

*Our Savior's & Gilmanton United
Methodist Churches*

210 N Eau Claire Street
Mondovi, WI 54755



Pastor Hyuntae Kim
Email: nthtkim@gmail.com
Office Phone: 715-926-5354
Office Email: osumcmundovi@gmail.com
Website: www.oursaviorsumc.org

Return Service Requested

Community Events

Mondovi Sharing Table



Wednesday, January 8
4:30—6:00 pm
Central Lutheran Church

Ruby's PANTRY

Thursday, January 16
4:00—5:30 pm
Mondovi County Shop

OUTREACH

Our Savior's and Gilmanton United Methodist Churches



JANUARY 2025

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Beloved Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we step into this new year, I am reminded of the steadfast faithfulness of God and the privilege we share in being His people. Each new year is a gift, a fresh chapter in the story God is writing in our lives. It is also an opportunity to deepen our commitment to Him and to His Word.

In recent months, we have seen an encouraging trend in our nation: a significant increase in Bible sales. By October of 2024, approximately 13.7 million Bibles were sold, a 22% rise from the previous year (https://www.jpost.com/christianworld/christianity-news/article-831788?utm_source=chatgpt.com). Many of these purchases came from first-time buyers, signaling a growing hunger for spiritual truth. Amid global conflicts, economic uncertainty, and political challenges, countless individuals are turning to the Bible for guidance, hope, and peace.

The Reformers, such as Martin Luther and John Calvin, championed the importance of Scripture, emphasizing that the Bible is the ultimate authority for faith and practice. Luther declared, "The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid," urging believers to find Christ and His redemptive work in its pages. Similarly, John Calvin described the Scriptures as the spectacles through which we see God clearly, underscoring the transformative power of engaging with the Word.



John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, shared this passion for Scripture, famously calling himself "a man of one book." Though Wesley read widely, he centered his life and ministry on the Bible, seeing it as the living Word that speaks to every generation. Wesley's commitment to reading, meditating on, and applying Scripture serves as a model for us all.

As we begin this new year, I urge each of you to embrace or renew the habit of reading the Bible. Whether you are a seasoned student of Scripture or opening its pages for the first time, God's Word has something profound to say to you. Psalm 119:105 reminds us, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." In a world filled with confusion and uncertainty, the Bible provides clarity, direction, and the assurance of God's unfailing love.

Let us also take to heart James 1:22: "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." Reading the Bible is not merely an intellectual exercise but a transformative journey. As we apply its teachings, we become vessels of God's grace and truth in our families, workplaces, and communities.

My prayer for you in this new year is that you will encounter the living God through His Word and that your life will be shaped by His truth. There is a Bible reading chart inserted inside the hard copy newsletter for your use. If you receive an electronic newsletter, you can use this link to find it: https://visualunit.me/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/bible_reading_chart.pdf There were also be copies of the chart available at church. I strongly encourage you to use it to read the entire Bible this year. May we, like Wesley and the Reformers before us, be people of the Book, committed to knowing and making Christ known.

Happy and blessed New Year!

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Hyuntae Kim
Email: nthtkim@gmail.com

Church Office
Hours: Tue & Thu; 10-3
Phone: 715-926-5354

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Website: www.oursaviorsumc.org


Happy Birthday!

- 1/5 Kim Becker
- 1/6 Ryan Schwartz
- 1/6 Terry Stiner
- 1/7 Leah Saxe
- 1/9 Mary Beth Pichler
- 1/10 Sue Stoughton
- 1/16 Dalton Zingshiem
- 1/19 Deb Coppage
- 1/20 Julia Branger
- 1/22 Lorraine Diener
- 1/22 Brandon Saxe, Jr.
- 1/25 Eric Nordahl-Klevgard
- 1/27 Justin Johnston
- 1/28 Doris Davis
- 1/30 Kashlyn Johnson



Happy Anniversary!

- 1/2 Dennis & Tracy Bauer
- 1/14 Thomas & Rita McDonnell
- 1/23 Sonny & Linda Sandberg

United Women in Faith
January 8, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Keep in Prayer...

Members who are in long-term care facilities.

Military veterans.

All firefighters, EMTs, police, and military personnel.

Brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

Advent Events



UWF Candlelight Service



Trustee Report (Sonny Sandberg, Chair)

Sonny reported a good job was done on the roof. He requested reimbursement for the cost of the lift of \$500.00. Ann Yelle will cover this expense from Memorials.

Rubber roofing was applied on the ledges of the bell tower. The peak parts of the roof are in good condition.

Spray rubber was applied on the splicing of the gutters on the South and East sides of the church.

The rubber on the top of the entry way door on the South side of the church was repaired.

F3 Report (Dora and Randy Johnston)

Linda Johnston reported that 20 people were served at F3 this week. Jan Bechel and Kolleen Branger prepared lunch.

New Business

Pastor presented the 2025 Ministry Plan to be presented to Charge Conference.

Jan Bechel presented the final numbers for the 2024 Christmas Bazaar.

Kolleen Branger presented information from Jay Branger regarding insurance for the church. Jay presented information to M3 Agency and is waiting for a response.

Jay contacted Church Mutual regarding adjustments to the current policy. It was reported they could make changes, but it would not occur until after the first of the year.

It was reported the Conference would help out with the increased amount of insurance, but Jay will follow up on this.

Pastor reported the church has obtained a non-profit free Microsoft license.

Lay Leader (Rita McDonnell)

Rita reported there will be a potluck on December 8 after the joint music service with Lorn and Royce. There will be separate baskets for worship and free will offerings. Rita reported there is a need for people in the kitchen to set up for the potluck. Rita will follow up.

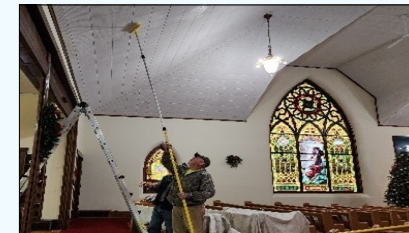
Rita inquired if there is a need for coffee to be made for Charge Conference. Discussion ensued. Rita will follow up.

Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

Motion to adjourn made by Debbie Duncanson, seconded by Ann Yelle. Motion carried.

Account Balances 11/30/2024	
Checking	\$464.20
Elevator Repair	\$524.00
Local Disaster	\$390.00
New Ministries	\$1,299.82
Christmas Walk	\$6,000.00
Scholarships/Youth Awards	\$260.00
Sunday School	\$624.00
Total Account Balances	\$9,562.02

Roof Repair at Our Savior's



Highlights from the Council Meeting— November 2024

Council members present: Pastor Kim, Rita McDonnell, Sonny Sandberg, Ann Yelle, Debbie Duncanson, Linda Johnston, Julie Brunsch, Jan Bechel, Kolleen Branger. Visitor: Dawn Moy.

Meeting called to order by Kolleen Branger.

Breakthrough prayer read in unison by Council members.

Next Meeting: December 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report

Motion to accept October 2024 Secretary's Report made by Julie Brunsch and seconded by Debbie Duncanson. Motion carried.

Finance Committee (Jay Branger, Chair, Absent)

In Jay's absence, Kolleen presented the following information from Jay.

Jay purchased a computer for use by the church Treasurer and will be getting the computer to Julie.

Executive Summary (Julie Brunsch, Treasurer)

Checking account totals are as follows: Beginning balance of \$15,081.55; deposits of \$11,142.31; interest of \$8.81; expenditures of \$11,883.92; uncleared transactions of \$914.52; Bank Charge Back Fees \$0.00; with an ending balance as of October 31, 2024, of \$13,434.23. Checking account reconciled with bank statement. Internal account balances are Checking \$336.41; Elevator Repair \$524.00; Local Disaster \$390.00; New Ministries \$1299.82; Christmas Walk \$10,000.00; Scholarships/Youth Awards \$260.00; Sunday School \$624.00 for balance of \$13,434.23. Other accounts: Building/

Restoration \$1990.93; Youth Fellowship Account \$4190.00.

Current checkbook balance \$-4014.37. Bills due by end of the month \$2563.33.

The new cost per month for Servant Keeper will be \$64.99.

Julie presented the proposed 2025 budget. Discussion ensued. Motion to approve 2025 budget made by Jan Bechel, seconded by Rita McDonnell. Motion carried.

Memorial Report (Ann Yelle, Chair)

Balance as of September 30, 2024, \$2092.72 with credits of \$.71 and no debits with ending balance in checkbook of \$2093.43 and \$15,000.00 in CD with total balance of \$17,093.43.

Finance Secretary (Kolleen Branger)

Kolleen reported she has been receiving pledge cards.

Motion made by Linda Johnston and seconded by Sonny Sandberg to accept the October 2024 Executive Summary, Memorial and Finance Secretary Reports. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

October 18 to November 21, 2024

No visits.

Leading the Confirmation class.

Community event: American Lutheran Home Service, Ecumenical clergy meeting (MACA).

North West District: Clergy gathering by Zoom.

Future plans and agenda

Sunday, December 8, 10:30 a.m.; Joint music service with the Bluegrass Gospel Band (Lorn and Royce) at Our Savior's

with potluck following. Tuesday, November 26, 6:00 p.m.; Community Thanksgiving Worship at Central Lutheran Church.

Pastor reported he needs a Scripture reader for Tuesday, November 26, and Rita McDonnell will read.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE: Rita McDonnell reported that all Committee positions have been filled, and this will be presented at Charge Conference.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Debbie Duncanson presented a current membership list for 2025 to be presented at Charge Conference.

United Women in Faith Report (Linda Johnston, Chair)

Linda reported the following as submitted by Ann Yelle.

We started our meeting with a presentation by Deb Bruning, Health Promotion Coordinator of the Eau Claire Aging and Disability Resource Center. The presentation was on Strong Bodies. Following this excellent presentation, we only discussed who should get cookie tins this year so that coordination can take place for this annual event. A list was established. We are all to bring 2 dozen cookies to our Christmas gathering on December 11th at noon. We also voted on authorizing Christmas gifts to church staff, the same as we did in 2023. Minutes and Treasurer's reports for October will be read at the next meeting.

Joint Bluegrass Music Service with Gospel Band, Lorn & Royce



God is good all the time



A Christmas Eve Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



Gilmanston

Mondovi



HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year!	2 6:00 pm SPRC Meeting	3	4
5 Holy Communion 9:00 am Gilmanston Worship 10:30 am Our Savior's Worship	6 Dartball Home	7 6:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting	8 2:00 pm UWF 5:30-7:00 pm F3/Confirmation	9	10	11
12 9:00 am Gilmanston Worship 10:30 am Our Savior's Worship; Choir Sings	13 Dartball Home	14	15 5:30-7:00 pm F3	16 6:00 pm Council Meeting	17	18
19 9:00 am Gilmanston Worship 10:30 am Our Savior's Worship	20 Dartball Home	21	22 5:30-7:00 pm F3	23	24	25
26 8:30 am Gilmanston Choir Practice 9:00 am Gilmanston Worship; Choir Sings 10:30 am Our Savior's Worship	27	28	29 5:30-7:00 pm F3 6:30 pm OS Choir Practice	30	31	

January Worship Service Helpers

	Greeters/Ushers	Worship Leader	Money Counters
Jan 5	Bob & Sue Stoughton	Mike Bruning	Linda Johnston & Jay Branger
Jan 12	Linda Johnston & Terry Stiner	Rita McDonnell	Linda Johnston & Mary Beth Pichler
Jan 19	Jay & Kolleen Branger	Mary Beth Pichler	Katie Sandberg & David Saxe
Jan 26	Jan Bechel & Sue Sie	Katie Sandberg	Stephanie Stamm & Jan Bechel

Camera Operator: Saul Ness



Refreshments will be served after church at Our Savior's on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.