

# UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

February 2, 2025

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

---

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### LIGHTING THE UNITY CANDLE

**PRELUDE.** Fantasia in "Mit Freuden Zart"

*Robert Hughes*

**CHORAL INTROIT** Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

**GREETING** L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God, to the one in whom we trust.

Praise God who delivers and rescues us.

**God is our rock of refuge, our strong fortress.**

**God saves us amid wickedness and cruelty.**

Hope in God, who has created you.

Open yourself to the one who knows you well.

**God accepts us, even when people do not.**

**God affirms us, even when we fail.**

Our God gives us tasks to do and strength to do them.

God's Word of love is ours to proclaim.

**We have come to embrace the mysteries of our faith.**

**We are here to worship the God who empowers us.**

**MORNING PRAYER** (read by Lay Reader)

God of love, in whose name we have been consecrated for discipleship and service, encounter us in this hour that we may grow in knowledge and actions. Disturb our certainties so we will be open to new insights. Upset our priorities to make room for faith, hope, and love. Expand our horizons to encompass ideas we have not entertained before.

Open our hearts to people we have failed to welcome into our midst. Perfect among us that childlike trust that allows change to transform us in the presence of your love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*HYMN** God of Grace and God of Glory

**#669**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

**Merciful God, you know us better than we know ourselves, but we have not believed this. You care about us even when we do not love ourselves, but it has been hard for us to understand that this is true. We see so dimly and hear your Word so faintly that we doubt your truth. We dare not trust the prophets or risk the cost of**

**discipleship. We are afraid to believe, hope, and endure when there is suffering all around us. O God, grant us courage to change, to follow Jesus in spite of ridicule and rejection. Yet keep us from insisting on our own way, which may not be your way. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God does not condemn us for our imperfection nor abandon us to our fears. The one who designed our being promises to be with us when we are challenged, to deliver us when it seems the whole world is against us, to love us at all times and in all circumstances. We are forgiven, healed, and empowered for our ministry.

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**#805**

**CHORAL ANTHEM** Wonderful, Merciful Savior

*Rodgers and Wyse*

**CHILDREN'S CHAT** Rev. James Deters

**\*HYMN** Breathe on Me, Breath of God

**#295**

**SCRIPTURE** James 3 (p. 1101)

**MESSAGE** Rev. James Deters

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Apostles' Creed

**#14**

**PERIOD OF GUIDED PRAYER** Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

**OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES**

**OFFERTORY** Meditation on "Canonbury"

*David Hegarty*

*Please sign the friendship pad at the end of the pew and pass it on.*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**#809**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

**With awe and wonder before you, O God, we dare to enlist all our efforts toward the realization of your realm. Where there is injustice, we would champion those oppressed and misunderstood. When some feel rejected, we reach out to accept them in Christ's name. May these offerings preach and teach and heal. Amen.**

**\*HYMN** Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

**#835**

**\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Go forth with faith to move mountains.

Reach out with love that transforms the world.

**Love is patient and kind, not jealous or boastful.**

**Love rejoices in all that is right, not in wrong.**

Let the Scripture be fulfilled by your faithfulness.

Let the Word take flesh in all you do.

**Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures.**

**We participate in the love of God that never ends.**

God promises to be our rock and our refuge.

God is ever with us to deliver us.

**God's Word will be in our mouths.**

**God's love will warm our spirits. Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION** God Be With You **verse 3**

**#840**

**POSTLUDE** God of Grace

*Paul Manz*

\*All those who are able, please stand.

**A WORD ON THE OFFERING**

For your convenience, offering plates are placed at each entrance. You are welcome to place your offering in the plate as you enter or during a hymn. The ushers will bring your offering forward later in the service.

***Large print bulletins, children's bulletins, and aids for the hearing impaired are available. All people are welcome in the sanctuary; however, a play room is available for kindergarten and younger children needing a place to invest their excitement. There is also a children's room for families who need a quiet space for babies and young children. Please ask an usher for assistance.***

**ORGANIST** Nancy Dufek

**CHOIR DIRECTOR** Diana Mann

**VMIX** Rob Sanders **STREAMING AUDIO** Susan Sanders

**SANCTUARY SOUND** Joseph Deters

**PRODUCTION** Rob Sanders

**TECH SUPPORT** Ernie Bliss

**LAY READER** Pete Mann

**USHERS** Chuck Whiting & Family

**COFFEE HOSTS** Pat Sheils and Anne-Marie Itzin

**BAKERS** Anne Wickman and Jill Zifko

**PLAY ROOM** Alice Evenson

**Church office hours** Monday--Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Rev. James Deters, Pastor** [upccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:upccpastor@gmail.com)

**Laurel Harnisch, Director of Family Ministry** [upcc.familyministry@gmail.com](mailto:upcc.familyministry@gmail.com)

**Susan Sanders, Administrative Assistant** [upcc.office214@gmail.com](mailto:upcc.office214@gmail.com)

**Church office phone** 715-682-3093

***Lots of upcoming events. See the bulletin inserts.***

**Also look at the UPCC website:** <https://upccchurch.org/>

**Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedPresbyterianCongregationalChurch>

**Join our Facebook group** at UPCC Connection



## **United Presbyterian/Congregational Church**

**214 Vaughn Ave, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806**

**PASTOR: Reverend James Deters**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am**

*Illustration by Ben Cogger*



## ACTIVITIES

- 2/5 Pastor Jim at nursing homes  
Noon: AA meeting in lower lounge  
5:00 pm Creation Care meeting in dining room  
5:30 pm Middle school youth group  
7:00 pm Choir practice
- 2/8 10:00 am Youth and family sledding at Valhalla  
10:00 am Informational meeting - Remodel Project
- 2/9 9:15 am Sunday school (Pre-K -High school)  
9:15 am Adult Sunday school  
10:30 am Worship service  
11:30 am Chocolate Sunday following worship (see insert for details)

## BIRTHDAYS

2	Eileen VanPernis	3	Maya Rose Maki
5	Aaron Swanson, Jr.	6	Diana Mann
8	Lucas McKuen	9	Finn Levings

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Informational meeting** on the project to remodel the **Fellowship/Kitchen area at 10 am Saturday, Feb. 8**, in the church fellowship area. Find out what is being recommended, why it is needed, the financial investment and what has already been done. This project is designed to help our church better serve our congregation and the community for generations to come. This is an informational meeting, so please attend if you want to find out more. An official congregational meeting for members to vote on this project is planned for Sunday, March 2.

**New Wednesday night Bible study February 12 & 19 - 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.** Beginning in February, we invite you to join us for Bible study. We will be using a combination of the Bible and the You Version Bible app for our time together. The You Version Bible app is a free, non-denominational resource that encourages and challenges people to seek God each day. You do not need to have this app to participate in the Bible study, but it will be helpful. The Bible app can be downloaded by following this link: <https://www.bible.com/app>. We will begin our time together with a YouVersion Bible plan, The Chosen (1<sup>st</sup> season) and Bible Project. This plan is a combination of videos, Bible passages, and reflection questions. This is an engaging way of connecting God's word to our lives. I hope you will come and check it out. If you have questions about the app or the Bible study, please contact me. Andrew MacGregor (715) 292-0139 or [wolfrunner333@gmail.com](mailto:wolfrunner333@gmail.com).

**PreK - Grade 5 Sunday school will sing Sunday, February 9th.**



## ACTIVITIES

- 2/5 Pastor Jim at nursing homes  
Noon: AA meeting in lower lounge  
5:00 pm Creation Care meeting in dining room  
5:30 pm Middle school youth group  
7:00 pm Choir practice
- 2/8 10:00 am Youth and family sledding at Valhalla  
10:00 am Informational meeting - Remodel Project
- 2/9 9:15 am Sunday school (Pre-K -High school)  
9:15 am Adult Sunday school  
10:30 am Worship service  
11:30 am Chocolate Sunday following worship (see insert for details)

## BIRTHDAYS

2	Eileen VanPernis	3	Maya Rose Maki
5	Aaron Swanson, Jr.	6	Diana Mann
8	Lucas McKuen	9	Finn Levings

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Informational meeting** on the project to remodel the **Fellowship/Kitchen area at 10 am Saturday, Feb. 8**, in the church fellowship area. Find out what is being recommended, why it is needed, the financial investment and what has already been done. This project is designed to help our church better serve our congregation and the community for generations to come. This is an informational meeting, so please attend if you want to find out more. An official congregational meeting for members to vote on this project is planned for Sunday, March 2.

**New Wednesday night Bible study February 12 & 19 - 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.** Beginning in February, we invite you to join us for Bible study. We will be using a combination of the Bible and the You Version Bible app for our time together. The You Version Bible app is a free, non-denominational resource that encourages and challenges people to seek God each day. You do not need to have this app to participate in the Bible study, but it will be helpful. The Bible app can be downloaded by following this link: <https://www.bible.com/app>. We will begin our time together with a YouVersion Bible plan, The Chosen (1<sup>st</sup> season) and Bible Project. This plan is a combination of videos, Bible passages, and reflection questions. This is an engaging way of connecting God's word to our lives. I hope you will come and check it out. If you have questions about the app or the Bible study, please contact me. Andrew MacGregor (715) 292-0139 or [wolfrunner333@gmail.com](mailto:wolfrunner333@gmail.com).

**PreK - Grade 5 Sunday school will sing Sunday, February 9th.**

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP  
**ICE SKATING  
NIGHT**



**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH | 5:30-7:30 PM**

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF ICE SKATING!

WE WILL MEET AT THE CHURCH FOR PIZZA, DRIVE TO THE EAST END  
SKATING RINK, AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH FOR HOT COCOA.

**(PLEASE CONTACT LAUREL OR THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU NEED  
ASSISTANCE WITH FINDING ICE SKATES.)**

214 VAUGHN AVE, ASHLAND  
UPCC.FAMILYMINISTRY@GMAIL.COM | 715-682-3093

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP  
**ICE SKATING  
NIGHT**



**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH | 5:30-7:30 PM**

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF ICE SKATING!

WE WILL MEET AT THE CHURCH FOR PIZZA, DRIVE TO THE EAST END  
SKATING RINK, AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH FOR HOT COCOA.

**(PLEASE CONTACT LAUREL OR THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU NEED  
ASSISTANCE WITH FINDING ICE SKATES.)**

214 VAUGHN AVE, ASHLAND  
UPCC.FAMILYMINISTRY@GMAIL.COM | 715-682-3093

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

# Youth & Family SLEDDING PARTY

JOIN US AT VALHALLA ON

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH FROM 10:00-12:00PM**

FOLLOWED BY HOT COCOA AND LUNCH AT THE  
CHURCH. BRING YOUR OWN SLEDS!

FOR MORE INFO:

UPCC.FAMILYMINISTRY@GMAIL.COM 715-682-3093



UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

# Youth & Family SLEDDING PARTY

JOIN US AT VALHALLA ON

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH FROM 10:00-12:00PM**

FOLLOWED BY HOT COCOA AND LUNCH AT THE  
CHURCH. BRING YOUR OWN SLEDS!

FOR MORE INFO:

UPCC.FAMILYMINISTRY@GMAIL.COM 715-682-3093





The background of the entire image is a close-up photograph of various chocolate candies. There are heart-shaped chocolates, round chocolates with swirls, and other assorted shapes, all in shades of brown and tan. A large red heart is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text.

# Chocolate Sunday

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH**

PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE CHOCOLATE  
TREAT TO SHARE DURING THE COFFEE  
FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING WORSHIP. THE  
HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE HOSTS THIS ANNUAL  
EVENT AND WE ASK ONE FAVOR – IF YOUR DESSERT  
NEEDS TO BE CUT INTO PIECES, PLEASE BRING  
IT SLICED IF YOU CAN. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE  
WHO MAKES THIS SUCH A SPECIAL FUN EVENT.

# Chocolate Sunday

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH**

PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE CHOCOLATE  
TREAT TO SHARE DURING THE COFFEE  
FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING WORSHIP. THE  
HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE HOSTS THIS ANNUAL  
EVENT AND WE ASK ONE FAVOR – IF YOUR DESSERT  
NEEDS TO BE CUT INTO PIECES, PLEASE BRING  
IT SLICED IF YOU CAN. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE  
WHO MAKES THIS SUCH A SPECIAL FUN EVENT.

## **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven and sitteth at  
the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the  
quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **James 3 (p. 1101)**

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh. Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.