.30

Total Equity: \$216,804.59

Minus Special Giving Account: \$78,511.40 \$138,293.19

Cambridge Accounts: \$77,387.26

Parsonage Income: \$1495.00

On 11/19/25, \$16,615.00 was transferred from the memorial fund into the checking account to pay for the bell tower repairs. On 11/18/25, the amount of \$238.38 was paid to Stephanie Adamietz to reimburse for the supper with Santa supplies. November's givings will be reflected in the next month minutes as they were deposited after 11/30/25.

Judy Mattes made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Kristi seconded the motion, and the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Andy Hofmeister made a motion to pay the bills for December. Kristi Schnell seconded that motion, and it was approved for the bills to be paid.

Committee Reports

Christian Ed: Christmas program performed on December 21 at the service, and no Sunday School on December 28

Evangelism: Discussion on getting shirts made with the church logo to wear at events. Supper with Santa went well

There was discussion on the Budget for 2026

- Numbers are planned for worst case scenario where we need to cover everything by ourselves

There will be another Council Meeting on December 28, 2025 at 7:30 AM to discuss the 2026 budget

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held January 18, 2026. There will be a short Council Meeting afterward to elect officers.

The next Council Meeting will be January 25, 2026, at 7:00 AM

Kristi Schnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andy Hofmeister seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 AM.

Budget Meeting Minutes

Sunday December 28, 2025

Council meeting to discuss 2026 Budget

Nick Kuhn called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.

Pastor Dave led us in prayer.

In attendance: Nick Kuhn, Brian Adamietz, Kristi Schnell, Andy Hofmeister, Amy Kuhn, Glen Pingel, Judy Mattes, Pastor Dave

Glen Pingel made a motion to approve the agenda. Brian Adamietz seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved.

There was discussion on the 2026 budget to be presented at the annual meeting.

- We talked about planning for a worst-case scenario

Judy Mattes made a motion to approve the budget to present to the congregation. Amy Kuhn seconded the motion, and it carried.

There was a roll call vote on this, and it was unanimously approved.

There was discussion about Pastor Dave's contract.

Brian Adamietz made a motion to approve the contract. Kristi Schnell seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved via roll call vote.

Kristi Schnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amy Kuhn seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 AM.

The Annual Meeting will be January 18, 2026 with a short council meeting afterwards to elect officers.

The next Council meeting will be January 25, 2026 at 7:30 AM

January Calendar of Events

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Sunday School @ 8:00 a.m. Family Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. w/ Communion • Children's Worship Bible Study @ 5:30 p.m.	5	6	7 Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.	8 Men's Breakfast Group Meeting at 7 Angels 8:30 a.m.	9	10
11 Sunday School @ 8:00 a.m. Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. Bible Study @ 5:30 p.m.	12	13	14 Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.	15 Women's Guild Meeting at 7 Angels 9:00 a.m.	16	17
18 <i>No Sunday School</i> Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. Annual Meeting <i>No Bible Study</i>	19	20	21 Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.	22 Eagle Articles Due	23	24
25 Council Meeting @ 7:00 a.m. Sunday School @ 8:00 a.m. Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. Bible Study @ 5:30 p.m.	26	27	28 Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.	29	30	31

*Click calendar to view larger image



Administrative Assistant: Mary Keran (920) 849-4331 ebenezeroffice@yahoo.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. David Kohls

(920) 313-0531 rev_david_kohls@yahoo.com

Council President: Nick Kuhn (920) 378-0204

Council VP: Glen Pingel (920) 419-0433

Council Secretary: Andy Hofmeister (920) 464-0257

Council Treasurer: Brian Adamietz (920) 645-8699

Kristi Schnell (920) 464-1060

Judy Mattes (920) 853-7109

Amy Kuhn (920) 418-0929



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